



## OVERWHELMING EMOTION

Actor Shreya Dhanwanthary says her upcoming movie *Chup* is an ode to art and the spirit of every artiste

LEISURE P2



## TRUSS APPOINTED UK PM

Conservative Party leader Liz Truss was Tuesday appointed as Britain's new Prime Minister

INTERNATIONAL P10



## TIAFOE STUNS NADAL

Frances Tiafoe ends Rafael Nadal's US Open 2022 run with a comfortable win, sealing a quarterfinal berth in the process

SPORTS P12

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## Threat of new low pressure looms

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 6:** Parts of the state received light to moderate rain Tuesday as a new low pressure area is expected to form over Bay of Bengal in the next few days.

A cyclonic circulation may take shape over the east-central Bay of Bengal around Thursday. Under its influence, the formation of a low pressure area is likely over west-central Bay during the subsequent 48 hours, the Met office said.

Koraput in southern Odisha recorded 51 mm of rain, followed by 18.2 mm in Bolangir and 14 mm in Jajpur, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said.

Light rain was experienced in Jharsuguda, Nabarangpur, Jagatsinghpur and Bhubaneswar.

The Met issued a yellow alert of heavy rain in some places across of Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Koraput and Rayagada Wednesday.

Torrential rain was also likely in parts of the state over the subsequent three days.

## Jajpur teachers' salaries stopped

PNN & AGENCIES

**Jajpur, Sept 6:** The district administration has stopped the salaries of at least 10 teachers, including three headmasters, for the current month for alleged negligence of duty, an official said Tuesday.

Authorities of three high schools were accused of not providing facilities of e-library, science library and smart classrooms to students even though these are mandated under the 5T initiative of the state government. After repeated complaints by the locals, District Education Officer (DEO) Ranjan Giri had directed a spot visit to take stock of the situation in the three institutes, the official said.

During a visit to the three schools last Friday, another officer of the Education department found several lapses, including early closure of schools, absenteeism and not proper implementation of the 5T initiatives, he said. The institutes are the Ratnagiri Government High School (GHS), Binod Behari GHS and Haji Rahi Mian High School.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



When builder promised us waterfront view, I had no idea he was talking about this

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	59196.99 ↓ 48.99
NIFTY	17655.60 ↓ 10.20
DOLLAR	80.18 ↑ ₹0.00
EURO	79.59 ↑ ₹0.09
GOLD	₹50,318 ↓ ₹115
SILVER	₹53,334 ↓ ₹56

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	33.3°C	34.0°C
MAX	33.3°C	34.0°C
MIN	26.5°C	26.6°C
Humidity	79%	72%
Rainfall	5.8mm	12mm
	Partly cloudy sky	

# Rousing welcome for Naveen

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 6:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was accorded a grand welcome Tuesday by the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) workers and supporters on his return to the state after receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award by a Delhi-based NGO.

As a population of above 50,000 people carrying placards with Patnaik's photographs gathered near the airport here choking all the lanes and by-lanes, commuters faced a harrowing time in boarding flights and trains at Bhubaneswar station which lies in the same direction.

When Patnaik, who is also the BJD president, came out of the airport, the atmosphere turned ecstatic with cultural groups, folk artists, tribal dance troupes and conch shell blowers performing to welcome him. The conch shell is also the symbol of BJD.

The air was filled with 'Naveen Patnaik zindabad' as the chief minister stood on a special hi-tech bus from the airport and started his journey to Naveen Niwas, his residence. He was waving towards the crowd all along. The entire stretch till his residence was adorned with huge cutouts, banners and hoardings.

"Priya bhai o bhauni mane, apana mane khushi ta? Mu bi bahut khushi (Dear brothers and sisters, are you happy? I am happy too)," Patnaik said to the crowd from atop of the luxury bus, the one he used during campaigning in the 2019 general



**POURING SUPPORT:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik addresses party workers and supporters in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, upon his return from Delhi, where he was conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award by a Delhi-based NGO

elections. In his short speech, Patnaik also expressed his gratitude to the people of Odisha for the grand welcome and thanked them for giving him the opportunity to serve the state for 22 years at a stretch.

Though Patnaik's procession moved for about only one kilometre distance till his residence, the event was more like a roadshow.

Patnaik was conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award by Delhi-based NGO, Capital

Foundation, Sunday. He has dedicated the award to the 4.5 crore people of Odisha.

While the airport area was flooded with Patnaik's supporters, school and college students, office goers and travellers faced a tough time reach-

ing their destinations due to traffic jams at AG Chhak, Vani Vihar Square, Acharya Vihar, Airport Square, Raj Mahal Square and Jaydev Vihar Square. An ambulance was seen stuck at the AG Chhak.

Continued on P4

## SHORT TAKES

### NMC respite for war-hit medicos

**New Delhi:** The National Medical Commission (NMC) has announced that Indian medical aspirants, who had returned from Ukraine due to the war, will now be allowed to transfer to colleges in other countries. "The commission hereby conveys its no-objection for academic mobility programme in respect of Indian medical students who are studying in Ukraine providing that other criteria of Screening Test Regulations 2002 are fulfilled," the NMC said in a statement. "However, the degree will be awarded by the parent Ukrainian university," the Commission said.

### ED arrests ex-NSE CEO Ravi Narain

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Tuesday arrested former NSE CEO and MD Ravi Narain in a money laundering case. His role is being investigated as part of two criminal cases linked to the bourse - the alleged co-location 'scam' case and the purported illegal phone tapping of employees. Narain is understood to have been arrested in the tapping case under the criminal sections of the PMLA. The ED earlier had arrested another former NSE MD and CEO Chitra Ramkrishna in the alleged phone tapping case while the CBI, which is parallelly probing these cases, had arrested her in the co-location case.

## Nod to first nasal vax against Cov

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 6:** The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Tuesday approved Bharat Biotech's intranasal Covid vaccine for restricted emergency use in those aged above 18 years.

"Big Boost to India's Fight Against COVID-19! Bharat Biotech's ChAd36-SARS-CoV-2 COVID-19 (Chimpanzee Adenovirus Vectored) recombinant nasal vaccine approved by @CDSCO\_INDIA\_INF for primary immunization against COVID-19 in 18+ age group for restricted use in emergency situation," Union

Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted.

He said this step will further strengthen India's fight against the pandemic. India has harnessed its science, research and development (R&D), and human resources in the fight against COVID-19 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, he said. "With the science-driven approach & Sabka Prayas, we will defeat COVID-19," Mandaviya said.

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) completed clinical trials of the nasal vaccine with about 4,000 volunteers and there is no side effect or adverse reaction reported

so far, company sources had said. In August, it said its Covid-19 intranasal vaccine (BBV154) has proven to be safe, well-tolerated, and immunogenic in subjects in controlled clinical trials phase-3.

BBV154 has been specifically formulated to allow intranasal delivery. In addition, the nasal delivery system has been designed and developed to be cost-effective in low and middle-income countries, the vaccine maker had said.

"Being an intranasal vaccine, BBV154 may produce local antibodies in the upper respiratory tract. These may provide the potential to reduce infection and transmission. Further studies are being planned," the firm had said.



"A draft notification has been issued on January 14, 2022, which mandates that vehicles of category M1, manufactured after October 1, 2022, shall be fitted with two side/torso air bags, one each for the persons occupying front row outboard seating positions, and two side curtain/tube air bags, one each for the persons occupying outboard seating positions," it had said. "We are trying," he said when asked whether the government will make minimum six airbags must in vehicles carrying up to eight passengers from October this year.

## Tractors to the rescue as floods submerge India's tech hub



A tractor being used to evacuate people stranded at the waterlogged Yemalur area after heavy monsoon rains in Bangalore, Tuesday

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Sept 6:** Authorities in the city, known as India's Silicon Valley, used tractors Tuesday to rescue residents of posh housing estates marooned by floods after two days of torrential rain that brought chaos to the fast-growing technology hub.

Many parts of the city in which several global companies and homegrown startups are based were under water as more rain fell in an unusually wet monsoon season, which has brought 162 per

cent more rainfall than average since June 1. "Things are bad. Please take care," Gaurav Munjal, founder of the Softbank-backed education technology firm Unacademy said on Twitter after he, his family and his dog, Albus, were rescued on a tractor from his posh neighbourhood.

With city streets submerged and traffic in chaos, many companies asked staff to work from home. Some city residents struggled to empty out flooded basements and shops, it was learnt. Meanwhile, environmentalists

blamed the flooding on poor planning as the city has expanded and climate change.

"When you start building on this kind of a landscape and you start paving and crusting the area with homes and roads, the run-off starts to increase," S Vishwanath, a Bengaluru-based water conservationist said.

India could expect more intense weather in future, said Leo Saldanha of the Environment Support Group. "Extreme weather events are predicted to be a part of climate change impacts," he said.

Bangalore's water supply company said Monday it would stop the supply of water to more than 50 areas in the city for two days after a pumping station that brings in water from 100 km away was flooded.

Rain was expected to fall in the city and neighbouring areas until Friday, an official with the India Meteorological Department said.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai cited "unprecedented rainfall and overflowing" water bodies for the deluge but assured his government's commitment to restore normalcy.

He faulted the 'maladministration' of the previous Congress governments for the present situation of the city and insisted only two zones bore the brunt of rains although a picture was being painted as if entire Bangalore was struggling.

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# leisure



## PENN PERMANENTLY BANNED FROM RUSSIA

Actor Sean Penn has been placed on a Russian 'stop list' permanently banning him from Russia due to his support for Ukraine. He is on a list of 25 Americans who are now barred from entering the country due to their support for Ukraine.

## I LOVE THE CHALLENGE OF BEING A MOM: JULIA ROBERTS

Hollywood star Julia Roberts has revealed that she loves the challenge of being a mom. The 54-year-old actress has prioritised her family life over recent years, but she finally ended her four-year movie hiatus by starring alongside George Clooney in *Ticket to Paradise*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Ganesha sees a wonderful time ahead for you. Today, you will meet many people who will prove reliable and trustworthy in the future. You aim to think and work perfectly. For that, says Ganesha, you will have to remain your practical and head-on-shoulders self.

**TAURUS**  
There will be a positive surge in your career prospects today. However, this progress may not be in the direction that you expected. Financial opportunities and success will knock at your door, a rare combination of guests. You will also achieve material progress, predicts Ganesha.

**GEMINI**  
You are likely to be concerned about your finances, jointly held assets and property, says Ganesha. Also, you will be a little edgy today. Even the most insignificant problems will dampen your mood. You will probably take chances in money matters.

**CANCER**  
There is nothing extraordinary about your day. You will be busy doing the routine work and will find contentment in the mundane. The absence of thrill and adventure doesn't mean that you'll be free for most part of the day.

**LEO**  
You may not have a halo around your head, but that most certainly does not deter you from playing the spiritual card today, says Ganesha. On this auspicious day, it is through religious scriptures that you satiate your desire to attain the intangible. Spend some time meditating on the finer aspects of life; you will be amazed at the answers such contemplation can throw up.

**VIRGO**  
Don't dilly-dally when it comes to matters of health, says Ganesha. You look lean and mean to take on those old wounds today. But peace and prosperity are the flavours of the day. Ganesha advises you to invest time in fun and entertainment today - just to get those batteries charged.

**LIBRA**  
A wistful day lies ahead of you, says Ganesha. This day, just like 'on the summer day that we flew kites', may be the standard when it comes to wanting to have a better future. Ganesha expects a sea of change in your outlook, thanks to your sweetheart's noble gesture today.

**SCORPIO**  
Dear friends and soul mates will bring you much relief and calm today, says Ganesha. Spend as much time as possible with them. Romantic escapades with your beloved will be heaven in itself. Blood relations will stand true and strong in matters of importance, says Ganesha.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Tempers will fly today, warns Ganesha. Rein in your anger by the leash of control and restraint. But the buck will stop somewhere! When it does, dig your feet in and battle the crunch situation, advises Ganesha.

**CAPRICORN**  
Your outstanding intellectual ability will not only yield exciting results for you, but will also help your close associates who will have progressed a great deal in their career because of your valuable advice, says Ganesha. Scores of problems may come your way, but you will have nothing to worry about. You will deal with each one of them with ease.

**AQUARIUS**  
It is your lucky day today! Whatever you will wish for, it will fall into your lap, be it name, fame, money or love. During the second half of the day, you will keep yourself occupied with your hobbies like reading, writing, playing active role in discussion groups or research, says Ganesha.

**PISCES**  
'Love thy neighbour' is a commandment you may just end up implementing, literally, considering how religious scriptures provide you food for thought today. Spiritual pursuits will keep you occupied.

# Bharatnatyam, Odissi vocal recitals light up 2nd evening

**BHUBANESWAR:** Enchanting Classical Odissi vocal coupled with graceful Bharatanatyam recital mesmerised the music lovers on the second evening of the 28th OMC Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra(GKCM) Award Festival here at Rabindra Mandap, Tuesday.

The programme kicked off with the lighting of the lamps by guests Subodh Chandra Acharya, Chief Executive, GKCM Odissi Research Centre, Sudhi Ranjan

Mishra, Head, Corporate Affairs, Paradeep Phosphates Limited, Guru Aruna Mohanty, President, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi and Guru Dhaneswar Swain, eminent Mardala exponent. The event commenced with emerging Odissi vocalist Sristi Swarupa Mishra's recital with a Saraswati Vandana, in *Raga Saraswati*. This presentation was based on two interconnected *Talaas Tripata* (in seven beats) and *Jhampa* (in 10 beats). Her second presentation for the evening was *Raganga Gayan*, set to *Raga Mukhari* and *Ekatali*. In this prabandha written by Kabi Chandra Kalicharan Pattnaik, she illustrated gamakas distinct to Odissi



music with intricate *swara vinyasa* and *pada vinyasa*. Her third and final presentation was a Chatustalaa Prabandha *Nahi Ke Karidela*, written by Kishor Kabi Shyam Sundar Das.

Blessed with a mellifluous voice, Sristi carried the evening with poise beyond her years. She was

ably accompanied by the sangaat of eminent musicians Guru Dhaneswar Swain on the Mardala and Guru Ramesh Chandra Das on the Violin.

