



BIG BUDGET TV SERIES
Priyanka Chopra starrer American TV series 'Citadel' is set to become the second most expensive series ever made **LEISURE P2**



COUNTDOWN STARTS
The race to replace Boris Johnson as the British Prime Minister is in a final countdown stage **INTERNATIONAL P10**

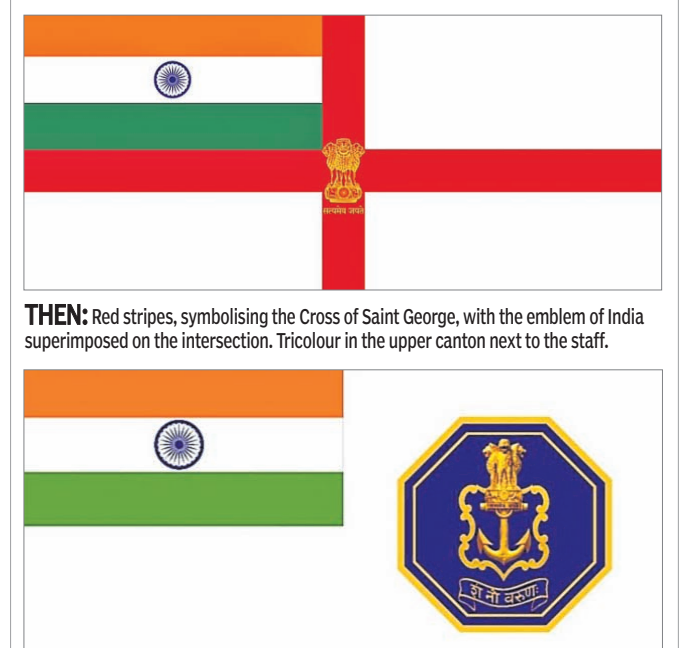


NADAL MARCHES ON
Rafael Nadal reaches third round at US Open despite suffering from a bloodied nose and dizziness during the match **SPORTS P12**



FLOATING AIRFIELD: Naval officers on the flight deck during the commissioning ceremony of the first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, at Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kochi, Friday. Indian Navy switched to a new ensign, as seen in the background, during the launch of the carrier. **More on P7**

New Navy ensign



THEN: Red stripes, symbolising the Cross of Saint George, with the emblem of India superimposed on the intersection. Tricolour in the upper canton next to the staff.

NOW: The national flag on the upper canton. A blue octagonal shape with the national emblem atop an anchor, superimposed on a shield with the Navy's motto.

AGENCIES

Kochi, Sept 2: Indian Navy Friday got a new ensign, shedding a trace of its colonial past on the representational flag. The new ensign has dropped the horizontal and vertical red stripes that symbolised the Cross of Saint George, reminiscent of the colonial era, which existed in its previous version. An octagonal shape with twin golden borders in its fly area that draws inspiration from the seal of Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji has been incorporated. "Today on the historic date of September 2, 2022, India has taken off a trace of slavery, a burden of slavery...Till now the identity of slavery remained on the flag of Indian Navy. But from today onwards, inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji, the new Navy flag will fly in the sea and in the sky," PM Narendra Modi said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I never seek govt accommodation. I'm an MLA. I stay in resorts!

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	58803.33 ↑ 36.74
NIFTY	17539.50 ↓ 3.30
DOLLAR	80.26 ↑ ₹0.27
EURO	79.86 ↑ ₹0.64
GOLD	₹50,413 ↑ ₹343
SILVER	₹52,900 ↑ ₹117

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 35.7°C	36.0°C
	MIN 25.9°C	26.0°C
Humidity	75%	75%
Rainfall	0.0mm	0.0mm
	Partly cloudy sky	

Judge found dead at official residence

The body of the POCSCO court judge was found hanging from a ceiling fan and there were injury marks on his neck



Judge Subash Kumar Behari

Cuttack/Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: A special POCSCO judge in Cuttack was found dead at his official residence in Cuttack Friday, the police said. The deceased was identified as 49-year-old judge Subash Kumar Behari. His body was found hanging from a ceiling fan and there were injury marks on his neck, said Tapas Pradhan, the Assistant Commissioner of Police of Zone-3 of Cuttack city. The judge was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. Prima facie, it seems to be a case of death by suicide, Pradhan said.

The incident happened when the judge's children had gone to school and his wife was not at home, the police said. The judge had asked his orderly to go home as there was not much work to be done for the day, the police said. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack. The judge was on leave for the past two days and was scheduled to join work Friday, it was learnt. The deceased judge's stenographer, Rabi Narayan Mahapatra, said that he called him in the morning and asked him to write a leave application for Friday. The legal officer hailed from Jajpur district and is survived by his wife and two daughters. The special POCSCO court public prosecutor Ramesh Chandra Mohanty said that the judge was not only a top and efficient law professional his entire life, but also was a good human being. He was well-regarded by lawyers, said Mohanty.

MOLESTATION ATTEMPT

Woman pushed to death off train

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Sept 2: A 32-year-old woman died allegedly after she was pushed off a moving passenger train by a man who tried to molest her near Haryana's Tohana station in Fatehabad, officials said Friday. The incident took place in the presence of the woman's nine-year-old son, they said.



The Government Railway Police (GRP) said the woman had boarded the passenger train from near Lakhna Majra in Rohtak to travel to Tohana. The incident took place Thursday night, a GRP official said. The SHO of GRP police station, Hisar, Naresh Kumar said the woman was travelling with her son. "The passenger train was on its way from Delhi to Tohana and the woman and her son had boarded it from Lakhna Majra," he said. He said a majority of passengers had got off from the train at a previous station and most coaches were empty when the incident took place near Tohana station where the woman had to get down. The woman's husband was waiting at Tohana station. "During preliminary investigations, it has come to light that one accused was involved in the incident. We are trying to identify him and he will be arrested soon," the GRP SHO said. He said the woman resisted attempts of the accused to harass her, but was allegedly pushed down from the running train and she died due to the injuries. Kumar said when the train reached Tohana, her son, who was crying profusely, narrated the incident to his father after which the police were informed. The woman's body was later found near the tracks at some distance from Tohana, he said. "A case has been registered against the accused under IPC Sections 302 (murder) and 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty)," the police official said.

4 senior IPS officers promoted to DG rank



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: Four senior IPS officers of Odisha cadre have been promoted to DG of police in Level-16 of pay matrix. The Home Department Friday issued a notification in this regard. All the four IPS officers belong to the 1989 batch. Pranabindu Acharya, ADG & Director, investigation, OHRC and Sidhartha Mahadu Narvane, SDG, HRPC, have been promoted to the DG rank. Similarly, Amrit Mohan Prasad and B Radhika, who are on Central deputation, are allowed proforma promotion to the grade of DGP, the notification said. Last month, the state government had promoted several officers in the rank of additional superintendent of police to the rank of superintendent of police (super time scale).

AIFF gets its first player president

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 2: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) Friday got a former player as its first president in its 85-year history with Kalyan Chaubey beating the legendary Bhaichung Bhutia in the election for the top post here. The 45-year-old Chaubey, who played as a goalkeeper, won 33-1, a result that was expected as former captain Bhutia did not have many supporters in the 34-member voters' list made up of state association representatives. The 'Sikkimese Sniper', also 45, is one of the biggest legends in Indian football and his candidature has got the election additional traction. **Contd...4**

Double celebration for 2-headed 'Janus'

REUTERS

Geneva, Sept 2: Angelica Bourgojn strokes the shell of Janus the tortoise, whispering to him quietly as he scuttles in his pen and - his two heads rubbing together - prepares to celebrate his 25th birthday. Janus, who also has two hearts, two lungs and two distinct personalities, would not have survived long in the wild as he cannot retract his heads into his shell to seek shelter from predators. But at the Geneva Natural History Museum, where he hatched in 1997, Bourgojn and her team of carers - who believe he is the world's oldest bicephalic tortoise - can cater for his every need. They feed him organic



salad and give him daily massages and baths in green tea and chamomile. For exercise, he goes for regular walks, sometimes with music, and rides on a custom-made skateboard. "I think it's because of the attention we give him and our devotion that he's still here today,"

said Bourgojn. Janus, a Greek tortoise named after the two-headed Roman god of beginnings and transitions, also has a special party to look forward to this weekend. But it's not all plain sailing. He is under constant surveillance in case he flips over, which could be fatal, and survived a bladder stone operation in 2020. His heads need periodic treatment with vaseline to stop them getting sore when they rub together. His two personalities also generate different moods and tastes that can occasionally lead to conflict. "The right head is more curious, more awake, it has a much stronger personality. The left head is more passive and loves to eat," Bourgojn said.

SC grants interim bail to Teesta

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 2: The Supreme Court Friday granted interim bail to social activist Teesta Setalvad, arrested June 25 for allegedly fabricating evidence to frame "innocent people" in the 2002 Gujarat riots cases, a day after excoriating the Gujarat High Court over delayed listing of her bail prayer. A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and justices S Ravindra Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia asked Setalvad to surrender her passport with trial court till the time the Gujarat High Court decides her regular bail plea. The top court also asked Setalvad to cooperate with the probe agency

in the investigation of the case of alleged fabrication of evidence to frame people in riots cases. "Appellant, a lady has been in custody since June 25. The offences alleged against her pertain to year 2002 and going by assertions, at best the concerned documents date to 2012. The investigating machinery has had the advantage of her custodial interrogation of seven days followed by judicial custody," the bench said while granting interim bail to Setalvad. Referring to the sequence of events of the case, the bench said the high court, while issuing the notice to the state government on the regular bail petition, should have considered the plea for grant of interim bail to her.

leisure

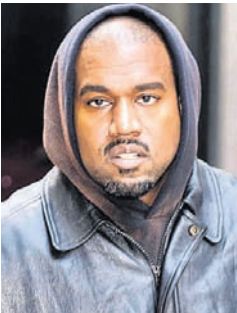


CARLA GUGINO TO STAR IN THE GIRLS ON THE BUS

Actor Carla Gugino is set to star alongside Melissa Benoist, Natasha Behnam and Christina Elmore in HBO Max's political drama series *The Girls On The Bus*. According to source, the show hails from Warner Bros. TV and Berlanti Productions.

ADDICTION TO PORN DESTROYED MY FAMILY: KANYE WEST

Rapper Kanye West has admitted that he is addicted to porn and said that it 'destroyed' his family. "Hollywood is a giant brothel. My addiction to pornography destroyed my family. I promise it not gonna let it happen to Northy and Chicago," said the rapper in an Instagram post.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
You will be indecisive today, which is not usually the case with you. Ganesh says this could lead you to indulge in speculation, which is not so bad unless you risk all your money in it. Besides, when it comes to matters of the heart, you must exercise a great deal of caution.

TAURUS
All is not likely to go well during this day says Ganesh. Though you will sail smoothly most of the day, problems are very likely to come up. At the professional level you are not likely to face obstacles or difficulties. Your relations with your parents turn awkward and unpleasant.

GEMINI
Today, you are likely to focus on self-improvement, predicts Ganesh. Self-employed people may expect huge profits in their businesses. You may end up spending more time at work and less time with family.

CANCER
What good is life if it doesn't involve great fun and merrymaking. Keeping this in mind, you will set about planning your day. There may be no stopping you as you go about your day having a blast at every possible moment.

LEO
Call it the momentary re-ignition of the spark of brilliance and energy, this day finds you at the peak of your dynamism. Ganesh predicts a fantastic day for all, especially those in the freelancing business, as your imagination and inspiration reach new heights and motivate others to excel. Recall the legendary Swami Vivekananda's words, "Arise, awake and stop not till your goal is reached."

VIRGO
Today is the day when you'll be like the Iron Man: heart of gold, nerves of steel - minus the shiny body armour, though. Tolerance, optimism and exceedingly artistic talents will rule the roost. Pursue academics in the arts, advises Ganesh. Your understanding of life will help you serve society better. Yes, like Iron Man.

LIBRA
You may not have been crowned 'Employee Of The Month', but do not let that distract you from the fact that today, you are the brightest star in office. Be prepared to get some special treatment at work, as your bosses shower praise on you. Apart from that, a lot of tangible and intangible benefits await you. Ganesh advises you against complacency of any sort if you want the key to the executive wash room.

SCORPIO
Ganesh warns you of a long, dreary day today. Though not completely at a loss, you may feel lost and desire to spend some time alone with yourself. The empty nest syndrome is likely to invade and hold your mental peace at ransom, says Ganesh.

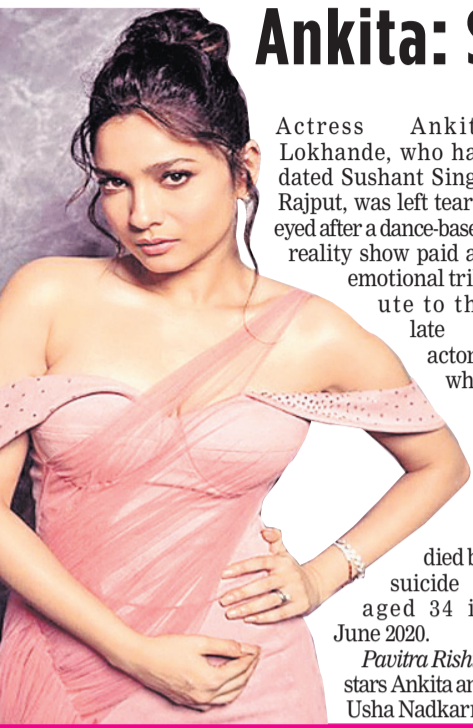
SAGITTARIUS
A balanced day is in store today. Find yourself as much at home as at your desk. You may engage in a time of fun and games with your buddies. But when it comes to family, something more practical, like re-arranging your house, is on the cards.

CAPRICORN
If you are a sports person, you will enjoy both good health and fame, while engineers will mull investing money in new business ventures, foresees Ganesh. But make sure you know what you are doing, a minor slip can cost you a fortune, and you would have realised by now that repenting won't undo anything.

AQUARIUS
Money matters are very important, and your family will demand your presence in all financial dealings. At work, things will be more comfortable. You may also get new projects. Ganesh predicts a trip in the offing.

PISCES
Your inherent dynamism and energy will sparkle forth today. Freelancers will be struck with inspiration, and will conjure masterpieces. Pleasant surprises await you in the evening, says Ganesh.

Ankita: Sushant was my guru



Actress Ankita Lokhande, who had dated Sushant Singh Rajput, was left teary-eyed after a dance-based reality show paid an emotional tribute to the late actor, who died by suicide aged 34 in June 2020. *Pavitra Rishta* stars Ankita and Usha Nadkarni

will be seen gracing the show as guests for the show *Pavitra Rishta* Special Episode on DID Super Moms. One contestant named Sadhna and her choreographer Bharat's performance to the song *Yaadein Yaad Aati Hai* from the 2001 film *Yaadein* sung by Hariharan, caught everyone's attention. The performance was a tribute to the late actor. Not just that, the musical act honoured the struggle and successful journey of Sushant Singh Rajput's life, which left everyone on set in tears. A teary-eyed Ankita called it a "very emotional act." She added: "The day, Sushant left us, I believe we have all remembered him more. In my opinion, he

has put in a lot more effort than anyone else I've seen in my entire life..." "It would not have been possible for me to be what I am today without Sushant, he was my guru. I wish him happiness wherever he is, God bless him." AGENCIES

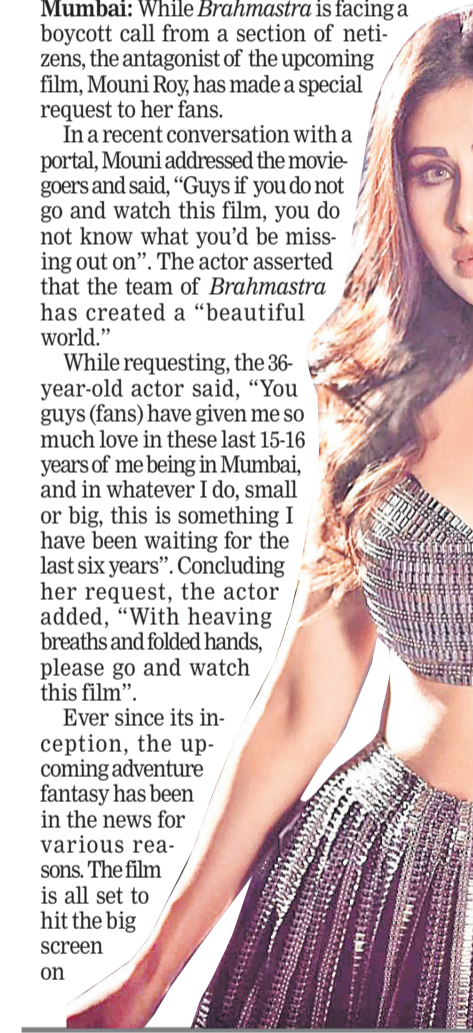
Priyanka's Citadel 2nd most expensive series ever made

Los Angeles: *Citadel*, the upcoming spy franchise starring Richard Madden and Priyanka Chopra in lead roles, is set to be the second most expensive series ever made. After it was reported that the show had run into creative differences after wrapping up its shoot this past December, *The Hollywood Reporter*

now claims that the show has overshot its budget. Helmed by *Avengers: Endgame* director duo, Joe and Anthony Russo, the series was reportedly set for an estimated budget of \$160 million. However, multiple sources told the news outlet that the differences in vision led to the exit of half the creative team and forced the show into a round of reshoots that are proving to be very expensive.

