



SUNNY IN ACTION

Sunny Leone to star in *Oh My Ghost*, a Tamil horror-comedy, directed by Yuvan

LEISURE P2



UKRAINE ADVANCES IN EAST

Ukrainian forces claim new success in their counter-offensive against Russian forces in the east

INTERNATIONAL P10



ON CUSP OF HISTORY

Both Casper Ruud and Carlos Alcaraz will have a chance to create history when they meet in the final of US Open

SPORTS P12



FOOTBALL FEVER: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik poses with 'IBHA', the mascot of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Saturday (More P-12)

ED seizes ₹17cr cash in gaming app fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Kolkata, Sept 10: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Saturday seized more than ₹17 crore in cash after it raided the promoters of a Kolkata-based mobile gaming app company as part of a money-laundering investigation, official sources said. The agency, the sources said, is looking at some "political links" of the app promoters and wants to ascertain the actual beneficiaries of this cash, even as it is investigating the possible routing of the funds spent by gullible gamers here through some "Chinese-controlled" entities.

A photograph released by the federal agency showed multiple bundles of ₹500 currency notes along with a few in the denomination of ₹2,000, ₹200 and ₹100 stacked together on a bed depicting the ED abbreviation.

Official sources said the cash was recovered from a premise which has an address mentioned as 'F 7, N A Khan' and is located in the Garden Reach area of Kolkata.



The ED was looking for the alleged prime accused in the case identified as Aamir Khan as he was not found at the premises that were raided.

Agency officials pressed in five note-counting machines and brought bank staff to ascertain the exact value of the cash haul even as large steel trunks kept in a truck reached the site by evening.

The ED said in a statement that its searches were conducted at half-a-dozen locations linked to the gaming app named 'E-Nuggets' and its promoter Aamir Khan and others.

CRPF personnel escorted the ED teams at locations like Garden Reach, Park Street and Mominpur areas in and around the West Bengal capital, among others.

Depression to trigger heavy rain



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: A low pressure area (Lopar) over west-central and adjoining north-west Bay of Bengal off north Andhra Pradesh-south Odisha coast has become well marked and is set to turn into a depression by Sunday morning, the IMD said Saturday.

It will turn into a depression over north-west and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal off south Odisha – north Andhra Pradesh coasts, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in its bulletin Saturday afternoon.

Under its influence forecast heavy rain is likely till September 14 in Odisha and in West Bengal during the next three days, the weatherman said.

The associated cyclonic circulation extends up to mid-tropospheric levels, the IMD said in a special bulletin.

It forecast squally weather conditions with wind speed exceeding 45 kmph along and off the West Bengal-Odisha coasts over the next 36 hours and advised fishermen not to venture into deep seas from Saturday till Monday.

IMD director general Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said, "Heavy rainfall will lash Odisha by Saturday night and Sunday. In some places, the amount of rainfall could be more than 20 cm."

Fake drugs: Stockists booked

State Directorate of Drugs Control orders immediate recall of two particular drugs meant for high BP and heart disease

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 10: The Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) Court and Purighat police here have registered separate cases against two drug stockists in the Silver City here for putting several lives in jeopardy by dealing in spurious drugs meant for high blood pressure and heart disease, an official of Directorate of Drugs Control said Saturday.

According to Assistant Drugs Controller Dharmadeb Puhana, the Directorate of Drugs Control had raided several drugstores in the Silver City amid allegations of sale of spurious drugs meant for high blood pressure—Telma-40 and heart disease—Telma-AM September 7 this year.

"During the raids, we have collected samples and sent those for examination. We established that

Puja Enterprises at Jauliapatti and VR Drug Agency at Manikghosh Bazar were selling spurious Telma-40 and Telma-AM using the name of a reputed brand," said Puhana.

Two separate cases have been registered with the SDJM Court against the stockists under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, while as many criminal cases have been registered with the Purighat police against the stockists as they were putting the lives of many in utter risk, Puhana pointed out.

Purighat police station inspector in-charge (IIC) Jatindranath Sethy said they have launched a probe after registering a case (222/22) against Puja Enterprises and a case (221/22) against VR Drug Agency.

Meanwhile, the State Directorate of Drugs Control has ordered for an immediate recall of two par-



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ricular drugs meant for high blood pressure and heart disease.

In a letter to all manufacturers and suppliers September 7, the Drugs Inspector Bhubaneswar-IV Range ordered recall of Telma-40 (Telmisartan Tablets I.P. 40 mg) of batch no 18211055 manufactured in March 2022 (Expiry date: February 2025), and Telma-AM of batch no 18220083 manufactured in February 2022 (Expiry date: January 2025) manufactured by the Glenmark Pharmaceuticals

Ltd. The order was issued under the Enforcement of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules thereunder.

"With reference to the subject cited above, you are instructed to stop the sale and purchase of above mentioned drug and return back all the drugs to the supplier with immediate effect under intimate to this office. This may be treated as most important," the letter read.

In Cuttack, 12 places including Manikghosh Bazar, Badambadi, Bankabazar and Mangalabag were raided and officials have seized cartons of aforementioned drugs worth over ₹30 lakh. The drugs samples, they said, have been sent for laboratory tests and the drugstores have been directed not to sell the drugs till the arrival of the test reports. It will take at least seven days to conduct the tests and submit the reports.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Of course, we can improve safety. Tell us, who should we raid - authorities, contractors or road users?

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
MAX	31.7°C	32.0°C	
MIN	25.3°C	25.6°C	
Humidity	97%	97%	Forecast
Rainfall	3mm	25.4mm	Light rain very likely

Plaint over 'disrespect' to Lord Jagannath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jajpur, Sept 10: A complaint has been filed against the makers of a Hindi short film for allegedly hurting the sentiments of the people of Odisha by portraying Lord Jagannath and Goddess Narayani in "poor light", police said Saturday.

Debiprasad Dash, a lecturer in Jajpur district, demanded an apology from the producer, director and OTT platform Disney+ Hotstar, which is streaming 'Miyan Biwi Aur Banana'. Directed by Nina Srivastava, the 20-minute comedy film released in 2019 and carries a social message on sanitary napkins.

Dash filed the complaint September



3 at the Jajpur Road police station via the citizen portal, alleging that the dialogues in the film portrayed the Gods

in poor light and disrespected them.

According to the complaint, a mosquito's name is Jagannath in a scene and derogatory words were used in a dialogue that referred to the mosquito.

The film's narrator reveals her name as Narayani, widow of Jagannath. The complainant alleged that some dialogues uttered by her were unbearable.

"All these inflict a severe blow on the sentiments of the Odias across the globe," Dash said. "No one has the right to insult our lord," he said.

Dash said he was waiting for police action in the incident and, if necessary, he would file a case in the court against the filmmakers.

Gutsy girl swims swollen river to write exam



A video of the girl wading through neck-deep water with the help of two persons has gone viral on social media

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Visakhapatnam, Sept 10: A 21-year-old student in Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram district had to cross a river without any conveyance to appear in an examination. She, with the help of her brother and another family member, crossed the swollen river Champavati, risking her life. A video of the girl wading through neck-deep

water with the help of the duo has gone viral on social media.

The incident occurred in Gajapathinagar mandal of Vizianagaram district. Taddi Kalavathi, a resident of Marrivalasa village, had to take an examination in Visakhapatnam.

The river was in spate due to heavy rains upstream, cutting off the village. There were no boats available to take her to the other side of the river.

With no other option left, the girl entered the river. As she did not know how to swim, her brother and another family member carried her on their shoulders and helped her cross the river.

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leisure



TAYLOR SWIFT WANTS TO DIRECT MOVIES

Singer Taylor Swift brought 'All Too Well: The Short Film' to the Toronto International Film Festival for a discussion in front of scores of fans. Bailey asked if Swift would be interested in one day making feature films, and she said yes, if she could find the right material.

'MUFASA THE LION KING' TO HIT THEATRES IN 2024

Disney Studios announced on Friday that its much-anticipated movie Mufasa The Lion King is scheduled to hit theatres 2024. It is a story of rise of Mufasa to one of the greatest kings in the history of private lands



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
Today people will actually drag you into altercations, so flash the peace sign if you must. You may face some sort of legal troubles from peace-loving groups. Therefore, Ganesh advises you to meditate, take a walk or just seek out the company of your near and dear ones.

TAURUS
Ganesh sees you in a very romantic mood today. Your thoughts, tender and dreamy, will keep drifting towards someone special: someone of the opposite sex. Come evening and you will, in all likelihood, be sitting closely together, arm in arm, with your spouse or your sweetheart.

GEMINI
Today, you may decide to get a little more conscious about your your health. Filled with positive drive, you may even plan to join a gymnasium or start taking a hard look at your calorie intake. Don't go overboard, though! You don't want to do it only today, and forget it tomorrow - plan and execute in a step-wise manner, so it doesn't get a bit too much.

CANCER
You will spend your day reflecting on your past and thinking what went wrong, predicts Ganesh. But keep in mind that your mistakes won't lead to the end of the world, unless you are a nuclear scientist. So get your act together, and stop brooding over your mistakes.

LEO
Do not be surprised if you find yourself today in a situation that somehow feels like a landmark moment in your life. Whether it is a personal matter or something related to work, that you must wait to find out, you will need all your grit and diplomacy to sail through.

VIRGO
The bulb of ideas will burn bright today. A possible see-saw between your contractual obligation and current duties may baffle you. New contacts will stand you in good stead. Blood will prove thicker, and family and friends will consolidate their place in your life.

LIBRA
Letting things build up inside you is never a good idea. Learn from this as there is every possibility that today might turn out to be an aggravating and exasperating day for you. You may feel that way due to all the amassed emotions and resentments, so let it all go. It would be a good idea to take a break from the routine and bring in some freshness.

SCORPIO
Investing in real estate could yield maximum profits today, says Ganesh. An unusual gain from speculative trade is also on the cards. But you may need to spend time in the waiting room, before a more profitable opportunity comes by. You may just reinvent yourself to a happier self and savour every moment of life, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
The winds of fortune will usher in your dreams and make them come true. Be careful not to go overboard with your foresightedness, lest they be marked delusions, warns Ganesh. You must realise that the only thing permanent is change, and hence, you must overcome any disappointment with strong will and determination.

CAPRICORN
It may seem too far-fetched, but your boss will bank on your brilliance and unmatched abilities to get respite from the existing problems, says Ganesh. Moreover, much to the dismay of your rivals, you will have your way and gain popularity by winning the hearts of your clients. While spending time with your beloved, you may share certain experience that were, until now, locked up inside you.

AQUARIUS
Today, you will iron out any trouble with ease. But you may choose to play martyr and shoulder a bit of blame. That's quite a lot to do for others, even if it is done out of compassion. You may think you are setting standards for others to follow, says Ganesh, but that may not be the case.

PISCES
Needless rigidity only serves to imprison you within outmoded walls of faulty reasoning. Inculcating some flexibility will give you some much-needed wriggle room to manoeuvre things your way for good, says Ganesh.

New Mahabharata series announced at D23 Expo



Some major Indian projects were announced by Disney+ Hotstar at the ongoing D23 Expo in the US on Friday. These include a new series adaptation of the epic Mahabharata which will be produced by Madhu Mantena. Mythoverse Studios and Allu Entertainment. The Indian mythology epic Mahabharat talks about the conflict between Dharma and Adharma as the Kauravas and the Pandavas fight a war in Kurukshetra in ancient India. Gaurav Banerjee, Head - Content, Disney+ Hotstar and HSM Entertainment

Network, Disney Star made the announcement at the expo. He said at the International Content and Operations session, "There are over a billion people who know the story in some form, or the other. Most of them in my country have heard them as children from their grandparents, there are billions more who remain unaware of what they have been missing. It would indeed be a privilege to be able to bring this incredible story to a wider global audience next year."

known emotional conflict experienced by mankind finds form in Mahabharata through its complex characters and storylines. We at Mythoverse are absolutely delighted to have this opportunity provided by Disney+ Hotstar to bring out a rendition of this great Indian epic 'Mahabharata' and to announce this news on a prestigious global platform at the D23 Expo."

Alia's act leaves Mouni mesmerised

Mumbai: Mouni Roy is getting all the attention for her interesting look in her latest release. While she has been getting all the attention for her performance, she opens up about the one performance that left her mesmerised. The actress talks highly about SLB's Gangubai Kathiawadi that released this year. She says, "My favourite film in recent times has been Gangubai Kathiawadi. I loved everything about that film, the script, and the performances. The one actor I loved the most in the film was Alia Bhatt, she was so good! It was a treat to watch her perform on screen."

Ask Mouni, if just like the film, even she sees herself headlining a project soon and she says, "Why not? I will pray to get such a film. In fact, I have been reading a lot of interesting scripts of late. I am just keeping my fingers crossed." The 'Naagin' fame actress Mouni Roy spoke as she walked the red carpet at Filmfare Awards, where she also opened up about her inclination towards becoming a pan-Indian actress and be known across India.



Sunny to play queen Mayasena in 'Oh My Ghost'

Chennai: The unit of director Yuvan's upcoming horror comedy, 'Oh My Ghost', featuring actor Sunny Leone in the lead, on Saturday released the theatrical trailer of the film. The trailer shows Sunny Leone playing a queen called Mayasena. It also shows her to be the ghost. "You would have watched me singing and dancing. Have you watched me in action?" she asks as she delivers a powerful kick to a person.

Director Yuvan, in an earlier in-

terview revealed, "This is a fantasy film. So, the role that Sunny Leone plays is not representative of any region or time period." The director had then explained that he was looking for a person, who could look supercilious and at the same time cool and that was when he realised Sunny Leone would be perfect for the character.

Talking about the film, Sunny had said earlier, "It (The film) is scary in parts and so funny in others. I think that's such a clever com-

bination. It's hard to make people laugh and I did put in the extra effort in nailing the timing." "Besides that, I also learnt my dialogues with my diction coach. It's a special film and I can't wait for the world to see it."

IANS

SRK, Aditya ruined my love life: Swara

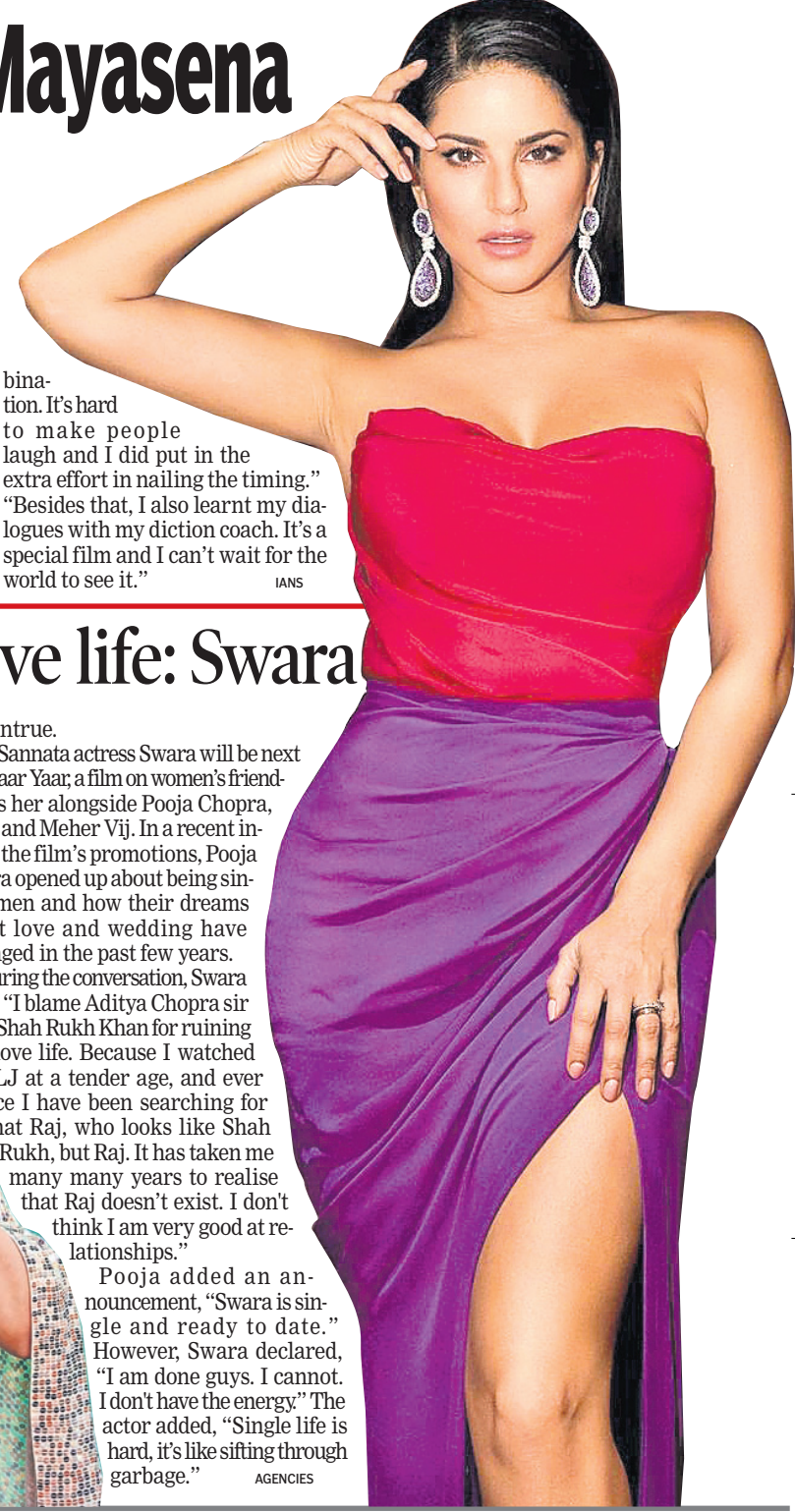
Mumbai: Indian actress Swara Bhaskar has blamed Shah Rukh Khan and Aditya Chopra for ruining her love life. Swara said that Aditya Chopra's debut directorial Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995), which starred Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol in the lead role as Raj and Simran, left her with a very different idea of romance which she later

found out to be untrue. The Nil Battey Sannata actress Swara will be next seen in Jahaan Chaar Yaar; a film on women's friendship that features her alongside Pooja Chopra, Shikha Talsania, and Meher Vij. In a recent interview for the film's promotions, Pooja and Swara opened up about being single women and how their dreams about love and wedding have changed in the past few years.

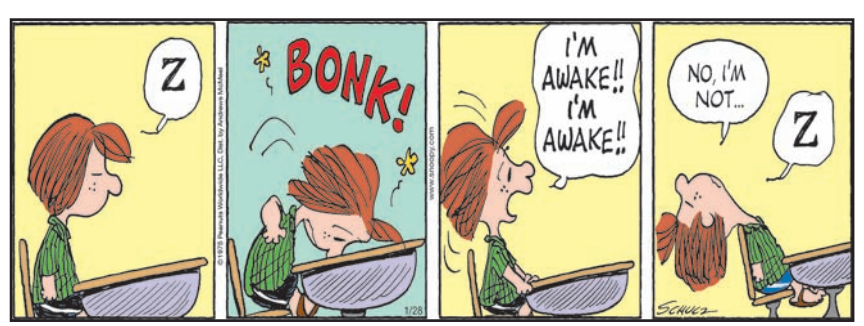
During the conversation, Swara said, "I blame Aditya Chopra sir and Shah Rukh Khan for ruining my love life. Because I watched DDLJ at a tender age, and ever since I have been searching for that Raj, who looks like Shah Rukh, but Raj. It has taken me many many years to realise that Raj doesn't exist. I don't think I am very good at relationships."

Pooja added an announcement, "Swara is single and ready to date." However, Swara declared, "I am done guys. I cannot. I don't have the energy." The actor added, "Single life is hard, it's like sifting through garbage."

