



## BASKING IN SUCCESS

Actress Mouni Roy says *Brahmastra* is not just a film but an emotion for her to be cherished forever

LEISURE P2



## FINAL JOURNEY

Queen's coffin arrived in Edinburgh after a six-hour journey from her summer home in the Scottish Highlands

INTERNATIONAL P9



## SWIATEK TRIUMPHS

World No.1 Iga Swiatek beat Ons Jabeur to clinch the US Open women's singles title and her third Grand Slam crown

SPORTS P12



**BRAVING THE RAIN:** Members of the Odisha Government Contractual Employees' Association in thousands stage a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Sunday, demanding abolition of contractual appointment rules of the state government. (Report on P3)

## 'Russian army showing its back'

The Russian retreat could prove a decisive turning point in the 6-month-old war

AGENCIES

**Kyiv, Sept 11:** Ukrainian forces Sunday pushed their counteroffensive in the country's east, exploiting quick gains they made in a week of fighting that has sharply changed the course of the conflict. Ukraine's quick action to reclaim Russia-occupied areas in the northeastern Kharkiv region forced Moscow to withdraw its troops to prevent them from being surrounded and leave behind significant numbers of weapons and munitions in a hasty retreat as the war marked 200 days Sunday. This could prove a decisive turning point in the 6-month-old war. The jubilant Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy mocked the Russians in a video address late Saturday, saying that "the Russian army in these days is demonstrating the best that it can do — showing its back." The Russians' pullback marked the biggest battlefield success for Ukrainian forces since they thwarted a Russian attempt to seize the capital, Kyiv, at the start

of the war. The retreat drew angry comments from Russian military bloggers, who bemoaned it as a major defeat and urged the Kremlin to respond by stepping up war efforts. Many scathingly criticised Russian authorities for continuing with fireworks and other lavish festivities in Moscow that marked a city holiday Saturday despite the debacle in Ukraine.



Just as the Russian forces were hastily pulling back from Izyum under Ukrainian fire, Russian President Vladimir Putin attended the opening of a huge observation wheel at a Moscow park, a new transport link and a sports arena. The action underlined the Kremlin's effort to continue pretending that the war it calls a "special military operation" was going according to plan without affecting the situation in the country.

## Deevyanshu tops state in JEE-Advance



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 11:** Deevyanshu Malu of KIIT International School (KIIT-IS) became the Odisha topper in the JEE-Advance, the results of which were declared Sunday. Deevyanshu, who secured an all-India rank of 11 in JEE-Advance, is also a gold medal recipient in the International Physics Olympiad. Kanishk Modi and Deeptanshu Malu, also students of KIIT-IS, have secured all-India ranks of 200 and 226 in JEE-Advance. "It is indeed a happy moment for all of us as Deevyanshu's achievement has not only made the school proud, but also the state," Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS, said congratulating the topper. Deevyanshu had also topped the State JEE (Mains) 2022 Session-1, the results of which were declared in July.

# Oil at 7-month low, yet no relief to consumers

Excise duty on petrol went up by 194%, while on diesel it rose by 512% between 2014-15 and 2021-22 even as crude oil prices remained below \$80 per barrel between 2015-16 and 2021-22

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 11:** International oil prices have hit a seven-month low but there is no fall in retail selling price of petrol and diesel in India to bring relief to consumers and ease inflationary pressures as state-owned fuel retailers recoup losses incurred for holding rates for a record five months despite rising cost. International benchmark Brent crude fell below USD 90 per barrel last week for the first time since early February as recession fears weigh on demand. It has since recovered and is trading at USD 92.84 per barrel, the lowest in six months.



But this has not led to any revision in retail petrol and diesel prices in India and they continue to be on freeze for a record-setting 158 days. Responding to reporters' questions, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri had Friday said: "When (international oil) prices were high, our (petrol and diesel) prices were already low... Have we recouped all our losses?" He, however, did not elaborate on the losses incurred on keeping rates steady since April 6.

### EXCISE DUTIES ZOOM

Excise duty on petrol went up by a

huge 194% while on diesel it rose by a stupendous 512% between 2014-15 and 2021-22 even as crude oil prices remained below \$80 per barrel between 2015-16 and 2021-22, thus burdening the common man. The government's revenue generation through levy of excise duty saw a growth of 126% between 2014-15 and 2021-22. The income growth was 186% during the same period. According to official data provided by the Petroleum Ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), excise duty on petrol was ₹9.48 per litre and on diesel it was ₹3.56 per litre in 2014-15 when the NDA government came to power. In 2021-22, excise duty on petrol rose 194% to ₹27.90 per litre and on diesel it rose 512% to stand at ₹21.80 per litre. Interestingly between 2015-16 and 2021-22, while excise duties on petrol and diesel rose steadily, crude oil prices remained consistently below \$80 per barrel and even slid below the \$50 per barrel mark on three occasions. While crude oil was at \$84.16 per barrel in 2014-15, it fell sharply to stand at \$46 per barrel and \$47 per barrel in 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively. **Contd...4**

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The film has got very poor reviews. Looks like it will be a box-office hit!

WEATHER	
	BHUB CTK
TEMP MAX	28.1°C 27.5°C
TEMP MIN	25.0°C 24.5°C
Humidity	94% 100%
Rainfall	25.4mm 16.4mm
Forecast	Light rain very likely

## SHORT TAKES

### Fake currency notes of ₹16 lakh seized

**Bhubaneswar:** A person from Delhi was arrested in Rourkela district after fake Indian currency notes with a face value of over ₹16 lakh were recovered from his possession, police said Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, a special task force of the crime branch with help of the district police apprehended the person from Sector-17 area of Rourkela Saturday and seized the fake notes from him, a senior officer said. The accused, who hails from Badarpur area of Delhi, has been residing in a north Odisha city, he said. "Fake Indian currency notes with a face value of ₹16.11 lakh, a laptop, a colour printer and other incriminating articles were recovered from his possession," the officer said. A case has been registered at Sector 15 police station for necessary legal action.



### SC to hear over 200 PILs today

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear over 200 PILs Monday including a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act. A bench headed by Chief Justice UU Lalit is scheduled to hear the petitions challenging the validity of the CAA whose enactment had triggered widespread protests across the country. According to the list of businesses uploaded on the apex court's website, a bench comprising the Chief Justice and Justice S Ravindra Bhat has posted 220 petitions for hearing, including the lead plea by the Indian Union of Muslim League against the CAA. Several PILs pending for a couple of years in the top court will also be taken up for hearing.

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All are cordially invited

Organised by :  
Boyanika, Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Dept., Govt. of Odisha.

# leisure



## FLORENCE PUGH TO JOIN MARVEL'S THUNDERBOLTS

Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige announced an A-list crew of familiar cast members for the upcoming team-up film *Thunderbolts* during Marvel's D23Expo panel. English actress Florence Pugh of *Black Widow* fame was among the actors announced Saturday.

## GOT ACTOR ALFIE ALLEN WANTS TO BUY HIS DAUGHTER A GOAT

*Game of Thrones* (*GoT*) star Alfie Allen wants to get his daughter a goat because she loves the animal and wants it to be present in her life. He said: "I just want to focus on being a present parent and getting my daughter a goat. I'm not joking, she loves goats."



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
The yogis have finally succeeded in impressing you. Was it a stint in an Art of Living course? Ganesh gives you the thumbs-up and suggests you join that music or dance class you have been wanting to. Generally a nice day, and success is on the cards.

**TAURUS**  
Today is a day of closure. You may find yourself on the winning side of things, says Ganesh. Pending projects will reach completion and you will achieve satisfaction and success in education. With a little extra effort, you can build a castle from stone. Ganesh wishes you a cheerful and colourful day.

**GEMINI**  
Today, you are likely to rack your brains to get things done. But your modesty will not do you any good. You will have to show that you are the boss, even if you are not. Your extraordinary brilliance will translate into exceptional performance and will save the day.

**CANCER**  
Today, you are likely to be brimming with love and compassion. However, certain negative thoughts will spoil all your good work. But don't fret! Your efforts won't go wasted and you will get the desired results sooner or later, says Ganesh.

**LEO**  
Working hard, or hardly working – there is a vast difference between the two. You would be wiser to be working hard today, especially if it is success that you desire, says Ganesh. Remember that there is no substitute for hard work, and the sooner you realise this, the better.

**VIRGO**  
Today, your soul mate will both give and demand pleasant surprises, says Ganesh. Your business partners may bring in some good news. Take responsibility of your past mistakes and make plans for the days to come. Do not be shy of the advice of loved ones, as it will help you more than hinder.

**LIBRA**  
Today, you will be in a mish-mash of emotions and feelings. Also, there are chances of accumulated feelings finding an outlet. Your capacity for emotional display may take people by surprise. However, you will also enjoy the higher responsibilities reposed on you, predicts Ganesh.

**SCORPIO**  
Ganesh predicts today will be a day full of focus and a clear thought process. The clarity of thought you have has been acquired over a period of time, says Ganesh, and that could make all the difference. A crisp application of thoughts to ideas and actions will bring much appreciation from bosses and peers.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Setting for a new, better employment will help you fast-track your career growth. A telephonic interview might ring in a new offer. A lucrative deal with an MNC would serve well. Your dedication and devotion to work will also peak today, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
It's going to be a day of pleasant surprises. You will try your level best to help people around you, and will find it exceedingly frustrating when the results won't be as expected, says Ganesh. In fact, this may even dampen your spirit and shake your self-confidence.

**AQUARIUS**  
Eat, drink, and make merry. But watch out: don't empty your pockets in one go. Also, guard your reputation. A lot depends on your behaviour, and the big daddies may be watching you. You have a lot at stake, and there should be no regrets later. Let success be your priority for now, says Ganesh. All else will follow.

**PISCES**  
You are likely to be grinding yourself under at the workplace today. A turning point will arise in romantic liaisons, though if the evening awaiting you is anything to go by, it is something you should welcome wholeheartedly, says Ganesh.

# Sonakshi reveals turning point of her career

**Mumbai:** Sonakshi Sinha made her debut with *Dabangg* 12 years ago. The actress was seen playing the feisty and resilient Rajjo, opposite Salman Khan who played Chulbul Pandey in the film. Gradually, the actress teamed up with a host of senior actors in the business including Ajay Devgn and Akshay Kumar where she played their love interest in a series of films. One of her landmark performances, however, came in 2013, in Vikramaditya Motwane's *Lootera*, where she was paired with Ranveer Singh.

"Honestly, I don't even know where the 12 years went! It has been a blur for me," says Sonakshi, adding, "There's been so much work on my plate and I'm glad that I have enjoyed every bit of it. I have learned a lot but there is still a long way to go."

Talking about the turning point in her career, Sonakshi adds, "When I did my first film as the central character, I tasted blood. It made me feel empowered and powerful. The films prior to that gave me the audience which turned up for my first film where I played the central role. With that, I also found the strength to shoulder a film on my own. *Akira* opened a lot of avenues for me. And now, I want to play roles that challenge and push me out of my comfort zone." AGENCIES



# Madhur Bhandarkar feels people are scared of him

**Mumbai:** Ace filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar reveals how people are scared of him wherever he goes as if he makes a film on them.

Madhur reveals: "People are very scared. I go to the hospital so doctors see me and say, Sir, you are not making a film on us na. This happens many times when I visit an institution and their people say you should make a film on this or that subject. "Such things happen quite often in different places. So I like making scripts on different states and thoughts. Plus what recognition and love I have achieved are all because of the audience and all of us are here because of them."



Later on, he shares how a lady bouncer in a pub inspired him to make the movie *Babli Bouncer* starring Tamannaah Bhatia, Saurabh Shukla, and Supriya Shukla.

"Being in the film industry all of us have seen that in many places there are male bouncers only. And, one day I was at a pub and I saw a lady bouncer there, so the idea came to my mind," added the Page 3 director.

# Amala: Thought process defines independence

**Chennai:** Actress Amala Akkineni, who took the Tamil as well as Hindi film industry by storm with her brilliant performances before marrying Telugu star Nagarjuna and settling down in Hyderabad, describes the changes she has witnessed in the last 30 years as amazing.

Explaining about the changes she has witnessed over the years, the actress, who has as big a fan base said: "It's amazing. Every year I am witnessing this growth, this difference. It also makes me happy. Because the world has opened up. It has become possible to go anywhere in the world."

"Many good fields and opportunities have emerged for women. They can achieve anything they set their mind to. I am glad that I was able to witness this in my lifetime," according to her.

Amala says that she considers the thought process to be more important than lifestyle while talking about women's liberation. "My mother is from Ireland. I have seen her live with a freedom that many Indian women did not have at that time. Many think that wearing western outfits and following their lifestyle defines independence. But no one talks about the thought process. For me that was important," adds the *Kab Tak Chup Rahungi* actress.

Amala will next be seen in a Tamil-Telugu bilingual film called *Kanam* that is to hit screens on Friday. IANS



# Will cherish *Brahmastra* for rest of my life: Mouni

**Mumbai:** The Naagin fame actress Mouni Roy is currently seen in Ayan Mukerji's fantasy action-adventure film *Brahmastra*. She has put all effort to make her appeal as an opposing force in the movie stronger by not only her look but also through her expression in her eyes.

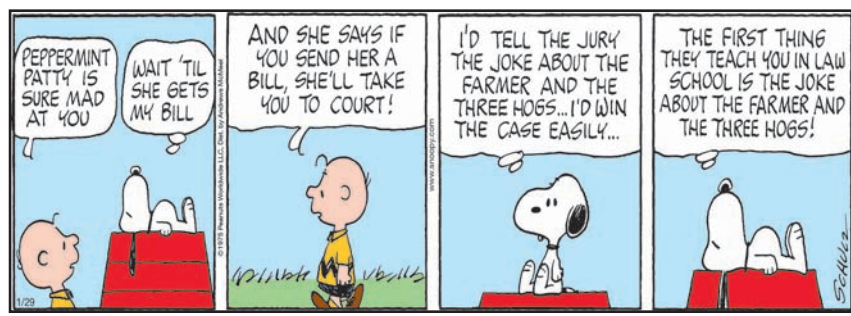
The movie stars Amitabh Bachchan, Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor and Nagarjuna Akkineni. Mouni says, "Brahmastra is not just a film but an emotion which I will cherish for the rest of my life. As a team, we all tried our best to tell a different story and offer something new and out of this world to the audience."

The actress, who started her career with the popular saas-bahu saga *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi* and later on went on to be part of a number of shows including *Junoon - Aisi Najrat Toh Kaisa Ishaq*, *Kasturi* and also did Hindi films such as *Run*, *Tum Bin 2* and many more, says that this movie is not just like any other project for her but it is more like emotion and she is happy with the response she is getting on social media from her fans.

