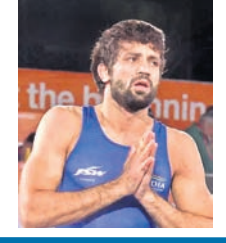




MUCH-AWAITED PROJECT
 Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu will soon make her Hindi film debut opposite Ayushmann Khurrana in a horror comedy **LEISURE P2**



MASS GRAVE FOUND
 Ukrainian authorities unearthed bodies from a mass burial site in an area recently recaptured from Russian forces **INTERNATIONAL P10**

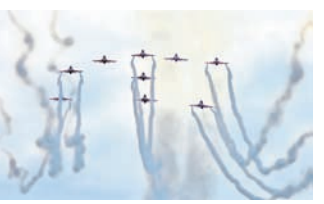


DAHIYA DISAPPOINTS
 Olympic silver medallist Ravi Dahiya out of medal contention in the Wrestling World Championships **SPORTS P12**

IAF's daredevilry in Bhubaneswar skies

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: The Surya Kiran aerobatic demonstration team of Indian Air Force (IAF) has exhibited a daredevil show in Bhubaneswar skies over the Kuakhai riverbed Friday.



Thousands of people from the twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar and nearby areas witnessed the spectacular air show exhibited by pilots of nine Hawk 132 Aircrafts manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). The entire team divided into two groups and exhibited a series of loops, barrel rolls and manoeuvres in the air. Governor Ganeshi Lal and Chief of Eastern Air Command Air Marshal DK Patnaik joined the event at the Balyatra ground on the river bed. The Governor said that the air show gives a clear message to the world that India's survival is must if the world has to survive. "It also shows how the sky and earth can meet each other," he said. Expressing happiness over the "fabulous" show by the IAF team, Ganeshi Lal said that he will also attend the upcoming air show by the IAF in Puri Sunday.



RAGING INFERNO: A massive fire engulfed a high-rise in Hunan's capital Changsha, in China, Friday

PHOTO: TWITTER

Class V girl dies as school wall caves in

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Sept 16: A girl student died after an under-construction wall of Bichikat Girls' High school in Padmapur block of Rayagada district came crashing on her Friday. The deceased was identified as Ahuti Sabar, 11, a student of Class V.

According to sources, Ahuti had gone out of the school to answer the call of nature in the noon. On her return to the school, the wall caved in on her. School teachers and local people rescued her in a critical condition from under the broken wall. She was first admitted to Padmapur community health centre (CHC) and later shifted to Gunupur hospital where she died. Senior officials of block education office took stock of the situation. Locals have condemned the poor quality work at the school and demanded compensation for the family of the victim. Notably, similar incidents have happened earlier. At least five children, not older than six years were killed after the wall of their school collapsed in Nayagarh district in July, 2012.

India's stance changing on Russia-Ukraine war

SHORT TAKE

Mevani, 19 others get 6 months jail

AHMEDABAD: An Ahmedabad court Friday convicted Congress leader Jignesh Mevani and 19 others guilty in a 2016 vandalism case and sentenced them to six months imprisonment. The Metropolitan Magistrate awarded three different sentences under the three different sections of IPC - six months jail under one, ₹500 fine under another, and ₹100 fine in the third. It has stayed the operative part of the order, so Mevani and others can appeal the order before the sessions court. In 2016, Mevani and others were leading protests demanding to name Gujarat University's Law Department as Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Bhavan. The protest turned violent and the premises were vandalised.

Throughout the ongoing crisis, India has carefully avoided taking an unequivocal position. Now, when Russia is on the backfoot, New Delhi tries to convince Kremlin to end war

PNN & AGENCIES

Samarkand, Sept 16: Deviating from the Indian government's stand so far on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday told Russian President Vladimir Putin that now was not the time for war.

Earlier, when global democracies lined up to condemn the actions of Russia in Ukraine, India was less forthcoming in its criticism. Throughout the ongoing crisis, the government in India has carefully avoided taking an unequivocal position. It has abstained on every United Nations resolution dealing with the matter and refused to join the international community in economic measures against Moscow, prompting a warning from the US over potentially circumventing sanctions.