The seven-episode series overshoot its budget by around \$75 million, taking the total to an estimated production cost to \$250 million. The show is now among the most expensive shows ever made, only second to *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*. According to reports, the first season of the LOTR franchise is said to cost an estimated \$465 million. AGENCIES

Mouni's special request to fans



Mumbai: While *Brahmastra* is facing a boycott call from a section of netizens, the antagonist of the upcoming film, Mouni Roy, has made a special request to her fans. In a recent conversation with a portal, Mouni addressed the moviegoers and said, "Guys if you do not go and watch this film, you do not know what you'd be missing out on". The actor asserted that the team of *Brahmastra* has created a "beautiful world." While requesting, the 36-year-old actor said, "You guys (fans) have given me so much love in these last 15-16 years of me being in Mumbai, and in whatever I do, small or big, this is something I have been waiting for the last six years". Concluding her request, the actor added, "With heaving breaths and folded hands, please go and watch this film." Ever since its inception, the upcoming adventure fantasy has been in the news for various reasons. The film is all set to hit the big screen on

September 9, 2022. While Mouni will play the antagonist, Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt will be seen in the lead characters. Mouni confirmed that Shah Rukh Khan has a cameo in the film. AGENCIES



Sara dishes out fresh fitness goal

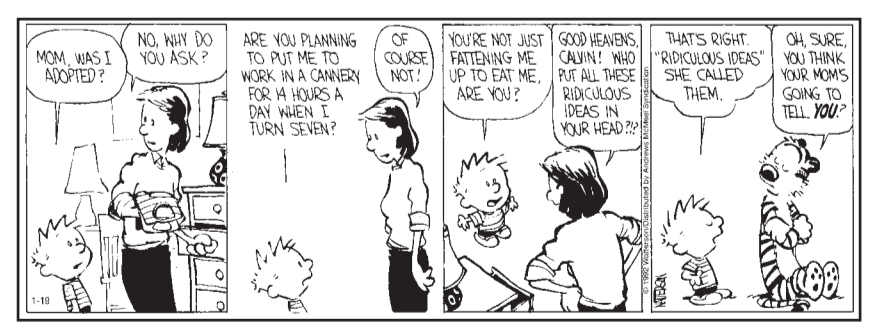
Mumbai: Sara Ali Khan never misses a chance to dish out fitness goals as she often posts workout photos and snippets on her social media handles. Just a while ago, Sara took to her Instagram story and shared a video of herself doing squat jumps. *The Love Aaj Kal* actress captioned it, "Woke up feeling lazy". Even though Sara was feeling lazy, she made sure to find the motivation and it will surely leave you feeling extremely motivated. In it, she is seen donning a grey sports bra and gym shorts. Sara also wore workout shoes along with it and kept her hair tied in her pony

while one can definitely see the fresh glow on her face after a vigorous workout. Meanwhile, on the work front, Sara Ali Khan has several movies in the pipeline. She was last seen featuring in the romantic fantasy drama film, *Atrangi Re* alongside Akshay Kumar and Dhanush, which was directed by Aanand L Rai. Next, Sara will be seen with Vikrant Massey and Chitrangada Singh in *Gaslight*. It is directed by Pawan Kriplani. She will also feature in producer Dinesh Vijan and director Laxman Utekar's next yet-to-be-titled film alongside Vicky Kaushal. AGENCIES

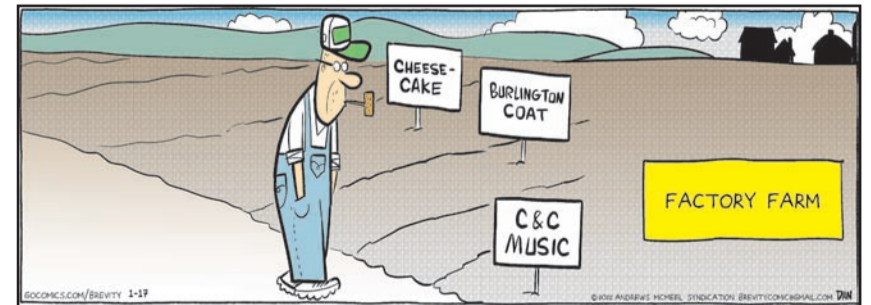
PEANUTS



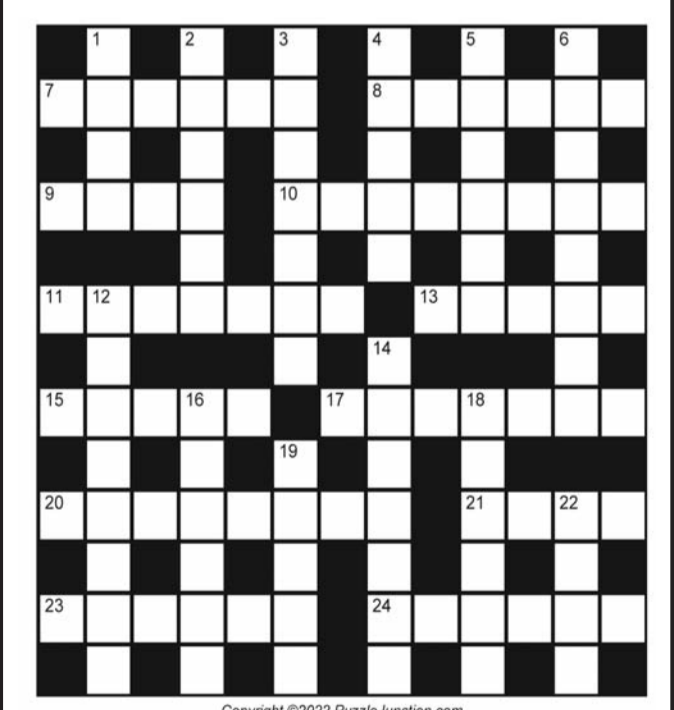
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



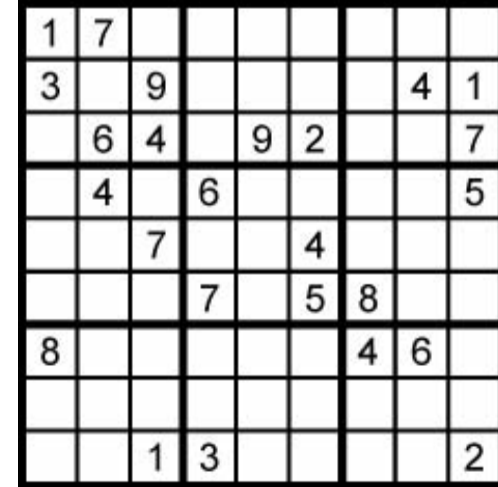
FUN post CROSSWORD



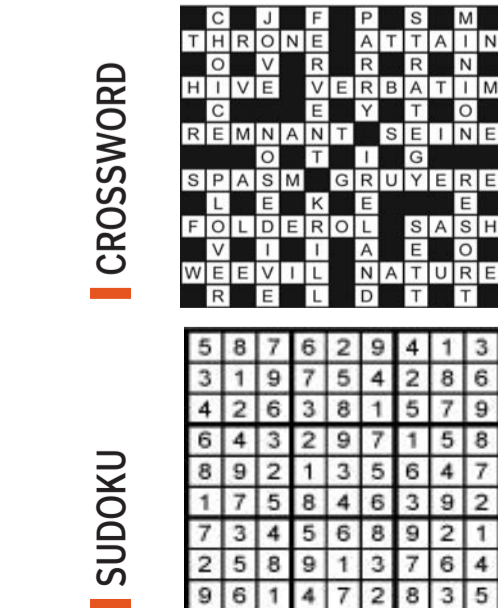
- Across
- 7 Beefsteak or cherry follower
 - 8 Common newt
 - 9 Opposed to
 - 10 Lycanthrope
 - 11 Matisse contemporary
 - 13 African village of huts
 - 15 Theatre section
 - 17 Vagabond
 - 20 Writing on the wall
 - 21 Lariat
 - 23 California and Arizona desert
 - 24 Eau de cologne ingredient
 - Down
 - 1 Wedding dress
 - 2 Docking facility
 - 3 "Baloney!"
 - 4 Blizzard, e.g.
 - 5 Spectator
 - 6 Husband or wife, usually (4,4)
 - 12 International law enforcement agency
 - 14 Spectres
 - 16 Belly laugh
 - 18 Woodland
 - 19 Femme fatale
 - 22 Ship's front

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



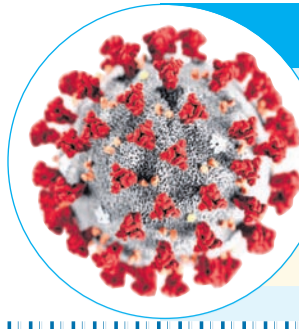
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



PLANT EXPO

Visitors check medicinal plants during an exhibition at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	60,90,23,752	58,53,53,422	64,99,340
India	4,44,39,930	4,38,55,365	5,27,932
Odisha	13,28,070	13,17,278	9,178

24,474 e-challans issued against helmetless riders



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: The State Transport Authority (STA) issued a total of 24,474 e-challans in a two-week long special drive against riding two-wheelers without wearing helmets on national and state highways.

The drive which was conducted between August 16 and 30 saw a total of 888 vehicles being seized for driving without driving licence. The enforcement team of the STA has collected Rs 63.98 lakh fine and as many as 12,545 licences have been suspended for riding two-wheelers without helmets. "The main aim of the drive was to create a sense of responsibility among the road users for prevention of road accidents and fatalities. It can be mentioned that as many

Last year, 1,308 riders and pillion riders were killed in road accidents and most of them were not wearing helmets

It has been observed that out of the accidents taking place on NH/SH many are related to two-wheeler riders. Due to continuous enforcement activities people are using helmets in the urban areas but are unfortunately avoiding wearing helmets on highways where protection is much more needed," said Lalmohan Sethi, Additional Commissioner Transport, Enforcement and Road Safety.

as 1,308 persons, including riders (868) and pillion riders (440) of two-wheelers, were killed in road accidents in 2021. Most of them were not wearing helmet. A total of 1,280 persons were grievously injured and 747 had minor injuries in accidents involving two wheelers.

Due to the continuous enforcement activities, people are using helmets in urban areas. But unfortunately they are avoiding wearing helmets on highways, where more protection is needed

LALMOHAN SETHI | ADDITIONAL TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER

Sethi further said that the frequency of enforcement drives will be increased in the month of September. "In view of upcoming puja and winter season, September is declared as month of enforcement. There will be zero tolerance towards violation of traffic and Motor Vehicle Rules. Enforcement drives will continue against drunken driving, helmet checking and fitness of vehicles including school buses and overloading. The drives will take place at regular intervals throughout the month."

PUJA AHEAD



Members of Jharpada Durga Puja Samiti pose for a photo in Bhubaneswar, Friday, after consecrating soil for the upcoming Durga Puja

OP PHOTO

Paramour arrested for abetting suicide

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: The Commissionerate Police Friday claimed to have cracked the mysterious death of 25-year-old Subhashree Mohapatra at Shastri Nagar here Tuesday evening.

Speaking to the media, City Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Prateek Singh claimed that the woman had committed suicide following altercation with her paramour Chittaranjan Jena on the fateful day.

"We have received the post-mortem report. The doctor has informed about spotting signs and symptoms indicating that the deceased was assaulted before her death. The doctor also asserted suicidal hanging as sole cause of Subhashree's death," said Singh.

Police arrested Chittaranjan in the case (281/22) by imposing Section 306 (abetment of suicide) and 201A (causing disappearance of evidence of an offence) of the IPC against him instead of 302 (murder) earlier. He will be forwarded to

SUBHASHREE DEATH



Subhashree Mohapatra (file photo)



Accused Chittaranjan Jena

Subhashree's residence.

Subhashree and her husband would often engage in heated arguments over the former's alleged extramarital affair, claimed Singh. Nath, an employee in a private firm here, went to his native place in Jagatsinghpur for some reasons August 28, 2022.

Meanwhile, August 29, Subhashree along with a person had gone to meet a relative at Capital hospital. Her visit to hospital along with a person irked an over-possessive Chittaranjan.

He came to the house of the deceased to confront her over the matter on the same day. He scolded and assaulted Subhashree before leaving her residence, the DCP said.

A heartbroken Subhashree, who reportedly made several phone calls to the accused, Tuesday evening, informed him about her decision to commit suicide during her last call.

The accused immediately telephoned the lady tuition teacher of Subhashree's 4-year-old son and requested her to check. The teacher found the deceased hanging from the ceiling of her room. Later, the teacher informed the accused who rushed to the spot.

Chittaranjan brought the body down and ran away with the stole using which she had hanged herself. Commissionerate Police Friday took the accused to the spot where he had thrown the stole and recovered it.

The accused has reportedly confessed to the crime during interrogation.

Fresh spells of rain over next 2 weeks

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: Odisha is likely to get relief from the week-long hot and humid weather, caused by the monsoon's weakening trend, as the IMD Friday forecast the creation of two back-to-back low pressure areas over Bay of Bengal in the next two weeks.

The first is expected to develop over West-Central Bay of Bengal and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal by September 8, and the second between September 9 and 15, said US Dash, senior weather scientist at the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar. Dash said

that rainfall activity might intensify in the state from September 5.

"Odisha is currently experiencing hot and humid weather due to weakening of the monsoon. Most places in the state have recorded maximum temperature at or above 35 degree Celsius, with humidity exceeding 80 per cent in some areas since Thursday," he stated.

Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded over 35 degree Celsius throughout the week. The IMD, meanwhile, also said that the seasonal cumulative rainfall received by Odisha between June 1 and September 2 stood at 992 mm against its usual average of 931.9 mm.

Prepare questions in English, Odia: SU told

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: A few days after students of colleges under the Sambalpur University (SU) flagged the issue of question papers being prepared only in English, the Higher Education (HE) department Friday directed the university to prepare question papers both in English and Odia.

HE department additional secretary Birendra Kumar said undergraduate (UG) Arts students of SU have recently written to the CM on question papers being published only in English. "English will be difficult for those pursuing the courses in Odia as a medium," he said asking the SU to prepare question papers both in Odia and English languages.

SC notice to Centre, states on mental health facilities in jails

PNN/ AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 2: The Supreme Court Friday sought a response from the Centre and others on a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking to establish mental health establishments in prisons across the country.

A bench of Justices SA Nazeer and V Ramasubramanian issued notices to the Centre, all the states, and Union territories on a plea filed by lawyer Kush Kalra.

The matter is likely to come up for hearing October 21.

"The petitioner filed the application under the Right to Information Act, 2005 to know about the establishment of mental health establishments in prisons in India. "The petitioner was shocked to know that most of the prisons in India do not have mental health establishments as mandated under Section 103(6) of Mental Health Act, 2017," the petition said.

The plea has also sought directions to provide training and awareness to the prison staff and police about the provisions of the Mental Health Act.

The petitioner was shocked to know that most of the prisons don't have mental health establishments as mandated US 103(6) of Mental Health Act, 2017

The PIL stated that mental illness develops suicidal tendencies in prisoners and there is a need to develop sensitivity amongst the jail staff towards the mental health

patients in prisons. It has also sought directions to include the mental health of the arrested person in the medical examination report of the prisoner at the time of admission to the prison.

Notably, as per 'Prison Statistics India 2021' report released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 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.

The report said that 699 inmates lodged in various jails of Odisha have been suffering from various types of mental illness.

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

69% of employees plan to devote more time to upskilling: Report



At least 69 per cent of the respondents said they plan to spend more time upskilling, while 72 per cent are looking to change employers or pivot to a new career altogether amid the pandemic, a report said Friday.

According to the online bootcamp for digital economy skills training Simplilearn, the report highlights employee trends regarding career development through the past 12 months and expectations for the coming year.

"The pandemic has impacted

professionals irrespective of gender or age. This has also been a challenging time for many in terms of career growth. However, it is promising to see the optimism in terms of post-pandemic development, and it is no doubt that the importance of continued learning has come through during this time," Will Wei Lin, Chief Marketing Officer, Simplilearn, said in a statement.

The survey was conducted to understand career trajectories of professionals in the

past year - obstacles faced, what they did differently to improve their careers, and insight on new skills they have learned or plan to learn.

The survey obtained responses from 750 learners and identified that 64 per cent expect economic growth to continue and the pandemic to fade away. While 37 per cent of the respondents cited lacking skill certifications or new skills their jobs required as an obstacle to career growth, 18 per cent cited a lack of soft skills like verbal and written communication, supervisory skills, and presentation.

A least 28 per cent of the respondents who were planning to do better in their current roles and 30 per cent of those who were looking to pivot to a new career showed interest in skills such as Data Science, Digital Marketing, and Project Management.

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29.59% growth in OGST mop-up till August '22

Altogether 20,269 new taxpayers have been bought under GST fold during the current FY so far



POST NEWS NETWORK

The progressive collection of gross GST till August was ₹20,366.77 crore whereas the state had collected ₹16,977.92 crore of gross GST during the same period of the last fiscal

The total collection of VAT (petrol and liquor) was ₹933.62 crore during August'22 as against ₹884.22 crore collected during August'21 with growth rate of 5.59 per cent

The collection from liquor was ₹183.51 crore during the last month against ₹156.49 crore collected during August'21 with a growth rate of 17.27 per cent

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: The state has recorded a growth of 29.59 per cent in OGST (Odisha GST) collection till August of the current financial year as compared to the same period of the last fiscal (2021-22).

The progressive collection of OGST till August 2022 is ₹6,267.93 crore against the collection of ₹4,836.75 crore during April to August of 2021.

The OGST collection in the month of August this year was ₹1,019.81 crore against the collection of ₹956.47 crore during August 2021, registering a growth of 6.62 per cent.

The gross collection of GST during August 2022 was ₹3,883.90 crore as against ₹3,316.55 crore during August 2021 with a growth of 17.11 per cent.

The progressive collection of gross GST till August was ₹20,366.77 crore whereas the state had collected ₹16,977.92 crore of gross GST during the same period of the last fiscal. It means the gross

GST collection has registered a growth of 19.96 per cent this year.

Similarly, the total collection of VAT (petrol and liquor) was ₹933.62 crore during August this year as against ₹884.22 crore collected during August last year with growth rate of 5.59 per cent.

Out of the above, collection from petroleum products was ₹750.11 crore during August 2022 against ₹727.73 crore collected during August 2021, thereby recording a growth of 3.08 per cent.

Similarly, collection from liquor was ₹183.51 crore during the last month against ₹156.49 crore collected during August 2021 with a growth rate of 17.27 per cent.

There is also a growth of 18.37 per cent in professional tax with a collection of ₹21.72 crore during the last month against the collection of ₹18.35 crore during August of last year.

During the current FY (upto August), 20,269 new taxpayers have been bought under the GST fold. The total e-waybill generated during the last month was 15.81 lakh against 14.35 lakh waybills generated during August last year witnessing a growth of 10.17 per cent.

The GST Commissionerate Sanjay Kumar Singh is also regularly contacting the stakeholders who have visited circles with various grievances relating to registration and return filing under Mo Sarkar feedback programme.

The tax officers have been instructed to adhere to the principles of 5T as well as attend to the genuine grievances of the taxpayers promptly.



Orissa High Court justices Sangam Kumar Sahoo and Savitri Ratho light a lamp at an event organised at HC Bar Association Convention Hall in Cuttack, Friday, to mark the death anniversary of Barrister Ranjit Mohanty

Temple City bids adieu to Lord Ganesh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: After two years Ganesh Puja was celebrated in the city with huge cheers and aplomb. After the celebration, devotees immersed the idols of Lord Ganesh adhering to the proper disposal guidelines at temporary ponds.

In a bid to minimise pollution of the riverbeds, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) had prepared two temporary ponds on Kuakhai and Daya river banks for immersion of the idols.

As per report, while some people are using BMC's temporary



pond at Kuakhai river, many others have thrown the idols from above the bridge, polluting the river in Bhubaneswar.