Feted Bharatanatyam exponent Vidushi Geeta Chandran and her ensemble the Natya Vriksha Dance Collective(NVDC) performed next with a power-packed group presentation. The members of the

troupe commenced their recital with *Jai Bharat Alarippu*, inspired by *Bharatavarsha*, our nation and culture. This was followed by *Sakhi Swaram*, built on a Kannada Jatiswaram composed by the late Bharatanayam Guru KN Dandayudhapani Pillai. Then, she presented a solo composition, *Lavanyatwam*, a tribute to Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra.

NVDC concluded their recital with Ritusamharam, a presentation of Kalidasa's Ritusamhara, reimagined and designed through the musical composition of great Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The dancers were aided by the able technical design of Milind Srivastav and sound engineering of C Anand Krishna. The third evening will have *Shiagni*, a musical presentation by all top-ranking performers of Odisha.

## Rashmika: I'm living my dream

**Mumbai:** The trailer of Rashmika Mandanna's *Goodbye* starring Amitabh Bachchan has been released. While the trailer gives a peek into the family, which seems a tad dysfunctional, the bond between Rashmika Mandana and Amitabh Bachchan in the trailer, has been winning many hearts. In the meantime, a clip of Rashmika talking about Big B in a media interaction has been making rounds on the internet.

In the video, the actress can be seen talking about how she first met the legendary actor and how they developed an endearing relationship during the shooting of *Goodbye*.

"I wanted to introduce myself, but sir was busy thinking about the scene". The actress later went inside and quickly introduced herself, "Hello sir, I am Rashmika and I will be playing your daughter", and left the place.

"One day I entered the sets and everybody was like 'Did you check you tweeted about you?' I saw that Bachchan sir had posted a picture saying Pushpa."

"I am living my dream of working with the icon of Indian cinema," said Rashmika on working with Amitabh Bachchan.

*Goodbye* is directed by Vikas Bahl. In the meantime, the actress is gearing up for *Pushpa 2* with Allu Arjun and Animal with Ranbir Kapoor.



AGENCIES

## Shreya calls Chup an ode to art

**Mumbai:** Actress Shreya Dhanwanthary, who became an overnight sensation with the OTT series *Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story*, is currently awaiting the release of her next project titled *Chup: Revenge Of The Artist*.

The trailer of the film was released recently and has garnered a lot of positive response and the actress is over the moon as she called the film an ode to art.

Overwhelmed with a range of emotions, Shreya also expressed her admiration towards the late film-

maker-actor Guru Dutt to whom the film pays a tribute.

Describing the film, Shreya said: "*Chup* is an ode to art and the spirit of every artist. While it also plays a tribute to the late legendary actor/director Guru Dutt, the film quintessentially respects the lives and the work of artists across all quarters".

Holding the infamous and unfortunate dismissal of, now considered cult film *Kaagaz Ke Phool*, at its core, *Chup* is a crime-thriller where an artiste goes on a rampage to kill his critics.

The film is slated to release in cinemas on September 23.



FIANS

## 9TH FOUNDATION DAY OF ALTERNATIVE RHYTHM THEATRE

### Play Daud showcases strength of honesty

**DHENKANAL:** Students of Alternative Rhythm Theatre(ART), a theatre training institute of this town that has carved a space at national and international levels, staged Odia play *Daud* here at Gopabandhu Town Hall to celebrate its ninth Foundation Day, Monday.

Written and directed by ART founder Dinesh Das, the play was based on *The Rabbit and the Turtle*, one of the most popular moral stories for the kids.

Life is a race. Everyone has to run breathlessly to prosper. Some complete the race with honesty while a few others seek a shortcut. But

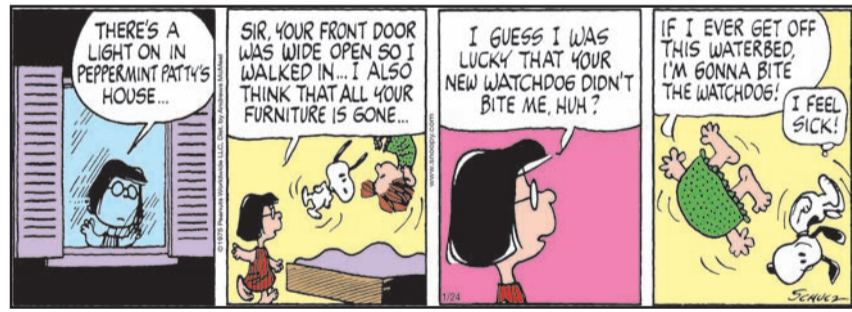
success is possible only by running with integrity and on the right track.

Actors who performed on stage include Anshit Nanda, Nancy Mohanty, Saichandan Das, Shiva Naik, Vaibhav Mohanty, Ayush Das, Anmol Swain, Rudransh Raj, Deepantshu Sahu and Shreyash Singh. Puntu Mohanty scored the music while Vikas Pradhan did the lighting for the play.

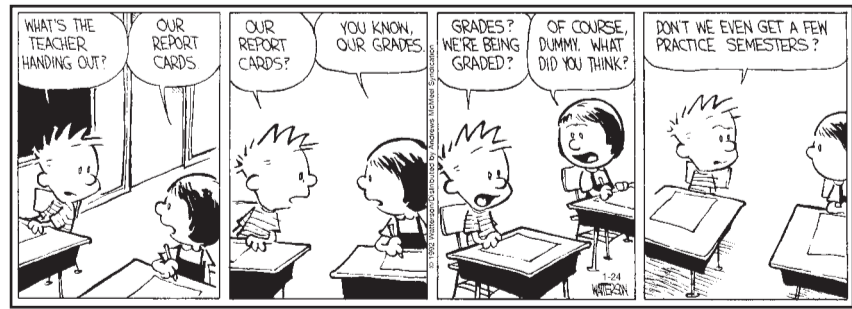
ART Chairperson Puspalata Rath presided over the event while District Magistrate Saroj Kumar Sethi was the chief guest on the occasion. Several other dignitaries attended the event.



### PEANUTS



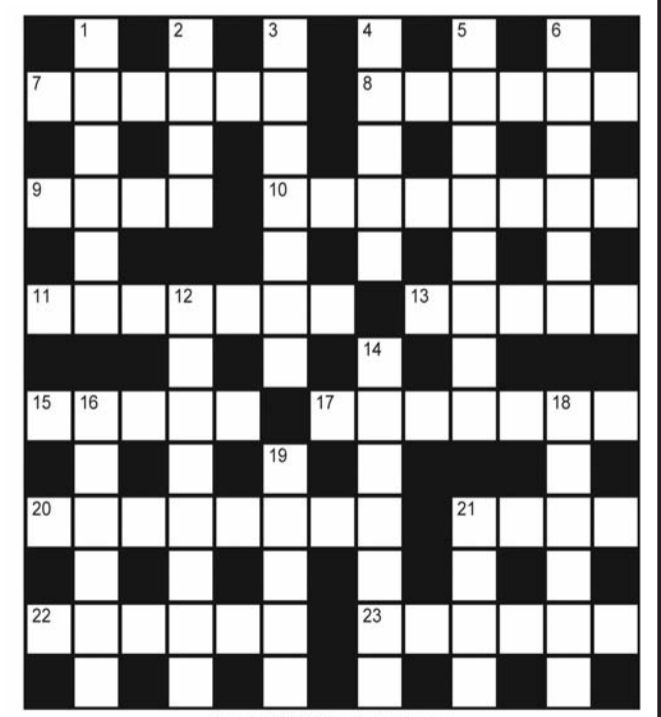
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



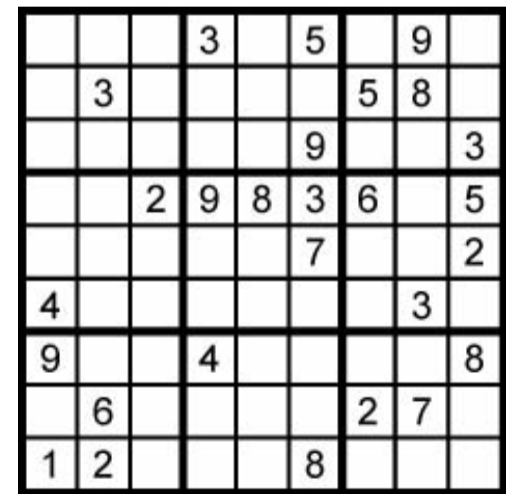
### FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Type of military marksman
  - 8 Brain-teaser
  - 9 Croquet area
  - 10 Shareholder
  - 11 Lattice-work
  - 13 Squalid
  - 15 Divers device
  - 17 Abandon
  - 20 Adjust the pitch, musically
  - 21 Scintilla
  - 22 The Louvre, e.g.
  - 23 American songbird
  - Down**
  - 1 Marked by injustice
  - 2 Gyrate
  - 3 Grassland
  - 4 Sauce
  - 5 Famous mythical Greek hero
  - 6 Shade of brown
  - 12 Stevedore, e.g.
  - 14 Ennui
  - 16 Early spring bloomer
  - 18 Tea starter
  - 19 Mild, as weather
  - 21 Horned goddess

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD

EARTHLY STANZA  
MEEHLOV  
BUFFALOMANGE  
AEDRITPANG  
LURES REDFLAG  
MEOSEUE  
PORTERHOUSE  
E B F P S  
RAVIOLI OVERT  
A I R L S N A  
S C O L D M I S S T E P  
E U E S U E L  
R E S O R T E M E R G E

#### SUDOKU

5 4 2 8 3 7 9 6 1  
1 9 3 6 5 2 7 4 8  
8 6 7 4 9 1 5 2 3  
6 1 9 5 2 4 8 3 7  
3 5 4 7 8 6 1 9 2  
2 7 8 3 1 9 4 5 6  
9 3 6 1 4 8 2 7 5  
4 8 5 2 7 3 6 1 9  
7 2 1 9 6 5 3 8 4

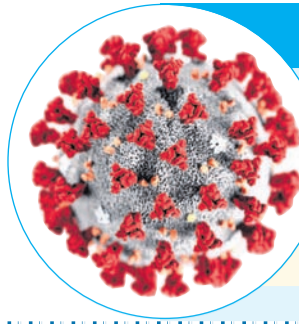
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



## HONOURING TALENT

Litterateurs felicitated during the foundation day ceremony of Srikshetra Lekhaka Samukhya in Puri, Tuesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,09,55,871	58,84,83,991	65,05,675
India	4,44,64,284	4,38,86,496	5,28,030
Odisha	13,28,875	13,18,351	9,182

## WARM RECEPTION FOR NAVEEN



BJD leaders welcome Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik who arrived in Bhubaneswar Tuesday after receiving Lifetime Achievement Award instituted by a Delhi-based NGO, Sunday



A cultural show in progress near the Biju Patnaik International Airport in Capital city ahead of the Chief Minister's arrival



Traffic along a major thoroughfare in City came to a grinding halt as thousands thronged the airport for a rousing reception

## OSL dir Charchit Mishra gets conditional bail

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The special CBI court here Tuesday granted conditional bail to Charchit Mishra, son of noted businessman Mahimananda Mishra, in Paradip Port Trust (PPT) bribery case involving ₹84.5 lakh.

While granting the bail, the court asked Charchit, the director of Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL), to deposit ₹1 lakh as surety.

He has also been asked to submit his passport before the court and not intimidate any of the witnesses in the case. The court asked Charchit to cooperate in the probe and appear before the investigating officers at least once in a fortnight, said his advocate Jaydeep Pal.

Notably, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Charchit August 6 for his alleged involvement in the ₹84.5 lakh bribery case.

On August 5, the sleuths of the central agency had also arrested four other persons including PPT's chief mechanical engineer Saroj Kumar Das for receiving bribe of ₹25 lakh through his close conduit Sumant Rout alias Bana for illegally helping Charchit's company OSL.

The PPT allegedly incurred huge financial losses due to the illegal deal by the accused persons.

# Centre blocked funding for judicial infra: Odisha to SC

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 6: The state government Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that the Union government hasn't released funds under Centrally-sponsored schemes for judicial infrastructure projects in Odisha for the last two years.

Advocate General Ashok Parija submitted before the apex court that the state government has not received any grant for two years.

Advocate Sibo Sankar Mishra, the counsel for Odisha, contended that the Union government did not release fund in financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22. The Centre has stopped releasing funds for want of utilisation certificates (UCs), he said.

The state government in an affidavit filed through advocate Mishra in the Supreme Court had stated that ₹37.50 crore, which includes Central as well as state share, was released to Orissa High Court in 2018-19 and the state government had released ₹59.48 crore for the HC in 2019-20 by making due budgetary provision towards infrastructural projects of the state and district judiciary.

Neither the Central share nor



HOWEVER, UCs WORTH ₹26.77 CRORE, OF WHICH ₹16.06 CRORE IS CENTRAL SHARE, IS PENDING FOR SUBMISSION

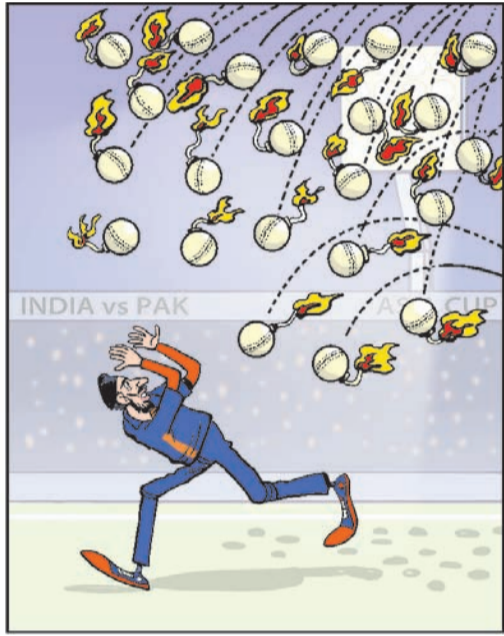
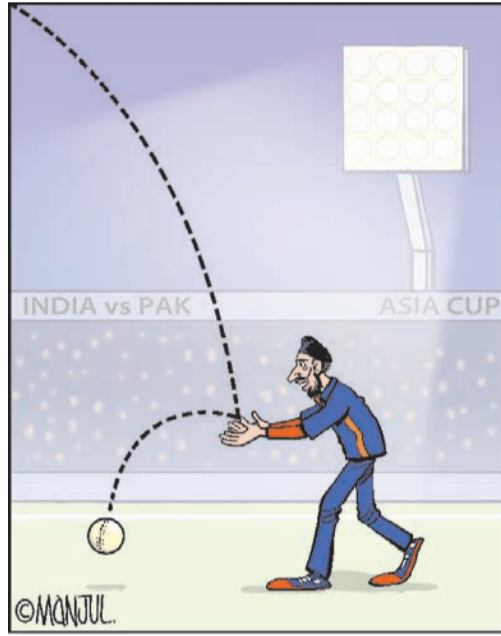
the matching share of the state government is pending for budgetary provision and release, the state government told the apex court through the affidavit. It also stated that the funds under Centrally-sponsored scheme were neither diverted to any other project nor withheld.

