



**GROWING IN STATURE**  
Actor Rakul Preet Singh says the faith filmmakers have in her talent acts as a confidence booster while headlining a project  
**LEISURE P2**



**US ARMS SALE RATTLES CHINA**  
The US has approved a potential \$1.1 billion arms sale to Taiwan with China threatening to take counter measures  
**INTERNATIONAL P10**



**MAJOR SETBACK TO INDIA**  
Ravindra Jadeja is all set to miss the T20 World Cup in Australia as he will undergo a major knee surgery  
**SPORTS P12**

## IAF Suryakiran show in Bhub, Puri Sept 16, 18

The aim of the aerobatic display is to showcase the professionalism and skill of the Indian Air Force pilots



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 3:** The Suryakiran Aerobatic Teams of Indian Air Force (IAF) will perform air shows in Bhubaneswar and Puri this month. According to official sources, the IAF will exhibit the air shows over the vast stretch of Kuakhai riverbed in Bhubaneswar September 16 while the air show in Puri will be conducted near Raj Bhawan September 18.

Sources said Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) will be used as the base for the display. The IAF had earlier performed such an air show in Cuttack in 2016. Apart from Odisha, the IAF will also display air shows in Guwahati September 26 & 27, in Chandigarh October 8 and at Bareilly October 14. The Suryakiran Aerobatic Team of the IAF is one of the nine aircraft display teams across the world. The IAF Team undertakes the extremely challenging role of doing aerobatic manoeuvres close to the ground in large formations. The aim of the aerobatic display is to showcase the professionalism and skill of the Indian Air Force pilots as well as to instill a sense of patriotism in the youth of the country. The Suryakiran of the IAF was formed in 1996 and has been personifying the motto of the IAF- "Touch the sky with glory".



SETTING STAGE: Workers prepare tents at Ramlila Maidan ahead of 'Mehngai Par Halla Bol' rally by Congress party to protest against the rising inflation, in New Delhi, Saturday. OP PHOTO

### SHORT TAKES

#### Lifetime achievement award for Naveen

**BHUBANESWAR:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will be conferred with the prestigious Capital Foundation Life Time Achievement Award in recognition of his distinctive and outstanding leadership qualities at an event in New Delhi Sunday. Former Chief Justice of India NV Ramana will present the award to Patnaik at India International Centre Auditorium in presence of distinguished guests, official sources said. Patnaik, who has been in New Delhi since last Wednesday, is scheduled to return state September 6. Meanwhile, the BJD has planned a grand reception to congratulate Patnaik on his return to Capital city.

#### Rajakpaks returns to SL after 51-day exile

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka's former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa was accorded a warm welcome as he returned to Colombo from Thailand amid tight security on late Friday, ending his 51-day self-imposed exile after fleeing abroad following months-long mass protests over the country's worst economic crisis. Rajapaksa, 73, was festooned with flowers by a welcoming party of ministers and politicians as he disembarked at Colombo's Bandaranaike International Airport from Bangkok via Singapore. The duty manager of the airport said that the former president arrived in the country at around 11:30pm Friday aboard a Singapore Airlines flight.

# Tikiri girl killed by jilted lover

The accused was reportedly in love with the girl but was distressed over the fact that the latter was not reciprocating to his advances

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada/Tikiri, Sept 3:** In a shocking incident, a youth allegedly killed a girl by slitting her throat over unrequited love and later tried to end his life at Ushapada under Tikiri police limits of Rayagada district, Saturday. The deceased was identified as Seema Majhi (name changed), 17, of Sanamatikana under Tikiri police limits and a casual labourer. The accused identified as Rasika Pradhan, 35, of Mundagaon sustained critical injuries as he tried to kill himself. He has been admitted to district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Rayagada for treatment. The incident occurred when Seema was engaged at a private civil construction site at Ushapada, Saturday afternoon. Rasika, a father of three, was reportedly in love with Seema but was distressed over the fact that the latter was not reciprocating to his advances. He was angry as Seema's family members had rejected his marriage proposal as they did not ap-



- Seema was taking a siesta after having the lunch at the worksite when Rasika approached her and professed his love for her at around 2pm
- This resulted in a fight between the two as Seema again rejected his proposal. An enraged Rasika took out a knife and slit Seema's throat with it

prove of their relationship. This had built up tension between the two. Seema was taking a siesta after having the lunch at the worksite when Rasika approached her again and professed his love for her at around 2pm. This resulted in a fight between them as Seema again rejected his proposal. Enraged, Rasika took out a knife and slit her throat with it, alleged the locals. Another woman labourer, who was Seema's friend, tried to stop Rasika but in vain. He also attacked

the woman and then slit his own throat. A profusely bleeding Seema died on the spot. The deceased's co-worker has been admitted to a local hospital. On being informed, police reached the spot and rushed Rasika to a nearby hospital and later shifted him to Rayagada DHH after his condition worsened. Police sent the body for post-mortem and started an investigation after registering a case (No-120/22) in this regard.

### Food poisoning claims two kids

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Badamba, Sept 3:** Two children of a family died following a suspected case of food poisoning at Birabarapur under Abhimanpur panchayat in Badamba police limits of Cuttack district in the wee hours of Saturday. The deceased were identified as Rudra Patra, 12, and his sister Ruchika Patra, 9 - son and daughter of Runubala, 36, and Gobind Patra, 46, in the village. Their parents have also been admitted to the hospital in critical condition due to food poisoning. Sources said Patra with his wife and children had reportedly consumed stale food, Thursday. After some time, all of them felt uneasy and started vomiting. On being informed, neighbours rushed them to Maniabandh community health centre (CHC) from where they were shifted to a private hospital in Cuttack after their health condition deteriorated. Police rushed to the spot and sent the bodies for post-mortem and launched an investigation to ascertain the actual reason behind the deaths. Police said only a medical report will confirm the reason behind the deaths. Badamba MLA Devi Prasad Mishra enquired about the health condition of the couple. Medical officer of Maniabandh CHC Sarat Chandra Khuntia said an enquiry was conducted at Birabarapur village and later the house of Patra was sealed.

# ED raids Razorpay, Paytm, Cashfree

These payment gateway firms have been in the crosshairs of ED action since 2020 when instances of several debtors ending lives came to the fore

AGENCIES  
The authorities reached out to us with directions to provide certain information about these merchants under scrutiny, to which we promptly responded. We continue to cooperate with the authorities and remain fully compliant," Paytm said. Razorpay said some of their merchants were being "investigated by law enforcement about a year-and-a-half back. As part of the ongoing investigation, the authorities requested additional information to help with the investigation." "We have fully cooperated and shared KYC and other details. The authorities were satisfied by our due diligence process," the spokesperson said. Cashfree Payments said their "operations and onboarding processes adhere to the PMLA and KYC directions, and we will continue to do so." "We extended our diligent cooperation to the ED operations, providing them the required and necessary information on the same day of enquiry," the spokesperson added. These payment gateway firms have been in the crosshairs of the ED action since 2020 soon after the COVID-19 pandemic broke in the country. The ED probe found these companies had "fake" addresses.

