



FRANK TALK

Actress Mrunal Thakur reveals how she wants to rise in love and what she is looking for in a partner

LEISURE P2



UKRAINE MOVES AHEAD

Ukraine claims that it has taken several more villages, pushing Russian forces right back to the border

INTERNATIONAL P10



ALACARAZ REIGNS SUPREME

Carlos Alcaraz beats Casper Ruud to win US Open claiming his first Grand Slam title and to become ATP World No 1

SPORTS P12

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



When will the country have enough hospitals to heal the hurt feelings?

4 COACHES OF PASSENGER TRAIN DERAIL

Bhubaneswar: At least four coaches of Visakhapatnam-Kirandul passenger special train derailed in Koraput district Monday, the East Coast Railway (ECOR) said in a statement. However, no casualty has been reported so far. The incident took place between Jeypore and Chatrapur railway stations in the afternoon. After crossing Jeypore railway station, one sleeper class and three general coaches jumped off the tracks, it said, adding further investigation is underway. Accident relief trains with officers on board were rushed to the spot for relief and restoration operations, the statement said. Alternate transport arrangements have been made for the stranded.



5 DRUG PEDDLERS HELD WITH ₹10L HEROIN

Rourkela: Five suspected drug peddlers were arrested after heroin worth ₹10 lakh was recovered from their possession in Rourkela city, police said Monday. Acting on inputs, the police raided two places Sunday and seized 302 gm of the contraband, they said. A car, motorcycle, cash and mobile phones were seized from the suspects. Cases have been lodged against the five, it said. Police suspect that the narcotic was either brought from Ranchi or West Bengal. The suspects used to put the heroin into small packets and sell them to their clients.



Honeybees sting 5-yr-old to death; 7 others injured

POST NEWS NETWORK

Paralakhemundi, Sept 12: A five-year-old boy identified as Shibram Mallick, son of Rabi Shankar Mallick, was killed at Palada village under Adaba police limits in Gajapati district after a swarm of honey bees suddenly attacked them. The bee attack took place Sunday when they were in a nearby forest.

Seven others sustained injuries in the attack and the health condition of a three-year-old child among them was said to be critical.

Reports said that the man took his cattle out to the forest for grazing with three of his sons accompanying him. However, the swarm of honey bees attacked them in the forest. After learning about the incident, wife of the man and several other villagers rushed to the forest to rescue them. However, the bees also attacked them leaving several injured.

"As many as seven persons have been admitted to the hospital. As informed by villagers, one died last night so they didn't bring him to the hospital. Of the seven injured persons, the health condition of a minor is critical as his face and hands have alarmingly swollen," said Dr Namita Panda, medical officer of Mohana community healthcare centre (CHC). "Health condition of all others is stable. They have been admitted and are under observation for 24 hours. They will be discharged after improvement in their health condition," she added.

Woman gets her husband hitched with transgender

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Sept 12: Displaying her large-heartedness, a woman got her husband married off to a transgender at Dhurkuti village under Narla block of Kalahandi district after learning about her husband Fakir Nihal's affair with transgender Sangita, a resident of Debagpur. The incident has created a buzz in the western Odisha town and the woman has garnered kudos for her move.

Interestingly, the couple was married for five years and has a child together. Sources said, the marriage took place in the presence of their relatives at Bahuchori Mata temple at Narla Sunday.



"I am happy if my husband is happy with Sangita. I want to see my husband happy," said Fakir's wife. According to report, Fakir Nihal was married for five years. However, he had secretly developed a relationship with the transgender Sangita. After learning about the affair, Fakir's wife decided to get them married.

After convincing family members, she approached Sangita and other transgenders to share her thoughts. Later, she brought Sangita to her home and got her married to her husband in the presence of the members of the transgender community.

Sangita was happy that the family members of Fakir had recognised the marriage. President of Kinnar Sangh Kamini Kinnar extended all help for the marriage. "I'm happy now. We will live together in the family," said transgender Sangita after the marriage.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	60115.13 ↑ 321.99
NIFTY	17936.30 ↑ 103.00
DOLLAR	79.82 ↓ ₹0.08
EURO	80.73 ↑ ₹0.45
GOLD	₹50,637 ↑ ₹108
SILVER	₹57,180 ↑ ₹2130

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 30.3°C	30.0°C
	MIN 25.5°C	23.8°C
Humidity	97%	97%
Rainfall	42.8mm	34.4mm

Forecast: Light rain likely



GREEN CITY? : A number of trees near Hanspal chowk-Kuakhai road were felled in the Capital city, Monday

OP PHOTO

Aug inflation at 7%

CPI inflation remains above the RBI's comfort level of 6% for eight months in a row as it struggles to tame prices

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 12: Annual retail inflation rate accelerated to 7% in August, driven by a surge in food prices, putting more pressure on the central bank to hike interest rates again later this month.

The annual consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation rate of 7.00% in August snapped a three-month downward trend, data released by National Statistics Office showed. The CPI based inflation was 6.71 per cent in July and 5.3 per cent in August 2021.

The CPI inflation has remained above the RBI's comfort level of 6 per cent for the eighth month in a row. The Reserve Bank factors in retail inflation while deciding on its monetary policy. Food inflation, which accounts for nearly 40% of the CPI basket, rose 7.62% year on year in August, compared to a revised 6.69% in July.

The monetary policy committee (MPC) will hold its next monetary policy meeting September 30 and is widely expected to raise the repo rate by 25-50 basis points despite growing fears of its impact on economic growth, economists said. The MPC of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has

Annual food inflation 7.62% in August vs 6.69% in July

Central bank set to hike rates by 25-50 bps in Sept

Core inflation seen at 5.84%-5.9% in August vs 5.79-5.80%



IIP slows to 4-month low of 2.4 pc in July

NEW DELHI: India's industrial production growth decelerated to a four-month low of 2.4 per cent in July, mainly due to poor showing by manufacturing, power and mining sectors, according to official data released Monday. The data showed that the previous low in industrial output growth was recorded at 2.2 per cent in March this year.

raised the benchmark repo rate by 140 basis points since May to 5.4%, including 50 basis points last month, aiming to curb consumer demand.

The government imposed curbs on rice exports last week after restricting exports of wheat and sugar earlier, to cool local prices as it is worried that the shortage of rainfall in some parts of the country could drive up food prices.

Last week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India's inflation management was driven by many factors, most of which were outside the purview

of monetary policy.

Core inflation, excluding volatile food and energy prices, was estimated at 5.84%-5.90% in August, compared with 5.79-5.80% estimates in July, said two economists, after the data release. India does not release core inflation data.

The rise in food and fuel prices has severely hit poor households, already facing the impact of two years of pandemic. "We have cut down spending on vegetables," said Puspanjali Sahu, a resident of Bhubaneswar. "We are not going out to any eatery, we are not watching movies in the cinema hall."

Varanasi court favours Hindu side

AGENCIES

Varanasi, Sept 12: The Varanasi court Monday said that the Hindu petition for worship in Shringar Gauri was maintainable and the five Hindu women's plea seeking right to worship in the Gyanvapi complex will be heard.

District judge AK Vishvesha dismissed the petition filed by the Muslim side citing the Places of Worship Act and questioning the maintainability of the petition.

Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing the Hindu side said, "The court rejected the Muslim

side's petition and said the suit is maintainable. The next hearing in the matter will be September 22." "Muslim petitioners are likely to approach the Allahabad High Court in appeal," petitioner Sohan

GYANVAPI CASE

Lal Arya said, but added that they will continue to contest the case.

Well known Sunni cleric Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali said that their legal team would study the verdict and act accordingly.

He expressed concern over the

fact that the Places of Worship Act 1991 was being set aside and such cases were being raised. "We will fight the matter legally," he added.

In May, the Supreme Court had assigned the case to the Varanasi district judge's court, shifting it from a lower court where it was being heard till then.

The Supreme Court had ordered that "Keeping the complexity and sensitivity of the matter in view, the civil suit before the civil judge in Varanasi shall be heard before a senior and experienced judicial officer of the UP judicial service."

▶ Continued on P4

Woman dies after Mo Bus hits two-wheeler

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: A woman died in road accident after a speeding Mo Bus hit her scooter near Delta Square here, Monday. The deceased lady identified as Jayshree Dani, 43, was a resident of Bolangir district, sources said. Dani was staying along with her husband, who is a banker, and family members in Khandagiri area here.

Sources claimed that Dani met with the accident when she was returning home after dropping her husband at his workplace near

DAV School in Unit-VIII area. The speeding Mo Bus hit her two-wheeler from behind in Satabdi Nagar area. She suddenly lost balance and fell to the ground.

The locals present there rushed a seriously injured Dani to the Capital hospital where the doctors declared her 'brought dead'.

Upon informed, Khandagiri police reached the spot and seized the bus. The accused driver of the vehicle has been detained at Khandagiri police station. Police continued their investigation registering a case (467) in this regard.

Doc, stuck in traffic, runs 3 km to operate on time

There are so many hospital workers who go above and beyond every day, says the doctor responding to people's appreciation

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Sept 12: A video of a doctor, caught in the city's notorious traffic and running to hospital to perform a surgery after abandoning his car mid way, has gone viral on social media.

Gastroenterology surgeon Dr Govind Nandakumar was on his way to Manipal Hospital, Sarjapur from Cunningham road to perform an emergency laparoscopic gall-bladder surgery August 30, but got stuck in traffic at the last stretch following heavy rains and water-logging.

With no signs of traffic pile-up easing, he decided to leave the car with the driver and dashed towards the hospital, as it was getting late for the surgery. "Sometimes you got to do what you got to do!" said Nandakumar in an Instagram post



along with the video of him running. "Run to work should more of us run or walk to work?" he said in a



tweet with the video tagging it with state's Health Minister K Sudhakar and Biocon Chief Kiran Mazumdar

Shaw, among a few others.

His video of running towards the hospital has gone viral on social media winning him appreciation by netizens. "Saviour in white coat beats traffic to save a soul," tweeted one Subodh Kumar Monday.

"Meet Dr Govind Nandakumar from Bangalore, who ditched his car in the heavy traffic and decided to run towards the hospital to perform an important surgery. Not every hero wears a cap, some wear white coats," said another user.

▶ Continued on P4

POST NEWS NETWORK

SPURIOUS DRUG TWO DRUG STOCKISTS SURRENDER BEFORE CP

Cuttack, Sept 12: Two stockists of drugs, who were accused of dealing in spurious Telma-AM and Telma-40, surrendered before the Purighat police here, an official said Monday. Puja Enterprises owner Sanjay Jalan and VR Enterprises Rahul Kyal surrendered before the police, said the official.

According to sources, following allegation of sale of suspected spurious drugs - Telma AM and Telma-40 meant for treating high blood pressure and heart disease, the Directorate of Drugs Control carried out raids on wholesale points in Cuttack. They collected samples of the two drugs and seized the huge stock of the tablets. Laboratory test of samples confirmed that the two drugs were spurious.

On Sunday, Cuttack DCP Pinak Mishra said that the police launched a manhunt to trace the two distributors as they were prime suspects in the fake drug racket.

The Cuttack District Chemist and Druggist Association Sunday, cancelled the memberships of two drugs distributors for allegedly supplying duplicate Telma 40. The association also extended total cooperation to the Directorate of Drugs Control in its investigation into the case and demanded stern action against those responsible for indulging in illegal acts.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are in a mood to meditate or be alone. It may have arisen from some disappointment, says Ganesh, but you should honour it. It may even be a dynamic session of meditation involving painting, dancing, humming, or simply watching the world pass by.

TAURUS
This day your energy levels are likely to be below par. You may tend to be restless, inactive, and averse to exerting yourself in any way. Routine tasks, even the important ones could remain unattended. But, says Ganesh, you will try to pull yourself together later in the day, make amends by trying to do something meaningful.

GEMINI
You will feel happy and content with your life today. However, you need to cooperate with others and help them with their troubles as well as maintain an attitude of friendliness. You need to guard against being selfish and looking after only your own interests, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will decide to expose certain unreasonable conventions and traditions, and you will be able to do so successfully, predicts Ganesh. In the afternoon, you may incur the displeasure of your bosses.

LEO
You will be immersed in love and romance today. You will likely gift that special someone with something that will sweep them off their feet. Your behaviour with others will be kind and gentle, however, you may lose your temper due to some events which may occur in the later part of the day. Keep your temper in check.

VIRGO
Your gallantry will serve to impress the gallery; but chances are certain things could well spoil the show, says Ganesh. On reflecting within, find a great deal of improvement in your inner self. Children will broaden that smile with their antics.

LIBRA
All achievements are scripted. So, share the blueprint of your success with others today. Ganesh expects you to be obedient and cooperative at work in the afternoon; as a result, your social connections will grow miraculously in the evening. The key is in splitting time perfectly between the two.

SCORPIO
Today, Ganesh anticipates you to be a media mogul in your own unique way. Your flock will laud your skills and talents. But you may shell out an extra buck to get what you want today. Ganesh sees an extraordinary bond soldering you and your spouse closer than before.

SAGITTARIUS
Today, you will probably emerge as the victorious gladiator in the arena of sports and games, says Ganesh. But later in the day, some hurdles may come across your path. At your desk, your bosses might just lend you a helping hand to assist you to finish off pending jobs.

CAPRICORN
Your spouse would have complained innumerable times, accusing you of being unconcerned and giving priority to work. Today, he/she will be all smiles, for Ganesh says there are chances you will take your sweetheart out on a pleasure trip. At work, you will be a winner, outdoing your competitors and bagging plaques from your boss, but don't let this sudden success get to your head.

AQUARIUS
You will finally make an effort to get in touch with old friends. At work, you find your public relation skills suddenly enhanced and even your rivals salute you! Naturally, the happiest is your beloved, who appreciates all the things you say. Enjoy it while it lasts, says Ganesh.

PISCES
While a day filled with a lot of stress awaits you at the workplace, you will still be able to come out ahead of the competition on account of your sheer brilliance and your powers of persuasion. You will receive many accolades for the way you tackle your projects today, says Ganesh.



BRITNEY SPEARS MAY NEVER PERFORM AGAIN

Singer Britney Spears has claimed that she probably won't perform again because she's 'pretty traumatised for life'. The *Toxic* hitmaker went on about the 'worst' experience ever working with 'offensive people' on her live shows in the past, and she suggested that she wouldn't return to the stage again.

'TOM HANKS GREATEST LIVING ACTOR IN THE MOVIE BUSINESS'

Actor Tom Hanks, who plays Geppetto the woodcarver who builds and treats Pinocchio, was praised by *Pinocchio* director Robert Zemeckis. Talking about his love for the *Forrest Gump* actor, Zemeckis says, "Tom is the greatest living actor in the movie business, and it's always fun to see him bring a character to life."



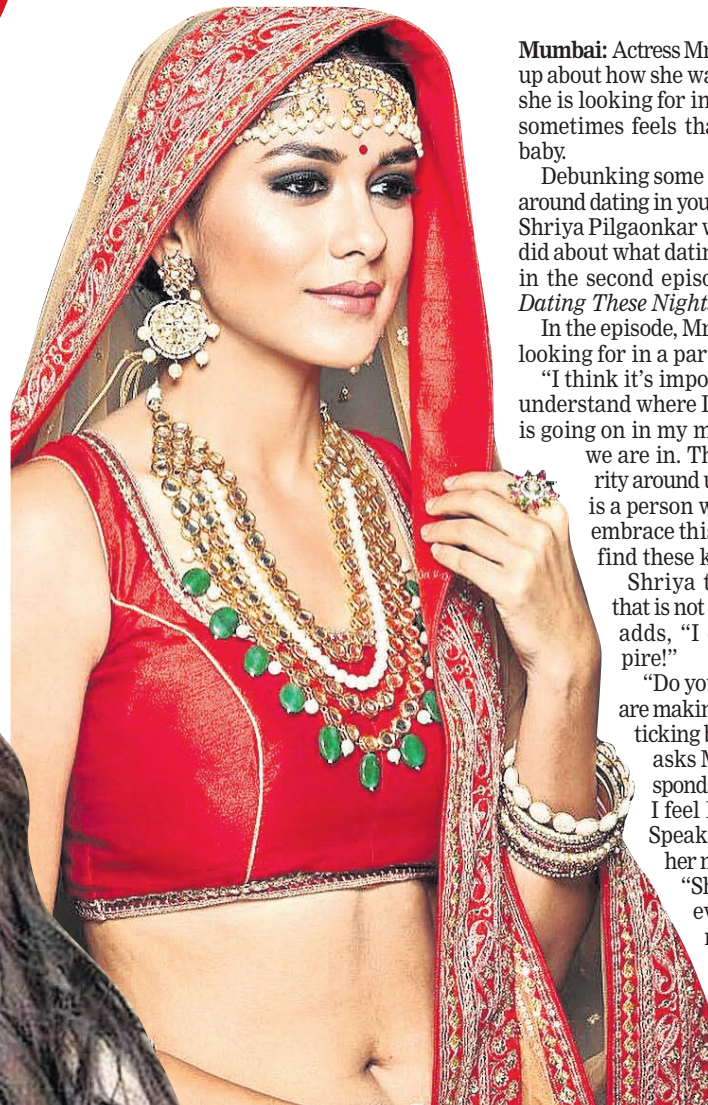
The middle class in me hasn't gone: Rakul

Actress Rakul Preet Singh, who is currently basking in the success of her latest release *Cuttpulli*, revealed a few lesser-known facts about her recently. She was asked to name the cheapest thing that she has got, which she really values. Though the *De De Pyaar De* actress did not name it, she revealed that she often buys a lot of cheap things. Adding further, the actress said, "I'm quite cheap that way that middle class in me hasn't gone". Later, she elaborated, "I don't shop with the price tag. If I like something I'll pick it up from a normal brand and I picked it up from [the] street and if I like something on high street I'll pick it up from there. But it's more about how much I'm gonna use it and what's really coming out of it."

The *Runway 34* actress was also asked if she was nervous to share the screen space with Akshay Kumar in *Cuttpulli*. Singh was quick to say no to it. Interestingly, while talking about the same before the rapid-fire round, she asserted, "I think what I love about Akshay sir is that he loves to bring the team together. He ensures that everyone should eat their meals together and that has to be done."

AGENCIES

Mrunal Thakur debunks notions around dating



Mumbai: Actress Mrunal Thakur has opened up about how she wants to rise in love, what she is looking for in a partner and how she sometimes feels that she wants to have a baby.

Debunking some of the outdated notions around dating in your 30s, actors Mrunal and Shriya Pilgaonkar will be seen getting candid about what dating in their 30s looks like in the second episode of *Bumble's* series *Dating These Nights*.

In the episode, Mrunal shares what she is looking for in a partner.

"I think it's important for my partner to understand where I am coming from, what is going on in my mind and the profession we are in. There is so much insecurity around us, so all I need right now is a person who is secure enough to embrace this. It's very rare that you find these kind of people."

Shriya terms this as "Energy that is not draining" while Mrunal adds, "I call that energy vampire!"

"Do you feel people in your life are making you feel aware of your ticking biological clock?" Shriya asks Mrunal to which she responds: "There are times when I feel I want to have a baby". Speaking on how supportive her mother is, Mrunal shares "She surprisingly said that even if I want to freeze my eggs or be a single mother, that's okay. And I thought wow mom, this is amazing."

AGENCIES



RICHA, ALI TO FINALLY TIE KNOT OCTOBER 6

Mumbai: Finally, the D-day is here for Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal. There has been a lot of talk about the couple's wedding for a long time, but not anymore. The two are all set to tie the knot. Almost 2.5 years after they were supposed to get married, which was delayed owing to the pandemic, the actors are all set to celebrate their union with celebrations across Delhi and Mumbai in September end and October first week.

According to sources, the pre-wedding festivities will begin at the Delhi Gymkhana September 30 and continue for three days. Mehendi and Sangeet will take place

October 1. Ali and Richa will also have a wedding party for their extended family and friends October 2. After 3 days of celebrations in Delhi, the actor duo will move to Mumbai for the remaining festivities. The couple will tie the knot in Mumbai in an intimate ceremony October 6 at a rented bungalow, followed by a grand reception October 7 at the South Mumbai hotel for their show-biz friends.

Richa and Ali, in 2020, had shared that the two were in a relationship and would get married in April that year. However, it was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. AGENCIES

OSNA'S 5-DAY STATE LEVEL THEATRE FESTIVAL 'RANGA SANGAM' BEGINS

Play *Kachaghara* unravels deeper layers of life



Bhubaneswar: Ranga Sangam, a state level drama festival organised by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA) in collaboration with Odisha Language, Literature and Culture (OLL&C) department, Government of Odisha kicked off here at Bhanjakala Mandap, Monday.

The members of City-based Uttar Purusha, one of the oldest theatre troupes of the state, presented Odia play *Kachaghara* (Glass House), on the first evening of the festival.

Written by Basanta Kumar Mohapatra and directed by Debadutta Pati, the play told about deeper layers of human life.