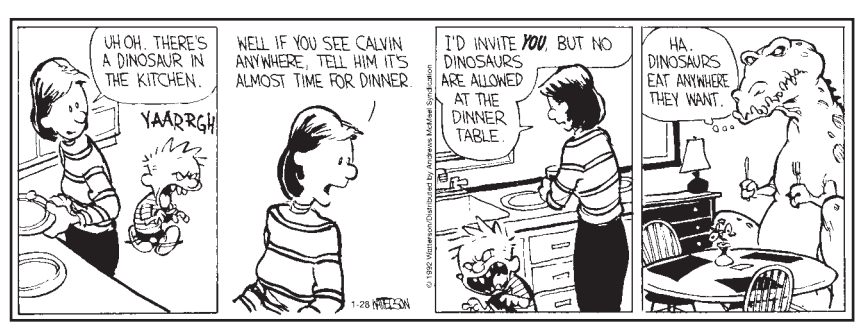
AGENCIES



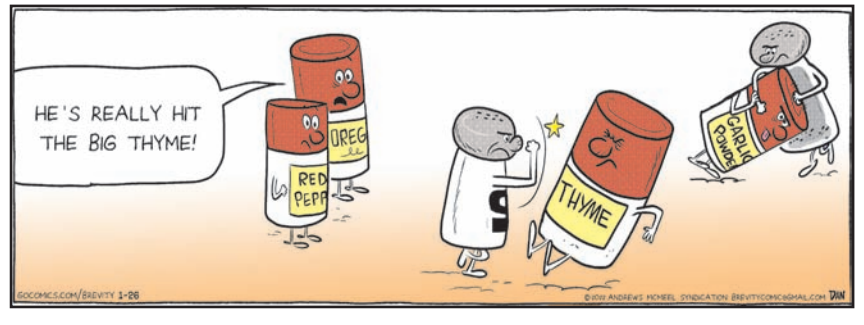
PEANUTS



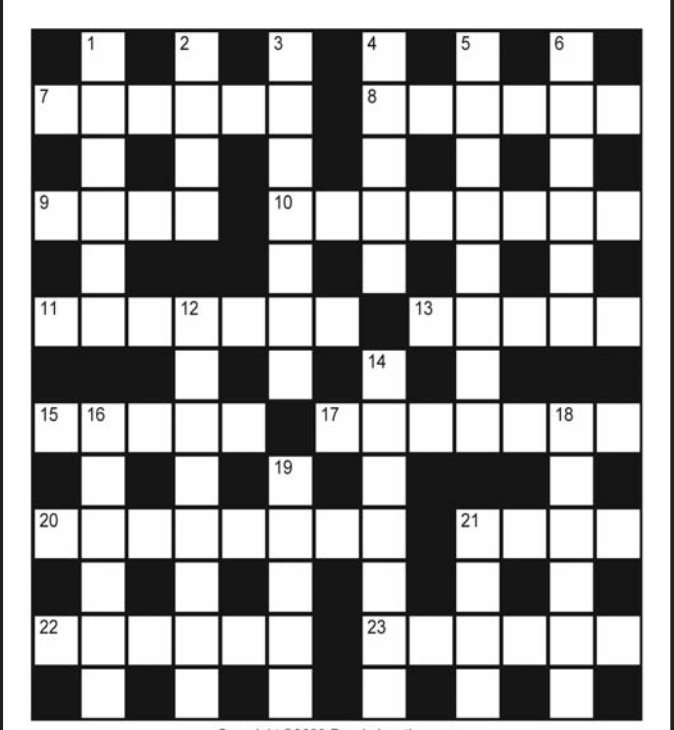
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Sales lure
 - 8 Dense nation
 - 9 Mother of Ares
 - 10 Moby-Dick creator
 - 11 Infectious disease
 - 13 Winter Olympian
 - 15 Fragrant oil
 - 17 Temp (5-2)
 - 20 Pasta
 - 21 Pacific island nation
 - 22 Stringed instrument
 - 23 Turkish capital
 - 3 Siren of the sea
 - 4 Like Santa
 - 5 Afflicted
 - 6 King Mark's bride
 - 12 Migraine
 - 14 Aboveboard
 - 16 Calamitous
 - 18 Wound
 - 19 Word of regret
 - 21 Mountebank
- Down
- 1 Medical research hope
 - 2 Rum-soaked cake

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

L	M	M	O	P	M	V
N	Z	Y	A	T	H	
Q	U	I	Z	S	A	B
O	S	N	R	M		
B	A	T	S	M	E	N
S	T	O	P	S	C	N
S	T	O	P	S	R	I
E	R	D	G	O		
H	A	W	A	I	I	A
D	E	V	O	U	R	F
R	O	S	Y	Y	S	K

SUDOKU

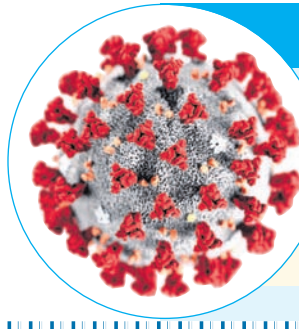
3	8	6	9	1	4	2	7	5
1	9	5	8	2	7	6	4	3
7	4	2	6	3	5	8	9	1
4	5	1	3	7	6	9	8	2
2	6	9	4	5	8	3	1	7
8	3	7	1	9	2	5	6	4
9	7	8	5	4	3	1	2	6
5	1	4	2	6	9	7	3	8
6	2	3	7	8	1	4	5	9

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



ART COMPETITION

Schoolgirls during an art competition at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,32,84,527	59,16,22,511	65,15,171
India	4,44,87,703	4,39,13,294	5,28,139
Odisha	13,29,995	13,19,246	9,184

Heavy rain to lash state till Sept 14



PNN & AGENCIES

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Under its influence, heavy rain is likely till September 14 in Odisha and in West Bengal during the next three days, the weatherman said. The associated cyclonic circulation extends up to mid-tropospheric levels, the IMD said in a special bulletin. It forecast squally weather conditions with wind speed exceeding 45 kmph along and off the West Bengal-Odisha coasts over the next 36 hours and advised fishermen not to venture into deep seas from Saturday till Monday.

IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said, "Odisha will be lashed by heavy rainfall Saturday night and Sunday. In some places, the amount of rainfall could be more than 20cm. The depression will cross the land in Odisha-Andhra border."

The IMD forecast widespread rainfall with isolated heavy showers and thunderstorms across Gangetic West Bengal from Saturday till Tuesday and in sub-Himalayan Bengal till Wednesday.

In Odisha, the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar informed that almost all places of Odisha received rainfall between 8.30am to 5.30pm Saturday. The highest rainfall of 44 mm has been recorded at Dhenkanal followed by Jajpur 28 mm, Cuttack 25.4 mm, Baripada 25 mm and Parlakhemundi and Bhadrak 22 mm each.

In its five-day forecast, the IMD said light to moderate rain and thundershower is very likely to occur at most places of Odisha Saturday night and Sunday.

CULTURAL FETE



Artists perform during an event organised by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi and Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya at Rabintra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

BJD slams Centre's 'inspector raj attitude' 'Building resilience among people in coastal areas need of the hour'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: With seven union ministers visiting different districts of Odisha and undertaking review of various central schemes being implemented in the state, the ruling BJD Saturday said the people will not accept the 'inspector raj manner' of the central government. While five central ministers reached Odisha Friday, two others did so Saturday. The cudgels for BJD was taken up by party MLA Sashibhusan Behera, who hit back at the comment made by Union Minister of State for Home Nityananda Rai during his visit to Cuttack Saturday. Speaking at a press conference in Cuttack, Rai said "It appears that the benefits of different central schemes are not reaching the beneficiaries as desired. The state government's inept handlings of

According to BJD leader Sashibhusan Behera, there is nothing wrong in union ministers visiting the state and reviewing central schemes but they should concentrate on official work and not indulge in politics

central schemes are indicated". Countering the comment, Behera said "It is not proper on the part of union ministers to behave in an inspector raj manner. The people of Odisha will not accept it as they know how the state government has been implementing the different welfare scheme. The union ministers should not behave like inspectors". The senior BJD leader had said Friday that there is nothing wrong in union ministers visiting the state and reviewing central schemes but they should concentrate on official work and not indulge in politics. The visit of the seven central ministers just days after BJP Odisha in-charge Sunil Bansal's tour has cre-

ated speculations that the saffron party is focussing on the coastal state ahead of the 2024 simultaneous Lok Sabha and state election. There are even whispers in the corridors of power that the union ministers' visit will be followed by CBI and ED raids in the state as in West Bengal and Maharashtra. Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti, Bishwaraj Tudu did not deny or affirm when quizzed by journalists. "What is the work of the CBI and ED? Wherever there is corruption, they will raid and it is their duty. If there is corrupt practice, the central agencies will do their duties notwithstanding the political affil-

iation of the accused persons. They may be BJP, BJD or Congress," he said to questions on whether the two central investigating agencies will come to Odisha before the elections. The CBI is already investigating the multi-crore rupees chitfund scam in Odisha and some BJD leaders were arrested in the past in connection with it. The ED raided some places in the state in August in connection with a money laundering case against a mining company registered in Delhi. The union ministers who are visiting Odisha are Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ashwini Choubey Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Labour and Employment Bhubender Yadav and Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Nisith Pramanik, besides Rai and Tudu.

Building resilience among people in coastal areas need of the hour

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Union Environment Minister Bhubender Yadav Saturday said India needs to build resilience among people living in coastal areas with the changing climate across the globe. India's coastline is of immense strategic, economic and social importance to the country, he said. Addressing the first National Conference on 'Sustainable Coastal Management in India' here, the minister said, "With the changing climate, we need to build the resilience of communities living in coastal areas." A programme on enhancing climate resilience of coastal communities is being implemented in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Supported by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the initiative is integrating ecosystem and community-based approaches to adaptation into coastal management and planning. Spanning 7,500 kilometres, India's coastline is the seventh longest in the world, and is home to 20 per cent of the country's population, he said. "Three of our four metropolitan cities lie on the coast. There is a great diversity of ecosystems within our coastal regions that



Union Ministers Bhubender Yadav and Ashwini Kumar Choubey along with state Environment Minister Pradip Kumar Amat at the conference

support more than 17,000 species of plants and animals," Yadav said. The minister also stated that the conference is being held at an important time as India has submitted its revised NDCs and seeks to create multi-sectoral partnerships to meet the targets. Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The objective of the conference is to bring officials from all 13 coastal states of the country under one roof to focus on three inter-related themes of coastal and ma-

rine biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation and coastal pollution, an official said. The endeavour is aimed at creating a vibrant network of stakeholders so that they continue to engage with each other on various topics and themes such as coastal governance, technologies and innovation as well as domestic and international finance, he said. Data-driven policies and management frameworks, participatory conservation models, and convergence among stakeholders are the key pillars for effective coastal management, the official added.

Cops clueless on City youth's murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Although almost 24 hours have passed since the murder of a youth at the Narayani Slum in the Unit-VIII area of the City here Friday evening, the Commissionerate Police is yet to nab the absconding couple accused of being involved in the crime. The deceased has been identified as P Subrat Rao, a native of Ganjam district who worked as a driver and was staying at Narayani Slum along with his family members. Police are also clueless about the exact motive behind the murder though several opinions are in the air about the animosity between the deceased and the accused couple, Ranju and Kahna. "We have registered a case and launched a manhunt to nab the accused. We can confirm the actual causes of murder only after interrogating the duo. We are hopeful of arresting the couple at the earliest. Ranju was earlier arrested several times for selling brown sugar. We have been examining the past crime records of the deceased too," told a senior police official, adding that Subrat was earlier held over allegations of snatching and extortion. On the other hand, a few slum dwellers revealed that Subrat used to demand money as extortion from the residents of the slum. He had recently threatened Ranju and Kahna that he would inform the police about the drug trade if they fail to give him the extortion money. Sources also assert that Subrat and one of his friends- Bhabani had gone to Ranju's house Friday to demand money. They got engaged in a heated argument and in a fit of rage Kahna and Ranju attacked Subrat with a wooden plank and sharp weapons. Locals rushed a profusely bleeding Subrat to the Capital Hospital, where the doctors pronounced him brought dead.

FIRST AID TRAINING



Schoolchildren learn the basics of first aid at a camp in Puri, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Early exposure to antibiotics may affect adult gut health

A team of researchers has discovered that early life exposure to antibiotics has long-lasting effects on the nervous system and can lead to gastrointestinal issues. The study observed that antibiotics given to neonatal mice have these long-lasting effects which result in disturbed gastrointestinal function, including the speed of motility through the gut and diarrhoea-like symptoms in adulthood. "Our study shows that antibiotics given after birth could have prolonged effects on the enteric nervous system. This provides further evidence of the importance of microbiota on gut health and could introduce new targets to advance antibiotic treatment to



very young children," said Jaime Foong, University of Melbourne in Australia.

The team gave mice an oral dose of vancomycin every day for the first 10 days of their lives and

reared them normally until they were young adults, according to the study published in the Journal of Physiology. Their gut tissue was looked at to measure its structure, func-

tion, microbiota, and nervous system. "It was found that changes were also dependent on the sex of the mice. The females had long whole gut transit and the males had lower faecal weight than the control group. Both males and females had greater faecal water content, which is a diarrhoea-like symptom," revealed the researchers. Although mice have many similarities to humans, they are born with immature guts and have accelerated growth due to their shorter life spans. The researchers will be doing further studies on the mechanisms of antibiotics on the gut and the causes of the sex specific actions, and if early life antibiotic use has effects on metabolism and brain function.

269 fresh Cov cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: The state's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,29,995 Saturday as 269 more people, including 39 children, tested positive for the infection, a health bulletin said. The toll remained at 9,184 as there were no new deaths. Fifty-three other patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it said. Odisha had recorded 254 infections Friday. The state now has 1,758 active Covid-19 cases, while 202 more people recuperated from the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total recoveries to 13,19,000. The daily positivity rate was at 1.74 per cent as 15,461 samples were tested for the infection in the last 24 hours.

State to offer sops for scrapping old vehicles



Scrapping Certificate by the state government.

Voluntarily applied vehicles will be given a one-time tax waiver up to 90 per cent against their outstanding/ arrear dues, if any, on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Under the policy, the state will also offer incentives to the investors, who will set up Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSF) in Odisha.

The investor will get a net SGST re-imbursement of 25 per cent for a period of 7 years and Capital Investment Subsidy (CIS) of 10 per cent for a maximum of Rs 1 crore on infrastructure, equipment, and machineries.

Moreover, a vehicle scrapping yard will be entitled with exemption up to 50 per cent on electricity duty for a period of five years, the source stated.

The Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities will be treated as industrial unit and IDCO will provide industrial lands up to 10 acres depending on size / capacity of the RVSF to the investors as per the guidelines. Stamp duty subsidy will also be applicable as per the IPR, they said.

Industries department has been advised to draft the RVSF policy and submit to finance department for vetting. The state is likely to launch the policy prior to Make in Odisha Conclave, 2022, so that, MoUs can be signed with firms for setting up of RVSFs during the Conclave.

It has been proposed that 25 per cent concession in the motor vehicle tax will be offered in case of non-transport vehicles on one time tax while 15 per cent rebate will be given in case of transport vehicles for a period of 8 years

Under the policy, the state will also offer incentives to the investors, who will set up Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSF) in Odisha

cles for a period of 8 years. It has been also decided to provide scrap value of 6 per cent of the ex-show-room price against the new vehicle purchased by the owner, the source said.

Similarly, the state government has also proposed to provide discount on new vehicles to the owners, who will scrap their old vehicles. Manufacturers will be advised to provide a 5 per cent discount on the new vehicle against

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION



Silver Jubilee celebration of Talapadeswari Sahitya Asar at Utkal University's PG Council Conference Hall in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Pradhan for recommended wages for coal labourers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Saturday urged Union Coal, Mines and Labour Ministers to ensure payment of better wages and benefits to contract labourers working at coal mines of NALCO and NTPC in Angul.

The labourers should get the wages as per the recommendations of the Central Advisory Contract Law Board (CACLB), Pradhan demanded in his letter to Union Minister of Coal and Mines Prahlad Joshi and Labour & Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav.

Though engagement of contract



labour in coal mines has been prohibited under Section 10 of the Contract Labour (regulation and abolition) Act 1970, the industries engaged in coal mining in Angul have been exempted from such rule and allowed to engage contract labour, he said.

However, he said, the Section 31 of the Act provides for exemption in special cases subject to pre-

scribed conditions and restrictions. Industries engaged in coal mining in Angul district have been taking exemptions employing contract labour under such provisions, he said. On May 29, 2019, NTPC waived off the applicability of Section 10 for the coal mining blocks of NTPC for a period of 5 years after due consideration by the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board (CACLB), subject to the payment of wages and other benefits as per recommendations of committee appointed by the Coal India Limited (CIL), Pradhan pointed out.

Similarly, NALCO, another industry major engaged in coal mining in Angul, has applied for ex-

emption under Section 31 of the aforementioned Act to the Ministry of Labour and Employment through the Ministry of Mines.

"Despite these guidelines, some contractors are denying payment of high-powered committee recommended wages and benefits to their workers engaged in coal mines of NALCO. This is a matter of grave concern as it goes against the spirit of labour welfare espoused by the Government of India," wrote Pradhan in his letter to his Cabinet colleagues. He requested the Union Ministers to intervene in the matter and ensure payment of wages to the coal mine labourers as per the recommendations of CACLB.

'Extention pros indispensable for rural economy'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Odisha Society of Extension Education, which is committed to the farmers, organized a one day national symposium on "Capacity Building for Extension Professionals: Means & Ways" in the Conference Hall of Directorate of Extension Education, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar Saturday.

Presiding over the inaugural function, Chakradhara Satapathy, President of the Society and an eminent extension scientist, highlighted the need and responsibilities of extension professionals in technology transfer system of the country. For development of agriculture and rural economy, a spirited effort of the extension professionals is highly essential, he opined.

In his inaugural address, Prasannajit Mishra, Dean, Extension Education, OUAT, gave an overview of the revitalized extension system operating in the country. He stressed upon the use of appropriate methodology and high end technologies while transferring agri-technologies by the scientists and extension professionals.

During the one day programme, the former Dean, Extension Education and eminent Extension Scientist, Santosh Kumar Rout, Aditya Prasad Kanungo, Pitambar Swain, Head of the Department, Veterinary Extension Education, Pradeep Kumar Banerjee, Department of Extension Education and Anshuman Jena, SoA, Deemed to be University presented concept notes relating to different dimensions of capacity building for extension professionals.

The programme was attended by 150 teachers, scientists and students from five universities across the country.

WORKSHOP FOR HOME MAKERS



A Career Counseling Workshop for Home Makers being organised at Rama Devi Women's University in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

DAV students visit HC to learn various aspects of judicial system

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 10: The High Court of Orissa Saturday organized a visit of twenty five students of class XI & XII from DAV Public School, Unit - VIII, Bhubaneswar to its premises located in Cuttack.

Saturday, DAV students and their teachers visited the High Court premises at Cuttack. Lawyers Sagarika Sahoo and Sailen Das were present on the occasion. They explained various aspects of judicial functioning to the students. The students saw the Chief Justice's courts and chambers in the heritage building and the new building of the High Court, Judges' library and the conference hall.

They put queries which were answered by the lawyers. The students were shown video clips of swearing-in ceremony of judges and explained the procedure in-



involved therein. Video clip of the hearing of one Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was also played for viewing of the students in the Chief Justice's court room.