To stop this, BMC has sent enforcement squads to the Kuakhai bridge. Commissioner Vijay

Amruta Kulange has asked staffs to ensure the idols are taken to the temporary pond for Ganesh Visarjan. "More than 50 pandals have been set up for Ganesh Puja in Bhubaneswar this year. All idols of Lord Ganesh across the city

will be immersed in these two temporary ponds," said Kulange.

The civic bodies of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack have been creating artificial ponds for immersion of idols of community puja pandals during Ganesh Puja and Dussehra for the last several years. The step has been taken to prevent pollution of rivers and water sources from petroleum-based colours and polythene and plastic materials used for transport of puja materials.

It should be mentioned that after a two-year break due to Covid curbs, Odisha capital celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi in a grand way August 31.

Sick Padma Sri awardee 'forced' to dance in hosp

Bhubaneswar: Members of Paraja tribal community have called for action against a social worker who allegedly forced its icon, Padma Sri awardee Kamala Pujari, to dance inside a hospital in Cuttack before she was discharged. The incident came to light after a video, in which the elderly woman was seen dancing in the ICU of a government hospital, went viral. PTI could not independently verify the authenticity of the footage. The social worker, Mamata Behera, was also seen dancing with her. "I never wanted to dance but was forced to do it. I repeatedly denied, but she (Behera) did not listen. I was sick and got tired," Pujari told television channels in Koraput district from where she hails.

Man's decomposed body found in Patia

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: Decomposed body of a person was found near the dumpyard in Patia area under Infocity police limits here Friday. The identity of the person is yet to be ascertained, said the police.

It is suspected that the deceased might have committed suicide

Sources revealed that a local who had gone to answer the nature's call came across the putrid smell of the decomposed body. He found the body when he went near the dumping yard.

On being informed, police reached the spot and sent the body to Capital hospital. The body has been kept in the morgue of the hospital. It was suspected that the deceased had committed suicide by hanging from a tree nearby. A towel was found tied around his neck. Police have been investigating the matter after registering an unnatural death case in this regard.

RAZING DOWN



An excavator engaged by the civic body pulls down an illegal structure in Chandrasekharpur area of Bhubaneswar, Friday

Smart Power India launches rooftop solar programme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 2: Smart Power India (SPI), a subsidiary of the Rockefeller Foundation, has launched a rooftop solar programme for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the state.

Launching the program, SPI's programme head Samit Mitra said, "Solar, as we know, is a cost-effective and reliable means of power generation, providing the rural population with a reliable option complementing grid-based electricity."

In the next quarter, SPI plans to work towards supporting the Union and state governments' vision of reducing dependency on conventional sources of energy. SPI has recently launched a pilot project in aquaculture and introduced solar aerators to shrimp farmers. As per SPI's recent white paper with XIMB, preliminary findings indicate 40 per cent savings for the beneficiary farmers.

New economic models for tourism need of the hour: Experts

Creating new economic structures for tourism will require a fundamental shift in values. Over-tourism, pandemics and climate change may contain the seeds of a new economic foundation for tourism — replacing individual-centred tourism ("me-tourism") with community-driven tourism ("we-tourism"). We can hope these planetary challenges are making it clearer than ever that cooperation, care, trust and generosity are the key. Not only for a better vacation, but for the survival of our species.

Creating a new economic foundation for tourism will require a fundamental change in values by all. For example, the Mayor of Amsterdam recently announced that tourists "...taking a vacation from their morals" were not welcome.

A new approach requires questioning the assumptions and values of the 'old' economic system where there's an emphasis on grow-

ing financial capital. Competition and self-interest are not the only way to economic progress.

Income (while it is much desired) does not equal happiness. Progressive economists like E. F. Schumacher, Joseph Stiglitz (winner of a Nobel Prize) and Kate Raworth have all recommended making social equity and environmental conservation part of economic growth by focusing on policies that enhance the greater good of humanity and common human values.

A regenerative tourism economy may just be the most important step forward. Its principles include a holistic view of wealth, honouring community and place, empowered participation and being innovative and adapting to change. Applying these principles to tourism involves slowly building long-term, systemic change in tourism by learning from nature to improve the well-being of all creatures on Earth. It rejects the idea that tourism



Progressive economists like E. F. Schumacher, Joseph Stiglitz and Kate Raworth have all recommended making social equity and environmental conservation part of economic growth by focusing on policies that enhance the greater good of humanity and common human values

A regenerative tourism economy may just be the most important step forward. Its principles include a holistic view of wealth, honouring community and place, empowered participation and being innovative and adapting to change

is separate from the rest of the economy. It can heal damaged destinations and contribute to thriving host communities by constantly engaging locals in decision making.

As an example, the Hawaii Tourism Authority is charting a course to a more regenerative tourism model based on native Hawaiian values such as Malama

(caring) and Kuleana (responsibility). This includes an extensive process to gather community input. Regenerative tourism is rather like a wise and mature adult nurturing and guiding the future of tourism.

Consider a sharing or collaborative economy. Ideally, a sharing economy is the non-monetised sharing of assets or services. Platforms such as Airbnb and Uber, with their apps and monetised transactions have somewhat distorted the ideal. Tourism offers many opportunities for sharing and collaboration. These can include vehicles such as bicycles and cars, accommodation and host experiences like home dinners, local market trips and walking tours. The city of Amsterdam became Europe's first Sharing City in 2015 and has since created infrastructures for residents and tourists to share or rent products and services as needed.

A circular economy seeks to eliminate waste and pollution by re-

using, recycling and repairing. Tourist activity can be very wasteful, it can over-use water and contribute to rubbish and plastic pollution. Encouraging tourism enterprises to adopt green practices and educate tourists about sustainable choices can help to develop a circular tourism economy. International not-for-profit Clean the World, for example, partners with large hotels to recycle unused hotel soap, sending it to countries in need.

A creative economy can innovate and re-design tourism by valuing and nurturing the intelligence, imagination and creativity of employees.

Creative work can improve the status, education and well-being of tourism employees whose jobs today are often demeaning, low-paid dead ends. The international Tourism Education Futures Initiative has designed education programs to create more meaningful careers based on values, creativity and innovation.

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I, Sandhya Agrawal, W/o. Girdhar Agrawal, resident Ward No. - 02, At/P.O./Dist. - Bargarh, Odisha - 768028 Dated: 12.08.2022, traveling from Lumba Building to Gandhi Chowk, lost my Purchase Land Original 02 Nos. of link documents ROR No. 325/42 and Sale Deed Regd. No.151702383. If found, please call or deposit at Bargarh Town Police Station. Mobile No.: 9437051146.

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Tantric killed over false promise

Jajpur, Sept 2: A tantric was allegedly killed by a 40-year-old man in this district Friday after he failed to bring back the accused's estranged wife to him as promised, police said. Santanu Behera had sought the help of Mania Babar to bring his wife back as she had been staying with their two children at her parental house for the past few months after the relationship turned sour, police stated. Santanu, a resident of Bandhagaon under Sukinda police station limits, had paid Rs 5,000 to the tantric after the latter promised to bring the woman back, po-

lice informed. When the 47-year-old visited Santanu's house Friday afternoon, an altercation broke out between the two. The accused demanded return of his money from the tantric over the failure to fulfil the work. In a fit of rage, Santanu attacked Babar with a sharp weapon and the tantric died on the spot. Later, the accused surrendered before police with the weapon used in the crime. Sukinda police station IIC Kabuli Charan Barik said that the deceased was a nomad who was originally from Maharashtra and was staying with his wife in a rented house in the district.

25 students ill after eating prasad

Nilgiri, Sept 2: A total of 25 students of a primary school in Baunsabanpanchayat under Oupada block in Balasore district fell ill after eating Prasad during a feast Thursday to celebrate Ganesh Puja. Sources said, the students complained of

nausea and uneasiness in the evening after coming back home from their school. As their conditions deteriorated, they were admitted to the Nilgiri hospital here, Friday. Most of the students were suffering from high fever. However, after treatment their conditions are said to be stable, sources said.



Dogs of the 2nd Battalion of the BSF used for sniffing out explosives pose with their handlers on the premises of Kendriya Vidyalaya in Malkangiri

OP PHOTO

ILLEGAL SAND MINING ON BUDHABALANGA RIVER BED

NGT slaps ₹36cr penalty on 2 leaseholders

Baripada, Sept 2: The East Zone bench of National Green Tribunal (NGT) at Kolkata slapped Thursday a penalty of over ₹36 crore on two leaseholders while passing an order on illegal sand mining and transportation from the three quarries of Budhabalanga river in Mayurbhanj district. The three sand quarries in question are Arapata, Dingira and Mahupura. The two leaseholders have been directed to pay the penalty by December 7, advocate Shankar Prasad Pani, pleading the matter in the Tribunal said. The bench comprising judicial member B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Saibal Dasgupta passed the order on the basis of an affidavit filed by the Mayurbhanj district collector. The tribunal also ordered the installation of CCTVs in the quarries and GPS in vehicles transporting sand. It also asked for the formation of a supervising squad at the sand quarries. The tribunal also directed the district authorities to file cases under various sec-



tions of the IPC and CrPC against former tehsildar Mumtaz Moharana for his alleged involvement in illegal sand quarrying. The order came on the basis of three petitions (30/22, 31/22, and 40/22) filed by Radhamohan Singh of Chhelia village under Badasahi block in Mayurbhanj district over illegal sand mining and transportation from Arapata, Dingira and Mahupura quarries under Badasahi tehsil.

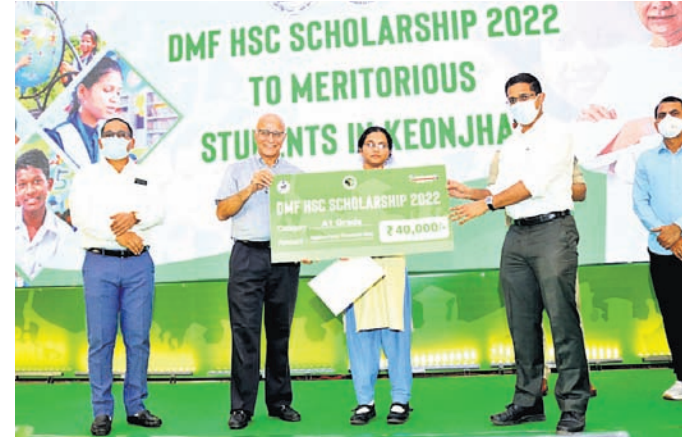
Three petitions were filed by Radhamohan Singh of Chhelia village under Badasahi block over illegal sand mining and transportation

and ₹21 lakh for environmental pollution and ₹1.91 crore towards revenue loss to the government. A penalty of ₹11,89,77,404 was slapped for illegal activities at the Dingira quarry, ₹21 lakh towards environmental loss and ₹1,36,50,605 towards revenue loss resulting in a total penalty of ₹13,47,28,009. Leaseholder Pradeep Bindhani has been asked to pay a penalty of ₹20,40,66,877 for the Arapata and Dingira quarries. Similarly a penalty of ₹16,28,3,244 was imposed for illegal activities associated with the Mahupura sand quarries. Leaseholder Krupasindhu Singh has been ordered to shell out the amount. The district collector has been asked to initiate steps if the leaseholders fail to pay.

DMF HSC scholarships helping Keonjhar students fulfil dreams

Keonjhar, Sept 2: The DMF HSC Scholarship programme entering its third year, awarded scholarships to Class X students of Keonjhar who achieved 60 per cent or higher marks studying in Government/Aided High Schools & Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas (OAVs).

Subroto Bagchi, Chairman, Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA), attended the DMF HSC Scholarship 2022 ceremony as chief guest. Bagchi shared the story of his life to motivate and inspire the audience. He conversed with the youngsters and answered their queries regarding how to achieve success and at the same time be a better human being. Lauding the Keonjhar district administration, the OSDA chairman said: "Using funds available under DMF, the district is paving the path to achieve excellence for the students in Keonjhar district." This year, 228 students in the district received more than 90% (A1 grade) and 1,997 students received more than 80% (A2 grade) in the BSE Class X examinations. Jyoti Prakash Sahoo from Kalyani



BP School Garahabandhogoda, Ghasipura achieved top position in Keonjhar district by securing 98.17%. Sharda Juanga from Chandragiri High School, Badapalaspal secured 78.67% to top the list among the tribal students. She also got a special mention from the chief guest for her grit and efforts. DMF awarded scholarships worth ₹17 crore to a total of 11,605 Class X students who achieved 60% or more studying in Government and Aided High Schools & OAVs. Earlier, DMF HSC scholarships worth ₹10.48 crore were awarded

to 7,698 meritorious students for 2021 and 2020. The initiative is aimed to inspire students to successfully complete their schooling and to support them financially to pursue higher studies beyond the Class X level. The initiative is also in-line with the National Education Policy, 2019 with the objective of 'achieving sustainable development goals (SDG) to expand higher education scholarships to 'ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all'.

Maoists threaten Kandhamal officials

Kotagharh: Maoists have once again made their presence felt in Kotagharh area of Kandhamal district by pasting a threatening poster on a tree. It has triggered panic among locals. In the poster, the left wing ultras alleged that no development works are being undertaken even though funds are being provided by the government. They further alleged that the representative of Kandhamal MP, Manoj Kumar Sabat has been exploiting the people of ST and SC communities while development has taken a backseat in most pockets of the district. The poster stated that Sabat is being helped by former Kotagharh BDO Kailash Chandra Murmu and present block cashier Chhabi Babu. In the poster, the Red rebels have warned the three of dire consequences if they don't mend their ways.

Brown sugar worth ₹4L seized; 1 held

Dhenkanal: Amid reported proliferation of drug smuggling in various parts of Dhenkanal district, Excise officials Friday arrested a peddler and seized 42 gram of brown sugar on NH-55 in Baladiabandh panchayat in this district. The seized brown sugar is valued at ₹4 lakh, said Excise Superintendent Pradip Kumar Panigrahi. The accused was identified as Rajendra Kumar Behera (30) of Baladiabandh village in this district. He was waiting to sell the contraband to another peddler when Excise officials nabbed him. A case was registered while further investigation to find others involved is on, an official said. Locals alleged that for the last few years peddling of brown sugar has been flourishing in various parts of this town despite raids being carried out by Excise and police officials. It has been alleged that some youths procure supplies of brown sugar and other narcotic substances from Bhubaneswar and Balasore.

FESTIVAL FERVOUR



Women take part Friday in a 'Nuakhai Bhet Ghat' programme at Rengali in Sambalpur

OP PHOTO

Salary of 30 staff held up

Rayagada, Sept 2: Collector Swadha Dev Singh cracked the whip on some officials Friday and held up salaries of 30 officials for a month including the tehsildar of Kashipur tehsil in Rayagada district for dereliction of duty. The collector had received a huge number of complaints from people of Kashipur area about the errant officials. They have been accused of playing truant, coming to office late and delaying official work, causing inconvenience to people. Due to their approach, implementation of various schemes was

getting delayed. The collector held a review meeting of revenue officials on functioning of the tehsil offices Friday. She expressed displeasure over the functioning of the tehsil officials and absenteeism of the Kashipur tehsil. Singh directed officials for speedy disposal of works so that various developmental projects can be carried forward. At the meeting, she announced the holding up of one month's salary of 30 officials of Kashipur tehsil. When asked about the holding up of salaries, the collector said that it is an administrative decision and refused to divulge the exact reasons.

Lokayukta starts probe into scam

Hatadihi: A Lokayukta team started Friday investigation into irregularities and embezzlement of government funds as alleged by former sarpanch Hsi Membram of Danr panchayat under this block in Keonjhar district. A two-member team from the Lokayukta including Deputy Director (Forests) Sasmita Lenka conducted investigations at the panchayat office and checked various official records in connection with alleged irregularities. Later, the team left for Chasakhand village where they talked to the beneficiaries of some PMAY scheme and enquired about the problems they faced. Probe in the matter will continue Saturday.

Jumbo herds on damaging spree in Patana, Joda

FOREST DEPT FRET OVER JUMBO SAFETY AS CHANCES OF ELECTROCUTION INCREASE DUE TO LOW-LYING LIVE WIRES

Patana/Joda, Sept 2: A herd of 22 elephants are on a damaging spree in Patana range of Keonjhar district. Sources said Friday that the animals have damaged paddy, maize and pumpkin cultivations in large acres land and at Khunjibeda, Dasapada and Gabhasarua villages under Saharapada forest section. The elephants also damaged Thursday night houses of three people at Khunjibeda village of Badabila panchayat. The herd is



presently holed up in Jagannathpur cashew forest. Few days back, the animals had unleashed a reign of terror at Chatarpana, Baikala and Khuntapada villages. Saharapada block chairperson Rina Nayak, zilla parishad member Buddhadev Mahakud, ranger

Ghasinath Patra and Saharapada forester Mohini Mohant visited the affected villages and took stock of the damages. Forest officials are keeping a close watch on movement of the animals in the area as locals are in a state of panic. Two more herds comprising 29 ele-

phants are also on the move in Bamebari and Balibandh ranges, officials of the Forest department said. At night, the animals come out of the forests and head towards nearby human habitations and cause damages, locals said. They said that mining explosions in some of the forest pockets in Joda at night are forcing the animals to head into human settlements. The bright lights set up for mining are also disturbing the pachyderms, forcing them to leave their regular habitats. Forest officials are worried as chances of electrocution of the animals have increased with live wires hanging at low heights along some of the roads in these areas. Two elephants recently died in Keonjhar after coming in contact with live wires. Two officials have been suspended on grounds of negligence while on duty in this regard. A total of 14 elephants in

Balibandh section and 20 in Jalapasi section are creating mayhem, officials said. Earlier, an elephant corridor existed which facilitated the movement of the animals from Similipal and Saranda reserve forest via Sundargarh and Jharkhand. Due to rampant mining, the corridor has been damaged, as a result of which elephants are facing problems. The end result is that they are now disturbing human habitations. When contacted, DFO Dhanraj HD said that the department is working for safety of the animals in coordination with authorities of the Railways and Energy departments in the forest areas. Mine lease holders are also alerting the Forest department about elephant movements in their respective areas. An elephant squad has been formed to track the movement of the animals, Dhanraj informed.

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- Estimated Cost :: 25.21 Lakh to 33.62 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor :: C and B Class of Contractor
- Period of Completion :: (Three) 3 Calendar Months
- Other details: ::

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Executive Engineer, R.W.Division, Bhanjanagar	Online Tender/07/RWBNJ/2022-23	09.09.2022 at 10.00 A.M.	19.09.2022 upto 3.00 P.M.