The state government also submitted that UCs of ₹70 crore, of which ₹42.13 crore was Central share, has been submitted to Union Ministry of Law and Justice in eight phases. However, UCs worth ₹26.77 crore, of which ₹16.06 crore is Central share, is pending for

submission.

Meanwhile, a two-judge bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli ordered that a per forma will be sent to the Registrar of High Courts and standing counsels via email by the Amicus Curiae in the case and the High Courts to file details of release and utilisation of funds for judicial infrastructure projects in the per forma. The bench said that the responses shall be filed within three weeks after receiving the email and posted the matter for hearing in the third week of October.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Transport dept told to fix charges of EVs on govt duty

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: After launching the Odisha Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2021 the state government has initiated steps to hire electric vehicles for its use in different departments and sub-ordinate offices.

According to official sources, the Finance department has asked the Transport department for fixation of hiring charges of electric vehicles to be engaged/hired for official use by the departments and other offices including public sector undertakings (PSUs).

The Transport department has been asked to fix the hiring charges considering all the relevant parameters like cost of different categories of vehicles that have come to market, maximum ceiling for monthly running of EVs, battery replacement, charging cost and other costs if any, the sources said.

The government is also going to revise the maintenance cost of vehicles, which was fixed long back under Orissa Government Vehicles



The Finance dept has asked the Transport dept for fixation of hiring charges of electric vehicles to be engaged/hired for official use by the departments and other offices including PSUs

The Transport dept has been asked to fix the hiring charges considering all the relevant parameters

The government is going to revise the maintenance cost of vehicles, which was fixed long back under Orissa Government Vehicles

(Control and Use) Rules, 1978. As the costs of spares, batteries, tyres and tubes have been increased

manifold, there is a need to revise the maintenance cost of the vehicles, the source said.

The Centre has already instructed the ministries/departments to switch over to electric mobility from petrol and diesel cars in respect of vehicles taken on lease/hire for official purpose. Notably, the state government has already launched the EV Policy under which the government is providing a subsidy of 15 per cent of the cost, up to a maximum of ₹5,000, for two-wheelers.

The cap on 15 per cent subsidy is ₹10,000 for three-wheelers and ₹50,000 for four-wheelers. The vehicles purchased on or after September 1, 2021 would be eligible for the subsidy. As per the policy, the provision of subsidy would continue till December, 2025.

So far, the state government has distributed nearly ₹2.96 crore to eligible 4,488 EV buyers. Out of 16,759 EVs sold in the state following implementation of the policy, 5,466 vehicles have applied for subsidy and 4,488 vehicle owners have received the subsidy amount, the source said.

# IIT study finds link between fatty liver, diabetes

A team of researchers from IIT Mandi (Himachal Pradesh) Tuesday said it has discovered a biochemical link between fatty liver disease and type 2 diabetes which allows newer techniques to diagnose and offer new therapeutic pathways for fatty liver-induced diabetes.

The prevalence of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) in India is rapidly increasing and recent surveys show that 40 per cent of adults suffer from it, according to the team, adding that NAFLD is often associated with type 2 diabetes, with nearly 50 million adults having both diseases.

NAFLD is an independent predictor of insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes.

"However, how NAFLD affects the insulin-releasing pancreatic beta-cell function was not fully understood. We aimed at finding the relationship between beta-cells failure and the accumulation of liver fat produced from carbohydrates in a process called 'de novo' lipogenesis," said Prosenjit Mondal, associate professor, school of bio-sciences and bioengineering.

The findings were published in the Journal Diabetes.

The research team analysed blood samples extracted from fat-

fed mice and human NAFLD patients. Both samples had high amounts of a calcium-binding protein termed 'S100A6' (this protein is released by the fatty liver and serves as a communication link between the liver and the pancreas). 'S100A6' adversely affects the insulin secretion ability of the beta-cells, thereby resulting in or exacerbating existing type 2 diabetes.

Biochemically, 'S100A6' was found to inhibit insulin secretion by activating the Receptor for Advanced Glycation End product (RAGE) on pancreatic beta-cells.

The study also presents the mo-

lecular and cellular events associated with 'S100A6' secretion in fatty liver, and its adverse impact on beta-cell insulin release.

However, at a therapeutic level, this study shows that removing the circulating S100A6 from blood can help in preserving beta-cell function.

"Another important observation was that the depletion of 'S100A6' improves insulin secretion and the regulation of blood glucose in mice, which suggests that aS100A6 contributes to the pathophysiology of diabetes in NAFLD," said Surbhi Dogra from IIT Mandi.

IANS

## SHORT TAKES

### CTMS launched for cultural troupes

Bhubaneswar: Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Ashwini Kumar Patra Tuesday launched the online cultural troupe management system (CTMS) which is designed to provide facilities for online registration of troupes and requesting agencies. Registered requesting agencies can apply for deployment of troupes in various categories like dance, music and other art forms. Such a request will be processed online in the department and the relevant troupe will be assigned for the said program. The troupe, after a successful performance, can submit the invoice along with the programme details to the department for processing of payment.

### Solar lights distributed



Bhubaneswar: On advice of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, the devotees of Yogada Satsanga Society (YSS) of India, founded by Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda in 1917, distributed eco-friendly solar lights to flood-affected families in seven villages of Gop and Nimapada blocks of Puri district. The YSS members distributed solar lights to around 650 families in flood affected villages of Bhitradaligaon, Aloi, Rahangagorada, Olandi, Gabasingha, Khandiakud under Gop block, and Tihula of Nimapada block.

### Education Ministry greets Iswar

Bhubaneswar: The Union Ministry of Education Tuesday congratulated Iswar Chandra Nayak, a teacher of Government Upper Primary School, Kanapur, Puri, on being honoured with National Awards to Teachers (NAT) 2022. In the official twitter account, the ministry shared a video and tweeted, "Heartiest Congratulations to Iswar Chandra Nayak from Odisha, on being honoured with #NAT2022. His contributions as a teacher, an extensive writer & a columnist in the field of school education are noteworthy & deserve accolades. Our Teachers Our Pride."

### Govt direction to SU over affiliation of ayurvedic college

Bhubaneswar: The Higher Education department Tuesday directed the Sambalpur University (SU) to grant affiliation to Government Ayurvedic College and Hospital, Bolangir. In a letter to Sambalpur University, department's additional secretary Birendra Korkora said that upon establishment of Rajendra University the colleges located in Bolangir and Subarnapur revenue districts were disaffiliated with SU and got affiliated to Rajendra University. However, Rajendra University is now facing difficulties to grant affiliation to the ayurvedic college. So, the SU has been asked to grant affiliation to the ayurvedic college.

**GURU KELUCHARAN MOHAPATRA Award Festival 2022**

5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September | 07:00 PM

Rabindra Mandap  
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Shri Srinibas Satapathy (Flute)

Shri Baibhab Kumar Das (Percussion)

Shri Samir Ranjan Pradhan (Percussion)

Shri Pranav Pradhan (Bass Guitar)

Shri Milan Kumar Panda (Vocals)

Shri Agnimitra Behera (Violin)

Shri Ramesh Ch. Behera (Keyboard)

Shri Biswa Ranjan Nanda (Tabla)

Shri Bikasit Sahu (Drums)

Shri Deba Ranjan Nayak (Lead Guitar)

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# 'Illegal' sale of Lord Baladevjew temple land sparks controversy



**Keonjhar, Sept 6:** The alleged illegal sale and purchase of 1.4 acres of land of Lord Baladev Jew temple in Keonjhar town has kicked up a row among the devotees and in various quarters, sources said Tuesday. Devotees have warned they will take the legal route to get the land back to its original owner, if the administration doesn't take steps. The matter came to the fore from information obtained under the

Right to Information Act (RTI) by an activist in this town. The petitioner said he sought information about illegal sale and purchase of land measuring around 1.4 acres under khata No-18 and plot No-750 in Gumura mouza under two revenue sections of Sadar tehsil in Keonjhar district. He alleged information proved that land owned in the name of Lord Baladev Jew temple has been illegally sold and purchased. The person demanded a proper probe into the entire incident.

Meanwhile the record keeper of the local tehsil office informed that permission for the sale of land has not been granted. He added that the office is in the dark about the alleged sale of temple land. His disclosure has only intensified the doubts on the legality of the deal and created resentment among the devotees. The devotees alleged that despite complaints being lodged with the district collector, sub-collector and the executive officer of the Endowment department, no action has so far been taken. They demanded prompt action. The devotees also said that a person working in the local sub-registrar office is among the people involved in the illegal sale of temple land. When contacted, Rama Chandra Kisku, sub-collector-cum-executive officer of the Endowment department said no one has the authority to sale or purchase the land which belongs to the temple. He asserted that efforts will be initiated for getting back the land on receipt of a proper complaint.



Tribals perform the traditional Madala dance Tuesday on the occasion of Raji Karama Puja Mahotasav at Orampada locality in Rourkela

# Students walk to protest against school authorities

**Baripada, Sept 6:** Over 200 students of Ekalavya Model Residential School in Bangiriposi town in Mayurbhanj district are upset over multiple problems plaguing their education and the functioning of the institution for the last few years. To protest against the administrative apathy, the students decided Tuesday to walk to Baripada to meet District Collector Vineet Bhardwaj and update him on the problems they face. It should be stated here that Bangiriposi is 40 kilometres away from the district headquarters at Baripada. Within minutes of starting their protest march, some officials of the block administration tried to convince the students to return. However, they refused to do so. Finally after walking for six kilometres, they stopped at the block office. However, they warned of continuing their agitation if their problems are not looked into quickly. The students who belong to Classes-VIII, IX and Plus-II alleged that posts of physics and chemistry teachers are lying vacant for a long time for which their studies have been affected.



"We face a lot of difficulties in our regular and practical classes. Also the quality of food at the hostel is sub-standard. We have been complaining to the school authorities for many years now, but to no avail. We want immediate appointment of teachers as our future is at stake," the angry students said. On being informed, project administrator of ITDA Basant Sethi, district welfare officer Sunaram Singh, BDO Satyaban Nayak, additional tehsildar Saibram Baske, SDPO KK Hariprasad and Jharpokharia IIC Phanindra Bhusan reached the spot. They tried to convince the angry students to refrain from such agitations in future. The officials assured the students that their problems will be solved soon. The agitating students also wanted to talk to Bhardwaj over video-conferencing to apprise him of their problems. However, it did not materialise.

# RBI team inspects proposed project site for bank note mill

**Balasure, Sept 6:** A three-member team from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) along with five officials of IDCO, RWSS and R&B departments visited Padabadagaon under Remuna block in Balasure district Tuesday. They inspected the project site where RBI is planning to set up a bank note paper mill at an investment of ₹2,500 crore. It will be a joint venture between Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd and Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Pvt Ltd. Before moving to the project site, the officials also held talks with District Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde, ADM Bhabesh Nayak and officials of various lines departments. The RBI officials said that there is need for a plot of 150 acres of land for the project while six more acres will be needed for construction of motorable roads. As the area is a flood-prone area, the district administration discussed the issue with the RBI team. They pointed out that floodwater from the



Budhabalanga river can be controlled by draining it out through canals. However, sources informed that the RBI team is yet to give its final nod to the project. A few weeks ago, a top official of the joint venture project had met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at his residence in Bhubaneswar and apprised him

# Fake currency notes of ₹11K seized in Keonjhar

**Anandapur, Sept 6:** Police detained a person Tuesday and seized fake currency notes of ₹11,000 from his possession at Biridiha village under Anandapur police limits in Keonjhar district. The seized notes were in denominations of ₹100 and ₹200. The detained person has been identified as Neula Dehury of Dehuri Sahi area in Kantipala village in the district. He was brought to the police station for interrogation. Police have launched an investigation to ascertain from where the fake currency notes came into the area. They are also probing the involvement of other persons in this racket. According to sources, Neula bought some betel and consumed cold drink from a shop and tendered one ₹200 note to the shopkeeper. However, the shopkeeper

identified it as 'fake' and started questioning Neula. Then with the help of others, he seized a bundle of such fake notes from Neula. On being informed, police reached the spot, seized the notes and detained Neula for questioning.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**

e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-30-22

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK :**  
OUTSOURCING OF AC MECHANICAL FOR ESCORTING AC COACHES IN MAIL / EXPRESS / SUPERFAST / RAJDAHANI TYPE TRAINS OF EAST COAST RAILWAY FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.

Approx Cost of the work (₹): 11,20,38,208.99, EMD (₹): 7,10,200.00, Cost of Tender document (₹): 11,800.00, Completion period : 36 Months

**Tender Closing Date and Time :**  
At 1500 Hrs. of 28.09.2022

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: <http://www.irps.gov.in>

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigendum issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G),  
PR-458/N/22-23  
Khurda Road



**भारत का राजपत्र**  
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-29072022-237692  
CG-DL-E-29072022-237692

**असाधारण**  
EXTRAORDINARY  
भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)  
PART II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii)  
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित  
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 3326] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, जुलाई 28, 2022/श्रावण 6, 1944  
No.3326] NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022/SRAVANA 6, 1944

**MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**  
NOTIFICATION  
New Delhi, the 28th July, 2022

**S.O. 3491(E).**—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH16 on the stretch of land from Km. 117 to Km. 136.5 (Office of the Tahasildar, Bhadrak, At/Po/PS-Bhadrak, Dist-Bhadrak, Pin-756100, Odisha) in the district of BHADRAK in the state of ODISHA.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Dharitri" and "OrissaPost" both dated 11.03.2022; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the competent Authority;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

**SCHEDULE**

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH16 in the stretch of land from NH16 (Office of the Tahasildar, Bhadrak, At/Po/PS-Bhadrak, Dist- Bhadrak, Pin-756100, Odisha) in the district of BHADRAK in the state of ODISHA.