Even statements from India condemning the reported mass killing of Ukrainian civilians stopped short of apportioning blame on any party, instead calling for an impartial investigation. When the former foreign secretary of UK, Liz Truss, April 1, 2022



MARCH 4, 2022: India abstains from voting at the IAEA Board of Governors-backed resolution that 'deplored' Russia's military operations in Ukraine
MARCH 24, 2022: India abstains from voting on Russian resolution in UN, skips statement
APRIL 1, 2022: India defends buying discounted Russian oil despite appeal by former UK foreign secretary Liz Truss

urged India to reduce dependence on Russian energy, her Indian counterpart S Jaishankar defended India's decision to obtain "good deals" for energy supplies amid volatility in the global markets.

Now, when the Russia is pulling out troops from several areas like Kharkiv, Snake Island and other cities, Prime Minister Narendra Modi found it to be the proper moment to convince Russia to end the hostility. Modi Friday pushed Russian President Vladimir Putin to end the conflict in Ukraine, saying "today's era is not of war" even as he called for finding ways to address the global food and energy security crisis.

He also underlined the importance of democracy, dialogue and diplomacy during a bilateral meeting with Putin that took place on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in this Silk Road city. "Today the biggest worry before

the world, especially developing countries, is food security, fuel security, fertilisers. We must find ways on these problems and you will also have to consider it. We will get an opportunity to talk about these issues," Modi said in his opening remarks.

On his part, Putin told Modi that he was aware of India's concerns over the Ukraine conflict and that Russia will do everything possible to end it as soon as possible. "I know about your position on the conflict in Ukraine. I know about your concerns. I know that you share these concerns and we all want an end to all of these as soon as possible," Putin said in his televised opening remarks at the meeting.

India's response to Russia's invasion on Ukraine — condemnation of the civilian killings without any name calling, and abstention from UN votes — is not fundamentally different from this historically cautious neutrality.

6 killed, 20 hurt as truck hits bus

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, Sept 16: In a tragic road mishap, six people were killed and over 20 others injured when a hyva truck hit a bus carrying some employees of a private firm on Jharsuguda-Sambalpur Biju Expressway Friday. Condition of 13 of them is stated to be critical. They were shifted to VIMSAR in Burla.

Other injured have been admitted to the district headquarters hospital and some private hospitals here.

Among the deceased are: Rajendra Tiwari, Sher Bahadur, Brijpal Singh, Pankaj Jha and Bikash Kumar, police said. Reports said the bus was carrying over 60 staffers from the steel and power plant in Thelkuli to



Condition of 13 of the injured is stated to be critical and they were shifted to VIMSAR in Burla

Jharsuguda around 7pm when the accident took place. A coal-laden truck came from the rear near Sarbahal after hitting two cows and jumped over the road divider before colliding with the ill-fated bus. Locals rescued the injured and rushed them to the district headquarters hospital.

Meanwhile, Jharsuguda Collector Saroj Samal expressed grief over the tragic incident while visiting the district headquarters hospital. He said, "Free treatment will be provided to the injured. I will talk to the company management regarding compensation to the families of the deceased."

He added that the district administration will bear all the treatment expenses. "Proper arrangements will be made for the best possible treatment of the injured. A team of specialist doctors have been appointed for their treatment and immediate steps are being taken for treatment as per the requirement," he added. Meanwhile, Sadar police seized the hyva and the bus, and registered a case.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Be generous. It's to celebrate an Indian becoming world's second richest!

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	58840.79 ↓ 1093.22
NIFTY	17530.80 ↓ 346.60
DOLLAR	80.01 ↓ ₹0.06
EURO	79.80 ↓ ₹0.03
GOLD	₹49,381 ↑ ₹69
SILVER	₹56,758 ↑ ₹341

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 33.7°C	35.1°C
	MIN 25.2°C	25.5°C
Humidity	89%	84%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

Forecast: Light rain likely

4th mystery boom in 10 days rattles Latur

The unexplained phenomenon was earlier recorded in Hasor village of Latur district Sept 3, 8, 12, alarming the population of 2,000 living there

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Latur, Sept 16: For the fourth time in 10 days, a small village in this district of Maharashtra was shaken by another mysterious subterranean boom sound accompanied by some vibrations this morning, scaring the villagers and the local officials, here Friday. The unexplained phenomenon

was recorded in Hasor village earlier this month September 3, 8, 12 and 16 (Friday), alarming the population of 2,000 living there, said District Disaster Management Officer Saqueeb Osmani.

