



## SPICY STUFF

Actor Urvashi Rautela has again caught the attention of netizens with remarks on her rumoured boyfriend, cricketer Rishabh Pant

LEISURE P2



## EU'S ENERGY CRISIS PLAN

The EU outlined plans for raising more than 140 billion euros (\$140 billion) to cope with an energy crisis

INTERNATIONAL P10



## COLTS REIGN SUPREME

India trounce Nepal 4-0 in the final to win the SAFF U-17 men's football tournament

SPORTS P12

## SHORT TAKES

### 12 killed, 29 injured in J&K bus accident



**JAMMU:** Twelve people, including four women, died and 29 more were injured when an overcrowded mini-bus plunged into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district Wednesday, officials said here. The bus was on its way to Poonch from Gali Maidan when it met with the accident around 8.30am. The officials said a joint rescue operation by the Army, police and local villagers were immediately launched. The condition of six among the 29 injured was stated to be critical. J&K LG Manoj Sinha announced ₹5 lakh ex-gratia for the kin of the deceased while PM Narendra Modi announced financial aid of ₹2 lakh for the families of the deceased. **P7**

### Cabinet nod to revise ST list of 3 states



**NEW DELHI:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved Wednesday a Constitution Amendment Bill which seeks to grant tribal status to the Hatti community living in the Trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh's Sirmour district. Addressing the media, Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said the Cabinet has also approved proposals to grant Scheduled Tribes (ST) status to the Binjhia community in Chhattisgarh and the Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran communities in Tamil Nadu. After this amendment, approximately 1.6 lakh members of the Hatti community will be able to derive benefits meant for STs under the existing government schemes. **P7**

### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Opposition workers are beating up police black and blue! Police need to get immediate training by our cadre!

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	60346.97 ↓ 224.11
NIFTY	18003.80 ↓ 66.20
DOLLAR	79.83 ↑ ₹0.37
EURO	79.70 ↓ ₹1.05
GOLD	₹50,087 ↓ ₹51
SILVER	₹56,976 ↑ ₹165

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.8°C	32.5°C
TEMP MIN	25.2°C	25.0°C
Humidity	92%	87%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light rain likely



**FUN TIMES AT EMMY:** Jimmy Kimmel (left) and Will Ernet perform a hilarious scene as they present the award for 'Outstanding Comedy Series' during the 74th Emmy Awards at Los Angeles, Tuesday

## 2 DIE IN KORAPUT TUNNEL COLLAPSE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Laxmipur/Koraput, Sept 14:** Two workers died after part of an under-construction railway tunnel being built for expansion of Koraput-Rayagada rail route caved in on them during work at Kusumguda ghati under Laxmipur block of Koraput district, Wednesday. The deceased were identified as Rabindra Prapeka, 26, from Burja village under Laxmipur block and Jahar Alauddin, 30, from Barpeta district in Assam.

On getting information about the accident, police and fire department personnel reached the spot. The two were rushed to the Laxmipur community health centre (CHC) where doctors pronounced them dead on arrival. The bodies were sent for post-mortem. Kakirigumma police station IIC Damodar Bihari said a case has been registered and a probe has been initiated.

Later, family members of Rabindra reached the spot and demanded compensation. They also raised questions regarding the safety measures adopted by the private company engaged in the construction work. The demand for compensation by the deceased's kin sparked tension in the area for some time.

# Infra woes dog Sishu Bhawan

With the new building still not operational, many patients have to return without getting treatment

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Sept 14:** Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Post Graduate Institute of Paediatrics (SVPPGIP), popularly known as Sishu Bhawan, has been dogged by staff and bed crunch with the result that frustrations and agonies of patients visiting the place increasing.

According to sources, around 400 to 500 patients visit the outpatient department (OPD) of the state's premier paediatric hospital daily. On the other hand, around 400 kids are being treated at the in-door-patient department (IPD).

"Due to the bed crunch, one can see two or three patients on a single bed. At a time when the healthcare facility sees around 800 patients (400 OPD and as many IPD) on any given day, only 21 intensive care unit (ICU) beds is precious



little for critical patients requiring the facility," said a hospital official requesting anonymity.

According to Odisha government records, the healthcare facility has doctors and other staff needed for the 200 beds. However, the large number of patients poses a serious problem for the existing infrastructure, including beds and doctors. They find it very difficult to cater to the needs of the patients.

Sishu Bhawan superintendent Gyanendra Nath Behera said, "Apart from the 200 beds approved by the state government, we have been offering patient care at 216 functional beds as allowed by the Directorate of Medical Education

and Training (DMET)."

On the ICU beds, Behera said they have decided to use the additional 14 ICU beds, which were reserved for Covid-19 patients, for all. It will definitely help reduce the burden on the existing ICU beds. The superintendent further said that the new building, which is yet to be handed over to them, will go a long way to address the bed crunch.

Sources said that apart from Odisha, patients from Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh also visit Sishu Bhawan on a regular basis. Considering the inflow, the Odisha government had initiated the construction of a multi-utility hospital complex on 23,912 square metres of land at an expenditure of ₹117 crore in 2019.

The construction began the same year and the constructing company had agreed to hand the building over to the Health department by February 2021. However, till now the building is yet to start functioning leading to problems for many patients who visit Sishu Bhawan. Sources said the building will be ready by October.

## IAS reshuffle: Shalini new Health secretary

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** In a reshuffle among senior bureaucrats, the Odisha government Wednesday appointed 2001 batch IAS officer Shalini Pandit as Health & Family Welfare secretary. As per a notification issued by the General Administration and Public Grievances department, IAS officer Shubha Sarma has been posted as Woman & Child Development secretary.

In a similar development, Science & Technology department secretary Suresh Kumar Vashishth has been transferred as Fisheries & Animal Resources Development secretary while Energy secretary Nikunja Bihari Dhal will continue his responsibilities as the additional charge of Excise department and GRIDCO chairman.

Similarly, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee has been given additional charge of Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts department.

Bhaskar Jyoti Sarma, serving as Social Security and Empowerment

secretary, will also remain in additional charge of the Science & Technology department.

Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar has been posted as additional secretary, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water department. However, she will also continue in her present position as additional charge of CEO, Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS).

The state government has appointed IAS officer Brundha D as the new NHM director. Brundha will also continue in her present positions as MD of Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd (OSMCL) and state Food Safety Commissioner. IRTS officer and Commerce & Transport special secretary Sanjay Kumar Mishra is allowed to remain in additional charge of chairman-cum-managing director (CMD), Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (OPTCL).

Besides, senior OAS officer Saroj Kumar Mishra has been posted as Health & Family Welfare special secretary while continuing to remain additional charge of special secretary, Home (Protocol) department.

## POLICE BUST INTER-STATE SIM CARD RACKET; 6 HELD

SIM box is a device that can hold hundreds of SIM cards that can then be used to dupe people

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** The Crime Branch of Odisha Police busted an inter-state pre-activated SIM card racket and arrested six persons including the mastermind from Khunta area in Mayurbhanj district, an officer said Wednesday. Speaking to reporters, Crime Branch IG, Amitendra Nath Sinha, said the accused were identified as Vishal Khandelwal, the main person behind the racket, Tapan Kumar Patra, Ajay Kumar Patra, Nigam Patra, Sudhansu Das and Aju Patra. The arrests were made based on a complaint filed Monday by the Department of Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications said Sinha.

Soon after receiving the complaint, the Crime Branch formed a special team to probe into the matter. **Continued on P4**



The SIM box and other materials seized by the police

## MURDER ACCUSED DUO NABBED FROM GANJAM

**Bhubaneswar:** Twin City Commissionerate Police arrested Wednesday a couple for allegedly murdering a man at Narayani slum in Unit-VIII area. The accused have been identified as Ranju Nayak and her husband Kanha. The two were apprehended from Ganjam, where they were hiding. The accused duo had allegedly murdered P Subrat Rao (37) September 9 evening after a heated argument over peddling of drugs.

## Quirky habits rule King Charles' life

From carrying his own toilet seat to a special breakfast box, wherever Charles goes the new monarch is fussy about a number of things

AGENCIES

**London, Sept 14:** He had not been as much in the limelight as he is now after the demise of Queen Elizabeth II. Everything about King Charles III is now under media glare and more and more quirky facts about him are emerging, facts that are really hilarious.

Since he ascended the throne, people want to know everything about Charles from what he eats and does in his free time to what music he likes. The *New York Post* quoting Royal staff has revealed some of King Charles III's quirky habits including 'carrying his own toilet seat and Kleenex Velvet toilet paper wherever he goes'.

Paul Burrell, who served as a butler to Charles' late wife Princess Diana and also the Queen, has been quoted as saying in the report that Charles has given precise instructions to iron his shoelaces.



"His pyjamas are pressed every morning, his shoelaces are pressed flat with an iron otherwise he will reject those, the bath plug has to be in a certain position, and the water temperature has to be just 'tepid', in a bathtub filled 'only half full'," Burrell has been quoted as saying

in the report. Burrell has also said that the king even 'has his valets squeeze one inch of toothpaste onto his toothbrush every morning'. "Anything more than an inch, Charles gets literally upset. He simply rejects the toothbrush," the report states.

The report also talks about the eating habits of Charles and states that he likes especially 'healthy breakfast'. Former member of the Royal staff - chef Graham Newbould said that the King always talks about eating healthy food. "He has a health fetish. He'd have homemade bread, a bowl of fresh fruit, fresh fruit juices. He will strictly avoid all oily stuff," Newbould said.

"Wherever the King goes, there is a special breakfast box that goes with him. He has six different types of honey, some special mueslis, his dried fruit, and anything that's a bit special that he is a bit fussy about. One person is given charge of the box and the responsibility of replenishing the items that are used," Newbould added.

As for music, the report states that Charles is fond of slow classical music. "At one time, he was fond of the Beatles, but now he is into instrumental," it said.



# leisure



## GREEK ACTRESS, SINGER IRENE PAPAS DIES

Irene Papas, the Greek actress and recording artist renowned for her dramatic performances and austere beauty that earned her prominent roles in Hollywood movies as well as in French and Italian cinema over six decades has died. She was 93.

## KENDAL: THERE'RE SO MANY FALSE NARRATIVES ABOUT MY FAMILY

Supermodel Kendall Jenner shot to global stardom in the reality TV series *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, but she thinks the public has an inaccurate perception of them. She said: "There's so many false narratives (about us). So many people think they have you figured out when they don't even know the half of it."



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
The monotony of your hum-drum existence will get to you today, says Ganesh. A change of décor is what you may have in mind. Money may not be an issue, and a quick fix may result in a little partying in the evening. You want to show off your beautiful and serene ambience, don't you?

**TAURUS**  
Today you are likely to reach out for things that are beyond your reach and capabilities. Ganesh, nevertheless, assures that you will succeed in attaining your objectives through sheer force of your self confidence and self conviction.

**GEMINI**  
You need to be cautious and yet at the same time committed in any work that you do today. You believe in doing everything at a steady pace. Hence, make sure that every work that you take up is performed in a scheduled manner. You need to pay special attention to your health today, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will long to be with your loved ones, says Ganesh. You will probably plan to refurbish and refurbish your residence. You may get a little stingy when it comes to making payments.

**LEO**  
There are rough patches that all families must deal with. Ganesh says there are chances that today, you may disagree with your siblings and other members of the family. Money and property will be your key areas of concern. At work too, you may find yourself besotted with a confrontational attitude towards peers.

**VIRGO**  
Be the crab who wants to get out of the basket, and make bold, brave moves at work, especially in the way you accomplish your tasks. Also, contribute with brilliant, refreshing ideas. You shall, however, in all probability, remain at sea in the afternoon.

**LIBRA**  
Sharing is the key to joy, and today, you shall be unlocking many doors with that key as you reveal your innermost feelings. Share them unabashedly with your family members. You are backed up with high energy levels that will soar as the day proceeds. This will enable you to show that special interest while interacting with peers at work.

**SCORPIO**  
Though not like in an X-Files series, expect to find yourself open to the unknown and the supernatural today, says Ganesh. Time spent at your work station will be troublesome. You may end up spending a small fortune on your health. You shall achieve your short-term targets, predicts Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Your mood is high on expectations today. You shall plan meticulously before noon, and then in the afternoon, your plans shall fall in place, and deliver expected results. The opposite sex will find you intellectually stimulating and attractive.

**CAPRICORN**  
The day will be spent juggling work and meeting personal demands, says Ganesh. It may virtually be a tug-of-war, in which your friends and relatives will emerge victorious as you will end up spending more time with them. You will catch up with gossips that you missed while trying to impress your boss.

**AQUARIUS**  
Legal issues may be resolved in your favour today and that will bring a huge sigh of relief! You may just wish to spend time with your family after all that anxiety. Ganesh says you should go for more exciting stuff to take your mind off. Why not join a dance class?

**PISCES**  
Today will find you resolute and unwavering in everything that you pursue, and it is a good thing to be, for you will find yourself making substantial progress come afternoon. New relationships could be in the offing today as well, says Ganesh.

## Piano is integral part of Andrea's songwriting

**Chennai:** Actress, singer and songwriter Andrea Jeremiah says her piano is an integral part of her songwriting.

Taking to Instagram, the actress recently shared details of her piano, which she says occupies the pride of place in her living room.

She wrote, "My grandfather worked in the Railways, and my father was the first in his family to get a professional degree, he is a practicing lawyer. So we went from bike and rented apartment to car and owning an apartment.

"The growth was slow, steady and real. My parents made sure that we had everything we wanted, but owning a piano was a luxury I did not have all through the years of studying the instrument. So I would go to a friend's place to practice before my piano exams.

"My father bought me a piano only when I turned 18, and ironically that's when my piano lessons took a backseat to acting.

"I still have my piano though. It occupies pride of place in my living room, and it's an integral part of my songwriting."

On the acting front, the actress will be seen playing the lead in a series of films including *Kaa* and director Mysskin's horror thriller *Pisau 2*.

IAS

## Urvashi's 'sorry' wasn't for Rishabh

**Mumbai:** Actor Urvashi Rautela continues to make news ever since she said her rumoured boyfriend Rishabh Pant once waited for her in a hotel lobby for almost 10 hours. After she recently apologised during an interview when asked about the Indian cricketer, now the actor issued a clarification. She earlier said, "sorry, I'm sorry" with folded hands, which many interpreted as an apology to the cricketer; however, it isn't the case, as per the actor.

Clearing the air once again, Urvashi took to her Instagram Stories and wrote, "These days official news articles & so called meme pages (worst marketers) are more scripted than movies or a tv show!!! That sorry was for my fans & loved ones that I had nothing to say..."

Recently, when Urvashi was asked to share any message for Rishabh Pant during an interaction, she said, "All I want to say is...umm...nothing. I am sorry"

Urvashi and Rishabh's dating speculation dates back to 2018 after they were spotted arriving and leaving restaurants, parties and public events in Mumbai. Later, reports about their breakup surfaced online and claimed that both have blocked each other on WhatsApp. Following this, in 2019, Rishabh denied dating rumours and announced his relationship with girlfriend Isha Negi. AGENCIES



## Anil was insecure about Jackie's roaring success

**Mumbai:** *Koffee With Karan Season 7* is candidly taking viewers a step closer to the secrets of celebrities week after week. In its eleventh episode, the conversations turn steamy as senior actor Anil Kapoor and box-office heartthrob Varun Dhawan keep viewers hooked with conversations around marriage, relationships and competition in the industry.

The episode reveals how insecurities are real for everyone, even if you are a popular star hailing from a legacy family. Tracing back to his initial days in the industry, Anil candidly recalled how despite being a

star kid, he was insecure about other stars landing bigger projects than him. "I felt insecure about Jackie Shroff's success at that time. Until I signed a Yash Chopra film, I felt like an outsider even though I wasn't one," he said. "I also felt the same way when Sanjay Dutt and Sunny Deol were launched," he added.

Anil Kapoor and Jackie Shroff worked together on 12 films including *Ram Lakhan* (1989), *Karma* (1986), *Kabhi Na Kabhi* (1998), *Trimurti* (1995), *Andar Baahar* (1984), *Kala Bazaar* (1989), *Shootout at Wadala* (2013) among others.

AGENCIES



## Lalit Kala Akademi announces 40th Odisha Charukala Award

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar:** Eight promising artists of the state will be feted with Odisha Charukala Award, instituted by Odisha Lalit Kala Akademi (OLKA) to honour people with excellence in fine arts, for 2022-23.

They are: Pratap Chandra Jena and Asanta Das (sculpture), Rabi Narayan Gupta and Tukuna Dakua (print art), Amit Kumar Ojha and Sitikanata Samantaray (painting) Ronibala Mahapatra and Niranjan Mukhi (traditional art). The artists will receive a cash of Rs 2 lakh, a citation, a copper plaque and a shawl each at a special function soon.

Akademi had invited photographs of art works from across the state and 173 of the received photos were shortlisted for the final round. Of them, eight were picked up for the honour as per the recommendation of the jury.

Among others, OLKA President Sudarshan Patnaik, Secretary Panchanan Samal and Odia Language, Literature & Culture Director Ranjan Kumar Das, were present during the presser.



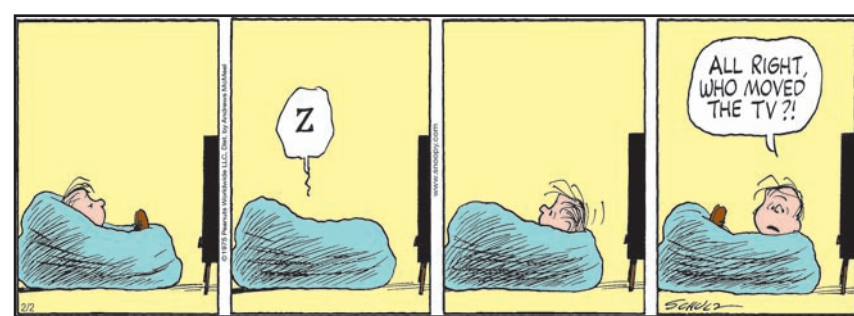
## RANGA SANGAM - DAY 3



Trendy Akademi of Sonepur staged Odia play *Kuanri* at Bhanjakala Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, on the third day of the five-day theatre festival organised by Odisha Sangeeta Natak Akademi in collaboration with Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department, Government of Odisha. The drama was written and directed by Purushottam Mishra while Nisar Ahmed Nisar scored the music. Samir Sahoo and Laxminarayan Sahoo assisted in direction.