### CHINESE LOAN APP FRAUD

New Delhi/Bangalore, Sept 3: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Saturday said it conducted raids at premises of online payment gateways such as Razorpay, Paytm and Cashfree in Bangalore as part of a money laundering case against some instant app-based loan disbursement entities "controlled" by Chinese persons. The searches that started Friday as part of an ongoing probe were underway, the agency said Saturday evening. The federal probe agency also said that during the raids, it seized Rs 17 crore worth of funds kept in "merchant IDs and bank accounts of these Chinese persons-controlled entities". The three companies responded by saying they were cooperating with the federal agency. A Paytm spokesperson said they were "supporting law enforcement agencies, who are investigating a specific set of merchants."

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



All his sermons are on criminal laws these days. Looks like an FIR is coming on his way!

WEATHER	
BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX 36.6°C	36.6°C
MIN 26.6°C	27.0°C
Humidity 74%	92%
Rainfall 0.2mm	2mm
Forecast Partly cloudy sky	

# SERENA LOSES TO AJLA IN CAREER'S LAST FIGHT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New York, Sept 3:** Leave it to Serena Williams to not want to go quietly, to not want this match, this trip to the US Open, this transcendent career of hers, to re-ally, truly end.



Right down to what were, barring a change of heart, the final minutes of her quarter-century of excellence on the tennis court, and an unbending unwillingness to be told what wasn't possible, Williams tried to mount one last classic comeback, earn one last vintage victory, with fans on their feet in a full Arthur Ashe Stadium, cellphone cameras at the ready. The 23-time Grand Slam champion staved off five match points to prolong the three-hours-plus proceedings, but could not do more, and was eliminated from the US Open in the third round by Ajla Tomljanovic 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-1 on Friday night in what is expected to be her final contest. MORE P12

It's been the most incredible ride and journey I've ever been on in my life  
**SERENA WILLIAMS**

# Hotels, homestays in Bengal nearly full

AS CORONAVIRUS CASES SUBSIDE, BUSINESSES ARE HOPEFUL OF AN EFFERVESCENT FESTIVE SEASON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Siliguri (WB), Sept 3:** Over 70 per cent of hotel rooms in the tourist destinations of northern West Bengal are booked ahead of Durga Puja, an official said Saturday. The economy of the region, which boasts of some picturesque Himalayan destinations such as Darjeeling and Kalimpong, and forests of the Dooars, was battered by the pandemic as tourists stayed home amid the lockdowns. As coronavirus cases subside, businesses are hopeful of an effervescent festive season with tickets of trains to New Jalpaiguri - the gateway to the region, sold out and hotel rooms fast getting filled up. Federation of Bengal Hotels assistant secretary Ujjwal Ghosh said the region saw a good footfall during the summer holidays this year, and the hoteliers expect even a better festive season.



"Over 70 per cent of hotel rooms have already been booked in the Hills and in Dooars, and we expect the rest to be filled up soon," he said. The homestays are also witnessing a huge demand with most expected to be fully booked within the next few days, he added. The West Bengal government announcing a 10-day Durga Puja holiday for its employees coupled with

The Bengal government announcing a 10-day holiday for its employees coupled with 'revenge travelling' has prompted this massive demand

during the pandemic has also pushed up hotel prices to twice-the normal levels, they said. All the government accommodations in the region are nearly full between October 1 and 10 - the Durga Puja vacations, officials said. Niranjan Saha, the manager of West Bengal Tourism's Jaldapara Tourist Lodge, said all rooms of the property have been fully booked during the festive season. "We are now working on a special menu for the guests who will come during the festive season," he said. To tackle the rush of tourists, the Eastern Railway has announced two special trains between Kolkata and New Jalpaiguri in Siliguri in October. The bookings for these trains will begin September 5. The Northeast Frontier Railway has also decided to operate four new toy train joyrides in Darjeeling during the festive season. The trains will run between Darjeeling and Ghum from October 1.

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

### ARIES

Do something really exciting today - perhaps you could put on your trekking boots and explore unknown territories. Ganesh advises you to keep busy but not to go overboard. In group activities today, everybody will focus their attention on you.

### TAURUS

This day your mind is likely to be blissfully drawn towards your personal friends and family members. Your warm and intimate relationships will stay uppermost in your mind and fill the day, not leaving room for anything else. Hanging out together with them will give you immense pleasure and contentment.

### GEMINI

Today, you are likely to be rather emotional and sentimental, says Ganesh. Your love for performing arts may make you take up lessons in classical music or traditional dance. And much to your delight, your sweetheart will treat you to a surprise candlelit dinner.

### CANCER

Today, you are likely to experience something life-changing. A small incident, an observation, a tragedy, a disaster, or a simple thought may change the course of your life. You, however, may not be able to take the changes well.

### LEO

Your passionate and emotional nature contributes in a big way to your sudden outbursts of emotions, says Ganesh. Today, your anger may erupt abruptly. This makes it very likely for you to get carried away irrespective of your surroundings and circumstances, both at work and at home. Ganesh warns you of the negative influence such blind anger may have on your plans and strategies.

### VIRGO

Stay clear of a coalition when it comes to business ventures, warns Ganesh. Alone, you can manage an entire stampede. By your own you are, by far, the best administrator of your department. Today, find yourself being the general and uniting people under your banner to achieve greater success, says Ganesh.

### LIBRA

You never let a favour go unacknowledged, or let a ridicule pass by unanswered. So, it's time to settle those old accounts that are so important to you, feels Ganesh. This will increase chances of interesting developments that will continue to surprise you throughout the day. All in all, Ganesh wishes you a vibrant day today.

### SCORPIO

You shall probably realise the fact that seeing is believing. Learn to trust your own eyes more than what you hear. Don't get lost in the crowd, warns Ganesh. Strive to stand out and be in the spotlight, advises Ganesh.

### SAGITTARIUS

The day is bright and the seas are calm today. For a change, you shall spend time with your life partner and help them in household chores. Even routine jobs like cooking and cleaning will weave an intricate bond between you two.

### CAPRICORN

A good day always begins with a good start. It will be a good day for you today as you will start the day with a positive attitude to life, says Ganesh. Your unremitting dedication and determination will not only put you ahead of others, but will also help you get an edge over them.

### AQUARIUS

You are a polished diamond. Adversities come and go, yet you remain unruffled. Today, you manage to please your boss, and beloved, and that is a feat! It is yet another day of contentment. And in a cyclical process, this again rejuvenates you into giving your best, says Ganesh.

### PISCES

Do not let your emotions influence your strategies in any way. Mixing business with sentiments is only for super spies. Keep a close check on your emotions and do not get carried away.



## ED SHEERAN HINTS AT EARLY RETIREMENT

Chart topping star Ed Sheeran has enjoyed huge success since first exploding onto the music scene back in 2011 but fans need to brace themselves as his retirement is just a few years away.

## JANE FONDA DIAGNOSED WITH BLOOD CANCER, BEGINS CHEMO

Veteran Hollywood star Jane Fonda has announced that she has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a cancer that starts in the lymphatic system, and has started chemotherapy treatments. It occurs when the body produces too many abnormal lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell.