This day's loud sounds - which have not caused any damage or casualties - came just two days after a team of experts from the Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University Nanded visited the village. Though they found nothing unusual or detected any seismic activity, they have recommended that the authorities should immediately tackle around half-a-dozen 'risky infrastructure' they noticed there. As the sounds have continued at



frequent intervals, a team of IMD Delhi will visit the village September 20 and install a micro-observatory in Hasori to scientifically unravel the puzzles of the underground booming sounds, said Osmani. Latur Collector Prithviraj BP vis-

ited the village Tuesday with a team of district officers and experts to assess the situation and then the concerned specialised departments at the state and Centre were informed. "As an added precaution, we have decided to form at least seven

dedicated teams to tackle any eventuality like an earthquake. Hasori is around 35 km from Killari, the epicenter of the major quake of 1993, and Latur has been known as an 'earthquake-prone' district," Osmani told IANS.

He said that the enigma of the sounds is compounded by the fact that it is not detected by the seismographs installed in the district, with a tentative conclusion that it could be minor tremors underground.

It may be recalled that 29 years ago (September 30, 1993), a deadly quake measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale had struck Latur, flattening Killari and over 50 surrounding villages.

Adani briefly named world's 2nd richest



AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 16: Business tycoon Gautam Adani became the world's second richest man, though briefly, replacing Bernard Arnault by a whisker on the Forbes list. The Adani Group chairman's net worth now stands at \$155.5 billion (₹ 12.37 lakh crore). Later, the Louis Vitton boss climbed to the second spot while Adani was placed at third position.

As per Forbes Real Time Billionaires List, Adani's net worth rose by \$5.2 billion, a hike of 3.49 per cent. Tesla founder Elon Musk continues to occupy the top position in the rich list.

In the top 10 list, Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani is the second Indian with a net worth of \$92.2 billion. The other billionaires in the top ten list include Bill Gates, Larry Ellison, Warren Buffett, Larry Page and Sergey Brin.

On August 30, Adani had surpassed Louis Vitton boss Arnault to become the world's third richest man. It was the first instance when an Asian was ranked among the top three billionaires.

Adani Group's kitchen essentials firm Adani Wilmar Ltd is now scouting for local and overseas acquisition targets to boost its food operations business, Bloomberg reported.



SLAPGATE: SMITH GETS PERMANENTLY BANNED FROM SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

Hollywood star Will Smith is apparently not welcome back on *Saturday Night Live*. The actor is reportedly being permanently banned after slapping comedian Chris Rock at the 2022 Academy Awards. The NBC sketch series is reportedly banning the actor permanently following the Oscars slap, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

AMBER HEARD ACCUSED OF BLACKMAILING DIRECTOR WAN

Actress Amber Heard is hit with yet another accusation in the aftermath of the much-publicised defamation trial against Johnny Depp. She is now accused of blackmailing Hollywood men to nab parts, including *Aquaman* director James Wan.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES

Today you will land up in a tricky or hazardous situation. You will feel compelled to wade against the tide, which may not be such a productive thing, says Ganesh. Nothing seems to be going your way. Take some time off for yourself to relieve the stress.

TAURUS

Your vision today will have a hue of green as you will draw to money like a fly to sweets. Taste the power of money with fortune as the monkey on your back. You may buy a pendant or a necklace today and your haggling skills will save you from being swindled, says Ganesh.

GEMINI

You will feel out of sorts today. This could result in distances between you and your loved ones. You may fall into the wrong sorts of debates on account of your ill-temper. You need to keep a curb on your emotions to perform better, says Ganesh.

CANCER

You are most likely to appear edgy and hypercritical to others, says Ganesh. Remain your typical poised self. Try not to be harsh to others, if you wish to save your relationships and sustain a reputable image. Avoid clashes with your superiors and colleagues.

LEO

Chess is a good start, but it is nothing compared to the strategic intrigues of your day today. Arguments will lead to further arguments, and nowhere else, reminds Ganesh. So, it only makes sense to counter a disagreement with an agreement. But then again, total agreement is doubly secretive. At the end of the day, all that matters is to get people to agree with you, even if it means having to eat humble pie in the beginning.

