



## STANDING IN SOLIDARITY

Actor Amy Jackson has expressed her support for Iranian women, who are burning their hijabs to protest dress code laws

LEISURE P2



## BIDDING ADIEU

With flowers, prayers and a 19-gun salute, Japan honoured slain former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

INTERNATIONAL P10



## INDIA FACE SA TODAY

India look to address death bowling concerns when they take the field against South Africa in the first T20!

SPORTS P12

## Phalke honour for Asha Parekh



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: Veteran actor Asha Parekh will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2020, the highest recognition in the field of Indian cinema, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Anurag Thakur said Tuesday.

Parekh, 79, will be presented with the award during the 68th National Film Awards ceremony, to be held Friday.

The five-member Dadasaheb Phalke Award committee - comprising Asha Bhosle, Hema Malini, Poonam Dhillon, Udit Narayan, and TS Nagabharana - decided on Parekh's name for the honour, Thakur told reporters.

Parekh, an eminent actor whose career spans close to five decades, started her acting career at the age of 10.

Known for starring in over 95 films that include 'Dil Deke Dekho', 'Kati Patang', 'Teesri Manzil', 'Baharon Ke Sapne', 'Pyar Ka Mausam', and 'Caravan', she is considered one of the most influential actresses of all time in Hindi cinema.



**MOVING TO SAFETY:** People residing in the floodplains of Yamuna river shift their belongings and livestock after a rise in the water level of the river, in New Delhi, Tuesday. An evacuation alert has been sounded for people living in the low-lying areas near the Yamuna banks in Delhi with the water level in the river rising well above the danger mark of 205.33 metre, following incessant rains in the upper catchment areas

## 170 held in fresh crackdown on PFI

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 27: More than 170 people allegedly linked with the Popular Front of India (PFI) were detained or arrested in raids across seven states Tuesday, five days after a similar pan India crackdown against the group often accused of being linked to radical Islam.

Conducted mostly by state police teams, the raids were spread across Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Delhi, Maharashtra, Assam and Madhya Pradesh.

On September 22, multi-agency teams spearheaded by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested 106 leaders and activists of the PFI in 15 states for allegedly supporting terror activities in the country. The NIA is investigating 19 cases involving the PFI.

As police teams fanned out across their respective states Tuesday, seemingly synchronised, the action was swift. While 25 people each were arrested in Assam and Maharashtra, 57 were detained in Uttar Pradesh, officials said. The count of those detained in Delhi was 30, in Madhya Pradesh it was 21 followed by 10 in Gujarat and six in Maharashtra. Besides, several people were also arrested in Karnataka.

**Following the crackdowns, the PFI stares at a possible nationwide ban**

In UP, the raids across 26 districts were jointly carried out by the Anti Terrorist Squad, Special Task Force and the local police simultaneously. Documents and evidence were collected, ADG (law and order) Prashant Kumar said.

Further action will be taken based on the evidence collected, Kumar said while adding that 57 people were taken into custody.

There was no immediate reaction from the PFI, which was formed in 2006 and claims to strive for a neo-social movement ostensibly for the empowerment of marginalised sections of India. It is, however, often accused by law enforcement agencies of promoting radical Islam. The organisation was formed in Kerala and is headquartered in Delhi. Following the crackdowns, the PFI stares at a possible nationwide ban.

## Records of Lord's 60K acre land to be digitised soon

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, Sept 27: The records of over 60,000 acre of land in the name of Lord Jagannath will soon be digitised, an official said Tuesday.

There is 60,426 acre of land in Odisha and 395,252 acre of land in six other states in the name of Mahaprabhu Jagannath Bije, Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) VV Yadav said after a meeting of its managing committee, chaired by Gajapati Maharaja Dibya Singha Deb of Puri.

Outside Odisha, the largest land parcel is in West Bengal - 322,930 acre, while 28.21 acre of land is in Maharashtra, 25.11 acre in Madhya Pradesh, 17.02 acre in Andhra Pradesh, 1.7 acre in Chhattisgarh and 0.27 acre in Bihar, official sources said.

Yadav said the state-run Odisha Space Application Centre (ORSAC) will be given the task for the digitisation of the land records. The process will be initiated after receiving the state government's approval, he said.

The managing committee also

discussed about the formation of the Srimandir Adarsh Gurukul Society for the education of the children of the servitors, and the housing project for the servitors.

The application for the registration of the society, which will be run by Birla Foundation, has been filed with the Inspector General of Registration (IGR). The IGR asked for certain compliances and those have been met, Yadav said.

He said the Birla Foundation will be invited to the next managing committee meeting for discussions on the master plan. The tender for the first phase of construction of the boundary wall of the housing project for servitors at Harachandi Sahi will be opened October 6, he said.

The meeting also approved the recommendations of the Niti Sub-Committee of the temple. The rituals proposed by the sub-committee for the month of Kartik have got the nod of the managing committee, he said. However, the managing committee did not take up the demand for opening the temple's Ratna Bhandar. "That was not in today's agenda," Yadav said.

## Baby theft bares chinks in SCB vigil

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 27: The arrest of a couple Tuesday for decamping with a newborn girl from SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) here Monday has once again exposed the security loopholes at the largest state-run healthcare facility in Odisha.

Mangalabag police Tuesday arrested Sweety Rout, 21, and her husband Bablu Behera, 26, of Pratap Nagari area under Cuttack Sadar police limits here for decamping with the daughter of Tilottama Biswal of Bali Sahi under Chandanpur police limits in Puri, an official said.

According to hospital sources, Tilottama had delivered twin girls at the Obstetrics and Gynecology department of SCBMCH Monday afternoon. While one of the girls was with her mother at the ward, the other one had to be kept at the hospital's Sick Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) as she developed jaundice. However, around 4pm, nursing officer Prachi Prava Das noticed that the baby was missing from the SNCU.

Soon, Mangalabag police and SCB authorities were alerted. Police



Mangalabag police Tuesday arrested Sweety Rout, 21, and her husband Bablu Behera, 26, of Pratap Nagari area under Cuttack Sadar police limits for decamping with the daughter of Tilottama Biswal of Bali Sahi under Chandanpur police limits in Puri Monday

reached the hospital and checked the CCTV footage in presence of SCB's administrative officer.

"In the CCTV footage, a woman, in her 20s, was seen suspiciously leaving the SNCU with the newborn girl," SCB Paediatric department assistant professor Deepak Behera

said in his police complaint.

As they were checking the footage, Sweety reached SCB with a newborn girl and handed over the girl to doctors saying that she had taken the girl by mistake thinking it to be her baby boy, which she claimed that she had delivered

at SCB a few days back.

According to Mangalabag police, Sweety used forged papers to enter the SCB's SNCU.

"During investigation, it was found that Sweety entered the SNCU by producing fake gate pass. And while leaving the hospital with the baby, she produced a forged discharge certificate, gate pass and OPD registration slip have been recovered from the accused.

When asked, SCB administrative officer Abinas Rout said investigation is underway. "We'll find out who else are involved in it and if there is any loophole in our system. We have the CCTV footage which we have given to the police for a detailed probe. A medical examination of the baby girl was conducted and she is doing fine," said Rout.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



**Sure! Suggest a couple of names for cheetahs!**

## MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	57107.52 ↓ 37.70
NIFTY	17007.40 ↓ 8.90
DOLLAR	81.83 ↓ ₹0.13
EURO	78.40 ↑ ₹0.01
GOLD	₹49,383 ↑ ₹233
SILVER	₹55,978 ↑ ₹626

Women of 2 blocks in Assam are converting waste sheaths of areca palm trees to dinner plates that have a demand not only in the state, but also across the country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chaygaon (Assam), Sept 27: Converting waste sheaths of areca palm trees to dinner plates and other wares has become a ray of hope for women of two blocks in Assam's Kamrup Rural district, as they engage in entrepreneurial ventures to become economically independent.

The biodegradable disposable dinnerware made of waste sheaths also addresses the concern of pollution caused by materials like styrofoam and plastic.

Villages under Chaygaon and Bongaon blocks of the district, 40 km from the state capital, are dotted with areca palm trees that were earlier considered to be a source

## Women turning entrepreneurs by converting waste to wealth



only for 'Tumul' (betel nut), while its sheath, a waste material, was at times used to make temporary boundary walls of homes.

"We never thought the waste sheaths could be used to manufacture products that have a demand not only in the state, but

across the country and help us earn a living," 35-year-old Sonoti Rabha told PTI.

An initiative named 'Project Pragati' was introduced in the two blocks about four years ago by an NGO 'Dhriti-The Courage Within' by engaging rural women through mobilisation and training in producing plates from waste sheaths of areca palm trees, said Anirban Gupta, co-founder of the organisation.

"When the idea was first introduced among people in the mobilisation camps, no one could believe that a waste material can be converted into a product that has a profitable market not only in India but across the world," he said.

Continued on P4

## Livestreaming of Constitution bench proceedings begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: In a first, the Supreme Court Tuesday took a giant leap towards transparency and accessibility as it live-streamed proceedings of three constitution benches simultaneously through its webcast and video streaming on YouTube which was watched by more than eight lakh viewers.

The Supreme Court in its official communication called it "Truly, a historic day".

"This is a humble beginning and the attempts will now be made to live stream proceedings in all important matters before live streaming of all the proceedings becomes the order of the day," the SC said.

The apex court added that its 'statistics show that more than eight lakh viewers watched the

## APEX COURT TO HEAR PLEAS AGAINST DEMONETISATION

New Delhi: A five-judge Constitution bench will Wednesday hear petitions challenging Centre's decision to demonetise currency notes of ₹500 and ₹1,000 in November 2016. A bench of Justices S Abdul Nazeer, BR Gavai, AS Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian, and BV Nagarathna, will hear the petitions against demonetisation. This is the fourth Constitution bench which has been constituted in the apex court.

proceedings before the three constitution benches'.

It said that the decision to live-stream the proceedings of the Constitution benches was taken by the full court September 20, 2022, and soon thereafter trial runs were undertaken by the registry.



# leisure



## ANA DE ARMAS FELT 'SAFE' IN BLONDE NUDE SCENES

Actress Ana de Armas felt 'safe and protected' when filming the nude scenes in *Blonde*. Flashing the flesh in her portrayal of Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe in Andrew Dominik's film, the 34-year-old actress suggested viewers will find it more uncomfortable than she did, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

## SIMU LIU IS GOING THROUGH A BREAKUP

The *Legend of the Ten Rings* star Simu Liu shared that he is going through a breakup, just two months after making his red carpet debut with Jade Bender. "I'm going through a breakup. That's probably also contributing to it but that's OK, I'll be OK," said Liu.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
Someone new in your life is going to make you smile; remember, however, that it doesn't always have to be fun and diamonds. A song sung straight from the heart makes a greater impact, says Ganesh. Today's the right time to go out and do things which will make you proud later.

**TAURUS**  
This day you will be inclined to act tough and pick up a fight with everyone whom you are likely to encounter, warns Ganesh. Those who know you well will be at a loss to make anything out of your belligerent attitude and may not be able to keep up with you for too long. You'll simply be making a lot of enemies, alienating a lot of good friends. From the outset, get into a cool, composed frame of mind.

**GEMINI**  
If you have children, they will be a pampered lot today, says Ganesh. Your affection, however, may not have its desired impact. Children are known to be unpredictable, but keep an eye on their activities, especially today. You may entertain your loved ones with a sumptuous dinner tonight. Your creative side will do well for itself, feels Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will be trying new things in your style of work. You may come across as mad, but there will be a method in your madness. Your new strategy and innovative ideas will give a new lease of life to the projects you are working on.

**LEO**  
Friendships are supposed to last forever. But it all depends on whether or not the friend is around when most needed. Today, your pals may turn to you for help, and sure enough, you will be there to extend all the support you can, says Ganesh. Get ready to make new acquaintances today, some of whom may go on to become life-long friends.

**VIRGO**  
You are the banner carrier for those around you today, giving hope and inspiring. Clad yourself in robes of the perfect family man. This should spread warmth and love, and will work wonders in improving relationships.

**LIBRA**  
The theatrical you comes to the fore. Ganesh expects you to put up a show in all that you do today, be it a display of devotion to your work, or dedication to your family. You may give the best in the business a run for their money as you prove to be the perfect choice for all tasks assigned to you.

**SCORPIO**  
Signs indicate you may face unexpected expenses today. But this spending is likely to be on family and friends - especially in entertaining them. But keep track of every penny. To be on the safer side, Ganesh advises you not to have any pockets at all today.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
A tiring day is in store for you today. Find yourself labouring worse than Hercules. The positive outcome would be that you would lose a few extra calories. But late in the day, a nice quiet time with family and friends would relieve you of all the stress.

**CAPRICORN**  
Everything you do today will be driven by the desire to meet the expectations of your family members, says Ganesh. For those of you pursuing studies, pending projects will finally get completed, and you will look forward to taking up new assignments. Giving free rein to your imagination will help you excel in areas of your interest, but don't go overboard or else you may lose touch with reality.

**AQUARIUS**  
You may be sorely disappointed today. With no support from family, and the kids driving you up the wall, you need to keep your cool. Family feuds are highly likely, and neighbours may attempt to interfere.

**PISCES**  
Your expenses are likely to soar and you will need to draw a line between your needs and your desires if you are to keep them in check. There is a strong possibility that you will undergo a spiritual experience today. You may also pursue meditative techniques for your peace of mind, says Ganesh.

## Amy stands in solidarity with Iranian women

**Chennai:** Actress Amy Jackson has expressed her support for the women of Iran, who have been protesting the brutal killing of Mahsa Amini.

Twenty-two-year-old Mahsa Amini was brutally killed by the 'morality police' of Iran for showing a bit of her hair, not adhering to the strict dress code laws.

Mahsa Amini's killing has sparked nationwide protests. Protesters are standing against the totalitarian regime, chanting slogans such as 'Let women live their freedom' and 'I will kill whoever killed my sister.'

The actress took to Instagram to express her solidarity with the women of Iran who are now cutting their hair short and burning their hijabs in protest.

Sharing a series of pictures and text passages explaining what was happening in Iran, the actress wrote, "We see you, we hear you and we are with you #MahsaAmini".

The actress seemed to take exception in particular to the US government's decision to roll out the red carpet for Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi at the United Nations General Assembly session and the fact that the western media was staying relatively quiet about what was happening in Iran.



## Alaya gets candid about her life

**Mumbai:** Actress Alaya F, daughter of Pooja Bedi and granddaughter of Kabir Bedi, made her debut in 2020 with *Jawaani Janeman*. The actress starred alongside Saif Ali Khan and Tabu in the quirky comedy film. Since her debut, Alaya F has been quite active on social media and very candid about her life with her followers.

The newbie actress, talking about her first ever phone and if she bought it herself or someone gifted it, shared, "It was gifted to me, I was 13 years old. I remember all my friends got it when they were 11 and my mother just refused to give me a phone before the age of 13."

"It was like a principle that she had when she felt like it wasn't necessary, especially back then," she added. "And so yeah, I remember it was a Nokia 6250... I forgot the model number. It was pink in colour, and it was like this small and I thought it was the cutest thing ever. I remember when I finally got a phone, I started crying with happiness because I got it two years late."

On the work front, Alaya F will next star in *Freddy* with Kartik Aaryan and *U-Turn*. AGENCIES

## Hrithik: Need to re-look at Indian treasure of folklore

**Mumbai:** Top star Hrithik Roshan, who is currently awaiting the release of his upcoming film *Vikram Vedha*, feels that India as a country is culturally very rich and has a treasure of folk tales and mythology that can act as a fodder to tell stories on the celluloid.

The basic idea of *Vikram Vedha* is based on the Indian mythological story of *Vikram and Betaal*. Elaborating on the same, Hrithik says, "To take something like this that we have all heard in our childhood and create this entire story of *Vikram Vedha* and to use it as a device, it's so sharp." He further mentioned, "We have so many of such stories in our mythology and folklore. I think we need to re-look at this treasure, there's so much fodder in there from a storytelling point of view."

Director Pushkar of the film's director duo, Pushkar-Gayatri, added, "What intrigues us as directors is that our mythology or folklore majorly have no demarcation about who is wrong or right. As creators, it's refreshing to install the stories that are in the grey zone."

*Vikram Vedha*, which also stars Saif Ali Khan, is set to release in theatres September 30. IANS

## ODISHA NATYA SANGHA'S NAT'L DRAMA FEST - DAY 2

### Odia play *Punascha Abolakara* charms audience

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha Natya Sangh (ONS), the host of ongoing national theatre festival, presented Odia play *Punascha Abolakara*, on the second evening of the event here at Rabindra Mandap, Tuesday.

Written by Sitesh Tripathy and directed by Darpanarayan Sethi, the play highlighted how a rich and flourishing state goes broke when a corrupt and spineless establishment takes the reins.

The king of a fictional kingdom wants to establish democracy instead of allowing his incapable son to take control of his subjects. But the latter managed to kill his father and become the ruler with the help of his supporters. Expectedly, the kingdom, once a prosperous state, is left on the brink of ruin. Though set in a fictional kingdom, the playwright, with this play managed to send a stern message to the society. Needless to say, the play kept the audience glued to their seats till the end.



Actor performed the drama at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Tuesday. OP PHOTO

Artists who performed on stage included Apurba Ranjan Sahoo, Bijay Rath, Simanchal Padhi, Prakash Maharana, Pragyandutta Sahoo, Biswaranjan Mohapatra and Jasmin Parida. Pratap Rout scored the music while Santosh Rout assisted in direction.

Bhubaneswar (Central) MLA Anant Narayan Jena, ONS advisors Prasanna Mishra and Samar Mudali (both dramatists), were present on the occasion while ONS vice-president (north) Ratikanta Behera delivered a vote of thanks.

The director and playwright of the play were felicitated on the occasion.

