



## KANGANA'S 'IDENTITY CRISIS'

Talking about 'identity crisis', Kangana Ranaut compares herself to her character in the upcoming movie *Emergency*

LEISURE P2



## PUTIN WARNS UKRAINE

President Vladimir Putin brushes off a lightning Ukrainian counter-offensive, says Russia would respond more forcefully

INTERNATIONAL P10



## ALCARAZ GOES DOWN

Spanish World No.1 Carlos Alcaraz suffers a defeat against Felix Auger-Aliassime in their Davis Cup tie against Canada

SPORTS P12



**GREEN BRIGADE:** Volunteers wave as an Indian Coast Guard helicopter arrives at Juhu beach in Mumbai during a cleanliness drive on International Coastal Cleanup Day, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

## CM approves ₹2K cr VSSUT revamp plan

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 17:** The state government will spend ₹2,000 crore for the transformation of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) Burla, in three phases in the next five years.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday approved a master plan for the development of the VSSUT.

Steps would be taken for development of the institution in such a way that about 10,000 students will be imparted education in 24 undergraduate departments by 2026. As per the plan, the strength of the students would be enhanced to 10,874 students from the existing 2,849 students.

On August 25 last, on the direction of the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary and 5T Secretary, during their visit to the institute, had advised officials to make a master plan to develop the uni-

versity as a Centre of Excellence. As per the plan, the VSSUT would be developed as a Multi-Disciplinary Engineering and Research University by 2030 at par with prominent engineering institutes of the country like IIT and NIT.

To achieve the goal, it would have seven schools like School of Engineering, Skill Development Centre, School of Medical Technology and School of Basic Science.

As many as 24 engineering programmes, more than 14 departments and over 27 Centres of Excellence (CoE) would be opened in seven schools.

All the schools would have modern laboratories and research centres. Every CoE would have partnership with industrial houses and each centre would have at least one old student to work as a mentor so that it would work as a nodal centre for the development of rural and urban areas.

**The VSSUT would be developed as a Multi-Disciplinary Engineering and Research University by 2030**

## Grant ST status to 160 communities: Naveen

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik draws the attention of the Centre as the proposals regarding the left-out communities have been pending since 1978

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 17:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Saturday wrote to Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda seeking inclusion of 160 communities in the ST list of the state.

Since 1978 onwards, Odisha government has recommended more than 160 communities for their inclusion in the ST list of the state with the approval of Tribal Advisory Council. Because of the delay in their inclusion in the ST list, all these 160 plus communities of the state are becoming victims of "historical injustice", Patnaik said in a letter to the Union minister.

Stating that among these (160 communities) some are new while others are sub-tribes/subsets, synonyms and phonetic variations of the existing ST communities residing in different parts of the state, Patnaik said they are being deprived of benefits availed by STs though they have the same characteristics as



**A task force under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs had recommended 9 proposals from Odisha for inclusion in ST list in 2014 but they are yet to be notified in the Presidential order**

their respective notified STs.

"I am given to understand that a task force under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs had recommended 9 proposals from Odisha as priority cases for inclusion in the ST list of the state in the year 2014, but the same is yet to be notified in the Presidential Order," Patnaik mentioned in the letter.

The Chief Minister said, "I would therefore request you to kindly

look into this long pending matter and expedite the scheduling of these left out communities to deliver social justice to them in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India."

Patnaik said this shall go a long way in helping these deprived communities by giving them their much needed recognition as ST and ensure social justice.

He said since 2011 onwards a number of communications have been made by him with the Centre on this "sensitive matter".

He urged Munda for urgent action addressing the long standing pending matter and do justice to the communities who are waiting for decades to get their due grievances redressed.

## CJI launches 34 paperless courts in state

All the Judicial officers in Odisha would be provided with touch-screen laptops to facilitate them to function paperless, says CJ of Orissa HC S Muralidhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Sept 17:** Chief Justice of India (CJI) Uday Umesh Lalit Saturday inaugurated 34 paperless courts in all the 30 districts of the state, as part of a programme to mark the completion of 75th year of Orissa High Court.

The CJI inaugurated the courts at a function organised on the premises of Odisha Judicial Academy in the presence of Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud and Chairperson, e-Committee, Justice MR Shah, Chief Justice of Orissa High Court S Muralidhar and Justice S Talapatra, Chairman, Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology Committee of the High Court of Orissa.

Speaking on the occasion, CJI Lalit said there are many advantages of technological advancement and now a common man sitting in the remotest part of the country can have access to justice.

"Covid-19 pandemic has taught us to adapt, change and modernise ourselves. The advantages of technology are here for us not only to witness but assimilate into our lifestyle," CJI Lalit said.

In his welcome address, Justice S Muralidhar thanked the e-Committee, Supreme Court of India for the guidance and encouragement to the High Court in expanding the horizon of digitization and using information technology for other initiatives like paperless courts, e-payment of court



CJI Justice Uday Umesh Lalit addressing the event

fee, virtual hearing, vulnerable witness deposition centres, e-custody certificates, e-traffic challans and voluntary witness deposition centres in all the districts

of Odisha. High Court Chief Justice Dr Muralidhar announced that shortly all the judicial officers in Odisha would be provided with touch-screen laptops to facilitate them to function paperless.

Stressing upon the need for paperless courts for balancing the ecosystem and its other advantages Justice Muralidhar said paperless courts in district judiciary of Odisha is a significant milestone for the Indian judiciary. He thanked the state government and OCAC for the cause.

Justice DY Chandrachud said technology is not just for the elite; it is for all those for whom the delivery of justice is intended.

Continued on P4

## 700 MAOISTS, SUPPORTERS SURRENDER

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Sept 17:** Around 700 active Maoists and their supporters of different villages located on the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border Saturday surrendered before police and BSF in Malkangiri district.

These villages are located on the Odisha-AP border and were the erstwhile stronghold of Maoists. These Maoist supporters used to assist in the violent activities and were involved in killing of security forces, civilians and also used to sup-



and effigies of Maoists and shouted slogans 'Maobadi Mardabad Ama Sarkar Zindabad' in front of media.

"These Maoist supporters used to assist in violent activities and were involved in killing of security forces, civilians. They also used to supply logistics to Maoists," said Malkangiri SP Nitesh Wadhvani.

BSF, DIG Madan Lal, said the developmental initiatives in the area coupled with the strategic deployment of security forces inspired the villagers to join the mainstream.

ply logistics to them, the official said.

Police said the surrendered militias/supporters of Odisha and bordering AP exhibited their opposition towards the Maoist ideology by burning the dress materials

## SHORT TAKES

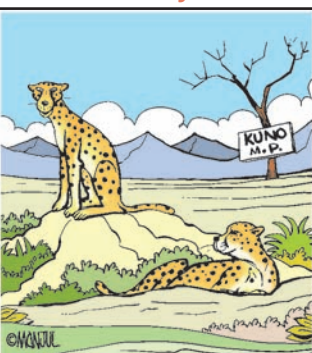
### Jan Shatabdi hits bull, derails near Bhadrak

**Bhubaneswar:** Howrah-Bhubaneswar Jan Shatabdi Express derailed at a level crossing near Bhadrak Saturday, an East Coast Railway official said. The two front wheels of the guard-cum-luggage van located next to the engine derailed due to sudden application of brake despite which the train hit a bull, he said, adding no casualty of passengers was reported in the incident. Officials have been sent to the spot for restoration work, and train services on the down line remained unaffected. "It will take around 30 minutes to an hour to resume the train's journey," he said. All the passenger coaches are on the tracks and the derailed coach is an SLR (sitting cum luggage rake) one.

### Maha FDA cancels J&J baby powder licence

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra's Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) has cancelled the baby powder manufacturing licence of Johnson & Johnson Pvt Ltd "in the interest of public health at large." In a release issued Friday, the state government agency said the company's product, Johnson's Baby Powder, may affect the skin of newborn babies. Samples of the powder for babies did not conform to standard pH value during a laboratory test, the regulator said. The release said the action was taken after Kolkata-based Central Drugs Laboratory's conclusive report that concludes "the sample does not conform to IS 5339:2004 with respect to the test for pH." According to the release, FDA had drawn samples of Johnson's Baby Powder from Pune and Nashik for quality check purposes.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



A group of monkeys also came to welcome us. They have warned us to keep away from cows, inter-faith marriage...

WEATHER		BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX	35.1°C	34.6°C
	MIN	27.5°C	27.5°C
Humidity		81%	85%
Rainfall		Trace	Nil
	Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	

## Pickpocket menace hits Bharat Jodo Yatra

Alappuzha DCC president loses ₹5,000 to pickpockets when he was on the forefront to welcome the drive

AGENCIES

**Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 17:** The Alappuzha District Congress Committee (DCC) president Babu Prasad Saturday became poorer by ₹5,000 when his pocket was picked while he was getting ready to receive Rahul Gandhi leading the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Prasad, a former Congress legislator by virtue of being the DCC president was in the forefront to receive the yatra when it entered the Alappuzha district crossing over from Kollam district on Saturday morning.

Incidentally, a similar thing was reported when the Gandhi-led yatra had entered Thiruvananthapuram district from neighbouring Tamil Nadu at Nemom September 12.

It was later identified from close circuit television (CCTV) visuals that there were three pickpockets,



Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kerala

(FILE PHOTO)

**A similar incident had happened when the yatra entered Thiruvananthapuram district from neighbouring Tamil Nadu at Nemom Sept 12**

all from Tamil Nadu.

Now at Alappuzha, the Congress party is trying to see if there are any CCTV visuals.

This yatra has evoked a huge response ever since it entered Kerala border on the 11th of this month. There are close to around 5,000 people in the morning session of the yatra, while in the evening, participation swells to around over 20,000.

Earlier, when the Bharat Jodo Yatra began its Kerala leg September 11 from

Thiruvananthapuram, the party received both bouquets and brickbats for its 19-day stay in the state.

Though Congress leader Rahul Gandhi received a rousing welcome from supporters and party leaders, some in the ruling CPM felt that the grand old party should have focused its energy more on the BJP-ruled states such as Uttar Pradesh or Gujarat instead of spending over two weeks in Kerala, where the saffron party's presence is negligible.

During the Kerala schedule, Rahul is scheduled to travel 450 km, before entering Karnataka September 30, where he will spend 21 days before moving north.

According to the schedule, Rahul will be in Uttar Pradesh for two days, while Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, where elections are scheduled for later this year, will be skipped.

# leisure



## KEANU TO REPRISEROLE IN 'CONSTANTINE' SEQUEL

Hollywood star Keanu Reeves is bringing back his fan-favourite character of John Constantine in the sequel to the blockbuster movie Constantine. According to entertainment news outlet The Hollywood Reporter, the follow-up movie has been green lit by Warner Bros, which had also backed the first part.

## DEMI JOINS HOLLAND, DIANE FOR 'FEUD' SEASON 2

Actress Demi Moore will be seen starring alongside Tom Holland in the second season of 'Feud' which will tell the true story of how Truman Capote was friends with numerous members of New York high society until he published excerpts of his unfinished novel "Answered Prayers".



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 5181\*

#### ARIES

Today you will have an eye for beautiful and outlandish things. There is a possibility that you may even contemplate starting a business related to these things. Ganesha feels, though, that you will not be able to reach any conclusion about it. But you will keep the option open.

#### TAURUS

Logic may be your forte today, but in the game of life, sometimes the heart wins and sometimes the head. Your analytical skills will help you understand things better, in turn, making you wiser. You may feel an urge to spend on music cassettes, CDs and electronic gadgets.

#### GEMINI

Today will be a day filled with energy and enthusiasm. You will have an optimistic view of life and this will help you attain success. You will be able to exercise your free will and take up tasks to your liking. While the day will be busy, it will also be rewarding, says Ganesha.

#### CANCER

Lack of support from family members will disable your efforts. Children also disappoint you. Discord or difference of opinion in family is indicated. Beware of neighbours. Yet, says Ganesha, face circumstances with a smile.

#### LEO

You will be filled with extraordinary self-confidence today. You will be able to take firm decisions when it comes to work related issues. You will not face any difficulties in completing your tasks today, and will achieve success.

#### VIRGO

It is quite possible that you will love financial challenges that are thrown at you, as they whet your appetite for success. You will come up with innovative ideas and improved methods of problem-solving. Ganesha assures you that your current business ideas will work wonders.

#### LIBRA

Trivialities should be the least of your concerns today. Do not let the small things faze you out. Remember that it is the overall picture that matters, and not one small stroke of the brush. Bear this in mind, since you may come under some pressure from subordinates at your workplace. Just remember to consider all possibilities before making any decisions. Also, take time to relax and maybe even meditate. It is the key to finding some peace of mind on this hectic day, reminds Ganesha.

#### SCORPIO

According to Ganesha, you will be soaked in your work today. During the day, you may be loaded with duties and responsibilities, however, evening has a different story to reveal. Exciting as ever, a get away with friends may be liberating and relaxing.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Suddenly, you discover that you are fully dedicated to your family. Kith and kins form the crux of your life, says Ganesha. Showing your love and affection to your kids will give you a feeling of satisfaction. Spend some quality time with your partner!

#### CAPRICORN

Forced to some back-breaking work today, you will feel exhausted by the end of the day. It is a cut-throat competition when it comes to the business world. Your arch rivals are looking out for one small opportunity to damage your business and reputation. But, you are no less.

#### AQUARIUS

You may receive some good news from the foreign shores today. The day will bring on a positive note and it will remain like that for the whole twenty-four hours. You'll be in a mood to merry and it will be transformed to everyone around you, says Ganesha.

#### PISCES

The day will be exceptional for working people as the planets seemed to be aligned perfectly, portends Ganesha. You will achieve all the expected results in the office and/or at work today.

## Kangana talks of 'identity crisis'

**Mumbai:** The Queen actress Kangana Ranaut has spoken about losing herself while getting into the character for a film. Taking to social media, Kangana also talked about how an actor can never go back to being the 'same person, once a character has happened to you'. She also posted two pictures of herself-one in her character, that of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, for her film Emergency and the other from a photoshoot.

In the first picture, Kangana was dressed for Emergency. She had a serious expression on her face as she sat next to a camera. The side profile of the actor was captured in the photo. In the next image, Kangana posed for the camera during a photoshoot. Kangana captioned the post, "Today is a

break day, I don't call it a break I call it a pause day... On such a blank beat you wonder where you lost yourself... You dissolve in the character and find that nothing of you is left in you. You see your own pictures like a stranger and wonder will you ever be the same."

AGENCIES



## Rashmika gorges on Delhi food!

**Delhi:** The favorite Srivalli, Rashmika Mandanna, who was running between the shoot of 'Varisu' and the promotions of 'GoodBye', has been enjoying the delicious food the national capital has to offer.

Recently, Rashmika travelled to Delhi for the promotions of 'GoodBye'. The actress had a great time in the city and shared a picture on her social media with a lot of food on her table. She added a note with the image that said: "When in Dilli..let's hog on-dal makhani, butter chicken, paneer bhurji, seekh kabab, makai di rotti, dahi kabab...Okay I ordered a lot."

As she got ready to depart from Delhi, Rashmika wrote: "Thank you Delhi you were too sweet! Next time, let's go for a momo date."

On the work front, the actress has an interesting line-up with films like 'Pushpa 2', 'Animal', 'Goodbye' under her kitty along with 'Mission Majnu' opposite Sidharth Malhotra, and 'Varisu' with Vijay.

IAN S



## Fatima preps to play Indira Gandhi's role

**Mumbai:** Dangal actress Fatima Sana Shaikh is all set for 'Sam Bahadur' starring Vicky Kaushal in the lead. The actress has started prepping to play the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the upcoming movie. Taking to her social media, Fatima shared a glimpse of how she is preparing for the role of Indira Gandhi. She shared a picture of a book titled 'Indira - The

Life Of Indira Nehru Gandhi'. Fatima captioned the image: "Such an interesting book on her life. Half way through.. would highly recommend it." She also shared a BTS picture of herself sitting in front of the mirror from the sets of the highly anticipated film 'Sam Bahadur' and wrote: "And here we go #SamBahadur".

IAN S



## Shilpa on Working Parent's Day

**Mumbai:** To mark the occasion of Working Parent's Day today Shilpa Shetty Kundra dropped an adorable picture with her family on social media. Shilpa took her Instagram story and shared a picture featuring her Husband Raj Kundra, and her kids- Viaan and Samisha.

Along with the photo she wrote, "Our parents were working when we were younger... they rarely had this luxury. But, every day that I can spend quality time with my kids, despite all my commitments - is a boon for me. It fills my heart with gratitude to

be able to become a kid again with them. Here's to celebrating every parent who is working towards giving their children a better life... Financially, emotionally, physically, and mentally. Make sure to give your parents a tight hug today!"