OP PHOTO

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

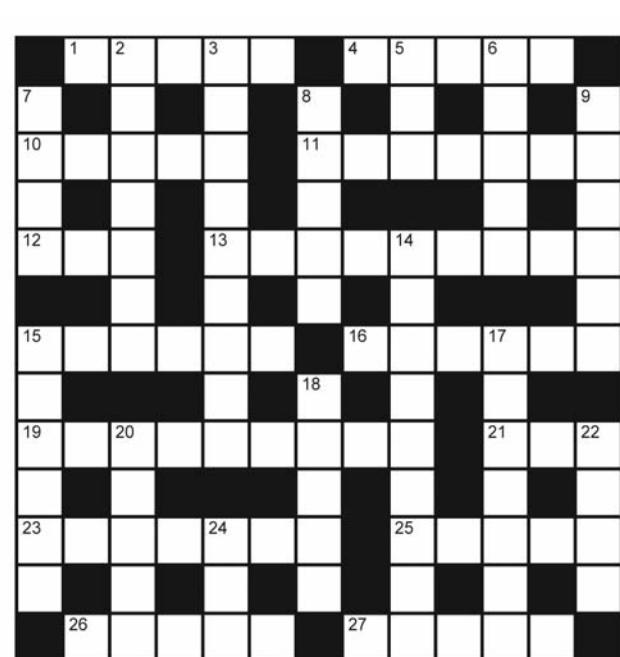


### BREVITY



### FUN post

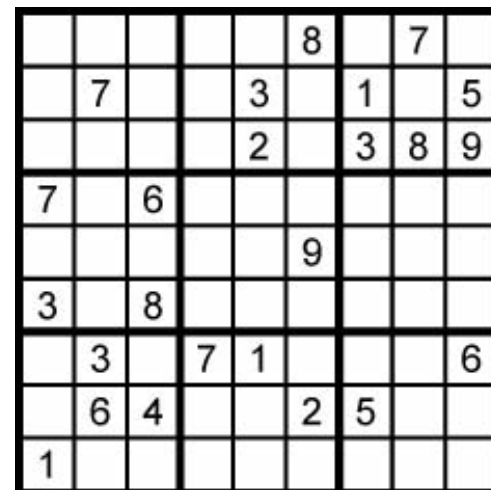
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Picture support
  - 4 Fidgety
  - 10 Metric weight unit
  - 11 16th century vessel
  - 12 Cleaning cloth
  - 13 Doubting
  - 15 Current
  - 16 Balloon filler
  - 19 Lying down
  - 21 Farm female
  - 23 Chess move
  - 25 Computer keyboard key
  - 26 Precious stone
  - 27 Barn material
  - Down**
  - 2 Went back on
  - 3 Vortex
  - 5 High rocky hill
  - 6 Mayhem
  - 7 Recipe direction
  - 8 Musical group, at times
  - 9 Ski race
  - 14 Medical procedure
  - 15 Leave stranded
  - 17 Maintained state of rest or inactivity
  - 18 Relinquish (3,2)
  - 20 French pancake
  - 22 Beige
  - 24 Hockey foundation

### 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



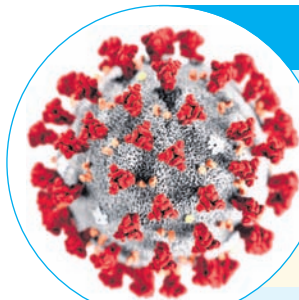
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





## SARCASTIC OFFER

Cuttack Congress workers offer a door to CMC Commissioner Nikhil Pavan Kalyan Wednesday as the Mayor's washroom door remained unrepaired for long



## COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,50,42,255	59,41,41,394	65,21,148
India	4,45,07,471	4,39,36,092	5,28,216
Odisha	13,30,853	13,20,216	9,185

## IN TANDEM



Artistes of Nrutyajali perform during the 17th Debadashi annual festival at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

# CM invites biz tycoons, top bankers to invest in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: Odisha is fast emerging as a major industrial destination in India because of its natural resource advantage and strategic location, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik while addressing at the investors' meet in Mumbai, Wednesday. Patnaik also invited big industry captains and top bankers to invest and expand services in Odisha.

Odisha's abundant natural resources, skilled and productive human resources, progressive policies and strong result-oriented governance provide a unique ecosystem, he said.

"Odisha is one of the fastest growing economies in India and has consistently grown above the national average in the last decade and a half. Today, Odisha is ranked among the top states in India in terms of live manufacturing investments and has been accorded the achievers status in the recently released ease of doing business ratings by the government of India," said the Chief Minister.

Speaking about the 'Make in Odisha Conclave 2022', he said, "It is a platform for the state to showcase our growth story and present what we have to offer to our investors across the globe. It is also a platform for industry captains and thought leaders to talk about the future outlook of various industrial sectors."

He invited all the dignitaries and industry leaders present in the meeting to participate in the conclave to be held here from November 30 to December 4 2022.

Industries Minister Pratap Keshari Deb said that Odisha's industrial growth in the last two decades has been focused on de-



## MAKE IN ODISHA CONCLAVE AHEAD

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik held one-to-one meetings with Aditya Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla, Vedanta Resources Ltd chairman Anil Agarwal, Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra and other business leaders

He also met leaders of banking institutions including SBI chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, country head of HDFC Bank Arvind Vohra and executive director of ICICI Bank Rakesh Jha

veloping a highly skilled workforce. With nearly 200 engineering colleges and 1,000 ITIs, the state is creating the most skilled workforce in the country, he said.

Addressing the occasion, Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra shed light on how Odisha has been one of the major breakout states in the country in terms of development, registering impressive Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth

rates year-after-year and industrialising at break-neck speed.

"Through the MIO Conclave, we want to build new relationships and strengthen our old relationships with all of you. We want you all to be a partner in Odisha's growth story," he said.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister held one-to-one meetings with Aditya Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla, Vedanta Resources Ltd chairman Anil Agarwal, Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra, Waaree Energies Ltd chairman Hitesh Chimanlal Doshi, Apar Industries Ltd's managing director (MD) Chaitanya Desai, JM Baxi's MD Dhruv Kotak, and Chief Financial Officer of STT GDC India Pvt. Ltd, Bimal Khandelwal.

Naveen also met leaders of banking institutions including SBI chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, country head of HDFC Bank Arvind Vohra and executive director of ICICI Bank Rakesh Jha. He invited the bankers to expand their services in the unbanked areas of the state.

# 'Ahimsa Rath' reaches Koraput, Balasore



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: 'Ahimsa Rath' that was flagged off by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and 76th anniversary of India's Independence, has reached Balasore and Koraput districts on the completion of its 30th day of journey.

'Ahimsa Rath' was inaugurated by Patnaik to spread the messages of nationalism, brotherhood, peace, non-violence and harmony in the nook and corner of the state.

Everywhere a grand welcome is being accorded to Ahimsa Rath by the respective district administrations, zilla parisad members,

SHGs, voluntary organisations, Mission Shakti groups, PRI members, students and teachers.

People are welcoming Ahimsa Rath with traditional dance and song, patriotic slogans, rallies with national flag, sankirtan, pala and in numerous innovative ways.

Video shows of inspiring stories of freedom struggle are being displayed on LED screens at different halting places of Ahimsa Rath.

The mobile video chariot will move across the state till October 2.

The awareness campaign has been designed by the Information and Public Relations (I&PR) department of the state government.

# OHRC asks Malkangiri DM to pay ₹5 lakh aid

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 14: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has directed the Malkangiri Collector and District Magistrate (DM) to pay ₹5 lakh as compensation within two months to the next of kin of Soma Kabasi, who died in police custody in 2017, an official said Wednesday.

The commission gave the direction after hearing separate pleas filed by rights activists Biswapriya Kanungo, Akhand and Bijay Panda. They informed the OHRC that Mathili police in Malkangiri had arrested Kabasi, a resident of Jandraguda village, and a few others for their alleged involvement in Maoist activities in the locality. They were kept at Malkangiri police barrack.

## CUSTODIAL DEATH

Quoting the police version, the activists said that Kabasi was about to be taken to the court when he sought the cops' permission to attend nature's call at the washroom on the police barrack premises December 27, 2017.

"As he did not return for a long, the cops broke open the door to find a lifeless Kabasi hanging from the washroom grille with a towel," the petitioners said, adding that he was rushed to a nearby state-run healthcare facility, where the doctors declared him 'dead on arrival'.

The activists said that it is the duty of the State to ensure safety of the accused in custody. However, it failed to ensure it.

"It's in fact the custodial torture which prompted Kabasi to end his life," the petitioners claimed, demanding stringent action against those responsible for the incident.

Taking cognisance of the complaints, the OHRC sought details of the incident from Malkangiri SP and South-Western Range DIG.

Quoting the magistrate's enquiry report, the SP had informed the OHRC that it was a clear case of suicide.

The DIG also claimed that it was a case of suicide, but raised questions on the construction, including the height of the grille, of the washroom.

The OHRC observed that whatever may be the reason—security lapse or faulty design of the washroom—it is a fact that Kabasi died in custody.

# TEACHER CRUNCH HITS 40 KEONJHAR SCHOOLS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 14: More than 5,000 students studying in 40 fully-aided schools in this district are facing a bleak future due to lack of adequate number of teachers, sources said.

Most of these schools have two to three teachers while the required number is much more. Many teachers have retired, but no fresh appointment has been made in their places.

Studies in most of these schools have come to a halt due to lack of teachers in subjects like Science, Hindi and Physical Education. Students who can afford private tuitions are opting for it, but those from poor financial backgrounds stare at an uncertain future.

The government-aided SMR High School under Sadar block is a case in point. Over 150 students study in this school which is managed by only two teachers. Many posts are lying va-



cant for years with no new appointments being made. The school has seven sanctioned teacher posts and five office staff including a clerk, peon and a watchman. However, only two teachers are working in the educational institution. School managing committee president Akshaya Kumar Moharana recently wrote to the district education officer (DEO) asking for the appointment of an IT teacher.

Similarly, there are only four teachers in Lakshimpata High School at Teronti, three teachers each in Khetramohan Vidyapitha at Salapada, GPM High School at Daradaipala, Palashpala High School in Revana and Brahmeswar High School at Khuntapada re-

spectively. Classroom teaching has gone for a toss due to paucity of teachers.

Parents alleged that while the state government is spending a lot in making classroom teaching attractive and upgrading the schools for betterment of students, fully-aided educational institutions are being overlooked and being given a short shrift.

Retired headmaster Ramesh Chandra Hota blamed the lack of fresh appointments for such a precarious situation in 40 such schools.

When contacted, district education officer (DEO) Purnachandra Sethi said that the government has no provisions to fill the teachers' posts in fully-aided schools. New appointments will be made only if the government makes the requisite rule. Sethi added that the government is being apprised of the vacancies in these schools and their problems regularly.

**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110608  
EXAMINATION SECTION

ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 111/2022

Ref. No. F.AIIMS/Exam.Sec./Advt./4-5/(INI-CET-PG-JAN-23)/2022 31.08.2022

### Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET)

#### for admission to PG Courses for January 2023 session

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites online applications for Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test (INI-CET) January 2023 for admission to PG courses [MD/MS/M.Ch.(6 years)/ DM(6 years)/ MDS] of AIIMS, New Delhi, JIPMER Puducherry, NIMHANS Bengaluru, PGIMER Chandigarh & SCTIMST Trivandrum and other AIIMS (Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Nagpur, Patna, Raipur, Rishikesh, Bibinagar, Bathinda, Deoghar, Mangalagiri etc.) for January 2023 session as per following schedule:-

Date of uploading Prospectus Part-A including eligibility criteria: 05.09.2022		
Online Registration for application	Start Date	Closing Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>#Registration and Basic Information</b> [All applicants who have applied earlier and whose basic Registration have been <b>#ACCEPTED</b> for January 2019, July 2019, January 2020, July 2020, January 2021, July 2021 session, January 2022 and July 2022, are not required to complete Registration and Basic information again. They will have to complete application form only after Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC Code)]</li> <li><b>Editing of Registration and Basic Information (After last date of editing, editing of Registration and Basic information will not be allowed)</b></li> </ul>	05.09.2022	26.09.2022 (by 5.00 pm)
<b>Status of Registration and Basic information and last date of correction of rejected Images</b>	30.09.2022	03.10.2022 (by 5.00 pm)
<b>Final Status of Accepted Registration and Basic information</b>	06.10.2022 (by 5.00 pm)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Generation of Examination Unique Code (EUC)</b> [only for Accepted Registration and Basic information - Previous EUC code not valid for January 2023 session]</li> <li><b>Completion of Application form (only for the candidates those have generated EUC code)</b></li> <li><b>Editing of Completion of Application form</b> (Change of category will not be allowed after payment of registration fee in any circumstances)</li> </ul>	12.10.2022 (05.00 pm)	25.10.2022 (05.00 pm)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Uploading of valid Certificate/Card:</b> SC/ST/OBC(NCL)/EWS/PwBD certificate and OCI Card</li> <li><b>(a) Date(s) of valid OBC(NCL) certificate:</b> The OBC(NCL) certificates should have been issued between <b>12.10.2021 to 13.11.2022 (date of Exam)</b> both dates inclusive.</li> <li><b>(b) Date(s) of valid EWS certificate:</b> The EWS certificate must be valid for <b>financial year 2022-2023 and issued between 01.04.2022 to 13.11.2022</b> (on or before date of Exam), both date inclusive based on income of year 2021-2022.</li> </ul>	12.10.2022 (05.00 pm)	13.11.2022 (05.00 pm)
<b>Date(s) of checking status of Completion of application form &amp; Last date of submission of required documents.</b>	28.10.2022 (11.00 am)	31.10.2022 (05.00 pm)
<b>Final Status of online Registration and uploading of admit card on AIIMS website</b>	07.11.2022 (Monday)	
<b>Date of Examination</b>	<b>Examination Timings</b>	
Sunday, 13th November, 2022	Medical and Dental Courses- <b>09:00 AM - 12:00 Noon</b>	
<p><b>Important:</b> For Prospectus, detailed information etc. please visit the website <a href="http://www.aiimsexams.ac.in">www.aiimsexams.ac.in</a>. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website. Registration and Basic information is mandatory. Only those with accepted Registration &amp; Basic information can proceed for Generation of EUC for completion of application form.</p> <p><b>Correction/edit of Registration:</b> For candidates requiring correction in Registration &amp; Basic candidate information OR Completion of application form, the edit panel will be available as per schedule only. It may kindly be noted that the editing shall be done only by the candidate. Candidate will be responsible for all corrections. No corrections allowed after closing date of editing. <b>Applicants may note that further correspondence will NOT be entertained in this regard.</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> All applicant for which fees not paid will be summarily rejected and no correspondence will be entertained in this regard.</p>		

**PAAR**  
Prospectus Application Admission Registration  
CBC 17112/12/0023/2223

**AIIMS Exams**  
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES  
NEW DELHI

**ASSTT. CONTROLLER (EXAMS)**



# State logs 260 new Cov cases



The state now has 1,674 active Covid-19 cases, while 353 more people recovered from the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total recoveries to 13,19,941

the last 24 hours took the cumulative tally to 4,39,36,092. Consequently, India's recovery rate stands at 98.71 per cent. Meanwhile, the daily and weekly positivity rates stood at 1.44 per cent and 1.70 per cent, respectively. Also in the same period, a total of 3,55,231 tests were conducted across the country, increasing the overall tally to over 89.02 crore. As of Wednesday morning, India's Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 215.67 crore. Over 4.06 crore adolescents have been administered with a first dose of Covid-19 jab since the beginning of vaccination drive for this age bracket.

plere recovered from the disease in the last 24 hours, taking the total recoveries to 13,19,941. The positivity rate was at 1.9 per cent as the new cases were detected after testing 13,826 samples. In the last 24 hours, India reported 5,108 new Covid-19 cases and 31 deaths, the Union Health Ministry said Wednesday. The new fatalities increased the nationwide death toll to 5,28,216. The active caseload dipped to 45,749, accounting for 0.1 per cent of the country's total positive cases. The recovery of 5,675 patients in

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** The state's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,30,853 Wednesday as 260 more people, including 29 children, tested positive for the infection, a health bulletin said. The toll remained at 9,185 as there were no new deaths. Fifty-three other patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it said. Odisha had recorded 159 infections Tuesday. The state now has 1,674 active Covid-19 cases, while 353 more peo-

# ACHYUTA HONOURED



Governor Ganeshi Lal felicitating KISS founder Achyuta Samanta during a programme organised by Odisha Sachetana Nagarika Manch at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

# STA's 'Brahmastra' mantra for road safety SPCB celebrates 39th foundation day

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** The State Transport Authority (STA) has yet again taken inspiration from super hit movies to create awareness on road safety. This time they used inspiration from new Hindi movie Brahmastra. The STA Wednesday Tweeted a message saying Seatbelt & Helmet are your #Astra for Safe Driving & Safe Ride. Add these to your Astraverse. In the image which they posted with tweet they identified helmet and seat belt as Astras and called its Surakshashtra. The idea of this tweet came from the movie Brahmastra Part I- Shiva which is an Indian Hindi-



**The STA Wednesday Tweeted a message saying Seatbelt & Helmet are your #Astra for Safe Driving & Safe Ride. Add these to your Astraverse**

the upcoming adventure fantasy movie Brahmstra. In the movie, it was showcased that in ancient India, a group of sages were performing meditation in the Himalayas. They collided with Brahm-Shakti, whose energy made different stras. One of them was Brahmstra, whom they managed to control with their respective astras as Brahmstra had the capability to destroy the world. These sages founded Brahmashtra, a secret society that vow to protect the world from the powers of astras. The STA had earlier used several popular movie posters and dialogues to create awareness for road safety. It used Pushpa movie poster to create awareness about wearing helmet.

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** Minister of Forest, Environment & Climate Change, I&PR, Government of Odisha, Pradip Kumar Amat inaugurated the foundation day function of State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) in the conference hall of the Board, Bhubaneswar Wednesday. Satyabrata Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue, Disaster, Forest, Environment & Climate Change pointed out the remarkable journey of the Board since its inception and stressed for more awareness campaign involving every sector of the society. On this occasion, the Board also



released three periodicals under its Integrated Coastal Zone management Programme namely Health Card of Paradeep, Gahirmatha and Dhamra coastal stretch. The Board also distributed the Pollution Control Excellence and Appreciation Award to selected industries, mines and health care units from the state. Minister Amat pointed out the importance of SPCB, its role and responsibility to make the environment habitable in the present context as well as for the future.

# Fugitive nabbed

**Jatni:** Police Wednesday arrested the main accused in a theft case of 2021. The arrested has been identified as Somnath Bhujabal, 27, a resident of Brahmakundal village under this block in Khurda district. According to Jatni police, Shibashis Patnaik of Paltanpadia area in Khurda had lodged a complaint regarding theft of his hyva truck November 30 last year. Acting on the complaint, the police had registered a case (642/22) and launched an investigation. Although they were able to nab one person in this connection, prime accused Bhujabal was absconding. The police arrested Bhujabal from Puri, said the police.

# Police bust...

**Continued from P1**  
The team conducted raids in a remote area in Mayurbhanj. Police seized two SIM card boxes (machine-based numbers) that were used to defraud people in various parts of India. Police also seized over 2,500 SIM cards of Airtel, Jio, Vodafone and BSNL along with seven laptops, 20 mobile phones, bank passbooks, routers and other articles, Sinha said. The seized SIM cards included 1,049 of Airtel, 1,231 of Jio, 158 of Vodafone and 134 of BSNL. The IG further said the criminals were operating their network in Khunta forest area and cheating people by sending fake KYC suspension and SIM card block messages to defraud people. Though it was not yet clear from where the accused were bringing the SIM cards, they informed the police that they were sourcing it from Chennai, Sinha further said. Sinha said that initially, the team detained Tapas. After interrogating him, the other arrests were made. He informed that Vishal alias Jonty had procured the SIM box. He engaged Tapas for sending messages by using pre-activated SIMs supplied by Sudhansu and Nigam. "They were circulating 100s of fake messages every day. After a few months, Tapas engaged Aju and Ajay in the team," Sinha informed.