## Huge responsibility to shoulder a film: Rakul

Mumbai: Actor Rakul Preet Singh says the faith filmmakers and writers have in her talent acts a major confidence booster when headlining a project. The Delhi-born actor is playing the central character in the upcoming social comedy *Chhatriwali*. In the film, directed by Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar, she plays the quality control head of a condom factory. "I feel it is a huge responsibility when a film is shouldered upon you. It is the trust of the team that lies upon you, that in itself, is a big booster," said the *Cuttpull* actress. She believes female-centric movies are a result of evolution in writing as well as the audience's openness to diverse stories. "As years progress, more and more female-centric films are being written. My peers or actors

younger than me, like Jahnvi (Kapoor), Sara (Ali Khan) and others are doing female-led films because the writing has evolved. Also, the audiences are ready to watch them," she added. With *Chhatriwali*, Rakul said her endeavour is to reach out to a wider audience. "It is a family film. Even though the topic is the need of the hour; it is told in a simple, happy and sweet manner. My endeavour is to do films that I can watch with my parents," she further said. AGENCIES



## Jonita Gandhi on acting debut

Chennai: Popular playback singer Jonita Gandhi, who has turned an actress with director Vinayak V's film, *Walking Talking Strawberry Icecream*, has called working on the film a 'fun experience'. Taking to Instagram to share her thoughts on acting in a film, the singer turned actress said, "So I did a thing... Say hello to Piku!

Watch out for my appearance in *Walking Talking Strawberry Icecream*. "It's a small but fun role and I hope I didn't suck at it. Such a fun experience with a lovely team. Happy to add a checkmark beside "act in a film" on my bucket list!" The film, which features four other women in the lead roles, is being produced by director Vignesh Shivan's Rowdy Pictures. On launching Jonita Gandhi as an actress, Vignesh Shivan had said, "WTSI introducing the very famous, pretty and extremely talented Jonita Gandhi as an actor this time in our dearest film from Rowdy Pictures." IANS



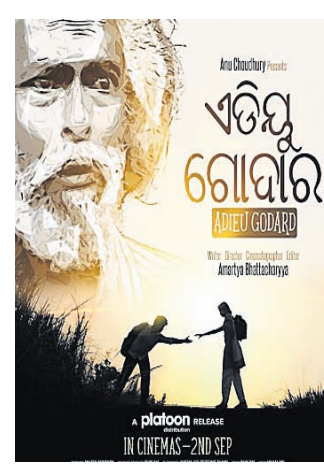
Mumbai: Acclaimed actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, started working on *Haddi*, where he'll be seen playing a transgender, talked about his experience of working with female directors. Nawaz then went on to point out some differences between male and female filmmakers. Nawazuddin Siddiqui rose to fame with *Peepli Live* with director Anusha Rizvi. He has worked with Director Debamitra Biswal for *Motichoor Chaknachoor*, Nawazuddin has taken on a very challenging role of prolific writer Manto in Nandita Das's directorial venture of the same name.

## Adieu Godard not a typical art film: Amartya

Shot entirely in Odisha, the award winning movie follows the story of an old man who is addicted to pornography

Bhubaneswar: When the team of Odia film *Adieu Godard* went to shoot a scene in rural Odisha, they actually had to screen a movie by legendary French filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard for locals. It's anyone's guess how angry the villagers might have gotten for bringing them to one place and showing them a French film that they don't understand, director Amartya Bhattacharyya said. "What we were trying to show in the film was actually what we were doing," said the *Capita I* director pointing out the opera-

tional challenges of shooting the movie, which was released Friday. Shot entirely in Odisha, *Adieu Godard* follows the story of an old man named Ananda who is addicted to pornography and secretly watches adult films with some men in the evening. One day, the protagonist, Choudhary Bikash Dash, accidentally brings home a DVD after assuming it to be pornography. But it turned out to be the 1960 cinema *Breathless*, the first and



the most iconic movie of Godard. Ananda gets attracted by the newness and gradually develops an obsession. Then, he then attempts to host a film festival on Godard in their village. Bhattacharyya said the movie was not a propaganda film and the dark satire underscored the importance of cross-cultural exchange of ideas. The *KhyaniKaa-The Lost Idea* director pointed out that the message of the film cannot be given in a line and it was not a spoon-feeding of the typical art films, which would try to impose a statement on the viewer. He felt blessed that *Adieu Godard* became the first Odia film to have a world premiere at the Moscow International Film Festival. It has been to around 20 international festivals and won six awards. m



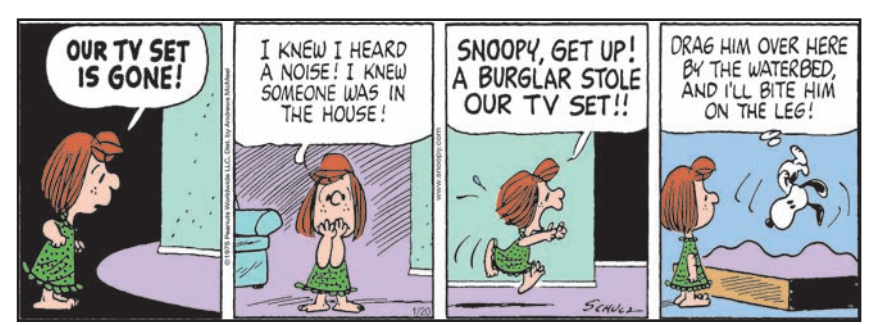
## FEMALE GAZE IS KINDER, SENSITIVE: NAWAZUDDIN

He has also worked with Zoya Akhtar in *Bombay Talkies*, an anthology of four short stories that describe how films have an influence on the lives of people from various strata of society. He also worked on *Talaash* with Reema Kagti. Nawaz stated: "I have worked with many renowned female directors and that helped me a great deal. I realised that women look at the world differently. They are far more compassionate and they see beauty in everything." "For most men, it's often about power and control. That also reflects in our relationships. Men tend to be more territorial and *unko adhikaar jatana hai, auraton par bhi*. The female gaze is kinder and sensitive. I am trying to get that POV (point of view) right," he added. IANS



Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui in a poster of upcoming Hindi film *Haddi*

## PEANUTS



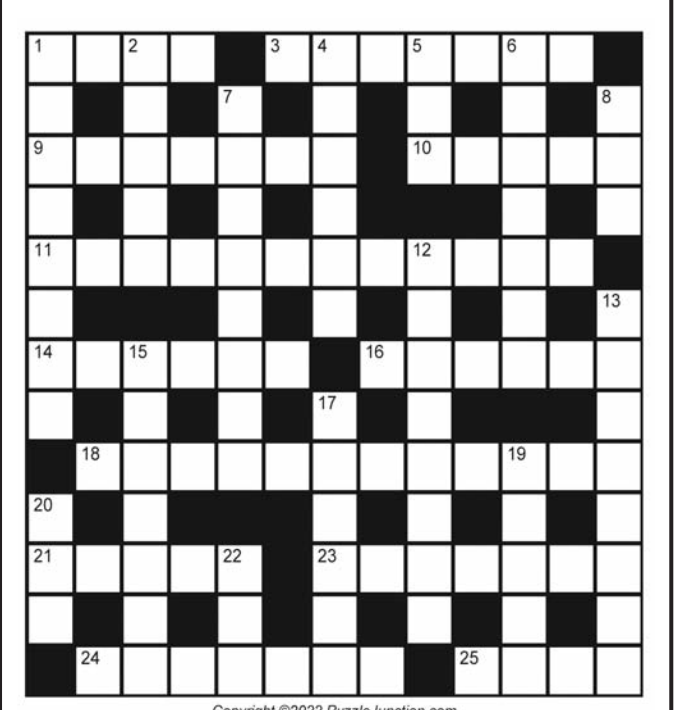
## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY



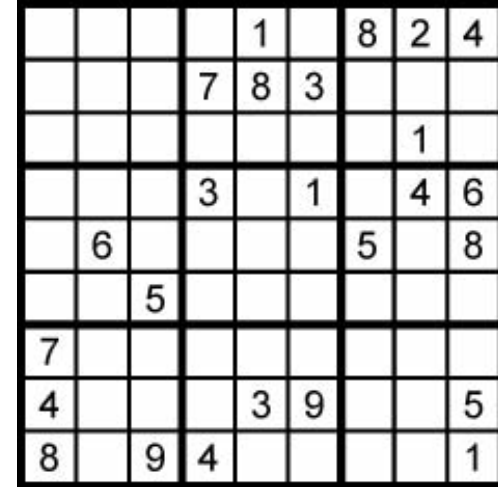
## FUN post CROSSWORD



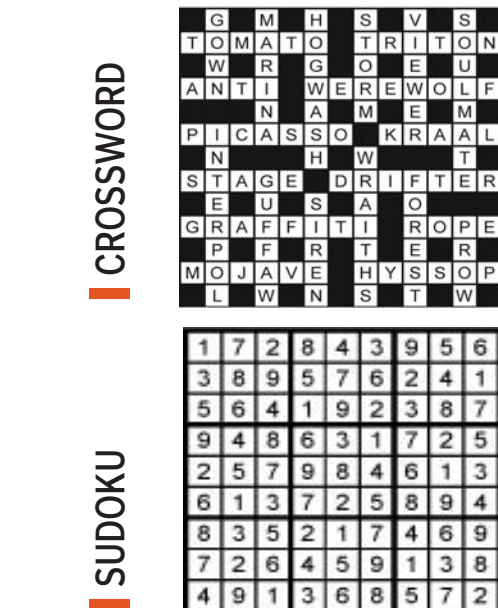
- Across
- 1 Almanac tidbit
  - 3 Makeup item
  - 9 Refined
  - 10 Thin biscuit
  - 11 Narrow step on old cars (7,5)
  - 14 Chevy candy
  - 16 Take to the cleaners
  - 18 Word to assess certain outcomes
  - 21 Mountain lakes
  - 23 India rubber
  - 24 Type of speaker
  - 25 Road turn
  - 6 Umpire
  - 7 Fragile
  - 8 Unit of energy
  - 12 Obscurity
  - 13 Clergyman
  - 15 Rattle
  - 17 Mute
  - 19 Pickling liquid
  - 20 Airport posting: Abbr.
  - 22 Cambodian coin

## 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

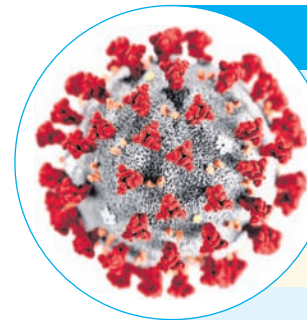


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



**20TH ANNIVERSARY**

Governor Ganeshi Lal speaks during the anniversary celebration of Drushti Daan at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



**COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	60,97,08,766	58,60,10,450	65,02,014
India	4,44,47,148	4,38,65,016	5,27,965
Odisha	13,28,244	13,17,492	9,179

**REMEMBERING THE POET**



Odisha Sahitya Akademi president Hrusikesh Mallick in presence of other dignitaries lights a lamp to mark the birth anniversary celebration of legendary poet Atibadi Jagannath Das at Geeta Govinda Sadan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

**Judge's mom cries murder**

PNN & AGENCIES

**Cuttack, Sept 3:** A day after a special POCSO judge was found dead at his official residence here, his mother Saturday approached the Markatnagar police station here alleging that the judicial officer did not die by suicide but he was murdered by his wife and brother-in-law.

In a written complaint lodged at Markatnagar police station here, Tulasi Behari, 70, also claimed that her son, who died Friday, was mentally and physically tortured by his wife and brother-in-law.

"We have registered an unnatural death case (93/22) Friday. An investigation is on and we are taking statements of the judge's brother, mother and in-laws," Markatnagar inspector in-charge (IC) Beauty Mohanty said, adding that the autopsy report, which is yet to arrive, will help decide the course of investigation.

Subash Kumar Behari, an additional district judge-rank judicial officer who was officiating as a special judge of POCSO court here, was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his quarters here Friday af-



Tulasi Behari approached the Markatnagar police in Cuttack alleging that her son Subash Kumar Behari, who was found hanging in his official residence Friday, did not die by suicide but he was murdered by his wife and brother-in-law

ternoon. There were injury marks on his neck, it was learnt.

"My son has not committed suicide. He was murdered and later his body was hanged from the ceiling fan," Tulasi alleged in her complaint and urged the police to ensure a thorough investigation into the matter.

He had taken leave Friday on account of his father's death anniversary. His wife and their two daughters were not at home when the incident occurred, police said.

Stating that her son had a love marriage 15 years ago, Tulasi has mentioned in her complaint that her son had on several occasions con-

fided to her that he was mentally and physically tortured by his wife and brother-in-law.

After the post-mortem examination was conducted, the judge's body was cremated in Puri Friday night.

There was an altercation between his wife and his brother over where the body would be consigned to flames. His brother wanted to take his mortal remains to their ancestral home in Jajpur district.

Arun Kumar Pahi, a relative of the judge, demanded a CBI probe into the incident.

The judge's wife refused to comment.

**State targets piped water to 50% Jharsuguda households this year**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 3:** Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra visited Jharsuguda district Saturday to review the progress of various development projects and said the government has set a target to ensure that at least 50 per cent of households in the district get piped water by this year.

Mahapatra held a meeting with the district officials and set timelines for various phases of projects.

He directed officials to closely monitor it for timely completion and ensuring quality of the work.

"We have set a target to ensure that at least 50 per cent of the households in rural and urban areas get piped water by this year," he said at a press briefing.

Mahapatra stated that the existing power substations would be upgraded, and new ones would be installed for reliable electricity supply to the 11 mega lift irrigation projects, which are being constructed in various places of the district.

He also visited the project sites of the cardiac care hospital and set a target to operationalise it in around six months.

The Chief Secretary asked the Agriculture department to encourage farmers to diversify and aware them of benefits of cultivating non-paddy crops.



The Chief Secretary asked the Agriculture department to encourage farmers to diversify and aware them of benefits of cultivating non-paddy crops

The Revenue and Disaster Management department was directed to complete the land survey and settlement in favour of the dam-affected families living in the fringe areas of the Hirakud reservoir

Horticulture, oilseeds and pulses can be cultivated on a large scale, he said.

The officials were asked to be in direct touch with farmers and give necessary guidance, agricultural input and technical know-how.

The Revenue and Disaster Management department was directed to complete the land survey and settlement in favour of the dam-affected families living in the fringe areas of the Hirakud reservoir.

**Only 25% in Odisha took Covid-19 precaution dose**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 3:** The state government Saturday appealed to the people to take the precaution dose against Coronavirus as soon as possible as a few weeks are left for the period of free jabs and only a quarter of the targeted population got vaccinated with the third shot.