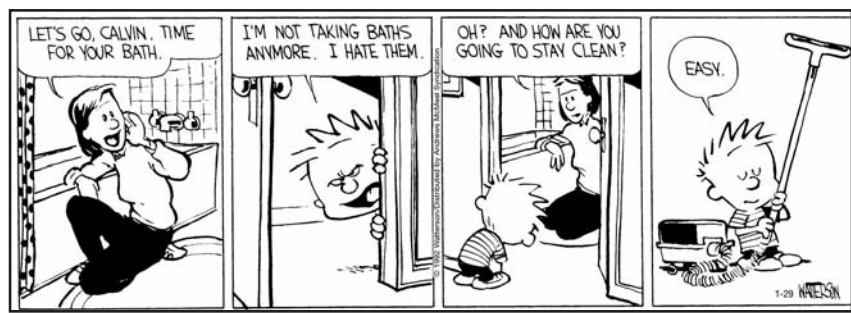
*Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva* was released on September 9. IANS



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

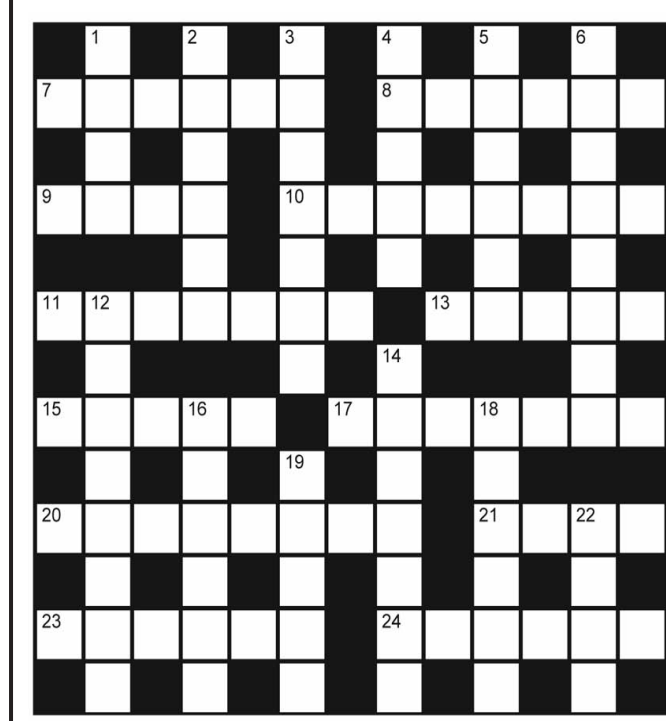


### BREVITY



### FUN post

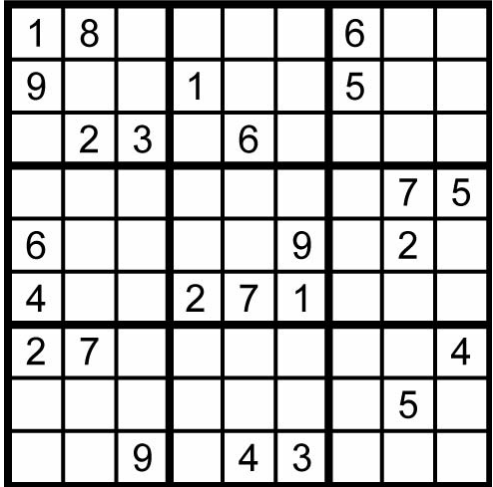
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Dark red plumlike fruit
  - 8 Muse of comedy
  - 9 Fearless
  - 10 Lab equipment (4,4)
  - 11 Breakouts
  - 13 Japanese verse
  - 15 Ballroom dance
  - 17 Dense fog (3,4)
  - 20 Large beer glass
  - 21 Grotesque
  - 23 \_\_\_-Lorraine
  - 24 Blue point
  - 4 Secret supply
  - 5 Catch phrase
  - 6 City in central Mali
  - 12 Hardly
  - 14 Boudoir
  - 16 Type of street (3-3)
  - 18 Court game
  - 19 Much of Chile
  - 22 Onion's kin
- Down**
- 1 Martial art
  - 2 Arctic plain
  - 3 Some hockey players

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

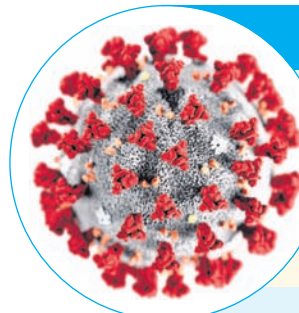
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown



### ANNUAL FETE

Dignitaries during the inauguration of annual function of Rudraksha Foundation at Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



COVID-19 TRACKER			
	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,36,39,062	59,22,08,889	65,16,161
India	4,44,92,779	4,39,19,264	5,28,150
Odisha	13,30,240	13,19,379	9,185

## BMC tax collection up, thanks to online system

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 11:** The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has recorded a significant growth in tax collection after it switched to online mode of tax collection, an official said Sunday.



BMC had collected ₹4,40,25,000 as trade licence fee and ₹39,62,07,573 as holding tax in 2018-19 offline, while it collected ₹4,53,83,423 as trade licence fee and ₹62,82,25,054 as holding tax online in 2021-22

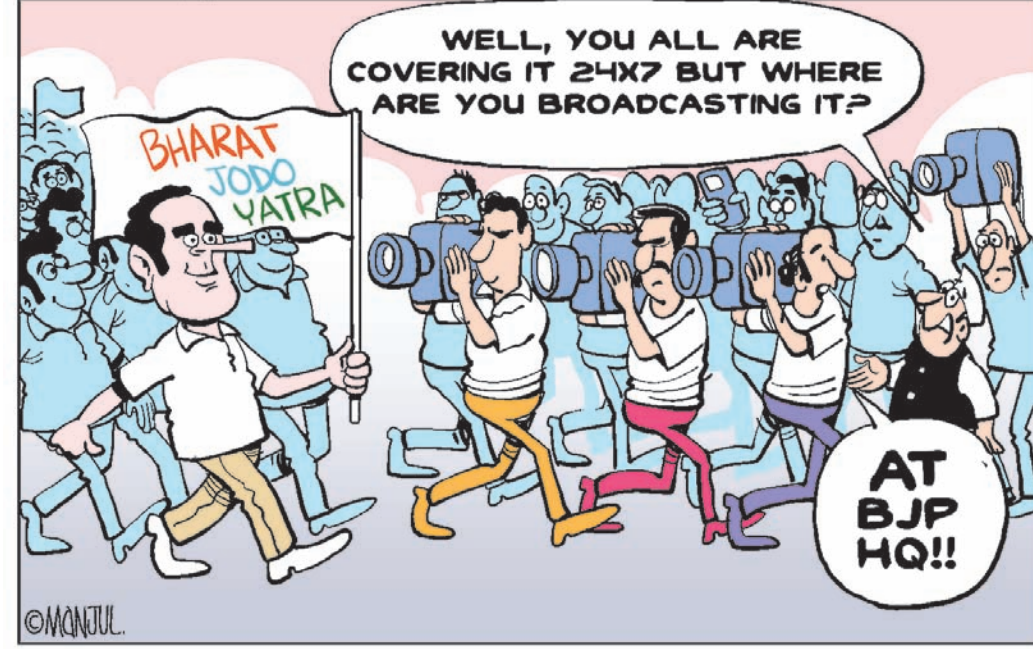
According to sources, the civic body had collected ₹4,40,25,000 as trade licence fee and ₹39,62,07,573 as holding tax from areas under its jurisdiction in 2018-19 offline. In 2019-20, when the civic body allowed partial online collection, it recorded holding tax collection of ₹42,46,41,137 and ₹4,02,62,353 as trade licence fee. Similarly, in 2020-21 when it went for complete online collection, BMC saw a collection of ₹60,33,12,034 as holding tax and ₹3,86,27,055 as trade licence fee.

In 2021-22, the civic body recorded a collection of ₹4,53,83,423 as trade licence fee and ₹62,82,25,054 as holding tax. BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said, "Citizens have found it convenient to pay their taxes or apply for trade licenses under one umbrella application of Bhubaneswar.me. The online mode, which provides a range of services, has enhanced revenue collection efficiency from source and has also helped main-

tained transparency in terms of assessment and collection of holding tax/trade license." As the civic authority has set a target of collecting around ₹120 crore towards holding tax in this financial year, it plans to launch a door-to-door survey and trade licence audit to check tax evasion and bring all residential and commercial stakeholders under the purview of the online tax payment system. Although the BMC has planned reassessment of around 62,000

houses for holding tax under its jurisdiction in 2021-22, sources said that revenue generation could have been better as thousands of households, traders and business establishments are either out of tax bracket or have been paying tax without re-assessment of their structure. Similarly around 55 per cent of vendors are said not to have renewed their licenses, causing loss to the civic authority. "We will start tax collection drives in different wards which will also include creating awareness among people for payment of their dues or renewal of license. Emphasis will also be laid on providing Point of Sale devices in the wards to enable the officers for collecting holding tax through online process at the doorsteps," said BMC Mayor Sulochna Das.

### POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Contractual govt employees demand 'equal work, equal pay'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 11:** Thousands of contractual employees working in different Odisha government departments Sunday staged a massive demonstration here demanding total abolition of the contractual appointment system in the state administration. The members of the Odisha Government Contractual Employees' Association (OGCEA) including teachers, police, assistants and other employees of Class-

III posts from across the state assembled at the Mahatma Gandhi Marg here amid heavy rain and demanded uniform service rules for all categories of government employees and abolition of contractual appointment in the state government. "We have been taken for granted by the government which appointed us on contractual basis on the plea to strengthen the financial condition of the state which was hit by a resource crunch", said Association president Bijay Kumar Malla. He said the government appoints contractual employees after they clear the competitive examinations. They are recruited as contractual government employees for a period of six years drawing a paltry salary despite their high educational qualification, the association said. "It is sheer discrimination by the government. While the regular employees get good salary, we are given a paltry salary. Are the regular employees purchasing petrol at higher price than us or are they paying more while getting their rations," asked Anita Behera, a woman contractual employee. She alleged that the six years of contractual service is not added to the original service period for which the promotion is delayed by six years. The contractual employees are also not getting DA, HRA and other benefits. "We have a genuine demand of equal pay for equal work as the contractual employees also perform the same duty as the regular staff," Malla said. The Association has also demanded implementation of one rule for all government employees.

## Rain lashes state as depression forms over Bay



Commuters travel through a waterlogged Rasulgarh-Bomikhil Road after heavy rainfall in the City, Sunday OP PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 11:** With a well-marked low-pressure area over west-central and adjoining north-west Bay of Bengal intensifying into a depression, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Sunday forecast heavy rainfall across Odisha. The system is about 20km north-

west of Gopalpur and is likely to move west-northwestwards across south Odisha and Chhattisgarh during the next 24 hours before it weakens, the IMD said. Several parts of Odisha had already been witnessing rainfall activities since Saturday. Senior weather scientist US Dash said Odisha has received widespread showers due to the low pressure,

with Dhenkanal recording 114 mm rainfall till 5:30am of Sunday, followed by 106 mm in Koraput. The Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, has issued advisories for the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, asking the administration to make arrangements to drain out excess water. It also urged people to check for road conditions and traffic con-

gestion before leaving homes. Both the cities are expected to experience intense shower spells. The weatherman has also issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rain in the districts of Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Nuapada, Balangir, Sonepur, Boudh and Bargarh till 8:30am of September 12. Similarly, it issued a yellow alert of heavy rainfall for Khurda, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Angul, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Rayagada, Koraput, Gajapati, Deogarh and Puri. In a bulletin, the IMD said that squally weather with surface wind speed reaching up to 45 to 55 kmph gusting to 65 kmph is very likely over the sea along and off Odisha coast and north-west adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal till September 12. It warned fishermen against venturing into the sea till Monday. IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said that Odisha is likely to witness more rainfall activities as a fresh cyclonic circulation is likely to brew over the Bay of Bengal around September 17-18. The state government has asked all the district collectors to remain prepared and deal with crisis situation as per protocol.

## Union Minister names tiger, lion cubs at Nandankanan

PNN & AGENCIES

**Barang, Sept 11:** Union Minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey Sunday named a lion cub and a tiger cub at the Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) here. While lioness Bijli's cub was named Kamini, tigress Rupa's cub Himansi, officials said, adding that both cubs were born in captivity in March. Choubey, the minister of state for forest, also lauded the devotion of the attendants for rearing the cubs with affection. Reviewing the activities, Choubey said the Centre would not hesitate to fund the facility for its transformation into a world-class zoo.

### WHILE LIONESS BIJLI'S CUB WAS NAMED KAMINI, TIGRESS RUPA'S CUB HIMANSI

Describing NZP as a heaven for animals, he also visited the zoo hospital where tigress Manju is undergoing treatment, besides stopping by the pangolin training centre. NZP deputy director Sanjit Kumar said the state government has provided 609 hectare land in Chudanga Reserve Forest and Krushna Nagar protected area of Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary for the Nandankanan revamp and expansion plan.

## Lokayukta solved 3,132 cases in three years

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 11:** The Odisha Lokayukta has solved 3,132 cases in the last three years, whereas the ombudsman has received a total of 3,331 complaints during that period, as per the information accessed through an RTI plea filed by human rights activist Biswapriya Kanungo. In 2019, the Lokayukta registered 1,132 cases out of which 714 were disposed of. Similarly, 1,409 and 790 cases were lodged at the Lokayukta during 2020 and 2021 respectively. The anti-corruption ombudsman completed trial in 1,537 cases in 2020, while as many as 881 were disposed of in 2021.



In 2019, the Lokayukta had spent ₹4,80,18,263 out of the sanctioned budget of ₹7,91,95,000. Similarly, ₹5, 55,90,347 was spent out of the ₹7,93,38,000 granted by the state government in 2020. The Lokayukta spent ₹7, 81,11,637 of the budget amount of ₹8,14,90,000 in 2021.

**In 2019, the Lokayukta registered 1,132 cases out of which 714 were disposed of**

The RTI plea brought to fore the fact that the state had spent ₹67,252 on Lokayukta to solve a case of corruption in 2019. The cost per case came down to ₹36,000 due to the increase in the number of cases disposed of by it in 2020. However, the cost significantly

rose to ₹88,662 in 2021 for the disposal of less number of cases. Lokayukta was created to address the grievances of the public against public representatives and public servants like ministers, legislators, and administrative officials in matters related to misuse of power, failures in administration and corruption. After the passage of the Lokpal and Lokayukta's Act, 2013 in the Parliament, and it becoming a law from January 16, 2014, under the act each state was required to appoint its Lokayukta within a year. First formed under the Odisha Lokayukta and Deputy Lokayukta Act, the authority in the state was then approved by the President of India.

## Amat unveils Forest Martyrs' Memorial Tower in City



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 11:** On the occasion of National Forest Martyrs' Day, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Pradip Kumar Amat Sunday inaugurated a Forest Martyrs' Memorial Tower at the Regional Plant Research Centre in the City here. "The tower is built in memory of the 21 forest martyrs who laid their lives for the protection of the forest and wildlife in the state," said Amat. The Forest Minister paid tributes to the martyrs and stressed upon the importance of awareness among people for the safety of the forest and animals dwelling in it. He also said that rules of forest safety must be enforced strictly as protection of forest will help keep the environment and the world safe. Earlier, a martyrs' tower had come up at Dangamal in Bhitarkanika National Park in memory of forest officials who sacrificed their lives to protect the flora and fauna of the park. Five forest personnel had lost their lives while being on conservation work in Bhitarkanika and Gahirmatha marine sanctuary as they were killed either by timber mafia or fishermen or died of crocodile attack.

## State logs 245 new Cov cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 11:** The state's Covid-19 tally mounted to 13,30,240 Sunday as 245 more people, including 43 children, tested positive for the infection, a health bulletin said. The toll rose to 9,185 as one more person succumbed to the disease, it said, adding that fifty-three other Covid-19 patients have died due to comorbidities so far. Odisha had reported 269 infections Saturday. The state now has 1,756 active cases, while 246 more people recuperated from the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of recoveries to 13,19,246, the bulletin said. The daily positivity rate was at 1.88 per cent as the new coronavirus infections were detected from 13,050 sample tests, it added.

