

## Floods damage 14K houses, crops on 1.26L ha of land

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** The heavy rainfall and subsequent floods during the second and third week of August caused damage to 14,235 houses and cultivation of over 1.26 lakh hectare of agricultural land in 24 of the 30 districts of Odisha, government officials informed here Wednesday.

The rain and floods impacted lives of people in the districts of Angul, Bargarh, Boudh, Nayagarh, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Khurda, Puri, Bhadrak, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Bolangir, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Nuapada and Sundargarh, the government said in a release. However, there is no mention of the financial losses suffered by the families in the affected villages.

As per the damage assessment report submitted by different district collectors, of the 1,26,235 hectare of agricultural land sustaining crop loss of 33 per cent or above, a total of 5,036 hectare have reported sand coating problem.

Meanwhile, the Odisha government has sanctioned ₹128.58 crore for repair of houses and fishing boats, agricultural input and other activities as per the provision of the state disaster response funds (SDRF).

The state has already sanctioned ₹99.92 crore to the districts for relief work. Departments like Water Resources, Works, Rural Development, Housing and Urban development and Energy have also been sanctioned ₹87.15 crore from the SDRF, an official release said.



**PROUD MOMENT:** Ultimate Kho Kho winners, the Odisha Juggernauts team pose with CM Naveen Patnaik and other officials along with the trophy during a felicitation programme in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday (MORE P12) OP PHOTO

## RUPPs under I-T glare

Raids carried out in offices of registered unrecognised political parties in over 110 locations

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** The Income Tax department conducted raids Wednesday in multiple states as part of a pan-India tax evasion probe against certain registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs) and their alleged dubious financial transactions, official sources said.

Over 110 locations in Gujarat, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and West Bengal were raided. The tax teams are being assisted by the local police.

Raids are also underway at Delhi-based independent think-tank, 'Centre for Policy Research' (CPR) and international NGO 'Oxfam'.



Once headed by academican Pratap Bhanu Mehta, a prominent critic of the BJP government, the CPR governing board is at present chaired by Meenakshi Gopinath. Meanwhile sources said a coordinated action has been launched by the department against certain RUPPs, their promoters and linked entities to probe the source of their income and expenditure. Some

other instances of political funding through alleged illegal means are also being investigated as part of the action, they said.

The surprise action is understood to have been taken by the department on a recent recommendation of the Election Commission (EC) which recently struck off at least 198 entities from its list of RUPP after they were found non-existent during physical verification.

The poll panel had earlier announced that it was taking action against more than 2,100 entities, categorised as RUPP by it, for flouting rules and election laws, including those related to filing of monetary contributions, failing to update their address and names of office-bearers.

## Role reversal: Man bites snake to death in Balasore

A similar sort of incident had occurred in August last year with a poisonous reptile being on the receiving end of a person's wrath

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Balasore, Sept 7:** In what can be termed very unnatural, a man bit a venomous cobra to death in a fit of rage at Darada village under Basta police limits in Balasore district Tuesday.

It was a typical case of reverse revenge. The man identified as Salim Nayak was bitten by the snake when he was working on his farmland. Instead of fleeing the spot, Salim caught hold of the

snake and bit it to death. The entire incident created curiosity in the minds of other residents in the village and Salim since then has become the cynosure of all eyes.

However, the matter did not end there. Salim then cycled around the village with the dead reptile around his neck, showcasing his feat.

However, this is not the only instance of a man biting a snake to death in Odisha. Last year in August, Kisore Badra, a tribal of



Gambhariptia village under Saliyanga panchayat in Jajpur district had also carried out a similar act. He was first bit by the snake while he was returning home on his cycle at night. Badra got down from his cycle, managed to catch the poisonous snake, which was a 'krait' and bit it to death.

Meanwhile Salim's act shocked the locals who had never seen such an incident.

"While I was cutting grass in a field, the snake (cobra) bit me on

my leg. I managed to catch it and landed a hard bite on the reptile's neck leading to its death," Nayak informed curious onlookers Wednesday. "As I did not want to burn the snake, I put it around my neck to carry it to the burial spot," he added.

Locals said that Salim claims to be a 'tantric' and maybe it is because of this reason he managed to carry out such an act. They also said Salim did not go to any hospital, but 'cured' himself.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You are the only one Nitish Kumar didn't meet during his Delhi trip. Time to announce your retirement from politics

**ODISHA**  
INDIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET.

**FIH ODISHA HOCKEY**  
MEN'S WORLD CUP 2023  
BHUBANESWAR - ROURKELA

# DRAW

In the august presence of

**Sj. Naveen Patnaik**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha

**Sj. Tusharkanti Behera**  
Hon'ble Minister for Sports and Youth Services

**Mr. Seif Ahmed**, Acting President, FIH

**Dr. S. Y Quraishi**, Member, CoA, Hockey India

**Mr. Zafar Iqbal**, Member, CoA, Hockey India

**8 SEPTEMBER 2022, 12 PM IST**

Convention Centre  
Lok Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar

Watch Live on YouTube /Sports Odisha  
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# leisure



## SADIE SINK BOARDS ERIC BANALED THRILLER *BERLIN NOBODY*

*Stranger Things* star Sadie Sink has joined the cast of the upcoming thriller movie *Berlin Nobody*. The movie, which recently started production in Berlin, will feature Australian star Eric Bana and *Blade Runner 2049* actor Sylvia Hoeks in the lead.

## LAWRENCE SHARES MOST BIZARRE THING SHE EVER READ ABOUT HERSELF

Jennifer Lawrence says that the allegations she made out with Harvey Weinstein was the weirdest thing she's ever read about herself. The *Don't Look Up* star thinks it's bizarre people ever thought she had slept with the 67-year-old disgraced movie mogul.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You will be very logical and rational today, as creativity is put on the back-burner. The situation at your workplace will be full of challenges, but you will take them head-on. Later, all the stress will be mitigated by the soothing touch of your loved ones, says Ganesh.

**TAURUS**  
Today, you will strike a great balance between your professional and personal life, predicts Ganesh. You will save your money from being swindled by others. You may be lagging in the race to catch up with your goals, but will not be disappointed by what you achieve.

**GEMINI**  
A fantastic day to enter into all kinds of partnerships. A day to bond with your close friends, open joint accounts, strike deals, and make plans for a bright future, says Ganesh. You will be at the top of your game in almost everything you do.

**CANCER**  
Today, you may find yourself marooned in a sea of emotions, and the tides of turmoil will keep on getting stronger as the day progresses. However, such dire circumstances bring out the best in you, and you will be able to wade through the storm with nothing but patience on your side.

**LEO**  
The complete family man that you are, it is your near and dear ones who have always laid the foundation of your success. So why should today be any different. The auspicious tides of the day begin from your home and follow you everywhere. Be it work or play, you have a tempo that is undiminished.

**VIRGO**  
The extraordinary way in which you do things will earn you many admirers. Superiors at work will laud you for your commitment. Evenings will be fun-filled and entertaining. Look to relax with some meditation or music... or both.

**LIBRA**  
Put up that 'Do Not Disturb' sign on the door today. That's because Ganesh feels the tingle in your bones to want to stick to your preferred subject matter. This will help you achieve good progress in your research. Also, expect to be hit by a wave of nostalgia, as loving memories from the past sweeten your heart. Keep your eyes open, for, you are likely to find someone special with whom you will share your innermost feelings, says Ganesh.

**SCORPIO**  
Ganesh predicts you will possibly plan to launch a new product today. But put off the launch if you want to supersede certain unscrupulous elements. But after a waiting game, you may go ahead with your plan with much fanfare, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Zoom in on complicated problems and solve them with style, says Ganesh. Don't fret over problems; instead concentrate on ways to solve them. Your day will get even better when perhaps, news from an overseas friend reaches you.

**CAPRICORN**  
Today, you will get back to playing the power game, using both fair and unfair means to achieve your goals, says Ganesh. Intellectual growth will be phenomenal; equally good will be your intuitions. In fact, your gut feelings will guide all the decisions you take today, and rest assured, none will leave you in a soup.

**AQUARIUS**  
Expect the unexpected today! Success, money, love, whatever it is that you'd lost hope of will suddenly come your way! In the evening, you may catch up with reading, research, discussion or other such activity, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
Being a graceful loser is just about as important as being a generous winner, for success does not come by every day. Lowering your expectations will help steel you against disappointments today.



# Kiara turns showstopper

**Mumbai:** Actress Kiara Advani, who has often impressed fans with her simple yet chic sartorial choices, recently turned showstopper for an event in Delhi. She looked lovely in a golden shimmering outfit which also featured a plunging neckline. It also had a cape detailing at the side. The *Kabir Singh* actress' smile and her

charisma caught viewers off guard. Kiara finished off the look with hair tied at the back and on her makeup she chose to keep things glamorous with soft smokey eyes, perfectly contoured cheekbones, brushed-in brows, and glossy lips. Meanwhile, Kiara is currently basking in the success of her recently released horror-comedy film, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*, which emerged as the second highest-grossing Hindi film this year and also starred Kartik Aaryan and Tabu in the lead. Apart from *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*, Kiara's latest released film, *Jug Jugg Jeeyo* starring Varun Dhawan, Anil Kapoor, and Neetu Kapoor was also a hit at the box office.

On the work front, Kiara will reunite with Kartik for *Satyajit Ki Katha*, which is slated to hit the theatres June 29th, 2023. Next, she will be seen in *Govinda Naam Mera* with Vicky Kaushal and Bhumi Pednekar in the lead roles.

## Radhika's emotional connection with Bengal

**Mumbai:** Actress Radhika Apte who celebrated her birthday Wednesday through three films in Bengali, *Antaheen*, *Pendulam* and *Rupkotha Noy*.

The actress first played a TV journalist in the Bengali film *Antaheen*, directed by Aniruddha, which also fetched her a National award.

When the versatile actress was asked if she feared being typecast, she said, "It is a mere coincidence that I am back into Bengali films with *Pendulam* where I again play the character of a journalist."

In one interview, Radhika had even admitted that she developed a love affair with Bengali films and especially Bengali directors, whom she found unmatched in sensitivity and intensity.

Her second Bengali film *Pendulam* was directed by Soukarya Ghoshal who made his directorial debut with the movie. The film dealt with interplay of different emotions and mood swings.

Having watched *Pather Panchali* at a younger age, and seen Satyajit Ray's other works, the *Andhadhun* actress feels the Bengali independent directors are more influenced by the 'rich cultural content' of the place. "The film craft in Kolkata is more subtly nuanced which is markedly different from other places like south where they follow a more explicit narrative style," she said in an earlier interview.

AGENCIES



## 28TH OMC GKCM AWARD FESTIVAL - DAY 3

# Shivagni's musical mélange holds audience spellbound

**Bhubaneswar:** Ten top musicians of Odisha came together to light up the third evening of the 28th OMC Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival being held here at Rabindra Mandap, Wednesday.

The musical show commenced after the lamp lighting ceremony. Ranjan Kumar Das, Director, Odia Language Literature & Culture, Government of Odisha, *Orissa POST* and *Dharitri* Editor Tathagata Satpathy, and *Kadambini* Editor Itirani Samanta did the honour.

Performing under the aegis of Shivagni Ensemble, the brainchild of Guru Ratikant Mohapatra and Agnimitra Behera, the musicians created a superb listening pleasure fusing the classical, contemporary, and experimental genres of music.

Apart from Agnimitra on violin, others who were part of the mesmerizing act included Srinibas Satapathy on the flute, Deba Ranjan Nayak on lead guitar, Pranav Pradhan on bass guitar, Ramesh Chandra Behera on keyboard, Milan Kumar Panda on vocals, Biswa Ranjan Nanda on tabla, Baibhab Kumar Das and Samir Ranjan Pradhan on percussion and Bikasit



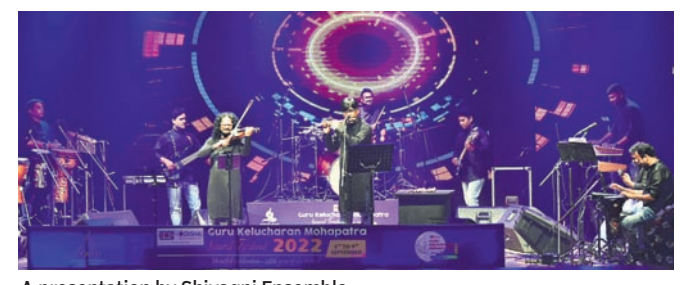
**Orissa POST** and *Dharitri* Editor Tathagata Satpathy and Culture Director Ranjan Das light ceremonial lamp while Guru Ratikant Mohapatra and *Kadambini* Editor Itirani Samanta look on.

Sahu on drums. They started with invocation to Lord Ganesha, *Ganesh-The Vighnaharta*. Next, titled *Impassioned* was a highly evocative track played by the artistes with intensity and passion, living up to its name. Rooted in the state's rich culture and heritage, Shivagni then paid rich tribute to the state's vibrant tradition through their rendition of *Odissi Fusion*. The next presentation, *Boond-The rhythm of falling rain*, was a testament to nature's inherent rhythm.

Showing the versatility, Shivagni then presented *Kabira*, a tribute to Sant Kabir, highlighting the great dohas of the poet and saint in a novel reimagination and exploration of music and text.

*Irish*, a confluence of 16 different Ragas was inspired by the soul-stirring melodies of Irish folk tunes and harmony, was the next presentation. The ensemble also held the music lovers in thrall with *Sakale Daakanti Tame Tame*, a popular poem of legendary Odia poet Mayadhar Mansingh followed by their final rendition *Shivansh-The Rhythm of Spiritual Beats* in the glory of Lord Shiva.

**Orissa POST** and *Dharitri* are the print media partners of the event. The penultimate evening of the festival will have a Carnatic vocal recital by Sikkil Gurucharan, followed by a Kathak presentation by Vidushi Paramita Maitra and her ensemble Nrityangan Kathak Kendra (NKK).



A presentation by Shivagni Ensemble  
OP PHOTOS

# Women in showbiz more secure: Huma

**Mumbai:** Huma Qureshi doesn't mince her words and she never shies away from telling the truth. In a candid conversation with a news portal, she talks about the various pitfalls and challenges faced by women in the film industry. She also reveals the truth behind catfights.

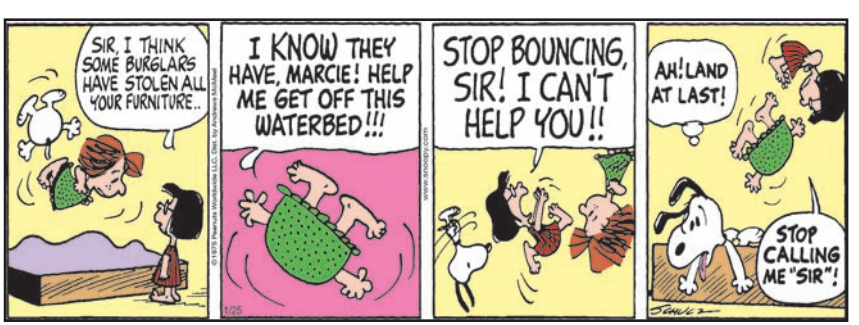
In a recent interview Sanjay Dutt said that actors do not like

to share screen space because they are insecure. On this, Huma said, "Women are far more secure in our business than men. I think getting two guys to do a film will be very hard, because they will always be comparing their biceps. I think women just have a bad reputation. I enjoy working with other girls."

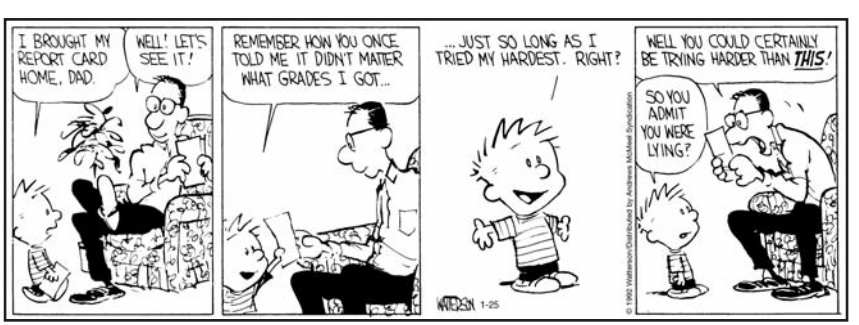
Asked if catfights are just big rumours, the *Badlapur* actress says, "They are not rumours,

people fight, but I think catfights are such a misogynistic way of putting it. Men also fight, we don't call them dog fights, do we? People fight, because they don't get along, and it's not about their gender, it's just that sometimes some people don't get along with others. I think a lot more is made out about women competing with each other. I think men compete far more."