A total of 80.90 lakh people, including frontline workers and those in the 18-60 age group and above 60

*Health Director Bijay Panigrahi urges people to take the precaution dose by September 30, the deadline set by the Union government for giving free jabs at public healthcare institutions*

years, have taken the precaution dose, Health Director Bijay Panigrahi said at a press briefing here.

"Around 25 per cent of the targeted population has taken the precaution

dose while many are yet to take the jab," he said, adding that 23 lakh beneficiaries of the first shot had the second one due even now.

Panigrahi appealed people to

take the precaution dose by September 30, the deadline set by the Union government for giving free jabs at public healthcare institutions.

The Covid-19 tally rose to 13,28,244 Saturday as 174 more people, including 13 children, tested positive for the infection, a health bulletin said.

The toll climbed to 9,179 as a 74-year-old man succumbed to the disease in Bhubaneswar. Fifty-three

other patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it said.

Odisha had recorded 226 infections and a fatality Friday.

The state now has 1,734 active Covid-19 cases, while 236 more people recuperated from the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total recoveries to 13,17,278.

The daily positivity rate was at 1.32 per cent as 13,217 samples were tested for the infection in the last 24 hours.

**Brahmagiri cop robbed of ₹10 lakh at gunpoint**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Brahmagiri, Sept 3:** A police official was robbed of Rs 10 lakh at gunpoint near the sub-registrar office here Saturday.



"Sahoo was walking back home when two bike-borne miscreants waylaid him near the sub-registrar office and snatched a bag containing the cash from him at gunpoint before fleeing the scene," an official said, adding that they would check the footage of CCTVs installed near the crime scene to probe the incident.

The incident took place around 1:30pm when the victim Rakesh Kumar Sahoo, a resident of Sahajpur under Brahmagiri police limits, was on his way home after withdrawing Rs 10 lakh from the State Bank of India's branch here.

**Women at greater risk from air pollution: Researchers**



Women try to protect themselves from heavy smog and air pollution

PTI photo

**We already know that there are sex differences in lung diseases such as asthma and respiratory infections. Our previous research showed that breathing diesel exhaust creates inflammation in the lungs and has an impact on how the body deals with respiratory infections**

DR HEMSEKHAR MAHADEVAPPA | UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

A team of Indian-origin researchers has found that the impact of breathing diesel exhaust fumes may be more severe for women than men.

Dr Hemshekar Mahadevappa and Professor Neeloffer Mookherjee from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada looked for changes in people's blood brought about by exposure to diesel exhaust.

In both females and males, they found changes in components of the blood related to inflammation, infection and cardiovascular disease, but they found more changes in females than males.

The research by Mahadevappa, Mookherjee and Chris Carlsten at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada will be presented at the European Respiratory Society

International Congress in Barcelona, Spain, next week.

"We already know that there are sex differences in lung diseases such as asthma and respiratory infections. Our previous research showed that breathing diesel exhaust creates inflammation in the lungs and has an impact on how the body deals with respiratory infections," said Mahadevappa.

The new study involved 10 volunteers, five female and five male, who were all healthy non-smokers.

Each volunteer spent four hours breathing filtered air and four hours breathing air containing diesel exhaust fumes at three different concentrations, with a four-week break in between each exposure.

Volunteers donated blood samples 24 hours after each exposure and the re-

searchers made detailed examinations of the volunteers' blood plasma.

Among the proteins that differed between females and males, were some that are known to play a role in inflammation, damage repair, blood clotting, cardiovascular disease and the immune system. Some of these differences became clearer when volunteers were exposed to the higher levels of diesel exhaust.

"These are preliminary findings, however they show that exposure to diesel exhaust has different effects in female bodies compared to male and that could indicate that air pollution is more dangerous for females than males," said Mookherjee.


This is important as respiratory diseases such as asthma are known to affect females and males differently with females more likely to suffer severe asthma that does not respond to treatments.

"Therefore, we need to know a lot more about how females and males respond to air pollution and what this means for preventing, diagnosing and treating their respiratory disease," said Mookherjee.

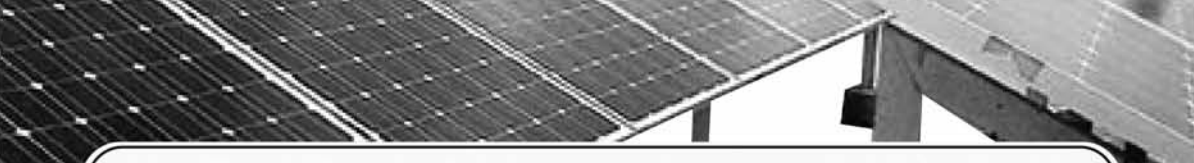
Professor Zorana Andersen from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, said, "We also need to understand how and why air pollution contributes to poor health."

"This study offers some important insight into how the body reacts to diesel exhaust and how that may differ between females and males," said Andersen, Chair of the European Respiratory Society Environment and Health Committee, who was not involved in the research.

IANS



**MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**



**Install Rooftop Solar, Save Money-Save Environment**

**National Portal for Residential Consumers Launched**  
It is now easy to install rooftop solar plant and get subsidy

The simplified procedure is as under:

- Register yourself at National Portal [www.solarrooftop.gov.in](http://www.solarrooftop.gov.in) and submit application.
- The application will be forwarded online to the concerned DISCOM for technical feasibility approval.
- After getting technical feasibility approval, install rooftop solar plant through any of the vendors registered on the portal.
- On installation, submit details and apply for net-metering.
- Concerned DISCOM will install net-meter after inspection of the plant and update on the Portal.
- After installation of net-meter, the consumer can apply for getting subsidy by submitting bank account details and uploading copy of a cancelled cheque.
- The Central Government subsidy will be credited directly into the bank account of the consumer within 30 working days.
- Status update for each steps can be tracked online of the portal.

**Rooftop Solar Plant Vendors**  
Expand your business by registering on National Portal

The simplified procedure for registration is as under:

- Get registered by submitting an application at the Division /Circle level office of the concerned DISCOM along with a declaration (format given at [www.solarrooftop.gov.in](http://www.solarrooftop.gov.in)) and depositing a PBG of Rs. 2,50,000/- valid for at least five years.
- Within a period of one month of application, the concerned DISCOM will update the details of the registered vendors on the National Portal and the vendors will receive a registration mail along with login details.
- The vendors can login on the National Portal and enter the contact details as also rates offered by them for rooftop solar plant.
- The details entered by the vendors will be visible to the consumers submitting application on the National Portal and they can contact these vendors.









# Vijayan calls for productive spending

**KERALA CM SAYS THERE WAS A NEED FOR DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED LAWS BASED ON THE CONCURRENT LIST OF THE 7TH SCHEDULE OF THE CONSTITUTION BEFORE THEY WERE ENACTED**



**There can be contestations, but through discussions and debates, consensus can emerge narrowing down the areas of differences. This is the essence of a healthy federal democracy**

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

States and Union Territories. Among them were Pinarayi Vijayan and his Tamil Nadu counterpart MK Stalin. "There can be contestations, but through discussions and debates, consensus can emerge narrowing down the areas of differences. This is the essence of a healthy federal

democracy," Vijayan said. He recalled the co-operative spirit with which the States faced the situation in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Differences stood apart and we rose to the need of the hour to protect and provide the people relief. Though the immediate threat has receded, the fiscal empowerment of the Union and the States are of equal importance to meet the long impact of the pandemic on the economy. I take this opportunity to request the central government to take a pro-active stand to enable the States to undertake productive spending to galvanise the national economy," he said.