Students of Bhima Bhoi School for the Blind staging a protest seeking appointment of teachers at school premises in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

# OSEFD seeks appointment of 6 thousand teachers for students with special need

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** Education is the basic right and need of all. A disabled student also has the same need and right to get the same education as a normal student. Odisha has more than 68,000 schools and about 82,000 children with special needs are enrolled in these schools but they need special trained teachers to teach them which is in dire shortage today. Special teachers are not appointed in general schools. The Supreme Court (SC) of India, in a judgment passed October 28, 2021, ordered the appointment of at least one special teacher in each general school in every state and union territory of India. In this order, it was mentioned that each state will sub-

mit its compliance affidavit to the SC within six month. Again, dated 21/07/2022, the SC has accepted separate norms for special educators, who alone can impart education and training to children with special needs in general schools as recommended by Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI). Odisha Special Educator Federation for Divyang (OSEFD), an association always striving to develop the education of disabled students, is making a strong demand to the state government and Chief Minister to appoint special trained teachers in the general schools. If this appointment is made, the students with disabilities will not be deprived of education and more than 6000 special teachers will benefit. The Commissioner of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD), government of Odisha has mentioned in his affidavit that Diploma in Special Education, B.Ed in Special Education & M.Ed in Special Education teacher trainees who have registered with Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) are being recruited as Sikhya Sahayaka/ Junior teachers/ Junior teacher Contractual in General schools. OSEFD said there are about 6000 unemployed people available who have completed two years' special education course from 62 special education training institutes with Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) registration. But they are sitting at home without employment.

# Going green will be expensive is 'just wrong': Study

**F**ast transition to clean energy is "cheaper than slow or no transition" and the idea that going green will be expensive is "just wrong", a new Oxford study has claimed. According to a study by Oxford University researchers, transition to a decarbonised energy system by around 2050 is expected to "save the world at least 12 trillion dollars" as against a scenario where we continue to use fossil fuel energy at the current levels. "Rapid transition to clean energy results in lower energy system costs than a fossil fuel system, while providing more energy to the global economy and expanding energy access to more people around the world," the study said. The study's 'Fast Transition' scenario has shown a "realistic" possible future for a fossil-free energy system by around 2050, providing 55 per cent more energy services globally than today by ramping up solar, wind, batteries, electric vehicles, and other clean fuels such as green hydrogen (made from renewable electricity). "Past models predicting high costs for transition to zero carbon energy have deterred companies from investing, and made governments nervous about setting policies. "But clean energy costs have fallen sharply over the last decade, much faster than those models expected," Rupert Way, a postdoctoral researcher at the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, said. For the study, the researchers analysed thousands of transition cost scenarios produced by major energy models and used data on 45 years of solar energy costs, 37 years of wind energy costs, and 25 years for battery storage. They found that the real cost of solar energy "dropped twice as fast as the most ambitious projections" in these models, revealing that over the last 20 years "previous models badly overestimated the future costs of key clean energy technologies". Doyne Farmer, who led the team



"THERE IS A PERVERSIVE MISCONCEPTION THAT SWITCHING TO CLEAN, GREEN ENERGY WILL BE PAINFUL, COSTLY AND MEAN SACRIFICES FOR US ALL - BUT THAT'S JUST WRONG." DOYNE FARMER OF THE INSTITUTE FOR NEW ECONOMIC THINKING AT THE OXFORD MARTIN SCHOOL, SAID

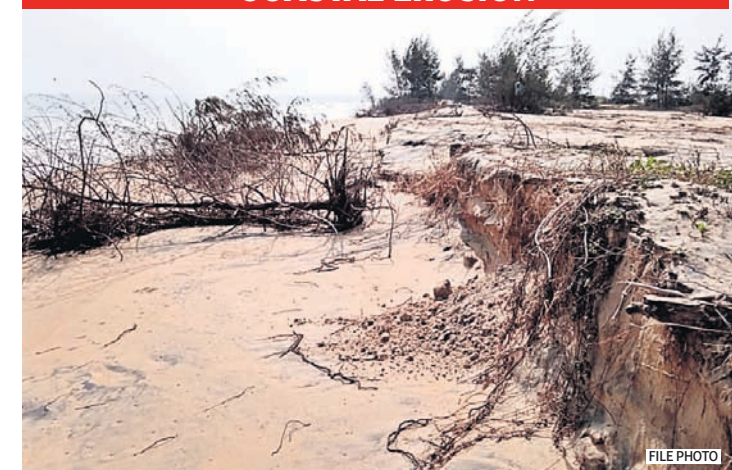
According to Oxford University researchers, transition to a decarbonised energy system by around 2050 is expected to "save the world at least 12 trillion dollars". "Fast Transition" scenario has shown a "realistic" possible future for a fossil-free energy system providing 55 per cent more energy services globally than today by ramping up solar, wind, batteries, electric vehicles, and other clean fuels such as green hydrogen. "There is a pervasive misconception that switching to clean, green energy will be painful, costly and mean sacrifices for us all - but that's just wrong." The study showed that the costs for key storage technologies such as batteries and hydrogen electrolysis are also "likely to fall dramatically". Meanwhile, the costs of nuclear energy have consistently increased over the last five decades, making it highly unlikely to be cost competitive. "The world is facing a simultaneous inflation, national security and climate crisis, all caused by our dependence on high cost, insecure, polluting, fossil fuels with volatile prices. "This study shows that ambitious policies to accelerate the transition to a clean energy future as quickly as possible are not only urgently needed for climate reasons, but can save the world trillions in future energy costs," Farmer said. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the costs of fossil energy have skyrocketed, causing inflation around the world. The study, conducted before the current crisis, has taken account of such fluctuations using over a century's worth of fossil fuel price data. The current energy crisis underscores the study's findings and demonstrates the risks of continued reliance on fossil fuels. According to the research, the response to the crisis should include accelerating the transition to low cost, clean energy as soon as possible. The research is a collaboration between the Institute for New Economic Thinking at the Oxford Martin School, the Oxford Martin Programme on the Post-Carbon Transition, and the Smith School of Enterprise & Environment at the University of Oxford, and SoDa Labs at Monash University. PTI

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# Sea gobbles up Agarnasi island

## COASTAL EROSION



FILE PHOTO

Protection and Mangrove Conservation Society (GMTMCS) said that the Agarnasi island which was spread over an area of seven sq/km in the past was abundant with casuarina trees and various wildlife like leopards, wolves, jackals, deer

### Environmentalists express concern that the whole Gahirmatha marine sanctuary may get washed away by the sea

and reptiles. Fishermen used the place to prepare dry fish. A dispute occurred between the Kanika royal estate and Kujang royal estate over the ownership of the area in 1920.

However, after the area was identified as a nursery of rare Olive Ridley turtles, the state government declared it as Gahirmatha marine sanctuary in 1997. The society members undertook a cleanliness drive at Agarnasi island, January 29, 2021. They discovered that the island has been reduced to a length of 700 metre and 200 metre width.

Environmentalist Hemant Kumar Rout said that constant battering of sea waves in the area has intensified after the establishment of Paradip Port. A geo-synthetic tube wall was constructed to save the Pentha village from extinction. However, no such step was taken to save the Agarnasi island which was in the middle of the sea. The island was soon washed away into the sea after being regularly

battered by waves and high tides.

The Gahirmatha marine sanctuary is famous as the nursery of rare Olive Ridley turtles. Lakhs of turtles travel for over thousands of miles in the sea to reach this place for mating and laying eggs.

The turtles meet at Agarnasi island, Nasi-1, Nasi-2, Madali and other places during their breeding period. Coastal erosion has destroyed this place.

Recently, the original temple of Devi Panchurabari in Satabhaya has been gobbled up by the sea.

The extinction of Agarnasi island has aggravated the threat to Suniti, Lanjura, Havelikhati, Barunei, Jambu, Hukitola island and Babar panchayats as these areas are now vulnerable to the sea waves.

Educationist Khitish Kumar Singh said he attended a conference on climate change organised by an outfit 'Prayas' in Bhubaneswar, September 10. Attending this conference, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, his deputy Abani Kumar Choubey and state Environment Minister Pradeep Kumar Amat heaped praises on the forest department and state government for the turtle protection initiatives at Gahirmatha. However, many researchers presenting their reports warned that the coastal erosion will only intensify in Gahirmatha in coming days.

When contacted, forest ranger Manas Das spoke on various steps the forest department had taken for protection of the Agarnasi island.

## LEOPARD POACHING

# 2 suspects detained in Sonepur

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sonepur, Sept 14:** A day after the decomposed carcass of a leopard was found in Chandili reserve forest near Baghapali village under Ullunda Forest range in Subarnapur district, forest officials have intensified their investigation into it and detained two suspects, Wednesday.

It was suspected that the leopard might have died after falling into a trap laid by poachers in the forest. The big cat is believed to have died four days ago. The poachers took away all the claws.

Assistant conservator of forests Prafulla Kumar Dharua, Ullunda forest ranger Dilip Kumar Pradhan and Sonepur ranger Manoranjan Bagh were at the site Wednesday.

Reports said, some goat herders had first seen the carcass and informed the forest department. Subsequently, forest officials reached the spot and initiated a probe into the incident.



It is suspected that some poachers killed it and took away its claws. The forest has allegedly turned into a poachers' haven with live wires being used to kill wild animals at night. A few weeks ago, a resident of Baghapali had died after coming in contact with live wires laid in the forest.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Sept 14:** Rapid coastal erosion has posed serious threat to the existence of the world famous Gahirmatha marine sanctuary in Kendrapara district which is known as the nursery of endangered Olive Ridley turtles.

The marine turtles have been listed as an endangered species and are under the red list of International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The disappearance of Agarnasi island into the sea which was earlier part of the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary is a case in this point. The Agarnasi island was spread over on seven sq/km area. However, the island has been washed away into the sea due

to constant erosion.

Environmentalists and nature lovers fear that the day is not far when the whole Gahirmatha marine sanctuary might get washed away into the sea.

They also apprehend that places like Chataka, a habitat for over 10,000 birds apart from being a breeding ground of the turtles, will be washed away into the sea in next five years.

Similarly, human habitats like Suniti, Babar, Jagatpur and Lanjura panchayats under Mahakalapara block are also under the threat of coastal erosion and might get washed away into the sea in next five years.

Satyaprakash Mohanty, a turtle conservationist and the president of Gahirmatha Marine Turtle

## NCC GROUP HQ, CUTTACK

### FILLING OF CIVILIAN POSTS AT UNIT RUN CANTEEN LOCATED AT CUTTACK

Applications are invited from desirous civilian residing in the State of Odisha for the following vacancies:

Post	Vac	Qualification	Remarks
Clerk	02	Graduate and should be proficient in handling of Computers (Cert in MS Office)	Civilians
Casual Labour	04	10th Pass & above	Civilians

Interested candidates are requested to deposit their applications by 05th Oct. 2022 at Group HQ NCC, SO-15, Near Cantonment Road, Cuttack. An interview for the same will be held on 07 Oct. 2022. GROUP COMMANDER, NCC GROUP HEADQUARTER, CUTTACK

## EAST COAST RAILWAY

### PUBLIC NOTIFICATION FOR CLOSURE OF MANNED LEVEL CROSSING GATE BETWEEN KAIPADAR ROAD-TAPANG

The under mentioned Manned level crossing gate of Khurda Road Division is going to be closed after commissioning of connecting road for public. Collector/Khordha, vide letter No. 16403/Judi, dttd. 03.11.2020 has permitted for the closure of below mentioned manned level crossing gate. Principal Chief Engineer/E.Co. Railway/BBS has also accorded Administrative approval for the same vide letter No. W-4/351/A/P.VIII/6544, Dtd. 17.12.2021. Hence, the use of the under mentioned Manned level crossing gate for public is to be closed with immediate effect.

Route	Between Station	LC No.	Rly. Km	Class (M/U/M)	Year of census	Train Vehicle Unit	Reason for closure
B	Kaipadar road -Tapang	210	469/27-29	"C" Class (M)	2021	5809	Construction of connecting road from LC No. 210 to 209

This is for the information of all concerned. PR-485/N/22-23 Divisional Engineer(South), Khurda Road

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CUTTACK (R&B) DIVISION NO.1, CUTTACK

E-mail I.D. - eepwdcuttack@gmail.com, Tele/Fax No. (0671)- 2304128 No.B-575 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

### (e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE) Bid identification No. S.E. CTC (R&B)-25 of 2022-23

- SHORT TENDER CALL NOTICE**
- The Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Division No.1, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in Single cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractor for Building & Road works as mentioned below.
  - No. of Work :- 09 Nos. (Building-2 Nos. & Roads-7 Nos.)
  - Nature of work :- Building & Road works
  - Class of Contractor :- "D", "C" and "B" Class as specified in the DTCN
  - Tender Paper Cost :- Rs.6000/- (Online)
  - Available of bid documents :- From 16.09.2022 to 5PM of 26.09.2022
  - Date of Opening of Bid :- 11 AM of 27.09.2022
  - The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
- Sd/- (Er. P.K. Majhi), Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Division No.1  
OIPR-34091/11/0013/2223

# Dengue on rise in Malkangiri

## CDMO FOR MORE BEDS AT DHH



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Sept 14:** With dengue cases on the rise in Malkangiri district for the past few days, scarcity of beds in the district headquarters hospital (DHH) has been a big problem for patients.

Most of the dengue patients are being detected in urban areas of Chitrakonda and Malkangiri. Owing to shortage of beds, most of the dengue patients are being shifted to Koraput, it was stated. On the

other hand, Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer (CDM&PHO) Dr Prafulla Kumar Nanda said that dengue is now in control in the district. Out of 205 reported cases, only 30 are active.

"So far, 27 patients admitted at the DHH in September. 34 patients were detected in July and 62 in August. House to house cleaning drive is underway. Suspected persons are being traced and treated. Sunday is being observed as 'Dry Day' when a cleanliness drive is undertaken. People are being advised to use mosquito nets and keep the environment clean. Awareness and fogging drive is also being carried out in the areas," he added.

It was learnt that two dengue wards have been opened. He informed that the dengue isolation ward will be expanded in the district headquarters hospital and the superintendent has been instructed to increase the number of beds.

# RAPE OF MINOR: MAN GETS 20 YR JAIL

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Phulbani, Sept 14:** Adjudicating a rape case, the POCSO court here in Kandhamal district convicted a person of raping a minor and awarded him 20 years of imprisonment Wednesday.

Judge Sanjit Kumar Behera pronounced the verdict and also imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 on the convict Rohit Kahnr, a resident of Kolapada. In case of default in paying the penalty, the convict has to undergo an additional jail term for one year, he added.

Citing the government guidelines, the POCSO court had ordered for a compensation of Rs 6 lakh to the victim.

According to the case diary, Rohit of Kolapada used to visit the house of the minor girl studying in Class-X in 2020 and managed to establish physical relationship with her. Later, he left for his village.

The minor was pregnant. She told her mother about the incident. Her mother filed a complaint at K Nuagaon police station in this regard. Police registered a case and arrested the accused.

# Youth loses ₹10 lakh in stock market, kills self

**Bolangir:** A youth of Gandharla village under Sindhekela police limits in Bolangir district committed suicide by consuming poison after losing Rs 10 lakh in the stock market. The deceased was identified as Binod Kumar Yadav of Gandharla village under Sindhekela police limits. His family members rushed him to a local hospital, Tuesday. Later, he was shifted to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital but doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. According to his wife Binod had given Rs 10 lakh to one stock broker Omprakash of Delhi to invest in the stock market for getting the amount doubled. Binod had invested the money by selling off some of his properties and by borrowing from various people.

## ASP beats scribes at PS

**Papadahandi:** Jayakrushna Behera, an additional superintendent of police (ASP) allegedly beat some local journalists Wednesday with a plastic pipe on the premises of Papadahandi police station in Nabarangpur. They were at the police station to collect news about a woman who was earlier picked up by the cops from Maidapur. A woman who was present there, was also manhandled by the ASP. Later, a number of journalists along with family of the victim staged a sit-in on the spot against the alleged police excess on them. The incident triggered tension on the police station premises and journalists demanded immediate action against the senior cop.

## MURDER OVER 'POLITICAL ENMITY'

# Locals block road, seek action against culprits



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Purusottampur, Sept 14:** Locals and family members of Purnachandra Nahak (42) of Ramsa village under Purusottampur police limits in Ganjam who was hacked to death by some miscreants allegedly over political enmity, Tuesday, staged protests and blocked a road for hours Wednesday. They demanded immediate arrest of the people involved in the crime and stern action against them.

Purna Chandra Nahak was the husband of Minati Nahak, who had lost in the panchayat polls held in the month of February this year in the state. Minati had contested for the post of a Samiti member from Rushipur panchayat under Purusottampur block in this district.

Purnachandra was attacked by five assailants at around 11.00 am in the morning while he was on his way to this city for some work. The miscreants waylaid him at an isolated place near Regidi Square close to Chandipadar village and hacked him with swords and other sharp weapons.

A profusely bleeding Purnachandra was rushed to MKCG Medical College and Hospital here where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Acting on a complaint lodged by Minati, police started an investigation and seized a mobile phone, a bike, a pair of slippers and a blood-stained sword from the crime spot. A forensic team and sniffer dogs have also been pressed into service.

Minati alleged that the incident was a case of pre-planned murder. She said that since her defeat, her main rival had lodged false complaints with the police against her husband. She stated that Purnachandra had got bail from the Orissa High Court in June.

As the body reached the village after post mortem Wednesday, the members bereaved family and locals staged protests and blocked the Budhamba-Purusottampur road by laying the body on the road.

Agitating people alleged that Purnachandra was murdered due to political enmity. They demanded immediate arrest of culprits and police protection to his family members.

# Ancient idols found

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Chandikhole/Chhatia, Sept 14:** Ancient stone sculptures of Goddesses Durga, Bhairabi and Naga (serpent) were recovered near a temple on the outskirts of Satamana village under Barchana block in Jajpur. These stone sculptures are believed to be as old as 300 to 500 years. Local people wondered how these stone statues could be found near a temple. It is being suspected that the idols could have been brought from somewhere else and placed there.

Reports said, priest of local Tarini temple Ashok Samal was walking to the temple in the wee hours of Tuesday when he was shocked to find such rare idols placed in front of the temple. Locals enshrined the sculptures in the temple and started worshipping them.

A 'Bana Durga' statue as high as a foot is made out of black stone while two Bhairabi idols were found sitting on two horses made from silver. Another idol is of a serpent made out of copper.

The Durga idol is believed to



Many believe these statues might have been stolen from temples and dumped there in fear of getting caught

be 500 years old while the Naga idol is believed to be 300 years old. All these statues are rare and worshipped by Shaktas (followers of Shakti).

Many believe that these statues might have been stolen from temples and dumped there in fear of getting caught. Locals have demanded an investigation into the matter.

**FORM No. 13 BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ORISSA C-71, SECTOR - 7, CDA, CUTTACK, ODISHA O. A. No. 574/2021**

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. ... Applicant  
M/s Lakshmy Transport & Another ... Defendant(s)

To,  
1) M/S Lakshmy Transport, Plot No. 189/548, Koira Bhanjapali, Koira Sundargarh, Pin-758035, Odisha  
2) Vijay Kumar Jain  
S/o Rajkumar Jain Residing at Panchabali Complex, Barbil, Kendujhar, Keonjhar, Pin-758035, Odisha  
3) Suman Jain  
D/o Swarnal Gadodia Residing at Panchabali Complex, Barbil, Kendujhar, Keonjhar, Pin-758035, Odisha

**SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED**

Take Notice that the applicant has instituted an O.A. No. 574/2021 in the Court of the Debts of Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of Rs. 41,76,520.25 only together with current and future interest, costs and other reliefs. The above mentioned defendants are therefore, directed to appear before this tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the publication or on 26.10.2022 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in their absence.