VIRGO

You will shine exceedingly well in all the activities that you undertake today. Your dream of starting business operations on foreign shores will fructify today, says Ganesh. You may pay more attention to your personal appearance, which will boost your morale considerably.

LIBRA

Call it your generous side, but today is the perfect day to give back to all those from whom you have received so far. With roots set firmly in community service, it might do you well to extend that helping hand and return something back to them, preferably in the double. Go along with the spirit of an early thanksgiving today.

SCORPIO

An upcoming project of a new joint venture will capsize your personal life and keep you on your toes today, says Ganesh. You may not find the results in proportion to the efforts that you put in, but be patient because everything will fall in place only in due time.

SAGITTARIUS

Murmurs of discontent will reach your ears, especially from those very near. But if you go about pleasing one and all, you may not defuse the bomb completely. Exercise caution, and a lot of patience, says Ganesh. Your tolerance will not only help you overcome the problem, but also help you in addressing dissent in your cadres.

CAPRICORN

There are good days and bad days; your day today will oscillate between the two extremes, says Ganesh. While on the one hand, your mind will be flooded with negative feelings that will make you feel miserable, on the other, your efforts at work will yield good results in the future. The need of the hour is to stay calm and take criticisms in your stride.

AQUARIUS

You are already overloaded with work. On the top of it, people around you will conveniently put their share of load on your back, and you will take it most of the times. You, however, will not get bogged down by the additional responsibilities.

PISCES

Are you fretting over the obstacles you are facing on the business front? Ganesh tackles the root of your problem and advises you to be patient and have faith in your undertakings. Good things will come your way, in good time.

Vidya Balan bags two awards back to back

Mumbai: The powerhouse of talent and recipient of multiple honours and recognitions, Vidya Balan received yet another series of awards this year as she won Best Actor Critics Awards (Female) at Filmfare as well as HT OTT Awards in a span of two weeks. With a long list



of unconventional and ground breaking films to her credit, Vidya has won prestigious honours like the Padma Shri, National Award, 6 Filmfare Awards and several others over the years.

Adding to the list of awards, Vidya Balan bagged her 7th Filmfare Award this year for her remarkable performance in *Sherni*, followed by the win at the HT OTT Awards for her latest release *Jalsa*. Vidya Balan has emerged as the only actress to receive two consecutive awards for two different films this year.

From challenging the norms of patriarchy in *Sherni* to donning a gray shade in *Jalsa*, Vidya Balan definitely left fans impressed with her diverse performances in these films. In fact, the actress has brought about a change in the concept of a Hindi film heroine and is known for her power packed performances in female centric cinema in Hindi films. She is one of the only few actresses in India to have been able to garner both critical and commercial success for films like *The Dirty Picture*, *Paa*, *Ishqiya*, *Tumhari Sulu* to the latest additions from OTT like *Shakuntala Devi*, *Sherni* and *Jalsa*. AGENCIES

THE WAIT IS OVER

Samantha to play princess in Hindi debut

Mumbai: After her stint in *The Family Man*, Hindi audience is eager to see the actress featured in a full-fledged Hindi movie. A lot of reports about her debut have been doing the rounds in

the media. The latest report in a news portal stated that the actress will be starring opposite Ayushmann Khurrana in a horror comedy movie. The report added that the film has an ample dose of humour and suspense. While Samantha will be seen playing the role of a princess, Ayushmann will be essaying the role of a vampire. The film is reportedly based on a folklore story from Rajasthan and expands Dinesh Vijan's proposed Horror-Comedy Cinematic Universe.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Samantha is gearing up for the release of her upcoming pan-India film, *Yashoda* which will hit the theatres in October. Ayushmann, on the other hand, has *Doctor G* with Rakul Preet Singh and *Dream Girl 2* with Ananya Panday. AGENCIES

STATE LEVEL THEATRE FESTIVAL CONCLUDES



City-based theatre troupe Labanya Theatre staged Odia play *Haera Satia* at Bhanjakala Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Friday, on the fifth and final evening of drama festival *Ranga Sangam*, organised jointly by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi and Odia Language, Literature and Culture department, Government Odisha. The play was written by Dillip Balabant Ray and directed by Satya Jena(Tunu). OP PHOTO

Chitrangda on why she didn't act in her production

Mumbai: Her debut production venture *Soorma* starring Diljit Dosanjh struck a chord with the audience. An actress herself, there was an opportunity where Chitrangda Singh could play the part of Harpreet Kaur essayed by Taapsee Pannu. The actress says that yes she would have liked to act in her own production venture, but there are certain conditions to it.

