



SET TO SURPRISE

Actor Parineeti Chopra says the viewers will get to see her in a new avatar in Code Name Tiranga

LEISURE P2



TOUGH STANCE

China says it will strive with 'utmost sincerity' for the reunification of Taiwan and will not bow down to pressure

INTERNATIONAL P10



FIRST T20I TODAY

India look to sort out their team combination ahead of T20 World Cup as they face Australia in the first T20I series

SPORTS P12

Fresh Lopar triggers heavy rain in Odisha

The twin cities are likely to witness one or two intense spells of rain today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: Heavy rain lashed parts of Odisha Monday as a cyclonic circulation that had formed over Bay of Bengal intensified into a low-pressure area, the Met office said. The weather system, which took shape over the northwest Bay of Bengal in the morning, is likely to intensify further into a well-marked low-pressure area over the next 24 hours while moving towards the Odisha coast, the Bhubaneswar Meteorological Centre said. Under its influence, widespread downpour and thunderstorm are expected across the state till Wednesday. The twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack are likely to witness one or two intense spells of rain Tuesday.

Fisherfolk shouldn't venture off the Odisha coast Tuesday due to possible squally weather with gusty wind speed of 40-50 kmph over the northwest Bay of Bengal, the Met department said. Mathili in Malkangiri district received the highest rainfall of 84 mm over a 24-hour period till 8.30 am, followed by 82.3 mm at Lamtapur in Koraput and 79 mm at Tentulikhunti in Nabarangpur. Incessant rain pounded Bhubaneswar, Khurda town, Talcher, Chandbali among other several places since Monday morning. The state received an average rainfall of 23.1 mm in the last 24 hours. The Met department has issued an orange alert of very heavy rain in nine western Odisha districts, including Sambalpur, Subarnapur and Jharsuguda, Tuesday. Heavy rain can also occur at a few places in Cuttack, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj, the Met office said.



FINAL FAREWELL: The coffin of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II makes its way to Westminster Abbey on the day of the state funeral and burial of the Queen, in London, Britain

SHORT TAKES

Former Punjab CM Amarinder joins BJP

New Delhi: Former chief minister and Punjab Lok Congress chief Amarinder Singh joined the BJP here Monday in the presence of senior BJP leaders Narinder Singh Tomar and Kiren Rijiju. Singh also merged his newly formed Punjab Lok Congress (PLC) with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Singh (80) had floated the PLC last year, but his party failed to win any seat.

1,350 strips of fake Telma-40 seized

Cuttack: Purigat police Monday seized around 1,350 strips of spurious Telma-40 tablets, used to treat high blood pressure (BP), from a transport agency here, deputy commissioner of police (DPP) Pinak Mishra said Monday. The crackdown came while probing the recent case of spurious drug sale by two distributors in the Silver City here. It was found that the Telma-40 tablets available at the transport agency were spurious.

State govt hikes staff DA by 3 pc

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: Ahead of the festive season, the Odisha government Monday hiked Dearness Allowance (DA) of employees by 3 per cent with retrospective effect from January 1, 2022. The proposal has been approved by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The rate of DA will now be enhanced to 34 per cent from the existing 31 per cent, a statement released by the CMO said. Similarly, the state government has also increased the sanction of Dearness Relief (TR) of the pension of its retired employees by 3 per cent. The employees will get the additional DA and TR amount in their September salary and pension along with eight months' arrear; the CMO said. Around 4 lakh regular employees and 3.5 lakh pensioners of the state government will benefit from the hikes.

CONG PREZ RUN Gehlot vs Tharoor likely

While the G-23 group is gearing up to field a candidate and Tharoor is its top choice, for party loyalists, Gehlot is the preferred choice

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 19: With the process for the Congress presidential polls opening with the issuance of notification September 22, it's likely that the main contest for the top party post will be between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor. Party sources said that interim Congress chief Sonia Gandhi hinted Monday that she does not have any reservations against Tharoor running for Congress President's post.



Sonia Gandhi gave her nod shortly after meeting Tharoor and a few other Congress leaders on her return following a medical check-up abroad. Tharoor, who was one of the G-23 members of the party who had demanded sweeping reforms in the Congress, is now likely to throw his hat into the ring for the race to the top party post, voting for which will be held October 17. Senior party leader Jairam Ramesh said, "Anybody who wants to contest is free and welcome to do so."

This has been the consistent position of Congress President and Rahul Gandhi. This is an open, democratic and transparent process. Nobody needs anybody's nod to contest." While the notification for the Presidential election will be issued September 22, there is still suspense over the candidates who will contest for the top party post. While the G-23 group is gearing up to field a candidate and Thiruvananthapuram MP Tharoor is its top choice, for party loyal-

ists, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is the preferred choice, sources said. However, Gehlot is reportedly reluctant to leave chief ministership and move to Delhi. In that scenario, former Union minister Mukul Wasnik or leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, could emerge as the front-runners, as both belong to the Scheduled Caste community. The nominations are to be filed between September 24 and September 30. Meanwhile, Congress' state units have been passing resolutions to make Rahul Gandhi the next party President, including in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, among others. However, Congress' Central Election Authority (CEA) has said that such resolutions will not have any bearing on the election process.

Farmer wishes PM on birthday, commits suicide as MSP missing

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Pune, Sept 19: In a shocker, a frustrated and broke farmer Dashrath L Kedari, greeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday (September 17) and then jumped into a pond to end his life, his family said here Monday. According to his brother-in-law Arvind Waghmare, the incident took place in Bankarphata village where Kedari was working as a farmer for the past 8 years. That day, he seemed very depressed, but he conveyed his wishes of a long life to the PM, and then jumped into the nearby pond and killed himself. A suicide note was recovered later, Waghmare told IANS.



In his suicide note, Kedari wished 'Happy Birthday to You, PM' and then said that it was due to the state government's failure in ensuring Minimum Support Price that he was compelled to end his life as he was hounded by debtors. He recounted how the state was not giving MSP to onion, tomato and other cultivators who were ravaged by the recent floods and the losses of the pandemic. "What should we do? You are only concerned for yourself Modi Saheb. We are not begging for alms, but what is rightly due to us. MSP must be given to us as the money-lenders are threatening us. Nobody takes risks like the farmers where do we go with our grievances," Kedari said. Taking strong cognisance, the Shiv Sena Spokespersons Kishore Tiwari and Dr Manisha Kayande slammed the government for its failure on tackling the state agrarian crisis which is in despair with a spate of suicides. A farmer greets the PM and then goes on his 'chita' (funeral pyre), but the PM is busy bringing the 'cheetahs' to the country. This is the sad status in the country, said Dr Kayande. Tiwari said the PM must immediately come to visit the Kedari family as the state government has failed to solve the problems of farmers, or direct Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to go and console the deceased farmers' kin during her visit to Pune next week.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Congratulations! We are going global!

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	59141.23	↑ 300.44
NIFTY	17622.30	↑ 91.50
DOLLAR	80.03	↑ ₹0.03
EURO	79.77	↓ ₹0.02
GOLD	₹49,307	↓ ₹73
SILVER	₹56,801	↑ ₹81

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
MAX	28.2°C	29.2°C
MIN	23.9°C	24.0°C
Humidity	97%	94%
Rainfall	3.5mm	1.0mm

Forecast: Light rain likely

BJP's Bishnu Sethi no more

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: Senior BJP leader Bishnu Charan Sethi, 61, passed away Monday at a state-run hospital, where he was undergoing treatment for kidney-related ailments. The deputy leader in Assembly was admitted to AIIMS, Bhubaneswar August 16. "He had developed lung infection and suffered brain haemorrhage. However, the end came due to acute cardiac failure," AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Superintendent SN Mohanty told reporters. A two-time legislator from Bhadrak district, Sethi was the sitting MLA from the Dhannagar Assembly segment. Sethi is survived by his wife. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Governor Ganeshi Lal and Chief



Minister Naveen Patnaik were among a host of leaders who expressed condolence on Sethi's demise. "Shri Bishnu Charan Sethi Ji made an outstanding contribution to Odisha's progress," Modi tweeted. With his death, BJP has lost two of its 23 lawmakers elected to the Assembly following the 2019 elections. Earlier, Balasore MLA Madanmohan Dutta had passed away in 2020.

Nod to ₹261.50 crore coastal management plan for 5 years

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: In a bid towards enhancing climate resilience of coastal communities, the state government has decided to implement a community-based action plan with an investment of ₹261.50 crore in five years. This was discussed in the Steering Committee of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Society (ICZMS) held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra here on digital mode, Monday. Project director, ICZMS, Sushanta Nanda said that the interventions would be rolled out from the current year

and would be completed by 2026-27. Around 3,75,321 hectares of coastal area spreading over 339 Gram Panchayats and five forest divisions would be included in it. The main coastal landscapes like Talsari in Balasore district, Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara district, Bahuda and Chilika in Ganjam district and Devi Mouth & Chilika in Puri district will be included under the project, he said. The project would contribute towards the ongoing efforts of the state government in addressing the impacts of the climatic hazards and disasters on the vulnerable coastal communities through

popularisation of the climate adaptive livelihood activities. The community-based organisations, NGOs, eco-clubs, women self help groups (SHGs) and local village communities would be involved in the planning, execution and carrying forward of the intervention. Considering different contours of the plan, Mahapatra directed to focus on regeneration of coastal ecosystems, and promotion of climate resilient sustainable livelihood in the coastal communities. He directed to prepare the annual action plan in consultation with the respective communities.

Cuttack set for dazzling Durga Puja after 2-yr lull

PREPARATIONS ARE IN FULL SWING AS ORGANISERS ARE UPBEAT ABOUT A GRAND CELEBRATION THIS TIME

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Cuttack, Sept 19: Artisans are burning the midnight oil to give final touches to the idols, labourers are running against time to complete the marquees and organisers are pulling out all stops to embrace the good old days of the pre-pandemic fête. A fortnight from now, the streets of Cuttack will be bustling with people of all ages and communities

from across Odisha to soak in the festive spirit of Durga Puja, the city's mega festival that is being conducted for over 500 years. Preparations are in full swing as organisers are upbeat about conducting a grand celebration this time, especially as the past two years were marred with restrictions on public participation and idol height due to the coronavirus pandemic. The festival in Cuttack tran-



sends barriers of religions with participation from all communities. From Hindus to Muslims, everyone celebrates the festival together as it is a city of brotherhood. Cuttack Mahanagar Santi Committee general secretary Bhikari Das told PTI. Though Durga Puja is celebrated across Odisha, the one in Cuttack is the most famous for the stunning filigree work and the 'chandi medha' or the silver tableau. Continued on P4

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today, you may want to express your artistic streak. Hence, you may either decide to paint the walls of your house in vibrant colours, or touch up some old unused furniture in art deco style. You may even get nostalgic about an old matchbox collection and decide to restore it.

TAURUS
A good day for money and love (you need more?). A quality, professional approach will help you shine out in business today. Be it launching a product or marketing it, you will win yourself hearts, smiles and a bundle of green. Let the leader in you take over during the day and the lover in you return by night, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
The first half of the day should see you fresh and rosy with enthusiasm. You will be able to channel your energies in the right direction today. You will be able to pursue projects which really interest you. You will likely spend your lunch time in the company of friends and family.

CANCER
There is a sound prospect that you will work hard to improve the welfare of your children, portends Ganesh. In the afternoon, you may hear good news about their academic success. In the evening, meditation and prayer will take much of your time, hopes Ganesh.

LEO
There are good days, bad days, and then there are days like today, when Ganesh foresees a mixed bag of fortunes for you. Make your family the centre of your world, and show them the love and affection that they deserve. Early in the day, you may make an attempt to sever ties with your spouse or life partner.

VIRGO
Creativity is bubbling inside you, asking to be uncorked. You may be struggling more than enough to tackle challenges thrown at you. Cash benefits will come your way in office. But Ganesh advises you to pay due attention to your health.

LIBRA
Some private possessions are close to your heart, and you may want to keep them that way, says Ganesh. Let your mind walk the hidden alleyways of mysticism in the afternoon as you seek peace of mind. Also, do not discount a trip to a sacred place, says Ganesh.

SCORPIO
Health issues are on top of the list today. Spend more time working out those muscles than working, says Ganesh. Those in marketing and advertising shall have a golden day today. The correct dose of marketing mix will help reap maximum profits.

SAGITTARIUS
A day where your thoughts will be inclined towards God and divinity, says Ganesh. Don't ease those purse strings easily too. At work, rise to the occasion and take charge. Your superiors will give you a pat on the back. Romantic escapades will be marked by rude health – as if you mind!

CAPRICORN
In total control of yourself, you will have the tendency to dominate those around you. It's a trait that keeps resurfacing at intervals, making you feel all powerful, says Ganesh. Later in the day, you may even enrol yourself for a personality development course to hone your communication and professional skills.

AQUARIUS
Mixed fortunes today. At work, demanding schedules may drive you up the wall, and you may struggle to keep pace with others. Don't be dejected, says Ganesh, these things happen once in a while. It is only after such a busy day that you can bask in the pleasure of a foot massage from your beloved.

PISCES
Friends are the subject of all your activities today. You will make new acquaintances that will prove to be helpful in times of need. A loved one will make you happy like you've never been before.

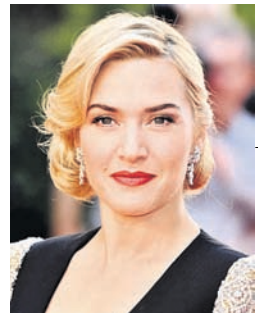


ACTING FEELS DIFFERENT AFTER TAKING A BREAK: CAMERON DIAZ

After eight years away from Hollywood, actress Cameron Diaz opened up about her upcoming Netflix movie *Back in Action*. "I am both nervous and excited as it feels different to act after taking a break," said the *Charlie's Angels* actress.

KATE WINSLET TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AFTER FALL

Actress Kate Winslet was taken to a hospital after she slipped while filming an upcoming project in Croatia. The actress was shooting her role in the historical drama film *Lee* when an on-set accident led to her being taken to a nearby hospital to ensure that she was OK.



Parineeti gears up to appear in new avatar

Mumbai: Actress Parineeti Chopra, who is gearing up for the release of her next *Code Name Tiranga*, says she is back again to present herself in a new avatar that no one has seen her doing.

The actress, who gained appreciation for her performance in film such as *Sandeep Aur Pinky Pasaar*, *Saina* and *The Girl On The Train*, said, "I am back again to present myself in a whole new avatar that no one has seen me do before! It is my attempt to keep doing disruptive content as I have been and to push my limits to bring something new on the table for the audiences."

"The bruises and me holding the gun in the poster is just a teaser of all the things that is in store for the audiences. This is just a sneak peek into my character and I can assure you that we intend to shock and awe with this film," she added.

An espionage action thriller, *Code Name: Tiranga* is the story of a spy on an unfaltering and fearless mission for her nation in a race against time where sacrifice is her only choice.

Parineeti will play a RAW agent who is on an exhilarating journey across many countries. IANS



Alaya F sets 'green' goals

Mumbai: Actress Alaya F made a confident and assured debut in Hindi film industry while also grabbing the attention of fashion critics.

It's always so surreal to see Alaya coming up with some or the other way to bring up a message that too by keeping her beauty at its best. One such example can be seen in the way she brought up the message of going green while fans wouldn't be able to take their eyes off her beauty. Taking to her social media, Alaya shared a really hot picture wearing a green dress while she was killing up with her sizzling expression. The actress very elegantly delivered the message of go green while adding a caption – "Eat your greens, kids! ??????????"

She stunned her followers in a skirt set with buckle accents. Both the top and the skirt include an adjustable buckle waist element, cut-out areas, side splits, a centre back exposed zipper lining, and no stretch. She opted to forgo accessories because her outfit was all about glam and let it speak for itself. Meanwhile, on the work front, the *Jawaani Jaaneman* actress is all set to play the lead role in *U-Turn*. She will be seen opposite Kartik Aaryan in *Freddy*. She also has *Ek Aur Ghazab Kahani* with Arjun Kapoor and Aditya Seal in her kitty.

AGENCIES



Irony of life comes alive on stage

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: Members of Creative Arts, a theatre troupe of Paralakhemundi in Gajapati district, staged Odia play *Bhoka* under *Natya Dhara* here at Rabindra Mandap, Monday.

Written by Prabhakar Patra and directed by Manoj Kumar Padhi (Munna), the play revolved around its protagonist Nabaghan, a rickshaw puller, who renders jobless as there are no takers for his rickshaws these days. Hit by hunger pangs, he chooses to go to jail for committing a few petty crimes. But he fails as the society dubs him insane, not criminal. So, he decides to do something meaningful in life to eke out a living. He doesn't succeed here too and is lodged in jail as a criminal. The play progresses with Nabaghan trying to find where he has gone wrong in his bid to battle hunger.

The narration and performance of the actors in the play held viewers in thrill. The actors who performed on stage included



Artistes of Creative Arts enacted the drama at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Monday OP PHOTO

Matangini Guru, Harihar Patnaik, Manoj Padhi, Adarsh Das, Sujit Panigrahi, and others. Raghunath Patra and Master Madhav scored the music.

Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi, in col-

laboration with Culture department, organises four plays (three at Bhanjakala Mandap and one at Rabindra Mandap) every month under *Natya Dhara* to promote theatre in Odisha.

Suhana gets dating advice from mom

Mumbai: Top star Shah Rukh Khan's wife Gauri Khan, who will be seen on *Koffee With Karan* along with friends Maheep Kapoor and Bhavana Panday, has a funny dating advice for her daughter Suhana Khan, who is all set to make her Hindi film debut with Zoya Akhtar's *The Archies*.

In the trailer of the upcoming episode, Karan asked Gauri about her dating advice for Suhana.

"Never date two boys at the same time," she said with a laugh.

Asked about Shah Rukh's one habit that annoys her, Gauri said her superstar husband is always seeing off the guests to their car when they are having a party in their house.

"He is always seeing off the guests to their car. Sometimes I feel like he spends more time outside than inside during parties. Then people start looking for him. It makes me feel like we are having the party outside on the road rather than inside the house!," vented Gauri Khan on her husband's 'precious' habit.

