



## CHILDHOOD FANTASY

Actor Parineeti Chopra says growing up she fantasised being an agent for India and protecting the country

LEISURE P2



## 'WAR CRIMES COMMITTED'

A team of UN experts said its initial probe turned up evidence of war crimes in Ukraine following Russia's invasion

INTERNATIONAL P9



## THE LAST HURRAH

Jhulan Goswami will feature in her final international game today as India take on England in the 3rd ODI at Lord's

SPORTS P12

## HATE CRIMES IN CANADA: INDIA ISSUES ADVISORY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 23: India Friday advised its nationals in Canada and those travelling to that country to exercise due caution and remain vigilant in view of the "sharp increase in incidents of hate crimes, sectarian violence and anti-India activities" there.

In an advisory, the Ministry of External Affairs also said the High Commission/Consulates General in Canada have taken up these incidents with the Canadian authorities and requested them to investigate these crimes and take appropriate action.

The perpetrators of these crimes have not been brought to justice so far in Canada, the MEA said.

"In view of the increasing incidents of crimes as described above, Indian nationals and students from India in Canada and those proceeding to Canada for travel or education are advised to exercise due caution and remain vigilant," the advisory said.

The advisory comes a day after India reacted sharply to the "so-called Khalistan referendum" in Canada, saying it was "deeply objectionable" that such a "politically motivated" activity by extremist elements was allowed to take place in a friendly country.



**POLLUTING ACT:** Farmers burn paddy stubble at a farm on the outskirts of Amritsar, Friday. The Punjab Pollution Control Board wants brick kiln owners in the state to replace at least 20 per cent coal with the paddy-straw pellets for fuel requirements in the kilns

## Dilip Tirkey new Hockey India prez



AGENCIES

New Delhi/ Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Former India captain Dilip Tirkey, who was the front-runner for the post of Hockey India president, was elected unopposed for the top job Friday.

Hockey India elections were scheduled to be held October 1 but the results were declared in advance as there were no contestants for any of the posts.

Tirkey was elected after Uttar Pradesh Hockey chief Rakesh Katyal and Hockey Jharkhand's Bhola Nath Singh, who were in the fray for the president's post, withdrew their nominations Friday.

Congratulating newly-elected Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday said he is sure that the new president will take the game to new heights.

Continued on P4

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Last election was held 20 years ago. We need more time to teach party workers how to vote

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	SENSEX	58098.92	↓	1020.80
NIIFTY	17327.30	↓	302.50	
DOLLAR	81.36	↑	₹0.21	
EURO	79.60	↓	₹0.66	
GOLD	₹49,390	↓	₹610	
SILVER	₹56,140	↓	₹1887	

## WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.4°C	32.5°C
TEMP MIN	25.9°C	25.5°C
Humidity	86%	85%
Rainfall	5.3mm	1.2mm
Forecast	Light rain likely	

## ₹ at new low of 81

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency breached the 81-mark for the first time ever and slumped to 81.23 against the American currency

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 23: The rupee slumped 30 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 81.09 against the US dollar Friday, weighed down by the strong American currency overseas and risk-off sentiment among investors.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency breached the 81-mark for the first time ever and slumped to 81.23 against the American currency.

It finally ended at 81.09, down 30 paise over its previous close. Thursday, the rupee plunged by 83 paise - its biggest single-day loss in nearly seven months - to close at 80.79, its previous record low. This is the third straight ses-



Forex traders said escalation of geopolitical risk in Ukraine and rate hikes by the US Fed and Bank of England in a bid to contain inflation sapped risk appetite.

## FOREX RESERVES NEAR 2-YEAR LOW

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange reserves fell for a seventh straight week, dropping to \$545.652 billion in the week to September 16, Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement showed on Friday. This is the lowest level since 2 October, 2020. The reserves, which have been dipping as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid a pressure caused majorly by global developments, had declined by \$2.23 billion to \$550.87 billion in the previous week. The fall in the reserves for the week ended September 16 was on the account of a dip in the Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI. The FCA decreased by \$4.698 billion to \$484.901 billion during the reporting week, the apex bank said. Expressed in dollar terms, the FCAs include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. The value of the gold reserves decreased by \$458 million to \$38.186 billion, the data showed. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) dropped by \$32 million to \$17.686 billion, the RBI said. The country's reserve position with the IMF was down by \$31 million to \$4.88 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

## No concretisation of Balyatra ground: NGT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: In a major jolt to the state government's Balyatra River Front Improvement (BARFI) project, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered not to execute any concrete project at the Balyatra ground on the Mahanadi riverbed in Cuttack.

While hearing the applications of environmentalists Biswajit Mohanty and Pradip Kumar Pattnaik, the Eastern Bench of the NGT has issued the order September 21.

The applicants moved the NGT against the illegal sand filling in the Mahanadi riverbed within the water area of Jobra Barrage at Cuttack. According to the applicant, the illegal action being undertaken is causing damage to the environment and the riverine ecosystem.

The project BARFI is an attempt to monetise the riverbed for commercial purposes which will reduce the water retaining capacity of the river at Jobra Barrage at Cuttack, they alleged.

The applicants also said free flow of water of the riverbed will be affected due to the project and it will also affect supply of drinking water and obstruct dredging which is necessary. This will also add to the floods in the city, they said.

In its order, the tribunal said, "It is made clear that no concretisation of any sort will be allowed in the entire 426 acres of land.



While allowing Balyatra in 34 acres of land, all due precautions for maintaining sanitation and hygiene shall be observed.

"We find it difficult to accept the proposal of the state by way of a vision document/master plan for constructions in the reclaimed land which is established to be part of the floodplain zone. There is clear anticipated danger of flooding," it said.

Stating that the Balyatra ground (34 acres) may be retained, the NGT said there should be no further expansion and no concretisation or compacting of the said ground.

Remaining 392 acres of land be used for plantation of local species and the area be developed into a biological park and no commercial use be allowed, it said, suggesting the state government to take steps for floodplain zoning of other major rivers.

Continued on P4

## Engineered mosquitoes that can't spread malaria

The genetically modified mosquitoes produce compounds which impede growth of malaria-causing parasites

AGENCIES

London, Sept 23: Scientists have genetically modified mosquitoes with the ability to slow the growth of malaria-causing parasites in their gut, an advance that can help prevent transmission of the disease to humans.

These engineered mosquitoes produce compounds which impede the growth of malaria-causing parasites, which are then unlikely to reach the mosquitoes' salivary glands and be passed on in a bite before the insects die.

Researchers from the Institute for Disease Modeling at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation developed a model which can as-



While the technique, described in a paper published in Science Advances journal, has been shown to dramatically reduce the possibility of malaria spread in a lab setting, if proven safe and effective in

real-world settings, it could offer a powerful new tool to help eliminate malaria. The disease is transmitted between people through a female mosquito after it bites someone infected with the malaria parasite. The parasite then develops into its next stage in the mosquito's gut and travels to its salivary glands, ready to infect the next person the mosquito bites.

However, only around 10 per cent of mosquitoes live long enough for the parasite to develop far enough to be infectious. The team aimed to lengthen the odds even further, by extending the time it takes for the parasite to develop in the gut.

Transmission: Zero team at Imperial College London, UK, genetically modified the main malaria-carrying species of mosquito in Sub-Saharan Africa, Anopheles gambiae, such that the mosquito produces antimicrobial peptides in its guts, when it takes a blood meal.

These peptides impair the malarial parasite's development by interfering with the energy metabolism of the parasite and also, causing the mosquitoes to have a shorter lifespan and further hampering their ability to pass on the parasite.

By the time, the next parasite stage could reach the mosquito salivary glands, most mosquitoes in nature are expected to die.

## Woman gets family pension 52 yrs after husband's death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Sept 23: In an instance of delayed justice, an elderly woman, Lalita Mohanty, of Arada Bazaar in Balasure, received family pension 52 years after her husband's death.

At the age of 89, she received a provisional pension of ₹16 lakh. Lalita had lost her husband Bhimsen Mohanty when she was 37. Bhimsen was then working in the Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC). After death of her husband, Lalita's life turned topsy-turvy as she failed to get pension from OSRTC. She struggled all her life and



At 89, Lalita Mohanty receives provisional pension of ₹16 lakh

went through hardships in managing her family. She had moved the Orissa High Court in this regard. After a long legal battle to get family pension, Lalita finally got justice. It took nine years to implement the previous order of the court.

Continued on P4

# leisure



## LAWYER TO LOVER: DEPP SAID TO BE DATING HIS DEFENDANT

Hollywood star Johnny Depp is dating Joelle Rich -- the attorney from Depp's UK libel case. Rich is a London lawyer who was on 59-year-old Depp's legal team during his libel case against The Sun, which he lost in November 2020.

## CHARLIZE THERON CLAIMS SHE'S NOT AS FAMOUS AS KIM KARDASHIAN

Actress Charlize Theron has never had a level of fame like reality TV star Kim Kardashian. In an interview, the 47-year-old actress explained that she has never experienced global attention to the same degree as the reality TV superstar despite her success, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

**ARIES**  
Your charismatic appeal is always ready-to-use. And today, you will possibly reap rich dividends through it. But there is always scope for improvement and you will find yourself drawn to altruism. Ganesh guarantees satisfaction in lending a helping hand to the needy.

**TAURUS**  
You will be very sensitive about the image you project socially and professionally. Ganesh sees you treating this very seriously and doing everything you can to make this right impression. Today, you will remain decent, dignified and focused in all that you do. Do not be too eager to please others.

**GEMINI**  
A favourable day to put an end to all the doubts surrounding your ability to do well, especially in the field of communication. People around you will find you incredibly charming and enchanting. You will win hearts with your verve and panache.

**CANCER**  
It is quite possible that your personal life will take precedence over your professional life. You will not be able to repress or ignore your feelings, and you should not either, says Ganesh. But you should be careful about how you express yourself in public.

**LEO**  
Your decisions today will be not only be correct, but also resolute and steadfast. Your health will be fine. At the work-place, things ought to proceed as usual. However, you will concentrate more on work today. In personal relationships, some minor arguments could crop up.

**VIRGO**  
Opening up to your beloved about your whims and fancies as well as your goals shall be the key today. And, why not, urges Ganesh. Your intimate relations should be built on trust and mutual compatibility. Your energy levels will hit the sky.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that you shall soon be able to travel or plan a trip, not for family or business matters, but for getting away from the mundane life. You will pay more importance to your professional matters as opposed to your personal matters. Today you will be able to attain success in every thing you do with the blessings of Ganesh.

**SCORPIO**  
Today promises to be a joy ride for your hidden gourmand side. Relish what you eat, and thank God for the good luck. Career wise, however, you may find yourself standing at a crossroads. But, the good part about that is there shall be many paths to choose from. And, who knows the art of balancing better than you.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Determined and dedicated, that's what you are when it comes to work. Well, this may even find you amidst heaps of files and loads of work. No wonder you become a workaholic. You are likely to enjoy during the latter half of the day.

**CAPRICORN**  
You may be attentive, as much as an eagle is while chasing its prey, but you still need to be careful when signing any important legal documents, advises Ganesh. Brokers and dealers, especially, are likely to incur heavy losses unless they take necessary precautions to avert misfortune.

**AQUARIUS**  
Spirituality is your new passion and Calvin Klein matters less today! Mysticism attracts you, says Ganesh. This may lead you to seek solace in holy books and religious places. It's going to take some time for you to understand that spiritual attainment can be had in the flesh-and-blood world as well.

**PISCES**  
You are ceaselessly driven to find room for improvement. A part-time course to enhance your skills or to increase your efficiency is what you will likely be pursuing today, says Ganesh.



## IRA GETS ENGAGED TO BOYFRIEND NUPUR

**Mumbai:** Top actor Aamir Khan's daughter Ira Khan got engaged to her boyfriend Nupur Shikahre.

Ira, who has been dating Nupur for over two years now, took to Instagram where she shared a video from a cycling event. In the clip, Ira is seen standing at the stands. Nupur, dressed in cycling gear, comes up to her, goes down on his knees and pulls out a ring.

Nupur asks Ira: "Will you marry me?", to which she happily responds "Yes!."

The two seal the deal with a kiss, while her friends and the crowd cheer for the couple.

Ira is Aamir's daughter from his first wife Reena Dutt, with whom he got separated in 2002. They also have a son named Junaid together.



## Parineeti shares her childhood fantasy

**Mumbai:** Parineeti Chopra, who is gearing up for her next *Code Name Tiranga*, says growing up she fantasised being an agent for India and protecting it. The actress added that she used to carry a toy gun and pretended that she's the best agent in service of the country.

Parineeti said: "As an actor, we are constantly blessed to have many firsts all through our career. I'm thrilled that in my 11th year in cinema I'm doing my first full blown action film and I'm ecstatic about the reaction that I have been getting for *Code Name Tiranga*'s teaser. It is hugely encouraging for someone who has never dabbled in this genre. Growing up, I fantasised being an agent for my country and protecting it with all my heart. I used to carry a toy gun and pretend that I'm the best agent in service of India. So, I'm also getting to fulfil my childhood dream in this movie."

She adds, "The teaser is just a glimpse of what to expect from the trailer and my performance on screen. I have pushed myself and my body for this intensely physically challenging film but I have thoroughly enjoyed every bit of it." *Code Name Tiranga* will release in theatres October 14.



## Tabu admits her mistake

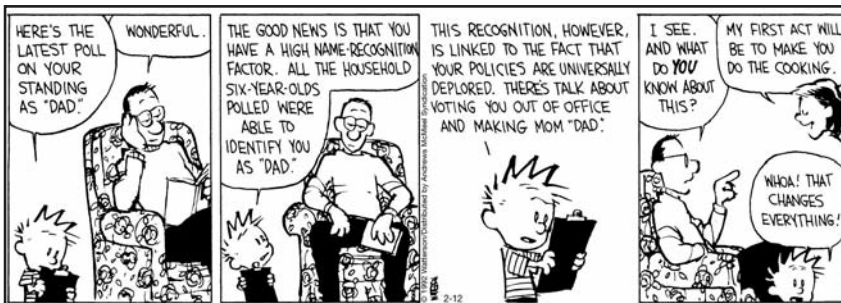
**Mumbai:** Tabu is one of the most loved and versatile actresses in Hindi film industry. Her career spans over three decades and there has never been a time when her stardom has faded. Fans loved to see her on the silver screen then and they love it now. But one thing which leaves fans stunned about her is the way she looks even at 50. Recently in an interview Tabu opened up about what she's doing to reverse her age.

Recalling an incident, she laughed and revealed that there is no particular routine that she follows. She said that she is aware of her image and works to preserve it. Talking about a funny incident, Tabu said that her makeup artist Mithali always keeps telling her that her skin is looking good and asks her that there is some home remedy she does. Adding further Tabu said, "some days, I'll tell her that I put coffee here, and some plant there, and she'll say 'You can't do that, you have to use this cream', and she'll suggest some Rs 50,000 cream. I bought it once, but never again. It was a mistake."

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

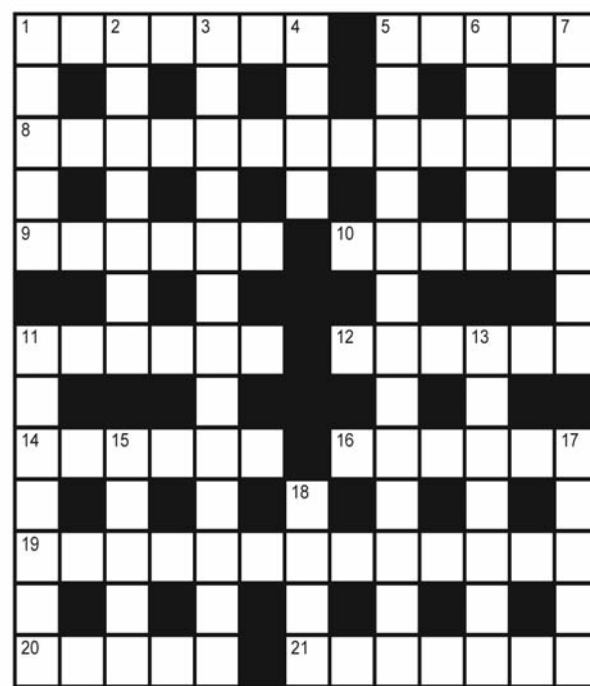


### BREVITY



### FUN post

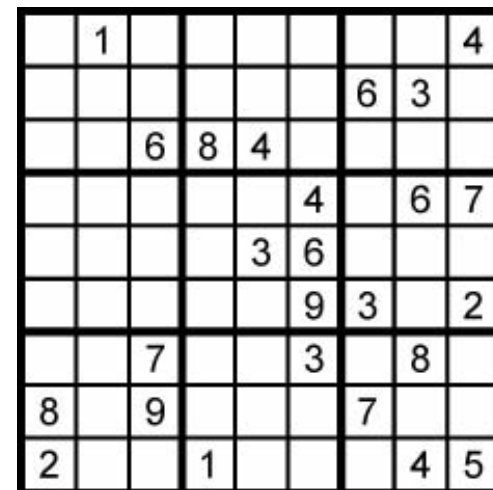
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Shortfall
  - 5 Sherpa's home
  - 8 Youth, maybe (6,7)
  - 9 Drawing
  - 10 Caerphilly, e.g.
  - 11 Main course
  - 12 Murder weapon, at times
  - 14 Papeete locale
  - 16 Tree part
  - 19 Plant food?
  - 20 Some stadium features
  - 21 Equestrian gear
- Down**
- 1 Office stations
  - 2 Surrender
  - 3 Scrupulous
  - 4 Meal in a shell
  - 5 Vicinity
  - 6 Sri Lanka export
  - 7 Light source
  - 11 Inveigled
  - 13 Timepiece
  - 15 Sheik's bevy
  - 17 Scoundrels
  - 18 Bad day for Caesar

### 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

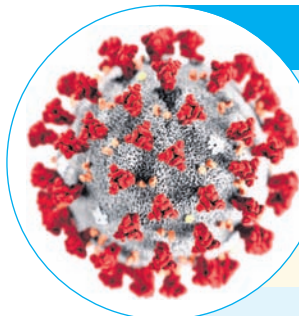


CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



**ANNUAL MEET**

Energy Minister PK Deb inaugurated the 22nd Annual General Body meeting of Odisha Power Transmission Engineers' Association in Bhubaneswar, Friday



**COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,93,65,299	59,92,26,072	65,37,109
India	4,45,55,837	4,39,84,695	5,28,449
Odisha	13,32,735	13,22,299	9,187



**HANDLOOM EXPO:** Visitors check handloom products at a national-level expo being organised by Boyanika at Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Friday

**DMs told to install CCTVs in all hosps**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** In a bid to ensure safety and security of doctors and other medical staffers, the state government Friday asked all District Collectors to install CCTVs in all government hospitals. Health and Family Welfare Secretary Shalini Pandit, in a letter to all the Collectors, superintendents of police (SPs), chief district medical officers (CDMOs) and directors of Capital Hospital & RGH, Rourkela, said, "Violence, harassment and even physical assault to doctors and health officials on duty are being reported from different parts of the state. Stating the government has 'zero tolerance' towards violence against doctors, Pandit asked the district administrations to take exemplary action against the miscreants. In view of the increasing untoward situations on the premises of health institutions like manhandling of doctors and staffers of the institutions, she has suggested taking certain steps including installation of CCTV cameras at vital locations of the hospitals for monitoring of the activities in the hospital.