State: ODISHA		District: BHADRAK			
Sr. No.	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectare	Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person/Part Survey No.
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Taluk: Bhadrak</b>					
<b>Village: Gelpur-64</b>					
1	3156	Government	Rakhita (Gochar)	0.009308	Rakhita
<b>Village: Samraepur-86</b>					
2	1629	Private	Gharabari	0.0323756	Devibala Saha, Village-Naripur
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>0.0416836</b>	

[F. No. NHA/BOT/11012/58/2005/PL/LA/NH-16/3D1]  
RAJESH GUPTA, Director

# Over 100 Jaleswar villages left out of flood-hit list

**Jaleswar, Sept 6:** Back-to-back floods from Subarnarekha and other rivers have caused extensive damage to farming in Jaleswar locality of Balasure district. However, a large number of villages under 18 panchayats have allegedly been left out from the list drawn up for compensation. The survey for crop damage assessment has not been carried out in these villages, it was alleged. Also these villages have not been provided flood relief materials. Sources said 15 days have elapsed since floods played havoc in 134 villages of 28 panchayats under this block affecting 5,000 people. According to an official survey, 32 villages of Sikharur, Khuluda, Gadasahibaliapal, Paikasida, Baiganbada, Jhadapimpala, Paschimabada, Rayanramchandrapur, Kotasahi and Bartana panchayats have been hit by floods. The Agriculture department survey pointed out that crops in 1,240 hectares have been substantially damaged while crops were partially damaged in 2,500 hectares. However, locals alleged that the assessment of the official survey is quite different from the extent of damage in reality. Locals also alleged that 103 flood-hit villages in Khalina, Nampha, Sampatia, Netua, Aruha, Sikharpur, Chamargaon, Gobaraghata, Sugo, Nachimpur, Mohammednagarpatana, Olamara, Makidia, Khudia Majhisahi and

Srirampur panchayats have not been enlisted as flood-hit. Thousands of people expressed their displeasure as their villages have not been included in the flood-hit list. It means they will not be getting financial assistance despite having suffered losses due to the floods. Local leaders and people have drawn attention of the district collector towards the issue and demanded a fresh survey for damages caused by floods in these panchayats.

**M/S OM SARALA SECURITY SERVICE PVT. LTD.**  
Shop No.36, Ganesh Market, S.T.I. Chowk, Rourkela, Sundargarh (Odisha), Pin - 769004  
No.OSPL/625/22-23/ Dated: 05/09/2022

**APPOINTMENT**

Applications are invited from interested candidates for engagement of WDT (Livelihood, Engineering, Social and Micro Enterprises). Monthly remuneration ₹ 20,000.00 inclusive of all (as applicable). For details regarding posts, age, requisite qualification as well as for application form please visit website (<https://www.saralasecurity.com>). Eligible candidates may submit their applications in the prescribed proforma with copies of requisite qualifications (self-attested) by Registered Post/Speed Post/by hand super scribing "Application for engagement as WDT" to above address within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of advertisement.

Sd/-  
Director

**ODISHA GRAMYA BANK**  
REGIONAL OFFICE : PIPLI, AT/PO: PIPLI, DIST.: PURI, PIN-752104

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Odisha Gramya Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices, calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) as noted below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with further interest at contractual rates and rests and charges etc. till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

1) The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property as described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the date as indicated hereunder.

2) The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the said property will be subject to the charge of the Odisha Gramya Bank for the amount stated below with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc. from the aforesaid date mentioned in the Demand Notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is payable as mentioned below with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment. 3) The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section 98 of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

NIMAPARA BRANCH / Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)	Description of the Security Interest taken over possession	Dues payable as on specified date of Demand/Possession Notice	Date of Demand/Possession Notice
<b>Borrower: 1) Mr. Pramod Kumar Swain, S/o- Gangadhar Swain / Guarantor: 2) Mr. Gangadhar Swain, S/o- Rasananda Swain, Both are At: Kuansh, PO: Taradapada, Nimapara, Dist.: Puri, PIN-752106</b>	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Kuansh, Khata No.: 68, Plot No.: 557 & 552, Area: Ac.0.03dec. & Ac.0.03dec., standing in the name of Mr. Gangadhar Swain, Plot No. 552 is bounded by- East: Dhaneswar Swain, West: Gayadhar Swain, North: Rakhita, South: Ananda Swain & Gangadhar Swain, Plot No. 557 is bounded by- East: Dhruva Charan Swain, West: Udayanath Swain, North: Akshaya Kumar Swain, South: Gangadhar Swain.	₹5,21,076.33 as on 11.06.2021 / ₹5,75,272/- as on 09.08.2022 + further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc. till date of payment	11.06.2021 / 02.09.2022
<b>Borrower: 1) Mr. Prasanna Kumar Sahoo, S/o- Dinabandhu Sahoo / Guarantor: 2) Mr. Laxmidhar Sahoo, S/o- Kelu Sahoo / Guarantor &amp; Mortgagor: 3) Mr. Dinabandhu Sahoo, S/o- Kelu Sahoo, All are At: Shyamundarpur, PO: Nimapara, Dist.: Puri, PIN-752106</b>	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Bishnupur, Khata No.: 1332/38, Plot No.: 3073, Area:Ac.0.06dec. standing in the name of Mr. Dinabandhu Sahoo, Bounded by- East: Damodar Sahoo, West: Binod Bihari Sahoo, North: Lokanath Das, South: Bira Sahoo.	₹2,15,787/- as on 11.06.2021 / ₹2,54,822/- as on 09.08.2022 + further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc. till date of payment	11.06.2021 / 02.09.2022
<b>Borrower &amp; Mortgagor: 1) Mr. Santosh Kumar Dash, S/o- Kumar Dash / Guarantor: 2) Mrs. Chuni Devi, W/o- Santosh Kumar Dash, Both are At: Ampore, P.O.: Chhanjanjanga, Nimapara, Dist.: Puri, PIN-752106</b>	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Mouza: Ampore, (1) Khata No.: 661, Plot No.: 1209, Area: Ac.0.01dec., (2) Khata No.: 150, Plot No.: 1210, Area: Ac.0.16dec., standing in the name of Mr. Santosh Kumar Dash, Property No. 1 is Bounded by- East: Plot No. 1214, West: Plot No. 1208, North: Village Road, South: Plot No. 1210, Property No. 2 is Bounded by- East: Plot No. 1211 & 1212, West: Plot No. 1207, North: Plot No. 1209, South: Plot No. 1233	₹3,17,705.54 as on 31.05.2021 / ₹3,38,919/- as on 09.08.2022 + further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc. till date of payment	11.06.2021 / 02.09.2022

Date: 06.09.2022, Place: Pipli Sd/- Authorised Officer, Odisha Gramya Bank

FOCUS CONGRESS

# A WAKE UP CALL



**Instead of introspecting and heeding the advice of party leaders for implementing reforms in the party, Rahul Gandhi has been functioning unilaterally, denouncing the consultative mechanism in the party**

functioning unilaterally, denouncing the consultative mechanism in the party. Those who surround him are immature young people, lacking expertise in running a political party. Ever since Sonia Gandhi has been unwell, she has been depending upon Rahul Gandhi to take all crucial decisions, who, without consulting the seniors, has thrust his decisions on the party.

Seniors like the late Ahmed Patel, Ghulam Nabi Azad, P Chidambaram, Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Anand Sharma were all sidelined. The hand-picked fresh faces like Kanishka Singh, Alankar Sawai and Kaushal Vidyarthi, who are political novices, formed part of Rahul's coterie. Senior party posts like Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha went to Adhir Ranjan Choudhary, which was deserved by Manish Tewari, or Shashi Tharoor, as Sonia Gandhi was insecure with the promising talent in the party. Sonia was afraid that youngsters like Sachin Pilot, Jitin Prasada, Jyotiraditya Scindia and RPN Singh would overshadow her son. Fully aware of Sonia's apprehensions, most of these youngsters left the party with a heavy heart, while others like Sachin Pilot are still waiting for their turn.

Azad deserted the party at a crucial time and held his own rally in Jammu to announce the launch of his regional outfit when Rahul Gandhi held a massive rally, 'Mehngai Par Halla Bol' in Delhi.

Rahul will also be actively participating in the Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir from September 7. Those associated and attached with the Congress for decades, still hope that the party will be revived. Earlier, the Congressmen exhibited their strength and unity on the streets of Delhi, when both Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi were summoned by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a disproportionate assets case. Similarly, when all the three - Rahul, Priyanka and Sonia - were present to protest against price rise, observing 'black day', the Congressmen were ecstatic and zesty.

The Gandhis, it seems, have realised that time has come for them to show their sincerity and commitment for the party, which gave them name and fame. The Congressmen have been waiting for three long years to hear from Rahul Gandhi on taking up the reins of the party. However, now, they, too, are fed up and want plain answers from him - yes or no. If he refuses, they want a full-fledged Congress president, who should be accessible and conversant with them. They don't want any proxy leader, who works for the Gandhis. The Manmohan Singh-Sonia Gandhi formula doesn't work for the smooth functioning of the party, as was the case when the duo ran the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre. There cannot be two power centres in the party.

The Gandhis should learn from their past mistakes and go ahead to carry out reforms in the party, as envisaged by the 'G23' group. The seniors and the young, who have deserted the party, should be invited to return to the party fold, to make it more robust and vibrant. Allowing them to form their own regional outfits will only harm the prospects of the Congress. In Jammu & Kashmir, almost all have left the party to join Ghulam Nabi Azad, with the result that the Congress will have to begin from the scratch. Like J&K, there are several states where the Congress has minimal prospects of forming the government, including major states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Bihar, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry which account for as many as 321 seats in the Lok Sabha.

Given this grim scenario, ironically Azad, who spent his entire life in the party, has declared the Congress as finished, the same rhetoric which one used to hear from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But seeing the massive support, which the Congress agitations are drawing on the streets, it seems that all is not over yet. The Congress can still be revived, provided if Rahul Gandhi finally wakes up now. He should mend his ways, hold elections democratically and allow the most charismatic, popular and talented leader to hold the reins of the Grand Old Party of the country. Let the Congressmen have their way in electing their own leader. If he so desires, Rahul Gandhi can opt to be one of the contenders in the poll fray. However, the party must come clean on this, make the electoral rolls public in the interests of transparency, in order to prove that indeed, elections are being held in a free and fair manner.

Time has come for the Gandhis to show that they do not merely hold the glue that unites the party, but also a sincere commitment to revive the party. "The Congress is not finished. It still can be revived," should be the pledge of the Gandhis, as they move ahead, with the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

*The writer is a Delhi-based senior journalist and political commentator. Views are personal.*

"Congress party is finished. It has no future!" This is how senior-most Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who spent five decades in the 137-year-old party, described the Congress, in an interview, after leaving the party. According to him, it is a party of sycophants, where no consultative and candid discussions can take place. The party is fighting an existential crisis, with senior and young leaders deserting the sinking ship. Can the party ever be rejuvenated?

The BJP insulted Rahul Gandhi day-in and day-out by projecting him as Pappu, an image which still personifies him. However, what has irked his partymen is his arrogance, his immature style of functioning, his dependence over his coterie and his rebuking of seniors, who have struggled all along with the party, decade after decade. Ghulam Nabi Azad has listed out a few instances, including his snubbing of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the entire Cabinet by tearing up an Ordinance in public.

Now, once again, the party is all set to elect its president, chosen by the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, who will run the party as a proxy for Rahul Gandhi, unless he decides to take up the responsibility. By October 19, the results of the elections will be known. This time, the party is likely to declare someone like KC Venugopal, Ashok Gehlot, Ambika Soni, P Chidambaram, Digvijay Singh, Mukul Wasnik, or anyone of the confidantes chosen by Rahul, who can just obey his diktat. Any younger face would obviously harm the interests of the Gandhis. In fact, most of the young charismatic leaders like Jyotiraditya Scindia, Jitin Prasada, Himanta Biswa Sarma, Sushmita Dev and RPN Singh have already deserted the party, while others like Shashi Tharoor and Manish Tewari are waiting for an opportune moment. They have started raising the banner of revolt, with the former hinting at contesting the elections for the post of Congress president and the latter insisting on making the electoral rolls public.

Instead of introspecting and heeding the advice of party leaders for implementing reforms in the party, Rahul Gandhi has been



Anita Saluja

**THE PARTY IS FIGHTING AN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS, WITH SENIOR AND YOUNG LEADERS DESERTING THE SINKING SHIP**

## Tasks of Truss

Liz Truss, the Right-wing Conservative Party leader, becomes the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom replacing Boris Johnson who had to resign in the wake of what is known as the 'Partygate' scandal. She is the country's third woman PM from the same party and fourth leader in six years. She takes charge in the most inopportune time. The UK is passing through a cost-of-living crisis fuelled by soaring energy bills due to the war in Ukraine. This crisis may plunge the country in the coming winter into darkness with unprecedented power-cuts. The economy is already hit hard by gas prices and a wave of industrial action of the kind not seen during the past five decades. Added to these woes is the spectre of stagflation that is looming large. What is worrisome is that Truss has not provided specific details on how she will tackle high energy prices, sky-high inflation, labour strife, and a strained healthcare system. The UK has virtually been rudderless for the past few weeks when the country was plagued by workers' strikes that have disrupted ports, trains and multiple industrial sectors.

The new PM has to fix crucial problems as the country has been lurching from one crisis to another. But, the prescriptions Truss has so far hinted at do not inspire much confidence. Households in the UK are facing a record 80 per cent jump in energy bills, triggered by shortage of gas due to Russia's war on Ukraine. Truss has ruled out energy rationing this winter, pledging instead to increase energy supply. However, officials fear without energy rationing, the country may have to suffer blackouts for several days in January. The problem may even be compounded if cold weather combines with gas shortages.

Truss evaded answers when it was pointed out to her that as per a report her energy plan could exceed 100 billion British pounds. It means available funds to be used for the purpose are not enough to bail the country out. But, she is firm in her belief and says she will be looking across the board to make sure energy supply is augmented. This, according to her, is how her government would deal with "the root cause of the issue," rather than just putting a sticking plaster on it.

Being a votary of tax cuts, she has ruled out a further windfall tax on oil and gas companies that have recorded profits this year. She has pledged to cut taxes that will cost 38 billion pounds annually, but which economists say could actually cost more than the calculated amount. However, these tax cuts are hardly the solutions needed at the moment. The reasons for Britain's abysmal productivity growth are listed to be a lack of investment in infrastructure, skills and other forms of capital. Without new taxes, Truss will have to depend on extra government borrowing or cuts to spending elsewhere to finance further household support. This, according to some economists, will exacerbate the already-high inflation.