### PEANUTS



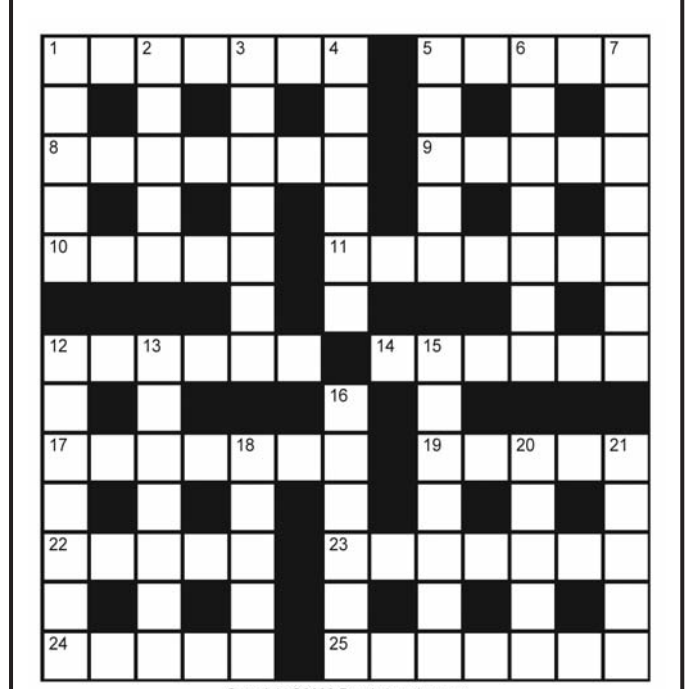
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



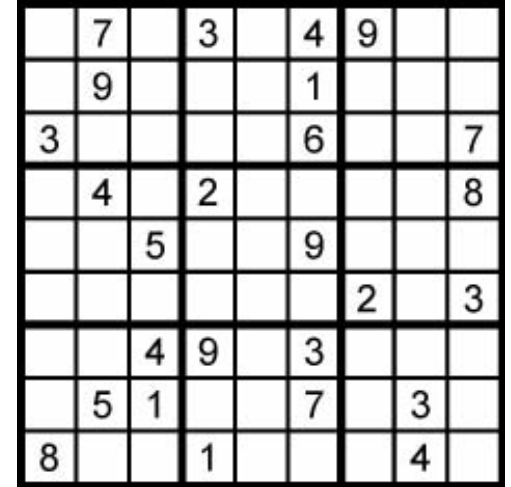
## FUN post CROSSWORD



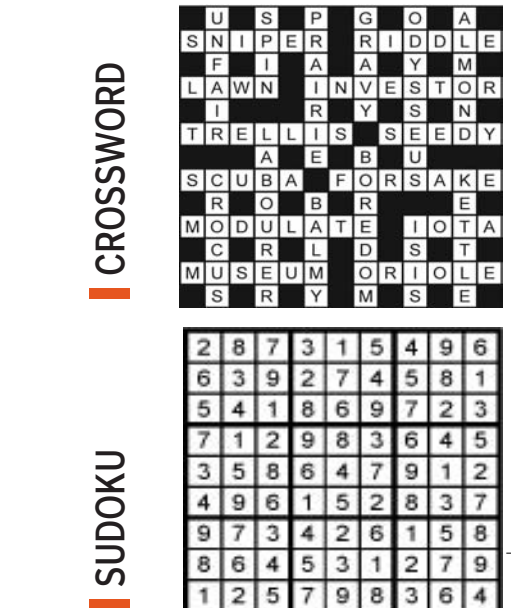
- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Capital of Northern Ireland
  - 5 Power
  - 8 Type of spirits
  - 9 Fairy tale character
  - 10 Inert gas
  - 11 Jinxed
  - 12 Like a duck's feet
  - 14 Japanese robe
  - 17 Scer
  - 19 Porridge ingredient
  - 22 Princess topper
  - 23 Popular salad ingredient
  - 24 Tournament favourites
  - 25 Shrink's forte
  - 4 Boredom
  - 5 Traveler's stop
  - 6 One of the Marx Brothers
  - 7 Hunt cry (5-2)
  - 12 Forest denizens
  - 13 Heavy fabric with a woven design
  - 15 Get well
  - 16 Hellespont, e.g.
  - 18 Flip response?
  - 20 Terrestrial lizard
  - 21 Durable wood

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS

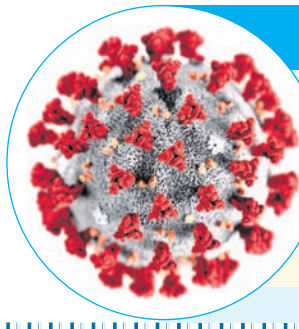


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## GRACEFUL MOVES

A danseuse from Madhya Pradesh performed Kathak during the sixth evening of 28th India Theatre Olympiad at Sarala Bhawan in Cuttack, Wednesday



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,15,99,824	58,93,10,092	65,07,879
India	4,44,69,661	4,38,93,590	5,28,057
Odisha	13,29,203	13,18,550	9,183



**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR:** People in large numbers participated in an immersion ceremony of Goddess Khudurukuni at Chauhaganj in Cuttack, Wednesday

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES

# 3-pronged strategy to curb air pollution

*Air does not have any state or country as its boundary. We have to be careful to reduce and contain the pollutants at the source at any cost, says Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** On the occasion of International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, Chief Secretary Suresh Mahapatra Wednesday urged upon all concerned for strict enforcement of rules to control air pollution.

Inaugurating an awareness programme and a daylong conference here, Mahapatra said the green coverage and forest density in Odisha are constantly increasing over the last 20 years. The state and district pollution action plan has also been prepared, he added.

"Now, we have to take a three-pronged approach viz. concrete action at ground level (both at individual and organisational level), intensified awareness among people and strict enforcement of the



### PLAN OF ACTION

CONCRETE ACTION AT GROUND LEVEL - BOTH AT INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANISATIONAL LEVELS

INTENSIFIED AWARENESS AMONG PEOPLE

STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF POLLUTION CONTROL RULES

rules," Mahapatra said at the conference.

He said many particulate matters are suspended in the air and are generally invisible, and as such, it needs intensive awareness with convincing messages

for the people.

"Air does not have any state or country as its boundary. We have to be careful to reduce and contain the pollutants at the source at any cost through collaborative and participatory approaches," he pointed out.

Joining the occasion, Forest and Environment department additional chief secretary Satyabrata Sahu said that the National Clean Air Programme (NACP) launched in 2019 has set a target of reducing particulate matters in the air by 20 to 30 per cent within five years.

"Odisha, in comparison with other states, performed well on this front. With our common effort, we could make our state a better

place to live in," Sahu said.

Speaking on the occasion, Commerce and Transport department principal secretary Bishnupada Sethi said, "A vast majority of the global population today is victim of polluted air, which has emerged as a major challenge for the developing countries."

Sethi highlighted different measures like promotion of electric vehicles (EVs), phasing out of old and more polluting vehicles, government support and subsidy for manufacturing of electricity vehicles etc being implemented through the department of Commerce and Transport.

Director municipal administration Sangramjeet Nayak shed light on the steps like operation of 419 micro-compost units in different urban local bodies (ULBs), door-to-door collection of around 9 lakh tonne of garbage and their disposal in scientific manner, rural-urban collaboration in waste management, transforming waste to wealth among other measures being undertaken through Housing and Urban Development department.

Director, Environment, Sushanta Nanda said, "Clean air is a fundamental right and we have to work together to protect this right of the people."

# Now, housing at fingertips

*The system is expected to benefit people from the economically weaker section of the society in all urban areas of the state*

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** The state Housing & Urban Development department (H&UD) Wednesday launched House Allotment System (HAS) under its 'Housing for All Policy' which, the officials said, would help the people belonging to economically weaker section (EWS) in urban areas of the state.

Under this initiative, the Odisha Urban Housing Mission (OUHM) has developed a 'transparent and professionally managed' web-based software solution as well as an android-based mobile application named 'House Allotment System' which was launched by the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) with the support of OUHM.

The app was launched by Housing and Urban Development Minister Usha Devi. "I hope this system will be a step towards achieving the vision and goal of our Chief Minister in providing a roof to all the persons belonging to the economic weaker sections of the society," Devi said.

The key objectives of this system are to generate predictability, transparency and ensure social auditing. The system will work on the principle of a continuous process of registration of all those families, who want to avail dwelling units under the 'Housing for All' policy. The app will also help address the challenges of housing in the state by assessing



H&UD Minister Usha Devi and other officials during the launch of the application and the web portal in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

### H&UD DEPT INITIATIVE

The system will work on the principle of a continuous process of registration of all those families, who want to avail dwelling units under the 'Housing for All' policy

Any project developer, be it government or private, would keep at least 10% of the total built-up area of a residential project for construction of houses for people belonging to the EWS

the shortage in various cities. Mission Director, OUHM, Debasis Singh highlighted the importance of the newly-developed web-based solution. Others dignitaries present on the occasion were Sushanta Kumar Mishra, Director, Town Planning, Vijay Amruta Kulange, Commissioner, BMC and Kabindra Kumar Sahoo, Secretary BDA. Highlighting the utility of the

HAS programme, Mishra said, "The policy adopts seven models of intervention for creation of affordable housing stock and slum redevelopment."

He pointed out that one of the main conditions of HAS is that any project developer, be it government or private, must keep at least 10 per cent of the total built-up area of a residential project for construction of houses for people belonging to the EWS.

Mishra added that the system developed by the H&UD department will enable allotment of houses to the beneficiaries, through a fair and transparent mechanism right from 'registration to handing over of houses'. The aim of this new application is to see that people get housing at affordable rates, he added.

BDA vice-chairman Sanjay Kumar Singh said that the application will be very useful to the beneficiaries as each, and every service related to house allotment will be available at their fingertips.

# 200-bed cancer hosp at NISER on cards

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** The state government Wednesday inked a pact with the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai for establishment of a state-of-the-art Cancer Hospital at the NISER campus at Jatni, on the outskirts of the City here.

Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department signed the MoU in the presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Director of Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai Rajendra Badwi and Special Secretary to Public Health Ajit Kumar Mohanty signed the pact.

"The state government will provide a cyclotron machine to meet the requirements for radio isotopes for treatment as suggested by Director of Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai," Patnaik said.

As per the provision of the pact, the Mumbai-based Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) under the Department of Atomic Energy will establish a 200-bed hospital and run it with a proposed cost of Rs 650 crore.

The Department of Atomic Energy has earmarked Rs 400 crore for this project whereas Tata Trusts will spend Rs 250 crore on this project.

# Health insurance for MLAs doubled

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** The health insurance coverage for both the sitting and former MLAs and their spouses has been doubled—from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh—from the current year, an official said Wednesday.

Speaker Bikram Keshari Arukha has approved the proposal to hike the insurance coverage Wednesday. The coverage amount has been hiked following the approval of the Finance department, said the official.

Health insurance facilities have been provided by the government to the MLAs and ex-MLAs since 2012-13. The members had been demanding to raise the health insurance coverage following the rise in the cost of healthcare and medicines, it was learnt.

As many as 212 people, including 124 members of the present Assembly, excluding the ministers and their spouses will be benefited from the move.

Similarly, 562 former MLAs and their spouses (317 former members and their 245 spouses) can also avail the benefit now.

In July, MLAs had demanded a hike in health insurance coverage for the sitting and former members of the Assembly.

# SC Constitution bench to go green on Centre-Delhi row



**The bench asked the Registry to scan the paper books and make them available to the judges and the parties**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** Hearing a dispute between the Union and the Delhi government over control of the services in Delhi, a Constitution bench of the Supreme Court (SC) Wednesday decided to go green by shunning use of papers. The bench will be a "complete green bench" averting the use of physical documents.

The top court said the five-judge constitution bench will September 27 fix the timeline for hearing and told the senior lawyers representing the parties that no bulky case files will be allowed in the courtroom.

Justice Chandrachud also said that the court officials are willing to train advocates, who have difficulty in using technology, Saturdays.

"We will keep this a complete green bench, so there will be no papers in this matter. The secretary-general and

the IT head said that they are willing to train the seniors on how to use technology on Saturdays. But please do not keep papers in this court. So, apart from hearing, please let us know if you all need the training, we will organise this," Justice DY Chandrachud said.

The bench also asked the Registry to scan the paper books and make them available to the judges and the parties.

The legal fraternity has welcomed the decision of Justice Chandrachud to go green. Ashwini Dubey, Advocate-on-Record in the SC, said that by the initiative of Green Courts the amount of resources used could be brought down drastically if some slight changes are made in the courts' usage patterns & courts become green. This is very welcoming move & we all appreciate it, he said. Advocate Dubey also in-

formed that as many as 48 million papers (Approx) are being used in apex court and 831 million papers (approx) are used in High Courts. The figures are much high in district courts where 11 billion (approx) papers are being used, he said.

"To cater the said demand of courts 1.3 million (Approx) trees & 109 billion litres of water (approx) being used in a year," advocate Dubey said.

Earlier, the apex court had decided to accept petitions and affidavits only in A4 size paper sheets printed on both sides from April 2020. Then Chief Justice of India SA Bobde had also directed the Supreme Court registry to use A4 size sheets printed on both sides for internal communications at all levels. The decision was taken to control environmental degradation and bring uniformity in the use of paper in the day-to-day work of the court.

In March 2020 circular, the SC had also informed that the practice of sending the communication through hard copy shall be discontinued by the Registry. All communications from the Registry of this Court shall only be sent to the concerned Advocates-on-Record through e-mail followed by an SMS alert on the registered mobile number of the Advocate-on-Record, the circular had stated.

# Dara Singh denied bail in Arul Doss murder case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Cuttack, Sept 7:** The High Court Wednesday refused to grant bail to Dara Singh alias Rabindra Kumar Pal, who was convicted along with three others and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for life in the Father Arul Doss murder case of 1999 in Mayurbhanj.

Sustaining the conviction and affirming the sentences of all the four, a

Division Bench headed by Chief Justice S Muralidhar cancelled the bail bonds of the other three convicts and also asked them to surrender by September 23, failing which the police were directed to take them into custody.

According to the prosecution, a group of persons had gathered around a Church located on the Mahuldiha police station of Mayurbhanj district on the intervening night of September

1 and 2, 1999, when a group of Christians were dancing and singing in front of the church.

"All the four convicts, including Dara Singh, entered into the church with other group members and killed Father Arul Doss, who had sustained multiple injuries with arrows," the prosecution said, adding that on subsequent police investigation, 21 persons were arrested in this connection.

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\*PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*

# NHRC seeks info on aid to dead tribal girl's kin



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the District Magistrate (DM) of Keonjhar to respond within October 14 this year whether any compensation is paid to the next of the kin of a Class X girl of an SC/ST department-run school at Kusumita in the tribal-dominated district who died due to the alleged negligence of the school authorities in November last year.

The commission's directive came while hearing a plea filed by rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak. The rights activist had informed the commission that Sarita Majhi of Dabanka village in Keonjhar, who was a Class X student of Government Girls' High School at Kusumita, died November 4, 2021

due to the alleged negligence of the authorities of the residential school.

Taking cognisance, the commission December 20, 2021 served the District Magistrate (DM) and Superintendent of Police (SP) of Keonjhar, calling for a report in connection with the incident within four weeks.

In response, the SP informed the rights body that on the basis of a complaint lodged by the victim's father, a case (234/21) has been registered under Sections 363 and 376(1) of the IPC and 4 of POCSO Act at the Ghasipura police station. The accused, Bapuram Beshra, was arrested and remanded to judicial custody after completion of investigation, the chargesheet was also filed against the accused, the SP's report said.

Observing that the SP's report

is silent about the compensation to the victim, the commission May 9, 2022 asked the SP to come up with the present status of the case and the DM on the compensation to the victim within four weeks.

This time, the SP did revert with the status report, but the DM did not, it was learnt.

A livid commission September 6 directed the DM to turn up with status report of the compensation to the next of the kin of the victim within October 14 this year. In case of failure, the commission would invoke coercive steps under Section 13 of the PHR Act, 1993, it said.

About the incident, the rights activist cited the police complaint to say that Sarita's father Jagannath was told by the school authorities to take his daughter back from school hostel as she was unwell. October 1, Jagannath took his daughter back home. At home, Sarita's health deteriorated following which she was admitted to the district headquarters hospital, where she died during treatment November 4.

Jagannath alleged that as the school authorities did not provide her healthcare during her stay at the hostel, her health deteriorated and subsequently the schoolgirl died, Nayak said citing Jagannath's complaint.



Artists taking part in cultural programme during Nuakhai Bhetghat at Sanskruti Bhawan premises in Puri, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

## Pocso judge died of asphyxia due to hanging, says Cuttack DCP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Cuttack, Sept 7:** The post-mortem report of senior judicial officer Subash Kumar Behari has revealed that the additional district judge (ADJ) died of asphyxia resulting due to hanging which was ante-mortem and suicidal in nature, a police officer said Wednesday.

The 49-year-old ADJ-rank officer's body was found hanging in the bedroom of his official quarters here September 2 afternoon.

He was officiating as a special judge in the local Pocso court here.

City Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Pinak Mishra Wednesday said, "We received the post-mortem report from the SCB Medical College and Hospital yesterday (Tuesday)."

Mishra, however, added that the police are still investigating the case from all angles including murder after registering a case based on a written complaint lodged by the deceased's mother.

**The 49-year-old ADJ-rank officer's body was found hanging in the bedroom of his official quarters September 2 afternoon. He was officiating as a special judge in the local Pocso court**

Following Behari's death, his mother had alleged that her son had not committed suicide but was murdered by his wife and brother-in-law.

She had filed a written complaint in this regard and based on it, the police have questioned as many as 11 people, including Behari's wife in this regard.

## CMMS to ensure success of Jalsathi initiative

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** A one-day Performance Review cum Orientation meeting of City Mission Managers (CMMs) was held under the auspices of Housing and Urban Development Department at SUDA Conference Hall Wednesday. The meeting was aimed at orienting the City Mission Managers on Jalsathi initiative since they will act as resource persons for looking after the cluster-level Jalsathi training at the field level.

Durgesh Nandini Sahoo, Additional Secretary in her brief address, requested all CMMs to pay attention to provide timely and



Qualitative information as it impacts upon the sustainable outcome of the activities going on at the field level.

