

महन्दागरी

MAHENDRAGIRI

the second launch pad at this spaceport at 11.50 am Saturday, and comes close on the heels of India's successful moon expedition last month. ISRO Chairman S Somanath said the Sun mission will take 125 days to reach the exact radius. **Deemed university** status for NCERT

New Delhi: The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been granted deemed university status. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced, Friday. The minister made the announcement during his address at the 63rd foundation day of the NCERT.

commenced here Friday, ISRO said. The Sun observatory mission will be fired from

Naresh Goyal held

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) late Friday night arrested Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal, 74, in a money laundering case linked to an alleged fraud of ₹538 crore at Canara Bank. He was taken into custody under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act following a long session of questioning at the central agency's office here.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Well, I don't expect anything at all. They hardly do anything

'One' committee

Centre forms committee led by former Prez Ram Nath Kovind to study feasibility of 'one nation, one election'; Opposition sees threat to federal structure

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Sept 1: Amid speculations over the introduction of 'One Nation, One Election' Bill during the special session of the Parliament called by the government from September 18 to 22. the Union government Friday announced constitution of a committee, led by former president Ram Nath Kovind, to study

Limited (MDL), during its launch in Mumbai, Friday

THE CYCLE OF SIMULTANEOUS POLLS WAS FIRST BROKEN IN KERALA. IN JULY 1959, WHEN THE CENTRE INVOKED ARTICLE 356 TO DISMISS THE MINISTRY HEADED BY **EMS NAMBOODIRIPAD**

simultaneous elections in its 2014 poll manifesto. The government thin

Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice had compiled a report on 'Feasibility of Holding Simultaneous Elections to House of People (Lok Sabha) and State Legislative Assemblies'.

BON VOYAGE: Indian Navy's warship Mahendragiri, named after the revered mountain peak in Odisha and the seventh ship of Project 17A frigates series developed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

The Law Commission headed by Justice BP Jeevan Reddy, in its 170th report in May 1999, had stated, "We must go back to the situation where the elections to Lok Sabha and all the Legislative Assemblies are held at once". The cycle of simultaneous elections was first broken in Kerala, in July 1959, when the Centre invoked Article 356 of the Constitution to dismiss the ministry headed by E M S Namboodiripad of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), which had assumed power after elections in April 1957. Meanwhile, slamming the government's decision, CPI leader D Raja said, "The Prime Minister always talks about India being the mother of democracy. Then how can the government take a unilateral decision without discussing with other political parties?" Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said the move of 'one nation, one election' is being brought to divert attention from the demand of fair elections. "We demand fair elections, not 'one nation, one election'." Raut said.

Not worried, says BJD on simultaneous polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: With the Centre forming a panel to explore the possibility of 'one nation, one election', the ruling BJD in Odisha Friday said it will go with the nation if a legislation is made for holding Lok Sabha and state Assembly polls simultaneously.

Former minister and senior BJD lawmaker Badrinarayan Patra said that the party is not worried about the simultane-

Our Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has always said that BJD is better prepared to face elections than any other political party in the state

BADRINARAYAN PATRA | SENIOR BJD LEADER

his popularity. As a result, the BJP is afraid and therefore wants it to be held early

The issue has been examined by a Parliamentary panel in consultation with various stake-

Police rushed to the spot on re-

ceiving the information, cor-

the resolution said. The INDIA parties also resolved to coordinate their respective communications and media strategies and campaigns with the theme 'Judega Bharat, Jeetega India' in different languages. Seatsharing will be finalised by September 30, sources said.

Bomb with timer found near MLA's camp office

concluded at the earliest in a

Amid speculation of early polls

and the formation of a panel to

explore the possibility of 'one

nation, one election', Opposition

bloc leaders took crucial deci-

sions, including setting up of a

14-member coordination com-

mittee that will act as the top decision-making body of the al-

liance and start work on seat sharing. In a resolution passed

at the meeting here, the INDIA

bloc said it resolves to contest the

forthcoming Lok Sabha elections together "as far as possible".

in different states will be initi-

ated immediately and concluded at the earliest in a collaborative

spirit of give-and-take, it said. 'We, the INDIA parties, hereby

resolve to organize public rallies

at the earliest in different parts

of the country on issues of pub-

lic concern and importance,'

Seat-sharing arrangements

spirit of "give-and-take".

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: A bomb fitted with a timer device was_ found near the camp office of Talcher MLA Braja Kishore Pradhan (BJD) at Bharatpur in Angul district Friday, police said.

tor us in regular sessions

MARKET WATCH							
INDEX VARIATION							
BOURSES	SENSEX	65387.16		555.75			
	NIFTY	19435.30		181.50			
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	82.68		₹0.03			
CURR	EURO	89.21	➡	₹0.48			
NO	GOLD	₹59,411		₹37			
BULLION	SILVER	₹73,670	₽	₹473			

W	AT					
		BHUB	СТК			
d P	MAX	35.6°€	36.5°	Ċ		
μ	MIN	25.9℃	26.0°	Forecast		
Humidity Rainfall		91%	69%	Light rain		
		1.5mm	Nil	likely		

the feasibility of 'one nation, one election'. However, the details of the committee have not been made public yet.

Opposition parties were quick to criticize the government decision to set up a committee to study the feasibility of 'one nation, one election' and stated that it would pose threat to the federal structure of the country.

