



RASHMIKA SWAYS WITH GOVINDA

Southern sensation Rashmika Mandanna aka Srivalli dances with Govinda on *Saami Saami* marking her presence in *DID Super Moms*

LEISURE P2



RAIL PROJECT IN LIMBO

Khurda Road-Bolangir new railway line project is being further delayed due to non-issuance of forest clearance by the Centre

DOWNTOWN P3



REFERENDUMS BY RUSSIA

Russia launches referendums aimed at annexing four occupied regions of Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL P9

SHORT TAKES

50 killed as anti-hijab protest rages in Iran

TEHRAN: Protests flared in Iran for an eighth straight night over the death of a young woman arrested by the morality police, verified social media posts showed, hours after counter-demonstrations mobilised by authorities. At least 50 people have been killed by security forces in the anti-government protests, Iran Human Rights, an Oslo-based organisation, said - more than three times the official death count of 17, which includes five security personnel. The street violence, which IHR says has spread to 80 towns and cities, was triggered by the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurd who had spent three days in a coma after being detained by the morality police in Tehran. P9

CJI: Lawyers must be rational in thinking

PATNA: Lawyers must be rational in thinking and fact-finding in nature, Chief Justice of India Uday Umesh Lalit said Saturday. Addressing a seminar organised by the Bar Council of India in Patna, CJI Lalit said the objective of advocates should be upholding the rule of law. "Lawyers must keep in mind that their objective and motto should be upholding the rule of law. Advocates have a wonderful quality of convincing and catering fundamental inputs to the mind of the public. They must be rational in thinking and fact-finding in nature," he said. Young lawyers should draw inspiration from the inherent qualities of eminent freedom fighters who were lawyers, he said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



No, we don't need to do anything. Cows are dying because of some disease

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	32.7°C	33.4°C
TEMP. MIN	25.5°C	25.5°C
Humidity	87%	89%
Rainfall	32.8mm	7.4mm
Forecast	Partly cloudy sky	



RAIN AND TAJ: Visitors at the Taj Mahal during a rainy day in Agra, Saturday

CBI raids 59 places over child porn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, Sept 24: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Saturday carried out searches at 59 locations across 21 states and a Union Territory in an internationally coordinated law-enforcement crackdown on online circulation of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), with officials here saying more than 50 suspects in the country are under the scanner.
The searches were spread across Haryana, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala and Chhattisgarh among others.
The raids, part of Operation 'Megha Chakra', were launched after the agency registered two cases under relevant provisions of the Information Technology Act based on inputs from the Crime Against Children (CAC) unit of Interpol, based in Singapore, which had received it from the New Zealand Police, the officials said.
The agency is questioning suspects about illicit material found on their electronic devices so as to identify the victims and the abusers.

Ankita murder sparks furore

Violent protests erupt in Uttarakhand following the murder of Ankita Bhandari, who worked as a receptionist at a resort owned by Haridwar BJP leader Vinod Arya's son Pulkit Arya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Sept 24: Outrage over the killing of 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari, who worked as a receptionist at Vanantara resort in Pauri district's Yamkeshwar block owned by Haridwar BJP leader Vinod Arya's son Pulkit Arya, escalated as details emerged of her trauma in the days preceding her death.
The body of Ankita who worked in an Uttarakhand resort was recovered from a canal Saturday, police said as the ruling BJP swung into action to expel its leader whose son, the main accused, owned the property and the administration began demolishing the structure.
Violent protests erupted in areas surrounding the resort with locals breaking glass panes and some trying to torch a pickle factory in its premises. However, the fire did not spread much as the weather was cloudy.
BJP's Yamkeshwar MLA Renu Bishn's car was also attacked near the Cheela canal close to Rishikesh from where the young woman's body was recovered, six days after her parents found her missing from her room. However, the crowds, seething with anger, succeeded only in breaking the rear windshield of her car and Bisht was escorted to safety by police personnel. Ankita had been under pressure from Pulkit Arya - who was arrested Friday with resort manager Saurabh Bhaskar and assistant manager Ankit Gupta and sent to 14 days judicial custody - to provide 'special services' to guests, Director General of Police Ashok Kumar said.
This had been gleaned from her



The body of Ankita Bhandari was recovered from a canal Saturday
Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami promised that no one would be spared
Ankita's Facebook friend reportedly alleged that she was killed because she refused to have sex with guests as demanded by the owner of the resort



chat with a friend, he said.
Earlier in the day, Ankita's Facebook friend reportedly alleged that she was killed because she refused to have sex with guests as demanded by the owner of the resort.
As the ripples of anger spread, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami promised that no one would be spared and that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Deputy Inspector General P Renuka Devi had been constituted to probe all aspects.
"It is a tragic incident. Such a heinous crime has been committed against our daughter. Action is being taken against those involved in it. The father and brother of the main accused Pulkit Arya have been expelled from the BJP," Dhami told reporters.
"Demolition of the resort owned by the main accused is underway. Some of its rooms have also been sealed so that evidence is not destroyed. We have also issued an order to identify all resorts built illegally on government or forest land and demolish them," he added.
The administration had started demolishing the structure Friday night on grounds of illegalities.
Vinod Arya had formerly served as chairperson of Uttarakhand Mati Board with a state minister's rank. His other son Ankit, who was also in the BJP, has now been removed as vice president of Uttarakhand OBC Commission.
Ankita had called a friend the night before she was reported missing to say she was in trouble, according to local reports.
Continued on P4

BJD Zilla Parishad member found dead

The cellphones of Dharmendra Sahoo, the deceased ZP member of Nimapara Zone II, will shed light on the circumstances leading to his death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: A Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Zilla Parishad (ZP) member of Puri district was found hanging from the ceiling of his house at Plot No-3998 in Laxmi Vihar area of Sishupalgarh locality here Saturday, police said.
The deceased was identified as Dharmendra Kumar Sahoo alias Tuku, 48, BJD ZP member of Nimapara Zone II in Puri district. He was a native of Khandiakuda village under Gop block.
Sahoo had mentioned in his Facebook post about videos on his two cellphones. He wrote that the videos should be made public.
Similarly, the CCTVs installed at his residence were found damaged while a video came to the fore showing Sahoo jumping off the boundary wall.
Meanwhile, reports said police have recovered the mobile phones of Sahoo near his residence with help of a sniffer dog.
The phones were found switched off since 2:43am Saturday. The cell-



LADY COMMITS SUICIDE IN CITY

Bhubaneswar: The body of a 32-year-old woman was found hanging from the ceiling fan of her room at Saisathree Vihar under Chandrasekharpur police limits, Saturday. The deceased, identified as Priyanka Ray Samant, was staying along with her family at a rented accommodation in the area for the last two months. P3

phones were handed over to the scientific team that again went to the spot after getting informed of the latest development Saturday evening.
Meanwhile, Sahoo's father-in-law told the media that the deceased used to live in hotels for the last three months and get drunk. "Recently, we had brought him home after a similar incident," he added.
Continued on P4

XI JINPING RUMOURED TO BE UNDER HOUSE ARREST

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 24: Social media is abuzz with reports of Chinese President Xi Jinping being under house arrest.

The trending posts with hashtag 'Xi Jinping' started trending on Twitter after a few reports came from China stating that the Chinese president has been put under house arrest by the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Under the hashtag, many people shared funny memes and messages against President Jinping. The news came to the surface after Chinese human rights activist Jennifer Zeng share a video on Twitter. In the video, a few military vehicles can be seen running on a road. Zeng said the convoy was 80 km long and the rumour was that Xi Jinping had been put under house arrest.
Sharing the video Zeng wrote, "#PLA military vehicles heading to #Beijing on Sep 22. Starting



from Huanlai County near Beijing & ending in Zhangjiakou City, Hebei Province, the entire procession is as long as 80 KM. Meanwhile, rumour has it that #XiJinping was under arrest after #CCP seniors removed him as head of PLA."
According to the news reports, 60 per cent of flights in China were grounded Friday. However, any explanation in this regard was not issued by the Chinese government.
On social media, it is said that the Chinese Army General Li Qiaoming has taken over as the new president.

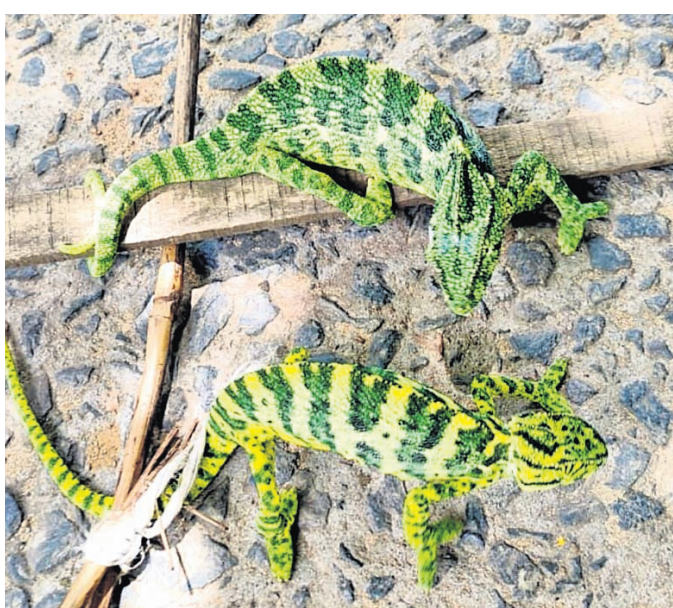
Chameleons face triple whammy in Kendrapara

The population of chameleons has sharply declined in recent times due to climate change, discharge of toxic effluents and poaching

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Sept 24: Climate change, environmental pollution and rampant trafficking have posed serious threats to the chameleons residing in the saline mangroves and casuarina forests of Kendrapara district.
The chameleons, known for their unique ability to change the colour of their skin, are found in large numbers in Kajalpatia saline forests under Batighar panchayat of this block. These species are mostly known for their distinct range of colours as they are able to alter the hues and brightness of their skin when they sense trouble or spot an enemy.

Their skin turns green when they rest on green leaves, brown on sand dumps camouflaging themselves perfectly as per their environment. It is quite interesting to see that they even imitate the colour of a tree's trunk while walking on them. This quality is genetic as well as due to the release of some chemical substances in the skin which they do to catch their prey and adapt to the changing environment.
They have another feature that no other animals can boast of. Their eyes can move independently of each other, enabling them to look in two different directions at once.
These multi-coloured reptiles spread their population rapidly when they find their surroundings conducive for reproduction. They breed during the rains and winter and can be found in the saline mangroves and casuarina forests.
These reptiles measure more than a foot in length and catch



their prey by darting the tongue over one foot. The insects and other small animals which it preys cannot escape from its mouth due to presence of sticky substance on

its tongue.
However, their population has sharply declined in recent times due to climate change, discharge of toxic effluents and fumes from in-

dustrial plants. The reptiles were seen in large numbers before the 90s. However, their population witnessed a sharp decline after cyclonic storms like Super Cyclone in 1999, Phailin in 2013 and Hudhud in 2014 swept the district and the state. They also face threat from the poachers who catch them from the jungles and sell them to outside and international traders for a premium. The price of one of these reptiles is over Rs 1 lakh in the international market. This reptile has got value in international market for its leather and its use as a pet.
The reptile is included in schedule-2 and part-1 as a rare species in the Wildlife Conservation Act-1972. There is provision of punishment if anyone is caught catching or poaching these reptiles. Recently, Forest officials raided and arrested some youths when they were busy negotiating a deal to sell some chameleons. Environmentalists have demanded steps for the conservation and protection of this rare reptile.

leisure



CAPALDI OPENS UP ABOUT MEDICALLY PRESCRIBED CANNABIS

The chart-topping singer-songwriter, Lewis Capaldi recently opened up about being diagnosed with Tourette's and revealed that a doctor prescribed him cannabis oil to help reduce his anxiety. He recalls being "absolutely freaked" after getting "high" on medication.

SYLVESTER AND WIFE JENNIFER'S RECONCILIATION

American star Sylvester Stallone and Jennifer Flavin have reconciled one month after the wife filed for divorce from her husband of 25 years.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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ARIES

Your convincing powers are so great that you can even convince people to do what they don't want to do. Today these powers will bear remarkable results. You realise the need to improve your home and your personality. Ganesh says today you will take some concrete steps in this direction.

TAURUS

You will find yourself viewing your love life with renewed vigour and understanding. A tendency to think pessimistically may make things murky. You love to play mother goose to those in trouble, but won't be quite as efficient dealing with problems of your own, says Ganesh.

GEMINI

You have excellent communication skills. Today, you will be at your communicative best, predicts Ganesh. At work, you will be given added responsibility. You may have to investigate a tricky matter and submit your report. Even in this, you will exhibit tremendous charm and efficiency.

CANCER

Your life will spring surprises, some good and some not so good, says Ganesh. You will demonstrate your effectiveness and brilliance at work. In the evening, your loved ones will show you their appreciation for being there for them in the time of need.

LEO

Walk the talk, buddy! Well, what it actually means is that today, you will be just too good at communicating ideas and expressions. So if you are at work, then look forward to being assigned some investigative job that might just turn out to be quite demanding, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

A day full of sense and sensibilities in love today. Pessimism will knock more than just once throughout the day. But don't let it affect your work, warns Ganesh. At work, you will be the most wanted trouble-shooter today.

LIBRA

Today shall be, let's say, different! It promises to be a resourceful day for you, says Ganesh. Chances are today you may decide to refresh your memory and knowledge by visiting a museum or a historical place later in the day. But it's not all learning for you. You don't want to be a dull Jack, do you? Ganesh expects you to indulge in some fun and frolic towards the evening, and hints that this may go a long way in improving your physical state and even work as an antidote for stressed relationships.

SCORPIO

You will bank upon instinct, and spur-of-the-moment decisions will rule all action today, feels Ganesh. You will find yourself lacking focus at work and this might cause problems in the days to come. When it comes to relationships, actions will speak louder than words.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesh predicts a constructive and profitable day for all you business tycoons and entrepreneurs. Loans from financial institutions may be sanctioned sometime later in the day. You will make your sweetheart know just how special and integral he/she is in your life, and that you will always cherish this love.

CAPRICORN

Your despotic boss will be mighty impressed with your unique talent, and the fact that it contributed to the company earning accolades, says Ganesh. Colleagues will also be supportive of your endeavours, and will push you to go ahead with new assignments.

AQUARIUS

Today, you will blow hot and cold. Hence, no one will know what to expect from you. This will throw your rivals off balance, keeping you a step ahead of them. At work, you will finally win recognition and respect.

PISCES

In times of adversity, it is your loved ones who will stand you in good stead, and it is your patience and persistence which will get you home. Your actions today will demonstrate your dedication and sincerity to the job at hand, says Ganesh.

When Huma does a Helen

Mumbai: In the latest teaser of 'Monica, O My Darling', Huma Qureshi nails the teaser. She impressed you with her portrayal of a strong-headed politician Rani Bharti, but Huma is no less.

The teaser starts with Huma looking every inch gorgeous dressed in red as she dances to the tune of saxophones. She then slowly breaks into cabaret, reminding of the yesteryear's actress Helen. The over-a-minute of the film by Vasan Bala, only focuses on the retro dance number titled 'Ek Zindagi' with glimpses of Rajkumar Rao and Sikander Kher.

The team of 'Monica, O My Darling' said, "Ek Zindagi is a foot-thumping retro number that will have everyone ready to shake a leg. We wanted to give fans a sneak peek into the film with this cabaret number as a prelude of what is to come."

The movie, a neo-noir that is an ode to movies about the perfect plan that led to the perfect mayhem of the lives of the people who laid it out, also stars Radhika Apte, Bagavathi Perumal, Akansha Ranjan Kapoor, Sukant Goel, and Zayn Marie Khan.



Anushka cheers her 'role model'

Mumbai: Indian cricketer Jhulan Goswami will be playing the last match of her two-decade-long career in international cricket. actress Anushka Sharma who is all set to essay the cricketer in her next 'Chakda Xpress' took to her social media handle to send in best wishes ahead of her match.

Sharing photos of Jhulan from the cricket field, "An inspiration. A role-model. A legend. Your name will be etched in history forever. Thank you @jhangoswami, for being a game changer in Indian Women's Cricket."