AGENCIES



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

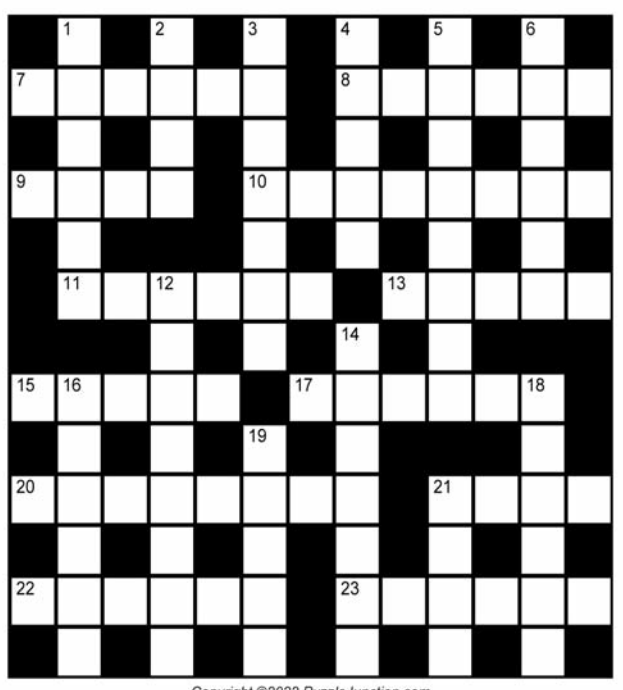


### BREVITY



### FUN post

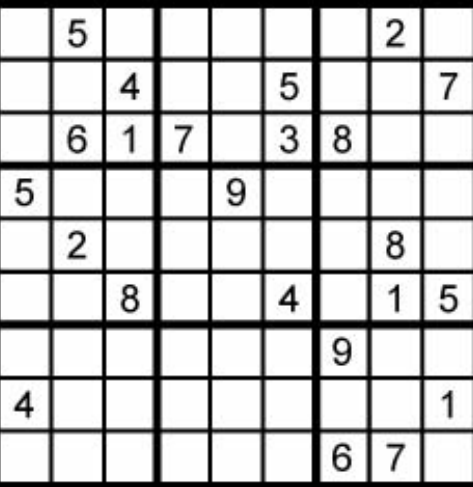
### CROSSWORD



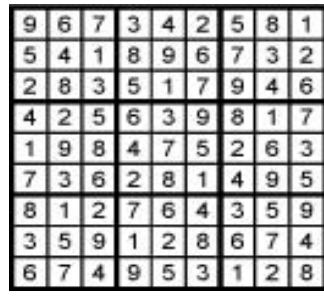
- Across**
- 7 Highly seasoned fatty sausage
  - 8 Gossip monger's output
  - 9 Transmit
  - 10 Dangerous drivers
  - 11 Term of office
  - 13 Guide
  - 15 Alarming
  - 17 Toxicant
  - 20 Merchant
  - 21 Bank posting
  - 22 Blink of an eye
  - 23 Wish
- Down**
- 1 Bemoan
  - 2 Motel employee
  - 3 Collection of books
  - 4 Keyboard instrument
  - 5 Stress
  - 6 Australian parakeet
  - 12 Storyteller
  - 14 Street machines (3,4)
  - 16 Ingenious
  - 18 The physical world
  - 19 Playground equipment
  - 21 Deceptive maneuver

### 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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## Rijiju for time-bound disposal of cases

AS OF JULY 31, 2022, A TOTAL OF 896 FTCS HAVE BECOME OPERATIONAL IN 24 STATES/UTS IN WHICH 13,18,427 CASES ARE PENDING

AN ANALYSIS REVEALS THAT WHILE 88,000 NEW CASES ARE REGISTERED MONTHLY, ONLY AROUND 35,000 OF THEM ARE DISPOSED OF, LEADING TO AN EVER-INCREASING PENDENCY OF CASES

AS OF JULY 31, 2022, 731 FTSCS WITH 412 EXCLUSIVE POCOS COURTS ARE OPERATIONAL IN 28 STATES/UTS WHICH HAVE DISPOSED OF A CUMULATIVE 1,08,702 CASES, WITH 10,000 NEW CASES BEING REGISTERED MONTHLY WITH DISPOSAL OF ONLY 6,000



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 17:** Expressing concern over the pendency of cases in Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) of the state, Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju has urged Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar to take steps for their time-bound disposal, an official said Saturday.

According to sources, FTCS are setup by the state government for trial of cases related to heinous crimes, crimes against women, children and senior citizen, while the FTSCs are setup under Centrally-Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for expeditious trial of cases relating to rape and POCOS Act.

Rijiju said that the 14th Finance Commission, with the increased share of devolution of funds, rec-

ommended setting up of 1,800 FTCS by the state governments. As of July 31, 2022, as many as 896 FTCS have become operational in 24 states/UTs in which 13,18,427 cases are pending.

Analysis reveals that while 88,000 new cases are registered monthly, around 35,000 of them are disposed of, leading to an ever-increasing pendency of cases, he pointed out.

The Department of Justice had started a CSS in October 2019 for the expeditious disposal of cases related to rape and POCOS Act by setting up of 1,023 FTSCs, including 389 exclusive POCOS courts, based on the then pendency of cases.

Accordingly, as of July 31, 2022, 731 FTSCs, with 412 exclusive POCOS courts, are operational in 28 states/UTs which have disposed of a cumulative 1,08,702 cases. It shows that monthly 10,000 new

cases are registered while disposal is 6,000 and hence pendency is continuously increasing, the Minister pointed out.

As of July, 2022, total pendency of rape and POCOS Act cases is more than 3,28,000 which is an alarming situation.

In Odisha, 19,214 such cases are pending in the courts. In July alone, 504 new cases were registered and 487 cases were disposed of.

The government of India has been allocating sufficient funds in budget every year for the FTSC scheme and the department of Justice has been repeatedly following up with the state governments and the High Courts for availing the allocated funds and its timely utilisation.

However, in many states, the pre-requisite compliances for the release of CSS funds under the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) are not fully complete or are partially complete leading to under utilisation of the allocated budget, he said.

"As the safety and security of our women, children and other marginalised categories are of paramount concern, the need for robust functioning of the FTCS and FTSCs becomes highly imperative," said the Union Law Minister.

Amid huge pendency of cases, he urged the Chief Justice to open the remaining FTCS in Odisha with due consultation of the state government.

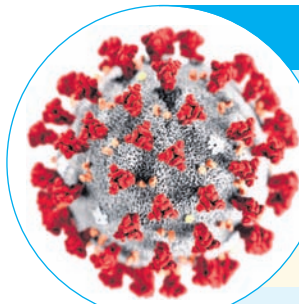
As per the CSS of FTSCs, the remaining number of courts could be set up and operationalised on priority basis, stated Rijiju.

He also suggested setting up a strict monitoring mechanism for the time-bound disposal of cases by the FTCS/FTSCs.



### MAHATMA'S MONKEYS

Schoolkids mimic Mahatma Gandhi's three monkeys during an exhibition at Odisha State Museum in Bhubaneswar, Saturday



### COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,67,87,861	59,61,52,855	65,29,719
India	4,45,25,937	4,39,53,374	5,28,302
Odisha	13,31,586	13,20,945	9,186



**9TH CONVOCATION:** CJI U Lalit speaks at the ninth convocation of National Law University Odisha in Cuttack in presence of Orissa High Court CJ S Muralidhar, and SC judges MR Shah and DY Chandrachud, Saturday. (Bottom) Students at the convocation

## Devote time to legal aid work: CJI to law graduates

PNN & AGENCIES

**Cuttack, Sept 17:** Chief Justice of India Uday Umesh Lalit urged law graduates Saturday to devote their time and energy to legal-aid work.

Speaking at the ninth convocation of National Law University Odisha here, Lalit called upon the graduates to have absolute passion for the profession and show compassion for people of the country.

The CJI said that during his association with the National Legal



**History of every society, every country shows that legally-trained minds have been beacons, path breakers and centres of attraction when it comes to raising voice against any kind of injustice**

U U LALIT | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

Services Authority for over a year, he observed that the legal aid work in the country faced neglect at times. Lalit did not elaborate further, but urged the young graduates to devote their time and energy to legal aid work.

"Hereafter, the society will be

looking forward to your contributions at every juncture," the CJI told the law students.

He stated that the profession of law has been one of the frontrunners when it comes to keeping civil rights intact.

"History of every society, every

country shows that legally-trained minds have been beacons, path breakers and centres of attraction when it comes to raising voice against any kind of injustice," Lalit said.

"Even many freedom fighters and founding fathers of the Constituent Assembly were from your profession," the CJI said.

He added that they were the ones who tried to shape the destiny of the country. A total of 221 graduates were awarded degrees on the occasion.

## Post-ICU rehabilitation project unveiled at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 17:** In a bid to reduce the number of fatalities among patients discharged from ICUs, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here has launched a rehabilitation project for such people who had undergone tracheostomy in the intensive care unit.

The project was launched after reports poured in from different corners of the state that many patients, mostly those recovered from Covid-19, died at home after being discharged from hospital ICUs, an official said.

Tracheostomy is an opening created at the front of the neck so that a tube can be inserted into the windpipe (trachea) to help a patient breathe. If necessary, the tube can be connected to an oxygen supply and a breathing machine called a ventilator, it was learnt.

The AIIMS, Bhubaneswar has set up a panel of doctors to suggest and

guide the ICU-discharged patients and their attendants on how to take care of the patients. As many as 200 such patients have so far been roped in for availing the post-ICU rehabilitation facilities.

The event, titled '200 and Growing', witnessed healthcare workers, doctors, nurses, rehabilitated patients and their family members come together on one platform to share stories, said Alok Sahoo.

He said the aim was to enhance awareness among the various stakeholders to widen the reach of such rehabilitation projects.

They discussed key parameters that ensure successful rehabilitation, such as the training at bedside and home follow-up.

AIIMS, Bhubaneswar executive director Ashutosh Biswas interacted directly with the patients and some of their families who shared their experiences.

The NHM, Odisha, has funded this innovation project.

## STA to launch weeklong drive against overloading of vehicles

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 17:** The State Transport Authority (STA) will launch a weeklong drive beginning September 19 against overloading of vehicles throughout Odisha, an official said Saturday.

Joint Transport Commissioner (Road Safety) Sanjay Biswal said that the drive that will begin September 19 and conclude 25 will be extensively carried out across the state with special focus in regions having industrial and mining activities.

"Overloading by goods carriers has grave implications on the safety of road users and the durability of roads. In regions having industrial and mining activities, many goods vehicles could be found plying in brazen violation of Motor Vehicle (MV) rules," said Biswal.

Biswal added that the enforcement drive will be carried out with special focus on Rayagada, Bolangir,



Bargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Dhenkanal, Angul, Cuttack, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Balasore, Bhadrak and Khurda.

According to the MV Amendment Act, 2019, the violators will be penalised under Section 194 (1). Overloading of vehicles would attract a penalty of Rs 20,000 and additional fine of Rs 2,000 per excessive tonne. Moreover, the Driving Licence (DL) may be suspended for three months.

Acting tough on overloading of vehicles, the STA had issued 83 e-Challans, seized 25 vehicles and

suspended as many as 81 DLs. A compounding fee of Rs 3,69,461 has also been collected from the violators, said an STA official.

According to data available with the STA, the state recorded 1,442 road mishaps due to overloading vehicles in 2021. While 673 road users were killed in the mishaps, 834 were grievously injured.

The safety implications of overloading include weak braking power and damage to the vehicle. It also causes more air pollution since the engine has to carry much more load.

## State braces for heavy rain next week

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 17:** The Met office here Saturday warned of heavy rain in the state over the next four days due to the likely formation of a low pressure area over Bay of Bengal.

A cyclonic circulation has formed over the east-central Bay of Bengal in the morning. Under its influence, a low-pressure area is set to take shape over the north-west part of the embayment around Tuesday, according to a bulletin by the Met office.

Fisherfolk have been directed not to go into the deep-sea areas Tuesday.

They have also been told to avoid venturing off the Odisha coast for the subsequent two days due to possible squally weather with gusty wind speed of 45-55 kmph.

The weatherman predicted heavy rain in a few areas across Cuttack, Khurda, Puri, Jagatsinghpur,



Ganjam, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kendrapara and Kandhamal districts on Sunday.

The Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre issued a yellow alert of heavy showers of 65-115 mm across coastal and southern Odisha on Monday.

It forecast torrential rain of 116-204 mm in many districts on Tuesday and Wednesday.

## PURI SET FOR EXHILARATING AEROBATIC DISPLAY TODAY

PNN & AGENCIES

**Puri, Sept 17:** If the rehearsal is a teaser, then tens of thousands of tourists at the Puri sea beach in Odisha are set to witness a breathtaking show by the aerobatic team of the Indian Air Force (IAF) Sunday.

A fleet of the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team conducted the dress rehearsal over the sea in Puri Saturday. The Suryakiran (sunrays) will conduct the air display near the Raj Bhavan.

The event, organised by the Eastern Air Command to commemorate the 75 years of India's Independence, was held over the Kuakhai river bank in Bhubaneswar Friday.

The show in Puri has the potential to be much better as the aircraft will be able to fly at a significantly lower height over the sea.

But rain can play a spoilsport as



Suryakiran Aerobatic Team performs dress rehearsal in Puri, Saturday

the Met office has forecasted heavy showers Sunday. The IAF had held an air show in

Cuttack in 2016 to mark the birth centenary of former chief minister Biju Patnaik.

## 'Russia museum' at Jharpada to attract visitors

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 17:** Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19, Durga puja celebrations in the city have been low-key in the last two years. This year with the fear of disease slowly fading, the festive spirit will certainly go up a few notches as community Durga pujas will be conducted without any Covid-19 restrictions.

The city will have 178 Durga puja pandals this year. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor Sulochana Das informed during a preparatory meeting at the civic body's office here, recently.

Getting the assurance that there will not be any restrictions, the various committees in the city are preparing to celebrate Durga puja in a grand manner. The recently-concluded Ganesh Puja festivities indicates that pandals will witness heavy footfalls during the Durga puja and the organisers and police are gearing up to meet the challenge.

The organisers are also having



regular brain-storming sessions to give a unique look to their pandals and to spring a surprise to the visitors.

In that race for novelty and grandiloquence, the Jharpada Durga puja committee has come up with the idea of recreating the famous Russia's State Hermitage Museum as the theme for the pandal.

In a press meet Friday, Jharpada Durga puja committee general sec-

retary Dharanidhar Jena said that for the last two years people have not been able to celebrate the occasion with happiness and festivity due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, this year we are hoping to celebrate Durga puja festival in grand manner, Jena added.

Jena informed that more than 50 people from Kolkata have come to construct the pandal which will be 50 feet in height and 150 feet in width. Work has been going on for

the last one month and the structure will be completed by September 28. The idol will have a height of 12 feet and is being currently built in Cuttack.

The State Hermitage Museum is located in Russia's St Petersburg. It is the largest art museum in terms of space. It was founded in 1764 when Empress Catherine the Great acquired an impressive collection of paintings from Berlin merchant Johann Ernst Gotzkowsky. The 'Art' newspaper has ranked the museum sixth in their list of the most visited art galleries, with 16,49,443 visitors in 2021.

Earlier, BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange said that discussions have been held to conduct a hassle-free puja. "We will coordinate with all puja committees in order to ensure cleanliness around the pandal. Drinking water and toilet facilities will have to be set up at all puja pandals. Each committee has been asked to appoint a nodal person who will be responsible for the arrangements," Kulange said.

CJI launches 34 ...

Continued from P1  
"Paperless courts will also save precious time for lawyers, who may soon find themselves burning less midnight oil stitching together paper-books and preparing volumes upon volumes of annexures," he said adding that paperless courts are environmentally sustainable because they will (as their name suggests) reduce the consumption of paper.  
Justice Chandrachud said that it is estimated that the Indian legal system is responsible for the use of millions, if not billions, of sheets of paper in any given year. "Inauguration of paperless courts in Odisha will certainly go a long way in ensuring that this number is reduced. All the advantages that I have listed are doubly beneficial in the context of the District Courts because it is there that a lion's share of the country's litigation takes place.  
"In a lighter vein, the only disadvantage of paperless courts is that young lawyers will be deprived of the daily workout or exercise that comes with carrying voluminous paper books. We may witness a rise in the number of gym subscriptions in Odisha after the inauguration of paperless courts," he said.  
Justice Chandrachud said it is imperative to recognize the existence of the digital divide and take steps to bridge this gap.  
"We must and will ensure that the digitisation of the court process does not disadvantage the common citizens in any way. E-Sewa Kendras are being set up in the High Courts and in one District Court in each state to assist lawyers and litigants with various e-processes and we intend to ensure that within a period of one year, every single court establishment will have an e-Sewa Kendra...  
"It is true that many of us may be unfamiliar with the use of technology and therefore uncomfortable with using it in court proceedings. As a former member of that group, I am happy to report that familiarizing oneself with technology is not as difficult as it may initially seem," he said.  
Justice Chandrachud said while courts across the nation quickly and efficiently adapted to what we have come to term as "the new normal", it is important to remember that reactive policy-making rarely results in the development of sustainable and bankable solutions.  
Therefore, courts at all levels must build digital capabilities that are scalable, stable and designed for use by lay persons and lawyers, he said.

# Seized ganja over 32 quintal destroyed

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 17:** The state police including the Special Task Force (STF) of Crime Branch have disposed off seized cannabis weighing 3270 kg before the completion of the trial in the current month. The destroyed contrabands were seized from the possession of drug peddlers held in 11 cases registered by STF sleuths under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 during the last couple of years.

The drugs were destroyed at the designated incinerators following all due procedure as per the decision of the Drug Disposal Committees of Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Angul and Koraput districts.