Naye Natua of Kolkata will present Bengali play *Nakshi Kanthar Math* on the third evening of the festival. PNN

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

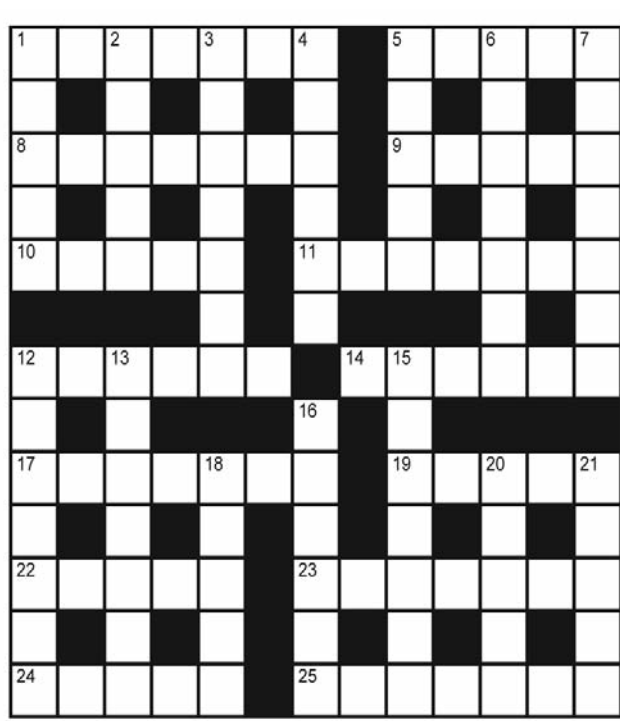


### BREVITY



### FUN post

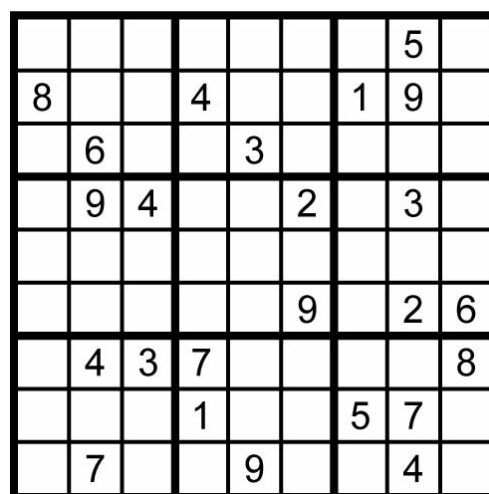
### CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Abandons
  - 5 Hammond product
  - 8 Seed type
  - 9 Paroxysm
  - 10 Leg part
  - 11 Make off with the spoils
  - 12 Request sweetener
  - 14 Chambray, e.g.
  - 17 Italian rice
  - 19 Sword handles
  - 22 Parachute material
  - 23 Ladybugs
  - 24 Lose one's cool
  - 25 Enduring
- Down**
- 3 Bounties
  - 4 Airport worker
  - 5 Sanctuary
  - 6 Alluring beauty
  - 7 Wandering
  - 12 Stew ingredient
  - 13 Greek letter
  - 15 Attain
  - 16 Cheerless
  - 18 Cloak
  - 20 Malefactor
  - 21 Rope fibre

### SUDOKU

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

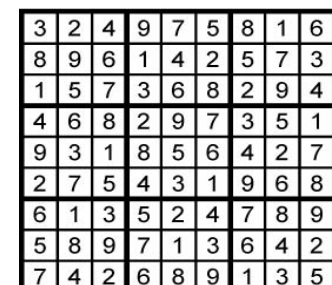


### SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



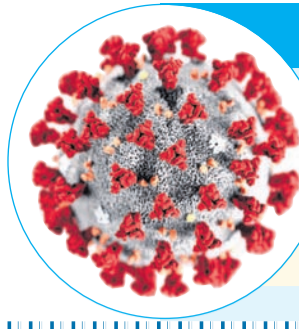
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW





**THRUST ON HYGIENE**

Guests at a workshop on 'Menstrual Health Hygiene Products and Disposable Solutions' organised by Unicef and Aaina in Bhubaneswar



**COVID-19 TRACKER**

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	62,08,95,650	60,11,86,372	65,42,049
India	4,45,72,885	4,40,04,553	5,28,562
Odisha	13,33,499	13,23,035	9,192

**Committed to tap tourism potential: CM**



Twin city police commissioner Soumendra Priyadarshi flagged off the Superbike Rally at Infocity Square

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 27:** On the World Tourism Day, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reiterated his commitment to unlock the transformative power of tourism through global promotion of the state's marvelous tourist places. Patnaik said, "Odisha is immensely blessed with natural beauty, glorious heritage, fascinating landscapes, timeless monuments, varied flora and fauna.

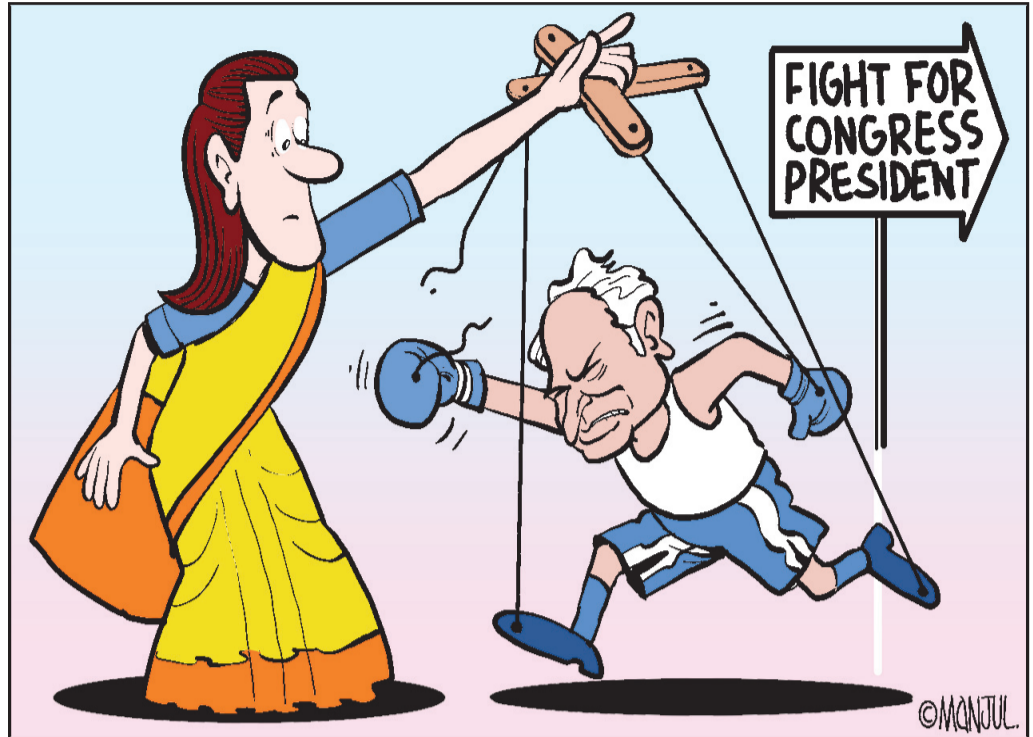
On the occasion of World Tourism Day, I reiterate commitment to showcase the marvellous mélange to the world to unlock the transformative power of tourism." Recently, the state government has unveiled plans to transform the state's iconic dams, reservoirs and water bodies into tourist attractions and buzzing recreational spaces. The government has decided to give their periphery a comprehensive makeover by beautification, landscaping, setting up of

amusement avenues and infotainment zones, and other boating and camping facilities. In this year's state budget, the Tourism department has been allocated ₹594 crore. World Tourism Day, 2022 was celebrated at Dhauli Shanti Stupa by Odisha Tourism department. On this occasion, a guidebook titled 'Unexplored Odisha' was unveiled by Tourism Minister Aswini Kumar Patra in presence of Tourism director Sachin Ramchandra Jadhav

The govt has decided to give the peripheries of iconic dams and water bodies a makeover by beautification, landscaping, setting up of amusement avenues and infotainment zones. In this year's state budget, the Tourism department has been allocated ₹594 crore

BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange, Khurda Collector K Sudarshan Chakravarty and Additional Commissioner of BMC Suryawansi M Vikas were also present as guests. The dignitaries felicitated the Riders Community led by Devjyoti Patnaik, convener, Odisha Super Riders. On this occasion, the representatives from Federation of International Students' Associations-Odisha (FISA-O) were also felicitated. A superbike rally 'Kalinga Rides' was also organised by Odisha Tourism to mark the day with a message to the people of Odisha to explore the state by road. Twin city police commissioner Soumendra Priyadarshi flagged off the Superbike Rally from Infocity Square to Dhauli Shanti Stupa in the presence of the Tourism director and Devjyoti Patnaik.

**POLITICKLE by MANJUL**



**Sahoo's smart watch, CCTV hard disk sent to SFSL**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 27:** The Commissionerate Police Tuesday sent the hard disk of the CCTV installed at deceased BJD Zilla Parishad member Dharmendra Sahoo's Sisupalgarh residence and his smart watch to State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) for examination. Sahoo used to operate the CCTV through his smart watch. The investigating team has also been trying to find out the messages sent by him from the smart watch before his death. "We are yet to get any clue indicating towards the involvement of any political leader in Sahoo's suicide. However, it has come to the fore that the relationship between Sahoo and his wife had never been cordial. Sahoo would always force his wife to bring money from her father," claimed a senior cop. Meanwhile, opposition BJP Tuesday blocked an arterial road in Puri district seeking a thorough investigation into the death of Sahoo, who was found hanging in his house last week.

**CM meets Premji, other biz honchos**

PNN/AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 27:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday had one-to-one interaction with leading industrialists including former Wipro chairman Azim Premji, during his visit to Bangalore ahead of the September 28 Odisha Investors' Meet in India's Silicon Valley. Patnaik had earlier led a delegation to Bangalore to participate in an Investors meet. Over 500 industrialists, business persons and investors across sectors are expected to attend the Odisha Investors' Meet, said state Industry Minister PK Deb, adding that the Chief Minister will address the investors and apprise them about the state's flagship investment summit, the Make in



Odisha Conclave' 22 and invite them to the event. The Industry minister said that the idea behind organising this event is to showcase the diverse business-friendly ecosystem of Odisha to the potential investors and help them to form an informed decision to invest in the state to meet the ever-growing demands in Eastern and North-Eastern India as well as the ASEAN markets.

Multiple one-on-one meetings with potential investors across sectors like food-processing, aerospace and defence, healthcare were held Tuesday to discuss the possibilities of investing in Odisha and to cater to the ever-growing need of 'newer products and services in this part of the country. The state's delegation assured the investors that best-in-class investment facilitation will be provided

in Odisha. Major business-centric reforms taken up by the state government were highlighted to the interested participants to create a pro-business environment and industrial ecosystem to further speed up the rapid industrial growth of the state, the minister said. Apart from Premji, Patnaik also met Syed Fahad, the founder and managing director of Golden Hatcheries Ltd, Varun Chawla and Pranay Gupta, Co-Founders of 91 Springboard, AMS Reddy, Director of Doda Dairy and others. On September 28, Patnaik is scheduled to meet senior industrialists to discuss their plans for Odisha and personally invite them to the Make in Odisha Conclave, 2022 scheduled to be held in Bhubaneswar from November 30 to December 4 this year.

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

**Bhubaneswar block JE caught accepting bribe**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 27:** Vigilance sleuths Tuesday caught a junior engineer (JE) red-handed while he was accepting bribe from a contractor for approval of pending bills. The accused was identified as Ramakanta Behera, the JE in Bhubaneswar block of Khurda district. The complainant, who was engaged in the road construction work in Bhubaneswar, recently contacted Behera for the clearance of the pending bills. Subsequently, Behera asked the contractor to pay ₹50,000 for the clearance of his bills. The complainant later lodged a complaint with the Vigilance seeking action against Behera. Based on the complaint, the anti-corruption sleuths registered a case (30/22) and laid a trap Tuesday to nab Behera red handed. "Simultaneous house searches are going on at rented residential house of Behera, JE at Plot No-212, Soubhagya Nagar, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, native village at Phulbani and his office at Bhubaneswar Block from DA angle," said the Vigilance officials. This apart, Satyanarayan Dalei



Accused Ramakanta Behera

posted as the senior clerk at the office of Boipariguda tehsildar in Koraput was apprehended by Vigilance for accepting bribe of ₹5,000 from a complainant to hand over the converted ROR (patta) from agricultural land to home-stead land. With this, the Vigilance apprehended five corrupt public servants laying traps during the last two days in the state. Two persons including Binod Kumar Naik, OAS-1 (jr) were caught taking bribe, Monday. Naik, who is currently posted as the BDO of Gudvela block in Bolangir district, was arrested for accepting a bribe of ₹1, 80,000 from a contractor.

**Woman found dead in Devi River**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Astarang, Sept 27:** Nuagada Marine police Tuesday recovered unidentified body of a woman from the old jetty of Devi River here in Puri district. According to Marine police station-in-charge Bamadeb Nanda, "The body of a woman, believed to be around 30 years, was found from Devi River. The woman was wearing a green colour blouse and a pink colour petticoat." Police seized the body and called the scientific team to initiate the examination. The police kept the body for four hours for identification but none came to claim it following which they registered a case (02/2022) of unnatural death. The body was sent to Puri DHH for autopsy.



BOON FOR ARTISTES: Odia Language, Literature and Culture Minister Aswini Kumar Patra and department secretary Madhusudan Padhi, in the presence of other dignitaries, launched the online system for 'Mukhyamantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana' at Sanskruti Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

**Attack on NCST team: Report sought from DGP**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Sept 27:** The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) Tuesday sought a report from Odisha Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Kumar Bansal within eight days. The commission summoned Bansal at its Delhi office and expressed displeasure over the attack on Ananta Nayak and his team during their official tour to Keonjhar district. NCST chairperson Harsh Chouhan sought a comprehensive report from the DGP covering the incidents in details and its investigation within eight days. The panel would submit the report to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. The NCST said that the first incident took place July 29 at 4pm near Talapada village under Harichandanpur police station where the member was on an official visit along with his team. Several people protested with slo-

THE FIRST INCIDENT TOOK PLACE NEAR TALAPADA VILLAGE UNDER HARICHANDANPUR POLICE STATION AT 4PM JULY 29

THE SECOND INCIDENT TOOK PLACE AT KANJIPANI UNDER TELKOI BLOCK AUGUST 1 WHEN THE TEAM WAS VIOLENTLY ATTACKED

gans and used abusive language against the member. "Another incident took place in the morning hours of August 1. The team was violently attacked at Kanjipani under Telkoi Block. Around 500-600 people gathered and obstructed the movement of the members. The mob also obstructed the public hearing to redress the grievances of ST people. Not only there was a lapse in security but also the lack of seriousness on the part of State Police in the matter as they failed to register the FIR within time," the apex body said.

**Seaweed extracts to treat non-alcoholic fatty liver disease**

Named as **Cadalmin™ LivCure** extract, the product is a unique blend of 100% natural bioactive ingredients extracted from seaweeds

In continuation of its major research work on developing natural remedies from marine organisms against various lifestyle diseases, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has come up with a nutraceutical product from select seaweeds to treat non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). Named as **Cadalmin™ LivCure** extract, the product is a unique blend of 100 per cent natural bioactive ingredients extracted from seaweeds with an eco-friendly green technology to improve liver health. This is the 9th such product from marine organisms being de-

veloped by the CMFRI which already had brought out nutraceuticals to combat a series of lifestyle diseases, such as type-2 diabetes, arthritis, cholesterol, hypertension, hypothyroidism and osteoporosis, and to improve immunity, an official statement said here. Out of these nutraceuticals, eight products are from seaweeds and one from green mussels, it said. Kajal Chakraborty, Principal Scientist at the Marine Biotechnology, Fish Nutrition and Health Division of the CMFRI led the research works to develop the product. He said that bioactive pharmacophore leads from seaweeds were

used to develop the nutraceutical product. Pre-clinical trials showed that LivCure extract proved to have the potential to inhibit different enzymes and various target receptors associated with dyslipidemia and pathophysiology leading to NAFLD, he said. "This helps improve liver health, reduce the disposition of fatty substances, and maintain other liver/lipid parameters within the clinically acceptable limits," the expert explained. The nutraceutical does not have any side effects as established by detailed preclinical trials. "It has proved that long-term oral administration of this product will not lead to general organ or systemic toxicity", Chakraborty added. The technology will be out-licensed soon to those in the pharmaceutical industry for commercial production of the nutraceutical.

**PRE-CLINICAL TRIALS SHOWED THAT LIVCURE EXTRACT PROVED TO HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO INHIBIT DIFFERENT ENZYMES AND VARIOUS TARGET RECEPTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DYSLIPIDEMIA AND PATHOPHYSIOLOGY LEADING TO NON-ALCOHOLIC FATTY LIVER DISEASE**

**THIS HELPS IMPROVE LIVER HEALTH, REDUCE THE DISPOSITION OF FATTY SUBSTANCES, AND MAINTAIN OTHER LIVER/LIPID PARAMETERS WITHIN THE CLINICALLY ACCEPTABLE LIMITS**

For the last few years, the CMFRI intensively focuses on research on seaweeds mainly for developing natural products beneficial to improving human health, said A Gopalakrishnan, Director of CMFRI. "Seaweeds are often termed as the wonder herbs of the ocean due to their potential pharmaceutical properties. Recently,

this marine macroflora is gaining immense attention in nutraceutical industries due to its protective function against various chronic diseases", he said, adding that intensive and continuous research on extracting bioactive compounds from the seaweeds has helped CMFRI win much national recognition, the statement added.



CHAINING SCRIBE IN BALASORE

# NHRC issues notice to CS for compensation



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 27:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Tuesday issued a show-cause notice to the state Chief Secretary seeking his response as to why compensation of Rs 50,000 should not be awarded to the victim journalist from Balasore who was tortured and chained to hospital bed by police in April this year. The commission issued the order while hearing a plea filed by city-based rights activist Himanshu Sekhar Nayak.

It also directed the Chief Secretary to submit its response to the show cause notice within six weeks.

"The Commission has considered the report and there is an admitted lapse on the part of the police officials. The said officials have been duly punished by their department. The state is vicariously liable for their act," ordered the

**The Balasore SP has been ordered to submit the status report of the alleged false case**

NHRC. The district Superintendent of Police of Balasore has been ordered to submit the status report of the alleged false case registered against the victim Lokanath Dalei at the Nilgiri police station.

"The Commission also directs the Superintendent of Police, Balasore, Odisha to submit status of Nilgiri PS Case No. 146/22 dated 4.4.2022 u/s 341/323/294/506/353/186/189/332 IPC within six weeks failing which the Commission shall be constrained to invoke its coercive power u/s 13 of the PHR Act, 1993 calling for the personal appearance of the authority concerned before the Commission," the commission added.

Continued from P1

## Women turning entrepreneurs ...

In the last four years, the project has helped build an arecanut manufacturing cluster with 30 women entrepreneurs setting up home-based producing units, and 350 others engaged as raw material collectors and machine operators.

"The project is primarily aimed at enhancing the income of rural women through value addition to locally and abundantly available raw materials. For most of these women, it is their first opportunity to own a business and earn independent incomes," he said.

Alpana Das, new to entrepreneurship, said they earn Rs 200-250 daily by making the dinner plates and it has enhanced their financial status.

Banks do not hesitate to give loans now, a smiling Das said.

The dinnerware made of areca palm sheaths has better dimensional stability, is hygienic, biodegradable, and microwave safe, and also addresses the issue of pollution caused by styrofoam containers and plastic dishes, Gupta pointed out.

The making of an eco-friendly disposable plate goes through the process of leaf gathering, drying, sorting, cleaning, production, packaging, and above all marketing, making the whole activity a business for many micro and nano-woman entrepreneurs.

"The production of plates is not a simple task. It is time-consuming. From gathering raw materials to packing, it requires a lot of effort and time. We leave the raw sheets out in the sun to dry, but in case of sudden rain we have to instantly gather every sheath or else it will rot," Dipiyoti Rabha, another entrepreneur, said.