Soon after the government announcement, BJP national president JP Nadda met Kovind at the latter's residence in the national capital. The idea of 'one nation, one

election' has been pushed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on several occasions stating that it would reduce the cost of elections and give more time for governance. He also discussed it with the

heads of various political parties. However, the proposal drew a blank. The BJP had also promised to evolve a strategy to hold

NITI Aayog in 2017 backed the idea of simultaneous elections to remove impediments to governance, policy making and developmental activities. The think tank released a discussion paper,

'Analysis of Simultaneous Elections: The "What", "Why", and "How" stating, "Tangibly, frequent imposition of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) leads to suspension of developmental projects and other government ac-

tivities. The larger intangible impact of frequent elections is that governments and political parties remain in perpetual 'campaigning' mode. The Law Commission in 2018 had suggested that elections to assemblies whose term ends six months after the Lok Sabha polls can be clubbed together.

The results of such elections can be declared at the end of the assembly tenure.

In 2015, the Parliamentary

ous elections whenever it is held.

"Our Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has always said that BJD is better prepared to face elections than any other political party in the state," he said.

Some states where Assembly polls were held recently may suffer if 'one nation, one election' is made a law.

"But BJD has no such difficulties. Odisha has been holding simultaneous polls for Lok Sabha and the state Assembly since 2004," Patra added.

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Narasingha Mishra said, "If there are no difficulties in making a law for the purpose, then the elections can be held at one time across the country. Let us see the Bill and then we can react in a proper manner. However, in different surveys it is felt that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been losing

holders, including the Election Commission.

The matter now stands referred to the Law Commission for further examination to work out a 'practicable road map and framework' for simultaneous elections.

Officials said in Delhi that simultaneous elections will result in huge savings for the public exchequer and avoid replication of effort on the part of administrative, and law and order machinery in holding repeated elections

It will also bring considerable savings to political parties and candidates in their election campaigns. Asynchronous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections (including by-elections) in the states also result in prolonged enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct with its concomitant adverse impact on developmental and welfare programmes, they said. MORE P3

doned off the area and called in the bomb detection and disposal squad (BDDS), Talcher sub-divisional police officer Manas Ranjan Barik said.

"The bomb disposal squad defused the bomb on the instruction of the Angul superintendent of police. The bomb was fitted with a timer mechanism. We will send it to the laboratory for further examination and to know whether any explosive materials are inside the bomb," Barik said. The police are scanning the area near Pradhan's camp office to find if any other such object has been kept there. The incident took place on a day when Angul district BJD leaders and workers organised a road blockade on NH 53 protesting against its poor condition. Pradhan and his supporters were scheduled to take out a rally from the office premises.

Pradhan alleged that some conspirators may have planted the bomb to disturb the rally.

Kotastrophe: Cops turn counsellors to curb suicides 4 dists stare at drought

THE POLICE IN KOTA SET UP DEDICATED 'STUDENT CELL' TO REACH OUT TO STUDENTS AND MAKE ATTEMPTS TO DETECT EARLY SIGNS OF STRESS AND DEPRESSION BY MAKING RANDOM CALLS TO STUDENTS, CHECKS IN HOSTELS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota (Rajasthan), Sept 1: Is anything bothering you? Do you really want to become an engineer or a doctor? Are you able to follow what is taught in class? Is food served in the mess good? These are some of the questions posed to coaching students here by a team of police personnel who have turned counsellors. Rocked by a spate of student suicides, the city police have set up a dedicated "Student Cell" to reach out to students and make attempts to detect early signs of stress and depression.

"The cell has a control room where personnel are deputed to

receive calls on the dedicated helpline. They attend to the problems reported on calls and direct them to counsellors if a student needs professional help. There are teams that conduct random checks in hostels, interact with students, counsel them and report to their parents if they spot some signs of pressure, stress or depression," Kota Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Chandrasheel Thakur said.

Thakur heads a team of 11 personnel. They were chosen as all are in their 40s and have teenage children, which will help them in understanding the challenges faced by the students, he said.

The team starts its day at 9



am and visits at least 15 hostels daily. From familiarising the students with the dedicated cell. sharing the helpline number with them, counselling them into reaching out for help and also having a plan B ready, the team spends time among students but not in uniform.

"We have reached out to 60,000 students so far. Sometimes the

students are reluctant to share with us that they are under some kind of pressure from parents. We also reach out to wardens to be able to tell us if they spot any change in the behaviour of students, if he/she is missing classes or skipping meals. If we identify such students, we are able to get them help much before they reach a stage where they take any extreme step," Thakur said.

Over 2.5 lakh students move to Kota annually to prepare for competitive exams such as the JEE for engineering and the NEET for admission to medical colleges. The year 2023 has seen the highest number of student suicides - 22 so far.

Packed schedules, cut-throat competition, constant pressure to do better; the burden of parents' expectations and homesickness are among the common struggles of the students here.

"I leave the control room at 9 am and visit at least 20 hostels - both girls and boys. I speak to as many students as I can. At times, if I find any student in the hostel when he or she should have been in class, I ask them the reason why they are not attending classes. I speak to their parents too at times. A common message that I have for all students is - have a plan B and the moment you feel pressured reach out for help," said Sanju Sharma, ASI, Kota.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: As August recorded 18 per cent deficit rainfall in Odisha, at least four districts appear to be heading towards a drought-like situation, even though the IMD Friday forecast light to moderate rainfall in the state within a couple of days.

The IMD said rainfall activity in Odisha is likely to increase with the likely formation of a cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal around September 3 and it may intensify into a lowpressure area during the subsequent 48 hours.