Given under my hand seal of this Tribunal on this 09th day of September, 2022

Sd/-  
M. K. Patnaik  
Registrar

**UTKAL HELP DESK SERVICES PVT. LTD.**  
Trinath Chhak, College Road, Nayagarh Operating Office, PIN - 752069  
Contact No.: 06753-296-143, Mail ID: utkalhelpdesk@yahoo.com

**URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR ENGAGEMENT OF WDT AT PIA LEVEL UNDER WDC-PMKSY 2.0, FOR NAYAGARH DIST.**

Adv. No. UHDS/179/2022 Date: 14.09.2022

Applications are invited for engagement of WDT at PIA level under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, Nayagarh for different categories as per situation vacant.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Must be below 55 years of age as on 01.09.2022. Knowledge in Odia is essential. Knowledge in Computer is mandatory. The candidate must be willing to stay and travel extensively in remote village in the project areas.

**Selection Procedure:** Selection procedure will be accessed taking into consideration of career marking, experience and interview basis of the candidates. Applications incomplete in any respect will be summarily rejected.

**N.B.:** Applications must be received through Regd. Post/Speed Post/Courier only to the Managing Director, Utkal Help Desk Services Pvt. Ltd., Trinath Chhak, College Road, Nayagarh, PIN - 752069 along with Demand Draft of Rs.500/- (Five Hundred) only in favour of "Utkal Help Desk Services Pvt. Ltd., Nayagarh, payable at Nayagarh" towards application fees. Last date of submission of application Dt.28.09.2022 (5 P.M.).

**Enclosure:** 1. Bio-data of self with Passport Photo (2 Nos.) and Mobile Number, 2. Aadhar Card, 3. PAN Card, 4. Bank Pass Book, 5. Recent Police Verification Certificates, 6. Experience Certificate if any, 7. Caste Certificate, 8. Residential Certificate, 9. No Objection Certificate duly signed by competent authority (existing department) for the candidate who are working under Directorate of Soil Conservation and Watershed Development, 10. PGDCA Certificate.

**Minimum Educational Qualification & Experience**

Sl. No.	Category of Post	Minimum Educational Qualification & Experience	No. of Vacant Post	Per Month Remuneration inclusive EPF, ESI & GST etc. (As applicable)
1	WDT (Livelihoods)	Graduate in Agriculture/Horticulture/Forestry/Veterinary/ Fisheries/Agriculture Engineering OR Bachelor's Degree in Science with a Minimum of 1 (One) year relevant work experience in Watershed Development/ Livelihoods/Rural Development/natural Resources Management etc. OR Diploma in Agro-Polytechnic with a minimum of 1 (One) year relevant work experience in Watershed Development/ Livelihoods/Rural Development/Natural Resources Management etc.	3	20,000/-
2	WDT (Engineering)	Degree in Civil Engineering/Agricultural Engineering OR Diploma in Civil Engineering with a Minimum of 1 (One) year relevant work experience in Watershed Development/ Rural Development/Natural Resources Management etc.	3	20,000/-
3	WDT (Social)	Post Graduate in any discipline with a minimum of 1 (One) year relevant work experience in Watershed Development/ Rural Development/Social Development etc.	3	20,000/-
4	WDT (Micro-enterprise)	Post Graduate in any discipline with a minimum of 1 (One) year relevant work experience in Watershed Development/ Rural Development/Micro-Enterprise etc.	3	20,000/-
5	Office Assistant (OA)	Graduate in any discipline Minimum with PGDCA	3	15,000/-

Sd./- Managing Director, Utkal Help Desk Services Pvt. Ltd.





We have every one of us a role to fulfill, a work to do, a place which we alone can occupy.

THE MOTHER



## Energy Awakening

The late Nobel laureate chemist Richard Smalley was once asked to rank global challenges in order of urgency. While citing the usual concerns about poverty, hunger, conflict, and resource access, he put energy security at the top of his list. Smalley argued that all other challenges have the potential to be resolved if we can ensure reliable energy supplies.

Today, with even G7 countries experiencing the cascading effects of energy insecurity on their economies and democratic institutions, the world is learning the hard way that Smalley was right. We have limited means of international governance or science-based decision-making regarding energy security. Let us hope, therefore, that the rude awakening provided by the current global economic crisis and the war in Ukraine will lead to more constructive international action and sensible domestic energy policies.

One indication that it will come on July 6, when the European Parliament voted to continue classifying nuclear energy and natural gas as “environmentally sustainable economic activities” under the European Union’s “taxonomy” regulations. The measure passed by a narrow margin of 328 votes to 278, with 33 abstentions, but the fact that such a vote was even called, and – better still – that common sense prevailed, represents a tectonic shift for Europe’s environmental agenda.

The EU’s energy policy exemplifies what geographers call the “social amplification of risk.” Perhaps most notably, Germany’s decision to phase out domestic nuclear power following the 2011 Fukushima accident in Japan ran contrary to the findings of a United Nations expert panel, which has not detected any causal cancer clusters linked to the incident even after ten years of detailed data recording. Japan itself has acted more sensibly, keeping nuclear power online for baseload power generation.

Both within the G7 and elsewhere, misapplication of the “precautionary principle” by forces at both ends of the political spectrum too often trumps the sensible use of science in decision-making. Even Right-wing European politicians are gravitating toward environmental populism, as Serbia’s cancellation earlier this year of a lithium mining project demonstrated.

The Serbian government’s decision will adversely affect the prospects for renewable energy, because lithium-ion batteries are essential for battery storage in smart grids and related green infrastructure. In the United States, meanwhile, despite the litany of executive orders on critical minerals, many projects remain beset by environmental conflicts. Even the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act will face barriers to implementation, as environmental groups are already geared up to oppose its mining provisions.

Much of the current battle over climate change reflects a fundamental clash in people’s understanding of the relationship between nature and social and political order. While scientists have rightly lamented the fossil-fuel industry’s “merchants of doubt,” a Utopian view of linear solutions in energy delivery also has contributed to our current impasse. Well-intentioned activists like Greta Thunberg have done a great job raising environmental awareness, but less so when it comes to promoting environmental literacy.

Consider the need for baseload power for energy delivery. Many critics of fossil-fuel subsidies pay scant attention to the fact that only nuclear energy and fossil fuels have the capacity to provide significant power in the absence of massive battery farms for solar and wind or pumped hydropower storage infrastructure.

Environmentalists will need to make concessions to permit the extraction of critical metals for this infrastructure. Recycling itself entails energy demand, and shifting to a circular economy requires us initially to have a large enough stock of material to recycle. This in turn implies the challenge of making products that are more easily recycled. We need to calculate the trade-off between durability, recyclability, and innovation for new technologies to figure out the optimal timing for what economists call “planned obsolescence.”

Given the wide range of technical issues and the persistent tensions with China and Russia, G7 countries will need to emphasize coordination of energy policy. The G7 should first establish a science panel focused on energy security to guide investment in a diversified range of sources. The panel’s output should be predicated solely on scientific and engineering constraints rather than on domestic political considerations. National legislation, including eminent-domain regulations, also may be needed to implement the panel’s recommendations.

The 2023 G7 summit in Japan – a country that has shown remarkable pragmatism in securing and diversifying its energy – is less than a year away. A working group to develop such a panel should get down to business right away.

Solutions regarding both climate-change mitigation and energy security should now be framed by long-term contingency planning for a diversified energy mix that is congruent with fundamental laws of nature, not political expedience. The “no free lunch” cliché is abundantly true when it comes to meeting energy demand.

Existing mechanisms such as the Energy Charter Treaty, the International Energy Agency, or the International Renewable Energy Agency lack the requisite mandate and have many members that benefit from the status quo. The G7, by contrast, has the potential to set standards that not only ensure energy security for the world’s major advanced economies, but also create a feasible science-based model for other countries to emulate.

**The writer is a Distinguished Professor of Energy and the Environment at the University of Delaware.**

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### WISDOM CORNER

“If I have ever made any valuable discoveries, it has been due more to patient attention, than to any other talent.”  
ISAAC NEWTON

“There are basically two types of people. People who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded.”  
MARK TWAIN

“Living in dreams of yesterday, we find ourselves still dreaming of impossible future conquests.”  
CHARLES LINDBERGH

### WORDSWORTH

#### Boondoggle

This typically North American term for an unnecessary or wasteful project is often applied in two specific ways, either to describe work of little or no value done merely to appear busy, or in reference to a government-funded project with no purpose other than political patronage. It can also be used for an unnecessary journey by a government official at public expense. Part of its oddity lies in its sudden emergence into public view in an article in the New York Times on 4 April 1935. This had the headline “\$3,187,000 Relief is Spent to Teach Jobless to Play ... Boon Doggles Made”. The “boon doggles” of the headline turn out to be small items of leather, rope and canvas, which were being crafted by the jobless during the Great Depression as a form of make-work. The article quoted a person who taught the unemployed to create them that the word was “simply a term applied back in the pioneer days to what we call gadgets today”. He suggested that boondoggles had been small items of leatherwork which were made by cowboys on idle days as decorations for their saddles. The word instantly became famous.

# DO DALIT LIVES MATTER?

FOCUS SOCIETY



Bijayani Mishra

**RISING CASTE-BASED VIOLENCE IS AN OUTCOME OF THE RESENTMENT OF UPPER CASTES TOWARDS THE DALITS**

In the 1850s, whenever social activist Savitribai Phule would leave home for the school for girls and lower caste students that she and her husband founded, elite caste residents would fling cow dung and mud at her. So repetitive was this practice that she started carrying a fresh set of clothes to change into on reaching the school. In 1923, the Bombay (now Mumbai) legislative council passed a resolution allowing the so-called lower castes to use public utilities managed and maintained by the government.

Following this historic decision—granting human rights is habitually considered historical in India—in 1924, the Mahad municipal council passed a resolution to build a publicly-managed water tank accessible to the (former) untouchables. But the elite castes would not have it. They launched massive protests against the resolution. After almost three years, in 1927, Dr BR Ambedkar was forced to undertake the Mahad Satyagraha to translate the regulation into practice. When he and his associates tried to draw water from the public pond, the elite caste mobilised its members, who pelted stones at the Satyagrahis.

Why are Dalits subjected to brutal forms of violence, and why is the frequency of such cases rising over the past few years?

In March, Suraj Singh drove his motorbike over 800 km from Surat to Pali, his home district, to stab Jitendrapal Meghwal. What provoked Singh’s long, arduous journey? Singh was offended by Meghwal, a Dalit, for he had posted his picture on social media in which he was twisting his moustache and the caption read, “I am not rich, but I am royal at heart.” This stabbing is not an isolated incident. Dalits are attacked, stabbed, and lynched for sporting a moustache across the country. Stone-pelting by members of so-called upper castes on Dalit marriage processions in which the groom rides a horse is a typical affair. In February, the wedding



**In pre-modern eras, inequality was considered natural and god-given, especially by the dominant groups. They did not have to acknowledge equality exists even in the realm of ideas. But things have changed**

procession of a Dalit IPS officer needed police protection because the members of elite castes had warned him against riding a horse.

Recently in the Jalore district of Rajasthan, nine-year-old Indra Meghwal, a Dalit, was beaten mercilessly by his Rajput teacher for allegedly drinking water from a pot “reserved” for the teacher. After Meghwal died, the police, though still investigating the incident, claimed the beating had nothing to do with the water pot (and, therefore, caste). Even if it did not, what motivated—or compelled—a fully grown man to unleash such a brutal attack on a child that he died?

In pre-modern eras, inequality was considered natural and god-given, especially by the dominant groups. They did not have to acknowledge equality exists even in the realm of ideas. But things have changed. Today, equality, human rights, and social justice are forces so powerful even those who oppose them must at least pay lip service. But inwardly, they seethe with anger at the prospect of losing power and social superiority. The constitutional-legal guarantees of equality and social justice make them feel helpless, and frustra-

tion builds up. This is a better explanation than any of what motivated the teacher in Jalore to thrash little Indra.

We see another expression of this long-standing frustration in the diatribes against reservation, in the countless narratives that begin like this: “I know a Dalit family which is rich, but they still enjoy reservation...” Or, “My daughter scored 90% in the entrance exam but was unable to get a seat because someone with a reservation who scored 50% got the seat instead...”

The advocates of so-called merit and victims of reservations never question why seats in educational institutions are not expanding to meet growing demand, why jobs are decreasing, or why too few opportunities are available? Instead of the government or the economic system, the blame for failure or disappointment is shifted to historically marginalised peoples, who get accused of robbing caste elites of their prospects.

The 19th-century German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche introduced the concept of resentment to refer to the sense of “hostility directed toward an object

that one identifies as the cause of one’s frustration...” The upper caste consciousness in India and white racists in the United States identify themselves as victims of affirmative action. They harbour hostility towards the Dalit-Adivasi and African-Americans, respectively. African-Americans have been attacked over affirmative action numerous times in the United States. Prof John Fobanjong, in his 2001 book, “Understanding the Backlash Against Affirmative Action,” explains the rise of racist ‘skin-head’ groups in the United States during the recession of the 1970s and 1980s. When double-digit unemployment and out-of-control inflation pushed many into the margins, resentments and stresses among middle to lower-class white families grew. Their anger was directed at groups that appeared to be receiving and benefiting from affirmative action.

In India, violence against reservation policy has an indirect manifestation, as the Dalits are attacked for sporting a moustache or riding a horse, i.e., over cultural symbols. But these attacks have an economic angle. In other words, they are not isolated from the immediate questions of economic reservation and egalitarian politics. When they see a Dalit, Adivasi or backward class citizen in better socio-economic conditions, they view it as “theft” of what they consider is “rightfully” theirs. They fail to see it as a state or economic system failure.

Rising caste-based violence is an outcome of the resentment of upper castes towards the Dalits. It reflects their sense of loss of power due to the pursuit of egalitarian social levelling. This thread connects those upper castes who threw mud at Savitribai Phule, pelted stones at Ambedkar, or drove 800 km on a bike to stab an unknown Dalit.

**The writer is Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi. Views are personal.**

### SPECTRUM CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

# Societal rehabilitation of prisoners vital

Prisons are a requisite unit of the criminal justice system of the country and require serious attention. Over decades while the conditions prevailing in jails and the treatment meted out to prisoners have improved, it is not good enough, rather alarming in some states.

It is encouraging to learn the government is contemplating rehabilitating 90% of prisoners in the country, as mentioned recently by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Those well-versed with the conditions in jails would put the most common problems ailing these as overcrowding, poor health and sanitation facilities, lack of hygienic food, discrimination and inequalities among prisoners based on their religion and financial status, among others. In fact, states need to think over the issue of overcrowding in prisons, as until overcrowding is not reduced, jail administration cannot be improved. Overcrowding needs to be tackled given there is a rise in crime rate and that the trial and disposal of cases in courts is tardy. Quite often, even without being convicted, the prisoner lives crucial years of his/her life behind bars under mental agony and emotional distress. Even if there is an acquittal, the years spent in jail will never be back.

Along with modernising jails, it is important to equip them with

technology to make them safe from the point of view of security and to have good living conditions for prisoners. Importantly, the ‘modern’ concept of prisons has already given way to these being called ‘rehabilitation centres.’ But such centres need to be setup in all states. Financial crunch and lack of space are perhaps the biggest impediments to make this a reality. If prisoners can be categorised with emphasis added to the rehabilitation of women and children, the government can plan such centres over a five year plan. Plus, every effort must be made to keep the undertrials, the most affected, in separate jails as they suffer wretched years while on trial.

States need to relook at the model jail manual brought in 2016 replacing the old jail manual. The Home Ministry says that many remedial points have been incorporated in this manual with emphasis for bringing in basic uniformity in human rights, reform and rehabilitation, rules and regulations for prisoners through computerisation.

Delving deeper into the problem, the decline in morality and rise of hatred, violence and jealousy may be attributed to the rise in criminal and other related types of cases. The reduction in such cases calls for education and awareness generation at all levels so that the incidence of crime goes down.

In 2018, the Supreme Court appointed Justice Amitava Roy panel on prison reforms. The committee submitted its report in February 2020 with major recommendations which included that special fast-track courts be set up to deal with petty offences to reduce overcrowding and every new prisoner be allowed a free phone call a day to his family members to see him through his first week in jail. Perhaps, the Supreme Court needs to pass directions to start the recruitment process against vacancies in courts.

Though various organisations have studied the problems of prisons and recommended laws to improve jail conditions, there is little follow up. In many cases, prisoners come out of jails as hardened criminals instead of reformed wrongdoers willing to join the mainstream. The emphasis on correctional aspect needs to be strengthened through counselling programmes. The mindset of the prison staff has to undergo a fundamental change and the management of prisons must be marked by discipline and due regard to human rights. Prison reform is not just about prison buildings, but what goes on inside them that need to be changed.

One is inclined to refer here to open prisons, which are quite common in the Western world. In such

prisons, there are no bars or no uniforms. Instead of old style cells, there are rooms with beds, neat toilets, kitchen, televisions. Prisoners go for long walks, tend the garden, and more importantly they are paid reasonably for their work. The advantage is that it makes detainees better prepared to return to society. The management cost of such prisons is 33% lower than traditional prisons. In India, some states have studied the concept. Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh has one such open prison built on 17 acres, where convicts during the last few years of their sentence are transferred from other prisons in the state to make them familiar with reformed environs.

It would be prudent if the government framed a national policy on prisons and formed a national commission on prisons. The state and judiciary must ensure that prisoners are only deprived of their liberty and shouldn’t be exposed to any form of deprivation and the state must fix accountability upon those who fail to ensure the prisoners’ safety and dignity in incarceration.

At the same time, from the societal perspective it’s important that a prisoner should come out as a reformed person, preferably with familiarity of some skilled work. The effect of prison life should pave the way for his future.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

**IT’S IMPORTANT THAT A PRISONER SHOULD COME OUT AS A REFORMED PERSON, PREFERABLY WITH FAMILIARITY OF SOME SKILLED WORK**

### Hunger pangs

Sir, This refers to the editorial “Hungry World,” Orissa POST, September 14. Many of us who are privileged to have regular meals cannot understand what it is to go hungry, malnourished and without the sight of food so essential to survive and exist. Millions of people all over the world have to suffer from hunger. Years back world leaders promised to end hunger but in vain. Increasingly our globe is becoming disturbed due to conflicts and violence. In all countries, rich and poor, incomes are falling, while prices are rising. Corporate groups that are making enormous profits have a responsibility to ward off hunger: Hunger exists due to lack of political will of the ruling classes to eliminate the malady. The political leaderships anywhere and everywhere have to find out ways and means to be serious about providing food to people. It is poverty that causes hunger and unless there are solutions to manage resources properly and end unequal distribution of wealth, there can be no end. Poverty and hunger are the greatest obscenities and if not addressed without losing time, violence and crime may happen. All signatory countries who have agreed to end hunger by 2030 must ensure this. **Parthasarathy Sen, NEW DELHI**

### Cholesterol awareness

Sir, High cholesterol is one of the most common and frequently misunderstood health issues in numerous countries around the world. To increase public knowledge of cholesterol and its risks, particularly its link to heart disease, September is recognised as National Cholesterol Education Month. The goal of this observance is to promote a daily heart-healthy diet and an active lifestyle while raising awareness and education about cholesterol, cardiovascular disease, and stroke. It is obvious that having high cholesterol causes the coronary arteries to store fat, and that this obstructs blood flow as these deposits accumulate, leading to heart attacks and strokes. The National Cholesterol Education Programme advises anyone 20 years of age and older to get their cholesterol examined every five years as a preventative measure. It has been established that high cholesterol can be caused by obesity, smoking, hypertension, and diabetes. Since it has no symptoms, it can be challenging to diagnose and made worse by a poor diet and insufficient exercise. Lifestyle changes that lower cholesterol levels include exercising, eating less meals high in saturated and trans fats, and quitting smoking. There are numerous types of cholesterol-lowering drugs, including statins, that you can take if your levels are exceedingly high. **Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



# national

## of the day quote

Had a warm meeting with His Majesty the King of Bhutan. Discussed various ideas to further strengthen the close and unique India-Bhutan friendship. Conveyed my appreciation for the guiding vision provided by our successive Druk Gyalpos in shaping our relations

It (Article 370) was not an obstacle. (As the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir), I introduced a three-shift work system, Assembly sittings were held six days a week, roads were built, a network of schools and colleges was created and environment clearances were given

I conveyed India's concern at the recent US decision to provide sustenance package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet

### SHORT TAKES

#### EOW summons Nora Fatehi

New Delhi: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police has again summoned Bollywood personality Nora Fatehi for questioning at 11 am on Thursday in connection with the ongoing probe into the ₹200 crore extortion-cum-cheating case involving multimillionaire conman Sukesh Chandrashekar, who is presently lodged in jail. Nora was earlier grilled by the EOW in connection with the same case in the first week of September.