The areca palm sheaths, the basic raw material, have no monetary value, but "we procure those for Re 1 each to help generate income for the local community", said Pratima Rabha said.

Market linkage of the products has been established with a company called Tamul Plates Marketing Private Ltd (TPMPL).

The products are picked up from the doorsteps of the women entrepreneurs once a month,

## 'Ram temple' at Saheed Nagar to attract visitors

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 27:** Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19, Durga puja celebrations in the city have been low-key in the last two years. This year with the fear of disease slowly fading, the festive spirit will certainly go up a few notches as community Durga pujas will be conducted without any Covid-19 restrictions.

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



Getting the assurance that there will not be any restrictions, the various committees in the city are preparing to celebrate Durga puja in a grand manner.

The 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 the race for novelty and grandiloquence, the Saheed Nagar Durga Puja committee this year has come up with the idea of recreating Ayodhya Ram temple as the theme for the pandal.



Voicing Dissent: Members of various labour organizations staging a protest seeking fulfillment of 11-point charter of demands in front of the Office of Labour Commissioner in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

## State logs 167 fresh Cov cases, 1 death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 27:** The state's Covid-19 tally rose to 13,33,499 Tuesday as 167 more people, including 22 children, tested positive for the infection, a health department bulletin said.

The state had recorded 164 infections and a fatality Monday.

The Covid-19 death toll rose to 9,192 as a 55-year-old woman succumbed to the disease in Jagatsinghpur district. Besides, 53 other patients have died due to comorbidities so far, it said.

The state now has 1,423 active Covid-19 cases, while 13,22,831 patients have recovered from the disease to date, including 182 in the last 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was at 1.53 per cent as 10,904 samples were tested for the infection in the last 24 hours.

## Nalco provides 6 PCR vans to CP



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 27:** National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), has, yet again, come forward to support the Commissionerate Police (CP) of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack, by providing the much needed Police Control Room (PCR) vans. Tuesday, NALCO provided six PCR vans to further strengthen the surveillance and maintenance of law and order in the twin city of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar by the CP.

The fleet of PCR vans was formally flagged off by Saumyendra Kumar Priyadarshi, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Bhubaneswar-Cuttack and Sridhar



Patra, CMD, NALCO at the Police Commissionerate Head Quarters, Bhubaneswar in the presence of senior officials of CP and NALCO. Speaking on the occasion, Patra said, "NALCO believes in the concept of caring and sharing. Effective policing and maintenance of law and order is of utmost social importance. NALCO has been providing support to strengthen the police administration by way of providing PCR vans, an initiative, which will ensure better crime control and effective law and order situation".

Priyadarshi lauded the contribution of NALCO and said that he looks forward to similar cooperation from the company in the future as well.

## Special train between Bhubaneswar-Tirupati

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 27:** Keeping in view the demands from public and to clear additional rush in regular trains, the East Coast Railway has decided to run special train from its jurisdiction towards Tirupati which will benefit passengers of Brahmapur, Palasa, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram.

02809/02810 Bhubaneswar-Tirupati-Bhubaneswar weekly Super Fast Special Express will leave from Bhubaneswar every Saturday at 1330hrs between October 1-29 and in the return direction, the train will leave from Tirupati at 2000hrs every Sunday between October 2-30.



The train will have stoppages at Khurda Road, Balugaon, Brahmapur, Palasa, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Duvvada, Annavam, Samalkot, Rajahmundry, Eluru, Vijayawada, Ongle, Nellore, Gudur and Renigunta between Bhubaneswar & Tirupati from both the directions having 16 AC-3 Tier coaches and two guard-luggage cum generator car coaches. Earlier, Ministry of Railways had decided to introduce a new train between Jasadih and SMVT, Bengaluru via Bhadrakh-Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam in ECoR jurisdiction.

## Ex-senior manager OB & CC gets 2-yr RI

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 27:** The special court of Vigilance here Tuesday sentenced the former senior manager (tender), Odisha Bridge & Construction Corporation (OB & CC) Limited to undergo 2 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) after declaring him guilty in a disproportionate assets case.

The 67-year-old convict Somanath Panda has also been asked by the court to pay a fine of Rs 50,000. As per the order, he would serve further jail term of six months if failed to deposit the fine amount.



Following the receipt of a complaint, the Koraput division of Vigilance had carried out a search at his residential house as well as paternal and father-in-law's houses March 24, 2005. After investigation, he was found in possession of assets disproportionate to his

known source of income. "During the trial, prosecution had examined 26 witnesses and proved 80 numbers of documents and finally the court found the accused to have assets to the tune of Rs. 16,33,941 which the accused failed to account for and accordingly the accused has been convicted U/s 13(2) and 13(1)(e) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for two years and to pay a fine of Rs 50,000 and in default of payment of fine, to undergo RI for further period of six months," the Public Prosecutor, Ajit Kumar Pattnaik told OP.

# Nat'l consultation on tribal development

Amidst the economic crisis, Union government and state governments undertook several measures to revive the livelihoods of the tribal population



those from the Scheduled Tribes (ST) were the worst affected because of their already pre-existing socio-economic vulnerabilities.

Amidst the economic crisis, Union government and state governments undertook several measures to revive the livelihoods of the tribal population.

To take a survey of the policies and their effectiveness, a two-day 'national consultation on good practices by states during Covid-19 for the livelihood initiatives of tribal people and new initiatives in

tribal development' was organised by the SCSTRTI (TRI Odisha), ST & SC Development department, government of Odisha, with support from Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Union government and state governments of India Tuesday at SCSTRTI campus, Odisha.

The consultation has more than 10 states participating. It will provide them a platform for cross-learning of innovative ideas and experiences on livelihood initiatives taken up by different states so that other states can also adapt them.

AB Ota, advisor cum director and special secretary, SCSTRTI, welcomed the delegates and participants from across the country and informed them about the aim of the consultation. Apart from it, he said, the consultation will also delve into the various innovative measures taken by states towards tribal development.

Sangeeta Gupta, director, TRI Division Ministry of Tribal Affairs, government of India, shared the various initiatives taken by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. She said all Tribal Research Institutes should go thoroughly through the good practices documentation and studies to understand the issues faced by the marginalised communities and learn how to address them.

SB Roy, founder chairperson, Indian Institute of Bio-Social Research and Development (IBRAD) shared how innovation proved essential to an effective response to and recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic in low and middle-income settings.

# CSIR played a key role during Cov: Basu

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 27:** Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) Bhubaneswar celebrated the 81st foundation day of the parent body CSIR, New Delhi in the premises of the institute in the city, Tuesday.

Addressing the gathering Suddhasatwa Basu, Director, IMMT said, CSIR has played a crucial role in shaping the modern India and Indian society during Covid-19 by organising many development programmes starting from manufacturing to genomic studies for viruses and research on energy sources.

Sudhakar Panda, Director, NISER, Bhubaneswar said that we should allow the new generation to flexibility in academics and should not ignore our responsibilities. We should take advantage from the new education policy.

On this occasion Magazine "Abhivyakti" was released in the presence of the guests and dignitaries. Guest of Honour,



Ramakrishna R Sonde, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT-Delhi delivered the foundation day lecture on "A next decade of opportunities and challenges on high ash coal gasification".

Guests of the occasion visited various facilities at CSIR-IMMT and witnessed the demonstrations of key technologies. IMMT has signed an MOU with Jaydev Banana Farmers and Artisans association for the Technology of Potash Enriched Biochar from waste Biomass and provide it to the market.

The programme was coordinated by Ashok Kumar Sahu, Chief

Scientist, Chairman, CSIR Foundation Day Organizing Committee and he proposed the vote of thanks.

On this occasion, there was announcement of scholarship to the successful wards in different categories. Most of the staff and scholars of CSIR-IMMT and other invited guests attended the programme. Exhibition and live demonstration of different technologies was organised at CSIR-IMMT. Engineering students from Odisha University of Technology and Research, ITER, SOA, Konark Institute of Science and Technology, KIIT were also present.

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# Closure of 'illegal' stone crusher unit ordered



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Sept 27:** Days after OrissaPOST reported about the functioning of an illegal stone crusher unit set up by a construction agency at Khantaghar under Ghatagaon tehsil in Keonjhar district, the Forest department has initiated steps to close it. It has written to the Energy department to snap power supply to the unit. Earlier, the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) had issued a notice to the same company for polluting the environment.

Sources said that following a directive from DFO Dhanraj HD, Ghatagaon ranger Prabhakar Kumar Kuanr issued a letter (No. 624) Monday to the engineer of the Energy department in Anandapur to cut power supply to the unit.

The Forest department had September 22 issued a notice to the managing director of the unit, Ankush Agrawal and ordered for its closure. Locals, however, alleged that the unit continues to be operational despite the order.

**OP**  
IMPACT



Dhanraj said that wildlife in the area is being severely affected by operations of the illegal stone crushing unit. Pollution due to it is also affecting the health of local residents.

"Without taking proper permission of the Forest, Environment and Climate Change department, the stone crusher unit has been flouting norms related to conservation of wildlife, forest and environment," Dhanraj informed.

The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has laid guidelines that stone crushing units will not function within the limits of a lease area of a stone quarry, but this norm has been openly flouted in this case. The unit is operating in close proximity of the stone mine, sources said.

Local people had earlier sought to know how the Revenue department and the OSPCB kept their eyes closed to such blatant violation of anti-pollution norms. They had urged the administration to take steps against the unit.

Sources said, a stone quarry has been leased out to a construction agency at Khajurijuani near Khantaghar to meet the raw material requirement for the ongoing expansion of NH-20. The stone crushing unit has been operating for some years within the lease area without obtaining the proper clearance certificate from authorities concerned.

Locals alleged that the Revenue officials are also not measuring the quantity of stone being extracted from the mine and the amount that is being crushed on a daily basis. "Due to excess stone mining and crushing, the state government is incurring huge losses in revenue. The administration should look into these aspects," they said.

Former MLA Subarna Nayak has demanded the registration of a criminal case against the company and its owners for recovery of revenues and for polluting the environment.



**BIDDING ADIEU:** Dancers perform Odissi during the immersion ceremony of a 'Kanchan Ganesh' idol at Kuansha in Bhadrak district, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

## Kesinga hit hard by diarrhoea

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kesinga, Sept 27:** Diarrhoea has broken out at Sirole village under Kesinga block of Kalahandi district due to consumption of contaminated water by the people, sources said Tuesday. Following media reports about the rapid spread of the disease, the administration finally reacted Tuesday. A team of officials including doctors visited the village and took stock of the situation. The SDO of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation department (RWSS) Rajesh Kumar Gattia and engineer Dharmendra Kumar Sethi said that contamination of water will be prevented on a war footing. Apparently water is getting contaminated due to leaks in underground pipelines. They are being repaired, officials informed. They also added that work is being done rapidly to get a drinking water facility operational in the village. RWSS ground staff is also spraying beaching powder in 45 tube wells in the area to prevent contamination. Meanwhile, some of the people hit by diarrhoea have been admitted to the Kesinga community health centre (CHC) where they are undergoing treatment, informed medical officer Dr Subash Chandra Behera.

## New barrages to ease farmers' woes in Jajpur district

**7 TO COME UP IN JAJPUR OUT OF WHICH 5 WILL BE IN BINJHARPUR BLOCK**



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Binjharpur, Sept 27:** After a long gap of 40 years, farmers under this block of Jajpur district have found a reason to smile as they will be relieved of their longstanding irrigation problem. This appears true, after the state government gave approval for construction of nine barrages on the Kharasrota river and sanctioned ₹396.27 crore for the purpose. The barrages will help check rain water from overflowing into the sea and store it for future use in farmlands.

An elaborate plan has been prepared to implement the project successfully. Among the barrages, two will be constructed on the river in Bari block, five in Binjharpur block and one each in Aul and Rajkanika blocks of neighbouring Kendrapara district.

The construction cost of the barrage on the river at Saidpur panchayat is ₹47.86 crore while for the one in Chandramu panchayat is Rs 60.82 crore. Similarly, ₹52.32 crore has been sanctioned for the barrage in Kantipur panchayat, ₹54.08 crore for the one in Fatepur panchayat and ₹35.95 crore for one at Bangara panchayat.

The matter came to the fore after Odisha Revenue Minister and local MLA Pramila Mallick, gave the information during a press conference Friday at the Circuit House in Jajpur. After the news became public, a local outfit - 'Kharasrota Bancho Sangathan' - thanked Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for fulfilling a long standing demand of the farmers.

Reports said that the 'Kharasrota Bancho Sangathan' has been spearheading an agitation for a long time demanding the construction of barrages on the river. Vegetable cultivation was once the mainstay of farmers living close to the Kharasrota banks, but now it has shrunk due to paucity of water.

Leaders of the outfit Atal Bihari Nayak, Harekrishna Panda, Saifur Rahman said though late, the decision of the state government to construct the barrages on Kharasrota river is 'very laudable'.

## Inebriated man kills father in Keonjhar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Sept 27:** An elderly man was thrashed to death by his inebriated son at Kathabari village under Sadar police limits in Keonjhar district, police said Tuesday. The deceased has been

identified as Aniruddh Mahakur, 75, while the accused is Prasant Mahakur. The incident occurred after Prasant came home in an inebriated condition Sunday night and picked up a fight with his father. He started beating, punching and kicking his dad when the latter chided Prasant for his drinking habits.

The elderly man was admitted to the district headquarters hospital after his health condition deteriorated and turned critical, Monday morning. However, despite the best efforts of the doctors, Aniruddh breathed his last Tuesday morning.

Police handed over the body to Aniruddh's family after conducting a post-mortem. Later, police arrested Prasant over complaint filed by the deceased's daughter-in-law Sasmita Mahakur.

## ROAD DEVELOPMENT IN ODISHA-CH'GARH BORDER AREAS

# Maoist threat keeps contractors away

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Sept 27:** The governments of Odisha and Chhattisgarh are very keen to construct roads in border areas of the two states under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Both governments want to undertake the projects as they feel that only development work can counter the threat of the Maoists residing in border areas. However, contractors are not keen to take up work in these localities due to the threat of Maoists.

The matter came to fore after Chhattisgarh Chief Secretary Amitabh Jain, in a letter dated July 13, 2022 to his Odisha counterpart Suresh Kumar Mahapatra, informed the latter about the reluctance of contractors in Odisha to take up road construction works in the fringe areas of both the states which are dominated by the Maoists.

The Chhattisgarh government had floated tenders for construction of the Kukar-Amamora-Chindola road and the Sibnarayanpur-Pandripani-Sikasher road which falls under the Maoist belt on the fringes of both states. The neighbouring state floated the tender 24 times but no contractor from Odisha participated in the bid.

In the letter, Jain informed that funds have been sanctioned for construction of the Kukar-Amamora road and local police have assured to provide security to the contractors. However, despite the assurances, no one was keen to take up the work. Jain has requested Mahapatra to look into the matter and urge contractors in Odisha to take up work in border areas. Jain also said that there is need to provide security to the persons engaged in road construction by ensuring proper coordination between both the state governments



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

**THE CHHATTISGARH GOVERNMENT HAD FLOATED TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF KUKAR-AMAMORA-CHINDOLA ROAD AND SIBANARAYANPUR-PANDRI PANI-SIKASHER ROAD WHICH FALLS UNDER THE MAOIST BELT ON THE FRINGES OF BOTH STATES**

and police.

Faced with the tricky situation, the Chhattisgarh government is now considering dividing the construction work into several segments and floating a separate tender for each.

On the other hand, the Rural

Development department of the state government has directed the engineer-in-chief (EIC) of Rural Works department to encourage contractors from Odisha to carry out road construction works undertaken by the Chhattisgarh government.

# 90 Gaja Sathis recruited to control jumbo menace

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Betanoti, Sept 27:** As Betanoti range in Mayurbhanj district is a haven for elephants, the Forest department has started recruiting and training of Gaja Sathis who will keep track of the animals and their safety. The Gaja Sathis will also try and prevent elephant-human conflict. In the initial phase, 90 Gaja Sathis have been trained and deployed in 18 sections of this range, sources said.

The Gaja Sathis were trained by assistant conservator of Forests, Rabinarayan Mohanty while the training was coordinated by ranger Ghanashyam Singh.

Sources informed that there are 19 Vana Surakhya Samitis (VSS) working in the areas frequented by jumbos in Betanoti range.

The department has formed clusters comprising a few villages. From each cluster, five Gaja Sathis have been recruited to help in work related to the pachyderms.

In the first phase, the department



## Elephant calf carcass found in Similipal

**BARIPADA:** The carcass of an elephant calf was found in Similipal National Park (SNP) in Mayurbhanj district, forest officials said Tuesday. They informed that the carcass of the calf, about five months old, was first spotted by locals at Nafri forest in Bangriposhi range of the sanctuary. Samples were collected from the carcass and sent for examination to ascertain the cause of death, said Santosh Joshi, the divisional forest officer of Baripada. The carcass was buried in the forest, after post-mortem, Joshi added.

has formed 35 clusters and recruited 175 Gaja Sathis out of which 90 have already been trained.

Sources said, 10 clusters each have been formed in Betanoti, Krushnachandrapur and Badampur sections while five clusters have been set up for the Baisinga section.

Officials of the Forest department said that all the Gaja Sathis will work under the supervision of the Forest department. Their job is honorary and they will be provided with torches, uniforms and other kits that will help them to keep elephants at bay. At the same time they will provide knowledge to people about precautionary measures that need to be taken in elephant-

frequented areas.

The role of Gaja Sathis also assumes importance in the backdrop of elephants facing threats from various factors including 'live' electric wires and poachers.

After the training programme, forester Prashant Singh Samant and other officials exuded hope that the Gaja Sathis will render their valuable service in containing man-elephant conflicts in these areas and ensure safety for both sides leading to a decrease in fatalities. They said that apart from keeping vigil on the elephant herds, Gaja Sathis will help forest officials in their work and create awareness among people about elephants.

## NOTICE

It is noticed to public that sale deed bearing No-1386, dtd.23.03.2002 in favor of Gunanidhi Behera have been lost/ misplaced on dtd.02.08.2022 on the way from Khandagiri Traffic Square to Souvagyanagar and unable to trace/ find the same despite of our best efforts. If any individual bank/financial institution are holding the said documents in original as security for any advance/loan granted, he is requested to inform the Bank Panelled Advocate (Mr. Prasanta Kumar Parida, Mob:-9437300620) of the above said Bank/Financial Institution within a period of 7days from the date of publication of this notice/advertisement. This is to be produced before the competent authority.