"We all have our set of chal-



A scene from Odia play *Kachaghara* staged at Bhanjakala Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Monday

OP PHOTO

enges in our life and we deal with them in our own way. But there is no denying that people often love to live in a world of fantasy. And

when they fail to establish a connection between their thoughts and reality, they retreat into a shell which has been highlighted in the play," said director Pati, who has more than 10 dramas to his credit.

Artists who performed on stage included Prasanna Mishra, Amit, Nishikant, Jagannath, Rashesh, Rupesh, Jasoda, Pratima and others. Nishikant and Chakradhar assisted in direction while Pratap Rout scored the music.

Culture Minister Aswini Kumar Patra, Director Ranjan Kumar Das, OSNA President Aruna Mohanty, Secretary Prabodh Rath and Vice-president Manmath Kumar Satpathy were among the dignitaries present on the occasion. PWN

FUN post

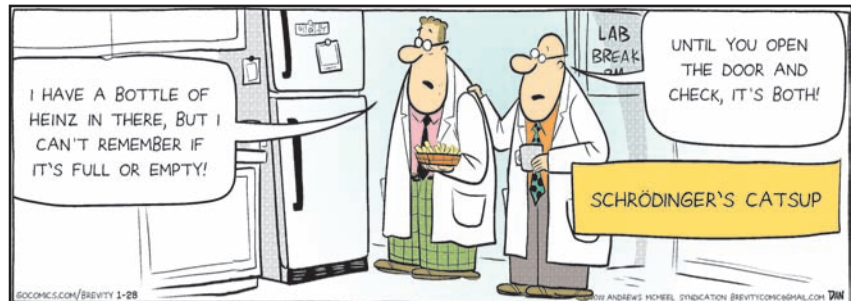
PEANUTS



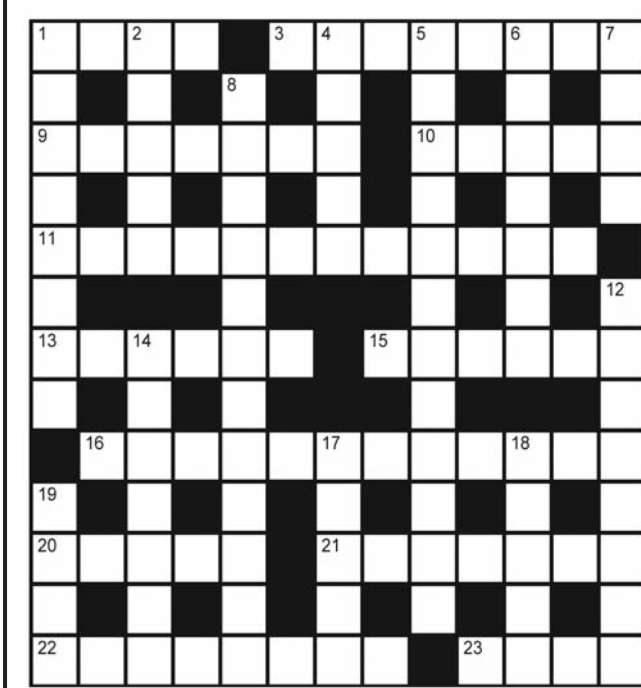
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



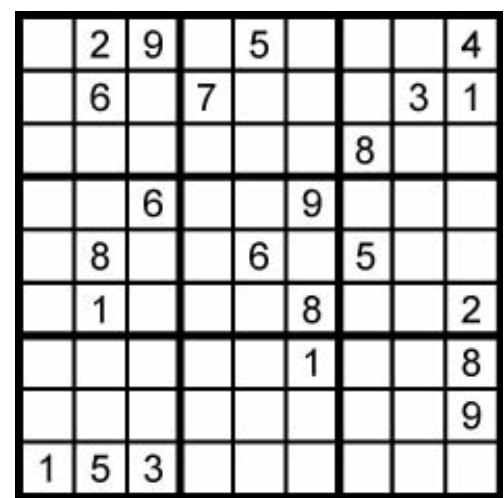
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Highland toppers
 - 3 Actor
 - 9 Town on the Rhone
 - 10 Throw out
 - 11 Extinct flying reptiles
 - 13 Urchins
 - 15 Embarrassing failure
 - 16 Gardening
 - 20 Scale
 - 21 Enthusiastic recognition
 - 22 Brunch order
 - 23 Honeyed drink
 - Down**
 - 1 Monk type
 - 2 Indian corn
 - 4 Redhead's dye
 - 5 Plant that attracts bees and butterflies
 - 6 Leaping African antelopes
 - 7 Partner of void
 - 8 Like some deserts
 - 12 Ruled
 - 14 Suffer (over)
 - 17 Influence
 - 18 Join forces
 - 19 Sound rebound

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



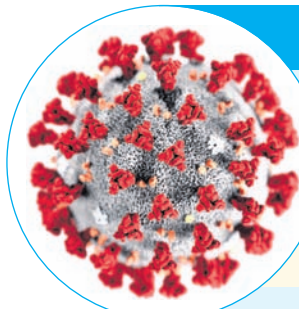
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



SANSKRIT DAY

Dignitaries during the inaugural day of state-level Sanskrit Day celebration at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,39,79,340	59,28,04,814	65,17,015
India	4,44,97,995	4,39,25,239	5,28,165
Odisha	13,30,434	13,19,588	9,185



HANDLOOM EXPO: Textiles, Handlooms & Handicrafts Minister Rita Sahu and department Commissioner-cum-Secretary Subha Sarma check a saree at the National-level Handloom Expo organised by Boyanika at Exhibition Ground in Unit-III area of Bhubaneswar, Monday. Among others, Bhubaneswar (Central) MLA Ananta Narayan Jena is seen

NDPS seizure up by 110%

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: The Excise department has seized Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) worth Rs 83.05 crore in the first five months of the current financial year as against Rs 39.49 crore during the corresponding period of the last fiscal, registering a 110 per cent growth, an official said Monday.

This was known at the monthly Excise review meeting held under the chairmanship of Excise Commissioner Ashish Kumar Singh through virtual mode in Cuttack Monday.

The registration of NDPS cases has also increased from 243 till August 2021 to 739 till August this year, registering a rise of 204 per cent. Similarly, the number of arrests under the NDPS Act has increased by 193 per cent. While 295 persons were arrested under the Act till August of 2021-22, it increased to 865 till August of 2022-23, the source said.

The seizure of ganja and heroin has been increased by 132 per cent

VITAL STATS

THE REGISTRATION OF NDPS CASES, WHICH WAS 243 IN APRIL-AUGUST 2021, INCREASED TO 739 IN THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD THIS YEAR, WITNESSING A RISE OF 204 PER CENT

A RECORD 23,917 EXCISE CASES WERE DETECTED IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR AS AGAINST 14,820 DURING THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD OF LAST FISCAL, REGISTERING AN INCREASE OF 61 PER CENT

and 191 per cent respectively. "While 9,874 gram of heroin has been seized in the first five months of this fiscal, 3,392 gram of the contraband was seized in the corresponding period of the last fiscal. Excise officials have seized 21,690 kg of ganja between April and August this year as against 9,339 kg seized during the corresponding period of the last year," said the of-

ficial. On the other hand, the detection of Excise cases and arrest has also increased during the period.

A record 23,917 Excise cases were detected in the first five months of this financial year as against 14,820 during the corresponding period of last fiscal, registering an increase of 61 per cent.

For initiating the 5T charter, a record number of 640 irregularity reports have been booked against the Excise shops and Rs 70,15,000 has been realized towards composition fees.

This year, the digitization of data of Excise cases of the last 10 years is going on with the assistance of Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) throughout the state in a bid to keep record of each and every accused and also to have coordination with the police department, they said.

Besides, vehicles are being provided to each range office and the construction of office buildings of different offices are going on war footing in the entire state, they pointed out.

NGT notice on state over illegal stone quarrying

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 12: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) Monday issued notices to the state government and the district Collector of Dhenkanal on an application alleging illegal operation of the Gandanali black stone quarry in the district.

A bench of judicial member B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Saibal Dasgupta asked all respondents to file their responses within three weeks. The bench asked the Dhenkanal Collector to file a personal affidavit stating the action taken in pursuant to the letter from Ministry of Environment and Forest regarding the illegal stone mining.

Advocate Shankar Prasad Pani, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the quarry operator does not have a valid consent to operate and the quarrying is being done with the use of explosives and heavy machines as well as 50



Advocate Shankar Prasad Pani, appearing for the petitioner, said that the quarry operator does not have a valid permit to operate

heavy trucks which are transporting the stones from the quarry site in question. The applicant further submitted that the quarry operator is operating without environmental clearance and has illegally felled trees to make approach road on Gramya Jungle Forest land in Hindol tehsil.

BMC gears up for Durga Puja

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: The city will have 178 Durga Puja tableaux this year, said Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor Sulochana Das during a preparatory meeting at the civic body's office here, Monday.

Speaking to reporters, Das said, "By god's grace the Covid pandemic has subsided and we are on for a grand puja celebration this year."

"Although there is no mandatory Covid restriction, we, however, request all stakeholders and devotees to maintain the basic Covid hygiene and at least wear a mask while venturing out," she added.

Cultural programmes in puja pandals will be allowed till midnight as against till 10pm last year, Das pointed out.

BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said that discussions have been made to conduct a hassle-free puja. "We will coordinate with all puja commit-



BMC Mayor Sulochana Das and Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange at the preparatory meet in Bhubaneswar, Monday

tees in order to ensure cleanliness around the pandal. Drinking water and toilet facility will also be ensured during puja. Each puja committee will appoint a nodal person who will be responsible for the arrangements."

The BMC also invited the power distribution company Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) and Public Works department (PWD) officials to make sure that no electric short circuit or fire mishaps occur during the puja. "Teams have been

formed with several food safety inspectors to check hotel kitchens, sweet shops and fast food counters proactively for any adulteration of food," Kulange said.

It was also decided in the meeting that potholes under the BMC will be repaired before the puja. As far as the immersion is concerned, the civic body will create a few temporary ponds in the City in which all the puja committees will have to immerse their idols. Any deviation from the norms will be dealt strictly, informed Kulange.

Tidal waves wash away portion of guard wall along marine drive

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri/Bhawanipatna, Sept 12: Barely three days after the state hosted the National Conference on Sustainable Coastal Management, a stretch of the guard wall on Puri-Konark Marine Drive was washed away by the tidal waves amid depression-induced rain, official sources said.

Two electric poles have also been damaged under the impact of the tide, they said.

Puri sub-collector Bhabataran Sahu, who had rushed to the spot, later said part of an area where an eco-retreat camp was conducted by the government recently was found to have suffered erosion.

The powerful high tide was posing a major threat to the marine drive, he said.

"The tidal waves eroded sand dunes and ingressed 1,900 metres into Puri-Konark Marine Drive.

Steps are being taken to prevent further damage," Sahu said adding that officials are working to restore the road using wooden poles and sandbags.

Earlier, the IMD had forecast that the sea condition would remain rough due to the depression created over the Bay of Bengal. The IMD also warned fishermen against venturing into the sea.

A report from Kalahandi district said that, a 15-ft breach occurred in Indravati Irrigation project's left canal near Dangripada Sunday night, leading to inundation of village roads and paddy fields.

Damages can be assessed after the water will be receded, officials said.

T K Patra, an executive engineer of the canal, water flow to left part from water to the Left canal from Mangalpur barrage has been stopped for now in view of the breach.

Outfit moves Prez, seeks Kohinoor's return from UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Claiming that the Kohinoor diamond belonged to Lord Jagannath, a socio-cultural organisation of the state has sought the intervention of President Droupadi Murmu so that the United Kingdom returns it to Srimandir.

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, her son Prince Charles has become the King and, as per norms, the 105-carat diamond will go to his wife Duchess of Cornwall Camilla, who has now become the Queen consort.

Shree Jagannath Sena, a Puri-based outfit, submitted a memorandum to the President seeking her intervention to facilitate the process of bringing back the Kohinoor diamond, which is steeped in history, to the 12th-century shrine.

"The Kohinoor diamond belongs to Lord Jagannath. It is now with the Queen of England. Kindly, request our Prime Minister to take steps to bring it to India for Lord Jagannath as Maharaja Ranjit Singh donated it to God Jagannath in his will," Sena convener Priya Darsan Pattnaik said in the memorandum.

Pattnaik claimed that Maharaja of Punjab Ranjit Singh had donated the diamond to the Puri Lord after he won a battle against Nadir Shah of Afghanistan. However, it was not

handed over immediately. Ranjit Singh died in 1839 and, 10 years later, the British took the Kohinoor away from his son, Duleep Singh, though they were aware that it was bequeathed to Lord Jagannath at Puri, historian and researcher Anil Dhir told PTI.

Pattnaik asserted that after he sent a letter to the Queen in this regard, he received a communication from Buckingham Palace October 19, 2016, asking him to appeal directly to the UK government as 'Her Majesty acts on the advice of her Ministers and remains strictly non-political at all times'.

A copy of that letter was attached to the memorandum to the President, he said. Asked why he was silent on the issue for six years, Pattnaik said he was denied a visa to visit England due to which he could not take up the matter further with the UK government.

Sena's claim is justified though there are several claimants like Maharaja Ranjit Singh's heirs, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Dhir said.

"Maharaja Ranjit Singh's will before his death stated that he donated the Kohinoor to Lord Jagannath. The document was certified by a British Army officer, the proof of which was available at the National Archives in Delhi," said the historian.

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Varanasi court favours Hindu side

Continued from P1

A month before the Supreme Court's intervention in the case, the Varanasi civil court had ordered the filming of the Gyanvapi mosque, based on the petition by the Hindu women who claimed that there are idols of Hindu Gods and Goddesses in the Gyanvapi mosque complex.

A report of the filming at the mosque was then submitted to the Varanasi court in a sealed cover, but the Hindu petitioners controversially released details just hours later.

The report claimed a 'Shivling' had been found in a pond within the mosque complex used for 'wuzu' or purification rituals before Muslim prayers.

The judge hearing the case at the time had ordered the sealing of this pond.

This filming inside the centuries-old mosque was challenged in the Supreme Court by the Gyanvapi mosque committee.

The petitioners said the filming goes against the Places of Worship Act of 1991, which maintains the religious status of any place of worship as of August 15, 1947.

"Such petitions and sealing of mosques will lead to public mischief and communal disharmony, will affect mosques across the country," the mosque committee had argued.

The mosque committee made similar arguments before the Varanasi district judge's court in the 'maintainability' case, while lawyers for the Hindu petitioners claimed the law does not bar their case and that they could establish in court that the mosque premises was actually a temple as on the day of Independence.

Doc, stuck in traffic, runs 3 km to operate on time

Continued from P1

"Appreciate your words. Most of us try and do our best for our patients. This run has got a lot of attention but there are so many hospital workers who go above and beyond every day," he said in another tweet responding to someone appreciating his effort.

Sharing his experience, Dr Nandakumar stated, "During the traffic, the Google map showed 45 minutes to get to the hospital. Normally, it takes 5 to 10 minutes to reach the hospital through that route."

"I waited but time didn't change on Google maps and I had an important surgery scheduled for morning besides several others during the course of the day. At that point, I just decided to walk. I run and workout, so I used that to my advantage."

Nandakumar is said to have run for 15 minutes about 3 km to reach the hospital, and performed the surgery on the patient on reaching there.

He further stated that his car driver took two-and-a-half hours to reach the hospital.

Nandakumar has performed more than 1,000 surgeries in the past 18 years. He says this was not the first time he ran to reach out to the operation theatre on scheduled time.

Heavy rain to continue for another two days



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Monday said that prevailing heavy rainfall activities in several districts of the state will continue for at least another two days.

As per the IMD's latest bulletin, heavy rainfall very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara from 8:30am of Tuesday to 8:30am of

Wednesday.

Likewise, the weathermen predicted heavy rainfall over the districts of Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur from 8:30am of Wednesday to 8:30am of Thursday. The Met department has issued yellow warning for the above districts.

Meanwhile, many places in the state witnessed heavy rainfall Sunday and early Monday while light to moderate rainfall occurred in few places during the day.

Heavy rainfall very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara from 8:30am of Tuesday to 8:30am of Wednesday

Due to strong monsoon current squally weather with gusty surface wind speed reaching 40 to 50kmph likely along & off Odisha coast adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal during next 48 hours. Therefore, fishermen are advised not to venture into sea along and off Odisha coast and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal during next 48 hours.

The IMD also said that an upper air cyclonic circulation is likely to form over north Bay of Bengal around September 18, which may bring more rain to the state.

TPCODL inaugurates new division office at Khurda



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: TP Central Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the government of Odisha, inaugurated a new division office at Khurda recently. The office, set up to cater to issues of Khurda electrical division, also houses a Customer Care Centre (CCC) dedicated to the consumers in and around Khurda. This is TPCODL's 16th CCC including one mobile CCC.

Praveer Sinha, CEO & MD, Tata Power Company Limited and M Shenbagam, CEO, TPCODL inaugurated the new office space in presence of senior officials of the company and employees of Khurda Electrical Division.

Speaking on this occasion, Praveer Sinha said, "We are extremely happy to inaugurate the new division office at Khurda. With this, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to provide reliable and quality power supply to the consumers under Khurda Electricity Division. I believe our team will be able to provide services more efficiently from the new work space."

Congratulating the team, M

Shenbagam said, "Creating a better place to work for our people has been a focus from the inception of TPCODL and I am delighted for our team at Khurda who will now have a well-equipped modern office. With our new CCC we are committed to create a world experience for our customers at Khurda."

Focussing on customer satisfaction, the CCC will be managed by a highly trained team of officials offering a wide range of customer services including new connection applications, bill payments, addressing to customers' queries and complaints. For the benefit of the consumers and ease of access, the CCC is fully equipped with advanced services like Queue Management System to manage the customer footfall efficiently, Self Help Kiosk to provide new connection related information/duplicate bill/customer connection details, Feedback Tab to capture customer's feedback on the services rendered at the centre and television set to inform customers about Online Payment Options, safety and other schemes. The customer care centre will benefit around 1,80,000 consumers under Khurda Division.

City police arrests 109 drug peddlers till Aug

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar: The city police have arrested 109 drug peddlers involved in illegal trade of brown sugar and cannabis during the last eight months. In a press note, the city police Monday revealed that it seized brown sugar weighing 1Kg 37 grams and Ganja 987.048Kg under operation 'White Spider' between the period January 1 and August 31, 2022.

Meanwhile, the cops arrested 59 persons registering 32 cases for selling brown sugar during the above period. As many as 27 cases were registered and 50 drug peddlers were arrested for selling and transporting Ganja in the last eight months. The cops seized 27 vehicles, 59 mobiles phones and around Rs 4.80 lakhs in cash from the possession of accused drug peddlers.

Hot Strip Mill-2 of RSP records highest HR coil production

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: The Hot Strip Mill-2 of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has registered the record single day HR (hot rolled) Coil production September 10. RSP sources said the mill rolled 7,561 tons of slabs and produced 372 coils weighing 7,398 tons of HR Coils, which is its best performance since its inception. The previous best single-day rolling of 7,289 tons of slab and 7,052 tons of coil were achieved August 31.

RSP executive director (works),

RAZING DOWN



An excavator deployed by BDA razing down an illegal structure in Chakeisiani area of Bhubaneswar, Monday

599 held in 3 days for drunk driving

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Altogether 599 people were held driving in an inebriated state during a three-day period in Odisha, an official said Monday.

The State Transport Authorities (STA), along with the police, launched a state-wide operation to discourage people from drunken driving and detected 599 offenders from September 7 to September 9, the official said.

"In accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, a total of 338 driving licences have been confiscated for suspension," the STA said in a statement.

With Covid-related restrictions lifted by the state government following a decline in the number of cases, the Transport department along with the state police resumed the drive to check drunken driving in April 2022.

The enforcement staff detained 350 vehicles of the offenders in April. As many as 222 people were detained for the offence in April and a total of 455 prosecution reports were submitted to courts for action, it



said. Apart from this, 1,568 other cases have been detected for violation of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Despite a set of strict laws and regulations, drunken driving continues to be one of the major reasons behind road accidents in India.

A total of 246 road accidents have occurred in the coastal state in 2021 due to drunken driving.

The state in September 2019 amended the Motor Vehicles Act 1988 which mentioned that in the case of drunken driving, first-time offenders will face imprisonment of up to six months or a fine of up to Rs 10,000. Violations for the second time can lead to up to two years prison term and/or a fine of Rs 15,000.

AIIMS Bhub to have 2nd Dual Energy Linear Accelerator

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: The department of Radiation Oncology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar is providing state of the art Conformal Radiation Treatment to cancer patients. During Covid pandemic, the department provided uninterrupted treatment service to the patients without being shut for a single day. In the year 2021 the department provided clinical service to more than 25,000 cancer patients in the form of Chemo, Radiation, Pain and Palliative therapy.