#### Student dies as ceiling collapses

Pithoragarh: An eight-year-old student died and three others were injured Wednesday when the ceiling of a toilet collapsed in a government school in Uttarakhand's Champawat district, officials said. The incident occurred when the students were playing near the toilet at the primary school in the district's Pati sub-division, they said.

#### Two terrorists killed in encounter

Srinagar: Two terrorists of Ansar Gazwat-ul Hind, an al-Qaeda affiliate, were killed in an encounter with security forces here Wednesday, police said. The slain terrorists were identified as Aijaz Rasool Nazar and Shahid Ahmad alias Abu Hamza, they said. Based on specific inputs, security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Dangerpora under the Nowgam police station area, a police official said.

#### Pilgrims made to do sit-ups

Shahjahanpur (UP): Vishva Hindu Parishad activists confronted Muslim pilgrims here on their way to Ajmer, making them apologise for offering namaz by the roadside and then sending them to the local police station. A video clip, purportedly of the incident on Sunday, showed some men holding their ears in a gesture of apology. A couple of them were seen doing sit-ups.

#### UP to get 18 new police stations

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh government Wednesday said a decision has been taken to set up 18 new police stations and 22 outposts to make the policing system more efficient and strong in the state's districts. Apart from this, the government has also decided to open a new tourism police station in Kushinagar.



When we talk about unemployment, Modi leaves even the cheetah behind. When we ask about China occupying our territory, Modi ji is quicker than the cheetah

ASADUDDIN OWAISI | AIMIM CHIEF

### SIKKIM GOVT HIKES MINIMUM WAGES

The Sikkim government Wednesday hiked the minimum wages for workers across categories. The daily wage for unskilled workers was increased by 67 per cent from ₹300 to ₹500 with retrospective effect from July 11, 2022, Labour Minister Lok Nath Sharma said



## Maha loses bulk drugs park project to Guj, AP, HP

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 14: In another shocker, the Shiv Sena said Wednesday that Maharashtra has lost out on the mega project of Bulk Drugs Park to adjoining Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh this month. Sena ex-Ministers Aditya Thackeray and Subhash Desai told the media that earlier this month, a Central notification indicated that Maharashtra has forfeited the prestigious project. Corroborating the claim, they

said that the September 1 statement said: "Centre grants in-principle approval of three bulk drug parks in Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh. The three states to submit their detailed project report in next 90 days", and added it was another move to make the country Atmanirbhar in bulk drugs. The Sena duo said that Maharashtra is missing in the Centre's statement implying that this state has lost out on the project, though it was vigorously pursued by the erstwhile

This is the second big political-economic jolt to the state this month, after the Vedanta Group-Foxconn decided to shift its proposed ₹ 2.06 lakh-crore project to Gujarat, sparking a major row in Maharashtra

Maha Vikas Aghadi government of Sena-Nationalist Congress Party-Congress. Aditya Thackeray said that the MVA government had reserved 5,000 acres of land in Raigad district for the ₹30,000 crore Bulk Drug Park project

which had the potential to create at least 75,000 jobs for locals. The duo said that both the projects were planned to be implemented in Maharashtra "on merits", but owing to the "current unconstitutional govern-

ment in the state and its disinterest in the state's development" - implying Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis - it has gone out. Then CM Uddhav Thackeray had written a letter to the Centre proposing to set up the Bulk Drugs Park in Raigad while Desai had brought it up before the state cabinet, but now the Centre has asked Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh to start working on it, they pointed out.

## Six Pak nationals held with heroin worth ₹200 crore off Gujarat coast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Sept 14: The Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) in a joint operation with the Indian Coast Guard seized 40 kg of heroin worth ₹200 crore from a Pakistani fishing boat off the state's coast Wednesday, officials said here.

Six Pakistani crew members on the boat and two Delhi residents who were supposed to receive the contraband were arrested, they said.

The drugs were being smuggled as part of a racket run by two traffickers including a Nigerian national currently lodged in jails in Punjab, said Gujarat Director General of Police (DGP) Ashish Bhatia. The two arrested Indians were identified as Sartaj Malik and Jaggi Singh alias Virpal Singh.

Based on a tip-off received by the ATS, the fishing boat was intercepted in the Arabian Sea by a joint team of Coast Guard and ATS 40 nautical miles off Jakhau harbour in Kutch district, said DGP Bhatia. As much as 40 kg of heroin that was seized, worth nearly ₹200 crore, was meant to be transported to northern states like Delhi and Punjab by road after being offloaded with the help of Malik and Jaggy, he added.

## Cabinet nod to revise ST lists of five states



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 14: The government Wednesday approved the inclusion of certain communities in the lists of Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, fulfilling long-pending demands from these states. The decision, taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was welcomed warmly by the states concerned.

Ramachandran. In Karnataka, the cabinet approved a proposal for the inclusion of the Betta-Kuruba community as a synonym of the Kadu Kuruba in the list of STs for the state.

The major schemes for the STs include post-matric scholarships, national overseas scholarships, national fellowships, top class education, concessional loans from the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation and hostels for the boys and girls of these communities.

"In addition, they will also be entitled to the benefits of reservation in services and admission to educational institutions in accordance with the government's policy," an official said.

In Uttar Pradesh, the Gond tribe, along with its five sub-castes, was already approved for inclusion in the ST list for the state.

The changes were approved for four districts in Uttar Pradesh - Kushinagar, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Chandauli and Sant Kabir Nagar.

However, the Uttar Pradesh government changed the name of Sant Ravidas Nagar district to Bhadohi in 2015. The name of the district will be changed to Bhadohi in the Bill pending in Parliament.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh and Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai thanked the Prime Minister for accepting the demands of their respective states.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel also thanked the Prime Minister for the inclusion of 12 communities in the list of STs and recalled that he had written to Modi in this regard last year.

## 12 dead in J&K road accident

AGENCIES

Jammu, Sept 14: Death toll in the road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district rose to 12 Wednesday as three injured persons succumbed to their injuries in the hospital while five were airlifted to Jammu city for specialised treatment, officials said here.

"Three persons among 27 injured succumbed to injuries in the hospital. Five have been airlifted to Jammu city for specialised treatment," the officials said.

The accident occurred this morning when a minibus with registration number JK12 1419 went out of the driver's control near Brari Ballah Sawjian in Poonch district and dropped into a gorge.

Rescue teams of the Army, local police and civilians rushed to the spot. Nine passengers died on the spot. "Five of the 24 injured passengers have been airlifted to Jammu city for specialised treatment", officials said.

President of India Droupadi Murmu said on the Rashtrapati Bhavan Twitter page, "The loss of lives in a tragic road accident in



Sawjian, Poonch is deeply distressing. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families. I wish speedy recovery of the injured".

J&K Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha has announced ex gratia compensation of ₹5 lakhs each to the next of kin of those who lost their lives in this accident.

Sinha said on his official Twitter page, "Saddened by loss of lives due to road accident in Sawjian, Poonch. Condolences to bereaved

## 7 labourers killed as lift collapses

Ahmedabad: Seven labourers were killed and one was seriously injured after falling inside an elevator shaft at an under-construction building in Ahmedabad city Wednesday morning, police said. Police had earlier put the death toll at eight, but an official later said one worker was undergoing treatment. The incident took place around 9:30 am at the site located near Gujarat University. A senior police official had initially said the elevator carrying the workers had crashed to the ground from the seventh floor, but later police said the workers fell when the structure inside the elevator shaft gave way.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

families. May the injured recover soon. ₹5 lakh will be given to next of kin of deceased. Directed police and civil authorities to provide best possible treatment to the injured".



Water flows from the Tilpara barrage due to overflowing of Kunye and Mayurakshi rivers in Birbhum district following heavy rain in West Bengal

## CORRUPTION CASE Court orders FIR, probe against Yedi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 14: The Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge court Wednesday ordered an FIR to be registered and investigation taken up on a private complaint alleging corruption by former Karnataka chief minister B S Yediyurappa and his family members.

The order comes exactly a week after the High Court of Karnataka on September 7 directed the Special

Court to hear the complaint of corruption afresh. The lower court had July 8 dismissed the complaint, as the Governor had refused to give sanction to the complainant, T J Abraham. The HC, however, ruled that the complainant was not the competent authority to seek sanction from the Governor.

The complaint is against Yediyurappa, the then Chief Minister, and his family members, alleging that they obtained bribes



in return for granting BDA (Bangalore Development Authority) contracts. Reacting to the order, Yediyurappa said he has full confidence in the judiciary. "There is no truth in any of these allega-

tions. I will come out of all these (cases). These things are natural, I'm not bothered about it," he said.

Apart from Yediyurappa, his son B Y Vijayendra (BJP state Vice President), grandson Shashidhar Maradi, son-in-law Sanjay Sree, businessman Chandrakanth Ramalingam, MLA and then BDA chairperson ST Somashekar (now minister), IAS officer G C Prakash, K Ravi and Virupakshappa are the other accused in the private complaint.

## Cheetahs to travel without food from Namibia to India

AGENCIES

Bhopal, Sept 14: Cheetahs arriving from Namibia to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno-Palpur National Park later this week will have to spend their entire air transit period empty stomach, a senior forest department official said.

After taking off from Namibia, food to the felines will be given in KPNE, where they will reach after an hour-long journey in helicopter from Jaipur, some 400km from the national park, the official said.

As a precaution, it is mandated that an animal should have an empty stomach at the time of commencing journey, MP Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) JS Chauhan told PTI.

He said no food will be given to the cheetahs during their journey from Namibia to Jaipur and then further to the national park.

Such a precaution is needed as long journey may create nausea-like feelings in animals leading to other complications, Chauhan said.

Asked about travel time between Namibia and Jaipur, the forest officer said he has no idea in this regard, but the cargo plane bringing the big cats is scheduled to land at the airport in the Rajasthan capital between 6 am to 7 am September 17. However, an online travel agency's website showed that one-side journey of a passenger airplane from Windhoek (Namibia's capital) to New Delhi takes 16 hours 40 minutes with a



four-hour stop mid-way. Chauhan said after shifting the cheetahs from the cargo plane to helicopter and completing other formalities, the animals will reach helpids in Kuno-Palpur after an

■ EIGHT CHEETAHS WILL BE BROUGHT TO JAIPUR IN RAJASTHAN FROM NAMIBIA IN A CARGO AIRCRAFT SEPTEMBER 17 IN A CARGO AIRCRAFT  
■ A MALNOURISHED FEMALE CHEETAH NURSED BACK TO HEALTH BY FARM WORKERS AND TWO BROTHERS WHO HUNT TOGETHER AS A TEAM ARE AMONG THE EIGHT BIG CATS  
■ STARTING IN THE 1970S, THE EFFORTS OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO RE-ESTABLISH THE SPECIES IN ITS HISTORICAL RANGES IN THE COUNTRY LED TO THE SIGNING OF A PACT WITH NAMIBIA

looking after arrangements related to the inter-continental cheetah translocation project and were in touch with Namibian authorities, he said.

The MP's forest officer said on arrival the cheetahs will be first kept in small enclosures for a month and then in bigger ones for a couple of months for acclimatization and familiarisation with surroundings. Later, they will be released in the wild, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release three of these cheetahs into the park's quarantine enclosures September 17, his birthday, as part of the cheetah reintroduction programme, seven decades after the animal became extinct in India.



## Now, power subsidy in Delhi missed call away if one opts to dial for it

With this move, the option to get Delhi govt's power subsidy will no longer be available by default



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 14: Delhiites can avail the free electricity scheme from October only if they opt for it, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced Wednesday.

At a press conference here, he said people can now give a missed call or send a WhatsApp message on 7011311111 from Wednesday to avail the free electricity scheme.

With this move, the option to get Delhi government's power subsidy will no longer be available by default and every year, power consumers will be given an option to continue with power subsidy or not.

At present, those whose power consumption is less than 200 units do not have to pay any electricity charges. Those whose consumption is up to 400 units get a 50 per cent subsidy.

In his first offline press conference since formation of AAP government in Delhi in February 2020 after which Covid pandemic forced online briefings, Kejriwal said many residents were willing to pay their electricity bills in full and wanted an option to give up the power subsidy.

Kejriwal, however, clarified that the free electricity scheme will continue for those who demand and apply for it.

He said both physical and electronic methods will be available for people to apply for subsidy. The government had decided a few months earlier that subsidy will be given to those only who will demand and apply for it.

In the electronic method, consumers can give a missed call on the phone number 7011311111. They will receive a message with a link, and clicking on this, they will get a form that can be filled up and sent back.

The number can also be used on WhatsApp by sending 'Hi' and a

form will be received that can be filled up and sent to apply for subsidy, he said announcing the phone number.

An official said that around 90 per cent of power consumers in the national capital pay their electricity bills online.

In the physical method, consumers can fill up a form attached with their power bill and submit it at designated collection centres and the subsidy will continue from October 1, the chief minister said.

Those consumers who have got their phone numbers registered for bill payment will be sent messages for applying to get subsidy.

**“We will do it once a year so that people can apply to opt for subsidy or withdraw it. I believe those who do not need subsidy will give it up and those who need it will benefit”**

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | CM, DELHI

Within 3 days of registration through physical or electronic method, confirmation will be sent to consumers through SMS or e-mail that subsidy will continue.

This facility can be availed electronically from today. Those who apply till October 31 will get the subsidy for the month. Those who do not do so will have to pay their bills but they can apply next month to get it.

A comprehensive campaign to inform people about the scheme will be soon started so that no one is uninformed in this regard.

“We will do it once a year so that people can apply to opt for subsidy or withdraw it. I believe those who do not need subsidy will give it up and those who need it will benefit,” Kejriwal said.

Some people had demanded that they can pay their power bills and they should be given the option to give up their subsidy. It was a genuine demand because subsidy should be given to those only who need it, he said.

Under the free electricity scheme of AAP government, domestic consumers in Delhi using up to 200 units of power per month are given 100 per cent subsidy. Those consuming up to 400 units are provided 50 per cent or up to Rs 800 as subsidy.

## INTO THE HORIZON



Photo tweeted by Indian Railways shows the arch of the Chenab bridge in J&K towering over a sea of clouds as the sun shines brightly

COURTESY: TWITTER

## Army's 'Operation Sadbhavana' plays lead role in developing border areas

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Sept 14: The Indian Army launched 'Operation Rakshak' and many other such operations to wipe out the enemies in Jammu and Kashmir in the year 1998.

But the army's 'Operation Sadbhavana' in Jammu and Kashmir is for the welfare of the people. It is especially to help people in rural areas and areas near the Line of Control (LoC) where lives and property have been destroyed due to insurgency and militancy.

Areas covered near the Line of Control include Rajouri, Poonch, Karnal, Uri, Tingdar, Kiran, Nowshera, Sunderbani, Akhnur etc. It has played an important role in healing people's wounds by providing them with employment opportunities, medical and educational facilities and infrastructure development. The army has reached areas where no politician or administration man has been able to reach till date.



According to locals near the LoC in Poonch district, Operation Sadbhavana is providing necessary equipment for children's education, medical facilities, conducting medical camps from time to time, running awareness programmes, sewing 'kadhai' programme for women, various vocational courses for youth including welding, computer diploma, plumbing, bakery, motor mechanics, etc. due to which people are getting a

lot of relief. Noor Alam, a resident of Karmara, said, "Everyone living near the LoC has immense respect for the Indian Army because the only hope and support of the border residents is the army. If someone gets sick in the evening, they go to the nearby army camp for medicine or ointment and if there is a need to transport the patient to the hospital, the army even arranges for the vehicle."

## WMO REPORT

### Record-breaking heat increased vulnerability of half of all Delhiites

By the 2050s, over 1.6 bln people living in over 970 cities will be regularly exposed to 3-month average temperatures reaching at least 35 degrees Celsius, says the report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 14: Between March and May, Delhi experienced five heatwaves with record-breaking temperatures reaching up to 49.2 degrees Celsius which increased the vulnerability of half of the city's population which lives in low-income, informal settlements, a report by the World Meteorological Department said.

The report titled 'United in Science' released Tuesday also cited a recent attribution study which concluded that climate change made this prolonged hot weather in Delhi 30 times more likely and that the same event would have been about 1 degree Celsius cooler in a pre-industrial climate.

The report said that by the 2050s, over 1.6 billion people living in over 970 cities will be regularly exposed to three-month average temperatures reaching at least 35 degrees Celsius.

According to the WMO, the number of weather-related disasters has increased by a factor of five over the past 50 years, claiming on average the lives of 115 people and causing USD 202 million in losses daily.

The report showed greenhouse gas concentrations continue to rise to record highs. Fossil fuel emission rates are now above pre-pandemic levels after a temporary drop due to lockdowns.

The ambition of emissions reduction pledges for 2030 needs to be seven times higher to be in line with the 1.5 degree Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement, it said.

The past seven years were the warmest on record. There is a 48

per cent chance that during at least one year in the next five years, the annual mean temperature will temporarily be 1.5 degrees Celsius higher than the 1850-1900 average. As global warming increases, tipping points in the climate system cannot be ruled out, the WMO said in a statement.

Cities that host billions of people and are responsible for up to 70 per cent of human-caused emissions will face increasing socio-economic impacts. The most vulnerable populations will suffer the most, said the report citing examples of extreme weather in different parts of the world this year.

"Floods, droughts, heatwaves, extreme storms and wildfires are going from bad to worse, breaking records with alarming frequency. Heatwaves in Europe. Colossal floods in Pakistan. Prolonged and severe droughts in China, the Horn of Africa and the United States. There is nothing natural about the new scale of these disasters. They are the price of humanity's fossil fuel addiction," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

This year's United in Science report shows climate impacts heading into uncharted territory of destruction. Yet each year, we double-down on this fossil fuel addiction, even as the symptoms get rapidly worse, Guterres said in a video message.

Climate science is increasingly able to show that many of the extreme weather events that we are experiencing have become more likely and more intense due to human-induced climate change. We have seen this repeatedly this year with tragic effect. It is more important than ever that we scale up action on early warning systems to build resilience to current and future climate risks in vulnerable communities. That is why WMO is spearheading a drive to ensure Early Warnings for All in the next five years, said WMO Secretary-General Prof Petteri Taalas.

## Leopard attacks in Kashmir have kids holed up at homes

AGENCIES

Baramulla (J&K), Sept 14: Rutba Manzoor (12) was playing cheerfully in the garden outside her house when a leopard pounced upon her and dragged her into the forest. Her mother and sister could do nothing but scream violently.