## Heart attack vs cardiac arrest: Experts explain the surge

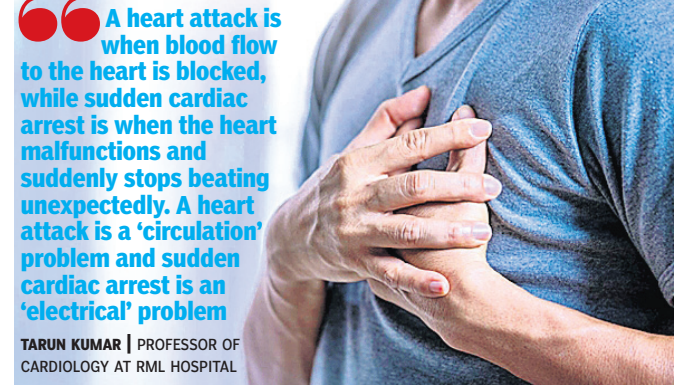
In the last few days, several incidents have come to light where a man suddenly fell due to an attack and died. In an incident from Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly, a 48-year-old man died after he suddenly fell while dancing during a birthday party. In one such incident, Yogesh Gupta, a resident of Jammu, collapsed and died on stage in the middle of his performance. Many such incidents have been reported in the recent past which has sparked a new debate whether such attacks are on the rise in the post-Covid era. No, it is not always a heart attack, says Tarun Kumar, Professor of Cardiology, RML Hospital. He said, "We hear people make these statements often interchangeably when someone has a heart condition. But they are not synonyms." "A heart attack is when blood flow to the heart is blocked, while sudden cardiac arrest is when the heart malfunctions and suddenly stops beating unexpectedly. A heart attack is a 'circulation' problem and

sudden cardiac arrest is an 'electrical' problem," explained Kumar. Sudden cardiac arrest can occur after a heart attack, or during the recovery. Heart attacks increase the risk for sudden cardiac arrest. Most heart attacks do not lead to sudden cardiac arrest. But when sudden cardiac arrest occurs, heart attack is a common cause, he said. Kumar further said that other heart conditions may also disrupt the heart's rhythm and lead to sudden cardiac arrest. These include a thickened heart muscle (cardiomyopathy), heart failure, arrhythmias, particularly ventricular fibrillation, and long Q-T syndrome. He added that cardiac arrest is reversible if it is treated within a few minutes. Call for emergency medical services and begin CPR (Cardiopulmonary resuscitation) immediately and continue until professional emergency medical services arrive. By performing hands CPR, the

chances of survival rises to double or triple fold and bystander CPR, it can prove lifesaving in out of hospital cardiac arrest, he said. On the rise of such cases post Covid-era, Kumar said this is mainly due to two reasons. Firstly, reduced physical activity during the Covid era and even after that. Secondly, because of wide availability of smartphones or CCTV footage, such incidents in no time come to

Internet and go viral. Apart from the heart related ailments, the pandemic has triggered an array of emotional, physical, and economic issues. The post-Covid emerging literature underlines the impact of various traumatic stressors related to Covid-19 which has already led to diverse mental health problems, including anxiety, depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, and other trauma- and stress-

related disorders adversely affecting both the frontline warrior doctors and the patients. Declining mental health remains a silent epidemic in India and the urban lifestyles are primary drivers. Amid the health workers' emotional toll of caring for the unwell, their own mental health tends to be even more neglected, negatively impacting their physical and emotional health. Their unpredictable and erratic work schedules with long working hours and exposure to human suffering frequently results in mental blockage and burnout," said Deepak Sharma, Co-Founder and CEO, MedLern. When healthcare professionals seek treatment for substance abuse or mental health issues, they are frequently regarded as less capable and unpredictable. The emotional, psychological, and social well-being are crucial. The important aspect is how we respond to stress, he said. IANS



**A heart attack is when blood flow to the heart is blocked, while sudden cardiac arrest is when the heart malfunctions and suddenly stops beating unexpectedly. A heart attack is a 'circulation' problem and sudden cardiac arrest is an 'electrical' problem**

**TARUN KUMAR | PROFESSOR OF CARDIOLOGY AT RML HOSPITAL**

# 'Tribals find goodness in everything'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 11:** "The simple tribal find goodness in everything, they worship nature, and nature means Adishakti. The father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi was inspired by tribals of Koraput and their concept of Swaraj," said Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal while inaugurating the national seminar of the 'Role of Tribal Heroes in the Freedom Struggle of India' organised Saturday at the Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput. The seminar was jointly organised by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) and the CUO. The Governor also inaugurated an exhibition of tribal heroes. Addressing the gathering, the Governor remembered the contribution of tribal leaders in the freedom struggle of India. He acknowledged the role of tribal freedom fighters, especially the son of the soil of Koraput, 'Shaheed Laxman Nayak'. He said, "We were never really enslaved, because



**66 We were never really enslaved, because everywhere in the nation, revolutions were taking place. No one is a Vanvasi or Brahman by birth. We must be aware of our rights to claim them**

GANESHI LAL | GOVERNOR

everywhere in the nation, revolutions were taking place. No one is a Vanvasi or Brahman by birth. We must be aware of our rights to claim them. All the students should unite to explain the rights of Vanvasi to society."

Sharat Kumar Palita, Vice-Chancellor, CUO, said that "the tribal played a prodigious role during the Independence struggle. The way of treating tribal people should be changed and we have a lot to learn from them. The academic departments of CUO are doing research on various tribal issues." He also announced that CUO is going to launch a new department of tribal language as approved in statutory bodies of the University.

NCST's Anant Nayak, who spearheaded the programme in 175 universities across India, emphasised on three things: "Asmita, Astiva and Vikas" as essential pillar for NCST. Pabitra Kumar Kanhar, Vice Chairman of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India said that tribals are the descendants of 'Rishis' who were forest dwellers. A tribal symbolises bravery and sacrifice. However, the contribution of tribals has not been documented to date." He also spoke about other tribal heroes including Chakra Bisoyi and Veer Surendra Sai.



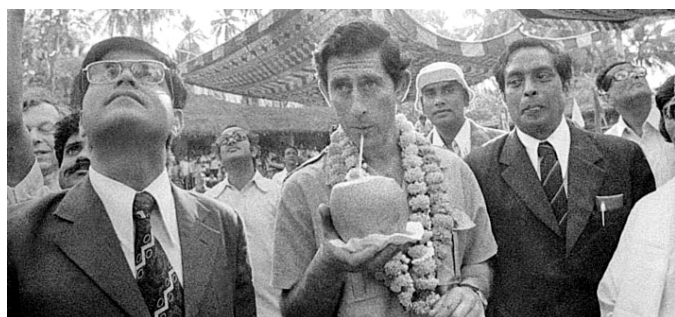
Devotees going in a procession to dedicate the temple of Sri Sri Solapua Maa Thakurani at Baunsa Gali in Cuttack, Sunday

OP PHOTO

# Haripur villagers recall King Charles III's visit Kala Bhoomi-IITTM sign MoU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 11:** Residents of a quaint village in Odisha's Puri district, where King Charles III had visited some four decades ago, have organised a prayer session for Britain's new monarch at a local temple, wishing for his good health and long life. Haripur village, located around 60 km from Odisha's state capital, came alive with yajnas and chants as a large number of people assembled at Gopinath temple Saturday to offer prayers. The new king, then a prince, was just 32 when he had visited Haripur to get a feel of village life, said a dis-



trib official. He was treated as a state guest with then chief minister JB Patnaik ensuring that he is well looked after, the official said. "During his visit, Charles enjoyed sipping on coconut water.

He took interest in the practice of coconut plucking and basket weaving. He had also visited fields to watch paddy harvesting," Sanjay Pati, one of the elderly residents of the village, reminisced. Another vil-

lager, Chittaranjan Panda, said he was just 12 years old when the crown prince had visited Haripur. "People still talk about his visit in 1980, reminisce fondly how he had interacted with locals, spent time with them. When the locals found out that he has taken to the throne, they came together and jointly decided to hold a prayer session for the new king," Panda added. Archaeologist Harischandra Das also recalled that King Charles was amazed to witness the sculptures and intricate work at the Sun Temple of Mukteswar temple in Bhubaneswar; a 10th-century shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, Das said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 11:** Kala Bhoomi-Odisha Crafts Museum managed by State Institute for Development of Arts & Crafts (SIDAC), under the administrative control of Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Department has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM), under the Ministry of Tourism, government of India for engaging students in the Internship & Volunteer programme conducted by Kala Bhoomi-Odisha Crafts Museum. Kala Bhoomi was inaugurated



in March 2018 with the vision to preserve the heritage of handicraft and handloom of the state, promote research in this sector and to attract tourists from all over the country and abroad. IITTM is a premier organisation in imparting courses in the area of tourism and

travel management. The purpose of the MoU is to engage the students for Internship and Volunteer programme with an objective to focus on various aspects such as Marketing and Design, Event Planning and Management, Research, Visitor Relations, Project Development along with the opportunity to work with crafts within the museum space for understanding knowledge on visitor's requirements. Sisir Kumar Rath, member secretary, SIDAC and Mohammed Sabir Hussain, nodal officer, IITTM signed the MoU in the presence of CEO, Odisha Crafts Museum and other senior officials of SIDAC and IITTM.

Continued from P1

## 'Russian army showing its back'

In a sign of potential rift in the Russian leadership, Ramzan Kadyrov, the Kremlin-backed leader of Chechnya, said that the retreat from the Kharkiv region resulted from the Russian military leadership's blunders. "They have made mistakes and I think they will draw the necessary conclusions," Kadyrov said. "If they don't make changes in the strategy of conducting the special military operation in the next day or two, I will be forced to contact the leadership of the Defence Ministry and the leadership of the country to explain the real situation on the ground."

## Oil at 7-month low, yet no relief ...

A closer analysis of the data reveals that between 2015-16 and 2016-17 when crude oil prices were down by almost half of the 2014-15 levels, excise duty on petrol rose from Rs 17.48 per litre to Rs 21.48 per litre. During the same period, excise duty on diesel rose from Rs 10.26 to Rs 17.33 per litre. Even in 2020-21, when crude oil prices fell sharply to \$44.82 per barrel from \$60.47 per barrel in 2019-20 due to the onset of the pandemic, excise duty on petrol rose from Rs 19.96 per litre March 13, 2020 to Rs 32.90 per litre February 2, 2021. Similarly excise duty on diesel stood at Rs 15.83 per litre March 13, 2020. However, February 2, 2021 it rose by Rs 16 to stand at Rs 31.80 per litre.

## Deevyanshu tops state in JEE-Advance

A total number of 1,55,538 candidates appeared in both papers 1 and 2 in JEE (Advanced) 2022. A total of 40,712 candidates have qualified JEE (Advanced) 2022. Of the total qualified candidates, 6516 are females. RK Shishir of IIT Bombay zone is the top ranker in Common Rank List (CRL) in JEE (Advanced) 2022. He obtained 314 marks out of 360 marks. Tanishka Kabra of IIT Delhi zone is the top ranked female with CRL 16. She obtained 277 marks out of 360.



Members of Law College Puratan Chhatra Sangha and Kranti Odisha participate in tree plantation programme at Law College premises in Cuttack, Sunday

OP PHOTO

# Why are some people mosquito magnets and others unbothered?

A medical entomologist Jonathan Day, Emeritus Professor of Medical Entomology, University of Florida points to metabolism, body odour and mindset

It's rare to attend an outdoor party in warm weather without hearing people complain about mosquitoes. They swat away, sit in campfire smoke, cover up with blankets and eventually just give up and go indoors. On the other end of the spectrum, there are plenty of people who don't seem bothered by mosquitoes in the slightest.

As a medical entomologist who's worked with mosquitoes for more than 40 years, I'm often asked why some people seem to be mosquito magnets while others are oblivious to these blood-feeding pests buzzing all around them. Most mosquito species, along

with a host of other arthropods – including ticks, fleas, bedbugs, blackflies, horseflies and biting midges – require the protein in blood to develop a batch of eggs. Only the female mosquito feeds on blood. Males feed on plant nectar, which they convert to energy for flight. Blood-feeding is an incredibly important part of the mosquito's reproductive cycle. Because of this, a tremendous amount of evolutionary pressure has been placed on female mosquitoes to identify potential sources of blood, quickly and efficiently get a full blood meal, and then stealthily depart the unlucky victim. If you check some, or all, of the mosquito's

Mosquitoes are very sensitive to CO2 and can sense a CO2 source that is many metres away. To separate living from nonliving sources of CO2, mosquitoes rely on the secondary olfactory cues that living animals produce.



Natural body odours are also important cues used by mosquitoes to select a host. For example, some species of Anopheles mosquitoes are attracted to specific components of foot odour

Mosquitoes active during the day and at dawn and dusk also use visual signals to identify a host. Mosquitoes usually fly close to the ground. From this vantage point they view their potential hosts against the horizon. Dark colours stand out and light colours blend in, so the way a person is dressed will determine the number of mosquitoes they attract

search boxes, then you may find that you are a mosquito magnet. Depending on when during the day they are active, mosquitoes use sight, sound and olfactory cues to

identify a potential source of blood. Most night-active species rely on olfactory or receptor cues. The most important chemical cue is the carbon dioxide that all vertebrates,

including humans, release with each breath and through their skin.

Mosquitoes are very sensitive to CO2 and can sense a CO2 source that is many metres away. Receptor cells on the mosquito's antennae and legs bind CO2 molecules and send an electrical signal to the brain. When more molecules hit their receptors, the higher the CO2 concentration and the closer they are to the host. However, there are many nonliving carbon dioxide sources such as cars, boats, planes and trains. To separate living from nonliving sources of CO2, mosquitoes rely on the secondary olfactory cues that living animals produce. Metabolic processes like breathing and moving generate these scent cues, including lactic acid, ammonia and fatty acids that act as additional olfactory clues that help female mosquitoes zero in on their next blood meal. So, carbon dioxide production is

the first mark of a mosquito magnet. Because the production of CO2 and secondary attractants is linked to metabolic rate, the higher the metabolic rate, the more attractants are produced. Metabolic rate can be genetically determined, but it also increases as the result of physical activity. The human mosquito magnets you can spot at summer parties may have a genetically high metabolic rate or may be more physically active than other attendees. They may also be undertaking other activities that increase their metabolic rate, such as the consumption of alcohol. Increased metabolic rate is why runners attract more mosquitoes during their cooldown stretching exercises. Pregnant women, perhaps due to their increased metabolic rate, attract a disproportionately large number of mosquitoes as well. PTI

## Aakash BYJU'S Atish secures AIR 311 in JEE Advanced 2022

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 11:** Atish Kumar Sahoo, a student of Aakash BYJU'S branch at Bhouma Nagar in Bhubaneswar has made the institute proud by securing an impressive AIR 311 in the result of the prestigious Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced 2022.

The results were announced by the National Testing Agency Sunday Sahoo joined Aakash Institute in the classroom programme to crack IIT JEE, considered the world's toughest entrance exam. He attributed his success to Aakash Institute. "I am grateful that Aakash BYJU'S has helped me in my preparations. But for the content and coaching from the institute, I would not have grasped many concepts in different subjects in a short period of time," he said.

Aakash Chaudhry, Managing Director, Aakash BYJU'S, said, "We congratulate Atish for his exemplary feat. A total of 155,538 stu-



dents appeared for JEE Advanced 2022 from across the country out of which 40,712 have qualified. We wish him all the best with his future endeavours."

JEE Advanced is conducted annually for students who have qualified JEE Mains organized by one of the IITs yearly. While JEE Main is for admission to several National Institutes of Technologies (NITs) and other centre-aided engineering colleges in India, JEE Advanced is considered as the sole prerequisite for admission to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

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# 'Liquor, toxic food claimed lives in Malkangiri village'

THE GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES PEGGED THE NUMBER OF DEATHS AT SEVEN WHILE THE VILLAGERS CLAIMED IT TO BE 12

## MYSTERY DISEASE



**Malkangiri, Sept 11:** The district health department has claimed that consumption of excessive country liquor and toxic food has led to the death of villagers at Haladikund village under Mathili block of Malkangiri district as a joint team of public representatives and health officials visited the village Sunday and took stock of the situation.

The team comprising zilla parishad chairperson Shamari Tangu, chief district medical of-

sumption of country liquor and toxic food. The health department has said that the villagers had consumed the meat of a dead livestock some days back and consumed excessive liquor. As a result, toxicity increased in their body resulting in swelling of their limbs, fever and subsequent deaths.

The villagers, however, instead of going to the hospital resorted to the traditional healers and quacks for which 12 of them died within a period of eight days. The government estimates pegged the number of deaths at seven while the villagers claimed it to be 12.

Earlier, a medical team had collected the blood samples of the affected persons for examination. The team also collected the samples of drinking water, blood and liquor from some houses for examination.