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THE MOTHER



Shrinking Turf

Is the hallowed 'turf' of the IAS shrinking? Evidently, yes. In the years since the Modi sarkar came to power, the IAS cadre at the joint secretary and additional secretary levels has noticeably shrunk. From 249 IAS officers in 2015 (from a total of 391 joint secretaries) to 2017, the number was down to a mere 77 in January this year. Similarly, the number of additional secretaries has reduced from 98 in 2015 to 76 this year.

The trend is ongoing. Just recently the government promoted 31 officers to additional and joint secretary ranks across ministries, but only 12 are IAS officers. The rest are from other services. This might give the impression that the Modi sarkar is attempting to break the dominance of the IAS, but there is another pressing reason. It also wants to address the crunch of IAS officers available for Central deputation (covered by DKB in a previous column). Faced with this acute shortage the government may simply be making optimum use of officers from other cadres to fill the gap until the imbalance is corrected, most likely over the next couple of years. This 'short-term' diversity may even be a good thing for now!

Babus lose another job

For the second time, the prestigious post of Chief Economic Advisor has gone to a non-babu. Former Chief Economic Adviser KV Subramanian is the new Executive Director for India at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) replacing Surjit Bhalla. According to the official order, Subramanian's appointment, which is for the full term of three years, has been done "by curtailing the tenure of Dr Surjit S Bhalla..."

The language of the order is what set tongues wagging. The wording suggested that Bhalla was turfed out to make way for Subramanian. Bhalla was in Delhi and must have heard about his successor only when he landed in Washington, DC. Some of those who know about such matters however urge not to read too much into Bhalla's exit. Apparently, executive directors are elected by the IMF board and Bhalla had served out his three-year term, as had many others before him. Blame poor drafting by someone for the needless controversy!

Meanwhile, Bhalla's successor has an unenviable record. Not much was known about him before he was named chief economic advisor. Babus in Delhi are wondering whether his patrons who got him the job in the Finance Ministry continue to wield the considerable influence he used to, or if there is an acute shortage of those who can parrot the Finance Ministry's views.

And, of course, this is another plum post that now seems to be out of bounds for turf-hugging babus.

Wait gets a bit longer

The search and selection committee to appoint the new head for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) recently called nine candidates for an interview but only six turned up. ONGC's outgoing chief Alka Mittal, who has been holding the post as an additional charge, chose not to appear before the panel. The committee will take another two or three months to complete the process.

Until then, most babu observers say, the state-owned ONGC will have to make do with a third interim chairperson, surely a record. The government has been unable to find a full-time chief of the country's most profitable company in the 17 months since the post fell vacant when Shashi Shanker superannuated in March last year. Since then, the company has been steered by Subhash Kumar and then Ms Mittal, both from ONGC management. The most likely interim head seems to be RK Srivastava, director (exploration) since he is the senior-most director.

Curiously, the selection committee headed by PESB chief Mallika Srinivasan includes Petroleum Secretary Pankaj Jain and former Indian Oil chairman B Ashok. It was set up in February but started work only this month! Among those who appeared for the interview were BPCL chairman AK Singh and Engineers India Ltd head Vartika Shukla.

Meanwhile, it may also be useful to remember that besides ONGC, at least 20 PSEs are currently without full-time heads.

Share a babu experience! Follow [dilipthecherian@twitter.com](https://twitter.com/dilipthecherian). Let's multiply the effect



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian



Xu Qiyuan and Wan Taili

DEVELOPING ECONOMIES SUFFER FROM THE SO-CALLED ORIGINAL SIN PROBLEM, MEANING THAT THEY CANNOT BORROW ABROAD IN THEIR OWN CURRENCY

Many developing countries are teetering on the edge of a debt crisis, with the COVID-19 pandemic, soaring food and energy costs, and the monetary tightening of major economies all threatening to push them over. But the international community has yet to do what is necessary to pull at-risk countries back from the brink.

For some economies, such as Lebanon and Sri Lanka, the crisis has already arrived. They could soon be joined by many more. As of the end of March, 38 of 69 low-income countries were either already in or at high risk of debt distress. Middle-income developing countries' debt-service burden is at its highest level in 30 years.

The international community has taken some action in response to the problem. Soon after the pandemic began, the G20 introduced the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), under which \$12.9 billion in payments owed by 73 low-income countries was suspended between May 2020 and December 2021. Moreover, in November 2020, the G20, together with the Paris Club of sovereign creditors, created the Common Framework for Debt Treatments Beyond the DSSI to help DSSI countries restructure their debt and manage insolvency and protracted liquidity problems.

But these initiatives are nowhere near enough to resolve developing economies' debt problems. One problem is stigma: When a debtor resorts to the Common Framework, it can face a sovereign credit downgrade. Most countries are not willing to take that risk, especially given the initiative's limited scope.

Moreover, although the Common Framework relies mainly on support from official creditors, it is private creditors who own the majority (60%) of the claims. The perception that private creditors are freeriding could discourage official creditors from accepting more debtor-friendly terms. And debtor countries know that,

FOCUS GLOBAL ECONOMY

AVERTING DEBT DISASTER



Pressure on the developing world is not set to ease any time soon. But a Special Drawing Rights (SDR)-backed credit-enhancement programme could spare it from another debt crisis

even if they undergo a Common Framework restructuring, they will still have their burdens of private debt to deal with. It is little wonder that only three debtor countries have so far applied to restructure their debt under the Common Framework.

There is a better way. In August 2021, the International Monetary Fund approved a general allocation of \$650 billion in special drawing rights (SDRs, the IMF's reserve asset), which was distributed to member countries in proportion to their quota shares. If used wisely, these funds can go a long way toward supporting indebted countries.

The obvious proposal would be for countries with idle SDRs simply to donate them to struggling countries. But, beyond the risk of moral hazard, this approach is unlikely to produce enough funds to make much difference. After all, loan commitments to the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) totaled just \$7.8 billion in 2021. That is better than nothing, but still far from adequate.

To make a real difference, SDRs must be used more imaginatively. Developing economies suffer from the so-called original sin problem,

meaning that they cannot borrow abroad in their own currency. Moreover, they often struggle to borrow in international bond markets, owing to weak sovereign credit ratings. But if SDRs were used to boost their credit ratings, private investment could be leveraged to tackle high debts.

The first step would be for the IMF to borrow interest-free SDRs from member countries, and put them into a trust – whether the PRGT, the Resilience and Sustainability Trust, or a new entity. Next, debtor and creditor countries would jointly apply for SDR loans from the trust, or a debtor country would apply alone before negotiating terms with its creditors.

Either way, the application process would be open, transparent, and market-based. The IMF could work with creditor and debtor countries to establish a reporting mechanism that covers all debt claims and relevant data. Participants would cooperate to ensure that the debt restructuring followed best practices and met transparency standards.

Once the application was approved, the IMF trust would extend a concessional SDR loan to the debtor country, with a very low –

even zero – interest rate. Since the SDR is neither a currency nor a claim on the Fund, borrowers would then convert the funds into one of the asset's five constituent currencies – the US dollar; the euro, the Chinese renminbi, the Japanese yen, or the British pound – which would be used to purchase high-rated government bonds issued by reserve-currency countries. With these risk-free assets as collateral, debtor countries could then issue "international anti-epidemic cooperation bonds," using the proceeds to roll over or repay debt.

Such a credit-enhancement program – which is consistent with the Common Framework – would ease liquidity pressures and reduce debt risks while avoiding moral hazard. More important, it would spur the private sector to participate actively in the debt-restructuring process and boost the resources being channeled toward development financing. Despite fees and commissions, we estimate that this program could save a typical debtor country 30-50% in interest costs, compared to a bond issuance without collateral.

Our proposed program could also be adapted to advance other imperatives, such as creating innovative financing instruments for supporting sustainable development and investment in green infrastructure. In addition to the IMF, the World Bank and regional development banks, such as the African Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, could participate in such initiatives.

Pressure on the developing world is not set to ease any time soon. But an SDR-backed credit-enhancement programme could spare it from another debt crisis.

Xu Qiyuan is Deputy Director of the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Wan Taili is Chairman of the Supervisory Board at China Bond Rating Co., Ltd.

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SPECTRUM NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

Challenges to higher education in India

The recent decision of the University Grants Commission (UGC) for engaging experts and professionals from various fields as professors of practice is indeed a welcome step.

The initiative is aimed at bringing in distinguished experts from various fields such as engineering, science, technology, entrepreneurship, commerce, social sciences media, civil services, public administration, armed forces etc. and involve them in developing and designing course curriculum, delivering lectures, mentoring students in innovation and entrepreneurship, focusing on industry-academia collaboration, carrying out joint research projects and holding seminars in collaboration with regular faculty members.

The biggest challenge before higher education today is to impart skills that are relevant to needs of industry, farm sector and the like. The obvious idea is to make students not just aware of the social and economic realities but make them ready to take up assignments. But there is also the need to impart quality education, which unfortunately is confined to few higher education institutions.

Delving into statistics, there has been growth from about 20 universities in 1950, to about 1040 uni-

versities at present. Only around 135 of these institutions are regarded as Institutions of National Importance (INI). Close to 39 million students are currently enrolled in the academic institutions with India's gross enrolment ratio (GER) standing at a little over 27 percent. For Education 4.0 implementation, changes are imperative in the sphere of upgrading quality.

This could begin at the curriculum level. The curriculum requires the right mix of technical knowledge, social sciences, ethics, leadership skills, design elements and it also needs to be tightly integrated with out-of-class learning. But this curriculum has to reach all universities throughout the country with an eye on those located in the backward districts of the country.

However, the basic problem is the setting up of more colleges in rural and backward areas of the country but experts are not talking about this. There are suggestions of amalgamating tiny colleges into one big institution without considering how students would reach that institution every day. Though the focus is on modernising education, which undoubtedly is very important at this juncture, there is equally a need to make education available for all sections of society.

A section of experts believes that the latest NEP visualises education that is in perfect sync with the politics of the corporate Hindutva alliance that currently rules India. The policy believes in privatisation of education, which will clearly make it more expensive and obviously beyond the means of socially and economically deprived sections.

As is happening presently, the privileged section has been acquiring education that will enable them to fill executive and official positions, while others excluded from such education will be given skills and will join the vast segment of the workforce among whom a limited number of available jobs is rationed out. The globalisation of capital characteristic of neoliberal capitalism also created a global market that requires, in turn, a homogeneous education, across countries. This detaches education, say in India, completely from its Indian setting. Thus, a student of economics in the country cannot simply understand the Indian economy without reckoning with the legacy of colonialism.

The present endeavour to make education more professionalised by laying stress on the vocational angle and imparting skill education is possibly something which should

have been taken up years ago. The emphasis on curriculum development has to be given special attention by making education not pedagogic but tuned to the necessities of industry and society. This indeed is a big challenge and the sooner this transformation comes the better it is.

However, the autonomy of these higher education institutions has to be guaranteed which is a vital need at this juncture. Politicians, both at the Centre and in the states, want to have a say in universities and colleges as they want to use students for their political activities. This cannot be allowed to continue and each institution has to be allowed to develop in its own way. This means they should be allowed to devise variations from the standard curriculum, keeping in view local needs and requirements.

The trend towards privatisation of education, which will clearly make it more expensive and obviously beyond the means of socially and economically deprived sections, needs to be seriously considered and proper rules brought in place regarding the fee structure. A committee may be set up to ensure that meritorious students from the poorer sections get benefits to study in private universities.

INFPA

WISDOM CORNER

- We know what we are, but know not what we may be. **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**
- Have a very good reason for everything you do. **LAURENCE OLIVIER**
- Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication. **LEONARDO DA VINCI**

WORDSWORTH

Alcopop

This is a type of alcoholic drink designed and marketed to appeal to young people. The term is a blend of alcohol with pop in the old sense of a sweetish, effervescent fruit drink. Alcopops are an Australian invention which first came on the market in Britain in the summer of 1995, but which later spread to North America, Japan and elsewhere. They are broadly fruit drinks fortified with alcohol – a more formal name for them is alcoholic lemonades – usually with about 5% of alcohol by volume, which makes them rather stronger than most beers. Their makers have always denied that they are expressly targeted at underage drinkers, but a survey of more than 3,000 young people in Britain a couple of years ago, at the height of the craze, found that nearly two-thirds of boys and half of girls were drinking them by the age of 16, and some regular drinkers were as young as 11. The government promised action to curb their promotion to the under-18s, and some supermarkets stopped selling them in response to public pressure, but they have in any case gone out of fashion in Britain, with young people turning to lager instead.

Yaoi

This word is only now beginning to appear in general publications, though it has been around in its specialist area for some years. It refers to a type of manga or anime, so originally Japanese, that focuses on male-to-male sexual relationships. Though it is therefore popular among gays, it has proved to be still more popular among women. So it has that in common with the – originally SF – genre of slash fiction, in which male stars of popular TV shows and films are portrayed as engaging in gay relationships, a genre also popular with and mostly written by women. (Slash because the original pair were Spock/Kirk from Star Trek, so written.) Yaoi is said to be a Japanese acronym formed from the phrase yama nashi, ochi nashi, imi nashi, which has been translated into English as "no climax, no resolution, no meaning" and "no peak, no point, no problem", though a recent article suggests it actually means "no story, just the good bits", that is, mostly descriptions of the sex with the minimum of storyline. The pronunciation often confuses people. In Japanese, I'm told, it ought to be three syllables (roughly as "yah-oh-ee"), though it's frequently heard as two, as often happens in rapid speech. In English it seems to be said mainly as "YOW-ee" (roughly the noise you make when your home team scores, or you do) but also as "YAY-oi", the former being nearer the Japanese pronunciation.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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Setting example

Sir, In the past we heard that Indian Railway Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri quit his post after a major accident down South and it appeared a strange one for us at that time. Now a woman health minister quit her minister post after the death of an Indian woman struggling to get a bed in a hospital shunting from one to the other. The tragic death of a pregnant Indian woman in Portugal while being shifted between crisis-hit hospitals here has led to the resignation of the country's Health Minister Marta Temido while authorities have launched an investigation into the incident. The 34-year-old Indian woman reportedly suffered a cardiac arrest during an ambulance transfer from Santa Maria hospital, which had no vacancies in the neonatology service, to another hospital in the capital. It follows a string of incidents this summer that critics blame on a staffing crisis across Portuguese natal units. But it is a striking example of the true way of admitting the folly.

CK Dorai Ramani Suresh, GHAZIABAD

Bhubaneswar as district

Sir, Bhubaneswar has a rich cultural heritage. It is replete with ancient monuments and exotic temples. It is a modern city par excellence. Barring Bhubaneswar almost all the capitals of other states in India are districts. Bhubaneswar houses important offices and dignitaries. It is a knowledge hub and a city of architectural marvel. It has been a long standing demand of various associations to declare the smart city as a district. It will ensure citizen centric administration and good governance effectively. The state government is urged to accord district status to Bhubaneswar as soon as possible.

Prabudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Gorbachev's works

Sir, Mikhail Gorbachev was the last head of State of the Soviet Union and helped to bring about a peaceful end to the Cold War; for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990. He remained active in humanitarian affairs, notably through his leadership of the Gorbachev Foundation. He was also the founder of the Green Cross International, an environmentalist organization headquartered in Geneva, whose mission is to respond to the challenges of security, poverty, and environmental degradation. He redefined the Soviet Union's relations with the West by lifting the Iron Curtain, marking a pivotal turning point in world history. Gorbachev's passing comes at a time when the open, democratic values he championed have been stripped from Russian political life.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

national

of the day quote

Our commitment for excellence is supreme. We do & don't brag. Despite being small state in eco terms compared to Delhi, Assam constructing 21 state-of-art medical colleges / hospitals; 06 completed; 03 to be completed this year. Rest in diff stages of completion @ArvindKejriwal

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

There is no proposal before the state government to bifurcate Pune Municipal Corporation

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

The Congress is now neither a party of ideology nor a national party, nor even a regional party. It has been reduced to a brother-sister party

JP NADDA | BJP CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Dalit man killed by in-laws

Pithoragarh: A Dalit man was allegedly killed by his in-laws for marrying an upper-caste woman in Uttarakhand's Almora district, an official said Friday. Jagdish Chandra (39), a Dalit political activist from Panuadhokhan village, was found dead in a car in Bhikiasain town on Friday, Salt sub-division tehsildar Nisha Rani said. His body bore 25 wounds, she said, adding it appears he was killed using blunt objects like batons.

Woman kills three daughters

Buxar: A woman was arrested on the charge of strangulating her three young daughters to death in Bihar's Buxar district Friday, a police officer said. The reason why Pinki Devi, a resident of Barki Gai Ghat village under the jurisdiction of Brahmapur police station, killed her daughters is not yet clear. Her neighbours contacted the police after finding the bodies of Poonam (8), Roni (7) and Babli (4) Friday morning.

2 Maoists dead

Seraikela: Two Maoists were killed in a gunfight with the security forces in Jharkhand's Seraikela-Kharsawan district Friday morning, police said. The Maoists were killed during a joint operation by the CRPF's COBRA, Jharkhand Jaguar and the state police, they said. "Two CPI(Maoist) members were gunned down in an operation at Baruda forest in Kuchai police station area," deputy inspector general of police, Kolhan division, Ajay Linda said.



Many congratulations to the Indian Navy, the Naval Design Bureau and Cochin Shipyard for the many years of hard work that has made the vision of INS Vikrant come true. India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier, Vikrant is a significant step for India's maritime security

RAHUL GANDHI | FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT

DATE DECLARED

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the revamped Central Vista Avenue September 8, highly-placed sources said



Seer remanded to police custody till September 5

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chitradurga (Karnataka), Sept 2: Chief pontiff of Murugha Math Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, who has been arrested for alleged sexual abuse of two minor girls, was Friday remanded to police custody till September 5.

The seer was arrested Thursday night and sent to jail in the early hours of Friday where he developed health complications. He was taken to the district hospital, where medical tests were conducted. The medical team which examined him was contemplating to shift him to Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research in Bengaluru for treatment, sources said.

The 64-year old Sharanaru was produced Friday in the local court, which remanded him to police custody for four days. The seer, wrapped himself in a white cloth around his saffron attire, was taken in a wheelchair to the court.

Sharanaru has been booked under provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for allegedly sexually abusing two high school girls, studying in a school run by the Math and staying in hostel also belonging to it.

The pontiff of one of the most prominent and influential Lingayat Maths in the State was questioned by police for several hours on Thursday night. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the police have been given a free hand to investigate the sexual abuse case in accordance with law.

He did not wish to comment on allegations regarding the "delay" in the arrest of the seer. "There is

Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru was arrested Thursday night and sent to jail in the early hours of Friday where he developed health complications

no need to respond to all these talk. I have already said that everything will happen in accordance with law. It is not right to comment on the case at the present situation," Bommai said in the coastal city of Mangaluru in response to a question on delay in the seer's arrest. Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly Siddaramaiah sought an impartial probe by the police, based on the complaint lodged by victim-girls, in connection with the case. Becoming the first senior leader from the opposition Congress to comment on the case, the former Chief Minister said the allegations against the seer were "serious" in nature. "The allegations against Chitradurga Muruga Mutt Swamiji is (are) serious. The police should carry out (an) impartial investigation based on the complaint filed by the girls and reveal the truth," Siddaramaiah tweeted.