She shares, "A lot of people ask me why I didn't act in *Soorma*. I would like to say that yes I would like to act in my production ventures, but only if I fit the part. In case of *Soorma* I feel I wasn't right for the part. I believe that you have to be right for the part otherwise you are not doing justice to the story and the film. I feel Taapsee was absolutely bang on for someone playing hockey in a small town. And so we had her in the film."

She further adds, "This project would have given me a chance to learn to play hockey. There's no doubt I would have trained for a skill to fit the part, but ultimately, sometimes inherently somebody is the best for the part and you cannot deny that." AGENCIES

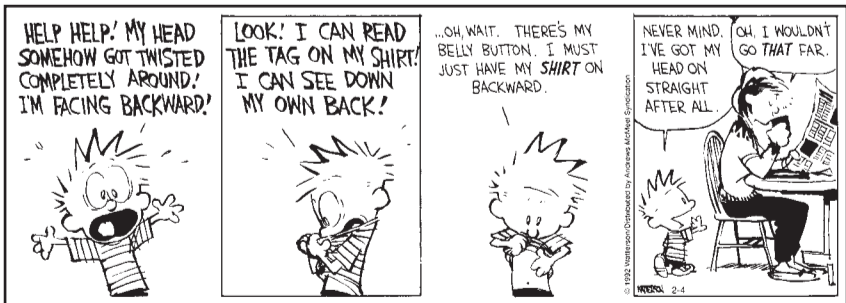


FUN post

PEANUTS



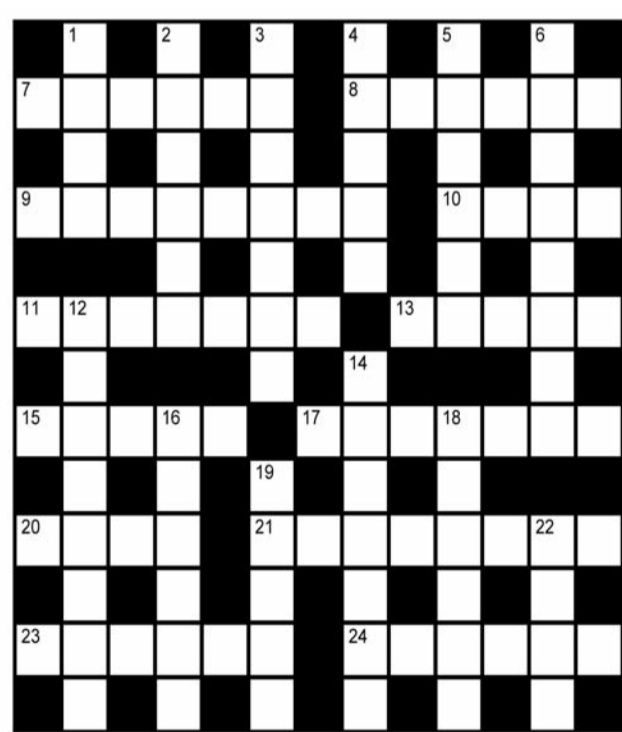
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