When contacted, CDMO Nanda also said that the deaths occurred due to consumption of excessive liquor and toxic food. The villagers however, rejected the claims. They said that some of the deceased never consumed liquor then how could they contract the disease.

Meanwhile, some villagers were Sunday seen jointly consuming liquor with the kin of a deceased to exorcise the evil spirit.

ficer (CDMO) Prafulla Kumar Nanda, Mathili block chairperson Mahesh Baka visited the village. They were accompanied by local health personnel and public representatives. They managed to placate nine persons and admitted them to Mathili hospital.

The disease continues to baffle all with the health officials and villagers adopting different standpoints on the issue.

The health department said that the deaths occurred not due to spread of any mysterious disease but due to excessive con-



Students participated in a rally to welcome the Ahimsa Rath, carrying Gandhian philosophy of non-violence on wheels as part of a programme on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in Chitragonda of Malkangiri district, Sunday

## ₹1,224cr DMF fund for Barbil ring road

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Barbil, Sept 11:** Long after protests and agitations by various organisations, a bypass ring road project in mineral-rich Barbil area of Keonjhar is going to be realised soon. Over ₹1,224.06 crore has been sanctioned from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) fund, sources said.

Barbil-Bhadrasahi road is said

to be a lifeline of mineral transportation in this locality. Earlier, ₹1.34 crore had been sanctioned for the ring road project from the DMF. A survey was conducted for the project. However, the project could not be carried forward. The DMF, Keonjhar, has written a letter September 8, to the MD of the Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation about sanctioning of the fund for the project.

## Ganjam: Robbers murder septuagenarian woman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Digapahandi, Sept 11:** A 70-year-old woman was allegedly killed by robbers who looted gold jewellery and cash from her house in Ganjam district, police said Sunday.

The incident took place at Bhismagiri village under Digapahandi police station limits in Ganjam district, about 40 km from here Saturday night. Police found the body of the woman in the pool of blood and sent it for post-mortem.

The deceased was identified as B Addi Patra, wife of B Rameya Patra of Bhismagiri, police said.

Unidentified miscreants allegedly looted over 35 gm of gold jewellery and cash around ₹50,000 by breaking the almirah in the house. They also allegedly snatched the gold ornaments, including the ear-ring and nose-ring, which the woman was wearing at the time of loot, police said.

The incident came to light when one of the relatives came to her house and found the body of the septuagenarian woman lying in the pool of blood.

Police said the deceased was sleeping in the house, while her 80-year old husband was asleep outside the house. The door of the house was open.

Local people suspect that taking advantage of the power cut and rain, the miscreants might have entered her house and murdered the septuagenarian woman before decamping with jewellery and cash.

Superintendent of Police (Berhampur) Saravana Vivek M said a case was registered at Digapahandi police station and investigation started. "We are investigating the case from all possible angles," said the SP.

Chikiti SDPO Krushnachandra Bhadra, Digapahandi IIC Diptiranjana Behera and K Nuagaon IIC Mrutyunjay Sabai launched an investigation into the matter. A scientific team and sniffer dogs have been pressed into investigation.

During the investigation, police learnt that woman's daughter stays in Surat. Her daughter had sent some money to her. The woman had lent the money to some people in the village.



# Officials' absence during satellite mapping raises doubts

Speculations are rife whether the satellite mapping will at all be able to crack the large scale irregularities committed in mining of black stone in Dharmasala quarries



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Sept 11:** The state government has completed satellite mapping of 29 black stone mines under Dharmasala block of Jajpur district but absence of government officials during the process has sparked doubts over the assessment of losses.

It has been alleged that undue favour has been shown to some influential leaseholders during the satellite mapping of their mines. It is also alleged that some influential leaseholders who are in the ruling party are opposing the satellite mapping as it may expose the irregularities they have carried

out during mining.

People apprehend that this time the lessees might be able to give slip due to lack of coordination among various government agencies. On being directed by the state government, the district administration has hired a private agency 'My World Consultancy Agency' to carry out the satellite mapping of the mines.

Speculations are rife whether the satellite mapping will at all be able to crack the large scale irregularities committed in mining

of black stone at Barada No-1 quarry in the district.

Reports said that rampant mining and trade of black stone is being carried out in the hills of the reserve and non-reserve forest areas under Dharmasala block.

The lessees have allegedly extracted excessive stones from these mines than the prescribed limits and transported it in fake transit forms in alleged connivance of revenue, police, forest, local public representatives and district officials.

Several cases have been filed in Orissa High Court, state Lokayukta and National Green Tribunal but the illegal mining is yet to be stopped.

The impacts of the illegal mining have been severe. The water bodies near the mines have been polluted while people live with constant dust pollution. The affected villagers have lodged several protests with the government agencies but to no avail and police are backing the lessees.

Jenapur police have lodged over 70 cases against the protestors but very few cases against the lessees and traders where there over 500 mines including sanctioned and illegal mines.

Over 25 labourers have been crushed to death while working in these mines. However, police have termed these deaths to have occurred because of other reasons.

The state government woke up to the rampant loot of black stones and ordered for satellite mapping of the mines after questions were raised in the state Assembly in its session in the month of March. Meanwhile, four lessees have been asked to pay ₹105.87 crore after

satellite mapping but the district administration is yet to collect a pie from them.

Earlier, lessees have been directed to pay penalty but the matters are sub-judice in court. They have been able to give slip to the government as the district administration failed to produce necessary papers in court in time.

The illegal mining at Barada quarry No-1 is a case in this point. The quarry measuring 2 acre and 50 decimal was given on lease to one Prahallad Lenka in 2017-18. Lenka was given approval for mining of black stone of 1,764 cubic metre from this 2 acre 50 decimal area.

He however, extracted stones from 7 acre of land more than the prescribed limits. He is alleged to have extracted 30 lakh tonne of black stone annually which amounts to 1.50 crore tonnes total during last five years.

When contacted, Dharmasala tehsildar Swagas Das said currently only border areas are being aligned in satellite mapping. The government will remain present and take note of any irregularities when the actual measurement will be done.

# Jalaka river crosses danger mark

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rupsa, Sept 11:** Following incessant rains for two days, Jalaka river was flowing above the danger mark in Basta block of Balasore district, Sunday. People in riparian pockets, who were recently battered by floods twice, are living amid panic and worries over possible flood. As rain continues, its water level is increasing. At Mathani, the river flowed at 6 metre against the danger level of 5.5 metre in the afternoon. Heavy rains are lashing the upstream areas of the river like Sulapada, Morada, Chitrada and Rasgobindapur in Mayurbhanj district. Now farmers in these riparian pockets are a distressed lot as floods have already spoiled their paddy fields. In case of



further floods, people of 20 panchayats under Basta and Baliapal blocks will be severely affected.

## Rain washes away temporary bridge

**KORAPUT:** Torrential downpour over the last three days has washed away a temporary bridge and a part of the under-construction bridge across a hilly stream at Bailuguda near Sambai on the Odisha-Andhra border in Koraput district.

Vehicular movement from Pottangi towards Sambai came to a halt causing immense hardship to the people living in the border area. Sambai sarpanch Kishore Khara and the panchayat executive officer have visited the spot and have informed the district administration about it.

## Loot bid from petrol pump foiled, 2 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jharsuguda, Sept 11:** Jharsuguda police apprehended two dacoits and foiled a loot bid on a petrol pump late Saturday night.

Police have also seized firearms and other sharp-edged weapons from the accused. Sources said that police, during patrolling got a tip-off regarding a dacoity gang while the gang members were planning to commit a crime at a petrol pump near Gandhi Square petrol pump.

The accused have been identified as Umesh Yadav and Ghanashyam Sahu. However, four other gang members namely Bishal Bag, Dila Namdeo, Akash Barik and Bana Mishra managed to escape from the spot.

## ₹3 crore embezzled in Pottangi R&B projects

### LOCALS SEEK HIGH LEVEL PROBE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sunabeda/Semiliguda, Sept 11:** Irregularities worth crores of rupees have allegedly been committed in various projects, particularly in repair and maintenance works, done by the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department in Pottangi sub-division of Koraput district. The irregularities were exposed through RTI data.

The RTI data revealed that many projects have not been executed, but their funds have been misappropriated. Most of these projects in Sunki, Amphabali, Machhkund, Padua and Kotia areas are confined to only pen and paper.

Funds worth ₹3 crore had been sanctioned for over 100 projects like road-side bush cutting and culvert repairs in 2021-22 fiscal. Projects have been split into smaller components. Tender for the works worth less than ₹5 lakh has not been floated by the department. Many such works have been done without tenders. A few hand-picked contractors have been facilitated to do their work

only to mint money from these projects, it was alleged.

What is most surprising it that the driver of the SDO of the R&B department has been awarded work of eight such projects, the RTI data said, adding that approximately 20 to 25 percent of the ₹3 crore has been spent for bush cutting.

However, locals asserted that no bush cutting has been done along roadside and funds sanctioned for the purpose have been embezzled.

Sources said, some engineers have been working in the R&B offices of Semiliguda, Koraput and Nandapur for over 10 years. They have not been transferred and been indulging in various irregularities under the tacit support of their higher ups. Contacted, SDO of R&B office Krishna Chandra Sahu said that the driver concerned has got contractor licence. Bush cutting is done every year, he added. However, he said little about the alleged irregularities. Locals have demanded a high level investigation into the irregularities.

## Headmaster suspended as students mend wall

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Sept 11:** The district education officer suspended the headmaster of a government run primary school in this district after a video of students constructing a broken compound wall of the school went viral in social media platforms.



The suspended headmaster was identified as Purusottam Behera of Kansariput Government Primary School under Mathili block of this district. The action came following publication of reports by a local media house. The students in the video were seen applying clay mixed mortar to the bricks to put up the wall.

Taking cognizance of the matter, the district administration directed the district education officer Manas Kumar Jena to look into the issue and take necessary action. Jena directed the Mathili block education officer (in-charge) Sashi Bhusan Mishra to conduct a probe and take action against the headmaster.

Mishra visited the school and suspended the headmaster after a probe found him guilty of the charges. The incident occurred a few months back where the headmaster is alleged to have engaged the students in construction of the compound wall of the school.



## TALENT HUNT

Contestants of a talent search event pose for a photograph at Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya in Olang of Bhadrak on the occasion of its foundation day

## Unknown animal leaves 15 injured

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sundargarh, Sept 11:** An unidentified wild animal allegedly attacked several people in Salangabud under Sundargarh forest limits late Saturday night.

The animal intruded into houses and attacked locals who were in deep sleep. Around 15 people were attacked out of which three sustained very serious injuries.

An elderly woman, Gurbari Pruseth has been shifted to VIMSAR in Burla as her condition deterio-

rated. The other two persons are undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital.

On being informed, a team of the Forest department rushed to Salangabuda to take stock of the situation. Sources said, the animal is likely to be an insane fox that is entering houses at night in search of food. Panicked, villagers stayed awake Saturday night while the forest personnel have mounted vigilance to trap the unidentified animal and release it into the wild.

FOCUS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

# INDIA'S HDI SLIDE



**It is a succinct message for strengthening the political delivery at an effective pace to affirm that India's run-up to the fifth largest economy has to be more assimilative**

For these three decades, since 1990, rhetoric of open and free markets, less government and less regulation, more private players and entrepreneurs, has been concomitant with the slow death of key public institutions. Quite a few public institutions have been subjected to erosion like those of the health sector. The chaotic healthcare has been responsible for so many COVID deaths.

The HDR appreciates India's support to the vulnerable sections, South-South cooperation, International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure and net zero carbon emission targets. The State of Inequality in India Report released by Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) in May, 2022, says that inequities across sectors of health, education, household characteristics and the labour market make the population more vulnerable and trigger a descent into multidimensional poverty.

The World Inequality Report 2022 says the world's most extreme inequality has been observed in India. It notes India is a "poor country and very unequal, with an affluent elite." The WIR says the top 10% of the country's population account for 57% of the national income, of which, 22% is held by the top 1%. While a small sec-

tion of India's populace enjoys 5-star privileges, for the bottom 50% sustainability of life is still a challenge. This is due to a variety of factors, including but not limited to, loss of job opportunities, an erratic unorganised sector, and rising poverty and inflation. The Gini (inequality in income distribution) coefficient points to an increasing inequality in India. The coefficient in 2014 was 34.4% (100% indicates full inequality and 0% full equality). The coefficient increased to 47.9% in 2018. India is said to be next only to Russia in terms of inequality.

The report also suggests that stress, sadness, anger, and worry have been increasing over the last decade, now reaching record levels. The HDR cautions that "uncertainty, inequality and insecurity go hand in hand with polarisation and lack of trust." It finds the political volatility becoming reality.

Developing countries in every region are entering a sharply divergent social, political and economic period with sharp downside risks for the most vulnerable and regression in gender equality. India's per capita GDP increased five times from \$443 in 2000 to \$2014 in 2019. This doesn't mean a uniform rise in income. The top 1% in India earned 21% of total country's income in 2019. This was 11% in 1990.

The HDR sees a turbulence in low income, low HDI countries as interpersonal trust and human security may become casualties. The HDR praises India for its achievements on the COVID-19 vaccination but nonetheless it is concerned over the critical downsides that could lead to a volatile national and international scenario. The HDI remains a concern but it also hints at increasing conflicts across the world. It can be both conflict among the nations as being seen in Ukraine, Taiwan and elsewhere as also internal clashes and political upheavals.

INFA



Shivaji Sarkar

## INDIA NEEDS COURSE CORRECTIONS FOR HOLISTIC HAPPINESS AND NOT MERE COSMETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

A rank loss on the UN Human Development Index is a grave indicator of India's overall social and economic performance. India slipped to 132 from 131 last year and 130 in 2015 as has been, with many countries during the controlled COVID-19 regime for over two years, says the UN Human Development Report (HDR). The period was marked by slippage on quality of life, attainment to basic schooling, healthcare, job losses, penury, and overall lack of opportunities despite statistical growth, underlining the need for greater investments in human development. This indicates that the country has to measure up to the sufferings of the common man.

India needs course corrections for holistic happiness and not mere cosmetic achievements. The growth as per HDI is not merely the GDP but beyond it. It was created to emphasise that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone. It is a succinct message for strengthening the political delivery at an effective pace to affirm that India's run-up to the fifth largest economy has to be more assimilative. This calls for a robust public sector to address the complex failures.

For instance as the country grows, its National Green Tribunal imposes ₹200 crore penalty on Ghaziabad, an extension of the national capital, for its waste disposal lapses. Many cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Gurgaon, Hyderabad getting deluged by rains is another example of not so comfortable life devastated with capture of water bodies by real estate dealers. The infrastructure growth is marked by more discrimination. The rising fuel, food and commodity prices are creating many aberrations.

HDI is a complex composite index that reveals more than the GDP, a gauge of incomes or output. The HDI is computed on the basis

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

# Growth in coming decades will be green

In the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, this year's energy crisis has intensified the debate over what policies developing countries should be putting first. Some argue that poor countries should focus on development rather than decarbonisation; others advocate "green development," which would involve leapfrogging fossil fuels altogether. Meanwhile, rich countries, multilateral institutions, and major lenders like China are all phasing out development financing for fossil-fuel projects even as they re-open their own coal-fired power plants. What are developing countries supposed to think?

To capitalise on high oil and gas prices, some are auctioning off their peatlands and rainforests for drilling and mining. Not mincing words, the Democratic Republic of the Congo's lead climate representative recently pointed out that his country's priority is to achieve stronger growth, "not to save the planet."

This way of framing the matter is understandable, given the rich world's longstanding failure to meet its promises and help finance climate mitigation and adaptation in the Global South. But the supposed tradeoff between economic development and green policies is unconvincing—or at least suffers from a high degree of short-termism. Study after study has shown that the catastrophic effects of unfettered

climate change will be felt first and most acutely in poorer countries. (In fact, at the time of this writing, one-third of Pakistan is underwater.) That means there is no viable future scenario in which the Global South will use fossil fuels to escape destitution and invest in decarbonisation only later. Following the same path that rich countries took will lead to climate havoc. Like everyone else, poor countries need to contribute as much as possible to the global decarbonisation effort not to "save the planet" but to save themselves from even more severe droughts, floods, famines, and instability.