There is no need to respond to all these talk. I have already said that everything will happen in accordance with law. It is not right to comment on the case at the present situation

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM



A volunteer carries an idol of Lord Ganesha for immersion at Pattinapakkam beach in Chennai

PTI PHOTO

HC order re-establishes EPS as AIADMK boss

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 2: On the party leadership dispute, the Madras High Court Friday allowed AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami's appeal, setting aside an order in favour of O Panneerselvam.

A division bench comprising Justices M Duraiswamy and Sundar Mohan set aside an order of a single judge, which nullified the July 11 General Council (GC) meeting of the AIADMK. In that meeting held in July, leader of opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS) was elected as the interim general secretary of the party, the top post. Panneerselvam (OPS) was ousted from the party.

Palaniswami's position as the single, supreme leader of AIADMK is established with this fresh court order. The division bench quashed the August 17 order of Justice G Jayachandran, which ordered maintenance of status-quo ante as of June 23. Previously, Panneerselvam was the



Supporters of AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami celebrate after a court delivered its verdict in favour of the former Chief Minister on the conduct of July 11 General Council meeting of AIADMK in Chennai

PTI PHOTO

Coordinator and Palaniswami, the Joint Coordinator and that directive was for maintenance of the then existing dual power structure.

In its 127-page order, the bench observed that the appellant EPS and respondent OPS can never function together and there was a deadlock in party matters. The

direction of the single judge to conduct the Executive or General Council meetings jointly would not be workable, as the two leaders have not been able to act together and there has been a deadlock.

The direction only furthered the "functional deadlock" that was already in existence in the party, the

AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami Friday described the Madras High Court's ruling, that has in effect endorsed his election in July as party's interim chief, as 'historic'

Rival leader O Panneerselvam said the High Court verdict would be challenged in the Supreme Court

bench said. The General Council meeting held on 11 July 2022 was proper, the bench held. In the July meet, Palaniswami was elected as AIADMK's interim general secretary with full powers to helm the party.

The requisition for the GC meet, to decide the issue of single leadership, was made by 2,190 members out of the 2,665 members of the council, the supreme decision-making body. This amounts to more than 80 per cent of the General Council members.

The requisition was followed by an agenda, signed and requested by 2,432 General Council members.

CBI arrests Trinamool leader

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Sept 2: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Friday arrested Trinamool Congress leader and the Chairman of Halisahar Municipality in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, Raju Sahani, for his alleged involvement in a major chit fund scam in the state.

The CBI sleuths have recovered cash worth Rs 80 lakhs from his possession so far. The counting of the cash is on following which the exact amount of recovery will be known.

On late Friday afternoon, a CBI team suddenly conducted raid and search operations at Sahani's residence at New Town here. Sahani was present at that residence at that time. Another team also raided his ancestral residence at Halisahar.

The cash was recovered from the New Town residence. The CBI sleuths have also traced a bank account held by him in Bangkok. CBI sources said that preliminary investigation has revealed that huge amounts were transferred to this bank account from a chit fund entity, Sanmarg Cooperative. An unlicensed pistol was also seized from his possession.

Sources said that Sahani was unable to give satisfactory answers about the huge fund recovered from his possession. Thereafter, he was arrested.

Sahani is the son of former CPI-M leader and councillor, Lakshman Sahani.

However, he rose to fame as an active local leader of Trinamool and in due course of time, became the Chairman of the Halisahar Municipality.

Kejriwal promises sops for Gujarat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dwarka (Gujarat), Sept 2: Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal Friday announced a set of six pre-poll "guarantees" for farmers, including waiver of agricultural loans, if the AAP was voted to power in Gujarat as he stepped up his outfit's campaigning for the year-end Assembly elections in the BJP-ruled state.

Kejriwal said his party, if voted to power, will create a mechanism to buy farm produce from farmers on MSP. In his address to farmers at Dwarka town of Devbhumi Dwarka district, the Delhi Chief Minister also promised to conduct a fresh land survey as farmers were unhappy with the survey conducted recently by the BJP government. "Though MSP is announced



Though MSP is announced every year, farm produce is not sold at that price. It is my guarantee that our government will buy at MSP if farmers do not find any other buyer who is willing to buy their produce at MSP

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | AAP CONVENER

every year, farm produce is not sold at that price. It is my guarantee that our government will buy at MSP if farmers do not find any other buyer who is willing to buy their produce at MSP," said Kejriwal.

The AAP leader added that a government headed by his party in the state will first cover five farm produce - wheat, paddy, cotton, chana and groundnut - under the

'buy at MSP' programme and then add more commodities to the list going forward.

"I have learnt the farmers in Gujarat get electricity at night to irrigate their fields. If the AAP is voted to power, we will give electricity during the day, that, too, for 12 hours. We will also cancel the land survey done by this government and order a re-survey," said Kejriwal.

UP SHOCKER

Man posts wife's pics on FB to lure followers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Firozabad, Sept 2: In a shocking incident, a man uploaded photographs of his wife taking a bath on his Facebook account, because he wanted to increase the number of followers.

The wife lodged a complaint with the police which then got the Facebook account deleted. Police in Jasrana of Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad district have also registered a case against the man under Section 67 of the IT Act.

According to the complaint, the husband of the woman lives in Uttam Nagar in Delhi and works in a circus. The wife said that he is a social media addict. She said that she used to often talk to her husband through video calls and on one such occasion, he recorded her while she was taking a bath and uploaded the same on his Facebook account.

When she came to know, he told her that he had done it to increase the number of his followers. She asked him to delete the photographs but he refused.

SP (rural) Ranvijay Singh said that the case had been registered on the wife's complaint and the couple would soon be summoned to the police station for recording statements. Appropriate action would be taken after that, he added.



AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY

INS VIKRANT: A GIANT LEAP FOR NAVY

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

Modi, who also unveiled a new Naval Ensign inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj said the country has taken off a "burden of slavery." He said Vikrant, which means victorious, is huge, massive, and vast. "Vikrant is distinguished, Vikrant is also special. Vikrant is not just a warship and stood testimony to Indian skills and talent, he said.

He also spoke about certain features of the aircraft carrier - which he described as a "floating airfield, a floating town" - and said the power generated in it can light up 5,000 houses.

At a ceremony attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar, among others at the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) here, the PM unveiled the new Naval Ensign. "Today on the historic date of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the commissioning ceremony of the first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, at Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kochi

PTI PHOTO

September 2, 2022, India has taken off a trace of slavery, a burden of slavery: The Indian Navy has got a new flag from today. Till now the

identity of slavery remained on the flag of Indian Navy. But from today onwards, inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji, the new Navy

flag will fly in the sea and in the sky", he said and dedicated it to the legendary Maratha king.

The Navy had earlier said the new ensign (Nishaan) will be befitting the rich Indian maritime heritage. Modi unveiled a plaque to mark the induction of INS Vikrant, named after its predecessor that played a crucial role in the 1971 Indo-Pak war, into the Navy.

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

The 262 m long and 62 m wide carrier displaces approximately 43000 T when fully loaded, having a maximum designed speed of 28 knots with endurance of 7500 NM. Built at an estimated cost of Rs 20,000 crore, it has state-of-the-art fea-

tures and can operate air wing consisting of 30 aircraft, including MiG-29K fighter jets, besides the domestically manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH).

"Today, India has joined those countries in the world, which manufacture such a huge aircraft carrier with indigenous technology. Today INS Vikrant has filled the country with a new confidence," Modi said, while addressing a large gathering ahead of the commissioning ceremony. The Navy said the commissioning ceremony is one of the most significant milestones in the life of a warship. "Today 2 Sep 22 marks the acceptance of #INSVikrant as a potent unit of the operating forces of the @indiannavy. Wishing her fair winds & following seas... #AtmanirbharBharat", a defence spokesman tweeted immediately after the commissioning.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Sept 2: India launched its maiden indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant Friday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi commissioning the warship that put India into a select league of countries with domestic capability to develop such large vessels.

Quashing of OBC order shakes up caste politics in UP

The OBCs account for almost half of the population of the country's most populous state and play a decisive role in deciding the outcome of most of its 80 Lok Sabha seats



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 2: The Allahabad High Court order quashing an Uttar Pradesh government notification that brought 18 OBC communities in the list of Scheduled Castes is set to shake up politics over caste in the state as major parties gear up for the 2024 parliamentary polls.

Opposition Samajwadi Party has now vowed to fight for the rights of the Other Backward Classes in the assembly as well as on the streets, and the Congress has accused the ruling BJP of betraying the OBCs after getting their votes.

BJP ally Nishad Party, which represents the OBC fisher communities "welcomed" the court order, saying that the state government's previous notifications on the issue were flawed and "un-constitutional".

But the party made it clear that it will continue to fight for the cause, lobbying with the governments at the state and the Centre - its stance indicating that it still expected the BJP to act.

An Allahabad High Court bench of Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal and Justice J J Munir had Wednesday allowed a petition that challenged the notifications issued in 2016 and 2019, and annulled the inclusion of 18 OBCs in the SC list.

The notifications had been issued by the SP's Akhilesh Yadav government (2016) and then by the previous Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government (2019). But there already were court restrictions on their implementation.

Even earlier, the SP government led by party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav had tried to include these OBC castes in the SC category, issuing an order in 2005. But it was

stayed by the high court.

Two years later, Mayawati's BSP government quashed the order. But she later wrote to the Centre extending her support for the inclusion of some OBCs in the SC category.

The castes which the SP and the BJP governments intended to shift to the SC category are Majhwar, Kahar, Kashyap, Kewat, Mallah, Nishad, Kumhar, Prajapati, Dheevar, Bind, Bhar, Rajbhar, Dhiman, Batham, Turha, Godia, Manjhi and Machhhua.

As parties gear up for 2024, the inclusion - or not - of some OBC communities that seek benefits available to the SCs is likely to become a factor.

The SP, which considers the Yadavs its support base, has been keen to expand its influence among the voters from other OBC castes. For this, it has entered into alliances with smaller caste-centric parties - the Apna Dal (Kamerwadi), the Mahan Dal and the Janwadi Party.

The ruling BJP has been working on garnering the support of non-Yadav OBC castes since the 2017 assembly elections in UP. The Apna Dal (Sonelal) and the Nishad party are now its allies in the state.

Of late, it seems to have also weaned away Om Prakash Rajbhar's Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) and Shivpal Singh Yadav's Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) from the SP-led opposition fold.

Opposition parties have made their intent clear that they would use the issue against the ruling BJP in the next election.

SP leader Rajpal Kashyap indirectly suggested, but offered no evidence, that the BJP government was behind the petition on which the high court acted.

Assam tops NCRB list for 'offences against the state'

The revelation of the NCRB data has drawn sharp criticism from the opposition and legal experts, who alleged that the BJP-led Assam government is using stringent provisions of law to "suppress the voice of dissent"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 2: Assam has topped the list of Indian states, registering cases under 'offences against the state' segment, including sedition charges, according to the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

The revelation of the NCRB data has drawn sharp criticism from the opposition and legal experts, who alleged that the BJP-led Assam government is using stringent provisions of law to "suppress the voice of dissent" with the help of a "police raj".

According to the NCRB report, Assam registered a total of 35 cases of 'offences against the state' against 36 persons in 2021.

In the 'offences against the state' segment, the NCRB has included five Indian Penal Code sections. These are 124A (sedition), 121 (waging or attempting to wage war), 121A (conspiracy to commit offences punishable by section 121), 122 (collecting arms to wage war) and 123 (concealing to facilitate design to wage war).



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

In May this year, the Supreme Court had put on hold the penal law under Section 124A of the IPC.

Last year, Assam registered three sedition cases against three persons, while it lodged 32 FIRs under the other four IPC sections and named 33 persons in those, NCRB said.

Assam is followed by Andhra Pradesh with 30 cases of 'offences against the state', Jammu and Kashmir with 13 cases and Manipur with 10 cases. The numbers of such cases registered by the rest

of the states and union territories are in single digits.

Reacting to the NCRB data, Leader of the Opposition Debabrata Saikia said that there are many examples in the state where sedition cases have been slapped for simple offences.

Gauhati High Court Advocate Santanu Borthakur told PTI that he has seen usage of such stringent cases more in the last few years, especially after 2016 when BJP came to power in Assam for the first time.

UP GOVT TO CONDUCT SURVEY OF UNRECOGNISED MADRASSAS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 2: The Uttar Pradesh government will conduct a survey of unrecognised madrassas in the state to gather information about number of teachers, curriculum, and basic facilities available there, among others.

Minister of State for Minority Affairs Danish Azad Ansari Wednesday said the state government will conduct the survey in accordance with the requirement of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in connection with the availability of basic facilities to the students in madrassas.

"The survey will begin soon," the minister told PTI.

During the survey, details such as name of madrassa and the institution operating it, whether it is running in a private or rented building, number of students studying there, and information regarding facilities of drinking water, toilet, furniture and electricity supply will be collected, Ansari said.

Information regarding number of teachers in the madrassa, its curriculum, source of income and its affiliation with any non-government organisation (NGO) will also be gathered, he said.

To a question whether the state government would start the process of recognizing new madrassas after this survey, the minister said



It is noteworthy that at present there are a total of 16,461 madrassas in Uttar Pradesh, out of which 560 are given government grants.

New madrassas have not been included in the grant list for the last six years in the state

that at present, the government's aim is to collect information only about unrecognized madrassas.

The minister said that according to the order issued Wednesday, in case of disputed management committee in madrassas or absence of any member of the committee, the Madrassa principal and district minority welfare officer will be able to make appointments from the deceased dependent quota.

Earlier, if there was any problem in the managing committee, the dependent of the deceased had to face difficulties in getting the job.

Meanwhile, Diwan Saheb Zaman, general secretary of Teachers Association Madaris Arabiya, welcomed these decisions of the state government and said they would benefit madrassa teachers and non-teaching staff.

Farrukhabad jail bags five-star FSSAI rating

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Farrukhabad, Sept 2: The food served to the over 1,100 inmates lodged in the district jail in Fatehgarh here has undergone a rather tasty makeover, and received a "five-star" rating from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

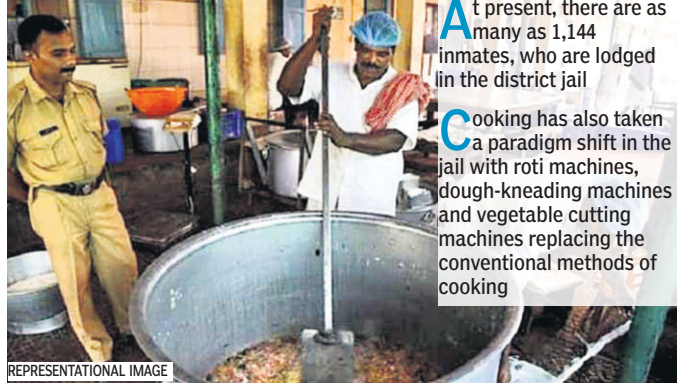
The FSSAI certificate reads, "District Jail Fatehgarh, Farrukhabad is certified as Eat Right CAMPUS as per guidelines established by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India."

The statement is followed by a 5 stars rating and 'excellent' written on the certificate, which is valid until

August 18, 2024.

Elaborating on the achievement, which the jail achieved on the occasion of completion of 75 years of the country's independence, jailor of Fatehgarh district jail, Akhilesh Kumar told PTI, "We got the certificate after a third party audit, and before the certificate was given to us, some of the jail staff were given on-line training."

The criteria on which they were judged before getting the certificate include cleanliness, quality of food, purchase of rice, wheat and pulses from FSSAI-certified outlets and well-dressed staff, he said, adding that vegetarian food is served in the jail.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

"Every day different types of food is served to the inmates. Among the pulses, arhar, masoor, chana and urad are served to the inmates on a

rotational basis," Kumar said.

"For breakfast, on two days chana (gram) is served, on two days pav-roti are served and on 3 days dalia (porridge) is served," he said, adding that different types of daals (pulses) are served in different meals.

"As far as Sundays are concerned, on the first, third and last in the evening poori, sabji and halwa are served. On the second Sunday, kadhi-chawal is served," he said, adding that 30-35 inmates engage in cooking.

Jail Superintendent Bheemsain Mukund, while recalling the journey to the coveted certificate, told PTI that he joined the jail on November 17, 2021.

UP faces 44% rain deficit

THE IMD DATA HAS REVEALED THAT OVER 28% OF DISTRICTS, MAINLY IN THE NORTH AND NORTHEAST INDIA, ARE RAINFALL DEFICIENT DURING THE MONSOON SEASON SO FAR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 2: Uttar Pradesh is now facing a 44 per cent rain deficit despite heavy showers in some parts of the state.

The main reason, according to officials, is the absence of a typical monsoon spell in which overcast skies with intermittent rains occur for two-three days at a stretch.

Normally a couple of such spells happen twice in each of the four monsoon months, but this time scattered rains with shorter duration of spells have been witnessed so far. However, meteorologists are hopeful of sufficient rain in September, which may not cover the entire deficit, but would narrow the gap between actual and normal rains by the end of the monsoon season which lasts in the state from June mid till October first week.

According to the state monsoon assessment report, the average per district rainfall in UP since June 1 till date has been 332.4 mm against the average normal of 593.1 mm.

Similar is the situation in the state capital, where total rainfall this

monsoon so far has been 341.8 mm, which is 34 per cent below the normal of 519.3 mm. Chitrakoot is the only district with surplus rains (40 per cent above normal), while Farrukhabad has been the driest place in the state with 79 per cent below normal rainfall. There are about eight districts which have received near normal (range 19 per cent above or below normal) rainfall. About 49 districts are such where rainfall has been deficient (20-59 per cent below normal) and 18 are reeling under large deficit (60-99 per cent below normal).

"The rainfall in June, July and August has been below the normal values of these respective months. However, we expect that rainfall in September will be as per the normal fixed for this month," said state Met director J P Gupta. At present, the monsoon trough - an elongated low pressure area embedded with small cyclonic circulations - is running close to the foothills of the Himalayas. A western disturbance is also approaching India and a cyclonic circulation is over Madhya Pradesh, he said.

Now, sip a cup of 24-carat gold, bhoot jolokia tea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 2: At a time when organic tea variety is gaining popularity, an Assam-based startup offers 'ghost pepper' and 'gold' tea among its 40-odd speciality blends as it is mixing the world's hottest chilli 'bhoot jolokia' and 24-carat edible yellow metal to woo consumers, a company official said.