"The STF has already destroyed/disposed of more than 8.5 Kg Brown Sugar as per Sec.52 A of NDPS Act, 1985 in the month of June. It is further worthwhile to mention here that many other cases are under process (both at STF

**The drugs were destroyed at the designated incinerators following all due procedure as per the decision of the Drug Disposal Committees**

and district police level) for disposal/ destruction. It is expected that most of the seized drugs will be destroyed within 3-6 months," STF mentioned in the press note.

Notably, the Supreme Court of India in 2016 had directed the authorities to destroy the seized drugs, even in cases in which the proceedings are still pending before the concerned courts. Subsequently, the Orissa high court while hearing a plea by STF issued a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and directed the Sub-ordinate courts to dispose off the applications filed under sections Sec.52A of NDPS Act, 1985 for the destruction of the seized contraband.



An excavator demolishing an illegally constructed house belonging to drug peddler and murder accused Ranju Naik in Unit-VIII area of Bhubaneswar, Saturday

## Kalyani, Sreyansh shine at 9th NLEPC



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 17:** In the recently concluded 9th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC), two students from the state were felicitated for their best performance. Kalyani Sahoo, a class X student of Deoli Nodal High School in Murhapalli block of Bargarh district and Sreyansh Vikas Mishra, a student of SAI International School, Bhubaneswar were conferred with the prestigious award for their innovative



project.

Kalyani was awarded for her innovative project on building Hit-tech bed meant for patients and elderly people. The bed can be easily operated and has the provision of an automatic basin. The bed can be operated with the help of LDR sensors in case of power outage. This innovation is targeted to help the elderly and the patients in hospitals. A science geek, Kalyani has a keen fondness for the advances of Earth Sciences.

Similarly, Shreyansh Vikas

Mishra's project was novel ergonomics for neck, an easy and affordable solution for neck discomfort. This device will reduce the strain, fatigue, and injuries by improving and providing much needed support to various neck and spine muscle spasm and pain. The device aims to help those who are forced to sit for long hours at work.

A total of 556 students across the country participated in the event to showcase their innovative projects.

The 9th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC) of INSPIRE Awards-MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge) was inaugurated at ITPO, Delhi, September 15.

The NLEPC is an important milestone under the annual INSPIRE Awards-MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge), a flagship scheme jointly implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), government of India, and the National Innovation Foundation-India, an autonomous body of the DST.

## ₹140cr Subarnarekha bridge soon to link Jaleswar, Raibania

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jaleswar, Sept 17:** A bridge project has been proposed across Subarnarekha river near Gobaraghata-Dakhina Praharajur to provide direct communication link between Jaleswar and Raibania in Balasore. The ambitious project has been pending for years since the Inland Waterway Authority of India had not yet approved the project.

Meanwhile, Inland Waterways Authority of India has given its stamp of approval to the project. The district Collector held an on-the-spot review of the status of the project, Friday.

Reports said, Subarnarekha river is a hurdle in communication between Jaleswar and Raibania, as there is no bridge across the river. People in scores of villages on both sides of the river have been suffering from commuting woes for years.

Taking note of the problem,



Minister Ashwini Patra had earlier urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for construction of a bridge across the river at Gobaraghata-Dakhina Praharajur.

"A 660-metre-long bridge along with 2.5 km approach road would be constructed at the place at a cost of Rs 140 crore. The fund has been sanctioned for the project," said Collector Dattatraya Bhausaheb.

The Collector has directed Jaleswar tehsildar Smrutiranjan Mallick to take steps for acquisition of 4.5 acre of land on the

Gobaraghata side and 9.5 acre on the Dakhina Praharajur side within 15 days. Official sources said, with the construction of the bridge, direct communication between Jaleswar and Raibania will be facilitated.

The Collector has also directed superintending engineer Alok Mohanty to start construction of the bridge before summer. It was learnt that the road coming from the bridge will be connected with the National Highway at Lakhmanath gate.

## 'Have nutri-gardens in homestead area'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 17:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra-Khurda, ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), Bhubaneswar in collaboration with IFFCO, Bhubaneswar conducted a national campaign on Poshan Abhiyaan and a tree plantation programme Saturday.

Poshan Abhiyaan is a flagship programme of the government of India aimed to improve the nutritional status of people of all

age groups and eradicate malnutrition from the society.

A massive plantation drive was conducted at the KVK campus which was inaugurated by Saroj Kumar Swain, director, ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar. Other senior officers, staff, officers of IFFCO and farmers also participated in the campaign. Some 50 fruit plant saplings of improved varieties of mango, areca nut and coconut were planted in the KVK farm.

In the Inaugural address Swain

advised the participants to make nutri-garden in their homestead area for nutritional security of the family members. He also encouraged the participants to consume nutricereals in their diet for better health because of its nutritional and health benefits.

SK Chatterjee, state marketing manager, IFFCO, Bhubaneswar praised the various activities carried out by KVK-Khurda for the socio-economic progress of the farming community. He briefed about the dif-

ferent products (Nano Fertilizer, Seaweed extract) promoted by IFFCO for enhancement of crop production and productivity.

AK Dash, senior scientist and head, KVK-Khurda highlighted KVK's activities and informed the participants about the aim and objectives of the programme. All participants attended the live telecast programme of Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, government of India.

## Decision on Ratna Bhandar reopening September 27

**Puri:** The Srimandir managing committee is likely to take a call on reopening of Ratna Bhandar in its meeting scheduled to be held September 27 this year, said Orissa High Court-appointed amicus curie Nagendra Kumar Mohanty, Saturday. "The Srimandir managing committee will meet September 27 and take a call on Ratna Bhandar reopening. Accordingly, the state government will take a final call in this regard," Mohanty said.

## Lightning strike kills man, hurts 3

**Baripada:** One person was killed and three others sustained severe burn injuries in a lightning strike during a football match in Mayurbhanj district Saturday, police said. The incident took place at Rajabasa playground in Baripada Town Police Station area. The deceased, identified as 30-year-old Ashok Murmu, and those injured were spectators of the

## SOA holds workshop on flower arrangement

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 17:** Beautifully arranged flowers were the cynosure of all eyes at the School of Hotel Management, SOA's faculty of hospitality and tourism management here, as the institute organised a workshop on 'Art of Flower Arrangement' Saturday.

"The presence of vibrant flowers can trigger happy emotions and can instantly affect our mood. Flowers can heighten the happiness in our lives, beautify our surroundings and infuse a sense of serenity around us," Sapan Kumar Sadhual, dean in-charge of the institute said while addressing the participants.

Focusing on the importance of flowers in Indian culture, Sadhual said flowers represented the country's unity in diversity.

Smita Sucharita Mahapatra, head of department, Rooms Division, said flower arrangements have the ability to induce



a personal touch in an otherwise impersonal hotel room or lobby. Guests appreciate flowers for the freshness they infuse into the surroundings, she said adding arrangements could be composed only with flowers or with the addition of foliage, fruits and vegetables.

Tarun Gour, a florist from 'Ferns and Petals' who was the resource person, spoke about the various tools used in flower arrangement and demonstrated more than ten different types of such arrangements including Triangular flower arrangement, Basket flower arrangement, Ikebana, Vase arrangement, Bud Vase display, Crescent arrangement and Cascade arrangement.



Vishwakarma Puja at East Coast Railway Carriage Repair Workshop in Mancheswar area of Bhubaneswar, Saturday

football match, a police officer said.

## Digvijay, Jairam on 2-day state visit

**Bhubaneswar:** Senior Congress leaders Digvijay Singh and Jairam Ramesh reached the Capital city on a two-day visit to Odisha Saturday. They are scheduled to hold discussion with state party leaders on the preparations for the party's Bharat Jodo Yatra's Odisha chapter. Apart from meeting Odisha

Pradesh Congress Committee office bearers, they will hold a press conference here Sunday.



**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri-Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

# SEIAA norms thrown to winds in Keonjhar

SPCB ISSUES SHOW CAUSE TO STONE CRUSHING UNIT



A stone crushing unit, two coal tar plants have been operating close to the lease area in Dhenkikote of Keonjhar district, triggering air and water pollution

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Sept 17:** The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has laid guidelines that no stone crushing unit will function within a five-km perimeter of the lease area limits. But this norm has been openly flouted at Khantaghar under Dhenkikote revenue circle in Keonjhar district as a stone crushing unit and two coal tar plants have been running near a stone quarry.

These units operating in close proximity of the stone mine are allegedly triggering air and water pollution in the area, leaving the locals suffocated and fuming.

Local people have sought to know how the Revenue department and the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) could turn a blind

eye to such blatant violation of anti-pollution norms and urged the administration to look into the problem and take steps.

Meanwhile, it was learnt that the OSPCB has issued a show cause notice to the company September 9, 2022.

Reports said, the stone quarry has been leased out at Khajurijuan near Khantaghar to meet the raw material requirement for ongoing expansion of NH-20. The stone crushing unit has been operating for some years within the lease area. This is an illegal unit set up by Shivam Condev Pvt Ltd as it has not obtained sitting criteria certificate from the authorities concerned. Moreover, the unit has not obtained consent-to-operation (CTO) from the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB). Locals have demanded an investi-

gation into all such violations committed by the stone crushing unit.

Beside, the unit has been set up on 2.90 acre belonging to some tribals, locals pointed out. Two coal tar units have been functioning in the peripheral area. The administration has not granted permission for the coal tar plants.

The officials are not measuring quantities of stone being extracted from the mine and stones being crushed with crusher on a daily basis. Locals alleged that as the stone crushing unit and coal tar units are near a reserve forest, pollutant fumes and dust particles are flouting the environment. "Water and air are getting polluted from dust particles and black smoke. Movement of wildlife in the area has been severely affected by pollution, lights and noise of the crusher unit," said some conscious citizens.

"Due to excessive illegal stone mining and crushing, the state government is incurring huge revenue losses. The administration should look into these aspects," locals said, demanding closure of the coal tar units.

Contacted, manager of ARSS construction agency Nihar Das said that there has been no violation in setting up of the stone crushing unit. The manager of the stone crushing unit was contacted over phone, but he did not pick it up.

Regional officer of the OSPCB, Prashant Kar said that a complaint in this regard was received and legal action will be taken only after a probe.



Women together observed Pua Jiuntia, an age-old ritual, praying for the well-being of their children, in Sambalpur

OP PHOTO

## Pangolin rescued; 8 held in Malkangiri dist

**Malkangiri:** Forest officials Saturday rescued a pangolin at Poteru under Kalimela forest range in Malkangiri district. They also arrested eight people involved in the suspected smuggling of the endangered reptile. Reports said, forest officials got a tip-off about some people trying to strike a deal for a pangolin at Kankagurukonda creek along the Malkangiri-Kalimela road. Forest officials immediately raided the area and arrested eight people at the spot and rescued the reptile. Forest officials said that the rescued pangolin is approximately valued at ₹1.20 crore in the international market. Two of the arrested belong to West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh while the rest are from Malkangiri.

## JOB FRAUD IN GAJAPATI

### 4 pose as Navy officers, dupe men of ₹11L; held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Paralakhemundi, Sept 17:** Police arrested four people on charges of duping nearly ₹11 lakh from several people on the pretext of providing jobs in the Indian Navy in Paralakhemundi area of Gajapati district, Saturday. The arrested persons have been identified as R Vinod Kumar, B Rakesh, K Srikant and K Sushant of Jagannathpur village under Gunupur police limits of Rayagada district.

According to information, the accused persons had taken ₹5 lakh from one Asish Pradhan of Santi Nagar near Paralakhemundi railway station promising him a job in Indian Navy. However, even after two years, Asish did not get any job. Following that, he asked the four to return his money soon. When



he felt that the people were avoiding him, Asish informed police about the incident.

Following a complaint lodged by Asish, Paralakhemundi SP Jayram Satpathy said, "The four fraudsters have duped nearly ₹11 lakh from several people on the pretext of providing jobs. Police have seized naval officer uniforms, batches from their possession. The fraudsters were using the outfits to establish confidence among people."

## Man injured in croc attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kendrapara, Sept 17:** A 45-year-old man was critically injured as an estuarine crocodile pounced upon him in Kendrapara district Saturday, the third such incident over the past month, an official said.

Babrubagan Swain was taking a bath in the Brahmani river at Nimapur village in Pattamundai block when the incident occurred. The reptile tried to drag the victim into the deep water, but the locals managed to rescue him.

Swain is undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital with multiple wounds. He is stated to be out of danger.

The areas close to the Bhitarkanika National Park are presently encountering man-animal conflict. Human interference in their habitation corridors turns the animals violent.

Forest personnel, however, are of the view that people are exposing themselves by venturing into croc-infested water bodies and disregarding the precautionary warnings.

## SEIZURE OF ₹58L CASH IN BOLANGIR

### Police in a spot for hiding facts

SP ORDERS PROBE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bolangir, Sept 17:** Police were caught on the wrong foot over the arrest of seven persons from outside the state and seizure of ₹58 lakh cash from their possession during a raid at Annapurna lodge in Kantabanji town of this district.

The seizure, instead of bringing praises, has put the district police in a tight spot as they were accused of lying and hiding facts about the cash seizure and true identities of the arrested.

After reports surfaced, SP Nitin Kushalkar Saturday admitted to irregularities in the seizure of the money. He said that he has asked the additional SP to conduct an investigation into the case, Sunday. He said that every loose end will be probed before submission of the



final report to the higher authorities and appropriate action will be taken against the concerned officials.

Reports said that a team of Kantabanji police conducted a raid at Annapurna lodge at Parshuram Chowk in the town and arrested seven persons belonging to other states and seized ₹58 lakh cash from their possession on charge of gam-

bling. However, doubts were raised that the total money seized could be much more than the stated amount. Besides, it was suspected that the arrested persons were labour contractors who had assembled in the lodge to hire locals as migrant labourers after Nuakhai festival, given the fact that Kantabanji is migration prone area in the district.

## WARDING OFF MAN-JUMBO CONFLICT

# Forest dept sends SMS alerts to villagers

People in forested pockets of Keonjhar are now receiving voice and text messages in advance about arrival of elephant herds

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Sept 17:** As elephants are often headed for human settlements, the Forest department has taken a host of measures to ward off man-animal conflict in the mineral rich Keonjhar district.

Adding another initiative to its measures galore, it will alert people through voice and text messages to them about presence of elephants in and around their villages.

People in forested pockets of Keonjhar are now receiving voice and text messages on

their mobile phones in advance about arrival of elephant herds. As a result, people are taking precautionary steps like avoiding venturing out into the forests at the time of elephants' arrival.

However, such step is found to be ineffective in the areas lacking mobile network and electricity facilities. In that case, Forest officials are alerting people through public address systems.

Elephant squads have been



mobilised in different areas and they have Saturday tracked movement of 137 elephants split into 14 herds. These squad members while keeping track of the animals send SMSes to people living in the areas the animals are headed for. The Forest department has made a data base of phone numbers of people living in the areas that

are frequented by elephant herds.

Besides, local sarpanchs, other people's representatives, ZP members, MLAs, BDOs and tehsildars are alerted in this regard through SMSes.

DFO HD Dhanraj said that elephant menace is concern of everybody and there is need for cooperation at all levels to sort out the issue.

## Betanoti bears brunt of elephant mayhem

**BETANOTI:** There is no let-up in elephant menace in Betanoti area of Mayurbhanj district. For last several days, people of Kuradika, Chahalapada, Jamshuli and the nearby villages have been spending sleepless nights as a herd of 21 elephants continued their damaging spree.

Thursday, the animals damaged crops in acres of land around Kuradika village. Two days ago, a herd of elephants strayed out of Jharkhand forests and joined the herds from Similipal sanctuary.

These elephants have been damaging paddy in large tracts of farmland in Saitapur and Chanchipada panchayats



under Baisinga police limits. Worried farmers said that earlier, the animals used to

invade farmlands in the last week of November or first week of December every year

when paddy ripens. But this year, these animals have started coming earlier and damaged saplings. Scores of farmers of Kuradika and other villages have lost their paddy to the marauding elephants.

The relentless jumbo menace has left the farmers worried. They said though the Forest department pays damages; the amount paid is too meager to compensate for their losses. Villagers demanded immediate survey of the crop loss and right amount of compensation. They also observed that the department should take effective steps to contain the mayhem.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
Tel Irrigation Division, Sonepur  
E-mail: eetilriddign@gmail.com

**E-procurement Notice No.-EE, TID, SNP-05/2022-23**  
No A-511- The Executive Engineer, Tel Irrigation Division, Sonepur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites online Percentage rate tenders in single cover system to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed below.

1	Name of the work	Flood Protection Embankment & Canal Structure Works
2	No. of works	08 Nos
3	Class of contractor	'B', 'C' & 'D' Class (Odisha PWD or relevant class of other licencing authority)
4	Bid Identification No.	EE, TID, SNP-05/2022-23
5	Estimated cost	Varies from Rs.8.88 lakhs to Rs.47.55 lakhs
6	Period of completion	As per mentioned in NIT
7	Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal	From 19.09.2022 (10.00 A.M.) to 29.09.2022 (05.30 P.M.)
8	Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal	In portal 29.09.2022 from 10.00 A.M. upto 05.30 P.M.
9	Date of opening of bid	On date 30.09.2022 (11.00 A.M. onwards in the office of the undersigned)
10	Name of the officer inviting bid	Executive Engineer, Tel Irrigation Division, Sonepur (Dist.-Subarnapur)

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

**Sd./- Executive Engineer**  
Tel Irrigation Division, Sonepur  
OIPR-32362/11/0002/2223

**Bank of India**  
Bhadrak BRANCH, At: Apartibindha,  
Taxi Stand, P.S.: Bhadrak, Odisha - 756100

**APPENDIX - F**  
**POSSESSION NOTICE**  
[See rule-8(1)]  
Dated: 16.09.2022

Ref: BDK/MP/SARFAESI/2022-23/01  
Whereas  
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 23.06.2022 calling upon the Borrowers **Sri Sarat Kumar Jena & Mrs. Bhanumati Jena** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.10,76,923.96/- (Rupees Ten lakhs seventy six thousand nine hundred twenty three rupees and ninety six paise only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/co-borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 of the said rules on this **16th day of September, 2022**.