For the convenience of cancer patients, the department is going to install 2nd Dual Energy Linear Accelerator having cutting edge contemporary technology. With this addition, the patients' waiting time shall be shorter and the quality of treatment shall be higher. The machine shall be fitted with attachments for performing all kinds of modern-age radiotherapy like SBRT, SRS, SRT, IMRT, IGRT and all kinds of Adaptive Radiotherapy. Also the treatment planning system shall be connected to MRI and PET machine through PACS and the radiation treatment shall be done after fusion of all images in order to avoid normal tissue damage and deliver higher radiation dose to the tumor.

The machine installation process began Monday by the Executive Director Asutosh Biswas in the presence of Dillip Kumar Parida, Head of the Department, Radiation Oncology, Pravas Kumar Tripathy FIC PRO, and DDA (I/c) Rashmiranjan Sethy, FA, SE, faculty members and staff and students.

BJP MP alleges massive corruption in mining

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: BJP spokesperson and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi Monday alleged massive corruption to the tune of thousands of crores in mining activities in Odisha.

Holding a press conference here, Sarangi alleged that corruption of an unusual increase in the volume of export of low-grade iron ore is arising out from Odisha and there is no value addition.

"There is loss of thousands of crores to the state exchequer by deliberately downgrading the quality of ore being produced in many of the auctioned mines. This cannot happen without the connivance of the state government and its machinery," she alleged.

On the completion of the earlier lease period, 20 major mines were auctioned in and around March 31, 2020.

In 2019-2020, during the pre-auction period the proportion of low-grade ore in a mine used to be substantially lower. However, she said, after the auction, the new miners working on the same mines started showing disproportionately higher volumes of low-grade ore.

"In just one year, how is it possible? Is it possible without the collusion of the state government and its machinery, as stated earlier?" she asked.

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By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Jharsuguda, I Stiti Sambhab Das, S/o. Sushanta Kumar Das, R/o. Qtr.No. L/15 TRL, Township, PO. Belpahar, Dist. Jharsuguda declared that in my birth certificate bearing Regn. No. 12987/2022 my father's name has been wrongly mentioned as Susanta Das in place of Sushanta Kumar Das. That both the names are the name of one and same person.

FUTURE AIM



Guests attending the Kushal Bharat Sashakta Bharat apprenticeship fair at Khapuria Government ITI in Cuttack, Monday

IMFA's foundation increases scholarship for higher education

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Bansidhar and Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF) of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd (IMFA) announced an increase in the Prof. Ghanashyam Dash Scholarship (PGDS) for higher education to Rs. 6 lakhs per recipient. This enhanced limit is effective from year 2022 for fresh awardees. The annual PGDS scholarship is awarded to six meritorious students' (domicile of Odisha) to facilitate higher education in the field of Engineering, Medicine and Liberal Arts across India including IITs, NITs, AIIMS, AFMC and other premier government institutes.

Shaifalika Panda, CEO, BIPF said "The Prof Ghanashyam Dash

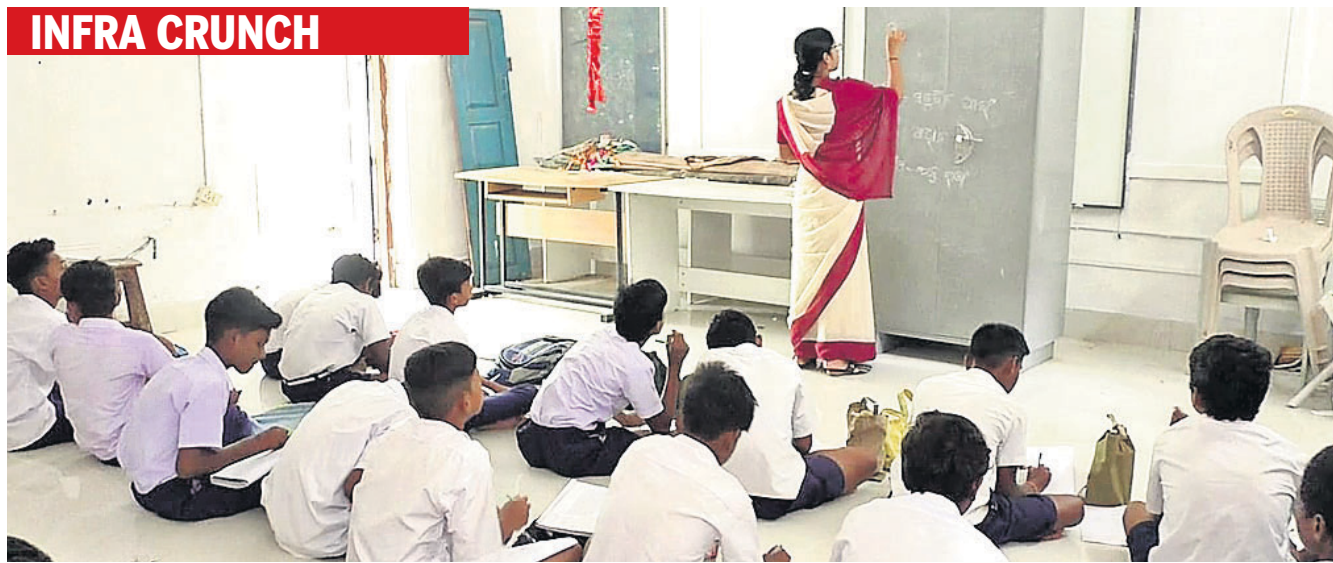
Scholarship provides an opportunity for students from marginalised backgrounds to strive towards their aspirations and change the fortune of their future generations through sustainable contribution to economic & educational wellbeing of their family".

The scholarship was instituted in 2005 by IMFA in the memory of renowned historian Late Prof. Ghanashyam Dash (1902-1959) father of Late Ila Panda, a scholar & historian of international repute. After graduating from London University, he was associated with several educational institutions in Odisha including Ravenshaw College, GM College & FM College as Principal and all of these have become Deemed University.

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INFRA CRUNCH



Sans a blackboard, a lady teacher was seen writing on the surface of a steel almirah to teach students at Binika High School in Sonepur district. OP PHOTO

Final flood damage report angers Sambalpur farmers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 12: The final report over flood damage submitted by the Sambalpur district administration to the state government is quite different from its preliminary one. This has angered the farming community, sources said here Monday.

Following low-pressure-induced torrential rains for several days in the upstream areas of Mahanadi recently, excess water was released from Hirakud dam, leading to floods in Sambalpur district and in the downstream areas. Low-lying areas in the district were inundated while crops and vegetables in hectares of farmland were damaged.



The Odisha government had asked the officials in the district to conduct a survey on the damages suffered due to floods and submit a preliminary report by August 30. Officials of the Revenue and Agriculture departments had jointly surveyed the flood-affected areas and prepared an initial report for Sambalpur district.

It was stated that Maneswar locality was partially affected by floods while Chipilima and Goshala areas under Dhankaud block suffered extensive damages. The report also stated that paddy in over 100 acres of land were damaged. The report was prepared after field survey and complaints of the affected farmers.

Surprisingly however, the final report states that crops have not suffered any damages due to floods. The report has signatures of officials of the survey teams. The affected farmers are now keen to know the reason behind the sudden changes made in the final report. They have expressed their displeasure and are fuming as to why the losses suffered by them have not been mentioned.

Asked on the issue, Sambalpur tehsildar Laxman Amat said that farmlands have not been damaged in and around this town. However, houses and roads have been damaged. The report however, does not state how many houses have been damaged or the wear and tear roads have suffered due to floods.

Convener of Paschim Odisha Krushak Sangathan, Ashok Pradhan said that huge quantity of paddy has been damaged by floodwaters in Basantpur, Chipilima, Goshala, Karadola and other villages under Dhankaud block. He wanted to know the basis on which the final report has been prepared. He noted that the report is full of wrong information and demanded compensation for the affected farmers.

Critical Bhadrak ITI student dies

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Sept 12: The student of a private ITI college at Tihidi Bazaar in Bhadrak district, who was critical after attempting suicide by consuming poison over alleged 'taunts and jokes' from his 'friends', succumbed Sunday evening at the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, his family informed Monday. Meanwhile, the grandmother of the deceased student,

The boy had consumed poison September 9 over alleged taunts made by his friends

identified as Asutosh Mallick (20) of Achak panchayat, has filed a complaint in this regard and police have registered a case. Asutosh was a first-year electrical engineering student.

"Police have seized a note at the place of suicide. Some classmates of Asutosh are being interrogated and further investigation into the matter is on," said IIC Tapan Kumar Pradhan. He said that in the suicide note, Asutosh blamed his friends for taking the drastic step, but did not specify their names. Asutosh along with his mother was at Tihidi Bazaar September 9 when some of his 'friends' taunted him over his academic performance.

Angry poultry farmers gherao police station

Dhenkanal: Hundreds of poultry farmers from various blocks of Dhenkanal district gheraoed the Town police station here Monday, in protest against alleged threats given to them by a private firm producing chickens and feeds. They have filed a complaint against some officials of the firm. On being informed, Sadar SDPO Bikash Beura, additional IIC Kalpana Behera and other officials rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the agitating farmers. The farmers relented after action was promised against the firm officials.

Crocodile fitted with GPS device found dead on Mahanadi bank

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 12: Fishermen found a dead crocodile near Nandapada ghat on the banks of Mahanadi in Sambalpur district Monday. On being informed, Forest department officials along with locals recovered the carcass of the reptile. A GPS device was also found attached to the body of the crocodile. It is suspected that the eight-foot long reptile belonging to



Tikarpara range in Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary might have been washed to the bank. DFO Biswanath Nilambar said that the reason for its death will be known after post-mortem. The matter is being investigated.

No takers for lemongrass oil; Malkangiri farmers in distress



was expected that it would go a long way in improving the economic condition of the poor tribals.

Everything from farming to oil extraction is going on smoothly, but the main problem is lack of buyers, farmers lamented.

Lemongrass oil is used in manufacturing soaps, cosmetics and incense sticks. While encouraging farmers to take up lemongrass farming, the officials had said that a litre of lemongrass oil would be sold for ₹2,000. However, that price never materialised. Instead only one trader used to buy the oil at ₹1,500 per litre. Now, even that trader has stopped buying the product, the farmers informed.

Among those involved in lemongrass farming, Jaysingh Bhumia and Pati Bhumia have 28 litres of oil each while Deba Bhumia has 14 litres, but they can't find a buyer to sell their product.

The farmers have said that OTELP should make provisions for marketing the product. A blame game has also started.

Manager of OTELP, Manoranjan Meher, said that Mathili BDO Ashish Bhoi is currently looking after the entire project. Since the block administration is managing it, they can only take the remedial steps to help out the farmers, he added.

Efforts to contact Bhoi over phone were not successful as repeated calls remained unanswered.

The farmers in Kartanpalli village under this block had to opt for distress sale of lemongrass oil recently. They lamented Monday that still large amounts have remained unsold and their efforts have gone to waste.

Lemongrass farming was initiated at the village in 2021 on four acres of barren land of some handpicked people as a pilot project. The cultivation was undertaken under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and was executed by OTELP.

A total of ₹12.17 lakh was spent on the project. To extract oil from lemongrass, an oil processing unit at a cost of ₹8.65 lakh was set up at Kartanpalli village. An agency by the name of Odisha Agro had provided the machine for oil extraction.

The villagers were trained to operate the machine and extract oil from lemongrass. The unit was inaugurated by the then project director, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). After the initiation of the project, it



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MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS. READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.

SUNDARAM HOME
Regd Office: No. 21, Patullo Road, Chennai - 600002.
Corporate Office: Sundaram Towers, No. 46, Whites Road, Chennai-600014
Branch Office: A/108, 2nd Floor, Co. Sundaram Finance Banadev Bhawan, Saheed Nagar, Khurda Dist, Bhubaneswar - 751 007.

POSSESSION NOTICE
Rule 8(2) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Whereas the authorized officer of SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice U/s. 13(2) dated 01-06-2022 calling upon the Borrower Mr. Chandrajit Biswal, Co-Borrowers Mr. Sarat Chandra Biswal, Mrs. Anjali Biswal, Mr. Biswajit Biswal, Mrs. Sabita Biswal to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 31,41,769/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Forty One Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Nine Only) being the amount due and payable under the Loan Account number 66200311 with Future Interest + Statutory Expenditure + Legal expenses + Incidental charges within 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice.

The Borrower, Co-Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Co-Borrowers and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on this 09-09-2022.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrower, Co-Borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED for an amount Rs. 30,49,418/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Nine Thousand Four Hundred Eighteen Only) as of 09-09-2022 and interest thereon @ 24% p.a. + Statutory Expenditure + Legal expenses + Incidental charges.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of the property total admeasuring A0.055 dec, kissam, Garabadi-I, Hal Khata: 92, Plot No.257, Correction Khata No. 199/174, Correction Plot No.257/1098 and Muted Khata-199/367, Muted Plot No. 257/1316 measuring A0.03 dec., Muted Plot No.257/1098 admeasuring A0.025 dec. Situated Fakirmohan Nagar, Mouza-Karanja, Thana No.6, Pw-Town, Balasore Town and Municipality, Balasore District, Odisha, Sub-Registrar of Balasore. Bounded by: North: Road, South: Aji Panda, East-Plot No. 256, West-Road.

for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.,
AUTHORISED OFFICER
Date: 09-09-2022

UCO BANK
Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building,
2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar,
Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423

POSSESSION NOTICE
For Immovable Property

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower/Guarantors to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the properties described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for an amount plus interest & expenses thereon.

SANTOSH PUR BRANCH/ Name and Address of the Borrower/ Guarantors	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
Borrower : M/s. Jagannath Traders, Prop: P Sujata Rao, At: Santoshpur, Rambah, Ganjam-761027 / Guarantor: Mr. P Biswanath Rao, S/o.: P Ramachandra Rao, At: Santoshpur, Rambah, Ganjam-761027	₹ 9,37,977.06 as on 04.02.2020 + further interest & other charges thereon	04.02.2020 / 08.09.2022	Site eastern Part of Plot No.: 1113, out of many Plots laid in about Acre 1 and 47 cents in A.P.S. No.: 480, measuring East- West 15.50 feet and North-South 42.50 feet, Totalling 61.3 square metre equal to 658.75 square feet at Santoshpur Village of Ganjam Tahasil within Ganjam SRO Limit and of Ganjam District, Total Area: Ac.0.030 Dec, 61.3 square metre equal to 1.47 cent, property in the name of Mrs. P Sujata Rao, W/o.: P Biswanath Rao, Bounded by North: Aska Road, East: Land of Nibedita Pradhan, South: Padar of D Hari Reddy, West: Land of D Hari Reddy,
Borrower : M/s. Abantika Medical Store, Prop: Bikramaditya Behera, At: Khandadeuli, Ganjam-761028 / Guarantors: 1) Mr. Arakhita Behera, S/o.: Late Juti Behera, 2) Mrs. Charusmita Behera, W/o.: Bikramaditya Behera, Both are At: Khandadeuli, Ganjam-761028	₹ 2,18,950.50 as on 16.12.2021 + further interest & other charges thereon	16.12.2021 / 08.09.2022	Site eastern Part of Plot No.: 2753, out of many Plots laid in about Acre 1 and 47 cents in A.P.S. No.: 307, Patta No.: 480, measuring East- West 15.50 feet and North-South 42.50 feet, Totalling 61.3 square metre equal to 658.75 square feet at Khandadeuli Village of Ganjam Tahasil within Ganjam SRO Limit and of Ganjam District, Total Area: Ac.0.60 Dec, 61.3 square metre equal to 1.47 cent, property in the name of Mrs. Charusmita Behera, W/o.: Bikramaditya Behera

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date: 12.09.2022
Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

Bank of India
Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

It is hereby brought to the notice of the following gold loan borrowers, their legal heirs, persons engaged in business of gold ornaments and general public that in spite of repeated notices by the Bank, the following borrowers are not repaying their dues. Notice is hereby published that if they fail to deposit all their dues in their respective gold loan accounts (including Up-to-date interest and all costs, charges / expenses) by Dt.23.09.2022, then from 11.00 AM of Dt.26.09.2022 their pledged gold ornaments will be sold in public auction at Respective Branch Premises given below and/or Sriram Automall India Ltd. (SAML), Cuttack, At: Sriram Automall Yard, Nuapatana, NH-42, Choudwar-Angul Road, Cuttack-754007, Contact Person: Mr. Prabhat Kumar (Mob-8658738320), Mr. Debasish Subudhi (Mob-9861342494). For this Bank shall not be held responsible for any inconvenience or damage caused to the concerned borrowers and no allegations or representations will be entertained from any borrowers in this regard. Bank reserves the right to cancel the auction without assigning any reasons in case, the bidding price so arrived at is observed to be low or inadequate. Further, if need be, Bank reserves the right to change the date, time and place of the above scheduled auction or cancel the same without assigning any reasons thereon. The purity & net weight & the reserve price of the gold ornaments / coins etc. will be made available to the intending bidders on the date and at the site of auction / auction portal.

Sl. No.	A/c. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers	Gross Wt. In Gms.	Net Wt. In Gms.	Balance U/s as on specified date	Total Dues (Excluding Unapplied Charges)
PARADEEP BRANCH, 467 CORE SECTOR, PARADEEP PORT, PARADEEP, DIST.: JAGATSINGHPUR, ODISHA-754142						
1.	510377610000430	Bharat Chandra Ojha, S/o.: Jagu Ojha, At: Janardanpur, Chataua, PO.: Kujang, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha	19	15.2	₹58,000/-	₹59,347.96
2.	510377610000142	Nirmala Mohanty, W/o.: Jitendra Kumar Mohanty, At: Chunabelari, PO.: Paradeepgarh, Dist. Jagatsinghpur, Odisha	74.8	51.85	₹1,53,583.67	₹1,72,951.88
3.	510377610000132	Mana Mohan Malla, S/o: Birabai Malla, At: Garej, PO.: Lathanga, Via.: Rahama, Dist.: Jagatsinghpur, Odisha-754140	52	42	₹1,06,124.93	₹1,35,283.46
BALANGA BRANCH, BALANGA NIMAPARA ROAD, BALANGA, DIST.: PURI, ODISHA - 752105						
1.	517077610000187	Padmalava Sahoo, S/o.: Bula Sahoo, At/PO.: Balanga, Dist.: Puri, PIN: 752105	15.490	11.610	₹43,801.48	₹49,395.78
KALPANA SQUARE BRANCH, PLOT NO.: A/88, BJB NAGAR, BHUBANESWAR-751014						
1.	513077610000074	Dillip Kumar Mohapatra, Gadadhar Prasad, Gobindpur, Nayagarh-752068	52.000	43.000	₹1,47,835.31	₹1,56,273.32
2.	513077610000103	Anawari Khatun, D/o.: Asgar Ali, Mahinsikhala, BJB Nagar, BBSR-751014	10.100	8.000	₹26,505.56	₹28,054.98
3.	513077610000245	Nalinikanta Das, Flat No.: 405, Mahaveer Enclave, Santoshi Vihar, Laxmi Sagar, BBSR-751006	52.000	49.000	₹1,83,500/-	₹1,88,857.42
4.	513077610000246	Nalinikanta Das, Flat No.: 405, Mahaveer Enclave, Santoshi Vihar, Laxmi Sagar, BBSR-751006	76.000	70.000	₹2,61,986.27	₹2,69,635.46
POKHARIPUT BRANCH, PLOT NO.:400(P), GANDAMUNDA SQUARE, POKHARIPUT, JAGAMARA ROAD, KHANDAGIRI, BHUBANESWAR- 751030						
1.	557373710000007	Prasanna Kumar Rout, S/o.: Dhobi Rout, Qtr.No.: LB-13, OSHB, Kapilaprasad, Bhubaneswar-751002	46.595	31.51	₹98,761/-	₹1,24,874/-
2.	557373710000060	Gobinda Chandra Sethi, C/o.: Mohanty Colony, Near Mangala Mandir, Jagamara, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar	20	20	₹78,453/-	₹81,929/-
BARIMUNDA BRANCH, AT/PO-BARIMUNDA, DIST.: KHURDA						
1.	512777610000113	Rakesh Chandra Sahoo, At/PO.: Barimunda, Dist.: Khurda	29.338	21.6	₹72,000/-	₹73,118/-
2.	512777610000205	Rakesh Chandra Sahoo, At/PO.: Barimunda, Dist.: Khurda	56.1	50.6	₹1,88,000/-	₹1,90,446/-
3.	512777610000160	Kausalya Sahoo, At/PO.: Barimunda, Dist.: Khurda	15.63	14.067	₹52,159/-	₹53,619/-
NABAKALEBAR ROAD BRANCH, GUNDICHA VIHAR, DIST.: PURI						
1.	555877610000318	Pratap Singh, At: Dargi Pokhari Chhaka, Puri	41.80	38.20	₹1,22,165.90	₹2,21,891.45
2.	555877610000343	Bikash Kumar Mallick, C/o.: Balaram Mallick, At: Bentapur, Brahmagiri, Puri	56.00	30	₹85,283.50	₹1,36,610.43
3.	555877610001496	Trinath Marthia, S/o.: Balunki Marthia, At: Jankia, Puri	12.12	11.00	₹30,345.47	₹32,165.79
4.	555877610001409	Prakash Chandra Acharya, S/o.: Krishna Chandra Acharya, At: Jageswari Lane, Balukhanda, Puri	26.040	24.000	₹86,157/-	₹94,959.31
5.	555877610001331	Pradeep Biswal, S/o.: Kanhu Biswal, At: Balisahi, Puri	36.370	9.000	₹26,698.38	₹27,494.18
GODIPADA BRANCH, PANCHAYAT OFFICE BUILDING, GODIPADA, DIST.: NAYAGARH						
1.	557977610001449	Rubina Nayak, Damasahi, Ranpur, Nayagarh-752092	4	2.61	₹5,560/-	₹5,708/-
2.	557977610001586	Manas Biswal, Damasahi, Ranpur, Nayagarh-752092	19.6	13.98	₹41,373/-	₹41,648/-

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 13.09.2022
Zonal Manager, Bank of India

FOCUS NATION

COLONIAL MINDSET THRIVES



If India has to truly give up its colonial mindset, it must reform the bureaucracy, remove undue privileges for those in power, offer firm, enforceable and many more protections for ordinary citizens

“The emotion and structure of the Rajpath were symbols of slavery, but today with the change in architecture, its spirit is also transformed,” said the Prime Minister on 8 September, inaugurating the new vista called ‘Kartavya-Path’ and putting behind what has been known as ‘Rajpath’, or Kingsway, “the symbol of slavery ... erased forever.” as an official statement put it. These steps are said to be in line with the PM’s second of five vows (‘panchpran’ for a New India) in the I-Day speech this August 15: “In no part of our existence, not even in the deepest corners of our mind or habits should there be any ounce of slavery ... We have to liberate ourselves from the slavery mindset which is visible in innumerable things within and around us.”