Moreover, the idea that highly polluting economic growth should be prioritised over green investments rests on the premise that there will be a market for highly polluting goods in the future. But looking beyond the short term, it is already clear that a combination of changing consumer preferences, carbon border taxes, sustainability provisions in trade treaties, and various regulatory requirements and labeling standards in rich countries will render pollution-intensive options a bad investment.

In this likely future, developing countries could end up locked into products and technologies that the rest of the world regards as antiquated or inferior—be it internal combustion engine components, "fast fashion" garments, unrecyclable plastics, or fossil fuels.

It is worth remembering that every single development "miracle" since the 1950s—be it postwar Japan, the Asian Tigers, Indonesia, or China—was sustained by a rapid expansion of exports that were destined for rich, industrialised, high-consuming countries. No such opportunity will exist for countries that are reliant on highly polluting products. Among the sectors that are instead widely expected to experience exponential growth in the years ahead are electric vehicles, batteries, and green hydrogen.

Some remain unconvinced, based on the observation that the only rapid economic growth in human history was powered by fossil fuels. But this is a bit like concluding at the beginning of the twentieth century that "it is not probable that man will ever be able to get along without the horse," and choosing to specialise in horse-carriage technology. What worked in the past will not necessarily work in the future. Finally, the tradeoff narrative assumes that highly polluting options are cheaper, whereas green technologies are a luxury that only affluent countries can afford. Yet even if this is true at the moment, the gap is rapidly shrinking; the green option will soon be cheaper, too.

This is already true of solar and wind energy in many parts of the world, and EVs, meat alternatives, and other products are sure to follow the same path. Owing to large

public and private investments—such as those in the European Green Deal or the US Inflation Reduction Act—green technologies' descent down the cost curve will accelerate, abating the costs of energy transition worldwide, and making fossil-fueled development relatively more expensive. Some countries in the Global South are already putting these principles into practice. Ethiopia, for example, aims to reach middle-income status by building a green economy, with investments in afforestation, renewables, and improved transportation systems. And Kenya likewise has become a low-carbon trailblazer. As Ricardo Hausmann of Harvard University observes, "green development" is no longer an oxymoron. On the contrary, it is the only realistic option. To achieve sustained growth, each country must determine how it can best contribute to the global green supply chain, based on its comparative advantages. These may lie in extracting the raw materials needed for the green transition, producing and exporting renewable electricity and hydrogen, or manufacturing advanced green products at home. Either way, growth in the coming decades will be green. Countries that don't get on board now risk being left behind.

*The writer is an economist at the European Commission.*  
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The whole world yearns after freedom, yet each creature is in love with his chains; this is the first paradox and inextricable knot of our nature.

SRI AUROBINDO



## Delusions

The delusion creating statement by India that it has reached an accord with China which will imply withdrawal of combatants of both countries from Patrolling Point 15 in Eastern Ladakh will certainly go down well with the applauding domestic crowd. No one will question whether this was the point where both sides faced each other in 2014. It is to be noted that this point was well within Indian territory previously. Indian Army's withdrawal means vacating territory that always belonged to India. The Army has gradually but persistently been pushed back by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) over the past few years. This withdrawal is an open relinquishment of Indian land. The PLA, on the other hand, would be interested to bring the boiling situation to a lower simmering scenario since it has a much greater threat brewing in the Taiwan Straits.

Domestic politics of bravado and belligerence has convinced the average Indian that the nation and its armed forces are equipped and capable to face and defeat both China and Pakistan together. This dangerous misconception is clearly exposed in a survey conducted for Stimson Center which shows unnatural nationalistic sentiment at a dangerous new high. This survey shows that about 90 percent of Indians feel that their country would defeat Pakistan in the event of a war, while 72 per cent believe that India would defeat China in a war. Admittedly, a nation with a high morale is always better equipped to meet aggression and war. One of the best current examples is Ukraine which, according to today's reports, has been able to not only slow down but effectively turn the tide of war, no matter how temporary, and is pushing the Russian army back. While Ukraine's patriotism and persistence needs to be admired, it has also to be noted that plenty of arms, ammunition and other help is pouring in for that country from the Western world, especially the US. Modern warfare hinges on tactics but also on firepower. It now has started depending a lot more on electronic and drone based technology to add an edge that was not required earlier.

## Piate

Tathagata Satpathy

In India's case, it is not the ability of the armed forces that can be questioned. Their valour and determination have stood the test of extremely difficult times in the past and our combatants have always come out with flying colours. The problem for India that should bother every citizen is centred on equipment, tactical weapons, sufficient ammunition and the logistics required for withstanding the pressures of prolonged warfare. Apart from the need of hardware, the most important aspect of modern warfare is foreign policy. Again, let us take a look at Ukraine whose President Zelenskyy has spent a great deal of time, energy and intellect to reach out to and build bridges with all countries across the globe singlehandedly. Our Prime Minister, in his preliminary 3-4 years had attempted to build personal rapport with world leaders but, unlike Ukraine, India today has no friends who would stand by it in case of a military engagement. This holds true even with every immediate neighbour including Bangladesh. The gross failure of foreign policy is going to be a huge impediment for India. The current arch foe of China is the US. With this fact in the backdrop, it must be noted that America is unlikely to come to India's help after the recent political and strategic missteps taken by New Delhi. The Prime Minister's involvement in the last US election and open support for Donald Trump would be rankling in the minds of the US Democrats. Added to this is the more recent event of India unwilling to condemn Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. Such acts have acutely distanced India from the West.

Then comes the issue of 'Make in India' where weapons and ammunition for the armed forces are expected to be domestically produced. Limitations on imports of weaponry and critical parts have already been put in place without considering the unavailability of local production strength. Unfortunately, India does not have a Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon or even a Dassault. The government owned arms manufacturing units such as HAL, IOF and all shipyards have been completely neglected and demoralised over the past decade. Huge private companies such as Adani and Tata have studiously kept themselves away from the field of production of military equipment and the reasons for this are not difficult to understand. Yet it is these few massive Indian corporates which have benefitted the most from the tax payers' money. In a critical war situation, India will be incapable of arming and supporting its forces for any extended period. If no external help comes in huge quantities, Indian military could be left helplessly disarmed in front of a mighty Dragon.

WISDOM CORNER

- Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, and others make it happen. **MICHAEL JORDAN**
- If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be. **MAYA ANGELOU**
- If you don't stand for something you will fall for anything. **MALCOLM X**

WORDSWORTH

■ Bodger

This term was once common around the furniture-making town of High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire, between London and Oxford. Bodgers were skilled itinerant wood-turners, who worked in the beech woods on the chalk hills of the Chilterns. They cut timber and converted it into chair legs by turning it on a pole lathe, an ancient and very simple tool that uses the spring of a bent sapling to help run it. Their equipment was so easy to move and set up that it was easier to go to the timber and work it there than to transport it to a workshop. The completed chair legs were sold to furniture factories to be married with other chair parts made in the workshop. The word only appears at the end of the nineteenth century. There may be a link—through the idea of a itinerant person—with a much older sense of the word, for a travelling merchant or chapman. The Oxford English Dictionary finds examples of this meaning from the eighteenth century, but there's a much earlier one from Hollinshed's Chronicles of 1577 (a major source for Shakespeare) in which William Harrison rails against bodgers who bought up supplies of wheat to sell abroad, leaving nothing for local people to make their bread with. But that leaves us with another sense, the more common one (at least in Britain and Australia) of an incompetent mender of things, which Americans and some British people may prefer to see spelled botcher. In both spellings this comes from the Middle English bocchen, which had a sense of repairing or patching. It could be significant that in medieval times it was a neutral term that had no associations with doing a job badly. It's possible that this old sense of the word survived in dialect or local usage, and evolved into the furniture bodger, while its meaning in the standard language changed. Yet another sense of bodger is hinted at by a line in the Flanders and Swann song that mentioned the rhinoceros having a "bodger on his bonce". Many people have written to say that they know a bodger as a pointed instrument for various purposes. For example Doug Dew wrote: "From my childhood in Surrey, I have a vague memory of the use of the word bodger to mean a blunt stick or tool used to make holes in the ground for seeds". Alan Harrison added: "Bodge is certainly in use in Black Country dialect for poking or making a hole. I have heard my father use bodger of an instrument used to make holes, as for example when making an extra hole in a belt when the wearer has gained or lost weight". Tony Chadwick, Professor of French at the Memorial University of Newfoundland, remembers the late Dr George Storey, co-editor of the Dictionary of Newfoundland English, applying bodger to one of those pointed sticks for picking up litter. Others have mentioned that it is the usual name for the tool used by scaffolders, which has a spanner/wrench at one end and a point at the other.



Alessio Terzi

## THE SUPPOSED TRADEOFF BETWEEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GREEN POLICIES IS UNCONVINCING

Antibiotic resistance

Sir, New research by The Lancet points out that an alarming 47% of antibiotics consumed by patients undergoing treatment in the private sector in 2019 were formulations that did not have the nod of the drug regulator. Given that the private sector contributes to over 85% of the total consumption of antibiotics, this practice assumes alarming proportions and raises safety and efficacy concerns. There are no proper surveillance systems for monitoring antibiotic usage in our country and irrational antibiotic consumption is rampant. The problem is compounded due to the free availability of antibiotics at chemist shops without a doctor's prescription. Its irrational usage by quacks and even many qualified doctors is resulting in antibiotic resistance. The slow progress in healing this critical component of healthcare highlights the fact that the authorities' attempts to find a way out of the complex web of causative factors have been ineffective. Poverty is at the root of this rampant illegality, for a majority of the patients can't afford proper treatment and the near absence of medical insurance drives them to quacks or pharmacies that blatantly sell drugs without prescriptions. Such patients, thus, fall into a vicious trap as over-the-counter antibiotics and their ill-matched combinations often lead to resistance to drugs. The drug regulators need to devise a stricter system of controls and checks as the spurious production and sale of unapproved pills and potions undermine India's reputation as the leading producer of generic drugs.

**Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR**

Alarming social problem

Sir, Suicide is a serious global problem that has an impact on all countries. The fact that suicide rates have been growing in several parts of the world for some time now is alarming. Around the world, almost 800,000 people commit suicide each year, and in 2020, 1.2 million people attempted suicide. Suicide is complicated and tragic, but it is often preventable. Every year in the month of September, mental health groups across the nation observe National Suicide Prevention Week and Suicide Prevention Awareness Month focusing mainly to increase public understanding of this taboo and to focus efforts on directing treatment to those who need it most. This year, extra attention is paid to the theme of "Creating Hope Through Action." The main objectives are to alter people's attitudes around suicide, to inspire and motivate individuals, and to offer them crucial information.

**Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD**

# Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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# national

## of the day quote

The Gehlot government cannot do development work... Cannot provide electricity to farmers and employment to youths. They can only do politics of appeasement and vote bank

AMIT SHAH | HOME MINISTER

If Raj Path is to be renamed Kartavya Path, shouldn't all Raj Bhavans become Kartavya Bhavans. Why stop there? Rename Rajasthan as Kartavyasthan?

SHASHI THAROOR | CONGRESS LEADER

We are not on the roads or misleading the public or taking the law in our hands for restoration of Article 370. We will continue our fight democratically, constitutionally and politically and it is our right. I am not among those who will give up (On Article 370)... We have faith in the Supreme Court but our only request is that at least it should listen to us. We believe that our case is strong

OMAR ABDULLAH | NC WICE PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### 4 killed, 20 hurt

Surat: Four workers were killed and 20 others injured after a fire broke out in a chemical factory in Gujarat's Surat city, officials said Sunday. The blaze erupted around 10.30 pm on Saturday due to a blast in a chemical container and spread fast to other parts of the unit of Anupam Rasayan India Limited, located in Sachin Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) area, Surat in-charge Chief Fire Officer Basant Pareek said.

### 5 dead in accident

Motihari (Bihar): Four women and a child were killed and five persons received injuries when the three-wheeler they were riding got crushed under a truck laden with sand, police said Sunday. The accident took place on National Highway-28 in East Champaran district's Mofussil police station area. The truck overturned and fell on the autorickshaw it was trying to overtake, SHO Avaneesh Kumar said. He said the three-wheeler was carrying altogether 10 people.

### Star turtles seized

Bangalore: The Karnataka Police have arrested four nomads and seized 1,132 star turtles in the state capital, which were brought for sale in the limits of RMC Yard police station, police said Sunday. The arrested persons have been identified as Kalyan, Simhadri, Issac from Sidlaghatta taluk in Chikaballapur district and Rajapur, a resident of Bagepalli. The police said that the accused were nomads and they stayed on the fringes of forests in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and fetched star turtles from jungles.

### Mishap averted

Bhopal: Bhopal: A stunt by a biker on railway track could have resulted a major mishap in Madhya Pradesh, but the alertness of loco pilot, who had timely reduced the speed of train, averted the incident. The stunt could have led to derailment of the train, jeopardising lives of passengers on board. The incident reported near Beena railway station under Sagar district on Saturday afternoon. A biker, who later identified as Brijesh Shukla (35) was attempting stunt on railway track, in the mean time, Kerala Express (New Delhi-Trivandrum Express) was heading towards the platform.



I am surprised that the prime minister speaks of upholding the dignity of women and two days later the BJP government in the prime minister's home state reduced the sentence of those who committed atrocities against Bilkis Bano and her family

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP CHIEF

## Article 370 can't be restored: Azad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baramulla (J&K), Sept 11: As he prepares to launch his political party, former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad Sunday slammed those promising the restoration of Article 370 even though it was not in their hands and said he would not mislead the people over the issue.

In his maiden rally in Kashmir Valley after quitting the Congress last month, he said only a government with a two-thirds majority in Parliament can ensure the restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Azad knows what can and cannot be done. I or the Congress party or the regional parties cannot give you back Article 370, neither can (TMC chief) Mamata Banerjee, or DMK or (NCP chief) Sharad Pawar," the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir said. The former Union minister said he would not raise issues over which he has no control. "Some people have been saying that I don't talk about Article 370. I want to tell them that Azad does not befool people for electoral gains," he said at the public meeting at Dak Bungalow Baramulla in north Kashmir.

"I swear before God that I will not mislead you. I will not raise such slogans or issues over which I have no control," he said. Azad said only a party with a two-thirds majority in Parliament can restore the special status of the erstwhile state which was revoked by the Centre in August 2019.



Azad knows what can and cannot be done. I or the Congress party or the regional parties cannot give you back Article 370, neither can (TMC chief) Mamata Banerjee, or DMK or (NCP chief) Sharad Pawar

GHULAM NABI AZAD FORMER CONGRESS LEADER

"Congress party hasn't been able to achieve more than 50 Lok Sabha seats in the last ten years. Let God help them. But, I have been in politics, and I don't think the Congress party can get over 350 seats in my lifetime. Its strength is decreasing in Rajya Sabha with every state loss," he said. "Where from can I get it? Where can I get those votes needed in Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha? Why mislead people? So, tell me who is lying? Me, or they?" he added.

Azad said it is "another betrayal" with the people of J-K when some parties say they will restore Article 370. "This is a material for another agitation. Till Azad is alive, he will have to be killed to kill his ideology. I will not allow the people to be used for electoral gains on the basis of religion... Whether I win or not, whether I secure four votes or lakhs of them," he said.

"Much blood has spilled, but if you support me, the blood will be

mine now," he said. The former J-K chief minister said he would not promise the moon and stars to the people but only the things that are achievable like the restoration of statehood.

"Statehood can be achieved because there is no constitutional amendment needed... We don't need a two-thirds majority for that. Our lands should be ours only and no outsiders should be able to own them." Our jobs should be ours only. Parliament is not needed for these two issues. So, I talk only about those things which can be achieved," he said. He said political parties should not raise those slogans whose resolution is not in their hands or the hands of the people.