**Ramakanta Behera,**  
S/o Late Gunanidhi Behera  
Flat No. -C/2, Rajdeep Apartment, Lane No. -13,  
Soubhagya Nagar, Baramunda, BBSR -751003  
Mob. No. 9861405570

**Government of Odisha**  
**"e" Procurement Notice**  
Bid Identification No. FE&CC-DFO(T) KJR- 01 / 2022-23  
No.312, Dt.27.09.2022  
e-mail: dfo.keonjhar@odisha.gov.in

- No. of the work :- 07 Nos. Building work.
- Estimated cost :- From Rs. 9.31 to Rs.12.55 Lakh
- Period of completion :- 3 (Three) Calendar Months
- Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal :- From 10.00 Hr 01.10.2022 to 17.00 Hr of 17.10.2022
- Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal :- 17.00 Hr of 17.10.2022
- Date of opening of Bid from Portal :- 11.30 Hr of 18.10.2022
- Name and address of the officer inviting Bid :- Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar Division, Keonjhar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: "http://tendersodisha.gov.in".  
Sd./Divisional Forest Officer  
Keonjhar Division  
OIPR-08042/11/0003/2223



“All existence is a manifestation of God.”  
SRI AUROBINDO



## Unfriended

Those who oppose openly may be considered opposition or enemy. Those who stand with you are considered favourable or friends. Those friends who ditch you when tide turns against you are betrayers whom one remembers much longer. Saying goes ‘once a betrayer always a betrayer.’ Indian foreign policy seems to have dragged the nation into a state where it could be termed a betrayer by the Russians. This is in reference to the recent statements issued by India’s foreign minister S Jaishankar. Reacting on the allocation of US\$450 million for sustenance of Pakistan’s F16 fighter fleet, Jaishankar has said US-Pak relationship has “not served” either of the two countries. In another related statement, he has declared that “India’s dependence on Russian defence equipment and strong defence ties with Moscow is not because New Delhi didn’t approach the US to get those from America.” This clearly implies India failed in winning the confidence of the Americans for which the US did not supply India with defence hardware that was requested for. This itself is also a strong indication that India’s foreign policy has consistently failed the aspirations of this nation.

Take for example India’s vacillating stand in relation to the US and Russia in the recent past. First, after Trump’s defeat and the declaration of Biden’s victory, India was late in congratulating the new incoming President. This happened primarily because Prime Minister Modi had unnecessarily gone out of his way to campaign for Donald Trump during the peak of his election tour. ‘Ab ki bar Trump Sarkar’ was a battle cry by Modi which was against the very essence of modern foreign policy. This stand, obviously, delayed the routine good wishes that should have been immediately offered to Biden. With this in the background, came Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. This was a golden opportunity for India’s foreign policy makers to patch up with the Biden administration and the democratic West. India missed that bus twice by abstaining from the UN Security Council votes against Russia. That too was fine since all Indians had been fed with the narrative that we needed Russia for less expensive petroleum and defence supplies. While the world went one way, India chose to support Russia along with China and openly stayed away from aligning with other democratic nations. It even held military exercises with Russian forces in Central Asia while the war was raging in Ukraine. All this would have been very well accepted but for the changing scenario of the war. World perception altered the image of Russia and its military capabilities came under dark clouds of doubt. Reports of Russia’s defeats and desertions have occupied global media space lately. Hilarious as it may seem, this looks like it has unnerved India’s top bosses. Without a clear perspective of global history and India’s well known and time tested policy of Non Alignment formulated during the Nehru period, current Indian leadership has again faltered. This became evident when India supported Zelenskyy’s address at the UN twice. This volte face in foreign policy seems to have left India with no friends on either side. Russia, too, must be restructuring its future policies towards India which is obviously changing its tune when Moscow is under pressure.

While it is better to be an enemy, it is terrible to be Unfriended.

### WISDOM CORNER

- “Every man’s life ends the same way. It is only the details of how he lived and how he died that distinguish one man from another.”  
ERNEST HEMINGWAY
- “Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.”  
KAHLIL GIBRAN
- “Look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious.”  
STEPHEN HAWKING

### WORDSWORTH

#### Burke

It’s an intriguing verb. It takes us back to the 1820s and that notorious pair, Burke and Hare. Medical schools were finding it difficult to get enough cadavers for the anatomic dissection essential to train students. The only official source was executed criminals but their numbers had been decreasing because fewer were being condemned to death, while the number of students needing corpses was increasing. One source was grave-robbing, carried out by low-life scavengers who were given the ironic name of resurrectionists. William Burke and William Hare, two Irish immigrants to Edinburgh, started their grisly trade by selling the body of a recently deceased tenant of their boarding house to Dr Robert Knox, a local anatomist. Having learned that bodies could be profitable, they began to murder individuals, usually by getting them drunk and then smothering them, to leave no marks on the bodies that would reduce their value as specimens. Burke was convicted of 16 murders and executed in January 1829; in a fitting end, his body was publicly dissected at the Edinburgh Medical College. Hare had turned King’s Evidence and had been given immunity from prosecution. The case caused a huge sensation, as did the imitative but much more widespread activities of a gang in the English capital which became known as the London Burkers. With the public outcry over grave-robbing, these led to the passing of the Anatomy Act 1832, which legitimised the donation of bodies for medical science. By the way, burke has no connection with the British slang term berk for a stupid person. That’s rhyming slang, known from the 1920s if not earlier, short for Berkeley (or Berkshire) Hunt, even though in British English the first parts of both are pronounced “bark”.

#### Butler

There has been some tut-tutting, head-shaking and general adverse comment in the more intellectual British newspapers this past week following the news that the former butler of the newspaper magnate Rupert Murdoch is about to publish his reminiscences of life with the boss. Mixed with a certain quiet schadenfreude over the King of the tabloid exposure being hoist by his own petard, so to speak, the consensus has been that such things are not done, or at least should not be done, and that butling has sadly come down in the world since the grand days described by P G Wodehouse. It’s always Reginald Jeeves that’s mentioned in these articles, usually coupled with the name of Bertram Wilberforce Wooster, despite the indubitable fact that Jeeves was not a butler, but a manservant, gentleman’s gentleman or valet. Those genuinely holding the job of butler in the Wodehouse canon, such as Silversmith, Bulstrode, Beech, Keggs (and several dozen others) are rotund and magnificently dignified, often with a magisterial presence that was much more stately than their masters’. As Ukridge says of Oakshott, butler to his sister Julia: “Meeting him in the street and ignoring the foul bowler hat he wore on his walks abroad, you would have put him down as a bishop in mufti or, at the least, a plenipotentiary at one of the better courts”. The butler in the medieval household was nothing like so exalted. He was the yeoman servant in charge of the beer cellar and of the buttery, from where he served out the beer. Since then, he has both literally and figuratively come up in the world. His name derives from the old French bouteillier, the cup-bearer or the one in charge of the bottles. Our bottle and the French equivalent both come from the medieval Latin butticula, a diminutive of buttis, a cask, which is also the origin of our word butt for a large wooden container for liquid; the beer cellar in medieval times would have contained wooden casks, not glass bottles.

### FOCUS HEALTH

# COMBATING ANAEMIA

Anaemia is a condition in which the number of red blood cells and their oxygen carrying capacity is insufficient to meet the body’s physiological needs. It is a major public health concern triggered by nutritional deficiencies as well as various non-nutritional intricacies. Women, children and adolescent girls are disproportionately burdened with a high prevalence of anaemia. If uncorrected, anaemia can be detrimental to health and well-being across all age groups. Anaemia during pregnancy is of prime concern in maternal and child health and is identified as a leading cause of maternal deaths in India.



William Joe & Udaya Shankar Mishra

**STATISTICS NOTWITHSTANDING, THE OVERALL BURDEN OF ANAEMIA IS HUGE ENOUGH TO RECEIVE AN UNDIVIDED POLICY ATTENTION ON ITS OWN**

The Prevalence As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS 2019-21) of India, 57 per cent women (15-49 years) and 67 per cent children (6-59 months) are anaemic. The all-India prevalence among pregnant women and adolescent females (15-19 years) is 52 per cent and 59 per cent, respectively. This trend in comparison with anaemia prevalence between the last two rounds of NFHS (2015-16 and 2019-21) suggests an increase in burden across several states and districts. Without undermining the seriousness of the burden, it is important to allow some latitude to read these estimates through the lens of a statistician. To elaborate, the estimates of anaemia prevalence among pregnant women is provided at the district level with severe sample size constraints. Given this limitation, the estimates are deemed reliable for 152 districts (sample >50 cases) and is either unavailable (135 districts with sample < 25 cases) or are based on un-weighted estimates from a thin sample (420 districts with sample size of 25-49 cases) for other districts. This fractured nature of sample may affect state and national level estimates that are derived based on district-wise aggregation of such thin sample. Similarly, other indicators (such as child anaemia) have sample size limitations in inter-temporal comparability as they yield wide confidence intervals around the estimates and thereby reduce its reliability in detecting the magnitude and direction of change in prevalence. It is quite plausible that overlapping confidence interval of estimates can render the trends more of a statistical artefact. Given this usual limitations in survey sampling, one wonders as



**Despite incredible efforts from the Union and the state governments, the demand-side consumption of IFA supplementation among pregnant women or even among school-going children leaves much to be desired in terms of adherence**

to whether policy discourse should discount principles of statistical inference. It is customary that the comparison of point estimates of indicators with thin sample and small time intervals would require statistical tests for inferring the significance of magnitude and direction of change. In fact, to preempt any such misunderstandings, the NFHS fact sheets should consider reporting estimates to facilitate correct interpretations and inter-temporal comparisons. For instance, it would be of great help for policymakers and the development community if the NFHS fact sheets can assist interpretation of the direction of change of indicators and demarcate explicit categories such as increase, decrease and inconclusiveness (no change) while presenting inter-temporal comparison of estimates (NFHS 2015-16 and NFHS 2019-21).

The Programme Statistics notwithstanding, the overall burden of anaemia is huge enough to receive an undivided policy attention on its own. In the last five decades, the governmental efforts for anaemia prevention and control have witnessed several avatars with varying degree of success. The National Nutrition Anaemia Prophylaxis Programme (NNAPP) launched in 1970 was amongst the first programmes to prevent anaemia among pregnant

women, lactating mothers and pre-school children. Most recently, in 2018, the government of India launched the Anaemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) strategy with an all-encompassing 6x6x6 strategy - 6 interventions and 6 institutional mechanisms for addressing anaemia prevalence in 6 beneficiary groups viz. children (6-59 months), children (5-9 years), adolescent boys and girls (10-19 years), women in reproductive age group (15-49 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Six institutional mechanisms viz. a) intra-ministerial coordination; b) national AMB unit; c) convergence with other ministries; d) strengthening of supply chain and logistics; and e) development of AMB dashboard and digital portal are envisaged to ensure smooth implementation and delivery of six key interventions as follows: a) prophylactic IFA supplementation; b) deworming; c) intensified year-round behaviour change communication (BCC) campaigns including ensuring delayed cord clamping in newborns; d) testing of anaemia using digital methods and point of care treatment; e) mandatory provision of IFA fortified foods in public health programmes; and f) redressal of non-nutritional causes of anaemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, hemoglo-

binopathies and fluorosis. The public health discourse on anaemia in India has garnered unprecedented research and policy attention. Several of these call for adopting multidimensional solutions to treat a problem that has diverse and multifactorial origin. Yet, despite incredible efforts from the Union and the state governments, the demand-side consumption of IFA supplementation among pregnant women or even among school-going children leaves much to be desired in terms of adherence. Ensuring IFA supplementation to exceed 80 per cent threshold across districts is an important benchmark to be pursued despite no systematic association between IFA supplementation and anaemia prevalence. For instance, many of the districts in north-eastern states of India have low anaemia prevalence among women and children despite low IFA supplementation. Whereas, a number of districts from states such as Gujarat and Maharashtra have relatively huge burden despite better levels of IFA supplementation. Such anomalies may well be reasoned with: first, limited diagnostic abilities to ascertain the nature and causes of anaemia; second, clinical feasibility for treatment of non-nutritional causes of anaemia and third, resource constraints for prophylactic or therapeutic treatment in a billion-plus country.

The Postscript The actionable agenda for AMB is much broader in terms of ambition and scope than any of its previous avatars. The programme has performed well by improving supplies, coverage and consumption of IFA tablets among pregnant women. However, statistical intricacies including sample size limitations disallow a straightforward assessment of its impact on anaemia prevalence. Unfortunately, the policy discourse will continue to be guided by the singular metric of anaemia prevalence to define success and failure of AMB. Hence there is no other option for AMB but to walk-the-talk. Dream it, believe it and achieve it.

**William Joe is Assistant Professor, Population Research Centre, Institute of Economic Growth. Udaya Shankar Mishra is Professor, International Institute for Population Sciences.**

### IN JEST THIS

## It’s good to be in the doghouse



Melvin Durai

**OUR DOG, LULU, IS A VIP (VERY INDULGED PET)**

The other day, during a party at my house, I had a disagreement with my wife, Malathi. She didn’t look happy with me at all, causing one of the guests to remark: “Uh-oh! Melvin is in the doghouse.” “If only that were true,” I said. “I’d love to be in the doghouse! The dog is a VIP.” It’s true: our dog, Lulu, is a VIP (very indulged pet). My wife has always loved animals. It’s the reason she became a vet – and now works at a veterinary school. Having me as a husband is only an extension of her interest in animal husbandry. When Malathi returns home from work each day, she smiles and says, “Hi, my sweetie. How was your day?” All she gets in response is a wag of the tail. If I had a tail, I’d wag it, too. But she never asks me how my day was. That question is usually reserved

for Lulu. If she could answer, she would say, “Slept all day. How about you?” Lulu is a Siberian husky with a pale yellow coat. She looks like a wolf and even howls occasionally, especially when she hears the siren of an emergency vehicle. We adopted her from an animal shelter. She was initially just a foster dog, but we couldn’t give her back. She had won our hearts with her loving nature. As soon as she came into our home, Lulu decided that while a dog’s place might be on the floor, she was not a dog. She belonged on the couch. She occupied half of the couch in the living room and wouldn’t budge, partly because the humans were indecisive. I voted against her sitting on the couch, but my wife and younger daughter found it immensely cute. “It’s okay,” Malathi said. “Look at her. She likes being on the couch.” Malathi spoke sweetly to Lulu on that first day and continues to do

so. She never raises her voice at Lulu, not even when Lulu has an “accident” in the house, whether she accidentally leaves a stain on the carpet or accidentally chews up a pen. When Malathi takes Lulu for walks, she is extremely patient, allowing Lulu to lead the way and not caring if Lulu makes more stops than the mail carrier. Lulu can do no wrong. On a few occasions, we’ve returned home to discover that Lulu has raided the trash can for any morsels of food to eat, leaving trash strewn across the kitchen floor. Upon our arrival, Lulu immediately lies on her back, wagging her tail, as if to say, “I’m so glad you’re back. Please rub my tummy and comfort me. Something terrible happened while you were gone. The trash can threw up all over the kitchen floor. It was so scary. But for your sake, I tried to clean up a little. I didn’t want you to see the mess, but

there’s only so much a dog can put away.” While my first instinct is to berate Lulu – to pull her near the trash can and shout, “No!” several times – Malathi’s first instinct is to look for another culprit: ME. “You didn’t put the rubber band on the cupboard, did you?” “I did. I mean, I think I did.” We keep our trash can in the cupboard under the kitchen sink, using a rubber band to secure it. But every now and then, I forget to stretch the rubber band over the handles, which inevitably causes the trash can to throw up. After determining that Lulu was not at fault, Malathi proceeds to comfort the dog. “Oh, you poor baby. You must have been hungry. We must not have fed you enough. Come, let’s see what we can give you from the refrigerator.” Yes, the dog gets rewarded for making a mess in the kitchen. And I just shake my head, wishing I were a VIP.

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rusalgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

### Crackdown on PFI

Sir, This refers to “PFI – India’s internal insurgency,” **Orissa POST**, September 27. The second round of crackdown on Popular Front of India (PFI) continues with fresh arrests Tuesday in follow up of the September 22 raids in a multi-agency operation spearheaded by the NIA against the outfit for allegedly supporting terror activities and for hate campaign against Hindus in the country. The PFI has been under the scanner for a long time in the country for disturbances and attacks on Hindus on one pretext or the other. Several state governments too have been pointing to the role of the PFI. The ‘Sar Tan Se Juda’ sloganeering has been attributed to the PFI modules which do not mind even using children by poisoning their minds against Hindus and national unity. The role of the PFI was found in the Anti-CAA protests of 2020. A money trail has also been found to link the PFI with the protests against the proposed National Register of Citizens. The attacks during Ram Navami processions in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh also made police and intelligence agencies take note of the PFI hand. Apart from this, there are concerted efforts to attack India on religious charges throughout the world. The attacks on temples and Hindu symbols in the UK only reflect the Hinduphobia that prevails in the world today and also the support it has from a strong Western media. Against this backdrop, there is an urgent need to curb the outfit to weed out the hate and violence.

**N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE**

### Well-deserved honour

Sir, The government of India has done a commendable job by awarding this year’s Dada Saheb Phalke Award to veteran actor Asha Parekh for her lifetime contribution to Indian cinema. It is a well-deserved honour for the 79-year-old legendary actor. Asha Parekh was the leading lady of the Hindi film industry in the 1960’s and 70’s and is best known for her powerful performance in films like as “Dil Deke Dekho”, “Kati Patang”, “Teesri Manzil”, “Love in Tokyo”, and “Caravan”. Post her film career, the veteran actress has been concentrating on her dance academy Kara Bhavani and the Asha Parekh Hospital in Santacruz, Mumbai, named in her honour because of her many humanitarian contributions.

**Ramesh G Jethwani, BANGALORE**



# national

## of the day quote

Being coastal belt, we speak of a blue economy, but one can't pursue a degree in pisciculture here, Goan youths have to go to southern states for it. Hence we need to start it, so along with Goan students and even students from other states can take education

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CHIEF MINISTER

India has invited Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as guest countries for the Group of 20 leaders' summit to be held in New Delhi in September next year

HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA | INDIA'S CHIEF G20 COORDINATOR

Delhi University is the most successful centre of excellence in the country but much more can be done

HARDEEP SINGH PURI | UNION MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### YT held for creating memes of Mamata

**Kolkata:** The police Tuesday arrested a YouTuber for creating memes targeting Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The arrested person has been identified as Tuhin Mondal (30), whose mobile phone has also been confiscated by the police. The arrest was made based on a complaint filed by a person named Sagar Das.

### Man kills wife for not wearing 'burqa'

**Mumbai:** In a shocking incident, a 36-year-old man stabbed his wife to death after she refused to follow Islamic tenets or wear a 'burqa', the police said Tuesday. The incident occurred on Monday in Tilak Nagar where the accused, Iqbal Shaikh, his former Hindu wife Rupali Chandanshive, who converted and was named as Zara, and their two-year-old son Ali resided.

### Online gaming: ED raids company

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate has frozen more than Rs 68 crore worth of deposits after it raided a company and its related entities that ran mobile games and allegedly duped a number of people, including children, by extracting "unauthorised" payments from them and later transferred these to Singapore. The federal probe agency said in a statement that it searched three premises of Coda Payments India Pvt Ltd (CPIPL) as part of a money laundering investigation and added the company has collected Rs 2,850 crore till date, out of which Rs 2,265 crore was remitted "outside" India after retaining certain percentage of revenue for payment of taxes and nominal profits here.