Even before Truss assumed charge, business leaders from the hospital-ity sector to manufacturing and chemical industries started demanding help, with the soaring cost of energy and tight labour markets, to stop firms going bust. She has promised to act quickly and declared she would unveil, within a week, her plan to tackle rising energy bills and secure future fuel supplies.

Truss has daunting tasks ahead which opposition parties say reflects 12 years of poor Conservative government. Veteran Conservative lawmaker David Davis seems to have sized up the matter well when he describes challenges confronting the new PM as "probably the second most difficult brief of post-war prime ministers" after Conservative Margaret Thatcher in 1979.

Things may not look as rosy as Truss wants her countrymen and the world to believe. For, there could be challenges from within her party as well. The margin of her victory against her rival, Rishi Sunak, has been much less than what was expected. This shows many of her own party leaders may make sure she would have stormy days ahead. What, however, makes many wonder is her plan to face the challenges that could manifest as a drastic foreign policy deviation. Without energy, the UK may have real problems this winter and that may force Truss to change course and support Russia. If that does happen, it would indeed have a massive global impact.

### WISDOM CORNER

- Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win. **SUN TZU**
- The doctor sees all the weakness of mankind; the lawyer all the wickedness, the theologian all the stupidity. **ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER**
- In law a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so. **IMMANUEL KANT**

### WORDSWORTH

**Biopiracy**  
Some developing countries are unhappy about the activities of biotechnology firms from industrialised countries, whom they claim are searching out plants that give improved crop yields or which contain substances of pharmaceutical value. This process, called bioprospecting, is not necessarily a problem. The complaints arise when firms prospect without permission or expropriate the results of their investigations without payment or acknowledgement. There have been a series of disputes and accusations, for example against attempts in 1997 by an Australian governmental agency to patent a chickpea obtained from an international gene bank. The Brazilian government is debating a law to control companies prospecting for useful genetic material in the Amazonian rainforests. The word, as a reflection of the subject to which it relates, is an emotive one, and which is sometimes employed wildly. It is beginning to be used in contexts outside the developing world, for instance in a recent news story concerning an agreement by a bioprospecting company with the US National Park Service in Yellowstone.

**Biopunk**  
Science fiction may seem like a monolithic genre to outsiders, but experts in the field have long distinguished a variety of sub-divisions. Perhaps the most famous of these is the cyberpunk school of the eighties and nineties, an umbrella term for stories of a dystopian and dreary future with governmental control enforced by information technology and in which individuals are frequently augmented by mechanical or electronic means. The cyber- part of the name derives from cybernetics (and its use here was a key stage in the taking up to extremes of that prefix in the early and mid nineties); the punk part derives from rock music, and refers to young people who are aggressive, alienated and offensive to convention. In the early nineties there grew up biopunk, a derivative sub-genre building not on IT but on biology, the other dominating scientific field of the end of the twentieth century. Individuals are enhanced not by mechanical means, but by genetic manipulation of their very chromosomes. Perhaps the most characteristic writer in this field is Paul Di Filippo, though he called his collection of such stories ribofunk, with the first element being taken from the full name of RNA, ribonucleic acid. Neither name has had the impact of cyberpunk and probably never will.

### LOL HORSE PULLS THE CAR

An out-of-towner drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big strong horse named Buddy. He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull." Buddy didn't move. Then the farmer hollered, "Pull, Buster, pull." Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Jennie, pull." Nothing. Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull." And the horse easily dragged the car out of the ditch. The motorist was most appreciative and very curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times. The farmer said, "Oh, Buddy is blind, and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try!"

### IN JEST THIS

## Benefits & drawbacks of look-alikes



Melvin Durai

**IF YOU ARE ORGANISING A WEDDING FOR YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER, JUST PAY ₹10 LAKH AND IMPRESS YOUR GUESTS WITH BEYONCÉ'S LOOK-ALIKE**

A former editor of mine once took a cruise and snapped a photo of a crew member who looked just like me. This happened many years ago, but I still think about my look-alike (or doppelganger) now and then. I wish he lived close to me, so I could hire him periodically. He could attend meetings for me, go to school and college reunions, and accompany my wife on shopping trips.

Wouldn't my wife be able to tell the difference between me, her husband of 22 years, and a total stranger who walked off a ship? Perhaps she would, but not if I trained my look-alike to respond to any questions by nodding and saying, "It looks great on you!"

In just a few months, my wife would be raving to friends about her new-and-improved husband: "He has even given up watching football to go to bookstores with me. And he said that the new Zadie Smith novel looks great on me!"

If you're skeptical that my doppelganger could fool my wife, you probably haven't seen the recent photo project and scientific study

involving 32 pairs of look-alikes. A team of researchers in Spain recruited these look-alikes for the study and found that half of them exhibited such amazing resemblance that facial recognition programmes gave them similar scores to identical twins.

More significantly, the researchers found that the look-alikes had certain genetic similarities - almost as if they were related to each other.

"In the world right now, there are so many people that eventually the system is producing humans with similar DNA sequences," Dr. Manel Esteller, a researcher at the Josep Carreras Leukemia Research Institute in Barcelona, Spain, told CNN.

I don't know whether to be excited about "the system" or afraid of it. If it keeps producing doppelgangers, things could get quite hairy for some people. Just imagine that you're watching a TV news report about a bank robbery. "Here's a photo of the suspected bank robber," the news anchor says, and you look closely to see if

you can recognise the crook. Perhaps it's your cousin Jacob, who has been known to break the law. But what appears on the screen is a photo of YOU. Well, it looks like you, at least. A large reward is offered, and before you know it, the police have surrounded your home and your parents have disowned you. Your cousin Jacob turned you in. "I didn't do it," you insist, but several witnesses come forward to identify you as the robber. Soon you are serving a long sentence in prison, while both your cousin and doppelganger are rolling in dough.

As you can see, having a look-alike has advantages and disadvantages. For celebrities, it can be extremely beneficial, allowing them to be seen in more places.

A few years ago, American singer Beyoncé flew to Mumbai to perform a private 45-minute concert at the wedding of Isha Ambani, daughter of billionaire Mukesh Ambani. For such performances, Beyoncé reportedly charges about \$3 million (Rs 21 crore), an amount that Mukesh

can probably find under his sofa cushions.

Only a few families can afford to hire Beyoncé, but not to worry. If you are organising a wedding for your son or daughter, just pay ₹10 lakh and impress your guests with Beyoncé's look-alike. She will perform a one-hour concert with perfect lip-synching. If that isn't enough, she will mingle with your guests and entertain them with stories of her exciting marriage to Jay-Z's look-alike.

Look-alikes can not only make paid appearances, they can also go on vacation for celebrities. Tom Cruise can show up at a Florida beach and attract lots of attention. Soon, photographs of Cruise's well-toned body are circulating on social media and people are tweeting, "Wow! Is he really 60? He's got the body of a 30-year-old!"

Meanwhile, the real Tom Cruise is stuffing himself at a buffet, while admiring his biceps online. He's thankful that he bought a gym membership last year; a membership that he's happy to see someone is using.

### Challenges galore

Sir, This refers to "Liz Truss new British PM," Orissa Post, September 6. Conservative leader Liz Truss is becoming the Prime Minister after trouncing Rishi Sunak by a margin of 21,000 votes after a campaign that Truss herself described as hard fought. The position that Truss assumes will require her to respond speedily to a wide and daunting range of challenges, not the least of which are surging inflation and a massive squeeze on living standards brought on by soaring energy prices due to the Ukraine crisis. The Bank of England has predicted that the UK will enter almost two years of contraction or zero growth the month after Truss assumes office, with inflation topping 13% by the end of the year. In her victory speech, she promised "bold action" to get the UK through tough times and grow the country's economy. There is already talk that she plans to freeze energy bills and cut a wide variety of taxes, which could cost her government some 80 billion pounds over the next year - something that is hardly expected to inspire confidence at a time when the markets have been flashing red. However, on the trade front with India, Truss' victory is expected to give a fillip to efforts to stitch up a free-trade agreement by the target date of Diwali. The policymakers in New Delhi will keep a close eye on whether Truss will continue with Boris Johnson's policy of a tilt towards the Indo-Pacific, including military deployments and closer maritime cooperation with India. That may be the key driver of strategic bilateral ties.

**N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE**

### Time to act

Sir, It is unfortunate to note that Pakistan has suffered severe and intense floods caused by climate change. Most areas in the country have been severely affected by the catastrophe. Pakistan is in need of international help especially in the form of food and funds. Asian countries and the West should reach out to the affected in Pakistan sooner rather than later. It is all about the attitude of humans towards Mother Earth. Climate change can largely be attributed to factors like fuel consumption, pollution, felling of trees, and much more. Everyone and especially those born after 2000 should come forward and think about Mother Earth. Apart from teachers' involvement and parental guidance, individual commitments will have a profound impact.

**P. Senthil Saravana Durai, MUMBAI**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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national



The government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to strengthening the health infrastructure across the country.

SHOW OF STRENGTH

Thousands of Congress workers and several MLAs thronged Sachin Pilot's home to celebrate his birthday, an event also seen as a show of strength by the former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister



of the day quote

In honour of the contribution of Bodofa towards socio-economic & cultural empowerment of Bodo community, our Govt has decided to observe his birthday on March 31 every year as Chatra Divas

Congratulating Truss on being elected as the leader of the UK Conservative Party. Your commitment to raising India-UK cooperation to a higher level is well known.

The Centre should modernise all government schools across India instead of doing it in instalments

India, Bangladesh ink seven key MoUs

New Delhi, Sept 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said India and Bangladesh should jointly face terrorist and fundamentalist forces that threaten to attack mutual trust between the two countries.



Modi said India and Bangladesh will soon start discussion on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

India and Bangladesh signed an interim water sharing agreement on the Kushiyara river, which would benefit people of southern Assam and the Sylhet division of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh will soon start discussion on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Kwatra said the CEPA agreement is expected to be reached before Bangladesh graduates from the category of Least Developed Countries by 2026 and moves to the ranks of developing countries.

Cong fumes over CISF cover to RSS offices

New Delhi, Sept 6: The Congress Tuesday took a swipe at the government over providing CISF cover to the RSS offices, saying while security is being privatised at airports, private entities like the RSS are provided with public security.

3,000 Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) posts at airports are to be abolished and replaced by private security.

nearby, at 'Udasin Ashram', have been brought under the security cover of the CISF beginning September 1, the officials said.

DELHI EXCISE SCAM

ED raids 30 locations



BJP workers stage a protest demanding the resignation of Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia over the alleged liquor policy scam, outside his residence in New Delhi

New Delhi, Sept 6: The AAP Tuesday claimed the Enforcement Directorate has given a "clean chit" to Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the excise policy case and argued that the probe agency would have otherwise raided the senior leader's house.

given a clean chit to Sisodia today after the CBI did so... AAP's chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said at a press conference. "The ED carried out raids at various locations but did not come to Manish Sisodia's residence despite him being the accused number-1.

LOCALS RAZE MADRASA IN ASSAM

Guwahati, Sept 6: A madrasa and a residence adjacent to it in Assam's Goalpara district was demolished allegedly by local people on Tuesday in protest against the use of the premises for jihadi activities, the police claimed.

The battle is about to get tougher

Keran Sector/LoC (J-K), Sept 6: The soldiers guarding the Line of Control (LoC) in this north Kashmir area not only keep an eye on the hostile neighbour but have to battle a tough terrain, extreme climatic conditions, including about 15-20 feet of snow during winter which snaps links with rest of the country for at least four months.



phy, the weather here is very harsh, it is extreme. We have too much cold here when it snows. The snow can accumulate up to 20 feet and remain there for about three-four months," an Army officer said.

the snow accumulates. There are high-poles which act as markers for us in such situations when we have to move," the officer said.

Indian Overseas Bank E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE. Includes bank details, auction terms, and a table of properties for sale.

LAKHIMPUR KHERI VIOLENCE

# SC notice to UP govt over Ashish Mishra's bail plea



On October 3 last year, eight people were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri during violence that erupted when farmers were protesting against Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area

Four farmers were mowed down by an SUV, in which Ashish Mishra was seated, according to the UP Police FIR

hicle and was assaulted along with two others and they died.

"The man who lodged that report saying that I (Mishra) was in the car and I ran away shooting in the air etc. Ultimately said that he was not an eye-witness," Rohatgi said.

He told the bench that Mishra was earlier granted bail in the case as there was no direct allegation that he drove the car and mowed down people.

The senior advocate said that later, the complainant side had come to the apex court and the bail granted to Mishra was cancelled.

On April 18 this year, the top court cancelled the bail granted to Mishra in the case and asked him to surrender in a week, saying the "victims" were denied "a fair and effective hearing" in the Allahabad High Court which adopted a "myopic view of the evidence".

It had remanded the bail application for fresh adjudication "in a fair, impartial and dispassionate manner, and keeping in view the settled parameters" within three months after taking note of relevant facts and the fact that the victims were not granted a complete opportunity of being heard.



Devotees immerse an idol of Lord Ganesha in the Gomti river during 'Gauri Ganpati Visarjan' in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

## UP jails vulnerable to HIV spread

*In the past one month, 26 prisoners have been found to be HIV positive in the Barabanki jail*

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 6: If the number of HIV cases being reported from Uttar Pradesh jails is any indication, then prisons are becoming increasingly susceptible to the virus. In the past one month, 26 prisoners have been found to be HIV positive in the Barabanki jail.

The state's Health Department has written a letter to the jail administration asking these infected pris-

oners to get treatment from the ART Centre in Lucknow. Soon the Department is going to set up another camp in the jail in which women prisoners will be examined.

District Tuberculosis Officer Vinod Kumar Dohre said that the annual TB and HIV test among the inmates, held during three camps in the jail, showed the results. In June, as many as six inmates of Gonda district jail had tested positive for HIV. The confirmation came during a random blood sampling of inmates after an undertrial tested positive in the jail. The prison has over 1,000 inmates.