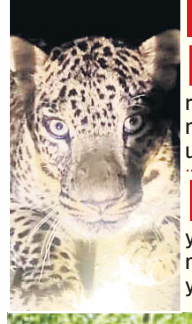
"We are still in trauma. We cannot forget her face and mutilated body. It haunts us all the time. The scenes of recovering her half-eaten body will always remain as a scar in our lives," Ishfaq Ahmad, Rutba's grief-stricken brother told.

Rutba, the daughter of Manzoor Ahmad from Bernate village in Uri tehsil of Baramulla district, was mauled to death June 14. Her mangled body could be recovered from the nearby forest, only after an intensive search lasting for hours.

In the majority of cases involving wild animal attacks, children and adolescents are the targets. It has a long-lasting impact on other young minds. Still shaken by the incident, Rutba's classmate Zehra (14) shared, "I cannot get her out of my mind. She was always so cheerful. Now, every time I go to school, there is this lingering fear of a leopard pouncing upon me. I cannot think of going to school without my parents. I was unable to sleep well for days after my friend's death. Rutba still comes in my dreams."

Human-animal conflicts in Kashmir have resulted in hundreds of fatalities in the past few years.

A thriving population "Leopards are agile and intelli-



### VALLEY OF FEAR

Data revealed that from 2006 to 2022, 234 people lost their lives and 2,918 received injuries in animal attacks. The number of deaths has particularly gone up between 2011 and 2020

In 2018, eight persons were mauled to death, while it was 11 the following year. The next two years saw five and nine deaths, respectively. So far this year, 12 deaths have been recorded



gent beings. They camouflage themselves among the bushes and wait for the opportune time to strike. By experience, they have sensed that unattended children are the most vulnerable," Shafiq Ahmed Handoo, Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir, told.

Like Rutba, Sameer Ahmed (13) of Kalsi Chullian was dragged into the woods on his way back home from the playground.

According to published data, forests cover over 20 per cent of Jammu and Kashmir's total land area. There are 35 conservation reserves, 14 wildlife sanctuaries and five national parks within the state's 15,912 sq km network of protected areas. Of late, the wildlife department is concerned about the increased straying of wolves, leopards,

tigers, black bears and monkeys into residential areas of Kashmir.

According to conservationist Aliya Mir, an increase in the population of black bear and leopard has led to man-animal conflicts.

"The transformation of rice fields into orchards with apples and other trees have provided wild animals with safe hiding spots. Now, it is easier for them to find resting places close to populated areas, though without any human interference," Mir explained.

With the fear of attacks on the rise, the wildlife department has established control centres in several places to ensure timely response and, if possible, prevent such cases. "We are witnessing an increased movement of wild animals even in township areas.

Therefore, we have intensified our awareness campaigns. People do call us for help when they notice a wild animal in their area. Yet, the attacks continue," said Shafiq Handoo.

Isolating kids at home

"His desperate cries still echo in my mind," said Abdul Jabbar Ganai of Kalsan Boniyar in Baramulla district, whose son Shahid Ahmad Ganai (14) fell prey to a leopard while feeding cattle. "My other son was present there when Shahid was attacked, but we were all helpless. The leopard dragged him up to 4 km. Later, when we pinpointed the spot, we found only his torn body," narrated the distraught father.

Traumatized by the repeated attacks on children, panicky res-

idents are resorting to extreme measures. "We don't feel safe. The authorities are not doing anything to capture the man-eaters. We do not want to send our kids anywhere, not even to school. We have isolated them at home," a local resident told on condition of anonymity.

Muzammil (10), a resident of Kreeri, Baramulla, does not want to go to school or even play outside in the garden. "I fear the leopard will eat me. I want to remain inside with my mumma. I want to study online, as we did before. I do not even think of playing outside my home without my mumma. Whenever I hear any noise from outside at night, or even during the day, my heart stops," said Muzammil, who is paranoid after watching social media videos of leopard attacks.

About the psychological impact of such attacks on children, clinical psychologist Wasim Kakroo said, "If parents isolate their children at home, this will affect their overall development. Children have already spent the last few years at home due to Covid-19, and if we do this again, their mental health can be impacted."

Kakroo suggested that children should play under their parents' supervision. "It is tough on parents... The situation is equally traumatic for a child whose friend or neighbour died in an animal attack. Children who witness such incidents should immediately get help from mental health professionals as it can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder," he warned.





# national

## of the day quote

In order to increase Kannada language usage, we are introducing a law in this very session of the House. For the first time, a law is being introduced in the Assembly that will give legal strength to the use of Kannada language

China has refused to accept India's demand of restoring status quo of April 2020. PM has given 1,000 Sq Kms of territory to China without a fight

I want to make one thing very clear. Some people are spreading disinformation that Hindi and Gujarati, Hindi and Tamil, Hindi and Marathi are competitors. Hindi cannot be a competitor to any other language in the country. You must understand that Hindi is the friend of all the languages of the country

## SHORT TAKES

### SAD chief Badal appears before SIT

**Chandigarh:** Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief Sukhbir Singh Badal Wednesday appeared before a Punjab Police special investigation team (SIT) probing the 2015 Kotkapura police firing case. Led by Additional Director General of Police L K Yadav, the SIT had summoned Badal, who was then the deputy chief minister and home minister of the state. Earlier, the SIT had summoned Badal on August 30, but the SAD chief did not appear before it. His party had said that Badal had not been served summons.

### Three dead as truck crashes into tea stall

**Sultanpur (UP):** Three people died and around seven were injured when a truck crashed into a roadside tea stall in the Kurebhar market area here Wednesday morning, police said. Station House officer (SHO) of local Kurebhar police station Lakshmi Kant Mishra said the accident took place around 5 am. "People were gathered at the tea stall along the Ayodhya-Prayagraj road when a truck lost control and crashed into it," he said. Rajesh Agrahari (38), Rajan Tiwari (58) and Rakeh Kausadhan (35) were killed in the accident.

### Police thwart SP protest

**Lucknow:** The Samajwadi Party's planned protest over inflation, unemployment and law and order in the state could not take place at the scheduled venue in the UP Legislative Assembly complex Wednesday as police stopped and detained its leaders. Though the protest programme was planned under the leadership of party chief Akhilesh Yadav, he was not scheduled to join the Wednesday's agitation, Samajwadi Party (SP) leaders said.

### ED traces another ₹5.32Cr of Arpita

**Kolkata:** Besides the ₹50 crore cash recovered from her residence in July end, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has tracked an additional ₹5.32 crore in three banks accounts of Arpita Mukherjee, a close aide of former West Bengal Education Minister and Trinamool Congress Secretary General, Partha Chatterjee. Both, who are currently in judicial custody over their alleged involvement in the West Bengal School Service Commission (BSSC) recruitment scam, appeared for hearing in virtual mode at a special ED court Wednesday afternoon, where the central agency's counsel informed the court about the new revelations.

## KARNATAKA HIJAB BAN

# How many students dropped out, asks SC

*The hearing on the petitions challenging the Karnataka High Court's judgement of March 15 upholding ban on Hijab in pre-university colleges will continue Thursday*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** The Supreme Court Wednesday asked whether there is any authentic figure regarding dropping out of students from educational institutions in Karnataka because of the Hijab ban and the subsequent judgement by the high court on the issue. "Do you have those authentic figures that because of this Hijab ban and the subsequent judgement of the high court, 20, 30, 40 or 50 students have dropped out?," a bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia asked after the counsel appearing for one of the petitioners raised the issue of students, especially girls, dropping out of school. Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, representing one of the petitioners, referred to a report and said it has testimonies of several students. "My friend (one of the lawyers) informed me that 17,000 students had really abstained from the exams after this particular judgement," he said to the bench hearing arguments on a batch of pleas challenging the Karnataka High Court verdict refusing to lift the ban on hijab in educational institutions of the state. Ahmadi said the effect of the government order in the matter

would be that girls, who were earlier going and taking secular education in schools, will be forced to go back to Madrasas. "Why should someone feel that one religious observance will obstruct in any manner legitimate or secular education or unity? Why should anyone get provoked if someone wears a Hijab and goes to school? Why should other students have a problem?" he said. Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for another petitioner, argued that one of the most important parts of this case is that a person wearing a hijab cannot be discriminated against on the grounds of religion and sex. "The reason why this case is important is when it was decided, the headlines were not that dress code was upheld, the headlines were hijab has been struck down by the Karnataka High Court," he said. The bench observed that it does not go by what is written in the newspapers. Dhavan argued that across India and in the entire world, whether it is an Islamic state or otherwise, Hijab is recognised as valid. He said if according to the tenets of the faith, something is being done in a particular way and it is bona fide, then that has to be followed.

# Govt official rubbishes report on unapproved antibiotic use in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** A Health Ministry official has dismissed as "misleading and inappropriate" a Lancet report claiming that more than 47 per cent of antibiotic formulations used in India's private sector in 2019 were unapproved. Prof. Y K Gupta, a senior pharmacologist and vice chairman of the Standing National Committee on Medicines (SNCM) which prepared the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), said at a Health Ministry event Tuesday these formulations were approved by state drug regulatory authorities. "Even though the authors have used the term 'unapproved' for formulations not approved by CDSCO, it is pertinent to note that these formulations were approved by state drug regulatory authorities. Therefore, the term 'unapproved'

the use of antibiotics in India was excessive and underlined that their use in the country is lower than Brazil, Russia and Europe. "Even though India is the biggest antibiotic consumer in terms of volume, the per-capita consumption rate of antibiotics in India is relatively low compared to many countries. This could be ascribed to our large population," Gupta said. On perusing the paper, India's reported DID (defined daily doses per 1000 inhabitant per day) was 10.4. In global comparison, higher rates have been reported from Europe, Brazil, Russia, Sri Lanka and Pakistan according to recent estimates. The current study, in fact, reports improvements in per-capita consumption rate of systemic antibiotics of 10.4 DIDs which is lower compared to the rate reported in 2015 (13.6 DID) in another report, Gupta stated.

# DGCA resumes breath analyser test for pilots

*Amid the pandemic, the breath analyser test that is done to check whether any crew member has consumed alcohol, was limited to 50% of the aircraft personnel*

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** All aircraft personnel, including pilots and cabin crew members, will have to undergo a breath analyser test from October 15 onwards, with the DGCA lifting the related curbs that



were in place due to the pandemic. Further, following an order passed by the Delhi High Court in May 2021, the number of breath analyser tests that can be conducted in one hour was limited to six. The curbs have now been done away with by the Directorate

## Jacqueline appears before Delhi Police

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** Hindi film industry actor Jacqueline Fernandez Wednesday appeared before the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police to join the investigation in connection with the ₹200 crore extortion cum cheating case involving multimillionaire conman Suresh Chandrashekar. She went inside the EOW office from a back door and was accompanied by her counsels. The EOW had earlier postponed her questioning on her request and had fixed the matter for Wednesday. Pinky Irani, an associate of Fernandez has also been summoned to join the investigation and both are likely to be grilled together. Sources in the unit said that they have prepared a long list of questionnaire which will be asked to the actress. "We will ask



her about her relationship with Chandrashekar and the gifts, money which she received from the conman. We might confront Irani and Fernandez," the source said. There are possibilities that the questioning can go for two or three days. The questions that will be asked to Irani and Fernandez have been prepared by the top officials of the agency to nail the lies of Chandrashekar. In the first week of September, the EOW officials had recorded the testimony of another Hindi film industry actress Nora Fatehi in the matter. Chandrashekar was arrested for allegedly cheating and extorting money from some high-profile people, including former Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh's wife Aditi Singh.

## PREZ TO ATTEND QUEEN'S FUNERAL

President Droupadi Murmu will represent India at the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in London September 19



## SEEKING SHELTER



Students rush to cross a road amid a monsoon shower in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

## Kerala: Stray dog menace continues, man killed



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 14:** In burgeoning instances of stray dog menace in Kerala, a 25-year-old man succumbed to head injuries suffered in an accident involving a canine last week in the city. The man died at a hospital near here on Wednesday. Several people suffered stray dog bites in various parts of the state today and Tuesday night also while the Left government was going ahead with various programmes to put an end to the menace. The deceased was identified as Ajin A S, a native of Kunnathukal at nearby Neyyattinkara. The accident occurred after the stray dog jumped across a vehicle which was moving in front of his bike at Aruvi Junction near here on Friday. Though an emergency surgery was performed, his life could not be saved and the youth died at a private hospital in the district this morning, they added. Sreenivasan, a staffer of a local club located in the heart of the city, was attacked by a pack of stray

**The Kerala government had said that all stray dogs in the state would be vaccinated and steps had been initiated to identify hotspots of dog bites**

dogs while he was pillion-riding on a scooter through the fireforce station road here Tuesday night. "He was going home after his duty with a friend when a pack of dogs attacked him badly and bit off the flesh from his foot. As the injury was grave and he was bleeding intensely, the man was rushed to the Medical College from the General Hospital where he was brought soon after the incident," an officer bearer of the club told PTI. He would soon undergo a surgery after the report of the rabies test comes, he added. A woman was reportedly attacked by the strays and suffered injuries on her face and legs at Palakkad.

## BEGUSARAI SHOOTING SPREE

### Five detained, 7 cops suspended for laxity

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Patna, Sept 14:** A day after unidentified criminals went on an indiscriminate shooting spree across Bihar's Begusarai district, killing one and injuring 10 others, police have detained five persons Wednesday. Begusarai's Superintendent of Police Yogendra Kumar also said that there were not two but four attackers who committed the crime using two motor bikes. "We have cordoned off the entire district and are also taking the help of police of adjoining districts. We have also scanned CCTV cameras of different locations and have some leads about the accused. "We have constituted four teams in this matter. We have every suspicious person under the scanner and raids are being conducted on their hideouts and houses. We are also scanning the accused who were released from jail recently" he said. The SP also said that during the investigation, it appeared that patrolling teams were under performed in this matter, and seven police personnel have been suspended for negligence. Meanwhile, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has taken the incident very seriously and called DGP S.K. Singh in this matter. He has asked the DGP to take appropriate action against the accused and give the result immediately. "We are investigating each and every point in this matter. During my tenure, such an incident never happened in Bihar. The police officers are investigating it and no one will be let off in this matter. We are proactive on it," the Chief Minister said.

## AAP lodges complaint with DGP against BJP

**Chandigarh:** The ruling AAP in Punjab Wednesday filed a complaint with the state DGP, seeking a thorough probe into allegations of an attempt by the BJP to topple its government. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had on Wednesday claimed that the BJP had offered ₹25 crore each to its at least 10 MLAs. The state BJP has already dubbed the allegations as "baseless" and a "bundle of lies". Cheema was accompanied by party MLAs Budh Ram, Kulwant Pandori, Manjit Singh Bilaspur, Dinesh Chadha, Raman Arora, Narinder Kaur Bharaj, Rajneesh Dahiya, Rupinder Singh Happy, Sheetal Angural and Labh Singh Ugoke to the DGP's office. Addressing the media here, Cheema said to "expose the unholy tactics" of the BJP, he along with AAP MLAs has filed a formal complaint along with "all proofs" to DGP Gaurav Yadav for a fair probe into this serious matter. A complaint against BJP leaders and agents has also been filed for allegedly issuing a death threat to Jalandhar West MLA Sheetal Angural for "exposing their wicked agendas".

## Fire in AI Express plane's engine

**New Delhi:** As many as 151 people were evacuated from an Air India Express plane at the Muscat airport on Wednesday after fire and smoke were noticed in one of the engines and aviation regulator DGCA is probing the incident, according to officials. The incident happened when the Kochi-bound Boeing 737-800 aircraft was taxiing at the airport. Some passengers suffered minor bruises at the time of evacuation, the officials said. There were a total of 141 passengers, 4 infants and 6 crew members onboard the aircraft, the officials said. Videos and images on social media showed smoke emanating from the plane parked at the Muscat airport.



coronavirus cases and an increase in the volume of air traffic as well as the dispensation granted by the court, the DGCA said the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) related breath analyser test for aircraft personnel has been restored. As part of precautions, the regulator said breath analyser test to the extent feasible should be done in a bigger and open area that has CCTV coverage or camera recording. Doctors, paramedics, and nurses,

among others, who are authorised to carry out the test should check the person first for symptoms of coronavirus infection. The regulator also said that such cases should not be treated as missed breath analyser case. Besides, the person carrying out the test should take a rapid antigen test or any other approved test for COVID-19 prior to joining the duty for the test. All breath analyser equipment should be sanitised using UV sterilisers, and the integrity, as well as sanitary condition of the breath analyser test tubes/mouthpieces, should be maintained, as per DGCA. The conditions of limiting the number of tests to six per hour and requirement for wearing PPE kit by the medical staff involved in the conduct of the test have been removed.



# international

## of the day quote

This year's United in Science report shows climate impacts heading into uncharted territory of destruction. Yet each year we double-down on this fossil fuel addiction, even as the symptoms get rapidly worse

ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

The SCO has set a fine example of a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness, justice and win-win cooperation, and proved itself an important and constructive force in the Eurasian region and in international affairs

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

Certainly, we have appreciated our partnership with India in the region. They're an important partner, as you know. And we'll continue to work closely with them

PATRICK RYDER | SPOKESMAN, PENTAGON

## SHORT TAKES

### SK fines Google, Meta over \$71m

Seoul: South Korea has fined Google and Meta more than \$71 million collectively for gathering users' personal information without consent for tailored ads, regulators said Wednesday, the country's highest-ever data protection fines. Investigations into the two US tech giants found they had been "collecting and analyzing" data of their users, and monitoring their use of websites and applications, the Personal Information Protection Commission said.

### Covid end in sight, says WHO chief

Geneva: The head of the World Health Organization said Wednesday that the number of coronavirus deaths worldwide last week was the lowest reported in the pandemic since March 2020, marking what could be a turning point in the years-long global outbreak. At a press briefing in Geneva, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the world has never been in a better position to stop Covid-19. "We are not there yet, but the end is in sight," he said, comparing the effort to that made by a marathon runner nearing the finish line.

### Jordan building mishap claims 5

Amman: Jordanian teams Wednesday rescued one person alive and worked to save other survivors of a building collapse in the capital Amman, officials said. State media said at least five people have been killed and at least 10 others remain missing. Amer Sartawi, a security spokesman, said eight people also have been injured and one survivor had been rescued Wednesday from the rubble of the residential building. The country's prime minister has ordered an investigation.

### Typhoon Muifa scare in Shanghai

Beijing: A major typhoon gathered strength Wednesday as it headed over open water toward the Chinese metropolis of Shanghai. Heavy rain was reported in the city of more than 20 million people as Typhoon Muifa approached in the evening. The Hong Kong Observatory classified it as a severe typhoon with maximum sustained winds of 155 kilometers (96 miles) per hour. All flights at Shanghai's two main airports were cancelled and authorities were evacuating people from risky areas.

# EU lays out energy crisis plan

EUROPEAN GAS PRICES HAVE ROCKETED THIS YEAR AS RUSSIA HAS REDUCED FUEL EXPORTS TO RETALIATE FOR WESTERN SANCTIONS OVER ITS INVASION OF UKRAINE, LEAVING HOUSEHOLDS STRUGGLING TO PAY ENERGY BILLS AND UTILITIES GRAPPLING WITH A LIQUIDITY CRUNCH

REUTERS

Brussels, Sept 14: The European Union's executive outlined plans Wednesday for raising more than 140 billion euros (\$140 billion) to cope with an energy crisis that has increased the prospect of winter fuel rationing, corporate insolvencies and economic recession. European governments have responded with measures ranging from capping prices on consumer electricity and gas bills to offering credit and guarantees to prevent power providers from collapsing under the weight of collateral demands.