THE HEALTH SECRETARY ASKED THE OFFICIALS TO INTRODUCE VISITORS' PASS SYSTEM FOR THE INDOOR PATIENTS

ALL THE REGULAR AND CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES OF THE HOSPITALS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ID CARDS

The health secretary also asked the officials to introduce visitors' pass system for the indoor patients. Two entry passes are to be issued per patient for attending the patient during the official visiting hours and the attendants entering the ward should be frisked by the internal security guards, she said. All the regular and contractual employees of the hospitals will be provided with ID cards. Entry of general public and vehicles will also be regulated strictly. Similarly, signage highlighting the Odisha Medicare Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage of Property) Act, 2008 will also be placed in front of the health institutions. Internal security guards will patrol the campus and take steps for removal of unauthorised vehicles and vendors. Two security hubs

will be deployed to the crowded departments of the district headquarters hospitals. The telephone number of the two hubs will be made available through the display of signage. Further, a public redressal system will also be developed in which the aggrieved attendants may approach the superintendent/head of office of the health institution at the time of need rather than taking the law into their hands. The same along with the phone number will also be displayed in conspicuous places of the campus of the health institutions. In case any law and order situation arises, the SP of the concerned district will have to take immediate, strict and appropriate action as per law in order to discourage people from such activities, she added.

**Pickpocket gang behind thefts in Mo Bus busted**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The Commissionerate Police Friday busted a pickpocket gang that was targeting commuters in Mo Bus in the City and arrested two of its members. The arrested were identified as Sanjaya Singh, 26, of Purulia district in West Bengal and Ganesh Pradhan, 30, of Jakhapura area in Jajpur district. Singh has been staying in Jajpur too. During the last couple of days, several complaints regarding theft of valuables, cash from passengers travelling in Mo Bus reached the Commissionerate Police which swung into action. During the probe, the cops found that the gang from Jajpur was behind the series of pickpocket cases reported in the Mo Bus vehicles. The police found that the gang also comprises juveniles and women of vagabond communities. Singh and Pradhan along with other gang members used to stay in an abandoned house near the railway station at Dhanmandal in Jajpur. They used to come to the Capital by bus in the morning and return Jajpur after committing the crime every day. The gang would create an artificial jam inside Mo Bus before de-camping with the cash and valuables from the passengers. They also target houses of individuals during the wee hours of the day on the pretext of drinking water or begging. Police carried out a raid at Dhanmandal and arrested the accused duo while search is on to nab other members of the gang. Police seized 15 cellphones including two stolen ones that belong to RD Women's University students, a pair gold ear tops and two laptops and ₹5,500 in cash.

**Norms out for loudspeakers during puja**

ALL THE BAND/DJ AND MUSIC PARTIES HAVE BEEN ASKED TO INSTALL SOUND LIMITERS WHILE USING AMPLIFIERS ALONG WITH OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS TO RESTRICT THE SOUND WITHIN 65 DECIBEL

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The Commissionerate Police Friday issued a set of guidelines for the use of loudspeakers during Durga Puja celebrations. The organisers of Durga Puja as well as the bands, DJs and music parties have been asked to ensure the sound of loud speakers do not exceed the stipulated limit of 65 decibel. "The provisions of Noise Pollution (Regulation & Control) Rules, 2000 and the order of the Honorable Supreme Court, restricting of sound output of loudspeaker to the extent of 65 db (decibel) and stipulations of Commissioner's order No. 7/10 shall be strictly followed in the use of loudspeaker during Durga Puja Festival," said the order issued by Bhubaneswar DCP Prateek Singh, Friday. All the band/DJ and music parties have been asked to install sound limiters while using amplifiers along with other musical instruments to restrict the sound within 65 decibel. The police also warned the stakeholders not to allow any audio system during



Preparations in full swing for Durga Puja at Sahid Nagar in Bhubaneswar

the puja or immersion procession without being fitted with sound limiters. The city police has directed the parties concerned to ensure that music is not played within 100 metre radius of the areas earmarked as silence zones like schools, colleges, hospitals and courts. "No music shall be played within the radius of 100 Mtrs. of silence zone area (School, College, Hospital, Court etc.)," the order reads. Similarly, the city police also

prohibited organisers from playing music or performing music parties on National Highway or in the areas where Section 144 of CrPC has been imposed. The organisers will be permitted to use only one band and one music party during the immersion procession. The city police also asked the music party organisers to use 4/5 sound boxes during the Dussehra. As per the order, the organisers of Durga Puja should use the band/DJ and music parties who

THE ORGANISERS WILL BE PERMITTED TO USE ONLY ONE BAND AND ONE MUSIC PARTY DURING THE IMMERSION PROCESSION  
THE CITY POLICE ASKED THE MUSIC PARTY ORGANISERS TO USE 4/5 SOUND BOXES DURING THE DUSSEHRA  
THE POLICE WARNED THE STAKEHOLDERS NOT TO ALLOW ANY AUDIO SYSTEM DURING THE PUJA OR IMMERSION PROCESSION WITHOUT BEING FITTED WITH SOUND LIMITERS

have fetched licence from the DCP office during the festival. The band/DJ and music parties have been asked to strictly follow the time and route permitted by the city police during procession. The DCP has warned the concerned parties of stringent action if they are found flouting the guidelines. The Commissionerate Police has also asked the music parties/DJs/bands to not use flash/focus lights during procession.

**44 transport related services available online**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued a notification September 16 to ease the burden of citizens by making available all the transport related services online. Out of the 58 services, Odisha has introduced 44 citizen-centric services related to Transport department including driving licence, vehicle registration, permit, off-road application and international driving permit through online application process under the 5T initiative. Odisha is the first state in the

country to introduce paperless registration system for fully built new vehicle and auto approval of goods & contract carriage permit to provide instant service in transport sector. In a press note, Dipti Ranjan Patra, Joint Commissioner Transport, Technical said, "A total of 44 RTO related services are already online in Odisha. The vehicle registration process has been made paperless and contactless since two years. Odisha is first state in the country to introduce a document upload system through digital signature with auto number generation."

**Agi Greenpac Limited, Unit-Agi Glaspac** a dominant & fast growing player in Container Glass Industry with a turnover in excess of 1500 Crores requires for its Factories at Hyderabad & Bhangir, Telangana.

**Graduate/Diploma Trainee Engineers**  
Candidates passed BE/B.Tech/Diploma in Mechanical, Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering in first class throughout their academics may apply. Salary for BE/B.Tech is Rs.20000/- per month. Salary for Diploma is Rs.18000/- per month.

**ITI FITTERS**  
Candidates passed ITI in Fitter Trade may apply. Starting Salary is Rs.12000/- pm. After 6 months it revised to Rs.13000/- pm. After one year it is revised to Rs.14000/- pm.

Interested candidates with relevant qualification may mail their Biodata to careers@agi-glaspac.com.

**Lookout circular against realtor over ₹20cr fraud**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The Bureau of Immigration has issued a lookout circular against the director of a real estate company accused of cheating around ₹20 crore from 42 people by assuring them of dispute-free flats. The immigration bureau issued the circular based on a request of the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha police. The accused Manoj Kumar Panda is the director of Odysa Homes and Commercials Private Limited. He has been absconding since a criminal case was filed against him, police said Friday. The case was registered on the basis of the written complaint by an employee of a leading IT company that Panda had cheated him and many others. A lookout circular is generally issued to alert immigration check posts at airports/seaports to alert law enforcement agencies if a wanted person tries to leave the country or arrive in the country from abroad. During investigation it was found that directors of the company had collected around ₹20 crore from 42 investors between 2013 and 2016 to provide them flats at their project by 2018. Necessary agreements were also executed for it. But no flat has been allotted to the investors. The directors of the real estate firm instead knowingly lingered the process of handover of the flats and have

**Accused Manoj Kumar Panda, director of Odysa Homes and Commercials Private Limited, has been absconding since a criminal case was filed against him**

The case was registered on the basis of the written complaint by an employee of a leading IT company that Panda had cheated him and many others

even reallocated seven of them to other investors, the EOW said in a release. The investigating agency also found during investigation that the company directors had cheated many other investors in their different projects and had deliberately made multiple transactions of flats against which they had already received substantial amounts. The managing director of the real estate firm Arabindo Santra has already been arrested and is in judicial custody. Panda and another director Saroj Panda are absconding. The EOW has announced reward for information leading to the arrest of the two absconding men, the agency said.

**SC nixes Peter Heehs' plea against book ban**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Sept 23:** The Supreme Court has dismissed a petition filed by Peter Heehs, author of 'The Lives of Sri Aurobindo' against the Orissa High Court's order that refused to stay the ban imposed by the state government on the book. A two-judge bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and BV Nagarathna dismissed the petition as withdrawn. The bench granted liberty to the petitioner to take remedies as per law. Earlier, a three-judge bench of Orissa High Court had dismissed the petition in April 2021 on the ground that the plea was filed after a delay of more than two years. A gazette notification on the ban by the state government was published April 9, 2009. Heehs had filed the petition seeking quashing of the ban in 2012. The bench noted that norms prescribed filing of such petitions within a maximum period of two months of notification of an order. However, the petition was filed after a delay of over two years. The state government in written submission had contended that the author had clearly and intentionally overstepped his historian credentials which promote communal disaffection affecting public peace and tranquillity.

**Jasidih-Bangalore train via Bhub from Sept 30**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** The Ministry of Railways has decided to introduce a new train between Jasidih (Jharkhand) and Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT), Bangalore via Bhadrak-Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam under ECoR jurisdiction. On regular service, 22306 Jasidih-SMVT, Bengaluru Super Fast Express from Jasidih will leave at 0630hrs every Friday w.e.f. September 30, 2022. In return direction, 22305 SMVT, Bengaluru-Jasidih Superfast Express from SMVT, Bengaluru will leave at 1000hrs every Sunday w.e.f. October 2, 2022. This train will have stoppages at Bhadrak, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam in ECoR jurisdiction and will stop at important stations like Asansol, Durgapur, Bardhaman, Kharagpur, Balasore, Nellore, Perambur, Katpadi and Jolarpettai between Jasidih and SMVT, Bengaluru from both the directions.

**Utkalika**  
63 years of Excellence 1959

On The Occasion of Mahalaya, Durga Puja & Kumar Purnima

**SPECIAL DISCOUNT**  
10% On Handicraft Products  
10% + 20% On Handloom Products

Available at All Utkalika Branches Upto Dt. 09.10.2022

Shop Online: [www.utkalikaodisha.com](http://www.utkalikaodisha.com)  
Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Dept., Govt. of Odisha

# Marginal dip in CM's properties

As per the declaration made by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, his properties witnessed a marginal dip from ₹64.98 crore in 2020 to ₹64.97 crore as on December 2021

PNN/ AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik possessed properties worth Rs 64.97 crore as on December, 2021, a marginal dip from Rs 64.98 crore a year ago, according to an official portal where all ministers submit details of their assets.

The website, which was updated Friday with latest information about assets and liabilities of public representatives, showed that Patnaik owned movable properties worth Rs 12.09 crore, which included bank accounts in New Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Hinjicut and Bargarh, along with jewellery and a four-wheeler.

The gold jewellery was valued at Rs 3.45 lakh and the old Ambassador car of 1980 model at Rs 6,434.

The Chief Minister had deposits of Rs 72 lakh in a bank at Janpath, New Delhi, and Rs 21.71 lakh in the State Bank of India at Bhubaneswar.

Patnaik possessed immovable assets worth Rs 52.88 crore – all of which were inherited from parents Biju and Gyan Patnaik, according to the CM's property statement.

His immovable assets included his two-thirds share in Naveen Niwas, near Bhubaneswar airport,



Health Minister Naba Kishore Das disclosed that his wife owned as many as 75 vehicles, all of which were used for commercial purposes

Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda disclosed that he owned movable and immovable assets worth over Rs 6.49 crore

Rural Development Minister Pritiranjan Ghadai, Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Rita Sahu and Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik revealed that they did not possess any four-wheeler

worth Rs 9,52,46,190 (approximately), and 50 per cent share in the property at 3, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi worth Rs 43,36,18,000 (approximately).

Other Cabinet ministers, too, declared their assets on the website.

State Health Minister Naba Kishore Das disclosed that his wife owned as many as 75 vehicles, all of which were used for commercial purposes. Of these, 18 were procured in 2021.

Das's fleet of vehicles included a Mercedes Benz whose market value was estimated at over Rs 1.14 crore.

He had deposits of over Rs 45.12 lakh in different banks of Sambalpur, Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda.

The health minister also had investments over Rs 77.43 lakh in various fixed deposit schemes, the property statement showed.

His wife, too, has deposits in various banks, mostly in Sambalpur, amounting to over Rs 1.13 crore, and fixed deposits of more than Rs 2.24 crore.

Similarly, Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda declared that he owned movable and immovable assets worth over Rs 6.49 crore.

Rural Development Minister Pritiranjan Ghadai, Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts Minister Rita Sahu and Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik disclosed that they did not possess any four-wheeler.



**DOUSING BLAZE:** Fire Services personnel and locals douse blaze that broke out at the fifth floor of Bhartiya Tower, which is under construction, in Badambadi area of Cuttack, Friday

OP PHOTO

## Sanitation should be community driven: BMC commissioner

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange attended 'Mo Ward Meeting' at ward no-51 and 57 Friday. The prime objective of the meeting was to orient the community members

on sanitation habits and new sanitation initiatives of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

The session was facilitated by deputy commissioner, Sanitation Suwendu Kumar Sahoo.

"Public is our priority. All the developmental measures that are

being taken are for the benefit of city dwellers. Sanitation being the key indicator of livability should be community driven in a city like Bhubaneswar," said the commissioner.

To make Bhubaneswar a better performer in the field of sanitation,

the civic body has devised steps like 'Zero GPS' and 5 metre radius cleaning. This is equally applicable for all dwellers and institutions. Adoption of new initiatives will keep Bhubaneswar ahead in terms of livability and smart approaches.

## COUNTINUED FROM P1 No concretisation...

While 2/3rd of reclaimed land be developed as a dense forest, the remaining 1/3rd land may be developed as parks/playgrounds without any permanent or temporary constructions and without allowing any commercial activities.

Parks may be maintained in accordance with the judgments of the Supreme Court in the Bangalore Medical Trust v. BS Muddappa case, the tribunal said. As per the order, the area where forest is to be developed will be handed over to the forest department, after demarcation. Rest of the area will be maintained by the concerned local body/flood and irrigation department, as decided by the state government.

The state has also been asked to adopt necessary safeguards for protection of 38 villages likely to be affected by floods in the periphery of Cuttack.

## In a first, Mission Shakti SHGs to revive lake, drain in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** In a first-of-its-kind initiative in Odisha, Mission Shakti self-help groups (SHGs) will revive drain and lake at Ward-36 here under the Mukhya Mantri Karma Tatpara Abhiyan (MUKTA), an official said Friday.

In the pilot stage, as many as 16 Mission Shakti SHGs of Wards-28, 35 and 36 will rejuvenate the drain and lake No-10 at Ward-36 near Nicoo Park here with a budgetary allocation of Rs 1.85 crore, added the official.

Attending a meeting at SUDA office here on water body rejuvenation in the City through community participation, Housing and Urban Development department Principal Secretary G Mathi Vathanan said Odisha is appreciated globally for coming up with



model interventions like FSTP, MUKTA and JAGA Mission.