Jail superintendent, Deepankar Kumar, confirmed the development and added that a medical



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

camp has been organised inside the premises. "We have decided to first separate all the affected patients with the virus and send them to the district hospital to get their other tests also done," said the officer. As per standard operating procedure, their barrack will be shifted. The in-house doctor has been apprised and directed to keep a check on their health. In the Saharanpur

Jail, 23 inmates were detected to be HIV positive in July. The matter came to the fore when a health check-up camp was conducted by the Health Department in Saharanpur Jail.

The blood samples of the inmates, who were detected to be infected with TB, were collected for the test of HIV too and of them, 23 were detected to be HIV positive. One of them is a female inmate. A senior health official who spoke to IANS on condition of anonymity, said that overcrowding in jails should be a cause for concern. "In this situation, unprotected sex cannot be ruled out and this apparently had led to the HIV spread," he pointed out.

## Tension in UP village after seven monkeys found dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Badaun (UP), Sept 6: The recovery of seven dead monkeys from a village in Usawan here sparked tension among villagers, police said Tuesday.

Some persons killed monkeys and threw their bodies outside the Gura Barela village on Monday, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ashok Kumar said.

"A video, which shows the monkeys with their hands tied and black oil on their eyes, has also gone viral," the DFO said. The police have registered an FIR following a complaint by the forest department in this regard under the Wild Life (Protection) Act and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, he said.

The bodies of the monkeys had been sent to the Indian Veterinary Research Institute for post mortem, he added.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

## 'POOR PERFORMANCE' OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS

# Delhi's child rights body slaps notice on MCD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) on Monday issued a notice to the municipal corporation in the city, seeking an explanation within two weeks for the "poor" performance of primary schools.

The commission also said an inquiry has been ordered into the "poor quality of education" in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) schools.

In a notice of inquiry, the DCPCR, the statutory watchdog of the Delhi government in matters of child rights, cited the National Achievement Survey (NAS) Report, 2021, for Class 3 to highlight the quality of teaching and learning in the city's municipal schools.

"The NAS Class-3 results paint a dismal picture of teaching and learning in municipal schools, which rank Delhi amongst the lowest five performing states in India," the notice read.

"In fact, the Class-3 results of Municipal Corporation of Delhi are below the national average in all three subjects: Language, Maths,



and Environmental Studies. The average state score for Class 3 in language is merely 52 per cent while the national average is 62 per cent," it added.

The DCPCR has asked the MCD to file an explanation within two weeks. "The commission issues notice to Municipal Corporation of Delhi seeking an explanation for the poor performance," the notice read.

India," Kundu tweeted.

Legislators of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), including the party's chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj, live-streamed their visit to the MCD schools on social media platforms on Saturday, highlighting the "poor condition" of the buildings, classrooms, toilets and campuses, and slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for raising questions on the Delhi government's expenditure on the construction of its schools.

The MCD denied that the condition in its schools is "poorer than those run by the city government" after the AAP MLAs highlighted their "poor condition" on social media.

The civic body has said the "intrusion by a group of 30-40 people" in the schools was "uncalled for" and the children had to "suffer a rude break to the harmonious rhythm of their learning process".

The MCD, in a statement, said the learning outcome for Class 3 for Delhi includes all categories of schools, including private recognised, government-aided, central government-run, state government-run and MCD schools.

## Delhi reports 75 cases of dengue in Aug, 244 this yr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: The national capital has registered a spurt in dengue cases with the total number of cases of the vector-borne disease climbing to over 240 in Delhi so far this year, according to a civic body report release.

In the last one week, 39 fresh cases have been reported.

And, out of the 244 cases recorded till September 3 this year, 75 were reported in August.

It is also the highest number of dengue cases logged during the January 1-September 3 period, since 2017, when the corresponding figure was 829. A senior Municipal Corporation of Delhi official said, the rising cases of dengue is "matter of concern for us" and "we are working on measures to combat it". Till August 27, Delhi had logged 205 dengue cases. As many as 244



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

In 2015, the city had witnessed a massive dengue outbreak, with the number of cases crossing 10,600 in October

It was Delhi's worst dengue outbreak since 1996.

dengue cases have been recorded in Delhi so far this year, the report said. According to the MCD report, the city recorded 23 dengue cases in January, 16 in February, 22 in March, 20 in April, 30 in May, 32 in June and 26 in July and 75 in August.

No death has been reported so far this year due to the disease, it added.

## Cyrus Mistry's death opens debate on road safety

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: The death of former chairman of Tata Sons Cyrus Mistry in a road accident near Palghar in Maharashtra has initiated a debate on road safety issues such as check on over-speeding, wearing of seat belts for rear passengers and inconsistent road designs.

Experts have pressed for the need to keep a check on speeding vehicles and making the use of seat belts for rear passengers mandatory. They have also stressed that roads in Delhi should have consistent designs to avoid any accidents.

"Inconsistency in road design can be spotted at a few stretches in the national capital which include Eastern and Western Peripheral expressways, Outer Ring Road, Ring Road among others. For example, at some points a six-lane road reduces into a four-lane stretch and uneven surfaces can also be wit-



nessed at many locations. These issues pose a threat to driving and shall be done away with," Chief Scientist, Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI), New Delhi, S Velmurugan told PTI.

He said there are three major takeaways from Sunday's accident which include that roads, espe-

cially highways, must have consistent designs, proper signages and the awareness about wearing seat belts in the rear and enforcement of the law.

Velmurugan said that proper signages should be put up at locations where they are either missing or not visible. He also called for

According to the Delhi Transport Department's Road Crash Fatalities Report 2021, as many as 1,238 persons were killed in road accidents compared to 1,866 dead in 2012, a 37 per cent decline in the last 10 years

Motorcyclists (both riders and pillion riders) accounted for 43 per cent and pedestrians for 42 per cent of all the deaths

A total of 93 per cent of the deaths occurred among vulnerable road users which include pedestrians, motorcyclists, cyclists and autorickshaw occupants- both motorised and electric

THE DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO IDENTIFIED AROUND 69 FATAL CRASH SPOTS ACROSS THE NATIONAL CAPITAL, WHICH SAW MORE THAN FIVE ACCIDENTS PER KILOMETRE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

strict enforcement of laws in terms of wearing rear seat belts and speeding on city roads.

"During night hours or lean traffic hours people tend to go well beyond the prescribed speed limit on Delhi roads so a mechanism of strong enforcement should be put in place to check violators. The traffic police should also start penalising those who do not wear seat belt while sitting in the rear of the car," Velmurugan said.

The top accident prone 10 areas are Mukarba Chowk, intersection of Outer Ring Road and Wazirabad Road near Signature Bridge, Nirankari Chowk, Seelampur Chowk, Peeragarhi Chowk, Azadpur Chowk, Outer Ring Road in front of Rohini court near Madhubani Chowk, Dabri crossing roundabout, intersection of Grand Trunk Road and Main Libaspur Road and Punjabi Bagh Chowk.



of the day quote

The 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' could achieve both 'Bharat jodo' and 'Congress jodo' as it could also unite Congressmen and women across the country...

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh on September 17 to launch the cheetah reintroduction programme

India is moving in the right direction of strengthening its education ecosystem and the NEP is being appreciated around the globe with teachers having played a big role in formulating it

SHORT TAKES

Pak violates ceasefire

Jammu: Pakistani Rangers violated the ceasefire Tuesday morning as it targeted Border Security Force (BSF) troops in unprovoked firing along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir...

Teen tied to pole, thrashed

Shahdol: A 17-year-old boy was tied to a pole and beaten up by a group of people on suspicion of being a thief in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol district...

Three women beaten to death

Ranchi: Three women were beaten to death in Jharkhand's Ranchi district over allegations that they practiced witchcraft...

Two arrested with gold biscuits

Siliguri: Two persons were arrested in West Bengal's Siliguri with gold biscuits worth Rs 2.42 crore...



India has adopted a leadership role in the fight against climate change with its climate actions exceeding its moral or legal responsibility

WELCOME MOVE

The Jammu and Kashmir government has selected 181 villages of natural beauty and cultural importance to be developed as tourist destinations...



Not a claimant for PM's post: Nitish

After meeting CPI-M general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Nitish, who is on his first visit to the national capital after snapping ties with the BJP-led NDA last month, asserted that his focus is to bring together all Opposition parties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Affirming that he was neither a claimant for prime minister's post nor desirous of it, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Tuesday continued with his efforts to forge the opposition unity...



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during a meeting in New Delhi

Kumar also met INLD supremo OP Chautala and SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav and his son and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav...

parties, not to decide on the PM candidate. When the time comes we will decide the PM candidate and let you all know...

we are all together again. Our entire focus is to unite all Left parties, the regional parties, Congress.

During Kumar's meeting with Kejriwal, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and JD(U) leader Sanjay Jha were also present.

The meeting between the two leaders lasted for nearly 90 minutes. Kumar met Chautala at the former CMs residence in Gurgaon.

Conclave organised to increase exports

CEAI officials and members pointed out that India has a large pool of engineering professionals and experts working worldwide and have gained the expertise to deliver world-class projects

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 6: Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI) and Service Export Promotion Council (SEPC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Council of Architecture organised a conclave in New Delhi to create an action plan to make it easy for Indian companies working in construction & design consultancy, engineering, architectures & environmental services to increase their exports.

The export of professional services especially in the construction field is a sector still not fully explored though it has huge potential as 3 per cent of global GDP is invested in infrastructure development.

CEAI officials and members pointed out that India has a large pool of engineering professionals and experts working worldwide and have gained the expertise to deliver world-class projects.

During the conclave, senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of External

Affairs, Indian High Commissioners from Japan and Singapore, and Ambassadors from Tajikistan, Tanzania and Brazil said that there are ample opportunities for Indian service providers to export services to those geographies.

It was suggested that India should become a member of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) for opening up opportunities for Indian companies to secure business contracts funded by IADB in the vast and unexplored Latin American market.

CEAI officials pointed out that consultancy services in the infrastructure industry always require certain pre-qualifications (PQ) to participate in the global bidding process and stressed that Indian companies are lagging behind in PQ to compete with other multinational companies which are able to demonstrate better previous experience working on similar projects.

Indian companies lack prior experience and experts are of the opinion that unless steps are taken at the government level to encourage Indian companies to participate in Indian infrastructure development projects, it would be very difficult to build enough credentials for Indian companies to go global and compete with companies of higher PQ.

RESCUE MISSION



Kerala police personnel carry out a search and rescue operation after a fishing boat capsized in the sea off Muthalappozhi, in Thiruvananthapuram

MISSION 2024

Shah, Nadda meet BJP leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: BJP chief J P Nadda and Union home minister Amit Shah held a brainstorming session Tuesday with key party leaders tasked with boosting its prospects in 144 Lok Sabha seats, considered difficult for it, in the 2024 polls.

Over 25 Union ministers, including Bhupender Yadav, Giriraj Singh, Smriti Irani, Parshottam Rupala and Gajendra Singh

Shekhawat, were among those who attended the meeting with Nadda and Shah. Sources said reports were presented about the work undertaken by various ministers, who have been assigned three to four such Lok Sabha seats, besides other leaders.

The party has been working to ramp up its booth-level presence and reach out to various communities with an eye on the beneficiaries of several central government schemes. Party leaders said they will

continue to work on these lines in addition to the directives made by the leadership.

Most of these 144 constituencies include those the party had lost in the 2019 polls, but a few winning seats are also part of the list due to difficult demographic and regional factors, the sources said.

The BJP had won 303 seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The party has divided the 144 seats into clusters and appointed one Union minister as their in-charge.

Over-speeding caused max accident-related deaths in 2020

A total of 2,65,343 road accidents occurred in India during the calendar year 2020 due to over-speeding, causing 91,239 deaths, while 20,228 road accidents happened due to driving on wrong side, claiming 7,332 lives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Over-speeding constituted the main traffic rule violation associated with accident related deaths (69.3 per cent) and injuries (73.4 per cent), followed by driving on wrong side, drunken driving, use of mobile phone and jumping red light in 2020, the road transport ministry said in a report.

According to the report titled 'Road accidents in India - 2020', more than 11 per cent of deaths and injuries were caused due to non-usage of seat belts, while 30.1 per cent of deaths and 26 per cent of injuries were caused due to non-usage of helmets in 2020. It has

said that the number of persons killed and injured due to not wearing of seat belt during 2020 stood at 15,146 and 39,102 respectively.

A total of 2,65,343 road accidents occurred in India during the calendar year 2020 due to over-speeding, causing 91,239 deaths, while 20,228 road accidents happened due to driving on wrong side, claiming 7,332 lives.

As per the report, drunken driving was responsible for 8,355 road accidents and 3,322 deaths, while 6,753 road accidents occurred due to use of mobile phone while driving, causing 2,917 deaths.

While the report had noted that violation of any traffic rule con-

stitutes human error or driver's fault, it has said that from the perspective of road safety strategy violations such as over-speeding and driving on wrong side does not constitute human error alone, but also possible fault in road design.

It had also claimed that the implementation of the Motor Vehicle Amendment Act(MVA) 2019, which became effective from September 1, 2019 contributed to reduce road accidents.

"The MVA Act 2019 included, inter-alia, provisions like stiff hike in penalties for traffic violations, electronic monitoring of the same, enhanced penalties for juvenile driving etc. And the implementation of



the same has enabled achieving the desired impact," the report had said.

Although not wearing seat belts by passengers sitting in the rear seats attracts a fine of Rs 1,000 under Rule 138 (3) of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR), most people are either unaware of this mandatory rule or just ignore them. Even traffic policemen seldom fine passengers sitting on rear seats

for not wearing seat belts.

Commenting on issues related to traffic rules violations, Institute of Road Traffic Education(IRTE) President Rohit Baluja said road traffic violations are infringements or transgression of regulations under the Motor Vehicles Driving Regulations, as well as the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, Central and State Motor Vehicles Rules.

Youth pours acid into girl's mouth, slits throat

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



The incident triggered public outrage. People demanded harshest punishment to the culprit

Amaravati, Sept 6: A youth in Andhra Pradesh poured acid into the mouth of a minor girl and slit her throat when she resisted his attempt to sexually assault her.

The shocking incident occurred in a village in SPSR Nellore district on Monday night when the 14-year-old girl, a class 9 student, was alone in her house. After the accused barged in to the house, in an effort to save herself, the victim ran into the washroom and locked herself from inside.

The youth broke open the door and tried to sexually assault her. As she resisted his attempt, he attacked her with toilet cleaning acid, pouring it into her mouth and face. When she started screaming, the assailant slit her throat with a knife and escaped.