However, experts in the Agriculture department fear that the situation in the districts of Nawarangpur, Kendrapara, Kalahandi and Ganjam may not improve much as they recorded minus 42 per cent, minus 38 per cent, minus 37 per cent and minus 35 per cent deficit rainfall respectively.

The state has from June 1 to September 1 recorded minus 15 per cent deficit rainfall, IMD sources said adding that of the 30 districts in the state, 18 received normal rainfall while 12 others recorded deficit precipitations. Weather scientist US Dash said of the total rainfall in August, 219.6 mm was recorded in seven days of the month. Most of the rainfall activity occurred between August 1 and 3 and on 18, 19, 24 and 25.

The districts which have received deficit rainfall were: Nawrangpur, Kendrapara, Kalahandi, Ganjam, Rayagada, Koraput, Puri, Khurda, Cuttack,-Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur and Balasore.











BTS' V SURPASSES 1BN STREAMS ON SPOTIFY

Singer V of BTS, also known as Kim Taehyung, has broken another record ahead of his upcoming album release. The BTS member has garnered over one billion streams on Spotify across all credits as a soloist, setting a new personal record.

insensitive comments

TAYLOR'S ERAS TOUR SET TO GET ITS OWN CONCERT FILM IN US THEATRES

Singer-songwriter Taylor Swift is currently riding on swift winds with her Eras Tour, traversing all of Europe and North America. With the success of her tour, the singer's Eras Tour is set to be played in the US theatres, with Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour, reports The Hollywood Reporter.



FORTUNE FORECAST



ARIES

Carry the peace sign if you have to, because today. people will literally pull you into arguments. You could even be facing some kind of litigation or trouble with peace-keeping forces, warns Ganesha. Meditate, walk, or simply seek the com pany of friends and loved ones

TAURUS

Your business is going to thrive this day, says Ganesha Your plans, projections, speculations and gambles are likely to pay off and give you good dividends. You will be admired and respected in the business world for your honesty and integrity

GEMINI

Today, you may decide to get a little more conscious about your your health. Filled with positive drive, you may even

plan to join a gymnasium or start taking a hard look at your calorie intake. Don't go overboard, though! You don't want to do i only today, and forget it tomorrow - plan and execute in a step-wise manner, so it doesn't get a bit too much.

CANCER

Not a good day for you in terms of fortune and opportunities. You will constantly find yourself in unwanted tricky situations without any fault of yours. You, however, are likely to know what to do in such situa tions by now, for you have been in too man of those in the past.

LEO

Working hard, or hardly working - there is a vast difference between the two. You would be wiser to be working hard today, especially if it is success that you desire, says Ganesha. Remember that there is no substitute for hard work and the sooner you realise this, the bet ter. So sweat it out today.

You may relieve all the tension and pressure inside you today, a day which will be full of light and relaxing moments. Ganesha foretells a beneficial and progressive day for you. You will receive many invitations to social gatherings and parties

LIBRA Letting things build up inside you is never a good idea. Learn from this as there is every possibility that today might

be an aggrava

Twinkle was asked to live-in with **Akshay**

Mumbai: Actress- writer Twinkle Khanna recalled being advised by her mother Dimple Kapadia to live-in with Akshay Kumar for two years before getting married and shared she was unaware of the existence of patriarchy and the patriarchal system.

In a recent conversation with Masaba Gupta the Mela actress said, "When my husband (Akshay Kumar) said he wanted to marry me, my mother said. 'Nothing doing, you live together for two years. If you make it, then you get married.'

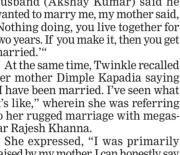
At the same time, Twinkle recalled her mother Dimple Kapadia saying "I have been married. I've seen what it's like," wherein she was referring to her rugged marriage with megastar Rajesh Khanna.

raised by my mother. I can honestly say that for a significant portion of my life. I remained blissfully un-

10

tence of patriarchy and the patriarchal system simply because I

immersed in that environment. AGENCIES



aware of the exis-

was not



ng and exas

Mumbai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, in a recent interview, has opened up about the focus on her and Vijay Varma's relationship. "People say things and sometimes it hurts as it comes from some people who know you, but in the end what matters is what you say to yourself," said

the Bahubaali actress. She added, "So, I have had a very strong demarcation in my career, when it

comes to my work and personal life. I have alwavs been a straightforward person who has always spoken my mind and told the truth. Earlier, I would be worried about what my parents would think. However, the beauty is that as I have evolved. they have evolved

as well. And I take that as an achievement. I think today, apart from the ill-health of my close ones, nothing else robs me of my happiness.

On the work front, Tamannaah was last seen in Aakhri Sach and Jailer and Vijay was last seen in Kaalkoot and will soon be seen in the Netflix thriller

> Jaane Jaan AGENCIES

Tamannaah shakes off Surya Nepal Kathmandu KLF begins

Kathmandu: The second edition of Surya Nepal Kathmandu Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) kicked off here Friday in the presence of a galaxy of luminaries

Over 400 writers from Nepal, India, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are taking part in the two-day event, according to the organisers

On the first day, 20 sessions were held simultaneously in two halls of the Hotel Himalaya. Ranjana Niraula, director of Surya Nepal Kathmandu Kalinga Literary Festival, delivered her welcome speech and thanked everyone who helped in organising the event.