Anushka who's currently prepping and shooting the film, shared that she and Virat often discuss her progress. Talking about her experience of taking on the challenging role of Jhulan Goswami, the actress dur-

ing an event shared, "Chakda Xpress is a really special film. It is extremely close to my heart because of the subject that it focuses on. I was proud to hear Jhulan's story and her contribution towards women's cricket in India. It is an honour for me to bring a film that is inspired by her life and times to audiences around the world".



Rashmika sways with Govinda

Mumbai: Southern sensation Rashmika Mandana shook a leg with actor Govinda on her raging number 'Saami Saami', from the blockbuster film



'Goodbye' is a story that touches every emotional chord in your heart and makes you realise the importance of your loved ones along with the down-turns of life.

'Pushpa: The Rise' starring Allu Arjun. The actress recently marked her presence in 'DID Super Moms' where she danced on her now trending number. She was on the show to promote her maiden hindi film 'Goodbye' starring Amitabh Bachchan and Neena Gupta.



Shruti goes all praise for Prashanth

Chennai: Actress Shruti Haasan, who will be seen playing the character of Aadya in director Prashanth Neel's eagerly awaited film 'Salaar', which features actor Prabhas in the lead along with her, is all praise for her director, who she says has clarity of thought and vision.

Sharing her experience of working with director Prashanth Neel, Shruti said, "Prashanth is fabulous with his actors. It's nice to work with a director who is so clear headed about his vision." Shruti added, "It has been Prashanth's strength in all of his films. He really creates this world and it is our job as actors to melt into his world."

"With Prashanth, even within the action and drama, there's a core human story he runs so well. 'Salaar' is also so huge, but it's also so human," she points out.

FUN post

PEANUTS



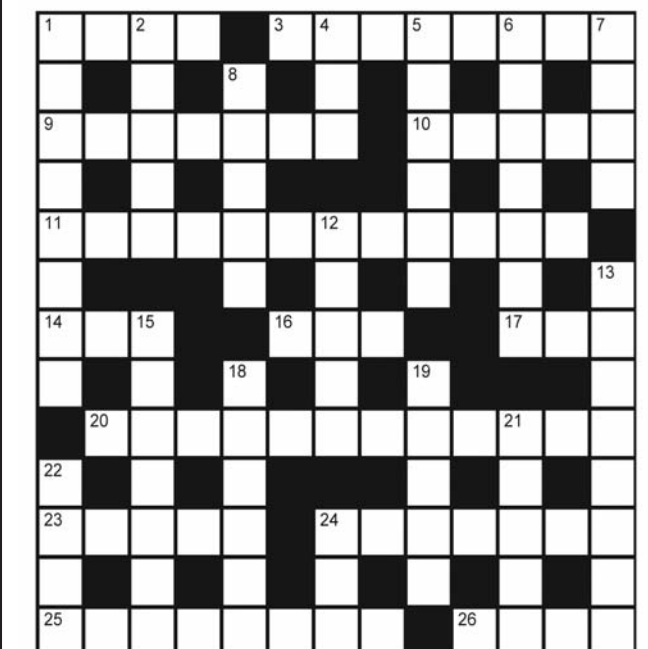
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



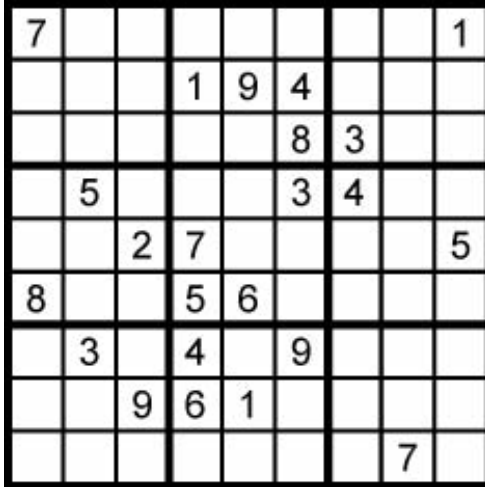
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Storage cylinder
 - 3 Circus vehicle
 - 9 Crown
 - 10 Speak out
 - 11 Raincoats
 - 14 Minister (Abbr.)
 - 16 Utmost degree
 - 17 Cobbler's tool
 - 20 Shrink's phrase (8,4)
 - 23 Animal toxin
 - 24 Sculptor Giovanni Lorenzo
 - 25 Verbal attack
 - 26 Hawaiian fire goddess
 - 7 Water carrier
 - 8 Slowpoke
 - 12 ___-frutti
 - 13 Heads or tails, maybe? (4,4)
 - 15 Lanai
 - 18 Type of camp or school
 - 19 Lifeless
 - 21 River through Tours
 - 22 Zealous
 - 24 Chest protector
- Down**
- 1 Buttonwood
 - 2 Type of poem
 - 4 Surfing site
 - 5 Difficult to please
 - 6 Idle fancy

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



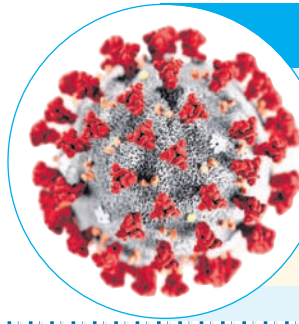
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



RAIN PAIN

Commuters negotiate a waterlogged road in Jharpada area of Bhubaneswar as heavy rain lashed the City, Saturday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,98,46,275	59,96,94,539	65,39,383
India	4,45,60,749	4,39,90,414	5,28,487
Odisha	13,32,957	13,22,299	9,188

I-T official caught taking ₹5L bribe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khurda, Sept 24: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) sleuths caught an Income Tax (I-T) official taking ₹5 lakh bribe from a jeweller at Sriramnagar here, Saturday.

Sources said that Suman Sundar Sahoo, the I-T official, had been demanding ₹40 lakh as bribe from Debendra Kumar Sahu, the owner of Shanti Jewellers located at Marwadi Patti in Khurda, as the latter had reportedly not paid the requisite tax.

Later, Sahoo took gold ornaments worth ₹15 lakh from the jeweller in order to settle the issue.

Even after taking gold ornaments, the I-T official continued to ask money from the jeweller.

With no way out, the jeweller approached the CBI sleuths of Bhubaneswar.

Accordingly, a trap was laid and the sleuths caught the I-T official while receiving ₹5 lakh from the jeweller at his residence at Sriramnagar here.

The CBI sleuths Saturday evening searched the I-T official's residence and interrogated him for hours. The sleuths have reportedly seized some incriminating documents from Suman's house.

Khurda Road-Bolangir railway project in limbo



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The Khurda Road-Bolangir new railway line project is being further delayed due to non-issuance of forest clearance by the Centre, an official said Saturday.

Out of the total length of 301 km of the Khurda Road-Bolangir new railway project, 91 km from Khurda Road to Nuagaon has been commissioned while work is in progress from Nuagaon to Daspalla (91 km to 106 km) and target is set to commission it by March 2023, sources said.

The work from Daspalla to Buguda (106 km to 121 km) is going slow due to non-issuance of Stage-I forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), the source said.

Similarly, work from Buguda to Banigoogha is yet to start due to

non-issuance of the Stage-I forest clearance. In total, the Centre is yet to issue required forest clearance from 112 to 180 km while the work from 180 to 275 km is in progress and work at 275-301 km has already been commissioned.

For forest clearance, the state government has already sent its proposal to the MoEF regional office, Bhubaneswar. This issue was also raised during the recent meeting of the Regional Empowered Committee, the source informed.

The state government has given land free of cost from 112 km to 301 km and bearing 50 per cent construction cost for the Khurda Road-Bolangir railway project. However, due to non-issuance of the Stage-I forest clearance by the Centre, the work cannot start in between 112 km to 118 km, an official said.

Earlier, Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had informed the Parliament that the completion time of the Khurda Road-Bolangir new line project cannot be ascertained at this time.

This project involves acquisition of 6162 acres land and diversion of 1844 acre forest land, out of which 5208 acres land has been acquired and diversion of 170 acres forest land has been completed. Further, acquisition of 954 acres land and diversion of 1674 acre forest land have been taken up, he had informed the Parliament.



PHILATELIC EXHIBITION: Dignitaries, including Orissa High Court Chief Justice S Muralidhar (3rd from L), unveil a special envelope during the 11th State-level Philatelic Exhibition at Ravenshaw University convention hall in Cuttack, Saturday

NOC issued for OWS officials to appear in recruitment tests

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The ST and SC Development department has issued a no objection certificate (NOC) for Odisha Welfare Service (OWS) and Odisha Subordinate Welfare Service (OSWS) officials wishing to appear in various recruitment examinations, an official said Saturday.

Many youths, who have joined the OWS and OSWS under the department, have also been preparing for recruitment examinations conducted by UPSC, OPSC, SSB, OSSC and OSSSC. And in order to appear for such examinations, the officials need NOC or permission from the department.

As the employees have a right to seek better career opportunities for themselves, the department grants permission or NOC in all cases in a very routine and mechanical manner.



"In a bid to get the permission or NOC, the officials had to visit the department on many occasions, wasting their as well as the department's time. Delay in granting permission/NOC also at times leads to frustration among the applicant employees," a senior official in know of the development said.

In a bid to save time, the ST and SC Development department has recently issued an order giving standing permission and NOC in favour of all OSWS and OWS offi-

cers working under its administrative control to apply for any job elsewhere or to appear in any recruitment examination subject to a few conditions.

According to the department, the conditions include, the employee shall not neglect his/her official duties/responsibilities, the employee must take prior permission of the competent authority for leave and for leaving headquarters for appearing in any recruitment examination or job interview.

"The permission or NOC cannot not be treated as permission of the department to relieve an employee from its administrative control," said the official.

In case of selection for the job applied for, the employee must seek approval of the department through proper channels to be relieved from his/her current service, added the official.

Nadda to visit state Sept 29

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: BJP president JP Nadda will address panchayat level party workers during his two-day visit to Odisha scheduled to begin September 29.

Nadda, who will be visiting the state for the first time after becoming the BJP chief, will also meet office bearers, MLAs, MPs, and district presidents of the Odisha unit of the saffron party, BJP state general secretary Golak Mohapatra told reporters here.

After he arrives at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here at 10am September 29, he will address party workers at Janata Maidan, Mohapatra said.

Odisha in-charge of the BJP Sunil Bansal has already reviewed the preparedness ahead of Nadda's visit to the coastal state.

Party sources said that Nadda is likely to kick off the BJP's campaign for the 2024 general election during this visit.

After Nadda arrives at the Biju Patnaik International Airport at 10am September 29, he will address party workers at Janata Maidan

Party sources said that Nadda is likely to kick off the BJP's campaign for the 2024 general election during this visit

The BJP president will spend the night at Puri and visit Shree Jagannath Temple in the pilgrim town Sept 30

Around 25,000 party workers are likely to attend the meeting at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar on the first day of Nadda's visit, they said. The BJP president will spend the night at Puri and visit Shree Jagannath Temple in the pilgrim town September 30. BJP's new Leader of Opposition J N Mishra met both Nadda and Amit Shah in New Delhi on Monday and briefed them regarding the political scenario in Odisha.

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan Saturday also reviewed the preparedness of the party before Nadda's forthcoming visit.



DANCE FEST: An artiste performs during a solo dance festival organised at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

Fake drugs: 2 Bihar suppliers identified

Cuttack: In the latest development in seizure of spurious drugs here, the Commissionerate Police claimed to have identified two traders, who had supplied the spurious blood pressure (BP) medicines to different drug wholesale points. The Commissionerate Police has identified two drug suppliers, who are from Bihar, informed Cuttack DCP Pinak Mishra today.

Lady commits suicide in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The body of a 32-year-old woman was found hanging from the ceiling fan of her room at Sailashree Vihar under Chandrasekharpur police limits, Saturday.

The deceased, identified as Priyanka Ray Samant, was staying along with her family at a rented accommodation in the area for the last two months. Samant, who hails from Kunjakant area of Dhenkanal, had married Rutik Das of Khurda around eight years ago. Her husband, after waking up in the morning, did not find Priyanka in her

bed. He searched in the adjacent room and spotted her hanging from the ceiling fan.

Soon, Rutik informed his brother-in-law and they rushed her to Capital Hospital where the doctors declared her "brought dead," a police official said. Informed, Chandrasekharpur police reached the spot and started investigation by registering an unnatural death case (67/22) in this regard.

"The parents of Priyanka have not filed any complaint alleging any foul play. They informed police that the deceased was obstinate and rarely listened to anyone," added the official.

Despite efforts, national animal fights for survival

Do you know India once had 1,00,000 tigers? Over the years, this number kept dwindling as Britishers and the erstwhile maharajas took up hunting. Meanwhile, no comprehensive law was in place to look after the wildlife till the 1960s even as widespread hunting of tigers was reported all over India, says wildlife expert Harshwardhan.

Queen Elizabeth II of Britain along with her consort, Prince Phillip, who visited Ranthambore in the early 60s reportedly to hunt tigers, was hosted royally by the then government, he said.

Then came Project Tiger (PT) in 1973 where the WWF-International assumed a lead role and clueless forest officers adopted a fudging tactic to show increasing tiger numbers.

Even now, things have not changed and the tiger faces yet another challenge -- its forest cover is shrinking thereby increasing man-animal conflict.

Almost 10-15 tigers and tigresses are roaming outside almost all the best breeding reserves in India as dominant males do not allow newly-born, young and sub-adult males to remain inside the park, he added.

These vagrant tigers face tough challenges in their newly-adopted 'homes' which are people by villagers and their livestock.

The additional population of tigers inside the reserves therefore is getting rehabilitated outside the reserves.

Further, tiger corridors are missing. The outcome: many tigers are killed by the villagers, or get

“ We might see the big cat numbers growing, but in reality, we are losing the battle. There was a time when the stories of man-animal coexistence sounded real. This was in the 70s and 80s but now it is a thing of the past. The development of areas around jungles, four-lane highways, electricity, sound of bikes and jeeps many a times prompt these animals to come out of their peripheries

**PS SOMASHEKAR I
RETIRED FOREST OFFICER FROM RAJASTHAN**



knocked down in road accidents and mishaps.

In fact, Rajasthan famous for its tigers and jungle safaris, is in the news these days for the skewed gender ratio, tigers' fight for survival and missing tigers reports.

The Rajasthan Assembly recently discussed the issue of 13 missing tigers from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR).

The state forest department said that it has no evidence of 13 tigers in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the past three years -- January 2019 to January 2022 -- while answering a question related to missing tigers which was raised by state BJP president Satish Poonia.

The forest department stated that among these 13 tigers, no evidence has been found of two tigers (T-20 and

T-23) since 2019, seven tigers (T-47, T-42, T-64, T-73, T-95, T-97 and T-92) since 2020 and four tigers (T-72, T-62, T-126 and T-100) since 2021.

While four out of these 13 tigers were old, it is possible that the others may have died naturally, fled from their territory due to high density of tigers or died in territorial clashes with other tigers, it said.

Among the 13 tigers, nine were from the Ranthambore core area and two were from the Ranthambore buffer area. The other two lived in the Kailadevi reserve forest outside the RTR, the data showed.

In its reply, the government said that due to the increase in their population and density around Ranthambore, more cases relating to missing tigers, territorial fights between tigers and deaths have surfaced.

The ratio between male and female tigers in RTR is 1:1.3, which is unnatural. Most of the tigers, out of the 32 females, at present in the breeding age have also contributed to an increased population, the data said.

"The tiger population has increased in Ranthambore and we have already passed the carrying capacity. There are around 55 mature tigers while as per our carrying capacity, we have space for around 40-45 mature tigers only. As a result of this overpopulation, tigers migrate or end up fighting with other tigers in territorial battles," said a senior forest official.

PS Somashekar, a retired forest officer from Rajasthan said, "We might see the big cat numbers growing, but in reality, we are losing the battle."

"There was a time when the stories of man-animal coexistence sounded real. This was in the 70s and 80s but now it is a thing of the past. The development of areas around jungles, four-lane highways, electricity, sound of bikes and jeeps many a times prompt these animals to come out of their peripheries."

As the tiger is a carnivore, it needs regular movement from one area to another; however, we have created obstructions in its movement area, he said.