AGENCIES

FUN post

PEANUTS



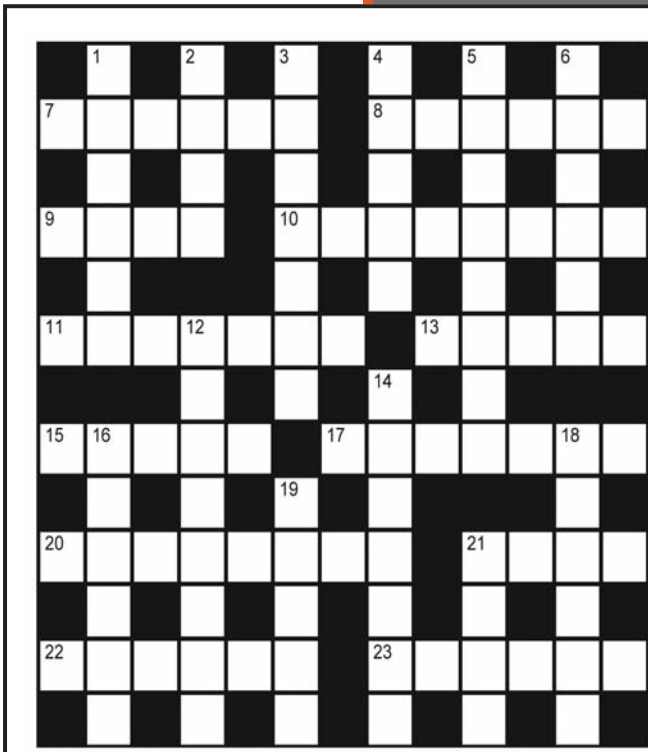
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



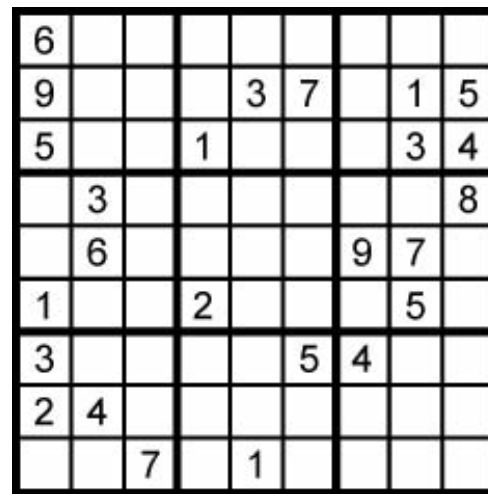
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 UMBER, e.g.
 - 8 ROCOCO
 - 9 WINDMILL part
 - 10 TACTFUL
 - 11 STAYS BEHIND
 - 13 SEVERE
 - 15 METAL bar
 - 17 ENNUI
 - 20 SNAILS served in garlic and butter
 - 21 RELIGIOUS offshoot
 - 22 OVERNIGHT bag
 - 23 BAD-TEMPERED
 - Down**
 - 1 SUCCOUR
 - 2 VOLCANO feature
 - 3 LANCE
 - 4 APLOMB
 - 5 HEIGHTEN
 - 6 TENSION
 - 12 FRAGRANT
 - 14 TYPE of negotiator
 - 16 BAHAMAS capital
 - 18 INHABIT
 - 19 FAIRY tale villains
 - 21 BISQUE, e.g.

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



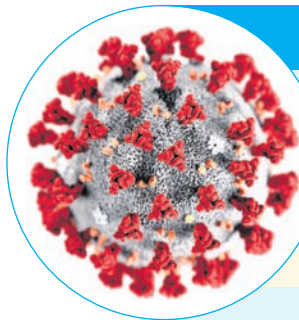
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,73,83,866	59,70,74,885	65,31,200
India	4,45,36,459	4,39,62,664	5,28,355
Odisha	13,31,918	13,21,344	9,186



SCIENTIFIC TEMPER

School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash interacts with a student during the inauguration of 48th state-level exhibition on math, science and environment at Khannagar Government High School, in Cuttack, Monday



SCB TRANSFORMATION



ST Secretary VK Pandian, along with Finance department Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev, reviews the progress of SCBMCH transformation in Cuttack, Monday

1,350 STRIPS OF FAKE TELMA-40 SEIZED

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 19: Purighat police Monday seized around 1,350 strips of spurious Telma-40 tablets, used to treat high blood pressure (BP), from a transport agency here, deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Pinak Mishra said Monday. According to Mishra, the police crackdown came while probing the recent case of spurious drug sale by two distributors in the Silver city. "While probing the recent fake drug case, Purighat police received information about storage of Telma-40 drug at Trivedi Express Cargo at Mahatab Road which was procured by VR Agencies of Manik Ghosh Bazar in the city from Kolkata," said the DCP. Purighat inspector in-charge (IIC), along with Assistant Drug Controller of Cuttack Circle-I, raided the transport agency. It was found that the Telma-40 tablets available at the transport agency



were spurious. "As many as 1,350 strips of Telma-40 tablets having a face value of Rs 3 lakh from the transport agency," said the DCP. Notably, Purighat police had September 13 arrested two medicine distributors on charges of selling fake medicines meant for heart ailments and high BP. Rahul Kyal, 27, and Sanjay Jalan, 52, proprietors of VR Drug Agency of Manik Ghosh Bazar and Puja Enterprises of Jaunliapatti area respectively were arrested after the drugs controller lodged a complaint in Purighat police station over sale of fake high BP drugs. Later, the laboratory tests have

confirmed that the medicines seized from two distributors in Cuttack were fake.

"The seized drugs are fake as they don't have the chemical composition of the pharmaceutical company," said the DCP. Bank accounts of the two distributors have been frozen and Rs 12 lakh more have been seized from their accounts. Earlier, Rs 28 lakh was seized from the accounts. "We brought the accused on remand and interrogated them for two days. They have made some important revelations," he said. Meanwhile, the Orissa High Court has granted interim protection from arrest to VR Drug Agency owner Barsharani Kyal and Puja Enterprises owner Chanchal Jalan in connection with the fake drug case. Fearing arrest, the duo had moved the HC seeking protection.

Police hawk-eyed on criminals ahead of puja

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: In a bid to ensure a violence and crime-free festive season in the Capital city this year, the Commissionerate Police Monday said that it is keeping a close watch on movement of habitual offenders and antisocial elements. Speaking to media persons here, Bhubaneswar deputy commissioner of police (DCP) Prateek Singh said, "People are excited this year as Durga Puja is going to be celebrated in a grand scale after a gap of two years. We are expecting heavy crowd as people will throng the City from outside to watch the decorated puja pandals, lightings and fairs. Amidst this, criminals and antisocial elements also sneak into the city. So, we have been keeping a watchful eye on them." Singh asserted that the special squads like "Team 60" and the Property Offence Prevention and Detection (POPD) teams at the police stations have been instructed to keep tight vigil on listed criminals in the City and verify the movement of criminals from outside. They have also been asked to do intensive patrolling in their respective

jurisdictions. The DCP told the media that the Commissionerate Police has a complete CCTV coverage over the entire City. "We have asked the committee members of big puja mandaps to install CCTVs at the pandals. We are also planning to carry out naka checking at entry and exit routes to the Capital city and keep vigil on any suspicious movement," added Singh. The Durga Puja committees have been asked to deploy volunteers who will be trained by the police. "Traffic management will be a big challenge for us during the puja. Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Traffic and our team have been making separate arrangements to ensure smooth traffic. However, as many pandals are almost on the road and various cultural programs like Meena Bazaar and melody are scheduled to be held, we are expecting traffic congestion at those places. So, we urge the general public not to park vehicles on roads," Singh said. Notably, the police have registered 25 and 13 cases brown sugar and ganja peddling respectively in September so far.

Lalitha Mahal theme to wow visitors at Bomikhal



BHUBANESWAR: Durga Puja celebrations in the Capital city have been a low-key affair for the last two years due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. However, this year, with the virus gradually weakening, the enthusiasm over the puja is spiraling high. The City will have altogether 178 puja pandals this year, Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das said during a preparatory meeting held at the civic body's office here, recently. Getting the assurance that there won't be any restrictions on the puja celebrations, various committees in the Capital city are preparing to celebrate Durga Puja in a grand manner. The organisers are having regular brainstorming sessions to give a unique look to their pandals and spring a surprise to the visitors. In that race for novelty and grandiloquence, Bomikhal Durga Puja Committee has come up with the idea of recreating the famous Mysore's Lalitha Mahal as the theme for the pandal.

Bomikhal puja committee general secretary Ajay Kumar Pradhan said, "Lalitha Mahal is the second largest palace in Mysore. It is located near the Chamundi Hills, east of the city of Mysore in Karnataka. The palace was built in 1921 at the orders of His Highness Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, the Maharaja of Mysore, for the exclusive stay of the Viceroy of India. Built on a raised ground, the palace was fashioned on the lines of the St Paul's Cathedral in London and is one of the imposing structures of the Mysore city." Pradhan said that artisans from Kolkata have come to construct the pandal which will be 75-ft high and 110-ft wide. "Work for the pandal started on Janamashtami and the structure will be completed by September 28. The idol will be of 16-ft high and is being currently built. We also hold meeting with the Commissionerate Police for security and traffic arrangement during the puja, he added.

Training for OPS officers on anti-corruption laws

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Kumar Bansal Monday inaugurated a two-day training programme for Odisha Police Service (OPS) Group-A officers on anti-corruption laws at State Vigilance Academy here. As many as 30 directly recruited OPS officers are participating in this 2-day programme. Addressing the newly-recruited officers, Bansal said transparency and zero tolerance to corruption are the top priorities of the state government. It has always supported the anti-corruption work of Odisha Vigilance. He also urged the participants to utilise the training module to gather tools for enhancing transparency and preventive vigilance in their day-to-day work. Meanwhile, Vigilance director YK Jethwa, who attended the programme as the chief guest, highlighted the importance of transparency and good governance as a part of the 5T framework. He also urged the officers to ensure high probity in their personal conduct. The Vigilance director said that



the participating officers will be trained on anti-corruption laws, the role of sub-divisional police officers (SDPOs) in preventive vigilance, Odisha Lokayukta Act, 2014, vigilance case laws and departmental proceedings, and sanction of prosecution under Prevention of Corruption Act among other areas. The participants will also be taught how to register an FIR and investigate trap and disproportionate assets. Various domain experts and administrators will hold discussions on case studies on corruption related matters during the two-day training session. "As per the recent NCRB report, Crime In India 2021, Odisha Vigilance topped all State Anti Corruption Agencies in the country in detection and registration of disproportionate assets cases and criminal misconduct/ misappropriation cases," a press note by the Vigilance said.

'Bagha O Anyanya Galpa' picked for Sarala Puraskar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: Odia fiction writer Gourahari Das will get the 43rd edition of prestigious Sarala Puraskar for his short-story collection 'Bagha O Anyanya Galpa', published by Timepass Publication in 2018. He will receive a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh along with a citation at the 43rd Sarala Puraskar ceremony. The award instituted by IMPACT, a charitable wing of the Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys Ltd (Imfa), is aimed at recognising the talent of Odia literature. With this literature award, London-based eminent painter and writer Prafulla Mohanti and Odissi music guru Ghanshyam Panda will be honoured with 'Ila-Bansidhar Panda Kala Samman' for the valuable contribution in the field of art and music, respectively. Both will receive a cash award of Rs. 1.5 Lakh each and citations. The award giving ceremony will be held in Bhubaneswar October 26, 2022.

ARTHROPLASTY CONFERENCE AT KIMS

Challenges to joint implants brainstormed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: Renowned arthroplasty surgeons from across the country attended a two-day state-level conference at Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) to discuss the recent advances in arthroplasty or joint replacement surgery. President of the Indian Arthroplasty Association Rajeev Sharma joined this 4th annual conference of the Odisha Arthroplasty Association (OAAO-2022) as the chief guest. The arthroplasty surgeons emphasised on the challenges and complexities of joint replacement surgeries. In most cases, the recipients are elderly and, in many cases, they have other co-morbidities like diabetes and arthritis. "As the arthroplasty surgeries mostly involve im-

plants with plastics and metals as their basic elements, chances of infections and complications due to degeneration in the materials often lead to problems," explained HoD of Orthopaedics, Tammojy Mohanty. Nearly 20 guest faculties from across Odisha attended the conference. President of Odisha Orthopaedic Association RK Mohapatra, secretary of the association Basanta Kumar Behera and secretary of Odisha Arthroplasty Association Debabrata Padhy spoke at the conference. Debashish Mishra was the organising chairman of the conference while Saswat Samant was the organising secretary. Saurav Narayan Nanda was the co-organising secretary and Santosh Rath was the chairman of the Scientific Committee.

SHOW OF SUPPORT



College students meet BJD leader Maheswar Mohanty after joining Biju Yuva Janata Dal in Puri, Monday

OP PHOTO

Now, smartphones can measure your blood oxygen level

State logs 125 new Cov cases

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: The state's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,31,918 Monday as 125 more people, including 20 children, tested positive for the infection, a health bulletin said. The state had recorded 207 infections Sunday. The toll remained unchanged at 9,186 with no reports of any fresh fatalities. Besides, 53 other patients have died due to co-morbidities so far, it said. The state now has 1,553 active cases, while 13,21,126 patients have recovered from the disease, including 181 in the last 24 hours.

A team of US researchers has found that smartphones are capable of detecting blood oxygen saturation levels down to 70 per cent -- the lowest value a pulse oximeter should be able to measure. The proof-of-principle research by University of Washington (UW) and University of California San Diego researchers involved participants placing their finger over the camera and flash of a smartphone, which uses a deep-learning algorithm to decipher the blood oxygen levels. When the team delivered a controlled mixture of nitrogen and oxygen to six subjects to artificially bring their blood oxygen levels down, the smartphone correctly predicted whether the subject had

low blood oxygen levels 80 per cent of the time. "Other smartphone apps that do this were developed by asking people to hold their breath. But people get very uncomfortable and have to breathe after a minute or so, and that's before their blood-oxygen levels have gone down far enough to represent the full range of clinically relevant data," said co-lead author Jason Hoffman from University of Washington. "With our test, we're able to gather 15 minutes of data from each subject. Our data shows that smartphones could work well right in the critical threshold range," Hoffman said in the study published in npj Digital Medicine. Another benefit of measuring

blood oxygen levels on a smartphone is that almost everyone has one. "This way you could have multiple measurements with your own device at either no cost or low cost," added co-author Dr Matthew Thompson, professor of family medicine in the UW School of Medicine. This would be really beneficial for telemedicine appointments to be able to quickly determine



- To gather data to train and test the algorithm, the researchers had each participant wear a standard pulse oximeter on one finger and then place another finger on the same hand over a smartphone's camera and flash
- When the US researchers' team delivered a controlled mixture of nitrogen and oxygen to six subjects to artificially bring their blood oxygen levels down, the smartphone correctly predicted whether the subject had low blood oxygen levels 80% of the time
- Unlike other applications, a person in this process is not required to hold the breath for a minute or so

whether patients need to go to the emergency department or if they can continue to rest at home and make an appointment with their primary care provider later. To gather data to train and test the algorithm, the researchers had

each participant wear a standard pulse oximeter on one finger and then place another finger on the same hand over a smartphone's camera and flash. The researchers used data from the participants to train a deep learning algorithm to pull out the blood oxygen levels. The remainder of the data was used to validate the method and then test it to see how well it performed on new subjects. "The camera records how much that blood absorbs the light from the flash in each of the three colour channels it measures: red, green and blue," said senior author Edward Wang, assistant professor at UC San Diego. The team hopes to continue this research by testing the algorithm on more people.

OAVS FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS

CM lays foundation stone of Teachers Training Centre



THE TRAINING CENTER WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AT A COST OF ₹25 CRORE

THERE WILL BE AN AUDITORIUM FOR GIVING TRAINING TO 300 TEACHERS, LIVING FACILITY FOR 100 TEACHERS AND 10 WORKSHOP CENTRES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik attended the Foundation Day celebrations of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan Monday and laid the foundation stone of Teachers Training Centre at Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan campus in Bhubaneswar.

This training center will be constructed at a cost of Rs 25 crore. There will be an auditorium for giving training to 300 teachers, living facility for 100 teachers and 10 workshop centres. Apart from this, the CM also

talked about the Bajra Yojana for teachers' welfare, under which all the teachers are to donate their salary for one day at the welfare fund which will later be used for their financial benefit.

On the occasion, CM felicitated the five best OAV schools and five best students from OAVs.

Earlier, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash had congratulated the students, teachers and management of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan (OAVS) on its Foundation Day.

At a recently held function, Dash said, "On OAVS Foundation

day, I congratulate all the students, teachers and management for completing another successful year in its journey of ensuring quality education of underprivileged children. May the mission continue to empower every child with power of education."

A brainchild of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan imparts quality education to thousands of deserving students in all blocks of the state. The aim is to make Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya a role model for the country in quality education, Dash said.

In OAVS around 93,420 students from Class VI to XII are studying. In this year's CBSE Class X exam 1,247 OAV students got 90 per cent and above.

RAZING DOWN



An excavator deployed by BDA razing down an illegally constructed house at Shyampur under Khandagiri police station in Bhubaneswar, Monday

DEATH OF NEWBORNS AT KEONJHAR DHH

NHRC moved seeking aid, action

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: A rights activist Monday filed a petition before the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) seeking monetary compensation for the family members of the 13 children who died in the paediatric ward of the government hospital in Keonjhar district in the last few days. The activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak also requested the commission to ask the state Chief Secretary to pay the compensation immediately and send the proof of compensation within three weeks.

The commission has also been urged to issue order directing the Principal Secretary of the state Health and Family Welfare department and DGP of state police to take stringent actions against



Notably, tension prevailed at the DHH, Keonjhar Sunday following the death of six newborns in last 24 hours. The irate people gheraoed the doctors and sought an explanation on the deaths of the 13 newborns in the last 18 days at the hospital's special newborn care unit

the doctors, nurses and other officials of the district headquarter hospital for their negligence. Nayak also requested the commission to ask the H&FW secretary to submit the Action Taken Report (ATR) in this regard.

Notably tension prevailed at the DHH, Keonjhar Sunday following the death of six newborns in last 24 hours. The irate people gheraoed the doctors and sought an explanation on the deaths of the 13 newborns in the last 18 days at the hospital's special newborn care unit

First TIPSS at Bhub Apollo hospitals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: Trans jugular Intrahepatic Porto Systemic Shunt (TIPSS), a complex medical procedure, was performed on a patient by Manas Ranjan Kar, Senior Consultant Intervention Radiologist at Apollo Hospitals Bhubaneswar. The procedure was done for the first time in the state.

The team of doctors headed by Kar performed the procedure successfully on a 43-year-old male patient suffering from cirrhosis of liver with intractable ascites. The patient got discharged after 3 days and his abdominal collection reduced from post 2nd day of operation. The patient was under supervision of Manoj Kumar Sahu, Senior Consultant, Gastroenterologist and Kadambini Parda, Consultant Anesthesia. COO & DMS, Alok Srivastava congratulated the team for successfully conducting first TIPSS procedure in the state.

TIPSS is a minimally invasive endovascular procedure done by the intervention Radiologist, where an artificial direct channel is created between inflow portal vein which supplies blood to the liver and outflow hepatic vein which takes away blood from liver into the heart.

The procedure is performed by entering into the liver venous channel (hepatic vein) through the neck vein via a small catheter (tube) over a wire under local anesthesia or conscious sedation. An artificial tract is established between the hepatic vein and portal vein through balloon and a stent placement under X-ray and ultrasound guidance to relieve the portal venous pressure. The patient usually becomes ambulatory the same day and get discharged within 2-3 days. The procedure is done without General anesthesia.

Cuttack set for...

Continued from P1

The use of the delicate and intricate silver filigree work in decorations is the specialty of Cuttack, which is known as the Silver City due to the ancient handicraft of 'tarakasi'.

The first community worship of Goddess Durga in Cuttack is said to have started sometime in the 15th-century during the reign of the Gajapati dynasty ruler Prataparudra Deva. Vaishnav saint Chaitanya Deb, who came from Bengal, started it on the Kathajodi river bank. The area is now known as Balu Bazaar.

The city, whose name literally means a fort, developed more than 1,000 years ago around Barabati fort. The five-day 'sarbajanina' (community) festival starts on the evening of Sashthi or the sixth day after Mahalaya and continues till Dashami.

People tour many 'mandapa' (marquees) all through the night, said Debendranath Sahoo, president of the Cuttack Mahanagar Santi Committee, which represents 175 puja committees in the city.

NSS intervention needed in disaster mgmt: Sethi



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 19: The National Service Scheme (NSS) should explore possibilities for educational intervention in online education in remote areas in addition to its regular activities, Bishupada Sethi, state's Principal Secretary in the department of Higher Education, said.