Sarada Prasad Panda, Joint Secretary to Government & Project Director, State Urban Development Agency, while addressing the CMMs in his inaugural address, emphasized on the need for giving exclusive attention to successful implementation of

MUKTA programme in addition to taking care of other activities in the field. He further said that as an important part of their responsibilities, CMMs have to play a critical role in ensuring the success of the Jalsathi programme through a systematic process of evaluation and feedback from time to time.

Additional Secretary Pravat Mohapatra, Director, CED - Odisha Chapter, Pradeep Harichandan & PK Senapati, Advisor PHEO mentioned about the role of State Urban Development Agency in securing the livelihood of the economically backward people of the state under the programme.

## State logs 328 new Cov cases, 1 death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** The state's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,29,203 Wednesday as 328 more people, including 74 children, tested positive for the infection, a health bulletin said.

The toll climbed to 9,183 as a 72-year-old man succumbed to the disease in Cuttack district. Fifty-three other patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it said.

Odisha had recorded 231 infections and a fatality Tuesday.

The state now has 1,616 active Covid-19 cases, while 289 more people recovered from the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total recoveries to 13,18,351.

The daily positivity rate was at 2.17 per cent as the new cases were detected after testing 15,149 samples.

# Odisha braces for another spell of very heavy rain



Commuters caught in heavy rain that lashed the Capital city, Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** Odisha is bracing for another spell of torrential rain as a cyclonic circulation formed over the Bay of Bengal is set to intensify into a low pressure area soon.

Heavy rain triggered by three such weather systems had resulted in devastating floods in the state recently. The cyclonic circulation lies over east-central and south-eastern Bay of Bengal. Under its influence, a low pressure is expected to form over the west-central Bay of Bengal during the next 24 hours, the Met office said Wednesday.

Fishermen have been advised to return to the coast from the deep

sea by Thursday night, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said, adding that the monsoon trough passes through Jharsuguda and Balasore.

They shouldn't venture off the south Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh coasts Friday and Saturday as the sea can be rough with wind gusting to 45-55 kmph.

The Met Department issued a yellow warning of heavy rain in some places across Malkangiri, Koraput, Gajapati, Ganjam, Rayagada, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Khurda and Puri districts.

It forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall of 70-200 mm in many districts of Odisha over the subsequent three days.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	59028.91	↓ 168.08
NIFTY	17624.40	↓ 31.20
DOLLAR	80.2875	↑ ₹0.10
EURO	79.3715	↓ ₹0.27
GOLD	₹50,418	↑ ₹137
SILVER	₹53,755	↑ ₹609

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	33.7°C	33.0°C
TEMP MIN	26.6°C	26.5°C
Humidity	84%	79%
Rainfall	8.0mm	3.2mm
	cloudy sky	

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Executive Magistrate, Khallikote, Ganjam dated 21.07.2022 I, K. Gurumurthy Patra, S/o K. Trinath Patra, Address: At-Manapalli, P.O.- Kairasi, P.S.- Khallikote, Dist.- Ganjam, State- Odisha, Pin- 761029 have changed my name from B. Bhikari Patra to K. Gurumurthy Patra. Henceforth, I shall be known as K. Gurumurthy Patra for all purposes.

# India needs to train 1mn people in air quality mgmt

India needs to train at least 10 lakh people in the next five years for air quality management, according to a new report, which also says around 50,000 jobs could be created in the sector.

The report has been prepared by the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iForest) with the support of the World Bank Group.

It highlights the need of a national-level programme to develop the capacity of all stakeholders - cities, state and central government agencies, private sector, NGOs and media - to effectively tackle the problem of air pollution.

"Our report shows that we need to train at least 1 million (10 lakh) people over the next five years for air quality management. This will also create tens of thousands of new jobs in the public and private

sector to plan, monitor, mitigate, and control air pollutants," said Chandra Bhushan, the CEO of iFOREST and the lead author of the report.

He said the report is the first attempt of its kind to map the environmental sector in the country. The agencies, organisations and industries working in the air quality management sector include ministries and departments of the government, state pollution control boards, urban local bodies, air polluting industries, and air pollution control industries. The report said there are at least 2.8 lakh organisations and industries across the country which requires personnel for air quality management.

It has identified 42 specific job roles that is required to control air pollution in the country - from



municipal workers involved in dust control and construction and demolition waste management to specialists in transport planning, air quality modelling and forecasting.

The report says a total of 2.2 million jobs are required to man-

age air pollution in the country. A large number these jobs, about 1.6 million, already exist.

However, many of them have never been trained to manage air quality, such as the municipal workers and PUC (pollution under check) operators, who can be at

"We need to train at least 1 million (10 lakh) people over the next five years for air quality management. This will also create tens of thousands of new jobs in the public and private sector to plan, monitor, mitigate, and control air pollutants," said Chandra Bhushan, the CEO of iFOREST

the frontline, it says.

There is a need to employ thousands of people to meet the requirements of growing number of industries, ULBs, consultancy and government, it said.

The report estimates that air quality management sector requires at least 50,000 new jobs, ranging from researchers and analysts to air quality supervisors in ULBs (Urban Local Bodies) and regulators in pollution control boards. The report found there is

The report has identified 42 specific job roles that is required to control air pollution in the country - from municipal workers involved in dust control and construction and demolition waste management to specialists in transport planning, air quality modelling and forecasting

no structured capacity building programme in the air quality management sector and recommended a national programme to train about a million workers, operators and professionals over the next five years.

"A major challenge in the air quality management sector in India is that the people presently working in the sector have not been trained and a large number of jobs that are required do not exist," said Chandra Bhushan.

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NGT stays Vyasa Sarovar project

SOCIAL BOYCOTT OF 85 FAMILIES

Admin to resolve row

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 7: The National Green Tribunal(NGT) Wednesday put a stay on the ongoing development and beautification works of historic Vyasa Sarovar peetha in Jajpur district, citing a reason that there were irregularities in the conduct of Gram Sabha for the project.

A division bench of the NGT also directed the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Ministry of Forest and Environment and the state Forest and Environment department to clear their stand on the issue within four weeks.

A case (103/2022/ED) relating to developmental works on this forest land is sub-judice at the NGT. Earlier, Jajpur Collector had put forth his stand before the NGT while Cuttack DFO August 25, 2022 submitted an affidavit in this regard.

In the affidavit, the DFO stated that the land belonging to khata 40



A division bench of the NGT has sought a reply on the issue within four weeks. A case (103/2022/ED) relating to developmental works on the forest land is sub-judice at the NGT

in Mundomal mouza falls under the forest category and works of various projects including roads and a community centre are being executed on this patch of land. It may be noted here that ₹64 crore has been sanctioned from

the District Mineral Foundation(DMF) fund for Vyasa Sarovar development project while National Building Construction Corporation(NBCC) is executing its projects through New Delhi-based Krishna Constructions.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khallikote, Sept 7: The district administration has initiated steps to sort out the alleged ostracisation of 85 families of Dharama Vishwakarma Samaj at Fasula village under this civic body limits in Ganjam district. They have been living a life of deprivation and obscurity for over 70 years after being boycotted by their own community members several years back.

Acting on the direction of the district Collector, a meeting was held at the Khallikote block office. It was attended by the block development officer, tehsildar, additional tehsildar and inspector in-charge of Khallikote police station. In the meeting, discussions were made to lift the ostracisation tag from these families of Fasula village. As per reports, no girl of the community in the village can marry a boy of the same community residing in another village after being boycotted by their own community members.

Moreover, girls of the community in other villages are banned from entering into marriage with boys of the community in Fasula village. Anyone violating the order is liable to pay heavy penalty.

The members of Vishwakarma community in Fasula village had filed a written complaint with the district Collector.

Khallikote tehsildar Rajkishore Patnaik said that the administration has given 15 days time to sort out the long pending issue. The Maharana Samaj will discuss the issue with the talukas of South Odisha and find a way to resolve the issue.

According to sources, the group of families of Fasula was asked to pay ₹400 as penalty to get rid of the tag of 'ostracisation' in 1950. As they failed to pay the amount which was too hefty at that time, they were banished from the society till an indefinite period of time.

Youth held for raping minor in Kandhamal

Phulbani: A 19-year-old man was arrested for allegedly raping a 14-year-old girl in Kandhamal district, police said Wednesday. However, the family of the accused vehemently maintained that the two were in a relationship. The man was arrested Tuesday after the girl's family filed a complaint against him for alleged abduction and rape, Bamuniagaon police station's sub-inspector Amarendra Subudhi said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BOUDH. Invitation for Bids. Letter No. 2946/RWB. Dated, the 02.09.2022. 1st Corrigendum. Tender Reference No. 01/SERV/Division, Boudh of 2022-23.

REGIONAL OFFICE: BALASORE 3rd Floor, Asis Plaza, OT Road, Bhaskarganj, Balasore-756001. POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property).

Man shot dead by son over property

Baripada: A 65-year-old man was allegedly shot dead by his son over property dispute in Kasikundal village under Udala police station in Mayurbhanj district. The accused identified as Tulu Naik (29) who was absconding since Tuesday night, was nabbed Wednesday. The two got into a heated altercation while having dinner over a property matter. In a fit of rage, Tulu brought out the country-made gun he was carrying and shot his father Kailash. The latter died on the spot and Tulu ran away with his wife and son. Udala IIC Niroj Kumar Samal said Tulu was arrested Wednesday early morning from a friend's house and a murder case has been registered against him.

Mixed response to bandh call for separate state

Sambalpur: The bandh call in Western Odisha demanding separate statehood of Koshal evoked mixed response, Wednesday. The response to bandh call given by Koshal Raji Mukti Morcha was lukewarm in some districts. The bandh call was successful in Bolangir, Sonepur and Bargarh districts. All government and private offices and business establishments in these three districts remained closed during the period. However, it received lukewarm response in Sambalpur, Deogarh, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda and Boudh districts.

NAC TAG TO BETANOTI

2-decade-old demand still remains unfulfilled

POST NEWS NETWORK

Betanoti, Sept 7: For the last 20 years, people of Betanoti, a developing town in tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district, have been demanding the status of Notified Area Council (NAC) for the town, but their dream has remained unfulfilled due to administrative apathy. This has caused deep resentment among the denizens here.

Reports said, the government has accorded NAC status to Rairangpur, Karanjia and Udala towns in the district. Locals argued that Betanoti fulfills all the eligibility criteria and has necessary infrastructure to get NAC tag, but the government has allegedly dillydallied its initiative.

People have been demanding the NAC status at different fora in the past, but all in vain. Though the local leaders assure the people of taking up their demand with the government before elections, they forget about it after the polls. This is happening every time before polls, locals lamented.

There was a proposal to declare Betanoti as an NAC by including nine villages - Betanoti, Bhogabati, Tulasi Chaura, Pandu Gadia, SS Mahulia, Sagadabhangna, Bahanada, Sathilo and Renugaon - having a population of over 16,000 as per 2011 Census. The proposal was sent by the district administration citing all other requisites to the Housing and Urban Development department in October 2012. But the department reverted the proposal asking the administration to submit a report on other possible sources of revenue apart from the existing ones. "The NAC status would pave the way for development which has been stalled for more than three decades. We have here all prerequisites to fulfill the requirements of the NAC. We demand the NAC status," said local leaders.

BIG PUSH TO KUCHINDA CHILLI CULTIVATION

1,163 farmers keen for cash crop



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 7: The administration is all set to give a big fillip to chilli cultivation in Sambalpur district as it will provide support and assistance to the farmers under Kuchinda sub-division, sources said. As part of this drive, the district administration has set a target of chilli cultivation on 700 acres of land which will benefit over 1,163 farmers and help in harvest of 10,000 quintals.

The district administration has also applied for GI tag of Kuchinda chillies. Earlier, the district administration had set up a processing unit for chillies in Kuchinda which is managed by SHG women. The move has acted as a motivation among the farmers and they have expressed their interest in chilli cultivation. The district administration has also engaged a private agency named 'Maa Metkani' to help

the farmers. It will provide all the benefits and facilities to the chilli farmers at their doorsteps.

The agency will provide chilli saplings to farmers and train them in every aspect of cultivation till harvest. The agency will also procure the harvested chillies from farmers and ensure that they get right price in the markets. The matter came to the fore during a meeting organised by the district administration at the Collectorate office here.

District Collector Ananya Das presided over the meeting and sought assistance of officials in realising the goals. Senior officials and officials of various other departments were present in the meeting.

According to reports, the district administration has planned for cultivation of chillies on more land than in previous years. As part of this initiative, it has conducted meetings among the

farmers in the villages and sensitised them on various aspects of chilli cultivation.

The farmers will be provided with chilli saplings, pesticides and organic manures also. The agency will prepare high quality chilli saplings and provide them to farmers after a period of 40 days. It has also roped in experts who will train the farmers on the method of planting saplings with the use of modern technology. The agency has already roped in Sachin Palkar, a chilli expert from Maharashtra for the purpose. He will train the farmers on minimal use of pesticides during cultivation and use of organic manures. Use of less pesticide will help in improving the quality of the chilli.

The use of modern technology and organic manures will help in reducing unnecessary expenses and increase savings for the farmers. It will also help them to boost

their income, sources said.

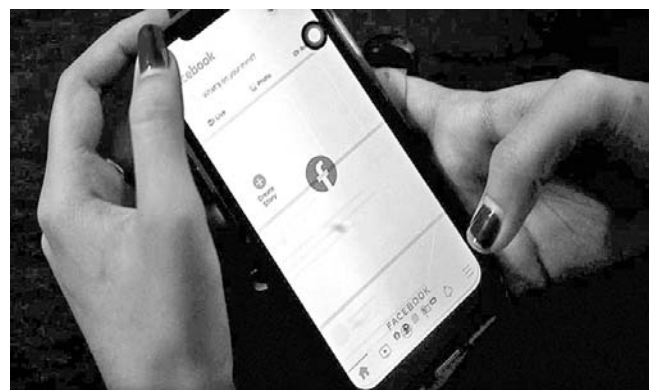
The state-owned regulated marketing committee (RMC), Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM) and ORMAS will establish direct links with farmers and help them in availing loans from cooperative societies and banks for their cultivation. Officials of these agencies will undertake field visits in phases and supervise that nothing goes wrong for the farmers during cultivation. They will also interact with the farmers and help them in resolving their problems if they have any.

भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India. REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99. स. 3328] नई दिल्ली, बुधस्वित्पर, जुलाई 28, 2022/ श्रावण 6, 1944. No. 3328] NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022/SHRAVANA 6, 1944. MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION New Delhi, the 28th July, 2022.

भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India. REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99. स. 3422] नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, अगस्त 1, 2022/श्रावण 10, 1944. No. 3422] NEW DELHI, MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022/SHRAVANA 10, 1944. MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION New Delhi, the 1st August, 2022. S.O. 3587(E).- In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways 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.

FOCUS SOCIETY

# END OF REAL SOCIAL NETWORKS



**What happens when platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, or Reddit start manipulating what we perceive as our social network? The worrying truth is that nobody knows**

Google/Alphabet) do much more to police hate speech and misinformation than their smaller rivals do, especially now that better moderation practices have been developed. Moreover, other researchers have challenged the finding that falsehoods spread faster on Facebook and Twitter, at least when compared to other media.

Still others argue that even if the current social-media environment is treacherous, the problem is transitory. After all, novel communication tools have always been misused. Martin Luther used the printing press to promote not just Protestantism but also virulent anti-Semitism. Radio proved to be a powerful tool in the hands of demagogues like Father Charles Coughlin in the US and the Nazis in Germany. Both print and broadcast outlets remain full of misinformation to this day, but society has adjusted to these media and managed to contain their negative effects.

This argument implies that a combination of stronger regulation and other new technologies can overcome the challenges posed by social media. For example, platforms could provide better information about the provenance of articles; or the same platforms could be discouraged from algorithmically boosting items that might be incendiary or contain misinformation.

But such measures fail to address the depth of the problem. Social media is not only creating echo chambers, propagating falsehoods, and facilitating the circulation of extremist ideas. It also may be shaking the very foundations of human communication and social cohesion, by substituting artificial social networks for real ones.

We are distinguished from other animals mostly by our advanced ability to learn from our community, and to accumulate expertise by observing others. Our most profound ideas and cherished notions come not in isolation or from reading books, but by being embedded in a social milieu and interacting through argumentation, education, performance, and so forth. Trusted sources play an indispensable role in this process, which is why leaders and those with bully pulpit can have such outsized effects. Earlier media innovations capitalised on this, yet none of them modified the very nature of human networks the way that social media have.

What happens when platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, or Reddit start manipulating what we perceive as our social network? The worrying truth is that nobody knows. And though we could eventually adapt to this change and find ways to neutralise its most pernicious effects, that isn't

an outcome that we should count on, given the direction the industry has been heading.

Social media's most corrosive effects are starting to look exactly like what the cultural critic Neil Postman anticipated almost four decades ago in his landmark book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. "Americans no longer talk to each other; they entertain each other," he observed. "They do not exchange ideas, they exchange images. They do not argue with propositions; they argue with good looks, celebrities, and commercials."

Comparing George Orwell's "1984" to Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World," Postman then added that, "What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one. Orwell feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared those who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism. Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared that the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance."

Whereas Postman was worried more about a Huxleyan future than an Orwellian one, social media have been ushering in both at the same time. While governments acquire the means both to manipulate our perceptions of reality and to reduce us to passivity and egoism, our virtual "friends" are increasingly policing our thoughts. One now must continuously signal one's virtue and call out people who deviate from prevailing orthodoxy. But "virtue" is whatever one's artificial online social circle says it is; and in many cases, it is based entirely on lies.