"The government land has been converted into agricultural land, agricultural land into commercial land and so on. Hence when the animal moves into corridor areas, it gets confused on seeing four-lane highways, dazzling lights and sounds, leading to conflict," Somashekar said.

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State logs 222 fresh Cov cases

The state now has 1,417 active Covid-19 cases, while 13,22,299 patients have recovered from the disease to date, including 204 in the last 24 hours



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: The state's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,32,957 Saturday as 222 more people, including 36 children, tested positive for the infection, a health department bulletin said.

The state had recorded 202 infections Friday.

Odisha's coronavirus death toll rose to 9,188 as a 65-year-old man succumbed to the disease in Cuttack district. Besides, 53 other patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it said.

The state now has 1,417 active

the data updated at 8am stated. The 19 fatalities reported in 24 hours include two each from Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana and Karnataka.

The active cases comprise 0.10 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has increased to 98.71 per cent, the health ministry said.

A decline of 845 cases has been recorded in the active caseload in 24 hours, it said. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.62 per cent while the weekly positivity rate was 1.69 per cent, it mentioned.

The number of recoveries climbed to 4,39,90,414, while the case fatality rate was 1.19 per cent.

According to the ministry, 217.41 crore doses of vaccines have been administered in the country so far under the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark August 7, 2020, 30 lakh August 23, 40 lakh September 5 and 50 lakh September 16.

It went past 60 lakh September 28, 70 lakh October 11, crossed 80 lakh October 29, 90 lakh November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark December 19.

India crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4, three crore on June 23 last year and four crore January 25 this year.



MISSION SHAKTI CONFERENCE: Cuttack Mayor Subhash Singh among dignitaries attending the district level conference of All Odisha GPLF Mission Shakti Karmi Samukhya at Cuttack Town Hall in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Cuttack, K'para to be state's 1st smart agri dists

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: Global sustainable agriculture specialist organisation Solidaridad has joined hands with Sarat Kar and Anima Kar Foundation (SKAK Foundation) and Idea-Vodafone Foundation to transform the Cuttack and Kendrapara districts of the state into climate-resilient and digitally smart agricultural districts.

The project was launched at ICAR-Central Institute for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar, by chief guest Roopa Roshan Sahoo, IAS, in the presence of other dignitaries and approximately 200 farmers from Cuttack and Kendrapara districts of Odisha.

The smart agriculture project, over the next 3 years will directly benefit 50,000 small farmers. The project will complement several policies undertaken by the state and central governments for the benefit of the farming communities of Cuttack and Kendrapara districts.

Solidaridad and Idea-Vodafone Foundation have initiated similar



interventions in the Gajapati district as well. Eventually, the aim is to create several smart agricultural districts in Odisha. The interventions are expected to create a significant increase in farmers' incomes and create new employ-

ment opportunities for the rural youth and tech-savvy young agri-entrepreneurs.

The programme is to transform the conventional agricultural methods followed in Odisha into smart agriculture. The project will use the

Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and real-time technology solutions routed through automatic weather stations. Soil probes, insect traps, and crop cameras which will be installed.

Farmers will be provided with information on critical elements of farming - like soil and air quality, wind, the presence of insects and pests, and crop growth. Farmers will also receive real-time and localized advisories on critical agricultural inputs and news on markets, government policies and schemes. These will be delivered in Odia through their mobile phones, with audio options, as for some reading might be a challenge.

The project is an outcome of year-long research conducted by Solidaridad and the SKAK Foundation on the food production system of the two districts.

The report was launched by the dignitaries and the farmers present at the event. The report provides different recommendations for improving the income of the farmers through climate-resilient farming.

Furore over Ankita...

Continued from P1

The Congress staged protests in district headquarters across the state Saturday to voice its anger over the vulnerability of women in the state.

Pradesh Congress Committee president Karan Mahra said the young woman had gone missing September 18 and the FIR was lodged four days later. "It shows the state government is not serious in its actions. Women are not safe in Uttarakhand," Mahra said.

"The action being taken by the state government is just an eye-wash. The resort has been demolished only partially. It may also be an attempt to destroy evidence," added Congress leader Garima Dhasauni.

Countering the allegations of delay in action against the culprits, the DGP said the matter was transferred to regular police from revenue police Thursday and the accused were sent behind bars within 24 hours.

The autopsy is being done at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh, police said.

According to Pauri Additional SP Shekhar Chandra Suyal, Ankita was found missing by her parents September 19 (Monday) but they reported the matter to the revenue police the following day.

Due to slow progress in the investigation, the matter was handed over to regular police September 22 and the arrests made September 23 (Friday).

The three men accused of the crime initially tried to mislead the police, but confessed when interrogated closer, Suyal said yesterday.

On Friday, crowds attacked the police car when the accused were being taken to a court in Kotdwara. They smashed the windowpanes of the car and roughed up the three men. Some women who were part of the mob demanded that the accused must be "hanged."

OMM collaborates with BOCCA Cafe

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: As part of its programme for the promotion of millets, Odisha Millet Mission (OMM), a Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha initiative, has collaborated with BOCCA Cafe, Bhubaneswar to promote millets as a nutritional alternative among the youth and to showcase the many dishes that can be crafted from Bajra, Jowar, Mandia and other millets. The event took place at BOCCA Cafe, Master Canteen, Bhubaneswar.

OMM is a flagship programme of the government of Odisha launched in 2017 to improve nutrition at the household level through the revival of millets in farms and on plates of

tribal communities. This first-of-its-kind agricultural initiative to encourage the cultivation of nutrition-rich millets goes beyond bringing the traditional food of Odisha's tribes back on plates. It answers one of the enduring questions: what can be done to protect and revive the environment as well as provide better income to farmers, particularly those with small farms?

BOCCA worked with OMM and has come out with an exclusive millets-based menu which was launched in the event. The menu was curated by the chefs at BOCCA and experts of OMM. The idea was to create continental/Mexican/bakery dishes which will give millets a more up-market identity, helping the current generation consume it and in the process help the farmers.



NSS Day: Students of Shailabala Women's Autonomous College with guests during the observance of the National Service Scheme Day in Cuttack, Saturday

OP PHOTO

'Neglected mothers' Nayapalli Puja theme

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19, Durga puja celebrations in the city have been low-key affair in the last two years. This year with the fear of disease slowly fading, the festive spirit will certainly go up a few notches as community Durga pujas will be conducted without any Covid-19 restrictions.

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

Getting the assurance that there will not be any restrictions, the various committees in the city are preparing to celebrate Durga puja in a grand manner. The recently concluded Ganesh Puja festivities indicate that pandals will witness



huge footfalls during the Durga puja and the organisers and police are gearing up to meet the challenge.

The organisers are also having regular brain-storming sessions to give a unique look to their pandals and to spring a surprise to the visitors.

In that race for novelty and grandiloquence, the Nayapalli Durga Puja committee will showcase the neglected mothers in our society as the theme of their puja pandal. Instead of replicating any famous structure the Nayapalli Durga Puja committee will try to

showcase the problems faced by old parents especially mothers from their children who left them at old age alone.

Naba Kishore Behera of Nayapalli Durga puja committee said this year's theme is to showcase the condition of old parents and how they are being treated. For this, we will showcase the images of several difficult situations they face during old age from their children. Artist from Kolkata have come to construct the pandal which will be 80-ft in height and 120-ft in health, said Behera.

BJD Zilla Parishad ...

Continued from P1

Sahoo had tried to end his life but rescued by the family members September 3. Later, he also released a video mentioning about his ill health, rumours about him on social media and family discord due to political reasons.

Sahoo had also vowed to quit politics if the rumours spread by a group of people on social media proved to be true. "Dispute in my family occurred due to political issues and the conflict also got escalated to the hilt recently," said Sahoo in his purported last video. Sahoo also accused a reporter of publishing objectionable news about him and his family. He had threatened to take legal action against the media person too. His father-in-law also alleged that he was torturing his wife for money and also tried to extract money from him.

Air pollution amplifying negative effects of climate change

Air pollution can amplify negative effects of climate change and in some cases, pollution co-emitted with CO2 can increase the social cost of carbon by as much as 66 per cent, a new study co-led by an Indian-origin researcher has revealed.

It is the first such study to simulate how aerosol pollution affects both climate and air quality for locations around the globe.

Aerosols are tiny solid particles and liquid droplets that contribute to smog and are emitted from industrial factories.

The researchers, led by The University of Texas at Austin and the University of California San Diego in the US, found that, depending on where they are emitted, aerosols can worsen the social costs

of carbon - an estimate of the economic costs greenhouse gasses have on society - by as much as 66 per cent.

The scientists looked at eight key regions: Brazil, China, East Africa, Western Europe, India, Indonesia, the US and South Africa.

The findings showed that some emerging economies, like East African nations and India, might be motivated to collaborate on emission cuts since they are strongly impacted by each other's emissions.

"Carbon dioxide has the same impact on climate no matter who emits it," said co-lead author Geeta Persad assistant professor at the UT Austin Jackson School of Geosciences.

But for these aerosol pollutants, they tend to stay concentrated near



where they're emitted, "so the effect that they have on the climate system is very patchy and very dependent on where they're coming from," she noted in the study published in the journal Science Advances.

Aerosols can directly affect human health and the climate independently of CO2.

The researchers, led by The University of Texas at Austin and the University of California San Diego in the US, found that, depending on where they are emitted, aerosols can worsen the social costs of carbon - an estimate of the economic costs greenhouse gasses have on society - by as much as 66 per cent

"CO2 is making the planet warmer, but it also gets emitted with a bunch of other compounds that impact people and plants directly and cause climate changes in their own right," said Jennifer Burney, co-lead author from the UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy

"CO2 is making the planet warmer, but it also gets emitted with a bunch of other compounds that impact people and plants directly and cause climate changes

in their own right," said Jennifer Burney, co-lead author from the UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy.

The researchers noted that aerosol emissions are always bad for both the emitter and the planet overall.

"While we might think about aerosols, which cool the climate, as having the silver lining of counteracting CO2-driven warming, when we look at all these effects in combination, we find that no region experiences overall local benefits or generates overall global benefits by emitting aerosols," said Persad.

Researchers also said the findings create potentially new motivations for countries to cut emissions - and to care about other nations cutting emissions. JANS

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COMMUNITY EFFORTS: Residents of tribal dominated Ranla village under Ranpur block in Nayagarh district constructed a wooden bridge on a nullah for the sixth time after the construction of a bridge by the government remained halfway with the approach road being constructed. The village gets cut-off from the mainland during rainy season due to lack of a bridge

Toddler exposes mother's murder; father arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Umerkote, Sept 24: In a shocking incident, a two-and-a-half-year-old girl narrated before police how her mother was strangled by her father. After the incident came to light, the deceased woman's father demanded capital punishment for his son-in-law. The turn of events has left many in the locality surprised.

The deceased was identified as Lipika Mandal, daughter of Tapan Mandal from Karagaon under Umerkote block in Nabarangpur district. She married Manik Ghosh of Silati village under Umerkote block seven years ago. Manik had studied hotel management but was unemployed at the time of their marriage.

In May this year, the couple had a verbal fight over some issues. A complaint in this regard was filed at Umerkote police station. Thereafter, Lipika stayed with her parents at Karagaon.

In June, Manik's family came to take Lipika back home, but she did not agree. After a meeting with the villagers, she returned to her



in-laws' house. Subsequently, the couple along with their daughter left for Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh where Manik got a job in a hotel.

At about 6 am Monday, Manik called one of his friends from Karagaon who lived in Kakinada and told him that Lipika fainted at night and did not respond. Manik's friend rushed to his residence and saw strangulation mark on her neck.

However, Mahi Ghosh, the two-and-a-half-year-old daughter of Lipika had seen what had happened to her mother. She revealed before police that her father strangled her mother. Manik later admitted before the police that after

Lipika fainted, he put his finger near her mouth. She bit his finger. He got angry and strangled her.

After a post-mortem, the body was handed over to the deceased's parents. Tapan along with his granddaughter took the body to Karagaon in an ambulance. Later, Lipika's body was taken to her in-laws' house where her last rites were performed.

Lipika's father alleged that Manik had sold off 4 acre land that was in the name of Lipika.

He asserted that his daughter was not sick and her husband murdered her in a planned way. Tapan demanded capital punishment to his son-in-law.

₹201 crore anicut soon on Baitarani in Jajpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur Town, Sept 24: An anicut will be set up on Baitarani river at Dhoobalia under Dasarathpur block in Jajpur district at a cost of ₹201 crore. The project has got the approval of the state Cabinet.

Besides, Parbati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation projects will be executed in Jajpur and Kendrapara districts for which ₹396.27 crore has been allocated with the Cabinet approval.

This was informed by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallik here at a press meet.

According to the minister, under Parbati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation project, water will be lifted from rivers, reservoirs and canals to irrigate farmlands in both the districts. This project would provide irrigational coverage to 2,63,801 hectare in these two districts.

She added that thousands of farmers of Binjharpur block, Jajpur sadar block, Aul block and Rajkanika block will be benefited. Farmers will avail micro irrigation facilities to raise cash crops.

Moreover, an anicut will be built across Baitarani at Dhoobalia under



Parbati Giri Mega LI projects will also come up in Jajpur and Kendrapara districts for which ₹396.27 crore has been allocated with Cabinet approval

Dasarathpur block with the aim of providing irrigational facility to farmlands in Bhadrak and Jajpur.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has directed the authorities concerned to complete the anicut project within 30 months. The project will also come handy in flood control in Kochila river, apart from providing drinking water to households in Dhamnagar and Dasarathpur blocks.

Fate of Subarnarekha port hangs in balance

UNCERTAINTY OVER THE PROJECT HAS INTENSIFIED AFTER THE WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT INKED A PACT WITH THE ADANI GROUP, SEPT 19 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TAJPUR PORT PROJECT NEAR DIGHA COAST

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baliapal, Sept 24: With opposition of the locals to the project refusing to die down, the fate of proposed Subarnarekha port project at Choumukh sea mouth under this block in Balasore district hangs in balance.

The uncertainty over the project has intensified after the West Bengal government inked a pact with the Adani Group, September 19 for construction of Tajpur port project near Digha coast. It is apprehended that the Tajpur port project might spell doom for the Subarnarekha port project as it is only 38 km from the Subarnarekha sea mouth as the latter fails to make any headway.

The state government had signed a memorandum with Chennai Creative Port in 2008 for construction of Subarnarekha port. However, stiff opposition of the locals and lack of environmental clearance pushed the project into cold storage.

Later, the Chief Minister laid the foundation for the project after

the Centre granted environmental clearance for the project in 2019 and an agreement was signed with Tata Group for construction of the project. It was claimed that the Subarnarekha port project to be built at an expenditure of ₹5,000 crore will be the largest and deepest port along the whole eastern coast and will usher in economic prosperity in the area by generating employment for over 3,000 people.

However, an outfit named Bhitamati Surakhya Manch launched a protest against the project. It claimed that over 60,000 locals in six panchayats in the proposed port area will be displaced and their farmlands which gives them double crop in a year will be acquired. The protest only picked up momentum and refused to die down.

The anti-port group demanded that the state government instead of constructing a port should look into establishment of an agriculture based industry in the area. They warned that they will not desist

LOCALS VOCAL AGAINST PROJECT



from their agitation and opposed establishment of a port till the last drop of blood is in their body.

They refused to believe the claim that no one will be displaced for the project and the lands under private ownership will not be acquired. They wanted the state government to publish notification in this regard through the district Collector.

However, Tata Group has started acquiring land for the roads and rail routes after the local youths announced their support for the project. The youths believe that the es-

tablishment of the port will usher in development and employment and no one will have to work as migrant labourer away from home.

It is being claimed that the port will be set up completely inside the sea but the locals refused to believe the claims. They questioned the district administration's silence on the issue.

Meanwhile, what has aggravated the situation is the foray of Adani group into Tajpur port project on Digha coast. The West Bengal government approved the Adani group's

bid for establishment of Tajpur port, September 19. The Adani group will spend over ₹25,000 crore including ₹15,000 crore for the port and ₹10,000 crore on other industries in the project which will generate employment for over 25,000 people.