Referring to Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari's allegation that Azad had voted in favour of the abrogation of Article 370, he said Bukhari should first understand how Parliament works.

## CBI to investigate Kejriwal govt's low-floor bus purchase

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 11: Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena has approved the Chief Secretary's proposal to forward the complaint, received by the LG Secretariat in the matter of gross irregularities in the procurement of 1000 low floor buses by the DTC, to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The complaint dated on June 9, 2022, addressed to the LG, highlighted the appointment of Minister of Transport as the Chairman of the Committee for tendering and procurement of buses by DTC in a pre-mediated manner.

The complaint also has pointed out the appointment of DIMTS as bid management consultant for this tender with an aim to facilitate wrongdoing and the irregularities in the bid of July 2019 for procurement of 1000 low floor BS-IV and BS-VI buses and bid of March 2020 for purchase and annual maintenance contract of low floor BS-VI



Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena

buses. The complaint was forwarded to the Chief Secretary for eliciting the comments from the concerned departments of GNCTD and recommending the way forward.

However, the report thereafter submitted by the Chief Secretary underlined serious discrepancies in the tendering process, blatant deviation from the CVC guidelines and GFR and deliberate co-option of DIMTS as a consultant so that the discrepancies in the tender process could be endorsed.

## Fuel prices regulated by election dates: Cong

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: The Congress Sunday demanded immediate relief for middle and lower-income group families by reducing petrol and diesel by at least Rs 15 per litre and cooking gas prices by at least Rs 150 per cylinder.

Addressing a press conference here, Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh asked why the consumers had to bear the brunt of high fuel prices when crude oil prices were at a seven-month low and inflation was above RBI's upper band of six percent for the last seven months.



"Why is the relief not being passed on to the consumers when the burden of high crude prices is always passed on," he asked. "Petrol and diesel prices are regulated by

election dates and not global rates," he said, alleging that when elections near, the government reduces the prices or puts them on freeze, and when they are over, they raise the prices. "What are the excuses by the Modi government for not passing on the relief on decreasing LPG prices to the consumers? Does the Modi government only believe in passing on the burden to the consumers," the Congress leader asked.

He said retail inflation, GDP growth, and a depreciating rupee are some of the examples that paint a worrying picture of how the economy is being managed.

## 'Bishnoi gang targeted Salman'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



Chandigarh, Sept 11: Actor Salman Khan was on the target list on instructions from jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who orchestrated the killing of famed Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said Sunday.

The preliminary interrogation of Moosewala murder accused Kapil Pandit revealed that he was approached by the Lawrence Bishnoi gang through Sampat Nehra and Canada-based fugitive Goldy Brar to carry out the killing of Salman Khan, the state police chief said here.

Santosh Jadhav, who was arrested in Maharashtra in the Moosewala killing, and Sachin Thapan, who has been detained in Azerbaijan, were also part of the module to allegedly target Salman Khan. Salman Khan had received a threat days after Moosewala murder in Punjab's Mansa district on May 29.

"They had done an elaborate

## Four prisoners who escaped from jail killed by mob

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shillong, Sept 11: Four under-trial prisoners, who escaped from jail, were allegedly killed by a mob in Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills district Sunday, police said.

A group of six prisoners escaped from the Jowai jail on Saturday after they overpowered the jail staff, and five of them reached Shanguing village on Sunday, about 70 km away, they said. Around 3 pm, when one of the prisoners went to a tea shop to buy food, he was identified by the locals and the entire area was alerted, village headman R Rabon said.

A large number of people turned up and chased the group of prisoners to a nearby forest. A purported video of the incident showed angry villagers, armed with sticks, apprehending the prisoners and beating them mercilessly. Four prisoners died in the attack while one managed to escape, Rabon said. Inspector-General of Prisons JK Marak said, "It is true that a group of villagers apprehended four of the escaped prisoners and subsequently lynched them. Our officers have reached the area and I am awaiting more information."

"We are ascertaining their identities but I am told that I love you Talang is among those dead," he added. Officials said that Ramesh Dikhar managed to escape from the mob, while the sixth prisoner was nowhere to be seen during the attack.

I love you Talang and Ramesh Dikhar were arrested in the murders of taxi drivers Damehipaia Papeng and Fullmoon Kharsahnoh in August, police said. The others who escaped were Marsanki Tariang, Rikamenlang Lamare, Shidorki Dikhar and Lodestar Tang, they said.

## Rebel Sena MLA Sarvankar booked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 11: Rebel Shiv Sena MLA Sada Sarvankar allegedly fired a round during a clash between workers of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's camp early on Sunday, following which police registered a case against him, his son and some others, officials said.

Sarvankar, who represents Mahim Assembly constituency, however denied opening fire and claimed his rivals were trying to malign him. He also said if police call him for questioning, he will cooperate with them. Police also arrested five Sena workers from the Thackeray camp, who were later released on bail, they said.

The workers from both the sides first clashed in Prabhadevi area of central Mumbai shortly after Saturday midnight before indulging in a scuffle outside the Dadar police station some time later, where Sarvankar fired the round from a weapon, police said.

Both the groups lodged complaints against each other, following which the police registered First Information Reports (FIRs) against 10 to 20 members of both sides, they said.



## BJP's mission 2024

The BJP leadership is re-calibrating its strategy towards regional parties. Instead of attacking them left, right and centre, it is wooing them keeping an eye on 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Until the other day, BJP chief, J P Nadda was attacking

them saying they follow dynastic (Pariwarvaad) politics and are corrupt. But now it wants alliance with TDP's Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra. The Prime Minister had a brief 'bump in' meeting with Naidu which followed a meeting of his son Nara Lokesh with Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss the contours of alliance. The TDP had supported the NDA candidate in Presidential polls. The BJP was keen for an alliance with the ruling YSRCP. But the latter was reluctant due to its own political compulsions. In Haryana, it is working hard to bring various factions of the Devi Lal's family. Two factions; Dushyant Chautala-led JJP and Ranjit Singh are already part of the NDA. But the BJP wants the Abhay Chautala-led INLD to be part of a greater alliance to give Bhupinder Singh Hooda-led Congress a united fight. It is also trying for a patch up between the two factions of LJP; one led by Union Minister,

Pashupati Paran and the other led by Chirag Paswan, Lok Sabha MP and son of late Ram Vilas Paswan. In Tamil Nadu, it is working hard to bring the EPS and OPS factions together though the EPS faction won a legal battle. The BJP has altered its strategy in crucial states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Haryana as the leadership has sensed the danger emerging.

## Why Lalpura inducted

The inclusion of Iqbal Singh Lalpura, chairman of national minority commission, is the first Sikh to be inducted into the BJP's Central Parliamentary Board. This may have caused a surprise in the political circles in Punjab and outside. But this is part of a larger scheme of things by the BJP. It could have made Lok Sabha MP SS Ahluwalia a parliamentary board's member who is senior-most Sikh in the

BJP. But he continues to remain on the sidelines in the party. It did not induct another Sikh and Petroleum and Housing & Urban Development minister Hardeep Singh Puri either. Lalpura's induction shows that the party wanted to promote a completely new face and is in line with the party's attempts to build its own base in Punjab after its longstanding ally, the Shiromani Akali Dal, snapped ties with it.

## Hit hard by staff crunch

The Prime Minister's Office, President House, Cabinet Secretariat and other ministries and departments of the Central government are facing acute manpower shortage. If the PMO is facing 30% manpower shortage, the President's House has 24% less work force. The DOPT which is directly under the PMO faces a 22% staff shortage. It's the same story in the Cabinet Secretariat and other ministries. The

UPSC, the Centre's key recruiting body, has 35% less manpower. The department of Science and Technology is facing its worst with a 70% shortage in vacancies. It has 3,899 staff though sanctioned strength is 12,442.

## Harivansh to remain RS Deputy Chairman

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh was in a dilemma about his continuation as his party, Janata Dal (U), had severed ties with the BJP. Being a JD (U) Rajya Sabha MP, he was expected to quit the post. When he did not attend the meeting of all party MPs and MLAs in Patna last month, it was seen as an act of defiance. But Nitish Kumar is reported to have conveyed to him that he may continue to hold the post as he was elected unanimously by the entire House in August 2018 and it is a non-partisan post.

## ONAM FEVER



Street artistes perform 'Pulikali' to mark the end of Onam celebration in Thrissur

PTI PHOTO





# international



Never seen climate  
carnage on the scale of  
the floods here in  
Pakistan  
ANTONIO GUTERRES |  
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

## POLIOVIRUS FOUND IN KARACHI'S SEWAGE LINE

The Wild Poliovirus Type-1 was detected in an environmental sample collected from a sewage line in Karachi's Landhi area in August, Pakistan's National Polio Laboratory at the National Institute of Health (NIH), Islamabad, confirmed, Geo News reported



### of the day quote

I ask everyone to accompany with prayer this pilgrimage of peace  
POPE FRANCIS

The success of the counteroffensive shows that Ukraine can defeat Russia, but more weapons are needed  
ANNALENA BAERBOCK |  
UKRAINIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

It is surprising and regrettable that under the current circumstances when diplomatic interactions and exchange of messages continue between the negotiating sides and the coordinator of the Vienna talks to finalise the negotiations, the EU troika issues such a statement in a move that deviates from the path of the fruitful approach during the talks  
NASSER KANAANI |  
IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

## PAK FLOODS

# Temple provides food, shelter to people: Report

Perched on high ground, the Baba Madhodos Mandir in Jalal Khan village in the Kachhi district has remained relatively safe from the floodwaters and serves as a sanctuary to the flood-affected people in their bleakest hours

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Quetta, Sept 11: Tucked in the Kachhi district of Balochistan, the tiny village of Jalal Khan is still reeling from the flooding that destroyed houses and left mass destruction in its wake, Dawn reported.

The village was cut off from the rest of the province due to inundation in the Nari, Bolan, and Lehri rivers, leaving the residents of the remote area to fend for themselves.

During these testing times, the local Hindu community opened

the doors of the Baba Madhodos Mandir to the flood-hit people and their livestock, Dawn reported.

According to locals, Baba Madhodos was a pre-partition Hindu dervish (saint) equally cherished by Muslims and Hindus of the area. "He used to travel on camel," says Iltaf Buzdar, a frequent visitor to the village from Bhag Nari tehsil.

Buzdar says as per the stories narrated by his parents, the saint transcended religious boundaries. "He would think of people through the prism of humanity instead of their



caste and creed," he quotes his parents, Dawn reported. The worship place - frequented by Hindu worshippers from across Balochistan - is made of concrete and covers

a large area. Since it is located on high ground, it remained relatively safe from the floodwaters and could serve as a sanctuary to the flood-hit people in their bleakest hour.

## Xi to meet Putin



REUTERS

London/Beijing, Sept 11: Xi Jinping will leave China for the first time in more than two years for a trip this week to Central Asia where he will meet Russia's Vladimir Putin, just a month before he is set to cement his place as the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong.

Against a backdrop of Russia's confrontation with the West over Ukraine, the crisis over Taiwan and a stuttering global economy, Xi is due on a state visit to Kazakhstan Wednesday.

China's president will then meet Putin at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's summit in the ancient Silk Road city of Samarkand in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and the Kremlin said. Putin's foreign policy aide, Yuri Ushakov, told reporters last week that the Russian president was expected to meet Xi at the summit.

The Kremlin declined to give

The trip, Xi's first abroad since the start of the Covid, shows just how confident he is about his grip on power in China and just how perilous the global situation has become

details on their talks. China has yet to confirm Xi's travel plans. The meeting will give Xi an opportunity to underscore his clout while Putin can demonstrate Russia's tilt towards Asia; both leaders can show their opposition to the United States just as the West seeks to punish Russia for the Ukraine war.

Russia suffered its worst defeat of the war last week, abandoning its main bastion in northeastern Ukraine.

## Queen's coffin arrives in Edinburgh

REUTERS

Edinburgh, Scotland, Sept 11: Queen Elizabeth's coffin arrived in Edinburgh Sunday after a six-hour journey from her summer home in the Scottish Highlands, past tens of thousands of mourners lining the route, many in sombre silence, some applauding and others in tears.

Shortly after 10 a.m. (0900 GMT), a hearse carrying Elizabeth's oak coffin emerged from the gates of Balmoral Castle, where she died Thursday aged 96, at the start of a slow drive to the Scottish capital.

The coffin was draped in the Royal Standard of Scotland with a wreath on top made of flowers taken from the Balmoral estate including sweet peas, one of Elizabeth's favourites.

Crowds, fifteen deep in places, massed in the centre of Edinburgh to greet the cortege, which included the queen's daughter, Princess Anne, as it made its way to the Palace of Holyroodhouse where it was met by a military guard of honour. Soldiers from the Royal Regiment of Scotland then carried the coffin to the throne room of the palace where it will remain overnight.

"There was no way I could miss this. I would regret it for the rest of my life," said Eilidh Mackintosh, 62, who left her home at 6 a.m. to



The hearse carrying the coffin of Britain's Queen Elizabeth departs Balmoral Castle

be sure of a good view on Edinburgh's famous Royal Mile where large crowds were gathering. "She never let us down and I didn't want to let her down either. Now she has gone there is a big hole in the heart of the nation."

The journey from Balmoral was the first of a series of events leading up to the state funeral at Westminster Abbey in London on September 19. In an emotional tribute to his mother Friday, the new monarch, King Charles, said she had begun a "last great journey" to join Prince Philip, her husband of 73 years who died last year.

Her death has drawn tears, sadness and warm tributes, not just

from the queen's own close family and many in Britain, but also from around the globe - reflecting her presence on the world stage for seven decades. Wherever the cortege went as it wound its way through picturesque countryside, villages, small towns and cities, people lined the road or stopped their cars to get out and watch. At one point, it passed a guard of honour formed by dozens of tractors lined up in adjacent fields by farmers. Many watched silently in bright sunshine. Some threw flowers into the road. For others, the emotion of the moment moved them to tears. "It's just very, very sad. I'm happy I was here to say our goodbyes," said

Queen's coffin taken from Balmoral Castle where she died  
Crowds, some tearful, line the route  
Funeral will be held September 19

## SL Prez under fire

Colombo: Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has come under fire from the Opposition over his government expansion with 37 state ministers and with moves underway to appoint at least 12 more Cabinet ministers soon at a time when the island nation is facing bankruptcy. President Wickremesinghe Thursday appointed 37 junior ministers, largely representing the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). The 37 new posts are in addition to the 20-member Cabinet of President Wickremesinghe, who took over in late July following Gotabaya Rajapaksa's exit. Talks are also underway to appoint at least 12 more Cabinet ministers soon. "The president and the government have no regard for the suffering of the people who are facing high cost of living," said Sajith Premadasa, leader of the main Opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB).

## SHORT TAKES

### Mexico: 18 killed in highway mishap

Mexico City: At least 18 people were killed when a tanker truck carrying fuel collided with a bus, catching fire on a highway in the northeastern state of Tamaulipas, the state's Attorney General's Office reported. The bus is from the Castanuelas Tours company and was travelling from the municipality of Huejutla when the accident occurred at 67 km on the Victoria-Monterrey highway near the municipality of Hidalgo Saturday.

### 7.6 earthquake hits Papua New Guinea

Wellington: At least three people are dead after a powerful earthquake hit a remote part of Papua New Guinea Sunday morning, authorities say. Others were injured and infrastructure damaged in the magnitude 7.6 jolt that was felt across the Pacific country. The three people died in a landslide in the gold-mining town of Wau, said Morobe Provincial Disaster Director Charley Masange.

### Pak faces shortage of fever medicines

Karachi: Pakistan is continuing to report more and more dengue virus cases daily, with panic and fear spreading among the public as a shortage of fever medicines has also surfaced, media reports said. In Pakistan's Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan, dengue has started to take a dangerous turn, Geo News reported.