Vijayan called for taking up major issues like coastal erosion, upgradation of railways

and airport infrastructure as they were important to livelihood and the economy.

He said the zonal councils have a role in fostering the spirit of co-operative federalism and one of its important functions was to resolve emerging issues.

"More important is learning of success stories and varied experiences of one another and attempt to adapt them to each State according to prevailing circumstances. In our Constitutional set-up, representatives to all tiers of the government are elected by the people, who gave unto themselves the Constitution. Power is not to be envisaged as a hierarchical and pyramidal structure, but as one which moves in concentric circles, with each tier of government having its defined territorial jurisdiction," Vijayan said.

The Left leader pointed out that thousands of pilgrims from the southern States who visit the Sabarimala temple in Kerala are treated as honoured guests.

Vijayan sought the opinion of the Chief Ministers and the Governors on further improving the facilities extended to the pilgrims.

He said co-operative federalism requires continuous exchange of ideas between all the stakeholders. The zonal council meeting was for southern States and Union Territories.

# Egyptian vultures dwindling in TN due to scarcity of food

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Sept 3:** Even as the Tamil Nadu government restricted the use of anti-inflammatory drugs ketoprofen and flunixin, considering the adverse impact they cause to predatory birds, the Egyptian vulture population in the state is on the decline.

According to Arulgam, an organisation that works for vulture conservation, there is no authentic breeding record in the state except for one in Krishnagiri district a few years back. The main reason for dwindling vulture population, according to conservationists, is the lack of food for these vultures and the presence of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like diclofenac in the bodies of their prey.

Most of the farmers bury their cattle even after the local bodies, health department and state forest department have conducted awareness campaigns to leave the dead cattle in areas with less population as predatory birds depend on these carcasses.

Deworming drugs, rodenticide poisoning and chemicals released by tanneries are also reasons for the decline in the population of Egyptian vultures. Farmers poison rats which are eaten by the



vultures, leading to these chemicals entering the food chain and turning fatal for the birds. With the volume of tanning increasing, the industry which earlier used plant-based materials turned to chemical tanning, including ammonia and sodium, leading to the death of vultures that feed from tanneries.

A senior forest department official told IANS that they are launching a campaign among the farmers not to use chemicals to poison rats and also not use deworming chemicals in their cattle. The department in association with the local bodies, health department, police, and local NGOs is planning a major campaign against the burial of cattle as predatory

birds, including Egyptian vultures, depend on them for food.

The official told IANS that recently two Egyptian vultures were rescued and kept in captivity. The one in Guindy Zoo has almost recovered and is ready to fly while the one in Coimbatore Zoo is still not fit for flying.

Sources told IANS that the forest department has already submitted a proposal to the state government for captive breeding of Egyptian vultures in zoos.

The forest department has also issued instructions to leave the dead bodies of elephants and other animals in the open, instead of burying them.

# TN to upgrade PDS shops, introduce cashless payment



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Sept 3:** The Tamil Nadu department of cooperation will soon upgrade the state Public Distribution System (PDS) shops to meet international standards.

The shops will be upgraded so that they meet ISO 9000 certification in quality control, ISO 28000 for supply chain management and FSSAI for food quality. The PDS shops will also be upgraded and cashless payment mode will be introduced for the ration card holders.

There are 34,773 ration shops in the state, of which 33,377 shops are under cooperative societies. Some shops in the state are already accepting digital payments and this will be extended to shops across the state.

Tamil Nadu Cooperation Minister I. Periyasamy in a statement Friday said that the department is taking up various measures to improve the functioning of the ration shops. Small godowns will be built near ration shops.

The department, according to the minister, has issued orders for the construction of new buildings for 6,907 ration shops and that land has been identified for 862 new buildings, and administrative sanctions granted for 243 buildings.

Presently, 17,473 ration shops in the state are functioning in government buildings and there will be major changes following the new policies of the department of cooperation.

The minister said new buildings will be constructed for all ration shops in the near future.

# Tree felling for NHAI project kills large number of birds

**THE VIDEO OF THE INCIDENT HAS GONE VIRAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA, PROMPTING KERALA GOVERNMENT TO SEEK REPORT FROM NHAI**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Malappuram, Sept 3:** A large number of birds were killed due to the reckless cutting of a tree for a road development work undertaken by the National Highway Authority (NHA) in Kerala, a video of which has gone viral on the social media.

The incident was reported from Randathani area in this district. The video of the felling of the tree which resulted in the killing of many birds has gone viral on social media since Thursday, prompting state PWD minister PA Mohammed Riyas to seek a report from the NHAI.

The video, which was shot in the first week of August shows a huge tree being felled using an excavator. Numerous birds from the tree were seen being smashed to the ground as the tree fell, many



Screen grabs of the video which has gone viral on social media.

of them chicks.

The minister's office said a report has been sought from NHAI.

"The minister has sought stringent action against the contractor who was entrusted with the works," his office said.

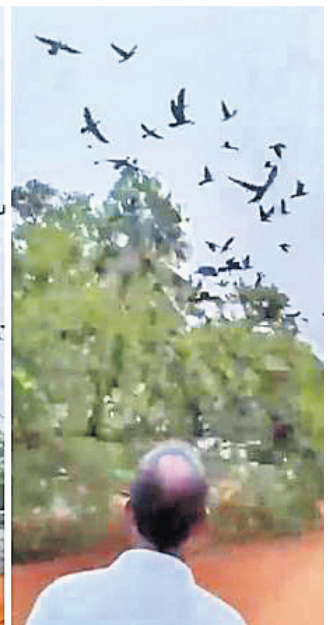
Meanwhile, Edavanna forest range officer has taken the excavator and its driver into custody.



Screen grabs of the video which has gone viral on social media.

A complaint in this regard was sent to Union Road Transport and Highways minister Nithin Gadkari by Thomas Lawrence, the CEO of Save Wetlands International Movement seeking action against the culprits.

"Many birds and their young ones were displaced which is really heart breaking. This time of



Screen grabs of the video which has gone viral on social media.

the year is birds' nesting time and they could have waited for a few more weeks till the young ones are able to fly off," Lawrence told PTI.

Gadkari's office had positively responded to the complaint sent in this regard and has assured action, he added.

He said the minister's office

A complaint in this regard was sent to Union Road Transport and Highways minister Nithin Gadkari by Thomas Lawrence, the CEO of Save Wetlands International Movement seeking action against the culprits

seeking action was the reason for this particular video to go viral on social media.

"A proper rehabilitation of these birds should have been done before engaging in such so-called development activities. At least they could have waited until the baby birds were old enough to fly away. This is completely unacceptable," Praveen Muraliedharan, a wildlife photographer and nature enthusiast, said.

Lawrence said there are several such decades-old trees in that area with lots of bird nests and sought the help from Gadkari's office as there were chances of felling more trees which may end in the destruction of bird habitat.