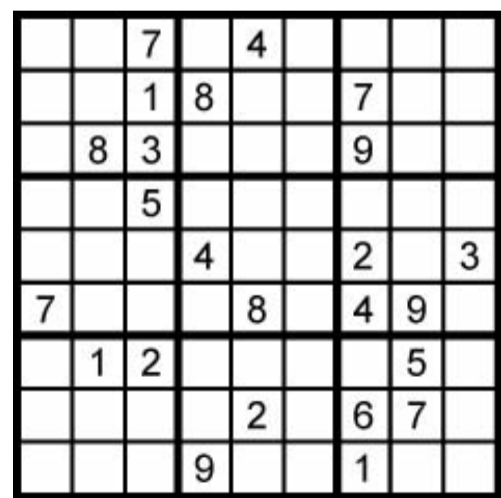
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Outdoor social gathering
 - 8 Referee
 - 9 Video game controller
 - 10 Barnyard sound
 - 11 Old-timer
 - 13 Make amends
 - 15 Magazine release
 - 17 Trailblazer
 - 20 Weapons
 - 21 Get sassy (4,4)
 - 23 Dracula, for one
 - 24 Illness
 - Down**
 - 1 Missile housing
 - 2 Oneness
 - 3 ___ and saves
 - 4 Tremor
 - 5 Choose not to (3,3)
 - 6 Military supplies
 - 12 Set aside
 - 14 Sheepskin
 - 16 Northern Ireland area
 - 18 Bite gently
 - 19 Examine
 - 22 Secret message

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

international

of the day quote

We find the situation that has occurred due to Armenia's violation of the agreement - reached after the (2020) war that resulted in the victory of Azerbaijan - to be unacceptable

In terms of the power capacity of Cambodia's energy sources, the share of renewable energy sources is around 55 per cent of the total installed power capacity

This year's General Debate must be about providing hope and overcoming the divisions that are dramatically impacting the world

SHORT TAKES

Pakistan reports 19th polio case

Islamabad: The number of polio cases detected in Pakistan this year has increased to 19 after a six-month-old child in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) South Waziristan district was paralysed by the virus, the Health Ministry announced Friday. According to the Ministry, the child had an onset of the paralysis on August 22 as confirmed by the Pakistan National Polio Laboratory at the National Institute of Health, reports Xinhua news agency. This was the first case from South Waziristan this year.

China's legislator meets SK leaders

Seoul: The head of China's legislature called for cooperation with South Korea in advanced technology and supply chains, as he met South Korean officials Friday amid concerns that their moves to solidify a military alliance with Washington could hamper Seoul's ties with Beijing.

Flights in Europe hit by air control strike

Paris: European flights faced widespread disruption Friday as a French air traffic controllers' strike forced airlines to cancel half of those scheduled to arrive or depart Paris airports and others due to have flown over France. Strikes and staff shortages in the past few months have forced airlines to cancel thousands of flights, dashing their hopes of a summer rebound after widespread Covid lockdowns, with disruption continuing into the autumn.

Two police officers stabbed in London

London: Two police officers were stabbed in central London Friday and the incident is not being treated as terror related, said the Metropolitan Police (Met). Police encountered a man with a knife near Leicester Square, a pedestrianised square in the West End of London, according to the Met.

Biden boosts vax programme

Washington: US President Joe Biden's administration has accelerated the vaccine programme to immunise more Americans in a major effort not to lose the momentum gained in the declining trend in Covid-19 infection outbreak in many parts of the country, ahead of the onset of autumn and winter. The Biden administration is pushing updated coronavirus booster shots that target the Omicron variants as a way to blunt the expected surges in the winter when most people will stay indoors.



Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers is in the ER room and is unlikely to be renewed soon, if at all
BENNY GANTZ | ISRAELI DEFENCE MINISTER

SIRISENA IN THE SOUP

A Sri Lankan court Friday named former President Maithripala Sirisena as a suspect in the 2019 Easter bombings in which 270 people, including 11 Indians, were killed



SCO SUMMIT

Xi cautions on 'colour revolutions'

Samarkand, Sept 16: Chinese President Xi Jinping Friday asked SCO member states to guard against "colour revolutions" instigated by "external forces" and asked them to maintain strategic independence and safeguard regional stability, in a veiled attack on the US as it expands its influence in the Indo-Pacific region. Addressing the 22nd SCO summit here in the historic Uzbek city, Xi also announced plans to establish a centre in China to train counter-terrorism personnel by the grouping and mooted a development bank to speed up regional economic integration.

"The once-in-a-century pandemic has continued unabated. Regional conflicts keep flaring up. The Cold War mentality and group politics are resurfacing, so are unilateralism and protectionism. Economic globalisation has encountered headwinds," he said in a thinly veiled attack against the US.

Under these new conditions, the SCO, as an important constructive force in international and regional affairs, should keep itself well-positioned in the face of changing international dynamics, strengthen solidarity and cooperation, he said.