The students also visited the Aain Seva Bhawan which houses the Odisha State Legal Services Authority and the High Court's Arbitration and Mediation Center where they were sensitized about the Alternative Dispute Redressal (ADR) mechanism and its contribution in addressing the grievances of poor litigants. At Odisha Judicial Academy, the students also interacted with Justice Arindam Sinha, who discussed with them the Criminal Jurisprudence. He further stated

that the presumption of innocence is a cardinal principle of criminal jurisprudence and basic right of the accused. Justice Sinha also discussed the writ jurisdiction of the High Courts and the Supreme Court of India. He said that the writ jurisdiction under Article 226 is much wider than the writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 32 in as much as under Article 226 one can directly move the High Court on violation of both legal and fundamental rights but under Article 32 one can directly move the Supreme Court only on violation of fundamental rights.

During the discussion, Justice Sinha conveyed a message to the students to develop a sense of originality within them. He stressed that students should endeavour to explore the hidden talents instead of making themselves slaves to gadgets like mobile phones.

Sustained rise in antimicrobial resistance in India: ICMR study

A big chunk of patients in India may no longer benefit from carbapenem, a powerful antibiotic administered mainly in ICU settings to treat pneumonia and septicemia, as they have developed antimicrobial resistance to it, an ICMR study has found.

The data analysis done between January 1 and December 31, 2021 pointed towards a sustained increase in drug-resistant pathogens, resulting in difficulty to treat certain infections with available medicines, senior Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) scientist Kamini Walia, who led the study, said. "Antibiotic resistance has the potential of taking the form of a pandemic in the near future if corrective measures are not taken immediately," she said.

The ICMR study report was released Friday. The data collected from the network has enabled compilation of drug resistance data on six pathogenic groups on antimicrobial resistance from the country.

Data collected from the network is used to track resistance trends and to better understand mechanisms of resistance in the key priority pathogens using genotypic characterisation and whole genome sequencing (WGS).

This is the fifth detailed report on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) trends and patterns from the country published by the ICMR. This year's report also carries hospital-acquired surveillance data.

According to the ICMR report, resistance to Imipenem, which is used to treat infections caused by bacteria E coli, has increased from 14 per cent in 2016 to 36 per cent in 2021. The trend of decreasing susceptibility of bacteria to specific antibiotics was also observed with Klebsiella pneumoniae as it came down from 65 per cent in 2016 to 45 per cent in 2020 and 43 per cent in 2021. The susceptibility term here is used to describe the vulnerability of the bacteria to the antibiotic.

Carbapenem resistance isolates of E coli and K pneumoniae are also resistant to other antimicrobials making it very challenging to treat carbapenem-resistant infections.

The resistance to broad-spectrum antibiotic carbapenem in respect to infections caused by Acinetobacter baumannii bacteria was recorded in 87.5 per cent of the patients who were part of the study, limiting the availability of treatment options, the ICMR report said. Susceptibility of the



In Pseudomonas aeruginosa, another bacteria which causes infections in the blood, lungs (pneumonia), or other parts of the body after surgery, there is a consistent increase in susceptibility to all the major antipseudomonal drugs in the last few years, senior Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) scientist Kamini Walia said

same bacteria to minocycline is close to 50 per cent, making it the most susceptible antibiotic after colistin for Acinetobacter baumannii, it stated.

In Pseudomonas aeruginosa, another bacteria which causes infections in the blood, lungs (pneumonia), or other parts of the body after surgery, there is a consistent increase in susceptibility to all the major antipseudomonal drugs in the last few years, Walia said.

"There is a need to strengthen and improve diagnostic labs to promote rational use of antibiotics. Antimicrobial prescriptions should be based on definitive diagnosis and not on presumptive diagnosis. Several broad-spec-

trum antimicrobials are being used for syndrome management," Walia said. "The resistance level is increasing to 5 to 10 per cent every year for broad-spectrum antimicrobials which are highly misused. With no new antimicrobials in the pipeline to treat drug-resistant infections, it is very important that we use judiciously what we have. There is also increasing levels of resistance of antifungals. Previously not many labs were doing fungal cultures and antifungal susceptibility." The ICMR AMR network has developed this over the last few years and now many labs are reporting antifungal susceptibility rates giving an idea on antifungal resistance rates. The use of anti-

fungals was particularly high during the Covid pandemic," she said.

According to the ICMR report, in Staphylococcus aureus, which causes a wide variety of clinical diseases such as skin infections like abscesses and boils and sometimes pneumonia, endocarditis and osteomyelitis, susceptibility to erythromycin, clindamycin, ciprofloxacin, co-trimoxazole and high-level mupirocin was more evident in MSSA (Methicillin-Sensitive Staphylococcus Aureus) when compared to multi-drug resistant strains such as MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus).

MRSA rates are increasing each year from 2016 to 2021 (28.4 per cent to 42.6 per cent). Enterococci

is another important pathogen which is quickly evolving and drug susceptibility has changed considerably in the last few years.

Several fungal pathogens like C. Parapsilosis and C. Glabrata are showing increasing resistance to commonly available antifungal medicines such as fluconazole, thus requiring close monitoring in the next few years.

Among diarrheal pathogens like Diarrheagenic E Coli, Shigella spp. And Salmonella that cause large proportions of diarrhoea cases in India, norfloxacin susceptibility was very poor. Empirical use of norfloxacin for the treatment of bacterial diarrhoea is strongly discouraged, Walia said. There has been no significant change in the overall antimicrobial susceptibility pattern of Salmonella Typhi or S Paratyphi A from India with the pattern remaining uniform across all the participating centres in the AMR network.

S. Typhi is 100 per cent susceptible to cephalosporins and azithromycin. Other drugs which retained good susceptibility for Salmonella Typhi or S Paratyphi A are ampicillin, chloramphenicol and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole.

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CDMO blames hooch for 'mystery' disease in Mathili

Death toll touches 12; five have died according to the CDMO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri/Mathili, Sept 10: A day after **Orissa Post** reported on outbreak of an unknown disease claiming life of 12 people in six days at Haladikunda village in Temurupalli panchayat under Mathili block of Malkangiri district, a special medical team reached the village Saturday and started collecting blood samples from the affected people. Meanwhile, the CDMO has said that the disease is the outcome of country liquor consumption and only five people have died in the area.

As per reports, the death toll has reached 12 with another villager succumbing to the disease, Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Aaita Madkami of Haladikunda village. The deceased was suffering from fever with swelling of limbs just a few days back. He did not visit



the hospital due to superstition and died Saturday.

A medical team led by medical officer Dr Amiya Swain visited the village and collected blood samples of the affected persons, Saturday. The samples of liquor and water consumed by the locals in the area were also collected for medical examination.

The deaths have triggered panic among people. It was alleged that people in the panchayat have been seeking help of quacks and traditional healers to treat the disease instead of taking the patients to hospitals. Medical experts say, this superstitious practice has deprived the patients of modern medical treatment. Zilla Parishad member Lakshmi Priya Nayak also visited

the area and advised the locals to visit the hospital instead of resorting to traditional medicines and quacks. Meanwhile, police have arrested a quack identified as Narendra Madi of Salimi panchayat of Haladikunda following a complaint lodged by the medical officer of the Mathili sub-divisional hospital.

Locals said, people affected by the disease are learnt to have swollen limbs along with high fever. IIC Suryaprakash Nayak said that a quack has been arrested.

Chief district medical officer (CDMO) Prafulla Kumar Nanda said that the disease was not any mystery.

"The disease is outcome of consuming country liquor. In fact, five people have died of the disease. Critical patients will be shifted to the district headquarter hospital. The village is witnessing wanton flow of country liquor. Following a directive from the Collector, Excise officials raided the village. After testing reports of the blood samples, everything will be clear," he added.



Artistes dressed in attires of various characters performed during a Ganesh idol immersion ceremony in Talcher, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Irregularities alleged in plantation works



POST NEWS NETWORK

Mathili, Sept 10: Large-scale irregularities were allegedly committed by the Forest department in sapling plantation in Mathili block of Malkangiri district.

Reports said, the Forest department has claimed to have planted saplings on 30 hectare land in Godiali reserve forest in the current year. It had set a target to plant 6,000 saplings, but in reality only 3,000 saplings have been planted, sources said.

It means, the department has not planted 3,000 saplings the cost amount of which has been misappropriated. As per guidelines, the department should have ensured post-plantation care and protection of the saplings, but it has not done so, sources added.

Only fencing has been done around the plantation.

The job card holders have been paid ₹200 each in cash which should have been credited into their bank accounts. Locals alleged that this is how the department has embezzled lakhs of rupees in the name of plantation. Locals have urged the district administration to look into the matter.

Our reporter had tried to contact the Mathili ranger and the forester over phone, but they were unavailable for reaction.

LEOPARD POACHING IN NAYAGARH

Forest dept's cover-up bid exposed

HC ORDERS NAYAGARH SP TO REDRESS COMPLAINT; RANPUR POLICE BOOK 15 PEOPLE INCLUDING FORMER ACF, RANGER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh/Ranpur, Sept 10: Two leopards had been poached in April 2020 in Asurakumari forest under Ranpur range of Nayagarh district. The matter was allegedly being suppressed, but with the High Court order, the matter has been reopened after nine months.

After the HC directed the SP to take a decision on the grievance petition filed by one Lingaraj Samantray regarding the leopard poaching, Ranpur police were compelled to register cases against 15 people including former Khurda ACF Rabindra Mohapatra, former assistant ranger Sarat Chandra Satpathy, former forest guard Rita Sahu, Ranpur forester Kaibalya Behera, president of Maa Asurakumari Vana Surakhya Samiti Sadashiv Indrajit, secretary Bijay Kumar Parida and Bajrakote village committee president Suresh Chandra Pradhan in connection with the leopard poaching case. An investigation into the matter has been started.

Lingaraj Samantray, a resident of Bajrakote village, had filed a complaint at Ranpur police sta-



Representative picture of a leopard. (Inset) File photo of poached leopards' skeletal remains recovered in 2020 from Asurakumari forest in Ranpur

tion in April 2020, pointing out details on how a forged resolution was passed to cover up the leopard poaching and save the poacher. He had also intimidated the SP about the incident.

However, it was alleged that Ranpur IIC and the Nayagarh SP had ignored the leopard poaching and tried to hide the fact and shield those involved in the crime. A case in this connection had been filed at the High Court.

The complaint said, two leopards had been killed in Asurakumari reserve forest in April, 2020. Poachers had laid coils of live wires aimed at killing boars, but a leopard and its cub got entangled in it and died from electrocution. The poachers had tried to hide their crime by taking away all parts of the animals. However, negligible skeletal

remains of the poached animals were left at the place.

There was buzz in the public about the incident while various media carried reports about it. Then only, the Forest department got to know of the incident.

The forest officials of Ranpur started an investigation into the leopard poaching and seized hides and bones of the poached leopards. Locals accused the forest officials of suppressing the poaching. A report was submitted to the Forest department that there was no leopard in the forest. At that time, the then ranger and forest officials had approached villagers of Bajrakote to attest that no leopard existed in the forest.

However, some people claimed before forest officials that leopards used to move in the area and they have seen leopards at differ-

ent times. They also told forest officials that leopards had fed on their goats. Thereafter, forest officials tried to hide the incident by hatching conspiracy.

Lingaraj had sought details of the leopard poaching and its investigation report from Khurda DFO office through RTI. But the information in this regard was not passed out. Later he sought information about it from the PCCF office. Here the attempts made by the forest officials to hide the poaching came to the fore.

President of Maa Asurakumari Vana Surakhya Samiti Sadashiv Indrajit and secretary Bijay Kumar Parida had made forged resolution that there was no leopard in the reserve forest. In the resolution, it was explained that some people had dumped parts of leopards in the reserve forest with the aim of blaming the forest officials, Bajrakote village and members of Vana Surakhya Samiti.

A secret meeting was held and signatures of some people had been taken on a paper to claim that there was no poaching in the forest. The paper was attached to the investigation file and pushed into cold storage. A complaint was filed at Ranpur police station in this regard November 8, 2021. November 19, 2021, a complaint was sent to the SP through registered post. However, the case was not registered. The complainant then moved the High Court. "Though its inquiry was delayed, the matter was finally exposed. Many innocent people have been implicated in the poaching case," he said.

MYTHOLOGICAL PLAY



Artistes participated in a cultural programme 'Jalandhar Darbar' based on the mythological king Jalandhar and held on the occasion of Ananta Brata at Kadobahal village under Attabira block in Bargarh district

OP PHOTO

Balimunda airstrip oustees resume stir

POST NEWS NETWORK

Padmapur, Sept 10: The members of 41 families who have been displaced by the under-construction airstrip project at Balimunda under Basudevpur block of Bhadrak district have resumed their sit-in protest on Jamujhadi-Dhamra road from Friday, as their demands have not been met so far.

They pressed for right price for their land, scope of employment for local people, engaging local vehicles in transportation work, pro-

vision of 10 decimal of land, housing for the displaced families and rainwater drainage system.

The ousted families had staged protests in August over their demands. Then, local officials and MLA Bishnubrat Routray reached out to the oustees and assured them of sorting out their demands as early as possible.

"As no step was taken to address our demands, we had to resume our agitation. Our agitation will go on till our demands are met," said the displaced families.

Tusker carcass found in Sundargarh jungle

POST NEWS NETWORK

Lahunipada, Sept 10: Elephant deaths in Odisha continue unabated with the death of another tusker being reported from Sundargarh district Saturday.

The tusker carcass was recovered from Tunguri jungle under Banki forest limits in Sundargarh district, Saturday.

The matter came to the fore after locals spotted the tusker lying dead in the jungle and informed the forest officials. On being informed, a team of forest officials led by regional conservator of forest (RCF) reached the spot and launched a probe into the death of the animal. However, they failed to ascertain the actual reason behind the



animal's death. They even allegedly did not inform the mediapersons about the animal's death and kept it under wrap.

This has sparked suspicion in the minds of the people. A post-mortem was conducted on the carcass and it was later buried at the spot. Further investigation into the matter is underway.

Guv on 2-day Koraput visit

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Sept 10: Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal is on a two-day visit to Koraput district to attend various programmes and events. He reached the tribal-dominated district Saturday by travelling in a special coach of Hirakhand Express. The Governor was welcomed by the District Collector, SP and officials of Indian Railways.

The Governor will be inaugurating a function on 'Contribution of Tribal Leaders in the Freedom Struggle of India' at Central University of Odisha (CUO) Saturday as the Chief Guest. The event is being organized jointly by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) and the



varsity.

Later, he will attend another event organised at Delhi Public Secondary School, Semiliguda as the Chief Guest. Tomorrow, he will attend the annual function of Durua Adivasi Mahila Mahasangh at Budaguda village under Kundura block of the district and hold talks with women's self-help groups.

281 water bodies to be pollution-free



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 10: Water bodies play a vital role in recharging the ground-water level, but due to lack of maintenance, many water bodies in the state have been bunged up with silt while some others are getting polluted due to discharge of dirty waste water and effluents.

Significantly, acting on an NGT directive pertaining to a case 325/2015, the Water Resources department has initiated steps to make 281 water bodies (particularly each sprawling over 10 acres of land) free of pollution. The water resources department a couple of days ago directed the chief engineer of the minor irrigation department, Bhubaneswar, to collect water samples of such water bodies.

In the letter, nodal officer of the Water Resources department DRR Patnaik directed the minor irrigation department to complete the water sample collection and test-

ing with help of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) by September 20 this year.

These water bodies will be identified and a blueprint will be drawn up for their development. The Water Resources department has also directed to submit the testing reports of the water samples through a format developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). It was said that if this plan is executed properly, the sprawling water bodies will be free of pollution and come handy for people in their respective localities.

Such a step assumes much importance as groundwater level in most parts of the state has been nosediving due to a number of factors like excessive exploitation of groundwater and lack of recharging mechanism. What is alarming is that groundwater is also getting polluted in the areas where mining activities and industrial operations have been rampant.

Besides, water bodies are shrinking due to encroachment. Some old water bodies are filled up and leveled by land mafia to raise buildings in many urban localities, it is alleged. Taking a serious note of the issue, the Housing and the Urban Development department in January, 2018 had directed the commissioners, executive officers of all the municipalities and the notified area councils (NACs) to protect and conserve the old water bodies in their localities.

Moreover, following a High Court order, a committee comprising the RDCs, Collectors, officials of the SPCB, executive officers had been formed.

Despite all such steps, water bodies have been allegedly filled up at some places, leading to a decline in their numbers. Experts say, as water bodies' number is decreasing, the climate is getting hotter. Water bodies play as coolant of the ambient atmosphere. In royal era, kings used to excavate large water bodies for irrigation and water conservation. Each village had five to six ponds. Years ago, Jajpur had over 3,000 water bodies, but their number has come down to only 2,000.

Regional officer of the Kalinganagar SPCB, Pramod Kumar Behera, said that a directive had been issued earlier to collect water samples of the water bodies for their lab testing. SPCB was asked to help in the exercise. No further order has come, he added.

Mayurbhanj dist sees most snakebite deaths

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Sept 10: Mayurbhanj district tops the chart in number of deaths due to snakebites in state with 518 persons reported dead in the district during last seven years, a report said.

A rise in population of poisonous snakes in Mayurbhanj district surrounded by hills and forests is said to be the cause behind the snakebite incidents. The rescue of poisonous snakes from human habitats and rising incidents of snakebite have become a daily affair.

The highest death toll is attributed to lack of awareness among people about snakebite. Things have come to such a pass that the district has been at the top for the last five years in snakebites.

Free treatment facilities are available in government hospitals but people often fall prey to snakebites due to lack of timely treatment, faith in quacks and traditional practices like sorcery.

Sources said that the water discharged from rivers, streams emerging from Similipal forests and large reservoirs enters the low lying areas of the district during the rainy season. The snakes come floating when the water level rises during the rainy season and spread their populations after entering the riparian villages.

Families living below the poverty

GRIM STATS

A total of 518 persons have died from snakebites in the district if the death toll in last seven years is taken into account

44 persons died from snakebite during 2015-16, 45 in 2016-17, 77 in 2017-18, 102 in 2018-19, 90 in 2019-20, 92 in 2020-21 and 68 in 2021-22 here

line often sleep on the verandahs due to lack of space. As a result, these people often get bit by snakes during sleep and die.

Reports said that 44 persons died from snakebite during 2015-16, 45 in 2016-17, 77 in 2017-18, 102 in 2018-19, 90 in 2019-20, 92 in 2020-21 and 68 in 2021-22 here. The death toll due to snakebite has remained highest in the state for the last four years since 2018-19. A total of 518 persons have died from snakebites in the district if the death toll in last seven years is taken into account, the government report said.

Lack of awareness and poverty often force people to depend on traditional healers rather than any medical facility. Any person bitten by snake is taken straight to a sorcerer many a times to get rid of the poison. When contacted, a medical practitioner Dr Sanat Kumar Das said that anti-snake venom is given with saline when a person bitten by snake reaches hospital in time.

FOCUS CULTURE

PLEASURES OF CYCLING



The pleasures of cycling are akin to finding meaning in a simple child-like activity that can be a most profound experience

As I write this, one of my idols, Prof (Dr) Kiran Seth - founder of SPIC MACAY, is undertaking the near impossible expedition of solo cycling from Kashmir to Kanyakumari to promote India's composite heritage. At present, he must be riding his single gear simple and humble cycle somewhere between Punjab and Haryana. I wish I could have given him company, at least in parts. When I met him in Delhi recently, he told me that he chose the simplest of bicycles because he wants to do it in a way that anyone can do. He also prefers to cycle alone as it allows him to reflect deeply. Therefore, while he invites others to join him, he requests them to pedal silently! It is part of his intention to make it an 'internal journey' as much as an 'external adventure'.