India, some of these services are in abundance after the State contracted them out to the private sector. But we also suffer a creeping corporate control and growing corporate power so that workers inside and customers outside take what they get. Every customer is not created equal. Quality of service gets linked to spending power and the revenue the customer generates. We have not been able to protect the rights of most workers and consumers. It makes privatisation sometimes look like a takeover by a new set of moneyed sahibs. This cannot be freedom, particularly for those who remain at the bottom of the pyramid.

tradition, exercising power, control, privilege for anything but service of the people. This, too, is not a sign of decolonisation. Some things have changed but this is more a case of too little, too late.

In fact, whichever way we look, the ordinary citizen has less and less protections from the might of the State and lately of corporates who rule lives, provide critical services but are not easy to hold to account, particularly when those down the line do the asking.

But the biggest of all is the way India has bought into the idea of what a developed nation might look like. Currently, it is all about the aggregate numbers at the top. We can gloat over how our GDP is now greater than Britain’s while refusing to acknowledge that it means nothing for how ordinary people live, of how in per capita terms, India is almost one twentieth of the nominal per capita GDP of UK.

A blind race for the GDP number also signals that India has chosen its path to be an unfettered kind of industrialisation under which care and maintenance of the abundance of nature is sacrificed at the altar of extraction, production and consumption for the benefit of a few. In this, we appear to find our nirvana in a development model that has brought no joy any-

where in the world but has delivered a destruction of natural systems. This industrial era growth in the Western mould is a path of follies of the West that have become a path of the East. So, while there is a movement towards the green economy in the West, slow as it is, we continue to run an extractive economy that we wish to grow faster and faster. A former Union environment minister once said laws on the environment should not hinder development. This path runs against what is traditionally Indian. It cannot be a sign of decolonisation of India. It is colonisation on a bigger scale than ever because we have overthrown one set of masters in the British but built a new set – in India, the brown sahibs and globally, still white sahibs who have somehow led us to believe that consumerism is the way of the future.

If India has to truly give up its colonial mindset, it must reform the bureaucracy, remove undue privileges for those in power, offer firm, enforceable and many more protections for ordinary citizens and decide on a growth journey that does not mimic the destruction that the West and China have wrought on the environment. All new innovation will come from this space, and we should not be surprised that we missed the new era because, well, our colonial mindset stopped us from seeing the path ahead. This means we must embrace our planet and all nature as living, thriving, breathing systems that nourish and sustain us – a deeply Indian way of thinking that goes back to our very roots. This takes us back to the classical Gandhi – the world has enough for everyone’s need but not for everyone’s greed – a very decolonised way of thinking that is now fashionably quoted (if not followed) all around the globe. It is true that Gandhi emphasised duties over rights but he also showed us how it was a duty to stand up when rights were taken away by an unjust and unfair colonial system.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

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Jagdish Rattanan

THE TYRANNY OF THE STATE, EVER PRESENT IN INDEPENDENT INDIA, HAS GOTTEN PROGRESSIVELY WORSE

It is true that there are innumerable things that make ordinary Indians live and work with a slavish mindset, not the least of which is the way ordinary Indians grovel for their rights before the brown sahibs that took over and continue to rule long after the white ones left. One of the biggest contributors and perpetrators of this slavery is the way officialdom treats citizens – labourers beaten during the lockdown imposed after COVID struck, citizens beaten outside ATMs immediately after demonetisation, the difficult conditions under which we get simple services like an Aadhar card, a driving license, a transport permit, not to speak of laws that could keep an ailing 84-year-old Father Stan Swamy in jail, right to his death. The tyranny of the State, ever present in Independent India, has gotten progressively worse. This cannot be a sign of freedom from a colonial frame that sees people as wayward and needing to be watched and controlled.

At one end are a range of legacy issues that made the Doodarshahera teleserial Rajani popular in pre-liberalised India because the protagonist put up a fight for simple, everyday issuances – a cooking gas cylinder, a phone connection, a petty loan. In a liberalised

SPECTRUM INFLATION

The risk of competitive interest-rate hikes

The world is facing the risk that major central banks will undertake competitive interest-rate hikes that may look desirable for their countries individually but could drag the world economy into an unnecessary recession. This scenario can still be avoided, but the window of opportunity is closing.

Aggressive interest-rate increases designed to combat high inflation at home make sense in isolation. For example, in view of the US Federal Reserve’s prolonged underestimation of the persistence of US inflation, Chair Jerome Powell’s recent vow to continue hiking rates, despite the risk of recession, seems reasonable. To ensure that inflation expectations remain anchored at a low level, the Fed would prefer to err on the side of being too aggressive, rather than risk doing too little. Across the Atlantic, the European Central Bank and the Bank of England have also vowed to raise interest rates to deal with the highest inflation seen in decades.

The problem with this approach is that an interest-rate hike by any major central bank has the effect of exporting inflation to other countries, forcing other central banks to raise interest rates more than they otherwise would have done. The

result is an interest-rate spiral that is more damaging to world output and employment than these countries may wish to see collectively.

For the 66 smaller economies that peg their currencies to the US dollar – especially those without significant capital controls, like Hong Kong, Panama, and Saudi Arabia – local interest rates tend to rise automatically whenever the US raises its interest rate, even when higher rates are harmful to their economic prospects.

With global growth already slowing, owing to Russia’s war in Ukraine and the accompanying surge in energy and food prices, a wave of ever higher interest rates might push the world economy toward negative growth. With some coordination, the world’s major central banks might achieve the goal of controlling inflation with a less aggressive strategy than each would adopt in isolation. But heightened geopolitical tensions and deepening mistrust among some major economies are making policy coordination harder.

Fortunately, a globalised competitive interest-rate hike has not happened yet. In China and Japan – the world’s second- and third-largest economies, respectively – inflation is currently under 3%, com-

pared to 8% or more in the US, the United Kingdom, and the eurozone. This means they do not need to raise their interest rates in response to the Fed, the ECB, and the BOE. In fact, the Chinese authorities are contemplating lowering interest rates to spur growth, and Japanese policymakers – who for decades have been more worried about deflation than inflation – don’t seem overly concerned. For the moment, both countries appear willing to accept a depreciation of their currencies.

But this could change. With no end in sight for the war in Ukraine, energy prices are not expected to drop anytime soon. China and Japan are both big importers of oil and gas, so surging energy prices worry them more than they worry the US. While current Chinese and Japanese inflation rates are significantly lower than in other major economies, they are still rising fast: China’s has tripled since the beginning of the year, from an annualised rate of 0.9% to 2.7%, and Japan’s quintupled from 0.5% to 2.6% over the same period. If this trend continues, imported inflation will soon become a major policy concern for them, too.

Policy-makers should seize the opportunity for cooperation before it’s too late. The coordinated re-

sponse to the global financial crisis a decade ago provides a useful model for such cooperation. Back then, concerns about free-riding by other countries, including China, initially created a disincentive for each individual economy to take sufficiently bold action on fiscal stimulus. But discussions with China at the G20 and other fora eased those concerns, and China’s large stimulus package raised demand for goods from Europe, the US, and elsewhere, making it more attractive for other countries to come up with their own sizeable stimulus packages.

This time around, escalating geopolitical tensions and the legacy of former US President Donald Trump’s trade war have deepened the mistrust among some of the world’s economic superpowers. While the nature of the economic challenge is different (inflation this time versus deflation back then), the need for policy coordination is similarly important to minimise output and job losses. If successful, this will also improve the chance for the policy coordination needed to win the global fight against climate change.

The writer is a former chief economist at the Asian Development Bank.

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What you are not able to do today, you will achieve tomorrow. Persevere and you shall conquer.

THE MOTHER



Disappointing Dhaka

India missed an opportunity to consolidate its relations with its steady and trusted neighbour, Bangladesh, when its Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited Delhi for four days last week. The foreign services establishment could have killed two birds with one stone. It could have drawn Hasina even closer by helping her face the Bangladesh electorate in the elections next year with much more confidence showing really tangible results of her engagement with India silencing her critics. At the same time it could have needed China’s efforts to bring Bangladesh further within its orbit by taking up the thorny issue of the Rohingya Muslims evicted from Myanmar.

The net result of the visit is the signing of seven Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). These are relating to cooperation in the areas of river water sharing, space, science and technology, broadcasting, and capacity building among railway and judicial personnel of the two countries. The most important of these pacts is the finalisation of an interim bilateral agreement on the withdrawal of water from the common border river, the Kushiya. Water sharing is an important item on the agenda of the India-Bangladesh relationship as the two countries share 54 trans-boundary rivers. The agreement reached on the Kushiya is the first that the two neighbours have signed in 25 years.

But Hasina’s trip to Delhi has in the main proved to be disappointing. The agreements that were signed could have been inked at the administrative level and no Prime Ministerial-level engagements were needed. Hasina desperately needed a treaty for sharing the waters of the river Teesta, hanging fire for an agonisingly long time. The waters from this river are so important for agriculture and commerce for people in Bangladesh that a success in this deal would have put Hasina in a tremendously advantageous position in the coming elections and anti-India forces would have been kept at bay. The text of a pact relating to this, which gives India the right to 42.5 per cent of the river’s water and Bangladesh the right to 37.5 per cent, was prepared over a decade back. An agreement was to be signed in September 2011 during the visit of then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Dhaka. However, India pulled out. It was not without cause that an anxious Hasina reminded her hosts of concluding a treaty on the Teesta “at an early date.” She could not do more than that and the initiative should have come from India. Failure to do so would only strengthen the hands of communal and anti-Indian forces in Bangladesh, too eager to take on Hasina.

The agreement on sharing the water of Kushiya is much smaller in scale compared to the volume of water from the Teesta. The Centre could clinch the Kushiya deal because it could make Assam and other north-eastern states amenable to it. But, the Teesta agreement of 2011 has been held up by West Bengal with its Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee refusing to oblige either the Centre or Hasina despite the latter’s forceful and impassioned plea to finalise it.

Ironically, the two Prime Ministers spoke on connectivity during their talks in Delhi, but connectivity did not figure among the MoUs signed. Moreover, there were several other important issues that needed to have been ironed out during the Prime Minister-level discussions. But, they were sidestepped. One of these is the killing of Bangladeshi nationals by Indian border guards. Bangladesh’s Home Minister informed parliament that 294 Bangladeshis had been killed by India’s Border Security Force (BSF) in the last decade. This is an emotive issue in Bangladesh.

However, the most ticklish issue is the fate of the Rohingya refugees. Bangladesh is taking care of over a million refugees which causes a strain on its resources. By helping Bangladesh over the settlement of the Rohingya refugees, India could have won the hearts of Bangladesh, while cornering China which is hand in glove with the autocratic military rulers of Myanmar. China is a strategic partner of Bangladesh and Dhaka’s biggest trade partner. At a time when Bangladesh’s economy is shrinking, as is reflected in its depleting forex reserves, Dhaka needs Chinese support as well. India should have shown more boldness by conceding Hasina’s demands, including export of oil which India is getting from Russia, to its own advantage.

This can be termed as another major failure of India’s diplomatic manoeuvring and has possibly demoralized the last neighbouring country that was seen as cooperative and friendly to India.

WISDOM CORNER

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young. HENRY FORD

Desire is the starting point of all achievement, not a hope, not a wish, but a keen pulsating desire which transcends everything. NAPOLEON HILL

We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we’re curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths. WALT DISNEY

WORDSWORTH

Bohemian

It comes to us through French, in which language the word (as bohémien) has long been applied to gypsies, who were thought to come from Bohemia, or at least to have entered Europe through that country. This is just the same way our gypsies were so named, because they were thought to have come from Egypt (gypsy being a corrupted form of Egyptian). In the nineteenth century, the word shifted sense in French to mean somebody who was a vagabond, or a person of irregular life and habits, an obvious enough extension of meaning if you accepted the then common disparaging view of gypsies. This sense was introduced into English by Thackeray in Vanity Fair in 1848: “She was of a wild, roving nature, inherited from father and mother, who were both Bohemians, by taste and circumstances”. The word quickly came to be applied with special reference to an artist, writer or actor who despised conventionality. By 1862, the Westminster Review was able to say that “The term ‘Bohemian’ has come to be very commonly accepted in our day as the description of a certain kind of literary gipsy, no matter in what language he speaks, or what city he inhabits ... A Bohemian is simply an artist or littérateur who, consciously or unconsciously, secedes from conventionality in life and in art”. Our modern senses are based on that idea.

LOL

The loss of engines

Two passengers were flying to Miami from Cleveland. Fifteen minutes into the flight, the captain announced “One of the engines has failed and the flight will be an hour longer. But don’t worry we have three engines left.”

Thirty minutes later, the captain announced: “One more engine has failed and the flight will be two hours



longer. But don’t worry we have two engines left.”

An hour later the captain announced: “One more engine has failed and the flight will be three hours longer. But don’t worry we have one engine left.”

One of the passengers looked at the other and said: “If we lose one more engine, we’ll be up here all day.”



Shang-Jin Wei

THE PROBLEM WITH THIS APPROACH IS THAT AN INTEREST-RATE HIKE BY ANY MAJOR CENTRAL BANK HAS THE EFFECT OF EXPORTING INFLATION TO OTHER COUNTRIES

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Hitting the wrong note

Sir, This refers to “Rahul’s meet with pastor triggers ‘Bharat Jodo vs Todo’ war,” Orissa POST. The first leg of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s Bharat Jodo Yatra has hit a wrong note even before it crossed into Tamil Nadu following his meeting with controversial parish priest George Ponnaiah. The priest was arrested in 2021 for his alleged provocative remarks on the Hindu religion and beliefs that went viral on social media. The priest had said that Bhooma Devi (Mother Earth) or Bharat Mata (mother India) was a dangerous disease and he wore shoes so it would not contaminate him. Add to this, Ponnaiah in his controversial speech July 18, 2021, had said the DMK won in Tamil Nadu because of his instructions to Christian and Muslim voters to vote for the Dravidian party. In fact, the Madras High Court had strongly criticised his remarks while hearing a case. Holding that he had prima facie deliberately intended to outrage religious feelings by promoting enmity, Justice GR Swaminathan had earlier this year said there was absolutely no need to mount a visceral attack on the religious beliefs of the Hindus. Against this backdrop, it is ludicrous that the Bharat Jodo yatra claimed to unite the hearts of the people from the background of different cultures turns out to be a sham. The interaction between Rahul Gandhi and George Ponnaiah, a divisive figure, sends out negative signals to the society at large and discredits the Congress’ ambitious movement in which it seeks to reinvent itself.

N Sadasiva Reddy, Bangalore

Fairytale ending

Sir, Sri Lanka’s Asia Cup 2022 triumph was nothing short of a fairytale ending for a team which started the tournament, which is a precursor to the T20 world cup starting next month in Australia, with an embarrassing loss to Afghanistan. In the finals against Pakistan, it was Bhanuka Rajapaksa who laid the foundation, pacer Pramod Madushan who built the structure, and the ever-reliable Hasaranga who gave the finishing touches. Unlike India and Pakistan, Sri Lanka may not have celebrity players, but it is a team of talented cricketers, who possess the uncanny knack and immense self-belief to win crunch matches from the dead. For a strife-torn island nation and currently mired in a deep economic crisis, the incredible achievement by the Sri Lankan cricketers will have a therapeutic effect on the people of that country.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

national

of the day **QUOTE**

Jammu and Kashmir today stands at crossroads where people have neither any right and nor any forum to project their grievances

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

The FIDE Chess Olympiad held recently has created interest among young people on this indoor game and due to the efforts of the state government the WTA Chennai Open 2022 is being held

M K STALIN | TN CM

The Centre is working on doubling ship-breaking capacity at Alang yard in Gujarat, which would eventually double the employment opportunities

SARBANANDA SONOWAL | UNION MINISTER

Food ministry canteens to have millets on menu

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 12: The Union Food Ministry has directed its official canteens and meetings to serve millets in order to promote their consumption, in view of their health benefits.

Millets may be included as one of the snacks/biscuits made of millets, such as ragi biscuits/cookies/ladoos and baked millet chips etc. as snacks to be served in the meetings, it said.

Millet/ragi dosa, millet mix vada, millet mix puri and idli/ragi ladoo to be used in the canteens and as far as possible, locally available millet-based products should be used, it said.

The year 2023 will be celebrated as the International Year of Millets (IYoM).

The Department of Food and Public Distribution has been actively promoting procurement/consumption of millets in the country and utilisation of procured millets for distribution in the TPDS/ICDS/MDM Schemes.

The Ministry said that millets' consumption confers several benefits and helps in managing life style diseases. Due to their high density of nutrients including vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals and dietary fiber, millets are also excellent grains to alleviate malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency.



Cong tweets image of khaki shorts on fire, BJP slams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The Congress Monday tweeted an image of Khaki shorts on fire on Twitter with a caption "to free the country from shackles of hate and undo the damage done by BJP-RSS...", triggering a political storm as the BJP and the RSS accused it of spreading "hatred and contempt" and calling it a "blatant instigation for violence".

Posting the image with '145 days more to go' tagline on its official handle, the Congress tweeted, "To free the country from shackles of hate and undo the damage done by BJP-RSS. Step by step, we will reach our goal" with a hashtag "Bharat Jodo Yatra".

The BJP lashed out at the Congress for its "promotion of violence and hatred" with its spokesperson Sambit Patra dubbing the yatra as "Bharat Todo Yatra" and "Aag Lagao Yatra". Patra demanded that the Congress immediately take down



An image released by Congress depicting khaki shorts, a part of the RSS uniform, on fire. The BJP dubbed it as an instigation for violence and lashed out at Congress for this promotion of violence

the post, saying there is no room for violence in India's constitutional scheme of things. He also cited party leader Rahul Gandhi's mis-

THE BJP LASHED OUT AT THE CONGRESS FOR ITS "PROMOTION OF VIOLENCE AND HATRED" WITH ITS SPOKESPERSON SAMBIT PATRA DUBBING THE YATRA AS "BHARAT TODO YATRA" AND "AAG LAGAO YATRA"

RSS JOINT GENERAL SECRETARY MANMOHAN VAIDYA SAID THE CONGRESS WANTS TO CONNECT PEOPLE THROUGH HATRED

145 days more to go

ing during the yatra with a controversial Christian pastor who allegedly insulted a Hindu goddess. The Congress' tweet also drew a sharp response from the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh.

RSS Joint General Secretary Manmohan Vaidya said the Congress wants to connect people through hatred. He alleged that the party's earlier generations of leadership also harboured "hatred and contempt" for the Sangh but could not stop its rise.

Addressing a press conference in Raipur after the conclusion of a three-day RSS coordination meeting, he said that there was "growing support" for Hindutva in society. As the BJP and the RSS hit out at the opposition party, it launched a counter-attack with its general secretary Jairam Ramesh saying that those who "stoked the fires of hatred, bigotry and prejudice" must be prepared to receive things back in the same coin.

Alleging that the Congress has had an old association with "fire", Patra said Punjab was put on fire when the party was in power and Sikhs were burnt alive during the 1984 riots. Noting that many members of RSS, the Hindutva organisation considered the BJP's ideological mentor, have been killed in Kerala where the Congress's yatra is going on presently, the BJP spokesperson alleged that the opposition party has signalled to "terrorists" in the southern state to target their functionaries.

"This is a blatant instigation for arson and murder. This instigation has been done by the Gandhi family and the Congress at their behest," he said. He claimed that Rahul Gandhi has often used the "fire" metaphor, noting that in his address at Cambridge University earlier the Congress leader had alleged the BJP has sprinkled kerosene all over the country and all it needs is one spark to catch fire.