The borrower/co-borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India, Bhadrak Branch for an amount Rs.10,76,923.96/- (as on NPA date) and interest thereon. The borrower/s/guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

All the part and parcel of Land and Building situated at Mouza: Dolasahi over Khata No. 840/424, Plot No. 929/3036, At/P.O.: dolasahi, Tahasil/SRO: Tihidi, Dist.: Bhadrak standing in the name of Sri Sarat Kumar Jena, S/o. Baidhar Jena admeasuring Ac. 0.040 dec.

**Bounded:**  
North : Road  
South: Plot No. 927 & 928  
East : Shiv Prasad Malick  
West: Vendor

**Date: 16.09.2022**  
**Place: Bhadrak**

**Sd./- (Manas Ranjan Panigrahi)**  
Chief Manager  
Authorized Officer, Bank of India

**“** Detachment is the beginning of mastery.  
**”**  
SRI AUROBINDO



## South Asia Club

We like to think India is in some way different from the rest of South Asia but really we are not. On the meaningful indicators there is little to separate Indians from Bangladeshis or Pakistanis. For instance, our per capita income is quite similar. In 2021, the three nations had an income per person of \$2503 for Bangladesh, \$2277 for India and \$1537 for Pakistan. For comparison, Kenya was at \$2006 and South Africa at \$6900. Now look at China (\$12556), South Korea (\$34757) and Japan (\$39285). They are clearly in a different league from us while we in South Asia are clubbed together.

Let us take human development indicators. The United Nations describes its Human Development Index as a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living. The health dimension is assessed by life expectancy at birth, the education dimension is measured by mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more and expected years of schooling for children of school entering age. The standard of living dimension is measured by gross national income per capita.

In 1990, meaning 32 years ago, Bangladesh's life expectancy at birth was 56 years and mean years of schooling 3.3 years. Pakistan's was 60 years and 2.3 years, while India's was 58 years and 2.8 years. In 2021, this has become 72 years and 7.4 years for Bangladesh, 67 years and 6.7 years of schooling for India and 66 years and 4.5 years for Pakistan. Nepal at 68 years and 5.1 years, and Sri Lanka 76 years and 10.8 years can be seen for comparison. The world average was 72 years of life expectancy at birth and 8.6 years of schooling, meaning that with the exception of Sri Lanka, all South Asian nations are below the world average.

In 1990 China was 68 years and 4.1 years of schooling. Today it is 78 years and 7.6 years, and it is the average income that takes China over the world average for their HDI.

To the outsider looking at such things, it will not seem like India is different from Pakistan or Bangladesh. Confronted with the hard data we would have to agree with them, even if we may have some philosophical idea of difference. If we accept we are similar if not same then we must turn to why it is that we have not been able to grow faster and make lives better for our people since 1947. Is it, as is often assumed, the "system" that is the problem? Again, here if we examine the history of South Asia we find that in the 75 years we have experimented with every possible type of system but we remain poor and clubbed together.

We have dabbled in parliamentary democracy that has been dominated by one party (India under Congress and under BJP since 2014), that has been comprised of various factions (1979, then 1989, 1998 and under Vajpayee), and that has derailed itself with authoritarianism (1975-77). We have tried military dictatorships (Pakistan in the 1960s, 1980s, 2000s and Bangladesh in the 1970s and 1980s). We have tried dynastic democracy (Gandhis, Bhuttos, Mujib-Hasina, Zia-Khaleida), we have tried "merit" democratic leaders (Morarji, Shastri, Vajpayee, Sharif, Modi, Gujral, Gowda). We have tried managing the economy through central planning (India in the 1950s and 1960s), through license raj, through "liberalisation". We have returned to the same things we were doing before (import substitution in India in the 1970s and today). We have created sectors where we are leaders (India 30 years ago in IT/BPO and Bangladesh today in garments). We have developed nuclear weapons, we have spent large sums on our militaries. Pakistan sends 17% of its government spending to the army, India and Bangladesh send 9%. We have tried to be strong, we have tried to be defiant. We have joined Western alliances (Pakistan in the 1960s), we have remained non-aligned (India in the 1950s) and we have tried a patchwork of things in between. But the end result is the numbers we see at the top of this column. There must be something we are missing. What is it?

The World Bank says that intraregional trade between Bangladesh, India and Pakistan accounts for 5% of our total trade, compared to South East Asia where the number is five times higher. Trade here is \$23 billion though it could be five times more. The problem is purely man-made. The World Bank says that "border challenges mean it is about 20 per cent cheaper for a company in India to trade with Brazil instead of a neighbouring South Asian country" and that the main problem is "a broad trust deficit throughout the region."

This is the one thing we have not tried. We have not opened ourselves to each other and returned to the sort of geography and economy that we had before 1947. Is it possible that we can do that and what are the effects it can have on our societies? I do not know if by doing this we can repeat what China and Japan and South Korea did, but I do know that it removes the one restraint that we have put on ourselves and can remove ourselves. The fact that it is not even discussed widely today in the region, despite all three states being democracies, tells us something about how blind we have become to our condition. And how satisfied our political parties are with the way things continue to remain in the South Asia as we enter the second quarter of the 21st century.



Aakar Patel

If we examine the history of South Asia we find that in the 75 years we have experimented with every possible type of system but we remain poor and clubbed together



Brahma Chellaney

**EACH US PRESIDENT SEEMS TO BELIEVE THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR AMERICAN DIRECTION AND DEVISES POLICIES BASED ON THIS FLAWED ASSUMPTION**

The United States rarely learns from its mistakes, because it suffers from what the late political scientist Hans Morgenthau called "strategic narcissism." Each US President seems to believe the world is waiting for American direction and devises policies based on this flawed assumption.

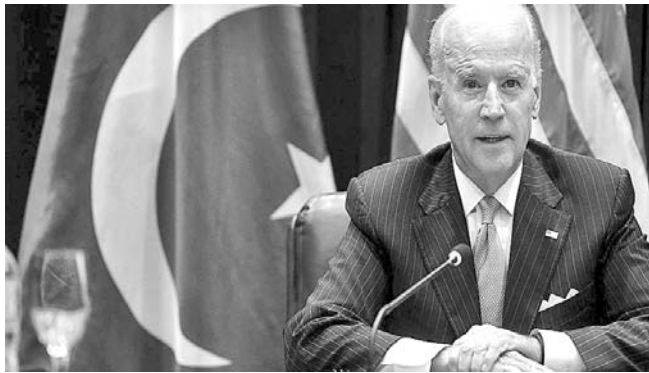
For example, President Joe Biden seems determined to repeat past blunders by resuming America's coddling of Pakistan. Successive US Presidents have failed to appreciate that America's longstanding partnership with Pakistan's rogue Inter-Services Intelligence agency has allowed Pakistan to institutionalise terrorism by employing armed jihadists in low-intensity asymmetric warfare against neighbouring countries. For example, Pakistan has always sought to colonise Afghanistan by installing a regime that would do its bidding, so the ISI created the Taliban in the early 1990s. With the Taliban back in control after the ISI engineered America's humiliating defeat in Afghanistan, Pakistan has gotten its wish.

Pakistan itself has become an extremist Mecca that hosts multiple United Nations-designated terrorist entities. The US found al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden – the mastermind behind the worst terrorist attack in American history – living next to the Pakistan Military Academy Other 9/11 plotters – including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, al-Qaeda's third in command – were also captured in Pakistan. And yet, despite its terrorist ties, Pakistan's politically powerful military, including its ISI, has managed to get off scot-free.

On the recent 21st anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Biden pledged to continue monitoring and disrupting terrorist activities "wherever we find them, wherever they exist," while noting that it took "ten years to hunt down and kill Osama bin Laden." Yet, disturbingly, Biden has reversed the policy of his predecessor, Donald Trump, to keep Pakistan at arm's length until it ended its unholy alliance with terrorist organisations. Biden could have taken advan-

**FOCUS GEOPOLITICS**

# DANGEROUS EMBRACE



**America's longstanding partnership with Pakistan's rogue ISI has allowed Pakistan to institutionalise terrorism by employing armed jihadists in low-intensity asymmetric warfare against neighbouring countries**

tage of Pakistan's desperate need for an International Monetary Fund bailout to compel it to sever its links with state-backed terrorist groups. Instead, his administration recently helped the country stave off an imminent debt default by securing the IMF board's approval for the immediate disbursement of a \$1.1 billion aid package. This is not the only leverage over Pakistan that the Biden administration has been reluctant to use. With American and Chinese support, Pakistan is close to exiting the "gray list" of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the inter-governmental agency combating terrorist financing and money laundering. The fact that Pakistani authorities have not addressed the reason their country was placed on that list in 2018 – tolerating terrorist financing – appears to matter little. In fact, Pakistan should have been placed on the FATF's most punitive "black" list, a status that usually invites Western sanctions. But American troops were fighting the Taliban at the time, and the US, seeking to moderate Pakistan's approach to Afghanistan, successfully lobbied against it.

Nothing better illustrates Biden's embrace of Pakistan than the \$450 million deal unveiled this month to modernize the cash-strapped

country's US-supplied F-16 fleet, despite the risk that it might harm America's close strategic relationship with India. For decades, the US had armed Pakistan to the teeth, a role subsequently taken over by China as a manoeuvre against India. The F-16s were given to Pakistan as a reward for its serving as the staging ground for the covert US war against the Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan in the 1980s, when Pakistan also launched its nuclear-weapons programme clandestinely. Pakistan's four active F-16 squadrons remain central to its air-warfare plans against India; in fact, some were involved in a February 2019 skirmish across the Line of Control in Kashmir.

The US justified the deal by disingenuously claiming that equipping Pakistan's F-16s with cutting-edge avionics would advance counterterrorism. But the move – announced without warning India, which was hosting senior US officials at the time – will likely renew skepticism toward the US among Indian officials. Biden has said nothing about China's 28-month-long frontier aggression against India, and his State Department chose to remain neutral by urging the two powers to find "a peaceful resolution." By strengthening Pakistan – China's client state – the F-16 deal further

imperils US-India relations.

Biden's enthusiastic re-engagement with Pakistan dismisses those who called on the US to punish Pakistan for its pivotal role in the Afghanistan debacle. Far from imposing sanctions or adding Pakistan to the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism, his administration has championed the country as a "major non-NATO ally," a status conferred on 17 other countries as well – but not India.

This approach should not come as a surprise. The US did not impose sanctions on Pakistan even after it aided and abetted the Taliban's killing of American soldiers. Instead, the US treated Pakistan as a gatekeeper of its geopolitical interests in the region. America's weakened position following its Afghan fiasco has only increased its dependence on the ISI, which continues to facilitate the Biden administration's outreach to the Taliban.

The recent assassination of al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in Kabul by an American drone strike would not have been possible without US access to Pakistani airspace, which explains Secretary of State Antony Blinken's commitment to "expanding the US-Pakistan partnership." But at the heart of this partnership is a Faustian bargain whereby the Biden administration condones Pakistan's harbouring of known terrorists and eases sanctions on the brutal Taliban regime, despite its close ties with al-Qaeda.

The Biden administration's reluctance to learn from previous US failures ensures that short-term geopolitical considerations will continue to drive American foreign policy, despite the long-term strategic damage to America's interests. Biden's approach will nurture a major hub of international terrorism and jihadism, allowing Pakistan to set regional fires while pretending to be a firefighter.

*The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin.*

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

**SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY**

## How Wright's Law can right the climate



Anand Gopal

**THE LESS EXPENSIVE CLIMATE ACTION BECOMES, THE GREATER OUR CHANCES OF MAINTAINING CLIMATE STABILITY**

As the world's second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, the United States is critical to preserving a livable planet. And with the recently enacted Inflation Reduction Act – which allocates hundreds of billions of dollars toward decarbonisation – America has shored up its credibility just in time for the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Egypt.

America is now well positioned to achieve its goal of halving its emissions by 2030, relative to 2005 levels. While the IRA's provisions could cut US emissions up to 43% by 2030, the remaining shortfall can be covered by new Environmental Protection Agency rules and stronger state-level action of the kind that we have seen this year in California.

But while the IRA is a historic achievement in its own right, its largest benefits will come in the form of global economic spillover effects. Like the European Union's "Fit for 55" policies, the IRA will drive the deployment of solar, wind, and battery storage, thereby reducing the costs of these clean technologies for everyone. Ultimately, all countries will pay much less to cut their own emissions at the speed and scale necessary to keep climate change in check.

To be sure, the US still needs to fol-

low through on its other climate commitments, not least by providing the \$11.4 billion per year that it has pledged to finance mitigation and adaptation in the Global South. Counterintuitively though, massive domestic investments in clean technologies by the US and the EU stand to be much more valuable than any direct financing they provide, owing to a little-known phenomenon known as Wright's Law.

Named after the US engineer who first noticed it in the 1930s (Theodore Wright), Wright's Law predicts that every cumulative doubling of a technology's global production will reduce its cost by a constant percentage. And as recent research at the University of Oxford confirms, solar, wind, battery, and electrolyzer costs have declined steeply as their global production has increased.

But even more significantly, the researchers found that Wright's Law holds true even after an innovative technology has achieved high levels of market maturity. That means the IRA's \$370 billion dollar investment in clean-energy production could trigger even faster cost decreases for the technologies needed to solve the climate crisis, delivering a higher quality of life for billions of people.

IRA incentives are expected to add five gigawatts of electrolyzer

capacity to produce zero-carbon hydrogen, which will be critical to cutting emissions in the chemical industry and aviation. Moreover, the IRA's public investments will unlock several times as much private capital. Add in Europe's investments and China's massive push into clean energy and EVs, and annual deployment of innovative clean technologies is poised to explode.

In addition to reducing emissions in the world's largest and most highly polluting economies, the exponential growth in clean technologies will make it dramatically cheaper for the rest of the world to transform their energy systems. In fact, we have already seen this dynamic playing out. Green investments by Germany and California at the start of the last decade helped reduce the costs of solar by 85% and of wind by 56% between 2010 and 2020. Similarly, EV demand in China has helped slash battery costs by 89% since 2010.

For its part, India has capitalised on these falling costs by designing clever power auctions that result in the lowest utility-scale solar-power prices in the world. As the decrease in costs accelerates, countries across the Global South will be able to exploit the benefits of Wright's Law through bold policies to decarbonise

cars, cooling, and electricity.

Energy Innovation's modeling consistently shows that ambitious clean-energy policies expand economies and create jobs, while also improving air quality. Even before the IRA, research found that India could save more than 60 trillion rupees (\$752 billion) by 2050 if it adopts high-decarbonisation policies.

To that end, performance standards – requiring an increasing minimum share of clean power and EVs each year – are a particularly powerful instrument. In low- and middle-income countries, such policies can elegantly leverage US and EU investments at no cost to governments beyond enforcement, and can prevent a country from becoming a dumping ground for polluting vehicles and equipment.

Understanding Wright's Law can help reframe North-South dialogue at COP27. Domestic investments by the wealthiest countries will cut costs for developing countries and stretch international finance further. The less expensive climate action becomes, the greater our chances of maintaining climate stability.

*The writer is Executive Director of Policy Research at Energy Innovation.*

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

**WISDOM CORNER**

- When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace. **JIMI HENDRIX**
- Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try Again. Fail again. Fail better. **SAMUEL BECKETT**
- It doesn't matter where you are coming from. All that matters is where you are going. **BRIAN TRACY**

**WORDSWORTH**

**Boycott**

Captain Charles Cunningham Boycott was an Englishman working in Ireland. In the 1870s he was farming at Loughmask in County Mayo and serving as a land agent for an absentee English landlord, Lord Earne. This was the time of the campaign organised by the Irish Land League for reform of the system of landholdings. In September 1880, protesting tenants demanded that Captain Boycott give them a substantial reduction in their rents. He refused. Charles Stuart Parnell, the President of the Land League, suggested in a speech that the way to force Boycott to give way was for everyone in the locality to refuse to have any dealings with him. Labourers would not work for him, local shops stopped serving him (food had to be brought in from elsewhere for him and his family), and he even had great trouble getting his letters delivered. In the end, his crops were harvested that autumn through the help of fifty volunteers from the north of the country, who worked under the protection of nine hundred soldiers. The events aroused so much passion that his name became an instant byword. It was first used – in our modern sense of collective and organised ostracism – in the Times of London in November 1880, even while his crops were still being belatedly harvested; within weeks it was everywhere. It was soon adopted by newspapers throughout Europe, with versions of his name appearing in French, German, Dutch and Russian. By the time of the Captain's death in 1897, it had become a standard part of the English language.