When the neighbours found the girl lying in a pool of blood, they alerted her parents, who had gone for some work.

The victim was shifted to a hospital and her condition is stated to be critical. Police have arrested the accused, identified as Nagaraju. He is said to be a relative of the victim. Police suspect that some others might have helped the accused.

The incident triggered public outrage. People demanded harsh-

Cong to launch 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanyakumari (TN), Sept 6: A day before the launch of the much-touted 3,570-km Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Congress Tuesday said it is a "transformational moment" for Indian politics and a "decisive moment" for the party's rejuvenation.

With the launch of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' on Wednesday at a mega rally here, the Congress is seeking to flag problems of economic disparities, social polarisation and political centralisation, while also attempting to make gains in what it often describes as the battle of ideologies.

Before the launch of the march, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi will take part in a prayer meeting at ex-prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's memorial in Sriperumbudur on Wednesday. He will then attend an event in Kanyakumari where Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, Rajasthan's Ashok Gehlot and Chhattisgarh's Bhupesh Baghel will be present. Gandhi will be presented with a national flag made of khadi.

After the event at the Mahatma Gandhi Mandapam where Stalin will be present, Rahul Gandhi, along with other Congress leaders will walk to the seaside venue of the public rally where the yatra will be formally launched.

Interacting with reporters here a day before the launch of the march, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the Yatra is a "transformational moment for Indian politics and it is a decisive moment for the rejuvenation of the Congress party".

Baluja said studies conducted by IRTE have revealed that in Indian roadway conditions, a large percentage of violations are committed by drivers on account of faulty road environment, non-standard and faulty traffic control devices (signs, signals and markings).

He said as per studies carried out at IRTE, investigating officers of the police are generally not aware of the driving regulations and the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act/Rules, as they by-default book the drivers of the motor vehicles quoting the sections of the Indian Penal Code relating to over-speeding, rash and negligent driving. National Road Safety Council member Kamal Soi claimed that less than one per cent drivers who are caught for over-speeding are penalised, while in case of drunk driving, it is even less than 0.5 per cent.

# international

## of the day quote

Climate change hurts communities, and the United States is dedicated to working together with our partners throughout South Asia to address this critical crisis

**ELIZABETH HORST** | US DIPLOMAT

We are free. We are strong. We are open for business

**VOLODYMYR ZELENKYY** | UKRAINE'S PRESIDENT

Putin obviously doesn't even want to talk with the commander of the Russian armed forces

**CARL BILD** | FORMER SWEDISH PM

## SHORT TAKES

### Indian Army chief calls on Nepal PM

**Kathmandu:** Indian Army chief General Manoj Pande Tuesday called on Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on the third day of his official visit aimed at bolstering defence ties between the two neighbouring countries. Gen Pande, who arrived here Sunday on a five-day official visit, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Deuba at his office at Singhadurbar Tuesday. He was accompanied by Ambassador Naveen Srivastava and other delegation members, according to the Indian Embassy here.

### Yemen: 27 killed in militants attack

**Cairo:** Suspected al-Qaeda militants Tuesday attacked a security post in southern Yemen, sparking clashes that killed at least 21 troops and six militants, military officials said. The early morning attack in Ahwar, in the province of Abyan, targeted a post manned by troops from the Security Belt, a security force loyal to the secessionist Southern Transitional Council.

### Lufthansa, pilots reach wage deal

**Frankfurt:** German airline Lufthansa (LHAG.DE) and pilots' union VC said Tuesday they had reached a deal in a wage dispute, averting a second strike that had been planned for later this week. The agreement comes after a strike at Lufthansa last week forced the cancellation of hundreds of flights, further plaguing a summer of travel chaos.

### Flood situation grim in Pakistan

**Islamabad:** Pakistani authorities Tuesday struggled to stop the country's largest freshwater lake from overflowing amid unprecedented floods as their efforts to lower its water levels failed, displacing around 100,000 people in the adjacent areas. The Manchar Lake in Sindh province is dangerously full after record monsoons that inundated a third of Pakistan and killed over 1,300 people since mid-June. On Sunday, officials attempted to release water from the lake.

### Typhoon batters SK

**Seoul:** The most powerful typhoon to hit South Korea in years Tuesday dumped a metre (3 feet) of rain, destroyed roads and fell power lines, but the death toll of three could have been higher if not for proactive evacuations and closures of schools, officials said. There was also greater public awareness about the storm and its risks. Typhoon Hinnamnor made impact just weeks after heavy rains caused flooding that killed at least 14 people.



The situation around the Taiwan Strait continues to be tense, and the threat has never ceased

**TSAI ING-WEN** | TAIWANESE PRESIDENT

### PRINCE HARRY, MEGHAN TO PROMOTE INVICTUS GAMES

Prince Harry and his wife Meghan arrived in the western German city of Duesseldorf where they promoted the Invictus Games, a competition for wounded, injured and ill service personnel and veterans



# Truss appointed as UK PM

AGENCIES

**London, Sept 6:** Liz Truss Tuesday said she has a "bold plan" to grow the UK's battered economy through tax cuts and reform as she promised to transform Britain into an "aspiration nation", hours after her appointment as the new Prime Minister - the third female premier of the country.

Truss, who travelled to Queen Elizabeth II's Balmoral Castle residence in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, to meet the 96-year-old monarch who asked her to form a new government.



Truss appointed PM in Scotland

Outgoing PM Johnson resigns to queen

New PM faces daunting in-tray

"I've just accepted Her Majesty's kind invitation to form a new government. I'm honoured to take on this responsibility at a vital time for our country," the 47-year-old Conservative Party leader said in her maiden speech as Prime Minister outside 10 Downing Street.

She said the British public has shown grit, courage and determination time and time again and "we now face the global headwinds caused by the war in Ukraine and Covid." Truss said her government will "transform Britain into an aspiration nation with high paying jobs, safe streets and where everyone everywhere has the opportunities they deserve."

She said she "will take action this day and every day to make it happen." Asserting that she will pursue early priorities like getting Britain working again, Truss said she has a "bold plan" to grow the

economy through tax cuts and reform. Truss, who replaced Boris Johnson as the Prime Minister, promised to deal "hands-on" with the energy crisis which she said has been caused by Russian President Vladimir Putin's Ukraine war.

She said now is the time to tackle things holding Britain back and asserted that she will drive reform in her mission to get the UK working, building and growing. Truss also said she will make sure people can get doctors' appointments and the NHS services they need.

Earlier, Boris Johnson formally resigned as the head of the UK government in an audience with the Queen. Lauding her predecessor, Truss said Johnson delivered Brexit, the Covid vaccine and stood up to Russian aggression. "History will see him as a hugely consequential prime minister,"

waiting to hear her first address. Several MPs got drenched from the rain.

Truss is the 15th Prime Minister to serve during Queen Elizabeth II's reign, the first being Winston Churchill in 1952. Until now, the constitutional process of the monarch inviting the leader of the majority party to form a government in her name has taken place at Buckingham Palace in London. But with the Queen cutting back on her travels, it had been decided that she would receive Johnson and Truss at her summer residence of Balmoral Castle

# Russia turns to NK for artillery

*In July North Korea became the only nation aside from Russia and Syria to recognise the independence of the territories, Donetsk and Luhansk, further aligning with Russia over the conflict in Ukraine*



how much weaponry Russia intends to purchase from North Korea. The finding comes after the Biden administration recently confirmed that the Russian military in August took delivery of Iranian-manufactured drones for use on the battlefield in Ukraine.

The White House said last week that Russia has faced technical problems with Iranian-made drones acquired from Tehran in August for use in its war with Ukraine.

The North Koreans have hinted interest in sending construction workers to help rebuild Russian-occupied territories in the country's east. North Korea's ambassador to Moscow recently met with envoys from two Russia-backed separatist territories in the Donbas region of Ukraine and expressed optimism about cooperation in the "field of labor migration," citing his country's easing pandemic border controls.

The provocative move by North Korea comes as the Biden administration has become increasingly concerned about stepped-up activity by North Korea in pursuit of nuclear weapons.

## FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS

Britain, under Conservative rule since 2010, has stumbled from crisis to crisis in recent years and there is now the prospect of a long energy emergency that could drain the savings of households and threaten the futures of businesses still weighed down by Covid-era loans. Household energy bills are due to jump by 80% in October, but a source familiar with the situation has told Reuters that Truss may freeze bills in a plan that could cost towards 100 billion pounds (\$115.33 billion), surpassing the Covid-19 furlough scheme. It is not clear how Britain will pay for the support but it is likely to increase government borrowing. The scale of the package, plus the fact the energy crisis could run for a couple of years, has spooked investors. The pound has fared worse against the US dollar than most other major currencies recently. Britain's public finances also remain weighed down by the government's huge coronavirus spending spree. Public debt as a share of economic output is not far off 100%, up from about 80% before the pandemic.



said added. Minutes before her speech, rain drenched the people in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, marking a historic first.

# Lanka to go ahead with 22nd constitutional amendment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Colombo, Sept 6:** Sri Lanka's Supreme Court has ruled that the bill seeking the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution aimed at empowering Parliament over the executive president can be adopted with a two-thirds majority in the House but some clauses will require a nationwide referendum, the Speaker announced Tuesday.

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena told Parliament that the Supreme Court has determined that certain clauses of the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution Bill are not consistent with the Constitution, and directed that those clauses required to be passed by a special majority and a public referendum.

The draft bill on the 22nd Amendment was approved by the Cabinet and gazetted last month. The 22nd Amendment was originally named 21A and meant to replace the 20A. The amendment was formulated amid the ongoing economic turmoil in the country which also caused a political crisis. It is meant to replace the 20A that had given unfettered powers to ex-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa after abolishing the 19th

Amendment.

Speaker Abeywardena said the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution can only be adopted with a two-thirds majority in Parliament and a nationwide referendum on clauses 2 and 3 of the bill that are inconsistent with the Constitution.

The apex court recommended changes to help Parliament pass the bill with only a special majority. The bill aims to restore independent commissions and also curbs some of the powers of the president.

Interested parties were given time to petition the Supreme Court. The court determination was received by Parliament on Tuesday. There were 10 such petitions filed.

The 22A was meant to undo the 20A adopted in 2020 which restored full executive powers to then-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Rajapaksa had reversed through 20A the features of the 19A which had empowered Parliament over the presidency. Rajapaksa was ousted in mid-July through the popular uprising against him for mishandling the country's economy.

Foreign minister Ali Sabry said on Monday that the 22A would be presented in Parliament very soon for approval.

## BOOSTING TIES



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inspects the Guard of Honour in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Rajnath Singh, the first Indian defence minister to visit Mongolia, met the top leadership of this country Tuesday and decided to fully implement the bilateral strategic partnership based on mutual trust, common interests, shared values of democracy and the rule of law

# Russia sends more energy to Asia as Europe cuts back

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Berlin, Sept 6:** Russia sent significantly more oil and coal to India and China over the summer compared with the start of the year, while European countries that long relied on Russian energy have cut back sharply in response to the war in Ukraine, said a report published Tuesday.

The Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air said Russia received about 158 billion euros (\$158 billion) in revenue for the sale of oil, natural gas and coal from February to August, more than half of which — some 85 billion



euros worth — was exported to the European Union.

Within the EU, Germany was the biggest importer, buying 19 billion euros worth of fossil fuels from Russia during the six-month period.

The single biggest importer worldwide, however, was China,

which bought 35 billion euros worth of Russian energy, the Helsinki-based group said.

While Russia's revenue rose, overall export volumes dropped by 18% compared with when the country invaded Ukraine, the report said. The EU has cut its imports from Russia by 35% since the war began, with Russian coal now banned in the 27-nation bloc and a halt to oil sales due to take effect at the end of the year.

Russia itself has sharply cut flows of natural gas to the EU, indicating this week that they would not resume unless Western sanctions are lifted.

# East Med especially at risk as world heats up: Report

*The UN's climate report termed the Mediterranean as a climate change "hotspot" which is vulnerable to droughts, coastal erosion and heat waves*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Nicosia (Cyprus), Sept 6:** The eastern Mediterranean and Middle East are warming almost twice as fast as the global average, with temperatures projected to rise up to 5 degrees Celsius (9 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century if no action is taken to re-

verse the trend, a new report says.

The region will experience "unprecedented" heat waves, more severe and longer-lasting droughts and dust storms and rainfall shortages that will "compromise water and food security" for the region's 400 million people, according to a summary of the report released Tuesday.

The eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East are more susceptible to warming trends because of their unique natural characteristics, like large desert expanses and lower water levels, the study said.

The report was prepared by an international group of scientists overseen by The Cyprus Institute's Climate and Atmosphere Research Center and the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry. Originally published



in June in the journal Reviews of Geophysics, it aims to underscore the impact of climate change in the region ahead of the United Nations climate summit in Egypt this November.

Arid climate zones will expand northward and snow-capped mountains in more northern climes will diminish during this century, said

Dr. George Zittis, who co-authored the report. Although the sea level in the region is projected to rise at a pace similar with other global estimates, many Mediterranean countries are unprepared to deal with it, he said.

"This would imply severe challenges for coastal infrastructure and agriculture and can lead to

the salinization of coastal aquifers" warned Zittis. Saltier water from rising sea levels and low rainfall can severely damage crops and fisheries.

The region's most vulnerable groups, including the elderly, children and pregnant people, will face major health challenges, said Max Planck Institute Director Jos Lelieveld, who was part of the study. Many European nations already have initiatives to aid vulnerable people in extreme weather.

The region is rapidly overtaking the European Union as a source of greenhouse gases and becoming a major emitter on a global scale, the paper suggests. China, the U.S., India and the E.U. are currently the world's largest emitters.

# China earthquake: Death toll rises to 66

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing/Chengdu, Sept 6:** The death toll from a 6.8-magnitude earthquake that struck southwestern China rose to 66 as rescuers searched for victims and survivors, local authorities said Tuesday.

The powerful quake hit Luding County in Sichuan province Monday. Sixty-six people were killed and over 50,000 people evacuated after the quake, authorities said.

So far, 38 people have been killed in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and the other 28 died in the city of Ya'an, the rescue headquarters told a press briefing.

Four counties and one county-level city in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture and two counties in Ya'an reported quake-related damages.