Since Plato and Socrates' time, philosophy was centred on the idea of 'essentialism' or the fact that life has 'essence or some inherent meaning' before even it existed. Only in the last couple of centuries has the idea that existence may not have any essence and, therefore, can be made meaningful by the free will of any individual taken root in philosophy. The pleasures of cycling are akin to finding meaning in a simple child-like activity that can be a most profound experience. Besides promoting composite culture, Dr Seth wants to encourage cycling as an eco-friendly alternative to other modes of transport. He stops on the way at educational institutions to urge the youth to volunteer for a meaningful cause such as SPIC MACAY. Most importantly, undertake the inner journey to discover oneself through classical music and the arts or perhaps through cycling itself! It's the last one I find the most alluring and a meaningful path to the rest!

The author is a civil engineer, academician and technologist. He is currently based in Hong Kong.

When I started cycling seriously as an avenue for a healthier life around the time the pandemic began, I didn't realise what a life-changing experience it would turn out to be! Recently, it was 9 deg C outside here in Hong Kong with a wind chill factor making it feel more like 7 deg C, overcast, wet roads, and 6:30 AM! Just as the quick drizzle stops, my cycling partner Federico calls out, saying let's go for a ride! Usually, we would go out every weekend - Saturday and Sunday between 6:30 - 6:45 AM. Our route would carry us out to the Sai Kung country park and the beautiful east dam, where the road would end with the barrier separating the sea from the freshwater reservoir.

On very few occasions, if we had enough time and were not in a rush to beat the 8 AM deadline to get out of the country park, then we would go down Heartbreak hill, which takes you to the bottom of the dam on the seaside, so named because of its steep climb on the way back. No matter how often you have been there, it is always a breathtaking view. It makes it hard to resist the temptation of taking photos on our mobile phones. Before returning home, we would return to the other end of the road at Wong Shek pier, some 15-20 km away. Occasionally we would go to the Hoi Ha Marine Park, located on an offroad with the steepest gradients. Then there is the 'Cowshed', so named because all the cows released in the country park tend to gather at this low flat piece of grazing land at the bottom of one of the dams before the East Dam that separates the main reservoir from a recreational lake. And, of course, the ride on the narrow embankment road on the pool's north side gives us the option of breaking the monotony of riding on the south side to the ride to the east dam every time!

Our cycling expeditions would be incomplete without our rou-

te pit stops at our friend's place for coffee and snacks. Oliver's on Saturdays and Maxy's on Sundays. Oli would be a frequent host as he would often be a co-rider, and his beautiful country house strategically located at the top of the hill at Pak Tam Au would provide just the tempting destination to tackle the 1.7 km steep climb before it! While climbing often causes you to wonder why cyclists put themselves through such physical torture, it also makes you realise that achieving anything meaningful in life, there are no shortcuts! Like night follows the day, a climb certainly brings a downhill ride, making you feel like a free bird! But it also teaches you how to cope with the ups and downs, just like in real life!

I had several minor falls and some narrow escapes while tackling serious cycling, including using clip-on shoes that give you that 5% extra help while climbing the hills. I had my first fracture in life only recently! Most serious accidents often happen when you

least expect them! I never thought a casual ride around the block would lead to a most painful fall that would crack my shoulder blade!! It was a bad idea to go out in wet weather on my son's cycle instead of my own and get carried away in exploring unknown paths! The result was a mighty fall on a deceptively slippery patch where the bicycle went out from underneath! The impact was directly on my right shoulder without a scratch anywhere else! Luckily it was only a crack, and there was no displacement or shattering pieces that would have required surgery to fix with plates and screws!! The pain associated with a fracture is excruciating and sometimes feels like you would pass out just from its stabbing nature of it!! Surprised how little modern science can do other than depend on our body's natural miraculous ability to heal itself! I can't wait to get back on my cycle again in six-eight weeks! In the meantime, I miss the simple pleasures I had become accustomed to!



Dhanada K Mishra

LIKE NIGHT FOLLOWS THE DAY, A CLIMB CERTAINLY BRINGS A DOWNHILL RIDE, MAKING YOU FEEL LIKE A FREE BIRD!



Aakar Patel

We have the fundamental right to apply to the police to gather in a designated area. The police has the right to approve, reject or not respond to us. This last option is exercised often - I can testify to this on the basis of personal experience

Whatsoever has courage can give courage to others just as the flame of the candle can light up another.

THE MOTHER



Designated Area

The Supreme Court of India has generously allowed citizens the right to protest "in designated area". It had said this in its judgement and criticism of the Shaheen Bagh sit-in against the citizenship amendment law and the National Register of Citizens. Its observation was that "disent and democracy go hand in hand but protests must be carried out in designated area. What started out as a protest caused inconvenience to commuters. This is what was witnessed in Shaheen Bagh."

Many readers may not know what designated area means. I didn't know myself till I worked for a civil society organisation only a few years ago. It means some part of the city that is marked off for protest, such as Jantar Mantar in Delhi and Freedom Park in Bangalore. People are allowed to gather there for a specified period and then disperse. To access even these areas, the citizen must apply for permission to the police and to the government. Readers will have seen in Europe and the US, small groups of people spontaneously picketing workplaces and corporate offices, holding up placards and chanting slogans. This is illegal in India. Article 19 reads "All citizens shall have the right to assemble peacefully and without arms." The Constitution says that peaceful assembly is a Fundamental Right. A Fundamental Right is defined as something enjoying a high degree of protection from encroachment by the State. We don't have any such right. We have the fundamental right to apply to the police to gather in a designated area. The police has the right to approve, reject or not respond to us. This last option is exercised often - I can testify to this on the basis of personal experience. It is possible that our Supreme Court judges do not know any of this. It is unlikely they have participated in protest or have had cause to participate.

As an aside, it will interest readers to know that our judiciary has also apparently edited Article 21, which guarantees life and liberty to citizens, by ignoring and endlessly deferring the pleas of Kashmiris under habeas corpus. Only a few days ago, the BBC exposed how the governor of Kashmir said the Mirwaiz, Omar Farooq was not detained, while it was proven that he was. Kashmiris of course have no right to protest. In the rest of India designated area protests are preferred by the State because they can be safely ignored. Jantar Mantar - visit it sometime if you haven't, it's in the heart of Delhi - has dozens of installed protest sites, some of which have been there for years. Nobody cares what they are protesting about; certainly the State doesn't.

The State sees protest - and Fundamental Rights generally speaking - as a nuisance which must exist on paper but not exercised in defiance of the State. The most peaceful, Gandhian manner of protest will not be tolerated in India. There is nothing more noble than the human being taking what Gandhi did in only token fashion - starve - to the end. A woman in Manipur chose to do that for justice and the State chained and force-fed her through a nasal pipe for 10 years rather than allow her the right to do what the British allowed Gandhi. Irom Sharmila is not a heroine in this country and not the recipient of the Bharat Ratna, as would have been the case in a more civilised nation. She is an enemy of the State.

What the Supreme Court has observed or ordered (it is not quite clear which of the two it is) in the matter of Shaheen Bagh does not apply to political parties and more organised forces like farmer's unions and caste groups. They can and they will continue to protest outside designated areas, calling for and enforcing bandhs and hartals, rail rokos, chakka jams and the rest. The State lacks the capacity to prevent this so it looks away. The Supreme Court also looks away. What the lordships want is that small groups of women not show their defiance because it offends their sensibilities and their concern for the rule of law in this nation. But it is this defiance that is the heart of protest. A protest happens because the State doesn't follow its own laws. A protest is an objection and a complaint. It exists because it is otherwise unheard. In the designated area it will remain unheard. If the Supreme Court kicks the can down the road on habeas corpus, if the home minister announces his intention of locking up millions and denying them citizenship rights, if the State reverses burden of proof on this and demands that we provide the evidence to its satisfaction, then it is naive to assume that protests will not happen. And if they do happen, that they will happen in a designated area.

A protest is not effective in our part of the world if there is no friction. It must necessarily irritate the State. The State has no obligation to deliver the demands of the protests otherwise and the judiciary's record of siding with citizens against the State's encroachment and abuse is quite poor. Shaheen Bagh is seen very differently around the world because for many it is inspirational that a group of marginalised women chose to defy the State. They are admired for it and for their effectiveness, and the women know it. It was precisely because Shaheen Bagh's women were effective that the court wanted to send down its judgement on this particular protest. And such defiance is not going to end because of the court's irritation. After yet another rape and murder by the armed forces, Manipur's women stripped naked and presented themselves for rape before the army's gates in 2004. One would like to know what they think about the court's order that they only protest "in designated area".

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

A faster route to greener shipping



Aidee Saucedo Davila

CLIMATE CHANGE HAS BECOME A CONSTANT FACTOR IN THE OCEAN'S DECLINE

Delegates from over 190 countries recently gathered in Lisbon for the United Nations Ocean Conference, the most important event on this issue this year. Opening the meeting, UN Secretary-General António Guterres urged governments "to raise their level of ambition for the recovery of ocean health."

Governments must heed that entreaty. Climate change has become a constant factor in the ocean's decline. Rising sea levels, coral reef degradation, and more severe coastal weather events suggest a bleak future for an ecosystem that spans almost three-quarters of our planet.

But if one thing was obvious in Lisbon, it is that a growing number of governments - from Fiji to the United States - are starting to crack down on a sector that relies exclusively on the dirtiest and most polluting fossil fuels: the international shipping industry. The Marshall Islands, the US, Kenya, and Denmark called for immediate action to achieve zero-emission shipping by 2050, while the UN secretary-general pressed the sector to "present credible plans" to achieve this goal.

Shipping is the most efficient mode of transport for most goods, moving around 80% of all traded products every year. It is here to stay. But global shipping emits more

than one billion tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, equivalent to the emissions of 243 coal-fired power plants. Recent projections show that the problem could get even worse, with shipping emissions reaching 90-130% of 2008 levels by 2050 if we fail to act.

The International Maritime Organization, the specialised UN agency that regulates maritime transport, must play a key role in reducing shipping-related emissions and improving the industry's energy efficiency. The IMO is currently revising its 2018 climate strategy, which aims to reduce shipping emissions by at least 50% by mid-century. Encouragingly, a growing number of IMO member states favour aligning the sector with the 2050 zero-emissions target set by the 2015 Paris climate agreement. The US, the United Kingdom, and 12 other countries raised this issue at last year's UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, bringing more global attention to shipping than ever before - at least as far as UN climate summits go.

But setting a distant decarbonisation deadline is not enough, given climate scientists' repeated warnings that global warming is on course to reach 1.5° Celsius, relative to pre-industrial levels, by 2037 - not 2050. The IMO must listen to the scientists and seek to

secure an agreement among member states during the current negotiations to eliminate shipping emissions well before mid-century.

In addition, countries need to set gradually increasing emissions-reduction targets for key economic sectors, with modest goals for as early as 2025 followed by more ambitious objectives for 2030 and 2040. For example, researchers have suggested cutting shipping emissions by at least 34% by 2030 in order to reach zero by 2050.

A concrete, step-by-step decarbonisation pathway at the global level will guide countries to move the industry progressively away from hydrocarbons and toward clean and sustainable fuels. The European Union is already embarking on this path by proposing to include shipping emissions in its carbon market and by setting sustainability targets for marine fuels.

A truly ambitious IMO climate strategy could drive a wave of green innovation in the shipping industry. Firms would have to invest their multibillion-dollar profits in the development and uptake of clean fuels such as green hydrogen, green ammonia, and battery technologies, and in replacing their fossil-fuel-powered fleets with zero-emission vessels. Along the way, they should improve their fleets' energy and operational ef-

iciency, which is one of the fastest ways to cut shipping's climate pollution.

For many people around the world, whether the world sets clear targets for clean shipping and manages to limit global warming to 1.5°C, rather than 2°C or higher, is an existential issue. Small island states already on the front line of the climate crisis are most at risk of a global temperature rise above these levels, as a recent report by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlighted. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C rather than 2°C can reduce sea-level rise this century by ten centimetres - meaning ten million fewer people will be at risk of coastal flooding.

The UN Ocean Conference declaration stated that the IMO must urgently align its climate ambition with the Paris agreement's global-warming targets and set "clear interim goals" to start reducing the shipping industry's greenhouse-gas emissions "as soon as possible." This is a welcome if long-overdue step. Governments and shipping firms, working with the IMO, must now translate this ambition into firm targets and concrete measures.

The writer is a researcher at University College London's Energy Institute. @PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- Passion is the genesis of genius. GALILEO GALILEI
- Better to die than live in sleep. GI GURDJIEFF
- Life begins where fear ends. OSHO

WORDSWORTH

Bloviate

This word - meaning to speak pompously - is almost entirely restricted to the United States; it doesn't appear in any of my British English dictionaries, not even the big Oxford English Dictionary or the very recent New Oxford Dictionary of English. Yet it has a long history. It's most closely associated with US President Warren Gamaliel Harding, who used it a lot and who was by all accounts the classic example of somebody who orates verbosely and windily. It's a compound of blow, in its sense of "to boast" (also in another typical Americanism, blowhard), with a mock-Latin ending to give it the self-important stature that's implicit in its meaning. The word is actually much older than Harding; Fred Shapiro of the Yale Law School has recently turned up several examples from the middle of the last century, such as this one from the Debates and Proceedings of the Convention for the Revision of the Constitution of the State of Ohio in 1851: "The bloviators attempt to disturb the proceedings of this Convention". This and other examples suggest it was at first a local word in Ohio, Harding's home state. Bloviate may be a back-formation from the noun bloviation. This would fit with the US fashion in the early nineteenth century for expansive mock-Latinate words like sockdolager, hornswoggle and absquatulate. There's a gap in the citation record in the middle years of this century. The word only began to be used again in the 1960s, even then at first always in reference to Harding.

No way out of impasse

Sir, This refers to "India, China to pull back troops by Sept 12," Orissa POST, September 10. India and China have agreed on disengagement of their frontline troops in the Hot Springs area along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) after months of protracted negotiations, but it is also obvious that serious differences remain between the two sides. The Indian side has sought talks to resolve the remaining issues on the LAC, while the Chinese side has said it does not recognise the status quo as it existed in the Ladakh sector in April 2020, when the current military standoff began. The Chinese side has even claimed that the status quo was "created by illegal trespassing on the Indian side" - a contention that goes against realities on the ground. Restoration of the status quo and the violation of agreements and protocols for border management through China's action of amassing troops along the LAC are among the key issues raised by the Indian side, and Beijing's latest assertions are unlikely to go down well with New Delhi. However, both countries are yet to confirm a possible meeting between the Indian Prime Minister and the Chinese President on the margins of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit at Samarkand in Uzbekistan, and with the Chinese side apparently using the ongoing dialogue process only to create an appearance of stability on the LAC, there seems to be no easy way out of the impasse in the border areas.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Symbol of stability

Sir, Queen Elizabeth II was the longest-serving monarch in British history and the world's oldest Head of State. The Queen's monarchy saw 15 different Britain prime ministers - from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss. She travelled more than any other international leader, and as the world's oldest head of state, she always used her own distinctive form of quiet diplomacy to represent the United Kingdom around the world. She was widely regarded as a symbol of stability, working tirelessly to make sure her monarchy remained relevant during a period of immense social, technological and economic changes. At 96, the queen died after overseeing the countless changes to a country often at the forefront of scientific innovation, at the centre of the Commonwealth of 52 countries, and whose language still dominates the world, but which is now searching for its path after leaving the European Union.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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

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national

of the day quote

Students must be involved in surveys for welfare schemes run by the state government



MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

The chief minister and I meet regularly and hold discussions. If any issue comes up, we hold talk



KALRAJ MISHRA | RAJASTHAN GOVERNOR

Nitish Kumar has at least shown the courage to implement total Prohibition in his state



UMA BHARTI | BJP LEADER

SHORT TAKES

Heroin worth ₹200 cr seized

Gandhinagar: Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in a joint operation have seized 39.5 kg of heroin, worth nearly Rs 200 crore in the international market, from Kolkata. Director General of Police Ashish Bhatia told media persons that the ATS team had received a specific information about a scrap consignment imported in February is lying at the docks of the Kolkata sea port since landing, and it carries drugs.

PM speaks to Truss

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday spoke to British Prime Minister Elizabeth Truss to congratulate her on assuming office and appreciated her role in furthering bilateral relations. "The two leaders discussed various issues of bilateral interest including the progress in the implementation of the Roadmap 2030, ongoing FTA negotiations, defence & security cooperation, and the people-to-people ties between both countries," a statement from the External Affairs Ministry said. The prime minister also conveyed deep condolences to the royal family and the people of the UK on the demise of Queen Elizabeth II. Truss had assumed office as British Prime Minister on Tuesday.

Farmer killed

Ramgarh/Medininagar (Jharkhand): A 55-year-old farmer was trampled to death by two elephants in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district Saturday, a forest official said. The incident took place at Sarla village under Gola block of the district when the farmer, identified as Sawan Mahto, was on his way to his farmland on Saturday morning. Ramgarh Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Ved Prakash Kamboj said that Sawan was trampled to death by the two elephants while he was on his way to the farmland.

Drugs seized

Diphu/Guwahati: Huge quantities of drugs worth nearly Rs 7 crore were seized from Assam's Karbi Anglong and Karimgang district and five persons were arrested Saturday, police said. Acting on specific information, a joint team of police and CRPF personnel launched a search operation in Lahorijan area of Karbi Anglong district, bordering Nagaland, and seized 800 kg of ganja and 40.07 gm of heroin from a vehicle coming from Manipur. During the search of the vehicle, the police found ganja hidden in 80 packets along with the heroin kept inside three soap boxes, police said. Three persons have been arrested in this connection.



Nitish Kumar has been sworn in as chief minister six times in the last one decade. He must have left the people confused as to what does he stand for

PRASHANT KISHOR | POLITICAL STRATEGIST-TURNED-ACTIVIST

52-YR-OLD MARRIES MINOR

The police in Karnataka have arrested a 52-year-old man for marrying a 16-year-old minor girl, officials said Saturday. The Women and Child Welfare Department Saturday served notice to 60 relatives and friends who attended the 'child marriage' in Uttara Kannada



Rahul's meet with pastor triggers 'Bharat Jodo vs Todo' war

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: The BJP Saturday cited a video of a Christian priest's purported comments mentioning Hindu goddess Shakti during a conversation with Rahul Gandhi to allege it shows the "anti-Hindu" face of the opposition party, drawing a sharp reaction.

The Congress accused the BJP of spreading mischief through its "hate factory" and alleged that the ruling party has turned more desperate ever since the successful launch of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

In the video shared by several BJP leaders among others, the priest identified as George Ponnaiah is purportedly heard telling Gandhi that Jesus Christ is the "real god... Revealed as a human being. Not like Shakti..." He was responding to the Congress leader's query if Jesus is considered god or not.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra claimed the video has exposed the reality of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'. It insults goddess Shakti ahead of the beginning of Navratri, he said.



This is not the first time the Congress has been involved in such incidents as the party had earlier questioned the existence of Lord Ram, he said. During elections, Raul Gandhi pretends to go to temples but the 'anti-Hindu' face comes to the fore after the polls are over, he alleged.

"Is this 'Bharat Jodo'? Denouncing one religion for the appeasement of the other. This Hindu hatred of the Congress in general and Rahul Gandhi, in particular, is no more a clandestine affair. Rahul wears it on his sleeves with pride! 'Bharat-Todo' indeed by Rahul Gandhi," Patra said.