## 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, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

**Towering giant**

Sir, Die-hard tennis fans are disillusioned: the indefatigable and unbelievable Roger Federer has hung his boot. One of the most graceful players ever to have graced the game, Federer was all class on and off the court. Stylish and calm, it was sheer poetry in motion when the great man stepped on the court. Twenty Grand Slam titles is only a number; Federer was much more than mere statistics. These titles came to him through dint of hard work, unmatched determination and oodles of talent. Never known to throw tantrums on the court, his skillful one handed backhand and beautiful down the court volleys were sight for the sore eyes. The great Rod Laver famously said that Federer "floated" on the court unlike others who "ran." At 41, with multiple knee surgeries, it was but natural that Federer thought he could not go on because tennis demands extreme levels of athleticism from its players. He was not the type of player who would sit at home and count the fortunes when he still had something in him. But the longevity of Federer points to his unbridled stamina and, of course, will power. The unassuming smile, lively demeanour and the flowing tennis of the towering giant will be badly missed by legion of his fans and tennis connoisseurs.

**Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA**

**Burden on exchequer**

Sir, MGR is possibly the most iconic leader in Tamil Nadu's history. His fame grew in great part thanks to his introduction of the Midday Nutritious Meal Scheme in the early 1980s. Already over 66 lakh children are benefited by the mid-day meal scheme of the Tamil Nadu government and the new breakfast scheme will make them choosy about eating rather than studying. Breakfast is a step in the right direction but over eating within the school premises make children more inclined to eating all the time. Encouraging kids to study well is always a good idea - however, where is the money for this additional breakfast and that will be a burden for the exchequer. It is not like kids were not going to school because of the lack of a breakfast. This action is like a parent with a lot of debt, borrowing more money to buy "extra" food for their kids instead of paying for tuition class to make them do well. It is better to teach a man to fish, than give him fish to eat.

**CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI**

# national

## of the day quote

Blood donation is a noble cause and given our rich culture and tradition of Seva and Sahyog, I urge and appeal to all citizens to come forward and donate blood as part of the countrywide mega voluntary blood donation drive- Raktdaan Amrit Mahotsav. Donating blood not just fulfills the national requirement but is also a great service to society and humanity

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

Our aim is to increase livestock productivity and production in a sustainable manner and focus on untapped potential for the export and value-added products

MANOJ SINHA | JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

When the country is celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', let us take a pledge to draw inspiration from our past and shape the future

KALRAJ MISHRA | RAJASTHAN GOVERNOR

## SHORT TAKES

### Jaishankar to visit US

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar will be visiting the US from September 18 to 28, during which he will be participating in the 77th UN General Assembly session. During his visit to New York from September 18 to 24, he will be leading the Indian delegation for the High Level Week at the UNGA session, with the theme "A Watershed Moment: Transformative Solutions to Interlocking Challenges", the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

### Rly employee held in Mumbai

Mumbai: A 40-year-old railway employee was arrested from Uttar Pradesh for allegedly shooting and injuring a senior citizen in the western suburb of Bandra here, police said Saturday. The Mumbai police Thursday apprehended Mehtab Mausam Ali Khan in Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh, where he had fled after committing the crime last week, an official said. The accused had allegedly opened fire on one Shamsad Ahmed Riyaz Ahmed (61) after the latter asked him to repay the money he owed many people, he said.

### Arms recovered

Srinagar: Security forces Saturday recovered arms and ammunition from Uri in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said. Acting on a specific input, a joint party of police and army launched search operation near Hathlanga area of Uri, and recovered an AK-47 rifle, a magazine, and 28 rounds of AK-47 ammunition. "A case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Uri and further investigation has been initiated," police said.

### Labourer killed

New Delhi: A 31-year-old man, working as a labourer, was shot dead by his colleague in the national capital over the issue of sharing work, an official said Saturday. The accused identified as Shantu (28), a resident of Delhi, was later arrested by the police. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Usha Rangnani said that a PCR call regarding a firing incident at Azadpur Mandi was received at Mahendra Park police station on Friday night after which the police staff immediately rushed to the spot near shed number 17, Azadpur Fruit Mandi.

## IIT GUWAHATI STUDENT FOUND DEAD

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Sept 17: A student of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati allegedly committed suicide in his hostel room on Friday night, police said.

The student hailed from Kerala and was pursuing a B.Tech course here.

A police officer of Amingaon police station informed that the body was found hanging in the hostel room, and sent for a post-mortem examination.

The reason for the student taking the extreme step is still unknown.

A statement from IIT-G reads: "It is with great sadness that IIT, Guwahati announces the untimely passing away of a final year undergraduate student of Design Department on campus on 16th September 2022."

The parents were informed by the institute and they were heading for Guwahati.

"We request everyone to respect the privacy of the family at this time of grief. The institute expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the student," the IIT-G said in its statement. Though the institute has not revealed the identity of the student, as per police sources, the deceased was identified as Surya Narayan Premkishore. There have been several suicide cases at IIT Guwahati in the last few years.

## HYDERABAD ANNEXURE CELEBRATIONS Shah, KCR cross swords

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Sept 17: The BJP and TRS took digs at each other Saturday over the celebrations marking the annexing of the erstwhile Nizam-ruled Hyderabad state to the Union of India, with the former slamming votebank politics behind the lack of official commemoration so far while the ruling party warned against communal forces trying to divide the society.

Union Minister Amit Shah took a veiled dig at TRS and its supreme, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, saying it is unfortunate the 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' has not been celebrated officially all these years in Telangana due to "vote bank politics" despite some leaders promising to do so.

Rao charged "disruptive forces" with distorting the occasion of September 17 to fulfill their narrow and selfish political interests. The TRS hit back, slamming Shah for trying to "divide and bully".

While the Centre celebrated the 'Hyderabad Liberation Day', the state government had opted for the nomenclature "Telangana Jateeya Samaikyata Dinotsavam" (Telangana National Integration Day).

"...When there was a demand in the region that Hyderabad Liberation Day be celebrated with government endorsement, it is unfortunate that, 75 years are over, but those who were in government here could not dare celebrate Hyderabad Liberation Day due to



vote bank politics," Shah charged. He was speaking at the Union Government's official celebration of 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' to mark the occasion of erstwhile princely State under Nizam rule merging with the Indian Union on September 17, 1948, following a police action codenamed "Operation Polo."

In an apparent reference to Chief Minister Rao, Shah said many people had promised during elections and agitations to commemorate the day but went back on them after coming to power. "Many people had made promises, during elections and during agitations. But, after coming to power, they turned back due to the fear of 'Razakars' (armed supporters of Nizam rule)," he said.

He congratulated Prime Minister Modi for his decision to officially celebrate the day. Shah said he is not surprised but happy that everybody now celebrates the day after Modi took the decision.

"They celebrate the day. But, it is

not called 'Hyderabad Liberation Day'. There is still fear in the mind. I would like to tell them that remove that fear. 'Razakars' cannot make decisions in this country. It has been 75 years since this country got independence," he said.

Shah credited the country's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for the liberation of Hyderabad and said the erstwhile princely state might not have joined India by 1948, but for the former's efforts. He told the people of Telangana and also those who cannot call the day as 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' that not paying tributes to the thousands of martyrs amounts to their betrayal.

Chief Minister KCR, as Rao is known, hit out at communal forces trying to foment trouble. Addressing a gathering after unfurling the national flag to mark the Telangana National Integration Day, Rao said if religious fanaticism grows, it will destroy the very life of the nation and result in deterioration of human relationships.



Sena cannot be snatched away or purchased. We are the original party born out of decades of social work spanning four generations

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENNA PRESIDENT

## PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR LONDON

President Droupadi Murmu left for London Saturday to attend the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II and to offer condolences on behalf of the Indian government



## J&K BJP chief praises Omar

Media speculations started when Omar Abdullah responded warmly to Ravinder Raina's Twitter comments that among the politicians of J&K, Omar is the jewel in the crown

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar, Sept 17: A cordial exchange on the social networking site Twitter between the regional National Conference (NC) vice president, Omar Abdullah and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state president, Ravinder Raina is being interpreted as 'warming up' between the NC and the BJP ahead of the assembly elections in J&K.

NC senior leaders have expressed dismay over the idea that a cordial exchange of words should have been interpreted as some sort of a political warming up. "It is unfortunate and at the same time, petty thinking that Omar Sahib expressing cordiality towards Ravinder Raina and vice versa should be seen as the result of some backdoor patch up between the NC and the BJP," said a senior NC leader.

Media speculations started when Omar Abdullah responded warmly to Ravinder Raina's Twitter comments that among the politicians of J&K, Omar is the jewel in the crown.

Raina also said that when he was suffering from Covid infection, Omar was the first to ask his welfare. Omar responded by saying that to be political rivals does not mean that politicians should become personal enemies.

NC leaders are saying that Omar Abdullah is a gentleman who does not believe in personal enmity among political rivals. "Our fight with the BJP is on principles and ideology, we have no personal property dispute with them. Why can't political rivals share the same table and exchange greetings," said another NC leader.

"The political agenda of the BJP and the NC is so diamet-



rically opposite to each other that any future alliance between the two would be impossible even when we know that politics is the art of the possible," said a political analyst here. Even for the common man on the street, it would be political 'Harakiri' if the NC would align with the BJP politically.

"Even though Omar Abdullah was a minister in the Vajpayee-led NDA government, the closing of ranks between the NC and the BJP is practically impossible after abrogation of Article 370, 35A and the downgrading of the state into a Union Territory," said another politician who is a constituent of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) headed by NC president, Dr. Farooq Abdullah.

What adds an important dimension to this development is the opinion of some senior leaders of the BJP in the UT.

"Our political discourse and programme is total integration of J&K with the rest of the country, how can there be any political understanding between us and the NC? It would be betrayal of our mandate to politically align with the NC. Yes, we have respect for Dr. Farooq and Omar Sahib. They are personally warm to all of us and so are we," said a senior BJP leader.

It must be recalled that a similar speculation had hit the media last time when Dr. Farooq Abdullah was invited to the marriage of Dr. Jitendra Singh's son. Dr. Abdullah had not only attended that marriage ceremony, but had been cordially received by the senior BJP leader, Dr. Jitendra Singh.



People participate in a bullock cart race organised on the occasion of 'Gowri Ganesha Mahotsava' in Chikmagalur

## Bomb explodes; students panic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 17: A crude bomb exploded on the roof of a school building in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district Saturday when classes were in progress, a senior police official said.

There was no casualty in the incident as students and teachers were in rooms located on the first two floors of the three-storied building, he said.

The students got panicked hearing the sound of the explosion and left the premises helter-skelter, while teachers went upstairs to find bomb splinters close to the roof, according to a managing committee member of the state-aided institute at Titagarh in the industrial belt of the district.

A top official of Barrackpore

Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh said at the spot that whoever is responsible for the blast will be arrested and punished

Police Commissionerate told reporters after visiting the spot that the blast was caused by a single crude bomb. He said that it would be investigated whether the bomb was hurled from a nearby building or it had been kept there and suddenly went off.

Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh said at the spot that whoever is responsible for the blast would have to be arrested and punished. "Had any child been around the

spot, I shudder to think what could have happened. I have urged the commissioner of police and other top officials of Barrackpore Police Commissionerate to find out the culprits," said Singh who returned to the TMC from the BJP last May.

BJP's Hooghly MP Locket Chatterjee demanded a CBI probe into the incident. "Even school children are not safe in the rule of Mamata Banerjee. Bombs are discovered in houses and party offices across West Bengal. Today's incident is a pointer to the grim law and order situation. We don't have faith in the state police or CID. We want CBI probe to unravel the truth," she said. When asked to comment on Chatterjee's claims, "I don't want to join the issue with her. Let the police investigate the case first."

## Six killed in bus mishap



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Sept 17: At least six people were killed and many others injured after a bus carrying around 50 passengers fell off a bridge in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district Saturday, police said.

The accident took place when the Ranchi-bound bus coming from Giridih district broke the railing of a bridge and fell into a dry spot in Siwanne River in Tatijharia Police Station area, Superintendent of Police Manoj Ratan Chothe said.

Rescue operation is underway as some passengers are still trapped in the bus, he said. "Two passengers died on the spot, while four others were declared dead by doctors at Sadar Hospital in Hazaribag. The fatality figures may go up as some are seriously injured. We are preparing to send them to Rajendra Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) in Ranchi for better treatment," he said.

Damage could have been more had the bus fallen into water in the middle of the river, the officer said. "Some passengers are still stuck in the bus and we are trying to rescue them by making an exit point with the help of gas cutters," he said. A DSP-rank officer and three police station in-charge have been deputed to the spot to monitor the rescue operation, the SP added.

## TN suicide numbers shoot up in 2 years

AS PER THE NCRB DATA, IN 2019 TAMIL NADU REPORTED 13,493 SUICIDES, 16,883 IN 2020 AND 18,925 IN 2021

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 17: The latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) states that Tamil Nadu witnessed the second highest number of suicides in the country. Maharashtra tops the list with 22,207 suicides, and Tamil Nadu is second with a total of 18,925 suicides.

As per the NCRB data, in 2019 Tamil Nadu reported 13,493 suicides, 16,883 in 2020 and an increase to 18,925 in 2021.

Social activist and counsellor Sneha Abraham of Sradha, an NGO actively involved in the counselling



of people with psychological issues, noted that there are various reasons for people to commit suicide. She

said that most of the suicides in Tamil Nadu are due to domestic issues, followed by financial distress, chronic disease, failed romance, and poor results in examinations.

The study found that the average age of those who committed suicide due to family issues was between 35 and 40, while those who took their own lives because of failed love affairs were between 18 and 25 years. Students in the average age group of 16 to 21 committed suicide due to poor results and failure to crack competitive exams. Those who took their own life due to financial distress were in the age group of 28 to 45

and those who ended their lives due to chronic illness were 45 to 60. The number of males was more than women among those who committed suicide in Tamil Nadu.

Sneha Abraham said: "Several rounds of counselling are done to prevent people from committing suicide. However, according to the latest NCRB report, there is a steady increase in the number of suicides in Tamil Nadu. I feel that right from school days, there has to be proper counselling to students to make them mentally strong. Children have to be confident in life and then the tendency to commit suicide will be less."

## SUBMERGED



A submerged temple following heavy rain in Jabalpur

# Sonali



PHOTO : KUMAR SHARAT, OP



## of the day quote

For the nation's healthy and empowered future, children should be well-fed and free from malnutrition



YOGI ADITYANATH | UP CM

Youngsters must participate in the 'No to Drugs' drive in an effort to help eradicate the drug menace and make the coastal state the country's tourism capital



PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

Arvind Kejriwal is running a university of lies



ADESH GUPTA | DELHI BJP CHIEF

## SHORT TAKES

### Radical cleric arrested in J&K

**Srinagar:** Police in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Saturday arrested Sarjan Barkati, a radical religious preacher, three days after two other radical clerics were apprehended under the Public Safety Act (PSA). Barkati's family members told the media that he was arrested Saturday morning and they were told that he has been booked under the PSA.

### Woman found dead in Delhi

**New Delhi:** A 22-year-old woman was found dead at her residence in northeast Delhi's Maujpur area on Saturday, an official said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast) Sanjay Kumar Sain said a PCR call was received at around 9 a.m. at Jafraabad police station stating that a woman was lying injured in a house located in Maujpur, after which a police team immediately rushed to the spot.

### Congress MP dies

**Nashik:** Senior Congress tribal leader and former union minister Manikrao Gavit passed away due to age-related illness at a hospital here on Saturday, a party leader said. Gavit - who served as MoS for Home and later Social Justice under former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh - was 87 and is survived by his son Bharat and his daughter, ex-MLA Nirjala. Gavit was elected a record nine times from the tribal dominated Nandurbar district from 1981 till 2009, but lost the elections under the Bharatiya Janata Party wave of 2014.

### 4 peddlers held

**Chaibasa:** Four drug peddlers, including two from Punjab, were arrested with two kg of opium in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, a police statement said Saturday. Acting on a tip-off that some people had assembled at a spot in Padampur village to trade in drugs illegally on Friday, a police team rushed to the area and found a group of people engaged in suspicious activity.

### Two arrested

**Gurugram:** With the arrest of two persons, the Gurugram police claimed to have solved a blind murder case related to the killing of a cab driver in the Pataudi area. The accused have been identified as Pankaj Singh (25) and Hitesh (23) alias Honey, both from Rewari. Pankaj and Hitesh had booked the cab in Behror in Rajasthan on March 24. They allegedly shot the driver dead before fleeing with his vehicle. According to the police, Rakesh Gujjar, the cab driver who was a resident of Rajasthan's Alwar, was found dead on the roadside in Pataudi.

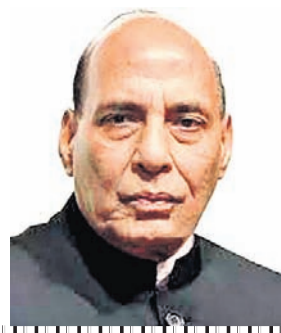


The party would launch the 'Assam Jodo Yatra', the Assam version of 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', on November 1

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

## RAJNATH TO VISIT EGYPT

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will pay a three-year visit to Egypt beginning Sunday to explore new initiatives to bolster bilateral defence ties. The defence ministry said an MoU to provide further impetus to enhance defence cooperation between India and Egypt will also be signed during Singh's visit



## Dalit girl's body found in UP; family alleges rape



The family has alleged that the police picked up the body without informing them and sent it for post-mortem, adding that they came to know about the incident only after the police called them to the post-mortem house to identify the deceased

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Budaun (UP), Sept 17:** The body of a minor Dalit girl was recovered near the railway line in Faizganj Behta police station area of Budaun district Saturday, police said.