**Lakhs of people depend on this (fruit trade), they have taken loans, they have taken money from Delhi's mandis. Who will give them that money? Will you? So, I warn the government if you don't open the road for trucks, then I along with others will block the national highway**

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

### CONG PREZ POLL: THAROOR TO FILE NOMINATION SEPT 30

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor will file his nomination for the Congress president's post September 30 at 11 am, party's central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry said Tuesday



## Cong to field all its sitting MLAs in HP: Sources

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 27:** The Congress Tuesday approved party tickets to all the 20 sitting MLAs in Himachal Pradesh and is learnt to have finalised the names of another 15 candidates for the upcoming assembly elections in the state, sources said.

The decision to field all party MLAs was taken at a meeting of the party's Central Election Committee headed by Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

The meeting was held at Gandhi's 10, Janpath residence, where senior leaders A K Antony, Ambika Soni, K C Venugopal, Girija Vyas, Mukul Wasnik, M Veerappa Moily and Mohsina Kidwai were present.

AICC in-charge for Himachal Pradesh Rajeev Shukla, Himachal state unit president Pratibha Singh and Congress Legislature Party leader Mukesh Agnihotri were also present.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi were not present in the meeting.

Some of the names approved at the meeting include Vikramaditya Singh from Shimla Rural and Mukesh Agnihotri from Haroli. Singh is the son of former chief minister Virbhadra Singh.

# Raj heading towards Prez rule?

AGENCIES

**Jaipur, Sept 27:** Amid the ongoing crisis in Rajasthan and the silence adopted by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Speaker CP Joshi on around 92 resignations reportedly tendered by the MLAs, speculation was rife in the state whether it is heading towards the President's rule.

All eyes are on the Raj Bhavan as the BJP adopts the wait and watch approach regarding the political turmoil in Rajasthan where Gehlot Vs. Pilot deadlock refuses to end. The saffron party leaders are waiting for Speaker CP Joshi's next move, after BJP state president Satish Poonia has left for Delhi to attend a programme.

However, there are chances that Rajasthan politics might be discussed with senior leaders. Meanwhile, Deputy Leader of Opposition of the Legislative Assembly Rajendra Rathod has said that when 90 per cent of the MLAs and ministers of the government have already resigned, the Chief Minister should call an emergency meeting and announce the dissolution of the Assembly.

He further said that the opposition BJP is keeping an eye on the whole situation. On Monday, both the state party president and deputy leader of opposition insisted that



the Speaker should accept the resignations which have been given by the party MLAs. BJP state president Satish Poonia said, "If the Congress MLAs resigned voluntarily and consciously then Assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi should have accepted it; the people of the state are suffering due to the discord in Congress."



Speaking on former deputy CM Pilot, he said, "BJP's door is not closed for Sachin Pilot. The final decision on this will be taken by the party high command. If such a situation arises, then the party high command will take a decision on it."

## CONGRESS ISSUES SHOW CAUSE NOTICE TO 3 GEHLOT LOYALISTS

**New Delhi:** The Congress Tuesday night issued show cause notices to three Ashok Gehlot loyalists - Rajasthan ministers Shanti Dhariwal and Mahesh Joshi, and Dharmender Rathore - for their "grave indiscipline" and asked them to explain within 10 days why action should not be initiated against them. The action came two days after 82 MLAs participated in a parallel meeting at Dhariwal's residence in Jaipur laying down conditions to the party and did not attend the official legislature party meeting convened for passing a resolution authorising the Congress chief to appoint a successor to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who was to contest the Congress presidential election. The panel's member secretary Tariq Anwar in the notice to Dhariwal, Joshi and Rathore, referred to Maken's report.

# Mann moves confidence motion in Assembly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, Sept 27:** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Tuesday moved a confidence motion in the state Assembly, accusing the BJP of trying to topple his government and alleging that the Congress is siding with the party. AAP had recently claimed that at least 10 of its MLAs were approached by the BJP with an offer of Rs 25 crore each in a bid to topple the six-month-old government under its "operation lotus".

The voting on the motion of confidence will be held October 3.

The Assembly session was convened after Governor Banwarilal Purohit Sunday gave his nod to it, after days of squabble between the Raj Bhavan and AAP government over it. Earlier, the Governor had withdrawn permission to hold a special session September 22 to bring a confidence motion only.

He then had approved the government's request to convene the House on Tuesday after it informed him that issues like stubble burning, goods and services tax and



power supply will also be taken up. The House was adjourned thrice Tuesday as Congress MLAs disrupted the proceedings. The motion was moved after the

**The BJP is using anti-defection law as a new tool to form governments in the state through the backdoor and unfortunately despite of being its worst victim, the Congress is supporting it**

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

ment. The Congress MLAs too held a mock session out of the House. After moving the confidence motion, Mann accused the Congress of supporting the BJP's "operation lotus" and alleged that its MLAs ran away from discussion in the House.

Leader of the Opposition and Congress MLA Partap Singh Bajwa said he will urge Governor Banwarilal Purohit to censure Mann for misleading him and the House over the issue of confidence motion and also get an FIR registered against the Chief Minister.



**FOR A CAUSE:** Women from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), who had come to the valley under the Jammu and Kashmir Government's rehabilitation policy for former militants, stage a protest demanding citizenship rights and travel documents to return to Pakistan in Srinagar

# Heavy rains likely to lash Kolkata during Durga Puja

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Sept 27:** Durga Puja in Kolkata and southern West Bengal districts is likely to be rain-drenched this year with the Met department Tuesday saying that a cyclonic circulation may form over northwest Bay of Bengal October 1.

Regional Met director GK Das said that the system is likely to cause heavy rain in Kolkata and other southern districts October 2 - Mahasaptami, the first day of the four-day festival.

"Rainfall is likely on all four days of the festival, with heavier precipitation October 2 and light to moderate rain till October 5 thereafter," Das said. The cyclonic circulation may intensify after formation October 1, he said.



A clay idol of Goddess Durga being carried to a community puja pandal for worship ahead of the Durga puja festival in Kolkata

The community puja organisers said they are taking all precautions to save the pandals and art

work. Bikash Majumder, the secretary of College Square Puja committee, said "We don't have con-

**Regional Met director GK Das said that the system is likely to cause heavy rain in Kolkata and other southern districts October 2 Mahasaptami, the first day of the four-day festival**

trol over nature but I am hopeful Maa Durga will ensure that we can celebrate the puja in a grand

manner as in pre-pandemic times and there is no interruption."

Majumder told PTI that while the puja committee is keeping itself ready to cope with any possible deluge, the role of Kolkata Municipal Corporation is important to prevent flooding of roads and to ensure quick dispersal of water in the event of heavy rains. General Secretary of Kashi Bose Lane Puja Committee Somen Dutta said, "We are praying that the rains don't play spoilsport as the celebrations will be grander after two years, more significantly in the light of the UNESCO honour."

"However, if there are heavy rains, we have all the arrangements in place to prevent short circuits, and protect the marquee and decorations," he said.

## LUMPY VIRUS

# Raj, Punjab & Guj severely affected

**ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING, SO FAR 20,57,700 ANIMALS HAVE BEEN INFECTED WITH THIS VIRUS, WHILE MORE THAN 97,000 HAVE DIED**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Sept 27:** States like Rajasthan, Punjab and Gujarat are severely affected by the spread of the lumpy skin disease which has so far infected nearly 20,57,700 animals across the country. On the other hand, among the bigger states, Uttar Pradesh has succeeded in halting the spread of the deadly disease.

Among the states, Rajasthan is facing the worst situation with about 14 lakh animals infected by the virus so far, of which 64,000 have died. Rajasthan is followed by Punjab, which has 1,73,159 infected animals, of which 17,200 have died and the mortality rate is

more than 10 percent.

In Gujarat, 1,56,236 animals have been infected with this virus, of which 5,544 have perished. Similarly, in Himachal Pradesh, 66,333 animals have contracted the disease, of which 2,993 have died whereas in Haryana, 1,941 animals out of the total 97,821 afflicted have perished. Infected animals in Jammu and Kashmir number 32,391, of which 333 have perished.

Likewise, the virus has killed 273 animals out of the 26,024 that have been infected with the virus in Uttar Pradesh. Officials said that the Uttar Pradesh government's efforts to halt the spread of the lumpy skin disease are showing positive outcomes. It has emerged as the most successful state in containing the spread of the lumpy virus, when compared to the six largest and most severely impacted states.

As many as 26 districts in the western part of the state have been affected by the lumpy skin disease. The Yogi government's prompt and effective action against the virus has resulted in a mortality rate of just 1% while 64% of the infected animals have recovered. The government is also carrying out vaccination regularly to safeguard the animals from this illness.





RISING COUNT

PROTESTS ERUPT

# Animal attacks killed 86 people in 2021-22

# Apples start to rot as deliveries stop

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Mumbai, Sept 27:** At a time when the entire nation's attention is fixed on the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, where eight cheetahs from Namibia were released on September 17, 70 years after they went extinct in the country, latest data show a worrying surge in the number of human casualties due to animal attacks in neighbouring Maharashtra.

Citing the latest data, Maharashtra Forest Minister Sudhir Mugantiwar recently revealed that in 2019-20 at least 47 people lost their lives in wild animal attacks, 80 were killed in 2020-21, and 86 persons died in 2021-22, showing an upward trajectory.

Speaking on the incidents of man-animal conflict in the state, Maharashtra's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Sunil Limaye, said that "it is not so good but not so bad either", even though he did sound a cautionary note on how it is more for humans to be understanding rather than for animals.

"Humans continually enter or encroach on wildlife territories despite specific 'dos and don'ts' to the effect, especially in the regions adjoining sanctuaries/reserves. Humans are grabbing more and more space



Hoping to give more 'breathing space' and 'elbow room' to the big and small wild animals, Maharashtra has so far declared 52 wildlife sanctuaries/reserves across the state, and proposes to add seven more soon

Additionally, in a welcome step last month, the state government decided to hike the compensation amount given to victims of injuries or fatalities in wildlife attacks, humans as well as their cattle or farm animals and fowl which are a source of livelihood

from wildlife, and don't allow wild animals to use their corridors or even chase them off when they are seen, resulting in conflicts," Limaye said.

He said the government has deployed Primary Response Teams to warn people from straying into

forests especially when wildlife movements, particularly the big cats are noticed after dusk, and even Rapid Rescue Teams in case of such tragedies as "the objective is to save both humans and animals".

Nevertheless, Maharashtra is plagued by various forms of man-

**People face maximum attacks from tigers, sloth bears, leopards, wild boars and gaurs, largely due to humans entering their domain or the animals straying out of their territories for food**

KISHORE RITHE | WILDLIFE CONSERVATIONIST

animal conflict across the state, said wildlife conservationist and Secretary of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) Kishore Rithe. "People here face maximum attacks from tigers, sloth bears, leopards, wild boars and gaurs, largely due to humans entering their domain or the animals straying out of their territories for food," Rithe explained.

Rithe said in the past few years, the state is concerned over the growing elephant menace stomping here from neighbouring Karnataka and Odisha states, causing widespread havoc on fertile agriculture land and crops.

"Elephants are now virtually 'residents' in the coastal Konkan and

'migratory' in parts of Vidarbha forests, spending three-four months a year, with the duration increasing gradually, adding to complications for humans and other wild creatures," added a worried Rithe, founder of the Satpuda Foundation.

Both Limaye and Rithe called for an all-round strategy to reduce man-creature skirmishes on a long-term basis, with the humans first understanding and responding to the needs of the animals to avoid conflicts. Hoping to give more 'breathing space' and 'elbow room' to the big and small wild animals, Maharashtra has so far declared 52 wildlife sanctuaries/reserves across the state, and proposes to add seven more soon.

This has taken the physical area of protected regions up to 13,000 sq. km to secure the flora and fauna, especially in the territories adjacent to national parks/sanctuaries/reserves or the critical 'jungle corridors' linking them, said Mugantiwar.

Additionally, in a welcome step last month, the state government decided to hike the compensation amount given to victims of injuries or fatalities in wildlife attacks, humans as well as their cattle or farm animals and fowl which are a source of livelihood.

REUTERS

**Srinagar, Sept 27:** Roadworks have halted thousands of trucks carrying millions of dollars worth of apples on Kashmir's main highway, a major union leader said, triggering protests by growers as their produce begins to rot.

Highway repairs were causing massive delays along the highway that connects the disputed Kashmir valley to the rest of India, meaning huge expected losses.

"We have 8,000 trucks carrying apples worth 100 crore rupees (one billion rupees, or about \$12.25 million) stranded on the highway for the last two weeks," Bashir Ahmad Basheer, the head of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers and Dealers Union, said. Employing more than three million people, fruit cultivation is an economic lifeline for the Himalayan region, which is claimed in full but ruled in part by both India and Pakistan.

All 10 major wholesale fruit markets in the Kashmir valley were shut Sunday and Monday as farmers protested against what they said was traffic mismanagement. "The apples in the truck have started rotting now," said Rajesh Kumar, a trucker from Punjab.

"I don't know how many more



All 10 major wholesale fruit markets in the Kashmir valley were shut Sunday and Monday as farmers protested against what they said was traffic mismanagement

The Divisional Commissioner for Kashmir said this year had seen a bumper apple crop of more than 2.1 million metric tons due to heavy rain

days I will be here," he said, adding he had been stuck on the highway for six days. The Divisional Commissioner for Kashmir said this year had seen a bumper apple crop of more than 2.1 million metric tons due to heavy rain.

"We have difficulties in the movement of traffic on the highway due to shooting stones (falling rocks) but it is beyond human control," Commissioner P.K. Pole told Reuters. Repair work on the Srinagar-Jammu highway would be finished this week, a local government official said.

ANNUAL SEASONAL JOURNEY

## J&K nomads begin moving towards plains

Every year, by the end of March, thousands of nomads begin their annual seasonal journey with lakhs of sheep and goats from Jammu region to reach the Kashmir valley



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Srinagar, Sept 27:** As the winter is around the corner, the nomadic Bakarwal tribe of Jammu and Kashmir began moving from the upper reaches to the plains of Jammu starting October in order to avoid the harsh Kashmir winters.

Every year, by the end of March, thousands of nomads begin their annual seasonal journey with lakhs of sheep and goats from Jammu region to reach the Kashmir valley. These families embark on their journey towards the alpine pastures for grazing during the summer before returning to warmer districts of Jammu region in October as the temperature goes down.

Instead of their regular movement on foot which would take

weeks of marches and halts, the tribal families and their livestock have now been offered a lift. In a first, Jammu and Kashmir's tribal affairs department used trucks for transportation of livestock and families of migratory tribal population from various highland pastures in Kashmir to Jammu districts.

A senior government official said that seven lakh people from tribal communities, including Gujjars and Bakarwals, travel every year with their livestock mostly from Jammu to Kashmir in summer and back in winter.

The transport facility will reduce the travel time of some of these families from 20-30 days on-foot to 1-2 days.

The official said that migratory

tribal families started their journey from central Kashmir's Budgam district to Rajouri. "District administration Shopian and budgam has made arrangements for transport and other facilities," he said. He said that the reverse vertical migration of tribal families has started while government transport is being provided from pick-up points in district Ramban.

"DC Ramban Mussarat Zia is supervising the arrangements for them. Besides, the help-desks have been established," he added. The official further said the administration is working continuously at different levels to safeguard the rights of tribals and will work in a mission mode for their development and betterment.

WELFARE, REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT WORK

## Indian Army training youths for 'Agniveer'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Jammu, Sept 27:** Along with protecting the borders in Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian Army is also at the forefront of welfare, reform and development work. Besides conducting various professional courses to make the youth employable, these days the Army has started giving special training to the youth so that they can be recruited under the 'Agniveer' scheme launched by the Centre.

Its purpose is to provide the J&K youth with an opportunity to render their services for the defence of the country along with making them employed. The Indian Army is trying to provide the necessary knowledge and training to the youth living in remote and near the border areas so that they can perform well in recruitment.



## Why Shivaji Park matters for Sena

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 27:** What has politics in Maharashtra got to do with Mumbai's Shivaji Park? A lot, historians and political analysts say.

Popularly known for being a cradle of Indian cricket - this is where batting legend Sachin Tendulkar cut his teeth in the game, the sprawling playground in the heart of Mumbai has been a rallying centre for many social and political movements that have shaped the state's history over the past century.

For Shiv Sena, though, it has a special place. Its founder late Bal Thackeray held his first political rally here on the day of Dussehra 56 years ago, an event that would recur every year thereafter. Thackeray would use these rallies to spell out the party's political agenda from time to time, hit out at his rivals and offer motivational speeches to his followers, said veteran Sena leader and MP Gajanan Kirtikar.

When Thackeray died in 2012, he was cremated here. Sena workers call Shivaji Park 'Shiva-tirtha', or a holy place, that now houses a memorial to Bal Thackeray. That is why Shivaji Park turned into a new battleground between the two warring factions of the Shiv Sena, led respectively by

SPECIAL PLACE



Maharashtra's current chief minister, Eknath Shinde and his predecessor Uddhav Thackeray who bowed out of office in June, after the former staged a rebellion. Shinde walked with an overwhelming majority of MLAs to form the new government in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Both sides are since fighting a bitter court battle over who has the right to the legacy of Shiv Sena and its founder leader Bal Thackeray. That fight turned uglier earlier this month when both sides decided to hold Dussehra rallies in Shivaji Park.

Fearing a possible law and order problem, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) denied permission to both factions,

but on Friday the Mumbai High Court granted the Thackeray group permission for the rally. Thackeray's supporters erupted in joy, as they saw the court's ruling as vindicating their claim to being the real Shiv Sena.

"Bal Thackeray held people in thrall at his Dussehra rallies at Shivaji Park year after year for five decades. Later, Uddhav ji guided us from there as party chief. So it is naturally our right (to hold the rally there)," said Arvind Sawant, a spokesperson for the Uddhav-led Sena faction. Before his death, an ailing Thackeray held a virtual rally at Shivaji Park to urge his party workers to support his son Uddhav and grandson Aaditya, Sawant added.

SETTING AN EXAMPLE

## Children learn making 'bhakri' to pursue education

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 27:** Glue traps, which are commonly used to catch and kill rats and pests, are becoming a threat to wild animals in Mumbai and neighbouring districts, as they often get injured and die after coming in contact with these devices.



of wild animals, birds and reptiles such as squirrels, bats, kingfishers, owls, python and monitor lizards from such traps, he said.

Glue traps are a major cause for concern in urban areas, where they are regularly used by pest control agencies, at factories, companies, residential and commercial areas. Sharma said, "Several cases of animals dying or getting injured due to glue traps go unreported due to lack of awareness and in most instances, people don't come forward to avoid legal hassles." Mumbai, Thane and surrounding areas have a unique biodiversity that needs to be protected and conserved, he said.