Speaking at the state level review meeting of NSS functionaries at SOA recently, Sethi said, "Programme coordinators and district programme officers should also train the volunteers in road safety keeping in view the rising number of accidents and play a role in helping the state in disaster preparedness."

Pankaj Kumar Singh, Director, NSS, said the organisation's motto 'Not Me, But You' inspired people in the society to be good human beings.

"NSS is more than relevant in the present atmosphere of undesired emphasis on career," Singh said.

Sarita Patel, Regional Director, Odisha unit of NSS, welcomed the guests while the State NSS Officer and Deputy Secretary in the department of Higher Education Ramesh Chandra Behera spoke about the various NSS activities being undertaken in Odisha.

Amit Banerjee, Pro-Chancellor of SOA, who presided over the meeting, narrated his experience as a NSS volunteer during the foundational years of the organization between 1969 and 1973.

Two NSS volunteers and a Program Officer, chosen for the national level NSS Award including Pratik Dash of SOA, were felicitated on the occasion.

They will receive the award from the President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi September 24.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Mediboina Kurma Rao, S/o. Late Guravaji, Katiki Street, Kashinagar, Gajapati, Odisha, PIN - 761206. As per affidavit my name is wrongly recorded as Mediboyena Kurma Rao but my name is Mediboina Kurma Rao.

I, Debika Mohapatra, D/o. Nityananda Mohapatra have changed my name from Debaki Mohapatra to Debika Mohapatra by virtue of an affidavit vide No. -2103, Dtd.27.04.2021 sworn before the Court of Executive Magistrate, Balasore. Henceforth I shall be known as Debika Mohapatra for all purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Jajpur on dtd.17.09.2022 I have changed my name from "Goutam Kumar Panda" to "Goutam Panda". Henceforth I shall be known as "Goutam Panda" for all purpose.

DWELLERS' DEMAND



Slum dwellers association demands proper rehabilitation post-eviction, in a protest in front of CMC office, in Cuttack, Monday

How mammals thrived after the dinosaur extinction

Sixty-two million years ago, a mother gave birth to a baby. Overcoming the shock of birth in a matter of minutes, the baby began to explore the world around it. The baby started to suckle from its mother, a natural instinct shared by all animals of its kind, the mammals.

Each day it grew, and after a month or two, it began feeding for itself on a diet of shoots and leaves. It would have become independent shortly after, but tragedy struck. After only two-and-a-half months, it died.

But this baby's story doesn't end there. Because 62 million years later, its distant cousins (humans) would discover its skeleton, fossilised in the harsh desert of New Mexico, in the south west of the US.

It's classified as a species of early mammal, a bear-like animal called Pantolambda bathmodon. The group to which the species belongs (Pantodontia) went extinct in the Eocene era, some 10 million years after the fossil baby was



born, leaving no living descendants.

An international team of scientists and I used its bones and teeth to reveal its life in unprecedented detail. And our results may help to explain how mammals like Pantolambda took over the world after the dinosaurs went extinct 66 million years ago.

Your skeleton tells the story of your life. Trapped inside the dense minerals of your pearly smile, tiny lines mark each day of the

growth of your teeth, which continue to grow inwards throughout most of your life.

Their chemistry reveals your diet. Elemental building blocks from your diet are recycled to build your tissues, retaining their original chemical fingerprints. Your bones grow like trees, leaving annual rings.

So your skeleton acts as a kind of journal, recording some of the major events you experience, like birth, starvation, or injuries.

We traced the daily growth of the teeth of the two-and-a-half-month old Pantolambda baby. This told us that its teeth grew rapidly, some forming in two months.

Pantolambda babies were born with a full set of milk teeth, and their adult teeth replaced these within a year after birth. Most mammals today have milk teeth, but they aren't usually replaced for years.

But its teeth revealed something even more important. Like on so many of our own calendars, there was a big day highlighted: its birthday. A distinct birth line marked the day that this baby was born, and the same line appeared in the teeth of adult Pantolambda too, evidence that the adult teeth began forming before birth.

Our analysis showed Pantolambda babies were born with a full set of milk teeth, and their adult teeth replaced these within a year after birth. Most mammals today have milk teeth, but they aren't usually replaced for years. We also looked deeper into the early life of Pantolambda by mapping the changing chemistry of the tooth. To do this, we needed lasers.

We vaporised the tooth bit-by-bit using a microscopic laser. Like a needle on vinyl, the laser played out a record of the chemical changes that our bodies undergo as we're born, nurse, and wear. Matching this record to our timeline from the

daily growth marks, we were able to determine how long Pantolambda mothers were pregnant and how many days the baby suckled.

Our study, the first of its kind in a fossil mammal, revealed that Pantolambda had a long pregnancy (seven months) and a short nursing period (one to two months). The data also shows the lifespans of Pantolambda would have been quite short, four to five years, with some reaching about ten years.

This lifestyle is similar to placental mammals, the group that includes us. It's the earliest evidence of this type of lifestyle in the fossil record.

Placentals are special because of, you guessed it, our placentas. While many mammals and even other kinds of animals (fish, for example) have placentas, and our kin have a more developed placenta that provides better nutrition, waste removal, and protection for the fetus.

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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-Cookieman-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.

Couple found hanging in Kandhamal forest

Phulbani, Sept 19: A 45-year-old man and his wife were found hanging from separate trees in Kandhamal district Monday, a police officer said. Their bodies were recovered from a forest under Sarangada police station by some villagers, who had gone there to collect firewood, the officer said.

Prima facie it seems that Monoranjan Nayak and Smitanjali, both 35, residents of nearby Paburia village, may have died by suicide over some family dispute, police said. An investigation is underway and the cause of their death would be clear once the autopsy reports arrive. Tirupati Rao, the sub-divisional police officer of G Udayagiri, told reporters. As of now, he has ruled out any foul play in the death of the two.

The couple is survived by two sons and a daughter. Nayak and his wife worked as Gaon Sathi and Asha workers respectively.



A publicity van on voter awareness being flagged off in the presence of district administration officials in Keonjhar, Monday OP PHOTO

Tricked by lover, woman kills self

Berhampur, Sept 19: A woman who was abandoned by her husband and also tortured by her lover died by suicide under Sadar police limits here, police said Monday.

The matter came to fore after police arrested her lover Ganesh Padhi, 38, of Gosaninuagaon area and produced him in court here, Monday. Preliminary investigations indicate that the accused was mentally and physically torturing the woman after developing a relationship with her.

Police said the woman of Hinjilicut area married a few years back. However, she was driven out of the house by her in-laws and husband after she gave birth to a baby girl. She then started staying with her parents where she came in contact with the accused. The accused developed a physical relationship with the deceased stating that he was a bachelor. The two then started living together at a rented house.

However, the woman soon came to know about Padhi's marriage and confronted him. This led to a fight between the two following which the woman hanged herself. Police handed over her body to her father after conducting post-mortem.

Probe into Keonjhar crib deaths begins

Keonjhar, Sept 19: A day after the Odisha government ordered for a probe into 13 crib deaths in 18 days at the Keonjhar district headquarters hospital (DHH) here, a two-member team from the Health department visited the place Monday to begin investigations.

The team comprising Dr Rashmi Ranjan Satapathy and child health advisor of National Health Mission (NHM) Dr Rabindranath Panda visited the special newborn care unit and took stock of the newborn deaths and also went through the reports.

Health Minister Naba Kishore Das had directed Sunday the Health department to conduct a probe following the death of the newborns in the hospital. The Directorate of Public Health in a letter- No 4392, dated-19.09.2022 formed a two-member committee to conduct a probe and submit a report to it.

The team interacted with doctors, nurses, staff, attendants and kin of the deceased and collected information. Chief district medical officer (CDMO) Dr Sujatarani Mishra, A.D.M.O (Medical) Dr Girish Chandra Rout, A.D.M.O-cum-paediatrician Dr Kishore Chandra Prusty and senior paediatrician Dr Pardiip Kumar Mahakur accompanied the team members during their visit.

When the team interacted with family members of the deceased, the latter alleged about medical negligence and absence of doctors in the hospital. Chairperson Niku Sahoo of Keonjhar Municipality also met the two-member team and discussed about the various problems the hospital is facing. The probe team however, refused to talk to the media stating that they will submit the report to the government.

Meanwhile, Kama Dehury, a grief-stricken parent from Banshapal block in the district who lost his newborn baby, lodged Monday a complaint at the Town police station, demanding stringent action against the guilty. Town police IIC Pramodini Sahoo admitted that the complaint has been received. She said action will be taken after conducting a probe.



Health Minister Naba Kishore Das and other officials visiting Keonjhar district headquarters hospital.

Plaint filed over newborn deaths

Keonjhar: A case has been filed at the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) demanding a probe into the death of the newborns at Keonjhar district headquarters hospital here and demanding that compensation be paid to the bereaved families, officials said Monday. The case was filed by human rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak. The NHRC has accepted the complaint and admitted it for hearing. In his petition, Nayak has prayed to direct the Odisha government to provide compensation of ₹30 lakh to the bereaved families within a period of three weeks and submit the compliance report to the Information Commission. Nayak has also prayed before the commission to direct the Director General of Police to take stringent action against those responsible for the crib deaths.

'FAKE' DRIVING LICENCE

FRAUDSTERS FLEECE TRIBAL YOUTHS

Boipariguda, Sept 19: The Transport department has made driving licences mandatory for all drivers of two, three and four-wheelers. Police and officials of the RTO organise crackdowns on a regular basis to catch those who are driving without a proper licence. Penalties and fines are imposed to prevent licence-less driving. So these days, people are apprehensive about driving without proper documents.

Sensing it as an opportunity to make money, fraudsters have spread their tentacles in the remote areas of Koraput district. They are selling fake driving licences to gullible tribal youths in the localities of



Lamtapat, Boipariguda and Nandapur blocks for hefty sums. The matter came to the fore when police caught two persons who were driving without a proper licence here. They were fined ₹5,000 each. Police while examining their licences found those as fake. Bhagaban Khara of Kumuda village under Chipakur panchayat and Santosh Kirsani of Nisina village under Mathapada panchayat then told the police that they had paid ₹5,000 each to acquire the licences. While the licence of Bhagaban had the number 'OD 10 20220009053', Santosh had got a licence with the number 'OD 10 20220009051'.

visited Nisina village with a laptop during the lockdown last year. They assured the victims of getting licence without undergoing any driving tests. Later, over 40 tribal youths from nearby Rabarti, Dudhabeda and Kudaljodi villages under Chipakur panchayat and Rupaugada, Nisina, Kharaguda and Berengapadar villages under Mathapada panchayat gathered to get licences.

The fraudsters collected Aadhaar cards and some money as advance from the youths. One of them then asked the youths to visit an online café at Bariniput village. The fraudster said that his shop is located prominently on Jeypore-Koraput national highway and the RTO office also functions from there. The

fraudsters also told the applicants that they will have to visit the café and just collect their licences after getting a photograph clicked.

Both Bhagaban and Santosh told the police that several youths have been duped by the fraudsters. As per rules, a person wanting to get a driving licence has to apply online. Initially the person is given a learner's licence. After a few months, the person has to appear for an online test to get the main licence.

However, there are still many tribals who are not aware of the rules. As a result some unscrupulous persons are taking advantage of this situation. They are providing 'fake' licences to the applicants charging anything between ₹5,000 to ₹10,000, sources said.

Poor repairing of embankments leading to floods in Jajpur district

Jajpur/Pritipur, Sept 19: Shoddy repairing and improper construction works on embankments are the main reasons behind the floods that cause havoc in Jajpur district every year, sources said Monday.

The Odisha government is spending huge amounts to control floods. However, despite repairing the embankments of Brahmani, Baitarani, Kharasrota rivers and their distributaries, floods have continued to devastate riparian villages every year. The sources said this has happened due to sub-standard work while repairing the embankments.

The irregularities in repairing work on the left dyke of Kharasrota river embankment in Binjharpur block is a case in point. People have alleged that the soil used in repairing the embankment is of very poor quality. As a result, the soil gets washed away due to rainfall.

The contractor is using the soil available nearby while repairing the embankment instead of transporting better quality from other places. Sources said that the contractor is working as per his own wishes as departmental officials are not visiting the place and supervising the quality of work.



Residents of Binjharpur, Sayeedpur, Kalyanpur, Ghatiali, Guhali, Fatepur, Bachhala, Kaina, Raghunathpur, Mansara, Olei, Chandampur, Singhpur and Jari panchayats always remain apprehensive the moment the Kharasrota river starts to swell. Similar irregularities have also been reported in the construction of the left embankment of Kharasrota river from Suar village to Bagamara ghat. The Odisha government sanctioned ₹20 crore for construction of an 8.5 metres wide embankment and laying of tar road of 5.5 metres over it. However, such is the quality of construction that the road develops dents and potholes the moment rains start. Significantly the work has been done the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department with funds from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The residents of the villages living close to the embankment have demanded a high-level probe into the irregularities and action against the wrongdoers.

Jajpur district has over 400 kilometres of embankment to protect the land mass from the fury of floods. Funds are available from Special Relief Commission (SRC), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to protect and strengthen these embankments. Sources alleged that no one is interested in providing a permanent solution to the annual flood problem. Locals said that undue favours are being shown to a particular group of contractors despite their work not being up to the desired quality. As a result, lives and properties of people are being put at risk. Breaches continue to occur on these embankments and the riparian villages get flooded every year. They blamed politicians for their predicament.

However, this has failed to wake up the political leaders who appoint their followers as contractors and reap the benefits of commission, sources said. Even though the matter has been reported to higher ups, no action has been taken, they added.

Reports said that over 25 breaches occurred on the river embankments in Jajpur district in August 2020. The Odisha government had then sanctioned over ₹50 crore for repairing these embankments. No one knows how the amount has been spent, but breaches have occurred in 2021 and this year also.

When contacted, assistant engineer Siddharth Sekhar Jena of Binjharpur R & B section said the embankment repairing works is

being done as per estimates and being monitored on a regular basis. He ruled out receiving any complaint on irregularities.

Experts want archaeological excavations along Mahanadi

Amarpali, Sept 19: Archaeological remains pertaining to several ancient civilisations, human settlements and temples are lying undiscovered below the ground in various parts of Subarnapur district. However, due to lack of administrative support, such ancient treasures are not seeing the light of the day, experts said. There is need for conducting archaeological explorations in those areas along the Mahanadi river, they added.

Sources informed that the former Professor of the History department of Sambalpur University, Pradiip Kumar Behera had successfully carried out archaeological explorations at Kumkarsingha near Birmaharajpur and Karamapadar in Boudh district in 2008. Carbon dating of the articles, artifacts and potshards excavated from the sites has been conducted by experts of Kiel University in Germany. The carbon dating has proved that civilisations had flourished for over 1,600 years at different places along the Mahanadi river between 800 BC and 800 AD.



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

However, beyond this nothing much is not known about the people who were a part of the civilisation including their lifestyle, culture, belief, rituals, food habits and fashion sense. Hence, there is a need for exploration and research on these aspects to discover the remains and give people an insight into the past civilisations. If such remains are found, they will certainly highlight the rich heritage of India, experts opined.

Meanwhile, efforts are being made by the district administration and Koshala Sahitya Sanskruti Academy to carry out excavations at Kapsira on the banks Mahandi river. This was stated by Professor Behera and general secretary of the Koshala Sahitya Sanskruti Academy, Gorokhanath Sahu.

PLANTATION DRIVE ON BRAHMANI RIVERBED

Locals protest waste of MGNREGS funds

Rasulpur, Sept 19: Saplings are being planted on the riverbed of Brahmani in Talapur pachayat under Rasulpur block of Jajpur: Locals have strongly opposed it, citing a strong reason that MGNREGS funds being used for the sapling plantation would only go down the drain.

The locals have taken up the issue with the BDO and demanded that plantation drive on the riverbed be stopped immediately. Reports said, funds have been sanctioned for sapling plantation on the riverbed along the embankment from Talapur to Dashaghar. "The land is pasture category,

but has been part of the river over years. Besides, machines are being used in the plantation work instead of manual labour," locals said.

"During floods, all the saplings will be washed away. There are several instances in the past. Saplings had been planted on riverbed at Talapur, Rajendrapur and Singhapur panchayats. In 2020, floods happened and washed away all the saplings," they added.

However, junior engineer of the block, Chunmun Nayak said that saplings have been planted at the place only after requests from some locals. "Plantation would protect the human settlements and the embankment. But some people are opposing it," he pointed out.



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RWS&S DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR-761126
Govt. of Orissa "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.S.E. RWS&S 26/2022-23
Phone No 06821-241026 (O)/241079(R)
Fax No.06821-241026/240056
e-mail:eerwss_bnj@nic.in;eerwssbj2009@gmail.com
No.O-1018:1.The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Bhanjanagar, Ganjam on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate/G₂ bid in Single Cover system according to the norm of "e" Procurement system in online mode for different PWS Schemes in Ganjam District from the eligible contractors as per DTCN.

2.Nature of Work : Construction, testing, Commissioning of RCC ESR/OGR construction of Pump House, Compound Wall, Valve chamber, providing 100% FHTC, laying of distribution of pipe line etc for PWS to different village in the Ganjam District

3. No. of Tender : 02 Nos.
4. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.6000/-
5. Tender Cost : 11.65 Lakhs to 12.55 Lakhs
6. Class of Contractor : D & C
7. Date and Time of Availability : Dt.20.09.2022 at 11.00 AM of bid document in the portal to 27.09.2022 upto 5.00 PM
8. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt.28.09.2022 at 11.00 AM
9. Period of completion : 60 (Sixty) days
10. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Sd./ Superintending Engineer
OIPR-25021/11/0011/2223 RWS&S Division, Bhanjanagar

STATE BANK OF INDIA Retail Assets Small and Medium Enterprise Center (Code: 10028) (RASMEC), At/P.O.: College Square, Cuttack, Odisha-753003

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sec 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrowers/Co-Borrower who have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loan facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loan has been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA) The notices were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 on their last known addresses but they have been returned un-served & as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

PBB MANGALABAG BRANCH Name & Address of the Borrower	Description of Security Interest / Address of Secured Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice / Date of NPA	Amount outstanding (As per date of notice)
Borrower: Mr. Subir Kumar Behera, S/o.: Dr. Gangadhar Behera & Smt. Sonali Behera, W/o.: Subir Kumar Behera, both are At: Kailash Friends Colony, PO.: Buxibazar, PS: Mangalabag, Dist.: Cuttack, PIN: 753001, Odisha	All that part and parcel of the property situated at Dist.: Cuttack, PS: Bidanasi, Mouza: Bidanasi Project Area, Market Nagar, CDA, Cuttack, Plot No.:1351, Drawing No.: CDA (PL) B/110, Dimensions Area: 80'x50'=4000sqft., Sector-VI, category-B, Bounded by East: Plot No.:1305 and 1306, West: 40'0" wide road, North: Plot No.:1352, South: Plot No.: 1350, standing in the name of Subir Kumar Behera	17.09.2022 / 29.08.2022	₹8,33,900/- as on 30.08.2022 + interest and expenses thereon

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrowers/Guarantors (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub section (4) of section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Place : Cuttack, Date : 19.09.2022 Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

FOCUS ECONOMY

EMBRACE FREE TRADE



India's growth is critically dependent on being globally competitive in both manufacturing and services. We also have to be committed to the principle of openness in international trade

chosen to opt out. He also hinted that higher labour standards imposed by countries like the US and Japan could be detrimental to developing countries like India.