# Hospital exploring ways to use drones for organ transport

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Chennai, Sept 3:** Chennai-based private hospital MGM Healthcare is exploring ways to use drones for transporting organs for transplantation, said Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.

The Union Transport Minister was speaking via video conferencing during a function organised to mark over 500 successful heart and lung transplant operations at the MGM Healthcare.

Gadkari said that the construction of highways is reducing the travel time between various cities like Chennai-Bangalore which will be of help for organ transportation.

Meanwhile, Prashanth Rajagopalan, Director MGM Healthcare said that the hospital is looking at using drones to transport organs from the Chennai Airport to the hospital.

According to him, currently the organs for transplant operations are transported by road from the Chennai Airport by creating a green corridor with the help of the city police.

He said that this put the public at some inconvenience and hence the hospital is looking at drones as alternative for carrying human organs from other cities.

According to Rajagopalan, the hospital has tied up with a city-



based drone company while declining to mention the latter's name, citing a non-disclosure agreement with that player.

Hospital officials said transport of human organs for transplant operation is in vogue in some foreign countries. And in India, permission from the government authorities have to be obtained.

They also said the box containing the human organ for transplant will weigh about nine kgs

and drones can easily lift them.

Speaking at the function Tamil Nadu's Minister for Health and Family Welfare Ma. Subramanian said that the state is the pioneer and the leader in organ transplantation.

Subramanian also said that the state government will take steps to create necessary facilities in all its hospitals to carry out organ transplantation surgery.

# MB Rajesh resigns as Kerala Speaker

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 3:** Kerala Assembly Speaker MB Rajesh Saturday tendered his resignation from the post after the ruling CPI(M) decided to appoint him as a minister in the LDF government.

Rajesh handed over his resignation to Deputy Speaker Chittayam Gopakumar.

Addressing the media after the resignation, Rajesh said his job as Speaker was a learning experience. Party sources said he will take oath as a minister next week itself. The CPI(M) had on Friday announced the resignation of the party's newly appointed state secretary M V Govindan from the cabinet.

Rajesh would be replaced as Speaker of the House by party state committee member and Thalassery MLA A N Shamseer.

The reshuffle comes in the wake of Govindan's resignation after he was appointed as CPI(M) state secretary last week, replacing ailing senior party leader Kodiyeri Balakrishnan.



# Air routes in Kerala remain under-served: Tharoor

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 3:** Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor has lamented that air routes in Kerala remain under-served despite the slender state having four airports.

Tharoor made the observation while chairing the opening session of "TVM and Connectivity Summit" organised here by Trivandrum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) which saw participation of around 30 airlines.

The meeting was convened to focus on the need for linking Kerala with Southern Tamil Nadu, to turn a new chapter in their connectivity, considering the "immense potential" this belt possessed across domains. "We are yet to fulfil the potential of tourism using increased connectivity. The need of the hour is short-distance flying facilities similar to what exists in Europe, the US and East Asia and it has contributed to economic growth," said Tharoor.

The general consensus that emerged at the meeting was that the country's deep-south region must host a flurry of variety events, brand its traditional festivals and nurture niche tourism to boost local connectivity.

If that happens, then small aircraft with busy schedules must



grow as a new travel culture in Kerala and adjoining Tamil Nadu even as the two states must groom an integrated surface transport system, opined the leading aviation experts. Kerala Tourism Minister PA Mohamed Riyas emphasised on "connectivity" as the state has been recording resurgence in travel after fierce spells of Covid.

"The first quarter of 2022-23 clocked a 72.48 per cent rise in domestic travel, with Thiruvananthapuram district alone registering 6.9 lakh tourists. With safe travel, accommodation and

food that we continue to offer in the post-pandemic era, tourism is back on its path to recovery in Kerala," said Riyas.

Adani Group Vice President (Finance) Jeet Adani spoke on how collective and dedicated efforts by stakeholders can promote the southern Indian region's exotic locations, ayurveda and wellness.

"Strengthening of the knowledge economy, building the health infrastructure and developing the exciting entertainment infrastructure are equally important," said Adani.





# international



**We are worried. We do not want another Chernobyl. We can play a facilitator role in the Zaporizhia nuclear power plant, as we did in the grain deal**  
RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

## MOON ROCKET STALLED AGAIN

NASA's new moon rocket, Artemis 1, sprang another hazardous leak Saturday, for the second time this week, as the launch team began fuelling it for liftoff on a test flight that must go well before astronauts climb aboard



## of the day quote

**A price cap on Russia oil is a powerful tool -- one part of the tool in our agenda to put downward pressure on global energy prices in a way that will benefit consumers in the US and globally. And we are determined to implement this policy in a way that achieves those goals**  
KAREN JEAN-PIERRE | PRESS SECRETARY, WHITE HOUSE

**I am warning you [PML-N-led coalition government] today, our justice movement will come to Islamabad if you continue to do this [political victimisation] and you will have nowhere to hide**  
IMRAN KHAN | FORMER PM, PAKISTAN

**The West in an attempt to push Russia toward collapse would amount to a chess game with death**  
DMITRY MEDVEDEV | DEPUTY SECRETARY OF SECURITY COUNCIL, RUSSIA

## SHORT TAKES

### Modi writes to UAE Prez to cement ties

**Dubai:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written a letter to UAE President Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan to further strengthen the strategic relations between the two countries and the prospects of developing them to serve their common interests, the official media here reported. Prime Minister Modi's letter was delivered by the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to the UAE President Mohamed when he called on him here Friday during his just-concluded visit to the Gulf nation. Jaishankar was in the UAE this week to attend the meetings of the 14th session of the UAE-India Joint Committee and the 3rd session of the UAE-India Strategic Dialogue.

### 50K Cov +ve for 2nd day in Russia

**Moscow:** Russia recorded more than 50,000 new daily Covid-19 cases for the second day running Saturday, the government's coronavirus task force said. Over the last 24 hours, 51,699 cases were detected across Russia - the most in a single day since March 9. On Friday, Russia's caseload passed the 50,000 mark for the first time in almost six months. Infections rose in July and August as new highly-transmissible variants of the coronavirus swept across the country.

### Indonesia hikes fuel prices by 30%

**Jakarta:** Fuel prices increased by about 30 per cent across Indonesia Saturday after the government reduced some of the costly subsidies that have kept inflation in Southeast Asia's largest economy among the world's lowest. The hike -- the first in eight years -- raised the price of gasoline from about 51 cents to 67 cents per litre and diesel fuel from 35 cents to 46 cents. Long lines of motorbikes and cars snaked around gas stations as motorists waited for hours to fill up their tanks with cheaper gas before the increase took effect Saturday.

### Several hurt in California blaze

**Weed:** A fast-moving fire in Northern California injured several people, a fire official said, and destroyed multiple homes as thousands of residents were forced to leave immediately, jamming roadways at the start of a sweltering Labor Day weekend. The Northern California blaze Friday forced as many as 7,500 residents to leave.