Hannah Arendt, another prescient twentieth-century thinker, warned about where this can lead. "If everybody always lies to you, the consequence is not that you believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer." At that point, social and political life become impossible.

*The writer is Professor of Economics at MIT.*  
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**NO ONE DISPUTES THAT SOCIAL-MEDIA PLATFORMS HAVE BEEN A MAJOR CONDUIT FOR HATE SPEECH, DISINFORMATION, AND PROPAGANDA**



Daron Acemoglu

Not only are billions of people around the world glued to their mobile phones, but the information they consume has changed dramatically – and not for the better. On dominant social-media platforms like Facebook, researchers have documented that falsehoods spread faster and more widely than similar content that includes accurate information. Though users are not demanding misinformation, the algorithms that determine what people see tend to favor sensational, inaccurate, and misleading content, because that is what generates "engagement" and thus advertising revenue.

As the internet activist Eli Pariser noted in 2011, Facebook also creates filter bubbles, whereby individuals are more likely to be presented with content that reinforces their own ideological leanings and confirms their own biases. And more recent research has demonstrated that this process has a major influence on the type of information users see.

Even leaving aside Facebook's algorithmic choices, the broader social-media ecosystem allows people to find subcommunities that align with their interests. This is not necessarily a bad thing. If you are the only person in your community with an interest in ornithology, you no longer have to be alone, because you can now connect with ornithology enthusiasts from around the world. But, of course, the same applies to the lone extremist who can now use the same platforms to access or propagate hate speech and conspiracy theories.

No one disputes that social-media platforms have been a major conduit for hate speech, disinformation, and propaganda. Reddit and YouTube are breeding grounds for Right-wing extremism. The Oath Keepers used Facebook, especially, to organise their role in the January 6, 2021, attack on the United States Capitol. Former US President Donald Trump's anti-Muslim tweets were found to have fuelled violence against minorities in the US. True, some find such observations alarmist, noting that large players like Facebook and YouTube (which is owned by

## Childish Morality?

Consider the following statements describing our moral judgments: If a child is hungry, or hurt, the child's parents or friends have a greater obligation to help than a stranger does.

If we have to choose between saving the life of a human or that of a dog – or even many dogs – we ought to save the human.

Almost everyone agrees with these moral judgements, right? Wrong. A sizable group of people disagree. In the past two years, separate studies have compared adults' views on these two issues with those of children between the ages of five and ten years, and found that their responses differed significantly.

Both studies seek to shed light on the formation of our moral judgements, and so to help us to answer one of the Big Questions about morality: is it rooted primarily in our culture, or is it innate?

When anthropologists spread across the globe in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, their reports emphasised the variation in moral beliefs between societies. As a result, the view that morality is a cultural phenomenon became dominant.

In the 1970s, however, evolutionary theorists like EO Wilson and Richard Dawkins began to push back against cultural explanations of morality. A great deal of human behaviour, they argued, could be explained by genetic selection, not necessarily aimed at the preservation of each individual organism, but rather at the preservation of genes that are likely to be shared, not only with offspring, but also with other kin. Thus, moral rules imposing stronger obligations to assist kin rather than strangers would have evolved, along with other rules encouraging reciprocal, mutually beneficial relationships.

The evolutionary view of the origins of morality has a lot going for it, including the discovery of precursors of human morality in other social mammals, some of whom, as Frans de Waal showed, clearly have a sense of fairness. And this sense can be more developed than just, "you scratch (= pick the lice from) my back and I'll scratch yours." It can mean demanding something rather like equal pay for equal work: "I'm not accepting a food pellet for doing the same task that you gave that other monkey a grape for doing!"

Evolutionary theory does, however, have great difficulty in explaining the idea that we have obligations to come to the aid of strangers. In my book *The Expanding Circle*, I accepted the evolutionary explanation of the basis of morality, but supplemented it by arguing that our capacity to reason does more than enable us to survive and reproduce: it also enables us to take a universal perspective from which we see that strangers are like us, and disregarding their needs is wrong.

Children certainly seem to think so. One of the two studies, led by Julia Marshall, a postdoctoral fellow at Boston College, shows that children between five and ten years of age say that if a child is hungry or hurt, a stranger has an obligation to help them. Older children and adults, by contrast, are more likely to differentiate between strangers, who don't have to help, and parents or friends, who do.

The study was carried out in Germany, India, Japan, Uganda, and the United States, and in all these countries, younger children thought that strangers ought to help. The main cultural difference found is that in India, Japan, and Uganda, participants gave less weight to the differences between parents, friends, and strangers than they did in Germany and the United States. In Uganda, in fact, older children were even more inclined than younger children to regard friends and strangers as being obliged to help.

The study of priorities regarding saving a human or animals, led by Matti Wilks, a lecturer at the University of Edinburgh, also showed that children aged 5-9 take a broader view than adults. But in this case, it was a broader view of the value of life. Whereas almost all adults chose to save one human rather than as many as a hundred dogs or pigs, many children gave as much weight to saving a dog as they did to saving a human, and although the children valued dogs more than pigs, the majority still chose to save ten pigs rather than one human.

This may shed some light on why some children raised to eat meat refuse to eat it after they discover that meat is the flesh of an animal who has been killed. Both studies suggest that young children have broad moral sensitivities, both in terms of who should help someone in need, and in terms of the range of beings for whom they are concerned. The studies also indicate that in most cultures, these sensitivities are narrowed during the child's development. Does this narrowing result from the children's upbringing and cultural immersion, or could it be that the children revise their judgements in the light of greater knowledge of the world? We don't yet have the answer.

The studies have something else in common: the co-authorship of Paul Bloom, a professor of psychology at the University of Toronto. Bloom has acknowledged that the findings of both studies challenge claims he made in his book *Just Babies*. That is of course laudable. It is only by remaining open to the evidence that we may eventually untangle the roles of culture, biology, and our capacity to reason play in the formation of our moral judgements.

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Peter Singer

**It is only by remaining open to the evidence that we may eventually untangle the roles culture, biology, and our capacity to reason play in the formation of our moral judgements**

SPECTRUM NATION

## Illusion of fifth-largest economy



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

**GDP IS ONLY A SYMBOL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, NOT THE WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE**

The country should not get carried away by the reports that Indian economy has overtaken that of the UK to become the fifth largest in the world. First thing is that it is not the first time that India has overtaken the UK. According to IMF, in 2019, India became the fifth-largest economy with a nominal GDP of \$2.94 trillion overtaking France (\$2.71 trillion) and the UK (\$2.83 trillion). But the joy was short-lived as India's \$2.94 trillion for 2019 was revised down to \$2.83 trillion, while France's and the UK's were revised upward to \$2.73 trillion and \$2.88 trillion, respectively.

During the UPA regime, there was a projection that India would overtake the UK in terms of GDP by 2020, because of India's faster growth of population and per capita income. But this was delayed due to a slowdown triggered by the draconian demonetization, flawed GST implementation and the pandemic-induced supply disruption and demand compression.

The GDP measured in national currency or in dollar term is not comparable with other countries because if one's currency appreciates in terms of dollar, GDP in the dollar will automatically be higher and vice versa. Purchasing power

parity (PPP) is better way to measure than the exchange rate expressed in relation to the dollar for comparing GDP. PPP is used to compare the economies and incomes of people by adjusting for differences in prices in different countries.

According to a World Bank report released in April 2014, India emerged as the world's third-largest economy in 2011 from being the tenth largest in 2005, moving ahead of Japan, while the US remained the largest economy closely followed by China. But, over the last eight years, no further improvement in ranking of India was seen while China has overtaken the US.

Countries like the US, the UK, Germany and Japan have exhausted the scope of growth after becoming developed nations. While developing countries like India have to accelerate their growth rate to become developed countries. The growth rate of developing countries should be much higher than developed countries and there should be no comparison between the UK and India. Household consumption contributes 60.8% of India's GDP. The population of India is 140 crore while that of the UK is 6.72 crore. When 140 crore Indians consume as against 6.72 crore of

the UK, in terms of GDP, India should be much ahead of the UK.

While economy of India is the third-largest by PPP, the economy of the UK is eighth-largest by PPP. But when India's nominal per capita GDP is \$2,543 and per capita GDP (PPP) is \$8,358, the UK's nominal per capita GDP is \$49,761 and per capita GDP (PPP) is \$55,301. Since 2008, India continues to be a lower-middle-income country while the UK is a high-income country.

India is no way nearer to the UK in terms of per capita income. According to IMF, on a per capita income basis, India ranked 142nd by GDP (nominal) and 128th by GDP (PPP), while the UK ranks 24th by GDP (nominal) and 28th by GDP (PPP). In Human Development Index, the UK is placed at 13th while India is placed at 131st position.

The currency of the UK is the pound sterling where 1 pound is equal to 1.36 US dollars now. But 1 dollar is equal to 79.82 rupees. We need to pay ₹91.82 for one pound.

The unemployment rate in the UK is 3.7%, while in India it is ranging from 8 to 9%. In 2017-18 India's unemployment rate had touched a 45-year high of 6.18%. While the employment rate in the UK is 75.6%, in case of India it is only 40%. Even

to touch the global average of 55%, India needs to give employment to 19 crore people.

Comparison should be made among the comparable. India should be compared with China which also has a huge population. In 1987, the size of India's economy was the same as China's. But now China's economy (with a GDP of nearly \$18 trillion) is 5.43 times that of India's. In 1990, the per capita income of India was \$367, and China's was \$317. That was the last time we were ahead of them. But now, China with a per capita income of \$12,556 is much ahead of India.

GDP is only a symbol of economic activities, not the well-being of people. When GDP grows, the rich garner major benefits while the poor suffer. There is no meaning of GDP growth if it does not reduce poverty, hunger, unemployment, and inequality as seen in our country. Even if the government levies more indirect taxes and reduces subsidies, the GDP will increase. This is happening in our country which is regressive.

*The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist. Views are personal.*

WISDOM CORNER

- Take care of all your memories. For you cannot relive them. **BOB DYLAN**
- Knowledge will give you power, but character respect. **BRUCE LEE**
- Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves. **CARL JUNG**

WORDSWORTH

Black swan

A black swan event is related to the butterfly effect. The latter was coined by the American mathematician and meteorologist Edward Lorenz in 1973 as a way to illustrate the chaotic nature of weather and the huge difficulties of modelling it on computers. A tiny change in the initial conditions can often lead to dramatically different outcomes. His example was of a butterfly that fluttered its wings in Brazil, setting off a tornado in Texas. The phrase black swan gained some popularity in 2008 because of the book *The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable* by Nassim Nicholas Taleb, a former market trader. The phrase was not new: Taleb had introduced it in his work of 2001, *Fooled by Randomness: The Hidden Role of Chance in the Markets and in Life* and a few appearances are known before 2008, such as in Maggie Mahar's book of 2003, *Bull! A History of the Boom, 1982-1999*. Taleb argued that the stock market is as unpredictable as any chaotic system and that people who thought they could forecast it on the basis of past trends were fooling themselves. This was considered a contrarian view in 2007, but recent events have convinced many doubters of its truth. For Taleb, a black swan is an unpredicted and unpredictable event that resembles the finding of black swans in Australia by the seventeenth-century Dutch explorer Willem de Vlamingh.

Preoccupation to be 'liked'

Sir, A 17-year-old boy was almost killed by a high speed train near Kazipet railway station in Hanamkonda district of Telangana due to the ever increasing "Instagram craze". He reportedly wanted to garner a lot of "likes" by walking beside a fast moving train. The boy should thank his stars that he is still alive considering how the train mowed him down as seen in the video that has become viral on social media. Earlier, selfie obsession claimed precious young lives, now Instagram mania seems to have taken over – but the common denominator of both is "self obsession". No age or sex is exempt from selfie and Instagram fixation that has earned India a dubious distinction of topping the number of selfie related deaths in the world. The sad part of these deaths: all were preventable. Due to the preoccupation to be "liked", young minds are losing the ability to think right. No corner of the country is safe for selfie and Instagram maniacs – sea sides, highways, mountain cliffs, high buildings, railway tracks, waterfalls. Interestingly, both overconfidence and low self-esteem contribute to these deaths. Fixation with selfie leads to escalated affinity to a person's mirror image than their usual self. A selfie can be nothing but mere "face"; there is no room for "feelings". Governments should maintain a combined death register on selfie, Instagram and Facebook, and report such deaths to create awareness among the parents. Vulnerable addicts can easily be identified to be put on counselling. Warning boards in high risk zones are steps in the right direction. More selfie zones should dot important tourist places. Apps that are in vogue should add more warning features to alert the users. **Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA**

Truss faces challenges

Sir, A loud hurrah to Liz Truss for winning the Conservative race and being chosen as the next Prime Minister of the UK. The UK foreign secretary beat her Indian-origin rival Rishi Sunak to the top post by a margin of 20, 927 votes. As a result, Truss will be Britain's 56th Prime Minister and the third woman to hold the position. Although Truss will inherit a UK economy in dire straits, she vowed to go the extra mile to deliver the goods. As one who believes in strengthening India-UK trade and strategic ties, her victory augurs well. **NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE**

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**  
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# national

## of the day quote

Delhi is National Capital, and the per capita income of Delhi is three times higher than the average per capita of India. Huge revenue is extravagantly wasted!

I want to ask the stand of the Punjab Congress and the Haryana Congress on the SYL issue. I also want to ask the stand of the Punjab BJP and the Haryana BJP on it

We will all work together under Rahul Gandhi's leadership. There are big challenges before the country and if Rahul Gandhi becomes the party chief, it will be easier to deal with them

### SHORT TAKES

#### B'lore flood hits e-com companies

**Bangalore:** E-commerce companies, especially their delivery boys, had a harrowing time to supply products to the customers when certain parts of Bengaluru was under deluge due to two days of heavy rains in parts of the city. The inundated areas such as parts of Sarjapura, Bellandur, Varthur, Whitefield and Outer Ring Road had become inaccessible due to water-logging.

#### Kovind given Z+ security cover

**New Delhi:** The Centre has accorded 'Z plus' category VIP security cover of a central paramilitary force to former president Ram Nath Kovind, officials said Wednesday. Kovind will be granted the armed escort on an all-India basis and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) VIP security commando unit will render the task, they said.

#### Woman bites fingers of mother-in-law

**Thane:** Angered by her mother-in-law turning off the television set due to a loud sound, a 32-year-old homemaker from Ambarnath in Maharashtra's Thane district bit three fingers of the old woman, police said Wednesday. The incident occurred when Vrushali Kulkarni (60) was reciting bhajans at her house while her daughter-in-law, Vijaya Kulkarni, was watching television, a Shivaji Nagar police station official said.

#### 4 killed in Raj road mishap

**Jaipur:** Four people, including an infant, were killed and three injured when a bus rammed into two motorcycles in Rajasthan's Ajmer district, police said Wednesday. The incident occurred near the Fatehgarh intersection in Sarwad Tuesday night when the public transport bus rammed into the two-wheeler, Sarwad Station House Officer (SHO) Suryabhan Singh said.

#### Student jumps to death from lodge

**Hyderabad:** A 23-year-old IIT-Hyderabad student allegedly died by suicide on Wednesday at a lodge near the institute where he was staying, police said. The student went to the terrace of the lodge where he has been staying temporarily, and jumped to death in the early hours of Wednesday, they added. He had completed B.Tech at the institute. The death comes close on the heels of a suspected suicide of a second-year M.Tech student in the institute campus recently.



Goa Police have launched a massive crackdown on the drug trade. The government wants to give a strict message to tourists that our state is not for any drugs and its trade and consumption will not be entertained

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

#### KOCHI METRO RAIL PROJECT'S 2ND PHASE GETS CABINET NOD

The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved the second phase of the Kochi Metro Rail project, which will have 11 stations covering a length of over 11 km and cost ₹1,957 crore. In a statement after the cabinet meeting, the government said preparatory work for the second phase, including road widening of the Seaport Airport Road, are progressing well



## Madrassa demolished, students face uncertain future

The Assam Police Tuesday claimed that people have demolished the madrassa and a house adjacent to it in protest against the alleged use of its premises for 'jihadi' activities



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Darogar Alga (Assam), Sept 7:** A day after the madrassa he was studying in was demolished by villagers of Darogar Alga char (sand bar) in Goalpara district of Assam, 10-year-old Abdul Hamid and his classmates stare at an uncertain future. After completing his primary education up to Class 5 at the

Darogar Alga Majar Char Lower Primary School, Hamid's father got him admitted to the local madrassa for learning theology. "Our madrassa was demolished yesterday. But our teachers had run away a few days ago after the

police came looking for them around 20 days back. Since then, no class has taken place," Hamid told PTI here. Hamid said all his classmates had left the seminary for their homes after two teachers, allegedly Bangladeshi, disappeared

following the arrest of some persons in connection with alleged 'jihadi' links.

Ismail Mohammed, another student of the madrassa, said he will have to help his father in farming if he cannot join another institute somewhere else. Hamid's father, Somesh Ali, said all parents took their children home after the news of terror links were alleged with the two teachers of the madrassa.

Asked why he admitted Hamid to a religious course instead of proper general studies despite his scientific knack, he said that the village does not have a high school and the boy would have to travel a lot for higher studies. The madrassa which was demolished had around 20 students.

They were studying theology by staying in the compound which also houses a mosque. The mosque, however, was not dismantled.