"We should guard against attempts by external forces to instigate 'colour revolution', jointly oppose interference in other countries' internal affairs under any pretext, and hold our future firmly in our own hands," Xi, also the general secretary of the ruling Communist Party, said amid Washington's growing confrontation with both Beijing and Moscow over a range of issues. China claims nearly all of the disputed South



India takes over SCO rotating presidency

Samarkand: Uzbekistan Friday handed over the rotating presidency of the eight-member Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to India in this historic city of Samarkand. Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired the 22nd SCO summit in Samarkand which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "As a result #SCOSamarkandSummit, India will host next SCO summit as a chairman of Organisation in 2023. We will do our best to assist India, our strategic partner, in the implementation of this responsible mission," Uzbek Foreign Minister Vladimir Norov tweeted. The summit in Samarkand also saw the participation of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Iran's Ebrahim Raisi, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif among other leaders from the Central Asian countries.

China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea.

The US has been regularly contesting Beijing's claims by sending warships to the strategically vital Indo-Pacific region.

He has also announced new initiatives for the SCO.

China is ready to train 2,000 law enforcement personnel for SCO member states in the next five years, and establish a China-SCO base for training counter-terrorism personnel, so as to enhance capacity-building for law enforcement of SCO member

states, he said.

China will provide developing countries in need with emergency humanitarian assistance of grain and other supplies worth 1.5 billion RMB yuan, (\$105 million). "We need to ensure the implementation of the roadmap for SCO member states to expand shares of local currency settlement, better develop the system for cross-border payment and settlement in local currencies, work for the establishment of an SCO development bank, and thus speed up regional economic integration," he said.

Next year, China will host an SCO ministers' meeting on development cooperation and an industrial and supply chains forum, and will set up the China-SCO Big Data Cooperation Center to create new engines of common development, Xi said.

Germany takes control of Russian owned refinery



REUTERS

Berlin, Sept 16: Germany took control of a major Russian-owned oil refinery Friday, risking retaliation from Moscow as Berlin strives to shore up energy supplies and meet its European Union commitment to eliminate Russian oil imports by the end of the year.

The economy ministry said it was putting a unit of Russian oil firm Rosneft (ROSN.MM) under the trusteeship of the industry regulator and taking over the business' Schwedt refinery, which supplies 90% of Berlin's fuel.

"This is a far-reaching energy policy decision to protect our country," Chancellor Olaf Scholz told a news conference to present the government's plans to put the Schwedt refinery under the control of the Federal Network Agency regulator.

The plans included a "package for the future" with more than 1 billion euros (\$996.10 million) in federal and state government investments over several years in eastern German states, with 825 million euros earmarked for Schwedt alone. "Russia, we have known for some time, is no longer a reliable energy supplier," Scholz said. "We did not take this decision lightly, but it was unavoidable."

Ukraine combs mass burial site

Izium, Ukraine, Sept 16: Ukrainian authorities found a mass burial site near a recaptured northeastern city previously occupied by Russian forces, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Thursday night.

"A mass grave of people was found in Izium in the Kharkiv region. The necessary procedures have already begun there. More information - clear, verifiable information - should be available tomorrow," Zelenskyy said in his nightly televised address.

Associated Press journalists saw the site in a forest outside Izium Thursday. A mass grave bore a marker saying it contained the bodies of 17 Ukrainian soldiers. It was surrounded by hundreds of individual graves with only crosses to mark them. Zelenskyy invoked the names of other Ukrainian cities where authorities said retreating Russian troops left behind mass civilian graves and evidence of alleged war crimes. "Buchach, Mariupol, now, unfortunately, Izium.

... Russia leaves death everywhere. And it must be held accountable for it. The world must bring Russia to real responsibility for this war," he said. Russia's forces left Izium and other parts of the Kharkiv region last week amid a stunning Ukrainian counteroffensive.

On Wednesday, Zelenskyy made a rare trip outside Ukraine's capital to watch the raising of the national flag at Izium's city hall.