The family members of the girl have alleged that she was murdered after rape. According to the police, the body of the girl aged 15 years was recovered in a village in the Faizganj Behata police station area on Saturday morning and has been sent for postmortem.

The family has alleged that the police picked up the body without informing them and sent it for post-mortem, adding that they came to know about the incident only after the police called them to the post-mortem house to identify the deceased.

"A policeman informed us that our daughter had met with an accident and called us to identify the body," the uncle of the deceased said. "The distance from our village to the incident site is one and a half kilometers," he said, adding, "the police have erased all the ev-

### Woman dies after sexual assault bid

**Lakhimpur Kheri:** A 20-year-old woman who was allegedly attacked by two youths with sharp-edged weapons during a sexual assault attempt succumbed to her injuries here, police said Saturday. The woman died on Friday at her home in the Bhira area, around 50 km from the district headquarters on the way to Dudhwa National Park. The victim's family members performed her last rites on Saturday evening in their village amidst heavy police presence, officials said. Her autopsy report is awaited. Police have added the charge of culpable homicide but not amounting to murder to the original FIR, which was filed after the incident. A police outpost-in-charge has also been suspended for not heading to the family's complaint, in which they had alleged that the woman was sexually assaulted. The two accused have been arrested, Kheri police said in a press statement on Saturday. Police said they came to know about a "distortion" in the FIR after a video of her family members alleging it surfaced on social media.

idence from the scene." After the information, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) OP Singh, who reached the spot, said a case is being filed at the police station and strict action will be taken in this matter. He said a post-mortem is being conducted by a panel of doctors and videography of the entire examination process will also be done. Based on the final report, action will be taken by increasing the number of sections registered in the case and if someone is found guilty, that person will be arrested, the SSP added.

## Policeman booked

**Fatehpur (UP):** An Uttar Pradesh Police sub-inspector was booked for allegedly threatening to kill a superintendent of police, officials said Saturday. The PRO of Superintendent of Police Rajesh Kumar Singh filed a complaint alleging that the sub-inspector (SI) called on the closed user group (CUG) mobile number of the official on Friday night and threatened to kill him and hurled abuses, they said. Accordingly, an FIR was registered against accused SI Rajendra Singh, Station House Officer, Fatehpur Sadar Kotwali, Amit Kumar Mishra said. He said on March 18, the accused policeman had fired at a neighbour and injured him following an argument. He was sent to jail in that case and suspended, the SHO added. Rajendra Singh was currently on bail. The SI who lives in the Kotwali area of Fatehpur district is posted in Kanpur Dehat police station, Mishra said. He said efforts are on to arrest the accused policeman.



Martial artists perform during a programme of We Care - a Delhi Police Community Police Initiative, at Kartavya Path in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

## MADE NO OFFER TO KISHOR: JD-U

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Patna, Sept 17:** JD(U) president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Saturday alleged that political strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor was "working for" the BJP, as part of its "conspiracies" to find a firm foothold in Bihar.

Rubbishing Kishor's claim of having turned down an "offer" from Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the party's de facto leader, Lalan asserted that the poll campaign manager was "not a political worker but a businessman" who relied on "marketing" tactics.

"We know Prashant Kishor has been working for the BJP for some time. One agent of the BJP was recently caught during magistrate checking," remarked the JD(U) chief, in an obvious reference to former national president RCP Singh.

"The BJP is relying on conspir-



acies in Bihar. First it used RCP Singh and now it is using Prashant Kishor. But we are vigilant. We will not allow these designs to succeed," Lalan said. The JD(U) president's remarks come barely a few days after a meeting between Kumar and Kishor after which the latter claimed to have engaged in some plain-speak with the Bihar CM, having told him that prohibition, one of his most feted moves, was a complete failure and needed to be reviewed.

Kishor, who has launched a cam-

The BJP is relying on conspiracies in Bihar. First it used RCP Singh and now it is using Prashant Kishor. But we are vigilant. We will not allow these designs to succeed

RAJIV RANJAN SINGH | JD(U) PRESIDENT

aign 'Jan Suraj' as part of which he will be embarking on a 3,500 km-long state-wide 'padayatra' next month, had also claimed to have turned down a "specified" offer from Kumar who, he believes, has run out of steam.

Lalan claimed, "It was Prashant Kishor who wanted to meet Nitish Kumar after the new political situation emerged in Bihar. He spoke to the CM who asked him to first have a word with the party president. So he came to meet me in New Delhi."

"I told him that his return to the party could be considered if he agreed to abide by party discipline. Thereafter he secured an appointment with the CM who agreed to meet him and gave an appointment. But, as part of his marketing strategy, he told the media that he has been called to the CM's residence but he will not go," claimed the JD(U) president.

"Later, after Pavan Varma met Nitish Kumar, the former also had a word with Kishor whom he knows, Kishor again expressed the wish to meet the CM and they met. But why will anybody give him any offer? Who is he?" said Lalan.

Notably, Kishor shot to fame in 2014 when his company IPAC handled the spectacularly successful campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was then the Gujarat CM and the BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate for Lok Sabha polls.

## IRCTC SCAM

## Cancel Tejashwi's bail: CBI

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Sept 17:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Saturday approached a special court here challenging the bail granted to Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav in the alleged scam involving the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

Special judge Geetanjali Goel of the Rouse Avenue Court has issued a notice on the CBI's plea seeking Tejashwi Yadav's response in the matter. The RJD leader and his mother Rabri Devi were granted bail in the case in 2018. In one of its contentions, the central agency has submitted that Tejashwi Yadav had threatened its officials during a press conference, thereby influencing the case.

The case dates back to 2006 when Lalu Prasad was the Railway Minister in the UPA-I government. It was alleged that there were multiple irregularities connected to IRCTC hotels' maintenance contracts with a private firm. Two IRCTC hotels in Ranchi and Puri were involved in the bribe case.

The probe agency had earlier claimed that there was enough



Special judge Geetanjali Goel of the Rouse Avenue Court has issued a notice on the CBI's plea seeking Tejashwi Yadav's response in the matter

Katihar, Madhubani, Vaishali and Sitamarhi districts. Besides that, it also conducted an investigation into another case of Urban Cubes mall in Gurugram, purportedly on the belief that Tejashwi Yadav had made investment in it.

After the raids, Tejashwi Yadav was reportedly heard saying at a press conference that "CBI officials don't have mother and children? Don't they have a family? Will they always remain CBI officers? Will they not retire? Will only this party remain in power? What message do you want to send? You should honestly discharge the duty of the constitutional organisation".

evidence in the IRCTC matter against Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad, his wife Rabri Devi and Tejashwi Yadav, among others.

On August 24, the CBI had conducted multiple raids on the premises of RJD leaders in Patna,

## STRAY DOG MENACE

## Man booked for carrying airgun

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kasaragod (Kerala), Sept 17:** A case was registered against a man on Saturday for brandishing an air gun to protect his children from stray dogs, while escorting them to a nearby madrasa here.

Reacting to the case, the man identified as Sameer said it was only an air gun, which could not be used to even cause an injury to the canines. The police registered the case on its own, a day after a short video of an armed Sameer escorting a group of children to the Madrasa had gone viral.



In the video, he could be seen walking in front of the children wielding the gun and saying that he would shoot any stray dog if it attacked them. Bekal police said that IPC Section 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot) was slapped against the man. Sameer said he came to know about the case through the media and the police are yet to call him.

He also said he carried the air-gun just to instill his children with courage and also the kids in the neighbourhood, who are worried about the stray dogs. "The dogs cannot be killed using an airgun. What I did was to try to give protection to my children... That is my duty as a parent," Sameer said.

Amid mounting criticism of the government's inability to control canine population or instill confidence among people regarding efficacy of the anti-rabies vaccine, the Left dispensation has initiated steps to address the menace on a war-footing.

The government has launched a state-wide mass vaccination campaign from September 20 to October 20 for vaccinating stray and pet dogs and opening more Animal Birth Control centres.

## Priests oppose gold plating of Kedarnath walls

However, the priests are divided on the issue with some senior priests favouring the renovation work currently underway inside the temple's sanctum sanctorum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dehradun, Sept 17:** A section of priests in Kedarnath have opposed the gold plating of the walls inside the sanctum sanctorum of the Himalayan temple saying it amounted to tampering with its centuries-old traditions.

Pilgrimage priests (teerth purohiths) opposing the gold plating are incensed that the use of big drilling machines in the process are damaging the temple's walls. The four

walls of the famed temple were covered with silver plates which have been removed to replace them with gold plates.

The gold plating of the temple's walls is being done after a Shiva devotee from Maharashtra volunteered to make an offering of gold for the purpose and his proposal was accepted by the Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee with permission from the state government.

The gold plating is damaging the temple walls. Big drilling ma-



chines are being used for the purpose. We cannot tolerate this tampering with the centuries old tra-

ditions of the temple," a pilgrim-age priest named Santosh Trivedi said in Kedarnath.

However, the priests are divided on the issue with some senior priests favouring the renovation work currently underway inside the temple's sanctum sanctorum. Senior priest at the temple Shrinivas Posti and former president of Kedar Sabha Mahesh Bagwadi said the temple is a major centre of Sanatan faith and gold plating of its walls is in keeping with the Hindu beliefs and traditions.

Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee president Ajendra Ajay said opposition to the the gold plating of the temple walls is not justified as it is being done in accordance with the traditions without tampering with the original structure.

"Renovation and beautification of the temple from time to time is

a normal practice. A handful of priests may oppose it but their representative bodies never opposed it. Decades ago the temple ceiling used to be made of grass and twigs. As the times changed it began to be made of stones and later of copper sheets," he said.

The BKTC president also termed the protest as part of the "opposition propaganda". "Hindu temples all over the country are symbols of grandeur. Decorating Hindu deities with gold and jewellery has been part of our traditions. I see nothing wrong in covering the temple walls with gold plates," Ajay said. The BKTC took due permission from the state government before going ahead with the gold plating of the temple walls, he said.

# international

## of the day quote

What you're hearing from China, from India, is reflective of concerns around the world about the effects of Russia's aggression on Ukraine – not just on the people of Ukraine, devastating as that's been, but on countries and people across the entire planet



TONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

They (Russians) have said that they can give us gas. Russia said that they have gas pipelines in Central Asian countries and the pipelines could be extended to Pakistan via Afghanistan. These talks have taken place



KHAWAJA ASIF | DEFENCE MINISTER, PAKISTAN

China is going to be the biggest threat to the peaceful world order, to international order. And also to ensure that China doesn't make spurious claims on the South China Sea for instance, on Indian Territory, Taiwan and also to raise awareness about what's going on in Xinjiang and Tibet



SUJEEET KUMAR | MP, INDIA

## SHORT TAKES

### Pak PM to visit China in Nov

**Islamabad:** Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will travel to China in November and has also accepted an invitation from Russian President Vladimir Putin to visit Moscow, the defence ministry said Saturday. Addressing a news conference here, defence minister Khawaja Asif said Chinese President Xi Jinping had extended an invitation to Sharif to visit China during a meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, which concluded Friday.

### Landslides in Nepal claim 17

**Kathmandu:** At least 17 people have been killed in landslides triggered by heavy rains in western Nepal in the past 24 hours, an official said Saturday. The landslides occurred in different parts of the Achham district of the Sudurpaschim province, which has been badly affected by floods caused by incessant rainfall for the last few days. According to acting chief district officer Dipesh Rijal, at least 17 people have been confirmed dead in landslides in the district, which is about 450 km west of Kathmandu.

### Israel strike hits Syrian airport

**Damascus:** An Israeli strike hit Damascus International Airport and other areas of the Syrian capital, killing five soldiers, state media reported Saturday. The state-run SANA News Agency said the strike hit around 12.45 am. It said there had been some "material losses", without elaborating. Israel hasn't directly acknowledged the strikes, but it comes amid a wider shadow war between the country and Iran.

### Kyrgyz-Tajik hold talks to end conflict

**Moscow:** The security chiefs of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan sat down for talks Saturday to stop fighting on the border between the two countries that so far has killed at least 24 people and wounded over 100. The Kyrgyz border service announced the new round of talks as the two ex-Soviet nations traded blame for shelling that resumed Saturday morning after what appeared to be a brief respite overnight. The fighting, which started Wednesday for no obvious or publicly announced reason, intensified Friday.



As of today, there are 450 dead people, buried. But there are others, separate burials of many people. Tortured people. It's early to talk about an end to this war

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

### SAUDI MAN MARRIES 53 TIMES

A Saudi man has claimed that over the course of 43 years, he was married 53 times. The man further said that he wasn't acting in this way to pursue personal pleasure but rather to find peace and stability, according to a report from Gulf News. The 63-year-old, identified as Abu Abdullah, has now been nicknamed the "polygamist of the century"



# War can get more serious: Putin

Ukraine's move to reclaim control of several Russian-occupied cities and villages marked the largest military setback for Moscow since its forces had to retreat from areas near the capital early in the war

## AGENCIES

**Samarkand, Sept 17:** President Vladimir Putin brushed off a lightning Ukrainian counter-offensive with a smile but warned that Russia would respond more forcefully if its troops were put under further pressure.

Speaking after a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in the Uzbek city of Samarkand, Putin cast the invasion as a necessary step to prevent what he said was a Western plot to break Russia apart.

Putin also said the "liberation" of Ukraine's entire eastern Donbas region remained Russia's main military goal and that he sees no need to revise it. Moscow, he said, was in no hurry in Ukraine. And its goals remained unchanged.

"The Kiev authorities announced that they have launched and are conducting an active counter-offensive operation. Well, let's see how it develops, how it ends up," Putin said with a grin.

It was his first public comment on a rout of his forces in northeastern Ukraine's Kharkiv region a week ago that has prompted unusually strong public criticism from Russian mili-

tary commentators.

Russia hit Ukrainian infrastructure in response - including a reservoir dam and electricity supplies - and Putin said those attacks could get worse.

Asked if what he calls the "special military operation" needed correction, he said: "The plan is not subject to adjustment."

"The General Staff considers one thing important, another thing secondary - but the main task remains unchanged, and it is being implemented," Putin said. "The main goal is the liberation of the entire territory of Donbas."

The Donbas comprises two largely Russian-speaking provinces of eastern Ukraine - Luhansk, which is now fully under the control of Russian and Russian-backed separatist forces, and Donetsk, which they partially control.

However, Russia now occupies around a fifth of Ukraine in all, including much of the southerly Zaporizhzhia and Kherson provinces, in addition to Crimea, which it seized in 2014 and considers part of Russia.

Russia was forced to pull back its forces from large swaths of northeastern Ukraine last week after a swift Ukrainian counteroffensive.



Putin reaffirms his mission to 'liberate' Donbas region

Russia now occupies around a fifth of Ukraine in all

Putin tells Europe: If you want gas then open Nord Stream 2

Recently, the Russian armed forces have inflicted a couple of sensitive blows. Let's assume they're a warning. If the situation continues to develop like this, then the response will be more serious

VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

Ukraine's move to reclaim control of several Russian-occupied cities and villages marked the largest military setback for Moscow since its forces had to retreat from areas near the capital early in the war.

Meanwhile Putin denied Russia had anything to do with Europe's energy crisis, saying that if the European Union wanted more gas it should lift sanctions preventing the opening of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

He blamed what he called "the green agenda" for the energy crisis, and insisted that Russia would fulfil its energy obligations.

"The bottom line is, if you have an urge, if it's so hard for you,

just lift the sanctions on Nord Stream 2, which is 55 billion cubic metres of gas per year, just push the button and everything will get going," Putin said.

Europe has accused Russia of weaponising energy supplies in retaliation for Western sanctions imposed on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine. Russia says the West has launched an economic war and sanctions have hampered Nord Stream 1 pipeline operations.

## China saves 26/11 mastermind from UNSC's blacklist

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**United Nations, Sept 17:** China has blocked a proposal by the US and India at the United Nations to blacklist top Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant Sajid Mir, one of India's most wanted terrorists and the main handler of the deadly 2008 Mumbai attacks, in the third such move by Beijing within four months.

It is learnt that Beijing put a hold Thursday on the proposal moved by the US and co-designated by India to blacklist Mir under the 1267 Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council as a global terrorist and subject him to assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

Mir is one of India's most wanted terrorists and has a bounty of \$5 million placed on his head by the US for his role in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks carried out by Pakistan-based LeT terrorists.

In June this year, he was jailed for over 15 years in a terror-financing case by an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan, which is struggling to exit the grey list of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Pakistani authorities had in the past claimed Mir had died, but Western countries remained unconvinced and demanded proof of his death. This issue became a major sticking point in FATF's assessment of Pakistan's progress on the action plan late last year.

## Fury in Iran as woman dies after moral police arrest

Under Iran's sharia (Islamic) law, imposed after the 1979 revolution, women are obliged to cover their hair and wear long, loose-fitting clothes to disguise their figures. Violators face public rebuke, fines or arrest



### REUTERS

**Dubai, Sept 16:** A young Iranian woman has died after falling into a coma following her detention by morality police enforcing Iran's strict hijab rules, sparking protests by Iranians on social media and on the streets Friday.