Speaking on the occasion KLF founder Rashmi Ranjan Parida said, "This edition is designed to strengthen the civilisational, cultural, and spiritual dialogue as well as literary perspectives in the South Asian Region.'



The Himalayan nation's Foreign Minister NP Saud was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony while the list of other dignitaries included Bibek Debroy, an acclaimed economist, author and the Chairman of Indian PM's Economic Advisory Council, linguist Madhav Prasad Pokhrel, Surya Nepal MD Ravi Rayavaram and LIC Nepal's Deputy CEO Tuntun Burnawal. Yashaswi Sahitya Samman

was conferred on legendary Nepalese writer Madhay Prasad Pokhrel. Indian writer Awadhesh Pradhan and Indian actresswriter Divya Dutta. Similarly, Yashaswi Book Award was presented to writers of 10 books from different genres

Central theme of the festival is Shakti and Bhakti - The Civilizational Connection: Nepal as a Centre of Global Thought.

Ayushmann shuts his critics

Mumbai: Actor Ayushmann Khurrana has addressed the criticism that Dream Girl 2 is regressive. He said the flak comes from those who watch it with a magnifying glass

"The one thing I was clear about was that this film isn't for those who have a magnifying glass ready in their hands. That was clear. If you can ignore that...This is for the outright massy comedy commercial single-screen smalltown audience. It has the same audience as Gadar 2. You can't apply logic here. There's a crazy suspension of disbelief in the film," the Vicky Donor actor said in the interview. "You can't go into the intricacies

of this film. There's no message as such, but it's inclusive enough. There's a slight touch of LGBTQ

representation. Abhishek Banerjee's character says Love is love at the end. So there's acceptance. A Muslim family is marrying into a Sardar, a Hindu. So the mass audience will find it progressive. But those who scan with a magnifying glass will point out mistakes. This film is not for them," he added.

AGENCIES

perating day for you. You may feel that way due to all the amassed emotions and resentments, so let it all go. It would be a good idea to take a break from the rou tine and bring in some freshness

SCORPIO

turn out t

Ganesha predicts today will be a day full of focus and a clear thought process. The clarity of thought you have has been acquired over a period of time, says Ganesha, and that could make all the dif ference. A crisp application of thoughts to ideas and actions will bring much appreciation from bosses and peers.

The winds of fortune will usher in your dreams and make them come true. Be careful not to go overboard with your foresightedness, lest they be marked delusions, warns Ganesha. You must realise that the only thing permanent is change, and hence, you must overcome any disappointment with strong will and determination.

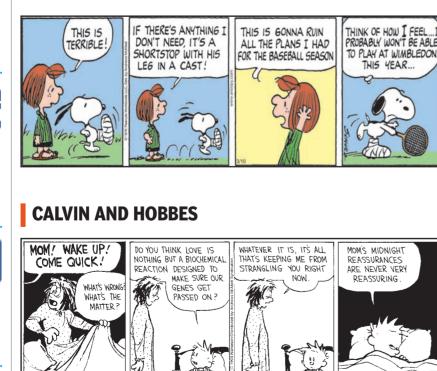
It may seem too far-fetched. but your boss will bank on your brilliance and unmatched abilities to get respite from the existing problems, says Ganesha. Moreover, much to the dismay of your rivals, you will have your way and gain popularity by winning the hearts of your clients

AOUARIUS

Today, you will iron out any trouble with ease. But you may choose to play martyr and shoulder a bit of blame. That's quite a lot to do for others, even if it is done out of compassion. You may think you are setting standards for others to follow, says Ganesha, but that may not be the case.

PISCES

Needless rigidity only serves to imprison you within out-moded walls of faulty reasoning. Inculcating some flexibility will give you some much-needed wriggle room to manoeuvre things your way for good, says Ganesha.



BREVITY

PEANUTS





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

1	9	6					
	_		2				
2 - 2			1		9		4
	2		9	-			8
8	7		С. 	1		2	
	6		3			9	
		2					
4					3	6	
2		5			6	4	2

8 5

4

2 6 7

3

9

ົດ

SO



downtown

ANNUAL DAY FETE

Chairman of Bhubaneswar Development Authority G Mathi Vathanan addressing the 41st foundation day of the civic body at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday



Dhirendra Ojha takes charge as DG of CBC

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 1: 1990-batch Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Dhirendra Ojha assumed charge as the Director General (DG) of Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Friday.

He succeeded Manish Desai, who has been transferred to Press Information Bureau (PIB) as Principal Director General

Prior to this assignment, Ojha was working as Press Registrar of RNI in New Delhi with additional charge of NMW and EMMC. He will continue to hold the additional charge of NMW & EMMC During his career of more than three decades, Ojha has handled various assignments including Director and DG in Election Commission of India and special correspondent in Dubai. He has also served Doordarshan and All India Radio in various capacities.



FESTIVE FERVOUR: Girls shop clay idol of Goddess Khudurukuni from a stall in Cuttack, Friday

2,991

people died

to June 2023

in 6,272 road

compared to

2,489 deaths

in 6,029 road

accidents

during the

in 2022

The number of fatalities due

to road accidents has increased

same period

accidents,

from January

ODISHA LOST 48 LIVES IN EACH 100 ROAD ACCIDENTS IN THE LAST 10 YEARS AGAINST THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 36

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: Around 45,000 people have died in road accidents in Odisha in the last decade, out of which 70 per cent are youths, Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu said.