That was effectively implying that India would choose to adhere to lower labour protection standards, or allow more “dirty” industries with lax environmental standards, to gain a competitive advantage in global trade. But those days are gone. And India has de facto agreed to harmonise labour and environmental standards with the West, since it is also pursuing a free trade agreement with EU. So what is the point of staying out of the trade pillar? Indeed, right after opting out of RCEP, India has aggressively pursued bilateral free trade agreements with Australia, UK, UAE, Canada and EU. Why then the hesitation when signing with regional and multilateral treaties like the IPEF?

India's growth is critically dependent on being globally competitive in both manufacturing and services. We also have to be committed to the principle of openness in international trade. Our tariffs should be moderate, and we have to desist from frequent and instinctive protective measures to shield our domestic industry from global competition. And with our commitment to employment generation (not just value addition), India can benefit more from global engagement. The window of opportunity due to 'China plus one' will not be open forever. Labour intensive exports give us our competitive edge, be in textiles, tourism, agro-processing or software services at the higher end. It is in our interest to embrace free or nearly-free trade across all sectors. In a world slowing down due to a recession, even if our share of trade goes up from 3 to 4%, that would be a huge boost for the Indian economy. And that is eminently feasible only if we are less afraid of open and free trade.

The writer is a noted economist.
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Three years ago, India abruptly walked out of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a free trade agreement among 15 nations, including China. The RCEP trade negotiations had been going on for nearly 10 years, during which India had been an active and enthusiastic participant. The present RCEP grouping represents about 30% of global GDP and is rising. Intra RCEP trade without India is worth \$2.3 trillion. The RCEP agreement finally came into force January 1 this year (they were waiting and hoping India would join). This agreement encompasses broad areas of cooperation and seeks to eliminate nearly 90% of all tariffs, making it a sort of economic union.

India's apprehension and eventually not joining was perhaps due to a fear that Chinese goods would enter duty-free into India, swamping the home market. But our trade deficit with China has been growing steadily for the past three years, and even total trade volume has increased, notwithstanding the clash in Ladakh. India's GDP also seems to be back on track toward a 7 or 7.5% growth.

India will eventually benefit from the 'China plus one' strategy of many global investors, as they seek to set up factories outside China, in other countries like Vietnam, Thailand or even India. By not signing the RCEP, India may have diverted its chances of attracting investments in various parts of the manufacturing supply chain in sectors like electronics, textiles and automotive. That is because when investors choose to locate their investments, which span a whole value chain, and when the chain has to cross boundaries, they would choose to be inside RCEP territory to enable seamless movement of goods. If India is outside the RCEP, it poses a disadvantage for investors in value chains, when the rest of the chain is in RCEP countries. So, by narrowly focusing only on the trade deficit aspect of RCEP, India

may have missed the value chain bus. Also keep in mind, India already had a free trade agreement in place with 12 out of 15 countries before its decision to walk out. It has now signed a free trade agreement with Australia too, the 13th out of the 15 RCEP nations.

There are three big trade groupings in the world which straddle big parts of Asia. Apart from RCEP, the other two are Comprehensive and Progressive agreement for Trans Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). The IPEF launched recently in May includes 11 countries. Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Japan and Brunei are members of all three groupings. India is not present in two out of the three. China of course is not in IPEF or CPTPP, because these two groupings were brought together explicitly to keep China out.

The CPTPP is a modified version of TPP, which was led by the US under the leadership of President Barack Obama. But under President Donald Trump, the US withdrew from TPP and has not rejoined the newly named CPTPP. It was meant not just to be a trade agreement, but to influence and shape the emerging trade rules in the Asian region, and to counter

the clout of China. Thus it has provisions which cover investment rules, labour and environmental standards, greater integration of manufacturing value chains and so on. The CPTPP is ambitious and is now alluring enough for even China to be knocking on its doors. South Korea and the United Kingdom may be seeking entry too. Note that Japan now has a free trade agreement with the European Union since 2018. That means the EU too has a foot in.

The US is paying a price by being outside CPTPP (and of course the China dominated RCEP), in terms of lost trade opportunities, and decreased geopolitical clout. That explains the aggressive initiative it has taken in the formation of IPEF. This 14-nation grouping represents 28% of GDP and a substantial trade volume too. It has four pillars, comprising trade, supply chains, tax and anti-corruption and clean energy. The IPEF allows members to opt out of any pillar. Here, too, India displayed some squeamishness by opting out of the trade pillar. India's trade minister said that since there were issues like labour and environmental standards, digital trade and public procurement involved, and around which there was not a consensus among IPEF members, India had



Ajit Ranade

BY NOT SIGNING THE RCEP, INDIA MAY HAVE DENTED ITS CHANCES OF ATTRACTING INVESTMENTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE MANUFACTURING SUPPLY CHAIN IN SECTORS LIKE ELECTRONICS, TEXTILES AND AUTOMOTIVE

Hijab Downtrend

The hijab story seems endless and global. Earlier, Indians heard of it because of a handful of college girls in Karnataka wanting to wear it to assert their religiosity in their educational institution. Now the world has heard of the hijab problem, in a diametrically opposite situation to that of Karnataka, in Iran when 22 year old Mahsa Amini was detained by the Tehran police for not wearing a hijab. Mahsa went into coma after her detention and was declared dead after three days. This has sparked nationwide outrage and protests in Iran, calling for an end to moral policing. The day after her funeral, nearly all Iranian newspapers dedicated their front pages to her story on Sunday. 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 strict Islamic dress code as the country's hard-line rulers crack down harder on immoral behavior. The example of Amini has been played up in social media and Iranians seem to be majorly upset with the policies of their extreme religious leaders who control the government.

This habit of religion creeping into the governance system is not a new phenomenon. Most religions across the world have prospered and grown only when they receive state backing. One such prime example is that of Ashoka converting to Buddhism. It is only after his brutal invasion of Kalinga that Ashoka decided to adopt Buddhism as the religion of his empire. That decision financed movement of people from his court to far-off lands and that resulted in the spread of Buddhism as far away as Japan, Korea and Sri Lanka. Similarly, Christianity also got a boost when several kings of Europe adopted it as the state religion and promoted it. While Ashoka was before Christ (BC), the spread of Christianity happened mostly after the weakening of the Roman Empire and the emergence of new rulers across Europe. After the growth of Christianity, there emerged Islam which later split into two primary sects namely Shia and Sunni. Iran is primarily Shia unlike Saudi Arabia which is the bastion of Sunnis. The fall of the Shah of Iran in the late seventies brought about one of the first acute Islamist governments in that part of the world.

Then onwards the growth of extreme Islam in Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan and many other countries created a situation that we see all over the globe. Iran's rulers have been particularly overbearing and cruel towards their own citizens, especially women. The death of Amini this past week, probably, has ignited a fire for independence from the tyrannical rule of the clerics in Iran. The result in the future will be anybody's guess. The plight of women today is not exclusive to Iran or only to Moslem countries. The United States of America has always been considered a liberal and modern nation that has been trying to give women equal rights in all walks of life. No doubt the Trump years made racism and anti women rhetoric a lot more acceptable in American society. The world expected a change in attitude after the defeat of Donald Trump. However, the inclusion of Far-right elements as judges in the US Supreme Court turned the Roe vs Wade case which in one sweep took away women's abortion rights. Citing religious opinions, many Republican controlled states of the US have banned abortions unheeding women's rights activists and social needs. When the US, considered a secular country which had always been taking pains to keep religion away from government has fallen victim to religious zealots, what can one speak about countries like Afghanistan or Saudi Arabia anymore.

India today also seems vehemently moving towards becoming a country of the Middle Ages where religion seems to be gaining ground in the system of governance. The behaviour of Indian courts and the bureaucracy and the manner in which the police is getting influenced by religion and politics seems to be altering the social fabric of the country. It is not intended to condone the wrongs committed by the minorities in India. Undoubtedly the minorities of this subcontinent did enjoy undue favours of past governments since independence. Even the British in their usual divide and rule policy had promoted benefits for the minorities at the cost of Hindoos. Unfortunately, the world today is no more a place where 'an eye for an eye' can be a successful economic policy for an enduring growth for any nation. More than religion, India deserves impeccable economic policies that would succeed in bringing in greater prosperity. For people to become prosperous, the prime ingredient has to be peace. Without peace there can never be lasting growth. Without growth, India could very easily sink into a Talibanised cesspool.

WISDOM CORNER

- One is never afraid of the unknown; one is afraid of the known coming to an end. **JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI**
- To be successful in life what you need is education, not literacy and degrees. **MUNSHI PREMCHAND**
- The ignorant mind, with its infinite afflictions, passions, and evils, is rooted in the three poisons. Greed, anger, and delusion. **BODHDHARMA**

WORDSWORTH

Brand

Originally brand just referred to a piece of burning wood, a word that goes back to Old English. By the sixteenth century, it had begun to be applied to something that happens as a result of intense heat. One such was brand-new, in which the sense is of a thing pulled new and fresh from the furnace; think of a horseshoe taken hot and red from the smith's fire. A closely-related idea is that of a mark created by touching something with a hot iron, as of a brand of ownership on an animal, a practice that almost certainly goes back further than recorded history. It was also used for the branding of convicted criminals, another course of action that was once common. So brand could have a strong negative sense of a mark of disgrace or a stigma (originally a Greek word that just means a brand). It's part of our linguistic conservatism that we can still speak of somebody being "branded a common criminal" centuries after the literal branding of criminals ended. Though merchants had similarly been using hot irons to mark casks and wooden cases for many years, it was only in the early part of the nineteenth century that brand took on the sense of a mark that identified a particular sort of goods. And it was not until near the end of that century that the idea of brands as identifiers with a reputation and a tradable value really began to take off. Indeed, it was only with the increase in consumer marketing in the past fifty years that terms such as own brand, brand leader, and brand manager started to appear (though Brand X, as a derogatory term for an anonymous competing product that's considered inferior, dates from as long ago as 1934). Now the word has moved further, to a sense of applying a single identity to a whole country. It's a mark of our ability to compartmentalise our use of language that we can employ brand negatively to refer to criminals, and also neutrally or positively for products or nations.

Bright

It's a noun, not an adjective. If you say, "I'm bright", that's an immodest (and possibly inaccurate) statement. But "I'm a bright" says that you don't believe in God, more strictly that your view of the world is naturalistic, free of what its inventors describe as "supernaturalism and mystical elements of all kinds". The term has only recently been coined by Paul Giesert and Mynga Futrell, two educators from Sacramento, California. They modelled it on gay, to provide an umbrella term for a potential coalition of all those who felt themselves isolated and without political influence in the USA because they professed no religious belief.

SPECTRUM DIPLOMACY

SCO: Conflict between need & greed

The Economist magazine has termed the Shanghai Corporation Organisation (SCO) a "Talking Shop" and perhaps rightly so. Once again vital regional challenges such as cooperation, connectivity and economy that the region faces have been ignored at the summit held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. At least four of the permanent members of SCO are at loggerheads with each other or with their immediate neighbours. The Russian war in Ukraine has created uncertainty about the global supply of gas and oil.

Pakistan is grappling with terrorism in its northern region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as wrestling with armed separatists in southwestern province of Balochistan. Diplomatic tensions run high with Afghanistan after Pakistan accused the former of providing the UN designated terrorist Masood Azhar with sanctuary.

India is busy tackling terrorist infiltration from Pakistan as well as serious border tensions with China.

It was obvious from the start that this summit will not be a collective consultative conference but will end up becoming an opportunity for SCO member states to hold one-to-one meetings on the sidelines. September 15, Chinese President Xi Jinping held a meeting with the president of Uzbekistan signing a

\$16 billion investment deal. Another deal sealed at the summit sidelines was that between Russian and Uzbekistan which amounts to \$4.6 billion. According to the deal signed with China it will construct a China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway. The deal signed with Russia was on machinery, chemicals, petrochemicals and geology sectors of Uzbekistan's economy. Russian President Vladimir Putin met with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russia promised to support Turkey becoming a permanent member of the SCO in return for Turkey not objecting the gas pipeline of which 750 km has already been laid down via Iran.

During a half-an-hour closed door meeting held at the Summer Palace residence of the president of Uzbekistan between Jinping and Erdogan it is believed that a billion-dollar grain deal was struck which will enable China to earn billions of dollars from Turkey.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan choked several times during his speech at the summit describing that his country had turned into "a sea of water," but no collective relief package was offered, leaving him high and dry.

Moreover, the summit failed to persuade Putin to end the devastating war in Ukraine or for that matter the China's illegal economic

expansion into the disputed territories of Gilgit-Baltistan under the guise of the so-called CPEC, which is part of its larger Belt and Road Initiative. Putin and Jinping seemed to have come to a trade fair. Both were cutting trade deals left, right and centre. Putin was negotiating the price of gas and oil sale to pauper Pakistan and Xi was expanding BRI into central Asia via Uzbekistan. The purpose of the summit should have been to collectively find solutions to the menace of terrorism, slack connectivity and solving the energy crisis. Instead it ludicrously became an exercise of collective inaction.

Tensions among SCO member states run so high that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was unable to hold a one-to-one meeting with his Pakistan and Chinese counterparts. One of the main reasons for the summit to fail to come up with a joint declaration seems to be the lack of will of both China and Russia to withdraw from their desires to expand their hegemonic influences among their economic and political spheres.

None of the above countries initiated a debate in their home countries for peace and reconciliation. The war jingoism which has become the benchmark of Jinping's politics has antagonised the wider Chinese population to an extent

that to reverse that could become a cause for Jinping's downfall.

There was no collectively agreed agenda for the summit to discuss. The only country that stood its ground was India as Modi moved among the world leaders like a sage advising Putin to consider peaceful means to forward his diplomatic ambitions. India has become the fifth largest economy of the world surpassing the UK. As India moves forward to become the new manufacturing hub of the world, it is most unlikely that SCO will be able to become a forum for regional peace and economic cooperation.

India's economic growth is led by the desire to meet the needs of both its population and wider world. China's growth, on the other hand, is driven by imperialistic economic expansionism driven by greed.

Modi's advice to Putin that this was the era of peace is the key approach to achieve regional peace which is vital. However, for this to happen, the member countries will have to strike a balance between need and greed. For now, it seems it will take quite some time before the current conflict between need and greed will resolve itself.

The writer is a rights activist from PoK. He currently lives in exile in the UK.
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Amjad Ayub Mirza

TENSIONS AMONG SCO MEMBER STATES RUN SO HIGH THAT PM MODI WAS UNABLE TO HOLD A ONE-TO-ONE MEETING WITH HIS PAKISTAN AND CHINESE COUNTERPARTS

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Shocking negligence

Sir, Thirteen newborns have died in the paediatric department of the Keonjhar district headquarters hospital. What makes matters worse is that six newborns have died in the span of 24 hours. Relatives and locals have been alleging that the deaths have happened due to the negligence of doctors and nurses. People also alleged that the doctors spend most of their time in their private clinics and also refer patients to their clinics through middlemen. The government has ordered a probe into the incident. The incident has revealed the condition of government hospitals in our districts. Officials should investigate this matter as soon as possible and tighten rules and regulations in all other government hospitals. As healthcare is one of the most significant accepts of a welfare state, it must function effectively.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

Cheetahs are back

Sir, The Cheetah, already declared extinct in the Indian subcontinent seven decades back, is again back in the country after 13 years of concerted global efforts. Eight cheetahs have been imported from Namibia and released into the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. It is expected that if the lineage of these cheetahs starts growing, then once again there will be a movement of cheetahs in India. The Prime Minister himself had arrived to leave these cheetahs in the park. This is undoubtedly a matter of happiness. Since every little thing becomes a matter of political discourse nowadays, the effort to rehabilitate the cheetahs also got a political colour. Of course, it was Modi's haughtiness that added fuel to the fire. After leaving the cheetahs in the park, the Prime Minister said that the previous governments did not make any effort for cheetah rehabilitation. Thereafter the Congress started opening the pages of history since when the efforts to settle cheetahs in India started. Many species in the country have already become extinct, and many are on the verge of extinction. The reasons behind are not hidden. Negligence in the maintenance of the sanctuaries and the increase in the activities of outsiders affect the natural habitats of the wildlife. Nowadays, sanctuaries and national parks are considered as a means of tourism development. Thus, the people coming for excursions create obstacles in the normal life of wildlife. Therefore, the lives of the cheetahs of the Kuno National Park will depend on how seriously they are taken care of.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

of the day quote

What are you thinking? Congress will be finished? You are saying some people want to join the BJP. Whoever wants to join the BJP can go. We don't want to stop anyone

KAMAL NATH | VETERAN CONGRESS LEADER

The 11 upcoming hospitals will boost the health infrastructure in Delhi and help in efficiently fighting emergencies like the Covid pandemic

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

This man (Chandrababu Naidu). Who claims to have 40 years of experience and 14 years as Chief Minister...See his intelligence. He is not even eligible to be an MLA. By going ahead with the construction of Polavaram without proper planning, he caused major damage to the project. But now they are blaming us for the delay in completing the project

Y S JAGAN MOHAN REDDY | AP CM

GUIDELINES FOR DEATH PENALTY

SC refers issue to five-judge bench



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 19: The Supreme Court Monday said in death penalty cases, the accused is scarcely expected to place mitigating circumstances on the record and this tilts the scales heavily against him, and therefore, it is necessary to have clarity to ensure a uniform approach on the question of granting real and meaningful opportunity to such convicts.

A three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice U.U. Lalit and comprising Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia, said: "It is also a fact that in all cases where imposition of capital punishment is a choice of sentence, aggravating circumstances would always be on record, and would be part of the prosecution's evidence, leading to conviction, whereas the accused can scarcely be expected to place mitigating circumstances on the record, for the reason that the stage for doing so is after conviction."

"This places the convict at a hopeless disadvantage, tilting the scales heavily against him."

"This court is of the opinion that it is necessary to have clarity in the matter to ensure a uniform approach on the question of granting real and meaningful opportunity, as opposed to a formal hearing, to the accused/convict, on the

issue of sentence," it added.

The apex court referred the suo moto matter to the constitution bench to frame guidelines for courts, while examining mitigating factors for the convicts in death penalty cases.

During the hearing, the bench noted that it was suggested that the social milieu, the age, educational levels, whether the convict had faced trauma earlier in life, family circumstances, psychological evaluation of a convict, and post-conviction conduct, were relevant factors at the time of considering whether the death penalty ought to be imposed upon the accused.

The bench said noticing the lack of a uniform framework in this regard, the present suo moto case was initiated wherein this court has indicated by its orders the necessity of working out the modalities of psychological evaluation, the stage of adducing evidence in order to highlight mitigating circumstances, and the need to build institutional capacity.

Citing apex court decisions, the bench said the common thread that runs through all these decisions is the express acknowledgment that meaningful, real and effective hearing must be afforded to the accused, with the opportunity to adduce material relevant for the question of sentencing.