In the past few months, Iranian rights activists have urged women to publicly remove their veils, a gesture that would risk their arrest for defying the Islamic dress code as the country's hardline rulers crack down harder on "immoral behavior".

Authorities launched probes into the death of Mahsa Amini following a demand by President Ebrahim Raisi, state media reported. Police said the 22-year-old was taken ill as she waited together with other detained women at a morality police station.

"Since her transfer to the vehicle

and also at the location (station), there was no physical encounter with her," a police statement said, rejecting allegations on social media that Amini was likely beaten.

Closed-circuit television footage carried by state TV appeared to show a woman identified as Amini falling over after getting up from her seat to speak to an official at a police station.

Police earlier said Amini had suffered a heart attack after being taken to the station to be "educated". Her relatives have denied she suffered any heart condition.

Several prominent sports and arts figures posted critical social media comments about Amini's death, and outspoken reformist politician Mahmood Sadeghi called on Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Twitter to speak out as he had denounced the killing of George Floyd by US police in 2020.

## 'SUPER FLOODS'

# Pak floods impacted 16mn kids: UN

THE FLOODS TRIGGERED BY THE RECORD RAINS IN THREE DECADES HAVE CLAIMED 1,545 LIVES WHILE ANOTHER 12,850 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INJURED

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, Sept 17:** An estimated 16 million children have been impacted by super floods in Pakistan with at least 3.4 million of them needing immediate lifesaving support, the UN has said.

The situation is extremely grim in flood-hit areas with malnourished children battling diarrhoea, dengue fever, and several painful skin diseases, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef) representative Abdullah Fadil said in a statement.

Fadil, who recently concluded a two-day visit to the flood-affected areas of Sindh, said floods had now claimed the lives of at least 528 children. Each and every one of these deaths is a tragedy that could have been averted, he said.



The sad reality is that without a massive increase in support and aid, many more children will lose their lives

ABDULLAH FADIL | INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND, UNICEF

"An estimated 16 million children have been impacted by these 'super floods' and at least 3.4 million girls and boys remain in need of immediate, lifesaving support. Young children are living out in the open with their families, with no drinking water, no food, and no livelihood, exposed to a wide range of new flood-related risks and haz-

ards - from damaged buildings, drowning in flood waters and snakes. The vital infrastructure that children so rely on has been destroyed and damaged, including thousands of schools, water systems and health facilities," he said.

As the magnitude of the flood disaster continues to unfold, international aid continues to trickle in. A lot of the mothers are anaemic and malnourished themselves and have very low-weight babies. Mothers are exhausted or ill and they are unable to breastfeed, he said.

Millions of families have been forced from their homes, now living with little more than rags to protect themselves from the scorching sun as temperatures in some areas

## A sea of water: PM

**Samarkand:** Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told the leaders of the SCO grouping that Pakistan looked like "a sea of water", as he made an emotional appeal to its leaders to take immediate action to tackle climate change that he said has caused unprecedented floods in his country. "The devastating floods in Pakistan are most definitely climate change-induced. It is the result of climate change, cloud outbursts, and unprecedented rains, combined with hill torrents coming down. All this put together makes Pakistan look like a sea of water," Sharif said. "This climatic injustice has befallen us despite the fact that our carbon emission is less than one per cent," he said. "I earnestly appeal to all of you that let the SCO stand up and take steps against this devastation through sustainable programmes," he added.

pass 40 degrees Celsius, he added. "Many families have been forced to seek shelter on slivers of higher ground, often alongside roads putting children at risk, as lower land is covered by huge expanses of stagnant water, extending as far as the eye can see. The additional threats of snakes, scorpions and mosquitoes are ever-present in the area," Fadil said.

# World leaders gathering for Queen's funeral

PEOPLE ARE CONTINUING TO FLOCK TO CENTRAL LONDON, ADDING TO THE ALREADY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS WHO HAVE FILED PAST THE COFFIN IN A SOLEMN STREAM, TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO BRITAIN'S LONGEST-REIGNING MONARCH - A TESTIMONY TO THE AFFECTION IN WHICH SHE WAS HELD

### AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

**London, Sept 17:** World leaders begin gathering in London from Saturday for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, as princes William and Harry are set to lead a vigil at her grandchildren at her coffin.

The queen's death on September 8 aged 96, after a record-breaking 70 years on the throne, has sparked an outpouring of emotion.

Members of the public braved waits that at one point were estimated to be up to 24 hours and chilly night-time temperatures to view her coffin.

Lines have snaked for miles along the River Thames since

Wednesday when her coffin was brought to the UK parliament complex to lie in state.

Police are mounting Britain's biggest-ever security operation for Monday's funeral, as hundreds of dignitaries including US President Joe Biden are set to jet in.

The queen's successor, King Charles III, will meet Saturday with the prime ministers of the Commonwealth realms - the 14 former colonies over which he now reigns in addition to Britain.

From Australia and New Zealand to Canada, they have formally proclaimed him their new sovereign.

But republican movements are gaining ground, and efforts to keep



them all in the royal fold will likely be a feature of his reign.

Charles Friday wrapped up his maiden tour as monarch to the four nations of the United Kingdom with a visit to Wales, part of an operation dubbed "Spring Tide" to launch him in his new role.

Large crowds in Cardiff chanted "God save the king" as he shook hands with well-wishers following a multi-faith service in Llandaff Cathedral, and at Cardiff Castle.

Charles met Welsh First Minister Mark Drakeford, an avowed re-

publican, and there was isolated booing on the streets after the new monarch was quick to declare his son William the new Prince of Wales. But Drakeford said questions over the future of the monarchy were "a footnote to the dominant feelings of the day".

## Japan braces for super typhoon

### REUTERS

**Tokyo, Sept 17:** The Japan Meteorological Agency issued a special typhoon warning Saturday for Kagoshima prefecture on Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's main islands, as the region braces for a powerful and potentially destructive super typhoon.

The warning came after the weather agency earlier in the day urged residents to evacuate parts of the Kyushu, ahead of the typhoon Nammadol, expected to bring up to half a metre (20 inches) of rain when it makes landfall Sunday.

Nammadol, classified as a super typhoon by the US Navy's Joint Typhoon Warning Center, has the potential to be the most destructive tropical storm to strike Japan in decades.

The 14th typhoon of the season was near Japan's southern Minami-Daito Island heading northwest at 20 kph (12 mph) Saturday afternoon. Winds at the centre of the storm were blowing at 198 kph (123 mph) and gusting up to 270 kph (167 mph), according to the JMA.

# business

## of the day quote

Professionalise your decision-making boards, there is no way banks can any longer run with a crony background, our government has ensured that there are no instructions given or interference made in the functioning of the banks

**NIRMALA SITHARAMAN** | FINANCE MINISTER

With India emerging as one of the biggest and fastest digital economies, distortions in digital market need to be corrected promptly

**ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA** | CHAIRPERSON, CCI

The direction of the government is very clear, and the performance-linked incentive (PLI) scheme is also very consequent to their strategy of driving e-mobility. Now is the time for the Indian industry to get its act together

**SUNIL MATHUR** | MD & CEO, SIEMENS LIMITED

## SHORT TAKES

### Forex reserves down \$2.23bn

**Mumbai:** The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$2.234 billion to stand at \$550.871 billion for the week ended September 9, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said Friday. In the previous reporting week, the reserves had dropped by \$7.941 billion to \$553.105 billion. The foreign currency assets decreased by \$2.519 billion to \$489.598 billion in the reporting week. The value of the gold reserves increased by \$340 million to \$38.644 billion, the data showed. The Special Drawing Rights dropped by \$63 million to \$17.719 billion. The country's reserve position with the IMF was up by \$8 million to \$4.91 billion in the reporting week.

### First REIT of retail assets coming soon

**New Delhi:** India is expected to get its first Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) of retail assets soon as institutional investors and developers look to monetise their rent-yielding space in shopping malls, according to JLL India. REIT, a popular instrument globally, was introduced in India a few years ago to attract investment in the real estate sector by monetising rent-yielding assets. It helps unlock the massive value of real estate assets and enable retail participation. At present, there are three listed REITs - Embassy Office Parks REIT, Mindspace Business Parks REIT and Brookfield India Real Estate Trust - on Indian stock exchanges but all these are of leased office assets.



Our first priority is waterways, second railways, third road and lastly aviation. Bringing down logistics costs will help in generating employment in the country

**NITIN GADKARI** | UNION MINISTER

## 600 BRANDS AT RISK OF LOSING ROYAL SEAL

Queen Elizabeth II's death means that around 600 of her favourite brands risk losing their royal warrant and must now await the approval of her successor King Charles III. Fortnum and Mason teas, Burberry raincoats, Cadbury chocolate and even broomstick and dog food manufacturers are among those facing the loss of royal prestige



# PM unveils National Logistics Policy

**THE NEW POLICY WILL BRING IN AN INTEGRATED AND TECH ENABLED APPROACH TO LOGISTICS OPERATIONS TO BRIDGE THE EFFICIENCY GAP**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 17:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday unveiled the National Logistics Policy that seeks to address challenges facing the transport sector and bring down the logistics cost of businesses from 13-14 per cent to a single digit.

At a grand launch event, he said the policy aims to expedite the last-mile delivery, helping businesses save time and money.

While the new policy addresses challenges of the logistics sector, it together with the infrastructure augmentation plan PM GatiShakti will address gaps, Modi said.

"From 13-14 per cent (of the GDP), we should all aim to bring the logistics cost to single-digit as soon as possible," Modi said adding this, in a way, is a low-hanging fruit, "if we have to become globally competitive".

According to a government official, the policy would help bring



The govt aims to cut transport cost from 13-14% to a single digit

The new policy is India's first holistic approach for the \$150bn sector

The logistics sector is estimated at 13-14 per cent of GDP

down the cost to 7.5 per cent in the coming years.

Elements of the policy like Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) and Ease of Logistics Services (E-Logs) would help exporters and industry in enhancing logistic efficiency.

The ULIP will bring all the digital services related to the transportation sector into a single portal, freeing the exporters from a host of very long and cumbersome processes. Similarly, E-Logs portal has also been started, through which industry can directly take up any such matters which are causing problems in their operations and performance with the government agencies.

A complete system has also been put in place for the speedy resolution of such cases, the prime minister said.

The government, he said, is using technology to strengthen the logistics sector. Faceless assessment has started in customs and e-way bills and FASTag are bringing ef-

iciency to the logistics sector. Talking about the drone policy, he said drones will improve the logistics sector.

The government, he said, is using technology to strengthen the logistics sector. Faceless assessment has started in customs and e-way bills and FASTag are bringing efficiency to the logistics sector.

He said the capacity of ports has been increased and the container vessel turnaround time has been cut to 26 hours from 44 hours previously. The prime minister said India is now the world's fifth largest economy and is emerging as a manufacturing hub.

Further, he said that today, the world is looking at India as a "democratic superpower" and "today the world's attitude towards India is changing. Today the world is evaluating India very positively, it is keeping a lot of expectations from India".

He underlined that for the products manufactured in India to

## India Inc hails policy

**New Delhi:** The National Logistics Policy unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday will substantially reduce transportation costs across the entire supply chain and has the potential to usher in "ease of moving" in the country, India Inc said. CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee said besides improving ease of doing business and ease of living, the policy along with other pillars of the PM Gati-Shakti has the potential to usher in an unprecedented era of 'ease of moving' in the country, ensuring speedier and seamless movement of cargo and people across various modes of transport. He said the reduced logistics cost and increased efficiencies will energise the economy across sectors in multiple ways and take us many steps closer to emerging as a global manufacturing powerhouse. Assocham secretary general Deepak Sood described the National Logistics Policy as a major structural transformative initiative which will substantially reduce transaction costs across the entire supply chain. "It (the policy) will facilitate India being embedded across global value chains, as we move ahead on the path towards Bharat@100," Sood added.

dominate the world market, it is crucial to have a strong support system and this policy will greatly help in modernising that support system.

# RBI ready for card tokenisation from next month

The RBI is implementing these norms of tokenisation in order to secure the card details of the customers

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, Sept 17:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is ready to bring its card-on-file tokenisation norms into effect from October 1 after various complaints were filed regarding the misuse of debit or credit cards.

Several people were cheated in the last few years by cyber frauds because they have stored their card data on the merchants website for future payments. Tokenisation means the details of your cards such as 16-digit number, names, expiry dates and codes which you used to save earlier for the future payments will now be replaced by a token.

The RBI is implementing these norms of tokenisation in order to secure the card details of the customers. Currently, the bank card details are saved by a merchant during a transaction. If the merchant's website is hacked, the details of the customers will be exposed.

Post implementation of these norms all the customers data will be with the bank and not with the merchant website.

Securing/Tokenisation also helps you save the hassle of inputting your complete card details each



## STEPS TO FOLLOW

Visit your online application/website to purchase grocery, pay bills or order food and initiate a transaction

In the check-out page, select HDFC Bank Credit/Debit Card and provide CVV

Tick mark the check box "Secure your Card" or "Save Card as per RBI guidelines"

Enter the OTP received on your registered mobile number

time. Customers need not have to pay any charges for availing this service.

Once the customer tokenised their cards they will be able to recognise their details on the merchants website using the last 4 four digits of the cards, which is the only data the merchant will be able to save on their portal.

## UNCERTAIN TIMES

# FinMin calls for eternal macroeconomic vigilance

*In times when slowing growth and high inflation are afflicting most of the major economies of the world, the report said, India's growth has been robust and inflation has been in control*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 17:** Amid heightened global uncertainties, there is a need for eternal macroeconomic vigilance to ensure sustained growth and stability, the Finance Ministry's Monthly Economic Review said Saturday.

The review cautioned that increased focus of advanced economies on energy security in view of upcoming winter months could elevate geopolitical tensions, testing India's astute handling of its energy needs so far.

India imports 85.5 per cent of its crude oil requirements and hence higher prices in the global market have a major bearing on domestic inflation. "In these uncertain times, it may not be possible to remain satisfied and sit back for long periods. Eternal macroeconomic vigilance is the price for stability and sustained growth," it said.

Watchful and prudent fiscal management and credible monetary policy will remain essential for India to fulfil its growth aspirations, it said, adding, both these pillars of public policy will enable benchmark borrowing costs for the government and the private sector



to decline, facilitating public and private sector capital formation. Vigorous pursuit of asset monetisation at all levels of government will help lower debt stock and hence debt servicing costs, it said.

That would cause risk premiums to drop and credit rating of India to improve and a virtuous circle would set in as the quality of public expenditure increases in its wake and the private sector enjoys a lower cost of capital, it said.

On the first quarter growth numbers, the report said, the real GDP in first quarter of 2022-23, is now nearly 4 per cent ahead of its corresponding level of 2019-20, marking a strong beginning to India's growth revival in the post-pandemic phase.

The government raised capital expenditure by 35.4 per cent for the financial year 2022-23 to ₹7.5 lakh crore to continue the public investment-led recovery. The capex last financial year was ₹5.5 lakh crore.

## New Pantaloon store re-launched in City

**Bhubaneswar:** The new Pantaloon store at Suruchi Plaza, Janpath, Saheed nagar was re-launched today by Bollywood celebrity Bhoomika Dash. Biswamohan Patnaik, Landlord, Jayashree Patnaik, Landlady and Karan Mehta, COO, Pantaloon, were also present at the occasion. On store re-launch Mehta, said, "We are extremely delighted to re-launch our Saheed nagar store which has owned many heart of shoppers through its super quality products and services. As festival season has already started we expect good traction in the store. To exceed customers' expectations we made all kinds of products available." On this occasion, Dash toured the store and said, "The new look of the store is fresh, playful, modern and has all amenities needed from clothes, accessories to home-wear under a single roof."



The executive committee members of the Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO) met Tourism, OLLC & Excise Minister Aswini Kumar Patra and handed over a cheque of ₹6,00,202 as contribution towards the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the flood victims in state

## BIZ BUZZ

## MOST VALUED CONGLOMERATE

# Adani Group pips Tata Group in m-cap

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 17:** Adani Group has emerged as India's most valuable business house in terms of market capitalisation (m-cap) of its companies, surpassing the Tata Group. The completion of the acquisition of Ambuja Cement and ACC helped Adani overtake the Tata Group and made it India's most valuable conglomerate.

The combined market value of the Adani Group, including the newly-acquired Ambuja and ACC, stood at ₹22.25 lakh crore as Friday. The total market value of all Tata Group firms was ₹20.81 lakh crore.

On Friday, the nine listed firms of Adani group lost overall ₹40,000 crore market cap while Tata Group's



market cap declined by nearly ₹60,000 crore. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries is in third place with ₹17.07 lakh crore market value.

Excluding ACC and Ambuja Cement, the Adani Group's market capitalisation has increased by nearly ₹10.16 lakh crore this year. During this period, Tata Group has lost ₹2.57 lakh crore in market cap as its flag-

ship company Tata Consultancy Services declined by over 17%.

Adani group stocks have been on a tear this year, with the share prices of four companies more than doubling - Adani Power is up 3.9 times, followed by Adani Transmission, which is up by 2.4 times, even in a weak and volatile market backdrop.