The RAWW has been campaigning to spread awareness and was appealing to citizens and officials to understand this issue and address it by stopping the use of the device and discontinuing its production, he said. "Glue traps are also a potential human hazard, as rodents that get trapped in it remain alive for hours and slowly die of trauma, pain and starvation, and eventually become carriers of dangerous diseases," Sharma said.

**BHAKRI IS PART OF THE STAPLE MEAL IN MAHARASHTRA AND IS MADE BY FLATTENING JOWAR, BAJRA OR RICE FLOUR DOUGH WITH ONE'S PALMS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pune, Sept 27:** Children from a small village in Maharashtra, most of whose parents are migrant labourers, are mastering the skill of making their staple food 'bhakri', other basic meal items and to take care of themselves so that they do not discontinue studies when their parents are not around.

The initiative, started by a teacher at the Kulalwadi Zilla Parishad School in Jath tehsil of Sangli, has not only improved the enrolment rate of students, but other schools in the region are also following the initiative, an education officer in Sangli said while appreciating the campaign.

The parents of most of these students are sugarcane labourers and migrate from Kulalwadi village to other regions to cut the crop before the cane crushing season starts



Students from Kulalwadi ZP School show their perfect round shaped bhakris in Sangli district

PTI PHOTO

ahead of Diwali festival. As the children earlier had no option but to go with their parents, they would drop out from school, discontinuing their studies.

Bhaktraj Garje, a teacher at the Kulalwadi ZP School, got an idea in 2016 of helping these students of Classes 1 to 8 to continue their education even in the absence of their parents. He encouraged them to

stay back home, learn making bhakri and other basic food items and at the same time study at the school.

Bhakri is part of the staple meal in Maharashtra and is made by flattening jowar, bajra or rice flour dough with one's palms. To generate the interest of these children in learning the art of making a perfectly round bhakri, Garje also started organising competitions

in the school. "Today, we have 240 students enrolled in the school as compared to 80 a few years ago, and the dropout percentage is nearly zero. The parents are also happy that their children do not have to leave their studies and also not follow them wherever they go," Garje said. The Jath tehsil comes under heavy rainfall-prone region but as the land is rocky, it is not suit-

able for agriculture due to which locals look for other means of livelihood, he said. Earlier, people used to rear sheep and goats. Of late, the villagers have started taking up the task of cutting sugarcane and they go to places where they get work, he said.

Garje said when he came to the school some years ago, there were 80 students in the institution, majority of them children of sugarcane farm labourers. "It was observed that before Diwali, about 50 per cent of the students would drop out and go with their parents. When I tried to speak to the parents, they said if they leave their children back home, who will cook for them and feed them? Their concern was valid," he said.

To find a solution to the problem, Garje got the idea of encouraging students to learn to make bhakri and prepare other food items. "Since 2016, the children are learning how to make bhakris and have now slowly mastered the skill," Garje said. He said initially, they used to ask the students to make cow dung cakes for practice as bhakris are prepared with hands in a similar manner.

"To encourage the students, we also started holding bhakri-making competitions in the school twice a year. Along with this, the students were also given tips on how to maintain hygiene and cleanliness," he said.



of the day quote

Those who indulge in conspiring against society must be strictly dealt with. They should be finished off. There will be action on those who have committed crimes. More arrests will follow after the probe

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | K'TAKA CHIEF MINISTER

The word Swaraj has many meanings. The story of Swaraj begins with the history of our country, culture, language and religion. We have to tell all these things to the new generation. It is the need of the hour that we should tell the true meaning of Swaraj to the younger generation

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | HARYANA CM

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will launch his government's 15-point action plan to fight air pollution in winter September 30

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

JeM ultra killed in J&K encounter

Srinagar: A member of proscribed terror outfit Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) has been killed in an ongoing encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, police said Tuesday. The security forces had launched a cordon-and-search operation in Kulgam's Ahwato area following information about the presence of terrorists there, a police official said. He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the ultras opened fire on the security forces, who retaliated. Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Kashmir Vijay Kumar said two JeM ultras were trapped in the cordoned area.

Baby kidnapped from hosp in J&K

Jammu: A six-month-old baby was allegedly kidnapped from the government district hospital in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district Tuesday, police said. A senior officer said CCTV footage showed a burqa clad woman carrying away the baby from the hospital at around 12.30 pm, adding a search has been launched to nab her and rescue the child. Police have also announced a reward of Rs 10,000 for any information about the child.

Bandh hits normal life in Pondy

Pondy: Normal life was affected in Puducherry Tuesday due to a 12-hour long bandh called by Hindu Munnani to condemn the alleged remarks made against Hindu community by DMK MP A Raja. Shops and establishments remained closed in and around Puducherry and majority of schools also were shut as a precautionary measure. Private bus operators kept the vehicles off the roads while government-run buses operated with police protection, police said. Over 200 people, including the president of Puducherry State unit of Hindu Munnani A V Sanilkumar were taken into custody for staging road roko at various points.

MP: Student killed as bus overturns

Bhopal: One student died while around 10 reportedly got injured after a private bus carrying around 40-45 school children overturned in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district Tuesday. The student, who died on spot, has been identified as Shailendra Kimar, a Class 9 student of Lakshya Public School in Sagar district. The condition of three other students was reported to be critical and they are being treated at a hospital in the district, police said.



ED, income tax department, CBI officials are sitting in Rajasthan. BJP's game has started. BJP is again engaged in a conspiracy to topple the Rajasthan government

PRATAP SINGH KHACHARIYAWAS | MEMBER OF THE RAJASTHAN ASSEMBLY

DENGUE SCARE

Dengue cases continued to rise in West Bengal, as the state recorded 840 new infections, health department officials said. Most of the cases have been reported from North 24 Parganas, Howrah, Kolkata, Hooghly, Murshidabad, South 24 Parganas, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts, they said



Teacher thrashes Dalit boy to death, Oppn seeks action

AGENCIES

Auraiya (UP), Sept 27: A 15-year-old Dalit boy has died days after he was thrashed by his schoolteacher here, prompting the opposition parties to target the Yogi Adityanath government while local residents staged a protest, officials said Tuesday.

Nikhil Kumar, a class 10 student at a local inter-college on Phaphond Road in Achalda police station area, was allegedly thrashed by his social sciences teacher Ashwini Singh September 7 for making mistakes in a test. He was admitted to a hospital where he died Monday, the police said.

Amid uproar over the student's death, Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati hit out at the government and demanded prompt action against the accused.

The deceased's father Raju Dohre alleged that the teacher hit his son with sticks and kicked him so badly that he fainted in school. When the family members rushed to the school, they were threatened at first. However, when the boy's condition worsened, the teacher took him to Etawah from where he was referred to Saifai PGI (Post Graduate Institute of Medical Science), Dohre added.

Nigam said the teacher escaped as news of the student's death became public and raids were being carried out to arrest him. He added that the test copies had been kept in a cupboard in the inter-college and the key was with the accused

Violent protests in Uttar Pradesh

AURAIYA: Violent protests took place in Uttar Pradesh's Auraiya district the death of the Dalit boy. The family and members of Bhim Army had initially refused to cremate the body, demanding immediate arrest of the accused teacher, who is absconding. They staged a sit-in protest on the road outside the school in Achalda area of the district where the victim studied. The protest soon turned violent, with some infuriated locals setting a police jeep on fire. They also allegedly threw stones at the police personnel.



teacher. The room has been sealed, the SP said, adding that preliminary inquiry suggested that the student had blackened two to three squares of the OMR sheet instead of one and had also made a spelling mistake, infuriating the teacher. District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Srivastava has met with the parents of the victim and assured action.

Action against the teacher had been initiated under Section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code and related sections, including SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, he added.



Mortal remains of the Dalit boy being taken for cremation in Auraiya PTI PHOTO



IAF's Suryakiran aerobatic team performs during an air show in Guwahati, Assam

PTI PHOTO

SC allows EC to go ahead with hearing of 'real' Sena

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 27: After a day-long hearing, the Supreme Court Tuesday declined to stop the Election Commission from deciding the claim of Eknath Shinde group to be the real Shiv Sena.

A five-judge constitution bench, headed by Justice DY Chandrachud, said there will be no stay on proceedings before the EC to decide intra-party dispute in Shiv Sena between Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde faction, on which one is the original party and also on getting the party symbol.

The bench - also comprising Justices MR Shah, Krishna Murari, Hima Kohli, and P.S. Narasimha - declined to entertain a plea by the Thackeray faction that EC should not be allowed to proceed in the matter till the apex court decides the plea pertaining to disqualification of Shiv Sena MLAs. "We direct that there would be no stay of



During the hearing, the bench noted that the political party is a much wider configuration than the legislative unit of that party which consists of the elected members. It further queried if the dispute in relation to the former in the legislative unit affect the authority of the EC. Both Shiv Sena factions welcomed the Supreme Court decision

the proceedings before the Election Commission of India," it said. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the Thackeray faction, submitted before the bench that

Shinde cannot move the EC, once he has incurred disqualification. Justice Chandrachud noted that mere fact a reference has been made does not stall a constitutional body from deciding if it has power to decide under the law.

The bench noted that Thackeray's faction contended that the proceedings before the EC is the offshoot of the petitions before it and so it should not go on.

Sibal argued that Shinde wants to go to the EC and say that his faction is the political party, but much before that his membership to the party is in question in these proceedings, which have to be decided first. The Thackeray faction moved the apex court seeking stay on EC's proceedings on Eknath Shinde-faction's plea for recognition as real Shiv Sena.

The apex court heard arguments from the lawyers of both factions, and also the submission of counsel of the EC.

ANKITA DIED OF 'SUFFOCATION, DROWNING'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dehradun, Sept 27: Post-mortem report of Ankita Bhandari, who was allegedly killed by Pulkit Arya, the son of now expelled BJP leader Vinod Arya, has suggested that she died because of suffocation and drowning in water.

Ankita (19), who worked as a receptionist at a resort in Uttarakhand's Pauri district, was reported missing a few days ago. On Saturday morning, her body was recovered. Ankita had reportedly refused to provide 'special service' to the guests at the resort owned by Pulkit Arya.

The post-mortem of Ankita's body has been done by a panel of four doctors of AIIMS Rishikesh. The detailed post-mortem report was received by the SIT on Monday evening. Ankita's relatives were demanding to make her report public, so the report was also made available to them late Monday evening.

Director General of Police, Ashok Kumar said that the cause of death has been given as suffocation and drowning in the post-mortem report. Meanwhile, the SIT visited the resort, collected evidence and recorded the statements of the staff. Now preparations are being made to take the accused on remand. The SIT is preparing to take the three accused arrested including Pulkit Arya, the main accused in the murder case, on remand. An application for this can be filed in the court Tuesday.

Yamuna flowing above danger mark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: Authorities on Tuesday started evacuating people living in the low-lying areas near the Yamuna banks in Delhi with the water level in the river rising to 206.18 metres, much above the danger mark of 205.33 metres and the highest this year so far, following incessant rains in the upper catchment areas.

East Delhi District Magistrate Anil Banka said an evacuation alert was issued Tuesday morning after the water level crosses the 206-metre mark.

"People living in low-lying areas near the riverbanks are being evacuated and shifted to higher grounds. Arrangements have been made for their stay at government schools and night shelters in nearby areas," he said. Announcements are being made to caution people about a further

The Yamuna had breached the danger mark of 205.33 metres August 12, following which around 7,000 people were evacuated from the low-lying areas near the riverbanks

The water level had shot up to 205.99 metres August 13 before the river started receding



increase in the water level, Banka said. The low-lying areas near the river in Delhi are considered vulnerable to flooding. They are home to around 37,000 people.

This is the second time within two months that the authorities are evacuating the people living in the river floodplains due to flooding.

The Delhi flood control room said the water level at the Old Delhi Railway Bridge crossed the evac-

uation level of 206 metres at 5.45 am Tuesday. The river swelled to 206.18 metres by 9 am. It predicted that the water level may increase to 206.5 metres between 3 pm and 5 pm.

The authorities reported a discharge rate of around 96,000 cusecs at 7 am from the Hathnikund barrage in Haryana. The discharge rate was 2,95,212 cusecs at 6 am on Monday, which is the highest so far this year. One cusec is equivalent to 28.32 litres per second.

AAP's claims against L-G were 'reckless': Delhi HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: In an interim order, the Delhi High Court Tuesday restrained the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and several of its leaders from making "defamatory" statements against Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and directed them to take down the alleged libelous posts, videos, and tweets against him on social media, saying they have been made in a reckless manner.

The high court said on a prima facie view, the various statements or interviews or press conferences or tweets or re-tweets or hashtags made by the AAP and its leaders are per se defamatory and they have been made in a reckless manner; without any factual verification, in order to tarnish the reputation of Saxena. The court's interim order came on

a suit filed by Saxena seeking to injunct AAP, its leaders Atishi Singh, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Durgesh Pathak, Sanjay Singh, and Jasmine Shah, who was appointed by the Government of NCT of Delhi as Vice Chairperson of the Dialogue and Development Commission, from making false allegations against him and direct them to delete or take down the alleged false and libelous posts or tweets or videos circulated and issued on social media against him and his family.

The AAP leaders had alleged that Saxena had received and channelised demonetised currency in November 2016 while acting as chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). The party had alleged that Saxena was involved in a Rs 1,400 crore scam.

Army eyes major firepower upgrade to counter China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: The Army has significantly bolstered its fire power along the frontier with China by deploying a range of rockets and artillery weapons and plans to procure an array of additional systems, including 100 K9 Vajra howitzers and UAVs, to augment combat prowess.

"We are looking at procuring UAVs having a range of 15-20 kms as well as those having capabilities to carry out surveillance at a range of up to 80kms having an endurance of four hours," said a source.

At present, almost all UAVs in the Army's inventory are being operated by the Army Aviation units. The sources said the Army is set to

procure a new batch of 100 more K9 Vajras howitzers, in addition to 100 such guns ordered in 2017.

"The Defence Acquisition Council has cleared the proposal for ordering 100 more K9 Vajras. The Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued soon," the source said.

The K9 Vajras were originally procured for deployment in deserts, but following the eastern Ladakh standoff, the Army deployed a significant number of the howitzers in that high-altitude region. The sources said minor adjustments were made for deployment of the tracked howitzers in eastern Ladakh.

The sources said the Army is also in the process of procuring Advanced Towed Artillery Gun



System, commonly known as ATAGS, and Mounted Gun Systems (MGS).

They said induction of more advanced Pinaka weapon systems is in the offing, adding six more reg-

iments of the systems are being procured and their delivery would commence soon.

The sources said the new Pinaka regiments will be equipped with electronically and mechanically

STRICT VIGIL

The Artillery units of the Indian Army already deployed K-9 Vajra Rocket Self-Propelled Howitzers, ultra-light M-777 howitzers, Pinaka rocket systems and Dhanush gun systems

Sources in the defence establishment said the Army plans to equip its Artillery units along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) with a range of up to 90 kms

improved weapon system capable of firing variety of ammunition over longer ranges.

One regiment of Pinaka has been inducted along Northern borders in high altitude area

after extensive validation, they said, adding the defence ministry has already approved procurement of guided extended range rockets for Pinaka. "The rocket would be capable of firing at longer ranges with significant accuracy," the source said.

The Army is also in the process of procuring 'Loitering Munition System' thereby augmenting its surveillance, target acquisition and precision strike capability.

On the indigenously developed Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), the sources said it is in advanced stages of trial.

This gun system has many firsts to its credit - 25-litre chamber, long range, as also rapid and sustained rates of fire.



# international



**We don't view our relationship with Pakistan, and on the other hand, we don't view our relationship with India as in relation to one another. These are both partners of ours with different points of emphasis in each**

NEED PRICE | US STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON

## SHAKIRA TO FACE TRIAL

A Spanish judge Tuesday approved a trial for Colombian pop singer Shakira on charges of tax fraud. Spanish prosecutors accused the entertainer in 2018 of failing to pay 14.5 million euros (\$13.9 million) in taxes on income earned between 2012 and 2014



## of the day quote

We will not fail to use all the means to defend our country's rights and interests against Greece, when necessary



RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKISH PRESIDENT

The Western countries' sanctions against Russia have triggered the local conflict between Russia and Ukraine into a global economic war



VIKTOR ORBAN | HUNGARY PM

There must be resumption of dialogues between Armenia and Azerbaijan to solve their ongoing border conflict



EMMANUEL MACRON | FRENCH PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Audio leaks: Pak PM to form panel

**Islamabad:** Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced that a high-level committee would be constituted to probe the embarrassing audio leaks from the Prime Minister's Office that have triggered a controversy, with the Opposition demanding his resignation. A slew of audio recordings featuring confidential conversations of the prime minister with high-government officials surfaced on social media last week, raising questions about the security of the highest office of the country.

### Ishaq Dar sworn in as Senator

**Islamabad:** Ishaq Dar, Pakistan's former finance minister who is once again set to take charge as the new financial czar, was sworn in as a Senator on Tuesday amid loud protests by former premier Imran Khan's party members who shouted slogans, calling him a "thief" and an "absconder." Dar, 72, who had been in self-exile since 2017 after being accused in a corruption case, was elected to the Senate from Punjab but could not take oath as he was not in the country. He is set to replace Miftah Ismail as finance minister.

### Bangladesh boat capsized: Toll rises

**Dhaka:** The death toll from a major boat accident in northern Bangladesh has climbed to 68, officials said on Tuesday, two days after the overcrowded vessel carrying Hindu devotees to a centuries-old temple capsized. The devotees, including women and children, were heading towards the Bodeshwari Temple on the occasion of Mahalaya, the auspicious start of the Durga Puja festival, when the boat capsized in the Korotoa River in the northwestern Panchagarh district on Sunday. At least 20 people are still missing, officials said. Eighteen bodies were recovered from Debiganj and Boda upazilas in Panchagarh and Atrai river in Dinajpur Tuesday morning.

### Kenyan lawyer found dead

**Nairobi (Kenya):** Police say a Kenyan lawyer facing charges at the International Criminal Court of bribing and threatening prosecution witnesses in a past ICC case against Kenya's recently elected president has been found dead. Paul Gicheru had pleaded not guilty earlier this year to all eight counts of interfering with witnesses in the case against William Ruto, who had been charged with involvement in violence after Kenya's 2007 election that left more than 1,000 people dead.

# MYSTERY LEAKS IN RUSSIAN GAS PIPELINES SPARK FEARS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Warsaw, Sept 27:** A series of unusual leaks on two natural gas pipelines running from Russia under the Baltic Sea to Germany triggered concerns about sabotage Tuesday, overshadowing the inauguration of a long-awaited pipeline that will bring Norwegian gas to Poland to bolster Europe's energy independence from Moscow.

Seismic stations in Sweden, Norway and Finland registered two explosions Monday near the leaks. Bjorn Lund, a seismologist with Uppsala University who is part of Sweden's national seismic network, said the first explosion was recorded in the early hours southeast of the Danish island of Bornholm. The latter and stronger blast that night was northeast of the island and equivalent to a magnitude-2.3 earthquake.