"The rejuvenation of water body in Ward-36 by Mission Shakti SHGs is a first-of-its-kind project in Odisha. Hence, we've to ensure that it becomes a role model for others,"

said Mathi Vathanan. Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor Sulochana Das assured all sorts of support to the SHG members for hassle-free execution of the initiative.

**In the pilot stage, as many as 16 Mission Shakti SHGs of Wards-28, 35 and 36 will rejuvenate the drain and lake No-10 at Ward-36 near Nicoo Park here with a budgetary allocation of ₹1.85 crore**

Kulange said that they would facilitate technical support to the Mission Shakti SHG members at the field level.

"Through this rejuvenation initiative, efforts shall be made to transform BMC into a role model for other ULBs," added Kulange.

State Urban Development Agency (SUDA) Director Sarada Prasad Panda highlighted the state government's commitment towards women empowerment.

"The state government has allocated Rs 700 crore for 2022-23 and embarked on a path of empowering women through their engagement in various livelihood-focused activities. The initiative of renovation of lake is another such case of state showcasing its commitment of empowering women towards a sustainable livelihood," Panda pointed out.

## STATE REGISTERS 202 FRESH COVID CASES IN 24 HRS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** Odisha's Covid-19 tally mounted to 13,32,735 Friday as 202 more people, including 45 children, tested positive for the virus, a Health department bulletin said.

The state had recorded 252 infections Thursday.

The death toll remained unchanged at 9,186. Odisha now has 1,400 active cases, while 13,22,095 patients have recovered from the disease so far, including 238 in the past 24 hours.

A total of 12,979 samples were tested for Covid-19 since Thursday at a daily positivity rate of 1.56 per cent.

## Dilip Tirkey new...

"Congratulate @DilipTirkey former Hockey Team Captain from #Odisha, on being elected as the President of @TheHockeyIndia. I am sure, being an illustrious player himself from the cradle of Indian hockey, he will take the game to new heights. Wish him all the very best," Patnaik said in a tweet. Sports and Youth Services Secretary R. Vineel Krishna also congratulated Tirkey. Stating it is a proud moment for Odisha, Krishna said, "Under his leadership, I am sure there will be new momentum towards hockey development in the country."

## Woman gets family ...

After the order of the HC, Lalita received a provisional pension of Rs 16 lakh. Four officers along with the Under Secretary of OSRTC came to her house and gave her the cheque. The HC expressed its regret because of the delay. Referring to an order of the SC, the HC said, pension is not a favour. The HC said that it will make all efforts so that not a single beneficiary in the state is deprived of pension. After receiving the pension Lalita said: "We had to suffer what was destined to us. I had to bring up children after going through a lot of difficulties. Finally, we got justice. The pension will be of great help to my children."



**DEMOLITION DRIVE:** An excavator engaged by BDA demolished illegal structures near Kuakhai bridge in Bhubaneswar, Friday

OP PHOTO

## Early life exposure to pollution may lead to brain disorder: Study

In a first, researchers have linked exposure to air pollutants like particulate matter PM2.5 – particularly in the first five years of life starting from the womb – and alterations in the brain structure that may put children at psychiatric and cognitive disorder risks later in life.

Experts assessed children's exposure to air pollution from conception to 8.5 years of age on a monthly basis.

The study, published in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Pollution, found an association in children aged 9-12, between exposure to air pollutants in the womb and during the first 8.5 years of life and alterations in white matter structural connectivity in the brain.

The greater the child's exposure before age five, the greater the brain structure alteration observed in preadolescence, according to the team led by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal).

"The novel aspect of the present study is that it identified periods of susceptibility to air pollution. We measured exposure using a finer time scale by analysing the data on a month-by-month basis, unlike previous

One of the important conclusions of this study is that the infant's brain is particularly susceptible to the effects of air pollution, not only during pregnancy, as has been shown in earlier studies, but also during childhood

MONICA GUXENS | ISGLOBAL RESEARCHER

studies in which data was analysed for trimesters of pregnancy or childhood years," said Anne-Claire Binter, ISGlobal researcher and first author of the study.

In this study, "we analysed the children's exposure to air pollution from conception to 8.5 years of age on a monthly basis", Binter added.

In addition to the association between air pollution and white matter microstructure, the study also found a link between specific exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and the volume of the "putamen", a brain structure involved in motor function, learning processes and many other functions.

Abnormal white matter microstructure has been associated

with psychiatric disorders (depressive symptoms, anxiety and autism spectrum disorders).

The study found that the greater the exposure to PM2.5, especially during the first two years of life, the greater the volume of the putamen in preadolescence.

"A larger putamen has been associated with certain psychiatric disorders (schizophrenia, autism spectrum disorders, and obsessive-compulsive spectrum disorders)," said Binter.

The data analysed came from a large cohort of 3,515 children enrolled in the Generation R Study in Rotterdam (the Netherlands).

"One of the important conclusions of this study is that the infant's brain is particularly susceptible to the effects of air pollution not only during pregnancy, as has been shown in earlier studies, but also during childhood," the researchers noted.

"We should follow up and continue to measure the same parameters in this cohort to investigate the possible long-term effects on the brain of exposure to air pollution" added Monica Guxens, ISGlobal researcher and another author of the study.

IANS

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

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



MOCK DRILL: CISF jawans conducted a mock drill on marine safety and rescue operation organised by Indian Coast Guards in Paradip, Friday

DAMASALA CREEK POLLUTION NGT orders probe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 23: National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered an investigation into alleged pollution of Damasala creek in Sukinda area of Jajpur district.

One Amiya Panda had filed a petition at the NGT in this regard. The NGT had directed the administration to form a committee to look into the pollution.

Kurumis stir against Tudu's statement



POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Sept 23: Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Tribal Affairs Bishweswar Tudu had earlier stated that leaders of various outfits protesting for tribal status to the Kurumi community have been misleading people with an intention of creating vote bank.

"It is unfortunate on part of an MP who is now in a constitutional position to make such undemocratic statement towards Kurumis. We demand his ouster from ministry," agitators fumed

It may be noted here that people associated with various Kurumi outfits had staged a rail roko at Bhanjapur railway station a few days ago seeking tribal status to them.

Later, Tudu reacting on the protest had reportedly said that leaders of the Kurumi outfits have been protesting from 'Palli to Delhi' and mislead people with eye on vote bank, but they would not get tribal status even if they keep on agitating for 100 years.

PD orders probe into chinks in MGNREGS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Loisingha, Sept 23: People have been complaining over irregularities in two MGNREGS projects implemented at Luchkibahal village of Jharmunda panchayat under this block in Bolangir district.

The authorities of Jharmunda panchayat had taken up two MGNREGS projects at Khajurikanta and Limbamunda (two hamlets which are part of Luchkibahal village) in June 2022.

The BDO had earlier served a show-cause notice to the panchayat executive officer, the GRS and the Gaonsathi about non-payment of wages to the beneficiaries.

Administration September 3.

Finally, plan afoot for Pipalapanka dam

₹1,000 CRORE WILL BE SPENT FOR THE PROJECT: SORADA MLA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 23: Nearly 26 years ago, the Water Resources department had proposed Pipalapanka reservoir on Rushikulya river in Sorada Assembly constituency in Ganjam district.

As per preliminary estimate, ₹1,000 crore will be spent for the project, said Sorada MLA Purnachandra Swain.

However, environmentalists had opposed it in the initial years and have again opposed it now.

It is worth mentioning here that in the late 90s, Tata Group had proposed to set up a port-based mega steel plant at Gopalpur. The then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao had contested Lok Sabha elections on the Congress ticket from Berhampur constituency in 1996.

Ahead of the parliamentary elections, PV Narasimha Rao had laid



the foundation stone for the plant in December 1995. Top executives of the Tata Group including Ratan Tata were present on the occasion.

Then, the district administration extended all possible cooperation and drew up a master plan for drawing water from the reservoir.

However, some local environmentalists strongly opposed the steel plant as well as the Pipalapanka water reservoir. There were agitations. The agitators said that if the reservoir project is executed, it should be solely used for farming.

the reservoir was raised again. The ruling party has laid emphasis on execution of the project.

Decades ago, freedom fighter and Communist leader Gobinda Pradhan (then Bhanjanagar MLA) had mooted construction of Pipalapanka reservoir on Rushikulya with a vision to use its water only for farming.

Senior BJD leader Ramesh Chandra Chyau Patnaik said that the state government has emphasised on dam construction to boost irrigation and ensure drinking water to people. Pipalapanka reservoir is a welcome step, he added.

Vig starts probe into fund embezzlement

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliapal, Sept 23: Vigilance officials have started an investigation into irregularities worth ₹1.90 crore in various projects in Baliapal panchayat of Balasore district.

A three-member team of the Vigilance department visited several project areas.

Sarpanch Banalata Das had earlier filed a complaint at the Vigilance that former sarpanch Madhusudan Barik has misappropriated funds

for various projects in 2021-22 without executing them. She pointed out that funds received for pipe-laying work of a drinking water project, a couple of road projects, restoration of old market complex have been misappropriated.

Man awarded life term for murder

Baripada: A court in Mayurbhanj district sentenced a 35-year-old man to life imprisonment for murdering a man over a decade ago. Rairangpur additional district and sessions judge Deepak Kumar also imposed a fine of ₹5,000 on Laba Bari for killing Kanhu Bagey (50).

Delay of Brutang project raises concern



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Sept 23: People's representatives including Zilla Parishad (ZP) members and MLAs at the second ZP general meeting here expressed concern over non-execution of Brutang irrigation project.

At the meeting, ZP chairperson Debasish Patnaik, Nayagarh MLA Arun Sahu, Ranpur MLA Satya Narayan Pradhan, Daspalla MLA Ramesh Chandra Behera, Khandapara MLA Soumyaranjan Patnaik, ZP members and district level officials of various departments discussed a host of issues like farmers' registration, fertilizer shortage, effective measures for elephant menace in various parts, irregularities in Odagaon forest range and flood damage assessment in various pockets.

Reports said, farming and irrigation is one of the priority sectors of the state government, but the Brutang irrigation project in this district has allegedly failed to take off for years due

to lack of green clearance. The project is described as the lifeline of Nayagarh district. The stage-I clearance, according to the project, has created concerns over submergence of a key elephant corridor.

The order of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), granting stage-I forest clearance to the project, included some conditions intended to safeguard the wildlife such as building overpasses to allow elephants to cross the canal.

The proposed submergence area is close to Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary. A study pointed out that both the submergence area and the canal that will connect Brutang and Kuanria reservoirs are being regularly used by elephants during their transit across the Mahanadi in summer.

In February, 2021, protesting the delay of the project, farmers and project supporters had taken out a 40-km rally from Daspalla to Nayagarh town. They had staged protests in front of the collectorate, seeking expedition in execution of the project.

They also demanded provision of rehabilitation of the people identified for displacement first and to include Ranpur, Bolagarh and Begunia blocks under the project area.

Locals said that the project is a 50-year-old dream of the people of Nayagarh, but the dream is being sidelined.

The project will benefit 7.42 lakh people of 309 villages in the district besides supplying drinking water to Nayagarh town

Government of Odisha OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, NABARANGPUR, UMERKOTE e-Procurement Notice

STATE BANK OF INDIA REGIONAL BUSINESS OFFICE-III, PURI POSSESSION NOTICE For Immovable Property

IN THE MATTER OF ARBITRATION BETWEEN M/S. SREI EQUIPMENT FINANCE LTD. AND Niranjana Mahapatra & Anr

EAST COAST RAILWAY E-AUCTION SCHEDULE OF KHURDA ROAD

FOCUS CLIMATE CHANGE

# STING OF CLIMATE RISK



France and China are experiencing their worst droughts on record, and four consecutive years of failed rainy seasons in eastern Africa have put more than 50 million people at risk of "acute food insecurity"

Scientists have longed warned that climate change will adversely affect weather patterns and living conditions around the world. These warnings are now turning into a painful reality. Worse, the range of possible outcomes has proven to be increasingly "fat-tailed": extreme weather events such as heatwaves, severe storms, and floods are more likely than normal statistical distributions would predict.

None of this bodes well for future political stability or economic prosperity. Our best hope is that the sharp sting in these tails will lead us into the necessary remedial action before things get even worse. But will it?

The public is increasingly aware that global warming is leading to more volatile weather. There have been record-setting heatwaves around the world this year, not just in India – where temperatures reached 49.2° Celsius (120.5°F) – but also in places like the United Kingdom (40.2°C). France and China are experiencing their worst droughts on record, and four consecutive years of failed rainy seasons in eastern Africa have put more than 50 million people at risk of "acute food insecurity." Meanwhile, devastating storms and floods have hit Madagascar, Australia, the United States, Germany, Bangladesh, and South Africa.

These events are causing hundreds of thousands of deaths and enormous economic and financial damage each year, making weather volatility an increasingly important factor in risk assessment. Whereas temperature increases of 0.5°C here or there are barely perceptible, droughts, floods, and other short-term weather fluctuations can wreak deadly havoc. Moreover, extreme weather events can cause changes that last far beyond the immediate shock and damage, especially when they

accelerate developments that might otherwise have taken many years. Scientists are increasingly worried about "tipping points" – such as the melting of polar ice sheets – that would carry us across thresholds of irreversible change. That could create damaging feedback loops between interconnected climate risks, all of which would spill over into the real economy, driving defaults, job losses that disproportionately harm disadvantaged communities, and political turmoil.

Aside from the damage to the physical environment, extreme weather may therefore trigger abrupt and sometimes permanent shifts in social attitudes and public policy. When people start losing their homes, livelihoods, or even their lives, politicians must respond.

Surprisingly, while we are all acutely conscious of extreme weather, forecasters still widely overlook its role in accelerating structural changes. Mainstream climate scientists and economists tend to focus on the longer-term

effects of climate change brought about by global warming, with an emphasis on scenarios involving global average temperature increases in the range of only 1.5°C-2°C – the targets enshrined in the Paris climate agreement. And even in higher-temperature scenarios, it is assumed that the effects – on sea levels and agricultural output, for example – will accumulate only gradually, implying that the ultimate reckoning is several decades away.

But a recent paper – "Climate Endgame: Exploring Catastrophic Climate Change Scenarios" – shows that this conventional scenario analysis gravely understates the long-term risks, because it fails to give the more extreme climate outcomes (the fat tails) the attention they deserve. As the statistician Nassim Taleb has pointed out in the context of financial markets, conventional models struggle to handle the consequences of fat-tail events, creating a dangerous blind spot in their outlook.

Higher temperature pathways

would unleash what the authors call the "four horsemen" of the climate endgame: famine and malnutrition, extreme weather, conflict, and vector-borne diseases. It does not take much imagination to see how this herd of apocalyptic harbingers might create social and political chaos, especially when they are all galloping together – as is already the case today with the global food crisis, a new war in Europe, and the ongoing pandemic. Worse, the notion of the second horseman suggests that the more immediate risks of climate change are still being underplayed. After all, extreme weather is also a driver of the other three horsemen, making it arguably the most important.

Weather shocks cause suffering that grabs society's attention far more than abstract (though no less warranted) warnings of long-term doom. Polls show that support for climate action is greater for those who have personally experienced extreme weather. Although the current upsurge in inflation means that people are less enthusiastic about measures that would hurt their own finances, the growing incidence of disasters is shrinking the minority that remains skeptical of climate change or climate policies altogether.

In this way, the fat tails of the weather – rather than the fat tails of long-term climate change – are far more likely to prompt action within the shorter time horizons that preoccupy politicians and business. Let us hope that as the stings from these tails become ever more common and painful, they will spur us to sustain the policies necessary to keep the climate horses in their stable.

The writer is Visiting Professor at the London Institute of Banking

COPYRIGHT: PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

## Education, rights vital for gender equality

The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2022 has noted that at the current rate of progress, full gender parity will now take 132 years to achieve due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report ranked India at 135 among 146 nations in terms of gender parity. This doesn't augur well for a country that is aspiring for a bigger role among the comity of nations.

According to the report, though India improved five places since last year on better performance in areas of economic participation and opportunity, only 11 countries are ranked below India on the index of 146 nations. Clearly, this should be unacceptable. The country's gender gap score recorded its seventh highest level in the past 16 years, but it continued to rank among the worst performers on various parameters. "With a female population of approximately 662 million, India's level of attainment weighs heavily on regional rankings", it said.

It is also highly distressing to note that on the health and survival sub-index, India ranked lowest at 146th place and figured among the five countries with gender gaps larger than five per cent, the other four being Qatar, Pakistan, Azerbaijan and China. Similarly, India ranks at an abysmal 143rd in economic participation and opportunity in 2022. The situation was not much better in 2016 either, when the rank was 136th, the re-

port said.

Achieving gender parity is crucial as women by and large have lately been playing an important role in society, especially in the metros and cities. The change is due to women getting educated and being made aware of their rights. There are some reports which also indicate that there has been manifest a general preference for the opposite sex, especially in the private sector, in matters of employment in recent times.

One cannot deny an attitudinal change in the thinking of urban society, though a relatively recent phenomenon, and this has been brought about by the waves of modernisation that remained concentrated among the educated. The picture, however, is completely different in the backward and tribal regions of the country. Thus, problems still persist as has been manifest from the recent report on gender parity.