Innovation in blends is the need of the hour to promote tea in the international and domestic markets as consumers become more health conscious and are looking for special varieties, entrepreneur Ranjit Baruah said.

"We have created more than 40 speciality and luxury blends under the brand 'Aromica Tea' and have plans to add more to the list soon."

"Tea flavoured with the 'bhoot



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

jolokia' or 'ghost pepper' is a fiery innovation in the world for which we have filed an application for patent and are awaiting approval. This variety of tea is brewed for those who like their cuppa spicy, and it has health benefits," he told PTI.

Elaborating on innovations,

Baruah said 'insulin' tea with Costus Igneus plant leaves, 'blue' tea with Asian pigeonwings flower (Aparajita) and 'moringa tulsi green' tea are among its special varieties.

Costus Igneus plant leaves are believed to activate beta cells in the

pancreas which in turn boosts the natural insulin secretion in the body and maintains the blood sugar levels, while the 'moringa and tulsi' blend helps reduce stress and strengthen immunity, he claimed.

"With extensive research, we have created these unique and popular blends of tea. Our efforts are to promote Assam tea as a healthy drink," said Baruah who has 20 years of experience in the industry.

The company is focusing on taking these blends to the international markets and has started ex-

ports to Australia, Japan, Canada, Sweden, the US, Lithuania, Georgia, the UK and Singapore, he said but did not disclose its revenue from the overseas sales.

Corporate gifts and co-branding are other sources of revenue for the company with the Assam government being a major client.

Tea is one of the most frequently consumed drink worldwide, and by blending tea leaves with traditional herbs and other ingredients, health and nutritional value can be created, he said while explaining the unique selling point of his products.

While preparing blends, the tea retailer sources "only natural ingredients that have been traditionally used in every household in the northeast region over the years", he claimed.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

of the day quote

We are ashamed of the government, where NCRB certifies that 6,337 rape have been registered in the state. Will Rajasthan not be ashamed of 17 rapes every day? Once the deteriorating law and order situation in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh was discussed. People used to say on the streets that this is not Lalul-Mulayam's UP-Bihar. Today Rajasthan is number 1 in crimes

SATISH POONIA | BJP LEADER

An action plan should be drafted for the disposal of fly ash generated from power plants. Under no circumstance should fly ash be dumped in rivers, streams or private farm land

BHUPESH BAGHEL | CHHATTISGARH CM

The new National Education Policy will reorient India's education system to global benchmarks

JITENDRA SINGH | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Militants shoot non-local in J&K

Srinagar: Militants Friday shot and injured a non-local in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, police sources said. The victim has been identified as Muneebur-Rehman from West Bengal. The incident took place in Ugergund village. "He has been shifted to the hospital for treatment. Attending doctors described his condition as stable. The area has been surrounded for searches," the sources said.

7 pilgrims dead

Modasa (Gujarat): At least seven pilgrims were killed and six others injured on Friday after being run over by an SUV in Gujarat's Aravalli district, police said. The victims were part of a religious padyatra organised by a sangh from Panchmahal district. They were heading towards the Ambaji temple in Banaskantha when the accident occurred near Krishnapura village. Addressing reporters, Malpur Police Sub-Inspector R.M. Desai said that the driver of the Innova car with a Maharashtra registration number ran over the victims at around 7.30 a.m.

Gold seized

Lucknow: The Customs department officials have seized gold worth Rs 86.7 lakh from a passenger at Lucknow's Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Uttar Pradesh. The accused had allegedly brought this gold by hiding it in a belt. After confirming through the scanner, the passenger was searched and the gold was recovered. The passengers of Saudi Airlines flight number SV-894, which came from Riyadh, were being screened at the airport.

Two arrested

Srinagar: Acting tough with the offenders of crime against women, the Police in Srinagar have arrested two accused persons involved in allegedly blackmailing a girl, extorting money and circulating her video on WhatsApp, police said. "Police received a written complaint from a resident of Shunglipora area of Srinagar stating that an obscene video of his niece was captured by two boys namely Danish Majeed Bhat, son of Abdul Majeed Bhat and a resident of Noorbagh, and Aadil Ahmed Rather, son of Abdul Ahad Rather and a resident of Shunglipora Noorbagh," police added.



Nitish Kumar had invited KCR (as the Telangana Chief Minister is popularly known) to come to Patna to announce his name as a Prime Ministerial candidate but KCR refused to take his name forward. When Rao did not announce his name, Nitish Kumar stood from the chair but KCR then asked him to sit for a while... no bigger insult than this

SUSHIL KUMAR MODI | BJP'S RS MP

BALANCING LIFE

On his 43rd wedding anniversary, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was busy at work with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but he did not forget to share a picture of him sitting with his wife, Kamala Vijayan



Sack Delhi LG: AAP to PM

Addressing a press conference, AAP national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh demanded that legal proceedings be initiated against Saxena for allegedly awarding the contract to his daughter Shivangi Saxena in violation of the law



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 2: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Saturday alleged that Delhi LG V K Saxena misused his position and awarded a contract for interior designing of a Khadi lounge in Mumbai to his daughter when he was the KVIC chairman and demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi "immediately" sack him.

Addressing a press conference, AAP national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh also demanded that legal proceedings be initiated against Saxena for allegedly awarding the contract to his daughter Shivangi Saxena in violation of the law.

"LG V K Saxena, during his term as KVIC chairman, misused his position and awarded a contract for interior designing of a Khadi lounge in Mumbai to his daughter. In awarding the contract, he violated the provisions of the KVIC Act

1961," Singh charged.

He said the prime minister should immediately sack Saxena as the Delhi LG and legal action should be taken against him for illegally awarding the contract to his daughter. The AAP is holding consultations with its senior lawyers and preparing to approach the court in the matter, Singh said.

"Delhi LG can't escape his misdeeds. We will soon be approaching court in the matter because the due process of awarding the contract was not followed," he said, asking "how can the KVIC chairman give a contract to his relative?"

Taking to Twitter, Singh had on Thursday asked Saxena if he had awarded a contract to his daughter without floating any tender when he was the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) chief. Reacting to the AAP MP's allegation, the LG's office had tweeted that Saxena, as KVIC chairman, had got the design of the Khadi Lounge, Mumbai made by his daughter, who is a designer, free of cost.

"It should be known that the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, as KVIC president, had got the design of Khadi Lounge, Mumbai made free of cost (pro bono) requesting his daughter, who is a designer," the Raj Niwas

had clarified in a tweet, adding, "Contrary to your (Singh's) statement, there was no tender for the design, and no one got the tender and instead, lakhs of rupees of KVIC were saved."

Replying to questions on the Raj Niwas's clarification, Singh said the KVIC Act clearly bars its officials from awarding any contract or work to any of their family members.

"What kind of logic is this? Saurabh Bharadwaj (AAP leader) who is a computer engineer, wants to do Central Vista IT work for free. Our Praveen Deshmukh (AAP MLA), who is an MBA, wants to take care of the management of the Prime Minister's Office for free... Will they be given this work?" he asked.

The AAP MP said the KVIC should have followed a due process to award the work for interior designing of the Khadi lounge as per the rules and if it wanted the work to be done free of cost, it should have given an open invitation to rope in the best interior designer.

"Whether due process was followed? Whether any tender was floated or an open invitation was given for free service of the interior designers for the work. Saxena's daughter was the only best interior designer available in the country?" Singh asked. He alleged that Saxena got the Mumbai Khadi lounge interior designing work done by his daughter and even got her name written in the inaugural plaque of the lounge for her professional gain.

Dussehra rally: Both Senas book Shivaji Park

Earlier, Uddhav Thackeray had said that his party would hold the Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park as before, while his son and former minister Aaditya Thackeray had alleged the party's application for nod for the rally was facing hurdles from authorities



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 2: Mumbai's civic body Friday said it had received applications from the Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde factions of the Shiv Sena to "book" the sprawling Shivaji Park for a Dussehra rally.

The rally, possibly the most important event of Shiv Sena's political calendar, has been taking place for several decades but has two claimants this time due to the split in the Sena following a rebellion by Chief Minister Shinde in June.

"We have received two applications last month for booking Shivaji Park for the Dussehra rally. The first application was of the Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena on August 22 and the second was

from the Shinde group just before Ganesh festival," a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation official said.

No decision has been taken on the two applications, the official said on condition of anonymity. Earlier, Uddhav Thackeray had said that his party would hold the Dussehra rally at Shivaji Park as before, while his son and former minister Aaditya Thackeray had alleged the party's application for nod for the rally was facing hurdles from authorities.

The first Dussehra rally was held in 1966 and was addressed by Sena founder late Bal Thackeray, whose fiery speeches have since come to signify the event. It is attended by party workers from across the state.

60-day maternity leave if baby dies



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 2: All female central government employees will be entitled for 60 days special maternity leave in case of death of a child soon after birth, an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said Friday.

The decision has been taken keeping in view the potential emotional trauma caused due to still-birth or death of a child soon after birth, which has a far-reaching impact on the mother's life, it said. The DoPT said it has been receiving several references/queries requesting for clarification pertaining to grant of leave/maternity leave in case of death of a child soon after birth/stillbirth.

"The matter has been considered in consultation with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Keeping in view the potential emotional trauma caused due to still-birth or death of a child soon after birth, which has a far-reaching impact on the mother's life, it has now been decided to grant a special maternity leave of 60 days to a fe-

The decision has been taken keeping in view the potential emotional trauma caused due to stillbirth or death of a child soon after birth, which has a far-reaching impact on the mother's life

male central government servant in case of death of a child soon after birth/stillbirth..." it said in the order.

In case a maternity leave has already been availed by a female central government servant and her leave continues till the date of expiry of child soon after birth/stillbirth, the maternity leave already availed till death of the child may be converted into any other kind of leave available in her leave account without insisting for a medical certificate and a special maternity leave of 60 days may be granted from the date of expiry of child soon after birth/stillbirth, the DoPT said.

In case the maternity leave has not been availed by a female central government servant, 60 days of special maternity leave may be granted from the date of expiry of child soon after birth/stillbirth, it said. The condition for death of a child soon after birth may be defined as up to 28 days after birth, said the order issued to all central government ministries/departments.



Teachers and students participate in a tug of war competition as part of Onam celebrations in Kozhikode

PTI PHOTO

MP cops nab teen for killing 4 security guards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Sept 2: Madhya Pradesh police Friday arrested a teenager who bludgeoned his victims to death, in connection with the murder of four security guards in the last five days.

The 18-year-old, identified as Shivprasad Dhurve from his Aadhaar card, targeted sleeping security guards and killed three of them in Sagar district and the fourth one in Bhopal, police said.



He killed the guard in Bhopal a few hours before his arrest earlier on Friday, police said.

Sagar SP Tarun Nayak said Dhurve, who is 18 years and eight months old, has confessed to the four

murders, adding he was influenced by social media and was "dying to become famous." Police are also probing his role in the murder of another security guard in May.

Asked about Dhurve's mental state, Nayak said he appears to be normal and not a "psycho" case. The serial killer was arrested in Bhopal on the basis of the location of a mobile phone which he had picked up from a victim in Sagar, said state Home Minister Narottam Mishra.

JHARKHAND GOVERNOR FLIES TO DELHI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Sept 2: Amid confusion over continuation of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren as an MLA, Governor Ramesh Bais on Friday went to Delhi, a day after ruling UPA MLAs urged him to clear the air over the EC's recommendation on the matter.

The governor's Delhi visit has triggered further speculations as Bais, during his meeting with a UPA delegation on Thursday, said that he will clear all doubts soon. Raj Bhavan sources, however, said it was a 'personal visit' for a medical check-up.

Following a petition by the BJP seeking Soren's disqualification from the Assembly in an office of profit case, the Election Commission (EC) sent its decision to the state Governor on August 25, sparking a political crisis in the state. Though the EC's decision has not yet been made official, there is a buzz that the poll panel has recommended the chief minister's disqualification as an MLA. In a joint statement on August 28, UPA constituents had accused Bais of encouraging political horse-trading by "deliberately delaying" announcing the decision. Soren's party Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) believes that the BJP may make a serious attempt to poach MLAs from the party

School enrolment may dip by 2025: NCERT study

The enrolment of scheduled caste students would remain unchanged for the next 5-10 years, while the number of students from scheduled tribe will face stagnation after 2023-24, the study by Educational Survey Division of NCERT added

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 2: The overall enrolment in schools will have declined by more than 14 per cent by 2025, beginning from 2011, with



the enrolment of girls expected to decline by over 2 per cent more than that of boys, an NCERT study has projected. The enrolment of scheduled caste students would remain unchanged for the next 5-10 years, while the number of students from scheduled tribe will face stagnation after 2023-24, the study by Educational Survey

Division (ESD) of NCERT added. The report said that enrolment is a function of population, so a decline in the child population in the age groups of 6-11, 11-14, and 14-16 years is reflected in the enrolment at each stage.

The report 'Projection and Trends of School Enrolment by 2025' has taken into account the

National Achievement Survey (NAS) conducted by the NCERT and figures of the annual Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) data.

The study considered NAS reports from 21 states where the population was more than 5 million in the 2011 Population Census of India, saying "there is much fluctuation in the data of the North Eastern states and some statistics are not available." "The growth in enrolment at the primary stage continued up to the year 2011. After 2011, the enrolment has declined and this will continue till 2025. During the period from 2011 to 2025, total enrolment will decrease by 14.37 per cent whereas enrolment of boys and girls will decrease by 13.28 per cent and 15.54 per cent, respectively,"

the study report said.

"At the upper primary stage, the enrolment of boys, girls and the total percentage started to decline from 2016. During this period, enrolment decreased by 9.47 per cent (in total), 8.07 per cent (boys) and 10.94 per cent (girls). "Similarly, decline in enrolment was also recorded at the secondary stage but here the decline started from 2020," it said.

In the social groups, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, the decline in school enrolment pattern was very similar to India's enrolment pattern.

"After 2016-17 and 2017-18, the enrolment of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe children was almost uniform in all the stages for some years. It may be due to stagnancy in population," it said.

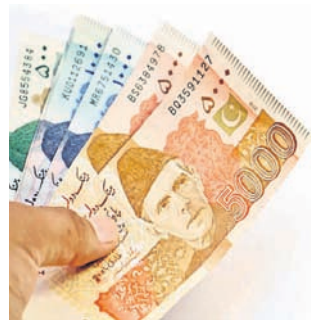
international



China will steadfastly pursue human rights development with Chinese characteristics and continue to make human rights development in China and the whole world

GRIM SITUATION

Rising inflation in Pakistan, accelerating to 27.3 per cent in August -- a 47-year high -- can trigger "social protest and instability" in the cash-strapped country, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned



of the day quote

Thank HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan for receiving me. Conveyed the personal greetings and warm wishes of PM @narendramodi. Highly value his guidance in taking our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to greater heights

We do not know what is happening there (Nuclear plant), whether it is currently mined by the Russians or not

Chile will not have to ration water in the immediate future despite a prolonged 14-year drought

SHORT TAKES

Dozens of migrant children missing

Houston: Federal and local officials are scrambling to locate close to a dozen unaccompanied migrant children, after Houston police raised concerns about a trend of migrant children reported missing in the Texas city, according to US government officials and related emails reviewed by Reuters. The cases underscore the challenges for US President Joe Biden's administration as it faces a record number of unaccompanied kids arriving at the southwest border it must safely and quickly release to sponsors in the United States.

Iran briefly seizes two US sea drones

Dubai: Iran said Friday its navy seized two American sea drones in the Red Sea before letting them go, the latest maritime incident involving the US Navy's new drone fleet in the Mideast. Cmdr Timothy Hawkins, a spokesman for the Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet, acknowledged the incident Friday to The Associated Press but declined to immediately elaborate.

US job growth slows in August

Washington: America's employers slowed their hiring in August in the face of rising interest rates, high inflation and sluggish consumer spending, all of which have weakened the outlook for the economy. The government reported Friday that the economy added 315,000 jobs last month, down from 5,26,000 in July and below the average gain of the previous three months.

Saudi eases tourist visa policy for GCC

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia has announced an amendment to its tourist visa policy for residents of other Arab countries and the US, UK and the European Union (EU). Under the policy, residents of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, along with their close relatives and domestic workers, can now apply for an e-visa online, reports Xinhua news agency.

Monkeypox: New strain found in UK

London: A new strain of monkeypox linked to an individual diagnosed with the virus after recent travel to West Africa has been identified in the UK, health officials have said. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said preliminary genomic sequencing indicates that this new case does not have the current outbreak strain circulating in the UK.

UK PM race in final countdown

SUNAK, 42, AND TRUSS, 47, HAVE GONE HEAD-TO-HEAD IN A DOZEN HUSTINGS UP AND DOWN THE UK OVER THE PAST MONTH TO WIN OVER THE VOTES OF AN ESTIMATED 160,000 TORY ELECTORATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 2: The gruelling race to replace Boris Johnson as the Conservative Party leader and the British Prime Minister closed Friday evening, the deadline for Tory members to register their choice between Indian-origin former Chancellor Rishi Sunak or Foreign Secretary Liz Truss.

With the ballots now closed, the result will be declared at 12.30pm local time (17:00 pm IST) Monday by returning officer Sir Graham Brady the Conservative Campaign Headquarters (CCHQ) said.

"This hustings programme has shown the strength of our party across the UK, with sold out events filling Wembley Arena to Perth Concert Hall," said Conservative Party Chairman Andrew Stephenson.

"I'd like to thank Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss for participating in what, at times, must have been a gruelling schedule in good spirits and giving our members the opportunity to question them up front and



personal, answering over 600 questions and putting themselves under the spotlight. Whatever the result come Monday, I know our party is ready to unite around a new Leader and tackle the challenges we face as a country ahead," he said. The CCHQ said 19,859 attended the 12 hustings events and a total of 2.2 million people viewed them across online platforms. The contest began in mid-July, when Prime Minister Johnson was forced out by a min-

isterial revolt over a string of scandals amidst the Covid-19 lockdown. The original field of 11 contenders was whittled down to two in a series of Tory MP ballots, with the final two going into a run-off to be decided by the membership, which stands at around 160,000. While the British Indian former minister pegged his campaign on getting a grip on soaring inflation as an immediate priority, the foreign minister has pledged tax cuts

from day one in office. Overall, it is how they plan to tackle the cost-of-living crisis faced by the British public that has dominated the debates even as the duo addressed their final hustings in London Wednesday night, where they reiterated many of their pledges.

"I have put restoring trust at the heart of the campaign," said Sunak, in response to a question about integrity and ethics.

While he was the clear frontrunner in the leadership contest in the first round of voting - when Tory MPs voted to select the two finalists in the contest, the Indian-origin finance minister has been on the back foot in the pre-poll surveys of Tory members who have a vote in this election.