"We know very well what an underwater blast looks like. And so in this case, there's no doubt this is not an earthquake," Lund said. Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki called the events "an act of sabotage," while Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said she could not rule it out after three leaks were detected over the past day on the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines, which are filled with gas but not delivering the fuel to Europe. An energy standoff over Russia's war in Ukraine halted flows on Nord Stream 1 and prevented them from ever starting in the parallel Nord Stream 2.

Frederiksen, Morawiecki and Polish President Andrzej Duda symbolically opened a valve of a yellow pipe belonging to the Baltic Pipe, a new system that will bring Norway's gas across Denmark and the Baltic Sea to Poland.

"The era of Russian domination in the gas sphere is coming to an



The Baltic Pipe is a prominent element in the European Union's search for energy security and is to start bringing Norwegian gas through Denmark and along the Baltic Sea to Poland on October 1

Polish energy expert Andrzej Sikora said he has been warning of the possibility of attacks on pipeline infrastructure since the construction of Nord Stream 1 in 2010

end," Morawiecki declared. "An era that was marked by blackmail, threats and extortion." No official presented evidence of what caused the Nord Stream problems, but with distrust of Russia running high, some feared Moscow sabotaged its own infrastructure out of spite or to warn that pipelines are vulnerable to attack. The leaks off the coast of Denmark and Sweden raised the stakes on whether energy infrastructure in European waters was being targeted and leading to a small bump

in natural gas prices.

"We can clearly see that this is an act of sabotage, an act that probably means a next step of escalation in the situation that we are dealing with in Ukraine," Morawiecki said. Anders Puck Nielsen, a researcher with the Center for Maritime Operations at the Royal Danish Defence College, said the timing of the leaks was "conspicuous" given the ceremony for the Baltic Pipe. He said perhaps someone sought "to send a signal that something could happen to the Norwegian gas."

"The arrow points in the direction of Russia," Puck Nielsen said. "No one in the West is interested in having any kind of instability in the energy market." The extent of the damage means the Nord Stream pipelines are unlikely to be able to carry any gas to Europe this winter even if there was political will to bring them online, analysts at the Eurasia Group said.

"Depending on the scale of the damage, the leaks could even mean a permanent closure of both lines," analysts Henning Gloystein and Jason Bush wrote.

## DEEP CONCERN

# 'Spike in oil price is breaking our back'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, Sept 27:** India, which has a USD 2,000 per capita economy, is concerned over the spike in the price of oil due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and it is "breaking our back," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Tuesday.

Addressing a joint press conference with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken after holding bilateral talks, Jaishankar said there is a very deep concern among developing countries about how their energy needs are addressed.

Speaking about the Ukraine war, he said: "We have taken the position privately, publicly, confidentially and consistently that this conflict is not in anybody's interest." The best way forward is to return to dialogue and diplomacy, he said. "Look, we have concerns about the price of oil but we are a USD 2,000 per capita economy. When the price

of oil is breaking our back and it's our big concern," he said.

Jaishankar was responding to a question on a cap on Russian oil. "In the past whenever we have been able to contribute something, we have been open to it," he said. "Right now there are some issues," he said. "You have to understand that in the last few months the energy markets are already under very great stress. Countries in the global south have found it difficult to compete for limited energy, not just in terms of escalating pricing but often in terms of availability."

"Our concern right now is that energy markets already under stress must soften up. We would judge any situation frankly by how it affects us and other countries in the global south. There is a very deep concern among developing countries about how their energy security needs are addressed or not," Jaishankar said.



RISING TENSION: A demonstrator cuts his hair during a protest following the death of Mahsa Amini in Iran, in Nicosia, Cyprus

## PRAYERS AND GUN SALUTE

# DIVIDED JAPAN BIDS FAREWELL TO SLAIN SHINZO ABE

REUTERS

**Tokyo, Sept 27:** With flowers, prayers and a 19-gun salute, Japan honoured slain former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday at the first state funeral for a former premier in 55 years - a ceremony that has become as controversial as he was in life.

The ceremony started at 2:00 p.m. (05:00 GMT), with Abe's ashes carried into the Nippon Budokan Hall in central Tokyo by his widow, Akie, to music from a military band and the booms of the honour-guard salute, which echoed inside the hall.

Thousands of mourners flooded to designated spots near the venue from early morning to pay their last respects. Within hours, about 10,000 people had laid flowers, television showed, with more waiting in three-

hour long queues.

"I know it's divisive and there are a lot of people against this, but there were so many people lined up to offer flowers," said Yoshiko Kojima, a 63-year-old Tokyo housewife. "I felt that now the funeral is actually taking place, many people have come out to pray for him."

Abe's killing at a July 8 campaign rally set off a flood of revelations about ties between lawmakers in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) he once ran and the Unification Church, which critics call a cult, sparking a backlash against current premier Fumio Kishida.

With his support ratings dragged to their lowest ever by the controversy, Kishida has apologised and vowed to cut party ties to the church. But opposition to honouring Abe with a state funeral, the first such



event since 1967, has persisted, fed by an \$11.5-million price tag to be borne by the state at a time of economic pain for ordinary citizens.

In one part of downtown Tokyo, protesters waved signs and chanted



"No state funeral" to the tune of a guitar. Inside the Budokan, better known as a concert venue, a large portrait of Abe draped with black ribbon hung over a bank of green, white and yellow flowers.

## EVACUATION ON WAR FOOTING

# After Cuba, Florida gearing up for Ian



The hurricane centre said there's a 100 percent chance of damaging winds and water along Florida's west coast, issuing a hurricane warning from Bonita Beach north through Tampa Bay to the Anclote River

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Havana, Sept 27:** Hurricane Ian tore into western Cuba Tuesday as a major hurricane, with nothing to stop it from intensifying into a catastrophic Category 4 hurricane before it hits Florida Wednesday.

Ian made landfall at 4:30 a.m. EDT Tuesday in Cuba's Pinar del Rio province, where officials set up 55 shelters, evacuated 50,000 people, rushed in emergency personnel and took steps to protect crops in Cuba's main tobacco-growing region.

The U.S. National Hurricane Centre said "significant wind and storm surge impacts" were occurring Tuesday morning in western Cuba. Ian sustained top winds of 205 kmph as it moved over the city of Pinar del Rio. As much as 14 feet of storm surge was predicted along Cuba's coast. After passing over Cuba, Ian was forecast to strengthen even more over warm

Gulf of Mexico waters, reaching top winds of 225 kmh before making landfall again.

Tropical storm-force winds were expected in Florida late Tuesday, reaching hurricane force Wednesday morning. The hurricane centre said there's a 100 percent chance of damaging winds and water along Florida's west coast, issuing a hurricane warning from Bonita Beach north through Tampa Bay to the Anclote River.

Tampa and St. Petersburg could get their first direct hit by a major hurricane since 1921. "Please treat this storm seriously. It's the real deal. This is not a drill," Hillsborough County Emergency Management Director Timothy Dudley said Monday at a news conference on storm preparations in Tampa.

Western Cuba is relatively lightly populated, but with tropical storm force winds extending outward 185 kilometers from Ian's centre, Cuba's capital wasn't spared. Havana's residents openly worried about flooding ahead of the storm, with workers unclogging storm drains and fishermen taking their boats out of the water.

"I am very scared because my house gets completely flooded, with water up to here," Adyz Ladrón said, pointing to his chest. In Havana's El Fanguito, a poor neighbourhood near the Almendares River, residents packed up what they could.



# business

## of the day quote

Why is the government introducing various reforms like PLI (Production Linked Incentive scheme)? We are spending lakhs of crores per sector because we want to make India the manufacturing hub of the world.

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN | UNION MINISTER

We now see economies in recovery but the outlook has started to worsen. This is due to growing challenges such as the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the financial instability that may result from the

MASATSUGU ASAKAWA | ADB PRESIDENT

We will invest up to Rs 350 crore to open 100 screens in FY23. I see the same trend continuing in the next 2-3 years as well

GAUTAM DUTTA | PVR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## SHORT TAKES

### LIC buys over 2% stake in BPCL

**New Delhi:** LIC has acquired over a 2 per cent stake in state-owned refiner Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) for nearly Rs 1,598 crore since December last year. The state-owned life insurance behemoth in a regulatory filing Tuesday said its shareholding in BPCL has increased from 15,25,08,269 to 19,61,15,164 equity shares, increasing its shareholding from 7.03 per cent to 9.04 per cent of the paid-up capital of the company. As per Sebi's regulatory norm, listed companies have to disclose shareholding in excess of 2 per cent. BPCL has a market capitalisation of Rs 67,301 crore, which is in the refining of crude oil and marketing of petroleum products. "There is an increase of more than 2 per cent in the holding during the period from December 28, 2021, to September 26, 2022," LIC said.

### Google India policy head quits

**New Delhi:** Google India's government affairs and public policy head Archana Gulati, who had joined the tech giant just five months back after quitting government service, has resigned from her post, sources said. An economics graduate and a Ph.D. from IIT-Delhi, Gulati was Joint Secretary (Digital Communications) at NITI Aayog, a government think tank that advises the Union government on policy, before she joined Google India. Sources aware of the matter said Gulati has resigned from Google India. When contacted both Gulati and Google declined to comment on the matter. It wasn't known why she resigned from Google. The resignation comes at a time when Google is facing a series of antitrust cases in India and stricter tech-sector regulations.

### Torrent Pharma to acquire Curatio

**New Delhi:** Torrent Pharmaceuticals Tuesday said it will acquire Curatio Healthcare for Rs 2,000 crore to strengthen its presence in the dermatology segment. The company has entered into definitive agreements to acquire 100 per cent of Curatio Healthcare for Rs 2,000 crore, Torrent Pharmaceuticals said in a regulatory filing. "The consideration includes Rs 115 crore (on the date of signing) of cash and cash equivalents in the acquired business indicating an enterprise value of Rs 1,885 crore," it added. The acquisition offers Torrent the opportunity to enhance its presence in dermatology with a differentiated portfolio and is a strong strategic fit, Torrent Pharmaceuticals Director Aman Mehta said.

# MPC meet begins today, another rate hike likely

SINCE MAY, THE CENTRAL BANK HAS CUMULATIVELY RAISED THE INTEREST RATE BY 140 BPS IN ITS EFFORT TO CONTAIN INFLATION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 27:** The Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel will start its 3-day deliberations Wednesday amid expectations of yet another rate hike of 50 basis points to check high inflation, in line with similar actions taken by other major central banks, including the US Fed. Based on the recommendations of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the RBI had effected 50 basis points increase in repo rate each in June and August after raising the short-term lending rate by 40 basis points in an off-cycle decision in May.

The MPC, headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, is scheduled to meet during September 28-30. The decision will be announced Friday (September 30). The RBI, which has since May raised the repo rate by 140 basis points (bps), may yet again go for a 50-bps increase, which will take the key rate to a three-year high of 5.9 per cent, say experts. The present rate is 5.4 per cent. The consumer price index (CPI) based on retail inflation, which had started showing signs of moderation in May, has again firmed up to 7 per cent in August. The RBI takes into account retail in-

## Jet Airways expects to restart ops soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai/ New Delhi, Sept 27:** Jet Airways is in an advanced stage of talks with aircraft makers and lessors to lease planes and expects to restart operations in the coming weeks, according to executives at the airline.

The once-storied carrier is now under the ownership of the Jalan-Kalrock consortium and its air operator certificate was revalidated by aviation regulator DGCA in May this year. The executives said the operations of Jet Airways will commence before the end of this year and the initial fleet plan is close to being finalised.

Earlier, the airline had said it was targeting to launch operations in October.

Amid reports of the launch being delayed, a spokesperson for the consortium said the airline is very close to finalising its initial fleet plan in preparation for opening for sale soon and restart of operations in the coming weeks. "There is no deadline; target dates are set by us alone, and we have always maintained that this is a marathon, not a sprint. We had said we were targeting to launch by October 2022, and we are tracking quite close to that," the spokesperson said.

One of the executives quoted earlier said the airline is in an advanced stage of discussions for leasing aircraft and an announcement is likely soon.

According to the spokesperson, starting or re-starting an airline is a complex business and that it wants to get the best possible terms and contracts for both aircraft and engines. These include maintenance contracts and configuring aircraft to meet strategic requirements.

"If that takes a little more time to get right, that is fine," the spokesperson said.

In June, PTI reported that Jet Airways was in discussions with aircraft makers and lessors to lease 6-8 planes.

Jet Airways shuttered operations in April 2019 after being bogged down by financial woes and was later acquired by the Jalan-Kalrock consortium through the insolvency resolution process.



As a Group, we will invest over USD 100 billion of capital in the next decade. We have earmarked 70 per cent of this investment for the energy transition space

GAUTAM ADANI | CHAIRMAN ADANI GROUP

## AXIS BANK TO BUY 10% STAKE IN GO DIGIT LIFE

Axis Bank Ltd said Tuesday it has signed a non-binding term sheet to invest Rs 499-699 million for a 9.94% stake in Go Digit Life Insurance. The development underscores private lenders' growing interest in India's lucrative and untapped insurance sector.



## Net direct tax mop up rises 23% so far this fiscal

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 27:** The net direct tax collection has increased 23 per cent to Rs 7.04 lakh crore so far this fiscal, the income tax department said Tuesday.

Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Nitin Gupta said the income and corporate tax collections were at a record high of Rs 14.09 lakh crore in 2021-22.

"The momentum of the last fiscal continues in this fiscal with net direct tax collection of Rs 7.04 lakh crore so far, which is a growth of 23 per cent over the same period last fiscal," Gupta said.

At the Finance Minister's Award ceremony for CBDT officers, Gupta said the I-T e-filing portal has stabilised and it has facilitated 5.83 crore tax return filing as of July 31. A record 72 lakh returns were filed on the portal on a single day.

July 31 was the last date for filing ITRs for salaried individuals for income earned in the 2021-22 fiscal.

Gupta said I-T refunds worth Rs 1.41 lakh crore have been issued so far this fiscal, which is an increase of 83 per cent over the same period last year.

The CBDT chief said the department is using technology to increase tax collection.



## Sensex, Nifty end lower for 5th straight session



AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Sept 27:** Key benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed lower for the fifth straight session Tuesday in a volatile trade tracking losses in metal, banking and financial stocks.

Investors also remained concerned over persistent foreign fund outflows, traders said.

After jumping nearly 560 points during the session, the 30-share BSE index ended 37.70 points or 0.07 per cent lower at 57,107.52. Similarly, the NSE Nifty shed 8.90 points or 0.05 per cent to close at 17,007.40.

Tata Steel was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.25 per cent, followed by Titan, SBI, Kotak Bank, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank and HDFC twins.

On the other hand, PowerGrid, IndusInd Bank, Dr Reddy's, HCL Tech and Nestle India were among

the gainers.

Of the Sensex constituents, 18 stocks closed lower, while 12 were in the green.

The BSE Midcap index declined by 0.01 per cent, while the BSE Smallcap index fell 0.49 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, Metal, Capital Goods and Banking indices fell the most, while Oil & Gas, Energy, IT and Healthcare were the top gainers.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul closed in the positive territory.

International oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.78 per cent to USD 85.56 per barrel.

Meanwhile, the rupee appreciated 9 paise to 81.58 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market, offloading shares worth Rs 5,101.30 crore Monday, according to stock exchange data.



flation while framing its bi-monthly monetary policy.

The US Fed delivered the third consecutive rate hike after it raised the rates by 75 bps to take the target range to 3-3.25 per cent. The central banks of the UK and the EU have also gone for rate hikes to tame inflation.

In a report, Bank of Baroda said the monetary policy this time will be more closely watched, given the recent developments in the forex market following the Fed raising rates last week. The RBI's view on all issues will provide guidance to the market on repo rate, stance, growth and inflation projections, rupee, liquidity and global view.

"In the upcoming credit policy of RBI, which is scheduled on 30 September 2022, we expect MPC to raise the repo rate by another 50 bps. We expect rates to increase up till 6-6.25 per cent," the report said.

The government has tasked the RBI to ensure the retail inflation remains at 4 per cent, with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

Since May, the central bank has cumulatively raised the interest rate by 140 bps in its effort to contain inflation. Despite this sharp hike, the RBI expects inflation to remain above its comfort zone and has retained the CPI inflation forecast at 6.7 per cent for the current fiscal year.

## Swedish defence firm Saab to set up new facility in India

REUTERS

**New Delhi, Sept 27:** Swedish defence products company Saab will set up a facility to manufacture its Carl-Gustaf M4 weapons system in India, a top executive said Tuesday, as the company looks to ramp up production.

The facility will begin production in 2024, Senior Vice President Gorgen Johansson told reporters at a news conference.

Johansson declined to provide detail on the investment that the company is likely to make in the facility.

The Carl-Gustaf M4 is a recoilless rifle which has been ordered by the Indian armed forces.

The new facility will support its production as well as components for users of the system around the world, the company said in a statement.

"We haven't done this in any other country," Johansson said.

India - the world's largest buyer of Russian arms - has been pushing to expand its defence manufacturing capacity in recent years and grow its military exports.

From around Rs 10 billion (\$122.62 million) of defence exports some eight years ago, India is now exporting more than Rs 130 billion of military equipment, Indian defence minister Rajnath Singh said Tuesday.



"We have set a target of 1.75 trillion of defence production by 2025, which includes export of 350 billion," Singh told a gathering of defence manufacturers.

There's been an increased interest in the Carl-Gustaf weapon system, which can be used against tanks, since the conflict in Ukraine.

"More countries will seek anti-tank capabilities going forward," Johansson said.

Earlier this year, Saab said it would boost capacity to meet rising demand.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which Moscow calls a "special military operation", has prompted many countries, including Saab's home market Sweden, to boost defence budgets.

## India's inclusion into key govt bond index deferred

REUTERS

**New Delhi/Hong Kong, Sept 27:** Indian government bonds will likely only be included in the JPMorgan emerging market global index early next year as New Delhi still needs to address various operational issues, four sources familiar with the matter said.

Investors had expected a decision on this could come as early as this month when operators meet to review the composition of the index and after Russia's exit earlier this year. The latter led foreign investors to step up purchases of Indian government bonds with no investment cap.

Local bond settlement rules, tax complexities and the way in which investors will repatriate dollars are among the operational issues that still need to be resolved, said a fund manager at a large global fund. Index investors tend to favour international settlement platforms such as Euroclear but India has said it wants to settle bonds onshore, like China.

"India is working to get its bonds included but operationally it is not ready," one of the sources said.

The Indian rupee turned lower and yields rose after news of the delay in inclusion. The rupee which earlier in the session rose to 81.31



dropped to 81.64, just shy of the record low of 81.6525 reached Monday.

Benchmark 7.26% 2032 bond yields rose to 7.37% from the day's low of 7.27% after the story.

The government and the Reserve Bank of India are expected to sort out some of these issues by the end of 2022, said two of the sources. If resolved, an announcement on India's inclusion could come early next year, they said. The sources did not want to be named as they are not allowed to speak to the media.