The best way to improve India's abysmal ranking, reflected in the condition of women, is to change the order of things. For that, it is imperative to increase representation of women in leadership positions at all levels so that women get greater access to jobs and resources. It is indeed distressing to note that, at the current rates of progress, it will take 155 years to close the political empowerment gender gap – 11 more than predicted in 2021 – and 151 years for the economic participation and op-

portunity gender gap, as indicated in the report.

One may refer here to the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in 448 of India's 640 districts of the country which clearly reveal that proper attention is not being given to women's health. As per the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a report suggests that 70 per cent of districts (448 out of 640 districts) reported MMR above 70 deaths – a target set under the SDGs. The MMR under SDGs for 2030 is 70 while India's MMR is 113 at present.

There is need to focus on five main concerns: one, give women access to education just like men, two, give women opportunities to be in power and achieve economic success, three, stop the violence and sexual assault against women, four, end child marriages and five, make aware women about women's rights in India. By focusing on these five major points sincerely by the government as also all sections of society, the coming years may achieve some equality between men and women in the country.

It is up to the Government to move beyond tokenism and help women overcome staggering economic and social barriers. Thus, there is clearly a need for policy initiatives to empower women as gender disparities in India persist even against the backdrop of economic growth. However, it cannot be denied that a unique policy experiment in village-level governance

that mandated one-third representation for women in positions of local leadership has shown promising results. Further, it has been found that in villages led by women, the preferences of female residents are better represented, and women are more confident in reporting crimes as earlier they may have considered too stigmatising to bring to attention.

Improvements in labour market prospects also have the potential to empower women. This also led to an increase in age at marriage and childbearing, a drop in desired number of children, and an increase in school enrolment of younger girls not exposed to the programme. Recent initiatives on training and recruiting young women from rural areas for factory-based jobs in cities provide economic independence and social autonomy that they were unaccustomed to in their parental homes.

For India to maintain its position as a global growth leader, more concerted efforts at local and national levels and by the private sector are needed to bring women to parity with men. While increasing representation of women in the public spheres is important and can potentially be attained through some form of affirmative action, an attitudinal shift is essential for women to be considered as equal within their homes and in broader society.

INF A

The spiritual life, the religious life and the ordinary human life of which morality is a part are three quite different things and one must know which one desires and not confuse the three together

SRI AUROBINDO



## Jump in Vacancies

After a decade of witnessing declining Civil Service Examination (CSE) vacancies, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has notified more than 1,000 vacancies in the CSE this year.

Some observers link this jump in UPSC vacancies to jobs added in the newly created Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) through the UPSC exam. Instead of 861 CSE vacancies, the recent recruitment circular issued by UPSC notifies hiring on 1,011 posts. With IRMS now a part of the group A central civil service cadre, nearly 150 personnel will be recruited to the service. The government recently created a new and separate IRMS cadre in the wake of the metro expansion, connectivity plan and bullet train projects.

According to the Minister of State, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Jitendra Singh, there were 1,472 vacancies in the IAS and 864 vacancies in the IPS at the start of the year. Every year, some 150-200 vacancies for IAS rank and close to 250 vacancies for IPS are undertaken, we are told. But there is an asymmetry in terms of recruitment of shortlisted candidates joining the service. That, and the overall decrease in the total number of vacancies is something the government will need to address. The slight increase in numbers due to the addition of new jobs in the railways is clearly not enough. But it's a start.



Mark Cliffe

**EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS CAN CAUSE CHANGES THAT LAST FAR BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE SHOCK AND DAMAGE, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENTS THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE TAKEN MANY YEARS**

Eye on Assembly polls

The Gujarat government has transferred 20 IPS officers, including the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) RB Brahmabhatt. The 1995-batch Gujarat cadre officer has been named the new ADGP of state CID (Crime and Railways), relieving DGP Ashish Bhatia of the additional charge of CID.

RT Susara, an IPS officer from the 2011 batch, has been appointed as the Deputy Commissioner of Police for Zone 1 in Surat while Usha Rada, an IPS officer from the 2013 batch, has been appointed as DCP, Zone-3, Surat city.

Ajit Rajian, the Superintendent of Police for Anand, has been appointed as the DCP for Cyber Crime in Ahmedabad. He will be replaced by Praveen Kumar, a 2016 batch officer who is currently serving as DCP, Zone-1, Rajkot.



BABUDOM BYTES  
Dilip Cherian

To many observers, this jerky movement, so close to the assembly elections, reeks of awkwardness after a long-in-place Gujarat government. Whether it is triggered by new worries or whether it was long in the works is unclear. But with this major reshuffle coming barely a couple of months before the elections, the Bhupendrabhai Patel government is clearly moving to close gaps and fortify the administration before facing the electorate.

Unresolved old issues

Meanwhile, away from a nation and media celebrating the reintroduction of cheetahs, in Tamil Nadu, the state Environment and Forest Department is struggling with internal issues which threaten to subsume the many successes of the recent past.

Sources have informed DKB that the problem in the state Forest Department is not a dearth of officials or talent, rather it is administrative delays. While the department has won accolades for the declaration of the Agasthyamalai as an elephant reserve, the lack of attention to professional training, research and upgradation of posts is beginning to affect its otherwise laudable conservation efforts.

Among the issues is the nonpayment of salaries to temporary staff involved in anti-poaching activities and delays in filling vacant positions in the upper echelons of the department. Though Forest Department Secretary Supriya Sahu claims that these issues are being addressed, no one has a convincing response to the delays. While temporary staff have not been paid for months, and some have even been asked to leave, biologists, who have been working at the department for more than two decades, have not been promoted. Neither has the department recruited permanent biologists on a fixed pay scale.

Some officials say that the department has always been treated as less significant when compared to other departments led by IAS and UPS officers. Apparently, IFS officers of the 1990 batch are still trying to get their cadre upgraded. Clearly, the issues haunting the department require top-level attention from the DMK government.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

We must fight for peace bravely as we fought in war. LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI

I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones. ALBERT EINSTEIN

The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong at the broken places. ERNEST HEMINGWAY

WORDSWORTH

Yealm

This is a term of the thatcher's trade. A yealm – in older works spelled yelm – is one of the individual bundles of straw, a sort of straw tile, that's laid on the roof. A writer in East Anglia in 1825 explained that a yealm was the largest quantity of straw that could be carried under the arm at one time. As befits such an ancient trade, yealm is Old English, spelled then as gielm, gylm and in other ways. Its first sense was of a sheaf of reaped corn (wheat or barley) and only later changed to mean the long straw that remained after threshing. It has often been confused with helm or helm in the same sense, and with haulm for the stems or stalks of peas, beans, potatoes and other crops that remain after harvesting. However, these last three are from a different Germanic source which comes from an Indo-European root that appears in Latin culmus, a stalk, and Greek kalamos, a reed. The yealms are fixed in place by hazel sticks called broches, a word that was once commonly spelled broach or broche and which could mean a pointed device of several kinds. It's the same word as brooch for the ornamental pin. The Oxford English Dictionary, in an entry that was written rather more than a century ago, says of brooch that the differentiation of spelling from broach was recent "and hardly yet established".

LOL

### New hearing aid

Seems an elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%. The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is



perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." To which the gentleman said, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

## 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

### Muddle in media

Sir, The credibility of the mainstream media channels, which invited guests indulging in shouting matches, polarisation and spreading false narratives, would go down. The biggest threat to mainstream media is not from new age digital platforms, but the mainstream media channel itself is most corrupt with unwanted hashtag topics, allegations and counter allegations at the top of the voice. This has been going on for the last 15-20 years. The soul of the country was killed by the shouting, quarrelling persons. First time someone from the government thought it fit to talk about it without promising any action against such channels? In the name of TRP and cut throat competition, people will have to digest more of fake news rather than the real truth. The parties send a spokesperson who shouts, slanders are sour to the core and coarse and it seems they are well trained and specialist in it. With a sudden surge of welcome enlightenment, one wonders if the writing is on the wall for an open fight in the four walls of the newsroom one day. CK Dorai Ramani Suresh, TRICHY

### Make fire safety audit mandatory

Sir, One of the biggest challenges that India has been facing for a long time when it comes to safety and well-being of its people, is the appalling fire safety standards prevalent in workplaces, public buildings and homes. The fire tragedy that occurred at a hotel in Telangana very recently and fire that broke out in a commercial building near the Mundka metro station in outer Delhi in May this year, are stark reminders of how fire safety norms are flouted by building owners with impunity. Buildings must be planned, designed and constructed to ensure that fire safety measures are in place in strict accordance with National Building Code of India's guidelines which regulate the building construction activities across the country. Even though NBC makes these measures mandatory, majority of multi-storey buildings continues to ignore and violate the safety norms, and often play with human lives. In fact, many buildings lack even basic fire safety systems, like fire extinguishers. To reduce fire accidents, First Safety Audit should be made mandatory across the country, and it must be entrusted to third-party agencies, who have the expertise in it. A comprehensive fire safety audit can address the inherent fire hazards associated with the day-to-day activities in an occupancy and recommend measures to reduce the potential fire accidents. Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

# national



Urban Naxals and anti-development elements with political backing had stalled the construction of Sardar Sarovar dam on the Narmada river in Gujarat for many years by running a campaign that it would harm the environment

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

## MASSIVE TRAFFIC JAMS

Vehicles in the national capital were moving at a snail's pace at various places as roads were clogged with heavy traffic jams Friday morning following the overnight incessant rain



## of the day quote

I request the prime minister to pull up the BJP-led Himachal Pradesh government before addressing the rally, as the state is reeling under a 70,000 crore debt, rising by 51 per cent under the current government. He (Modi) should answer why so many are unemployed and even with 67,000 posts vacant

RAJEEV SHUKLA | CONGRESS IN-CHARGE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

We are committed to fulfill our pre-poll promise of providing 1 lakh government jobs. About 27,000 appointments have already been given in the last one-and-a-half-years, and today we are increasing the tally further

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

New India prepared to deal with any threat in healthcare sector

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

# A big win in court for Uddhav

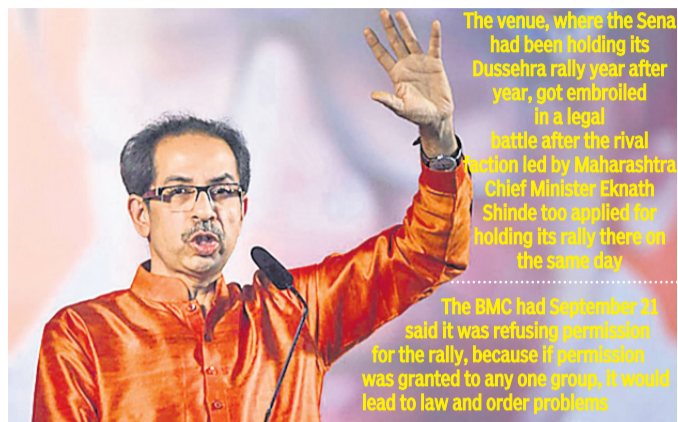
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 23: The Bombay High Court Friday granted permission to the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena to hold its annual Dussehra rally at the iconic Shivaji Park ground in central Mumbai on October 5.

The venue, where the Sena had been holding its Dussehra rally year after year, got embroiled in a legal battle after the rival faction led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde too applied for holding its rally there on the same day. A division bench of Justices R D Dhanuka and Kamal Khata said the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) decision not to grant permission to either faction was a "clear abuse of the process of law."

The Thackeray faction had challenged the BMC order before the court. "In our view, the BMC decision was not bonafide (in good faith). The petitioner has been granted permission to hold the Dussehra rally at the Shivaji Park in the past," it noted. "The BMC order refusing permission merely on the ground that there was a second application filed to hold the rally at the same place is a clear abuse of the process of law," the order said.

The civic body "misused its power on a flimsy ground," the court remarked. The bench allowed the Thackeray faction to use the ground from October 2 to 6 while maintaining law and order. It also directed the police to video record the entire rally. "There shall be no hindrance



The venue, where the Sena had been holding its Dussehra rally year after year, got embroiled in a legal battle after the rival faction led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde too applied for holding its rally there on the same day. The BMC had September 21 said it was refusing permission for the rally, because it was granted to any one group, it would lead to law and order problems

caused to the police work," it warned. "I informed Uddhav Thackeray about the order and he too is happy. This rally is for the people of Maharashtra and there is no politics in it. It is a custom and tradition that has been going on in since many years. Satyameva Jayate," Sena leader Anil Desai told reporters in the court.

The BMC had September 21 said it was refusing permission for the rally, because if permission was granted to any one group, it would lead to law and order problems. The corporation had also cited a report submitted by the Shivaji Park police station expressing this apprehension.

MLA Sada Sarvankar, who had sought permission from the BMC for the rally on behalf of the Shinde group, had also moved the HC. His plea opposed the Thackeray group's petition saying the court should not decide the matter as the dispute as to who represents the real Sena was

pending before the Supreme Court. The court rejected this application noting that Sarvankar had no "locus" (right) to intervene. "In our view, the issue of who is the real Shiv Sena is pending before the Supreme Court and the Election Commission of India and this petition regarding the Dussehra rally has nothing to do with the same and hence we are afraid we cannot go into these contentions," the bench said. The bench also noted that the applications for permission were pending since August 22.

"Only after this petition was filed on September 21, the corporation sought a report from the police and then on the same day passed its order refusing permission. The corporation is unable to explain why the application couldn't be decided before," it said.

Senior counsel Aspi Chinoy and advocate Joel Carlos, appearing for the Thackeray faction, had argued that it had the right to hold the rally at Shivaji Park.



An artist decorates an earthen pot for the upcoming Navratri festival in Thane

PTI PHOTO

## SC stays investigation against Yediyurappa



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 23: The Supreme Court Friday stayed the investigation in an FIR lodged by the Lokayukta police against former Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa in a corruption case in connection with the award of a Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) contract.

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Siddharth Dave, representing Yediyurappa, contended before a bench headed by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud that the Karnataka High Court ignored the fact that it was mandatory to obtain prior sanction before issuing an order to register an FIR.

The counsel, representing complainant activist T.J. Abraham, argued that prior sanction requirements had been dispensed with the latest amendment in law in connection with cases, which arise out of complaints filed under Section 156(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code.

After hearing arguments, the bench, also comprising Justice Hima Kohli, issued notice to Abraham on a petition by the senior BJP leader challenging the high court order. During the hearing, the top court said it would examine the matter. In an order earlier this month, the high court held that the rejection of sanction would not come in the way of proceedings against Yediyurappa. He moved the apex court challenging the high court order.

In July 2021, a special court declined to entertain a complaint by Abraham, saying an order of investigation under Section 156(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code cannot be made without valid sanction under Section 19(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The complaint alleged that Yediyurappa and others, including his family members and two businessmen, collected bribes to the tune of ₹12 crore to award a contract for a construction firm to build a housing complex for the government during his tenure as chief minister in 2019-21.

# Nitish betrayed BJP to become PM: Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Purnea, Sept 23: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Friday flayed former ally Nitish Kumar, accusing the Bihar chief minister of "backstabbing" the BJP and trying to fulfill prime ministerial ambitions while "sitting in the laps of Congress and RJD". At a rally held in this north Bihar town, Shah asserted that the "jodi" of Kumar and RJD president Lalu Prasad will be "wiped out" ("soopda saaf") in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and, a year later, the BJP will win a majority on its own in the state assembly elections.

Widely regarded as the BJP's principal strategist, Shah arrived in Bihar on his first trip since the party was robbed of power in the upheaval last month. He, however, refrained from joining issue with the contention of Kumar's JD(U) that the BJP had tried to "break" the party.

"The number of seats won by Kumar's party in 2020 assembly polls was nearly half of our tally. BJP showed magnanimity ('badapan') in backing him as the CM in keeping with its earlier promise. But, with the Lok Sabha polls nearing, his prime ministerial ambitions got the better of him and he backstabbed us," alleged Shah.

The JD(U) has been indirectly blaming the BJP for the fall in its tally in the last assembly polls when the Lok Janshakti Party, then headed by Chirag Paswan, fielded many saffron party rebels against candidates of the chief minister's party.

Shah mocked the seven-party ruling 'Mahagathbandhan', which also includes three Left parties, for raising apprehensions that the BJP leader's two-day trip of Seemanchal region could lead to communal polarisation in the area, which has a high concentration of Muslims.

"The new regime has led to an atmosphere of fear in these border districts. But with (PM) Narendra Modi around, none of you need to be afraid. All of you have been elated over scrapping of Article 370, which wiped off a stigma from the forehead of Mother India. I challenge Lalu and Nitish to utter a word in appreciation of the move," the home minister said.

The BJP leader also raked up Kumar's unsteady relations with colleagues like George Fernandes and Sharad Yadav, blaming it on the CM's "lack of ideological commitment" and "excessive attachment to his chair". He also sought to drive a wedge between the JD(U) leader and the latter's arch-rival Prasad, saying, "Tomorrow, Nitish Kumar might dump the RJD and form a new front with Congress and the Left or he may even seek rapprochement with the BJP". "He (Kumar) cut his political teeth taking part in the anti-Congress stir of 1970s. Now, he is sitting in the laps of Congress and RJD... He won the last mandate in the name of Narendra Modi but backstabbed the BJP like he had done eight years ago," Shah alleged.



## Prophet row: Big relief for Navika

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: In a relief to journalist Navika Kumar, the Supreme Court Friday clubbed and transferred to the Delhi Police all FIRs registered against the news anchor over the controversial remarks made by ex-BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma on Prophet Mohammad during a TV debate moderated by her.