Every day, leaders of opposition parties are being threatened by the BJP leaders with arrest by CBI and ED. Should central agencies function this way in the country? I don't believe that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is behind this, but some BJP leaders are misusing the CBI and ED for their interests

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

TACKLING STUBBLE BURNING

Punjab and Haryana governments have embarked planning elaborate measures for tackling stubble burning issue in the two states ahead of winter. Four Punjab ministers Monday got together with experts to formulate a strategy to deal with the stubble burning issue and safeguard the environment



Amarinder Singh joins BJP

AMARINDER SINGH, A VETERAN OF MANY POLITICAL AND MILITARY BATTLES, LEFT THE CONGRESS LAST YEAR AFTER RESIGNING AS THE CHIEF MINISTER

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 19: Former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh joined the BJP here Monday and merged his Punjab Lok Congress with it, saying it was time for him to go to the party that is looking after the country's interests and security. Singh (80) joined the BJP at its headquarters in the presence of Union ministers Narendra Singh Tomar and Kiren Rijiju along with several Punjab leaders. His son Raninder Singh and daughter Jai Inder Kaur also joined the saffron party.

In his remarks, the two-time former Punjab chief minister with a long association with the Congress



Former Punjab CM Amarinder Singh meets Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP National President JP Nadda after joining the Bharatiya Janata Party at BJP Headquarters in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

before he quit it last year highlighted his security concerns for Punjab amid "increasing animosity" with Pakistan, something he has been seeing with "growing dismay".

"Now is the time to do something for the country. We have seen the Congress, now it is time to go to the party which has been doing so much for the country and its security. It is a pleasure being here," he told a press conference. He also met Union Home Minister Amit

Shah and BJP president JP Nadda after the joining ceremony.

Noting that Chinese border is also a short flight away from Chandigarh, Punjab's capital, Singh said the state is hemmed in by two hostile countries and that China is way ahead of India in weaponry. He blamed the Congress for the gap, saying no weapon was added to India's security apparatus when A K Antony was the defence minister. The Narendra Modi govern-

ment has been working to boost India's firepower and has introduced several new weaponry, he added. "Our ideology is the same," he said, stressing on his commitment to national security.

Asked whether his wife Preet Kaur, a Congress MP from Patiala, would also join the BJP, he asked if it is necessary for the wife to do what the husband is doing, leaving everyone in laughter.

Singh had floated the Punjab Lok Congress last year after quitting the Congress following his unceremonious exit as chief minister, but his party failed to win any seat in the state assembly polls held in February. Singh himself lost from his home turf of Patiala Urban as the Aam Aadmi Party scored a landslide victory.

Along with Singh, former deputy speaker of Punjab Assembly Ajai Singh Bhatti, former MP Amrik Singh Alwaila, former legislators Harchand Kaur, Harinder Singh Thekedar, Prem Mittal and labour leader Kewal Singh also joined the BJP with scores of his supporters.

The former adviser to Amarinder Singh, BIS Chahal, also joined the saffron party.

SHORT TAKES

Yogi turns 'God' in Ayodhya

Ayodhya: Even before the Ram temple reaches completion, Ayodhya now has a temple that is turning out to be a major tourist attraction. A temple dedicated to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has come up about 25 kilometres from Ayodhya on the Ayodhya-Prayagraj highway in Bhadarsa village. The temple is located near the Bharat Kund.

Delhi records 9th monkeypox case

New Delhi: A 30-year-old Nigerian woman has tested positive for monkeypox, making it Delhi's ninth and the country's 14th case of the viral infection, officials said Monday. The woman was admitted to the LNJ Hospital September 16 and tested positive September 18, they said.

Heavy rains wreak havoc in Nainital

Nainital: Two days of heavy rains have wreaked havoc in the district claiming two lives and destroying three houses over the past 24 hours. A man named Pankaj Thapa drowned while crossing a flooded stream near Haldwani. Swept away by the violent currents, the body of the man was recovered 20 hours after the incident Monday, Sub Inspector Ramesh Bhura said.

Two minor girls drown in pond

Guwahati: Two minor girls, who were out for fishing in a pond, drowned in Assam's Darang district Monday, officials said. The incident happened in the Simamura Bhakatpara area in the Darang district. The deceased minors have been identified as Silsina Marak and Martina Marak. A senior police officer said, two minor girls went for fishing in a pond near their house.

Gangster shot dead

Jaipur: A gangster, accused in a murder case, was shot dead outside the court complex in Rajasthan's Nagaur Monday, while four other people, including a lawyer, were injured, police said. The attack took place on Sanjeev Sethi, who is lodged in Nagaur jail, at around 1.30 p.m. was escorted out by the police after his court appearance. He died on the spot, while four other people - three accomplices and a lawyer - were injured. Two of the injured gang members, who are in a critical condition, have been referred to Jodhpur, police officials said.

ED files first chargesheet against Partha, Arpita

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 19: The Enforcement Directorate Monday filed its first charge sheet against former West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee and his alleged associate Arpita Mukherjee in the School Service Commission (SSC) recruitment scam-linked money laundering case, saying assets worth more than Rs 100 crore have been seized.

The agency also said it has issued a provisional attachment order for seizing immovable assets and bank balances to the tune of Rs 48.22 crore, which it claimed were "beneficially owned" by the two.

The charge sheet was filed before a special court in Kolkata, under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA),



on the 58th day of the arrest of the two. Chatterjee and Mukherjee were arrested by the federal agency July 23 after raids were carried out against them in connection with its probe into the money trail in the school recruitment scam.

The 172-page charge sheet was filed before the PMLA court at the Bankshall Court here against eight entities - Chatterjee, Mukherjee and six other companies that were

allegedly found to have been floated in connection with the case, ED counsel Abhijit Bhadra said.

According to the charge sheet, there are 43 witnesses in the case. The documents attached with the charge sheet run into as many as 146,043 pages, Bhadra stated. The ED earlier had seized Rs 49.80 crore in cash apart from jewellery and gold bars worth Rs 5.08 crore after raids at flats owned by Chatterjee's alleged close aide Arpita Mukherjee.

As part of the attachment order about which the ED informed Monday, it said 40 immovable assets such as a farmhouse, flats and "prime land" located in Kolkata worth a total of Rs 40.33 crore, apart from Rs 7.89 crore worth in deposits kept in 35 bank accounts were seized.

GIRLS HOSTEL VIDEO 'LEAK'

Three accused sent to 7-day police remand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 19: The Punjab Police Monday formed a three-member all-women special investigation team to probe the allegations levelled by students of Chandigarh University that a hosteller had recorded several objectionable videos of women students in the common washroom.

Also, a court in Mohali's Kharar sent the three accused, including the woman student, to seven-day police remand.

Protests rocked the university campus in Punjab's Mohali Saturday night over the issue. Some students even claimed that the videos recorded by the woman student were even leaked.

Police had earlier said the arrested student shared a video of only herself with a 23-year-old "boyfriend" and no objectionable video of any other student was found.

The university authorities too rejected as "false and baseless" reports that claimed videos of several woman students in the varsity hostel were made and leaked on social media and distraught students had attempted suicide after the episode.

The students, however, had accused the university authorities of "suppressing facts" and held a fresh protest on Sunday evening, which continued till late night.

Lokpal gets 1,719 graft complaints so far this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 19: Anti-graft ombudsman Lokpal has got 1,719 corruption complaints so far this year, of which 136 were registered for conducting inquiry, according to an official data.

In reply to an RTI query, the office of Lokpal said that out of the total complaints received during 2022-23 (till August 21, 2022), 134 were in the prescribed format and 1,585 were in non-format.

The Lokpal had last month decided to accept corruption complaints only if they are filed in the prescribed format, which is available on its website -- https://lokpal.gov.in.



A total of 133 complaints received in the format -- prescribed for filing of graft complaints -- were registered and 83 of them were disposed and 50 were pending (of these 12 were pending due to inquiry or investigation), it said.

Of the non-formatted complaints, only three of them were registered, the office of Lokpal said in reply to the RTI application filed by this PTI journalist. A total of 1,635 graft complaints, out of the 1,719 received in 2022-23, were pending, it said. The central government had in March 2020 notified the Lokpal (Complaint) Rules, which prescribe the format to file a complaint. The Lokpal had last month decided to accept corruption complaints only if they are filed in the prescribed format, which is available on its website -- https://lokpal.gov.in.

BOOSTING TIES



Indo-US Coast Guard Joint Exercise 'Abhyas-01/22' being conducted off Chennai, Tamil Nadu

PTI PHOTO

Cheetahs brought from Namibia savour 1st meal

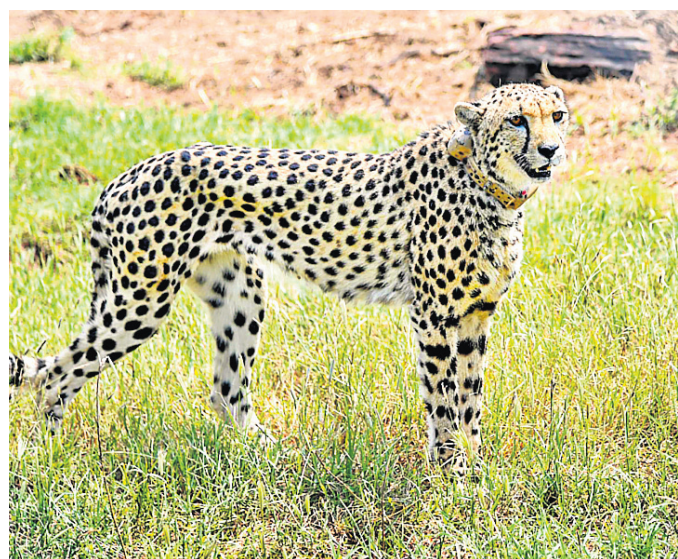
THE NEW GUESTS ARE STILL OBSERVING THE NEW SURROUNDINGS WITH CURIOSITY, AN OFFICIAL SAID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sheapur (MP), Sept 19: Siblings Freddy and Alton, two of the eight cheetahs brought from Namibia, were seen frolicking in their quarantine enclosure in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park Monday, a day after all of them were served food for the first time since their arrival in India.

Sisters Savannah and Sasha also looked cheerful. The four other cheetahs - Obaan, Asha, Cibili, Saisa - also appeared in good spirits, KNP officials said.

The eight felines - five female and three male and aged between



30 to 66 months- were Sunday evening served food for the first time since their arrival from the African country to India Saturday,

an official said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday released these cheetahs brought from Namibia, 8,000 km away from their

native place, into a quarantine enclosure at the KNP in Sheapur district as part of a project to revive the population of the animal which became extinct in India in 1952.

On Sunday evening, each of the eight cheetahs was served two kg of buffalo meat. Only one of them ate less, the official said, adding that there was nothing concerning about it. The cheetahs looked cheerful and active Monday, said the official who is part of the team keeping a close watch on the movements of the animals. These animals are believed to take food once in three days, he added. The new guests are still observing the new surroundings with curiosity; the official said. On Monday morning, Freddy and Alton were seen running in a playful mood and drinking water often in their enclosure.

The eight cheetahs were given their names in Namibia. "Right now we don't have plans to rename them," the official said. At the time

of their release Saturday, the big cats looked hesitant. But the initial hesitation appeared to be gradually fading Monday, he said.

Asked about the Hindi name of a female cheetah 'Asha', which means hope, he said it seemed an Indian official might have written it on its cage while the big cats were being brought here.

Veterinarians and experts from India and Namibia are keeping a close watch on the cheetahs in the quarantine enclosure where they will be kept for a month, he added.

In his speech after releasing cheetahs, PM Modi had Saturday cautioned that they need time to get used to their new surroundings before people can see them in the wild. "Cheetahs are our guests; we should give them a few months to make Kuno National Park their home," he said. The KNP, spread over an area of 750 sq km, is situated on the northern side of Vindhya mountain ranges.

Kerala Guv submissive towards RSS: Vijayan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kannur (Kerala), Sept 19: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Monday hit out at Governor Arif Mohammed Khan over his allegations against the state government on a number of issues, calling him an anti-Communist propagandist and urged him not to stoop to the level of Opposition politicians who target the Left dispensation in the southern state. Hours after Khan launched an attack on the LDF government at a press conference at the Raj Bhavan, Vijayan, also a veteran CPI(M) leader, accused the former

of showing submissiveness towards RSS and told him to understand the history of the Communist movement in Kerala.

Khan, the anti-Communist propagandist of the day, should understand that the Communists were subjected to suppression before it came to power in the State through ballot in 1957, Vijayan said at a party programme.

Vijayan said the post of the Governor is a Constitutional responsibility not a position from which one expresses personal opinions.

The Governor, speaking to the media earlier in the day, alleged

that the Communist ideology of the ruling Left front was brought here from outside the country and that it permits use of force to silence dissent.

Hitting back, Vijayan alleged that the RSS ideology was based on fascism prevailing in Italy and the views of Adolf Hitler against communism, Christianity and Islam. He further alleged that the RSS went there to study about these ideologies and brought them here.

Earlier in the day, Khan recalled his close association with the RSS since 1986 and asked as to why he cannot have friendly relations with the outfit.

Khan said there are people in various Raj Bhavans in the country who are openly and officially affiliated with the RSS. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had said that he was first a swamyasevak and Jawaharlal Nehru had invited the organisation to the Republic Day parade, so what was the problem if he visited RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat.

He was responding to a query by reporters as to why he met Bhagwat recently in Thrissur when the RSS chief was in the southern State. "Is RSS a banned organisation?" he asked.

15 Assam districts most vulnerable

THE ASSAM CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN REPORT HAS ESTIMATED 75 PER CENT RISE IN THE DROUGHT SITUATION IN COMING YEARS AND A 25 PER CENT INCREASE IN FLOODS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Sept 19: The Assam government is concerned as 15 districts in the state are among the 25 across the country identified as the most vulnerable to climate change.

State Science, Technology and Climate Change Minister Keshab Mahanta said that out of these 15, as per survey reports from two premier institutes - IIT Guwahati and IIT Mandi, Karimganj tops the list.

Karimganj falls in the state's border Barak Valley region. The district normally used to witness a hefty amount of rainfall every year, but recently, this has decreased.



In fact, after two spells of monsoon floods in Assam, Karimganj has received very less rainfall over the last two months.

The other two districts in Barak Valley - Cachar and Hailakandi - also fall in the most vulnerable category.

Silchar, the second-most populous town of Assam and headquarters of the Cachar district, faced the worst floods in June. But from mid-July, the rainfall has decreased in Cachar also, which has sent a warning sign to environmentalists.

Apart from these three districts, the 12 others include Goalpara, which comes second in the list, whereas Dhubri and Sonitpur are in the third and fourth places, respectively.

The others are Darang, Golaghat, Barpeta, Kokrajhar, Tinsukia, Baksa, Morigaon, Dibrugarh, and Sivsagar.

Mahanta said that climate change has affected the agricultural economy of the state.

Quoting the Assam Climate Change Action Plan report, he said: "The temperature in Assam has seen a continuous rise for last many years. Along with that, the rainfall has decreased considerably. This has an adverse effect in rural households who are totally dependent on agriculture."

The report further states that between 1951 and 2010, the temperature in the state increased by 0.59 degrees every year.

After the monsoon floods lashed

many districts of Assam in May and June this year, now a drought-like situation has occurred in at least five districts of the state, the Minister said.

The Assam Climate Change Action Plan report has estimated 75 per cent rise in the drought situation in coming years. It also assessed that Assam may witness around a 25 per cent increase in floods.

In 2021, many districts in Assam were drought-hit due to a 21 per cent decrease in rainfall in June and July, and this hit agriculture production.

Mahanta informed that the government is preparing an action plan to tackle the climate change situation in the state.



BOAT RIDE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi participates in a snake boat race exhibition in Punnamada Lake of Kerala, Monday. Gandhi is in Kerala for the Bharat Jodo Yatra of the Congress party. PTI PHOTO

Assam delegation heads to meet elephant Joymala

Joymala is one among the nine elephants that were donated by Assam to Tamil Nadu government for its temples

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Sept 19: Following the Gauhati High Court's order to the Tamil Nadu government to let the Assam delegation meet the elephant Joymala, the four members will soon visit the Srivilliputhur temple, officials informed Monday.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) recently alleged that elephant Joymala was being tortured and kept captive at the Andal temple in Srivilliputhur in Chennai and urged the state governments to look into the elephant's well-being. Joymala is one among the nine elephants that were donated by Assam to Tamil Nadu government for its temples.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Assam MK Yadava said: "Our team has experts who will examine the conditions of Joymala, and depending on that we will have a talk with the government about further steps." After the TN government officials denied the Assam delegation team's effort to meet Joymala, two members of the team - Superintendent of Police Morigaon district, Aparna Natarajan and a renowned veterinarian of Assam KK Sarma returned to Assam.

They are now flying to Madurai and will meet the elephant Joymala in Srivilliputhur temple which

comes under Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu.

KK Sarma said, "Following the order of Gauhati High Court, the Assam government has asked us to visit the temple and enquire about the well-being of Joymala. We are rushing to Madurai via Chennai and the other two members of our team will meet in Madurai." The delegation team will take a 70-km-long road trip from Madurai to reach the temple to see in what condition the Joymala is kept by the temple authority.

"If we find that the elephant is being ill-treated which the Tamil Nadu forest department officials were constantly denying, we will ask the TN government for Joymala's custody," Sarma added.



Illegal cutting of embankments will be dealt with strictly in Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 19: Any person involved in breaching embankments will be dealt with strictly as per law in Assam, Water Resources minister Pijush Hazarika told the assembly Monday.

He urged the House to be united in sending out a message that no such action that threatens the stability of

any embankment will be tolerated.

Responding to a query on embankments during Question Hour, Hazarika mentioned the breach at Bethkundi in Cachar district earlier this year, leading to devastating urban floods in Silchar.

He said five persons were arrested for cutting the embankment, which had caused the flood that kept Silchar submerged for nearly two weeks.

"The House should send a strong message that embankments cannot be cut without permission, and if anyone is found doing so, they will face legal action," the minister said. Embankments can be cut by the authorities if it is needed for easing the flood situation, but not by any civilian without proper permission, Hazarika said.

Congress MLA and deputy leader

of Opposition Rakibul Hussain supported the minister's contention of not allowing a man-made breach of embankments.

Replying to another question, Hazarika said experts have opined that embankments are a good solution to control floods.

"But there is a need for additional measures also. We are exploring installing sluice gates in certain gaps

of embankments as a step to ease heavy flooding," Hazarika said.

The minister, in response to different questions, informed the House that 35 schemes for new embankments have been sanctioned in the state since April 1, 2021.

During the same period, 10 schemes worth Rs 78,928 crore have been taken up for the strengthening of existing embankments.

A king who sold gold caparisons of temple jumbos for rail line

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Sept 19: The debate over whether Kerala can afford the whopping budget of the proposed Silver Line semi high speed rail corridor is yet to die down, but the state government has made it clear that they will go ahead with the multi-crore project anyway.

Not just now, the massive budget of an infrastructure project had even left a royalty worried here a century ago and the visionary king had generated funds by disposing of the gold caparisons of his palace elephants to turn his big dream into reality. When the first ever passenger train whistled its way to Kochi July 6, 1902 through the newly built Shoranur-Cochin railway line, it was the result of sheer hard work and pain taken by the king, who had dreamt of seeing a train chugging into his princely state.

The progressive king was none other than Rama Varma XV, the then Maharaja of Cochin, who was said to have been mocked at even by the Britishers when he approached them with the proposal of a railway line connecting his tiny kingdom with Shoranur, which shared border with the then princely state of

Malabar ruled by the English collector.

The Britishers did not take the King and his proposal seriously as they believed that a princely state like Cochin could not afford the like of the railway line construction that would run into lakhs of rupees during the late 19th century.