As many as 48 people have died in each 100 accidents in Odisha, against the national average of 36, she said. Speaking during the recently

held Road Safety Council meet here, Sahu said that despite the best efforts of the government, the number of road accidents and fatalities is rising in the state.

Expressing deep concern over the rising incidents of deaths due to road accidents in Odisha, the minister said coordination between the police, transport, health, education and engineering departments, and truck as well as bus owners' associations will

play a decisive role in road safety. Sahu said the Union govern-



CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK HAS FORMULATED A NEW POLICY AND MADE A BUDGETARY PROVISION OF RS 145 CRORE TO **REDUCE ROAD FATALITIES**

road fatalities by 50 per cent by 2030 and has accordingly taken several steps to achieve the target.

by 5 per cent from January to The minister said that 5,467 June 2023 in Odisha in comparpeople died and around 5,000 ison to the same period in 2022. were injured in road accidents Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, in Odisha in 2022, out of which Keonjhar, Ganjam, Cuttack and 2,477 were bike and pillion rid-Khurda districts reported the ers, and 1,695 died for not wearmaximum number of fatalities.

The number of fatalities due to road accidents has increased by 5 per cent from January to June 2023 in Odisha in comparison to the same period in 2022

from January to June 2023 in 6,272 road accidents in Odisha, compared to 2,489 deaths in 6,029 road accidents during the same period in 2022.

During the period, the highest of 597 accidents were reported from Khurda, followed by 453 in Sundargarh, 404 in Cuttack, 403 in Keonjhar and 386 in Ganjam.

The minister said the accidents occurred due to high speed, drunken driving, and violation of traffic rules.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, she said, has formulated a new policy and made a budgetary provision of Rs 145 crore to reduce fatalities due to

Narendra Modi's big move to

push through his 'one nation one

election' concept promises to be

the big ticket idea which can dis-

rupt conventional calculations

and allow it to frame the up-

coming Lok Sabha polls along

helpful lines as the party believes

the issue has the potential to

Minister Devendra Fadnavis said

simultaneous polls is a good con-

cept. "It is in the interest of the

country. Generally, you will see

that elections are taking place in

some or other part (of the coun-

try) all 365 days. It results in an

increase in expenditure," he said.

Simultaneous polls will reduce

expenses, he added. The deputy

having synchronised polls to Lok

Sabha and state Assemblies was

good but a legal framework and

roadmap are must to ensure a

smooth conduct of the gigantic

for the Election Commission, si-

multaneous elections are both

convenient and logical. But many

argue that frequent elections are

"The festival of democracy is

the festival of the poor as the

vote is arguably the only power

they have," said SY Quraishi,

who headed the poll panel be-

tween July 30, 2010 and

not so bad after all.

One of the former CECs said

exercise

Maharashtra Deputy Chief

catch popular imagination.

45K deaths on roads ODISHA LOST 48 LIVES IN EACH 100 ROAD ACCIDENTS IN THE LAST 10 Group clash in Mancheswar village over mishap; 10 hurt

PIC: RAJKISHORE MOHANTY

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: A violent clash erupted between two groups at Padmakesharipur village under Mancheswar police limits here over rash driving, Friday. Several people from both sides sustained injuries in the fight.

According to locals, the clash is the fallout of the simmering tension between two groups of the same village supporting different party leaders since the panchayat polls in March last year.

On August 30, a 15-year-old boy allegedly hit the vehicle of one Alok Das belonging to the opposing group. Das reportedly scolded the boy for the rash driving and let him go. This, however, didn't go well with the opposing faction. One of the young biker's relatives, identified as Nishikant, went to the residence of Das and assaulted him.

Subsequently, a family member of Das present at the spot intervened and beat Nishikant as well. Soon, both groups assem-

Forex reserves drop by \$30mn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 1: India's forex reserves dropped by USD 30 million to USD 594.858 billion for the week ended August 25, the Reserve Bank said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped by USD 7.273 billion to USD 594.888 billion.

It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year. For the week ended August 25, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 538 million to USD 527.249 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Gold reserves were up by USD 530 million to USD 44.354 billion, the RBI said.

Two platoons of police force were deployed in the village to prevent further escalation of tension, said sources

brawl. Later, separate complaints were lodged by both the groups at the police station. Following the intervention of police, the senior members of the opposing groups later agreed to amicably solve the issue Friday.

again engaged in a heated altercation Friday which soon turned violent just a few minutes before the scheduled meeting for amicable settlement of the issue. The members of the both groups started hurling stones, glass bottles at each other.

Informed, police reached the spot and brought the situation under control.

More than 10 persons were injured in the clash while two platoons of police force were deployed in the village to stop further escalation of the tension. said sources

road accidents.

Simultaneous polls idea evokes mixed reactions

bled at the spot and got into a

However, both the groups

INDIA bloc represents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 1: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Friday claimed that the INDIA bloc represents 60 per cent of the Indian population and asserted that if it fights the Lok Sabha polls unitedly, it would be impossible for the BJP to win.

Addressing a joint press conference after the two-day brainstorming here on crystallising the alliance's structure. Gandhi said two "very powerful steps" were taken at the meeting to ensure that the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) defeats the BJP.

"The first step is a coordination committee and committees under that committee and the second step is a decision that we will expedite all seat sharing discussions and decisions and make them happen as soon as possible," the former Congress chief said.

The most important thing to understand is that this stage, which has various parties, represents 60 per cent of the Indian population, he said.