Is this 'Bharat Jodo'? Denouncing one religion for the appeasement of the other. This Hindu hatred of the Congress in general and Rahul Gandhi, in particular, is no more a clandestine affair. Rahul wears it on his sleeves with pride! 'Bharat-Todo' indeed by Rahul Gandhi

SAMBIT PATRA | BJP SPOKESPERSON

AICC general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh said the BJP's "hate factory" is sharing tweets about Gandhi which have no relation to the audio. "An atrocious tweet from the BJP hate factory is doing the rounds. It bears no relation whatsoever to what is recorded in the audio. This is typical BJP mischief that has become more desperate after the successful launch of Bharat Jodo Yatra which is evoking such a huge response," Ramesh tweeted. "People who were responsible

for the killing of Mahatma Gandhi and the murders of people like Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, MM Kalburgi and Gauri Lankesh are raising questions! What a morbid joke! Such attempts to damage the spirit of Bharat Jodo Yatra will fail miserably," he said in another tweet.

Targeting the Congress, BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla, said, "George Ponnaiah who met Rahul Gandhi says 'Jesus is the only God unlike Shakti (and other Gods)'. This man was arrested for his Hindu hatred earlier - he also said I wear shoes because impurities of Bharat Mata should not contaminate us'. Bharat Jodo with Bharat Todo icons." The opposition had "anti-Hindu DNA" which keeps reflecting itself, he alleged, referring to "saffron terror" remarks of the Congress when it was in power. Countering Ramesh, Poonawalla said the Congress's "factory of hate" was witnessed in 1984 riots against the Sikhs when the then prime minister sought to allegedly justify it.

Veteran archaeologist BB Lal dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: Veteran archaeologist and Padma Vibhushan awardee B B Lal died on Saturday aged 101. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid rich tributes, saying he will be remembered as a great intellectual who "deepened our connect with our rich past".

Lal served as the director general of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) from 1968 to 1972. He had reportedly found temple-like pillars during excavation at the Ayodhya site in the mid-70s, where the Ram temple is now being built.

Modi paid homage to him and tweeted: "Shri B B Lal was an outstanding personality. His contributions to culture and archaeology are unparalleled. He will be remembered as a great intellectual who deepened our connect with our rich past. Pained by his demise. My thoughts are with his family and friends. Om Shanti."

Prof B B Lal, as he was fondly addressed, was one of the youngest directors general of ASI, and left an extraordinary legacy behind. Former Additional Director General of ASI, B R Mani was among several scholars and senior officials of ASI who attended Lal's funeral at Lodhi crematorium here.

"He was a tall figure and a veteran archaeologist. He was my teacher and mentored four generations. I met his family members to express my condolences. His son told me that he died Saturday around 8:40 am at his home in Hauz Khas," Mani said. Asked about the excavation in Ayodhya which Lal led, he said, "The site was near Babri Masjid. It took place in the mid-1970s, but no report was made on it."

Officials said he had served as one of the youngest directors general of the ASI. Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy also paid tribute to the noted archaeologist and tweeted that the country "has lost one of the brightest minds". He said Lal contributed significantly to India's archaeological excavations and endeavours and trained archaeologists for over four decades.

INCLUSION OF NON-LOCALS AS VOTERS IN J&K

PAGD, other parties meet; to form panel

PAGD chairperson and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah announced the decision on the formation of the committee after chairing the over three-hour meeting at his residence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Sept 10: A meeting convened by the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) here on Saturday decided to set up a committee to chalk out the future strategy on the issue of inclusion of "non-locals" in the electoral rolls of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by all the five constituents of the PAGD - NC, PDP, CPI(M), CPI and Awami National Conference - besides the Congress and several Jammu-based parties, including Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Party (DSSP) and Dogra Sadar

Sabha-led by former minister Gulchain Singh Charak.

PAGD chairperson and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah announced the decision on the formation of the committee after chairing the over three-hour meeting at his residence here. "The main purpose was to discuss the issue of inclusion of non-locals in the voting list of Jammu and Kashmir. Charak Sahab put forward a suggestion that a committee should be formed," the former chief minister said.

He said the meeting later unanimously decided to form the committee which will chalk out a future strategy on the issue. Parties in J-K have opposed any inclusion of non-locals in the revised electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP has, however, slammed the NC, PDP and others for raking up the issue of "inclusion of non-local voters" and accused them of spreading propaganda to disturb the peace. It has said there was no issue of "locals or non-locals" as the Constitution gives the right to every citizen to vote after attaining the age of 18.



FREEDOM AT LAST



Bihar Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Tej Pratap Yadav releases parrots rescued from bird smugglers at his residence in Patna

Close shave for tourists in jungle

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mysuru, Sept 10: Tourists on a jungle safari in Kabini backwaters in Karnataka had a narrow escape when a lone tusker charged at their jeep.

The video has created a social buzz with netizens showering praises at the jeep driver Prakash for displaying exemplary courage by covering a long distance in reverse gear as the elephant charged on.

A raging elephant in an attack mode can be seen running towards the vehicle full of tourists. The driver puts on reverse gear and moves the vehicle backwards.

The trumpeting elephant even touches the vehicle twice. It then disappears into the forest leaving the tourists gasping for breath. The tourists have described it as their lifetime experience and close shave with death as well, forest officials said.

Normally, the wild elephants are used to movement of safari vehicles and tourists.

'Will issue QR code-based ID cards'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 10: After five Congress MPs wrote to AICC central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry seeking transparency in the party's presidential election scheduled on October 17, Mistry said Saturday that for the first time, QR code-based identity cards will be issued to all the delegates across the 28 states and nine Union Territories.

In a letter addressed to Congress MPs, including Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari, Karti Chidambaram, Pradyut Bordoloi and Abdul Khaleque, who wrote to the central election authority chairman, Mistry said, "For the first time, we are issuing QR-code based identity cards to all the delegates across the 28 states and nine Union Territories that have Congress committees. Those who want to file a nomination should check if they have a delegate identity card available with them. Only people with valid identity cards will be allowed to sign the nomination papers for the position of Congress President."



lowed to sign the nomination papers for the position of Congress President."

Appreciating the concern for free, fair and transparent election, Mistry said that the first avenue open for any delegate to file a nomination for the Congress President's post is - they can look for the names of the 10 supporters (delegates) in their state at the Pradesh Congress Committee office.

"The name and the serial number are available in the state list. The nomination signed by 10 supporters (delegates) will be sufficient for validity of the nomination,"

Mistry said the process should resolve the anxiety over filing of nomination without knowing the names of the delegates

Mistry said.

"If anyone desires to get nomination from 10 supporters from different states, the list of all 9,000+ delegates will be available in my office at AICC Delhi from September 20 (11 am to 6 pm), before they file their nomination on September 24. They can come and choose their 10 supporters (delegates) from the list and obtain their signature for nomination," Mistry wrote in the letter. Mistry said the process should resolve the anxiety over filing of nomination without knowing the names of the delegates. "I hope this satisfies the needs of you and other colleagues who have signed the letter," Mistry concluded.

India cautions medical students going to China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

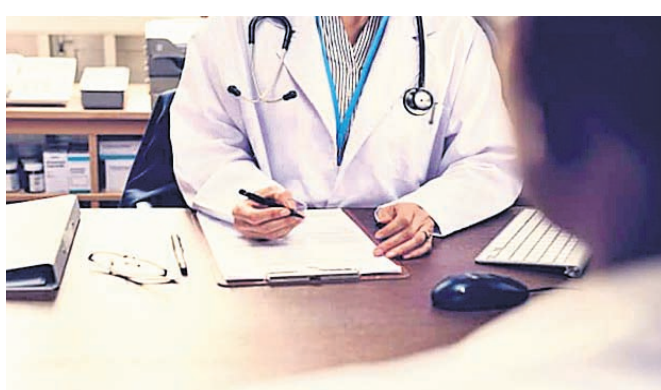
New Delhi/Beijing, Sept 10: India has issued a detailed advisory for prospective students wanting to study medicine in China, cautioning them of the pitfalls, including poor pass percentage, mandatory learning of official spoken language Putonghua and stringent norms to qualify to practice in India.

The advisory was issued as thousands of Indians studying in Chinese medical colleges are currently stuck at home for over two years due to Beijing's COVID visa ban. According to official estimates, over 23,000 Indian students are currently enrolled in various Chinese universities. A vast majority of them are medical students.

After over two years of COVID visa restrictions, China has recently started issuing visas to a selected number of students to return. However, most of them struggled to return as there are no direct flights and the two countries are still in talks to work out limited flight facilities keeping in view Beijing's quarantine restrictions.

The Chinese medical colleges, meanwhile, began enrolment for new students from India and abroad. Against this backdrop, the Indian Embassy in Beijing issued a comprehensive advisory on Thursday for students from India wanting to study medicine in China.

The advisory has results of the studies, which outlined difficulties faced by Indian students in



China and the stringent norms they face to qualify for practicing medicine in India.

A striking feature of the advisory is that only 16 per cent of the students passed the required test between 2015 and 2021 to qualify to

practice in India. Only 6,387 out of 40,417 students who appeared in FMG (Foreign Medical Graduate) Examination of the Medical Council of India (MCI) from 2015 to 2021 have cleared it. The pass percentage of Indian

students who have studied clinical medicine programmes in China in that period in 45 accredited universities was only 16 per cent, the advisory underlined. "The prospective students and parents may please note this fact while deciding on seeking admission in Chinese universities for clinical medicine programme," it said.

On the costs, it said the fee structure is different for different universities and advised students to check from the university directly before taking admission. The advisory listed 45 medical colleges designated by the Chinese government to provide medical degrees in five-year duration plus a one-year internship. Indian students are advised not to seek admission other than those 45 colleges. The Chinese government has

"clearly mentioned in their official communication that foreign students can only join medical programmes in 45 universities in English language."

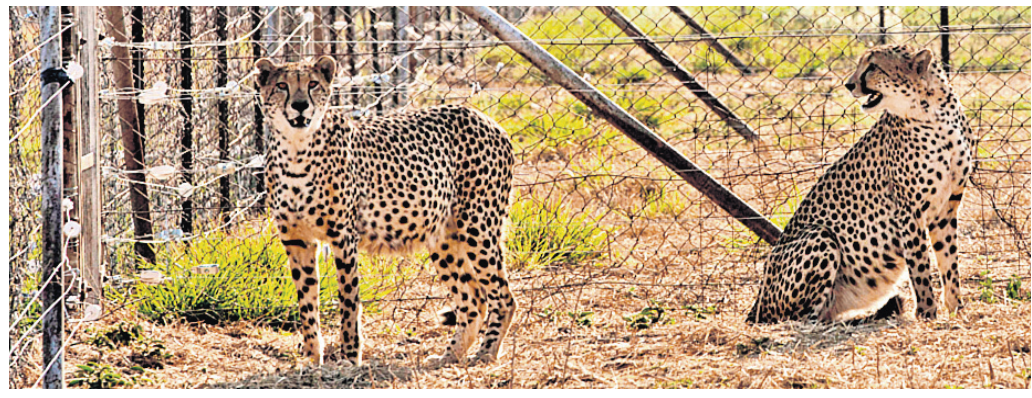
"They cannot join the clinical medicine programme in China which is offered in the Chinese language. They have also clearly stated that any university offering clinical medicine programmes in bilingual mode (English and Chinese language) is strictly forbidden," the advisory said.

"However, learning the Chinese language is mandatory for clinical sessions. Hence, every student will also need to learn the Chinese language up to HSK-4 level. Any student who does not clear this minimum Chinese language skill will not be awarded a degree," it said.

Stalin emerging as glue to join Cong, regional satraps

Modi to release cheetahs at Kuno on birthday

AT LEAST SEVEN HELIPADS ARE BEING CONSTRUCTED IN AND AROUND THE KUNO NATIONAL PARK TO WELCOME THE CHEETAHS FROM ABROAD AND IN VIEW OF THE EXPECTED VVIP MOVEMENT



More than 1K dogs around KNP given anti-rabies shots

More than 1,000 dogs have been given anti-rabies vaccine doses around Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, where cheetahs are being brought from Africa next week as part of India's ambitious project to reintroduce these fastest land animals, an official said. The move is aimed at protecting the cheetahs from rabies, he said. More than 1,000 stray and domestic dogs in villages located in the five km periphery of KNP have been given anti-rabies shots in an attempt to ensure that the wild animals, including cheetahs, stay safe in the sanctuary, KNP's Divisional Forest Officer PK Verma told PTI. The forest official admitted that this was the first time that the park officials went on a massive anti-rabies vaccination drive. In case a rabid canine bites cattle around the jungle and if it is preyed on by any of the cheetahs that are coming to the park, these animals can get infected. And this may cause infection among other cheetahs, he said. Verma said that the drive to give anti-rabies vaccine to dogs which started in April is almost over.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Sept 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release cheetahs, to be brought from Africa, into two enclosures at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh next week as part of India's ambitious project to reintroduce these fastest land animals, officials said Friday. Eight cheetahs - five males and three females - are expected to reach KNP from Namibia, officials earlier said. PM Modi will launch the cheetah reintroduction programme September 17, which happens to be his birthday. These cheetahs will initially be kept in small open fenced areas

before being shifted to larger spaces. Once they acclimatise with the local environment and after a review by experts, male cheetahs will be released in the open forest areas followed by the female ones as per the standard protocol, the officials said.

Normally, male cheetahs tend to live in a small group of two to three in the wild. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Thursday took stock of the preparations for the cheetah reintroduction programme to be attended by the PM. State Forest Minister Vijay Shah and other top officials accompanied Chouhan during the review of the arrangements being made for the event.

During the review meeting, Chouhan said, "Rehabilitating cheetahs by translocating them

from Namibia to KNP is a job of national importance."

It was informed at the meeting that PM Modi will release two male cheetahs in one enclosure and a female cheetah into another, the official said. Instructions were also given to the authorities at the meeting to ensure adequate prey base for cheetahs. 'Chital' also known as spotted deer are brought from Chidikhoo forest sanctuary near Narsingharh in Rajgarh district of the state to KNP.

The forest staff has undergone training in Namibia for the management of cheetahs, the official said. Another official said that KNP has a good prey base for cheetahs. Experts from the Wildlife Institute of India have also seconded the area after scouting nearly ten places in the country for rehabilitating cheetahs.

Madhya Pradesh had a good translocation record as tigers were successfully reintroduced in Panna in 2009, he said.

KNP, which is spread over an area of 750 sq km, has adequate space for nearly two dozen cheetahs, the official said.

Besides, an additional 3,000 sq km area between Sheopur and adjoining Shivpuri district will give adequate space to the fastest animal on the earth to live, he added. The last cheetah died in the country in 1947 in Korea district in present day Chhattisgarh, which was earlier part of Madhya Pradesh, and the species was declared extinct from India in 1952.

The 'African Cheetah Introduction Project in India' was conceived in 2009 and a plan to introduce the big cat by November last year in KNP suf-

fered a setback due to the Covid-19 pandemic, officials said.

FACILITATOR-IN-CHIEF



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 10: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin after inaugurating the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' of the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at Kanniyakumari September 8 said that the star Congress campaigner was on a journey to 'retrieve India's soul'. Immediately after this, the DMK mouthpiece, 'Murasoli' came out with the story that Stalin had pitched for Rahul as Prime Minister candidate in 2019 just as his father Karunanidhi had voiced support for Indira Gandhi in the past.

The move by Stalin is seen by political observers as a clear indicator on his political position to distance from the BJP and the saffron combine even as there were speculations of him having developing a personal bonhomie with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While the body language of Stalin during the inaugural ceremony of Chess Olympiad sharing the dais with Prime Minister Modi was one of close camaraderie but at the ground level, he wants to be an alternative to the saffron combine.

In Tamil Nadu politics, BJP is trying to replace the AIADMK which is facing internal squabbles and rift between two senior leaders, Edappadi K Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam.

Also the DMK and Stalin find themselves against the BJP's Hindu majoritarian politics which is an antithesis to the politics of DMK.

Dr R Padmanabhan, Director, Socio Economic Development Foundation, a think tank based

out of Madurai while speaking to IANS said, "Stalin is pitching himself as a major connector to unify the national parties like the Congress and the Janata Dal (United) with the regional forces. He wants to put breaks on the BJP juggernaut and does not want the saffron party get any space in the state of Tamil Nadu. Secondly, he wants to be seen as a kingmaker in national politics rather than the king himself, a politics followed by his illustrious father, late Chief Minister M Karunanidhi."

If Nitish Kumar emerges as the opposition candidate for the Prime Minister post, Stalin will be supporting him wholeheartedly as he is positively pushing for a movement against the BJP and saffron combine at the national level.

Stalin knows that BJP is trying to replace AIADMK in Tamil Nadu and that the saffron party is trying to raise a challenge against his Dravidian politics in the state and does not want the party to grow with a repeated of its rule in 2024 general elections.

C Rajeev, Director, Centre for Policy and Development Studies, a think tank based out of Chennai while speaking to IANS said, "Stalin knows that Tamil Nadu politics is in murky waters and that AIADMK is pushed to a corner and BJP is trying to replace it, and hence wants to stop the BJP at the national level again from coming to power. For that he will align with any force including Nitish, and his main idea is to be a connector among all the other parties, not pushing himself to the top."

OFFERINGS TO ANCESTORS



Devotees perform Tarpan ritual on the banks of the Upper lake in remembrance of their ancestors on the first day of Pitra Paksh, in Bhopal, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Jains observe 24-hour digital fast during Paryushan Parva

TN mulls free breakfast scheme for school students from Sep 15

After EOW raids bishop, Shivraj orders probe into irregularities in churches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raisen (MP), Sept 10: Amid increasing use of smartphones in the society, some members of the Jain community are now observing a 24-hour digital fast during the ongoing Paryushan Parva by staying away from electronic gadgets and the internet in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh.

As part of this exercise, around 1,000 members of the community deposited their smartphones for 24 hours at a temple in Begumganj town, some 120 kms from the state capital, Wednesday morning, a local community leader said.

Paryushan Parva is one of the major festivals celebrated by the Jain community annually for self-purification, introspection and spiritual development. The members of the community par-

DIGITAL DETOX



ticipate in the festival by fasting and performing pujas and other religious rituals. People have become addicted to the internet and use smartphones and other gadgets for a long time every day, Akshay Jain, a local Jain community leader, said.

An initiative of digital fasting or fasting without internet was started

so that the people can stay away from this addiction. People switched off their phones and left them at the temple for 24 hours for this fasting, he said. Talking to PTI, Ajay Jain, a councillor and a prominent leader from the community, said this fast started Wednesday morning and about 1,000 people are participating in the exercise.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 10: Tamil Nadu government's prestigious breakfast scheme for primary students of government schools in the state is likely to be launched September 15, which is the birth anniversary of DMK founder and former Chief Minister, late CN Annadurai.

The state government has announced the scheme for students of Class 1 to 5 in government primary schools. The idea is to increase the enrollment ratio, check drop outs and to ensure that children, who mostly are from economically weak families, are eating quality and nutritious food.

During the first phase, the scheme will be launched in Madurai district and the district administration has already commenced providing training to self-help group members, who will be doing cooking of the breakfast.

Training sessions are being held



for the self-help group members to cook nutritious and hygienic breakfast.

The scheme is to be implemented in 1,545 schools in municipal and rural areas of Tamil Nadu. The scheme will benefit 1.14 lakh students in the first phase.

The menu of breakfast includes rava upma, semiya upma with sambar, rava khichdi, semiya khichdi and rava Pongal.

The breakfast will be served from Monday to Friday. A dessert will also be served to students Fridays which will be either rava kesari or semiya kesari.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Sept 10: A day after Madhya Pradesh's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) conducted searches at the residence and office of Church of North India Jabalpur Diocese's bishop PC Singh in connection with a cheating case that led to the disclosure of large-scale financial irregularities, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Friday ordered a probe into the activities of the concerned church and related trust headed by the accused Bishop.

Talking to the media on this issue, Chouhan said that massive financial irregularities on multiple counts have come to the fore after the EOW action.

Chouhan said that the EOW search has resulted in the seizure of huge volume of cash, including foreign currency documents pertaining to 17 properties, 48 bank accounts and eight four-wheelers.