## India Inc's overseas direct investment drops 59% in Aug

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 17:** India Inc's investment in their overseas ventures dropped by 59 per cent on an annual basis to \$1.03 billion in August this year, data from Reserve Bank showed.

The RBI data on Outward Foreign Direct Investment (OFDI) for August 2022 showed that the total financial commitment by the domestic firms was worth \$1,027.67 million in August, 2022-23.

In the same month of 2021-22, it stood at \$2,500.97 million (\$2.5 billion). In the preceding month of July 2022, Indian businesses' overseas financial investment was \$1,116.69 million (\$1.12 billion).

Of the total investment during August this fiscal, the highest was in the form of equity infusion at \$585.65 million. While \$266.63 million was infused by way of issuance of guarantees, the rest \$175.39 million was through loans.

RBI said the data is provisional and subject to change based on online reporting by authorised dealer (AD) banks. Among the major investors, Lenskart Solutions infused equity worth \$319.99 million in its wholly-owned subsidiary in Singapore, while Glenmark Pharmaceuticals invested \$100 million in a fully-owned subsidiary in Switzerland through guarantee issuance.

Hasham Traders Data Stax Inc loaned \$54.69 million to a joint venture in the US and CitiusTech Healthcare invested \$30 million in a fully-owned unit in the US through guarantees. Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone invested \$25.58 million through a mix of loan and guarantee issuance in a wholly-owned unit in Singapore, the RBI data showed.



## BOON OR BANE?

# Social influencers eye long-term gains of proposed norms

THE ADVERTISING STANDARDS COUNCIL OF INDIA PEGS THE SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER INDUSTRY AT \$150 MILLION (APPROX ₹1,200 CRORE)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 17:** As the Centre readies a list of do's and don'ts for social media influencers, the thriving community of individuals and companies is contemplating the challenges of a more 'regulated' future - and it's not all bad.

So whether it is podcast host Vedant Kaushik or marketing agency Pulp Strategy -- the two ends of the influencer spectrum working towards pushing trends with their endorsement of products ranging from makeup to movies - both welcome the move to streamline the sector.

"The proposed guidelines will eradicate in one go the vagueness on whether a piece of content is

sponsored or not... We have laws and standards for TV, films, radio, etc. Why not for the modern medium of social media," Kaushik, who has nearly 60,000 followers on Instagram, told PTI.

The Department of Consumer Affairs is expected to come out with guidelines for the community in the next few days, sources said. Influencers with large followers on social media platforms such as Instagram are endorsing products after taking payments from brands, they explained.

Soon, however, they will be required to put a disclaimer in their posts when they endorse a brand or are paid by a brand for promotion, the sources said. Violation of these guidelines might attract hefty penalties.



A certain adjustment time may see some chaos. In the long run, this will lead to more responsible behaviour in the digital marketing ecosystem

**AMBIKA SHARMA** | FOUNDER AND MANAGING EDITOR, PULP STRATEGY

An influencer can be any person with a significant following on a social media platform. A product or brand endorsed, used or reviewed by the individual who holds considerable sway or 'influence' over his fol-

lowers, is what constitutes influencer marketing. Influencer marketing agencies such as Pulp Strategy connect influencers to companies and create strategies for them.

"The penalties are reportedly

in the range of ₹10 lakh-50 lakh," said influencer-turned-entrepreneur Gaurav Jain. "I think creators will be fined in accordance with their audience size and the kind of brand they've worked with. But I still feel mostly bigger celebrities and macro creators will fall under their radar in case of non-compliance," Jain explained.

According to influencers and marketing agencies, the fear of heavy fines and possible litigation may pose some challenges, especially to smaller creators, initially. However, in the longer run, the guidelines will help formalise the industry and make brands and creators more responsible towards consumers.

The growing influencer marketing segment can cater to a wide

gamut of industries, including fashion, food, cosmetics, design, technology and entertainment.

"An influencer can earn from as small as a few thousands to lakhs of rupees, based on the brand, the creator's reach and the quality of content," Jain explained.

Fitness coach and influencer Meenal Bhardwaj Pathak, who has more than one lakh followers on Instagram, said guidelines and penalties will instil a sense of moral and social responsibility in creators.

Last year, the ASCI released the 'Guidelines For Influencer Advertising In Digital Media' that mandated influencers on social media who advertise brands from their accounts to disclose paid partnerships.

## Saketh-Yuki loses as Norway seal tie 3-0



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lillehammer (Norway), Sept 17:** India were thrashed 0-3 by a far-superior Norway team as World No.2 Casper Ruud combined with Viktor Durasovic to win the doubles match and complete the rout in the World Group-1 tie of the Davis Cup here Saturday. The Indian pair of Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni went down 3-6, 6-3, 3-6.

Having lost both the singles on the opening day, the Yuki-Saketh pair did put up a fight before losing to the fancied Norwegian duo in an hour and 50 minutes.

On day one, both Ramkumar Ramanathan and Prajnesh Gunneswaran had lost their respective singles matches by identical margins of 1-6, 4-6 to Durasovic and Ruud, respectively.

While Ruud, a finalists at French Open and the US Open is a cut above the rest, the Indians couldn't tame even Durasovic, whose singles ranking is a lowly 325 and stands at 224 in the doubles list.

Ruud, on the other hand, doesn't even play doubles on the circuit. However, as had been the case often, the potent singles player had an advantage over the spe-

cialist doubles players. The Norwegian pair needed one break point each in the first and third set to clinch the rubber.

The Yuki-Saketh pairing had had some success at the Challenger level where it reached a few finals, but at a level which is a few notches higher, the duo failed to keep India afloat despite having a better understanding on paper, compared to the pair of Ruud and Durasovic.

With Norway taking an unassailable 3-0 lead, the two reverse singles won't be played. The Indian team were staring at a heavy defeat after conceding a 0-2 lead to the hosts following Ramkumar's loss to Durasovic in the second singles Friday evening.

Ramkumar, the No.1 singles player for India, failed to live up to expectations as he suffered a loss to his lower-ranked opponent Durasovic in one hour and 16 minutes.

After Prajnesh Gunneswaran lost to World No.2 and US Open runner-up Ruud in an expected result in the first singles, the onus was on Ramkumar to keep India in the tie by winning the second match.

# WORLD NO.1 ALCARAZ GOES DOWN



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Barcelona, Sept 17:** Carlos Alcaraz's biggest fans had flocked to see the world's new top-ranked player in his homecoming to Spain.

Instead, they witnessed Felix Auger-Aliassime beat their new idol before staying on the hard court to secure a second victory in doubles and help Canada score a 2-1 upset win over Spain in the Davis Cup group phase Friday.

Alcaraz lost 6-7(3-7), 6-4, 6-2 to a superb Auger-Aliassime, who endured the partisan crowd and tilted the match at Valencia his way after the 19-year-old Spaniard dug deep to claim the first-set tiebreaker.

"Felix is a beast. Physically and mentally, Felix is one of the best in the world," Alcaraz said after his first match since winning the US Open last weekend to become the youngest man to rise to the top of the ATP rankings.

"I didn't come in very good physical condition," he added. "It was a very tough day, but I have to say congratulations to him because he played an unbelievable game."

As the pavilion roared for Alcaraz, Auger-Aliassime coolly responded by surgically placing shot after shot exactly where he wanted. He dominated on his serve with 16 aces and eventually broke Alcaraz late in the second set and twice in the third.

"He is the world No.1 and big credit

to him for that, but today I think I was a little bit better in the third set," the 13th-ranked Auger-Aliassime said. "I wasn't going to let my team down with my fighting spirit." Roberto Bautista gave Spain the first point after he fought back for a 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 win against Vasek Pospisil. With no time to recover, Auger-Aliassime and Pospisil showed no sign of being worn down when they came from behind to beat Marcel Granollers and Pedro Martinez 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 in the decider. Canada will next play Serbia Saturday while Spain faces South Korea Sunday to determine which two advance to the quarterfinals in November in the southern Spanish city of Malaga.

Spain beat Serbia 3-0 Wednesday while Alcaraz was resting after jetting home from New York where he won his first Grand Slam singles title Sunday after a gruelling run that included three consecutive five-set victories. Before the Davis Cup tie, Alcaraz was busy signing autographs and posing for photos after practice. He received the biggest applause when the Spain team was presented and he was introduced as the "new world No. 1."

After the match, he didn't focus on the loss, but rather the joy he got from being back home. "I wanted to come back to Spain, I mean to share this moment to be No.1 and to be US Open champion with all my people," Alcaraz said.

After Spanish fans had to stay up practically all night to watch his matches at the US Open due to the time difference, this was the first

chance many of his supporters had to watch him play at home since May when he won the Madrid Open. Alcaraz beat Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Alexander Zverev in the capital in what many saw as Nadal passing the torch to his Spanish successor.

Red and yellow flags were draped over railings at the pavilion, including one with the name of Alcaraz's home region, Murcia, painted in big black letters. Valencia, on the Mediterranean coast, is about 21 1/2 hours north of Alcaraz's hometown of El Palmar, population 24,000.

Alcaraz had only one previous meeting with Auger-Aliassime, at the 2021 US Open quarterfinals when the Spaniard had to retire due to injury. While Alcaraz arrived from a tiring two weeks in the US, Auger-Aliassime played singles and doubles Tuesday to help Canada beat South Korea in their Davis Cup opener. Also Friday, the Netherlands advanced after beating Andy Murray's



**EFFORTS GO IN VAIN:** Spain's Carlos Alcaraz goes for a forehand shot during his match against Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime (inset) in their Davis Cup tie

Britain 2-1 in Glasgow. The result also meant the United States advanced from Group D. Germany and Australia advanced from Group C after the Germans beat Belgium 2-1, while Italy defeated Argentina 2-1 in Bologna in Group A.

## Punia to fight for bronze at World C'ships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Belgrade, Sept 17:** Star Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia suffered a shock defeat in his quarterfinal bout but returned into medal contention as he entered the 65kg repechage round at World Championships here Saturday.

Bajrang succumbed to a technical superiority (10-0) defeat at the hands of 23-year-old two-time cadet world champion Yianni Diakomihalis of the USA in the last eight round.

However, the two-time Commonwealth Games champion, who is searching for his fourth World Championships medal, became active again as he entered the repechage round after Diakomihalis reached the final.

Bajrang will take on the winner of the bout between Vazgen Tevanyan of Armenia and Bulgaria's Vladimir Vladimirov Dubov in his first repechage bout Sunday. Earlier, Bajrang had defeated Cuba's Alejandro Enrique Valdes Tobier on points in the pre quarterfinals.

Sagar Jaglan's quest for a bronze medal in 74kg ended as the 18-year-old lost to reigning Asian Champion Yones Aliakbar Emami of Iran 6-0. Sagar had earlier defeated Suldkhuu Olnobayar of Mongolia 7-3 to move to the bronze medal bout.

## Haaland on target in Man City victory



**RIGHT ON THE MONEY:** Erling Haaland (in sky-blue) strikes for Man City's second goal against Wolves, Saturday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Wolverhampton, Sept 17:** Erling Haaland added a strike from outside the area to his repertoire of goals since joining Manchester City in a 3-0 win at 10-man Wolves in the Premier League Saturday.

City had already taken the lead through Jack Grealish after 55 seconds at the Molineux when Haaland picked up the ball 40 meters out, drove toward the penalty box and shot right-footed into the bottom corner from the edge of the area in the 16th minute. It was Haaland's 11th goal in seven league games since his off-season arrival from Borussia Dortmund.

"I didn't know he could score from outside the box," Grealish said jokingly, while calling Haaland "the best striker in the world playing up front."

Wolverhampton's already-slim chances virtually ended when center back Nathan Collins was shown a straight red card for a chest-high lunge on Grealish in the 33rd.

Phil Foden swept in a right-wing cross from Kevin De Bruyne, who provided a similar assist for Grealish's goal, in the 69th minute to round off a win that took City above Arsenal into first place—at least overnight.

City has scored 23 goals in the first seven games of its title defense and Haaland has almost half of them.

## LEWANDOWSKI STRIKES HELP BARCA CRUSH 10-MAN ELCHE

**BARCELONA:** Robert Lewandowski shook off his disappointing return to Bayern Munich by scoring twice to lead Barcelona to a 3-0 victory at home over 10-man Elche in the Spanish league Saturday.

They were Lewandowski's seventh and eighth goals in a five-round scoring streak and took his overall tally to 11 in eight games since he transferred to Barcelona from Bayern this summer.

Barcelona moved to the top of the league standings at one point above Real Madrid before the defending champion plays a derby at Atletico Madrid Sunday.

Elche were left with a hole in their backline in the 15th minute when defender Gonzalo Verdu

pulled Lewandowski down when the striker was in position to latch onto a pass that would have left him all alone in the area. The referee didn't hesitate in sending off Verdu with a direct red since he was the last defender.

Lewandowski opened the scoring in the 33rd when he tapped in a cross from 18-year-old left back Alejandro Balde. Memphis Depay doubled the lead in the 41st when he received a pass from Balde, spun around his marker and fired over goalkeeper Edgar Badia.

Lewandowski made it a brace for himself three minutes after halftime when he finished off a dangerous cross by Ousmane Dembélé that Elche's defense couldn't clear.



## India aim for fitting farewell to Goswami

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hove, Sept 17:** After an ordinary showing in the shortest format, the Indian women's cricket team will have to drastically lift its game in all departments and give a fitting farewell to veteran Jhulan Goswami in the ODI series against England beginning here Sunday.

India got most things wrong in the T20I series which they lost 1-2, especially their batting and fielding. With England missing their three senior players, including injured skipper Heather Knight, it was a good chance for India to register a rare series win over England.

Their middle order issues have gone on for far too long and after three games in England, it remains far from being resolved. D Hemalatha was tried but she couldn't make much of an impact.

Though Jemimah Rodrigues has been named in the squad, questions remain over her fitness after she was ruled out of The Hundred due to injury.

After being dropped from the T20 squad, pressure will be on Yastika Bhatia to perform. While Smriti Mandhana and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur continue to hold the batting together, Shafali Verma needs to find consistency after three years in international cricket.

With Goswami retiring at the end of the three-match ODI series, the pace department also doesn't inspire a lot of confidence. Renuka Singh has done well of late but the team still relies heavily on spinners to do the

job even in overseas conditions.

Pooja Vastrakar, Sneha Rana and Deepthi Sharma merit a place in the side. But, is going with three all-rounders and no specialist in a playing eleven the right option? The series is part of the ICC ODI Women's Championship which will eventually decide the qualifiers for the 2025 World Cup.

In Knight's absence, Amy Jones will continue to lead the England squad. Alice Capsey and Freya Kemp, who impressed in the T20Is, have been handed their maiden call ups for the ODI series.

"It's another big series, especially with points counting towards ICC Women's World Cup qualification, and with the summer ending at Lord's there's a lot to be excited about," head coach Lisa Keightley said in an ECB statement ahead of the series opener.

### The squads

**INDIA:** Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Shafali Verma, Sabbini Meghana, Deepthi Sharma, Taniyaa Bhatia (wk), Yastika Bhatia (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Sneha Rana, Renuka Thakur, Meghna Singh, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Harleen Deol, Dayalan Hemalatha, Simran Dil Bahadur, Jhulan Goswami & Jemimah Rodrigues.

**ENGLAND:** Amy Jones, Tammy Beaumont, Lauren Bell, Maia Bouchier, Alice Capsey, Kate Cross, Freya Davies, Alice Davidson-Richards, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Freya Kemp, Issy Wong, Danni Wyatt.

## MotoGP likely to make India debut in winter of 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 17:** MotoGP, the pinnacle of two-wheel racing, could come to India in the winter of 2023 if all goes ahead as planned, providing a massive boost to the stagnant motorsport scene in the country.

The master agreement between MotoGP commercial rights owner Dorna and Noida-based race promoters Fairstreet Sports could be signed as early as next week.

Dorna MD Carlos Ezpeleta and CEO Carmelo Ezpeleta will be in the national capital Wednesday and they are expected to make an official announcement on the 'Grand Prix of Bharat'.

The round is most likely to be held at the Buddh International



Circuit, once home of the Formula I Indian Grand Prix, which was discontinued due to financial, tax

and bureaucratic hurdles.

The FIM homologation of the track will be done only after the

agreement is signed between MotoGP rights owner and race promoters.

Speaking to PTI, Fairstreet Sports COO Pushkar Nath said they have done their homework for the organisation of the high-profile race, taking into consideration what went wrong with Formula 1 nine years ago. "India is the largest two-wheeler market in the world. Everyone has a connect with bikes. It has aspirational value. MotoGP is one of the most watched sporting events," Nath told PTI.

"We have taken all the precautionary steps for the India round. We have taken all the steps to ensure we can race in India for a long period. We are looking at a winter round for India next year."

Akbar Ebrahim, president of

Indian motorsports federation FMSCI, welcomed the development. "I hope the master agreement between Dorna and Fairstreet is signed soon and then we can move on to track homologation and the organisation of the race. The support of the government will be key here," said Ebrahim.

Around 5000 people work on a MotoGP weekend which includes races in junior classes Moto 2 and Moto 3. The race will not only put Uttar Pradesh on the global map but is expected to boost tourism.

The all-electric Formula E race is also coming to Hyderabad next February and if MotoGP can go ahead as planned, Indian motorsport will finally get what it's desperately waiting for.