Notably, Subarnarekha port project will not be possible if the Tajpur port project becomes functional as Subarnarekha sea mouth is just 38 km away from Tajpur. Speculations are rife that whether Subarnarekha port project will be commercially viable if Tajpur port is established before it. Moreover, the locals in West Bengal are opposing Tajpur port project while their state government is providing all facilities to Adani Group for establishment of the port.

The Subarnarekha port is more conducive for commercial operations. However, the fate of the project hangs in the balance with the locals continuing to oppose it and state government failing to resolve the impasse.

Probe ordered into toll collection

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Sept 24: Ganjam Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida has ordered an investigation into the reported excess toll collection at Budhamba-Polsara toll gate. For over 12 years, toll is being collected from vehicles angering the vehicle owners as they are up in arms over it.

Surprisingly, the administration is blithely unaware of the toll gate's whereabouts as to who has set up the toll gate and why toll is being collected. SP Brijesh Singh also raised objection to this toll collection in a meeting of the road safety committee, Friday. In the meeting, engineers of the Roads and Buildings and the Rural Development departments made it clear that their departments have no such toll gate. Bus owners alleged that toll is being collected at the spot for last 12 years.

5T Secy interacts with schoolchildren

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sundargarh/Rourkela, Sept 24: Under the Odisha government's 5T High School Transformation Programme, all government high schools in Sundargarh district are being given an overall facelift.

Secretary to CM (5T) VK Pandian Saturday interacted with the students and teachers from various schools while reviewing the progress of the initiative via video conferencing. The students took the opportunity to spell out their future dreams before the 5T Secretary.

While interacting with the students and other stakeholders, Pandian said, "School is like our mother. Therefore, we should take care of the beautiful infrastructure of the transformed High Schools like we care for our own



mother." "By nurturing and maintaining the new advanced infra and ambience we will help the students in realising their life goals," he said while seeking cooperation of locals, alumni and panchayat representatives in the noble initiative.

"The High School Transformation Programme is a flagship initiative

of Hon'ble Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The programme is aimed at making students dream big in the new school environment," the 5T Secretary said while calling upon all stakeholders to make the programme successful in Sundargarh district.

On the occasion, the 5T secre-

tary instructed the Sundargarh district administration to provide land RoR and ensure electricity supply as well as pucca roads to all transformed schools, along with plantation of trees in the campuses.

Sundargarh Collector Parag H Gavali joined the virtual meet at the OSWAN Conference Hall in the Collectorate at Sundargarh. Rourkela ADM, Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) Commissioner and senior district officials joined the meeting at Rourkela.

Sundargarh ZP CDO and EO Bhairab Singh Patel, DEO Amulya Kumar Padhan, Senior Technical Consultant SSA Bishwamanoohar Subudhi, BDOs, students, headmasters/headmistresses, SMDC members, alumni, people's representatives from 13 blocks also joined the meeting at Sundargarh.

Women lead battle for forest rights in Nayagarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 24: After a decade of struggle, the women of Nayagarh district lead the battle for forest rights from the front; having reclaimed what they think is theirs and winning the rights over forests resources in 24 villages. Narrating their hardships to protect the forests, the block-level women federation president in Ranpur Shashi Pradhan said that the women of Nayagarh district see forest as a "source of their livelihood" and have been "protecting it since 1984".

"Women have been protecting and conserving these forests since 1984. People living in the villages had no idea about these rights. The women took charge and decided to hold awareness campaigns on Forest Rights Act," Shashi said.

Community and forest resource rights were granted to Kodalapalli and Sinduria village together as they led the



fight for the rights jointly.

Explaining why the forests are managed mostly by women in Nayagarh district, Shashi said that there was "mismanagement" when the forests were taken care of by the men.

"There was miscommunication and huge mismanagement when

the men used to manage the forests. Later, the women took over and led the fight for rights," she said.

Another forest-dweller in Ranpur, Anita Pradhan told PTI that there were instances when people from other villages attempted to invade their forest and tried to peel the barks of the trees.

24 villages in Nayagarh district received 14 community rights (CR) and community forest resource rights (CFRR) titles November 2, 2021

"The women of these villages always fought back. They would visit those invaders' village, hold meeting with their block presidents and once even confiscated their vehicles when their forests were illegally invaded by them," Anita told PTI.

On November 2, 2021, 24 villages in Nayagarh district had received 14 community rights (CR) and community forest resource rights (CFRR) titles.

The titles were assigned to the villages under the the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest

Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights Act).

"We view these forests as our source of livelihood. There are various kinds of resources here. Be it herbs, shrubs, fruits or vegetables, we get everything from here," another forest-dweller of Ranpur said.

Cashew cultivation is one of the primary sources of income for the people living in Kodalpalli and Sinduria village, they said.

"There is at least 20 acres of land for cashew cultivation in these two forest areas. The work is primarily managed by 15 families in Kodalpalli and 7 families in Sinduria village and they manage to earn around ₹2 lakh to ₹3 lakh per annum," Shashi said.

She further stated that all villagers possess medical insurance cards and that, each family earns around ₹50,000 a year only via forest-conservation and cashew cultivation.

PROBE EXPOSES SCAM IN MGNREGS

9 officials to cough up ₹44L

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhapur, Sept 24: Many projects under MGNREGS have turned out to be gravy trains for unscrupulous officials and contractors in three panchayats under Bhapur block of Nayagarh district. Crores of rupees have been embezzled from projects through forged bills. In fact, some of those have not been executed at all.

Collector Poma Tudu had earlier received allegations about large-scale irregularities in the rural job scheme in three panchayats. Locals had earlier protested against fund misappropriation in some MGNREGS projects.

Following a directive from the Collector, an investigation was conducted and the irregularities came to light. The investigation revealed that nine officials including the BDO were complicit in the fund embezzlement from the projects of the rural job scheme.

In a letter-2925 issued September 8, 2022, the Collector ordered re-

Nayagarh Collector Poma Tudu had earlier received a number of allegations from villagers about large-scale irregularities in the rural job scheme in three panchayats under Bhapur block

covery of funds worth ₹44,67,461 from nine errant officials.

In the letter, the Collector said that a complaint will be filed against nine officials at Patehgarh Police Station.

The officials from whom funds will be recovered are BDO Satyasundar Rout, assistant executive engineer Brundaban Baraha, head clerk Jagdish Chandra Sethi, engineer Ardhendu Sekhar Sarangi, ACP Debendra Kumar Nayak, APO Arun Kumar Chinnara, GRS Pratima Sahu, Gaon Sathis Gopinath Khuntia and Akhila Kumar Malla.

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CBC 17216/12/0016/2223 Administrative Officer (Estt.)



An aimless life is always a miserable life.
THE MOTHER

Averse to NGOs

On Friday, India's Prime Minister used the words "urban naxals" to describe those he said were stalling construction of the Sardar Sarovar. This continues a common theme where he has attacked what is called civil society which he sees as an enemy. On 21 February 2016, he said at a rally in Bhubaneswar that he was "a victim of a conspiracy by NGOs." This conspiracy was aimed at "finishing" him and removing his government. As evidence for this he said: "You would have seen that morning to night, I am being attacked. Some people keep at it." Civil society was "also upset because I told a few NGOs to give us an account of the foreign funds that they spend here. They ganged up and said 'beat Modi, beat Modi, he's asking us for an account of our expenditure'," he said, adding: "They conspire from morning to night on 'how do we finish Modi, how do we remove his government, how do we embarrass Modi?' But my friends, you have voted me to rid the country of these diseases."

It appears that Modi has to a large extent succeeded in achieving this goal. In December 2019, Parliament was told that since Modi had taken office, 14,500 NGOs had been barred from accessing foreign funding. Funding has collapsed 90% from \$2.2 billion in 2018 to \$295 million in 2019. It is not known how many Indians were affected because of this, not only the employees of the NGOs but those people who they were working with and for.

Modi's attack on NGOs manifested in different forms of coercive action and through the use of criminal law. Most notably, through changes in the FCRA law. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act appeared in 1976 as a piece of legislation aimed at preventing external interference in India's electoral process and democracy. It prohibited the receiving of foreign money to political parties and their candidates, journalists and newspaper publishers, judges, bureaucrats and members of Parliament.

In time, economic liberalisation meant that many of these categories were allowed to receive foreign money and the Indian government actively promoted the bringing in of such money. That was the foreign direct investment which was made welcome and whose numbers Indian governments were proud of. For instance, the media, both print and television and certainly online, which came to be the dominant form of media, could not only receive foreign investment, it was dominated by it. The largest media companies in India were Facebook and Google, which were entirely foreign owned and managed. Newspapers could receive equity investments from foreign firms as also could news channels. Even political parties managed to get themselves off the hook on FCRA. In January 2013, a public interest litigation was filed in Delhi High Court claiming that the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress had received donations from the same company, which were in violation of the FCRA Act. On 28 March 2014, the court held that the BJP and Congress were guilty of FCRA violation and in May asked the Modi government and the Election Commission to act against the two parties. In July and August, the Congress and BJP moved petitions in the Supreme Court against the high court decision.

This change happened in the Budget of 2016, when the definition of foreign source was changed, legitimising the donation received by the political parties. Unfortunately this change was written in fairly slipshod fashion and the Modi government had amended the wrong version of the law. And so another amendment was passed in 2018 to again try and get the parties off. This finally happened in March 2018, through the amendment of a repealed law, a slightly farcical operation.

With this change, and later with the electoral bonds scheme, the BJP and other parties were free to accept unlimited and even anonymous contributions from foreign sources. What remained regulated in the law were non-government organisations, NGOs. And these were relentlessly squeezed and defunded through FCRA amendments under Modi.

Along with the farm bills on which protests are currently on, Modi also passed a law last year which would tighten the provisions under which NGOs could receive foreign money. The changes were in the main four: first that the 23,000 NGOs which had an FCRA licence to receive foreign money could receive funds only in the Sansad Marg branch of the State Bank of India in New Delhi. The second change was that the NGO could spend only 20% of the money it received on 'administrative expenses'. Salaries, travel expenses, rent and such things that constitute the bulk of what most NGOs spend their outlay on could only receive 20% of the total. Third, that the law now prevented an NGO from redistribution of funds it had received to other NGOs even if they were FCRA-compliant. This would hit the sector because NGOs do not compete with one another as the rest of the private sector does and operate as networks. This change would damage their alliances and capacity to work with one another. Fourth, the law required NGOs registering or renewing their FCRA licence would have to mandatorily give the Aadhaar numbers of all office bearers, directors or other key functionaries. It also gave the government the authority at its discretion to suspend FCRA for as long as it wanted. This is, needless to say, not how the rest of the private sector is treated. The corporate sector is not ordered to spend their money in a particular way or regulated in this seemingly arbitrary fashion. The action is reserved for NGOs.

The antagonism towards civil society was not new. As Chief Minister, Modi had said in a 2014 speech: "Another conspiracy — a vicious cycle is set up. Funds are obtained from abroad; an NGO is set up; a few articles are commissioned; a PR firm is recruited and, slowly, with the help of the media, an image is created. And then onwards are procured from foreign countries to enhance this image. Such a vicious cycle, a network of finance-activity-award is set up and, once they have secured an award, no one in Hindustan dares raise a finger, no matter how many the failings of the awardee."

As Prime Minister he had the agency and the freedom to go alongside his desire to severely damage if not entirely finish off of India's civil society. And in substantial measure, through innovative ways, he has achieved this.



Aakar Patel

The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act appeared in 1976 as a piece of legislation aimed at preventing external interference in India's electoral process and democracy



Subhasis Ray & Bhaskar Basu

ONCE THE RISK PROFILING IS DONE, THE FOCUS CAN BE SHIFTED TO PREPAREDNESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Yaas, Tauktae, Amphan, Nisarga, Nivar are specific names that cause chill through the spine. Add floods, earthquakes, landslides and droughts to this list of cyclones that India has to withstand from time to time. While the respective governments have done creditably well to restrict damage, there may be scope for improvement, especially in the process integration area during and immediately after the disaster. The Yokohama message (1994) suggests the following — a) poor and socially disadvantaged people in developing countries are worst affected as they are the least equipped to cope with the situation; b) disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness are better than disaster response; c) disaster response alone yields temporary relief at a very high cost; and d) prevention contributes to lasting improvement in safety. Can we create a flexible, adaptable, and intelligent disaster management framework to deal with disasters in a decentralised yet fast and highly coordinated manner?

There are five major types of natural disasters, namely, geological (landslides, earthquakes, subsidence), biological (epidemic diseases affecting people or livestock, veld fires), hydrometeorological (floods, cyclones, storms, drought), technological (industrial pollution, nuclear activities, toxic waste, dam failure, transport accidents) and environmental (deforestation, loss of biodiversity). And there are three significant phases of disaster management, namely "before," "during and immediately after," and "after."

Any country would focus on risk profiling and capacity building during the "before" phase. In risk/vulnerability profiling, one maps a region with likely hazards or disasters, their severity, probability of happening, and possible impact (in the areas like economic, social, physical, and environmental). Floods are more lethal in the USA, whereas wind storms and epidemics are most destructive in Asia and Africa respectively. As a continent, Europe is doing better as far as the casualty in disasters is concerned. One needs to learn and update the profile continuously.

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

TAMING DISASTERS



Resilience comes with infrastructure, partnership, public awareness, an early alert system, research and training

Once the risk profiling is done, the focus can be shifted to preparedness and capacity building. One needs to integrate mitigation with the development process for creating resilience. An earthquake measuring six on the Richter scale causes more havoc in India than in the USA or Japan. Resilience comes with infrastructure, partnership, public awareness, an early alert system, research, and training. Narrowing the sea beaches or building hotels on hills, we are not only disturbing the ecology but also limiting our resilience.

The focus shifts to response, rescue and relief in the "during and immediately after" phase of a disaster. We have made significant progress in averting past hindrances like the delayed response of government officers, absence of early warning systems, lack of resources to undertake measures like mass evacuation, non-familiarity with (and non-existent at times) standard operating procedures to be followed in providing relief. Thanks to mobile telephony, communication is no longer a first casualty post-disaster. However, coordination between various stakeholders is still an area of concern. No incident other than a disaster probably requires as many organisations to act together as army, government, NGOs, professional bodies, social organisations, international bodies, and media. Besides, so many subject matter experts (SMEs) from various fields work in unison like legal, medical, financial, economic,

geological, social, engineering, communication, and counselling.

In the "after" phase, a country focuses on reconstruction and rehabilitation, which is the most important phase from the survivors' point of view. This phase also requires several organisations and SMEs to work together. However, the "uncertainty" factor is greatly reduced here; extent of damage is already assessed; imminent dangers can be factored in; learning from similar catastrophe in the past can be invoked. Financial viability and intent are the significant contributors here.

It is evident that while the "before" and "after" phases allow time and space for planning activities, the "during and immediately after" phase is attended to in a reactive post-hoc manner. Major challenges of this phase are posed by the "uncertainty" factor of the incident. Extent of damage is directly related to the nature of disaster, location and severity. For example, an earthquake will cause less havoc if its epicenter is inside a forest rather than in a populous city. The rescuers and the other participating bodies react as they encounter the "problems" much in a discovery mode; taking a holistic view of the entire damage and the ripple effects may become too theoretical or infeasible. This "during and immediately after" phase can run for hours (for an earthquake), days (in case of flood), weeks (in case of landslide) and months (say, COVID-like pandemics); these varying

timeframes add to the overall complexity for handling a disaster.

The whole problem can be simplified as having the high-level input (comprising type, severity, and location of the disaster), the output (which is immediate relief and stability), and the ultimate objective (of bringing back normalcy as quickly as possible, minimising the loss of lives and the economic loss) which remain the same for all disasters. However, each such scenario becomes one of its own with respect to the events (i.e. various disasters), agents (i.e. participating organisations), entities (e.g. life, infrastructure, potable water, shelter, food, health) and various activities to be carried out by the agents (e.g. impact analysis, planning and mobilisation, search and rescue, relief and aid). The present state of an entity will warrant action from the agent(s) and any action can potentially change the state of one or more entities. Needless to say that coordination and communication between the agents (i.e. organisations and SMEs) are of paramount importance here. The process modelers are thus needed to create this activity versus state transition mappings. The simulators can simulate the activities for an event based on past experiences in order to optimise the benefit from each action. The AI (artificial intelligence) and ML (machine learning) practitioners can contribute by making the model self-learning and self-enriching one.