But, Varma had stunned the Europeans by raising adequate amount by selling 14 of the 15 thanga nettippattams (gold caparisons) of the palace jumbos kept at the famed Sree Poornathrayeesa Temple at Tripunithura here, according to a souvenir published by the Kochi City Corporation.

Sree Poornathrayeesa was the family deity of the erstwhile Cochin royals. The determined 'Raja' (king) also sold the jewellery of some nearby temples and donated the monetary reserves of the palace to make the railway line a reality.

"There was a railway line from Madras to Shoranur during that time. The people of Cochin also loved to hear the whistles of the train. But, what to do? There was no money," said an article in the souvenir, brought out over two decades ago.

The souvenir said the Maharaja of Cochin, who had always given



The old Ernakulam rail line.

PTI PHOTO

prominence to the welfare of the people, came up with a solution for the paucity of funds.

"The Sree Poornathrayeesa Temple had 15 thanga nettippattams (gold caparisons) during the time. Of them, 14 caparisons, jewels of some nearby temples and the palace money were used for the railway line. Thus, the first 'kari vandi' (steam train) reached Ernakulam with passengers on July 6, 1902," it said.

The old railway station of Kochi

had come up in a place between the High Court building and the Tata oil mill later, the book added.

Eminent historian M G Sasibhooshan said the construction of the railway line had demanded huge investment and Kochi's treasury could not afford it.

Compensation had to be given for the acquisition of land for laying of railway tracks and that was the responsibility of the state, he said.

princely state itself... There were many such provisions in the agreement which he had signed with the Britishers. To meet all those demands, the king had sold 14 of the total 15 gold caparisons at the temple," he told PTI.

In his biography "Sir Sri Rama Varma Rajarshi", compiled by his grandson LKK Menon, it was stated that the king had given Rs 50 lakh to make the railway line a reality without mentioning about the caparison episode.

"King Rama Varma XV was actually an unsung hero. He was the person who paved the way for the Chalakudy forest tramway constructed for the transportation of lumber and passengers. He was also the architect of Chalakudy town," Sasibhooshan added.

Rama Bhadrans, a royal family member who did some research about Raja's contributions, said though the king had approached the British rulers with the proposal of railway line for their technical support, they did not take him seriously and even viewed it in a sarcastic manner.

The king was shrewd enough to realise the commercial potentials of Kochi and able to sense the signif-

icance of a railway line in his kingdom, he said.

"To make it a reality, he made several communications with the British government. But, the foreign rulers never ever believed that the administrator of a small state, which didn't have much budget or any other support, could bring a railway line," he told PTI.

He went through physical and mental strain to make the railway line a reality, Bhadrans added.

Senior Congress leader and MLA K Babu, who represents Tripunithura constituency in the state Assembly, said the Cochin royals have been known for their humility, simple lifestyle and more over for the welfare measures implemented for people.

The King had reigned over his kingdom from 1895-1914. The old railway station and the first train service came up for discussion again in the wake of raging debates over silver line, the massive infrastructure project which envisages to cover a 530-kilometre stretch from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod. A whopping Rs 64,000 crore is estimated as cost for the flagship project of the Left govern-

30K illegal foreigners deported till Aug 31, as per Assam Accord

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 19: More than 30,000 illegal foreigners have so far been deported from the northeastern state based on the Assam Accord, the Assembly was informed Monday.

Assam Accord Implementation Minister Atul Bora said 1,48,022 illegal foreigners have been detected in the state till August 31 this year as per provisions of the Accord. Out of the 1,48,022 illegal foreigners, 31,953 were infiltrators who had entered the country before 1971, and 1,16,069 had come in the post-1971 period.

Bora also said 30,067 illegal migrants have been deported on the basis of the Accord till August 31 this year. According to the Assam Accord signed August 15, 1985, anyone entering the state on or after March 25, 1971, will be deemed a foreigner and will be deported from the state. The minister also said fencing along the international boundary with Bangladesh in Cachar district has been completed. Some stretches in Karimganj, Dhubri, and South Salmara Manuchar have remained unfenced as they are surrounded by river water, he said.

of the day quote

Acharya Dharmendra Ji Maharaj, a devotee of Lord Shri Ram, has left for heavenly abode. He played a major role in the Ram temple construction movement. This is an irreparable loss to the entire society
GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT | UNION MINISTER

The status of implementation of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Law is dismal in the Capital. We are giving recommendations on this issue to the Delhi Government
SWATI MALIWAL | DCW CHIEF

Had a very productive meeting with Hon'ble Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Discussed various issues pertaining to national security, the rising cases of narco-terrorism in Punjab and the future roadmap for the overall holistic development of Punjab
DEEPA SINGH HOODA | CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

HC declines bail to DU Prof Babu

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court Monday rejected the bail plea filed by Delhi University's associate professor Hany Babu, an accused in the 2017 Elgar Parishad case, noting prima facie allegations against him were true and that he was an active and prominent member of the banned Communist Party of India (Maolist). A division bench of Justices N M Jandam and N R Borkar said the appeal filed by 54-year-old Babu, arrested in July 2020 in the Elgar Parishad-Maolist links case, against the special court order refusing him bail was dismissed.

Jacqueline again being quizzed

New Delhi: Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez Monday reached the office of the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police to join the investigation in connection with the Rs 200 crore extortion case involving multimillionaire conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar. She will be confronted with the testimonies of Bollywood actress Nora Fatehi and Pinky Irani, who was an aide of Chandrashekhar.

Pak drone dropped weapon at border

Amritsar: A Pakistani drone dropped weapon, ammunition and drugs inside Indian territory in the wee hours of Monday. According to sources in Border Security Force (BSF), one Pakistani drone was spotted near Pul Moran inside Indian territory near Amritsar at around 2.45 a.m. Monday.

Assam: 3 die in coal mine mishap

Guwahati: At least three labourers died in an accident at an illegally operated coal mine in Assam's Tinsukia district Sunday night. It has been alleged that to avoid any sort of police interrogation, the bodies of the three labourers were buried secretly.

Man burnt alive

Kathua/Jammu: A man was charred to death after a truck he was travelling in caught fire on the Jammu-Pathankot national highway in Kathua district here, police said Monday. The victim, whose identity is yet to be ascertained, was the truck driver's helper, and they were travelling towards Jammu when the vehicle suddenly engulfed into flames late Sunday, they said.



Jailing religious scholars, shutting down Jama Masjid & directing school kids to sing Hindu hymns exposes the real hindutva agenda of GOI in Kashmir
MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

DENGUE SCARE

Delhi has registered a huge spurt in dengue cases, with over 100 people being diagnosed with the infection in the last one week, taking the tally of the vector-borne disease in the city to nearly 400 so far this year



India gears up for curb-free festive season

REUTERS

represents.

New Delhi, Sept 19: Indian companies are hiring thousands of temporary workers, expanding to smaller cities and launching new products as the country prepares to celebrate its peak festive season without Covid restrictions for the first time in three years.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), which says its 80 million small-and-medium-business members generate annual sales of more than \$1.5 trillion, forecast sales this Diwali season will be at least 30% higher than last year.

"Consumer sentiment is very upbeat after two years of restrictions," said CAIT Secretary-General Praveen Khandelwal, who has travelled to many parts of the country this month to urge traders to stock up and ensure they have a variety of products to compete with online players. He said demand for CAIT members has already come back to more than 90% of pre-Covid levels.

Though India's annual retail inflation snapped a three-month downward trend to accelerate to 7% in August, Khandelwal said the trick was to offer customers options that suit their budget, something on which he was holding sessions across the country for businesses he

Ecom Express, which delivers products on behalf of e-commerce firms, said it had doubled its parcel-processing capacity to 6 million units per day and expects volumes to soar up to 65% in the festive season, with much of the growth coming from smaller cities.

Smart Logistics, which began operations a year ago, said it was expanding into a dozen mainly smaller cities, apart from adding new centres in many other big cities like New Delhi where it already has a presence. It cited growing demand around the time of the festivals, and its goal of connecting smaller cities.

"We aim to strengthen connectivity beyond the metro cities to bring about better accessibility and ease of doing business for smaller and medium enterprises in tier-two and -three cities," Smart founder Yogesh Dhingra said.

Online delivery platform Dunzo, backed by Indian retail-to-energy conglomerate Reliance Industries (RELIANCE), said August had been a busy month due to its many festivals and that demand during the overall Diwali season typically rises by up to 30%. Logistics operator Delhivery Ltd (DELHIVERY) said late last month it would create more than 75,000 seasonal jobs around September to cater to "significantly higher volumes during the festive season".



E-commerce majors Amazon (AMZN.O) and Walmart's (WMTN) Flipkart have already announced deeply discounted sales
Many people in the country of 1.4 billion decorate their homes and buy new clothes, cars, phones and other goods en masse around the Hindu festivals of Durga Puja and Diwali between September and November



Commandos of 2nd Battalion of Tripura State Rifles march during the celebration of the 32nd Raising Day in Agartala

PTI PHOTO

Sikh delegation meets PM Modi at his residence



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 19: A delegation of Gurudwara Bala Sahib visited Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his official residence Monday.

They offered him 'prasad' and blessings and honoured the Prime Minister by tying a 'Pagdi' and offering him a 'Siropa'.

An 'ardas' was also performed for the Prime Minister's long life and good health.

The Gurudwara had organised an 'Akhand paath' between September 15 and 17 to commemorate the Prime Minister's birthday. This 'Akhand paath' was attended by thousands of Sikh devotees, a statement said.

The Prime Minister expressed his happiness on meeting the delegation and thanked them for their wishes and prayers for his well-being. He said that he was humbled and deeply touched by their gesture for making him feel a part of the Sikh community.

He reiterated the commitment of the government for continuously working towards the welfare of the Sikh community. During the meeting, the delegation also thanked the Prime Minister for the path-breaking initiatives taken by him for the honour and welfare of the Sikh community.

They recounted several efforts made by the Prime Minister, including declaring December 26 as 'Veer Baal Divas', reopening the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, removal of GST on langars run by gurdwaras and ensuring that the copies of Guru Granth Sahib reached India from Afghanistan, among others.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

Shivakumar questioned by ED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 19: The Enforcement Directorate Monday questioned Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar in connection with a second money laundering case being probed against him.

The 60-year-old Congress leader reached the federal agency's office at A P J Abdul Kalam Road in central Delhi around 12 noon and was seen entering the office after getting a pass made from the front office.

The agency issued him the latest summons last week in a second money laundering case after taking cognisance of a 2020 CBI case linked to the alleged possession of disproportionate assets.

Shivakumar, who was accompanied by a group of about four people, stepped out for lunch during lunch break and re-joined the session. The former Karnataka minister did not reply to questions posed by reporters, saying he will speak to them later. On September



The CBI case was filed against Shivakumar and his family members on the allegations of possession of disproportionate assets worth Rs 74.93 crore

The Congress leader, after receiving the latest ED summons, had said he was not aware of the case for which he had been asked to appear before the agency

3, 2019, the ED had arrested Shivakumar in another money laundering case and the Delhi High Court granted him bail in October

CBI files charge sheet against Rana Kapoor, Gautam Thapar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 19: The CBI Monday filed a charge sheet against former Chief Executive and Managing Director of Yes Bank Rana Kapoor as well as Avantha Group promoter Gautam Thapar in the Rs 466.51 crore bank fraud, officials said.

Although Kapoor was not named a suspect in the FIR registered on June 2 last year, his role in the scam surfaced during the investigation, they said. In its charge sheet filed before the special CBI court in Mumbai, the probe agency has also named Thapar and Oyster Buildwell Pvt Ltd (OBPL) in the scam. Within six days

of receiving a complaint from the then Chief Vigilance Officer Ashish Vinod Joshi, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had filed an FIR on June 2 last year against Thapar, directors of OBPL--Raghuraj Kumar Sharma, Rajendra Kumar Mangal and Tapsi Mahajan --, unidentified executives of Avantha Realty Pvt Ltd and Jhabua Power Ltd. After nearly 15 months of probe which included questioning of Yes Bank co-founder Kapoor in April this year, the agency had submitted its charge sheet before the special court, they said.

The central agency has kept the probe open to investigate larger conspiracy and role of individuals unidentified so far, they said.

Monsoon to start its retreat in two days



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 19: After a late spurt in rainfall, the southwest monsoon is all set to enter the withdrawal phase over the next two days, the weather office said Monday.

"Conditions are becoming favourable for withdrawal of southwest monsoon from parts of north-west India and Kutch during the next two days," the India

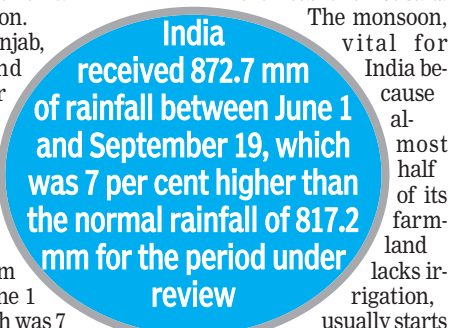
Meteorological Department said. According to the weather office, India had received 7 per cent excess rains, but eight states, including the rice bowl states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, received deficient rainfall which could lead to lower farm output this kharif season.

Jharkhand, Delhi, Punjab, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur are the other states that have recorded deficit rainfall. The south-west monsoon season begins on June 1 and continues till September 30.

India received 872.7 mm of rainfall between June 1 and September 19, which was 7 per cent higher than the normal rainfall of 817.2 mm for the period under review.

"Due to the anti-cyclonic flow over northwest India at lower tropospheric levels, dry weather is very likely over west Rajasthan, Punjab and adjoining areas of Haryana during the next five days," the weather office said.

The monsoon, vital for India because almost half of its farmlands lack irrigation, usually starts retreating from the desert state of Rajasthan in the west by mid-September.



ALL IS FAIR IN LOVE, WAR AND POLLS

All is fair in love, war and elections. So with polls due year-end in Gujarat, former minister of state for home and former chairman of the Mehsana district Cooperative Milk Producers

Union Ltd (Dudhsagar Dairy), Vipul Chaudhary was arrested in a midnight swoop allegedly for siphoning off Rs 750 crore from the dairy through dummy firms and illegal money transactions.

Joint director Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Makrand Chauhan said in a press conference after the arrest that an FIR had been registered against him for his alleged involvement in financial irregularities during his chairmanship of the Dudhsagar Dairy between 2005 and 2016.

His wife Gitaben and son Pavan who are abroad have also been named in the FIR alongside his chartered accountant Shailesh Parikh. Chaudhary and his CA

were produced in court and remanded to police custody until September 23. They have been charged with cheating, forgery, breach of trust, criminal conspiracy and charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The case of Delhi Health Minister Satyender Jain who was gingerly heading the AAP electoral effort in Himachal Pradesh and his incarceration by the ED is an example.

Interestingly, Dudhsagar is one of the largest cooperative dairies in India with an annual turnover of Rs 4,700 crore (FY 2018-19) with over 6 lakh rural milk producers and an average milk collection of 28 lakh litres per day including from Haryana and Rajasthan besides Gujarat. Chaudhary's father was an influential member of the Aanjana sub-caste and is revered as one of the pioneers of the milk cooperative movement in the district. The community exercises

electoral sway over about a dozen seats in the region. Following Chaudhary's arrest, a large number of his supporters led by former Dudhsagar vice-chairman, Moghijibhai Patel had led a protest outside the district collector's office in Mehsana charging that their leader was innocent and was being deliberately targeted by the ruling BJP since long.

Chaudhary is a former chairman of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), the apex marketing body of the milk cooperatives of Gujarat which holds lien to Amul and Sagar brands besides numerous others and had an annual turnover of Rs 61,000 crore in 2021-22. It has a network of 18,600 village milk cooperatives under 18 milk unions in

33 districts accounting for 3.64 million milk producers in a 38 million voting population. This number accounts for a formidable voter population and Narendra Modi during his Chief

Ministerhood worked assiduously to take control of this financially powerful and politically crucial voter base for the BJP. He even strategised to oust the father of the milk revolution in India V Kurien from the GCMMF and the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) because he was proving a stumbling block in his political plans.

Incidentally, Vipul Chaudhary was among the BJP legislators who had gone along with Shankersinh Vaghela in the rebellion of 1995 that led to the ouster of the first BJP Chief Minister of

Gujarat, Keshubhai Patel. Modi was then a close confidante of Patel. When Vaghela broke away from the BJP to form his own regional outfit and come to power as Chief Minister with Congress support, Vipul was his minister of state for home.

Though Chaudhary subsequently made up with Modi, he did not take kindly to his overtures towards the Manmohan Singh led UPA government which was in power at the Centre. Chaudhary who aspired to become the chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) had met Rahul Gandhi on the sidelines of a Gujarat Media Club event. Chaudhary had also given away cattle feed worth Rs 22 crore for free to a milk cooperative in the then Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar's home state of Maharashtra. This got Modi's goat. Chaudhary was ousted from GCMMF in 2014 as most of the

district dairy members on the federation belonged to the BJP. Later in 2016, he was sacked as chairman of Dudhsagar over alleged corruption in cattle fodder.

AAP leaders in the state have also been facing the wrong end of the stick. A case was registered against AAP state chief, Gopal Italia for allegedly defaming his BJP counterpart CR Patil and state minister Harsh Sanghvi. Italia's clip alleging 100 BJP 'goons' had attacked their leader Manoj Sorathia in Surat led a BJP worker to file a police complaint. Lost in the verbal skirmish was the fact that Gujarat BJP chief had referred to Kejriwal, a duly elected Chief Minister of Delhi, as a 'maha thug'. AAP national convener Isudan Gadhvi has already alleged that the AAP office in Ahmedabad was raided, though official sources sought to deny it. More such arrests and theatrics are expected as the polls draw closer.



international

of the day quote

There is no plan for a meeting or negotiations with US leaders

EBRAHIM RAISI | IRAN'S PRESIDENT

The US sanctions on Venezuela prevent access to necessary resources for the education sector

YELITZE SANTAELLA | MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF VENEZUELA

Pakistan won't default despite catastrophic floods

MIFTAH ISMAIL | PAKISTAN'S FINANCE MINISTER

Windsor Castle, Queen's final resting place

Windsor Castle is the resting place of more than a dozen English and British kings and queens. Most are buried in St. George's Chapel, including Henry VIII, who died in 1547, and Charles I, who was beheaded in 1649.

Founded by William the Conqueror in the 11th Century, it is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world, according to the Royal Collection Trust website. It has been the home of 40 monarchs, including Queen Elizabeth.

Work began on St. George's Chapel in 1475 under Edward IV, and it contains relics including the Cross Gneith - which legend says includes part of the cross Jesus was crucified on - and a sword Edward III purportedly used in battle.

Queen Elizabeth commissioned the King George VI memorial chapel, named for her father, which is next to the quire of the main chapel, in 1962. It is where he and his wife, the Queen Mother, are interred, along with their younger daughter Princess Margaret.

The coffin of Elizabeth's husband, Prince Philip, who died on April 9, 2021, last year, has been stored in a Royal Vault so that he can be buried alongside the Queen.

Beijing hits back at Biden's Taiwan remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 19: China Monday said it will strive with "utmost sincerity" for the peaceful reunification of Taiwan and not tolerate any activities aimed at splitting the country, in an angry response to President Joe Biden's remarks that the US forces would defend Taiwan if Beijing tries to invade the self-ruled island.

Biden said "yes" when asked during an interview broadcast on Sunday on CBS News's "60 Minutes" programme whether "US forces, US men and women, would defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion."