The veteran school teacher, who has been serving the institution since 1987, said that he disapproves of the parents' decision to discontinue school education of the kids for religious studies.

Uzir Jamal, a 62-year-old resident of the village, said poor infrastructure of government-run schools is also forcing parents to take their children to madrassas.

Assam DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta had last week said that there are about 3,000 registered and unregistered madrassas across Assam that are run by four main Muslim organisations.

## Abandoned newborn partially eaten by stray dogs on hosp premises

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mandya, Sept 7:** A chilling incident of stray dogs feeding on an abandoned newborn girl child at the Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences (MIMS) in Karnataka's Mandya district has surfaced and police are probing the matter.

Police sources said Wednesday that they suspect the baby was abandoned by her parents due to



the social stigma surrounding the girl child. They are analysing CCTV footage to gather evidence.

According to the police, the doctors have stated that the child was born a day before and looked handicapped, which could also be the reason for her parents abandoning her. People informed the authorities after seeing a pack of dogs eating the baby near Ward No 7 of MIMS Tuesday. As the baby was moving, people could see that she was alive, and were outraged to see the baby's wounds and bite marks from dogs at the time of rescue. The MIMS staff rushed to the spot and rescued the newborn baby. However, the baby succumbed to injuries, police said.

A complaint in this regard was lodged with West police station in Mandya city. Police suspect that the newborn baby was dragged into the premises by dogs.

MIMS Director Dr Mahesh Kumar also visited the spot.

Authorities later checked whether the abandoned baby was born at the MIMS and confirmed that it was not born there. Between September 1 and 5, four babies - three male and one female - died at the MIMS. The parents of the female baby confirmed that they have conducted final rites for their baby, sources said.

## Army effects reorientation of troops along LAC



From construction of roads, bridges and ammunition depots to bolstering its surveillance apparatus, the Army is also ramping up military infrastructure at a rapid pace for quicker mobilisation of troops in RALP (Rest of Arunachal Pradesh) region close to the LAC

AGENCIES

**Dinjan (Assam), Sept 7:** The Indian Army is effecting a major "reorientation" of its troops in the strategically-sensitive areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh to boost its overall combat readiness amid the lingering border standoff in eastern Ladakh.

General-Officer-Commanding of the 2 Mountain Division Major General MS Bains said the focus of the Army in the region has been fully shifted towards the northern border and that almost all the counter-insurgency operations are now being carried out by the Assam Rifles.

He said capability development projects including construction of roads, bridges, tunnels, helipads and other infrastructure are being implemented under strict time-lines, especially in the Upper Dibang Valley region. "Our overall combat readiness in the region is of a very high order," Major General Bains told a group of journalists.

Another senior official said the focus is also on expanding 4G telecommunication network in strategically-sensitive areas like Kibithu, Walong and Hayuliang. China has installed significant numbers of mobile towers on its side of the LAC in the region and Indian phones automatically pick

up Chinese network in some of the areas. On reorientation of troops in various areas including in RALP region, the officials said all Army units except 73 Mountain Brigade is now working towards dealing with challenges along the LAC. The 73 Mountain Brigade headquartered in Laipuli near Upper Assam's Dibrugarh town has been tasked with continuing carrying out counter insurgency operations in four districts of the state.

"The overall law-and-order situation has improved in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Manipur. So the counter-insurgency operations are largely being carried out by the Assam Rifles and the Army is focusing on reorientation of the troops along the LAC," said an official.

Another official said the government is also determined to significantly enhance infrastructure in border villages.

"As many as 990 villages in five districts of Arunachal Pradesh have been identified under the vibrant village programme," he said.

The officials said new-age surveillance equipment including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are being deployed in forward locations along the LAC in the Arunachal Pradesh sector. They said the aim of capability development initiatives are to ensure swift mobilisation of troops.

## Cabinet approves ₹27,360-cr scheme for setting up 14K PM-SHRI schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved a ₹27,360-crore scheme for the development of over 14,000 schools across the country as PM Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI), which is expected to benefit 18.7 lakh students.

Under the scheme, over 14,000 schools, including Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas as well as schools run by state governments and local bodies, will be strengthened to emerge as PM-SHRI Schools, Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Anurag Thakur told reporters after the Cabinet meeting.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the scheme September 5 on Teachers Day to upgrade and modernise existing schools from amongst those managed by the central and state governments, as well as local bodies.

The total project cost would be ₹27,360 crore for five years, of which the central share would be ₹18,128



crore. The government expects this scheme to benefit 18.7 lakh students and these schools will be monitored vigorously to assess progress and understand the challenges faced in the implementation of the new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

"PM SHRI will provide high-quality education in an equitable, inclusive and joyful school environment that takes care of the diverse background, multilingual needs, and different academic abilities of children and makes them active participants in their own learning process as per the vision of NEP 2020," said Pradhan, who

is the Education and Skill Development Minister.

The PM SHRI Schools will provide leadership to other schools in their respective regions by providing mentorship.

"These schools will be developed as 'Green schools', incorporating environment-friendly aspects like solar panels and LED lights, nutrition gardens with natural farming, waste management and plastic free," Pradhan said.

Water conservation and harvesting, the study of traditions and practices related to the protection of the environment, climate-change-related hackathon and awareness generation to adopt a sustainable lifestyle will also be included.

"Pedagogy adopted in these schools will be more experiential, holistic, integrated, play and toy-based (particularly, in the foundational years) inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centred, discussion-based, flexible and enjoyable," Pradhan said.

### CHEERFUL MOOD



Punjab Armed Police recruits dance as they celebrate after their passing out parade at PAP campus in Jalandhar, Punjab

PTI PHOTO

## 'Over 47% unapproved antibiotic formulations used in 2019'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** More than 47 per cent of antibiotic formulations used in India's private sector in 2019 were not approved by the central drug regulator, according to a study published in The Lancet Regional Health-Southeast Asia.

The research also found that azithromycin 500mg tablet was the most consumed antibiotic formulation (7.6 per cent) in India, followed by cefixime 200 mg tablet (6.5 per cent) during the year.

The researchers at Boston University, US and Public Health Foundation of India, New Delhi, examined the private sector antibiotic use, which contributes to 85-90 per cent of the total consumption in India.

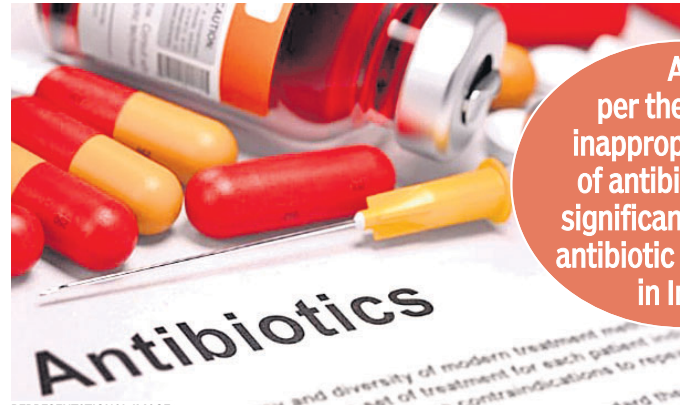
The data were gathered from a panel of 9,000 stockists who store products from approximately 5,000

pharmaceutical companies. However, these data did not include the drugs dispensed through public facilities, though this is less than 15-20 per cent of all drug sales in the country as per studies and national health accounts estimates.

The researchers found a lower consumption rate of antibiotics compared to previous estimates but very high relative consumption of broad-spectrum antibiotics, which act against a wide range of disease-causing bacteria.

The total defined daily dose (DDD) - the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a drug in adults - consumed in 2019 was 5,071 million (10.4 DDD/1,000/day), they said.

The study shows that formulations listed in the national list of essential medicines (NLEM) contributed 49 per cent while fixed-dose



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

As per the study, inappropriate use of antibiotics is a significant driver of antibiotic resistance in India

combinations (FDC) contributed 34 per cent, and unapproved formulations were 47.1 per cent.

FDCs are the combinations of two or more active drugs in a single dosage form. "Centrally unapproved formulations accounted for 47.1 per cent (2,408 million) of total

discouraged by the World Health Organization (WHO) constituted 48.7 per cent of FDCs.

Watch includes broad-spectrum antibiotics with a high chance of resistance to be used only for specific indications.

"We do not have proper surveillance systems monitoring antibiotic usage in our country and irrational antibiotic usage is rampant," said Dr. Hari Kishan Boorugu, Consultant Physician & Diabetologist, Yashoda Hospitals Hyderabad.

"Problem lies at multiple levels - antibiotic usage by patients without prescription, irrational usage of antibiotics by quacks and even by many qualified doctors,"

Boorugu told PTI. Inappropriate use of antibiotics is a significant driver of antibiotic resistance in India, the authors of the study noted in the journal.

"Largely unrestricted over-the-counter sales of most antibiotics, manufacturing and marketing of many FDC and overlap in regulatory powers between national and state-level agencies complicate antibiotics availability, sales, and consumption in the country," they said.

The authors acknowledge some limitations to their study, including the fact that the dataset covers only the private sector sales of antibiotics and will not reflect the antibiotics dispensed through the public system. Also, the data do not differentiate between community and hospital use as the data are collected at the stockist level, they said.

# 250 terrorists wait across LoC, army readies to counter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Keran Sector (LoC), Sept 7:** With intelligence reports suggesting presence of around 250 terrorists across launch pads in PoK, the army along the Line of Control (LoC) has upped its ante to counter any nefarious design from across the border.

Maintaining a high vigil at the forward post in Keran sector, the northern most part of Kashmir along the LoC, troops are maintaining a birds-eye vigil despite ceasefire between the two countries since February last year.

For the soldiers at this frontier, it's a battle that has to be fought on two fronts - hostile neighbour and harsh winter, which is approaching.

Though the claims of the army that infiltration has reduced in the past few years, officials, who spoke to a group of visiting journalists, said there were intelligence inputs about the presence of about 250 terrorists at various launch pads waiting across the LoC to sneak in. So, we cannot let our guard down, one of the army officials said.

Besides infiltration of terrorists, the army is also worried about the flow of drugs from across the border. Recently, Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh had said smuggling of drugs from across the border is on the rise and Pakistan is using it to fund terrorism in Kashmir.

The army officer said, "We are keeping a close eye on the smuggling of narcotics as well apart from infiltration of terrorists and arms and ammunition. The enemy has its ways, but we are firm and ever ready to defend our motherland. And with the winter not far away, the battle is about to get tougher." It is a tough fight. Life in these

terrains is very difficult, a soldier guarding one of the posts here, in Keran Sector in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir told PTI.

These Army posts - some at the highest altitude of about 12,000 feet - are the first line of defence against the intruders in these infamous, traditional routes of infiltration. These infiltration routes converge at the mighty Shamsabari range.

The range with its mighty peaks, rugged mountains, thick forests with dense vegetation, and several streams, poses a difficult challenge, to the forces, of both the kind - the nature as well as of the man.

Apart from the topography, 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 soldiers and officers as well as the posts cannot be identified for strategic reasons.

For the months of the winter, the forces at such posts or their base camps have to stock up the essentials as the road gets cut-off due to heavy snow. For those months, helicopters choppers are the only mode of transportation.

The road, many bunkers and other infrastructure is not even visible when the snow accumulates. There are high-poles which act as markers for us in such situations when we have to move, the officer said.

Notwithstanding the nature, the officer said, the duty to protect the motherland is the priority and has to be performed in any case.

The duty at the forward post can sometimes stretch several hours especially if there is an input (terrorists' movement), he said.

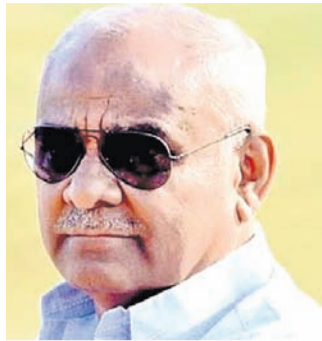


# K'taka: 3-day state mourning as Katti laid to rest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Belagavi/Bangalore, Sept 7:** Karnataka Minister Umesh Katti, who died due to heart attack, was laid to rest with full state honours, and the state government has declared state mourning till September 9, across the state, as a mark of respect to the departed leader.

Hundreds of people took part in the final journey of the 61-year-old minister for food, civil supplies and consumer affairs, and forest, from Belagavi to his native Belladbagewadi in Hukkeri taluk,



where last rites were performed as per Veerashaiva-Lingayat traditions, Wednesday.

The state government had declared a holiday today to all schools and colleges, along with government offices in Belagavi district, as a mark of respect to Katti, who was an eight-time MLA from Hukkeri assembly constituency.

Katti had died due to heart attack at a private hospital in Bengaluru on Tuesday night. He is survived by wife, son and daughter.

According to sources, Katti collapsed in the bathroom of his 'Dollar's Colony' residence here and was rushed to the hospital.

Earlier in the day, his mortal remains were flown by air to Belagavi,

from where it was taken in a decked up military vehicle to his native village of Belladbagewadi, where the last rites were performed late in the evening. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, former Chief Ministers B S Yediyurappa and Siddaramaiah, several of Bommai's cabinet colleagues, legislators and BJP leaders were present.

The government had earlier announced one-day state mourning across Karnataka, but it was later extended till September 9.

During the period of state mourning, no official entertainment programmes will be conducted and

the national flag will be flown at half mast on all official buildings and places, the notification said.

Bommai in Belagavi said the state government has decided to observe three days of state mourning from today. Other than works related to the management of floods and other emergencies, there will be no official functions on these days.

Also BJP's 'Janotsava' rally to mark the completion of the party being in power for three years and his government's one year in office, in Doddaballapura scheduled for Thursday, has been postponed to September 11.

# B'lore limps back to normalcy

BJP FACES PEOPLE'S WRATH ON SOCIAL MEDIA



## Set up grievance cell in all wards: HC to BBMP

**The Karnataka High Court** Wednesday directed the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to set up a grievance cell in every ward against the backdrop of the flooding situation following heavy rainfall in Bangalore.

A division bench headed by acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe gave the direction while looking into the Public Interest Litigation petition in connection with poor management of roads by the BBMP.

The bench gave direction to immediately set up cells to look into the woes of the public in many regions of Bangalore battered by

rains and flood-like situation, and also appoint an engineer to each cell to address the grievances.

The BBMP must establish a team of engineers to ensure systematic water flow in the respective areas, the bench said. During the hearing, the BBMP advocate informed the court about the steps being taken to prevent flooding in the city.

The court was told that all the lakes in Bengaluru will have sluice gates installed. As an immediate measure, water is being drained out of flooded areas using pumps, the BBMP submitted.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, Sept 7:** Although floodwaters receded here in some areas, the images of people rushing out of submerged localities in tractors is set to linger on in people's memory for long and the only silver lining now is the respite from torrential rains.

While elected representatives of the ruling BJP faced tough questions over tackling the deluge, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Wednesday said he would bat for special grants from Centre to han-

dle the situation arising out of the damage caused by the downpour to civic infrastructure.

Parts of Bangalore that were battered by torrential rains for the last couple of days appeared to be slowly returning to normalcy with floodwaters receding in some areas.

According to official sources, waterlogging has been cleared in most roads, while work is on for draining water in other affected areas. Traffic is almost returning to near-usual levels and complete normalcy is hoped soon.

# Human greed eats up Kashmir's countryside

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Sept 7:** Kashmir's fast shrinking countryside is witness to human greed and short-sightedness of planners.

Just two decades back, one would get a divine feeling of entering the lap of nature as Srinagar city was surrounded by vast, lush green paddy fields and crystal clear water bodies.

Bathers would drink handfuls of clean water in the Dal Lake which is situated in the heart of Srinagar city. Within less than three decades, this lake has lost its grandeur and purity despite the huge effort put in by the governments to restore this water body to its old glory.

Bathers are reported to develop skin allergies and drinking the water of the Dal Lake is now considered a gastroenterologist's goldmine. Past growing cities and towns have eaten up the rural greenery in all the 10 districts of

the Valley, Srinagar being the worst affected of all. Monoliths of concrete have come up around and inside Srinagar city and the new-found greed to construct shopping malls and multi-storied business complexes in the suburbs has deprived posterity from witnessing the city's glory except in the photo-albums of their grandparents.

The ecological disaster of Srinagar city is in fact much older than just the last three decades.

In the 1960s, a mindless administrative decision was taken to fill up the 'Nallah Mar' that went round the old Srinagar city.

Srinagar till then was called the 'Venice of Asia' because of this serpentine canal that formed a fabulous waterway on the banks of which most of the city's commercial activities took place.

It was a magical waterway in which boats carrying goods would move as buyers would line up at different shopping points.

A macadamised road has replaced the canal on which the security forces and the miscreants kept battling with stones and tear smoke shells during the peak years of violence.

Incidentally, the first burst of the separatist automatic gunfire was also heard on this road in 1989. Till a few months back, the conversion of agricultural land for any other purpose, including house construction and commercial activity, was banned under the law.

This ban order was recently relaxed permitting the conversion of agricultural land for other use after paying a fixed amount of revenue to the government.

The protection of the shrinking agricultural land in the Valley had already given the authorities sleepless nights as encroachers and greedy land brokers kept on selling these protected pieces of land on the sly.

Now that the same can be legally converted for other purposes, how fast Valley's agricultural fields would last is anybody's guess.

Does Kashmir have so much potential for commercial activities that crores of rupees are being spent each day for construction of shopping malls and complexes.

Interestingly, the experts believe that these real estate ownerships have become a convenient method of parking your money.