'If the parties on this stage unite, it is impossible for the BJP to win an election. So, the task before us is to come together in the most efficient way possible and two big steps have been taken in that regard," he said

In his remarks, Gandhi also raised the issue of fresh allegations against the Adani Group.

Billionaire Gautam Adani's group was Thursday hit by allegations that it used family associates to secretly invest hundreds of millions of dollars (through "opaque" Mauritiusbased investment funds.

60% of popn: Rahul

Weighty political plank for BJP **Against country's** For BJP, Prime Minister CM said reforms also get deinterests: DMK railed due to multiple elections. The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Harvana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar com-

(DMK) in Tamil Nadu opmended the Centre's decision to form a committee to explore the posed the proposal to hold feasibility of 'one nation, one simultaneous polls to Lok election' while his deputy Sabha and state Assemblies, Dushyant Chautala and to examine which a com-Shiromani Akali Dal president mittee has been set up by the Sukhbir Singh Badal also lauded the idea of holding simultaneous Gujarat State BJP president CR Paatil said simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly polls would not only save time and money of people as well as government, but also help bring down cost of projects which are stalled due

Centre. DMK spokesperson Saravanan Annadurai said on X, "One nation, one election is against the interests of the country." Ever since the idea was mooted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the DMK has all along been opposing it as part of its Dravidian ideology of good to imposition of the model code governance.

Have some reservations: NC

The National Conference (NC) Friday said the party has some reservations about the 'one nation, one election' proposal, but, would give a detailed response only after the newly formed committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind submits its report. "As a party, the NC has some reservations about this proposal. There are many things in it on which we want to react, but, as of now, the Kovind committee has been mandated to submit a report on it, so, it is better to wait for some time.

The speculation that the BJP government may bring 'One Nation, One Election' Bill during the special session of the Parliament scheduled to begin September 18 has evoked sharp reactions from a spectrum of political parties. While some parties have vehemently opposed the idea of simultaneous polls, something Modi has assiduously pushed, some others welcomed it. **Orissa POST** *encapsulates the nation's mood on the*



Threat to federal structure: Oppn

crucial development

Opposition leaders Friday slammed the government's move to set up a committee to study the feasibility of 'one nation, one election", alleging it would pose a threat to the federal structure of the country.

They alleged the ongoing meeting of the INDIA alliance has rattled the ruling BJP which caused the government to set up a committee under former president Ram Nath Kovind to explore the possibility of holding assembly and national elections simultaneously

president Congress Mallikarjun Kharge called the government's move a "diversion and distraction".

"No matter how many diversions and distractions the ruling regime throws at the people, the citizens of India shall not be betrayed anymore," Kharge said on X, without making any direct reference to the formation of the committee. Congress leader Vijay

Wadettiwar said 'one nation, one election' move happened because of the INDIA alliance meeting.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said the country is already "one" and no one is questioning that

"We demand fair elections, not 'one nation one election'. This move of is being brought to divert attention from our demand for fair election," he added. The Rajya Sabha MP also questioned the need for a special session of Parliament, scheduled to be held from September 18 to 22, during the Ganpati festival

CPI leader D Raja said Modi always talks about India being the mother of democracy but the government has taken a unilateral decision without discussing with other parties.

Priyanka Kakkar of Aam Aadmi Party said the move betrays the "panic" in the ruling party after they saw the unity of opposition parties under the INDIA bloc.

Will help save time and money: RSS

 $T_{\text{Sangh}\,(\text{RSS})\,\text{is of the view}}^{\text{he Rashtriya Swayamsevak}}$ that simultaneous elections will save public money and the nation's time as under the prevailing system, the country remains in "election mode" throughout the year.

The RSS also believes simultaneous elections will help in seamless implementation of development work which gets affected due to frequent elections and imposition of the Model

Code of Conduct by the election commission to ensure free and fair polls, multiple sources said. "It's good for the country if

all elections are held simultaneously. It will help save the public money and also the nation's time," one of the sources told PTI. "Holding frequent elections not just costs dearly but it also keeps government employees engaged in poll duties and hinders development works due to imposition of the model code of conduct," the source added

Good idea but roadmap must: Ex-CECs

polls.

wo former chief election com-June 10, 2012. L missioners said the idea of

OP Rawat, who was the CEC between January 23, 2018 and December 1, 2018 said, "It is possible and could be done. All you need is to make a roadmap and work accordingly. All political parties should come on board on this as amendments won't be possible without their support.

on board, then it would send a

Rawat recalled that when the in 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967.

of conduct ahead of each poll.

He said if all the parties are not wrong message to the people and they will be suspicious about it.

poll panel was asked about simultaneous polls, it had informed the government that 'One nation, One election' had happened







downtown

5T Secy reviews public infra projects in Jajpur

district federation office and in-

teracted with the members. The

Secretary emphasized that the

Chief Minister has high prior-

ity for women empowerment

and assured all support from

Pandian visited the ongoing

medical college project site at

Jajpur. The project is progress-

ing as per schedule and will be

operational from next academic

vear. The academic block will

be ready shortly for the inspec-

tion of the National Medical

The 5T Secretary reviewed progress of ongoing Mega Piped

Water Supply Projects being

built at a cost of Rs 637 cr in

Bari, Korei, Sukinda and

Danagadi blocks. "These proj-

ects will provide water supply to

the households across all the

blocks. The projects will be op-

erationalized in phases from

February 2024 onwards. He di-

Commission (NMC).

the government.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: On the third day of his Jajpur visit Friday, 5T Secretary VK Pandian reviewed availability of tourist amenities at the Biraja temple while also taking stock of progress on several public infrastructure projects like the 'mega piped water supply projects' and 'mega lift irrigation projects' spread across blocks.