Luding County in Ganzi and Shimian County in Ya'an were the hardest-hit areas. Fifteen people were missing and 253 were injured, with five persons in critical condition and 70 in serious condition, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Of the injured, 175 have been sent to hospitals for further treatment and six medical teams are working at the scene of the disaster. The quake damaged houses, roads, water conservancy facilities, hydropower stations, telecommunications, and tourism and ecological infrastructure.

In Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, 243 rooms of residential houses collapsed and 13,010 rooms were damaged.

# business

## of the day quote

It is our endeavour to champion women talent in the automotive workforce and promote diversity, inclusivity across the organisation



ASHISH GUPTA | VOLKSWAGEN PASSENGER CARS INDIA BRAND DIRECTOR

The semiconductor situation is easing and demand continues to be robust...This year we are fairly confident that we will achieve the highest ever domestic sales in the history of the company in India



TARUN GARG | HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA LTD DIRECTOR

It's incredibly exciting to see travellers' enthusiasm for exploring new destinations, as well as the positive economic impact they are creating on the local communities



AMANPREET BAJAJ | AIRBNB'S GENERAL MANAGER FOR INDIA

## SHORT TAKES

### BoB GM, DGM visit Sambalpur



Sambalpur: Sonam T. Bhutia, General Manager, Bank of Baroda and Dr Ramesh Mohanty, Deputy General Manager, Bank of Baroda visited Sambalpur Tuesday. During the visit both the executives attended a programme where they met MSME customers and addressed them. Bhutia and Mohanty emphasised on the MSME and retail loan sector in 2022-23. On this occasion, the bank sanctioned loans worth Rs 100 crore to its customers. The bank focuses on priority sectors and financial mobilisation schemes like Self Help Group (SHG), PMEGR, Mudra, agriculture loan, micro insurance scheme, Atal Pension Yojana.

### DreamFolks soars 68% on debut

New Delhi: Shares of airport service aggregator DreamFolks Services ended nearly 42 per cent higher in its debut trade Tuesday against the issue price of Rs 326. The stock was listed at Rs 505, registering a jump of 54.90 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it rallied 68.71 per cent to Rs 550. Shares of the company ended at Rs 462.65 apiece, higher by 41.91 per cent. On the NSE, the company made its debut at Rs 508.70, a jump of 56 per cent and settled at Rs 462.85 apiece, rallying 41.97 per cent. In volume terms, 16.52 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and over 2.68 crore shares on the NSE during the day. The company commanded a market valuation of Rs 2,417.35 crore.

### Biocon sells 5.4% stake in Syngene

New Delhi: Drugmaker Biocon Tuesday divested a 5.4 per cent stake in its research arm Syngene International for a little over Rs 1,220 crore through an open market transaction. According to bulk deal data available with the BSE, Biocon, the promoter of Syngene International, sold a total of 21,789,164 shares, amounting to a 5.4 per cent stake, in the company. The shares were sold at an average price of Rs 560.04 apiece, a discount of more than three per cent to Monday's closing price of Rs 578.75 on the BSE. At this price, the transaction size has been pegged at Rs 1,220.28 crore, the data showed.



It (India) is a destination you cannot miss. It is a market of a billion plus aspirations

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

# Govt sets up panel to moderate gas prices

The committee under former planning commission member Kirit S Parikh will suggest a 'fair price to the end consumer,' according to an order of the Oil Ministry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: The government has set up a panel to review the formula that dictates the pricing of gas produced by companies like ONGC and Reliance as it looks to moderate the steep increase that producers would have otherwise got. The committee under former planning commission member Kirit S Parikh will suggest a "fair price to the end consumer," according to an order of the oil ministry. The panel, which will include representatives of the gas producers association as also producers ONGC and OIL, has been asked to submit its report by the month-end. It also has a member from private city gas operators, state gas utility GAIL, a representative of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and a member from the fertiliser ministry, the order said.



## The government wants to more than double the share of natural gas in the primary energy basket to 15 per cent by 2030 from the current 6.7 per cent

The price of gas from old fields, which are predominantly of state-owned producers like ONGC and Oil India Ltd, was more than doubled to USD 6.1 per million British thermal unit from April 1 and is expected to cross USD 9 next month. Similarly, the rates paid for gas from difficult fields such as deepsea KG-D6 of Reliance went up to USD 9.92 per mm Btu from April 1 against USD 6.13. They are expected to rise

to USD 12 next month. Gas is an input for making fertiliser as well as power. It is also converted into CNG and piped to household kitchens and a rise in its prices fuelled inflation. The panel has been asked to recommend a fair price to end-consumers and also suggest a "market-oriented, transparent and reliable pricing regime for India's long-term vision for ensuring a gas-based economy," the order said. The government wants to more than double the share of natural gas in the primary energy basket to 15 per cent by 2030 from the current 6.7 per cent. Sources said the recommendations of the committee will after vetting be taken to the Cabinet for approval. The new formula would be implemented once the Cabinet gives a go-ahead.

## 'Insurance claims independent of human errors'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 6: The death of former Tata group chairman Cyrus Mistry in a road accident has ignited a debate over the eligibility of insurance claims in accident cases but industry players say the very purpose of buying insurance is to hedge against risk, whether due to human error or otherwise. Human error or violation of rules is unlikely to vitiate an insurance policy and accidental death claims will continue to be honoured albeit in exceptional cases the compensation amount may be lowered. Insurance documents per se do not list out acts, such as not wearing a seat belt, that could impact payment of compensation in case of death of occupants other than the driver, they said. However, most policies mention "any accidental loss or damage suffered whilst the insured or any person driving the vehicle with the knowledge and consent of the insured is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs," the compensation amount may be limited and would vary from car make and the kind of policy taken. It is to be noted that the former Tata Sons Chairman and a friend of his died in a tragic road accident on Sunday afternoon while driving back to Mumbai from Ahmedabad along with two other persons, who have sustained injuries.

As per the preliminary investigations by the state police, the deceased were not wearing seat belts and termed over-speeding and an "error of judgement" by the driver to have led to the accident. "Majority of the accidents happen because of human negligence. We are here because such human errors happen, if such human errors didn't happen, then very less number of accidents will happen. One buys a policy which actually covers his/her negligence. But our emphasis is always on safety. We keep on educating the customers about their safety and sensitise them through sustained campaigns because an insurance cover can only compensate for the financial loss but not for the loss of human life," Sanjay Datta, Chief - Underwriting & Claims, ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company, said.

## Stocks settle modestly lower in volatile trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 6: The Sensex and Nifty closed modestly lower Tuesday after investors offloaded FMCG, IT and banking stocks in the last hour of trade amid mixed global cues. After rising over 320 points in intra-day trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex pared all gains to settle 48.99 points or 0.08 per cent lower at 59,196.99. On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 10.20 points or 0.06 per cent to 17,655.60. Bajaj Finserv was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, dropping 2.08 per cent, followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank, HUL, M&M, Bajaj Finance, Nestle India and Asian Paints. On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, Tata Steel, Reliance Industries, Power Grid, Dr Reddy's and Sun Pharma were among the major gainers, spurting as much as 2.79 per cent. The market breadth was negative, with 20 of the 30 Sensex components closing in the red. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.47 per cent and the smallcap index advanced



0.10 per cent. Among the BSE sectoral indices, power jumped 1.90 per cent, utilities 1.74 per cent, oil & gas 1.35 per cent, energy 1.08 per cent and metal 0.87 per cent. FMCG, bank, IT, consumer discretionary goods & services and finance were the laggards. Elsewhere in Asia, markets in Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai ended in the green, while Hong Kong settled lower. Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude declined 2.37 per cent to USD 93.47 per barrel. The rupee declined by 2 paise to close at 79.80 (provisional) against the US dollar Tuesday. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth a net Rs 811.75 crore Monday, as per exchange data.

# 52% gig workers feel difficulty in upskilling: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sep 6: Over 52 per cent of gig workers or contract employees feel that their work environment makes it challenging for them to upskill or find new job opportunities, according to a report. According to the report by CIE.CO, a startup platform built at Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad, most young respondents increasingly look towards gig economy platforms for their first jobs. However, over 52 per cent of gig workers said the gig working environment makes it difficult to upskill or find new job opportunities, it added. The report further analysed that gigs offered by platforms initially hook individuals with the opportunity of short-term income but keep them employed for prolonged



periods of time in a career without a long-term growth trajectory. "Only about one in three indi-

# Emissions deadline for coal-fired plants extended once again

AGENCIES



New Delhi, Sept 6: India extended a deadline for coal-fired power plants to install equipment to cut sulphur emissions by two years, the government said in a notification Tuesday, marking the third push-back on a commitment to clean up dirty air. Indian cities have some of the world's most polluted air. Thermal utilities, which produce 75% of the country's power, account for some 80% of industrial emissions of sulphur- and nitrous-oxides, which cause lung diseases, acid rain and smog. India had initially set a 2017 deadline for thermal power plants to install flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) units to cut sulphur emissions. That was later changed to varying deadlines for different regions, ending in 2022, and further extended last year to a period ending 2025. Only 40% of India's total coal power capacity of 211.6 GW have been awarded bids for installing FGD while another 4% have already installed it, according to government data. Most of the bids awarded were by Union government-run NTPC Ltd. The order Tuesday said power plants will be forcibly retired if they do not comply to norms on sulphur emissions by end-2027. Plants near populous regions and the capital New Delhi will have to pay penalties to operate from end-2024, while utilities in less polluting areas will be penalised after end-2026, the order said. "These extensions in implementation show that the interest of polluters prevails more than public health in India," Sunil Dahiya, an analyst at CREA, said in a note. The Union power ministry had pushed for an extension, citing higher costs, lack of funds, COVID 19-related delays and geopolitical tension with neighbouring China, which has restricted trade. The delay will be welcomed by operators of coal-fired utilities including private companies, such as Tata Power and Adani Power, which have long lobbied for less severe requirements.

## CAD set to widen to 5% in Q2, says Icra

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Mumbai, Sept 6: India's current account deficit (CAD) will widen to 5 per cent of the GDP in the September quarter due to higher merchandise trade deficit, domestic ratings agency Icra said. The trade deficit has doubled to USD 28.7 billion for August due to a 36.8 per cent expansion in imports and a 1.2 per cent decline in export earnings. "The current account deficit (CAD) is projected to widen to an all-time high of USD 41-43 billion in Q2 FY23 from the USD 30 billion expected in Q1 FY23. It is expected to widen to 5 per cent of GDP in Q2 FY23, the second highest level since Q3FY12," it said in a note. For the first two months of the quarter, the monthly average trade deficit has trended higher at USD 29.3 billion as against USD 23.5 billion in the June quarter, driven by strong domestic demand which led to a surge in the imports while exports remained subdued amid international slowdown fears, Icra said. CAD will moderate to 2.7 per cent of GDP in the second half of the fiscal, benefitting from lower commodity prices and seasonally stronger exports, it said, adding that a potential recession in major economies may dampen growth in merchandise and services exports in H2 FY23 as well. "Overall, the CAD is projected to widen to an all-time high of USD 120 billion (3.5 per cent of GDP) in FY23 from USD 38.7 billion (1.2 per cent of GDP) in FY22," the agency said, adding that the gap will be lower than the 4.8 per cent witnessed in FY13. During the last episode of widening CAD, the domestic currency had come under intense pressure. The agency said with the re-emergence of FPIs equity inflows, it expects the rupee to trade between 78.5-81 against the US dollar in the rest of calendar year 2022 amid the global headwinds.

# Moody's retains India rating

THE RATING AGENCY SAYS RISING GLOBAL CHALLENGES WON'T DERAIL THE COUNTRY'S RECOVERY

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Mumbai, Sept 6: Global challenges including the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, higher inflation and tightening global financial conditions are unlikely to derail India's economic recovery from the pandemic, rating agency Moody's said Tuesday. Moody's Investor Service retained its sovereign rating on India at Baa3 with a stable outlook, the agency said in a statement. "The stable outlook reflects our view that the risks from negative feedback between the economy and financial system are receding," it said. With higher capital buffers and greater liquidity, banks and non-bank financial institutions pose much less risk to the sovereign than previously anticipated, facilitating the ongoing recovery from the pandemic, it added. Moody's said India's economy was expected to grow by 7.6% in real GDP terms in the current fiscal year that started on April 1, while growth was seen slowing to 6.3% in the next fiscal year.



The agency also projected the country's current account deficit (CAD) to widen to 3.9% of GDP in the current year, before narrowing to 3% in the following year. The Reserve Bank of India has repeatedly said the country's CAD will be manageable in the current fiscal year. The full year CAD stood at 1.2% in the 2021/22 as compared to a surplus of 0.9% in 2020/21. "Principal credit challenges include low per capita income, high general government debt, low debt affordability and limited government effectiveness," Moody's said. "While risks stemming from a

# 52% gig workers feel difficulty in upskilling: Report

high debt burden and weak debt affordability remain, we expect that the economic environment will allow for a gradual narrowing in the general government fiscal deficit over the next few years, avoiding further deterioration in the sovereign credit profile," they wrote. The agency said it expects only a gradual consolidation of the fiscal deficits between 2022/23 and 2024/25 and thus sees debt stabilising at around 80% to GDP - still significantly higher than similar rated peers which have a median of around 55%. reportedly working overtime in their current shifts and having no resources for up-skilling at the jobs they held," said the report. This skills gap, however, has another significant impact on the long-term growth of the economy, the report said, adding the data has revealed that platforms today are increasingly becoming the source of a first job for young graduates leaving university. If they are not upskilled and placed in good organisations with better income, it leads to under-utilised human capital within the country, it stated. The CIE.CO report is based on a survey among 4,070 platform based gig workers, including the high earning knowledge workers and daily-wage agricultural workers. The report further said that 50 per cent of platform workers today find their jobs through traditional referral networks despite 80 per cent having internet access. "In many ways, gig workers are channels through which the old and new India interact. We're in 2022, it is about time that each of us has access to our own data. Enabling gig workers to own and use their employment, financial, health etc. Data will improve their well-being and unlock the growth of both traditional and new economies," CIE.CO Partner - Insights Supriya Sharma said. Being powered by declining internet and hardware costs, technology-based platforms are becoming a lifeline for employment at a time when traditional sectors dwindle in size and reach, it said. Empowering the gig worker with owning and using their own data would improve their well-being, including job prospects and financial health, the report added.