To sum things up, a structured approach toward attending unstructured events like human- or God-inflicted disasters may be achieved through process abstractions keeping the specificity largely undercover. However, it is easier said than done. It is a call to the process modelers, simulators, and AI and ML practitioners to devise a framework that can dynamically decipher the best possible action under a given situation.

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SPECTRUM PANDEMIC

Preparing for next global catastrophe

After two and a half years of lockdowns, quarantines, and mask mandates, billions of people around the world have returned to their normal lives. But in many ways, this newfound sense of post-pandemic normalcy is misleading. Beating COVID-19 will not mark the end of our current age of global instability, but rather the end of the beginning.

Of course, it is important to remember that the battle against COVID is still far from over. More people have been infected in 2022 than in the previous two years combined, and while vaccines have brought down death rates, more than a million people worldwide have died this year after contracting the virus. And as governments begin to roll out updated booster shots, the world must brace itself for a major fall surge and the possible emergence of dangerous new variants.

But even if COVID were to disappear soon, our goal must not be to return to the status quo ante. In the pre-pandemic world, governments and communities were woefully ill-prepared — not just for a deadly pathogen, but also for an explosive confluence of political and economic crises. If we continue to

view the end of this pandemic as our only goal, the new normal will be just as fragile as the old one.

Global leaders should recognise that, far from being an outlier, the pandemic might be a harbinger. Even as COVID continues to spread, the likelihood of another pandemic increases by 2% each year. Moreover, the threat of new pandemics is just one of several looming catastrophes — including climate change, war, and food insecurity — that conspire to make social and economic stability a thing of the past. Simply put, the world is not prepared. The pandemic is a case in point. Instead of crafting an equitable global response in advance, leaders had to scramble to ensure that lower-income countries could get access to vaccines. Despite immense challenges, the COVAX has been remarkably successful. So far, COVAX has delivered more than 1.75 billion vaccine doses to 146 countries. Of these, 1.5 billion went to 92 low-income countries. By January 2022, COVAX helped lower-income countries to achieve an average vaccination rate of 20%, enough to protect the most at-risk groups.

But the next time we face a global crisis, we must act faster and more

decisively. Crucially, any potential protection mechanism must be fully funded, or at least have pre-approved contingent funding in place, so that lower-income countries have access to lifesaving countermeasures immediately. But developing an adequate global response also requires a change in mindset. Even now, as G20 leaders map out how to prepare for future pandemics, there are no detailed proposals that address how the world's poorest economies will obtain vaccines.

Fortunately, COVAX itself provides a useful model for how to design future protection mechanisms. By treating the protection of the world's most vulnerable as its primary objective, COVAX has helped ensure that 63% of older people and 75% of health-care workers in lower-income countries are fully vaccinated. But if COVAX had been created and fully funded before the pandemic, its impact could have been even greater. COVAX worked because it was built on global health networks that were already in place and had the resources, expertise, and infrastructure to mount a rapid global effort. But that effort stretched these agencies to the limit. If these organisations had built-in surge

capacity and contingency funding, the response could have been faster and more efficient.

The willingness to take risks is critical. With COVAX, officials secured billions of vaccine doses without knowing if those vaccines would work or how many doses would be needed. But the economic, social, and political repercussions of allowing millions of people to get sick or be displaced would have been far more costly.

Even though the COVAX model is not a one-size-fits-all solution for future calamities, it does offer useful lessons that could apply to crises beyond public health. For example, private-sector actors, led by Stripe, Alphabet, Shopify, Meta, and McKinsey, are exploring a Climate Advance Market Commitment that would promote and invest in climate solutions, based on COVAX's innovative financing mechanism. Whatever policies we put in place to prepare for future global crises, we must do so quickly. Whether we like it or not, the next disaster is only a matter of time. Preparing for it must be our new normal.

The writer is Chair of the Gavi Board. @PROJECTSYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, not by the desire to beat others. AYN RAND

Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not. RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Truth is ever to be found in simplicity, and not in the multiplicity and confusion of things. ISAAC NEWTON

LOL

CAUGHT STEALING

A shoplifter was caught red-handed trying to steal a watch from an exclusive jewellery store. "Listen," said the shoplifter, "I know you do not want any trouble either. What do you say I just buy the watch, and we



forget about this?"

The manager agreed and trying wrote up the sales slip. The crook looked at the slip and said, "This is a little more than I intended to spend. Can you show me something less expensive?"

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, Rasulguru Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

The rupee's slide

Sir, This refers to "Rupee at new low of 81," Orissa POST, September 24. The rupee is yet again facing renewed pressure as the dollar continues to strengthen in the wake of the US Federal Reserve's latest 75 bps interest rate hike to tame inflation. The rupee's slide was softened by the RBI's intervention to smoothen volatility; the cumulative impact of such interventions over the 12 months though has shrunk the RBI's war chest of foreign exchange reserves by almost \$94 billion to \$545.65 billion. Indian companies reliant on imports of raw materials or services for the smooth functioning of their businesses are hard hit. They are struggling to contend with rising costs at a time when domestic demand is still to regain a durable post-pandemic footing. The higher import bill is also bound to add inflationary pressures to an economy already beset by persistently elevated inflation and further complicates monetary policymakers' efforts to rein in the price gains. And the Fed's projection of further steep monetary tightening, of at least another 125 bps, is only likely to lead to more outflows. However, RBI's rate setting panel will have a fine tightrope to walk next week as it battles to restore a semblance of price stability without choking growth and by ensuring the rupee does not weaken too sharply.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Russian retreat

Sir, Video clips show Russian tanks fleeing Ukrainian territory. The move of partial military mobilisation is because Russia is on the back foot. This is what Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said: "We would see 3,00,000 additional personnel called up to serve in Russia's military campaign in Ukraine." Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed the public and said this move was taken to conduct referendum in liberated areas. So one thing becomes clear that this was not fight against NATO, this was an attempt to expand Russia to re-establish the old union. Russia is trying to show the world by mobilisation that people are with them and Ukraine is the one in the wrong. But the reality is - the people of Russia are protesting against Putin on the streets, the citizens of the country are fleeing to other countries and Putin is being declared a war criminal at the international level. In such a situation, Russia has no choice but to retreat. This is why Putin is threatening the world with nuclear war.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

of the day quote

Every farmer has suffered a loss of thousands of rupees due to the destruction of standing paddy crop. Due to waterlogging, all crops, including paddy, have been damaged. In such a situation, the government should immediately get the 'girdawari' (survey) done and give compensation to the farmers

The state is fully ready to adopt crop diversification but the Centre must provide assured mechanism to give remunerative prices for these crops

The second Kaliabhomra bridge over the Brahmaputra in Assam's Sonitpur district will play an important role for the army in facilitating communication to the northeastern border

UNION LAW AND JUSTICE MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

CBI gets custody of Sanjay Pandey

New Delhi: The CBI has taken 4-day custody of former Mumbai Police commissioner Sanjay Pandey in connection with the alleged illegal phone tapping of NSE employees by his information technology firm, officials said Saturday. Pandey was already in the judicial custody of the Enforcement Directorate in connection with probes against him. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) approached a special CBI court here seeking his custody in connection with the tapping case. The court granted four-day custody of the accused to the probe agency, they said.

BJP panel seeks CBI, NHRC probes

New Delhi: A BJP committee that looked into the clash between West Bengal police and party members during its 'Nabanna Chalo' rally has sought CBI and National Human Rights Commission probes into the violence, accusing cops of acting on the TMC's behest. The five-member fact finding committee submitted its report to party president J P Nadda Saturday. Former Uttar Pradesh DGP Brij Lal, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Aparajita Sarangi, Sameer Oraon, all MPs, and Sunil Jakhar were the members of the committee formed by Nadda after the clashes during the rally on September 13.

India-Bhutan border gates reopened

Rangia/ Guwahati: India-Bhutan border gates in Assam and West Bengal have been reopened for tourists after a hiatus of two-and-a-half years, an official said Saturday. The gates, which were closed since the outbreak of COVID-19, have been reopened on Friday with some new rules, including a sustainable development fee, he said.

Farmers end stir

Kurukshetra (Haryana): Farmers Saturday lifted their over 20-hour blockade of the National Highway-44 at Shahabad here after the government assured them of increasing the ceiling on per acre yield for procuring crops at Minimum Support Price (MSP). Farmers under Haryana Bhartiya Kisan Union (Chaduni) had on Friday blocked the national highway connecting Delhi and Chandigarh, demanding the government to immediately begin paddy procurement.



It is the people of Gujarat who will benefit from the Aam Aadmi Party contesting the coming Assembly elections and not the ruling BJP

MANISH SISODIA | DELHI DEPUTY CM

WELCOME MOVE

In a bid to prevent antisocial elements or terrorists from using cyber cafes to create disturbance, the Delhi Police has issued certain guidelines for the cyber cafe owners, asking them to maintain a register for visitors' identity



PFI violence: Kerala CM promises action

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram/Guwahati, Sept 24: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan Saturday said the violence during the PFI-sponsored hartal in his state was "premeditated" and assured strict action against the culprits while his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma batted for banning the Islamist outfit, whom the NIA accused of encouraging youth to join terrorist groups including the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). In Maharashtra's Pune, "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans during a PFI protest drew the ire of the BJP, with a party MLA warning those who raised such slogans would not be spared. Days after the National Investigation Agency-led a multi-agency pan India raids against the Popular Front of India (PFI) for its alleged support to terror related activities, it said the documents seized during the nation-wide raids conducted at the outfit's offices and its leaders contain highly incriminating materials targeting prominent leaders of a particular community. In a remand report submitted before the NIA special court here seek-



ing custody of 10 people in connection with a case registered here, the agency alleged the radical Islamist outfit encouraged youth to join terrorist groups including LeT and Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). It said the PFI spreads "disaffection against India by wrongful interpretation of government policies to the particular section of people" to create hatred against the state and its machineries. "During the investigation, based on materials collected, it has been disclosed that the accused named in the FIR were actively involved in the organised crimes and unlawful activities repeatedly, to terrorise other religious sections of the society, besides creating fear in the mind of general public based on the larger conspiracy hatched among themselves and others," the report said.

Punjab Assembly session row escalates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh/New Delhi, Sept 24: The tussle between Punjab Governor Banwarilal Purohit and the state's AAP government over the convening of the Assembly session escalated further Saturday with the former seeking to remind Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann of his duties.

Purohit dashed off a fresh letter to Mann, saying the chief minister's legal advisors were not adequately briefing him. The governor also said it appears the chief minister was "too much angry" with him. As Punjab joins a growing list of non-BJP ruled states where the government and the governor have witnessed a face-off, the ruling AAP sharpened its attack against Purohit, alleging he is acting at the behest of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj also asked Purohit to be mindful of his limits and not cross the "Lakshman rekha". States like Kerala, West Bengal, Telangana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have in the recent past witnessed a governor versus state government battle over a range of issues. The row between the Raj Bhavan



States like Kerala, West Bengal, Telangana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have in the recent past witnessed a Governor versus state government battle over a range of issues

and the AAP government in Punjab escalated Friday after the governor sought a list on the legislative businesses to be taken up in the proposed Assembly session Tuesday, sparking a strong reaction from Mann, who said it was "too much". Purohit had earlier in the week come under fire after he had foiled the state government's plan to summon a special Assembly session on September 22 to bring a "confidence motion". Saturday, he wrote to the chief

minister said, "After reading your statements in today's newspapers, it appears to me that perhaps you are 'too much' angry with me." He further said, "I think your legal advisors are not briefing you adequately. Perhaps, your opinion about me will definitely change after reading the provisions of Article 167 and 168 of the Constitution, which I'm quoting for your ready reference." While Article 167 defines a chief minister's duties towards the gov-

ernor, Article 168 speaks about the composition of the state legislature. Friday, Mann had openly expressed his unhappiness over the governor's demand, saying his consent before any session of the legislature is a formality. "Gov (Governor)/Presi (President) consent before any session of Legislature is a formality. In 75 years, no Presi/Gov ever asked list of Legislative business before calling session. Legislative business is decided by BAC (Business Advisory Committee of the House) and Speaker," Mann had said in a tweet. "Next Gov will ask all speeches also to be approved by him. Its too much." AAP leader and Punjab Cabinet Minister Aman Arora said his government does not want any confrontation but it will be unacceptable to the ruling party if anyone tries to stop them from exercising their constitutional rights. Arora accused Purohit of cancelling the earlier special session scheduled for September 22 at the instance of the BJP-led Centre to make the party's "Operation Lotus" a success. The governor is acting at the behest of the BJP, he alleged addressing the media in Chandigarh.



Relatives and neighbours carry the body of Mohamed Usman, 15, who was killed by lightning Friday at Prayagraj, in Uttar Pradesh, Saturday. Hazardous weather killed at least 36 people in northern India over the past 24 hours, including 12 who died after being struck by lightning, officials said as they warned of more heavy downpours in the coming days

MEA warns against fake job rackets

The MEA said instances of 'fake job rackets' offering lucrative jobs in Thailand by dubious IT firms have come to the notice of Indian missions in Bangkok and Myanmar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: India Saturday advised its nationals looking for jobs abroad to verify the credentials of foreign employers and antecedents of recruiting agents in view of many Indians lured to Myanmar as part of a scam.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said instances of "fake job rackets" offering lucrative jobs in Thailand by dubious IT firms have come to the notice of Indian missions in Bangkok and Myanmar. "Instances of fake job rackets offering lucrative jobs to entice Indian youths for the posts of 'digital sales and marketing executives' in Thailand by dubious IT firms involved in call centre scam and cryptocurrency fraud have come to our notice recently by our missions in Bangkok and Myanmar," the MEA said. "The target groups are IT skilled youth who are duped in the name of lucrative data entry jobs in



Thailand through social media advertisements as well as by Dubai and India-based agents," it said in an advisory. The MEA said the victims are reportedly taken across the border illegally, mostly into Myanmar, and held captive to work under harsh conditions. It advised Indian nationals not to get "entrapped" in such fake job offers being floated through social media platforms or other sources. "Before travelling on tourist/visit visa for employment purposes, Indian nationals are advised to check/verify credentials of foreign employers through concerned Missions abroad, and antecedents of recruiting agents as well as any company before taking up any job offer," it said. The Indian embassy in Myanmar recently rescued over 30 Indians out of 60 who were trapped in that country's Myawaddy area after falling prey to an international racket promising jobs in Thailand. Myawaddy area in southeastern Myanmar's Kayin state bordering Thailand is not fully under the control of the Myanmar government and certain ethnic armed groups hold sway over it.

CONGRESS PREZ POLL Tharoor gets nomination form

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor Saturday got the nomination form for the AICC presidential poll collected from the party headquarters here with sources saying he is likely to file his papers on September 30. Tharoor's close aide Aalim Javeri collected the forms from the office of the party's central election au-

thority chairman Madhusudan Mistry on the first day of the start of the nomination process, all but confirming an electoral face-off for the top party post with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. The nomination form is likely to be filed by Tharoor on the last day of the nomination process on September 30 as the idea is to collect nomination-endorsing signatures from across the country, sources said. A total of 10 Pradesh



Congress Committee delegates are needed to endorse a candidate. After over two decades, the Congress is set to see a contest for

the post of party chief with Gehlot, who has announced his candidature, expected to take on Tharoor. Tharoor Monday had met Sonia Gandhi and expressed his intention to contest the poll. The Congress president conveyed she would stay "neutral" in the elections, according to sources. Sonia Gandhi had welcomed the idea of more people contesting the poll and dispelled the notion that there would be an "official candidate".

UP SEES OVER 36 DEATHS IN BIG CAT ATTACKS SINCE 2020

Deforestation stoking man-animal battles

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 24: Increased man-animal conflict in and around the three main tiger reserves in Uttar Pradesh have emerged as a major cause for concern in recent years. The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR), Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) and the upcoming Amangarh Tiger Reserve (ATR) have reported more than three dozen deaths due to attacks by the big cat family - two dozen killed in Dudhwa alone since 2020.