The top court noted that FIRs in the case of Sharma have also been transferred to IFSO Unit of Delhi Police for investigation and there cannot be two investigating agencies with respect to the same complaints arising out of the same incident.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and Krishna Murari said no coercive action shall be taken against Kumar for a period of eight weeks so she can avail remedies in the interim period. "The IFSO unit of Delhi Police shall be at liberty to collect and gather any information from the concerned State agencies, if so required, for the purpose of conducting a thorough investigation and taking it to its logical conclusion. "The investigation of any subsequent FIRs/complaints which are registered in future in respect of the same Newshour Debate telecast on Times Now shall also stand transferred to IFSO unit of Delhi police," the bench said.

The apex court granted her liberty to approach the Delhi High Court for quashing of the FIR and said as and when such proceedings are instituted by Kumar, the same shall be considered in accordance with law and on their own merit. "We clarify and make it clear that we have not expressed any opinion on the merits of the allegations contained in the various FIRs/complaints," the bench said.

# Sonia, Maken to decide on Raj CM, says Gehlot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Kochi, Sept 23: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot became the first person to announce his candidature for the AICC presidential poll on Friday, a day before the nomination process begins, and said Rahul Gandhi has told him that no one from the Gandhi family should become the next party chief.

He also said the call on his successor to head the Rajasthan government will be taken by the party's interim president, Sonia Gandhi, and the Congress's Rajasthan in-charge, Ajay Maken.

With Shashi Tharoor likely to be the second contender and the names of several others also doing the rounds for joining the fray, Gehlot said the aim should be that all Congress members work together after the poll to strengthen the party.

Talking to reporters in Kochi, the 71-year-old leader said, "I will fix the date (to submit the nomination papers) after going back (to Rajasthan), but I have decided that I will have to contest. It is a question of democracy and let us make a new start."

Gehlot also said Rahul Gandhi has told him that he respects the wish of the party workers that he should take charge of the organisation but no one from the Gandhi family would become the next Congress president.

"I requested him multiple times. He has clearly said 'I know, everyone wants me to take it up, PCCs have passed resolutions, the workers want it. I have a lot of respect for them but due to certain reasons, we have decided that a non-Gandhi family person should become the presi-



dent', " Gehlot said. With Thiruvananthapuram MP Tharoor likely to enter the poll fray, Gehlot said other "Congress friends" may also contest but what matters is unity and the need to strengthen the organisation at all levels.

"There are Congress friends. Even if they contest, there is no issue. After the results, we should work together to strengthen the Congress at the block, village and district levels and also move forward making our (Congress) thought process as the base, so that we emerge as a strong opposition," he added.

# Bullet train firm invites bids to construct India's first undersea tunnel

THE SEVEN-KM UNDERSEA TUNNEL AT THANE CREEK WILL BE THE FIRST UNDERSEA TUNNEL TO COME UP IN THE COUNTRY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

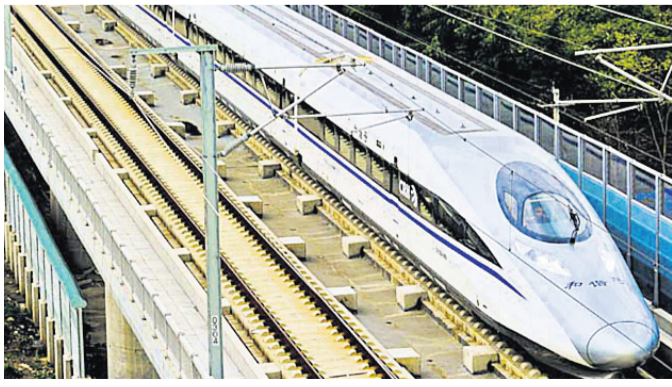
New Delhi, Sept 23: National High Speed Railway Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) has invited bids for the construction of a 21-km-long tunnel, seven km of which will be under the sea, for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor.

The work on the corridor has gained momentum after the change in government in Maharashtra, with tenders, which were previously floated and withdrawn, being renewed again, sources said. Considered the highlight of the project, the tunnel will be built be-

tween the underground station at Bandra-Kurla Complex and Shilphata in Thane district of Maharashtra -- thus connecting the two cities.

The tunnel will be built using tunnel boring machine and the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM), according to the tender document. The seven-km undersea tunnel at Thane Creek will be the first undersea tunnel to come up in the country.

The tunnel will be a single-tube tunnel to accommodate twin tracks. The section will include the construction of 39 equipment rooms at 37 locations adjoining the tunnel



location. To construct this tunnel, tunnel boring machine with a cutter head of 13.1 meter di-

ameter will be used. Usually 5-6 meter diameter cutter heads are used for urban tunnels used in

MRTS - Metro system. Three TBMs will be used to make about 16 km of the tunnel portion and the remaining 5 km will be through NATM. This tunnel will be about 25 to 65 metre deep from the ground level and the deepest construction point will be 114 metre below the Parsik hill near Shilphata.

The last date for bid submission is January 19, 2023. The bids for the design and construction of underground Bandra Kurla Complex high speed rail station, including cut and cover length of 467m and ventilation shaft of 66 metre, was floated on July 22 and bids submission end date is October 22.

In November last year, NHSRCL had invited bids for underground tunnelling works for the project. But it was cancelled this year with officials citing "administrative reasons". In 2019, NHSRCL had first invited tenders for the project but didn't attract any bidder. It again floated tenders in November 2021.

Land acquisition for the project in Maharashtra, including at Bandra-Kurla Complex, had been a festering issue during the previous state government, sources said. Now, with the change in government, officials claim that nearly 96 per cent of the land for the project has been acquired in Maharashtra.

## Youth ends life

Bangalore: A Delhi-based youth, who was undergoing air force training in Bengaluru, was found hanging in his room under Gangamnanagudi police station limits on Friday. Ankit Kumar (27) hailed from New Delhi and was being trained at the Air Force Technical College (AFTC) for the past one-and-a-half years, according to police.

PFI HARTAL

# Widespread stone pelting, sporadic violence in Kerala

Kerala HC strongly condemned and initiated suo motu proceedings against PFI leaders for the illegal call of flash hartal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 23:** Masked men and miscreants went on a rampage in different parts of Kerala Friday during the dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the Popular Front of India (PFI), under the lens for alleged terror activities, damaging state-run buses and ambulance, injuring policemen and commoners and vandalising shops and threatening the public.

The Kerala High Court took cognizance on its own over the illegal hartal and initiated a case saying the flash protest was prima facie a contempt of court as it violated a 2019 HC order on such agitations.

The violent incidents affected normal life in many parts of the southern state, a day after the National Investigation Agency led multi-agency pan-India raids against PFI, accused of being a radical Islamist outfit, arresting over 100 persons.

The court, which said holding hartals were banned by it earlier, also directed the state administration to take stern action against those who violate the court order banning hartals.

Cutting across cities towns, the hartal supporters took out protest marches, burnt tyres on roads, blocked vehicles and forcefully downed the shutters of shops in various places. Face-covering gangs unleashed violence and attacked shops in Kozhikode, Kottayam and Ernakulam districts.

Kerala State Road Transport buses, freight lorries and airport vehicles were widely attacked and pelted with stones across the state. An ambulance was not spared from stone-pelting in Thrissur district,



A driver wearing a helmet drives a KSRTC bus in Kochi, Friday as stones were pelted at KSRTC buses by protesters in almost all districts

causing concern. At least 50 KSRTC buses were damaged with their windscreens smashed and seats damaged. Over 10 of its employees suffered injuries in the stone pelting and related incidents, official sources said.

The KSRTC management put out a facebook post against the attack on its buses, and the drivers could be seen plying the vehicles wearing helmets in many places to escape from the stone pelting.

Besides KSRTC employees, police personnel, some bus and lorry drivers and commuters suffered injuries in various incidents.

In Kannur, a group of PFI activists were beaten up by local people when they tried to forcefully down the shutters of shops. Angry local people reacted strongly when the protesters asked them to close the shops, beat them up and handed one of them to the police at the Central Bazar in Payyannur in this politically-volatile northern district.

Following PFI's hartal call made Thursday, the state police chief had given directions to beef up security across Kerala and to take stern action against those who violate the law.

Sources said a large number of the activists of the PFI and the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) were taken into custody by police across the state for breaking laws and engaging in violence on the hartal day.

However, their exact number is yet to be revealed by the police.

The PFI Thursday had said a hartal will be observed in the state today against the RSS-controlled fascist government's attempt to silence dissenting voices using the central agencies.

NIA had arrested 106 functionaries of the PFI Thursday in raids at 93 locations in 15 states for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country Kerala, where PFI has some strong pockets, accounted for the maximum number of 22 arrests,

# Once hotspot of shelling, Valley's LoC villages now new habitat for trekkers

NOT ONLY FROM KASHMIR VALLEY BUT PEOPLE FROM OTHER STATES ARE EXPLORING THE TOURIST SPOTS AND ENHANCING THE GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES OF BORDER TOURISM IN KASHMIR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Sept 23:** The villages near Line of Control (LoC) in the northern region of Kashmir are now a new habitat for trekkers and tourists coming from different parts of the country.

Not only from Kashmir valley but people from different states are exploring the tourist spots and enhancing the government's initiatives of border tourism in Kashmir.

"It's really great to see that the people who suffered much are now enjoying themselves. People from different parts of the country are visiting us, listening to us besides exploring the hidden beauty of Kashmir," said Irshad Ahmad, a local resident of Uri.

He gave credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his efforts to uplift the sufferings of poor people belonging to the border villages of Jammu and Kashmir.

Irshad said that since long the people of border villages were badly targeted with the Pakistan shells which always forced people to stay away from this part of the world. "But since Article 370 was scrapped we people too start living our dreams and with the passage of time everything turned into reality," Irshad added.

The villages of Baba Fareed, Kandi, Rustom Nambla (TV Tower), Copra Peak, Dudran, Dana Dudran, Chotali, Zulfqar View Point once badly affected with Pakistan shelling are now best tourist locations in the border town of Uri in north



Mubashir Teli, a trekker from Sopore town of north Kashmir says exploring border tourism is like people reborn as since childhood they have only seen destruction, sufferings by Pakistan shelling

Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Khatija, a housewife from Machil sector of Kupwara with tears flowing from her eyes thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his commitment towards this area as they saw a new dawn with people across the country visiting the border villages.

She said this border tourism has brought a smile to their faces. She added that the current ceasefire between the two nations has brought some respite to the locals as dozens of tourists and trekkers are visiting the villages on a daily basis and enjoying the night camping.

Irshad Shah, CEO of valley-wanders, an off-road club, in a chat said that he came forward with a mission to explore Kashmir and other parts of the valley and let people explore it.

"I believe in channelising youth in adventure and sports and also in spiritual tourism," he said.

Irshad said that he started with a small group which later turned into a team and so far had ex-

plored hidden places of the northern region of Kashmir, including the most beautiful places Keran, Machil, Gurez.

The main motive was to visit the border areas of north Kashmir not only to explore but to reach out to the people living there and to boost border tourism.

"It was very difficult during the initial stage but thanks to the Almighty everything worked smoothly and later his club also set a record off-road by covering the most dangerous route from Machil-Gurez," Irshad added.

In his message to youth Irshad said, "As we all are well aware about the ground situations where our younger generation are being involved in drugs and other wrong practices, the best medicine for all such illegal activities is travelling and to explore beautiful places of our paradise."

Irshad said that in the future his group will explore those areas and routes, where people haven't so far travelled.

He said earlier people were very much afraid to explore border tourism due to the Pakistan shelling and now after guns fell silent, locals of these border villages too are enjoying the moment of joy with the rest of the people.

Irshad further added, "It is really great to explore our own land, especially camping inside the dense forests, is a new dawn for the people of border villages."

Mubashir Teli, a trekker from Sopore town of north Kashmir said exploring border tourism is like people reborn as since childhood they have only seen destruction, sufferings by Pakistan shelling.

There are several places in the Uri area of Baramulla district which have potential for tourism, however, the hostility between the two neighboring countries would keep these areas from achieving their tourism potential.

The tourist destinations like Baba Fareed, Kandi, Rustom Nambla (TV Tower), Dana Nambla, Nambla Waterfall, Bosiya, Copra Peak, Dudran, Dana Dudran, Chotali, Zulfqar View Point, Bilal Abad Garkote, Machichurand, Lachipora Wildlife sanctuary, Limber Wildlife sanctuary, Ghati, Gabaywar and Vijee Top in Uri subdivision are the top sought after tourist destinations for trekkers in the recent months.

India and Pakistan in February this year agreed to ceasefire along the LoC and all other sectors.

Irshad Rasool Wani (IFS) North Kashmir circle Conservator said that the forest department has opened 75 trekking routes in Jammu and Kashmir and forest rest houses have been put to online booking for the public.

"We are developing environment parks near these trekking routes and Forest Rest houses so that ecotourism is promoted in offbeat destinations. This is helping us in forest conservation as we are involving local people in these activities. They get a livelihood also. These months we are witnessing a massive foot-fall in these parks," Irshad said.



DAWN AT DAL: Shikaras parked in Dal Lake during sunrise, in Srinagar, Friday

PFI PHOTO

# Kerala's ₹25cr jackpot winner now rues his luck

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 23:** Just five days after being announced winner of the Rs 25 crore first prize in Kerala government's mega Onam raffle, autorickshaw driver Anoop says he regrets his windfall.

"I have lost all peace of mind and I can't even reside in my own home as I am besieged with people who come calling to ask me to sort out various needs of theirs as I have won the first prize. I now keep changing where I stay as I have lost all peace of mind that I enjoyed till I won the prize," he said.

Anoop lives with his wife, child, and mother at Sreekariyam, about 12 km from the main capital city.

The winning ticket was taken by Anoop from a local agent here after breaking open his child's small savings box.

After deduction of tax and other dues, Anoop will get an amount of Rs 15 crore as the prize money.

"Now I really wish, I should not have won it. I, like most people, really enjoyed me winning for a day or two with all the publicity. But now this has become a menace and I can't even go outside where I stay. People are after me seeking help from me," he added.



He is using his social media account to tell people that he is yet to get the money.

"I have not decided what to do with the money and at the moment, I will put the entire money in the bank for two years. Now I really wish I should not have this, instead of this, may be a lesser amount of prize money would have been better," Anoop added.

Anoop rues that now the stage has come where many who were known to him who will become enemies.

"My neighbours are angry as many people who come looking for me hang around in the neighbourhood. Even when wearing a mask, people crowd around me knowing I am the winner. All my peace of mind has disappeared," said a peeved Anoop.

# Novel app aims to spread awareness on road safety

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 23:** Group of Technology Companies in Kerala (GTECH), the industry body of IT companies in the state, in association with Tata Elxsi, has launched an app to create awareness and sensitise the youth in the country on road safety.

The android app named Defensive Driving Tata STRIVE contains a 24-episode web series, each of 5 minutes duration, called 'Badthi Ka Naam Gaadi' which will be made available nationally on the social media.

Pursuing a novel idea, the web series features Bollywood actor Vijay Raaz interviewing ghosts of road accident victims, followed by a quiz of 10 questions each in English and various

Indian languages. Through the videos, viewers are sensitised to various situations which are known to be the most common causes of road accidents in the country, a GTECH release said here Friday.

Participants who qualify, get an e-certificate signed by the Government of Kerala Transport Department and CEO Tata STRIVE, it said.

The app will be promoted extensively through schools and colleges across the country, the release said.

GTECH, as part of its social outreach initiatives, gives importance to matters of public interest. More than 16,000 lives have been lost on the roads in Kerala alone from 2018 to April 2022, a majority of whom are young people.

# Jammu celebrates Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, Sept 23:** Dressed to the nines, residents of Jammu Friday took out parades across the city to celebrate the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, the last Dogra ruler of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor administration had recently declared the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, which falls September 23, as an annual holiday in the Union Territory.

The celebrations started with the great grandsons of Maharaja Hari Singh offering prayers at the Ranbeshwar temple in the city early morning.

"I want to congratulate the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the 127th birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh ji. Grant of holiday on his birth anniversary is

a victory of all the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the youth of Jammu," grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh and former legislator Vikramaditya told reporters.

The celebrations by the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) that began Thursday night continued Friday while people from all walks of life assembled at Tawi Bridge and Maharaja Hari Singh Park to pay tributes. Adorning colourful turbans and holding flags of their organisation, several members of the Rajput community on two-wheelers, tractors, cars and even horses took out victory processions in the Ban Talab area of the city.

They raised slogans glorifying Maharaja Hari Singh and brandished swords as part of the celebrations.

"Our continuous agitation yielded results and the govern-



ment has announced a holiday on the birth anniversary of the Maharaja after 75 years," YRS leader Arjun Singh said.

The Kashmir-based political parties, which have largely ruled the

erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, were opposed to the public holiday on the birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh, who signed the instrument of accession with the republic of India October 26,

1947, he said.

At the Tawi bridge, the BJP leadership led by its president, Ravinder Raina danced to tunes of drum beats amid slogans of 'Maharaja Hari Singh amar rahe'. Sweets were also distributed among the people while medical camps were organised at several places in the city. "It is victory of people. It is justice done. We congratulate the people of J&K, particularly Yuva Rajputs for their fight," Raina yold reporters.