OrissaPOST

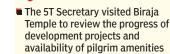
SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 2 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

Pandian visited the Biraja temple where he interacted with sebayats, trustee members and general public about development of the temple. He reviewed the progress of the ongoing projects to develop the temple and provide better facilities for the devotees.

Later on, he visited the Mission Shakti café nearby and appreciated the members' initiative. He also visited the Mission Shakti

Govt urged for early provision of seeds

Bhubaneswar: To help farmers enhance their agricultural productivity, several civil society organizations (CSO) of the state Friday demanded the government to provide seeds for the upcoming crop cycle early in October, organise special Gram Sabha on agriculture and resolve registration issues farmers are facing with the Krushak portal. Among the CSOs Odisha Shramajeebee Mancha, Mahila Shramajeebee Mancha, and Atmashakti Trust, organised a press conference in this regard. Citing official statistics of the Odisha government, they said that a significant portion of paddy crop land, 16.3 lakh (out of 35.44 lakh) hectares, is non-irrigated or



- He visited the ongoing medical college work at Jajpur, which is progressing as per schedule and will be operationalised in next academic year, an official informed
- The Secretary reviewed progress of ongoing Mega Piped Water Supply Projects in Bari, Korei, Sukinda and Danagadi Block and the progress of Mega Lift Irrigation projects that will be completed by December

rected the officials concerned to ensure timely completion and quality of services," an official said.

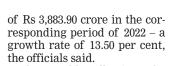
Pandian also reviewed progress of Mega Lift Irrigation Projects which will be completed by December this year. He asked the officials to ensure adherence to deadline.

During the day, he participated in public grievance meetings in Korei, Bari and Sukinda. He interacted with the public regarding their grievances, reportedly saying them that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik gives top priority to citizen grievances and assuring early resolution

of their submitted petitions. Special secretary to the CM R Vineel Krishna, IG Ashish Singh, Collector and DM Chakravarti Singh Rathore, SP Vinit Agrawal and other district level officials accompanied the Secretary during the visit. **Bhubaneswar, Sept 1:** Odisha has recorded 13.50 per cent growth in gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in August 2023 compared to the same month last year, officials said Friday.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The state has recorded a collection of Rs 4,408.27 crore in August 2023 against a collection



The monthly collection to be retained by the state (OGST+IGST settlement) during last month stood at Rs 1,733.62 crore against a collection of Rs 1,254.24 crore in August 2022, thereby recording a growth of 38.22 per cent. Till August, the state has collected OGST (Odisha GST) and IGST settlement to the tune of Rs 8,877.21 crore with a growth rate of 21.40 per cent.

of 21.40 per cent. Similarly, the OGST collection registered a growth rate of 29.66 per cent during August 2023. The state has collected Rs 1,332.99 crore OGST in the last month against a collection of Rs 1,028.07 crore in the same

month of previous year.

The collection under all Acts monitored by the Commissionerate of Commercial Tax and GST, Odisha including GST, VAT, Entry Tax and Professional Tax stood at Rs 2,793.38 crore during August 2023 as against a collection of Rs 2,219.81 crore during the same month of 2022, registering a



COURTESY CALL: Members of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), including national president Sudha Shivkumar, met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at Naveen Niwas in Bhubaneswar, Friday

State clocks 13.5% growth in gross GST collection

National Welding Meet '23 kick-starts in state Capital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: The Indian Institute of Welding (IIW), Bhubaneswar, is organising 2-day National Welding Meet, 2023, here in collaboration with Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Limited (UCCIL).

The first day of the event was inaugurated Friday by Sankar Biswas, chief of mechanical maintenance at Tata Steel in presence of IIW, Bhubaneswar chairman Gyana Ranjan Mohanty, UCCIL president Brahmananda Mishra, R Srinivasan, vice president of International Institute of Welding, Rahul Sengupta, vice president of IIW, Santanu Das, from IIW Kolkata Branch, Rituraj Bose and Omkarnath Mohanty. Speaking at the event,



Mohanty said, "This year the theme is 'present day welding, challenges and opportunities. Experts from academia and industry are participating in the meet who will share their valuable knowledge and experience, through their presentations and nities. discussions. These will be relevant to welding activity going on in a variety of industries, such as steel, aluminum, petro chemicals, mining, infrastructure and all allied industries. Mishra of UCCIL said. "Without welding, so many

things, including buildings, gates, kitchen appliances, and even space travel would not exist. So it's good to see Bhubaneswar hosting such national conference and discussing on the industry challenges and opportunities." Over the two days, experts in welding, reclamation and repair from both industry and academia will discuss about the state of art welding techniques. Both students and welding professionals are participating to gain momentum in their careers.



rainfed.

Man's body found hanging

Bhubaneswar: The body of a 56year-old man was found hanging from a tree in the forest near Khandagiri hills here Friday morning. The deceased, identified as Ganesh Sahoo, was a resident of Aiginia area under Bharatpur police limits. Some locals spotted the body of Sahoo hanging from a tree and informed Khandagiri police that reached the spot immediately. The cops brought down the body and sent it to a hospital for postmortem.