"We've decided for a three-pronged probe into the entire matter. There is a possibility of the funds being invested in illegal ac-

tivities, including illegal religious conversion by the Church of North India and the associated trust and entities. The EOW will conduct a detailed probe into this serious issue, while the Jabalpur district administration too will have its own role in the probe," Chouhan said.

The EOW and the district administration will also investigate complaints about land leased by the government to the trust and associated entities for religious, educational and medical purposes, actually being used for commercial purposes, the CM added.

The Chief Minister further said that there have been complaints about taxes and stamp duties being evaded on a large scale by the trust and related entities in matters related to land lease renewal and related aspects through cheating and fraud.

Singh, who is reportedly in Germany currently, is accused in several criminal cases, particularly of fraud, cheating and forgery in various parts of India, including UP, MP, Maharashtra, Punjab, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.

Surge in distress calls to TN helpline after NEET results

The psychological counselling for NEET-UG aspirants began in TN July 19 as several students in the state had died by suicide last year after failing to crack the exam

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 10: The Tamil Nadu government's health helpline set up for providing counselling to NEET aspirants is flooded with calls from students who failed to crack the exams. After the NEET results were announced Wednesday midnight, the number of calls to the helpline has increased manifold.

The psychological counselling for NEET-UG aspirants began in Tamil

Nadu July 19 as several students in the state had died by suicide last year after failing to crack the exam.

Staff working with 104 helpline told IANS that callers are in a distressed state of mind and many callers wanted to know how they can cope up with the reality that they could not crack NEET.

The counsellors told IANS that most of the students who had approached them were those who had got more than 90 per cent



marks in core science subjects like Physics, Chemistry and Biology in their Tamil Nadu plus two board examinations.

A counsellor from 104 helpline who is attending to calls said: "Most

of the students who are calling have been doing consistently good in academics and scoring high marks in core science subjects. However, they failed to clear the test and hence are dejected and in a

highly disturbed and distressed state of mind."

She said that they feel that all their studies went in vain and that there was no other option other than ending their life. It may be noted that 1,32,167 students appeared for NEET-UG examinations from Tamil Nadu this year and of which 67,787 qualified.

The helpline staff also said that they had tried to reach out to the 19-year-old girl from Ambattur in Chennai who died by suicide immediately after the results were out. The state government is trying to extend the services of the helpline as the number of distress calls are increasing.



cmk

of the day quote

India becoming the fifth largest economy from 11th in a decade is not a mean achievement and the people of India should take credit for it

NIRMALA SITHARMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

The success of start-ups in our country, especially the growing number of Unicorns, is a shining example of our industrial progress. What is even more gratifying is that the development of our country is becoming more inclusive and regional disparities are also reducing. The basic mantra of today's India is compassion - compassion for the downtrodden, compassion - for the needy and compassion - for the marginalized

The Railways' target is to begin a regular production of Vande Bharat trains from October with manufacture of two to three trains per month, to five to eight in the coming months

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | RAILWAY MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Six drown

Chandigarh: Six people lost their lives during the Ganesh idol immersion in two incidents in Haryana, police said Saturday. In the first incident, nine of 20 people were swept away by the strong current in the canal when they were carrying an idol for immersion in Jhagadoli village, Mahendragarh district. While four died, others were rescued and hospitalised by the district administration. In the second incident, two people drowned in the Yamuna river in Sonapat district.

Farmer ends life

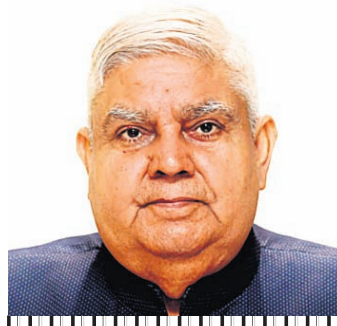
Latur: An 85-year-old farmer allegedly committed suicide in Latur in Maharashtra reportedly over distress at not getting adequate compensation or other forms of relief post land acquisition for a power infrastructure project. Raosaheb Shivram Ghodke allegedly hanged himself from a tree in Shindala village in AUSA tehsil on Friday morning, a police official said. His kin said five hectares of his land had been acquired over a decade ago by two state-run firms to set up a wind power project, adding that Ghodke was unhappy over the compensation and other forms of relief offered.

Tigress kills cub

Gwalior: A female tiger cub died after being attacked by her mother at a zoo in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior, a civic official said Saturday. The cub named Bhawani was attacked by her mother Meera at the civic-run Gandhi Prani Udyan on Friday evening, the Gwalior Municipal Corporation's additional commissioner Mukul Gupta said. Meera had given birth to two cubs in September last year, one male and one female, he said.

Man rescues daughter

Mumbai: A labourer rescued his 12-year-old daughter who was allegedly kidnapped from near her house in suburban Bandra here and taken to Uttar Pradesh, police said Saturday. The accused identified as Shahid Khan (24) was employed in a garment manufacturing unit in Bandra and the victim's family lived in the same locality, an official said. The accused had allegedly asked the girl to accompany him for some shopping on September 4, but instead took her to Kurla, from where he boarded a bus to Surat with her and later reached Delhi by train, he said.



India has had a glorious heritage of not only tolerance for others' views, but also engaging with them, making it a culture that embodies pluralism and syncretism

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

BJP NAMES BIPLAB FOR RS ELECTION

The ruling BJP Friday night nominated former Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb as its candidate for the September 22 elections to the lone Rajya Sabha seat in the state



Moosewala murder: Last shooter arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 10: Almost 100 days after singer Sidhu Moosewala was shot dead, Punjab Police on Saturday arrested the sixth and last shooter allegedly involved in his killing.

Deepak Mundi, along with two of his associates, was arrested in a joint operation with the Delhi Police and central agencies from the West Bengal-Nepal border, Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said.

The two associates have been identified as Kapil Pandit and Rajinder, and they have been accused of providing logistic support and weapons to the shooters. "In a major breakthrough, @PunjabPoliceInd, in a joint operation with central agencies & #DelhiPolice, have arrested Deepak @ Mundi, absconding shooter of #SidhuMoosewala, with 2 associates. Major victory in war against drugs & gangsters on directions of CM @BhagwantMann," the DGP said in a tweet.

MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH



Deepak Mundi, along with two of his associates, was arrested in a joint operation with the Delhi Police and central agencies from the West Bengal-Nepal border, Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said

The two associates have been identified as Kapil Pandit and Rajinder, and they have been accused of providing logistic support and weapons to the shooters

"Deepak, Kapil Pandit & Rajinder have been arrested today by #AGTF team at #WestBengal-#Nepal border in the culmination of intelligence-based operation. Deepak was the shooter in Bolero module, Kapil Pandit & Rajinder provided logistical support including weapons & hideouts," he said in another tweet.

Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moosewala, was

shot dead in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29, a day after the state police had pruned his security cover on a temporary basis. He, along with his friend and cousin, was driving to Jawahar Ke village in Mansa when six shooters waylaid his vehicle and sprayed bullets into him.

After the killing, Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar, who is a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang,

had claimed responsibility for the murder. Police had identified six shooters - Priyavrat Fauji, Kashish, Ankit Sersa, Deepak Mundi, Manpreet Singh and Jagrup Singh Roopa - who were part of the two modules allegedly involved in the killing.

While the special cell of the Delhi Police had nabbed Fauji, Kashish and Sersa, the Punjab Police neutralised Roopa and Manpreet in an encounter in Amritsar. In the 1,850-page chargesheet filed in a Mansa court last month, the Punjab Police had said Brar had coordinated with gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi, Jaggu Bhagwanpuria and some others to execute Moosewala's killing.

According to the chargesheet, Brar had given the information on Moosewala's security withdrawal to the shooters and had asked them to hurry up and kill him. The Canada-based gangster had executed the murder plan to avenge the killing of Akali youth leader Vicky Middukhera, who was killed last year.

Congress bandh call evokes mixed response



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ahmedabad, Sept 10: The Gujarat Congress on Saturday gave a bandh call in the state to protest against inflation, unemployment, contractual employment in government jobs and other issues which received a mixed response from people.

In some areas of the state, several traders joined the bandh voluntarily whereas at many places Congress leaders and workers were seen appealing to traders and college management to halt their activities and support the bandh call.

Since Friday evening, the police personnel have been alert and were either putting Congress leaders under house arrest or detaining them to foil the bandh call as alleged by Congress workers. Gujarat Congress has given a bandh call from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Gujarat Congress President Jagdish Thakor led party workers in the Naroda area in Ahmedabad, appealing traders to join the bandh call. It was only after Thakor assured the police that if any untoward incident occurred, he would take responsibility for it. A bike rally organised by the Congress was given permission by the police, however the Gujarat Congress President assured the police that

IN SOME AREAS OF THE STATE, SEVERAL TRADERS JOINED THE BANDH VOLUNTARILY WHEREAS AT MANY PLACES CONGRESS LEADERS AND WORKERS WERE SEEN APPEALING TO TRADERS AND COLLEGE MANAGEMENT TO HALT THEIR ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT THE BANDH CALL

SINCE FRIDAY EVENING, THE POLICE PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ALERT AND WERE EITHER PUTTING CONGRESS LEADERS UNDER HOUSE ARREST OR DETAINING THEM TO FOIL THE BANDH CALL AS ALLEGED BY CONGRESS WORKERS

his party workers would appeal peacefully and would not force traders to shut their business.

In Surat, Congress leader Aslam Cyclewala and party workers were seen walking on the street in Kamela Darwaja area. Aslam offered roses to traders who did not join the bandh and urged them to close down their shutters till 12 p.m.

In all cities and towns, NSUI students visited colleges and appealed the college management and students to join the bandh call. The police have detained hundreds of NSUI workers across the state, but at many places NSUI was successful in getting colleges closed.

Land grabbers target property of UK Home Secy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, Sept 10: Land grabbers in Goa have targeted an ancestral property belonging to Christie Fernandes, father of the new British Home Secretary Suella Braverman, a top police official said.

An SIT headed by Superintendent of Police (Crime Branch) Nidhin Valsan was formed in July this year to look into complaints with regard to illegal land grabbing and conversion.

Since its formation, the SIT has received many complaints. Valsan confirmed to IANS that Goa Police have received a complaint from Christie Fernandes in regards to grabbing of his ancestral property in Assagao.

The SIT has registered an FIR after receiving the complaint. Sources said that Fernandes, an Indian-origin resident of the UK, complained to the Goa Police after he came to know that the SIT was formed to probe land grabbing cases.

He has addressed complaints to the Chief Minister, the Director General of Police and the NRI Commissioner, Goa. Sources informed that the property belongs to Fernandes and other co-owners.

The FIR has been registered under sections 419 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code. As the land grabbers have targeted properties of people living abroad, the SIT has urged people to recheck their records if the land is still in their possession, else they can file a complaint.



A Sikh youth performs Gatka, a traditional martial art to commemorate 125th anniversary of Saragarhi Battle, at the Golden Temple, in Amritsar

20 dead during Ganesh immersions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 10: At least 20 persons died, 14 of them due to drowning, in different incidents that occurred during the immersion of Ganesh idols in parts of Maharashtra, police said Saturday.

The 10-day Ganesh festival, which had started August 31, ended Friday in Wardha district, three persons drowned at Sawangi, while another one died in a similar manner at Devli, an official said.

Two persons drowned in a pond in Yavatmal district when during the immersion of an idol, he said. In Ahmednagar district, two persons drowned in separate incidents at Supa and Belvandi, he said, adding that two others died in Jalgaon district of north Maharashtra - one each at Chalisgaon and Jamner.

One person each died at Ghodgaon and Yavat in Pune district, in Dhule district, Lonikand in Satara district and Solapur city, he said. Four persons died in a road accident at Sakkardara area of Nagpur city during Ganesh immersion, he said.

In Thane, a 55-year-old woman was killed and four others injured after a tree collapsed on a Ganesh



pandal in Kolbad area due to heavy rains. The incident occurred on Friday night, a civic official said.

"A huge tree fell on the pandal while the 'aarti' of Lord Ganesh idol was on as part ahead of its immersion. The woman, Rajashri Walavalkar, was seriously injured in the mishap. She and other injured were rushed to a hospital, where she was declared brought dead," the official said.

Meanwhile, at least 11 persons, including a nine-month-old child,

were injured after suffering an electric shock at Panvel in Raigad district during a procession. The incident took place on Friday evening at Wadghar Koliwada after a cable of an electric generator snapped, an official said. "At least 11 persons, who were part of the procession, came in contact with the cable and sustained injuries. The injured included four children," he said.

While some of them were rushed to a private hospital, others were taken to a state-run hospital in

The 10-day Ganesh festival, which had started August 31, ended Friday

Panvel, he said, adding that all are responding well to the treatment. Some incidents related to law and order situation were also reported in parts of the state during the immersion.

A scuffle broke out between the supporters of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray at Tophkhana in Ahmednagar district, an official said.

In Jalgaon, a group of people hurled stones at the mayor's bungalow during the Ganesh immersion procession, he said, while a clash broke out between two groups at Mundhwa in Pune city. A brawl occurred at Shikrapur in Pune district over bursting firecrackers, while in Chandrapur, a fracas was reported between Ganesh mandal volunteers and police personnel, he added. In Mumbai, the Ganesh festival and the immersion procession passed off peacefully and no untoward incident was reported, police said.

Minor boy tied to tree, beaten up by priest

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Sept 10: In a shocking incident, an 11-year-old boy was tied to a tree and beaten up by a priest of a Jain temple in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district.

The police swung into action after a video of the boy crying for mercy surfaced on social media Saturday. Shockingly, the boy was reportedly punished for 'stealing' almonds kept for offering prayers at the temple.

The boy's 'greed' enraged the priest who decided to teach him a lesson.

In the viral video, the boy could be seen crying relentlessly and seeking mercy from the priest, who tied him to a tree at the temple premises.

When a man asked the priest to free the child, he was told, "You just mind your own business."

According to the police, the accused priest has been identified as Rakesh Jain, a resident of Sagar district. Later, the father of the boy lodged a complaint with the local police station. According to the complaint, the priest and another man tied the child to a tree and beat him up.

Air pollution may trigger lung cancer in non-smokers: Scientists

PARTICLES LINKED TO CLIMATE CHANGE ALSO PROMOTE CANCEROUS CHANGES IN AIRWAY CELLS, THEY FOUND, PAVING THE WAY TO NEW APPROACHES FOR LUNG CANCER PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London/ New Delhi, Sept 10: Scientists have discovered a new mechanism through which very small pollutant particles in the air may trigger lung cancer in people who have never smoked.

Particles linked to climate change also promote cancerous changes in airway cells, they found, paving the way to new approaches for lung cancer prevention and treatment.

Scientists of the Francis Crick Institute and University College London, funded by Cancer Research UK, presented the data at the ESMO Congress 2022.

According to them, the particles which are typically found in vehicle exhaust and smoke from fos-

sil fuels, are associated with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) risk, accounting for over 250,000 lung cancer deaths globally per year.

"The same particles in the air that derive from the combustion of fossil fuels, exacerbating climate change, are directly impacting human health via an important and previously overlooked cancer-causing mechanism in lung cells," they informed. The risk of lung cancer from air pollution is lower than from smoking, "but we have no control over what we all breathe".

"Globally, more people are exposed to unsafe levels of air pollution than to toxic chemicals in cigarette smoke, and these new data link the importance of address-



ing climate health to improving human health," said Charles Swanton from the Francis Crick Institute.

The new findings are based on human and laboratory research on mutations in a gene called EGFR which are seen in about half of

people with lung cancer who have never smoked. In a study of nearly half a million people living in England, South Korea and Taiwan, exposure to increasing concentrations of airborne particulate matter (PM) 2.5 micrometres (1m) in diameter was linked to in-

creased risk of NSCLC with EGFR mutations.

In the laboratory studies, scientists showed that the same pollutant particles (PM2.5) promoted rapid changes in airway cells which had mutations in EGFR and in another gene linked to lung cancer called KRAS, driving them towards a cancer stem cell like state.

"We found that driver mutations in EGFR and KRAS genes, commonly found in lung cancers, are actually present in normal lung tissue and are a likely consequence of ageing," said Swanton.

However, when lung cells with these mutations were exposed to air pollutants, "we saw more cancers and these occurred more quickly than when lung cells with these

mutations were not exposed to pollutants", suggesting that air pollution promotes the initiation of lung cancer in cells harbouring driver gene mutations.

"The next step is to discover why some lung cells with mutations become cancerous when exposed to pollutants while others don't," said Swanton. Tony Mok from Chinese University of Hong Kong, who was not involved in the study, said that the research is intriguing and exciting.

"It means that we can ask whether, in the future, it will be possible to use lung scans to look for pre-cancerous lesions in the lungs and try to reverse them with medicines such as interleukin-11 inhibitors," said Mok.

international

of the day quote

The country is regressing day by day, and the International Monetary Fund report has shown it. They can do whatever they want, but the only solution to the instability is fresh elections

IMRAN KHAN | PTI CHIEF, PAKISTAN

Putin is banking on us tiring of our compassion for Ukraine's suffering. This plan will not and must not work out because all of Europe knows that Ukraine is defending our peace and security order

ANNALENA BAERBOCK | FOREIGN MINISTER, GERMANY

Chinese market is very important for the industry. China until today is totally closed. It's a big damage for them and for the rest of the world

ZURAB POLOLIKASHVILI | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UNWTO

SHORT TAKES

Will never give up nukes, says NK

Seoul: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un stressed his country will never abandon the nuclear weapons it needs to counter the United States, which he accused of pushing to weaken the North's defences and eventually collapse his government, state media said Friday. Kim made the comments during a speech Thursday at North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament, where members passed legislation governing the use of nuclear weapons, which Kim described as a step to cement the country's nuclear status and make clear such weapons will not be bargained.

Five HK speech therapists jailed

Hong Kong: A Hong Kong court sentenced five speech therapists to nearly two years in prison Saturday for their role in the publication of children's books deemed seditious. The penalties are the latest sign of China's hard line against free speech and any sign of political opposition in the city following the 2019 antigovernment protests. Beijing responded to the months long demonstrations by imposing a sweeping National Security Law and disqualifying, imprisoning or silencing political opponents, many of whom have sought asylum abroad.

Trains collide in Croatia, killing 3

Zagreb: A passenger train and freight train collided Friday night in central Croatia, killing at least three people and injuring another 11 or more, authorities said. The collision happened around 9:30 pm near the town of Novska, which is close to Croatia's border with Bosnia, police said in a statement. "The impact was huge," said Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, who rushed to the scene with other government officials. Plenkovic confirmed that so far bodies of three people were found at the site of the accident, but he said more victims could still be found in the morning.

Nepal flash flood, landslide claim 5

Kathmandu: At least five people were killed and seven others went missing in incidents of landslide and flash flood triggered by heavy rainfall in Darchula district of far-western Nepal, police said Saturday. Due to incessant rains since Friday night, two people were killed in floods in Mahakali and Lasku Rivers and three others were buried in landslides, police said.



China, Japan, South Korea, the European Union -- all these places are investing tens of billions of dollars to attract chip manufacturers to their countries. But industry leaders are choosing us, the United States, because they see America is back and America is leading the way

JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

JOYOUS REUNION

Jalandhar-based Sikh man Amarjit Singh's happiness knew no bounds when he met his Muslim sister from Pakistan at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, 75 years after he was separated from his family at the time of Partition



King Charles III proclaimed monarch

King Charles III was proclaimed Britain's new monarch Saturday in a ceremony, steeped in ancient tradition and political symbolism, televised for the first time in history. The throne had passed to the 73-year-old former Prince of Wales following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, Thursday and Saturday's ceremony marked his formal declaration and oath-taking at St James's Palace in London

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 10: King Charles III pledged to follow the "inspiring example" of his mother, late Queen Elizabeth II, as he was proclaimed Britain's new monarch Saturday in a ceremony, steeped in ancient tradition and political symbolism. "God save the King" were the words with which those gathered reaffirmed the proclamation made by the clerk of the Accession Council. The Accession Council performs a ceremonial role - it officially announces the name of the new monarch.