A group of displaced Kashmir Pandits took out a rally in Muthi area and raised pro-Maharaja slogans. Similar celebrations were also held in Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar and Rajouri districts. In Kathua, some public transporters offered free travel to passengers as a tribute to the Maharaja.





You have all seen the appalling images from Pakistan. This is happening at just 1.2 degrees of global warming. We are headed for over 3 degrees

FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

The New Zealand government Friday announced funding for projects that will cut plastic waste and reduce its impact on the environment. The first four investments were announced to be made from the NZ\$50 million (\$29 million) Plastics Innovation Fund, which was set last year, Environment Minister David Parker said



of the day quote

Ukraine showed strength on the battlefield, using its right to self-defence in accordance with the UN Charter

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY | UKRAINE'S PRESIDENT

The United States will provide nearly \$376 million in new humanitarian aid to vulnerable Venezuelans, including Venezuelan refugees and migrants and their host communities

ANTONY BLINKEN | US SECRETARY OF STATE

The war changed everything. It disrupted the European model, because many countries were depending on Russian gas for (energy) production. And clearly, for the first time, energy has become a weapon of war

EMMANUEL MACRON | FRENCH PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Wolf Hall author Hilary Mantel dies

London: Hilary Mantel, the British author of the best-selling Wolf Hall trilogy and the first woman to win the prestigious Booker Prize twice, has died. She was 70, her publisher and agent said Friday. Mantel, who was regarded as one of the greatest English-language novelists of this century, died "suddenly yet peacefully" on Thursday surrounded by close family and friends, according to her agent.

4 killed Kabul mosque blast

Kabul: At least four people are dead and 10 wounded after explosion went off near a mosque in Afghanistan's capital of Kabul Friday, with a hospital confirming the number of casualties. A column of black smoke rose into the sky and shots rang out several minutes after the blast in the city's diplomatic quarter. The Italian Emergency Hospital in Kabul said it had received 14 casualties and that four people were dead on arrival. Mosques have previously been a target for attacks.

HK to end hotel quarantine

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's leader announced the city would no longer require incoming travellers to quarantine in designated hotels as it seeks to remain competitive and open up globally after nearly two years. Incoming travellers will also no longer need a negative PCR test within 48 hours before boarding a plane to Hong Kong, the city's chief executive John Lee said Friday at a news conference. The measures will come into effect Monday.

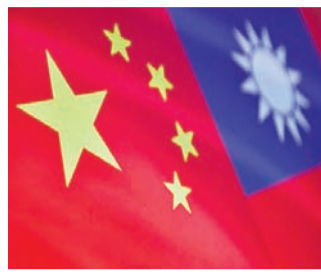
Boat capsizes: 23 Chinese missing

Phnom Penh: At least 23 Chinese nationals were missing after a boat capsized in Cambodia, Beijing's Embassy in Phnom Penh confirmed Friday. The Embassy said that it received a notification from the Cambodian Police Department Thursday night, saying that the boat carried a total of 40 Chinese nationals on board, of which 18 were rescued following the accident, reports said.

Shehbaz meets Biden

New York: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met US President Joe Biden at a reception for world leaders participating in the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, media reports said.

China blockade would be an act of war: Taiwan



REUTERS

Taipei, Sept 23: A Chinese blockade of Taiwan or the seizure of an offshore island would be considered an act of war and Taiwan would not surrender, a senior Taiwanese security official told Reuters using unusually strong and direct language.

While Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen and others in her administration have repeatedly said that while they want peace they would defend themselves if attacked, the details of what Taiwan would consider an attack war-

ranting a response have generally been left unsaid, given the many scenarios.

Chinese military action might not be as straightforward as a full frontal assault on Taiwan: it could include actions like a blockade to try to force Taiwan to accept China's rule, strategists say. Tension between Beijing, which views Taiwan as its own territory, and Taipei have spiked since US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited the island in early August.

To show its anger, China mounted military exercises around Taiwan that included firing missiles and steps to mount a blockade. China has since then continued its military activities, though on a smaller scale.

That has focused attention in Taiwan and capitals of friendly countries, like the United States and Japan, on how a any conflict with China could play out, and how Taiwan and its allies might respond.

Quad foreign ministers to meet every year on sidelines of UNGA

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, Sept 23: Foreign ministers of Quad countries -- India, Australia, Japan and the US -- have agreed to meet on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting every year, taking another major step towards further institutionalising the platform focused on keeping the Indo-Pacific free and open from Chinese influence.

The four countries also signed a humanitarian and disaster relief agreement for the region, which was discussed and agreed upon at the Tokyo summit of the Quad.

The Quad, which started out in 2004 as the Australia-India-Japan-US Tsunami Core Group and later turned into the Quadrilateral



Security Dialogue, has witnessed intense engagement in recent years after it was resurrected in 2017 by the Donald Trump administration from its 2008 collapse. President Joe Biden took it to the summit level with a virtual meeting in 2021, which was quickly followed by one in-person meeting. Their fourth summit -- and second in-person meet -- took place in Tokyo in May this year.

Though the leaders have had two in-person summits in the two years since their first in 2021, there has been no decision for them to meet every year.

But Quad foreign ministers will meet every year now, as they announced at their meeting on Friday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York.

War crimes committed in Ukraine: UN

AGENCIES

Geneva, Sept 23: A team of experts commissioned by the UN's top human rights body to look into rights violations in Ukraine said Friday its initial investigation turned up evidence of war crimes in the country following Russia's invasion nearly seven months ago.

"We were struck by the large number of executions in the areas that we visited. The commission is currently investigating such deaths in 16 towns and settlements," Erik Mose, the commission chairman, told the council. He didn't specify who or which side in the war allegedly committed the killings.

Mose said his team had received and was documenting "credible allegations regarding many more cases of executions." During a 10-day June trip to Ukraine, the team visited Bucha, a city outside Kyiv where Ukrainian authorities found mass graves and bodies strewn in the streets after Russian forces pulled out in late March.

The findings echo reports by news outlets and others of the destruction, death and despair in Ukraine since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion February 24. The commission's work could ultimately contribute to the work of International Criminal Court prosecutors who could bring charges over war crimes in Ukraine, although it re-



Youths march during a demonstration by the Fridays for Future movement in Freiburg, Germany. Youth activists staged a coordinated, global climate strike Friday to highlight their fears about the effects of global warming and demand more aid for poor countries hit by wild weather

WAKE-UP CALL

US aircraft carrier arrives in S Korea



THE EXPERTS FROM THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON UKRAINE, MANDATED BY HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL EARLIER THIS YEAR, HAVE SO FAR FOCUSED ON FOUR REGIONS -- KYIV, CHERNIHIV, KHARKIV AND SUMY

PRESENTING THEIR MOST EXTENSIVE FINDINGS SO FAR, THEY CITED TESTIMONIES BY FORMER DETAINEES OF BEATINGS, ELECTRIC SHOCKS AND FORCED NUDITY IN RUSSIAN DETENTION FACILITIES, AND EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERNS ABOUT EXECUTIONS IN THE FOUR REGIONS

mains uncertain whether Russia or other alleged perpetrators will ever face justice.

Anton Korynevych, ambassador-at-large for Ukraine's Foreign Ministry, joined envoys from a number of Western countries who spoke out against Moscow's war in the wake of the commission's presentation. Russia's delegation boycotted the council meeting. Korynevych, speaking by video, called for the creation of a special tribunal that would have jurisdiction "over the crime of aggression against Ukraine" and investigate senior Russian political and mili-

tary leaders who were allegedly responsible.

He said said accountability was crucial for rights violations and atrocities linked to Russia's "aggression" but also highlighted how the effects of the war has "rippled" through the world and "put numerous countries on the verge of hunger, exacerbated extreme poverty, created the threat of nuclear catastrophe unseen before" and harmed the livelihoods of millions worldwide.

Investigators for the Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine visited 27 towns and settlements, as well as

Ukraine: Residents coerced into Russian annexation vote

Russia launched referendums Friday aimed at annexing four occupied regions of Ukraine, raising the stakes of the seven-month-old war in what Kyiv called a sham that saw residents threatened with punishment if they did not vote. Ukrainian officials said people were banned from leaving some occupied areas until the four-day vote was over, armed groups were going to homes to force people to cast ballots, and employees were threatened with the sack if they did not participate.

graves and detention and torture centers; interviewed more than 150 victims and witnesses; and met with advocacy groups and government officials, Mose said.

"Based on the evidence gathered by the commission, it has concluded that war crimes have been committed in Ukraine," he said.

"The evidence of Russia's atrocities becomes more horrifying by the day, most recently with the uncovering of mass graves in Izium, where the bodies show signs of torture," Michele Taylor, the US Ambassador to the Human Rights Council, said, referring to a Kharkiv region city that Ukrainian forces recaptured in recent weeks.

REUTERS

Busan, South Korea, Sept 23: A US aircraft carrier arrived in South Korea Friday for the first time in about four years, set to join other military vessels in a show of force intended to send a message to North Korea.

USS Ronald Reagan and ships from its accompanying strike group docked at a naval base in the southern port city of Busan ahead of joint drills with South Korean forces. Its arrival marks the most significant deployment yet under a new push to have more US "strategic assets" operate in the area to deter North Korea. Strike group commander Rear Admiral Michael



Donnelly told reporters aboard the ship that the visit was designed to build allied relations and boost interoperability between the navies.

"We are leaving messaging to diplomats," he said, when asked about any signal to North Korea, but added that joint drills would ensure the allies were able to respond to all threats.

UK unveils 'new era' of tax cuts with mini-budget

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 23: In line with much of the tax focus for Liz Truss during her leadership battle with British Indian ex-minister Rishi Sunak to be elected British Prime Minister, her new Chancellor tabled a mini-budget in Parliament on Friday packed with some of the biggest tax cuts in the country for 50 years.

The much-anticipated fiscal event, which had been delayed over

the course of the state mourning period for the late Queen Elizabeth II, was dubbed by Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng as a "new growth plan for a new era" with the ambitious target for hitting 2.5 per cent economic growth in a couple of years' time. It sees income tax and stamp duty land tax on home purchases cut and planned rises in business taxes scrapped. "Economic growth isn't some academic term with no connection to the real world," said Kwarteng. "We want businesses to



invest in the UK, we want the brightest and the best to work here and we want better living standards for everyone," he said.

Kwarteng, who made history as the UK's first black Chancellor when he was appointed by Truss soon after

taking office on September 6, has promised more jobs, higher pay and more money to fund public services like schools and the National Health Service (NHS). "Cuts to stamp duty will get the housing market moving and support first-time buyers to put down roots. New Investment Zones will bring business investment and release land for new homes in communities across the country. And we're accelerating new road, rail and energy projects by removing restrictions that have slowed down

progress for too long," he declared.

To tackle the "biggest drag on growth", which is the high cost of energy driven by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and is, in turn, driving up inflation in the UK, the government says its Energy Price Guarantee will save the typical household 1,000 a pounds year on their energy bill with the Energy Bill Relief Scheme halving the cost of business energy bills, reducing peak inflation by about 5 percentage points.

Floods turn Pakistanis into globe-trotters

FROM THE UN SECRETARIES-GENERAL TO HOLLYWOOD STAR AND GOODWILL AMBASSADOR ANGELINA JOLIE HAVE DESCENDED ON PAKISTAN TO EXPRESS SYMPATHY AND URGE THE WORLD TO RUSH FUNDS AND MATERIAL

AGENCIES

Islamabad, Sept 23: Floods may or may not be God-given. Pakistan claims they are the result of climate change to which its contribution is negligible. But they seem God-sent for their political class. Those in the government have taken to globe-trotting, trying to canvas relief. They visit the very Christian world that they otherwise vilify. Nobody talks of Islamophobia and by the way, self-respect.

They are successful, and how. From the UN Secretaries-General to Hollywood star and goodwill ambassador Angelina Jolie have descended on Pakistan to express sympathy and urge the world to

rush funds and material.

For long years, the world kept urging Pakistan to "do more" in fighting terrorism. Now it is pleading with the world community to "do more".

Relief diplomacy pays. For one, it takes the attention away from issues like terrorism, terror financing, and things with Pakistan that UN-mandated Financial Action Task Force (FATF) wants to scrutinize.

This diplomacy is done in style. Pakistani elite dress up in the most expensive foreign brands, incidentally produced by companies owned by the same Christians and Jews the Pakistani politicians ask their people to hate.



Its women are more thoughtful, though. While men flaunt their best dresses, junior Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar was careful not to display her purses and hand-

bags from world-renowned brands. She was seen not carrying any purse at all while escorting the UN Secretary-General through flood-ravaged areas. Reviled and

DENGUE RAMPAGE CONTINUES

Islamabad: Pakistan continues to witness a growing momentum in the spread of dengue fever as over 1,000 new cases were registered in the past 24 hours, health authorities have confirmed. The worst-hit Sindh province registered 402 new cases, with the majority (297) reported in Karachi, Xinhua news agency quoted the provincial health department as saying. The number of dengue cases in Sindh this month has risen to 4,319, bringing the total to 6,888 this year. The province has also reported 30 deaths.

trolled for her expensive taste, she now wants to be taken seriously as an international diplomat.

Her immediate boss, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, however, is more serious about diplomacy. He has been meeting American and European leaders who were offended by or had offended, former Prime Minister

Imran Khan during the latter's over three-year tenure.

Khan waited in vain for a phone call from US President Joe Biden till his last day in office and now continues to blame the US for an "international conspiracy" to oust him. He was voted out in the National Assembly in April earlier this year.

AS THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA HEARS THE PETITIONS SEEKING RIGHT OF FEMALE STUDENTS IN KARNATAKA TO WEAR HIJABS IN SCHOOLS, IRAN IS WITNESSING MASSIVE RESENTMENT AGAINST THE HIJAB RULES. WITH PROTESTS GOING ON AFTER THE DEATH OF 22-YEAR-OLD MAHSA AMINI WHO WAS DETAINED BY THE "MORALITY POLICE" OF IRAN FOR NOT COMPLYING WITH THE STRICT HIJAB RULES, **ORISSA POST** TAKES A CLOSER LOOK AT THE ISSUE

# HIJAB WAR HITS IRAN



## GLOBAL CRITICISM

### US announces sanctions

The United States Thursday announced sanctions on Iran's morality police, media reports said. The US Treasury Department said in a statement that it is sanctioning the morality police "for abuse and violence against Iranian women and the violation of the rights of peaceful Iranian protesters", *CNN* reported. The Treasury Department also sanctioned the head of the morality police, Mohammad Rostami Cheshmeh Gachi, and Haj Ahmad Mirzaei, who served as the head of its Tehran division during Amini's detention and death. In addition, the Treasury Department announced sanctions on senior leaders of Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security, Basij Resistance Forces, the Army's Ground Forces, and Law Enforcement Forces, *CNN* reported.



### UN for independent probe

The United Nations has demanded an independent investigation into the death of Mahsa Amini. "Mahsa Amini's tragic death and allegations of torture and ill-treatment must be promptly, impartially and effectively investigated by an independent competent authority," Nada al-Nashif, the acting UN high commissioner for human rights, said. The UN Human Rights Office said Iran's morality police have expanded their patrols in recent months, targeting women for not properly wearing hijab.



Today we stand with the brave citizens and the brave women of Iran who right now are demonstrating to secure their basic rights

JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

H.Amirabdolshahian @Amirabdolshahian Follow

An investigation was ordered into tragic death of Mahsa, who, as President said, was just like our own daughters.

To Iran, human rights are of inherent value - unlike those who see it a tool against adversaries.

Instead of shedding crocodile tears, US must end #Economicterrorism

5:19 PM · Sep 20, 2022

Read the full conversation on Twitter

Birgin Goguce yagmalan die@yifa, yagmalan irani cesur kadilar #Iranprotests

**Tweet**

Secretary Antony Blinken @SecBlinken United States government official

Mahsa Amini should be alive today. Instead, the United States and the Iranian people mourn her. We call on the Iranian government to end its systemic persecution of women and to allow peaceful protest. #مهسا\_امینی

6:08 AM · Sep 20, 2022 · Twitter Web App

There have been running battles between Iranian police and anti-government protesters in Tehran, reports say, in the worst unrest there for years, *BBC* reported.

State television suggested that the death toll of protests has risen to over two dozen, without providing more information as the unrest continues.

An anchor on Iran's state television suggested the death toll from the mass protests could be as high as 26, but did not elaborate or say how he reached that figure.

The unrest was sparked by the death of a woman detained by morality police.

Anger erupted after Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman from the north-western city of Saqez, died at a hospital in Tehran last Friday following three days in a coma.

She was visiting the capital with her family September 13 when she was arrested by morality police officers, who accused her of violating the law requiring women to cover their hair with a hijab, or headscarf, and their arms and legs with loose clothing. She collapsed after

being taken to a detention centre. There are reports that officers hit Amini on the head with a baton and banged her head against one of their vehicles. The police have said there is no



evidence of any mistreatment and that she suffered "sudden heart failure". *BBC* reported. In an interview with *BBC* Persian, Amini's father Amjad said he was not allowed by authorities to see all of her body before she was buried. He said he was only able to see her face, but not the back of her head, as well as her legs, both of which were bruised.

Amjad Amini also insisted that his daughter did not have any pre-existing medical condition, as the interior minister has claimed. Many Iranians were enraged by Amini's death and the first protests took place after her funeral, when women were filmed waving their headscarves in the air and shouting death to the dictator - a chant often directed at the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, *BBC* reported.