Fierce loyalty to outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson is being cited as a key motivating factor in the choice of a majority for Truss, who was not among the ministers who resigned in the days before Johnson's forced exit from 10 Downing Street.

Suu Kyi gets jail with hard labour for election fraud



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bangkok, Sept 2: A court in Myanmar Friday sentenced ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to three years' imprisonment with labour after finding her guilty of election fraud, adding more jail time to the 17 years she is already serving for other offenses prosecuted by the military government.

The latest verdict also carries potentially significant political consequences for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party by lending support to the government's explicit threats to dissolve it before a new election the military has promised for 2023.

Suu Kyi's party won the the 2020 general election in a landslide victory, but the army seized power the following February and kept her from a second five-year term in office. The army contends it acted because of alleged widespread fraud in the polls though independent election observers did not find any major irregularities.

Some critics of Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, who led the takeover and is now Myanmar's top leader, believe he acted because the vote thwarted his own political ambitions.

A spokesperson for the Bangkok-based Asian Network for Free Elections, a non-partisan poll watching group, said Friday they did not observe any election fraud.

The military's seizure of power prompted widespread peaceful protests that were quashed with lethal force, triggering armed resistance that some UN Experts now characterize as civil war.

Mosque blast kills at least 18 in Afghan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Herat (Afghanistan), Sept 2: An explosion tore through a crowded mosque in western Afghanistan on Friday, killing at least 18 people, including a prominent cleric close to the Taliban, Taliban officials and a local medic said. At least 23 people were hurt.

The explosion in the city of Herat left the courtyard of the Guzargah Mosque littered with bodies, the ground stained with blood, video from the scene showed. Men shouted, "God is great," in shock and horror.

The bomb went off during Friday noon prayers, when mosques are full of worshippers.

Among the dead was Mujib-ul Rahman Ansari, a prominent cleric who was known across Afghanistan for his criticism of the country's



Taliban fighters block a road after the blast

Western-backed governments over the past two decades. Ansari was seen as close to the Taliban, who seized control over Afghanistan a year ago as foreign forces withdrew. His death was confirmed by the chief Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid. Just before the bombing, Ansari had been

meeting in another part of the city with the Taliban government's deputy Prime Minister, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, who was on a visit to Herat. Ansari had rushed from the meeting to the mosque to get to the noon prayers, an aide to Baradar said in a tweet mourning the cleric.

THIRSTY CAMELS



Camels gather at a watering point following a prolonged drought near the Kenya-Ethiopia border, in Takaba, Mandera West sub county, Kenya

REUTERS

G7 TO ENACT RUSSIAN OIL PRICE CAP 'URGENTLY'

REUTERS

Berlin, Sept 2: Group of Seven finance ministers agreed Friday to impose a price cap on Russian oil aimed at slashing revenues for Moscow's war in Ukraine while keeping crude flowing to avoid price spikes, but their statement left out key details of the plan.

The ministers from the club of wealthy industrial democracies confirmed their commitment to the plan after a virtual meeting. They said, however, that the per-barrel level of the price cap would be determined later "based on a range of technical inputs" to be agreed by the coalition of countries implementing it.

"Today we confirm our joint political intention to finalise and implement a comprehensive prohibition of services which enable maritime transportation of Russian-origin crude oil and petroleum products globally," the G7 ministers said.

The provision of maritime transportation services, including insurance and finance, would be allowed only if the Russian oil cargoes are purchased at or below the price level "determined by the broad coalition of countries adhering to and implementing the price cap." The ministers said they would work to finalise the details, through their own domestic processes, aiming to



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

align it with the start of European Union sanctions that will ban Russian oil imports into the bloc starting in December.

The G7 consists of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

The ministers said they would seek a broader coalition of oil importing countries to purchase Russian crude and petroleum products only at or below the price cap, and will invite their input into the plan.

TRUMP INVESTIGATION

US court unseals more documents

One of the records, released Friday, provides a little more detail about the 33 boxes and other items the FBI found inside Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate, as part of its ongoing criminal investigation into whether he illegally retained national defense information and tried to obstruct the probe



AGENCIES

Washington, Sept 2: A federal court in West Palm Beach Friday unsealed more documents tied to the FBI's unprecedented August 8 search of former President Donald Trump's Florida home, after media outlets asked for the records to be made public.

The unsealing by US District Judge Aileen Cannon came one day after she heard oral arguments by Trump's attorneys and the Justice Department's top two counterintelligence prosecutors over whether she should appoint a special master to conduct a privilege review of the seized materials at Trump's request.

Cannon deferred ruling immediately on whether to appoint a special master, but said she would agree to unseal two records the Justice Department had filed under seal.

It shows that documents with classification markings were at times co-mingled with other items such as books, magazines and newspaper clippings.

In addition to records labeled as "top secret," "secret" and "confidential," there were also empty folders. Some empty folders had a banner marked "classified, while others indicated that they should be returned to staff secretary/military aide." In total, there were 18 records marked as "top secret" - the highest classification level re-

served for the country's most closely-held secrets. The other record that was unsealed is a brief three-page filing by the Justice Department updating the court about the status of its investigative team's review of the documents seized.

That filing, dated August 30, said investigators had "completed a preliminary review of the materials seized" and segregated all the records with classification markings.

"The seized materials will continue to be used to further the government's investigation, and the investigative team will continue to use and evaluate the seized materials as it takes further investigative steps, such as through additional witness interviews and grand jury practice," it says.

The Justice Department's criminal investigation could be potentially put on pause if Cannon agrees to appoint a special master to come in and conduct an independent third-party review of the seized records.

However, Cannon signaled at Thursday's hearing she might be willing to permit US intelligence officials to continue reviewing the materials as part of their national security damage assessment, even if a special master is appointed.

Meanwhile, President Joe Biden has warned Americans that his predecessor Donald Trump and his die-hard followers are trying to "undermine" democracy and urged them to confront the "extremists" who fan the flames of political violence to take the country backwards.

Assassination attempt against Argentine V-P fails

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buenos Aires, Sept 2: A man tried to kill Argentina's politically powerful Vice-President Cristina Fernández outside her home, but the handgun misfired, the country's president said.

The man was quickly overpowered by her security officers in the incident Thursday night, officials said.

President Alberto Fernández, who is not related to the vice president, a former president herself, said the pistol did not discharge when the man tried to fire it. "A man pointed a firearm at her head and pulled the trigger," the president said in a national broadcast following the incident. He said the firearm was loaded with five bullets but "didn't fire even though the trigger was pulled."

The Vice-President did not appear to have suffered any injury, and the man was overpowered within seconds as he stood among a crowd of her supporters.

Gina De Bai, a witness who was near the vice president during the incident, told The Associated Press she heard "the sound of the trigger being pulled."

President Fernández called it "the most serious incident since we recovered democracy" in 1983 after a military dictatorship and urged political leaders, and society at large, to repudiate the attempted shooting.

The attack came as the Vice-President is facing a trial for alleged acts of corruption during her 2007-2015 presidency - charges that she vehemently denies and that have led her supporters to surround her home in the upscale Recoleta neighborhood of Argentina's capital.



business

of the day quote

We have requested the Ministry of Environment and forest that exploration activity should not be treated as diversion of forest area

ALOK TANDON | MINES SECRETARY

The need for sustainability in business applies to both big corporates and small enterprises. Keeping this in mind, we need to focus on what strategies can be developed for promoting green enterprises and businesses for economic growth and to save the environment

RAMAN GUJRAL | DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PROJECT (CORPORATES), EDII

Important to note that insurance as a sector has been flourishing since the start of this year as there has been continuous growth in hiring, which is creating opportunities across experience bands with over 100 per cent y-on-y growth in 0-7 years' experience band

PAWAN GOYAL | CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER, NAUKRI.COM

SHORT TAKES

GMR to divest stake in Cebu int'l airport

New Delhi: GMR Group Friday said it will divest its entire 40 per cent stake in Cebu international airport in Philippines for an upfront payment of ₹1,330 crore as well as earnings to be received over a period of more than four years. The airport is being operated by GMR-Megawide Cebu Airport Corporation (GMCAC) and GMR Airports International BV (GAIBV) holds a 40 per cent stake in the venture.

Indian Oil raises ₹2,500cr in debt

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's top oil firm, raised ₹2,500 crore in debt through non-convertible debentures (NCD) at an interest rate lower than government bonds, its director (finance) Sandeep Gupta said Friday. "Today, Indian Oil fetched a competitive price of a 5-year unsecured NCD issue at an annual fixed coupon of 7.14 per cent," he told PTI. This coupon rate is lower than the prevailing annualised yield of benchmark G-Sec for similar maturity.

NDTV shares on a climbing spree

New Delhi: Shares of New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV) continued to march higher Friday, climbing 5 per cent, to hit its upper circuit limit. The company's shares have been rising after Adani group's hostile takeover bid with the announcement of an open offer last week to acquire an additional 26 per cent stake. The stock jumped 4.99 per cent to ₹515.10 -- its upper circuit limit as well as 52-week high level -- on the BSE. On the NSE, it advanced 5 per cent to hit its upper circuit as also 52-week high of ₹519.80.

SpiceJet to get ECLGS funds

New Delhi: SpiceJet, which is facing financial headwinds, is likely to receive around ₹225 crore under the government's credit guarantee scheme next week, according to a source. Hit by high fuel prices and rupee depreciation, the budget carrier Wednesday posted a net loss of ₹789 crore for June quarter and also said its board has approved raising up to ₹2,000 crore. On Friday, the source said the airline is expected to receive around ₹225 crore next week under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).



We expect domestic steel prices to remain under pressure over the near term, since domestic steel prices cannot be insulated from the trends emerging in global steel markets

JAYANTA ROY | SENIOR VP & GROUP HEAD (CORPORATE SECTOR), ICRA

NARASIMHAN NEW CEO OF STARBUCKS

With his appointment as the chief executive of coffee giant Starbucks, Laxman Narasimhan joins a growing list of Indian-origin CEOs at the helm of some of the biggest companies in the US. The 55-year-old veteran in leading and advising global consumer-facing brands was previously the CEO of UK-based Reckitt Benckiser, a multinational consumer health, hygiene and nutrition company



UK slips behind India to become 6th biggest economy

A DECADE AGO, INDIA RANKED 11TH AMONG THE LARGEST ECONOMIES

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 2: Britain has slipped behind India to become the world's sixth largest economy, delivering a further blow to the government as it grapples with a devastating cost-of-living shock. India surpassed the UK in the final three months of 2021 to become the fifth-biggest economy. The calculation is based in US dollars,

and India extended its lead in the first quarter of this fiscal, according to GDP figures from the International Monetary Fund.

Britain's decline down the international rankings is an unwelcome backdrop for the new Prime Minister. Conservative Party members choose Boris Johnson's successor Monday, with Foreign Secretary Liz Truss expected to beat former Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak in the run-off.

The new UK PM will take over a nation facing the fastest inflation in four decades and rising risks of a recession that the Bank of England says may last well into 2024.



By contrast, the Indian economy is forecast to grow more than 7% this year. A world-beating rebound in Indian stocks this quarter has just seen their weighting rise to the second spot in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, trailing

only China's. On an adjusted basis and using the dollar exchange rate on the last day of the relevant quarter, the size of the Indian economy in "nominal" cash terms in the quarter through March was \$854.7 billion. On the

same basis, UK was \$816 billion.

The calculations were done using the IMF database and historic exchange rates on the Bloomberg terminal. The UK is likely to have fallen further since. UK GDP grew just 1% in cash terms in the second quarter and, after adjusting for inflation, shrank 0.1%. Sterling has also underperformed the dollar relative to the rupee, with the pound falling 8% against the Indian currency this year.

The IMF's own forecasts show India overtaking the UK in dollar terms on an annual basis this year, putting the Asian powerhouse behind just the US, China, Japan and Germany.

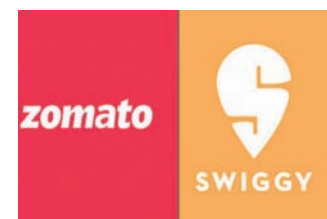
Zomato Pay, Swiggy offers against our interest, says NRAI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 2: The National Restaurant Association of India has written an advisory to its members against Zomato Pay and Swiggy Diner discount programmes saying these are against the interest of restaurant owners.

The advisory alleges that 'middlemen' Zomato and Swiggy are making money at the cost of restaurants, who sign up to be on the Zomato Pay and Swiggy Diner programmes by making them compulsorily offer discounts and also pay commission fee on every transaction on these platforms.

"Zomato Pay and Swiggy Diner both operate broadly on the same construct -- no cost/subscription fee to the customer to participate; restaurants must compulsorily offer



a discount in the range of 15-40 per cent to be part of the programme," NRAI wrote to its members.

Further, it said, "Restaurants must also compulsorily pay a commission in the range of 4-12 per cent on every transaction made via the respective payment gateway to Zomato or Swiggy", while competing payment gateway charges are 1-1.5 per cent only.

NRAI alleged that restaurants must offer the discount to "anyone who wishes to pay via Zomato Pay or Swiggy Diner irrespective of the fact of whether the customer discovered the restaurant on Zomato/Swiggy or just walked in on his own" and the payouts are on a weekly basis.

"The fundamental question here is why should a restaurant pay a commission to a middle man to offer a discount to its own customer?" NRAI asked.

Zomato Pay is a payment service offered by Zomato through an electronic payment mechanism through which its customers can pay for an order to the merchant through the Zomato platform.

On the other hand, Swiggy Diner is an offering in the dine-in segment from Swiggy, that allows its customers to place dining out table reservations with offers for discounts. When contacted, a Zomato spokesperson did not comment on the specific issues raised by NRAI but said, "With our new dining product, now live in Hyderabad for a few weeks with great results, we are confident that we will create tremendous value and growth for the industry." The spokesperson further said, "We are looking forward to working with progressive restaurants who see the bigger picture."

India aims to speed product safety nods



The move comes as India scrambles to remove bottlenecks faced by businesses, with PM Narendra Modi bullish on an electronics hardware manufacturing industry his government targets to be worth \$300 billion by 2026

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 2: India will try out a strategy of parallel testing to speed up safety approvals for new electronic devices, an industry group told Reuters Friday, a move that could boost device launch plans by the likes of Samsung and Apple.

The plan to test different components of the devices simultaneously looks set to cut as much as five to eight weeks from the 16 to 21 now often needed to test and certify products ranging from wireless earbuds to smartphones.

"For industry, it is directly linked with ease of doing business; for consumers, this will result in faster access to the latest products," the group, MAIT, said in its statement.

Firms such as Apple, Samsung and Xiaomi are among its members, along with global and domestic

firms operating in India's electronics, telecom and IT sector.

To trim the time required, the group added, the testing agency, the Bureau of Indian Standards, "has agreed to a pilot project where some identified electronics hardware products shall be undergoing parallel testing".

Executives say India's cumbersome testing process can take 16 weeks for a new Apple AirPods model, for example, as the charging case and its components must first secure clearance before the earbuds are assessed. For a smartphone and its parts, the procedure could take an average of up to 21 weeks.

The pilot decision followed a closed-door meeting Wednesday between officials of India's information technology ministry, BIS, MAIT and executives of firms such as Apple and Samsung, a source said.

The requirement for safety testing by BIS applies to all electronic products in India, whether imported or domestically made. The move will come as a shot in the arm for companies such as Xiaomi and Samsung which sell most smartphones in India and have a combined market share of 46%, as well as Apple, which trails Samsung in the premium category, data from research firm Counterpoint shows.

TRADE TROUBLE

External debt rises 8.2% YoY till March

FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES AS A RATIO TO EXTERNAL DEBT STOOD SLIGHTLY LOWER AT 97.8 PER CENT AS OF END-MARCH 2022 THAN 100.6 PER CENT A YEAR AGO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

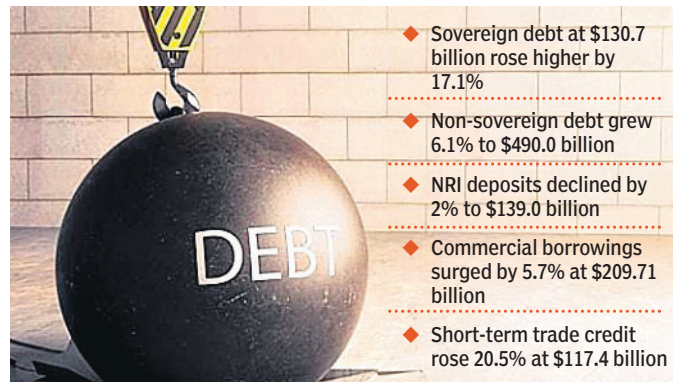
New Delhi, Sept 2: India's external debt rose by 8.2 per cent year-on-year to \$620.7 billion as of March 2022, which according to the finance ministry is sustainable.

While 53.2 per cent of it was denominated in the US dollar, Indian rupee-denominated debt, estimated at \$12.2 per cent, was the second largest, as per the status report on India's external debt released by the ministry. "India's external debt continues to be sustainable and prudently managed. As of end-March 2022, it stood at \$620.7 billion, growing by 8.2 per cent over the level a year ago. External debt as a ratio to GDP was 19.9 per cent, while reserves to external debt ratio were 97.8 per cent," it said.

The report said the long-term debt estimated at \$499.1 billion constituted the largest chunk of 80.4 per cent, while the short-term debt at \$121.7 billion accounted for 19.6 per cent of the total.

The short-term trade credit was predominantly in the form of trade credit (96 per cent) financing imports. The sovereign debt at \$130.7 billion rose higher by 17.1 per cent over its level a year ago, mainly because of the additional allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during 2021-22.

The non-sovereign debt, on the other hand, grew 6.1 per cent to \$490.0 billion over the level as of end-March 2021, it said, adding com-



FOREX RESERVES DIP BY \$3BILLION

Mumbai: The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$3.007 billion to \$561.046 billion in the week ended August 26, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed. In the previous week ended August 19, the reserves had dipped by \$6.687 billion to \$564.053 billion. Foreign Currency Assets decreased by \$2.571 billion to \$498.645 billion in the reporting week. Gold reserves decreased by \$271 million to \$39.643 billion, the data showed. The Special Drawing Rights dropped by \$155 million to \$17.832 billion. The country's reserve position with the IMF also dipped by \$10 million to \$4.926 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

FOREX RESERVES DIP BY \$3BILLION

mercial borrowings, NRI deposits and short-term trade credit are the three biggest constituents of the non-sovereign debt, accounting for as much as 95.2 per cent. While NRI deposits declined by 2 per cent to \$139.0 billion, commercial borrowings at \$209.71 billion and short-term trade credit at \$117.4 billion rose by 5.7 per cent and 20.5 per cent, respectively, it said. Observing that the debt vulnerability indicators continued to be benign, the report said the debt service ratio fell significantly to 5.2 per cent during 2021-22 from 8.2 per cent in the previous year, reflecting buoyant current receipts and moderating external debt service payments.