## SPIRALING GEOPOLITICS

# Russia, West step up energy war

*Finance ministers from the G7 said Friday a cap on the price of Russian oil was meant to "reduce ... Russia's ability to fund its war of aggression whilst limiting the impact of Russia's war on global energy prices". The Kremlin said it would stop selling oil to any countries that implemented the cap*



**Russia delays pipeline reopening in blow to Europe**  
**G7 finance chiefs agree on Russian oil price cap**  
**Ukraine, Russia trade blame over nuclear plant**  
**We are well prepared to resist Russia's extreme use of the gas weapon. We are not afraid of Putin's decisions, we are asking the Russians to respect contracts, but if they don't, we are ready to react**  
PAOLO GENTILONI | ECONOMY COMMISSIONER, EU

the main power line to the station had been downed, forcing it to use reserve power sources, as occurred last week. Gazprom's indefinite delay to resuming gas deliveries will deepen Europe's problems securing fuel for winter with living costs already surging, led by energy prices. Moscow has blamed sanctions, imposed by the West after Russia's February 24 invasion of Ukraine, for hampering routine operations and maintenance of Nord Stream 1. Brussels and Washington accuse Russia of using gas as an economic weapon. The United States said it has been collaborating with Europe to ensure sufficient supplies are available for winter. Finance ministers from the Group of Seven wealthy democracies - Britain, Canada, France,

**Zaporizhzhia, Sept 3:** As UN inspectors sought to avert a nuclear disaster on Ukraine's frontline, the West and Russia wounded each other's economies, with Moscow keeping its main gas pipeline to Germany shut Saturday while threatened with price caps on oil exports. Russia's state-controlled energy giant Gazprom blamed a technical fault in the Nord Stream 1 pipeline for the delay Friday. But the high-level manoeuvres in energy politics were seen as an extension of the war, and the ramifications would be felt far beyond Ukraine. The announcements came as

Moscow and Kyiv traded blame over their actions at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, where UN inspectors arrived Thursday on a mission to help avert a catastrophe. Vladimir Rogov, a pro-Russian official in the Zaporizhzhia region, said Ukrainian forces had shelled Europe's largest nuclear plant several times overnight and

## Indian man racially abused in Poland, called 'parasite'

**London, Sept 3:** An Indian man has been racially abused in Poland, allegedly by an American, who called him a "parasite", "an invader" and told him to "go back to your country". The Indian, whose identity has not yet been established, was filmed in a video that has gone viral on social media. It is unclear in which city the video was shot but Twitter users have been tagging Warsaw Police while commenting on it. In the video, the American is repeatedly asking the Indian, who can be seen walking near a mall and telling him to stop recording him, why he was in Europe. "I am from America. And in America... There's too many of you guys here. So why are you in Poland? Why are you here? Do you think you can just invade Poland? Why don't you return to your own country?" says the man behind the camera.

**Washington, Sept 3:** A pilot, who was circling a stolen airplane for hours over Tupelo, a city in the state of Mississippi in the US, and threatened to intentionally crash it into a Walmart store has been taken into custody after he landed the aircraft safely, Governor Tate Reeves said Saturday. Mississippi Governor Reeves announced on Twitter that the "situation has been resolved and that

## FAREWELL TO THE PEACEMAKER



Thousands of Russians bid farewell to last Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev 'the peacemaker' at the Column Hall of the House of Unions in Moscow, Russia September 3, 2022

## Pilot threatening to crash plane in US lands safely

**Washington, Sept 3:** A pilot, who was circling a stolen airplane for hours over Tupelo, a city in the state of Mississippi in the US, and threatened to intentionally crash it into a Walmart store has been taken into custody after he landed the aircraft safely, Governor Tate Reeves said Saturday. Mississippi Governor Reeves announced on Twitter that the "situation has been resolved and that

no one was injured." "The plane over North MS is down. Thankful the situation has been resolved and that no one was injured. Thank you most of all to local, state, and federal law enforcement who managed this situation with extreme professionalism," Reeves said in a tweet. The pilot was taken into police custody, authorities said. The nine-seater airplane started circling over Tupelo, Mississippi, about 5 am local time, when the



pilot made contact with 911, issuing the threat, according to CNN. It was airborne for more than five hours, which police described as a "dangerous situation." A government source said the aircraft was later flying over the

## NEW WAR ON ANVIL?

# US angers China with potential \$1.1 billion arms sale to Taiwan

*The order reflects continued US support for Taiwan as Taipei faces pressure from China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory*



**Washington, Sept 3:** The US State Department has approved a potential \$1.1 billion sale of military equipment to Taiwan, including 60 anti-ship missiles and 100 air-to-air missiles, with China threatening to take counter measures. The Pentagon announced the package Friday in the wake of China's aggressive military drills around Taiwan following a visit to the island last month by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the highest-ranking US official to travel to Taipei in years. The sale includes Sidewinder missiles, which can be used for air-to-air and surface-attack missions, at a cost of some \$85.6 million, Harpoon anti-ship missiles at an estimated \$35 million cost and support for Taiwan's surveillance radar program for an estimated \$665.4 million, the Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) said. Liu Pengyu, spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, said in a statement the possible arms sale "severely jeopardizes China-US relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

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## DEVASTATING DELUGE

# "Gone back 50 years", Pak farmers count flood damage

*Pakistan owes billions to foreign creditors, and only last week managed to convince the International Monetary Fund to resume funding that can't even service foreign debt, let alone pay a flood-damage bill estimated at \$10 billion*

said Ashraf Ali Bhanbro, a farmer in Sindh province whose 2,500 acres of cotton and sugarcane - on the verge of being harvested - have now been wiped out. More than 33 million people have been affected by the floods caused by record monsoon rains, and one of the worst-hit areas is Sindh in Pakistan's south. The province is bisected by the mighty Indus River, along whose banks farming has flourished for millennia with records of irrigation systems dating back to 4,000 BC. Sindh's problems are two-fold. The province was drenched by record rains locally, but that water has nowhere to drain because the Indus is already at full flow, swollen by tributaries in the north, and has burst its banks in several places. "At one stage it rained continuously for 72 hours," said Bhanbro,



adding he has lost at least 270 million rupees (\$1.2 million) on inputs alone. "That was the cost incurred on fertilisers and pesticides... we don't include profit, which might have been much higher as it was a bumper crop." Unless flooded farmlands can

## Casualties continue to rise

**Karachi:** The toll from cataclysmic floods in Pakistan continued to climb Saturday with 57 more deaths, 25 of them children, as the country grapples with a relief and rescue operation of near unprecedented scale. A high-level body set up to coordinate the relief effort met in Islamabad Saturday for the first time, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, to take stock of the disaster. Record monsoon rains and melting glaciers in northern mountains brought floods that have affected 33 million people and killed at least 1,265 people, including 441 children. The inundation, blamed on climate change, is still spreading. In some places there is water as far as the eye can see; where cotton

crops are visible in flooded fields, their leaves have turned brown, with hardly a boll to be seen. "Let's forget the cotton," said Latif Dimno, a farmer in Saleh Pat, 30 kilometres northeast of Sukkur. The big landowners will likely ride out the floods, but tens of thousands of farm labourers face terrible hardships. It's not just the farmers that are affected, but every link in the supply chain is feeling the strain. "We are doomed," said Waseem Ahmed, a cotton trader in Saleh Pat, who like many in the industry paid advances to fix purchase prices and hedge against inflation and market fluctuation. "Against 200 maund (about 8,000 kg, 18,000 pounds) expected, only 35 maund has been reaped," he said, adding he had shelved plans to expand his business.