The White House has been quick to downplay Biden's previous comments on Taiwan, reiterating that the US policy hasn't changed. This is the second time since May this year that Biden has replied affirmatively to questions on the US militarily intervening to defend Taiwan's independence, adding a military dimension to Washington's Taiwan policy much to the chagrin of Beijing.

While visiting Japan in May, Biden said America will stand with Japan and other nations to not let China forcibly take over Taiwan. When asked at a press conference in Tokyo if the US is willing to get

Russia, China agree to boost security ties

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Sept 19: A top Russian security official declared Monday on a visit to China that the Kremlin considers beefing up ties with Beijing as a top policy goal.

Nikolai Patrushev, secretary of the national Security Council chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin, described the "strengthening of comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation with Beijing as an unconditional priority of Russia's foreign policy."

Patrushev is one of Putin's closest associates. Speaking during a meeting with Guo Shengkun, a top official of China's Communist Party, he said that "in the current conditions, our countries must show even greater readiness for mutual support and development of cooperation."

Patrushev's office said in a statement after the talks in the city of Nanjing that the parties agreed to "expand information exchanges on countering extremism and foreign attempts to undermine constitutional order of both countries."

TOUGH RESPONSE



involved militarily to defend Taiwan, Biden said "yes".

"That is the commitment we made. Here is the situation: we agree with the One China policy. We signed on to it and all the attendant agreements made from there. "But the idea that it can be taken by force is just not appropriate, it will dislocate the entire region and be another action similar to what happened in Ukraine. So, it is a burden that is even stronger," he said, likening Taiwan's issue to that of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Reacting to Biden's interview with CBS News, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning on Monday said the US leader's re-

marks seriously violated the 'one China' policy and three joint communiques related to Taiwan.

Biden's remarks seriously breached the US commitment of not supporting Taiwan's independence and sent an erroneous signal to Taiwan's independence forces, Mao said. "China deplores and firmly opposes that and we have launched several representations," to the US, she said.

"There is only one China and Taiwan is part of it and the People's Republic of China (PRC) government is the sole government representing the entire China," Mao said. To achieve the complete unification of the motherland is the

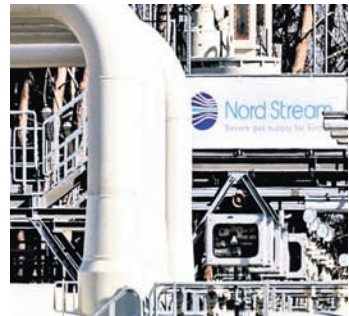
The world's on fire in a lot of different ways. But there are a lot of things that businesses, non-governmental groups and governments working together can do to help with a lot of these problems

BILL CLINTON | FORMER US PRESIDENT



ENERGY CRUNCH

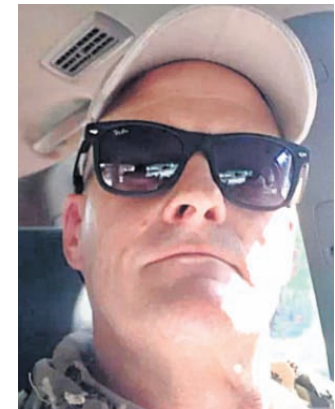
European governments outlined new measures Monday to cope with potential energy shortages this winter and raced to improve energy networks to share power, with Russian gas flows still running at severely reduced rates



START OF A 'NEW ERA'?

US hostage swapped for jailed Taliban ally

Mark Frerichs, a Navy veteran who had spent more than a decade in Afghanistan as a civilian contractor, was abducted in January 2020 and was believed to have been since then by the Taliban-linked Haqqani network



Mark Frerichs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Sept 19: An American contractor held hostage in Afghanistan for more than two years by the Taliban has been released, his family said on Monday, as a Taliban drug lord jailed by the US was also freed and returned to Kabul.

Mark Frerichs, a Navy veteran who had spent more than a decade in Afghanistan as a civilian contractor, was abducted in January 2020 and was believed to have been since then by the Taliban-linked Haqqani network.

Negotiations for his release had centred on a deal that would also involve the release of Bashir Noorzai, a notorious drug lord and member of the Taliban who told reporters in Kabul on Monday that he spent 17 years and six months in US captivity.

The Biden administration did not immediately confirm details of the prisoner swap, but a sister of Frerichs, who is from Lombard, Illinois, thanked US government officials who helped secure her brother's release.

"I am so happy to hear that my brother is safe and on his way home to us. Our family has prayed for this each day of the more than 31 months he has been a hostage. We never gave up hope that he would survive and come home safely to us," said a statement from the sister, Charlene Cakora.

In Afghanistan, Noorzai told reporters at a press conference that he had been released from an unspecified US prison and handed over earlier in the day to the Taliban in Kabul, in exchange for an American prisoner held in Afghanistan whom he did not identify. Other Taliban officials claimed Noorzai was held at the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay but did not say anything to support that claim.

This can be a new chapter between Afghanistan and the United States, this can open a new door for talks between both countries

AMIR KHAN MUTTAQI | TALIBAN-APPOINTED FOREIGN MINISTER

The Taliban-appointed foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, also spoke at the press conference alongside Noorzai and welcomed the exchange, saying it marked the start of a "new era" in US-Taliban relations.

Frerichs, abducted on January 31, 2020, was last seen in a video distributed earlier this year, pleading for his release so that he can be reunited with his family, according to a recording posted by The New Yorker magazine at the time.

"This can be a new chapter between Afghanistan and the United States, this can open a new door for talks between both countries," Muttaqi said at the Kabul presser. "This act shows us that all problems can be solved through talks and I thank both sides' teams who worked so hard for this to happen," Muttaqi added.

Frerichs, of Lombard, Illinois, was believed to be held by the Taliban-affiliated Haqqani network, and US officials across two presidential administrations had tried unsuccessfully to get him home.

In the video, which marked the first time Frerichs was seen since his abduction, he says it was filmed last November. Videos of hostages are sometimes released to show proof that they are alive and to facilitate negotiations for a release, though it was not immediately clear if that was the case here.

ASSAULT CONTINUES

Ukraine warns of 'nuclear terrorism'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv, Sept 19: A Russian missile struck close to a nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine without damaging the three reactors but hit other industrial equipment in what Ukrainian authorities denounced Monday as an act of "nuclear terrorism."

The strike followed warnings from Russian President Vladimir Putin of possible stepped-up attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure after his forces suffered humiliating battlefield setbacks. It also renewed fears of a possible radioactive disaster in the nearly 7-month-long war.

The missile struck within 300 meters (328 yards) of reactors at the Pivdennoukraiinsk plant, also known as the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant, blasting a crater 2 meters (6 1/2 feet) deep and 4 meters (13 feet) across, ac-



REUTERS

Victory would come only when Russian forces are completely driven from Ukrainian territory and the United States will support Ukraine 'as long as it takes'

JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

Ukraine says its forces advance to eastern bank of Oskil

Biden says: 'They're defeating Russia'

Ukraine says Russia strikes Pivdennoukraiinsk nuclear plant

Defense Ministry had no immediate comment. The United Nations' nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The industrial complex that includes the Pivdennoukraiinsk nuclear plant sits along the Southern Bug River about 300 kilometers (190 miles) south of the capital, Kyiv.

BRITAIN BIDS FINAL FAREWELL TO QUEEN



REUTERS

Windsor, England, Sept 19: Queen Elizabeth's coffin arrived at Windsor Castle, her final resting place, on Monday after a day of matchless pageantry that drew world leaders to her funeral and hundreds of thousands of people to the streets to say farewell to a revered monarch.

Well-wishers lined the route her hearse took from London, throwing flowers, cheering and clapping as it passed from the city to the English countryside that she so loved much. Thousands more had crammed into the capital to witness the procession and funeral, in a fitting tribute to Britain's longest-serving monarch who won global respect during 70 years on the throne.

Inside the majestic Westminster Abbey where the funeral was held, some 500 presidents prime ministers, foreign royal family members and dignitaries, including Joe Biden of the United States, were among the 2,000 congregation.

Later the attention switched to

St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, where some 800 guests attended a committal service ahead of her burial. It concludes with the crown, orb and sceptre - symbols of the monarch's power and governance - being removed from the coffin and placed on the altar.

The Lord Chamberlain, the most senior official in the royal household, then breaks his 'Wand of Office', signifying the end of his service to the sovereign, and places it on the casket.

Later in the evening, in a private family service, the coffin of Elizabeth and her husband of more than seven decades, Prince Philip, who died last year aged 99, will be buried together in the same chapel where her parents and sister, Princess Margaret, also rest.

At the funeral, Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, told those present that the grief felt by so many across Britain and the wider world reflected the late monarch's "abundant life and loving service." "Her late majesty famously declared on a 21st birth-



REUTERS

MONARCHS AND LEADERS GATHER IN LONDON FOR STATE FUNERAL
THOUSANDS LINE STREETS FOR DISPLAY OF POMP AND PAGEANTRY
QUEEN ELIZABETH WAS WIDELY REVERED IN BRITAIN AND BEYOND
DEATH COMES AS BRITAIN FACES RISK OF ECONOMIC CRISIS

day broadcast that her whole life would be dedicated to serving the nation and Commonwealth," he said.

"Rarely has such a promise been so well kept. Few leaders receive the outpouring of love that we have seen." Music that played at the queen's wedding in 1947 and her coronation six years later again rang out. The coffin entered to lines of scripture set to a score used at every state funeral since the early 18th century.

After the funeral, her flag-draped casket was pulled by sailors through London's streets on a gun carriage in one of the largest military processions seen in Britain, involving thousands of members of the armed forces dressed in ceremonial

finery.

They walked in step to funeral music from marching bands, while in the background the city's famous Big Ben tolled each minute. King Charles and other senior royals followed on foot. The casket was taken from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch and transferred to a hearse to travel to Windsor, where more big crowds waited patiently.

Among the crowds who came from around Britain and beyond, people climbed lampposts and stood on barriers and ladders to catch a glimpse of the royal procession. Some wore smart black suits and dresses. Others were dressed in hoodies, leggings and track suits. A woman with dyed green hair stood

IN A NUTSHELL

Queen Elizabeth II was the 40th monarch in England since Norman King William the Conqueror obtained the crown. Her reign of 70 years, 7 months and 2 days was the longest in the history of what became the United Kingdom. During that time she has given her assent to more than 4,000 Acts of Parliament.

Elizabeth visited well over 100 countries during her reign. In 2016, Buckingham Palace said she had travelled at least 1,032,513 miles (1,661,668 km) to 117 nations. She paid the most visits to Canada.

She had 15 prime ministers, starting with Winston Churchill through to Liz Truss. During her reign there were 14 U.S. presidents and seven popes.

She had four children, eight grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

She sent more than 300,000 congratulatory cards to people celebrating their 100th birthdays, and more than 900,000 messages to couples marking their Diamond (60th) Wedding Anniversaries.

She loved dogs and owned more than 30 Corgis and Dorgis during her reign, most of which have been descended from her first Corgi, Susan, which was given to Elizabeth when she turned 18 in 1944.

next to a man in morning suit as they waited for the London procession to begin.

Millions more watched on television at home on a public holiday declared for the occasion, the first time the funeral of a British monarch has been televised.

of the day quote

Our group has planned to double cement manufacturing capacity and become the most profitable manufacturer in the country

GAUTAM ADANI | CHAIRMAN, ADANI GROUP

The state governments have auctioned 100 mineral blocks between March 2021 and August 2022. Mineral exploration will be carried out without adverse environmental impact through enhanced use of drones and other latest technologies

PRALHAD JOSHI | MINES MINISTER

We had closed FY22 with ₹780 crore (\$100 million) in revenue and hope to cross the \$200-million-revenue mark by FY24

VIRENDER JEET | CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NEWGEN

SHORT TAKES

Bitcoin below \$19K

Singapore: Cryptocurrencies fell to fresh lows Monday on regulatory concerns and as investors globally turned shy on risky assets with interest rate rises looming around the world. Bitcoin, the biggest cryptocurrency by market value, fell about 5% to a three-month low of \$18,387. Ether, the second largest cryptocurrency, dropped 3% to a two-month low of \$1,285 and is down more than 10% in the last 24 hours. Most other smaller tokens were deeper in the red.

Oil falls over 2%

London: Oil fell by more than 2% Monday, pressured by expectations of weaker global demand and by US dollar strength ahead of possible large increases to interest rates, though supply worries limited the decline. Central banks around the world are certain to increase borrowing costs to tame high inflation this week and there is some risk of a blowout 1 percentage point rise by the US Federal Reserve. Brent crude for November delivery fell \$2.24, or 2.5%, to \$89.11 a barrel. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for October dropped \$2.32, or 2.7%, to \$82.79.

Ambuja Cements touches new high

Bangalore: Shares of Ambuja Cements jumped over 10% to an all-time high Monday, as the company said it would raise ₹200 billion through an issue of convertible warrants to an Adani Group company. On Friday, Gautam Adani took over as chairman of the company, following the Adani Group's takeover. Jefferies upgraded its rating on Ambuja to "buy" and set the target price at ₹620, while Investec raised the target price to ₹752. Analysts at Jefferies said they now value Ambuja's consolidated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA), one notch higher than the target multiple for rival UltraTech Cement Ltd.

Ola sacks nearly 200 engineers

New Delhi: Ride-hailing major Ola Monday clarified that nearly 200 engineers, including some in the software vertical, have been asked to go from its 2,000-strong engineer workforce -- 10 per cent of the headcount -- as part of a larger restructuring exercise towards its electric dream. The company denied sacking 500 employees, adding that it is "centralising operations and is undertaking a restructuring exercise to minimise redundancy and build a strong lateral structure that strengthens relevant roles and functions".



There is no problem of wheat availability within the country. It is coming slowly into the market as speculators are still hoarding in anticipation of price rise

SUDHANSHU PANDEY | FOOD SECRETARY

SAMSUNG LOGS RECORD CHIP MKT SHARE

Samsung Electronics expanded its market share of the global semiconductor industry in the second quarter, maintaining its top spot, a research report showed Monday. Samsung's chip revenue for the April-June period came in at a record quarterly high of \$20.3 billion on the back of solid server demand, taking up 12.8 percent of the global total of \$158.1 billion



FOREX COFFER LEAKING FASTER

APART FROM ACTUAL DOLLAR SALES, RESERVES ARE ALSO IMPACTED BY A DROP IN MAJOR CURRENCIES LIKE THE EURO AND YEN AGAINST THE GREENBACK AND A LOWER VALUATION OF DOLLAR-DENOMINATED SECURITIES

REUTERS

Mumbai, Sept 19: India's central bank is using up its foreign exchange reserves at a quicker pace than during the taper-tantrum period in 2013 as it tries to prevent an overshoot in the rupee, but a larger pool of reserves may allow it to support the currency for some more time, economists said.

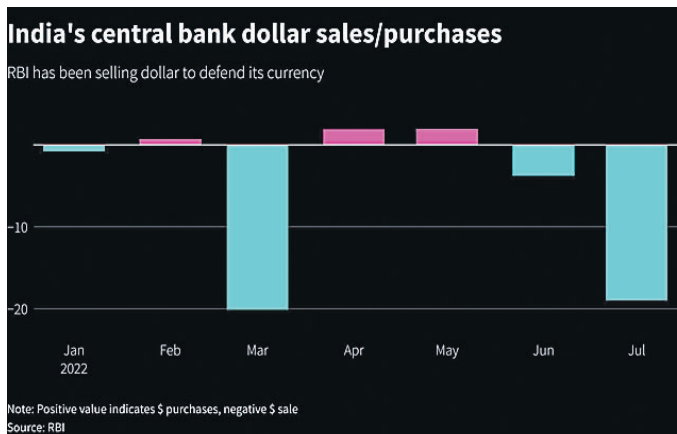
The Reserve Bank of India has sold a net of \$38.8 billion from its forex reserves between January and July this year, data released Friday showed.

A net of \$19 billion was sold in July alone, the most recent data available, and intervention remained heavy in August when the rupee fell below 80 against the dollar, traders said.

Alongside its intervention in the spot market, the central bank's forward dollar holdings have fallen to \$22 billion from \$64 billion in April.

In 2013, the RBI had sold a net of \$14 billion in the June to September period after the so-called taper tantrum—when US Treasury yields spiked after the Federal Reserve said it would slow its pace of bond buy-backs—had put pressure on emerging economy currencies, including the rupee.

MODERATING RESERVE COVER
India's forex reserves have fallen to a two-year low of \$550 billion from a peak of \$642 billion in October 2021.



Forex reserves have fallen to a two-year low of \$550bn from a peak of \$642bn in Oct 2021

RBI has sold a net of \$38.8bn from forex reserves between Jan, July in 2022

A net of \$19bn was sold in July alone when the rupee fell below 80 against the dollar

Rupee has depreciated by more than 7% against the US dollar YOY

The decline in forex reserves and a pick-up in imports has meant that this pool is now adequate to cover about nine months of imports compared to 16 months at the peak. At the time of the taper tantrum, India's forex reserves-to-imports cover had fallen to below seven months.

The starting point of India's foreign reserves was at a much higher level in this cycle compared to the taper tantrum, providing a much thicker cushion to withstand global volatility/shocks

RADHIKA RAO | SENIOR ECONOMIST, DBS BANK

Sticky and elevated imports amid depleting forex reserves led to the import cover falling to its lowest since August 2018, Elara Capital economists Garima Kapoor and Subhankar Sanyal said in a report earlier this month. Forex reserves to external short-term debt moved further below five months.

"Further forex reserve depletion by the RBI to arrest volatility

CAD SEEN HITTING A 36-QTR HIGH AT 3.4% IN APRIL-JUNE

Mumbai: India Ratings expects the current account deficit to hit a 36-quarter high of 3.4 per cent of GDP or \$28.4 billion in the June quarter, against a 0.9 per cent surplus a year ago. In the March 2022 quarter, the deficit was a moderate 1.5 per cent or \$13.4 billion, while in Q1FY22 the current account surplus was \$6.6 billion or 0.9 per cent of GDP when the country was hit by the second wave of the pandemic, according to the agency. As a share of GDP, the current account deficit is expected to jump to a 36-quarter high after the 1QFY14 when it was 4.7 per cent. In absolute terms, it will be at a 38-quarter high after 3QFY13 when the deficit was \$31.8 billion, India Ratings said in a note Monday. Although merchandise exports touched a record high of \$121.2 billion in Q1FY23, outward shipments are likely to slow down and come in at \$104.2 billion in Q2FY23, growing by a meagre 1.4 per cent in Q2 due to global headwinds.

RUPEE VS DOLLAR

The Indian rupee has depreciated by more than 7% against the US dollar year-on-year due to headwinds from tighter global financial conditions, risk-off sentiment, and a strengthening US dollar. The greenback had touched a 20-year peak earlier this month, making other currencies vulnerable in the forex market including the rupee. However, the domestic currency has managed to stay below the 80 level against the dollar so far in the current month.

RUPEE VS YUAN

"The Indian rupee has appreciated by about 5% against the Chinese yuan for the fiscal year to date," said Madhavi Arora, lead economist at Emkay Global Financial Services. In inflation-adjusted real terms, the rupee has appreciated 8% against the yuan. "This matters because Chinese exports are seen as a key competitor to both India's exports abroad and, more importantly, to Indian manufacturing at home," Arora said.

remains the key risk," said Kapoor and Sanyal.

The Reserve Bank's defence of the rupee at a time when most cur-

rencies are weakening against the dollar has meant the local unit has appreciated against 77 trading peers.