"Say for example, you construct a shopping complex that might not fetch you the investments in the first few years. Given the normal escalation and appreciation, you would earn 100 times more on such investments over the years than any bank can pay you on that amount," said a financial expert.

Thanks to the efficient public distribution system, rice, the staple food of the local people, is available at comparatively lower price through the government run ration depots. Rice grown locally costs much more than the same quantity available at the government run ration depot. Farmers have started a novel practice in Kashmir. They sell their own produce of rice and buy their annual requirement on a monthly basis from the government ration depots. Only the richer sections of the local society are now seen eating the locally grown grain.

While everybody is driven by greed to earn more by parking money in real estate and lands are sold and purchased at exorbitant rates, nobody seems to give a damn to the green countryside of Kashmir nor its glistening streams and springs.

# Sufi saint's Urs restarts after 33 years in J&K's Ganderbal



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Ganderbal, Sept 7:** After 33 years, the annual Urs of Hazrat Qamaruddin Bukhari (RA) is being observed in Reshipora, Saloora area of Ganderbal district from September 7 to September 10.

The four-day Urs is being observed with much enthusiasm and religious fervour. Thousands of people are expected to participate in the Urs for which the J&K administration has made elaborated arrangements. The areas enroute to the shrine have been decorated.

The traditional water navigation route from Dal Lake to Ziyarat Syed Qamaruddin Bukhari in Ganderbal would be revived to celebrate the Urs of the saint from September 7 for which the divi-

# Sufi saint's Urs restarts after 33 years in J&K's Ganderbal

sional and district administration has geared up to make all related arrangements.

The practice of taking a fleet of boats and shikaras carrying devotees and artists from Dal Lake and Zero Bridge to Ziyarat Qamaruddin Bukhari is being revived after three decades. Traditionally a fleet of boats carrying artists would perform various Sufi songs and recite Naats during the journey from Dal Lake to Beehama at the Urs.

While reviving the cultural aspect of the festival, a cultural programme would be performed by the artists on the motorboats from Srinagar to Ganderbal along the River Jhelum after three decades.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has fixed the responsibilities for the departments to hold

a massive rally of water transport to exhibit cultural festivities for the observance of Urs of Hazrat Qamaruddin Bukhari.

Besides, the administration has made arrangements for holding an exhibition by setting up various stalls, sports activities, cultural events, and Naat competitions during the Urs days.

Talking to Greater Kashmir, Chairman Qamria Muslim Waqf Trust Saloora, Ganderbal, and former chief secretary Sheikh Ghulam Rasool said that the four-day Urs was being observed from September 7 and the Urs congregation would be held September 10 after three decades. He said that Khatmat-ul-Mozamaat sermons from various Ulemas were being held.

Rasool appreciated the efforts of the divisional and district administration Ganderbal for the arrangements and for showing keen interest to celebrate the Urs of Hazrat Qamaruddin Bukhari (RA).

"It used to be a major Urs celebration before the 1990s, however, after the 90s, the Urs remained a low-key affair as no major congregation could take place. This year after a gap of 33 years, the Urs is being observed with much enthusiasm and religious fervour," he said.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Shyambir Singh said that all the arrangements had been made for the Urs. To facilitate the devotees, the divisional administration has made the availability of six motorised boats. Besides, the Tourism Department would also keep 10 shikaras available.







Celebrated to mark the harvesting of crops, Onam is an occasion to respect the hard work of our farmers and to express our gratitude towards Mother Nature. People of Kerala have preserved their rich cultural heritage. This festival is also an opportunity for them, to promote mutual cooperation and harmony

RAJPATH TO BE CALLED 'KARTAVYA PATH' NOW

It is official now. The Rajpath and the lawns flanking the promenade will now be known as "Kartavya Path" as the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) issued a public notice in this regard Wednesday. The notice was issued hours after the civic body approved a proposal to rename Rajpath as "Kartavya Path" at its special meeting



of the day quote

There is a need to address the linguistic challenges associated with technology to ensure its reach percolates to women at grass-roots level



SMRITI IRANI | UNION MINISTER

The start-up ecosystem in Assam may have started late but its progress has been fast-paced, creating a beacon of hope for the youths of the state



HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

We are confident that with growing familiarity and contacts, the natural complementarity of India and US will assert itself for the benefit of our peoples



S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

ED summons Bengal minister

Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is probing the coal pilferage scam, Wednesday summoned West Bengal Law Minister Moly Ghatak and asked him to appear before the agency's officials in Delhi September 14, ED sources here said. The summons were sent on a day CBI searched five houses belonging to the minister - three in Asansol in Paschim Bardhaman district and two in Kolkata, including his official residence near the Raj Bhavan, in connection with the multi-core coal scam in which he is allegedly involved.

2 terrorists killed in encounter

Srinagar: Two terrorists of Ansar Ghazwatul Hind, an al-Qaeda affiliate, were killed in a "chance encounter" with security forces in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday, police said. The slain terrorists, who were identified as Fayaz Kumar and Owais Khan, were involved in several terror attacks, they said. "Two #terrorists neutralised in a chance encounter by Anantnag Police in Thajiwara, #Bijbehara area of #Anantnag," a police spokesman said in a tweet.

Maoist bunker demolished

Chaibasa/Latehar (Jharkhand): Security forces demolished a large bunker of the proscribed CPI(Maoist) at Saranda forest in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district as part of the 'Operation Octopus' Wednesday, a day after recovery of a huge cache of explosive and ammunition in Latehar, a senior police officer said. The massive anti-naaxal operation was carried out by the elite Jharkhand Jaguar, Cobra and West Singhbhum district armed police, Inspector General (Operations) Amol V Homkar said.

Three die of electrocution

New Delhi: Three men died of electrocution Wednesday morning after an iron trolley which they were using to trim leaves of trees at a farm house in outer Delhi came in contact with a high tension wire, police said. Two of them, Faizan and Suhail, both 19 years old, of Kithor village of Meerut in Uttar Pradesh, came in direct touch with the high tension wire, while a third, Jubair, 23, also a resident of the same village, died rescuing them. The workers were hired by one Sandeep, a resident of Rohini, to work the garden at the Auchandi village farmhouse used for hosting wedding functions, police said.

Right to dress includes right to undress too: SC

THE ROW BEGAN JANUARY 1 AT GOVERNMENT PU COLLEGE IN UDUPI, WHERE SIX FEMALE STUDENTS SAID THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER CLASSROOMS WEARING THE HIJAB

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 7: The Supreme Court, hearing a clutch of petitions against Karnataka High Court judgment wearing on hijab in educational institutions, Wednesday observed that the issue is one particular community insists on a head scarf while others follow a dress code, and also the petitioners' counsel argument on right to dress cannot be taken to "an illogical level".

Senior advocate Devadatt Kamat, representing a Muslim student, submitted that right to dress is recognised as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a) and saying if one goes to school wearing a hijab and that person would not be allowed, then the state violates Article 19.

Kamat submitted before a bench comprising Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia that Karnataka government's GO is compelling the students to choose between their identity and dignity and right to education. At this, Justice Gupta orally remarked: "You cannot take it to an illogical end... right to dress is a funda-

HIJAB ROW



mental right then right to undress also becomes a fundamental right?..." As Kamat replied: "I am not here to make cliché arguments... No one is undressing in school...". Justice Gupta said that no one is denying the right to dress. Kamat then said whether could wearing of this additional dress (hijab) be restricted on the basis of Article 19? Justice Gupta noted that the problem here is one particular community is insisting on a head

scarf while other communities are following the dress code. He added that students of other communities are not saying that they want to wear this and that.

Questioning the Karnataka government's GO, Kamat said there has to be reasonable accommodation for the students trying to exercise her fundamental rights under Article 19, 21, and 25 of the Constitution, and hijab does not create any public order issue. Kamat

said if a girl chooses to wear a hijab, can the state prohibit this? The bench replied: "No one is prohibiting her to wear the hijab... but only in school." When Kamat cited foreign judgments from the US and South Africa, Justice Gupta said "come to India", adding that no other country has diversity like India.

During the hearing, it was argued that the South African court had held that asking the girl to remove nose ring even for a short period would send out the message that she and her religion were not welcome. Justice Gupta said that the nose pin is not a religious symbol and women wear earrings all over the world, but it is no religious practice.

The bench said South Africa does not have a diverse population like India and scheduled the matter for further hearing Thursday.

The top court was hearing a clutch of petitions against the Karnataka High Court judgment, which upheld the right of educational institutions to ban wearing of hijab in pre-university colleges in the state.

OUT OF GEAR



Vehicles move slowly on a road near Pragati Maidan during a traffic congestion in New Delhi

NITISH PITCHES FOR OPPN UNITY

In a swipe at the BJP, Nitish alleged it has been running a one-sided agenda and its efforts are mostly confined to stoking tensions in society



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Wednesday called for a "main front" of all non-BJP parties to take on the ruling alliance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and asserted that the decision on its leadership can be taken later.

Speaking to reporters after he wrapped up his meetings with several opposition leaders since September 5, Kumar said he had a very positive discussions with them and expressed the hope that they will gradually veer towards having a structured programme and agenda.

Kumar, who last month severed ties with the BJP and formed a new government in alliance with the RJD-Congress-Left bloc, also played down the reservations parties like the AAP and the TRS have about the Congress, saying he has spoken to everyone and they have been responding.

The Janata Dal (United) leader has met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, CPI-M general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D Raja, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, INLD supreme

OP Chautala and SP patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav and his son and former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav. On Wednesday, he met NCP's Sharad Pawar and CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya.

To a question about the possibility of a non-BJP and non-Congress "third front", which was experimented with in the past, he said "If a front has to be made, it will be the main front, not the third front."

"An understanding between the Congress, the Left, parties with socialist background and others will be in national interest. If all non-BJP parties in various states come together, then a good atmosphere will emerge in the country."

Little work has been done by this government but it puts a lot of emphasis on propaganda and publicity, he said referring to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led dispensation.

Kumar, who first joined hands with the BJP during the Vajpayee-Advani era in 1996, compared the work done by the Atal Bihar Vajpayee-led government with that of the Modi dispensation.

No plans to merge NEET, JEE with CUET, says Pradhan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota (RJ), Sept 7: There are no plans to merge engineering entrance exam JEE and medical entrance exam NEET with the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for next two years, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said Wednesday.

He said the merger of exams is currently only a "concept" and not "decision", adding that students should not be afraid. University Grants Commission Chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar had last month said JEE and NEET will be merged with the CUET in future.

"Merger of NEET, JEE and CUET is currently a concept, a thought, and the government has not yet decided upon it in principle," Pradhan said while interacting with students, mostly hailing from his home state Odisha, of Allen Career Institute here during his one-day visit to the city Tuesday.



Racket running in country on pretext of bonded labour: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: The Supreme Court Wednesday said there are no bonded labourers in the country and that a racket is running on the "pretext" of bonded labour.

A bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia made the observation while hearing a plea by late social activist Swami Agnivesh on behalf of a woman

worker who was allegedly subjected to repeated rape by an associate of brick kiln contractor in RS Pura sub-division of Jammu. "Do you know who are bonded labourers? They are not bonded. They take the money and come there and are engaged by brick kilns. They come from backward areas. They take the money and eat the money and then resign. This is a racket in the country.

These labourers only take advantage of this bonded labourer thing," the bench observed. The lawyer appearing for Jammu and Kashmir told the bench that an FIR was registered in the case and investigation was initiated. However, the victim went untraceable leading to closure of the case in 2018. According to the petition filed in 2012, after the woman and her husband expressed their wish to return to their native state

in June, the contractor refused to relieve them unless they paid him Rs 3 lakh. Though the husband managed to escape from the camp, his wife and child were kept under illegal confinement. During the illegal confinement, she was repeatedly raped by the contractor and others, it was alleged. The victim and her son had subsequently shifted to a rehabilitation home at the intervention of an NGO and police, it was claimed.

Cong launches Bharat Jodo Yatra



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanyakumari/New Delhi, Sept 7: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Wednesday flagged off party's ambitious 'Bharat Jodo' yatra from Kanyakumari, the coastal town in Tamil Nadu, with an assertion that he will not lose his country to hate and accused the BJP-RSS of trying to divide the country on religious lines.

Eyeing the revival of the crisis-ridden party ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the party chief Sonia Gandhi described the march as a "landmark occasion" and hoped that the march would help rejuvenate the grand old party.

Addressing a rally at the launch of the yatra, Rahul Gandhi tore into the BJP, saying, "today every sin-

I lost my father to the politics of hate and division. I will not lose my beloved country to it too. Love will conquer hate. Hope will defeat fear. Together, we will overcome

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

gle institution is under attack by the BJP and the RSS... They think they can frighten the opposition using ED, CBI, Income Tax. The problem is they do not understand the Indian people." Rahul Gandhi also alleged that the BJP considered the tricolour as their personal property and said the na-

COMBATING AIR POLLUTION

Cracker ban not enough, action needed: Environmentalists

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 7: Episodic events such as firecracker bursting make the air worse for breathing, but there are other more significant sources for the deteriorating air quality all around the year, environmentalists said after the Delhi government announced a ban on the production, sale and use of all types of firecrackers in the city till January 1.

Greenpeace India's Avinash Chanchal said stricter regulatory action is required, along with better designed and implemented awareness campaigns, to enforce the existing plans and strengthen those. "There is no doubt that bursting of firecrackers makes

the air worse for breathing and needs strict and urgent actions to reduce the prevailing air pollution levels. But there are other more significant sources such as pollution from transport, industries, construction and thermal power plants that are responsible for collectively deteriorating the air quality all around the year," Chanchal told PTI.

According to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi recorded its poorest post-Diwali air quality in five years in November 2021, with a deadly cocktail of noxious fumes from firecrackers and stubble burning pushing the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) to the "severe" category (462).



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Residents had flouted the ban on firecrackers to celebrate Diwali and emissions from farm fires in the region had peaked at 36 per cent.

Environmentalist Bhavreen

Kandhari said the ban on the production, sale and use of firecrackers should be in force throughout the year.

"Why do they (Delhi government) implement such bans only

The Delhi government had ordered a complete ban on the sale and bursting of firecrackers in the national capital from September 28 last year to January 1

Last year, the Supreme Court had said there was no absolute ban on the use of firecrackers and only those fireworks that contained barium salts were prohibited

However, the apex court had also termed the rise in air pollution in Delhi-NCR an "emergency" situation and suggested clamping a lockdown in the national capital

for a certain period of time? There are no officials or volunteers who

are ensuring that these plans are implemented on the ground. Those who had to get their stocks of firecrackers have got it by now and will eventually sell those at discounted prices to get rid of the stock. We do not need advertisements for this, we need boots on the ground," Kandhari told PTI.

"Our festivals are a symbol of love and care for each other and other living creatures on this earth and bursting crackers does not fit well with the idea. So it is a good move that bursting firecrackers will not be allowed during the winters, which will help people breathe a bit easy during the festival days," Sunil Dahiya, an analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), said.

# international

## of the day quote

We will propose a price cap on Russian gas. We must cut Russia's revenues which Putin uses to finance this atrocious war in Ukraine

URSULA VON DER LEYEN | PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The United States will continue to work with India to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific and address the challenges both our countries face around the world. That is our commitment that we have in our partnership with India

KARIN JEAN-PIERRE | PRESS SECRETARY, WHITE HOUSE

Today, UN peacekeeping is becoming increasingly challenging in the face of growing violence across conflict theaters, with a diminishing focus on the political process

RUCHIRA KAMBOI | PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN, INDIA

## SHORT TAKES

### Rajnath receives horse as a gift

Ulaanbaatar: Rajnath Singh, the first Indian Defence Minister to visit Mongolia, was gifted a majestic horse by the country's president Wednesday, seven years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a similar gift from the leadership of this country.

### Albania cuts ties with Tehran

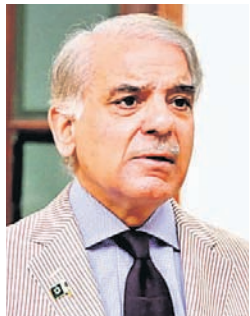
Tirana: Albania cut diplomatic ties with Iran and expelled the country's embassy staff over a major cyberattack nearly two months ago that was allegedly carried out by Tehran on Albanian government websites, the prime minister said Wednesday.

### China quake toll reaches 74

Beijing: The total number of people killed after a 6.8-magnitude earthquake jolted Luding county in China's Sichuan province has increased to 74, while 26 remain unaccounted for, local authorities said Wednesday.

### 23 killed, 11 hurt in bar fire

Hanoi: The death count from a fire that tore through a karaoke bar in southern Vietnam has risen to 23, an official said Wednesday. The blaze engulfed the second floor of the building Tuesday night, trapping customers and staff as dense smoke filled the staircase and blocked the emergency exit, reports said.



You wouldn't believe the scale of destruction. It is water everywhere as far as you could see. It is just like a sea

SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PM, PAKISTAN

## FIRST CITY IN WORLD TO BAN MEAT ADS

As part of a strategy to cut greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change, a Dutch city has become the first in the world to outlaw commercials featuring meat. The city of Haarlem banned the meat advertisements in order to decrease meat consumption, and consequently, carbon emissions



# 'Russia gaining from Ukraine war'

THE WEST'S ATTEMPT TO ECONOMICALLY ISOLATE RUSSIA - ONE OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST PRODUCERS OF NATURAL RESOURCES - HAS PROPELLED THE GLOBAL ECONOMY INTO UNCHARTED WATERS WITH SOARING PRICES FOR FOOD AND ENERGY

REUTERS

Vladivostok, Sept 7: President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday that Russia had gained, not lost, from the conflict in Ukraine because it was embarking on a new sovereign path that would restore its global clout.