Wildlife experts say that deforestation which is reducing the forest size, expansion of human settlements and agriculture and overgrazing by livestock have led to increased man-animal conflicts. The sugarcane crops in these areas provide a safe haven for the big cats that hide among the crops and attack any 'intruder'. "The problem is that people cut down trees for firewood and extend the boundaries of human settlements in and around the tiger reserves. As the forest area gets shrunk, the big cats venture out and this leads to man-animal con-

flict. People also send their cattle to graze in the forest which again, attracts the wild animals," said Brij Kishore, a wildlife expert in Pilibhit. Farmers have approached the forest officials, seeking a safe zone. "There is no gap between human habitats and forest area in the plains. Often people fail to detect the presence of a wild animal till they come face to face in a potential man-animal conflict situation. Therefore, a safe zone is necessary. We plan to develop at least a 500-metre safe zone to separate villages and forest," said a forest official in Bijnor where the ATR is located. Pilibhit and Dudhwa are the two tiger reserves that are most susceptible to such conflicts. "The forest officials tell us not to move out alone but how do we earn a livelihood by staying at home? Whenever there is any incident, we are told to take care of ourselves and stay at home. The government should set up some fencing to ensure that wild animals do not venture out of the forest area," says Keshav Ram, a resident of Bhod Gautia village.



Two years ago, the World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India) had prepared a team of 'Bagh Mitra' to help tackle the increasing number of man-animal conflicts in the Terai region of Uttar Pradesh. A total of 50 Bagh Mitras were selected in Lakhimpur Kheri and 75 in Pilibhit district. They were trained in sensitizing residents, understanding tiger/leopard behaviour; pug marks identification and providing support in rescue operations. Anil, a Bagh Mitra from Mohammadi in Lakhimpur said, "We were trained in general tips and tools used in case a big cat strays close to a village. We have nearly 15 villages in the region. We can now identify carnivores through their pug marks and the steps to be taken to push the animal into the forest area. During training, we came to know that sugarcane tigers are actually beneficial for the farmers as they kill wild boars and nilgai that damage the crops." He stated that "Unlike forest tigers, the tigers living in sugarcane fields are getting used to the presence of

human beings and there are rare instances of them attacking the human population in the region." According to the all-India tiger estimation, the number of tigers has increased significantly to 65 in the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve while Lakhimpur Kheri has 107 tigers with 82 in forest areas and 25 straying into sugarcane fields in the Mohammadi range. In a significant move, the Uttar Pradesh government has made the man-animal conflict a 'State Declared Disaster' bringing such incidents under the ambit of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to ensure better coordination and relief during such mishaps in the state. This will enable faster monetary relief to the victims of attacks by wild animals. As per the provisions of the order, in cases of human death due to man-animal conflict, relief of Rs 5 lakh would be given to the family of the deceased while the disbursement of compensation for injury would be in accordance with the SDRF guidelines.

'EMBEZZLEMENT' OF ₹20CR IN JAL BOARD

Delhi LG orders FIR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 24: Delhi Lt. Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has directed the Chief Secretary to lodge an FIR against Jal Board officials and others for an alleged embezzlement of Rs 20 crore. "It is a unique case of corruption where embezzlement of funds was detected in 2019. Rather than recovering the money and punishing the guilty, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) extended the contract of the embezzlers by a year and also raised the service fee paid to them, apart from relaxing terms of contract," a source from the L-G's office said. The official alleged that in this case of corruption which amounted huge financial losses to the DJB, cash worth more than a whopping Rs 20 crore was collected as water bills from individuals, which went to a private bank account rather than the Board's bank account for several years.



'Pak zindabad' slogans during PFI protest in Pune

The PFI, formed in 2006, claims to strive for a neo-social movement ostensibly for the empowerment of marginalised sections of India, and is often accused by law enforcement agencies of promoting radical Islam



When asked about the pro-Pakistan slogans by the protesters, the city police said they were investigating the matter.

"We have already registered a case against the PFI members for unlawful assembly and we are looking into the slogans matter," said Sagar Patil, Deputy Commissioner of Police. An offence against more than 60 protesters has been registered against more than 60 protesters at the Bundgarden police station for organising the agitation without permission, for unlawful assembly and for blocking the road, another official said.

Taking to Twitter, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Nitesh Rane said those who raised pro-Pakistan slogans should remember that they will not be spared. He also demanded a ban on the PFI.

"To all those shouting Pakistan Zindabad slogans in support of PFI in Pune.. Chun chun ke marenge.. Itna yaad rakana!!!

#BanPfi," he said. Another BJP MLA Ram Satpute sought a strict action against those who raised slogans, and said the Pune police should arrest them.

In a massive crackdown on the PFI, multi-agency teams spearheaded by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) had, on Thursday, arrested 106 leaders and activists of the radical Islamic outfit in near-simultaneous raids in 15 states for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country.

Maharashtra and Karnataka accounted for 20 arrests each, Tamil Nadu (10), Assam (9), Uttar Pradesh (8), Andhra Pradesh (5), Madhya Pradesh (4), Puducherry and Delhi (3 each) and Rajasthan (2).

The PFI, formed in 2006, claims to strive for a neo-social movement ostensibly for the empowerment of marginalised sections of India, and is often accused by law enforcement agencies of promoting radical Islam.

Village opts for 'evening digital detox'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sangli, Sept 24: A village in Maharashtra's Sangli district is showing the way out of the clutter of electronic gadgets and social media platforms in modern life by getting its residents to go in for a 'digital detox' every evening.

The idea was mooted by Vijay Mohite, the sarpanch of Mohityanche Vadgaon village, and residents have been participating in this novel exercise enthusiastically. A siren goes off at a local temple at 7 pm, signalling people to put off their mobile phones and other gadgets and switch off their television sets, to indulge in reading books, studying and talking with one another, while the second alarm at 8.30 pm signals the end of the detox period.

Talking to PTI, sarpanch Mohite said the coronavirus-induced lockdown and the subsequent spell of online classes brought mobile phones into the hands of children for long hours even after school ended for the day, while television viewing hours of parents got extended.

"When physical classes resumed, teachers realised children had become lazy, did not want to read and write and were mostly engrossed in their mobile phones before and after the school hours. There weren't separate study rooms in the homes of the villagers. So I put forth the idea of a digital detox," he said.

"I had proposed a one-and-a-half hour period at first. Initially, there was hesitancy as people were wondering if it was possible to keep away from mobile and TV screens. On Independence Day, we convened a gram sabha of women and decided to purchase a siren. Then ASHA



Children in Mohityanche Vadgaon village study during the digital detox period between 7 pm to 8.30 pm in Sangli district of Maharashtra. PTI PHOTO

workers, anganwadi sevikas, gram panchayat employees, retired teachers went home to home to create awareness about digital detox," he added.

Mohityanche Vadgaon has home to freedom fighters, has won awards for cleanliness from the state and central governments and is known for maintaining social harmony, with the focus always being on developmental works, he said.

"At present, between 7 pm and 8.30 pm, people keep their mobile

At present, between 7 pm and 8.30 pm, people keep their mobile phones aside, switch off television sets and focus on reading, studying, writing and conversations. A ward-wise committee has been set up to monitor if the initiative is being implemented.

VIJAY MOHITE | SARPANCH

phones aside, switch off television sets and focus on reading, studying, writing and conversations. A ward-wise committee has been set up to monitor if the initiative is being implemented," the sarpanch explained.

Emphasising the need for such a move, student Gayatri Nikam said her peers and others were glued to phones and television sets during lockdown, even during

power outages, with hardly a glance at course books and other study material.

Another person said women in the village's households would be busy watching television serials and there wasn't much parental supervision over children.

"Now, from 7 pm to 8.30 pm, children study while parents read and write. There is no disturbance as everyone goes about such productive activities," the villager added.

Incidentally, earlier this month, some members of the Jain community in Raisen in Madhya Pradesh had observed a "digital fast" for 24 hours during the 'pariyushan parva' by keeping away from their smartphones and other electronic gadgets.

18 wildlife reserves, 7 proposed sanctuaries for Maha

Conservation Reserve Areas are declared for the purpose of protecting the habitats of flora and fauna in the territory adjacent to national parks or sanctuaries or connectors to such reserved areas



(62.10 square km), Surgana (86.28 square km), and Taharabad (122.45 sq.kms) - all in Nashik district.

Besides, there is Khareghat (97.45 square km), Chinchpada (93.91 square km) in Nandurbar district, Ghera Manikgad (53.25 square km), Alibaug (60.03 square km) in Raigad district, Gumtara (125.50 square km) in Thane district, Rajmachi (83.15 sq.kms) in Thane-Pune districts, Jawhar (118.28 square km), Dhamani (49.15 square km), Aherigarh (80.95 square km) in

Palghar district, Atpadi (9.48 square km) in Sangli district, and Ekara (102.99 square km) in Chandrapur district. The CM said that Conservation Reserve Areas (CRAs) are declared for the purpose of protecting the habitats of flora and fauna in the territory adjacent to national parks or sanctuaries or connectors to such reserved areas.

The proposed CRAs include Saptashringgad in Nashik district, Bhairavgad in Thane dis-

trict, Dhareshwar, Triketushwar, Kannad, Pedkagad in Aurangabad district and Kinwat in Nanded district, he said.

Mungantiwar proposed that a 'State Wildlife Fund' should be established for various conservation efforts, biodiversity projects and compensation to the locals, at the meeting attended by top officials like Venugopal Reddy, Dr. Y.L.P. Rao, Sunil Limaye, and others.

PayCM: Bommai says Cong resorting to dirty politics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 24: Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai Saturday termed the PayCM campaign by the Congress as 'dirty politics'.

"What they (Congress leaders) are doing is nothing but tarnishing names without having any morality. The Congress party is under the illusion of coming to power without having any concern for the people, but only by doing dirty politics. This will not happen in Karnataka as the government will take legal action against it," Bommai told reporters.

He asked the Congress leaders if they have any issue, they can come and talk to him directly, produce documents and then demand an inquiry. "But, they come to the House (Karnataka Assembly) without any evidence and proper homework. This shows the sharp decline in the values of Congress leaders," the Chief Minister said.

To a query that a pre-poll survey gave the BJP 95 to 100 seats in the 2023 Assembly polls, Bommai said every survey would come out with different numbers. "I know the pulse of people more than anybody else. I have been in politics for almost 35 years and I am confident that BJP will come back to power next year," he said.



Regarding the Cabinet expansion, Bommai said it would be done after getting the nod from the high command. On the raids on PFI offices and office-bearers in the state, he said both NIA and Karnataka police have taken suitable action regarding the Popular Front of India's activities in the state. Earlier, State Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar alleged that the Congress launched the 'PayCM' targeting Bommai because the party cannot tolerate a Chief Minister from

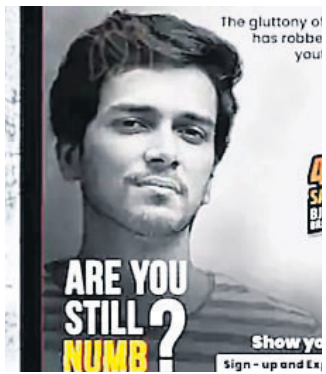
the major Lingayat community.

Speaking to reporters in Chitradurga, Sudhakar said, "Whoever gives good governance, especially if there are strong Lingayat chief ministers, they (Congress) drag them out. People of the State are taking note of it."

"Congress has always done that. They always target major community. This is not the first time. They did not spare Kengal Hanumanthaiah, the second chief minister of the state. Whom did they spare?" the Minister added.

Actor warns of legal action against Cong for illegally using his image

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government in Karnataka on the issue of corruption, following, 40 per cent commission charge by the state contractors' association in public works.

Congress sources said the post has been removed following the tweet and it is being looked into internally as to how it was posted.

The actor who has appeared in some of the TV commercials, has acted in H.I.T The First Case starring Rajkumar Rao and a couple of other movies.

When soldiers of Mysore Lancers liberated Haifa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 24: Descendants of the soldiers of Mysore Lancers remember the contributions of their elders in liberating the Israeli city of Haifa and also rescuing Abdul Baha, the spiritual leader of the Baha'i community, in 1918.

Commemorating these events, September 23 is celebrated as Haifa Day. Many people in Bangalore may not know that there is a 'Mysore Lancers Haifa Memorial' in the city, which is located near RT Nagar.

The memorial was a tribute to those brave soldiers from Mysore Lancers (a personal force of the then Maharaja of Mysuru, Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar) who showed exemplary bravery in freeing the city of Haifa from the Ottoman empire exactly 104 years ago.

Allied powers in World War-I, Mysore Lancers along with the Jodhpur Cavalry and British's 15th Imperial Cavalry Brigade soldiers charged on Turkish positions in and around the city of Haifa, which is now in Israel, a member of the Mysore royal family said.



"The Indian soldiers were armed only with lances and swords while the Turks were armed with artillery and machine guns," a member of the Urs family told PTI.

According to him, World War-I also paved the way for the British 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade to defeat the Ottoman and German soldiers and to liberate a strategically

important town of Damascus, Jerusalem, Tigris, Baghdad, Mesopotamia and Kut-al-amara. "A day's delay, Ottoman and Germans would have executed

Abdul Baha. This act has made the Baha'i community globally to be indebted to Mysore Lancers and Mysore Maharaja Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar," he said.

Anupama Singh, whose father-in-law's brother Parashuram Singh took part in the liberation of Haifa, said the Mysore Lancers which was created in 1892, had played a significant role in defeating the enemies and led Abdul Baha out of captivity.

"Parashuram Singh was badly injured in the battle of Haifa. He was mistaken as dead and thrown in the pile of bodies. A slight movement in his hand gave indication to the fellow members that he was alive. He was then dragged and brought out," Singh said.

According to her, Parashuram narrated to the family after returning home that he had the photograph of their family Goddess Chamundi Devi in his pocket throughout the battle.

The Mysore Lancers' Heritage Foundation organised an event Friday at the Haifa Memorial to recall the contribution of Mysore Lancers.

international

of the day quote

If you (rich nations) go to sleep right now and this (Covid-19) wave hits us in three months... God - blood on your hands

BRUCE AYLRARD | SENIOR ADVISER, WHO

Putin was pushed by the Russian people, by his party, by his ministers to come up with this special operation

SILVIO BERLUSCONI | FORMER PM, ITALY

Turkey's leadership seems to have a strange fixation with my country. They threaten that Turkey will come at night, if it so decides. This is the language of an aggressor

KYRIAKOS MITSO TAKIS | PM, GREECE

SHORT TAKES

Braverman wins 1st Elizabeth II award

London: Britain's Indian-origin Home Secretary Suella Braverman has been named winner of the first-ever Queen Elizabeth II Woman of the Year award at a ceremony in London. The 42-year-old barrister, who was appointed to the Cabinet earlier this month by British Prime Minister Liz Truss, said it was the "honour of her life" to take on the new role at the Asian Achievers Awards (AAA) 2022 ceremony, dedicated to the memory of the late monarch who passed away recently.

US oust Afghan from MNNA ally

Washington: US President Joe Biden has terminated the designation of Afghanistan as a major non-NATO ally, more than a year after the Taliban captured power in Kabul. In 2012, the United States named Afghanistan a major non-NATO (MNNA) ally, which cleared the way for the two countries to maintain a defence and economic relationship. The designation gave several facilities and concessions to Afghanistan in terms of defence and security-related assistance and equipment.

Typhoon batters Japan; 2 killed

Tokyo: Two people were killed and tens of thousands of households left without power after typhoon Talas lashed Japan's Shizuoka prefecture with heavy rain Saturday. A man in his 40s died after his house was hit by a landslide in Kakegawa, while a 29-year-old man was found dead after his car plunged into a reservoir. Xinhua news agency quoted Kyodo News as saying in a report. The 15th typhoon of the season, which came just a week after a powerful typhoon battered the country's southwest, saw winds at its centre blowing at about 65 kph, with peak gusts of about 90 kph.

89 dead as boat capsizes in Syria

Damascus: At least 89 people died from a boat that sank off the Syrian coast, the Syrian Health Ministry said. Twenty others have been rescued and sent for medical treatment at the al-Basel hospital in the Syrian coastal city of Tartous after the boat sank in the Syrian waters, Health Minister Hassan al-Ghabbash said in a statement Friday. The boat set off from Lebanon Tuesday carrying illegal migrants of various nationalities to "unknown destinations," Syrian General Director of Sea Ports Samer Kobrosly said, citing testimonies from the survivors.