Charles then made his proclamation speech, which began with the "most sorrowful duty" to announce the death of Queen Elizabeth II at the age of 96, "an example of lifelong love and selfless service".

"In taking up these responsibilities I shall strive to follow the inspiring example I have been set in upholding constitutional government and to seek the peace, harmony and prosperity of the peoples of these islands, and of the Commonwealth realms and territories across the world," he said. The throne had passed to the 73-year-old former Prince of Wales following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, Thursday and Saturday's ceremony marked his

formal declaration and oath-taking at St James's Palace in London.

King Charles was joined by his wife, Queen Consort Camilla, and his son and heir Prince William - the new Prince of Wales, who added their signatures to the formal proclamation documents.

Charles confirmed the tradition of surrendering all revenues and the Crown Estate to the country in return for the Sovereign Grant that covers royal costs in the UK.

All six living former Prime Ministers - Sir John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Theresa May and Boris Johnson - and new Prime Minister Liz Truss along with leaders of the Opposition were among those gathered for the sombre ceremony.

It was the decision of King Charles III to allow television cameras into the Accession Council for the first time to allow the public to view the proceedings.

Flags lowered atop the palace in mourning for the late Queen were brought back up to full mast after the Accession Council proclamation, which followed a wave of further proclamations across the UK to go into Sunday - when flags will return to half-mast in a state of mourning for the Queen.

Amid much ceremony, a Principal Proclamation was read



My mother's reign was unequalled in its dedication and its devotion. Even as we grieve, we give thanks for this most faithful life

KING CHARLES III

in public for the first time by the Garter King of Arms from the balcony overlooking Friary Court at St James's Palace. It was accompanied by a 41-gun salute fired by The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery at Hyde Park in London.

The trumpeters sounded a Royal Salute and the Band of Coldstream Guards followed with the National Anthem. Calls of "Three cheers for His Majesty The King" were followed by the crowd cheering for the new monarch.

The Privy Council, which includes politicians, senior members of the clergy and Supreme Court justices, first gathered without the King to proclaim the new

PM Truss takes oath of loyalty to King

London: Prime Minister Liz Truss and senior members of her government have taken oaths of loyalty to King Charles III in the House of Commons. "I swear by almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles, his heirs and successors, according to law, so help me God," she said. House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle was the first to pledge followed by the longest-serving lawmakers and the prime minister. All lawmakers pledge allegiance to the monarch after they are elected. Making a new vow when the monarch changes is not a legal requirement, but all 650 lawmakers will have a chance to retake the oath in the coming days if they wish.



monarch and arrange business relating to the proclamation.

Following the proclamation, King Charles III held his first Privy Council meeting and made his personal declaration to "assume the duties and responsibilities of sovereignty and follow in the footsteps of his late mother."

Britain's Prince William said that he knew the day would come when his "Grannie" Queen

Elizabeth II would be no more but that it would take some time for the reality to sink in, as he reflected upon how the world had lost an "extraordinary leader".

The Queen's state funeral will be held September 19 at Westminster Abbey, it was announced Saturday. The historic church is where Britain's kings and queens are crowned, and where Queen Elizabeth II married Prince Philip in 1947.

Britain's new order of royal succession

London: With Charles becoming Britain's king, his sons and grandchildren are next in succession for the monarchy. Here are the first 15 people in order of succession:

- Prince William, the elder son of Charles and the late Princess Diana. He is married to Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge. Their three children follow him in the line of succession.
- Prince George of Cambridge, born in July 2013.
- Princess Charlotte of Cambridge, born in May 2015.
- Prince Louis of Cambridge, born in April 2018.
- Prince Harry, the younger son of Charles and Diana.
- Archie Mountbatten-Windsor, born to Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, in May 2019.
- Lilibet Mountbatten-Windsor, born in June 2021.
- Prince Andrew, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip's second-eldest son.
- Princess Beatrice, elder daughter of Andrew and his former wife, Sarah Ferguson.
- Sienna Elizabeth, daughter of Beatrice and Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi, born in September 2021.
- Princess Eugenie, Andrew and Sarah's younger daughter.
- August Brooksbank, born to Eugenie and James Brooksbank in February 2021.
- Prince Edward, the queen and Philip's youngest child.
- James, Viscount Severn, the younger child of Edward and his wife Sophie, Countess of Wessex.
- Lady Louise Mountbatten-Windsor, Edward and Sophie's daughter.

5 dead after NZ boat hits whale

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wellington, Sept 10: Five people died Saturday in New Zealand after the small charter boat they were aboard capsized, authorities say, in what may have been a collision with a whale. Another six people aboard the boat were rescued.

Police said the 8.5-metre (28-foot) boat overturned near the South Island town of Kaikoura. Police said they were continuing to investigate the cause of the accident.

Kaikoura Police Sergeant Matt Boyce described it as a devastating and unprecedented event.

"Our thoughts are with everyone involved, including the victims and their families, their local communities, and emergency services personnel," Boyce said.

He said police divers had recovered the bodies of all those who had died. He said all six survivors were assessed to be in stable condition at a local health centre, with one transferred to a hospital in the city of Christchurch as a precaution.

US announces \$40mn aid to SL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colombo, Sept 10: The United States Saturday announced \$40 million in aid to buy fertilizer and other key agricultural inputs in time for the next cultivation season in crisis-hit Sri Lanka.

USAID Administrator Samantha Power, who is visiting Sri Lanka, made the announcement after she met farmer representatives in Ja-Ela outside the capital, Colombo. She said the money will be in addition to the \$6 million announced earlier to assist low income farmers.

Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis and acute shortages of essentials like food, fuel and medicines because of a lack of foreign currency to pay for the imports. Agricultural yields dropped by more than half for the past two cultivation seasons because authorities had banned the imports of chemical fertilizers ostensibly to promote organic farming.

She said that according to the World Food Program, more than 6 million people - nearly 30% of Sri Lanka's population - are currently facing food insecurity and require humanitarian assistance.

Albania reports 2nd cyberattack by Iran

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tirana, Sept 10: Albania's Interior Ministry said Saturday that one of its border systems was hit by a cyberattack that came from the same Iranian source as an earlier attack that led the country to break diplomatic relations with Iran.

It said in a statement that the previous evening an Albanian police transmitting system was found to be "under a cyberattack similar to the one that (government portal) e-Albania suffered in July".

"Preliminary results show the attack was committed by the same hand," the statement said, adding that authorities temporarily closed down all the systems, including the Total Information Management System (TIMS), which records entries and exits at the border crossing.

Local media reported long queues in at least two border crossings in the south.

Albania, a NATO member, cut diplomatic ties with Iran and expelled its embassy staff this week. It was the first known case of a country cutting diplomatic relations over a cyberattack.

"Another cyberattack from the same aggressors already exposed and denounced by Albania's allies and friendly countries, was seen last evening on the TIMS sys-



tem," Prime Minister Edi Rama tweeted Saturday, adding that officials are coordinating defensive work with allies.

The Albanian government has accused Iran of carrying out the July 15 attack, which temporarily shut down numerous Albanian government digital services and websites.

Microsoft, the FBI and other cyber experts helped Albania following the July attack. Microsoft said in a blog post on Thursday that it was moderately confident the hackers belong to a group that has been publicly linked to Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security.

The US government Friday imposed sanctions on Iran's intelligence agency and its leadership in response to the attack on Albania. NATO and the European Union also denounced the attack and supported Albania's move.

Ukraine claws back some territory

The reports followed several days of apparent advances by Ukraine in Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city, in what could become the biggest battlefield success for Ukrainian forces

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Sept 10: Ukrainian forces Friday claimed new success in their counter-offensive against Russian forces in the country's east, taking control of a sizeable village and pushing toward an important transport junction. The United States' top diplomat and the head of NATO noted the advances, but cautioned that the war is likely to drag on for months.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy commended the military for its gains in the east, saying in a nightly video address that Ukrainian troops have reclaimed more than 30 settlements in the Kharkiv region since the start of the counteroffensive there this week.

"We are gradually taking control over more settlements, returning the Ukrainian flag and protection for our people," Zelenskyy said.

Ukraine's military said it also launched new attacks on Russian pontoon bridges used to bring supplies across the Dnieper River to



Kherson, one of the largest Russian-occupied cities, and the adjacent region. Ukrainian artillery and rocket strikes have left all regular bridges across the river unusable, the military's southern command said.

Anxiety increased about Europe's largest nuclear power plant, which was operating in emergency mode Friday for the fifth straight day due to the war. That prompted the head of the UN atomic watchdog to call for the establishment of an immediate

safety zone around the plant to prevent a nuclear accident.

"The initial signs are positive and we see Ukraine making real, demonstrable progress in a deliberate way," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in Brussels, a day after visiting Kyiv. "But this is likely to go on for some significant period of time," he said.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, who met with Blinken, said the war is "entering a critical phase."

RUSSIA DECLARES TROOP PULLBACK

Kyiv: Russia's Defence Ministry said Saturday that it is pulling back forces from two areas in Ukraine's Kharkiv region where a Ukrainian counter offensive has made significant advances in the past week. Defence Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said the troops would be regrouped from the Balakliya and Izyum areas to the Donetsk region. Izyum was a major base for Russian forces in the Kharkiv region. Konashenkov said the move is being made "in order to achieve the stated goals of the special military operation to liberate Donbas," one of the eastern Ukraine regions that Russia has declared sovereign. The claim of pullback to concentrate on Donetsk is similar to the justification Russia gave for pulling back its forces from the Kyiv region earlier this year.

First batch of cheetahs from SA to reach India in Oct

South Africa has done translocation of cheetahs to other countries, but it is for the first time that the animals are being sent to India where its population became extinct in the early 1950's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Johannesburg, Sept 10: The first batch of 12 cheetahs are expected to reach India from South Africa next month as part of an ambitious project to reintroduce the distinctively spotted cat species in the country where it has become extinct, officials have said.

A team of wildlife experts from South Africa returned to their country Friday from India where they inspected the holding facility where the cheetahs will be released. Nine cheetahs have been quarantined at the Rooiberg Veterinary Services run by wildlife veterinarian Dr Andy Fraser in Limpopo province, while the other three were quarantined at Phinda game reserve in KwaZulu-Natal province, officials said.

Fraser said he and South African cheetah expert Prof Adrian Tordiffe would accompany the animals expected to reach India next month.

The South African translocation of cheetahs on a still unconfirmed date in October will follow that of eight cheetahs, which are expected to be sent to India from neighbouring Namibia next week. "There has been a massive col-

laboration between the nature conservation departments and the veterinarians of South Africa and India. We have had visits from the team that is going to be the custodians of the cheetah

on that end, so they are very aware of the process and what is required," Fraser said.

The veterinarian echoed earlier comments by wildlife expert Vincent van der Merwe, who

spearheaded the Cheetah Metapopulation Project, that the cheetah population in India would have to reach about 500 for it to be genetically viable.

"Sending 20 cheetahs, which is what will happen in 2022, is not a viable genetic population. They need to get to a large enough population, which will be a con-

junction of initially many South African cheetahs and obviously other cheetahs will breed up from the Indian side as well. Cheetahs can breed quite rapidly under good conditions, but in the reserves that they are going to in India, there are very low tiger populations but very high levels of leopard populations. With such interspecies competition you will definitely have some of the cubs that are born in India being killed by competing predators. So, how well they settle there, and how intense or severe the predator pressure is, will determine how quickly they will breed," he said.

"The last confirmed sighting was in 1953, but Prof Jhala from the Wildlife Institute of India seems to be under the impression that there might be anecdotal reports of cheetahs in India until 1970," he said.



of the day quote

Qatar Airways has always had a special bond with India and with this recruitment drive, we are further solidifying our commitment to the market

AKBAR AL BAKER | CEO, QATAR AIRWAYS

Along with the expanded trade and current account deficit, such an environment has kept the pressure on the rupee which continues to hover around 80

SUMAN CHOWDHURY | CHIEF ANALYTICAL OFFICER, ACUTE RATINGS & RESEARCH

iPhone 13 will also be a hit with lucrative offers in the festive season. The price cut on previous iPhone models will make it a win-win situation for the Indian aspirational buyers

TARUN PATHAK | RESEARCH DIRECTOR, COUNTERPOINT RESEARCH

SHORT TAKES

DILS turned net sellers in August

New Delhi: FI inflows were at the highest since January 2021, however, DILs turned net sellers in August after 17 months of buying. Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial, said FIIs have been enthusiastic about Indian markets since August 2022, despite noise surrounding the global cues. FIIs have bought more than ₹20K crore in last 40 days. This has added to overall support in the domestic equities despite of global volatility. Further, fall in crude oil prices to seven-month lows aided domestic sentiments. Fall in crude prices is positive for stocks in oil input sectors like paints, tyres, and airlines.

Reliance acquires SPL for ₹1,592cr

New Delhi: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd has acquired polyester chips and yarn manufacturer Shubhalakshmi Polyesters Ltd (SPL) for ₹1,592 crore, the company said in a stock exchange filing. "Reliance Petroleum Retail Ltd (under name change to 'Reliance Polyester Ltd'), a wholly owned subsidiary of the company, today executed definitive documents to acquire polyester business of Shubhalakshmi Polyesters Ltd and Shubhalakshmi Polytext Ltd for cash consideration of ₹1,522 crore and ₹70 crore respectively, aggregating to ₹1,592 crore by way of slump sale on a going concern basis," the firm said.

Nayara appoints Prasad as Chairman

New Delhi: Nayara Energy, India's second biggest private oil refiner, Saturday announced the appointment of Prasad K Panicker as the new chairman of the company with effect from October 3. Panicker, who currently is Director and Head of Refinery at Nayara, will replace Charles Anthony (Tony) Fountain, whose five-year term is ending, the company said in a statement. Russia's Rosneft-backed Nayara operates a 20-million-tonnes-a-year capacity oil refinery at Vadinar in Gujarat and over 6,500 petrol pumps in the country.

Gaana turns to subscriptions

New Delhi: Tencent-backed Indian music streaming app Gaana has switched to a paid subscription model to try to avoid closing down after failing to secure fresh funds, according to an email from the company to its music partners seen by Reuters.

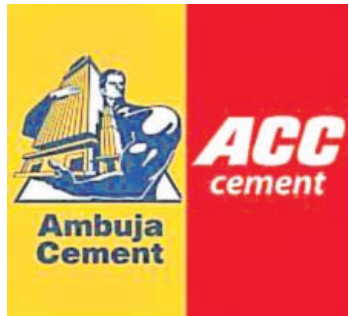


Though wearing seatbelt is mandatory for those sitting in the rear seat of a car, it is not followed. Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar along with many cricketers have agreed to campaign for this free of cost

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER FOR ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

ADANI'S OFFER GETS LUKEWARM RESPONSE

Adani Group's ₹31,000-crore open offer to acquire 26 per cent additional stakes in Swiss firm Holcim's two Indian listed entities ACC Ltd and Ambuja Cements closed Friday amid lacklustre response from public shareholders. As per latest regulatory filing by ACC Ltd, around 40.51 lakh equity shares were tendered against the original offer of 4.89 crore shares, which is just 8.28 per cent



Flood losses may slash Pak's GDP to 3% from 5%

At least one-third of Pakistan is inundated, while the overall damages could amount to over \$30 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Sept 10: The massive losses from the catastrophic monsoon rains and floods in Pakistan, the war in Ukraine and other factors may force it to slash its GDP growth rate for the financial year 2022-2023 from five per cent to three per cent, according to media re-

ports Saturday. Chairman of the National Flood Response and Coordination Centre (NFRCC), Major General Zafar Iqbal, during the joint briefing for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said that at least one-third of Pakistan was inundated, while the overall damages would amount to over \$30 billion.

The state-run Associated Press of Pakistan news agency quoted Iqbal as saying that Pakistan expected a two per cent cut in the Gross Domestic Product growth figure due to a combination of crises, chief among which were



the floods, the delayed approval of IMF funds, and the economic situation emerging in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war.

Separately, the Dawn newspaper reported that the minister said that while the 'Super Floods' in 2010 had affected around 20 million, the impact of the current

flash floods had been felt by more than 33 million people across the country, of which over 0.6 million were housed in relief camps.

"Mountain torrents proved to be a challenge amid a lack of efficient infrastructure to deal with the disaster, which resulted in heavy losses to human life, infrastructure, livestock, and crops," he said.

The NFRCC official said that co-ordinated efforts among civil government, military, and NGOs including the UN aid bodies were in full swing, adding that an assessment survey on relief operations in the provinces would start by Monday.

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) reported that the death toll from the deadly floods had climbed to 1,396, while the total number of injured stood over 12,700.

The cumulative number of homes damaged by flooding — either partially or fully — was over 1.7 million, while over 6,600kms of roads and 269 bridges had been damaged, according to the NDMA's latest situation report.

Its data indicates that a total of 81 districts (32 in Balochistan, 23 in Sindh, and 17 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) remained categorised as 'calamity-hit'.

Setback for NDTV as I-T Dept says no bar on warrant conversion

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 10: In a major setback for the two promoters of satellite channel company - New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV), the Income Tax Department has said its permission is not needed for issuance of shares by the former's investment vehicle.



The Adani group has initiated steps to take over the NDTV by issuing an open offer for 26 per cent stake in the former and also by exercising its right to convert the share warrants issued by RRPR Holding Private Ltd.

On August 23, Adani group's AMG Media Networks announced its subsidiary Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Ltd's (VCPL) decision to exercise its rights to acquire 99.5 per cent of equity shares of RRPR, the investment company of NDTV promoters - Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy.

The VCPL holds 1,990,000 warrants of RRPR Holding entitling it to convert them into 99.99 per cent stake in the latter.

The VCPL has exercised its option in part, resulting in acquisition control of RRPR Holding - 1,990,000 equity shares or 99.50 per cent.

RRPR Holding holds 29.18 per cent stake in NDTV that has three national television channels.

This triggered the issue of open offer to acquire shares of NDTV from the public as per SEBI's (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 2011. On their part, the Roys had told NDTV that the Income Tax Department and SEBI's nod or clarification is needed for conversion of warrants issued by RRPR Holding into equity in favour of Adani group's VCPL.

Rejecting the contention of the Roys, VCPL had written to the Income Tax Department September 7.

Meanwhile, in a regulatory filing, the channel company said VCPL has notified RRPR Holding and NDTV that it has sent a letter to SEBI, September 8, 2022 about its communication with the Income Tax Authority and the latter's reply.

India opts out of IPEF's trade pillar



The framework is structured around four pillars relating to trade, supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy (issues like tax and anti-corruption)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Los Angeles, Sept 10: India has as of now opted out of the trade pillar of the 14-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), but has decided to join the remaining three subjects pertaining to supply chains, clean economy and fair economy.

Briefing media after the conclusion of the two-day IPEF ministerial meet here, Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal said that India would continue to engage with the trade track in the IPEF and will wait for the final contours to be decided on the trade pillar before it formally joins that pillar.

"On one pillar which deals primarily with trade, the contours of the framework particularly, any commitments required on environment, labour, the digital trade, public procurement are certain areas in which a broader consensus has yet to emerge amongst all the nations. We have yet to see what benefits member countries will derive and whether any conditionalities on, for example, the environment may discriminate against developing countries who have the imperative to provide low-cost and affordable energy to meet the needs of a growing economy," Goyal has told reporters here.