Similar demonstrations were staged by



students at several universities in Tehran, before the protests started spreading rapidly across the country. Central and some northern parts of Tehran became thick with tear gas Wednesday night as riot police, assisted by plainclothes security forces, attacked protesters in several neighbourhoods. The protesters set fire to big waste containers and blocked access to some streets, while shouting slogans against the Supreme Leader.

Scores of protesters were reportedly arrested, as security forces went door-to-door at homes and shops where they had taken refuge, our correspondent says.

There were also reports of police stations and other government buildings being overrun or set on fire, as protests took place in dozens of other cities, *BBC* reported.

Videos posted on social media showed a crowd cheering as a billboard showing Ayatollah Khamenei was torn down, as well as women burning their headscarves on bonfires and cutting their hair in public.

Internet-monitoring group NetBlocks meanwhile reported that Iran was now subject to the most severe internet restrictions since mass anti-government 2019. Mobile phone networks were largely shut down, internet service was disrupted during protests, and access to Instagram and WhatsApp were being restricted, it said.

### Who are Iran's morality police?

Also known by the names of Guidance Patrol, fashion patrol etc., morality police of Iran was established in 2005 with the objective to ensure compliance of dress code. They have a van with both male and female officers deployed in public spaces like shopping centres, subway stations, busy city squares etc., to detain women not complying with the dress code.

### Calls for execution of 'rioters'

State-organised demonstrations took place in several Iranian cities Friday to counter anti-government protests, with some marchers calling for the execution of 'rioters'. The demonstrations followed the strongest warning from the authorities yet when the army told Iranians it would confront 'the enemies' behind the unrest - a move that could signal the kind of crackdown that has crushed protests in the past.

Demonstrators condemned the anti-government protesters as "Israel's soldiers", live state television coverage showed. They also shouted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel", common slogans the country's clerical rulers use to try and stir up support for authorities.



The Iranian army said it will "confront the enemies" to ensure security, the toughest warning yet to nationwide protesters

read: "These desperate actions are part of the evil strategy of the enemy to weaken the Islamic regime." The military said it would "confront the enemies' various plots in order to ensure security and peace for the people who are being unjustly assaulted." Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi also Friday warned "seditionists" that their "dream of defeating religious values and the great achievements of the revolution will never be realized," according to the *Asriran* website.

## Iranian revolution of 1979

The Iranian revolution of 1979 was an important event in the history of the country when people chose to live under Islamic laws in the referendum. The referendum was called after Islamist movement supported by left succeeded in overthrowing Pahlavi dynasty under Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The government was replaced with an Islamic republic under rule of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. After the Islamic revolution, the country came under strict sharia law which mandated several restrictions on women especially related to dress code. Under Iran's sharia law, which was imposed after the 1979 revolution, it became mandatory for women to cover their hair and wear long, loose-fitting clothes to conceal their figures. All those who violated such norms are facing public rebukes, fines and even arrests.



# WOMEN BURN HEADSCARVES, CUT HAIR

In street protests, some women tore off their mandatory headscarves, demonstratively twirling them in the air. At some of the demonstrations, protesters clashed with police and thick clouds of tear gas were seen rising in the capital, Tehran. Protesters were also chased and beaten with clubs by the motorcycle-riding Basij.

The Basij, volunteers in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, have violently suppressed protests in the past, including over water rights and the country's cratering economy. Yet some demonstrators still chant "death to the dic-

tator," targeting both Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iran's theocracy, despite the threat of arrest, imprisonment and even the possibility of a death sentence. Women have been at the forefront of escalating protests in Iran sparked by the death in custody of a woman detained for breaking hijab laws. Crowds cheered when women burned their hijabs on a bonfire in Sari.

### HOW ARE WOMEN TREATED IN IRAN?

Iranian women have full access to education,

work outside the home and hold public office. But they are required to dress modestly in public, which includes wearing the hijab as well as long, loose-fitting robes. Unmarried men and women are barred from mingling.

The rules, which

date back to the days after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, are enforced by the morality police. Enforcement was eased under former President Hassan Rouhani, a relative moderate who at one point accused the morality police of being overly aggressive. In 2017, the head of the force

said it would no longer arrest women for violating the dress code. But under Raisi, a hard-liner elected last year, agents of the morality police appear to have been unleashed.

The UN human rights office says young women have been slapped in the face, beaten with batons and shoved into police vehicles in recent months.

### COULD THE PROTESTS BRING DOWN IRAN'S GOVERNMENT?

Iran's ruling clerics have weathered several waves of protests going back decades, eventually quashing them with brute force.

The most serious challenge to the clerics' rule was the Green

Movement that emerged after the country's disputed presidential election in 2009 and called for far-reaching reforms; millions of Iranians took to the streets. Authorities responded with a brutal crackdown, with the Revolutionary Guard and the Basij militia opening fire on protesters and launching waves of arrests. Opposition leaders were placed under house arrest.

Among those killed was Neda Agha Soltan, a 27-year-old woman who became an icon of the protest movement after she was shot and bled to death in a video seen by millions on social media.



AGENCIES



**Basis consultation process, we will create final draft. That draft will then go through committee processes of Parliament. Then it has to go (to) Parliament. I see a timeline of 6-10 months but we are not in a hurry**

**ASHWINI VAISHNAW** | COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER

## RUSSIAN BANKS PAY COST OF CONFLICT

Russia's banks have lost an estimated 1.5 trillion roubles (\$25.5 billion) as a result of the fallout from the conflict in Ukraine, a central bank official said Friday. Maxim Lyubomudrov, who heads the regulator's department that supervises the country's largest banks, said this was an "acceptable" level of losses and that the government had plans in place to support Russia's lenders through the crisis



## of the day quote

In light of the recent tragic incident, we have stopped third-party repossessions and will further examine whether and how third-party agents will be used in the future

**RAMESH IYER** | VC AND MD, MAHINDRA FINANCE

When you look into the investment in this country and the investment plan through 2025, we are talking about ₹5,000 crore and that compares to ₹8,000 crore over the last 60 years when we started manufacturing in this country

**MARK SCHNEIDER** | CEO, NESTLE

We are privileged to partner with OpenWorks on this important effort and grateful to Advanced Global Resources for being a wonderful partner with us

**PRASHANTH VASU** | PRESIDENT, RAMCO SYSTEMS

## SHORT TAKES

### RIL acquires 20% stake in Caelux

**New Delhi:** Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Friday said it has acquired a 20 per cent stake in California-based solar tech firm Caelux for \$12 million as it strengthens its new energy manufacturing capabilities. Reliance New Energy Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the firm, signed definitive agreements to invest in Caelux Corporation, a Pasadena, California-headquartered company engaged in the development of perovskite-based solar technology, it said.

### Mahindra Finance shares drop 14%

**Mumbai:** The share price of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL) crashed by over 14 per cent Friday a day after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred it from using third-party recovery agents. On the BSE, the share of MMFSL was trading 11.42 per cent down at ₹198.20. The scrip crashed to a low of ₹192.05 in the intra-day against its previous day's close at ₹223.75. The Reserve Bank of India Thursday announced that it has directed MMFSL to "immediately cease carrying out any recovery or repossession activity through outsourcing arrangements, till further orders."

### CIL to ink pacts with three PSEs

**New Delhi:** State-owned CIL will sign agreements with three public sector enterprises (PSEs) -- Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and GAIL (India) -- in order to set up four surface gasification projects. Through gasification process, coal is converted into syngas -- a fuel gas -- which can be used in downstream production of value added chemicals. The government aims to achieve 100 million tonne of coal gasification in the next eight years in order to reduce the import of crude oil which is otherwise used to produce syngas.

### M&M, BII commit \$500mn for E-SUV

**New Delhi:** Mahindra Group and British International Investment have committed \$500 million (over ₹4,000 crore) capital for the electric sports utility vehicle space, according to a company spokesperson. Impact investor British International Investment (BII) has already announced an investment of \$250 million in the company's electric vehicle venture 'EV Co'.

## BLOODBATH ON DALAL STREET

# Indices crash nearly 2%

FALL IN LIQUIDITY IN THE BANKING SYSTEM, A WEAK CURRENCY AND A CURRENT PREMIUM VALUATION HAVE SET THE MARKET OUTLOOK BEARISH FOR THE NEAR TERM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 23:** The Sensex tumbled 1,020 points while the Nifty crashed below the 17,350-mark Friday as a flurry of rate hikes by global central banks spooked investors and sparked a global sell-off. The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 1,020.80 points or 1.73 per cent to close at 58,098.92. Similarly, the NSE Nifty plummeted 302.45 points or 1.72 per cent to end at 17,327.35. This is the third day of decline for the equities and the BSE benchmark has fallen by 1,620.82 points or 2.71 per cent during this time.

PowerGrid led the Sensex losers' chart with a drop of 7.93 per cent, followed by M&M, SBI, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, NTPC, HDFC and IndusInd Bank.

Only three counters managed to close in the green -- Sun Pharma, Tata Steel and ITC, spurring up to 1.53 per cent.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex lost 741.87 points or 1.26 per cent, while the Nifty declined 203.50 points or 1.16 per cent. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 2.28 per cent and the smallcap index slipped 1.92 per cent.

### FIRST TIME IN 4 MONTHS

## Russian thermal coal imports set to plunge

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Sept 23:** India's thermal coal imports from Russia are expected to fall for the first time in four months in September, two research consultancies said, potentially resulting in lower revenues for Moscow at a time it is mobilising more troops to fight in Ukraine.

Indian consultancy Coalmint expects September thermal coal imports from Russia to decline 30% from August to 1.4 million tonne, it said in a note to clients.



London-based analytics firm DBX Commodities estimates Indian shipments of the power generation fuel to fall to 1.5 million tonne this month from 1.9 million tonne in August, Chief Executive Alexandre Claude said.

Energy exports to India and China have been crucial revenue sources to sanctions-hit Russia, but have also helped bridge supply gaps and place a lid on surging global fuel prices.

The value of India's coal imports from Russia since troops marched into Ukraine February 24 rose to about \$2.4 billion as of Wednesday, said a source who requested anonymity, citing nonpublic Indian government data. This is a four-fold increase compared with shipments during the same period last year.

Traders and analysts say logistical issues have resulted in lower imports in September by India from Russia. Coal shipments from Russia had risen in July and August despite a decline in overall Indian imports of the fuel, making Russia India's third largest coal supplier.



**With aggressive monetary policy action by central banks, the global growth engines are in a slowdown mode. The current volatility might persist for a while. Investors are advised to wait and watch until the dust settles**

**VINOD NAIR** | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEJOIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

All the BSE sectoral indices ended in the red, with utilities tumbling 3.48 per cent, followed by power (3.40 per cent), realty (2.97 per cent), financial services (2.56 per cent), telecommunication (2.17 per cent), capital goods (2.06 per cent) and consumer discretionary (1.82 per cent).

Meanwhile, the international oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.87 per cent to \$88.77 per barrel.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth a net ₹2,509.55 crore Thursday, according to data available with the BSE. World markets slumped following interest rate hikes in the US, Britain,

## Nalco registers highest-ever profit in FY22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco) has registered the highest-ever sales of ₹14,181 crore and a record profit of ₹2,952 crore in the 2021-22 financial year (FY22), an official said Friday.

The Odisha-based public sector undertaking has also reported record production of aluminium cast metal of 4,60,000 tonne, achieving 100 per cent capacity utilisation of its plant for the first time since inception, he said.

Addressing shareholders in the company's annual general meeting Thursday, Nalco CMD Sridhar Patra said the 2021-22 fiscal was a historic year in the journey of the aluminium maker; and the "spectacular results are a testimony to the extraordinary attitude" demonstrated by all the employees, despite the pandemic-induced adversity.

"Despite inflationary pressure on various inputs, coal crisis, and uncertainty in LME (London Metal Exchange) prices, the company has been able to maintain the status of being the lowest cost producer of bauxite and alumina in the



world," he said. A final dividend of 130 per cent, which is ₹1.50 per equity share, was also approved. Its mines and refinery complex at Damanjodi reported the highest-ever bauxite production, registering a benchmark volume of 75,11,075 mt, the official said. Patra stated that the company is hopeful of operationalising the Utkal-D coal block in the 2022-23 financial year, which will help reduce stress on fuel supply.

Speaking on the commissioning of the caustic soda plant under a joint venture with Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd, he said, "The first consignment of caustic soda has been received at alumina refinery and the operationalisation of the facility will further strengthen the raw material security."

## MEGA MERGER

## Tata Group to merge seven metal firms into Tata Steel



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 23:** Tata Group will merge seven of its metal companies into Tata Steel to drive efficiencies and reduce costs. The amalgamation will be through a share swap, Tata Steel said.

The board of Tata Steel approved the amalgamation of subsidiaries -- Tata Steel Long Products, Tata Metaliks, The Tinplate Company of India, TRF Ltd, Indian Steel &

Wire Products, Tata Steel Mining and S&T Mining into itself.

Meanwhile, the company has withdrawn from the earlier merger scheme of Tata Metaliks and Tata Steel Long Products (TSPL).

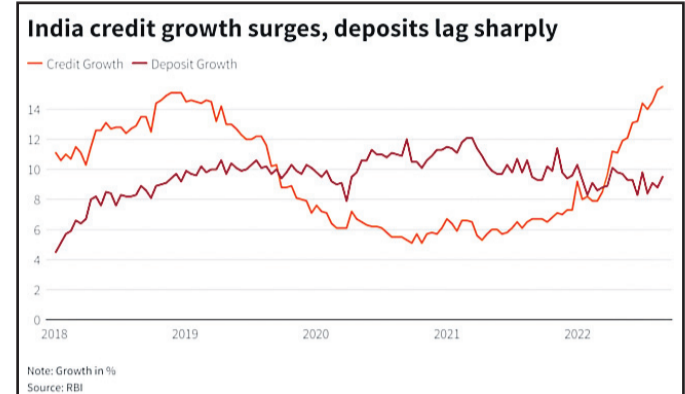
Explaining the rationale behind the merger scheme, Tata Steel in a statement said the resources of the merged entities can be pooled to unlock the opportunity for creating shareholder value.

Tata Group is said to be considering consolidation of airline companies - Air Asia India and Vistara - under the Air India brand by 2024.

Since 2019 Tata Steel has reduced 116 associated entities (72 subsidiaries have ceased to exist, 20 associates and JVs have been eliminated and 24 companies are currently under liquidation).

## Tightening liquidity may force banks to battle for deposits

Indian banking system liquidity slipped into deficit for the first time in nearly 40 months



REUTERS

**Mumbai, Sept 23:** Indian banks may be forced to compete harder to boost deposits amid tightening liquidity and rising credit demand ahead of the festive season, analysts warned.

Indian banking system liquidity slipped into deficit for the first time in nearly 40 months earlier this week, prompting the Reserve Bank of India to infuse funds into the system.

"We think the real challenge is the gap between deposit growth and loan growth, as deposit growth is weak, at 9.5% YoY -- a good 600 bps below loan growth," said Suresh Ganapathy, head of financials research at Macquarie.

"Over the next few weeks, as the festive season gathers steam, liquidity will tighten further. Also, people tend to hold a lot of cash during the festive season, and that tends to worsen the liquidity situation," Ganapathy said.

With excess liquidity in the banking system over the last couple of years on account of the cash infused by the RBI during the pandemic, banks chose to rely on raising funds from money markets to support the prevailing demand for credit. But with credit growth at multi-year highs and the RBI focussing on draining liquidity to curb inflation, the cheaper funding avenues are drying up.

"Banks have been laggards in raising deposit rates due to excess

## Bank loans rose 15.5% in the two weeks to August 26 from a year earlier, while deposits rose 9.5%

liquidity in the system but lending rates were raised instantaneously," said Rupa Rege Nitsure, chief economist at L&T Financial Holdings. "This has to change and if not, RBI will come down heavily on banks. The excessive reliance on bulk deposits is bad for overall financial stability of the economy," she added.

Bankers agree that relying on the debt market to raise funds to support growth may not be sustainable.

The average amount of CDs raised by banks in a month rose sharply to ₹400 billion in first quarter of FY23 compared with ₹260 billion in the preceding quarter, according to a report by India Ratings.

Rates for bulk deposits, or deposits of over ₹20 million, are rising more rapidly than retail, high-lighting banks' focus on raising more funds quicker.

State Bank of India's 1 to 2-year retail term deposit rate has gone up by 15 basis points in August to 5.45%, while the bank raised the bulk deposit rate for the same tenor by 75 bps to 6%.

The incremental credit deposit ratio has already crossed 100%, suggesting that banks have started lending more than the total deposits they hold.

## BIZ BUZZ

### Fashionista inaugurated in City

**Bhubaneswar:** The award winning fashion and lifestyle exhibition, Fashionista was inaugurated in Bhubaneswar September 23



at Hotel Pal Heights. The inauguration was done by MP Sulata Deo, Mayor Sulochana Das, Monalisa Bal, Sandhya Patnaik, Jayshree Mohanty, Shreemayee Mishra, Dr Rosalini Patsani Mishra, Dr Chidatmika Khatua, Sukirti Patnaik, Preeti Pallavi Patnaik, Mumun Singh, Prasanna Pati and other ladies who have created a name for themselves. Awards were presented to them by actor Pawan Shankar who also happens to be the MD of Fashionista Exhibitions. This edition of the exhibition "Durga Puja" is an unmissable event for all the fashion lovers of Bhubaneswar. The Durga Puja Special Fashionista presents 50+ exquisite brands from 25 cities across the country. Fashionista has been organised in over 40 cities in India with 365 exhibitions and over 10 lakh customers having visited the exhibitions so far. This is the first edition of the exhibition in Bhubaneswar after huge public demand and tasting immense success in the other cities.