Certainly it's a dangerous moment because the Russian army has been pushed into a corner, and Putin's reaction - threatening using nuclear arms - it's very bad

JOSEP BORRELL | FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF, EU

KING CHARLES III TAKES CHARGE

King Charles III has been pictured taking up his new state duties in Buckingham Palace for the first time. In the image the monarch is seen looking into his official red box which contains documents from the British Government and the Commonwealth



IRAN ON EDGE

Anti-hijab protests flare up

The unrest comes at a particularly sensitive time for the leadership, as the Iranian economy remains mired in a crisis largely caused by US sanctions over its nuclear programme



AT LEAST 50 KILLED IN PROTEST CRACKDOWN
OVER 700 PROTESTERS HELD, INCLUDING 60 WOMEN
THE UNREST HAS SPREAD TO 80 TOWNS AND CITIES

Tehran, Sept 24: Protests flared in Iran for an eighth straight night Friday over the death of a young woman arrested by the morality police, verified social media posts showed, hours after counter-demonstrations mobilised by authorities. At least 50 people have been killed by security forces in the anti-government protests, Iran Human Rights, an Oslo-based organisation, said - more than three times the official death count of 17, which includes five security personnel. Iranian police in just one province have arrested over 700 people during more than a week of protests following the death of a young woman in custody, Tasnim news agency reported Saturday. General Azizollah Maleki, police chief of Guilan province, announced "the arrest of 739 rioters including 60 women", the Iranian media outlet said.

The street violence, which IHR says has spread to 80 towns and cities, was triggered by the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurd who had spent three days in a coma after being detained by the morality police in Tehran. Verified footage spread on social media showed large crowds of protesters gathering in several neighbourhoods of the capital Tehran after dark, just hours after the government-backed rallies dispersed. Iran has imposed tough restrictions on the use of the internet in a bid to hamper protesters gathering and stop the flow of images of the backlash from reaching the outside world. US expands internet services

The United States announced Friday it was easing export restrictions on Iran to expand internet services, days after SpaceX owner Elon Musk said he would seek an exemption from sanctions to offer his company's Starlink satellite service in the Islamic republic. The new measures will "help counter the Iranian government's efforts to surveil and censor its citizens," said Secretary of State Antony Blinken. "It is clear that the Iranian government is afraid of its own people," he added. On Friday, thousands took to the streets in support of the hijab at government-backed counter rallies in Tehran and other cities. "The great demonstration of the Iranian people condemning the conspirators and the sacrilegious against religion took place today," Iran's Mehr news agency said. State television broadcast footage of pro-hijab demonstrators in central Tehran, many of them men but also women dressed in black chadors. Some women demonstrators have defiantly taken off their hijabs and burned them in bonfires or symbolically cut their hair before cheering crowds, video footage spread virally on social media has shown. Iranian law requires all women to wear a head covering and loose-fitting clothing while in public places. The rule has been enforced since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and it is obligatory for every woman in the country.

Russia holds votes in occupied Ukraine

Ukraine, Western leaders and the United Nations condemned the votes as an illegitimate precursor to illegal annexation

REUTERS

Kyiv, Sept 24: Russia launched referendums Friday aimed at annexing four occupied regions of Ukraine, drawing condemnation from Kyiv and Western nations who dismissed the votes as a sham and pledged not to recognise their results. Ukrainian officials said people were banned from leaving some occupied areas until the four-day vote was over, armed groups were going into homes, and employees were threatened with the sack if they did not participate. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a nightly address that the votes would be "unequivocally condemned" by the world, along with the mobilisation Russia began this week, including in Crimea and other areas of Ukraine occupied by Russia. The votes on becoming part of Russia were hastily-organised after Ukraine recaptured large swathes of the northeast in a counter-offensive earlier this month. With Russian President Vladimir Putin also announcing a military draft this week to enlist 300,000 troops to fight in Ukraine, the Kremlin appears to be trying to regain the upper hand in the grinding conflict since its February 24 invasion.



Zelenskyy also addressed people in parts of Ukraine occupied by Russia, and said they should resist efforts to mobilise them to fight. "Hide from Russian mobilisation in any way you can. Avoid draft orders. Try to move to the territory of free Ukraine," he said, urging those who did end up in the Russian armed forces to "sabotage," "interfere" and pass on intelligence to Ukraine. By incorporating the four areas, Moscow could portray attacks to re-take them as an attack on Russia itself - potentially using that to justify even a nuclear response. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the military alliance would step up support for Ukraine in response to the referendums. "We will never recognise these referenda which appear to be a step toward Russian annexation and we will never recognise purported annexation if it occurs," added the Group of Seven leading industrial democracies.

India cites 26/11 in stinger to Sharif's 'peace' remark at UN



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Sept 24: In a strong response to Pakistan, India has said in the UN General Assembly that a country that claims to seek peace with its neighbours would never sponsor cross-border terrorism nor would it shelter planners of the horrific Mumbai terrorist attack, disclosing their existence only under pressure from the global community. India exercised the Right of Reply in the UN General Assembly on Friday to respond sharply to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who had raked up the issue of Jammu and Kashmir during his address to the high-level General Debate earlier in the day. "It is regrettable that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has chosen

the platform of this august assembly to make false accusations against India." First Secretary in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN Mijito Vinito said in the Right of Reply. "He has done so to obfuscate misdeeds in his own country and to justify actions against India that the world considers unacceptable," the young Indian diplomat said. In his address, Sharif reiterated that Pakistan wants to have peace with India but added that long-lasting, enduring peace can only be "insured and guaranteed" through a just and fair solution to the issue of Kashmir under the UN Charter and Security Council resolutions. India responded that a "polity that claims it seeks peace with its neighbours would never sponsor

cross-border terrorism, nor would it shelter planners of the horrific Mumbai terrorist attack, disclosing their existence only under pressure from the international community." Vinito said such a country would not make unjustified and untenable territorial claims against neighbours, it would not covet their lands and seek to illegally integrate them with its own. "But it is not just about the neighbourhood that we have heard false claims today. It is about human rights, about minority rights and about basic decencies," he said. "When young women in the thousands from the minority community are abducted as an SoP (Standard Operating Procedure) what can we conclude about the underlying mindset?" he added. India asserted that the desire for peace, security and progress in the Indian subcontinent is real. It is also widely shared and it can be realised. "That will surely happen when cross-border terrorism ceases, when governments come clean with the international community and with their own people. When minorities are not persecuted and not least, when we recognise these realities before this Assembly." Pakistan then exercised its Right of Reply in response to the comments by India.



RAVAGED BY FIONA: A girl points out damage as she and her parents walk around their neighbourhood to check out the damage following the passing of Hurricane Fiona, later downgraded to a post-tropical storm, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Interference won't be tolerated: China on Taiwan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

United Nations, Sept 24: China underscored its commitment Saturday to its claim to Taiwan, telling world leaders that anyone who gets in the way of its determination to reunify with the self-governing island would be "crushed by the wheels of history." The language was forceful but, for Chinese leadership, well within the realm of normal.

"Only when China is fully reunified can there be true peace across the Taiwan Strait," Wang Yi, China's foreign minister, said at the UN General Assembly. He said Beijing would "take the most forceful steps to oppose external interference." China vehemently defends its claim on Taiwan, which separated from the mainland after a 1949 civil war and now functions with its own government. A recent visit by the speaker of the US House of

Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, markedly ratcheted up tensions between Washington and Beijing. The language, while pointed, reflected China's usual vehemence about the island; its claim rarely goes unmentioned in major international speeches. Taiwan is a core issue of China policy, and Wang's appearance - instead of his boss, Chinese leader Xi Jinping - was a signal that the speech was not necessarily a major one.

Why Japan is divided over Shinzo Abe's state funeral

AS PER REPORTS, ABE'S FUNERAL WILL COST MORE THAN QUEEN ELIZABETH'S

REUTERS

Tokyo, Sept 24: A lavish, taxpayer-funded funeral for Japanese former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has triggered a public backlash against the ruling party he led for years. Some opposition lawmakers are boycotting Tuesday's state funeral and a man set himself alight in an apparent protest against the \$12 million event, to be attended by foreign dignitaries including US Vice President Kamala Harris and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Here is what you need to know about why the funeral for Abe - Japan's divisive but longest-serving premier - has become a lightning

rod for public anger. WHY ARE PEOPLE OPPOSED? Opposition has largely been fuelled by revelations of links Abe and his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had to the Unification Church, which became widely known after he was gunned down on the campaign trail in July. The suspect in the shooting accused Abe of promoting the group, which critics call a cult due to its mass weddings and aggressive fund-raising tactics. The suspect said the church had impoverished his family, according to police. Since then an investigation by the LDP has concluded that 179 of its 379 lawmakers had interacted with the church. The rising cost of the funeral, which the government estimates at 1.65 billion yen (\$11.5 million), has added fuel to the fire at a time of economic hardship for many. Japan's last fully state-funded funeral for a prime minister was for Shigeru Yoshida in 1967. Subsequent ones have been paid for



by both the state and the LDP. HOW HAS OPINION SHIFTED? Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced his intention to host the state funeral six days after Abe was slain. At the time, the public was split in its support for the event, polls showed. But as evidence of links be-



tween the LDP and the Unification Church mounted and the estimated costs of the funeral rose, opinion shifted. Some 62% of respondents in a recent poll by the Mainichi newspaper opposed the funeral, citing reasons such as Abe not being worthy of the honour and the high price tag.

a man in his 70s was hospitalised after setting himself on fire near the prime minister's residence Wednesday in an apparent protest against the funeral, local media reported. WHAT HAS THE GOVERNMENT SAID? Kishida has apologised and pledged to win back public trust by asking LDP lawmakers to sever ties with the Unification Church. He has acknowledged the funeral lacks overwhelming public support but has repeatedly sought to justify his decision. He has praised Abe's domestic and diplomatic contributions as well as his legacy of his lengthy tenure as reasons why a state funeral is warranted. During his two stints in office, from 2006 to 2007 and 2012 to 2020, Abe's nationalist rhetoric and muscular defence policy riled many Japanese wary of any change to the country's pacifist constitution drawn up after World War Two.

Illegal wildlife trade and poaching has reached alarming levels. The global human population is increasing and because illegal wildlife trade is so financially lucrative, demand for animals and their parts has greatly increased. In India, poachers basically target tigers, leopards, rhinos and a number of exotic birds and reptiles. There is a need to spread awareness about the devastating effects of poaching to protect endangered animals. Scores of rare animals have been vanishing. Poaching not only affects animals but also the entire ecosystem



LIVE & LET LIVE

As many as 49 elephants were killed across the country by hunters in 2021, with law-enforcement agencies arresting 77 accused, a Central government agency said in response to an RTI query. The maximum killings were recorded in Assam (9) followed by West Bengal, Odisha and Tamil Nadu (8 each), Karnataka and Uttarakhand (3 each), the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) said.

49 ELEPHANTS KILLED IN 2021

Both Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh logged two cases of elephant killings while Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra had one case each, it added. Noida-based social and animal rights activist Ranjan Tomar had sought the information from the WCCB, which functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFF) under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. In terms of arrests related to the killings of elephants, the maximum 17 people were held in Tamil Nadu followed by 15

in Assam, 13 in Odisha, 11 in West Bengal, according to the reply. Five people were held in Kerala, four each in Uttarakhand and Bihar, three in Maharashtra, two each in Meghalaya and Rajasthan and one in Karnataka, it added. Expressing concern over the poaching situation, Ranjan said there was a need to ensure protection of the elephants in their natural habitat and hoped to raise awareness about it. Elephants play a significant role in expansion of forests and green cover. They walk for several kilometres a day on an average, feeding on leaves and fruits in the wild. During the walk, they leave behind their dung which contains seeds of plants and trees. It's a distribution process of seeds which helps expand the green cover, he said.

According to a 2017 census by Project Elephant, India has the largest number of wild Asian elephants, estimated around 30,000 about 60 per cent of the species' global population. However, hundreds of elephants have also been killed over the years due to reasons like human-animal conflict, loss of natural habitat, and by hunters who kill the species for ivory or meat.



CAUSES

- » Lax and broken regulation systems
- » Highly-priced and valued animal parts, products, and pets
- » Unproven religious, aphrodisiac, and medical values
- » Food and exotic dishes for the elite
- » Organised criminal networks
- » Habitat loss, logging, and expansion of human settlement areas

DEVASTATING EFFECTS

- » It leads to extinction
- » It leads to more human deaths
- » Compounds criminal network activities and increase the global health risk
- » An imbalance in the ecosystem
- » Decreased tourist action

MP records death of 27 big cats in 2022, highest in country

SAVING THE WILD

Madhya Pradesh, which is known as the 'tiger state' of India, has also earned the dubious distinction of accounting for the highest number of deaths of these majestic striped felines. Till July 15 this year, of the total number of 74 tiger deaths registered in the country, Madhya Pradesh alone accounted for 27 of them - highest for any state during this period, the data published by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) on its website has revealed. The centrally located state is followed on this front by Maharashtra, which registered 15 deaths during the period. Karnataka comes next with 11 fatalities, Assam five, Kerala and Rajasthan four each, Uttar Pradesh three, Andhra Pradesh two, Bihar, Odisha and Chhattisgarh one each, among other states, as per the NTCA figures. According to officials, territorial fights, old age, ailments, poaching and electrocution are some of the prominent reasons for their deaths. Madhya Pradesh had re-

gained the coveted tag of being the 'tiger state' of the country in the 2018 census. As per the All-India Tiger Estimation Report 2018, the state was home to 526 tigers, the highest for any state in the country. There are six tiger reserves in the state, namely Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Satpura, Panna and Sanjay Dubri. Of the 27 tiger deaths this year, nine were males and eight females. In other cases, the gender of the animals was not mentioned in the data. The deceased included adults, sub-adults and cubs. Tigers live, breed and hunt in forests and they are at the top of the food chain. As apex predators, their presence indicates a healthy and broader ecosystem. Expressing concern over the rising number of tiger deaths, wildlife enthusiast and Right to Information (RTI) activist Ajay Dube said, in Panna, no tigers were found about 10 years

back. After that, the NTCA advised the states to set up their own Special Tiger Protection Forces (STPFs) for safeguarding the big cats, especially from poachers. The Centre has made budgetary provisions for supporting the STPFs, but the MP government has so far not constituted any such force due to its own vested interests, he alleged. If established, this force will check, besides poaching, other activities like illegal mining and felling of trees in the forest areas, he said.



SOLUTIONS

- » Engage the public
- » Recruit more wildlife scouts
- » Make tougher laws
- » Give the animals a sanctuary
- » Put more trackers and sensors
- » Outlaw the purchase and sale of animal parts and products



K9 dog squad tracking down poachers in Assam

A trained dog squad in Assam, billed as the first of its kind in the country, is helping to track poachers in the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries of the state and assist forest security personnel in their conservation efforts. The nation's first dog squad for wildlife crimes was set up in Assam under the initiative of biodiversity organization 'Aranyak' in 2011 with one male Belgian Malinois named Zorba. The dog squad known as the 'K9 unit' has over the years evolved into a "very efficient and well-trained one" in tracking down wildlife crimes, said Bibhab Talukdar, the secretary general of the body which has undertaken the effort. The squad, set up in 2011 by the biodiversity organisation 'Aranyak' with just one Belgian Malinois, now has seven dogs

with more than one handler for each of them. Two other dogs are undergoing training here, Talukdar said. Zorba, the first canine of the squad, is credited with helping to nab 60 poachers, 50 of them in Kaziranga National Park, which is known globally for its one-horned rhinos. The dog had served mostly in KNP from 2012 till his retirement from service in 2019. On Independence Day that year he was honoured with a traditional 'gamosa' and a citation. He was also deployed on various occasions in other national parks. One incident of his expertise in tracking poachers stands out in Orang National Park in the state. He had then given vital clues from the scene of crime leading to the identification of the suspect's house outside the Park. Later the accused was arrested by forest and police officers, Talukdar said.