ILLEGAL LENDING APPS Google faces pressure

The government and the RBI are in the process of preparing a white list of approved lending applications

REUTERS

Mumbai, Sept 19: Alphabet Inc's Google has been asked by the Indian government and the central bank to introduce more stringent checks to help curb the use of illegal digital lending applications in India, according to sources.

Even though Google doesn't fall under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) ambit, the US tech giant has been called several times in the last few months to meetings by the central bank and the Indian government and urged to introduce tougher checks and balances that can help in weeding out such apps, according to four sources.

Indian regulators have already asked lenders to step up checks against illegal lending apps, which became popular during the pandemic.

Regulators seek to control the proliferation of such apps that engage in unscrupulous activities such as charging excessive interest rates and fees or in recovery practices which are not authorised by the central bank or violate money laundering and other government guidelines.



Google said that last year it revised its Play Store developer program policy for financial services apps, including requiring additional requirements for personal loan apps in India effective September 2021.

"We have removed over 2,000 personal loan apps targeting India from the Play Store for violation of the Play policy requirements," a Google spokesperson said, adding that such steps are taken if its policies are violated. "We will continue to engage with law enforcement agencies and industry bodies to help address this issue," he added.

While India's central bank requires that any lending apps listed on app stores be backed by regulated entities, it is up to Google to enforce this and monitor compliance.

Google has also been asked to look at curtailing the rise of such apps via other distribution channels such as websites and other means of downloads, according to another industry source who is directly involved.

Oyo reports its first EBITDA positive qtr

REUTERS

Bangalore, Sept 19: India's IPO-bound Oyo Hotels posted positive group core earnings for the first time as a rebound in travel demand powered bookings, a filing from the SoftBank Group-backed hotel aggregator showed Monday.

The company's adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) for the first quarter stood at Rs 72.66 million, the company disclosed in an addendum to its filing for an initial public offering (IPO).

Last year, the hotel-booking startup officially known as Oravel Stays said it had incurred net losses every year since incorporation, and that its ability to achieve profitability may be delayed due to the economic fallout from the pandemic.

The group's Monday filing showed that net loss narrowed to Rs 18.92 billion for the year ended March from Rs 33.83 billion in 2021.

Gross booking value (GBV) stood at Rs 24.87 billion for the quarter ended June and at Rs 81 billion for fiscal 2022, up 22% from a year ago.

Oyo's IPO will consist of a fresh issue of shares of up to Rs 70 billion and an offer for sale of as much as Rs 14.30 billion, according to its IPO filing.

BIZ BUZZ

Bol organises Customer Outreach Programme in City

Bhubaneswar: Bank of India organised a Customer Outreach Program September 19. AK Das, MD & CEO of Bank of India, Head Office, Mumbai was present in the business event along with the senior officers of the Bank to welcome customers. He conveyed his gratitude to the customers for their strong support and committed that Bank of India would continue to support businesses and individuals in their endeavour for economic betterment and growth. The programme was attended by more than 200 customers. Bank sanctioned loans aggregating to Rs 200 crore and handed over sanction letters to the customers of 4 Zones namely, Bhubaneswar, Keonjhar, Sambalpur & Baripada in various priority sector loans category including govt flagship & Atmanirbhar Bharat Schemes. Loans under MSME, Agriculture, Retail, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, SHGS, Stand up India, PM Swanidhi etc were covered in the programme. The bank distributed more than 200 sanctioned letters to the tune of 350 crore as a part of the programme organised under the aegis of National Banking Group, East. Das also informed the gathering about the proposed formation of a separate NBG exclusively for the state. "This move will facilitate better administration and deeper customer outreach in a focussed manner in the state of Odisha, having limitless scope for socio-economic development," he said.



OGB bodies hold 4th biennial general body meeting



Bhubaneswar: Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangha affiliated Odisha Gramya Bank karmachari Sangha & Odisha Gramya Bank Adhikari Sangha celebrated its 4th biennial General Body at Institute of Engineers, Sachibalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar September 18. Girish Chandra Arya, All India Secretary & Financial In charge joined as Chief Guest. Among others Pruthivraj Panda, State President, BMS; Girish Chandra Mohanta, Organising Secretary, BMS; Nishant Sakhi, General Secretary, All India Gramenee Bank Worker Organisation; Saroj Pradhan, Chief Advisor, Odisha Gramya Bank Karmachari Sangha were present as Guest of Honor. JP Nayak, GM, OGB and Basanta Patra, GM, OGB also joined as Guest of Honor. They advised members to work hard for improvement of the bank while others advised on strengthening of the organisation. Among others Rajani kanta Mohapatra, Chief Advisor; Somanatha Pani, Advisor and Prurusottom Pradhan were present on dias. The committee selected Banabihari Prusty as General Secretary, OGBKS; Suresh Mahakudu, President, OGBKS; Priyabrata Das as General Secretary OGBAS; Debasish Parida as President OGBAS. A new post as Chief Advisor of OGBAS assigned to Rajanikanta Mohapatra. All the media activities was organised by Pradeepta Kumar Naik. Around 550 members were present in the meeting.

ECONOMY FALTERS

Frugal becomes the new cool for young Chinese

After years of increasingly ardent consumerism fuelled by rising wages, easy credit and online shopping, a move toward frugality brings young people in China closer to their more cautious parents, whose memories of lean years before the economy took off have made them more inclined to save

REUTERS

Beijing, Sept 19: Before the pandemic, Doris Fu imagined a different future for herself and her family: new car, bigger apartment, fine dining on weekends and holidays on tropical islands.

Instead, the 39-year old Shanghai marketing consultant is one of many Chinese in their 20s and 30s cutting spending and saving cash where they can, rattled by China's coronavirus lockdowns, high youth unemployment and a faltering property market.

"I no longer have manicures, I don't get my hair done anymore. I have gone to China-made for all my cosmetics," Fu told Reuters.

This new frugality, amplified by social media influencers touting low-cost lifestyles and sharing money-saving tips, is a threat to the world's second-largest economy, which narrowly avoided contraction in the second quarter.

China's "zero-Covid" policy - including stringent lockdowns, travel restrictions and mass testing - has taken a heavy toll on the country's economy. The government's crackdown on big technology companies has also had an outsized effect on the young workforce.

Unemployment among people aged 16 to 24 stands at almost 19%, after hitting a record 20% in July, according to government data. Some young people have been forced

to take pay cuts, for example in the retail and e-commerce sectors, according to two industry surveys. The average salary in 38 major Chinese cities fell 1% in the first three months of this year, data collated by online recruitment firm Zhilian Zhaopin show. As a result, some young people prefer to save than splurge.

Retail sales in China rose just 2.7% year-on-year in July, recovering to 5.4% in August but still well below the mostly 7%-plus levels during 2019, before the pandemic.

Almost 60% of people are now inclined to save more, rather than consume or invest more, according to the most recent quarterly survey by the People's Bank of China



CONSUMER SPENDING ACCOUNTS FOR MORE THAN HALF OF CHINA'S GDP UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG PEOPLE AGED 16 TO 24 STANDS AT ALMOST 19%

(PBOC), China's central bank. That figure was 45% three years ago. Chinese households overall

added 10.8 trillion yuan (\$1.54 trillion) in new bank savings in the first eight months of the year,

SBI asks exporters to trade with B'desh in rupee and taka

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 19: Top lender State Bank of India has asked exporters to avoid settling deals with Bangladesh in the dollar and other major currencies as it looks to curb exposure to Dhaka's falling reserves, according to an internal document and a source.

Bangladesh's \$416 billion economy is battling rising prices of energy and food as the Russia-Ukraine conflict widens its current account deficit, and dwindling foreign exchange forces it to turn to global lenders.

"The country is facing a shortage of foreign currency due to higher import bills and weaknesses of Bangladeshi taka against dollar in recent times," the SBI said in an August 24 letter sent to its branches and seen by Reuters.

The decision not to increase exposure to the dollar and other foreign currencies in relation to Bangladesh stemmed from the current economic situation and the neighbouring nation's shortage of foreign currency, the bank said.

A source familiar with the matter said SBI did not want to increase its exposure to Bangladesh. "We have an approximate exposure of \$500 million to Bangladesh and have taken the decision not to grow it further aggressively, and maybe, even reduce it as needed, with the news surrounding the economy," added the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

However, the Bangladesh central bank's executive director, Serajul Islam, told Reuters. "No such decision has been taken yet," in reference to trade in local currencies with India.

We've been mapping consumer behaviour here for 16 years and in all of that time this is the most concerned that I've seen young consumers

BENJAMIN CAVENDER | MD, CHINA MARKET RESEARCH GROUP

up from 6.4 trillion yuan in the same period last year.

That is a problem for China's economic policymakers, who have long relied on increased consumption to bolster growth.

China is the only leading economy that cut interest rates this year in an effort to spur growth. China's big state-owned banks cut personal deposit rates September 15, a move designed to discourage saving and boost consumption.

India look to sort out combinations



Struggling Rishabh Pant would be eager to secure his place in the middle-order with some valuable contributions ahead of T20 World Cup

THE SQUADS

INDIA: Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul (vc), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Ravichandran Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Jasprit Bumrah & Umesh Yadav.
AUSTRALIA: Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Aaron Finch (c), Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Glenn Maxwell, Kane Richardson, Daniel Sams, Steve Smith, Matthew Wade & Adam Zampa.

a temptation to make him bat at the top. The top-four are pretty much sorted but the jury is still out on the role of wicketkeepers Rishabh Pant and Dinesh Karthik in the playing eleven. With Ravindra Jadeja injured, will India keep the left-handed Pant over Karthik who is a designated finisher in the squad? Karthik, who hardly got to bat in the Asia Cup, would be hoping for substantial game time over the next two weeks. Deepak Hooda played all the Super 4 games in the UAE but lack of clarity remains over his role in the side. Jadeja's injury during the Asia Cup upset the bowling balance of the team. From six bowling options, India were forced to play with five bowlers. If India play both Hardik Pandya and Jadeja's like-for-like replacement, Axar Patel, the team will have the extra bowling option. Axar and Yuzvendra Chahal can be the two spinners with Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal and Hardik forming the pace attack. The conditions in Australia will



Glenn Maxwell bats at the nets ahead of first T20I against India in Mohali

be vastly different from here and the management will go about its business keeping that in mind. Australia, on the other hand, have come to India without few of their main players including David Warner (rested), Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis and Mitchell Marsh, who are nursing minor injuries ahead of the World Cup, have also stayed back in Australia. The focus will be on skipper Aaron Finch, who recently retired from ODIs after a prolonged lean patch. He will be aiming for a bagful for runs ahead of the World Cup at home. Another player who has attracted a lot of attention is power-hitter Tim David who is set to make his Australia debut after playing international cricket for Singapore. David has made a name for himself with his performances in the T20 leagues around the world and he would be looking to replicate that at the highest level.

FINCH TERMS VIRAT'S ACHIEVEMENTS 'RIDICULOUS' 'Will take a very brave man to write Kohli off'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mohali, Sept 19: Australia skipper Aaron Finch Monday said it will take a very brave man to write Virat Kohli off and what the former India captain has achieved in the last 15 years is just "ridiculous". Kohli overcame a prolonged lean patch at the Asia Cup earlier this month and also scored his 71st international century. The hundred was his first since November 2019. "It will be a very brave man to write Virat Kohli off. At any stage, he has shown for 15 years now that he is one of the greatest players of all time," Finch said on the eve of the series-opener against India. "Particularly in T20 cricket, he's someone who has developed and grown his game over such a long period that you always plan and prepare the best when you're coming up against him. He is super and has 71 international centuries. That's just ridiculous," Finch said in a virtual media interaction. Finch will be in focus during the series after he announced his retirement from ODIs following his struggles with the bat. He will be expected to be at his best ahead of the T20 World Cup at home.



What we've tried to do over the last sort of six-eight-ten months is make sure that everything that we're doing in T20 space ties back into the World Cup and, for us, it's about making sure that once we get there we've had plenty of different combinations of teams that we can play"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mohali, Sept 19: India will look to sort out their combinations, especially in the middle-order, while giving a final shape to their plans and preparations for the T20 World Cup when a three-match home series against Australia begins here Tuesday. Though a few fast bowlers will be rested over the course of six games before the World Cup - three

matches against South Africa to follow after the Australia series - India have a full strength squad at their disposal to finalise combinations. The T20 format is a lot about being flexible but as he mentioned ahead of the first T20, India skipper Rohit Sharma would like to get 'all the answers' from his players before the flagship ICC event in Australia. Though India did bat well in the

Asia Cup, they did resort to a lot of changes during the tournament. Their lack of depth in the bowling department was also exposed but Harshal Patel and Jasprit Bumrah are now back to bolster the attack. Rohit has made it clear that KL Rahul will be his opening partner in Australia but there is a possibility that Virat Kohli gets to open alongside him. With the star batter scoring a memorable hundred in his last T20 innings, there will always be

Historic day of defeats for big teams in Serie A

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Milan, Sept 19: Two of the top Serie A coaches are already feeling the pressure after Juventus and Inter Milan lost on a miserable day for some of the traditional greats of Italian football. It was the first time since February 1955 that Juventus, Inter, AC Milan and Roma have lost on the same day in the Italian league. Promoted Monza probably didn't expect their first-ever Serie A win to come against Juventus but they managed to beat Massimiliano Allegri's side 1-0. Juventus played most of the match with 10 men following Angel Di Maria's red card. Di Maria later posted an apology on Instagram. Simone Inzaghi is also under pressure after his Inter side was earlier beaten 1-3 at Udinese, for their third league loss of the season in seven rounds. Napoli remained top of Serie A after inflicting a first defeat of the season on defending champion AC Milan. Napoli won 2-1 and are one of the two remaining unbeaten teams along with Atalanta, who won 1-0 at Roma. Juventus were unbeaten in Serie A but had only won two of its opening six matches. The Bianconeri were perhaps expecting an easier match at Monza, which was winless and had conceded 14 goals in their six games.

REAL SILENCE WANDA METROPOLITANO



FOLLOWING THEIR HEART: Rodrygo dances in celebration after scoring against Atletico as Vinicius Junior joins his Brazilian teammate for the celebration, Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Sept 19: Rodrygo and Vinicius Junior didn't hesitate after Real Madrid opened the scoring at the Wanda Metropolitano stadium. The Brazilian duo went toward one of the corner flags and began doing their samba-like dance moves near the Atlético Madrid fans. With their young Brazilians not backing away from their dancing, Madrid beat city rival Atlético 2-1 in the Spanish league to extend their perfect start to the season Sunday. Rodrygo and Federico Valverde

scored first-half goals as the defending champions won their ninth match in a row in all competitions. "Dance wherever you want," Vinicius wrote on Twitter in a message directed at Rodrygo after the game, along with a photo of them celebrating the goal. The result restored Madrid as the league leader after it had been overtaken by Barcelona Saturday following the Catalan club's 3-0 win against Elche for their fifth straight victory. Real lead Barcelona by two points. The build-up to the first Madrid

derby of the season had been surrounded by controversy over Vinicius' dancing during his goal celebrations. Vinicius, who is Black, had criticized racist language used by a television sports talk show guest about his dances. The 22-year-old forward had said his actions were being criminalized but insisted he wouldn't stop showing his happiness on the field. Atlético midfielder Koke predicted there could be trouble if Vinicius danced again at the Metropolitano, but there was no major reaction by Atlético players after the Brazilians danced fol-

Early Messi goal helps PSG secure victory over Lyon

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Sept 19: Lionel Messi and Neymar needed only five minutes to combine for Paris Saint-Germain's goal in a 1-0 win at Lyon in the French league as leader PSG moved two points clear of second-place Marseille. Messi started and finished the slick move after exchanging passes with Neymar and curled the ball expertly past the despairing dive of goalkeeper Anthony Lopes for his fourth league goal of the season Sunday. It was Neymar's seventh assist in the league this season, and the former Barcelona teammates combined again moments later as Messi went close. Neymar was making his 100th league appearance for PSG, during which time he has been involved in 121 goals (77 goals and 44 assists). Lyon got into the game more in the first half and Alexandre Lacazette had a shot saved by Gianluigi Donnarumma, but also missed a free header from close to the goal. Messi had a shot cleared off the line early in the second half as PSG pressured before fading. With Lyon enjoying possession, PSG's midfield was stretched and Marco Verratti limped off midway through the second half after a knock to his calf muscle. PSG hit back and Messi's low shot drew a superb low save from Lopes in the 78th, then Lopes made an even better save to claw away Messi's curling free-kick near the end. Neymar seemed unhappy about being substituted in the 85th and looked glum as he looked on from the bench.

lowing Madrid's first goal. Atlético fans did not hold back from showing their displeasure, though, and some threw objects in the direction of the Madrid players. Before the match, a video posted online apparently showed Atlético supporters calling Vinicius "a monkey" in chants outside the stadium. Atlético's second league loss came despite using Antoine Griezmann from the start for the first time this season. Coach Diego Simeone had been adding the France forward only after the 60-minute mark amid a contractual dispute in which Atlético would reportedly have to pay extra to Barcelona if Griezmann played a certain number of minutes in the season. Rodrygo was in the starting lineup again to make up for the absence of striker Karim Benzema, who has missed three straight games because of a tendon injury. Rodrygo opened the scoring with a neat one-timer from inside the area after a perfect lob by midfielder Aurélien Tchouaméni over the defense in the 18th minute. Valverde added to the lead off the rebound of a shot by Vinicius that hit the post in a 36th-minute breakaway after an assist by Luka Modric. Valverde, who has scored in three straight games, celebrated his goal by doing a yoga pose. Atlético pulled one closer in the 83rd with a goal from Mario Hermoso, who was sent off in stoppage time for an altercation with a Madrid player inside the area.



A day to remember: Monza players celebrate their win over Juventus, Sunday

Stimac accepts new 'changed' contract

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 19: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has offered a fresh contract to head coach Igor Stimac with a rider - guide the men's team to Asian Cup quarter-final or face the axe. The former Croatian World Cupper is currently in Kolkata, where the national team is camping for its Vietnam trip and the AIFF bigwigs are expected to discuss the modalities of the contract with him once the trip is over. However, when PTI contacted Stimac, he informed that he had said "yes" to the contract extension. The decision was taken here during the second Executive Committee (EC) meeting of the AIFF's new dispensation headed by Kalyan Chaubey and secretary

general Shaji Prabhakaran. "The technical committee headed by IM Vijayan yesterday decided to renew his contract till the Asian Cup and it was approved by the EC today," Prabhakaran told reporters here Monday. "The performance target is to be top-eight in the competition. If that target is achieved, then automati-

cally the contract will be extended to another competition whichever is the priority for AIFF," he added. It is understood that AIFF doesn't want to continue with Stimac beyond Asia Cup or else such a target wouldn't have been given. The benchmark for the Croatian former World Cupper may seem to be a bit high but Prabhakaran said it was "the technical committee's decision and is endorsed by the executive committee." India qualified for the fifth time overall, by finishing as group D winners in the third round. This marked their first ever successive Asian Cup qualification earlier this year. As a matter of fact, barring 1964 when it was a four-team competition, the Blue Tigers, who are ranked 104th in the world and 19th in Asia, never progressed beyond the group stage at the Asian Cup. Asked whether the Davor Suker and Zvonimir Boban's former teammate would accept such a contract, Prabhakaran replied: "We don't want to disturb him now, his focus should be on the team. Let him come back, then we will have discussion with him."