All the other 13 Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for prosperity countries have joined the four pillars - trade, supply chains, clean economy and fair economy. A ministerial statement on three subjects - supply chains, clean economy, and fair economy - and a ministerial text on trade pillar was issued after the ministerial meeting.

While India was mentioned in three statements about supply chains, clean economy, and fair

What is IPEF?

The IPEF was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region May 23 in Tokyo

The 14 IPEF partners represent 40 per cent of global GDP and 28 per cent of global goods and services trade

The nations are India, US, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam

India, while continuing to engage with the trade track in the IPEF, will wait for the final contours to be decided before we formally associate with the trade track

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

economy, there was no mention of India in the ministerial text about the trade pillar.

When asked about the key areas of concern, he said digital trade, linkage of environment and labour to trade and possible binding commitments of any nature juxtaposed with the benefits that India will receive as a developing economy.

"We believe that certain responsibilities of the developed world, the developed countries should also be an integral part of any such agreement. And that is a matter which will require deeper engagement and more consultation," he added.

'India has 100 unicorns with a value at \$250bn'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 10: India was home for over one hundred unicorns with a total value of \$250 billion which have managed to raise over \$63 billion in the last few years, Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here Saturday.

Nearly 25 per cent of the start-ups in the Silicon Valley are managed by people of Indian origin and it was a matter of pride, she said at an event here.

The start-up eco-system was built well in the country and all the one hundred unicorns were

valued at \$250 billion and have managed to raise over \$63 billion from the capital markets, she said addressing new graduates at the 10th Convocation of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Kanchipuram near here.

"Twenty-five per cent of the start-ups in the Silicon Valley are managed by people of Indian origin. So for everyone of who is looking at Silicon Valley, you could actually lift your collars in pride that 25 per cent of all the start-ups there are managed by Indians," she said.

Musk's latest reason to drop Twitter deal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

New York, Sept 10: Elon Musk Friday added a severance payment made by Twitter to a whistleblower to the list of reasons he feels entitled to walk away from his \$44 billion deal to buy the social media platform.

A termination letter sent to Twitter accused the firm of not informing him about a multi-million dollar severance payment it made in June to departing security chief Peiter Zatkó, who went on to file a whistleblower complaint criticizing Twitter's security practices, according to a copy of the letter filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Musk's lawyers argued that

'WHISTLEBLOWER PAYMENT'

failing to seek his consent before paying Zatkó provides another legal basis to break the merger deal with Twitter he inked in April. Twitter disagreed.

"My friend seems to be arguing that Twitter should have gratuitously told Musk that there existed a disgruntled former employee who had made various allegations that had been inquired upon and found to be without merit," Twitter attorney William Savitt said earlier this week. "That doesn't make any sense."

Musk, the world's richest man, said in his original termination letter that he was canceling the



deal because he was misled by Twitter concerning the number of bot accounts on its platform, allegations rejected by the company.

In a mixed ruling earlier this week, Kathleen McCormick, the chancellor of the Delaware court that is overseeing the case, said Musk could add whistleblowing revelations from Zatkó that surfaced in August.

But she denied his request to push back the litigation, saying prolonging the suit "would risk further harm to Twitter too great to justify."

Musk has been locked in a bitter legal battle with Twitter since announcing in July that he was pulling the plug on the purchase of the company following a complex, volatile, months-long courtship. The five-day trial is due to go ahead beginning October 17 in the Delaware court.

ADB to further strengthen partnership with India

ADB's current India portfolio comprises 62 ongoing projects worth \$14.65 billion across transport, urban, energy, human development, agriculture and natural resources and finance sectors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will further strengthen its partnership with India and support the country's development priorities for inclusive growth, an official said.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice-President Shixin Chen, on his India visit during September 5 - 9, reiterated the multilateral lending agency's commitment to

further strengthen its partnership with India.

Chen affirmed ADB's support to the government's development priorities that target the country's fast, green, and inclusive post-Covid-19 economic recovery, ADB said in a release Saturday.

During his visit, Chen met with Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) Secretary and ADB Alternate Governor Ajay Seth. Commending the achievement of



record \$4.87 billion of ADB lending commitment to India in 2021, including \$274 million for private sector operations, he discussed future cooperation with the country.

He added, ADB will enhance investments in health and education; micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises; and public sector management. It will also support India's national flagship initiatives in in-

frastructure, logistics, urban development, economic corridor development, and green growth.

ADB aims to help India battle against climate change by serving as the climate bank for Asia and the Pacific, Chen added. He said the agency's support to climate actions in India will focus on decarbonisation of transport, energy transition, climate change adaptation, air quality and water resources improvements, and disaster risk management.

It also endeavours to mainstream gender equality and social inclusion into the design, implementation and monitoring of ADB-funded projects, and enhance regional cooperation through the South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) platform, he added.

"ADB will continue to work closely with the Government of India to support the government's priorities in reinvigorating economic activity to generate more jobs, improve productivity, and create livelihood opportunities held back by the pandemic

SHIXIN CHEN | VP, ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ADB's upcoming country partnership strategy (CPS, 2023 - 2027) for India is under preparation, which will guide ADB's India operations. To kick off the CPS formula-

tion through a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process, Chen along with Seth opened a day-long national workshop September 6 to discuss the CPS priorities.

Jointly organized by ADB and DEA, the workshop was attended by over 65 senior officials from central government ministries and state governments. The vice-president chaired separate meetings with private sector representatives and development partners to discuss the CPS priorities.

Chen also held sector-specific discussions with secretaries of ministries of road transport and highway; new and renewable energy; environment, forest, and climate change; and Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute.

SHORT TAKES

Aparajita appointed coach of cadet team



Bhubaneswar: Odisha's Aparajita Gochhikar has been appointed as the coach of the Indian team for the World Cadet Chess Championships to be played September 15 to September 30 at Batumi in Georgia. The All India Chess Federation (AICF) has already sent the confirmation to Aparajita earlier this week and she has been asked to join the squad September 12 onwards. It should be stated here that Aparajita had been nominated by FIDE in the Fair Play Panel at the recently-concluded Chess Olympiad which was played in Chennai July 28 to August 10. She was the only Indian in the panel.

Bopanna pulls out

New Delhi: Veteran doubles ace Rohan Bopanna has pulled out of India's upcoming Davis Cup tie against Norway to be played September 16 and 17 due to a knee injury. The other members of the squad are Sumit Nagal, Ramkumar Ramanathan, Prajnesh Gunneswaran, Yuki Bhambhani and Mukund Sasikumar. "I have had to make a tough call this week against my constant love and devotion towards representing India and withdraw from the Davis Cup team against Norway. I have an inflammation on my knee and have been advised to rest it," Bopanna tweeted Saturday.

Das passes Level 2

Cuttack: Former India opener Shiv Sunder Das has completed the NCA Hybrid Level-2 coaching course. "Das has completed his Level-2 course with 75 per cent weightage and is now eligible to appear for the NCA Level-3 coaching course," OCA secretary Sanjay Behera said Saturday. Currently, R Srikanth is the lone Level-3 qualified coach from Odisha. The batch-1 course was conducted online by NCA from February 14 to 17 last year and the onsite assessments completed from March 16 to 19 at the NCA in Bangalore. Das played 23 Tests from 2000 to 2002 and has an average of 34.85 with more than 1,300 runs, including two 100s and nine half centuries. He has honed his skills as a batting coach under Rahul Dravid.

Eves enter semis

Kathmandu: Anju Tamang pumped in four goals, while Dangmei Grace struck a brace as India toyed with Maldives to register a thumping 9-0 win in the SAFF Women's Championships at the Dashrath Stadium here Saturday. With the victory the Indian eves sealed their semifinal spot. India had earlier beaten Pakistan 3-0 in their tournament opener Monday. The other goals were scored by Priyanka Devi (42nd), Soumya Guguloth (55th) and Kashmina (84th).

Albon ruled out

Monza (Italy): Alex Albon will miss the Formula One (F1) Italian Grand Prix this weekend after coming down with appendicitis, his team Williams announced Saturday. "Williams Racing can confirm that, after feeling unwell this (Saturday) morning and seeking medical advice from the FIA and local hospital, Alex Albon is now undergoing treatment for appendicitis," the team said in a statement. Williams also informed that Formula 2 and Formula E champion Nyck De Vries will stand in for 26-year-old Albon and make his F1 debut Sunday.

Mixed day for Aditi

Cincinnati (US): Indian golfer Aditi Ashok fired five birdies before dropping three bogeys for a two-under 70 in the second round to lie T-15th at the Kroger Queen Championship here Friday. Aditi played almost as well as she did in her bogey free first round, but results were somewhat different. She shot four-under 68 in the first round with four birdies and no bogeys. The highlight of Aditi's second round was a hat-trick of birdies from the 12th to 14th holes after birdies on the second and ninth. She dropped shots on the fourth, eighth and 18th holes. AGENCIES

HISTORY BECKONS ALCARAZ, RUUD

It will be the 1st Grand Slam title for either of the two finalists at the US Open

AGENCIES

New York, Sept 10: Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz and Norwegian Casper Ruud will both be chasing history when they meet in the final of the US Open tennis tournament here Sunday. It will be the first Grand Slam title for either of the two. While Ruud had earlier played in the final of the French Open this year, this will be a maiden Grand Slam summit clash for the Spaniard. If Ruud wins, he will become the No.1 player in rankings... motivation enough to come out all guns blazing.

In the semifinals played Friday, both Ruud and Alcaraz had to fight hard to overcome their respective opponents. Alcaraz had to go the distance before subduing home favourite Frances Tiafoe 6-7 (6-8), 6-3, 6-1, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3. Ruud on the other hand had a comparatively easier outing against Russian Karen Khachanov, winning 7-6 (7-5), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2. Except for a brief aberration in the third set Ruud was always in control of the match.

The first Norwegian man to reach the final at Flushing Meadows, Ruud won an extraordinary 55-shot rally to close the first set tie-break on his way to victory at Arthur Ashe Stadium. "This match is probably the biggest match for both of our careers," said Ruud, who was left

humbled when he lost in straight sets to Rafa Nadal in June's French Open final. "You want to take care of the opportunities you have and I was able to do that today (Friday)," he added.

The 23-year-old Ruud is known for his poise on clay but was equally effective on the hard courts here, winning 14 straight points to build a 5-1 lead in a near-flawless second set. His form deteriorated in the third, where he racked up 11 unforced errors and handed Khachanov the break on set point.

However, Ruud bounced back to convert breaks on chances in the third and fifth game of the fourth set and clinched the contest with a forehand winner, one of 20 across the match.

Alcaraz demonstrated poise beyond his 19 years and enviable stamina. And despite playing five sets, the Spaniard did not seem worried. "I still have much left in the tank," Alcaraz said. Up an early break in the deciding fifth set, he held his service games coolly to close out the match. "I mean, a little bit tired. But right now I'm just so, so happy," Alcaraz said after his match. "I've played more matches in five sets, I am more prepared mentally and physically," he added.

AT A GLANCE

Carlos Alcaraz bt Frances Tiafoe
6-7 (6-8), 6-3, 6-1, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3

Casper Ruud bt Karen Khachanov
7-6 (7-5), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2



CASPER RUUD



CARLOS ALCARAZ

REPEAT ACT

NEW YORK: Joe Salisbury slammed down an overhead to clinch another US Open men's doubles title, raised his arms and hugged partner Rajeev Ram. Salisbury and Ram became just the second team to repeat as men's doubles champions at the US Open in the professional era with their 7-6 (7-4), 7-5 victory over Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski. However, the celebration was muted because as a British player Salisbury felt it would not be right 'as there is so much sadness' at home following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

KOHLI MORE SKILFUL THAN ME: GANGULY

BCCI CHIEF BACKS VIRAT TO SCORE HEAVILY AGAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: In the recent past there have been a number of occasions when the BCCI and star batter Virat Kohli have not seen eye to eye. However, back in form with a blazing century at the Asia Cup, Kohli has earned praise from BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, who said the former is 'more skilful' than him as a player. Both played an aggressive brand of cricket as captains, but Ganguly said in terms of skill set, Kohli is ahead of him. "I don't think that (captaincy) should be the comparison. The comparison should be in terms of skills as a player. I think he is more skilful than I was," Ganguly said of Kohli in the *Ranveer Show* on YouTube.

Kohli recorded his first international century in 1,020 days, when he slammed a 61-ball unbroken 122 during India's clash Thursday against Afghanistan. "We played in different generations and we played a lot of cricket. But I am sure Kohli will play more games than I did. He is tremendous," Ganguly heaped praise on Kohli.

Ganguly was asked whether he had any advice for Kohli when the



CRICKETERS SHOULD TAKE SETBACKS POSITIVELY. I DIDN'T GO THROUGH ANY TRAUMA. I JUST HAD GOOD DAYS AND BAD DAYS
SOURAV GANGULY

latter was going through a lean patch. "Cricket has become a bit more hectic, busy. So I don't get to see them. The poor guys travel a lot," Ganguly added.

Kohli reached the elusive three-figure mark after almost three years, albeit in a format 'he least expected to'. His 71st international hundred also put him alongside the great Ricky Ponting in the list of most centuries. Sachin Tendulkar remains way ahead with 100 tons.

Jugraj enjoying competition with Harmanpreet, Varun

Drag-flicker feels that the rivalry between the 3 is a good sign for Indian hockey

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Sept 10: Young India hockey team defender and drag-flicker Jugraj Singh is happy that a healthy rivalry is shaping up between him, Harmanpreet Singh and Varun Kumar. He said it is a good sign for India as it hosts some top-notch tournament, including the FIH World Cup in Odisha early next year.

"We have some excellent drag-flickers in the team right now, Harmanpreet (Singh), Varun (Kumar) and I. We always push each other to do better and it allows us to perform variations in matches as a team, which comes in handy in tough situations," Jugraj said Saturday. "We practice variations to make sure that oppositions struggle to read our routine," the 25-year-old Jugraj added.

Jugraj also spoke about his humble origins and the adversities he had to overcome to make it to the top. He was part of the Indian team that won the silver in the recently-concluded Birmingham CWG.

"I started playing in Attari when I was in the third grade. I shifted



JUGRAJ SINGH

to Delhi for four years soon after college to play for Punjab National Bank (PNB) hockey academy which gave me my first start. It was in the PNB team that I started playing competitive tournaments where I was spotted by the Navy Hockey team who offered me a position in their senior squad, after winning silver at the national tournament," Jugraj informed.

"After that I was eagerly waiting for that one chance to play in the senior Indian hockey team. I put in a lot of work preparing myself for

Naveen unveils WC host city logo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched Saturday the official host city logo of the state for the upcoming FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup (WC) at the Kalinga Stadium here. The Odisha capital is one of the three host cities of the tournament along with Margao in Goa and Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra.

The tournament will be played October 11 to October 30 and will be the first FIFA women's competition to be held in India.

Patnaik expressed his delight at Bhubaneswar being chosen as a host city for the grand event. "Odisha is emerging as a leading sports destination and hosting the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is a momentous opportunity for our state," Patnaik said.

"The official host city logo launch of Odisha is an important milestone which also signifies the progress of women's football in the state as well as India. We are excited to host the best young female footballers from across the world and especially, the Indian team

who will be playing all their group stage games at the Kalinga Stadium. As the Indian team make their first appearance in a FIFA women's competition, I encourage the people of Odisha to show their support in strong numbers at the stadium," the Odisha chief minister added.

The official host city logo of Odisha is a composite that presents the official emblem of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup beside a specially designed artwork that showcases the rich cultural heritage, vibrant sporting ecosystem and overall splendour of Odisha.

The event also inaugurated a special initiative for school children called the 'Kick Off The Dream Football Carnival'. It is aimed at introducing football to children and leveraging its power to normalise gender-inclusive participation. The carnival will engage nearly 60,000 school children over 35 days and conclude October 17.

Among others present at the ceremony were Sports Minister, Tusharkanti Behera, ST Secretary, VK Pandian and Sports Secretary, R Vineel Krishna.

The official host city logo launch of Odisha is an important milestone which also signifies the progress of women's football in the state
NAVEEN PATNAIK | CM



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiling the host city logo Saturday OP PHOTO

Upbeat Sri Lanka start favourites against Pakistan

AGENCIES

Dubai, Sept 10: Sri Lanka are poised for an unlikely Asia Cup victory over favourites Pakistan in Sunday's final. The underdogs have suddenly turned favourites due to their giant-slaying act.

Sri Lanka started on the wrong foot losing their tournament opener against Afghanistan. However, then they bounced back to beat Bangladesh, Afghanistan and India. Friday's closing Super Four match was a dress rehearsal for the Dubai final - and Sri Lanka's fourth straight victory, albeit with Pakistan missing two of their key players.

Sri Lanka will depend Sunday on the spin pairing of Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh



Theekshana, who helped bowl out Pakistan for 121 Friday in a comfortable five-wicket win. Skipper Dasun Shanaka however warned his team of complacency.

"The confidence we have is massive after four consecutive wins, but we still don't take Pakistan lightly in the final," Shanaka told reporters Saturday. "We know they are a very good side with enough good players to come back strong and we should be ready for that," he added.

Pakistan are weathering their own troubles at home with monsoon floods. They have also performed well in the tournament avenging an opening game loss to India and clinching a last-over thriller against Afghanistan.

Fast bowler Naseem Shah and all-rounder Shadab Khan both missed Friday's showdown, but will lengthen Sri Lanka's odds when they return for the final.

However, batting remains a cause for concern, with skipper Babar Azam managing a tournament best of just 30. Mohammad Rizwan is the only consistent performer with 226 runs in five matches. But coach Saqlain Mushtaq said he had complete faith in his side to deliver despite Azam's 'unlucky' run.

"The latest match we won against India, we chased and batted well," Saqlain said. "Things are moving in the right direction," he added.

FINCH QUILTS ODI FORMAT

POOR RUN OF FORM PROMPTED SKIPPER TO ANNOUNCE HIS RETIREMENT

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairns (Australia), Sept 10: Australia white ball captain Aaron Finch has said he will be retiring from one-day international (ODIs) cricket Sunday after the team play New Zealand in the third and final ODI. A recent run of poor form has seen the 35-year-old Finch average just 3.7 runs, including three ducks, since scoring 62 runs against Sri Lanka in an ODI in June.

Cricket Australia (CA) said in a statement Saturday that Finch will continue to captain Australia's T20 side and will lead them in defence of their world title when the World Cup is played in October and November in Australia.

"It has been a fantastic ride with some incredible memories," said Finch, who played 145 ODI matches, 54 as captain. "I have been extremely fortunate to be a part of

Virat lauds Aaron

MELBOURNE: Former India skipper Virat Kohli wished Australia white-ball captain Aaron Finch on his retirement from ODIs and said it was great to play with and against him over the years. Finch was a part of the RCB squad in the IPL in 2020. Kohli took to Instagram to share his thoughts. "Well done finchy (Finch). It was great to play against you all these years and with you as well at RCB. Enjoy the next phase of your life to the fullest," Kohli said.

some brilliant one-day sides. It is time now to give a new leader the best possible opportunity to prepare for and win the next World Cup. I thank all of those who have helped and supported my journey to this point," the outgoing skipper added.

One of the most damaging opening batters in the world when at his

best, Finch has scored 5,401 runs in the ODI format and averaged close to 40, including 17 centuries. However, he failed to get past 20 in his last seven innings and his continuing place in the side was in doubt. Finch's decision leaves Australia searching for a new one-day captain ahead of next year's World Cup in India. Australia Test skipper Pat Cummins previously indicated he does not want to captain the ODI side.

"Being a bit over 12 months out from the 50-over World Cup, I thought the timing was right now," Finch said later at a media conference. "I could have tried to play another series - the series against England post-World Cup - and that would have been a bit of a fairytale finishing at the MCG. But I think that's never been my style to be self-indulgent in any kind of way," Finch added.