The debt service payment obligations arising out of the stock of external debt as of end-March 2022 are projected to trend downwards over the coming years, it said, adding that from a cross-country

Inflation seen at 5% by Q1 next yr: RBI Guv

REUTERS

Mumbai, Sept 2: India's inflation has peaked and is expected to moderate to around 5% by the April-June quarter of next year, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said Friday.

The governor also said that the policy aim is to control inflation while minimising any impact on economic growth.

Inflation has remained above RBI's 2% to 6% tolerance band for

If there is robust economic growth, then we would like to accelerate the (inflation) reduction to 4%. But if the economy is struggling, then a slower pace of adjustment would be appropriate

JR VARMA | MPC MEMBER, RBI

several months, with consumer inflation at 6.71% in July.

The RBI's monetary policy committee raised the bank's key lend-



ing rate by 50 basis points last month, its third increase in four months to curb rising prices, and economists polled by Reuters expect further tightening into early 2023.

The central bank has also been intervening to support the volatile rupee, which is hovering around the 78.80 to a dollar mark. Strong forex reserves have helped to maintain rupee stability, Das added.

Meanwhile, RBI monetary policy committee (MPC) member JR Varma said the success of the Reserve Bank of India's interest rate rises in controlling inflation is not yet clear, and the pace of rate adjustment will depend on the state of the economy.

FPIs net buyers in Aug

Mumbai, Sept 2: Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) remained net buyers in equity with investment touching a 19-month high on expectations that Indian economy and markets will outperform the US and other markets.

Data from NSDL showed that FPIs investment in equity were Rs 51,204 crore as compared to inflows of Rs 4,989 crore in the previous month. While, in September the inflows are around Rs 4,260 crore. The last time

when investment was high was December 2020 worth Rs 62,016 crore.

Since the foreign investors starting buying Indian equities heavily in the end of July, the markets have rallied sharply.

Sensex and Nifty both increased more than 7 per cent since then. Sensex which was trading at 55,268.49 July 26, was at 58,766.59 September 1, while Nifty, July 26 was hovering at 16,483.85, was September 1 trading at 17,542.80.

Google pilots third-party 'in app' billing in India, other nations

The move comes amid discontent among developers as well as increasing global scrutiny of app stores norms, and the way commissions are structured by big app stores

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 2: Google Friday announced that third-party 'in app' billing system pilot will be extended to India and some other markets, allowing non-gaming developers to offer users the choice of an alternative billing mechanism alongside that of Google Play.

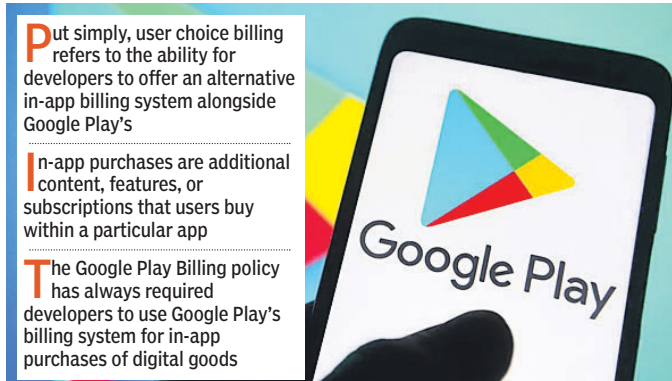
A reasonable service fees will continue to apply in order to support investments in Android and Play according to Google. However, specifics of what the reasonable service fees will be, have not been disclosed. Users will still have the choice to use Google Play's

billing system.

"With this next phase of Google Play's user choice billing pilot, all non-gaming developers can offer an additional billing choice alongside Play's billing system for their users in Australia, Japan, India, Indonesia, and the European Economic Area," a Google spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added: "We will be sharing more in the coming months as we continue to build and iterate with our pilot partners."

With this, all non-gaming developers globally can sign up to participate in the pilot and offer this



choice to their mobile and tablet users in these select markets.

Earlier this year, Google announced a new pilot to explore

user choice billing in apps on Google Play, allowing participating developers to offer users an alternative billing system next to Google Play's billing system.

In March, Google said it would allow Spotify to use its own payment system in its Android app as part of new pilot program. Following passage of a new law in South Korea last year, Google also said it would allow developers to introduce third-party payment systems alongside its own in that market.

As per Google, Google Play is the first and only major app store to pilot user choice billing. No

other major app store, whether on mobile, desktop, or game consoles, has taken similar steps toward providing more payment choice and opportunities for developers, users and the entire internet ecosystem, it contends.

Over the last two years, Google has moved away from one-size-fits-all pricing and as per its estimates, currently 99 per cent of developers qualify for a service fee of 15 per cent or less.

Google emphasises it is constantly listening to external feedback and considering changes to business that enable the Android ecosystem to compete and thrive.

'BLOODIED' NADAL THROUGH



with the ball, his racket deflected off the ground and smacked him on the nose.

He went over to the sideline and layed down, waiting for the trainer, and Fognini went over to check on Nadal. After having a bandage put on his nose, Nadal resumed play. He would lose that game, but not another, improving to 21-0 in Grand Slam matches in 2022.

Nadal won the Australian Open in January and the French Open in June for his 14th title there, then made it to the Wimbledon semifinals in July before the abdominal issue forced him to withdraw (which does not go into the books as a loss).

The match against Fognini, who beat him at the 2015 US Open, did not begin auspiciously for Nadal. His shots were off and he quickly fell behind. "For more than one hour and a half, I was not competing," Nadal said. "One of the worst starts, probably, ever."

The second set was hardly a thing of beauty for either man, filled with poor play by both: They combined for 39 unforced errors and merely nine winners, seven service breaks and only three holds.

When Nadal dumped a backhand into the net, Fognini broke to lead 3-2, then went ahead 4-2. But from there, it was Fognini who faltered, missing four shots in a row to get broken at love as part of a four-game run by Nadal to make it a set apiece.

In the third, Nadal came up with one particularly perfect shot — a forehand on the run that redirected an overhead by Fognini and sent it down the line for a winner to break for 4-2. Nadal's momentum carried him right to the edge of the stands, where thousands were on their feet, and he punched the air and yelled, "Vamos!"

Not long after, that set belong to Nadal, too, and he would collect 16 of the last 19 games.

Swiatek reaches US Open Rd 3



ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 2: Iga Swiatek is winning easily — and quietly. At this US Open, even the world's No.1 player is a distant No.2 as long as Serena Williams is still around. "Yeah, that's kind of her time right now," Swiatek said. "I'm just, you know, playing and focusing on that, and that's the most important thing for me."

The two-time French Open champion beat 2017 US Open winner Sloane Stephens 6-3, 6-2 Thursday in the second round for her WTA Tour-leading 50th victory this season.

A day after Williams eliminated No.2 seed Anett Kontaveit, with No.3 Maria Sakkari losing earlier Wednesday, Swiatek perhaps looms as an even bigger threat to win a seventh title this year, something no woman has done since Williams in 2014.

Past US Open champions Naomi Osaka and Emma Raducanu have also been eliminated, along with 2021 runner-up Leylah Fernandez.

No.6 Aryna Sabalenka remained the only women's semifinalist from last year in the field — barely — by erasing two match points and edging Kaia Kanepi 2-6, 7-6(10-8), 6-4. But fourth-seeded Paula Badosa was knocked out with a 6-7(5-7), 6-1, 6-2 loss to Croatian Petra Martic. Swiatek came to the US Open

just 4-4 in her last eight matches after winning 37 straight, but has dropped just eight games through two rounds. She needed only 1 hour, 14 minutes to beat Stephens, having no trouble with her first match in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"Honestly, I just tried to have the same kind of motivation or attitude as any other court, because it's the best way for me to perform good," Swiatek said.

Williams resumes what could be her final singles tournament Friday, leading off the night session on Ashe for the third time this week against Ajla Tomljanovic.

First, she was back on Ashe in the Thursday night opener along with big sister Venus for their women's doubles match against the Czech duo of Lucie Hradecka and Linda Noskova.

Four-time champion Rafael Nadal was following them against Fabio Fognini. Other winners Thursday included No.8 Jessica Pegula, No.9 Garbine Muguruza, No.13 Belinda Bencic and No.26 Victoria Azarenka, who didn't get a handshake from Marta Kostyuk after beating the Ukrainian player.

Azarenka is from Belarus, which helped Russia launch its invasion of Ukraine. "I just don't think it's the right thing to do in the circumstances I'm in right now," Kostyuk said about a handshake,

instead offering only a racket tap at the end.

No.3 Carlos Alcaraz tied for the season lead in victories on the men's tour with his 46th by beating Federico Coria of Argentina 6-2, 6-1, 7-5.

No.7 Cam Norrie, No.9 Andrey Rublev, No.11 Jannik Sinner and No.15 Marin Cilic, the 2014 US Open champion, advanced, but No.25 Borna Coric was upset by American Jensen Brooksby 6-4, 7-6(12-10), 6-1. Brooksby reached the fourth round at Flushing Meadows as a 20-year-old last year, winning a set from Novak Djokovic.

He will play the 19th-year-old Alcaraz next. "I'm going to bring in my best," Alcaraz said. "It's going to be a good, competitive battle out there."

Pegula returned to the court later Thursday with Coco Gauff, and the No.2-seeded team was upset by Fernandez and Daria Saville 3-6, 7-5, 7-6(7-5).

Gauff is also still alive in singles, facing fellow American Madison Keys on Friday afternoon. But she and Pegula were also counting on a long run in doubles, as they made in reaching the French Open final.

Gauff recently became the second-youngest player to reach No.1 in the WTA doubles rankings. She had already reached the US Open final last year with Caty McNally.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 2: Rafael Nadal cut himself on the bridge of his nose with his own racket when it ricocheted off the court on the follow-through from a shot, leaving himself bloodied and dizzy during his second-round victory at the US Open.

Play was delayed for about five minutes during a medical timeout in the fourth set of what would become a 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-1 win against Fabio Fognini at Arthur Ashe Stadium in a match that began Thursday night and finished after midnight Friday.

It made for a bizarre, and briefly scary, scene, as Nadal immediately grimaced, dropped his racket, put a palm to his face and then put both hands on his head. At least Nadal could joke about it afterward during his on-court interview.

Asked whether he'd ever had that happen before, he mustered a

chuckle and replied: "With a golf club but not with a tennis racket."

How was he feeling? "Well, just a little bit dizzy at the beginning," said Nadal, who has won four of his 22 Grand Slam titles at the US Open, most recently in 2019, the last time he entered the hard-court tournament. "A little bit painful."

The episode came on the first point of the game with Nadal leading 3-0 in the fourth set and clearly in command after ceding the opening set for the second match in a row this week.

The 36-year-old from Spain was moving to his right when he hit a backhand. After making contact

Williams sisters bow out of doubles

NEW YORK: Serena and Venus Williams traded fist bumps or palm slaps and chatted between points. They smiled while conversing in their seats at changeovers. When their first doubles match together in 4 1/2 years ended with a loss at the US Open Thursday night, the siblings hugged each other, then left the court to a standing ovation. The Williams sisters were eliminated by the Czech pair of Lucie Hradecka and Linda Noskova 7-6(7-5), 6-4 at Flushing Meadows. "I was speechless when I found out I'm going to face these two. I mean, they're legends. And I was always such a big fan of them, especially Serena. She has been my idol since ever, probably," said Noskova, a 17-year-old making her Grand Slam debut in doubles. "So I was really happy, excited, but kind of scared, to face them." Hradecka said, "I'm still in shock that we won." Speaking to the sellout crowd of 23,859, she said: "I'm so sorry for you that we beat them, but we are so happy that we did it."



Odisha Juggernauts in Ultimate Kho Kho final



ONE WIN AWAY: Odisha Juggernauts members celebrate after their victory

PNN & AGENCIES

Pune, Sept 2: Odisha Juggernauts registered a comprehensive 57-43 victory against Gujarat Giants to storm into the final while Telugu Yoddhas knocked out Chennai Quick Guns by 61-43 in the inaugural edition of Ultimate Kho Kho at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex here, Friday.

Suraj Lande contributed in Juggernauts' win by scoring 13 points, dismissing five players, along with Dilip Khandavi, who brilliantly defended for 3.48 minutes in the final turn. Abhinandhan Patil scored 10 points for Gujarat Giants.

Despite a 14-point loss, Gujarat Giants still have a chance to seal their berth in the final as they will play the winner of the eliminator match, Telugu Yoddhas in the qualifier 2



Saturday. Juggernauts and the winner of qualifier 2 will fight for the title in the final, scheduled Sunday.

In an intense battle between Top-2 teams of the league, Juggernauts claimed 23 points in the first turn and allowed only 18 points in defence.

Milind Chavarekar and Avinash Desai remained unbeaten for 2.38 minutes to secure two bonus points as Juggernauts continued to lead with 27-18 at the end of first innings. Juggernauts added 24 more points in the third turn, thanks to two sky-dive dismissals each from Lande and Aditya Kudale, earning 12 points.

The Odisha side held their nerves in the final seven minutes. Khandavi kept the Gujarat Giants at bay during his sensational defence of 3.48 minutes, adding six bonus points for Juggernauts before they comfortably sealed a title clash berth.

Rijiju accused of 'influencing' AIFF election

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 2: Rajasthan Football Association chief and Congress leader Manvendra Singh Friday alleged that union minister Kiren Rijiju "influenced" the outcome of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) elections.

In the election for the post of president, Indian football icon Bhaichung Bhutia suffered a humiliating 1-33 defeat against his former East Bengal teammate Kalyan Chaubey, a BJP leader from West Bengal.

Terming it a sad day for Indian football, Singh claimed that union minister of law and justice Rijiju "exhorted" the state association members to vote against Bhutia by visiting their hotel on the eve of the elections.

"The interference continued through the process and culminated last night when union minister (Rijiju) exhorted the association members that they should not vote for Bhaichung," Singh, a former MLA from Rajasthan, told reporters. "I think that interference is un-

acceptable, and is harmful for Indian football. What football is already suffering, can only suffer more. It's not going to be in good hands."

Chaubey dismissed the allegations. With his thumping win, Chaubey became the first footballer-turned-president in the 85-year history of the AIFF. Singh said as the players are not eligible to vote they exercised the other option of nominating Bhutia's name.

"The option was available in terms of contesting that's why we put Bhaichung. When you have the option to select the president from outside of the association, you go for the best. I don't want to race in a Formula One race in an Ambassador, I will go for a Ferrari."

"It could have been in the best hands, but other interests prevailed," he said, deeply upset that "Indian football administrators, the member associations did not exercise their judgment in the interest of football."

"When they had a choice of selecting the best player available



KIREN RIJIJU

they did not exercise that judgment and they came under somebody else's influence because the associations had a meeting earlier saying that they would not come under anybody's influence and they would elect one of their own. "When you have the best as one of the options and you don't exercise it, obviously their judgment is poor and it's not a good day for Indian football. I know the popular sentiment in India is for Bhaichung,



KALYAN CHAUBEY

but obviously, they (members) don't believe in that, they believed in some other interests."

Asked why Rijiju wanted the members to vote against Bhutia, he said: "It was politicised after the first meeting when all the associations got together and everybody said 'we will stay united and we won't let anybody outside become the head'. "Only one member said I'm under pressure to support Kalyan. Everybody said we won't and then

within a week everything changes. They all say they are under pressure and they changed their stance, they don't keep the word. It's a shock and deeply disappointing."

He further said it's nothing but electoral lollipops. "Game's revenue model I assume is plateaued. I don't see any new players coming into the game. These are electoral lollipops as they say in political elections and the same enticement obviously is being used here."

"People have voted for their personal gain rather than the interest of the sport," Singh, who is a son of former BJP leader Jaswant Singh, said.

Terming it an insult to Bhutia, he said: "Obviously you are an Indian icon. There is no better Indian player in the last few generations and to be treated like that by the football administrators, it's more than disappointing, it's an insult."

When asked about Singh's allegations, Chaubey later said at the press conference: "Yes, He (Rijiju) was present there (at hotel) but what he (Singh) alleged was a lie."

Asia Cup: Axar replaces Jadeja

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 2: India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja was Friday ruled out of the remainder of the Asia Cup due to a knee injury and Axar Patel will replace him in the squad.

Jadeja had made a significant contribution with the bat in India's five-wicket win over Pakistan, making crucial 35 runs off 29 balls on August 28. The Saurashtra all-rounder did not get to bat against Hong Kong but returned tidy figures with the ball, conceding only 15 runs from his four overs with a wicket.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee has named Axar Patel as the replacement for Ravindra Jadeja in the ongoing Asia Cup," the BCCI said in a statement.

"Ravindra Jadeja has sustained a right knee injury and is ruled out of the tournament. He is currently under the supervision of



the BCCI medical team. His replacement, Axar Patel was earlier named as one of the standbys in the squad and will join the team in Dubai soon."

Axar comes into the tournament, having recently played the ODIs in Zimbabwe. He was also



part of the squad on tours of West Indies and England.

The team management would hope for a quick recovery of Jadeja ahead of the T20 World Cup in Australia in October-November. India are scheduled to play their first Super 4 game in Asia Cup Sunday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prannoy goes down fighting in quarters

OSAKA: HS Prannoy went down fighting in the men's singles quarterfinals against World Championships bronze medalist Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei, bringing down the curtains on India's campaign at the Japan Open here Friday. The 30-year-old Indian played out of his skin and saved three match points, only to endure the agony of losing it in the end, as Chou emerged victorious 21-17, 15-21, 22-20 in a pulsating contest that lasted an hour and 20 minutes. One of the most consistent Indian players in the circuit this season, Prannoy recovered well from an opening game reversal, and kept breathing down his opponent's neck till the last point but, in the end, Chou's perseverance saw him through in this match at the Super 750 tournament.

FIH WC draw to take place in Bhubaneswar

LAUSANNE (Switzerland): The International Hockey Federation (FIH), Friday, announced that the draw ceremony to determine the pools of the upcoming FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 will take place September 8 at 12 pm IST at the Convention Centre, Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar. The pinnacle of the FIH men's tournaments will be played January 13-29, involving 16 teams, at the Kalinga Stadium (Bhubaneswar) and Birsamunda Hockey Stadium (Rourkela). The draw will be conducted by FIH CEO Thierry Weil, with the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik also in attendance. The four top teams, including hosts India, Australia, Belgium and Netherlands, will be placed on the first row of their corresponding Pools based on the FIH Rankings as per June 1.