Principal chief conservator of forest and head of forest force M K Yadava said that he was very fortunate to have worked with Zorba at Kaziranga. "Those were difficult days as poaching was at its height and the K9 team made so much difference in dealing with wildlife crimes," he said. Zorba's lone handler Anil Das said that he is enjoying a retired life at the K9 camp here with no duty in harsh field conditions and better health care. It is now the turn of his successors - Leon, Jubi and Emy to keep guard in the different ranges of Kaziranga.



Poaching increased during lockdown

Incidents of wildlife poaching in India increased during the Covid-19 lockdown with 88 animals being killed for meat and trade during this time compared to 35 in the pre-lockdown days in February a new study has revealed. The study conducted by TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring network and an NGO working globally on trade in wild animals, said that between February 10 and 22, the number of animal poaching incidents was 35 while during the lockdown between March 23 and May 3, the number escalated to 88. TRAFFIC, which operates as a programme division of the WWF India, found a significant increase in reported poaching of wild animals in India during the lockdown period that is not restricted to any geographical region or state or to any specific wildlife area. Reported poaching incidents rose from 35 to 88, including nine leopards being killed during the lockdown compared to four killed

in the pre-lockdown period, said the report 'Indian wildlife amidst the COVID-19 crisis: An analysis of poaching and illegal wildlife trade trends.' "Reports of poaching incidences for consumption and local trade have more than doubled during lockdown although there was no evidence of stockpiling of wildlife products for future trade," it said. The study indicates that despite consistent efforts by law enforcement agencies, wild animal populations in India were under additional threat during the lockdown period. Ravi Singh, CEO, WWF-India said, "If poaching of ungulates and small animals remains unchecked it will lead to depletion of prey base for big cats like tigers and leopards and a depletion of the ecosystems. This in turn will lead to higher incidences of human-wildlife conflicts and will undermine the significant successes that India has achieved in the field of wildlife conservation". REUTERS/PTI



business

of the day quote

We are in the process of evaluating various sources of finance for our investment plan of ₹45-50 crores to set up a greenfield manufacturing unit

CHANDRAKANT P. PATEL | CMD, ICE MAKE REFRIGERATION

As consumers and citizens, we ask the government to do various things, but it is actually up to us how we tackle counterfeits and smuggled goods. The broader issue is consumer mindset

BIBEK DEBROY | CHAIRMAN, ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL TO PM

Given the many factors contributing to slower growth - persistent inflation, rising interest rates, ongoing supply chain issues, a potential energy crisis in Europe, and the conflict in Ukraine - it's not surprising that the majority of executives believe a recession is imminent

TONY OLIVET | VC, WORLDWIDE C-SUITE

SHORT TAKES

BYJU's clears dues to acquire Aakash

New Delhi: Edtech major BYJU's has finally paid the remaining dues of nearly ₹1,983 crore (over \$245 million) to global VC firm Blackstone in the \$1 billion acquisition of Aakash Educational Services. People close to the development told IANS that BYJU's paid the remaining dues to Blackstone within the extended deadline that ended September 23. According to BYJU's financial report FY21, "as per the terms of the agreement for acquisition of Aakash Educational Services, consideration to the extent of ₹1,983 crore was due to be paid by the company to the sellers in June, 2022. This has been deferred to September 23, 2022". Blackstone has nearly 38 per cent stake in Aakash and BYJU's has paid nearly 75 per cent of the Aakash acquisition amount.

BPCL signs pact with Petrobras

New Delhi: State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) Saturday said it has signed an agreement with Brazilian national oil company Petrobras for sourcing crude oil from the Latin American nation as part of plans to diversify its sourcing needs. BPCL imports a large volume of crude oil which is turned into fuel such as petrol and diesel at its three oil refineries at Mumbai, Bina in Madhya Pradesh and Kochi in Kerala. The firm, which gets majority of its supplies from west Asian nations such as Iraq and Saudi Arabia, is looking to diversify its sources of supply in an attempt to cut down reliance on any particular region. Company chairman and managing director Arun Kumar Singh and Petrobras CEO Cao Paes de Andrade signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Brazil, BPCL said in a statement.

Britannia names Kohli as CEO

Bangalore: Britannia Industries, the maker of the popular Good Day and Tiger biscuits, said Friday it has appointed Rajneet Kohli as its chief executive officer, effective September 26. Kohli is currently president and chief business officer at Domino's India, run by food service company Jubilant FoodWorks. He had also held senior leadership roles in Asian Paints Ltd and Coca-Cola Co. His appointment to what is reportedly a newly created CEO role at Britannia comes at a time when the industry is grappling with margin concerns amid soaring inflation.



The need for energy that is clean, secure, reliable, and affordable has never been greater

JOHN KERRY | SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY FOR CLIMATE, US

TOYOTA TO CLOSE RUSSIAN FACTORY

Japan's Toyota Motor Corp said that it has decided to end vehicle production in Russia due to the interruption in supplies of key materials and parts. Toyota had suspended production in St Petersburg in March due to supply chain problems, and stopped importing to Russia



EIGHT YEARS OF MAKE IN INDIA

FDI nearly doubles to \$83 billion YoY

To attract foreign investments, the government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy wherein most sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route, said Ministry of Commerce and Industry



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 24: Annual Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) nearly doubled to \$83 billion as 'Make in India', the flagship scheme of the government to facilitate investment and foster innovation, completed eight years. As per the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, FDI inflows stood at \$45.15 billion in 2014-2015. The year 2021-22 recorded the highest ever FDI at \$83.6 billion. FDI equity inflows in India dipped by 6 per cent to \$16.6 billion during April-June period of the current fiscal. According to the ministry, to attract foreign investments, the government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy wherein most sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route. "The year 2021-22 recorded the highest ever FDI at \$83.6 billion. This FDI has come from 101 countries, which has been invested across 31 states and UTs and 57 sectors in the country. On the back of economic reforms and 'Ease of Doing

- Highest ever FDI recorded this year
- FDI inflows stood at \$45.15bn in 2014-15
- FDI equity inflows dipped by 6% to \$16.6bn during April-June
- India on track to attract \$100bn FDI in the current financial year

Business' in recent years, India is on track to attract \$100 billion FDI in the current financial year," the ministry said Saturday. It said the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme across 14 key manufacturing sectors was launched in 2020-21 as a big boost to the Make in India initiative. The PLI scheme incentivises domestic production in strategic growth sectors where India has comparative advantage. This includes strengthening domestic supply chains, making Indian industries more competitive and boosting the export potential. The

PLI scheme is expected to generate significant gains for production and employment, with benefits extending to the MSME eco-system. Recognising the importance of semiconductors in the world economy, the government has launched a \$10 billion incentive scheme to build a semiconductor, display and design ecosystem in India. Complemented by sincere efforts of domestic toy manufacturers, the growth of the Indian toy industry has been remarkable in less than two years despite the Covid-19 pandemic. The import of toys in FY21-22 reduced by 70 per cent to ₹777.8 crore. There has also been a distinct improvement in the quality of toys in the domestic market. Simultaneously, the efforts of the industry have led to an export of toys worth ₹2,601.5 crore in FY21-22, which is an increase of more than 61 per cent over ₹1,612 crore in FY18-19. India's toy export registered tremendous growth of 636 per cent in April-August 2022 over the same period in 2013, said the ministry.

Fisker to sell electric SUV in India with view to local production

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 24: US startup Fisker Inc will begin selling its Ocean electric sport-utility vehicle (SUV) in India next July and could begin manufacturing its cars locally within a few years, the company's chief executive officer told Reuters. Sales of electric cars in India will gather pace by 2025-26, Henrik Fisker said in an interview in New Delhi, adding that the company wants to secure a first-mover advantage. "Ultimately, India will go full electric. It may not go as fast as the US, China or Europe, but we want to be one of the first ones to come in here," Fisker said. Electric cars currently make up just 1% of India's roughly 3 million annual car sales, with insufficient charging infrastructure and high battery costs partly to blame for the slow shift. Fisker rival Tesla Inc put its India entry plans on hold after failing to secure a lower import tariff for its cars. Like Fisker, it first wanted to import vehicles to test the market before committing to local manufacturing. While Fisker admitted it is "very expensive" to import vehicles into India, the company wants to use the Ocean to build its brand, with its premium pricing likely to limit numbers, he said. The Ocean retails at around \$37,500 in the United States but importing it to India would add logistics costs and a 100% import tax. That would put it out of reach of most buyers in a market where the bulk of cars sold are priced under \$15,000. "Ultimately, if you want to have somewhat of a larger volume in India, you almost have to start building a vehicle here or at least do some assembly," Fisker said.

₹ has held back very well among peers against \$

The war pushed up commodity prices, leading to a record surge in inflation in the developed world, which have resulted in steep rate hikes by the US Fed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Sept 24: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Saturday said the rupee has "held back very well" when compared to other currencies against the US Dollar. The Reserve Bank and the Finance Ministry are keeping a very close watch over the developments, the finance minister told reporters after the domestic currency sunk to a lifetime low against the greenback. "If any one currency which has held its own and did not get into fluctuation or volatility as much as other currencies it is the Indian rupee. We have held back very well," she told reporters here on the final day of her three-day visit to Pune district which is a stronghold of NCP chief Sharad Pawar. She also asked a reporter to do a study on how the other currencies are behaving against the US dollar in the latest round of depreciation. According to experts, the latest round of depreciation is triggered by adverse global developments starting with the geopolitical tensions triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine earlier this year. The rupee slumped 30 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 81.09



DEPRECIATING RUPEE

Rupee slumped 30 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 81.09 against the US dollar Friday. It plunged by 83 paise -- its biggest single-day loss in nearly seven months -- to close at 80.79 Thursday against the US dollar on Friday, weighed down by the strong American currency overseas and risk-off sentiment among investors. On 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. The RBI has been deploying the dollar reserves to defend the currency and has exhausted billions of dollars of currency assets in the fight. There have also been policy moves to attract more deposits from the diaspora through further incentives and other such attempts to stem the fall.

BIZ BUZZ



Trupti Motors, Patia Branch Saturday launched the all new Tata Nexon Jet edition in the presence of Sonny Mohapatra, Chief Manager, SBI, Vani Vihar and Ranjan Mohapatra, CEO, Trupti Motors and other dignitaries

Tanishq unveils festive collection 'Alekhya'

Bhubaneswar: Tanishq, India's largest jewellery retail brand from the house of Tata, has announced the launch of its festive collection 'Alekhya'. In a bid to reminisce the beauty of age-old, rich Indian art forms as the magnificent 'Alekhya' collection takes its inspiration from the most notable miniature and Pichwai paintings. The stunning festive collection rekindles royal splendor and displays the inspiration from Indian paintings which have been designed into stunning contemporary jewellery pieces. This year's festive collection is one-of-a-kind as it exudes intricate craftsmanship and vivid hues, much like the ancient art form. The beauty of this collection lies in its inspiration from intricate paintings of Pichwai that depict tales from Lord Krishna's life and miniature paintings - a notable tradition of Mughal, Rajasthani & Pahari courts. The exquisite collection features stunning designs that are inspired by stylized flora, detailed ornamentation, intricate strokes, lotus pods, vibrant colours and ornate frames of these paintings. Speaking on the launch of the festive collection, Abhishek Rastogi, Head of Design, Titan Company Limited, said "It's always been our endeavour to bring to our customers beautifully designed products crafted to perfection. Our latest festive edit, Alekhya is beautifully crafted to elevate every moment of your glorious celebrations. Every piece in this collection, stands as an ode to the woman of today - celebrating her as the author of her own story, as the 'karigar' of her life. The new collection features resplendent neckwear, earrings and handcrafted jewellery pieces perfect for women who exude grace. On behalf of Tanishq, we wish all our customers a very happy and prosperous festive season." The price range for products under Alekhya collection starts at ₹70,000 onwards.



Saregama Carvaan Mobile launched in Bhubaneswar

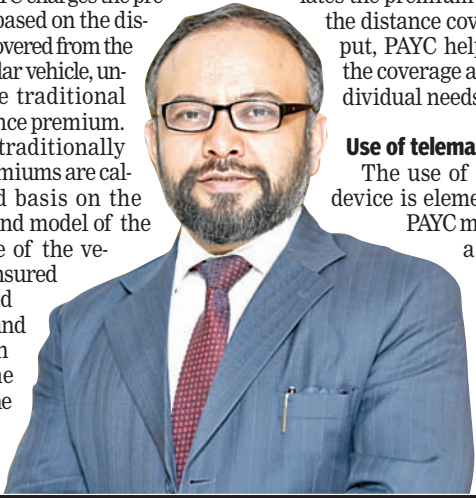
Bhubaneswar: Saregama, a leading player in the Indian music industry with decades of expertise, has launched its Saregama Carvaan Mobile in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It is the first feature phone of the country with 1500 pre-loaded evergreen songs, which will allow music lovers of the capital to enjoy music of legendary artists like Lata Mangeskar, Asha Bhonsle and Kishore Kumar. Customers can enjoy all songs without any internet connectivity and any advertisement breaks that usually spoil the fun of the songs. It works both as a feature phone and as a music companion for users. The dignitaries present at the launch event were Saroj Samal, ZSM, East and North East; Bikram Patra, ASM, Odisha; Nakula Subudhi, Proprietor, Laxmi Mobile and Bhimsen Patra, Distributor, Odisha. The mobile comes in two variants, one with 1.8-inch screen and other with 2.4 inch screen. Saregama Carvaan Mobile 1.8-inch variant is priced at ₹1,999 and 2.4 inch variant costs ₹2,499 and both models come in three colours namely classic black, emerald green and royal blue.



Opt for usage-base motor insurance and reduce your premium

Today, the general insurance industry is going through interesting times, and insurers are extensively using advanced technologies and analytics to offer seamless solutions and better products and services to their customers. Gone are the days when traditional 'one-size fits all,' products were a norm in the insurance space; today insurers are designing customised products that meet the individual requirements of their customers. In line with this streak of innovative products and services, the insurance industry has come out with a unique feature called, 'pay as you consume,' (PAYC) for motor insurance. While the PAYC model is already being widely used in many developed countries, it is a relatively very new concept in the Indian market. Let us understand more about this feature. PAYC is an add-on cover that you can buy under own damage section of your motor insurance policy. PAYC gives the liberty to choose coverage based on the customer's choice and usage of the vehicle; the premium is calculated as per the distance covered and the coverage opted by the insured. You have the option to select from different usage slabs provided by the insurer; these slabs vary from insurer to insurer. You might be wondering, what happens if you exceed this pre-declared usage limit? Well in this scenario also, there is no reason to worry. You can simply top up your plan by moving to the higher kilometer slab. Since the distance that each customer covers via their vehicle dif-

fers, PAYC charges the premium based on the distance covered from the particular vehicle, unlike the traditional insurance premium. While traditionally the premiums are calculated basis on the make and model of the car, age of the vehicle, insured declared value, and location to name a few, the PAYC model calculates the premium also basis on the distance covered. Simply put, PAYC helps you tailor the coverage as per your individual needs.



ADITYA SHARMA
Chief Distribution Officer - Retail Sales, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

The insurers install a telematics device in the vehicle; the device is typically plugged into the car's on-board diagnostics (OBD-II) port. This device monitors the distance covered by the vehicle, and it also reflects the balance or the remaining distance. Such devices also track the driving behavior of the user through various driving metrics. Apart from the use of the telematics device, app-based telematics is also used. Advanced analytics is used to capture the driving information like acceleration, speed, and breaks to name a few. The vigilant and careful drivers will be awarded for their safe driving behavior in the form of premium discounts. The better you drive, the more discount you will attract. The use of telematics devices also encourages safe driv-

ing, as it helps you monitor your driving behavior. **Who should buy it?** "Pay as you consume," is ideal for people who use their vehicles only once in a while to cover a long distance, it is also suitable for people who have more than one vehicle and do not use them equally. This is a great fit for people who commute more often through public transport than their vehicle. It is also quite apt for people who use car pools for their routine commute. So, now that you know how PAYC offers great flexibility and customisation; how it helps lower your motor insurance premium, evaluate your requirement and give this new feature a try. Now, you are just a few clicks away from a more flexible motor insurance cover!