Putin increasingly casts the conflict in Ukraine, which he calls a "special military operation", as a turning point in history when Russia finally threw off the humiliations which accompanied the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union.

In an attempt to underscore Russia's tilt towards Asia, Putin, speaking to the Eastern Economic Forum in the Russian Pacific city of Vladivostok, said that the West was failing while Asia was the future.

In his main speech, Putin hardly mentioned Ukraine beyond a reference to grain exports. But when asked by a moderator if anything had been lost from the conflict, Putin said Russia had gained and would emerge renewed.

"We have not lost anything and will not lose anything," said Putin, Russia's paramount leader since 1999. "Everything that is unnecessary, harmful and everything that prevents us from moving forward will be rejected."

"In terms of what we have gained, I can say that the main gain has been the strengthening of our sovereignty, and this is the inevitable result of what is happening now," Putin said. "This will ultimately strengthen our country from within."

## Japan, US, S Korea reaffirm response to N Korea threat

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Sept 7: Diplomats from the United States, Japan and South Korea reaffirmed their commitment Wednesday to working together in response to any threat from North Korea, including a possible new nuclear test.

The three senior diplomats in charge of North Korean affairs also underscored their efforts to strengthen their security partnership. Japan and South Korea acknowledge their need to improve bilateral and trilateral cooperation. Relations between Japan and South Korea have been badly damaged by historical disputes over Japan's colonization of the Korean Peninsula.

Takehiro Funakoshi, director-general of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau of Japan's Foreign Ministry, said the focus of the trilateral cooperation is North Korea and its accelerating nuclear and missile development.

Funakoshi said he and his US and South Korean counterparts, Sung Kim and Kim Gunn, were to discuss their countries' responses to North Korea as they work together to enhance regional deterrence amid "a looming possibility of further provocations including another nuclear test."

North Korea last conducted a nuclear test, its sixth, in 2017, and experts have noted signs of preparations for another test.



- Putin says West is failing, future is in Asia
Sanctions are akin to a declaration of economic war
China will pay for gas 50-50 in roubles and yuan
Kremlin leader says Russia will move forward faster

eastern Europe and its planned admission of Sweden and Finland as members. Preventing NATO expansion was one of his stated objectives for intervening in Ukraine.

He also brushed aside the impact of sanctions that have starved Russian industry of key components like microchips, cut Russians off from international payment systems and led to the departure of thousands of Western companies.

The economy would contract by "around 2% or a little more" this year and the budget would be in surplus, he said.

Putin, who turns 70 in October, told the West in July he was just getting started in Ukraine and dared the United States - which enjoys economic and conventional military superiority over Russia - to try to defeat Moscow. It would, he said, fail.

WESTERN 'FEVER' The confrontation with the West over Ukraine has prompted Russia

to accelerate a pivot towards Asia and particularly China, once a junior partner of the Soviet Union and now the world's second largest economy.

For much of the past 300 years, Russia has looked to the West as the crucible of economic growth, technology and revolutionary ideas. In that period it has also twice been invaded from the West, by Napoleon and Hitler.

Putin, though, said that the West was failing because a futile and aggressive attempt to isolate Russia with sanctions was destroying the global economy just as Asia was rising to claim the future.

Putin said that China would pay Gazprom for its gas in national currencies, based on a 50-50 split between the Russian rouble and Chinese yuan. The United States and its allies imposed the most severe sanctions in modern history on Russia for its actions in Ukraine.

## GRIM SITUATION



Women carry belongings salvaged from their flooded home after monsoon rains, in the Qambar Shahdaktot district of Sindh Province, of Pakistan. More than 1,300 people have been killed and millions have lost their homes in flooding caused by unusually heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan this year that many experts have blamed on climate change

## Brazil fines Apple \$2.4 million for selling iPhones sans charger

Apple has been under investigation in Brazil since December for "the sale of an incomplete product," "discrimination against the consumer" and "the transfer of responsibility to third parties" by offering iPhone 12s and newer versions without chargers for power outlets

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Brasilia, Sept 7: Apple has been barred from selling iPhones without a charger in Brazil and fined more than \$2 million over the issue, the government said Tuesday, after accusing the US tech giant of "discriminatory practices."

In an official notice, Brazilian authorities ordered "the immediate suspension of the distribution of iPhone brand smartphones, regardless of model or generation, that are not accompanied by a battery charger."



The Ministry of Justice and Public Security ordered the California-based company to pay a fine of 12.28 million reais (nearly \$2.4 million). The measure from

the Department of Consumer Protection and Defense effectively prohibits the sale of all iPhone 12 and 13 models.

The company has faced fines from Brazilian state agencies before, but "did not take any measures to minimize the harm and until now continued to sell the cellular devices without chargers," according to an official statement.

According to Brazilian authorities, Apple alleges that the decision to exclude chargers from iPhone sales comes from an "environmental commitment."

But the ministry determined "there is no effective demonstration of environmental protection on Brazilian soil as a consequence" of Apple's policy, and accused the company of "deliberate discriminatory practices against consumers."

"There is no justification for an operation which, in aiming to reduce carbon emissions, leads to the introduction into the consumer market of a product whose use depends on the acquisition of another (product) which is also marketed by the company," the official notice added.

## AGAINST ISLAM

# Gulf Arab nations ask Netflix to remove 'offensive' videos

SAUDI STATE CHANNEL AIRED VIDEO OF AN INTERVIEW IT CONDUCTED WITH A WOMAN IDENTIFIED AS A "BEHAVIOURAL CONSULTANT" WHO DESCRIBED NETFLIX AS BEING AN "OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF HOMOSEXUALITY"

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Sept 7: Gulf Arab countries

Tuesday asked Netflix to remove "offensive content" on the streaming service, apparently targeting programmes that show people who are gay and lesbian.

A joint statement issued on behalf of a committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council made the request, saying the unspecified programmes "contradict Islamic and societal values and principles."

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates each published the statement via their respective governments as well. They along with Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, make up the six-nation council.

While the statement didn't elaborate, Saudi state television also aired video of an interview it conducted with a woman identified



as a "behavioural consultant" who described Netflix as being an "official sponsor of homosexuality."

It aired footage at the same time of a cartoon, "Jurassic World: Camp Cretaceous," in which two

women kissed, though the footage was blurred out.

Saudi state television also aired a segment suggesting Netflix could be banned in the kingdom over that programming reaching children.

The move comes after countries in the Muslim world in June banned the public showing of Disney's latest animated film "Lightyear" over a brief moment showing two lesbian characters kissing.

After that, the company's Disney+ streaming service said its "content available should align with local regulatory requirements" in Gulf Arab countries.

Many Muslims consider gays and lesbians to be sinful. In some parts of the Arab world, members of the LGBTQ community have been arrested and sentenced to prison. Some countries even maintain the death penalty.

The move also comes as regional streaming services try to eat into Netflix's revenue, including the

Shahid service operated by the Saudi-owned MBC Group.

The Saudi government is believed to hold a controlling stake in MBC Group after a series of arrests in 2017 ordered by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over corruption allegations that saw him centralise power in the kingdom.

Netflix has limited content previously in Saudi Arabia. In 2019, activists blasted the streaming service for pulling an episode of comedian Hasan Minhaj's "Patriot Act" that criticised Prince Mohammed over the killing and dismemberment of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi, as well as the kingdom's involvement in the war in Yemen.

# business

## of the day quote

By 2047-2050 period, when India would be completing 100 years of Independence, we will be at least a \$30 trillion economy on a business as usual scenario and possibly a \$35-45 trillion economy

**PIYUSH GOVAL** | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

We have to understand that internationalisation of CBDC is crucial to addressing the payments issue that bodies like G-20 and Bank for International Settlements (BIS) are dealing with now

**T RABI SANKAR** | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

India needs to get out of lithium-ion battery technology for electric vehicles at the earliest, as the country has no control over the commodity

**VK SINGH** | UNION MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Oil plummets to 7-month low

**Singapore:** Oil prices fell more than \$1 Wednesday to their lowest since before Russia invaded Ukraine as Covid-19 curbs in top crude importer China and expectations of more interest rate hikes spurred worries of a global economic recession and lower fuel demand. Brent crude futures fell \$1.35, or 1.5%, to \$91.48 a barrel by 0420 GMT after slipping 3% in the previous session. The contract hit a session low of \$91.35, the lowest since February 18. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures shed \$1.55, or 1.8%, to \$85.33. The benchmark fell to a session low of \$85.17, the lowest since January 26.

### Adani to build 3 giga factories

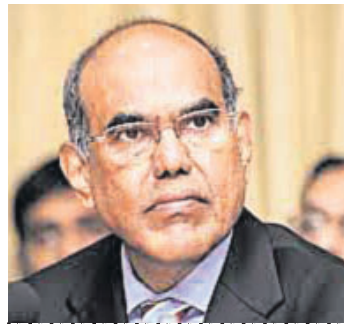
**New Delhi:** Asia's richest man Gautam Adani Wednesday said his ports-to-power conglomerate will build three giga factories for manufacturing solar modules, wind turbines, and hydrogen electrolyzers as part of a \$70 billion investment in clean energy by 2030. "The Adani Group has already committed \$70 billion. This will see us building three giga factories in India leading to one of the world's most integrated green-energy value chains," he said after receiving the USIBC Global Leadership Award here.

### US' \$50bn chip plan to counter China

**Washington:** The Biden administration has announced it will invest \$50 billion in building up the domestic semiconductor industry to counter dependency on China, as the US produces zero and consumes 25 per cent of the world's leading-edge chips vital for its national security. President Joe Biden last month signed a \$280 billion CHIPS bill to boost domestic high-tech manufacturing, part of his administration's push to boost US competitiveness over China.

### China's export sinks, imports fall in Aug

**Beijing:** China's export growth weakened in August and imports shrank as high energy prices, inflation and anti-virus restrictions weighed on global and Chinese consumer demand. Exports rose 7% over a year ago to \$314.9 billion, barely one-third of July's 18% expansion, customs data showed Wednesday. Imports contracted by 0.2% to \$235.5 billion, compared with the previous month's already weak 2.3% growth.



**Ideally, we should have a road map, maybe over a 10 year timeframe, to privatise all PSBs. That will give much needed predictability to all stakeholders**

**D SUBBARAO** | FORMER GOVERNOR, RBI

## MATRIMONY.COM ROLLS OUT APP FOR LGBT COMMUNITY

Matchmaking service provider Matrimony.Com has unveiled 'RainbowLuv' mobile application to serve the members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, asexual community, the company said Wednesday



# Govt okays long-term leasing of railway land

*The new policy will help in attracting more cargo to railways, increase railways' modal share in freight transportation thereby reducing cost of logistics of the industry and thus generate more revenue, the railways said*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved a policy for long-term leasing of railway land for the PM Gati Shakti programme, which the government said will help set up 300 cargo terminals and generate 1.25 lakh jobs.

The new policy will help provide land lease for a longer period of up to 35 years as against five years at present, Union Minister Anurag Thakur told the media after the cabinet meeting.

With an employment generation potential of about 1.25 lakh jobs, the policy will also bring more revenue to the Railways; 300 cargo terminals will be developed in five years.

The new policy will enable the integrated development of infrastructure and more cargo terminals. It has also cut down land lease fee from 6 percent to 1.5 percent, the railways said in a statement.

The proposed changes will pave way for privatisation of the Container Corporation of India (Concor) because it will help strategic buyers pay much less amounts as land rentals to railways for a longer period, officials explained. This was one of the key suggestions put forward by the investment advisors of Concor.

The development is believed to be in line with NITI Aayog's recommendation to keep railway land leasing fee for containers below 3 per cent.

Concor, under the aegis of the railway ministry, is engaged in transportation and handling of containers, the officials said.



## NEW POLICY

- L**and lease for a longer period of up to 35 years as against five years
- G**ovt has also cut down land lease fee from 6 percent to 1.5 percent
- D**ecks cleared for privatisation of the Container Corporation of India
- U**se of railway land at nominal cost for setting up of solar plants
- G**ovt to help set up 300 cargo terminals and generate 1.25 lakh jobs

The firm is also engaged in the operation of logistics facilities, including dry ports, container freight stations and private freight terminals. It has 61 container depots, out of which 26 are on railway land leased on a per container licence fee basis.

## RBI puts out 'Alert List' of illegal forex trading entities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 7:** The Reserve Bank Wednesday came out with an 'Alert List' containing the names of 34 entities, including OctaFX, Alpari, HotForex, and Olymp Trade, that are not authorised to deal in forex and operate electronic trading platforms in the country.

In a statement, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that resident persons can undertake forex transactions only with authorised persons and for permitted purposes, in terms of the FEMA.

Resident persons undertaking forex transactions for purposes other than those permitted under the FEMA or on electronic trading platforms (ETPs) not authorised by the RBI shall render themselves liable for legal action under the FEMA.

The central bank said it has been receiving references seeking clarification on the authorisation status of some ETPs.

"It has, therefore, been decided to place on the RBI website an 'Alert List' of entities which are neither authorised to deal in forex under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) nor authorised to operate electronic trading platforms for forex transactions," it said.

The Alert List contains names of entities which are neither authorised to deal in forex nor authorised to ETP for forex transactions under the Electronic Trading Platforms (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2018.

Some of the other names in the Alert List include Forex4money, eToro, FXCM, NTS Forex Trading, Urban Forex, and XM.

The RBI further said the list is not exhaustive and is based on what was known to it at the time of publication.

"An entity not appearing in the list should not be assumed to be authorised by the RBI," the central bank said.

## \$300-BILLION RED FLAG

# India's forex kitty to shrink further this yr: Deutsche



*With the RBI's proactive FX intervention expected to continue - to smoothen volatility and prevent excessive depreciation in rupee - FX reserves are likely to fall further from current levels, the bank said*

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Sept 7:** The overall foreign exchange reserves will deplete further this year due to ballooning current account deficit and interventions by the central bank to support the rupee, Deutsche Bank said Wednesday.

The country's trade deficit could rise to as much as \$300 billion in 2022-23 fiscal year, pushing the current account deficit to about \$140 billion, or 3.9% of the GDP, the bank estimated in a research note.

"If the current account deficit indeed rises to \$140 billion, the overall BOP (balance of payment) deficit could be as large as \$80 billion for FY23, as we are forecasting a capital account surplus of about \$60

billion," said Kaushik Das, chief economist, India and South Asia, Deutsche Bank.

Accounting for a decline in reserves due to changes in valuation, the deficit in the current fiscal could be as large \$100 billion-\$105 billion, Das said.

India's spot forex reserves fell to \$561 billion by end-August from \$607 in end-March, while net forwards outstanding likely declined to \$17 billion from \$66 billion, implying a drawdown of \$49 billion, Das estimated.

The overall forex reserves, including spot rupee and forwards, stood at of \$578 billion at the end of August and is likely to fall to below \$550 by the end of this fiscal year, Das said.

He highlighted a speech by Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das earlier this week that said the central bank would aim to anchor expectations around the depreciating rupee and intervene to prevent an overshoot.

"With the RBI's proactive FX intervention expected to continue - to smoothen volatility and prevent excessive depreciation in rupee - FX reserves are likely to fall further from current levels," Deutsche Bank said.

# Inflation no longer red-lettered: FM



*Retail inflation touched a high of 7.79 per cent in April this year since then it is on a downward trajectory*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** With inflation easing from a record high, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Wednesday said it is no longer "red-lettered" and the priority for the government now is job creation and boosting growth.

Besides, equitable distribution of wealth remains the other focus area, she said at the India Ideas

Summit here. "Some of course are red-lettered (priorities), some may not be. Red-lettered ones would of course be jobs, equitable wealth distribution and making sure India is moving on the path of growth. In that sense inflation is not red-lettered. I hope it doesn't surprise many of you. We have shown that in the past couple of months that we were able to bring it to a manageable level," she said at the event.

According to official data, retail inflation softened to 6.71 per cent in July due to moderation in food prices but remained above the Reserve Bank's comfort level of 6 per cent for the seventh consecutive month. The Consumer Price Index-based retail inflation was at 7.01 per cent in June.

She exuded confidence that the Reserve Bank would manage the volatility emerging from the aggressive rate hike stance by the US Fed and the European Central Bank.

Referring to the global energy crisis triggered by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, she said, uncertainty over the availability of crude, and natural gas continues.

## BIZ BUZZ

### TPCODL opens first skill development centre in City



**Bhubaneswar:** To ensure skill development, technical training and exposure to new practices in power distribution sector Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) opened its first training centre in state capital for knowledge and skill upgradation of its employees. The in-house skill development centre will provide platform to workforce and technical people of both TPCODL and its associates. It will also help the workforce from rural areas to learn and practice new processes and technology to sharpen their overall skill sets. The upskilling process will lead to a stronger workforce that can better serve the rural

customers. Inaugurated by Praveer Sinha, CEO, Tata Power Co Ltd and M Shenbagam, CEO, TPCODL the Skill Development Centre set up at Sainik School Primary Sub Station is the first of its kind in distribution in Odisha to set a benchmark for the upcoming centres. The centre is designed to cater to all types of technical and safety-related skills and practices in distribution operations where people can see the equipment with their bare eyes and take real life training. The center is equipped with classroom training; demonstration of materials and equipment. Employees can get hands on training on distribution network, equipment and meters at the SDG.