MHA orders CBI probe into Sonali Phogat's death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The Union Home Ministry Monday recommended a CBI probe into the death of BJP leader Sonali Phogat, following a request by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

Phogat, 43, was found dead in Goa on August 22-23 night.

The MHA's move came after Sawant wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah requesting a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The home ministry recommended to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to get the case probed by the CBI, an official privy to the development said. The CBI functions under the administrative control of the DoPT.

Phogat, a BJP leader from Hisar in Haryana, died in Goa in the intervening night of August 22-23 and her death is being treated as a case of murder.

Earlier in the day, Sawant told reporters in Panaji that the Goa Police has done a "tremendously good investigation" in the case and have also got some clues.

"But due to the demand of people from Haryana and also Sonali Phogat's daughter, we have decided to write to the Union Home Ministry to hand over this case to the CBI," Sawant said.

Phogat, a former Tik Tok star and a contestant on the reality TV show "Big Boss", was brought dead to a hospital in North Goa on August 23, a day after arriving in the coastal state with two of her male aides.

Police have so far arrested five people in connection with the case including the associates - Sudhir Sagwan and Sukhwinder Singh. Police also arrested Dattaprasad Gaonkar, who had allegedly provided drugs to Sagwan and Singh who fed them to her.

TERRORIST-GANGSTER NEXUS

NIA raids 50 places



Crime Branch team of Haryana police deployed during a raid by National Investigation Agency officials in connection with a case related to narco-terrorism by alleged gangsters in Gurugram

The raids were conducted in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi to dismantle and disrupt the 'emerging nexus' between terrorists, gangsters, drug-smugglers and traffickers based in India and abroad, an official spokesperson said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The National Investigation Agency Monday carried out raids at 50 places across three states and in the national capital to dismantle what an official called was an "emerging nexus" between terrorists, gangsters and drug-smugglers.

Those covered under the raids also included gangsters involved in the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala. The NIA had registered a case on August 26 after it identified some of the "most desperate gang leaders and their associates based in India and abroad" who were spearheading and carrying out such terror and criminal activities.

The raids were conducted in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi to dismantle and disrupt the "emerging nexus" between ter-

rorists, gangsters, drug-smugglers and traffickers based in India and abroad, an official spokesperson said, adding these cases were taken over from the Delhi Police.

Searches were conducted this morning at the premises belonging to gangsters Goldy Brar, who is at present based in Canada, Lawrence Bishnoi, Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, Varinder Pratap alias Kala Rana, Kala Jathedi, Vikram Brar, Gaurav Patyal alias Lucky Patyal (who was earlier arrested in Armenia).

Other premises covered are associated with gangsters Neeraj Bawana, Koushal Chaudhary, Tilly Tajpuria, Amit Dagar, Deepak Kumar alias Tinu, Sandeep alias Bandar, Umesh alias Kala, Irfan alias Cheenu Pahalwan, Ashim alias Hashim Baba, Sachin Bhanja and their associates.

Goldy Brar and Bhagwanpuria are also involved in the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala who was shot dead in Punjab on May 29. Six pistols, one revolver and one shotgun were seized along with ammunition during the raids, the spokesperson said, adding drugs, cash, incriminating documents, digital devices, details of benami property, threat letters have also been seized.

The raids came after some recent sensational crimes and extortion calls by criminal syndicates and gangsters to businessmen, professionals including doctors were reported.

AAP claims party office raided; cops deny

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Sept 12: Aam Aadmi Party leaders have claimed police raided the party's data management office in Navrangpura area of Ahmedabad soon after AAP's national convener Arvind Kejriwal landed here for a two-day visit, but found nothing.

However, the Ahmedabad police refuted the claim saying no such raid was carried out. "We learnt from social media that it is being claimed that city police raided the AAP office on Sunday. No such raid was conducted by the city police," the Ahmedabad Police said in their official Twitter handle.

Ahead of the Assembly polls due in BJP-ruled Gujarat later this year, Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal



Convener of Aam Aadmi Party, Gujarat

landed in Ahmedabad on Sunday evening to hold town hall meetings with auto-rickshaw drivers, businessmen, lawyers and sanitation workers on Monday and Tuesday.

After the Ahmedabad police denied raiding the AAP office, Gujarat party unit president Gopal

Italia Monday claimed the Navrangpura police staff carried out a "search-cum-raid" at the data management office of the party's state unit at around 8.30 pm on Sunday.

"Some policemen came to our data management office to carry out a search operation-cum-raid. They told our on-duty staff that they are attached with Navrangpura police station and also showed their I-cards. One was Hitesh while another was Paras. They checked our diaries, cupboards, drawers, laptops and computers," Italia told reporters.

Asked if he had any visual evidence to prove his claims, Italia said CCTV's were not yet installed at the office as it was opened recently in view of the upcoming elections.

Sarabjit's wife dies in accident



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amritsar, Sept 12: Sukhpreet Kaur, the wife of Sarabjit Singh who was killed at a Lahore jail in 2013, died in an accident Monday.

According to police reports, Sukhpreet Kaur was travelling on a two-wheeler when she 'accidentally' fell from it at Fatehpur village near Amritsar. She was rushed to the hospital where she breathed her last. Sukhpreet's last rites will be performed at her village Bhikhiwind on Tuesday.

In June this year, Sarabjit's sister, Dalbir Kaur, who had launched the 'Save Sarabjit' campaign to free her brother from Pakistan jail, had died following a heart attack. Notably, Sarabjit Singh had crossed over to Pakistan in an inebriated condition in 1990. He was a resident of Bhikhiwind, a border village.

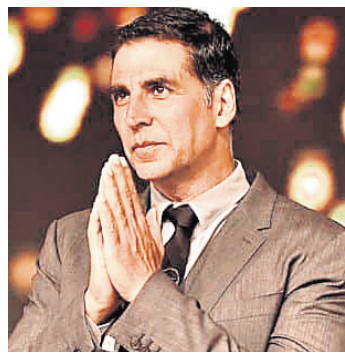
Ad starring Akshay under fire for 'promoting dowry'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 12: A public service advertisement on road safety featuring Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar is at the centre of a growing storm for allegedly promoting dowry.

The minute-long clip is set during a 'bidaai' ceremony. The teary bride sits in the car and her father, also crying, sees her off. That's when a cop, played by Akshay Kumar, intervenes to tell the emotional father of the bride to send her and the groom in a car equipped with six airbags instead of their current vehicle equipped with just two.

The father agrees, and the next visual is the couple, all smiles, driving away in a car with six airbags - graphically demonstrated. Shiv Sena leader Priyanka Chaturvedi and Trinamool Congress' Saket Gokhale were among those who spoke against the video, a public service advertisement (PSA) posted on social media following the death of former Tata Sons chairperson Cyrus Mistry in a car crash earlier this month.



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari had posted the video on Twitter in a bid to promote travelling in a vehicle with six airbags. The ministry spokesperson could not be immediately reached for comment. However, a source close to the development said that the advertisement does not talk about dowry. PTI reached out to Kumar's representatives for a comment, but the calls did not elicit any official response.

"This is such a problematic adver-

tisement. Who passes such creatives? Is the government spending money to promote the safety aspect of a car or promoting the evil & criminal act of dowry through this ad?" Shiv Sena's Chaturvedi tweeted Tuesday.

Trinamool Congress national spokesperson posed two questions to the NDA-led BJP government at the Centre. "1. Disgusting to see Indian govt officially promoting dowry. What even??? 2. Cyrus Mistry died because the road design was faulty. That spot is an accident-prone area," he wrote.

The video was an "amazing way to deflect responsibility by pushing for 6 air bags (& expensive cars) instead of fixing roads", added Gokhale in his tweet. The ad comes a month after the release of Kumar's film "Raksha Bandhan", which focused on dowry culture, something the actor likened to "extortion" during its promotions. How the mighty have fallen, asked a Twitter user.

"WHAT an inglorious fall for this worm. Reduced to crawling like this. In an ad so stupid that it should

never have crawled out of the WhatsApp sewer that it belonged to," he wrote on Twitter and described himself as a former Akshay Kumar fan. Another Twitter user said the advertisement was "crass".

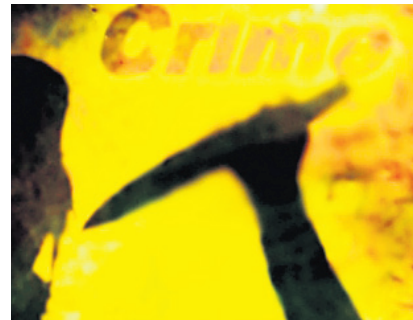
"The ad about the bride's car having just 2 airbags starring Akshay Kumar is crass. An obvious reference to Cyrus Mistry's unfortunate accident. The subject of airbags can be treated with more sensitivity."

Kumar is the 'poster man' of several PSAs, including the anti-smoking and pro-sanitary napkin ad which is mandatorily played in cinema halls before the screening of all films that have smoking scenes.

In 2018, the actor also starred in another road safety ad - the 'Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha' campaign - for the Transport Ministry. After severe social media backlash in April, Kumar had apologised to his fans for featuring in an advertising campaign of a paan masala brand and said he was withdrawing his association with the company.

CRIME GRAPH ON RISE

The Bihar police Monday claimed that 1, 57,735 people were arrested for various crimes in the state till July this year. Jitendra Singh Gangwar, the Additional Director General of Police told media persons that the figure can go up to 2.70 lakh by the end of this year



UCO Bank		Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009	GOLD AUCTION NOTICE
The following persons, who have availed loans against pledge of gold ornaments, from CONCERNED BRANCHES of UCO Bank, have not repaid the amount in spite of our demand notice. Therefore, please take notice that if the principal, interest and other charges are not paid on or before Dt. 27.09.2022, the pledge ornaments will be publicly auctioned on Dt.28.09.2022 at 3.00 P.M. at the Respective Branch premises. The Bank reserves the right to cancel/postpone the auction to any other convenient date without assigning any reasons.			
Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrowers/Account No.	Balance Outstanding	Weight in(Grams)
JANLA BRANCH, JANLA, DIST.: KHORDHA, NAME OF THE MANAGER: SUTAPA PATNAIK, PH. NO.: 8763682321			
1.	Bharati Pradhan, C/o: Gopal Ch. Panda, Near Janla Nodal JP School, Janla, Khordha- 752054 / 15790610015605	₹ 49,999.77 + unapplied interest	21.00
CHANDRASEKHARPUR BRANCH, PLOT NO.: 262, DISTRICT CENTRE, BHUBANESWAR, NAME OF THE MANAGER: MANAS RANJAN NAYAK, PH. NO.: 7008375427			
1.	Puspalata Behera, D/o.: Arjun Behera, Nilamadhab Basti, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar / 25430610012079	₹ 93,000/- + unapplied interest	25.00
MALKANGIRI BRANCH, NEAR BUS STAND, DIST.: MALKANGIRI, NAME OF THE MANAGER: SIMANCHAL GANPA, PH. NO.: 8093590756			
1.	Himanshu Samal, S/o.: Bengali Samal, Jhatimati Colony, Near DRDA, Malkangiri / 30290610001622	₹ 91,000/- + unapplied interest	25.50
2.	Dinamani Nayak, S/o.: Rasananda Nayak, Reclamation Colony, Malkangiri / 30290610001578	₹ 1,00,000/- + unapplied interest	30.20
3.	Subas Kumar Das, S/o.: Bhabagrahi Das, Madalaguda, Talasahi, Malkangiri / 30290610001820	₹ 81,166/- + unapplied interest	29.00
4.	Subas Kumar Das, S/o.: Bhabagrahi Das, Madalaguda, Talasahi, Malkangiri / 30290610001554	₹ 58,000/- + unapplied interest	18.50
5.	Simanchal Panigrahi, S/o.: Rabindranath Panigrahi, Malkangiri / 30290610001530	₹ 49,000/- + unapplied interest	18.00
ORANDA BRANCH, KHUNTUNI, DIST.: CUTTACK, NAME OF THE MANAGER: ASWINI KUMAR DAS, PH. NO.: 7008095701			
1.	Suresh Kumar Nayak, Radhakishorepur, Cuttack- 754029 / 17790610016077	₹ 37,000/- + unapplied interest	11.00
2.	Ajay Kumar Nayak, Rampei, Khuntuni, Cuttack- 754029 / 17790610017548	₹ 1,51,000/- + unapplied interest	42.70
ATHGARH BRANCH, ATHGARH, DIST.: CUTTACK, NAME OF THE MANAGER: ASHUTOSH BEURA, PH. NO.: 8763358318			
1.	Harendra Swain, S/o.: Padan Swain, Tailamala, Raj Nagar, Cuttack / 07700610039168	₹ 50,000/- + unapplied interest	14.30
SAHID NAGAR BRANCH, BHUBANESWAR, NAME OF THE MANAGER: MOUSUMI SAHOO, PH. NO.: 9439365465			
1.	Jyotirmayee Dash, W/o.: Balaram Dash, Plot No.: 27(P), Behind Maharishi College, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar / 09230610026366	₹ 48,515/- + unapplied interest	16.00
2.	Jyotirmayee Dash, W/o.: Balaram Dash, Plot No.: 27(P), Behind Maharishi College, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar / 09230610026182	₹ 4,35,000/- + unapplied interest	130.00
3.	Chinmayee Panda, W/o.: Soumya Ranjan Khuntia, Lingaraj Nagar, Lane-8, Bhubaneswar- 751002 / 09230610024935	₹ 64,000/- + unapplied interest	16.00
ASHOKA MARKET BRANCH, BHUBANESWAR, NAME OF THE MANAGER: NITESH KUMAR MOHANTY, PH. NO.: 9003088032			
1.	Chinmayee Panda, D/o.: Madhusudan Panda, Plot No.: 2988, Lingaraj Nagar, Lane-8, Bhubaneswar- 751002 / 17850610036037	₹ 56,000/- + unapplied interest	14.00
The intending bidders may participate in the auction by fulfilling the following terms:			
1. The Bank does not guarantee the weight or purity of the jewellery/coins, either of its gold contents or otherwise.			
2. The jewel is available for inspection by the intending bidders during business hours on any working day in the bank.			
3. The intending bidders have to contact the Respective Branch Head for the Reserve Price of each account.			
4. The intending purchaser shall make an earnest money deposit of 25% of Reserve Price (to be computed as per the balance outstanding).			
5. The jewel to be handed over to the highest bidder on payment of the balance amount within 24 hours or on the next working day of the bank during its business hours.			
6. If the successful bidder fails to pay the amount, the earnest money will be forfeited and the jewel may be resold within 30 days from the date of auction.			
7. The unsuccessful bidder shall be entitled for the refund of the earnest money immediately after the auction is over.			
8. It shall be lawful for the Bank to stop the auction at any stage without assigning any reason thereto in which case the earnest money shall be returned to whoever makes the deposit.			
Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 12.09.2022		Authorised Officer, UCO Bank	

Ram temple's construction to cost ₹1,800 crore: Trust

The construction of the temple is expected to be completed by December 2023 and Lord Ram is expected to be seated in the sanctum sanctorum by the Makar Sankranti festival in January 2024

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya (UP), Sept 12: An estimated cost of Rs 1,800 crore will be incurred to build the Ram temple in Ayodhya, officials of the trust responsible for the construction of the structure have said.

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, formed on the Supreme Court's orders for the construction of the temple, approved its rules and manual after a marathon meeting here Sunday.

At the meeting held at the Faizabad Circuit House, the trust members also unanimously decided to make space for idols of prominent Hindu seers in the temple complex.

The trust has estimated an expenditure of Rs 1,800 crore for the construction of the Ram temple only, based on a report filed by experts. The general secretary of the



trust, Champat Rai, said after long contemplation and suggestions from everyone concerned, the rules and by-laws of the trust were finalised at the meeting.

The trust has also decided to make space for idols of prominent Hindu seers and the main characters from the Ramayana period in the temple complex, he added.

Rai said 14 of the 15 trust members attended the meeting.

Construction committee chairman Nripendra Mishra, trust chairman Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, treasurer Govind Dev Giri, member Udupi Peethadheeshwar Vishwatirtha Prasannacharya, Dr

Anil Mishra, Mahant Dinendra Das, Kameshwar Chaupal and ex-officio member District Magistrate Nitish Kumar were among those who were present physically, while Keshav Parasharan, Yugpurush Parmanand, Vimalendra Mohan Pratap Mishra and ex-officio member state Principal Secretary Home, Sanjay Kumar participated virtually.

The construction of the temple is expected to be completed by December 2023 and Lord Ram is expected to be seated in the sanctum sanctorum by the Makar Sankranti festival in January 2024, Rai said.

Facing headwinds, Himachal BJP banks on Modi

DESPITE THE AAP STRIVING HARD TO MAKE INROADS AHEAD OF THE POLLS, THE POLITICAL SCENARIO IN HIMACHAL SEEMS SO FAR LARGELY BIPOLAR -- A TUG-OF-WAR BETWEEN THE TWO CONVENTIONAL ARCH RIVALS -- THE CONGRESS AND THE BJP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Sept 12: The saffron brigade soldiers are depending upon their general to win the electoral battle for them in Himachal Pradesh. Facing strong headwinds of anti-incumbency, the BJP leadership in the state led by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur seems banking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "charisma", instead of flashing its own achievement card.

The party is holding a mass public meeting of Modi September 24, the first of the three rallies planned ahead of the poll announcement, in Mandi town, the home turf of the Chief Minister, with an expected gathering of over one lakh youths.

Normally in every public meeting, Thakur, who is currently on an inauguration spree by travelling to every nook and corner of the state, is missing no opportunity to remind the public about PM Modi's special bond and love for the people of the state where he spent a few years as the in-charge of the state's affairs in the late 90s.

Getting nostalgic by speaking often in the local dialect, even Prime Minister Modi in his public addresses became vocal about his emotional bond and connection with the state that he says has had a very positive impact in shaping and giving direction to his life.

Modi last visited the state May 31



to address beneficiaries of the Central government's schemes to mark the eighth anniversary of his government from the historic Ridge -- once the promenade of the British colonial rulers when Shimla was their summer capital.

He will be coming to the hill state again September 24. This time he is coming to Mandi, the district with 10 assembly segments, the state's second highest, to launch the BJP's campaign for elections slated for the end of this year for the 68-member BJP-ruled assembly.

Earlier, he addressed a rally in Mandi December 27, 2021, to mark the fourth anniversary of the state government.

For Chief Minister Thakur, who is quite younger to Modi, Himachal is the second home of "our Prime Minister and he is always excited to visit it".

Expressing gratitude to Modi for sanctioning a bulk drug park in Haroli tehsil of Una district, Thakur,

in full page newspaper advertisements last week, said Himachal is the only northern state to get this prestigious project.

"The bulk drug park will not only accelerate the pace of industrialization in the state but will also generate employment opportunities, thereby leading to a significant boost in the prosperity of the region," said Thakur.

Political observers told IANS the focus of Modi's September 24 rally ahead of the Assembly polls, which are slated later this year, is to keep his party's "double engine government" on track by recapitulating the milestones the state achieved through the Centre's welfare schemes.

Despite the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) striving hard to make inroads ahead of the polls, the political scenario in Himachal Pradesh seems so far largely bipolar -- a tug-of-war between the two conventional arch rivals -- the Congress and the BJP.

Himachal Pradesh was traditionally dominated by the Congress and saw its first non-Congress chief minister, Shanta Kumar, in 1977, when the Janata Party came to power.

The Congress appointed its three-time MP Pratibha Singh, the widow of six-time chief minister Virbhadra Singh, as the state unit president in April.

Unlike her husband who had a direct connect at the grassroots, Pratibha Singh has spearheaded the poll campaign in a bid to oust the incumbent Jai Ram Thakur-led government by saying people are highly upset with its poor performance.

She often blames the BJP for banking on the popularity of Modi to win the polls as it did nothing for the people's welfare.

The Congress is banking on its promise to bring back the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) that will benefit 225,000 employees, a crucial vote bank.

The Congress is banking mainly on an anti-incumbency wave against the ruling dispensation.

Chief Minister Thakur believes good governance with zero corruption, which is essential for economic growth, and no witch hunting are the mantras for his success.

The BJP had won a majority in the 2017 Assembly polls with 44 seats in the 68-member Assembly.

UP madrassas fear 'bulldozer' ahead of survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 12: With the Uttar Pradesh government set to conduct a survey of private madrassas, proprietors of the theological schools fear that their institutions may be declared illegal and "run over by bulldozers."

According to sources, the fear was expressed by them September 6 in New Delhi at a meeting of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, one of the leading organisations of Islamic scholars belonging to the Deobandi school of thought.

However, state minister Danish Azad Ansari said the apprehension has no basis.

The Muslim body's president Maulana Arshad Madani told PTI, "Nobody has any objection if the government wants to conduct a survey of private madrassas but care should be taken so that it doesn't interfere in their internal matters."