"EU Member States have already invested billions of euros to assist vulnerable households. But we know this will not be enough," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen members of the European Parliament.

She unveiled plans to cap revenues from those electricity generators that have gained from surging power prices but do not rely on costly gas. She also outlined plans to force fossil fuel firms to share windfall profits from energy sales.

She said the plan should raise more than 140 billion euros for the EU's 27 members to support households and businesses.

But her announcement did not include an earlier EU idea to cap Russian gas prices. That idea has divided member states, after Russia warned it could cut off all fuel supplies. Von der Leyen said the Commission was still discussing the idea.



EU SEEKS \$140 BILLION TO COPE WITH ENERGY CRISIS

RUSSIA HAS STEADILY CUT GAS SUPPLIES TO EUROPE

EU'S VON DER LEYEN SAYS AID SO FAR 'WILL NOT BE ENOUGH'

EU GAS STORAGE IS NOW 84% FULL, EXCEEDING PRE-WINTER FILLING TARGET

EU gas storage is now 84% full, exceeding the EU's pre-winter filling target. But analysts say Europe will still need to slash gas use over winter, to avoid storage facilities running dry. EU countries have already agreed to curb their gas demand this winter - and electricity use could be next.

EU countries would be required to curb their power use by 5% during the 10% of hours with the highest electricity demand each month, the draft said - a move it

In these times it is wrong to receive extraordinary record revenues and profits benefiting from war and on the back of our consumers

URSULA VON DER LEYEN | PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

said could curb gas use in the power sector by around 4% over a four-month period.

EU countries have asked Brussels to propose a cap but disagree on whether this should apply to all imported gas, pipeline flows or wholesale gas trading.

Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark oppose a general gas price cap, warning that it could leave countries struggling to attract supplies in price-competitive global markets, and endanger Europe's winter energy security.

## EU'S ENERGY CRISIS PACKAGE

### WINDFALL LEVY ON NON-GAS POWER PLANTS

Von der Leyen said Brussels will propose measures to claw back revenue from electricity generators with low running costs, to raise cash for governments to spend on cushioning consumers and industry from soaring energy bills.

### PROFIT SHARING FOR FOSSIL FUEL FIRMS

The EU also wants companies that have made bumper profits from selling fossil fuels at record prices to make a financial contribution to help citizens and industries grappling with sky-high bills.

### ELECTRICITY DEMAND CUT

The draft EU proposal would impose a mandatory target for countries to cut electricity consumption this winter, to ensure Europe has enough fuel to last the colder months.

### EMERGENCY LIQUIDITY FOR POWER FIRMS

Von der Leyen said the European Commission would work on plans to help energy companies facing soaring collateral needs.

### NO GAS PRICE CAP

The draft EU proposal did not include a gas price cap - an idea that has divided the bloc's member states, and which von der Leyen said the Commission was still discussing.

## Google loses appeal against EU's record antitrust penalty

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Luxembourg, Sept 14: The European Union's second-highest court Wednesday overwhelmingly upheld the EU's record fine against Google over its Android operating system for mobile phones, slightly reducing the fee for technical reasons.

In a statement, the EU's General Court said it "largely confirms the commission's decision that Google imposed unlawful restrictions on manufacturers of Android mobile devices" in order to benefit its search engine.

The court, however, said the fine should be slightly reduced to 4.125 billion euros (\$4.1 billion), instead of the 4.3 billion euros decided by the commission in 2018 after reviewing the duration of the infringement.

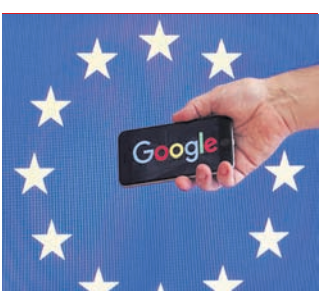
Google said in a statement it was disappointed at the EU court's decision. "We are disappointed that the court did not annul the decision in full. Android has created more choice for everyone, not less, and supports thousands of successful businesses in Europe and around the world," the company said.

The levy remains the EU's biggest ever despite Google's arguments that the commission's case was unfounded and falsely relied on accusations it imposed its search engine and Chrome browser on Android phones.

The company also pushed the case that the EU was unfairly blind to the strength of Apple, which imposes or gives clear preference to its own services such as Safari on iPhones.

Google insisted that downloading rival apps was only a click away and that customers were in no way tied to Google products on Android.

The decision by the General Court is not necessarily the end of the story. Both sides can turn to the EU's highest court, the European Court of Justice, for a final say on the fine, which was the equivalent of \$5 billion when levied.



## FATAL EXCHANGES

# Armenia-Azerbaijan fighting flares again

DEADLIEST VIOLENCE SINCE 2020



REUTERS

Tbilisi, Sept 14: New clashes erupted between Azerbaijan and Armenia Wednesday as international peace efforts intensified a day after nearly 100 soldiers were killed in the worst fighting between the ex-Soviet republics since 2020.

The Armenian defence ministry accused Azerbaijan, which is backed politically and militarily by Turkey, of firing artillery and small arms in a fresh attack.

At least 49 Armenian and 50 Azerbaijani soldiers were killed Tuesday along their common border, prompting an appeal for calm from Russian President Vladimir

Putin. Both sides blamed each other for the fighting. The clashes have raised fears of another major armed conflict in the former Soviet Union while Russia's military is focused on the invasion of Ukraine.

A full-fledged conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan would risk dragging in Russia and Turkey, and destabilise an important corridor for pipelines carrying oil and gas just as war in Ukraine disrupts energy supplies.

Azerbaijan accused Armenia, which is in a military alliance with Moscow and home to a Russian military base, of firing mortars and artillery at its army units. It said two civilians had been injured since the clashes erupted.

Baku reported 50 military casualties on the first day of fighting and said Wednesday that two civilians had been injured since the clashes erupted. "Our positions are periodically being fired on at the moment," Azerbaijan's defence ministry said. "Our units are taking the necessary response measures."

## TIRED OF WAR



A Ukrainian soldier takes rest on the steps of the City Hall in Izium, Kharkiv region, Ukraine. Ukrainian troops piled pressure on retreating Russian forces, pressing them deeper into occupied territory and sending more Kremlin troops fleeing ahead of the counter-offensive that has inflicted a stunning blow on Moscow's military prestige

PTI PHOTO

# Queen's coffin leaves Buckingham Palace for final journey

THOUSANDS GATHER IN A NATIONWIDE OUTPOURING OF GRIEF AND RESPECT FOR THE ONLY MONARCH MOST BRITONS HAVE EVER KNOWN, WHO DIED THURSDAY AT AGE 96, ENDING A 70-YEAR REIGN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Sept 14: King Charles III and his sons, Princes William and Harry, joined a sombre procession as the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II left Buckingham Palace in London Wednesday, on its final journey to be conveyed to Westminster Hall in the Houses of Parliament complex for Lying-in-State until the state funeral at Westminster Abbey nearby Monday.

The coffin placed on a horse-drawn gun carriage of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery began its ceremonial procession of under two kilometres to the Palace of Westminster.

The Queen's heir, Charles, and her grandchildren William and



Harry walked side by side behind the coffin, with gun salutes firing from Hyde Park and Big Ben tolling during a sombre journey.

The Queen's other children, Princess Anne and Princes Andrew and Edward, were also among the senior royals in the procession

## RARE ACT OF DISSENT

# Russian council faces dissolution after call for Putin's removal

65 municipal representatives from St Petersburg, Moscow and several other regions had signed a petition she published Monday calling for Putin's resignation

REUTERS

Moscow, Sept 14: A group of St Petersburg local politicians who called for President Vladimir Putin to be sacked over the war in Ukraine faces the likely dissolution of their district council following a judge's ruling Tuesday, one of the deputies said.

Nikita Yuferev said the judge decided that a series of past council meetings had been invalid, paving the way for it to be broken up by the regional governor.

Another council member, Dmitry Palyuga, said the same court then fined him 47,000 roubles (\$780) for "discrediting" the authorities by calling for Putin's removal. Court officials could not be reached by telephone for comment.

Four more members of the Smolninskoye local council are due to appear in court in the next two days. Last week, a group of deputies from the council appealed to the State Duma to bring charges of state treason against Putin and strip him of power, citing a series of reasons including Russia's military losses in Ukraine and the damage to its economy from Western sanctions.



As long as they remain within the law, this is pluralism, but the line is very, very thin, one must be very careful here

DMITRY PESKOV | SPOKESMAN, KREMLIN

While posing no current threat to Putin's grip on power, the moves mark rare expressions of dissent by elected representatives at a time when Russians risk heavy prison sentences for "discrediting" the armed forces or spreading "deliberately false information" about them.

Palyuga said before Tuesday's hearing that the group's appeals were aimed not only at liberal Russians but also at "people loyal to the authorities who are starting to have doubts when they see the lack of success of the Russian army".

He said he expected the numbers of such people to increase after last week's lightning counter-offensive in which Ukraine drove Russian forces out of dozens of towns and recaptured a large swathe of territory in its north-east Kharkiv region.

It has been an honour and a privilege to accompany her on her final journeys. Witnessing the love and respect shown by so many on these journeys has been both humbling and uplifting

PRINCESS ANNE | DAUGHTER, QUEEN ELIZABETH II

behind the carriage.

Thousands lined the route of the procession, which went past the Palace of Westminster by the river Thames.

As the Lying-in-State stage of the ceremony begins, a continuous vigil will be mounted by officers of the Household Division, the King's Bodyguards of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen

at Arms, The King's Bodyguard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers and the Yeomen of the Guard.

Earlier Tuesday, crowds lined the streets of Edinburgh as a cortege took the coffin to the airport after lying in state at St Giles' Cathedral in the Scottish capital. There was applause as the coffin left the cathedral, where thousands filed past since Monday to pay their respects to the late monarch.

The Scottish government said more than 33,000 people had paid their respects in Edinburgh before the coffin was taken by road to Edinburgh Airport. It was flown to London, accompanied by the Queen's daughter Princess Anne, on a Royal Air Force (RAF) aircraft.





**India must target 100 per cent electrification of two- and three-wheelers in the next four years as these segments will lead the country's green mobility revolution**  
AMITABH KANT | CEO, NITI AAYOG

## BYJU'S MILESTONE MOMENT

Edtech major Think & Learn, which operates under Byju's brand name, Wednesday said its gross revenue jumped over four-fold to ₹10,000 crore in FY22, while its losses in FY21 widened to ₹4,588 crore. The company had registered a revenue of ₹2,428 crore in FY21



## of the day quote

Indian auto industry has gained a large scale, both in the domestic market and exports. At this big scale, quality holds a very high significance. Any small mistake can be harmful not only for the industry but for the brand 'Make in India'

**KENICHI AYUKAWA** | EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, MARUTI SUZUKI

We will invest 500-million euro (around ₹4,000 crore) in India over the next five years to expand our warehousing capacity, workforce and sustainability initiatives

**TERRY RYAN** | CEO, DHL SUPPLY CHAIN ASIA PACIFIC

We are quite optimistic about the real estate sector. But we need to be cautious considering global factors

**ANSHUMAN MAGAZINE** | CHAIRMAN & CEO (INDIA, SOUTH-EAST ASIA, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA), CBRE

## SHORT TAKES

### SBI hits ₹5L-cr market cap

**Mumbai:** State-owned lender, State Bank of India (SBI) hit the ₹5 lakh crore market capitalisation Wednesday after its shares touched a record high of ₹564.45. With this market capitalisation, SBI stood on the seventh position in the market capitalisation ranking. SBI has become the third lender in the country to cross the market cap of ₹5 lakh crore. HDFC Bank held first rank in this list, which was followed by ICICI Bank.

### IDBI privatisation on cards: Pandey

**New Delhi:** DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kant Pandey Wednesday said the department is working on the Expression of Interest (Eoi) and would soon invite preliminary bids from investors for the privatisation of IDBI Bank. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment and transfer of management control in IDBI Bank in May 2021. Currently, the government holds 45.48 per cent in the bank, and Life Insurance Corporation of India, which is currently the promoter of the bank, owns a 49.24 per cent stake.

### SBI raises BPLR by 0.7 per cent

**New Delhi:** The country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI), raised the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) by 70 basis points (or 0.7 per cent) to 13.45 per cent Wednesday. The announcement would make loan repayment linked to BPLR costlier. The current BPLR rate is 12.75 per cent. It was revised last in June. The bank has also raised the base rate by similar basis points to 8.7 per cent, effective Thursday. The EMI amount for the borrowers who have taken loans at the base rate would go up.

### German inflation hits record level

**Berlin:** Inflation in Germany soared to a record level of 7.9 per cent in August for the second time this year, the country's Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) said. Government measures such as a cheap 9-euro ticket for public transport and a fuel discount had a "light downward effect on overall inflation", said Destatis President Georg Thiel, with price increases for transport gradually slowing from 16.3 per cent in May to 3.7 per cent in August.

# UK inflation falls for first time in nearly a year

## BRITAIN'S INFLATION IS THE HIGHEST IN THE G7 GROUP OF BIG ADVANCED ECONOMIES

REUTERS

**London, Sept 14:** British consumer price inflation fell for the first time in almost a year in August as a drop in fuel prices offered some unexpected - and probably brief - respite to households and the Bank of England.

Annual consumer price growth slowed to 9.9% from July's 40-year high of 10.1%, the Office for National Statistics said Wednesday. This was its first drop since September 2021 and below expectations in a Reuters poll for it to rise to 10.2%.

However, economists warned inflation was likely to peak at around 11% in October when a new household energy tariff cap begins, and said it could be slow to fall due to underlying pressures and new government fiscal stimulus.

"The Bank of England will have to continue turning the screws," said Paul Dales, chief UK economist at consultancy Capital Economics. Britain's central bank had been expected to raise interest rates



- UK CPI rate drops to 9.9% in August from 10.1%
- Economists warn CPI likely to rise again later in 2022
- Sharp fall in fuel prices pushes down CPI rate
- BoE expected to raise rates again next week

Thursday, but it delayed the decision by a week following the death

of Queen Elizabeth. Financial markets see an 80%

chance that the BoE will raise rates by 0.75 percentage points to 2.5% September 22. This would be its biggest rate rise since 1989, excluding a brief attempt to bolster sterling during a 1992 exchange rate crisis.

Britain has been hit hard by the surge in European natural gas prices caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has added to post-COVID supply-chain bottlenecks and labour shortages, creating an intense squeeze on living standards.

## Goldman downgrades Infosys, TCS to 'sell'

REUTERS

**Bangalore, Sept 14:** Goldman Sachs downgraded top Indian information technology service providers Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys to "sell" from "buy", citing a potential slowdown in dollar revenue growth in the face of impending macroeconomic stress.

"We believe a slowdown in discretionary IT services spend around the growth and transformation agenda will be quite material and something not yet completely reflected in the street's double-digit revenue growth forecast for the industry for FY24," Goldman analysts said in a note.

Goldman said it remains "more sanguine" on the EBIT margin forecasts than on revenue of Indian IT firms, given multiple levers such as higher employee utilisation, controls on variable pay and annual wage hikes.

India's top IT services firms have started freezing or cutting staff bonuses, worried that tightening budgets at US and European clients who are bracing for a recession will sharply hit their own profit as the pandemic-led boom fades out.

The IT firms made a windfall when pandemic struck the world couple of years back as several global corporations poured millions of dollars to rev up their digital infrastructure.

However, several top tier companies missed profit estimates in the April-June quarter due to higher costs. Goldman upgraded Wipro to "buy" from "sell", citing attractive valuations and a recent pickup in the company's order book.

The IT index has been one of the worst hit sectors, falling over 27% so far this year, underperforming benchmark Nifty 50 index, which is up 4%.

# Trade gap more than doubles in Aug YoY

## THE RISE IN IMPORTS HAS BEEN MAINLY DUE TO AN INCREASE IN THE PURCHASE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, ELECTRONIC GOODS, AND COAL



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** India's exports rose marginally by 1.62 per cent to \$33.92 billion, while trade deficit more than doubled to \$27.98 billion in August due to increased crude oil imports, commerce ministry data said Wednesday.

The revised data showed that imports rose by 37.28 per cent to \$61.9 billion in August this year.

Trade deficit widened to \$124.52 billion in April-August this fiscal as against \$53.78 billion in the same period last year. The deficit in August last year was \$11.71 billion.

The preliminary data released by the ministry September 3 had shown a 1.15 per cent decline in exports to \$33 billion in August.

During April-August 2022-23, exports registered a growth of 17.68 per cent to \$193.51 billion. Imports during the five-month period of this fiscal grew by 45.74

per cent to \$318 billion.

Crude oil imports in August this year increased by 87.44 per cent to \$17.7 billion. However, gold imports dipped by about 47 per cent to \$3.57 billion, the data showed. On the other hand, silver imports jumped to \$684.34 million during the month under review from \$15.49 million in the same month last year.

Rise in import values in August has been witnessed in major commodity groups such as coal, coke & briquettes (133.64 per cent to \$4.5 billion), chemicals (43 per cent to about \$3 billion), and vegetable oil (41.55 per cent to about \$2 billion).

Further, export products that recorded positive growth in August included electronic goods, rice, oil meals, tea, coffee and chemicals.

Export of petroleum products rose by 22.76 per cent to \$5.71 billion. Similarly, chemicals and pharmaceuticals increased by 13.47 per cent

## Russia-India trade soars nearly 120% this year: Kremlin

**Moscow:** Ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit this week where Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines, the Kremlin said that trade turnover between New Delhi and Moscow has soared nearly 120 per cent so far this year. "Our relations are actively developing, the trade has also increased significantly with supplies of Russian oil, coal and fertilizers increasing," RT news quoted Kremlin foreign policy spokesman Yuri Ushakov as saying to reporters in Moscow. According to Ushakov, the two countries are currently working on bilateral measures to expand the use of national currencies, the ruble and the rupee, in mutual settlements. India has decided to authorise the country's biggest lender SBI to promote rupee trade with Russia and soon Moscow will name its bank to operationalise the mechanism, exporters' body FIEO said Wednesday.

and 6.76 per cent to \$2.53 billion and \$2.14 billion respectively.

Sectors which recorded negative growth in August included engineering (4.19 per cent to \$8.3 billion), gems and jewellery (about 3 per cent to \$3.33 billion), ready-made garments of all textiles (0.34 per cent to \$1.23 billion), and plastic (1.10 per cent to \$47.21 million).

# WPI inflation eases to 11-month low at 12.41%

The decline in the headline WPI inflation in the month was largely due to a fall in fuel and power inflation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** The wholesale price-based inflation eased to 11-month low of 12.41 per cent in August, on softening in prices of manufactured and fuel products, even as food items remained expensive.

Although the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation declined for three consecutive months in August, it remained in double digit for 17 months beginning April last year. The inflation was 13.93 per cent in July and 11.64 per cent in August last year.

While the headline WPI eased in August, food inflation remained a concern. There has been a pick up in prices of vegetables, fruits, eggs, meat and fish and cereals mostly because of erratic monsoon rains. Wheat prices continue to be elevated after intense heat wave impacted summer crops.

In September last year, WPI inflation at 11.8 per cent was lower than August 2022 print.

Inflation in food articles in August rose to 12.37 per cent, as against 10.77 per cent in July, on account of costlier cereals, fruits and vegetables.