### BOI holds 117th Foundation Day

**Bhubaneswar:** On the occasion of 117th foundation day, Bank of India (BOI), Zonal Office, here organised a 'Speech Competition' in Kendriya Vidyalaya-6, Malaya Das S, Zonal Manager, BOI, Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar; Ananta Narayan Meher, Principal of the School, Ved Prakash Ojha, Chief Manager, Security Department, Sradha Acharya, Senior Hindi Teacher were present on this occasion. Total 23 Students participated in the competition. The topics for the competition were Swatch Bharat Abhiyan, Importance of Official Language-Hindi, Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. At the end, the winners were awarded with shields and prizes. On this occasion, G Shivani, Marketing Officer arranged a PPT Presentation on Sukanya Samridhi Yojana. Sonia Sawant, Senior Manager, Official Language Department coordinated the programme and gave vote of thanks.

### Union Bank launches Union Gold Loan Point

**Bhubaneswar:** Union Bank of India, Balugaon Branch, launched Union Gold Loan Point and ATM lobby. Renovated premises which was inaugurated by Field General Manager Bhubaneswar Ramakanta Pradhan Wednesday. On the occasion, Sovan Sengupta, Deputy General Manager; Ashok Mishra, Assistant General Manager Bhubaneswar, Prasanta Kumar Nayak, Chief Manager Bhubaneswar, Rashmi Ranjan Samanta, Branch Manager, along with senior officials of regional office of nearby local branches and valued customers of the branch were present to grace the occasion. A Self Help Group (SHG) loan and agricultural loan fair was organised on the occasion. Nearly Rs 2.5 Crore of loans were sanctioned in the fair.

# Guidelines for social media influencers on anvil

*Sources said social media influencers, who have large followers on social media platforms like Instagram, are endorsing products after taking payments from the brands*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** The government will soon come out with guidelines for social media influencers, making it mandatory for them to declare their association with the product they endorse, sources said.

"The Department of Consumer Affairs is coming out with guidelines on social media influencers. It is creating dos and don'ts for them," an official source said.

Sources said social media influencers, who have large followers on social media platforms like Instagram, are endorsing prod-

ucts after taking payments from the brands.

As per the proposed guidelines, if social media influencers endorse any brand after taking money, they will have to declare their association with that brand, sources said.

Social media influencers will need to put disclaimers in such endorsement posts, they added.

Meanwhile, the department has completed the process of developing a framework to curb fake reviews posted on e-commerce websites. The same will be released shortly.

In May, the department along



**F**ake reviews mislead consumers into buying online products and services

**T**he guidelines might come within next 15 days

with the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) held a virtual meeting with stakeholders, including e-commerce entities, to

discuss the magnitude of fake reviews on their platforms.

The department had then decided it would develop these frame-

works after studying the present mechanism being followed by e-commerce entities in India and best practices available globally.

Since e-commerce involves a virtual shopping experience without any opportunity to physically view or examine the product, consumers heavily rely on reviews posted on platforms to see the opinion and experience of users who have already purchased the good or service.

"Traceability by ensuring the authenticity of the reviewer and the associated liability of the platform are the two key issues here. Also e-commerce players must disclose as to how they choose the 'most relevant reviews' for display in a fair and transparent manner," Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh had said.



## Airtel to launch 5G within a month: CEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** Telecom operator Bharti Airtel expects to launch 5G services within a month and cover key metros by December, a top official of the company said Wednesday.

The telco plans to cover all urban areas of the country by the end of 2023, according to the company's CEO.

Bharti Airtel CEO Gopal Vittal in a communication to the customers said Airtel 5G will deliver dramatically higher speeds of 20-30 times compared to a 4G network.

"We expect to launch our 5G services within a month. By December, we should have coverage in the key metros. After that we will expand rapidly to cover the entire country. We expect to cover all of urban India by the end of 2023," Vittal said.

Customers will get to know about availability of 5G in their town through Airtel Thanks App. "Airtel 5G will deliver dramatically higher speeds compared to a 4G network. It could be anywhere between 20 to 30 times the speed you get today. This will allow you to boot up an application or download a heavy file in no time," Vittal said.

He said that Airtel SIM is already 5G-enabled and customers will need to have 5G ready mobiles phones to access the service.

"In order to enable 5G on your phone, go to the settings tab and get to connections or mobile network. You will be shown a choice to pick 5G in addition to 4G or LTE. Select that mode and you are ready," Vittal said.

# HAALAND, MBAPPE STEAL SHOW

Man City, PSG, Real Madrid secure win on matchday 1 of the 2022-23 Champions League, while Chelsea suffer shocking loss to Dinamo Zagreb

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Sept 7: Kylian Mbappe and Erling Haaland took their high-flying scoring acts into Europe as the Champions League returned, while last season's standout star Karim Benzema limped off with an injury after less than 30 minutes. Mbappe and Haaland both netted two goals as their respective clubs PSG and Manchester City began their European campaigns with victories, underlining just why those two teams are again among the favorites for the title.

Real Madrid's chances of defending its crown probably depend largely on having a fully fit Benzema, but the France forward had to come off with an apparent knee injury in the 30th minute against Celtic. Second-half goals from Vinicius Junior, Luka Modric and Eden Hazard still secured a 3-0 win for the Spanish giant in Glasgow.

Benzema was in a league of his own in the competition last season, netting 15 goals in 12 games to lead Madrid to the title. But Mbappe and Haaland look ready to challenge the Frenchman for the status of Europe's top striker as they try to lead their clubs to an elusive first Champions League title.

The 23-year-old Mbappe, who has seven goals in five league games so far, scored his double in the first 22 minutes of a 2-1 home win over Juventus to become the youngest player to reach 35 goals in the competition — beating the mark held by teammate Lionel Messi.

The 22-year-old Haaland has 25 goals in 20 Champions League games — also a record — after scoring once in each half of Man City's 4-0 win at Sevilla. The Norway striker, who has 10 goals in six Premier League games this season, has now netted on his Champions League debut for three clubs — Salzburg, Borussia Dortmund and City.

Also, Dinamo Zagreb upset Chelsea 1-0 at home while Serie A champion AC Milan was held to a 1-1 draw at Salzburg.

#### MBAPPE SINKS JUVE

Mbappe's opening goal for PSG came after just five minutes following some audacious link-up play from Neymar. Mbappe played a short pass to the Brazilian before making a run into the area, with Neymar holding onto the ball just long enough before chipping it over a defender and into the path of the France striker, who volleyed it first-time past goalkeeper Mattia Perin.

The second came after he exchanged passes with Achraf Hakimi and beat Perin with another first-time finish. United States midfielder Weston McKennie pulled one back for Juventus in the 53rd, creating a tense finale in Paris.

#### CITY ROLL IN SPAIN

Haaland could well be the piece that Man City has been missing as it repeatedly came up short in Europe under Pep Guardiola.

The Norwegian again showed his uncanny ability to be in the right place at

the right time as he was on hand to steer in a cross from Kevin De Bruyne in the 21st minute and then tapped in a rebound for the third goal in the 67th. Phil Foden and Ruben Dias scored the other goals for City in a dominant performance at Estadio Ramón Sánchez-Pizjuán.

Also in Group G, Marco Reus took his tally to 22 goals in 57 Champions League matches by opening the scoring in Borussia Dortmund's 3-0 win over Copenhagen. Gio Reyna set up the other two goals for Dortmund, exchanging passes with English teenager Jude Bellingham in a slick move for the third.

#### HAZARD STEPS UP

If Benzema has to miss significant time for Madrid, Hazard signaled that he may be ready to pick up some of the slack.

The Belgium playmaker — who was on the bench before replacing Benzema — set up the first two goals before scoring the third himself against Celtic. It was his first Champions League goal in 651 days and first in any competition since January.

Callum McGregor had nearly put Celtic ahead in the first half when he struck a fierce shot against the post in the 21st minute.

#### CHELSEA STUNNED

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang couldn't give Chelsea's stuttering attack any kind of instant spark as the Blues failed to impress once again following an inconsistent start to the season.

Aubameyang, playing with a face mask to protect his injured jaw, had one goal ruled out for offside. Instead it was Mislav Orsic who continued his scoring streak against English teams, racing away from Wesley Fofana — another of Chelsea's marquee signings — to score on a breakaway in the 13th minute.

## Tuchel out of the Blues after poor start to season

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Sept 7: Thomas Tuchel was fired by Chelsea Wednesday, only one month into the season and just days after the club concluded a Europe-high spending spree of nearly USD 300 million in the transfer window.

The decision by Chelsea's new ownership, fronted by Los Angeles Dodgers part-owner Todd Boehly, came a day after the team surprisingly lost to Dinamo Zagreb 1-0 in its first group match of the Champions League.

Tuchel, who has been a frustrated and prickly figure after matches this season, said "everything is missing" when he summed up Chelsea's performance against Dinamo and complained that his players "lacked hunger."

Chelsea lost two of its first six games in an underwhelming start to the Premier League that has seen the club's new signings fail to gel.

"As the new ownership group reaches 100 days since taking over the club, and as it continues its hard work to take the club forward, the new owners believe it is the right time to make this transition," Chelsea said in a statement.

Tuchel was in charge for a year and a half, winning the Champions League only six months into his tenure. Chelsea faded in the second half of last season — Tuchel's only full campaign at the helm — and was eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Champions League before finishing third in the Premier League, 19 points behind champions Manchester City.

## FIH, HI inspect Rourkela stadium



Delegations of FIH and Hockey India visited Birsamunda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, Wednesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rourkela, Sept 7: A high-level team of hockey officials visited the under-construction stadium in Odisha's Rourkela Wednesday to take stock of the situation ahead of the men's world cup next year.

The team, comprising members of the International Hockey Federation or the FIH and Hockey India, expressed satisfaction over the ongoing work at the Birsamunda International Hockey Stadium.

They also inaugurated a training centre there and took stock of activities going on at Rourkela Airport, which will be used as a transit hub for the players, staff

and others.

FIH acting president Seif Ahmed, congratulated Odisha and Hockey India for the work that they had done. "What we've seen today is fantastic, amazing," Ahmed said at a press briefing, hoping to have a very good world cup in Rourkela and Bhubaneswar.

FIH chief executive officer Thierry Weil said it would be the largest hockey stadium in India and, most probably, in the world.

The stadium in western Odisha's Sundargarh district can accommodate 20,000 spectators. The 35-acre site includes the stadium and accommodation inside the 120-acre campus of the Biju Patnaik University of Technology.

SY Quraishi, a member of the committee of administrators that is currently running the sport in the country, said they were "extremely pleased" with the progress made in the project.

The former chief election commissioner acknowledged that anything happening in Odisha "is in safe hands", adding that everything was on track.

The visit came a day before the scheduled draw of the Men's Hockey World Cup, which will be hosted jointly by Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13-29. The state is hosting the quadrennial event for the second time in a row after hosting it in Bhubaneswar in 2018.

## No Asia Cup final for India after Pak beat Afghanistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sharjah, Sept 7: India's title defence at the Asia Cup came to an end after Pakistan beat Afghanistan by one wicket in a thrilling Super 4 match here Wednesday.

The result meant that India and Afghanistan are out of reckoning for the final to be played Sunday as they are winless from two matches. With four points each, Pakistan and Sri Lanka qualified for the title clash.

Invited to bat, Afghanistan posted 129/6 with Ibrahim Zadran top-scoring with a 37-ball 35. Pakistan chased down the target with four balls to spare, reaching 131/9 in 19.2 overs. Shadab Khan top-scored for Pakistan with 36 while Iftikhar Ahmed made 30. For Afghanistan, Fareed Ahmad and Fazalhaq Farooqi took three wickets apiece while Rashid Khan got two.

Naseem Shah turned out to be the hero for Pakistan as the youngster hit two maximums in the final over to break Afghans' hearts. It was all going well for the Afghans who managed to dismiss nine batters by the end of the 19th over. However, Naseem finished off the game in the first two balls.

Brief scores: Afghanistan: 129/6 (Ibrahim Zadran 35; Haris Rauf 2/26) lost to Pakistan 131/9 in 19.2 overs (Shadab Khan 36, Iftikhar Ahmed 30; Fazalhaq Farooqi 3/31, Fareed Ahmad 3/31, Rashid Khan 2/25) by 1 wicket.

## Khachanov sends Kyrgios packing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 7: Karen Khachanov stood on court, arms raised, basking in a rowdy crowd's cheers after reaching his first Grand Slam semifinal at the US Open. Not far away, Nick Kyrgios took out some of his frustration at the so-close-yet-so-far result on a pair of rackets. Khachanov will face No. 5 Casper Ruud Friday in the semifinals.

First, shortly after the last point of his 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, 6-7(3-7), 6-4 loss to Khachanov, Kyrgios cracked his piece of equipment against the ground — once, twice, three, four times. Then, for good measure, Kyrgios grabbed yet another racket out of his bag, reared back and hit that one on the sideline, too.

Kyrgios could not quite follow up his victory over defending champion Daniil Medvedev at Flushing Meadows, bowing out in a high-quality, topsy-turvy quarterfinal that began Tuesday night and concluded more than 3 1/2 hours later at about 1 am Wednesday in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Both he and Kyrgios are equipped with booming serves,



KAREN KHACHANOV

and they combined for 61 aces (31 by Kyrgios). They combined for 138 total winners (75 by Kyrgios). Two stats that were real difference-makers: Kyrgios made 58 unforced errors, Khachanov 31. And Khachanov saved 7 of 9 break points he faced.

In the women's draw, Caroline Garcia took charge and never really let Coco Gauff get fully involved. From the get-go, Garcia played high-stakes tennis and put strokes where she wanted, some-

times right at Gauff's feet, sometimes well out of reach, and reached the first Grand Slam semifinal of her career with a 6-3, 6-4 victory at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Garcia, who is from France, hasn't ceded a set at Flushing Meadows so far this year and stretched her winning streak to 13 matches overall, solidifying her status as someone playing as well as anyone in women's tennis at the moment.

She did get to No. 4 in the rankings in 2018, but finished last season ranked 74th. Now she is projected to rise into the top 10 next week and will face Wimbledon runner-up Ons Jabeur of Tunisia Thursday with a berth in the final at stake.

Jabeur advanced to her first semifinal in New York with a 6-4, 7-6(7-4) victory over the player who beat Serena Williams in the third round, Ajla Tomljanovic.

### TWO REMOVED FOR HAIRCUT IN STANDS

NEW YORK: There was quite a hairy situation at the US Open. Two men's stay in the Arthur Ashe Stadium seats was, um, cut short after one buzzed the other's head right there in the stands while Nick Kyrgios and Karen Khachanov played their quarterfinal. They had clippers and the sort of cape a barber usually uses to keep a customer clean. Soon enough, social media users were all excited about how a YouTuber known for his pranks had pulled this one off. Tournament security removed the two from the match.

## NAVEEN FELICITATES ODISHA JUGGERNAUTS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Wednesday felicitated the Odisha Juggernauts at the Kalinga Stadium here for claiming the inaugural Ultimate Kho Kho League title. He also presented a cash award of Rs 2 crore to the team.

Patnaik has said that the triumph would inspire the young players to pursue it as a professional sport. "Kho Kho has been a traditional sport restricted to rural belts and interiors with limited audience. You scripted history with

your victory at the Ultimate Kho Kho," said Patnaik. "This will be remembered and discussed for days to come. It will inspire the younger players to pursue it as a professional sport. Today, people are talking about UKK and Odisha Juggernauts and we feel extremely proud of our team. You are exemplary and I wish you many more success," he added.

Patnaik also announced that Odisha Govt will support towards excellence of the sport and establish a stadium as well as a High Performance Centre for the development of Kho Kho.

On this occasion, CEO, Ultimate Kho Kho, Tenzing Nyogi, presented the Team gold medal to Chief Minister.

Sudhanshu Mittal, president of

Kho Kho Federation of India, praised the state for the support they provide to the game and Odisha Juggernauts, saying the sport needs such support from all states. Tenzing Nyogi, CEO and league commissioner of UKK, also shared his happiness over the success.

Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Development Commissioner PK Jena and Sports & Youth Services commissioner-cum-secretary R Vineel Krishna were among the guests at the felicitation ceremony.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Defending champions India blanked Pakistan 3-0 to make a winning start to their campaign at the SAFF Women's Championship at the Dasarath Stadium in Kathmandu here Wednesday. The win extended India's unbeaten run to 27 matches in the Championship.

An own goal from rival captain Maria Jamil Khan, and an opportunistic strike from Dangmei Grace in the first-half effectively settled the issue in favour of India. A late goal from Soumya Gaguloth com-

pleted the rout in added time.

The Blue Tigresses were dominant almost throughout, not much willing to part ways with the ball. They preferred to stretch it through the flanks, and Anu Tamang was omnipresent in the middle, essaying it to the strikers upfront with her defence splitting passes.

However, despite the domination, the first goal that came India's way in the 15th minute was a rather lucky one. Sandhiya, operating down the left, sent in a cross which goalkeeper Shahid Bukhari managed to get a hand to

while diving to her left. The rebound hit onrushing Maria's leg and rolled into the net.

The second goal, nevertheless, came straight out of the drawing board. Collecting the ball just outside the box, Anju, caught in between a jungle of legs, set it up for an unmarked Dangmei Grace with her left foot. Grateful, Grace received it, and slipped it between Shahid and the near post to give India a 2-0 lead.

Soumya made it 3-0 in added time, clinically finishing Ranjana's cross from the left. India will next play Maldives September 10.