India's finance ministry and JPMorgan did not immediately respond to Reuters' request for comment.

**GLOBAL AMBITION**  
India has sought to be included in global bond indexes since 2013, but that ambition has been held up by a number of factors over the years, and JP Morgan only began

considering India's inclusion in its global bond index in 2021.

If successful, India would be the last major emerging market to be added to the JP Morgan index.

Its inclusion could result in additional flows of as much as \$30 billion within 10 months into the Indian government bond market, Morgan Stanley estimated earlier this month.

Last year, Morgan Stanley predicted that it could generate \$170 billion to \$250 billion of inflows over the next decade. Most of JPMorgan's index investors are in favour of including India in the index, but think issues such as investor verification and settlement rules need to be ironed out first, three of the sources said.

India is opposed to providing any capital gains tax waivers to overseas debt investors and wants global bond index operators to consider the local settlement of its government securities if they are included in their indexes, according to two separate Reuters reports.

"It is not insurmountable, but right now there is no transparency on how a capital gains tax would be calculated or levied, so we wouldn't be surprised if there was a delay," said Jennifer Taylor, head of emerging market debt at State Street.

## BITCOIN MINERS GET STUCK IN A BEAR PIT

Global revenue from bitcoin mining has dropped to \$172 million a day amid a crypto winter and global energy crisis, down about 72% from last November when miners were racking up \$62 million a day

REUTERS

**London, Sept 27:** Spare a thought for the beleaguered bitcoin miner.

In late 2021, miners were the toast of the town with a surefire path to profit: hook powerful computers up to cheap power, crack fiendishly complex maths puzzles and then sell newly minted coins on the booming market.

A year's a long time in crypto. Global revenue from bitcoin mining has dropped to \$172 million a day amid a crypto winter and global energy crisis, down about 72% from last November when miners were racking up \$62 million a day, according to data from Blockchain.com.

"Bitcoin miners have continued to watch margins compress - the

price of bitcoin has fallen, mining difficulty has risen and energy prices have soared," said Joe Burnett, head analyst at Blockware Solutions.

That's put serious pressure on some players who bought expensive mining machines, or rigs, banking on rising bitcoin prices to recoup their investment.

Bitcoin is trading at around \$19,000 and has failed to break above \$25,000 since August, let alone regain November's all-time high of \$69,000.

At the same time, the process of solving puzzles to mine tokens has become more difficult as more miners have come online. This means they must devour more computing power, further upping operating costs, especially for those



without long-term power pricing agreements.

Bitcoin miners' profit for one terahash per second of computing power has fluctuated between \$0.119 and \$0.070 a day since July, down from \$0.45 in November last year and around its lowest levels for two years.

The grim state of affairs could be here to stay, too: Luxor's Hashrate Index, which measures mining revenue potential, has fallen almost 70% so far this year. It's been painful for miners.

Shares of Marathon Digital, Riot Blockchain and Valkyrie Bitcoin Miners ETF have sunk more than 60% this year; for example, while crypto-mining data center operator Compute North filed for bankruptcy last week.

Yet mining is ultimately a long-term proposition - the last bitcoin is expected to be mined in 2140, more than a century away - and some spy opportunity in the gloom.

"The best time to get in is when market's low, the same mining rigs that went for \$10,000 earlier this year

you can get that for 50% to 75% off right now," said William Szamoszegi, CEO of Sazmining Inc which is planning to open a renewable-energy powered bitcoin mining operation.

Indeed, many miners are cutting back on buying rigs, forcing makers to cut prices.

For instance, the popular S19J Pro rig sold for \$10,100 in January on average, but now sells for \$3,200, analysts at Luxor said, also noting prices for bulk orders of some mining machines had fallen by 10% in just the past week.

Chris Kline, co-founder of crypto investment platform Bitcoin IRA, said miners would have to be "hyper-focused" on energy efficiency, both to bring costs down and to avoid any repercussions from climate change-related regulations.

"From managing their balance sheet, processing units and energy costs, miners will look to stay afloat regardless of current market conditions," he added.



# Proteas test awaits India

Men in Blue look to address death bowling concerns in final tune up ahead of T20 World Cup



TESTING TIMES: Jasprit Bumrah (R) and Harshal Patel would look to find some form before the World Cup



HAVING FUN: Quinton de Kock (L) and Rilee Rossouw have something to smile at during SA's practice session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 27:** India will be looking to round off their T20 World Cup preparation with a marked improvement in their death bowling besides providing crucial game time to their untested players in the three-match series against South Africa, beginning here Wednesday.

India skipper Rohit Sharma, expectedly, singled out death bowling as an area that requires improvement following the series win over Australia. The hosts will be without two of their key bowlers, Hardik Pandya and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who have been rested ahead of the ICC event next month.

Mohammad Shami, who is one of the World Cup reserves, is yet to recover from COVID-19 and will be missing the three games against

the Proteas after being unavailable the rubber against Australia.

Harshal Patel did not have the best of times in his comeback series against Australia but he will be expected to get back to his best in the final three games before the World Cup. His career economy rate stands at 9.05 but he conceded more than 12 runs per overs against the Aussies.

Deepak Chahar, who is also on standby for the World Cup, did not get a game in the previous series and he could get a chance if the team decides to rotate its pacers over the three games.

Arshdeep Singh will return to bolster the team's resources in the slog overs, making an effective combination alongside Jasprit Bumrah, who will be aiming to regain his full rhythm after coming back from injury.

THE SQUADS	
<b>INDIA:</b> Rohit Sharma (C), KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dinesh Karthik (wk), R Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar & Jasprit Bumrah.	<b>SOUTH AFRICA:</b> Temba Bavuma (C), Quinton de Kock (wk), Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen (wk), Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Andile Phehlukwayo, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Tabraiz Shamsi & Tristan Stubbs

In the series decider against Australia, Yuzvendra Chahal showed what he can do if the ball is gripping and turning after looking flat in the first two games. Keeping the Australian conditions in mind, the wily leg-spinner will be looking to up his game on docile pitches.

As Rohit spoke about the importance of giving all the players game time ahead of the World Cup,

Rohit has already said the designated finisher in the squad needs more time in the middle.

World Cup bound Deepak Hooda will end up missing all the six games before the mega event as he has been ruled out of the South Africa T20s with a back injury. Shreyas Iyer is expected to take Hooda's place in the squad.

Over the next week, India will be competing against a team they are yet to beat at home in a bilateral series. South Africa and India will face each other in a group game in Australia and though conditions are totally different here, both teams can pick out areas to target in the coming three games.

For the visitors, all eyes will also be on the young Tristan Stubbs who has made the World Cup squad on the back of his good show in franchise cricket.

## LEGENDS LEAGUE CRICKET Kings' all-round show sinks Gujarat Giants

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Cuttack, Sept 27:** Bhilwara Kings came out on top in their battle against the Gujarat Giants with a 57-run win in their Legends League Cricket (LLC) match at the Barabati Stadium here, Tuesday.

A splendid opening stand between South African Morne van Wyk (50, 28b, 4x4, 4x6) and former Ireland skipper William Porterfield (64, 33b, 10x4, 2x6) helped the Kings post 222/4 in their 20 overs. In response, the Giants' batters failed to deal with the pressure, losing wickets at regular intervals, before Yashpal Singh (57, 29b, 6x4, 3x6) helped them reach 165 before being bowled out. S Sreesanth (3/36) bowled well for the Kings.

Chasing a mammoth 223-run target, Giants lost their opener Kevin O'Brian out in the second over off Fidel Edwards (2/30). However, the other opener Chris Gayle (15) then got some support at the other end from skipper Virender Sehwag (27).

The duo found it hard to get going with their natural attacking game. Just when, Sehwag got into his groove with a boundary and a maximum in successive deliveries, he gave soft catch to Jesal Karia (2/22), who was the bowler at the time.

After then, it was one-way traffic for the Giants as they kept losing wickets. From 47/2 in the seventh over after Sehwag's dismissal, Giants surrendered themselves to the required run-rate pressure and were reduced to 74/7 in the 11th over and 96/8 in the 14th over.

Yashpal, coming in at No.9, batted well to guide the Giants go past 150, with some assist from Rayad Emrit (19), helping them avoid humiliation. Yashpal and Emrit added 54 runs for the ninth wicket in five overs.

Earlier, Van Wyk and Porterfield (64, 33b, 10x4, 2x6) helped the Kings off to a flying start after being invited to bat first. The duo were ab-



Morne van Wyk (L) and William Porterfield during their partnership

olutely dominant throughout their 117-run partnership.

KP Apanna (1/33) gave the Giants the much-needed breakthrough dismissing the Irish left-hander in the 10th over. The very next over, English off-spinner Graeme Swann (1/34) got rid of Van Wyk to break the Kings' momentum.

However, skipper Irfan Pathan (34, 23b, 1x4, 3x6) and Karia (43, 29b, 5x4, 1x6) had other ideas as the duo forged a 55-run partnership for the third wicket in less than seven overs. Ashok Dinda (1/37) broke the stand in the 17th over.

Karia then got an able ally in Yusuf Pathan (14 n o, 5b, 2x6) and the duo guided Kings past 200. Thisara Perera (1/56), who bowled the final over of the innings, dismissed Karia on the fourth ball. However, Rajesh Bishnoi — the new man at the crease — struck two sixes off the last two balls to take the Kings' total to 222/4.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Bhilwara Kings 222/4 (William Porterfield 64, Morne van Wyk 50, Jesal Karia 43, Irfan Pathan 34; KP Apanna 1/33, Graeme Swann 1/34) beat Gujarat Giants 165 (Yashpal Singh 57; S Sreesanth 3/36, Jesal Karia 2/22, Fidel Edwards 2/30) by 57 runs.

## SHORT TAKES Prannoy back to top 15, Sen static at 9th

**NEW DELHI:** Star Indian shuttler HS Prannoy returned to the top 15 after a string of impressive performances in the latest BWF World Rankings released Tuesday. Prannoy jumped a spot to 15th. Young Lakshya Sen continued to be the top-ranked Indian at the ninth position in the men's rankings, while Kidambi Srikanth rose a rung to 11th. PV Sindhu remained static on sixth in the women's list. Saina Nehwal, on the other hand, moved one place to 31st. The men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty remained static at the eighth spot. In women's doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa and Sikki Reddy climbed a couple spots to be 23rd.

## Harmanpreet rises to 5th in WODI rankings

**DUBAI:** Riding on her stupendous show against England, India captain Harmanpreet Kaur Tuesday jumped four spots to reach the fifth spot in the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings. Opener Smriti Mandhana and Deepti Sharma have also moved up in the latest update. Mandhana has moved up one place to take sixth position while Deepti moved up eight places to 24th. Renuka Singh has galloped 35 places to take 35th position among bowlers. Fast bowler Jhulan Goswami, a formerly top-ranked bowler, retired in fifth position. West Indies captain Hayley Matthews has grabbed the No.1 position for all-rounders in the ODI format for the first time in her career.

## BCCI rejects ECB offer

**LONDON:** England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has informally offered to be the hosts if India and Pakistan plan to play a bilateral Test series but BCCI sources said chances of that happening in near future is "next to nil". The UK daily 'Telegraph' reported that "Martin Darlow, ECB's deputy chairman, has held talks with the Pakistan Cricket Board during the current T20 series and offered England's grounds as venues for ideally a three-match Test series in future." The BCCI, however, said that no such possibilities might arise at least in next few years. "Firstly, ECB spoke to PCB about an Indo-Pak series and that's a bit weird. In any case, a series against Pakistan is not something that the BCCI will decide but it is the decision of the government. As of now, the stance remains the same," a senior BCCI official privy to India's position told PTI Tuesday.

# Italy through; England, Germany draw

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**London, Sept 27:** Part one of the healing process is complete for Italy. Looking to regain respect after failing to qualify for a second straight World Cup, the Azzurri advanced to next year's finals tournament in the Nations League by winning at Hungary 2-0 thanks to goals by Giacomo Raspadori and Federico Dimarco Monday.

By topping a group also containing England and Germany, the Italians joined the Netherlands and Croatia in qualifying for the final four, which will be hosted by the Dutch in June. Portugal or Spain will complete the lineup when they face off.

Unlike Italy, England and Germany will be going to the World Cup in Qatar in less than two months and they'll head to the Middle East on the back of a wild 3-3 draw at Wembley Stadium, where all the goals were scored in the second half.

Trailing 0-2, England scored three goals in a 12-minute span from the 71st — through Luke Shaw, Mason Mount and Harry Kane's penalty — only for Kai Havertz to pounce on a fumble by England goalkeeper Nick Pope to equalize in the 87th.

England's winless run stretched to six games, with Gareth Southgate's team finishing their Nations League campaign without a victory and relegated. Germany aren't in much bet-



IMPRESSIVE SHOW: Giacomo Raspadori (No.10) and Federico Dimarco celebrate the latter's goal against Hungary, Monday

ter shape ahead of the World Cup, with just one win in their last seven games.

Italy won Group A3 with 11 points, one more than Hungary, which went into the game in Budapest needing only a draw to reach the Nations League final four for the first time.

The Italians are finding it easier to qualify for Nations League fi-

nals than World Cups. They also got to the 2021 tournament, losing to Spain in the semifinals on home soil in their first few months as the reigning European champion.

Plenty has changed in the team since beating England in the European Championship final at Wembley last year; not least up front where Raspadori is making his mark.

Three days after scoring the winner against England in Milan, the Napoli striker put Italy ahead after Adam Nagy's back-pass came up short. Wilfried Gnonto challenged goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi for the ball, which bounced free and Raspadori was alert to round Gulacsi and convert his finish in the 27th.

Gianluigi Donnarumma pro-

duced a string of diving stops — including a triple save in a matter of seconds — before Nicolo Barella played a ball through at the other end to Bryan Cristante, who crossed for Dimarco to score from close range for his first goal for Italy.

## MAGUIRE UNDER SCRUTINY

Under pressure for his starting place in England's team, Harry Maguire didn't help his cause against Germany. The Manchester United center back was at fault for Germany's 52nd-minute opener from the spot by Ilkay Gundogan — Maguire initially gave the ball away to Jamal Musiala, then clumsily fouled the teenager in the area moments later — and was then dispossessed in midfield to allow the Germans to break, culminating in a curling finish from the edge of the area by Havertz.

Maguire has lost his starting spot at United but Southgate has retained his faith in the defender, who typically plays better for his country than his club. It was a tough night all around for England's center backs, with John Stones forced off with a suspected hamstring injury.

England did well to fight back, with Kane's penalty taking him to 51 goals for England, two off Wayne Rooney's national record, but yet another mistake proved costly. Pope, filling in for the injured Jordan Pickford, spilled Serge Gnabry's weak shot and Havertz was on hand to tap in from close range.

## Odisha women suffer 7-wicket loss vs J'khand

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 27:** Odisha women's cricket team went down comprehensively against Jharkhand, suffering a seven-wicket loss, in a match at the KIIT Cricket Stadium here, Tuesday. Odisha, Jharkhand and Bengal are playing an invitational triangular tournament as part of their preparations for the BCCI's domestic season for women.

Odisha batters had better outing compared to their last match, which was also against Jharkhand where they scored 78/9 in 20 overs. This time, the home team batters posted a competitive 96/5 in the allotted 20 overs.

Madhuri Meheta was the top scorer for Odisha, scoring 39 off 44 balls. She was ably supported by Sushree (28 off 29 balls). For Jharkhand, Subhalakshmi (2/11 in 4 overs) and Anuja Patil (2/18 in 4 overs) shared four wickets between them.

In response, Jharkhand batters played with ease and completed the chase with a couple of balls to spare. Anamika Kumari was the top run-getter for the visitors, having scored 55-ball 31 runs.

Anuja, who was wonderful with the ball, also played a crucial role with the bat scoring an unbeaten 23 off just 21 balls. D Janaki Reddy (1/10 in 3 overs) and Rajashree Swain (1/15 in 3 overs) bagged a wicket each for Odisha.

## FIH World Cup: India open campaign vs Spain Jan 13

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 27:** Hosts India will take on lower-ranked Spain in the men's Hockey World Cup opener at the newly-built Birsas Munda International Stadium in Rourkela on the opening day January 13.

Tokyo Olympics bronze medalists India, who are currently World No.5 in the FIH rankings, are clubbed alongside England (6), Spain (8) and World Cup debutants Wales (16) in pool D.

India will play their second match in Rourkela, against on England January 15, before moving to the capital city of Bhubaneswar, where they will face Wales in their final group match January 19.

Pool A is headed up by World No.1 Australia. They were drawn

along with Argentina, France and African champions South Africa. Reigning World Champions Belgium are the top seed and they were drawn in Pool B along with Germany, Korea and Japan.

Pool C will feature last edition finalists the Netherlands, ranked third in the world, along with Oceania representative New Zealand, Malaysia and debutants Chile.

As per the fixtures released by FIH Tuesday, Argentina will take on South Africa, while Australia face France on the same day at the Kalinga Stadium. While India's game starts at 7pm IST, the tournament will start in Rourkela with England taking on Wales in the first game. Belgium, who won the title in the 2018 in Odisha, will take on South Korea in Bhubaneswar.

# CARLSEN ACCUSES NIEMANN OF CHEATING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 27:** Chess World Champion Magnus Carlsen has accused fellow Grandmaster Hans Niemann of cheating "more and more" than what he has already admitted, saying that he will not play against any rival indulging in such wrongdoing.

Carlsen put out a statement late Monday night, a week after he withdrew against the American after just one move at the Julius Baer Generation Cup.

Earlier, the 31-year-old Norwegian had quit the Sinquefeld Cup in Saint Louis following his surprise defeat against Niemann. "I believe that Niemann has cheated more and more recently — than he has publicly admitted," Carlsen wrote.

"His over the board progress has been unusual and throughout our game in the Sinquefeld Cup I had



the impression that he wasn't tense or even fully concentrating on the game in critical positions, while outplaying me as black in a way that only a handful of players can do. This game contributed to changing my perspective," he explained.

Niemann has previously admitted to having cheated twice online on 'chess.com', when he was

12 and then later as a 16-year old. However, he has denied ever cheating over the board.

"I believe that cheating in chess is a big deal and an existential threat to the game and chess organisers and all those who care about the sanctity of the game we love should seriously consider increasing security measures and methods of cheat detection for over

the board chess," Carlsen wrote.

The world champion made it clear that he is unwilling to play against Niemann or any player who cheats. "We must do something about cheating, and for my part going forward, I don't want to play against people that have cheated repeatedly in the past, because don't know what they are capable of doing in the future."

Carlsen, however, didn't offer any evidence of how the 19-year-old could have cheated over the board, which is played face to face. "There is more that I would like to say Unfortunately, at this time I am limited in what I can say without explicit permission from Niemann to speak openly."

"So far I have only been able to speak with my actions, and those actions have stated clearly that am not willing to play chess with Niemann. Hope that the truth on this matter comes out, whatever it may be."