The rate of price rise in vegetables was 22.29 per cent during the month under review, while in case of potato it was 43.56 per cent.

Inflation in cereals was 1.77 per cent, while in wheat and fruits it was 17.35 per cent and 31.75 per cent, respectively.

In the fuel and power basket, inflation was 33.67 per cent in August, as against 43.75 per cent in July. In manufactured products and oilseeds, it was 7.51 per cent and (-) 13.48 per cent, respectively.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mainly looks at retail inflation to frame its monetary policy.

Retail inflation has remained above the Reserve Bank's upper tolerance threshold of 6 per cent for eighth month in a row and was at 7 per cent in August.

To tame stubbornly high inflation, the RBI has hiked the key interest rate three times this year to 5.40 per cent.

According to the central bank's projections, retail inflation is likely to average 6.7 per cent in 2022-23.

Domestic rating agency Icria said WPI inflation is likely to ease to 11-12 per cent in September 2022 and print in single digit thereafter.



# Whistleblower: China, India had agents working for Twitter

Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who is trying to get out of a \$44 billion deal to buy Twitter, has argued without evidence that many of Twitter's roughly 238 million daily users are fake or malicious accounts, aka "spam bots"

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Washington, Sept 14:** Twitter's former security chief told Congress Tuesday there was "at least one agent" from China's intelligence service on Twitter's payroll and that the company knowingly al-

lowed India to add agents to the company roster as well, potentially giving those nations access to sensitive data about users.

These were some of the troubling revelations from Peiter "Mudge" Zatkoff, a respected cybersecurity expert and Twitter whistleblower who



appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee to lay out his allegations against the company.

Zatkoff told lawmakers that the social media platform is plagued by

weak cyber defenses that make it vulnerable to exploitation by "teenagers, thieves and spies" and put the privacy of its users at risk.

"I am here today because Twitter leadership is misleading the public, lawmakers, regulators and even its own board of directors," Zatkoff said as he began his sworn testimony.

"They don't know what data they have, where it lives and where it came from and so, unsurprisingly, they can't protect it," Zatkoff said. "It doesn't matter who has

keys if there are no locks."

In a statement, Twitter said its hiring process is "independent of any foreign influence" and access to data is managed through a host of measures, including background checks, access controls, and monitoring and detection systems and processes.

One issue that didn't come up in the hearing was the question of whether Twitter is accurately counting its active users, an important metric for its advertisers.

# India narrows thermal coal imports gap with China

India, widely seen as one of the last remaining major growth markets for the fuel, has stepped up buying from Indonesia and Russia after the invasion of Ukraine

REUTERS

**Singapore, Sept 14:** India is fast catching up with China in its thermal coal imports, as the world's two biggest overseas buyers of the power generation fuel adjust purchases to align them with the varying trajectories of their economic growth.

India's thermal coal imports are expected to rise 7% on year to 158 million in 2022, and a further

3% to 163 million tonne in 2023, consultancy Wood Mackenzie said.

In contrast, shipments of the fuel resource into China, the world's biggest importer, could fall to 182 million tonne in 2022 and 176 million tonne in 2023, from 246 million tonne in 2021, Woodmac said.

Coronavirus lockdowns stifled demand for the fuel in China while a steep rise in electricity demand triggered a spike in India's imports.

India's economy recovered from weak consumer demand to grow at the fastest pace in a year in the June quarter. On the other hand, China narrowly avoided contracting in the second quarter and has grown at a tepid 2.5% this year due to Covid-19 lockdowns in many parts of the country.

Indian thermal coal imports



- THERMAL COAL IMPORTS GREW ABOUT 12% TILL AUGUST
- CRISIL AND ICRA EXPECT INDIA'S COAL IMPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 2023 TO RISE 16%-20%
- INDIAN IMPORTS HAVE PRIMARILY BEEN DRIVEN BY A SURGE IN ELECTRICITY DEMAND, WHICH IS SEEN GROWING AT THE FASTEST PACE THIS YEAR IN AT LEAST FOUR DECADES

We observe a shift away from South African imports towards stronger imports from Russia gaining momentum and this is driven by the large discount for Russian coal. This mid-to-high calorific value coal demand in India is for more industrial uses, like sponge iron production

**JAKE HORSLEN** | ANALYST, ENERGY ASPECTS

grew about 12% in the eight months ended August 2022 to 114.2 million tonnes, according to Indian consultancy Coalmint. China's overseas purchases of the fuel resource in the first seven months of 2022 fell 26% from a year earlier to 106.36 million tonne, government data showed.

Russia displaced the United States to become India's fourth largest supplier of seaborne coal in 2022. The share of Russian supplies of thermal coal to China also increased, according to government data.

India's thermal coal imports have risen 28% in the six months since Russia sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine, Coalmint data showed. Indonesian supplies to India have risen 43.6% in 2022, at the expense of supplies from Australia, which fell 28.5%, and South African supplies, which declined by a fifth.

India's increasing electricity use has resulted in more imports by utilities, it has also pushed state-run Coal India to boost supplies to power plants at the expense of the non-power sector, government data showed.



# BAYERN SAIL PAST MISFIRING BARCA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Sept 14:** It doesn't seem to matter which shirt Robert Lewandowski is wearing — Bayern Munich just keeps getting the better of Barcelona either way.

Bayern extended their recent dominance over the Spanish giant with a 2-0 win in the Champions League to show it can cope quite well without Lewandowski, who left to join Barcelona in the offseason.

It started out as a friendly homecoming as Lewandowski walked down the familiar steps of the Allianz Arena players' tunnel before kickoff, hugging every one of his former teammates along the way.

Bayern's players didn't extend the same level of hospitality once the game started. After Lewandowski

missed several good chances to score in the first half, Lucas Hernandez and Leroy Sane scored within a five-minute span in the second as Bayern took control of Group C with two wins in two games.

After losing 0-3 to Bayern in both group meetings last season — and with the 2-8 drubbing in the 2020 quarterfinals still fresh in memory — there was hope among Barcelona fans that things would be different with Lewandowski on their side. Instead it was just more of the same.

After the Poland striker was uncharacteristically wasteful in the first half, Hernandez did his best Lewandowski impression when the defender popped up at the near post to head home a corner in the 50th minute. It was the kind of goal his former teammate scored so many of during his Bayern career, when he netted 344 in eight years.

Sane then pulled off a great solo effort for the second just four minutes later, bursting into the area and rolling a calm finish inside the far post.

In the other Group C game, Edin Dzeko got the better of Viktoria Plzen again. Dzeko had one goal and an assist as Inter Milan beat the Czech club 2-0 in the other Group C game. The Bosnia international now has 10 goals in nine matches against Plzen, and nine in the last six.

## LIVERPOOL LEAVE IT LATE

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool got the win it so badly needed, but it was another performance that highlighted that Jurgen Klopp's team is no longer the high-scoring machine it once was. Liverpool struggled to convert their possession into goals in the second half and then needed the aid of goal-line technology to show that Matip's late header crossed the line before cleared by a defender. Mohamed Salah had earlier ended his run of seven Champions League games without a goal by putting the team ahead in the 17th, but Mohammed Kudus equalised when he created space in the area before smashing an unstoppable shot in off the underside of the crossbar in the 27th. Klopp had urged Liverpool fans to show respect during the tribute to the queen, who died last week at the age of 96, after some of the club's supporters booed the national anthem ahead of the FA Cup final last season. And the period of silence was respectfully observed, except for a few random shouts that were quickly hushed.



## SPORTING END SPURS' UNBEATEN RUN

**LISBON:** Tottenham had not lost a game in any competition this season before a pair of Sporting substitutes ended that unbeaten run. Paulinho glanced in a header from a corner in the 90th minute and Arthur Gomes added the second in the third minute of stoppage time when he cut in from the left wing, darted between two Tottenham defenders and shot between the legs of goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

## BRUGGE CONTINUE TO SURPRISE

**BRUGES:** Group B is throwing up some surprising results so far, with Club Brugge atop the standings after routing Porto 4-0 away for its second straight win. Forward Ferran Jutgla had a goal and an assist for Brugge, which saw four different players score. It was Porto's fourth straight loss in the Champions League going back to last season.

## LATE GOALS GUIDE LEVERKUSEN PAST ATLETICO

**LEVERKUSEN:** Struggling Bayer Leverkusen left it late to earn a welcome 2-0 win over Atletico Madrid in their Champions League group-stage game Tuesday. Two goals in three minutes from Robert Andrich and Moussa Diaby — both set up by Jeremie Frimpong — were enough for Leverkusen to claim just its second win of the season after six defeats in eight games across all competitions. Leverkusen coach Gerardo Seoane had been coming under increasing pressure, especially after the 0-1 loss at Club Brugge in their Group B opening game last week, but Andrich finally made the breakthrough in the 84th minute and Diaby sealed the win on a counterattack in the 87th.

## MARSEILLE-FRANKFURT MATCH HIT BY DISORDER

**MARSEILLE:** Careless defending cost Marseille again in the Champions League as it lost 1-0 at home to Europa League winner Eintracht Frankfurt Tuesday. Coach Igor Tudor's side is unbeaten in the French league but lacks a cutting edge at this level. Marseille looked organized and untroubled, just like last week against Tottenham, but fell behind in the 43rd minute after a defensive error allowed attacking midfielder Jesper Lindstrom to score. It was a hostile atmosphere at Stade Velodrome, where riot police intervened before kickoff and late on to quell disorder as opposing fans threw flares and fireworks at each other. A large-scale police operation had prevented fan violence before the game, which was classified as very high risk.

## NSDF to get ₹215cr after MoUs signed

*Sports ministry gets financial boost after joining hands with NTPC, REC*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** The Sports Ministry Wednesday signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) with the country's largest energy conglomerate NTPC and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) with the two PSUs pledging Rs 215 crore to the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF).

While NTPC will provide Rs 115 crore for the development of Archery, REC will give Rs 100 crore towards women's hockey and boxing.

The signing of the MoUs was attended by Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh, NTPC CMD Gurdeep Singh and REC CMD Vivek Kumar among others.

NTPC has been supporting the archers since 2018 in partnership with Sports Ministry, Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Archery Association of India (AAI) with an aim to provide world class facilities with international exposure to the talented players.

Under its CSR initiative, NTPC has committed Rs 115 crore in five

NTPC will provide Rs 115 crore for the development of archery, REC will give ₹100 crore towards women's hockey and boxing

Out of the total ₹115 crore towards archery, ₹15 crore will be incurred as a one-time expenditure, while the remaining ₹100 crore will be used as recurring expenditure in five years (₹20 crore per year)

years for development of archery. Out of the total Rs 115 crore, Rs 15 crore will be incurred as a one-time expenditure towards preparations of field targets, setting up of training centres and equipment like bow and arrow.

The remaining Rs 100 crore will be used as recurring expenditure in five years (Rs 20 crore per year) towards the development of archery at the grassroots level, training of identified talents, training of elite talents, development of high-performing coaches, procurement of FOP equipment, development sports and science lab compatible for archery, scholarships/prize money for high performers, advance training/competitive exposure/ foreign training and exposure to sub-junior and junior archers.

Speaking on the occasion, Thakur said financial support was the backbone behind promoting sports in the country and urged more corporates and PSUs to come forward with such noble gestures in the government's effort to make India a sporting nation.

"Just like any athlete needs power, money power is needed to promote sports. This initiative of NTPC and REC will give power to athletes to win medals for the country," Thakur said.

"I urge other companies, PSUs and individuals to come forward and promote sports." RK Singh added: "I am happy to have contributed in the promotion of sports."

## NUMBERS' GAME

**30** With the win, Bayern extended their unbeaten run in the Champions League group stage games to 30 including 27 wins and 3 draws, equalling Real Madrid's feat achieved in the period of 2012-17

**9** Bayern have now won their last nine group matches in a row, having seven clean sheets among them

**14** Bayern have started a Champions League campaign with two successive wins for the 14th time — a competition first

**10** The German champions have now won 10 of the 14 meetings with Barcelona in European competition, drawing and losing two

## Apex court modifies constitution of BCCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** The Supreme Court (SC) Wednesday allowed modification of BCCI's constitution and paved the way for its President Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah to continue in office without having to serve the mandatory cooling-off period.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Hima Kohli said that an office bearer can have continuous tenure of 12 years which includes six years in State Association and six years in BCCI before the cooling-off period of three years triggers.

The bench said that an office bearer can serve on a particular post for two consecutive terms, both at the BCCI and the State Association level, after which he would have to serve three years cooling-off period. "The purpose of the cooling-off period is not to create undesirable monopolies", the bench said.

The top court's order came on the Board's plea seeking to amend its constitution concerning the tenure of its office bearers including its President Ganguly and secretary Shah by doing away with the mandatory cooling-off period between tenures of office bearers across state cricket associations and the BCCI.

**An office bearer can have continuous tenure of 12 years which includes six years in state association and six years in BCCI before the cooling-off period of three years triggers**

The BCCI, in its proposed amendment, has sought the abolition of a cooling-off period for its office bearers which would enable Ganguly and Shah to continue in office as President and Secretary despite them having completed six years at respective state cricket associations.

Earlier, the Justice RM Lodha-led reform committee had recommended reforms in the BCCI which have been accepted by the top court.

The constitution of the BCCI, which was earlier approved by the top court, stipulates a mandatory three-year cooling-off period for anyone who had served two consecutive terms of three years each in the state cricket association or the BCCI.

While Ganguly was an office bearer in the Cricket Association of Bengal, Shah had served in the Gujarat Cricket Association.

## Mandhana helps India level series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Derby, Sept 14:** Opener Smriti Mandhana hit a stroke-filled unbeaten fifty (79 n o, 53b, 13x4) after off-spinner Sneha Rana snarled three wickets (3/24) to hand India women a comprehensive eight-wicket win over England in the second T20I and level the series 1-1 here.

England's decision to bat first Tuesday night backfired as Indian bowlers raised their performance by a notch to reduce the hosts to 54/5 inside 10 overs.

England found the going tough in the initial overs, losing wickets at regular intervals before teenager Freya Kemp (51 n o, 37b, 3x4, 3x6) and Maia Bouchier (34, 26b, 4x4) shared 65 runs for the sixth wicket to resurrect their innings.

But once Rana broke the dangerous-looking partnership, taking the wicket of Bouchier stumped by Richa Ghosh in the 18th over, the writing was on the wall for England.

Kemp, though, tried hard her level best and used her long handle to great effect to pick up 23 runs in the remaining 15 balls in the company of Sophie Ecclestone to take England to 142/6 and give their bowlers at least something to defend.

Rana was the wrecker-in-chief for India, while Renuka Singh (1/30) and Deepti Sharma (1/21) picked up two wickets at the top.



SMRITI MANDHANA

India began their chase in a fine fashion with Mandhana and Shafali Verma (20) adding 55 runs in the first six overs. Ecclestone (1/22) finally got the breakthrough for England when Verma hipped back to the bowler, who dived to her right to complete a fine caught and bowled opportunity. Dayalan Hemalatha (9) once again disappointed as Freya Davies (1/30) cleaned her up 16 balls later.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (29 n o, 22b, 4x4) then joined her deputy Mandhana at the crease and the duo played effortlessly, stitching uncoupled 69 runs for the third wicket to complete the formalities as India 146/2 in 16.4 overs.

There were no sixes in the match from the Indian batters. It was ordinary bowling display from the home team as Ecclestone and Davies were the only two wicket takers.

England had won the first match by nine wickets. The third T20 of the three-match series will be played in Bristol September 15.

## BRIEF SCORES

England Women 142/6 (Freya Kemp 51 n o, Maia Bouchier 34; Sneha Rana 3/24) lost to India Women 146/2 (Smriti Mandhana 79 n o, Harmanpreet Kaur 29 n o; Sophie Ecclestone 1/22) by 8 wickets.

## India colts ace SAFF U-17 Championship

AGENCIES

**Colombo, Sept 14:** India successfully defended their SAFF Men's U-17 Championship title with a dominating 4-0 win over Nepal here, Wednesday.

The final was expected to be a tight contest, but turned out to be a cakewalk for the colts in the end. India scored twice each either side of the break to grab their fourth title to extend their dominance in the South Asian region.

Boby Singh (18th minute), Korou Singh Thingujam (30th), skipper Vanlalpeka Guite (63rd) and Aman (90th) were the scorers for India. Guite also had two assists to his name, setting up the first two goals.

Both the teams were up to a fine start with some entertaining football. However it was India who broke the deadlock in the 18th minute when Guite went for a beautiful cross from the right flank, and an unmarked Boby headed the cross in with ease.

The goal completely changed the momentum towards the Indians and they looked dangerous with each passing minute. They could have doubled the lead in the 29th but Gangte messed inside the box



to ruin the chance. It was a stunning run in the left flank from Boby before going for an equally good cross, but Gangte was late to react to that pass and failed to collect it cleanly. Nepal cleared it with ease.

However, the very next minute India extended their lead. Guite was the centre of it again as his beautiful through ball right down the center left Korou one on one with the Nepal custodian. India's No.7 didn't waste the chance find-

ing the back of the net comfortably.

Nepal were desperate for a goal, but a red card for skipper Prashant Laksham in the 38th minute following a rough challenge made things worse for Nepal as the teams headed into the tunnel with India leading by two goals.

After the change of ends, India continued their attacking display and created a couple of chances, but failed to score. However, in the 63rd minute, Guite took the onus on

himself scoring a stunner. He took a shot from the left flank and it evaded the Nepal goalkeeper to go inside the top far corner.

Leading 3-0, it was all but over for Nepal, but India were still hungry for more. However, Boby missed a sitter in the 74th. A good cross from the right flank and all Boby had to do was to tap it in. But, he failed as his first touch somehow took the ball above the post. It was Aman who buried the game with a stoppage time goal.

## VINESH WINS BRONZE AT WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Belgrade, Sept 14:** Vinesh Phogat Wednesday became the first Indian woman wrestler to win two medals at the World Championships as she clinched a bronze in 53kg by defeating Emma Jonna Malmgren of Sweden here. The 28-year-old Vinesh had also won a bronze in 2019 edition in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

It was a remarkable comeback for Vinesh after her opening round defeat as she beat Malmgren 8-0 in the bronze medal round.

She had made it to the bronze play-off via the repechage round after losing to Khulan Batkhuyag of Mongolia, the 2022 Asian championships silver medalist, in her first bout Tuesday.

Vinesh, a triple Commonwealth Games champion, made it to the repechage round after Batkhuyag reached the final.

In the repechage round, Vinesh first beat Zhuldyz Eshimova of Kazakhstan in a Victory by Fall (4-0) decision and then won the next bout after injury to her opponent Leyla Gurbanova of Azerbaijan to advance to the bronze medal round.

In the women's 57kg, 2021 world bronze medalist Sarita Mor won her



opening bout 4-2 against world U-23 bronze medalist Hannah Taylor of Canada. Sarita then lost to Anhelina Lysak of Poland 0-7.

Mansi Ahlawat was eliminated after her defeat to Jowita Maria Wrzesien of Poland 3-5 in the 59kg quarterfinal. The Indian was out of repechage contention also after Jowita lost in the semifinal.

In 68kg, Nisha Dahiya will fight for bronze Thursday. She advanced

to the semifinal after defeating Sofiya Georgieva of Bulgaria 11-0. But she later went down 4-5 to reigning junior world champion Ami Ishii of Japan in the semifinals. Nisha led 2-0 and then 4-3 but her Japanese opponent overpowered her in the dying seconds.

Reetika lost 2-6 in the first round to Kendra Augustine Jocelyne Dacher of France in the 72kg contest.