The sources said it was decided at the meeting that views of the Muslim community will be placed before the government, a close eye will be kept on the exercise and a steering committee be formed to protest any wrongdoing.

It was also decided to hold a meeting September 24 in Darul Ulum Deoband to chalk out the fu-



ture course of action.

Earlier, AIMIM chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi and BSP supremo Mayawati had raised questions over the exercise, for which teams were to be formed by September 10.

The government has maintained that the exercise is aimed at streamlining private religious seminaries so that students there could learn science and computers.

AIMIM chief Owaisi had described the exercise as "mini NRC" (National Register of Citizenship).

BSP supremo Mayawati has alleged that the government is trying to interfere in the internal matters of the seminaries with an intention to "terrorise" Muslims.

Meanwhile, UP's Minister of State for Minority Affairs Danish

Azad Ansari assured that no centre will be razed.

"Those expressing such an apprehension should tell if any madrasa was brought down by any bulldozer in the previous five years of the state government. The anxiety has no basis," he told PTI.

The lone Muslim minister in Yogi Adityanath government said the state government is working honestly to bring madrassas into mainstream.

"The purpose of the survey is to know the actual condition of the madrassas and help these in lifting their standard," he added.

The minister said during the survey, owners of private madrassas will be asked as to which schemes of the government they wanted. They will also be given

information about development programmes run by the government for minorities.

"Relevant papers and forms regarding schemes for minority communities will be made available to them during the survey so that welfare schemes reach villages and towns deprived of them till now," Ansari said.

Ansari asked critics to stay away from politics "if they are supporters of Muslim upliftment".

All-India Muslim Personal Law Board member and Lucknow city Qazi Maulana Khalid Rasheed Farangi Mahli too criticised Owaisi for dubbing the survey as "mini NRC" and said everything should not be politicised.

He, however, said before carrying out the survey of private madrassas, the state government should strengthen the arrangements in government-affiliated madrassas and a similar survey be conducted in every primary schools run by the government.

The Uttar Pradesh government had August 31 taken the decision to conduct the survey to assess basic facilities available in private madrassas. There are 16,461 such theological schools in Uttar Pradesh at present, of which 560 are registered with the government and getting financial assistance.

First hurdle crossed: VHP on court order in Gyanvapi case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The Vishva Hindu Parishad Monday termed the Varanasi district court order in the Gyanvapi mosque lawsuit as "very satisfactory", while stressing that it is not about victory or defeat and should be accepted with "grace and calmness."

The legal battle in the matter has crossed its "first hurdle" with the court's decision, VHP working president Alok Kumar said.

The reaction of the right wing Hindu outfit came after the Varanasi district court rejected the plea questioning the maintainability of a petition seeking permission for daily worship of Hindu deities whose idols are located on an outer wall of the Gyanvapi mosque.

District Judge AK Vishvesh held that the court would continue to hear the petition seeking the right to offer prayers there.

The court fixed September 22 as the next date of hearing in the case.

"The Varanasi court's decision is very satisfactory. The first hurdle has been crossed. The Varanasi court has decided that the Varanasi



suit is not injunction by the Places of Worship Act. The application of the other party has been dismissed," Kumar said in a video message.

The court will now examine the matter on its merits, he noted.

"We do hope and look forward to a victory...The truth is with us," he said.

Kumar said the court's decision should be accepted with "grace and calmness and it should not be interpreted in terms of victory or defeat."

"This a religious and spiritual

matter," he stressed.

Five women had filed the petition seeking permission for daily worship of Hindu deities whose idols are claimed to be located on an outer wall of the Gyanvapi mosque.

The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee has said the Gyanvapi mosque is a Waqf property and has questioned the maintainability of the plea.

The district judge had last month reserved the order till September 12 in the communally sensitive matter.

UP GREENLIGHTS URDU SIGNAGES IN HOSPITALS

According to the UP Official Language Act 1951, the most populous state declared Urdu as the second official language in 1989

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sep 12: Languages connect people and are a means to express one's culture, value system and group affiliations.

Hindi and Urdu are not just mere languages, but are also an integral part of the society. It can also be said that both languages are complementary to each other due to which Urdu has become the second official language in Uttar Pradesh.

Mohammad Harun, a resident of Unnao in Uttar Pradesh, had written a letter to the state government complaining that despite Urdu being recognised as a second official language, it was not being spoken much in various government sectors. After Harun wrote a letter, the government took cognizance of it and instructions have been given to the Chief Medical Officers of all the districts on behalf of the Medical and Health Department to write the signages



of government hospitals in Hindi as well as in Urdu. Since this government order has been implemented, it remains to be seen how much it will impact Urdu literature. This can be better understood from well-known Urdu writers and litterateur in the country.

Renowned writer Sharif Rudaulvi said that Urdu is the second official language of the province. Earlier, the names of people working in every government department were written in both Hindi and Urdu except in hospitals. The government has recently named the signages at hospitals in both Hindi and Urdu which is a welcome sign.

Names in Urdu will become convenient for the people which is a good thing. The intervention of Urdu in the literary world is equal to that of Hindi. Munshi Premchand was an Urdu writer whose stories were written in the same language. When Premchand's

books stopped selling in the market, the writer's friend translated his books into Hindi.

As far as literature goes, right from Ghalib, Mir Anees, Mir Taqi Mir, all were renowned Urdu poets in their own right.

The intention behind the government's decision is that Urdu must be preserved in India, there should be no hindrance in its education and writing so the government has recognised it as an official language. The official language has a value of its own.

Mirza Khaleel Ahmed Baig, former professor of linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University, said that Urdu is an Indian language. A total of 22 languages have been accorded a place in the Indian Constitution which also includes Urdu.

There are many Urdu speakers in northern India. Both Urdu and Hindi have originated from 'Khari Boli'. Promoting Urdu will have a good impact on society.

1.71L farmers grow chemical-free crops

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Sept 12: A total of 1.71 lakh farmers in Himachal Pradesh are growing chemical-free crops, a government statement said. An online portal for certification of 50,000 farmers doing natural farming will also be developed, it stated.

Farmers are also happy by using natural resources without the use of chemical fertilizers or spraying pesticides. This has been made possible under the state government's flagship programme -- Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan Yojana.

With the incentives of the government, the inclination of the farmers towards natural farming has increased many folds in the state. Oriented towards chemical fertilizer-free farming, the women are playing an important role in taking Himachal forward in the production of natural crops, an official statement said.

Residents of Panjayanu village in Pangana subtehsil of Mandi district have set an example by adopting natural farming.

Local farmer Leena Sharma has inspired villagers to adopt natural farming by setting an example. She got a chance to participate in the training camp of agricultural scientist and Padma Shri Subhash Palekar organised by the Department of Agriculture.



After this, Leena started natural farming in her fields and with her inspiration today about 30 families of the village have adopted it.

Another woman from the village, Satya Devi, has become a master trainer of natural farming. Apart from traditional crops, groundnut, garlic, chilli, pulses, beans, tomato, brinjal, capsicum, linseed and coriander are being cultivated in the village.

Natural farming has increased the efficiency and fertility of their fields, while their income has also increased.

Official data says about 9,421

hectares is being cultivated through natural techniques by 1.71 lakh farmers of the state.

For this fiscal, the state has set a target of bringing 50,000 acres under natural farming. Besides, 50,000 farmers will be certified as natural farmers. An online portal is also being developed for this.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also appreciated the model of natural farming in Himachal Pradesh on national forums.

The aim of Prakritik Kheti, Khushal Kisan Yojana is to increase income by reducing the cost of crop production, to save soil

and humans from the ill effects of chemical farming.

Under this scheme, the solution of indigenous cow dung and cow urine (gau mutra) and some local flora is used for spraying crops in place of chemical pesticides.

For making inputs to be used in natural farming, farmers are being provided 75 per cent subsidy on drums subject to a maximum of Rs 750 per drum.

A farmer family can get this benefit on three such drums. A total of 80 per cent subsidy is being given to Gaushala Parivartan for making the Gaushalas or cow sheds and collecting cow urine, with a maximum limit of Rs 8,000.

For the supply of inputs used in natural farming, there is also a provision of assistance of up to Rs 10,000 for opening natural farming resource reserves in each village.

So far, about Rs 58.46 crore has been spent under the Prakritik Kheti Khushal Kisan Yojana.

Apart from developing a natural farming model in all 3,615 panchayats, work is being done to convert 100 villages into natural farming villages.

With the aim of making the farmers self-reliant, a target of establishing 10 new FPOs (Farmer-Producer Organization) based on natural farming has been set up in the state.

of the day quote

The government is working on developing electric highways powered by solar energy, that will facilitate the charging of heavy duty trucks and buses

NITIN GADKARI | UNION ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER

A strong Congress is an important pillar of Opposition unity and its allies should understand that the party will not allow itself to be weakened

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

What problems do they have with the Bharat Jodo Yatra? They are talking about Rahul Gandhi's T-shirt while they themselves wear sunglasses of Rs 2.5 lakh and muffler of Rs 80,000. The price of the muffler which the home minister wears is Rs 80,000

ASHOK GEHLOT | RAJASTHAN CM

SHORT TAKES

Man drowns

Shimla: Rescuers Monday began a search operation to recover the body of a man from Kullu who had drowned in the glacial-fed Chandertal or 'Moon Lake' in Himachal Pradesh's Spiti Valley, officials said. The man, Pawan Kumar, reportedly drowned in the Chandertal Lake on Sunday evening. He was swimming in the lake, though taking a dip in the high-altitude lake is prohibited. Divers from Sundernagar were specially summoned to recover the body, an official said.

Youth arrested

New Delhi: A youth, who killed his friend and injured his brother during an argument about a girl in North Delhi's Sabzi Mandi, has been arrested, police said Monday. The police said that around 12 a.m. they got a call regarding the incident from the HRH Hospital that one Mihir, 21, a resident of Malkaganj, Sabzi Mandi along with his brother Prince, 20, was admitted with multiple stab wounds by their cousin Nitesh.

1 dead, many hurt

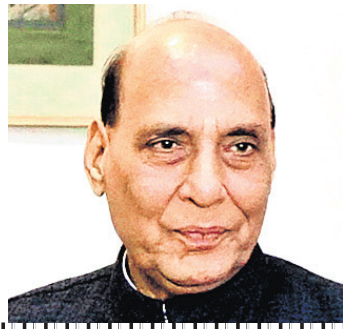
Thiruvananthapuram: A passenger died while several others were injured when a Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus fell into a ditch in Kerala's Idukki district Monday. The deceased has been identified as Sanjeevan (33). Of the injured, the condition of five is stated to be critical. The injured are undergoing treatment at a private medical college at Thodupuzha and government Taluk hospital, Thodupuzha.

3 killed in accident

Hyderabad: Three persons, including a woman, were killed in a road accident at Medchal near Hyderabad early Monday. According to sources, the accident occurred when a motorbike came under a truck. Both the persons on the motorbike and another person crossing the road died on the spot.

Terrorist killed

Srinagar: One terrorist has been killed in an ongoing encounter between terrorists and security forces at Heff Shirmal area in South Kashmir's Shopian district, officials said Monday. "One terrorist killed. Operation in progress," police said. The firefight started after a joint team of police and security forces got an input about the presence of terrorists in that area. After security forces cordoned off the area, terrorists hiding there started firing and drew retaliation of the security forces.



The government is committed to creating a robust, secure and self-reliant logistics system to effectively deal with future security challenges

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

REACHING OUT

The CRPF has launched bike-ambulances for tribals living in remote jungles of Maoist-hit Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh. The CRPF team of Balaghat said that medical teams accompanied by well-armed security personnel will reach the people living in remote areas



Indian, Chinese troops disengage from PP-15 in Ladakh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: Indian and Chinese militaries Monday moved back their frontline troops to the rear locations from the face-off site of Patrolling Point 15 (PP-15) in the Gogra-Hotsprings area in eastern Ladakh and dismantled temporary infrastructure there as part of a five-day disengagement process.

People familiar with the development said the two sides disengaged as per the plan which also entailed a joint verification of the entire process. "The full details of the disengagement and the verification process are being awaited from the ground commanders," said a source.

Though the two sides disengaged from Patrolling Point 15 (PP-15), there has been no progress yet on resolving the standoff in Demchok and Depsang regions. The Indian and Chinese armies on September 8 announced that they have kicked off the disengagement process from the PP-15, in a significant forward movement in the stalled process to pull-out troops from the remaining friction points in the region.

When asked about the disengagement at PP-15 on the sidelines of an event, Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande said: "I will have to go and take stock. But, it (disengagement process) is going as per schedule and what was decided". The people cited above said all the temporary infrastructure created at the face-off site has been dismantled.

It is not immediately known whether the two sides will create a "buffer zone" at PP-15 as was done after the troops disengaged in friction points on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and at Patrolling Point 17(A) last year. No side carries out patrolling in the buffer zone.

The disengagement in the Gogra-Hotsprings area is an outcome of the 16th round of high-level military talks in July, the two armies said while announcing the beginning of the process on September 8. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on September 9 that the disengagement process in PP-15 will be completed by Monday.

"As per the agreement, the disengagement process in this area started on September 8 at 0830 hours and will be completed by September 12. The two sides have agreed to cease forward deployments in this area in a phased, coordinated and verified manner, resulting in the return of the troops of both sides to their respective areas," he said.

Not unhappy with NCP: Ajit Pawar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 12: Senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar Monday said neither he was unhappy with his party nor it has neglected him.

He also said the media blew out of proportion his walking off the stage during the NCP's national convention held in Delhi on Sunday, adding that it was for a washroom break.

"My party has never neglected me. I am not angry or disappointed

UP IN ARMS



Farmers raise slogans during a protest staged to press for a legal guarantee for MSP and other demands, outside Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station in Bangalore

Over 67,000 cattle dead so far from lumpy skin disease: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The Centre Monday said over 67,000 cattle have died since the outbreak of the lumpy skin disease in July, prompting a massive effort to vaccinate cattle in over eight states with most cases of the disease.

Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department Secretary Jatindra Nath Swain said states are currently using the 'goat pox' vaccine to control lumpy skin disease (LSD) in cattle.

The commercial launch of a new vaccine 'Lumpi-ProVacInd' for LSD, developed by two institutes of agri research body ICAR, will take the next "three-four months," he said.

The lumpy skin disease has spread mainly in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

There are some stray cases in Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. "In Rajasthan,



Lumpy skin disease is a contagious viral disease that affects cattle and causes fever, nodules on the skin and can also lead to death. The disease gets spread by mosquitoes, flies, lice, and wasps by direct contact among the cattle, and through contaminated food and water

the number of death is 600-700 per day. But in other states, it is less than 100 in a single day," he said, adding that the ministry has asked states to accelerate the vaccination process.

According to Swain, the goat pox vaccine is "100 per cent effective" and already 1.5 crore doses have

been administered in the affected states.

He also said there is a sufficient supply of goat pox vaccine in the country. Two companies are manufacturing this vaccine and they have the capacity to produce 4 crore doses a month.

The total cattle population is around 20 crore.

Already, 1.5 crore goat pox doses have been given, he said. While "only 1 ml dose" of the goat pox vaccine is sufficient to help fight LSD in areas where no case has been reported, doses of 3 ml each can be administered in cattle where an outbreak has been reported, he added.

With regard to the new vaccine, Swain said the commercial launch of "Lumpi-ProVacInd" would take the next "three-four months."

"The manufacturers will have to take permission from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for commercial production of the new vaccine. It will take next 3-4 months for commercial launch," he added.

CENTRAL AGENCIES' ACTIVITIES IN WB

Trinamool to bring motion in Assembly

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Sept 12: The ruling Trinamool Congress will move a motion in the assembly against the "hyperactive" drives by central agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation and the Enforcement Directorate in West Bengal.

A short session of the assembly will be held from September 14 when the motion will be moved. Assembly Speaker Biman Bandopadhyay said on Monday that a proposal on the motion has already been submitted in the assembly. "There will be a discussion in which members of both the treasury benches and the opposition will participate. An atmosphere of tension and fear is being created in the state. The central agencies' officials are reaching the residences of people at odd hours. There will be discussions on this matter," the Speaker said.

The decision to move the motion was taken at a working committee meeting of the assembly on Monday, which was attended by several ministers and MLAs of the ruling party, besides the Speaker and the deputy speaker, Asish Bandopadhyay. However, none of

Assembly Speaker Biman Bandopadhyay said Monday that a proposal on the motion has been submitted in the Assembly

the BJP legislators, who are members of the working committee, were present at the meeting.

Emerging out of the meeting, parliamentary affairs and agriculture minister Sovandeb Chattopadhyay said that the motion will come up for discussion on September 19. He slammed the opposition members in the working committee for their absence from the Monday meeting. "We too had been on the opposition benches for a long time. There had been differences with the then Speaker of the assembly but despite that we attended the meetings convened by the Speaker. There are some practices in the democratic system which we should not ignore," he said.

Till the filing of this report, there was no reaction from the state unit of the BJP on this count.



with the party leadership. It has given me key posts. I was made deputy chief minister, leader of the opposition (in the Assembly),"

the Baramati MLA said here.

Ajit Pawar, the nephew of NCP chief Sharad Pawar, had left the stage Sunday when attendees were demanding that he speak. It was speculated that he was having a cold war with NCP's Maharashtra unit chief Jayant Patil.

Refuting such talk, the former deputy CM said, "I was sitting on the stage since morning. It is natural for a human being to feel the need to go to the washroom. But the media blew it out of proportion."

Among those who addressed the

eight national convention of the party held in Delhi on Sunday were senior leaders P C Chacko, Chhagan Bhujbal, Supriya Sule, Jayant Patil, Amol Kolhe and Fouzia Khan.

The loudest cheers came for Ajit Pawar when Sule praised his handling of the finance ministry in Maharashtra during the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, Ajit Pawar was missing when his name was called out as the penultimate speaker before the NCP supremo made his concluding remarks.

Congress not leaving anything to chance

The Congress is waking up to the harsh reality of the bitter battle ahead as the Aam Aadmi Party seeks to muscle its way into the Gujarat electoral fight turning it into a triangular contest. With Rahul Gandhi pre-occupied with the 'Bharat-Jodo Yatra', the likelihood of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra taking his place in helming the Congress challenge is being speculated in party circles though no official confirmation was available.

The BJP has been in the saddle in Gujarat for 27 years barring a 17-month stint wherein party rebel Shantersinh Vaghela's splinter held fort with Congress support. Now considered the home state of the Prime Minister and his Home Minister Amit Shah, the two cannot afford to take any chances in this December's election and thus have one foot permanently pegged

in their realm enmeshed in all manner of inaugurations and dedications from fly-overs to foot bridges.

A late starter in comparison to the Prime Minister and Arvind Kejriwal, Rahul Gandhi arrived in Ahmedabad September 5 to flag-off the Congress election campaign addressing a gathering of over 50,000 booth level workers. Party leaders are emphatic that Rahul Gandhi still remains a strong crowd puller.

The Congress is not leaving anything to chance. Party general secretary KC Venugopal was in Ahmedabad August 24 for a review of the preparedness with state leaders and senior observer Ashok Gehlot and Gujarat in-charge Raghunath Sharma. Rahul last visited Gujarat for a tribal rally May 10 but his further visits were cancelled following the Enforcement

Department summons to him and Sonia Gandhi in the National Herald case.

While the first list of the party nominees for the Gujarat polls is expected to be released before mid-September, the Aam Aadmi Party has already released two lists carrying a total of 19 names. The Congress on its part has named seven working presidents, and appointed in-charges from Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh to oversee each one of the 26 parliamentary constituencies in the state and four other leaders to assist Sharma with Gehlot overseeing things. Party national spokesperson

Shaktisinh Gohil holds firm that the main contest is between the two traditional combatants and AAP will not add up to much because a third party has never succeeded in Gujarat.

However AAP's aggressive forays and the response it is beginning to elicit seem to be making enough dent for BJP to take the threat seriously. Ruling party insiders in Ahmedabad concede that with AAP mirroring their own strategies, they are stuck for a counter.