Sergei Bolvinov, a senior investigator for Ukrainian police in the eastern Kharkiv region, told British TV broadcaster Sky News that a pit contained more than 440 bodies was discovered near Izium after Kyiv's forces swept in. He described the grave as "one of the largest burial sites in any one liberated city." "We know that some (of the people buried in the pit) were shot, some died from artillery fire, from so-called mine-explosion traumas. Some died from airstrikes. Also, we have information that a lot of bodies have not been identified yet" Bolvinov said.



People queue near Tower Bridge to pay their respects following the death of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, in London, Britain

REUTERS

MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Trump coins India-US friendship slogan in Hindi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 16: Former US president Donald Trump has coined an India-US friendship slogan in Hindi as part of his efforts to woo the influential Indian-American community before the mid-term elections in November.

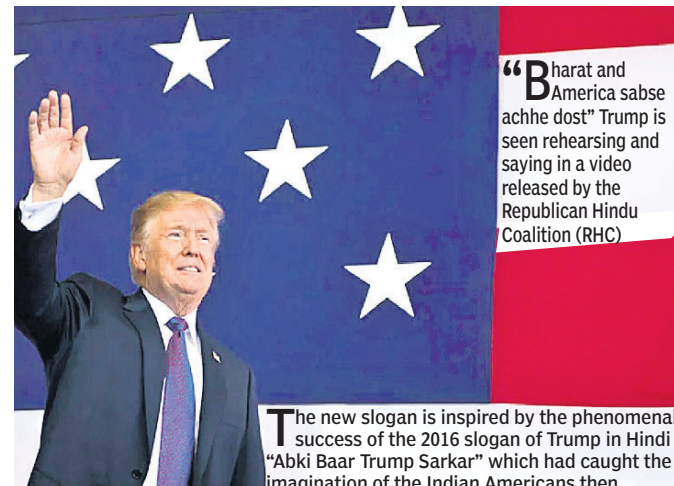
"Bharat and America sabse achhe dost" Trump is seen rehearsing and saying in a video released by the Republican Hindu Coalition (RHC). The slogan in English means "India and the United States are best friends". In the short 30-second video, Trump is seen seated with his supporter Chicago-based businessman Shalabh Kumar from the Republican Hindu Coalition.

The new slogan is inspired by the phenomenal success of the 2016 slogan of Trump in Hindi "Abki Baar Trump Sarkar"

which had caught the imagination of the Indian-Americans then and had played a key part in his victories in some of the key swing states.

Kumar, who has been instrumental in both Trump's slogans "Abki Baar Trump Sarkar" and "Bharat and America sabse achhe dost", told PTI in an interview this week that he and the RHC plan to run the former president's latest slogan in the ethnic Indian media to gain Indian-American support and vote for Republicans the November 8 mid-term elections.

Political observers and the latest polls indicate that Republicans are most likely to regain the majority in the House of Representatives. "The end goal is to heavily support five (Republican) candidates for Senate" where the margin of victory is going to be



"less than 50,000 votes. Some might be even 10,000 votes or 5,000 votes," Kumar said. These Senate races are in the states of Pennsylvania,

Ohio, Wisconsin, Arizona and Georgia, he said, adding that the small Hindu community in these states can make that difference.

"The Hindu vote will make the difference. That's the biggest block of independent voters," Kumar said in response to a question. "We are going to have a (national) campaign (with focus on these states) which is going to be close to what the 2016 campaign was," he said.

Kumar and the RHC were an important part of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. However, the two fell apart in the 2020 presidential elections.

Kumar says early this year he met Trump at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida March 21. There have been a few meetings after that as well.

Indian-Americans comprise slightly more than 1 per cent of the total US population and less than 1 per cent of all registered voters.

China sanctions Raytheon, Boeing Defence CEOs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Sept 16: China announced sanctions Friday against the CEOs of American defence contractors Raytheon and Boeing Defence over a major US arms sale to rival Taiwan.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning did not specify what the sanctions would be against Gregory Hayes, chairman and CEO of Raytheon Technologies Corp., and Ted Colbert, president and CEO of Boeing Defense, Space and Security. It wasn't immediately clear what impact they would have on the executives or their companies, but such sanctions are often mainly symbolic in nature. The US announced a \$1.09 billion arms sale to Taiwan last week, including \$355 million for Boeing's Harpoon missiles and \$85 million for Raytheon's Sidewinder missiles.