### Central Bank holds Mega Cluster Credit Camp

**Bhubaneswar:** Ajay Kumar Singh, Zonal Head, Zonal Office, Central Bank of India, Kolkata visited Cuttack & Bhubaneswar September 22 & 23 respectively. During his visit, two Mega Cluster Credit Camps were organised at both the cities, in which the bank distributed sanction letters to different customers of Bhubaneswar Region, aggregating to an amount of ₹100 crore and disbursements of ₹40 crore. Singh interacted with customers & assured them to provide better services. Later he interacted with all the branch heads & advised them to reach every needy customer, providing them utmost support in improving their financial conditions. The programme was held in presence of Anadi Biswas, Regional Head along with other senior bank officials.



## Economists see RBI delivering another 50 bps hike next week

Economists from SBI, UBS, Goldman Sachs, Barclays and Bank of Baroda in a rare unanimous call see the RBI-led monetary policy committee delivering a 50 bps hike September 30, taking the overall repo rate increase 290 bps to 5.90% since May this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 23:** Economists are unanimous in forecasting that the central bank has no other option but to deliver a 50 bps rate hike next week and take the terminal rate to 6.25 per cent by December.

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, the group chief economist at the nation's largest lender SBI, in a detailed note Monday said, a half-percent-

age point hike in the repo rate looks imminent in an aggressive response to external shocks.

"We expect the peak repo rate in the cycle at 6.25 per cent. A final rate hike of 35 bps is expected in December policy," he said.

Liquidity has become deficit after 40 months which looks like another headwind for the central bank, he said, adding this may force the RBI to support the market through a change in the CRR



and OMOs.

Echoing the views, Tanvee Gupta-Jain, the chief economist at UBS Securities India, said in the base case, she expects the MPC-RBI to

front-load the rate hike cycle and raise the repo rate by another 50 bps (versus 35 bps previously) next week taking the terminal repo rate to 6.25 per cent (previously 6 per

The recent developments in the forex market can prompt a higher quantum of 50 bps to stay on track with other markets to retain investor interest as a hike of 25-35 bps would have signalled that the RBI is confident that the worst of inflation is over

**MADAN SABNAVIS** | CHIEF ECONOMIST, BANK OF BARODA

cent) by December.

On the positive side, she said the large current account deficit, elevated CPI inflation and a stretched fiscal position are mostly led by supply-side factors rather

than easy credit conditions pushing domestic demand.

Rahul Bajoria, the chief economist at Barclays India also raised the repo rate forecast to a 50 bps hike next week (35 bps previously) and a 35 bps hike in the December meeting (25 bps previously), with upside risk to the forecast if commodity prices are higher in Q4.

"We now expect 50 bps of further rate hikes in 2023 (75 bps previously) which would take the repo rate to 6.75 per cent by April 2023."

Goldman Sachs' Santanu Sengupta said also pencilled in a 50 bps hike (35 bps previously) and a 35 bps hike in December (25 bps previously), with upside risk to the forecast if commodity prices are higher in Q4.

# ONE FINAL SPELL

## Jhulan opens up on only regret

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Sept 23:** Not winning an ODI World Cup will be her "only regret" in an otherwise distinguished two-decade career, India's fast bowling great Jhulan Goswami said Friday as she gears up for her final international game. Goswami will retire after the third ODI against England at the iconic Lord's Saturday.

An emotional Goswami said she is grateful to the game for giving her name and fame but not having a World Cup trophy in her cabinet will remain an un-ticked box. The Indian team had ended second-best during the 2005 and 2017 editions of 50-over World Cup.

"I have played two World Cup finals, if we had won at least one, then it would have been very nice for me and the team. Every individual works for that goal. We played 2-3 finals, but we were not able to win, that remains my only regret," the 39-year-old pacer said ahead of third and final clash.

"You prepare for a World Cup for four years. There is a lot of hard work. For every cricketer, it is a dream-come-true moment to win a World Cup. But from where I am looking, the graph of women's cricket has only gone up.

"When I started I never thought of playing for such a long time. It was great experience. I am fortunate to play the sport.

"Honestly, coming from a humble background and a small town like Chakdah (in West Bengal's Nadia district), I did not have any idea about women's cricket and how professional setup works. I am fortunate enough, thanks to my family and parents, they always supported me," she said.

Goswami said receiving the India cap was the most memorable moment of her cricketing journey. "My best memory is when I got the India cap from my captain and bowled the first over because I never imagined (that I will play for India). The journey was difficult as I had to travel for two-and-half hours by local train one way everyday for training."

She recollected how the 1997 Women's World Cup final between Australia and New Zealand at the Eden Gardens, watched by close to 90,000 people, fuelled her ambitions.

"In 1997, I was a ball girl at the Eden Gardens where I saw my first women's World Cup final between Australia and New Zealand. From that day, my dream was to represent India," she said.

As Goswami walks into the sunset, the BCCI is set to launch the women's IPL sometime next year, but the stalwart hasn't made up her mind whether she will be a part of T20 tournament.

Plagued by injuries after the 2017 World Cup, Goswami said she had been contemplating retirement for quite some years now.

"Well, after the World Cup (2017), in the last 2 years I was always thinking each and every series could be my last. I was going through a lot of injuries and it was not easy. I was taking series by series.

"After World Cup, I thought Sri Lanka tour (in July) would be my last series but I got injured. So England tour was the last option for me. So I went back to NCA, got fit enough and thought of playing my last series in England," she said.

With India taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series, Goswami now just wants to end her illustrious career on a high note.

Indian women gear up for memorable Lord's dance for legendary Goswami as they look for clean sweep against England in the final ODI today



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Sept 23:** Jhulan Goswami, a name synonymous with 'fast bowling' in women's cricket, will walk into her cricketing sunset at the Lord's Saturday and the Indian team will strive to make it a memorable swansong for her by completing a historic ODI series clean sweep on English soil, here.

Playing one game at Lord's is an ultimate dream for a cricketer. Scoring a hundred or taking a five-for is a different high but bidding adieu to the game following an illustrious career at the 'Mecca of Cricket' is only reserved for a few chosen ones.

Sunil Gavaskar (although he played his last first-class game there) didn't get that opportunity. Neither did a Sachin Tendulkar or a Brian Lara or a Glenn McGrath got that opportunity to step down the stairs of the hallowed Long Room on their final playing day.

Even Goswami's colleague for nearly 20 years, Mithali Raj, couldn't retire from a cricket field. But call it destiny or design, Goswami's last hurrah is happening at Lord's.

There couldn't have been a more iconic setting as the strapping 5 feet 11 inch lady walks her way through that Long Room where the MCC's 'suits' will stand up and her teammates will give her a 'Guard of Honour' when she will enter the ground.

A series already won with an unassailable 2-0 lead, Harmanpreet Kaur and her team would leave no stone unturned to make it a fitting farewell for one of the 'poster girls' of Indian cricket.

Having lost the T20I series, India did extremely well against a depleted England side in the two games where they dominated while chasing as well as while setting the target.

## Goswami impact: then & now

The last time Indian women won an ODI series in England was way back in 1999 when Goswami hadn't made her international debut. So as she appears for her 204th and last game, Indian team's revered 'Jhulu Di' would know that she is a contented soul.

May be an ICC silverware (she had two shots at that in 2005 and 2017 when India played final) would have looked nice but sometimes some things are not meant to be.

When she makes her bowling mark for one last time, and strides up that Lord's slope to add to his 353 international wickets (across formats), she might remember a lot of things.

From a small town Chakdah in remote West Bengal to winning 'ICC Woman Cricketer of the Year' and shouldering the Indian pace attack for 20 years, you can only doff your hat to her.

It wasn't an easy journey to take the first local train to Kolkata and start with routines at North Kolkata's Shradhhananda Park (a small non-descript ground).

Even after her India debut, when she would go back home, from Chakdah station, she would be seen sitting in an open Van Rickshaw.

When she had first played for India, Shafali Verma and Richa Ghosh were not even born and Jemimah Rodrigues was perhaps in her nappies. Harmanpreet, current skipper, was still a dreamy-eyed Moga girl, who wanted to play cricket.

She has been a bridge between the struggles of travelling in second class compartments, living in dormitories and youth hostels with common washrooms to business class travels and stay at swanky five-stars with proper central contracts and financial security.

In between, a lot of 'water has flown through both Hooghly and Thames as she went on her journey undeterred. There won't be another Jhulan Goswami.



The best moment for me was coming out of dressing room and singing the national anthem and wearing the India jersey. I will miss those things. But everything in life has to end somewhere. I am happy that I have served the country with honesty and dedication for 20 years

JHULAN GOSWAMI



## UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE

### France, Netherlands, Croatia, Belgium win

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Paris, Sept 23:** Kylian Mbappe added another fine solo goal to his collection and Olivier Giroud moved closer to France's scoring record as the defending World Cup champions beat Austria 2-0 in the UEFA Nations League.

Mbappe skipped past three defenders before drilling in his 28th international goal in the 56th minute Thursday, before Giroud celebrated his recall by heading powerfully in from Antoine Griezmann's cross 10 minutes later to move onto 49 goals — two behind Thierry Henry's national record.

France already lost their Nations League title but Croatia, the Netherlands and Belgium — also playing their penultimate matches before the World Cup in Qatar — all won Thursday to stay in contention for the Nations League's Final Four next June.

France's victory also saved them from relegation from the top tier of the Nations League, sending Austria into last place with one game left but with only one point between them.

Croatia leapfrogged Denmark at the top of Group 1 by one point after beating the Danes 2-1 in Zagreb with goals from left back Borna Sosa in the 49th minute and midfielder Lovro Majer in the 79th, two minutes after Christian Eriksen's equaliser.

The Group 1 winner and relegation will be decided Sunday when



IMPRESSIVE SHOW: Kylian Mbappe celebrates his goal against Austria during their Nations League game, Thursday

France travel to play Denmark in Copenhagen and the Austrians host Croatia in Vienna.

The same goes for Group 4, although the Netherlands are heavy favorite since they lead Belgium by three points and have a better goal difference. The Belgians need to win by three goals in Amsterdam Sunday.

The Netherlands won 2-0 in Poland with Cody Gakpo putting the Dutch ahead in the 13th minute and fellow forward Steven Bergwijn curling the second home in the 60th.

Belgium beat Wales 2-1 at home with standout midfielder Kevin De Bruyne and forward Michy Batshuayi scoring in the first half. Striker Kieffer Moore pulled a goal back shortly after the break for Wales, which is in last place and three points behind Poland before their meeting in Cardiff.

At Stade de France, defender Benoit Badashile made his France debut alongside Monaco teammate Youssouf Fofana, who lined up in central midfield alongside Real Madrid's Aurelien Tchouameni — their former Monaco teammate.

Mbappe's early curler into top right corner was disallowed for offside and he then fluffed a chance after a slick one-touch combination with Giroud. Tchouameni hit the crossbar with a superb overhead kick late in the first half. Mbappe missed a great chance to score a second goal when he went clean through and shot wide.

## Rohit, Axar help India level series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Nagpur, Sept 23:** Rohit Sharma displayed his six-hitting prowess with an unbeaten 46 (20b, 4x4, 4x6) after Axar Patel snapped two wickets (2/13) in a fiery spell as India notched up a series-leveling six-wicket win over Australia in a rain hit second T20I here Friday.

The India skipper single-handedly helped India chase down a target of 91 with four balls to spare in a match which was reduced to eight overs a side due to a wet outfield.

Earlier, Matthew Wade smacked an unbeaten 20-ball 43 (4x4, 3x6) to fire Australia to 90/5. Skipper Aaron Finch contributed 31 off 15 balls (4x4, 1x6) after Rohit invited Australia to bat in a match that was delayed by two-and-half hours.

Chasing the target, Rohit made his intention clear as he went on a six-hitting spree, unleashing three monstrous hits off Josh Hazlewood (0/20) in the opening over to give India's chase a flying start.

The India opener then deposited Pat Cummins' (1/23) slower delivery into the stands before lifting Adam Zampa (3/16) over-long off for another maximum. But the spinner came back to disturb the stumps of KL Rahul (10), who looked to go for a slog-sweep.

Virat Kohli (11) then picked up a boundary off Daniel Sams, before smacking one over Zampa's head for



STARS OF THE DAY: Rohit Sharma plays a shot during his knock; (inset) Axar Patel reacts after getting a wicket

another four. However, the spinner won the battle of wits as his quicker delivery beat the Indian and dislodged the stumps. Zampa dealt a double blow as he trapped Suryakumar Yadav (0) in the very next ball as India slipped to 55/3 in 4.3 overs.

Unfazed by the fall of wickets, Rohit continued to go strong as he chipped one over cover and then pulled one wide of short fine as Sams conceded 11 runs. Hardik Pandya scored a four off Cummins but he couldn't stay long as he holed out to Finch in the seventh over.

Designated finisher Dinesh Karthik then played his part to perfection, knocking off the remaining runs with a six and a four off Sams.

Earlier, Australia looked to put up a show for the capacity crowd at the VCA stadium but Axar snapped two wickets in an impressive spell to leave them at 31/3.

Jasprit Bumrah (1/23), who has been out of action since the end of England tour due to back injury, produced a sensational yorker to get rid of the dangerous Finch during his spell.

However, Wade ensured the visitors ended things in a flourish as he along with Steve Smith (8) added 44 runs in the final 18 balls. Harshal had another forgettable evening as he conceded 32 without a wicket in his two overs, including a 19-run final over.

**BRIEF SCORES**  
Australia 90/5 (Matthew Wade 43 n o, Aaron Finch 31; Axar Patel 2/13, Jasprit Bumrah 1/23) lost to India 92/4 (Rohit Sharma 46 n o; Adam Zampa 3/16, Pat Cummins 1/23) by 6 wickets.

## Barabati set for Legends League Cricket final

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Sept 23:** The final of Legends League Cricket (LLC) will be played at the iconic Barabati Stadium in Cuttack October 5, the organisers announced Friday.

Legendary cricketers described the League as 'serious' business where the superstars, many of whom are as efficient as they were in their prime, do not yield an inch without a fight.

While former India batter Mohammed Kaif covered a lot of ground near the fence before taking a diving catch and made the fans nostalgic about his brilliant fielding skills, the swashbuckler Yusuf Pathan has been playing as if he has

It is a brilliant tournament, it shocked me with how competitive it is. I thought it would be easier on the body

GRAEME SWANN

It's not a charity game, everybody is at the gym, training. I am surprised that I am bowling with the same vigour and speed that I used to bowl when playing for the country

S SREESANTH

Everyone is playing very serious cricket here. A lot of the legends are still very dangerous on the ground. I am excited to play in this tournament

AJANTHA MENDIS

never retired. Stars like Kevin O'Brien and Ashley Nurse have also hit scintillating centuries.

All this has generated a tremendous response from the fans, said Raman Raheja, the co-founder and CEO of Legends League Cricket.

"We have received a tremendous response both from the in-stadium audience and TV ratings. We have got the TV ratings for the first match. We have outdone ourselves," said Raheja.

"It is five times higher than last season in terms of ratings. We

have also retained the position of being the second-most watched T20 league in India after the IPL and our digital footprint has crossed six hundred million," he added.

The on-going season has recorded massive 16 million-plus unique viewers on the digital streaming platforms in India and its digital footprints have also crossed 600 million fans across the world.

According to the latest Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) TV ratings, the opening match of the season between India Maharajas and World Giants, played at Eden Gardens with the world's greatest players taking part in it, has garnered higher ratings than any other ongoing cricket league in the country.

## Volleyball future looks promising in India: Samanta

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 23:** President of the Indian Volleyball Federation and Kandhamal MP, Dr. Achyuta Samanta feels that the volleyball has a promising future in India.

Samanta, who is also the founder of KIIT & KISS, is currently attending the ongoing 38th Congress of the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) in Arnhem, the Netherlands.

Samanta discussed a roadmap for substantial growth and progress of volleyball in India and especially in Odisha, and suggested some futuristic proposals for the growth of the game.

The FIVB Congress, the apex meet of the volleyball federations and associations in the world, was attended by representatives and volleyball federations from 222 member nations. It will continue till September 25 and will have extensive deliberations on the development of volleyball across the globe.

On this occasion, the noted educationist proposed to create a National Volleyball Academy in collaboration with FIVB at KIIT and KISS University. He also proposed a National Nodal Centre for 'Volleyball for School Programme' at KISS.

Samanta also requested FIVB to organize its next World Congress in Bhubaneswar and demanded to start a Regional Development Centre in the capital city of Odisha in order to have refresher courses for volleyball coaches and technical officers for the development of volleyball.

During his stay, Samanta had courtesy calls on Ary Graca, FIVB President and Director General FIVB Fabio Azevedo, and the presidents of various associations and federations of 222 member nations of FIVB.

Samanta is extremely hopeful that following the discussions and deliberations at the 38th FIVB Congress, India will definitely gain a lot on the development aspect of volleyball in the country in near future.