### 11 militants killed

Baghdad: Eleven Islamic State (IS) militants were killed in airstrikes in western and eastern Iraq, the Iraqi military said. Seven militants including a local leader were killed and a hideout was destroyed in airstrikes in al-Jallaiyat area in Anbar Province in western Iraq, the Iraqi Joint Operations Command (JOC) said in a media release, adding the airstrike was launched upon intelligence reports.

### Sweden holds poll

Stockholm: Sweden is holding an election Sunday that is expected to boost a populist anti-immigration party that is vowing to crack down on gang violence that has shaken many people's sense of security. The Sweden Democrats won seats in parliament for the first time in 2010 and have steadily gained more votes in parliament with each election. The party's fortunes have risen following massive migration in recent years, particularly in Europe's crisis year of 2015, and as crime has grown in segregated neighbourhoods.

## Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant completely shut down

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Sept 11: Europe's largest nuclear plant has been reconnected to Ukraine's electricity grid, allowing engineers to shut down its last operational reactor in an attempt to avoid a radiation disaster as fighting rages in the area.

The six-reactor Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant lost its outside source of power a week ago after all its power lines were disconnected because of shelling.

It was operating in "island mode" for several days, generating electricity for crucial cooling systems from its only remaining operational reactor. That's considered an unstable way of operating a nuclear plant, which could lead to



damage to key equipment including turbines and pumps.

Nuclear operator Energoatom said one of the power lines was restored "to its operational capacity" late Saturday, making it possible to run the plant's safety and other systems on electricity from the power system of Ukraine.

"Therefore, a decision was made to shut down power unit No. 6 and

transfer it to the safest state - cold shutdown," the company said Sunday in a statement. Energoatom said the risk remains high that outside power is cut again, in which case the plant would have to fire up emergency diesel generators to keep the reactors cool and prevent a nuclear meltdown.

The company's chief told The Associated Press Thursday that the plant only has diesel fuel for 10 days. The plant, one of the 10 biggest atomic power stations in the world, has been occupied by Russian forces since early in the war which marked its 200th day Sunday.

Ukraine and Russia have blamed each other for shelling around the plant that has damaged the power lines connecting it to the grid.

## 9/11 attacks still reverberate as US marks 21st anniversary

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 11: Americans remembered 9/11 Sunday with readings of victims' names, volunteer work and other tributes 21 years after the deadliest terror attack on US soil.

A tolling bell and a moment of silence began the commemoration at ground zero in New York, where the World Trade Center's twin towers were destroyed by the hijacked-plane attacks of September 11, 2001. Firefighter Jimmy Riches' namesake nephew wasn't born yet when his uncle died, but the boy took the podium to pay tribute to him. Victims' relatives and dignitaries also convened at the two other attack sites, the Pentagon

and a field in Pennsylvania.

Other communities around the country are marking the day with candlelight vigils, interfaith services and other commemorations. Some Americans are joining in volunteer projects on a day that is federally recognized as both Patriot Day and a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

It also stirred - for a time - a sense of national pride and unity for many, while subjecting Muslim Americans to years of suspicion and bigotry and engendering debate over the balance between safety and civil liberties. In ways both subtle and plain, the aftermath of 9/11 ripples through American politics and public life to this day. And the attacks have cast a long

More than two decades later, September 11 remains a point for reflection on the attack that reconfigured national security policy and spurred a US "war on terror" worldwide

Sunday's observances, which follow a fraught milestone anniversary last year, come little more than a month after a US Drone strike killed a key al-Qaida figure who helped plot the 9/11 attacks, Ayman al-Zawahiri



shadow in the personal lives of thousands of people who survived, responded or lost loved ones, friends

## BEATING THE HEAT



A rickshaw puller enjoys rain in Dhaka, Bangladesh

REUTERS

and colleagues. More than 70 of Sekou Siby's co-workers perished at Windows on the World, the restaur

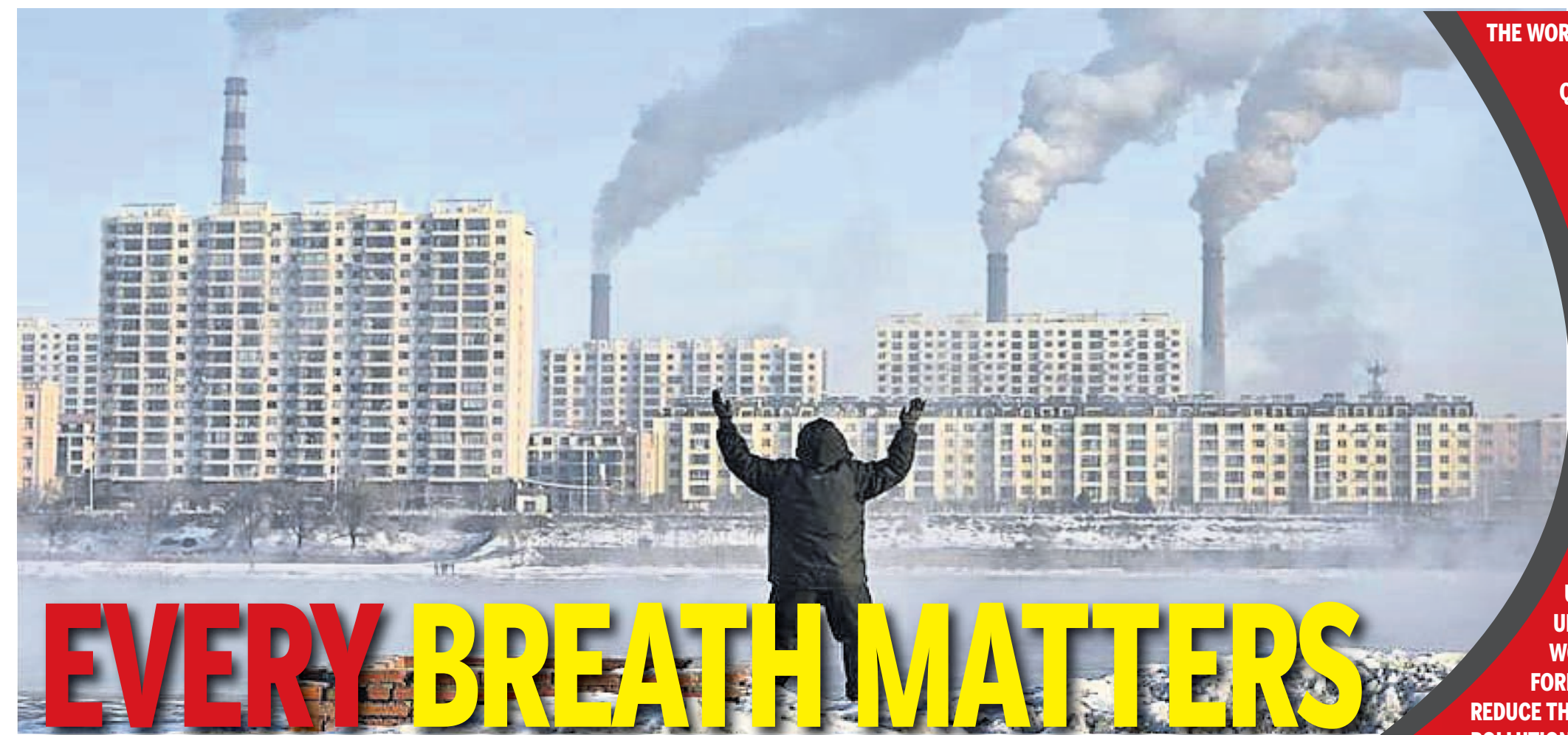
rant atop the trade center's north tower. Siby had been scheduled to work that morning until another cook asked him to switch shifts.

Siby never took a restaurant job again; it would have brought back too many memories. The Ivorian immigrant wrestled with how to comprehend such horror in a country where he'd come looking for a better life. He found it difficult to form the type of close, family-like friendships he and his Windows on the World co-workers had shared. It was too painful, he had learned, to become attached to people when "you have no control over what's going to happen to them next."

On Sunday, President Joe Biden plans to speak and lay a wreath at the Pentagon, while first lady

Jill Biden is scheduled to speak in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where one of the hijacked planes went down after passengers and crew members tried to storm the cockpit as the hijackers headed for Washington. Al-Qaida conspirators had seized control of the jets to use them as passenger-filled missiles.

Some relatives also lament that a nation which came together - to some extent - after the attacks has since splintered apart. So much so that federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies, which were reshaped to focus on international terrorism after 9/11, now see the threat of domestic violent extremism as equally urgent.



# EVERY BREATH MATTERS

**THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CITIES FACE SOME OF THE WORST AIR QUALITY ON THE PLANET. IN 2019, 1.7 MILLION DEATHS LINKED TO PM2.5 EXPOSURE OCCURRED IN 7,239 CITIES, WITH SEVERAL METROPOLISES IN ASIA, AFRICA, AND EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE SEEING THE GREATEST HEALTH IMPACT. BY THE YEAR 2050, AS MUCH AS 68 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS EXPECTED TO LIVE IN URBAN AREAS. THIS RAPID URBANISATION PLACES THE WORLD'S TOP CITIES AT THE FOREFRONT IN THE BATTLE TO REDUCE THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF AIR POLLUTION, ESPECIALLY IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES**

## Silent Killer

**T**iny particles in polluted air can travel from the lungs into our bloodstream and increase the risk of a heart attack or stroke. Nanoparticles in air pollution have been associated with cardiovascular disease, which can lead to premature death

**L**ong-term exposure to air pollution may not only lead to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, but also cause damage to the kidneys

**W**omen with diabetes who are exposed to air pollution for long period may have a much higher risk for heart disease



97% OF WORLD LIVES IN AREAS WHERE POLLUTION EXCEEDS SAFE LEVELS

SOUTH ASIANS LOSE 5 YEARS OF LIFE DUE TO SMOG

NO COUNTRY MET WHO'S AIR-QUALITY STANDARD IN 2021

**C**hronic air pollution cuts average global life expectancy by more than two years per person, a study has revealed, an impact comparable to that of smoking and far worse than HIV/AIDS or terrorism.

More than 97% of the global population lives in areas where air pollution exceeds recommended levels, the University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute (EPI) said in its lat-

est Air Quality Life Index, which used satellite data to measure levels of PM2.5, hazardous floating particles that damage the lungs.

It said that if global PM2.5 levels were reduced to the five micrograms per cubic metre recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), average life expectancy would rise by an average of 2.2 years.

Air pollution has been neglected as a pub-

lic health issue, with funding to address the problem still inadequate, the study warned. 'Now that our understanding of pollution's impact has improved, there's a stronger case for governments to prioritise it as an urgent policy issue,' said Christa Hasenkopf, director of EPI's Air Quality Life Index.

Residents of South Asia lose an estimated five years of life as a result of smog, the study said, with India accounting for around 44% of the world's increase in air pollution since 2013.

Residents of China could live an average of 2.6 years longer if WHO standards were reached, though life expectancy has improved by around two years since 2013, when the country began a 'war on pollution' that cut PM2.5 by around 40%.

EPI's calculations were based on a previous study showing that sustained exposure to an additional 10 micrograms per cubic metre of PM2.5 would reduce life expectancy by nearly a year.

Not a single country managed to meet the WHO's 5-microgram standard in 2021, according to a survey of pollution data published earlier this year.

**Now that our understanding of pollution's impact has improved, there's a stronger case for governments to prioritise it as an urgent policy issue**

CHRISTA HASENKOPF | DIRECTOR OF EPI'S AIR QUALITY LIFE INDEX



## STARK REALITY

- 1 Around 99% of the global population breathes air that exceeds World Health Organization's air quality limits, with people in low and middle-income countries being most exposed to pollution, according to the UN agency's latest database
- 2 Air pollution kills at least 7 million people prematurely each year
- 3 In the 117 countries in which air quality was monitored, less than 1% of cities in low- and middle-income countries comply with WHO recommended pollutant thresholds. In contrast, only 17% of cities in high-income countries fall below the WHO's Air Quality Guidelines for particulate matter
- 4 The level of nitrogen dioxide in low- and middle-income countries is about 1.5 times higher than in high-income countries

**The urgency of addressing the twin health challenges of air pollution and climate change underscores the pressing need to move faster towards a world that is much less dependent on fossil fuels**

TERDOS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS | WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL



## Challenges Galore

As winter approaches each year, a haze of toxic smog envelopes vast swathes of northern India, including the capital New Delhi, forcing authorities to shut schools and restrict the use of private vehicles. Air quality starts deteriorating by the end of October when lower temperatures, higher moisture and a drop in wind speeds tend to trap pollutants in the atmosphere

### DELHI VULNERABLE TO POLLUTION

**U**nlike southern parts of the country, most arid regions of northern India, including New Delhi, struggle with dust, a common air pollutant. Environmental experts say New Delhi's topography hobbles efforts by authorities to stave off the spike in pollution.

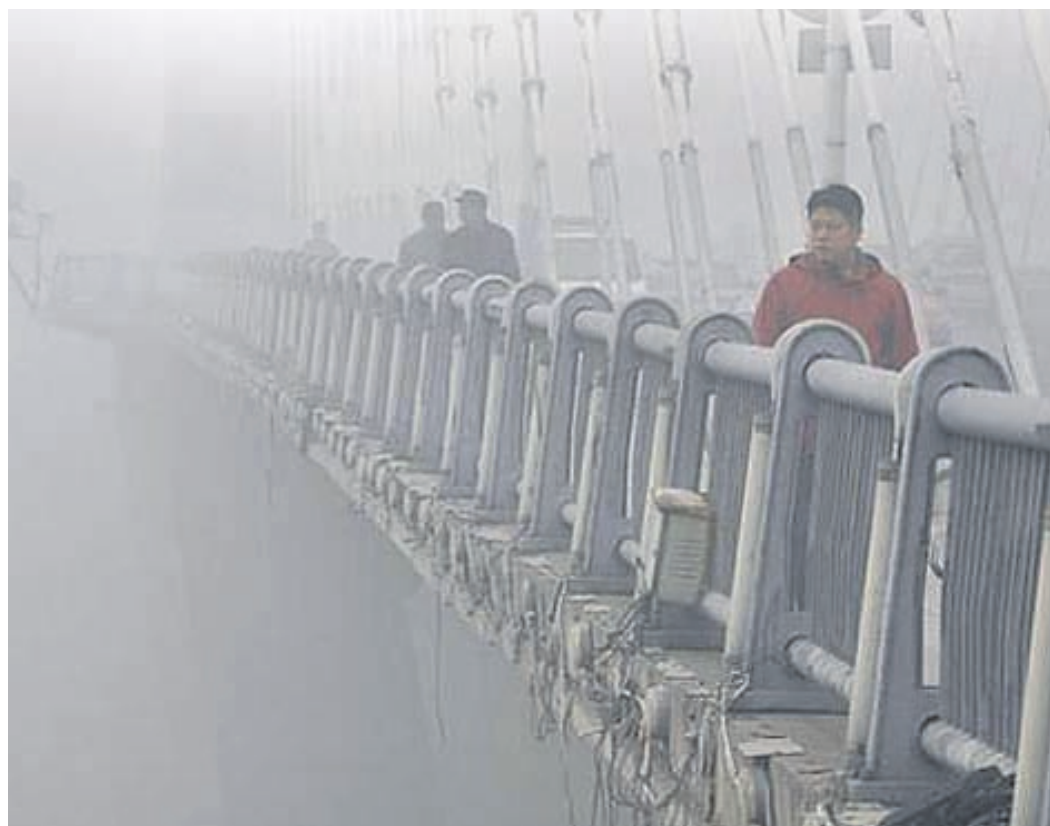
**A**lso, large scale mining for rocks and sand, used in construction, has hollowed out the Aravalli mountain range, a natural barrier that used to protect New Delhi from dust coming from the Thar Desert

**A**ctivists warn the fast disappearance of the Aravalli range will make New Delhi more vulnerable to its pollution woes

**I**ndia's vast northern plains are drier and dustier than other parts of the country. New Delhi, despite being one of the greenest cities in India, is also exposed to pollutants coming from Afghanistan and Pakistan, experts say

### STUBBLE TROUBLE

**I**n recent years, the problem has been exacerbated by the burning of crop residues in Punjab and Haryana, part of the farm belt that borders New Delhi. Relatively prosperous farmers from Punjab and Haryana, India's grain bowl, have started using mechanised harvesters to gather the rice crop, partly to overcome the problem of rising labour costs. Unlike manual harvesting, mechanised harvesters leave stubble and rice paddy straw in the field. Disposing of crop waste is time consuming. After harvesting rice, farmers get only a short window to plant winter crops such as wheat and rapeseed, and late sowing means lower yields. So farmers find it much cheaper to burn the residue, which accounts for about a quarter of air pollution



## What India can learn from other countries

**A**s severe air pollution in North India has become an annual affair, the country could breathe easy by emulating policy interventions and technology employed by nations which have effectively dealt with the problem of critical air quality.