The Prime Minister has been personally overseeing things. Immediately on landing in Ahmedabad August 27, he was closeted with the Chief Minister

and key government and party officials at the airport itself. The main reason for both the BJP and the AAP targeting Congress is that the principal Opposition party had picked up 30 of the total 54 seats in Saurashtra-Kutch region helping it bag a creditable 78 seats while bringing the BJP to 99 seats in a 182-member House, the lowest after Modi took over as Chief Minister in 2001. In 2012 the BJP had bagged 35 seats in Saurashtra-Kutch but was down to 23 in 2017 with one going to others. Agrarian strife still blights life in this region but whether the opposition votes get divided and benefit the BJP or are shared between the Congress and AAP shall become clearer as the poll nears. In North Gujarat both the BJP and the Congress had maintained their previous seat share in 2017 with 32 and 21 seats re-

spectively. In South Gujarat BJP had faced a marginal loss winning 25 of 35 seats compared to 28 in 2012 while the Congress improved its seat share from 6 to 10. In central Gujarat BJP scored with 25 of 40 seats while the Congress was down by 5 to 13 seats in 2017. The last elections were held in the shadow of the Patidar unrest and Congress had emerged as a beneficiary at the polls. This factor does not seem to be at play in 2022 but rising prices and agrarian dissatisfaction is evident in rural areas which the BJP is hopeful of levelling up with what it sees as its urban popularity. The Congress on its part has unfolded its list of electorally promised freebies. How much of this works remains to be seen but the Congress will need to strain a lot harder to achieve its previous tally in the face of concerted challenges.



international

of the day quote

What we need here really is Ukraine and Russia to agree on a very simple principle of not attacking, or not shelling, at the plant

RAFAEL GROSSI | THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE IAEA

Greece will always seek to keep open channels of communication with Turkey

KYRIAKOS MITSOTAKIS | GREEK PRIME MINISTER

In the context where geopolitical competition is heating up, ASEAN must act as a role model and work together to ensure regional peace, stability and prosperity by strengthening ASEAN unity and centrality and strictly adhering to partnerships and multilateral mechanisms to address challenges

HUN SEN | CAMBODIAN PM

SHORT TAKES

Syria reports two dozen cases cholera

Damascus (Syria): Hospitals in the Syrian capital have been put on alert after more than two dozen cases of cholera and at least three deaths were reported in the war-torn country, health officials said Monday. The main cause of the spread appears to be people drinking polluted water as well as watering plants in some areas with unclean water.

Death toll from China quake reaches 93

Beijing: A total of 93 people have been killed, and 25 remain missing after a 6.8-magnitude earthquake jolted Luding county in China's Sichuan province on September 5, local authorities said Monday. According to the rescue headquarters, 55 of the fatalities occurred in Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, where Luding is located, while 38 deaths were reported in Ya'an city, reports Xinhua news agency.

Montenegro wrestles with Cyberattack

Podgorica (Montenegro): At the government headquarters in NATO-member Montenegro, the computers are unplugged, the internet is switched off and the state's main websites are down. The blackout comes amid a massive cyberattack against the small Balkan state which officials say bears the hallmark of pro-Russian hackers and its security services. The coordinated attack that started around August 20 crippled online government information platforms and put Montenegro's essential infrastructure, including banking, water and electricity power systems, at high risk.



We are positive enough that the oil prices will drop as well over the next few months

VOREQE BAINIMARAMA | FIJIAN PRIME MINISTER

GRIM SITUATION

An estimated 6.3 million people in Sri Lanka are facing moderate to severe acute food insecurity and their situation is expected to worsen if adequate life-saving assistance and livelihood support is not provided, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) warned in a new report



World leaders to travel to Queen's funeral by bus

AGENCIES

London, Sept 12: World leaders preparing to attend one of the UK's most significant and historic events in recent times have reportedly been informed of the strict protocol that will be in place for Queen Elizabeth II's funeral ceremony at Westminster Abbey in London next Monday, September 19.

According to Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) documents obtained by 'Politico', all international heads of state and their spouses planning to arrive in London for the State Funeral have been asked to arrive on commercial flights rather

than private jets and have also been asked not to use helicopters to get around. They have reportedly been told they cannot use their own state cars to arrive at the service at Westminster Abbey scheduled for 11am local time and would instead be taken by bus from a site in west London.

Westminster Abbey will be so packed for the event that it will be impossible for more than a single, senior representative per country and their spouse to attend, the FCDO notes in the official protocol message regarding the event, which 'Politico' claims to have seen.

In the document, sent to overseas embassies and high commissions

Charles makes first Parl address as King

London: King Charles III Monday addressed Parliament for the first time as Britain's monarch during which he paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II and pledged to faithfully follow the example of selfless duty set by his "darling late mother" in upholding "the precious principles of constitutional governance".



late on Saturday night, the FCDO said it "regrets that, because of limited space at the state funeral service and associated events, no other members of the principal guest's family, staff or entourage

may be admitted". Heads of state unable to attend may choose someone else as their official representative, such as a head of government or senior minister. US President Joe Biden had told reporters of

Ukraine claims to have reached Russian border

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kharkiv, Sept 12: Ukraine claimed Monday that it took several more villages, pushing Russian forces right back to the northeastern border, part of a lightning counter-offensive that forced Moscow to withdraw troops from some areas in recent days.

"In some areas of the front, our defenders reached the state border with the Russian Federation," said Oleh Syniehubov, the governor of the northeastern Kharkiv region. Over the weekend, the Russian Defense Ministry said troops would be pulled from two areas in that region to regroup in the eastern region of Donetsk.

There were reports of chaos as Russian troops pulled out in haste.

"The Russians were here in the morning. Then at noon, they suddenly started shouting wildly and began to run away, charging off in tanks and armored vehicles," Dmytro Hrushchenko, a resident of recently-liberated Zaliznychne, a small town near the eastern front-line, told Sky News of the quick withdrawal. It was not yet clear if the Ukrainian blitz could signal a turning point in the war — though some analysts suggested it might be while also cautioning there would likely be fighting for months more. Momentum has switched back and forth before. Still, the mood was jubilant across the country. The General Staff of the Armed Forces



Ukrainian service members ride on tanks during a counteroffensive operation

of Ukraine said Monday that its troops had liberated more than 20 settlements within the past day. In recent days, Kyiv's forces have captured territory at least the size of Greater London, according to the British Defence Ministry.

In Kharkiv, authorities hailed some return to normalcy, noting that power and water had been restored to about 80% of the region's population following Russian attacks on infrastructure that knocked out electricity in many places across Ukraine. "You are heroes!!!" wrote Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov early in the morning on Telegram, referring to those restoring utilities in Ukraine's second-biggest city. "Thanks to everyone who did every-

thing possible on this most difficult night for Kharkiv to normalise the life of the city as soon as possible." The buoyant mood was also captured by a defiant President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on social media late Sunday. "Do you still think you can intimidate, break us, force us to make concessions?" Zelenskyy asked. "Cold, hunger, darkness and thirst for us are not as scary and deadly as your friendship and brotherhood."

Meanwhile, in Russia, there were some signs of disarray as Russian military bloggers and patriotic commentators chastised the Kremlin for failing to mobilise more forces and take stronger action against Ukraine.

Xi to attend SCO summit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 12: China officially announced Monday that President Xi Jinping will travel for the first time out of the country in over two years this week to visit Kazakhstan and attend the SCO summit being held in Uzbekistan.

Xi will attend the 22nd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the city of Samarkand, and pay state visits to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan from September 14 to 16, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying announced here in a brief statement.

He would first visit Kazakhstan September 14, which will be his first visit abroad since January 17-18. Myanmar was the last country Xi visited January 17-18, 2020.

Just days after his return, China had announced the massive outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan, which later spiralled into a global pandemic resulting in millions of deaths around the world. Since then, Xi, 69, has not ventured out of China and has attended global events virtually.

From Kazakhstan, Xi would travel to the neighbouring Uzbekistan where the SCO summit is scheduled to be held September 15-16. The Beijing-headquartered SCO is an eight-member economic and security bloc consisting of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.

After the Samarkand summit, where Iran was expected to formally be admitted into the SCO, India will take over the Presidency of the influential grouping of

his plan to attend the funeral and a few other world leaders have confirmed their intention to attend.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern are also due to attend. Japan's Emperor Naruhito, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and French President Emmanuel Macron are expected to be at the service, while Spain is likely to be represented by King Felipe VI.

Following the funeral service next Monday, the leaders will be escorted to Dean's Yard within the grounds of Westminster Abbey to attend a reception hosted by UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly.

Swedish voters boost anti-immigration party amid high crime



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stockholm, Sept 12: A populist anti-immigration party has surged to become Sweden's second-largest political force after a national election dominated by fears of gang violence, which has given the once-safe Scandinavian country one of Europe's highest levels of gun violence.

Overall, a conservative opposition bloc including the anti-immigration party, the Sweden Democrats, had an extremely narrow lead over the incumbent centre-left with 94 per cent of the votes counted.

Analysts expect the final tally will confirm a conservative bloc win, but the election was so close that electoral officials said they would not have the final result until outstanding postal votes and votes from abroad are counted.

With eight parties contending for seats in the 349-member Riksdag, Sweden's parliament, none can secure a majority of 175 seats, meaning that laws can only be passed with different parties working together. The parties campaigned under two general blocs, one conservative and the other a centre-left group headed by Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson, Sweden's first female prime minister.

The not-yet-final count indicated that the conservative bloc would have 175 seats and the centre-left would have 174.

"It is extremely close. Things can change, but I doubt it," said Zeth Isaksson, a sociologist at Stockholm University, who added that votes from abroad are traditionally conservative. "As it is now, it is more likely that the right side will win."

One certainty, however, is that the result marked a success for the right-wing populist Sweden Democrats, which won its best result since entering parliament in 2010. The party's founders in the 1980s had links to fascist and neo-Nazi movements but over the past two decades it has worked to move to the mainstream under its 43-year-old leader Jimmie Akesson.



VENTING ANGER

A demonstrator is engulfed in flames from a petrol bomb that was thrown at a police vehicle during protests marking the anniversary of the coup that toppled President Salvador Allende and brought dictator General Augusto Pinochet to power 49 years ago, in Santiago, Chile

PTI PHOTO

Dubai court rejects Danish extradition request for financier

The decision in the high-profile case grants the hedge fund trader, Sanjay Shah, a victory against Danish authorities who sought him for his role in one of the country's largest-ever fraud cases. The elaborate scheme, ran for three years

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dubai, Sept 12: An Emirati court ruled Monday Sanjay Shah - a British man - suspected of masterminding a \$1.7 billion tax scheme cannot be extradited to Denmark to face charges.

The decision in the high-profile case grants the hedge fund trader, Shah, a victory against Danish authorities who sought him for his role in one of the country's largest-ever fraud cases. Monday's court ruling, delivered after a closed-door hearing and without explanation, can be appealed by prosecutors.

The elaborate scheme, which ran for three years beginning in 2012, allegedly involved foreign businesses pretending to own shares in Danish companies and claiming tax refunds for which they were not eligible. "Of course we will try to get him (out) on bail now immediately," Shah's lawyer, Ali al-Zarooni, told The Associated Press at court.

The 52-year-old financier has maintained his innocence in past interviews with journalists but never appeared in Denmark to answer accusations. Al-Zarooni had contested the extradition, arguing that Denmark had "breached" the rules of international extradition



treaties in unspecified ways. Shah's lifestyle on Dubai's luxurious palm-shaped island over the past few years had sparked outrage in Denmark. After the countries signed an extradition treaty, Dubai police arrested Shah in June. During his time in Dubai, the hedge fund manager ran a center for autistic children that shut down in 2020 as Denmark tried to extradite him. He also oversaw a British-based charity, Autism Rocks, which raised funds through concerts and performances.

His arrest comes as pressure grows on Dubai, the region's financial hub, over its alleged weaknesses in combating illicit finance. The UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms, has long invited the wealthy, including disgraced public figures, to invest in the country without questioning where they made their money.

50 mln trapped in 'modern slavery': UN

Nearly one out of every 150 people in the world are caught up in modern forms of slavery, the report said

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Geneva, Switzerland, Sept 12: Fifty million people around the world are trapped in forced labour or forced marriage, the UN said today, warning that their ranks had swelled dramatically in recent years.

The United Nations had set a goal to eradicate all forms of modern slavery by 2030, but instead the number of people caught up in forced labour or forced marriage

ballooned by 10 million between 2016 and 2021, according to a new report. The study, by the UN's agencies for labour and migration along with the Walk Free Foundation, found that at the end of last year, 28 million people were in forced labour, while 22 million were living in a marriage they had been forced into.

That means nearly one out of every 150 people in the world are caught up in modern forms of slavery, the report said. "It is shocking that the situation of modern slavery is not improving," Guy Ryder, head of the International Labour Organization (ILO), said in a statement. "Nothing can justify the persistence of this fundamental abuse of human rights."



'Life sentence'

The Covid-19 pandemic, which worsened conditions and swelled debt levels for many workers, has heightened the risk, the report found. Coupled with the effects of climate change and armed conflicts, it has contributed to "unprecedented disruption to employment and education, increases in extreme poverty and forced and

unsafe migration", compounding the threat, it said. It is a long-term problem, the report cautioned, with estimates indicating entrapment in forced labour can last years and forced marriage is often "a life sentence". Women and children are by far the most vulnerable.

Children account for one out of five people in forced labour, with more than half of them stuck in commercial sexual exploitation, the report said. Migrant workers are meanwhile more than three times more likely to be in forced labour than non-migrant adult workers, it showed. "This report underscores the urgency of ensuring that all migration is safe, orderly, and regular," Antonio Vitorino, head of the International

Organisation for Migration (IOM), said in the statement. Modern slavery is present in basically every country in the world, with more than half of cases of forced labour and a quarter of forced marriages in upper-middle income or high-income countries.

The report found that the number of people - mainly women and girls - stuck in forced marriages had risen by a full 6.6 million since the last global estimates in 2016.

China in focus

The number of people in forced labour swelled by 2.7 million over the same period.

The increase was driven entirely by more forced labour in the private economy, including in forced commercial sexual exploitation.

of the day quote

Milk production in India is projected to grow at a CAGR of 4.5 per cent to reach 628 million tonne in the next 25 years



RS SODHI | MD, AMUL

Telecom and satellite operators should look at using the same spectrum bands in coordination with each other and the decision on use of high-frequency range for broadband is likely to be taken in 4-5 months



K RAJARAMAN | TELECOM SECRETARY

The ministry of road transport and highways is conducting a pilot project of automatic number plate recognition system (Automatic Number Plate Reader cameras) to enable automated toll collection without stopping the vehicles



SHORT TAKES

ED unfreezes WazirX accounts

Bangalore: WazirX, linked to the world's largest digital currency exchange Binance, said Monday its bank accounts were unfrozen by India's financial crime-fighting agency after more than a month. The federal Enforcement Directorate (ED) had launched its investigation last year into the company for suspected violations of foreign exchange regulations and froze its assets worth ₹64.70 million (\$8.16 million). WazirX said it is now in a position to continue its banking operations as usual.

JSW Steel posts 22% jump in Aug

New Delhi: JSW Steel Monday reported a 22 per cent jump in crude steel production in August this year to 16.76 lakh tonne. The private steel major had produced 13.77 lakh tonne in the year-ago month. The production of flat products at 12.01 lakh tonne in the last month was higher than 8.99 lakh tonne in August 2021. Long product volume grew by 25 per cent to 3.75 lakh tonne in the month under review as compared to 3.01 lakh tonne in the corresponding month last year. JSW officials said the average capacity utilisation was lower at 87.4 per cent due to a shortage of iron ore both in Karnataka and Odisha regions.

Amazon cuts fee for new sellers

Bangalore: Amazon India said Monday it will halve the fee for new sellers on its platform as the e-commerce giant gears up for the festive season in one of its key markets. All new sellers registering on Amazon.in between August 28 and October 26, and launching within 90 days, can avail a 50% waiver on the amount they pay to sell their products through the website, it said in a statement. Amazon's "Great Indian Festival," the company's annual festive season sale, kicks off September 23. Indians make most of their big-ticket purchases during the festival season.

Mensa Brands buys MyFitness

New Delhi: Direct-to-consumer (D2C) company Mensa Brands Monday said it has acquired healthfood startup MyFitness for an undisclosed sum, with an aim to make it a ₹1,000 crore brand in the next three-four years. The acquisition will help Mensa Brands launch new categories, scale D2C, invest in brand-building and expand to global markets.



The economy is buoyant, the feel good factor is high, affordability is better so people are comfortable buying houses even if rates are slightly higher

KEKI MISTRY | CEO, HDFC

AIR INDIA TO EXPAND FLEET

Tata Group-owned Air India said Monday that it will lease 30 Boeing and Airbus aircraft, expanding its fleet by more than 25%. Air India's new owner, the autos-to-steel conglomerate Tata Group, faces an uphill task to upgrade the carrier's ageing fleet and turn around its financials and service levels



RICE EXPORT CURBS

India's ban hits Asian trade

RICE IS THE LATEST IN A STRING OF COMMODITIES THAT HAVE FACED EXPORT CURBS THIS YEAR AS GOVERNMENT STRUGGLES TO RAISE SUPPLIES AND FIGHT INFLATION

REUTERS

Mumbai, Sept 12: India's restrictions on rice exports have paralysed trading in Asia, with buyers scouring for alternative supplies from Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar where seller are holding off on deals as prices rise, industry officials said.

India, the world's biggest exporter of the grain, banned shipments of broken rice and imposed a 20% duty on exports of various other types Thursday as the country tries to boost supplies and calm prices after below-average monsoon rainfall curtailed planting.

Rice prices have jumped 5% in Asia since India's announcement and are expected to rise further this week keeping buyers and sellers on the sidelines.

"Rice trading is paralysed across Asia. Traders don't want to commit anything in a hurry," said Himanshu Agarwal, executive director at Satyam Balajee, India's biggest rice exporter.

Rice is a staple for more than 3 billion people, and when India banned exports in 2007, global prices shot to record highs of around \$1,000 per tonne.



Rice prices have jumped 5% in Asia since Indian curbs. Indian traders have stopped signing new export deals.

Traders in Vietnam, Thailand hold off sales, assess disruptions

India's rice exports reached a record 21.5 million tonne in 2021, more than the combined shipments of the world's next four biggest exporters of the grain: Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan and the United States.

LOADINGS HALTED
Rice loading has stopped at Indian ports and nearly one million tonne of grain are trapped there as buyers refuse to pay the government's new 20% export levy on top of the agreed contract price.

Though there are some buyers ready to pay higher prices for new contracts, shippers are currently sorting out pending contracts,

India accounts for more than 40% of global shipments. So, nobody is sure how much prices will rise in the coming months

HIMANSHU AGARWAL | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SATYAM BALAJEE

Nitin Gupta, vice president for Olam India's rice business.

As Indian exporters stopped signing new contracts, buyers are trying to secure supplies from rival Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar, which have raised the

price of 5% broken white rice by around \$20 per tonne in the past four days, dealers said.

But even these suppliers are reluctant to rush for contracts as they are expecting prices to strengthen.

"We expect prices to rise further over the coming weeks," a trader based in Ho Chi Minh City said.

Vietnam's 5% broken rice was offered at \$410 per tonne Monday, up from \$390-\$393 per tonne last week, traders said.

China, the Philippines, Bangladesh and African countries such as Senegal, Benin, Nigeria and Ghana are among leading importers of common grade rice, while Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia import premium grade basmati rice.

Supply disruptions from the Covid-19 pandemic and more recently the Russia-Ukraine war has jacked up the prices of grains but rice has largely bucked the trend due to bumper crops and ample inventories at exporters over the past two years.

"Buyers now fear India's move could boost rice prices and make the staple expensive like wheat and corn," said a Mumbai-based dealer with a global trading firm.

Sensex closes above 60K, Nifty nears 18K

In the three-day rally, Sensex advanced 1,086 points, while Nifty gained nearly 312 points



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 12: Benchmark BSE Sensex rose by about 322 points to close above the 60,000 level Monday tracking gains in banking, IT and energy stocks amid positive global equities.

Rising for a third straight day, the 30-share barometer closed higher by 321.99 points or 0.54 per cent at a three-week high of 60,115.13.

As many as 21 of the index constituents closed in the green. After a strong opening, the index touched a day's high of 60,284.55 and a low of 59,912.29.

The broader NSE Nifty spurred by 103 points or 0.58 per cent to settle at 17,936.35 points, with 36 of its constituents ending with gains.

Foreign fund buying, crude oil prices trading near \$93 level, and macro data reflecting the strong growth recovery boosted investor sentiment. Gains in global equity markets also propped up the local equities.

"Domestic economy is witnessing strong vigour and the same is assisting a steady growth in Indian

equities. A 15.5 per cent YoY increase in bank credit during August suggests that the economy is recovering rapidly," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said.

Among Sensex stocks, Titan rose the most by 2.39 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, Tech Mahindra and Tata Steel. Gains in RIL, Infosys, TCS, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance and L&T aided the rally. HDFC fell the most by 0.43 per cent, while HDFC Bank and Nestle also declined.

The BSE Midcap rose by 0.52 per cent while BSE Smallcap gained 1 per cent. All the sectoral indices closed in green with BSE Realty spurring the most by 2.23 per cent. Consumer Durables rose by 1.40 per cent, BSE Teck by 1.16 per cent, BSE IT by 1.3 per cent and Utilities by 1 per cent.

Of the 3,759 stocks traded on BSE, 2,165 scrips advanced and 1,428 declined while 166 closed unchanged. Brent crude oil advanced 28 cents to \$93.12 a barrel. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net buyers to the tune of Rs 2,132.42 crore Friday, as per exchange data.

SONY, ZEE OFFER CONCESSIONS TO EASE MERGER

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 12: A unit of Sony Group and India's Zee Entertainment have proposed offering concessions such as pricing discounts to help ease concerns of the country's antitrust regulator over their merger, which will create a \$10-billion TV behemoth, two sources told Reuters.