Faced with the hazard of deteriorating air composition, many countries like China have over the years adapted to technologies and strategies to counter the crisis, including en-

ergy infrastructure optimisation, coal-fired pollution control and emission controls.

An interesting step in that direction is a vertical forest being planted in Nanjing, eastern China, designed to absorb 25 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year and produce about 60 kg of oxygen per day.

Another intervention in the form of an experimental over-100-metres-high 'smog tower' in northern China has brought noticeable improvement in air quality, according to researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, who monitored the project.

Bhavik Bakshi, Professor at The Ohio State University in the US, pointed out several interventions by other countries to mitigate pollution which India can experiment with.

"These include regulations that limit the amount of pollution that point sources such as industries can emit, and requirement of technology in non-point sources like catalytic converters in cars," Bakshi said.

Point sources are single-source pollutants, such as factories and refineries, while non-point sources are harder to identify and address

such as construction sites, and forest lands.

"In addition, pollution trading schemes have also been implemented where polluters need to buy permits to pollute. If they clean up their process, they can have extra permits that can be sold to entities who wish to pollute," he said. China was home to some of the world's most polluted cities, but many states in the Communist country have taken control of the situation over the years. In 1998, air pollution in Beijing was dominated by coal-combustion and motor vehicles. Over the next 15 years Beijing implemented a series of measures focused on energy infrastructure optimisation, coal-fired pollution control, and emission controls. By 2013, levels of air pollutants fell and some pollutants, like carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxides, met the national standard, according to a UN Environment Programme report.

While China's successful efforts to combat air pollution are a result of a sustained and long-term effort, many other cities around the world have experimented effectively with short-term measures to battle air pollution.

Paris, for example, bans cars in many his-

toric central districts on weekends, and similar to Delhi imposes odd-even bans on vehicles, makes public transport free during polluting events and encourages car-bike-sharing programmes.

Petrol and diesel-fuelled cars and motorcycles will be banned from the city of Amsterdam from 2030. Copenhagen prioritises bikes over cars and now has more cycles than people.

The Danish capital plans to become carbon neutral by 2025. According to UN Environment, Jambi City in Indonesia has approved an emissions mitigation plan that includes reducing and capturing methane from waste, and local regulations that ban waste burning and promote planting trees.

Zurich has capped the number of parking spaces in the city, only allows a certain number of cars to ply at any point of time, and is building more car-free areas and tram lines.

Outdoor air pollution is among the most significant environmental threats to human health. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), bad air contributed to 3.7 million premature deaths each year. REUTERS/PTI



# Swiatek reigns supreme

World No.1 Pole outplays World No.5 Tunisian Jabeur to claim her first US Open crown and third overall Grand Slam title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 11: Good as she's been this year, Iga Swiatek came to the US Open unsure of what to expect. She complained that women use different, slightly lighter, tennis balls than the men do at Flushing Meadows, where she'd never been past the fourth round. She was trying to grow accustomed to the noise and distractions, the hustle and bustle, of the Big Apple. And she arrived with a record of just 4-4 since her 37-match winning streak ended in July.

None of that matters now. Cementing her status as her sport's new dominant figure by winning what is expected to be the last tournament of Serena Williams' career, the No.1-ranked Swiatek outplayed No.5 Ons Jabeur 6-2, 7-6(7-5) in Arthur Ashe Stadium to claim her first championship at the US Open and third Grand Slam title overall.

Swiatek, like Jabeur, travels with a sports psychologist, and it took some fortitude to finish this one off. At 65 in the second set, Swiatek held her first championship point. Right before Jabeur served, Swiatek jogged over to the sideline to change rackets — an unusual choice at that moment.

When action resumed, Swiatek missed a backhand. That could have been tough to recover from. Indeed, Jabeur pushed things to the tie-breaker, which she then led 5-4. But Swiatek steeled herself, took the last three points and soon was accepting the silver trophy and a USD 2.6 million winner's check, joking: "I'm really glad that is not in cash."

The 21-year-old from Poland won



the French Open in June for the second time and is the first woman since Angelique Kerber in 2016 to collect two major titles in a single season.

"I really tried, but Iga didn't make it easy for me. She deserved to win today (Saturday)," said Jabeur, a 28-year-old from Tunisia who will rise to No.2 in the rankings Monday.

Jabeur is the first African woman and first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam final and was participating in her second in a row. But

she is 0-2 at that stage, including a runner-up showing at Wimbledon in July.

Didn't help on this sunny, 85-degree Fahrenheit (29.4 Celsius) afternoon that Jabeur needed to deal with Swiatek, who has won her past 10 finals — all in straight sets — and was great from the get-go.

Jabeur did not face a single break point in her semifinal victory, but she got broken right away when Swiatek laced a cross-court backhand winner off a short ball to cap a 15-stroke exchange.

Eight minutes in, Swiatek had grabbed 12 of the first 14 points for a 3-0 edge. Using her heavy topspin forehand to take charge from the baseline, Swiatek dictated the tempo and trajectory of points. She ran her opponent this way and that, never letting Jabeur use the sorts of spins and variety that she's accustomed to.

When Jabeur did show off some of what she can do, Swiatek would manage, more often than not, to elongate points. She used her strong court coverage, backed by a sound-

For sure, this tournament was really challenging, also, because it's New York. It's so loud. It's so crazy. I'm really proud that I could handle it mentally

IGA SWIATEK

track of squeaky sneakers as she darted everywhere, sometimes even sliding as she arrived at a ball, the way one does on red clay, her favorite surface.

When Jabeur missed a slice forehand early in the second set, she dropped her racket to reflect her despair. A few points later, she flung her racket while off balance and falling face down. A running, down-the-line backhand passing shot from Swiatek on the next point made it 2-0 in that set. Swiatek raised a clenched fist and yelled, "Come on!"

Then Jabeur did make things interesting, briefly. But only briefly. She got to 4-all and, after ending up on her back when an off-balance backhand won a point in the next game, she stayed there, enjoying the moment, pumping her fists while laying on the ground.

Jabeur earned three break chances in that game, any one of which would have allowed her to serve for the set. She could not cash in there, though, missing a groundstroke on each.

Swiatek needed to wait 10 minutes from her first match point to the one that closed the contest, but close it she did. Maybe she'll feel more comfortable at the US Open from now on.

# Eves suffer 9-wicket loss against England



NOT SO IMPRESSIVE: India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur is bowled by Sarah Glenn (not in pic), Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chester-le-Street, Sept 11: The Indian women's cricket team failed to click with both the bat and ball, proving to be a no match against a dominant England side in a nine-wicket drubbing in the first T20I here.

Sent into bat by England skipper Amy Jones, the Indian batters came a cropper against leg-spinner Sarah Glenn's four-for and were restricted to a measly 132/7 in their stipulated 20 overs at Riverside Ground Saturday night.

Bowling her full quota of four overs, Glenn finished with excellent figures of 4/23 and posed problems for the Indian batters throughout. With luck on her side, Sophia Dunkley raced to a 44-ball 61 to complete the chase in just 13 overs, even as India endured a forgettable night on the field in wet conditions.

All-rounder Deepti Sharma top-scored for the tourists with a 29-ball 24 and the second best score was 23 by opener Smriti Mandhana. In between, captain Harmanpreet Kaur blazed away to 20 off 16 balls before being bowled by Glenn. That summed up India's batting as none

of them managed to make a substantial contribution.

Wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh too got a start but fell to medium pacer Freya Davies after racing to 16 in 12 balls. The big-hitting Shafali Verma gave up her wicket after making 14 off 13 balls, caught by Bryony Smith off the bowling of Glenn, to leave India at 47/2 in the seventh over.

India were 83/4 when Ghosh got out in the 12th overs. But all they could manage in the next overs was just 49 runs.

Chasing 133, England were off to a blistering start with both Dunkley and here opening partner Danielle Wyatt (24 off 16 balls) getting quick runs to put up 60 in only 6.2 overs.

Having got a few reprieves, Dunkley went on to record her highest score in the format while sharing a stand of 74 runs for the second wicket with Alice Capsey, who remained not out on a breezy 32 off 20 balls.

**Brief scores:** India Women 132/7 (Deepti Sharma 29 n o 29, Smriti Mandhana 23, Sarah Glenn 4/23) lost to England Women 134/1 (Sophia Dunkley 61 n o, Alice Capsey 32 n o) by 9 wickets.

# Barcelona rout Cadiz ahead of Bayern test



ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona, Sept 11: Robert Lewandowski came off the bench to help Barcelona win 4-0 at Cadiz in the Spanish league (La Liga) Saturday as the Poland striker extended his superb scoring run before facing former club Bayern Munich.

Lewandowski scored his ninth goal in five games to double Barcelona's lead after Frenkie de Jong's 55th-minute opener. Lewandowski has only failed to score in one game — his debut — since joining Barcelona from Bayern this summer.

Following the halt in play for an ill fan, Lewandowski assisted Ansu Fati before Ousmane Dembélé struck from long range to make it a rout.

A fourth win in a row in the league lifted Barcelona to the top of the standings, one point ahead of Real Madrid before the defending champions host Mallorca.

Coach Xavi Hernandez left Lewandowski, Dembélé and Pedri González out of his starting lineup ahead of Tuesday's trip to Germany in the Champions League. All three came on moments after De Jong's goal.

Xavi and his Cadiz counterpart Sergio González both wished the stricken fan a quick recovery, agreeing that the incident, which silenced the Nuevo Mirandilla Stadium in southern Spain, was a reminder that football is just a game.

Playing Bayern will pit Barcelona against a team that has dominated it in recent seasons when they met in Europe. Bayern humiliated Barcelona 8-2 in 2020 and beat the Spanish club twice by the score of 3-0 last year.

During the match between Cadiz and Barcelona, the play was paused for more than a half-hour toward the end of the game after a fan suffered a heart attack in the stands. The game then restarted for the final eight minutes.

Cadiz said in a statement that the man was successfully treated with a defibrillator by a medical team. He was evacuated on a stretcher and admitted to a local hospital.

Cadiz said that Barcelona's players also lent the medics their defibrillator in case it was needed. Cadiz did not specify which team the fan supported.

Cadiz hung tight until Raphinha found Gavi Paez all alone near the end line, where the midfielder crossed the ball into the box. Goalkeeper Jeremias Ledesma could only push it toward the penalty spot where De Jong arrived to fire home.

The second goal was a similar team move down the right flank in the 65th. Hector Bellerin, who made his debut for Barcelona, played Raphinha clear and the Brazilian squared the ball to De Jong. Ledesma stopped De Jong's effort from close range, with Lewandowski sliding in and sweeping it over the line.

Lewandowski fended off defender Joseba Zaldua on the break before drawing in Ledesma and laying off for Ansu, who had also come on as a substitute, to make it 3-0. Ledesma, who assisted medics during the medical emergency by carrying equipment, couldn't stop Dembélé's powerful shot that hit him in the torso before finding the net.

# West, North Zones through to semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai/Puducherry, Sept 11: West Zone and North Zone secured semi-final berths in the Duleep Trophy by taking the first-innings lead in their matches against North East Zone and East Zone respectively.

While West obtained a massive 367-run lead over North-East Zone at the MA Chidambaram Stadium and opted for batting practice on the fourth and final day on Sunday, North rode on a superb ton by debutant Yash Dhull (193) to overhaul East Zone's total.

The Ajinkya Rahane-led West Zone were 268/5 when the match ended. Aith Sheth remained not out on 102 (101b, 10x4, 1x6), and Shams Mulani fell for 97 (115b, 12x4), as the match meandered to a draw.

North-East bowlers did a lot better in the second innings and had their opponent three down for 49 and 65 for 4 before Mulani and Sheth came together for a 179-run partnership.

Medium-pacer Dippu Sangma



SHARING KNOWLEDGE: Ajinkya Rahane speaks to North-East Zone players after their match

(3/70) removed Het Patel (7), Rahul Tripathi (24) and Hardik Tamore (24) to keep the West batters in check.

In Puducherry, North, resuming on overnight 433/3, added a further 112 runs before being dismissed for 545. Himanshu Rana

made 81 and captain Mandeep Singh hit a patient 63.

North Zone looked set for a huge total but the hard-working left-arm spinner Shahbaz Ahmed came up with a five-wicket haul to restrict Mandeep Singh & Co.

Ahmed's scalps included

# Vinicius, Rodrygo seal Real win



DEADLY DUO: Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo (R) celebrate after a goal, Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Sept 11: Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo came through in the absence of Karim Benzema to keep Real Madrid perfect this season. Vinicius and Rodrygo scored second-half goals as Madrid came from behind to defeat Mallorca 4-1 for their fifth straight win in the Spanish league Sunday.

Real were without the injured Benzema and other regular starters as coach Carlo Ancelotti rotated

his squad ahead of the team's Champions League match against Leipzig Wednesday.

Mallorca got on the board first at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium with a header by Vedat Muriqi off an assist by Lee Kang-in during a set piece in the 35th minute. Real got the equaliser three minutes into first-half stoppage time with a well-placed shot by Federico Valverde into the top corner.

Vinicius put Real ahead from inside the area after a nice pass

by Rodrygo in the 72nd, then Rodrygo found the net himself in the 89th after a couple of nifty moves to get past three Mallorca defenders inside the area.

Defender Antonio Rudiger closed the scoring in stoppage time with a shot from close range after a set piece taken by Toni Kroos.

Real are the only team in the top five European leagues with five straight victories. They hadn't won five in a row to start their season since 2009-10.

It was the seventh straight victory for Real in all competitions. They also defeated Eintracht Frankfurt in the final of the UEFA Super Cup and Celtic in its group opener in the Champions League.

Benzema, the team's best player last season, couldn't play against Mallorca after injuring a tendon in the team's match against Celtic in the Champions League Tuesday. The injury was not serious but there was no official timetable for his return. Luka Modric and Eduardo Camavinga were among the regulars who started on the bench.

The victory left Madrid two points ahead of Barcelona, who beat Cadiz 4-0 in their away fixture. Atlético Madrid won 4-1 against Celta Vigo at home for their third league win.

# Max wins Italian GP title ahead of Leclerc, Russell



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monza, Sept 11: Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen again made light work of starting down the grid as he won the Italian Grand Prix Sunday to leave him within touching distance of a second successive title.

Verstappen now has a 116-point lead over Charles Leclerc, who finished second after another questionable strategy decision from Ferrari on its home track. With just six races remaining, the Dutch driver could mathematically clinch the title in Singapore next month.

Verstappen started seventh after he was among a number of drivers hit by grid penalties here but made his way up to third by the first cor-

ner of the second lap. The Red Bull driver then picked off George Russell in a Mercedes at the start of Lap 5 setting up the hunt for pole-sitter Leclerc in his Ferrari.

The Virtual Safety Car came out on Lap 12 after Sebastian Vettel's final race here came to an ignominious end, with the four-time World Champion pulling up at the side of the track after complaining about a power issue. The safety car came out again shortly after last year's winner, Daniel Ricciardo, pulled up on Lap 47 prompting most drivers to pit for soft tires.

Russell was third, ahead of Carlos Sainz Jr. and Lewis Hamilton, who had both fought through the field after starting at the back of the grid following penalties.