The concessions are a bid to iron out antitrust worries of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), which in an August 3 notice warned the companies of further scrutiny, saying their "humongous market position" would allow them to enjoy "un-paralleled bargaining power" with 92 channels in India's massive media and entertainment market.

Last week, Sony-Zee submitted "voluntary remedies" to the deal in writing to assuage the watchdog's concerns, though that did not include structural changes such as the sale of certain channels to reduce the threat of competition, said the two sources, who declined to be named due to confidentiality concerns.

Instead, Sony and Zee suggested at least two so-called behavioural remedies, the sources said.

Under these, the first source said, Sony and Zee said their merged entity was open to offering mandatory pricing incentives and discounts to all channel distributors, such as direct-to-home satellite operators, on fair and non-discriminatory terms for a certain period after the deal. And to assuage concerns over the entity's strong market position with advertisers, the parties proposed creating and operating "independent advertising verticals" for a certain duration, the source added.

Vedanta to open \$20bn chip factory in Gujarat

REUTERS



New Delhi, Sept 12: Vedanta Ltd has selected Gujarat for its semiconductor project, two sources told Reuters, the first major step in its \$20 billion joint venture with Taiwan's Foxconn.

Vedanta obtained financial and non-financial subsidies including on capital expenditure and cheap electricity from Gujarat to build the semiconductor plants, a source said.

The project will include display and semiconductor facilities near the largest city of Ahmedabad, the source added, declining to be named ahead of an official announcement.

While lobbying for incentives, Vedanta had sought 1,000 acres of land free of cost on a 99-year lease, and water and power at concessionary and fixed prices for 20 years.

An announcement is expected this week with a formal signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two sides, which is likely to be attended by Patel and Vedanta officials, the source added.

Other regions including Maharashtra, Telangana and Karnataka had also been in the running to host Vedanta-Foxconn's mega project. But in the last leg of negotiations in recent weeks, Gujarat pipped Maharashtra to the post.

Health expenditure fell from 1.35% of GDP in '17-18 to 1.28% in 2018-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The government's health expenditure as a percentage of the GDP fell from 1.35 in 2017-18 to 1.28 in the next year, according to the data released Monday.

While the Centre's share in the total government health expenditure fell to 34.3 per cent in 2018-19, from 40.8 per cent in the previous year, the states' share during the same period rose from 59.2 per cent to 65.7 per cent, the latest national health estimates showed.

In the same period, the out-of-pocket expenditure as a percentage of the total health expenditure also fell from 48.8 to 48.2.

However, when compared with the figures of 2013-14, the out-of-pocket expenditure on health de-



creased substantially by 16 percentage points from 64.2 per cent.

Out-of-pocket expenditures are expenditures directly made by households at the point of receiving healthcare. This indicates the extent of financial protection available for households towards healthcare payments.

When it comes to the total health expenditure, it fell to 3.2 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product

(GDP) in 2018-19, the last year for which the data is available, from 3.3 per cent in the preceding year and 4 per cent in 2013-14.

The total health expenditure constitutes current and capital expenditures incurred by government and private sources, including external funds. As a percentage of the GDP, it indicates the health spending relative to a country's economic development.

The total health expenditure per capita, which indicates the health expenditure per person in the country, at current prices, however, increased to ₹4,470 in 2018-19, from ₹4,297 in the previous year and from ₹3,638 in 2013-14.

The social safety net for healthcare expenditure increased from 6 per cent in 2013-14 to 9.6 per cent in 2018-19.

'ENERGY WAR' EU eyes levy on fossil fuel firms

ENERGY PRICES AND INFLATION HAVE SURGED AS MOSCOW SLASHED GAS SUPPLIES

REUTERS

Brussels, Sept 12: Fossil fuel firms may have to share their excess profits to help European households and industries cope with red-hot energy bills, a draft European Union plan showed Monday as the cost of the West's "energy war" with Russia took a growing toll.

Energy prices and inflation have surged as Moscow slashed gas supplies in response to Western sanctions imposed over its actions in Ukraine, prompting France to tell consumers they would have to share some of the pain while Britain is

among countries facing the threat of recession.

The draft European Commission proposal, which is expected to be unveiled this week, would see the 27 EU countries introduce a 'solidarity contribution' for the fossil fuel industry.

Oil, gas, coal and refining companies would have to make a financial contribution based on taxable surplus profits made in the 2022 fiscal year, according to the draft, which could still change and will then need to be approved by EU governments.

"Those profits do not correspond



to any regular profit that these entities would or could have expected to obtain in normal circumstances," the draft EU plan, seen by Reuters, said.

The proposals are also expected to include a life-raft for power firms facing a liquidity crunch. But countries are split over the details and whether to impose a cap on the price they pay for gas, diplomats said. Russia has said it would cut all supplies if a cap on its gas was introduced.

Meanwhile, across Europe companies and governments scrambled for ways to tackle the crisis.

EU ministers have already backed away from a price cap targeting only Russian gas, which accounted for around 40% of the bloc's gas before its invasion of Ukraine.

SL, Pak, Maldives stand neck-deep in Chinese debt trap

The Chinese global project to finance the construction of the port, rail and land infrastructure across the globe, had been a significant source of debt to China for participating countries

AGENCIES

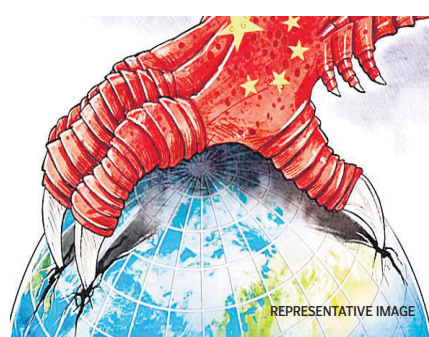
Colombo, Sept 12: Forbes, collecting data from The World Bank report as of 2020, said that 97 countries around the world are under Chinese debt. The nations, which are heavily in debt to China are mostly located in Africa, but can also be found in Central Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Maldives are among the biggest debtors of China. Pakistan owes \$77.3 billion of external debt to China, accord-

ing to the report. Maldives' debt is 31 per cent of its Gross National Income (GNI). Maldives' total debt amounts to MVR 86 billion by the end of 2020, MVR 44 billion of which is external debt, reported The Island Online.

The world's low-income nations owe 37 per cent of their debt to China in 2022, compared to just 24 per cent in bilateral debts to the rest of the world.

Those with the highest external debt to China are Pakistan \$77.3 billion, Angola at \$36.3 billion,



97 COUNTRIES ACROSS THE GLOBE ARE REELING UNDER CHINESE DEBT. SL IN MAY 2022 WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY IN TWO DECADES TO DEFAULT ON ITS SOVEREIGN DEBT. CHINA IS TARGETTING MOST OF THE COUNTRIES UNDER THE ONE BELT AND ROAD SCHEME

Ethiopia at \$7.9 billion, Kenya at \$7.4 billion and Sri Lanka at \$6.8 billion.

Maldives newspaper reported that according to statistics released by the Finance Ministry, Maldives' debt rose to MVR 99 billion by the end of Q1 2022. It made up 113 per

cent of GDP.

The countries with the biggest debt burdens in relative terms were Djibouti and Angola, where debt to China exceeded 40 per cent of gross national income, an indicator similar to GDP but also including income from overseas

sources.

The equivalent of 30 per cent of GNI or more in Chinese debt affects the Maldives and Laos, with the latter just having opened a railway line to China which is already causing debt issues for the country.

Chinese debt to Sri Lanka was the fifth-highest overall in late 2020 and amounted to 9 per cent of the country's GNI, reported The Island Online.

China has faced backlash for its lending practices to poorer and struggling nations, accused of leaving them struggling to repay debts and therefore vulnerable to pressure from Beijing. China rejects this criticism and calls it as "propaganda/narrative of the vested interested countries" to tarnish its image.

HIT BY SOARING COSTS

Govt plans ₹20K-cr aid to oil companies

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 12: The Government of India plans to pay about ₹20,000 crore (\$2.6 billion) to the state-run fuel retailers, such as Indian Oil Corporation, to partly compensate them for losses and keep a check on cooking gas prices, according to sources.

The oil ministry has sought a compensation of ₹28,000 crore, but the finance ministry is agreeing to only about a Rs 20,000-crore cash payout, people familiar with the matter said. The talks are at an advanced stage but a final decision is yet to be taken, the people said.

The three biggest state-run retailers, which together supply over 90% of the country's petroleum fuels, have suffered the worst quarterly losses in years by absorbing record international oil prices. While the aid could ease their pain, it would add pressure to the government's coffers that are already strained by tax cuts on fuels and a higher fertilizer subsidy to tackle mounting inflationary pressures.

The government had earmarked oil subsidy at ₹5,800 crore for the fiscal year ending March, while fertiliser subsidy was pegged at ₹1.05 trillion.

The companies, which include Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, have also been holding down pump prices of gasoline and diesel since early April to curb accelerating inflation.

DOUBLE DELIGHT FOR ALCARAZ



Spanish teen sensation claims his maiden Grand Slam title winning the US Open beating Ruud and also becomes the youngest World No.1 in ATP singles rankings

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 12: Walking out for his first Grand Slam final at age 19, Carlos Alcaraz bumped fists with fans leaning over a railing along the path leading to the Arthur Ashe Stadium court. Moments later, after the coin toss, Alcaraz turned to sprint to the baseline for the warm-up, until being beckoned back to the net by the chair umpire for the customary pre-match photos.

Alcaraz is imbued with boundless enthusiasm and energy, not to mention skill, speed, stamina and sangfroid. And now he's a US Open champion and the No.1 player in men's tennis.

Using his uncommon combination of moxie and maturity, Alcaraz beat Casper Ruud 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(7-1), 6-3 Sunday to both earn the trophy at Flushing Meadows and become the youngest man to lead the ATP rankings.

Alcaraz, who moved up three ranking spots from No.4 Monday, already has attracted plenty of attention as someone considered the 'Next Big Thing' in a sport dominated for decades by the Big Three of Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer.

The Spaniard was serenaded by choruses of "Olé, Olé, Olé! Carlos!" that reverberated off the arena's closed roof — and Alcaraz often motioned for the spectators to get louder. There were a couple of magical points that drew standing ovations, including one Alcaraz lost with a laser of an on-the-run forehand while ending up face-down on his belly.

He only briefly showed signs of fatigue from having to get through three consecutive five-setters in

the three rounds right before the final; no one had gone through that arduous a route on the way to the title in New York in 30 years.

Alcaraz went five sets against 2014 US Open champion Marin Cilic in the fourth round, ending at 2:23 am Tuesday; against Jannik Sinner in the quarterfinals, a 5-hour, 15-minute thriller that ended at 2:50 a.m. Friday after Alcaraz needed to save a match point; and against Frances Tiafoe in the semifinals.

This was not a stroll to the finish. He faced a pair of set points while down 6-5 in the third. Could have been an outcome-altering moment. But Alcaraz erased each of those point-from-the-set opportunities for Ruud with the sorts of quick-reflex, soft-hand volleys he repeatedly displayed.

One break in the fourth was all it took for Alcaraz to seal the victory in the only Grand Slam final between two players seeking both a first major championship and the top spot in the ATP's computerized rankings, which date to 1973.

The winner was guaranteed to be first in Monday's rankings; the loser was guaranteed to be second.

Everything came so fast. For me it's unbelievable. It's something I dreamed since I was a kid, since I started playing tennis. It's not time to be tired. I want to be (at) the top for many, many weeks — I hope many years. I'm going to work hard again after this week, these amazing two weeks. I'm going to fight (to) have more of this

—CARLOS ALCARAZ

He's (Alcaraz) one of these few rare talents that comes up every now and then in sports. That's what it seems like. Let's see how his career develops, but it's going all in the right direction

CASPER RUUD

Ruud also was the runner-up to Nadal at the French Open in June.

If nothing else, Ruud gets the sportsmanship award for conceding a point he knew he didn't deserve. It came at 4-3 in the first set, when he raced to a short ball that bounced twice before his racket touched it. Play continued, and Alcaraz hesitated, then flubbed his response. Ruud told the chair umpire what had happened, giving the point to Alcaraz, who responded with a thumbs-up.

Alcaraz certainly seems to be a rare talent, possessing an all-court game, a blend of groundstroke power with a willingness to push forward. He won 34 of the 45 points

that he finished at the net.

He is increasingly a threat while serving — he delivered 14 aces up to 128 mph — and returning, earning 11 break points, converting three. And, as Ruud noted, Alcaraz showed "incredible fighting spirit and will to win."

Make no mistake: Ruud is no slouch. There's a reason he is the youngest man since Nadal to get to two major finals in one season. But this was Alcaraz's time to shine under the lights. When one last service winner glanced off Ruud's frame Sunday, Alcaraz dropped to his back on the court, then rolled over onto his stomach, covering his face with his hands.

He went into the stands for hugs with his coach Juan Carlos Ferrero, a former No. 1 himself who won the French Open in 2003 and reached the final of that year's US Open, and others, crying all the while.

■ Alcaraz is the first teenager to win the US Open since Pete Sampras in 1990, the first to triumph at any Slam since Nadal at the 2005 French Open.

■ The last man to win this tournament by his second appearance was Pancho Gonzalez in 1948, before pros were allowed into the field.

■ It is significant that Alcaraz is the first male teenager at No.1. No one else did it. Not Nadal, not Djokovic, not Federer, not Sampras or anyone else

Ruud laments missed chances in final defeat



SO NEAR YET SO FAR: Casper Ruud wears a gloomy look during the match, which he eventually lost and settled for a nother Grand Slam runner-up finish (inset)

NEW YORK: As chants of their last name rang out through Arthur Ashe Stadium, Casper Ruud's father proudly recorded a video of him accepting the US Open runner-up trophy.

"Good memory for life," Christian Ruud said. It might have been so much better had Casper been able to win the third set when he had chances. The younger Ruud also was the runner-up at the French Open in June against Rafael Nadal.

"In Roland Garros, was hard for me to believe that I could beat Rafa," Ruud said. "Today was not easier, but I believed it more."

Both Christian Ruud, a former ATP Tour pro who now coaches his son, and Casper lamented the chances that got away when Alcaraz served trailing 6-5 in the third set.

Ruud would get two chances to take the set in what became a 16-point game, but Alcaraz would erase them both on trips to the net. Ruud then committed four unforced errors in the tiebreaker to help Alcaraz run away with it.

"I should maybe have gone for a little bit more," Ruud said. "Yeah, you can say that might have been — that was the set that maybe decided the match. It was one set

each, very close, and long third set. I played a horrible tiebreak, unfortunately too many mistakes. Sort of couldn't get those, I guess, set points out of my head."

There was nothing really to regret in June, given his opponent. Nadal has won the French Open 14 times and gone 112-3 overall. Ruud never really had a chance, losing 6-3, 6-3, 6-0. But this match — along with the No.1 ranking if he won — could have been there for the taking.

"He had a better chance and it showed in the match result also, with the set points in the third set," Christian Ruud said. "And at least then you have a five-setter and yeah, I think that was the key point of the match."

Ruud will move up to No.2 in the rankings on Monday, but will have to wait to become Norway's first man to win a Grand Slam title. He is 0-6 against top-10 players in the four biggest tournaments, so will have to be better when he faces the best.

He has one idea that might help. "I guess I hope I don't play a Spanish player if I ever reach another Slam final," he said with a smile. "They know what they're doing in the Slam finals. Let's hope for another than a Spanish."

Bumrah, Harshal back for WT20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: Fit-again pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah and death overs specialist Harshal Patel were back as the national selection committee didn't spring any surprise in the 15-man India squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia starting October 16. India will play their first match against Pakistan at the MCG October 23.

Bumrah, who was suffering from back injury and Harshal, who had a side strain, had done an intense rehabilitation programme at the National Cricket Academy and the BCCI medical team has deemed them fit for the marquee series.

The two players, who missed out on World Cup berth were pacer Avesh Khan and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi, who was pipped by senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin.

Once Harshal was fit and available, there was very little chance for Avesh to make a cut especially with a death overs economy rate of 18 in recent times.

If there was one player who would feel hard done by, it would be young Bishnoi as he was fantastic against Pakistan in the Super 4s game of the Asia Cup where he had outshone senior wrist-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal.

While Chahal was an automatic choice but Bishnoi's fight was always for the third spinner's slot with veteran Ashwin. Obviously,



two leg-spinners wouldn't have added variations but Ashwin's presence on big Australian grounds and his ability to take the ball away from the left-handers got precedence.

Pakistan, South Africa and Sri

Lanka (likely Qualifier in India's group) all have a couple of left-handers in top five and if Ashwin is played, he can exploit that advantage.

The batting unit, which hasn't performed up to expectations on big days more or less remained the same and in fact there aren't any new faces from the last T20 World Cup squad save Deepak Hooda, who won't always be an automatic first XI player.

The Rohit Sharma interview of Virat Kohli was a clear indicator that there won't be any change in top three and the only debate that remains unsolved is whether Dinesh Karthik will play or Rishabh Pant, who is the only specialist left-hander in the top-order with Ravindra Jadeja ruled out for indefinite period.

Bhanuka dedicates title to 'crisis-hit' countrymen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 12: Sri Lanka's Asia Cup winning hero Bhanuka Rajapaksha, whose stellar show with the bat played a pivotal role in his side's sensational Asia Cup victory, has dedicated the title to his crisis-hit island nation.

Sri Lanka defeated Pakistan by 23 runs in the summit clash Sunday night to clinch the Asia Cup crown after 2014, their sixth overall.

Batting first, Sri Lanka were reduced to 67/5, but made a brilliant turnaround riding on Rajapaksha (71 off 45 balls) and Wanindu Hasaranga (36 off 21 balls) to reach a competitive 170/6.

"We always wanted to show the world - a couple of decades back, we had aggression in our side, and we wanted to create those moments (again) as a unit," a beaming Rajapaksha said at the post match press conference.

"Looking forward, we want to



keep up this momentum ahead of the World Cup. With the crisis happening back home, this is a tough time for all the Sri Lankans, but hope we brought some smiles on the faces of our people. This is to the

whole nation; they were waiting for this for so long," a smiling Rajapaksha added.

Sri Lanka clinched the much-needed Asia Cup title in the backdrop of the country's worst eco-

nomics crisis coupled with political unrest.

Sitting beside Rajapaksha was Sri Lanka's captain Dasun Shanaka and the 31-year-old praised his teammates for responding so well throughout the tournament despite losing to Afghanistan in their tournament opener.

The Sri Lankan skipper also had a message for the fans back home following the title win. "Believe in our cricketers. A lot of bad things are going around. As cricketers, they too should enjoy their lives as well, not spreading bad things. They have private lives too. Keep believing, that is the key. As a captain, I give confidence to the players, (whatever) I can. I can't ask more than that," Shanaka said.

Shanaka further said that the Asia Cup win could be a stepping stone for greater things to come for Sri Lanka cricket, which is going through a transition phase for a long time.

Aditi Ashok finishes disappointing T-58

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cincinnati, Sept 12: Indian golfer Aditi Ashok shot a below-par 74 in the final round to finish a disappointing tied 58th at the Kroger Queen City Championship in the LPGA Tour's return to Cincinnati.

The Indian Sunday had a tame end to a week that began in a promising manner. Aditi, who finished fourth at the Tokyo Olympics, started the week with 68-70 but faltered on the weekend with scores of 76-74. Aditi, who had suffered two double bogeys a day earlier, had three bogeys and just one birdie on the final day.

Ally Ewing had a superb run of consecutive birdies on Sunday as she closed with a seven-under 65 and held off Xiyu Lin (65) by a stroke to win the title. Ewing now has three career wins, one in each of the last three years.

India in SAFF U-17 C'ship final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 12: India defeated Bangladesh 2-1 in the SAFF U-17 Championship semifinal here Monday to book their spot in the summit clash. Striker Thanglalsoun Gantge (51st, 59th) netted a second-half brace to win the match for India. Bangladesh pulled one back through a Mirajul Islam penalty in the 62nd minute.

Both teams created several chances in the first half, which were wasted. India came out after the change of ends with all the impetus, and soon took the lead.

India surged into the lead five minutes after the resumption as striker Gantge, who was lurking around the opposition box, received it just outside the area, and even as the jungle of legs tried to close him down, the striker delectably finished it to the right of the goalkeeper.



The lead was doubled seven minutes later off a brilliant counter-attack. The Indian defenders thwarted a rival attack inside the box, and the counter-attack down the right caught Bangladesh unaware. Eventually, Vanlalpeka Guite sent it into the box and Gantge made no

mistake to tap it in. However, Bangladesh pulled one back just a few minutes later, after they were awarded a penalty for a soft foul. Mirajul stepped up to the spot and sent Indian keeper Sahil the wrong way, scoring his side's only goal of the match.

THE SQUADS

T20 World Cup: Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (vc), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), Hardik Pandya, R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel & Arshdeep Singh.

Standby players: Mohammed Shami, Ravi Bishnoi & Deepak Chahar.

AUSTRALIA T20is: Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (vc), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), Hardik Pandya, R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar & Jasprit Bumrah.

SOUTH AFRICA T20is: Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (vc), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Shami, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar & Jasprit Bumrah.