LOST

I, Rajendra Prasad, S/o. Late Manik Chand Prasad, R/o. Village- Kalunga "Kha", PS.-Brahmanitarang, Dist.-Sundargarh declare that I have misplaced the original Regd. Sale deed bearing No.405/2008, while I was going towards Kalunga from Vedvyas on dtd.31.08.2023. Inspite of my sincere search the same could not be traced out.

STUDENT PROTEST: Ravenshaw University East Hostel residents blocked the university main gate to press for fulfillment of various demands in Cuttack, Friday

Gene therapy for brain tumour shows promise: Lancet

A therapy combining cellkilling and immune-stimulating drugs is safe and effective in extending survival for patients with gliomas, a highly aggressive form of brain cancer, according to a study published in The Lancet Oncology journal.

Given gliomas' poor prognosis and limited response to treatments like chemotherapy and radiation, the team looked to using the protein Flt3L to recruit immune cells, typically absent from the brain. These immune cells are required to kick start a more effective cancer immune response.

"Being able to move a novel therapy from bench to bedside in such a streamlined fashion is exciting, and represents a tour-de-force in translational medicine," said Oren Sagher, a

professor of neurosurgery at the University of Michigan (U-M), US.

The study focused on two types of genetic therapies in highgrade gliomas. The first was a combination of HSV-1-TK, a protein, and Valtrex, a drug used to treat viral infections like cold sores and chickenpox.

HSV-1-TK turns Valtrex into a cytotoxic compound that kills actively dividing cancer cells. The second was Flt3L, a protein that recruits essential immune cells to the brain. When used in combination, these therapies showed exciting early results, including improved survival,

the researchers said. Of the 18 patients enrolled in

the trial, six survived more than
two years, three survived more
than three years, and one patient, who is still alive at the



time of publication, survived up to five years, they said.

With current standard-of-care, the life expectancy for a tumour of this kind of just over 14 months. The study found that this treatment wasn't toxic to the patients, suggesting that the highest dose used in this trial could be used in future trials.

Though the adenoviral gene t therapy vectors were supposed r

 Given gliomas', an aggressive form of brain cancer, poor prognosis and limited response to treatments like chemotherapy and radiation, the researchers looked to using a specific protein to recruit immune cells

 These immune cells, typically absent from the brain, are required to kick start a more effective cancer immune response

 The study focused on two types of genetic therapies in high-grade gliomas.
 When used in combination, these therapies showed exciting early results, including improved survival, the researchers said

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to be active for up to a month, the researchers discovered that ac-

tivity from the adenoviral vector expressing the HSV1-TK was active for up to 17 months.

This discovery changes expectations of adenoviral gene therapy in the brain and extends the potential time during which the combination HSV1-TK and Valtrex might be harnessed to combat tumour recurrence, the researchers said.

"This originated from a theoretical idea based on evolutionary hypotheses and was first tested in experimental models of the disease," said Pedro Lowenstein, a professor at U-M.

"Finally, after many years, we're thrilled to report the results of testing this approach in human patients, obtaining results that will lead to better treatments for this group of brain tumor patients," said Maria Castro, a professor at U-M.

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state

eNAM mandi gains traction

Nayagarh farmers are selling their harvested vegetables daily to 22 registered traders through auctions without the involvement of any middleman or agent



POST NEWS NETWORF

Navagarh, Sept 1: Demand for eNAM mandis opened by the Regulated Market Committees (RMCs) of Cooperative department is gaining traction among the farmers in Navagarh district, a report said Friday.

Notably, National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. The eNAM mandis are facilitating sale of agricultural produce between farmers and traders without the involvement of middlemen and agents.

Recently, a farmer Pramod Kumar Behera in the district managed to sell 29.16 quintal pumpkins at ₹12 per kg to a trader Khitish Mohapatra of Udala eNAM mandi through the eNAM mandi operated by Bahadajhola RMC at Khandapara road in Nayagarh town.

Behera has earned ₹36,182 from the sale of pumpkins to the Udala trader. During the sale, Mandi secretary Sudam Charan Jena, nodal officer Sarat Kumar Palei, analysts Prabhas Kumar Sahu and Binati Kumar Mohapatra of Udala mandi helped Behera seal the deal with Mohapatra.

When contacted, Behera said he could have suffered losses as there is very little demand for pumpkins in Navagarh district. The trader from Udala in Mayurbhanj district buying pumpkins at ₹12 per kg is a good sign for the local farmers and the agriculture sector in the district, he said

BSF personnel defuse IED during combing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Sept 1: Border Security Force (BSF) personnel defused an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) during a combing operation in Taksipadar forest under Kandhamal's Phiringia police limits Friday. Reports said, the dog squad of the Central security force found the IED during a combing operation in the jungle. Subsequently, a bomb squad was called in who defused the explosive carefully. The IED was assembled using a two-litre steel tiffin box. 50 gm gelatin sticks, a six volt battery, adhesive tapes, and 20 metre of flexible wire. The IED was planted targeting the BSF jawans.

1,280 farmers and 22 traders have registered their names with the eNAM mandi at Khandapara main road in this district since it started functioning March 28, 2018

here are 66 mandis in the state while there are 1,361 eNAM mandis operating in the country

As many as 209 types of agricultural produce can be sold through eNAM mandis that were started in the country from April 14, 2016

"Farmers should stay aware so that they could reap the benefits like me. Moreover, this will make them take more interest in agriculture,' he added.

Sources said farmers cultivating brinjals in Nayagarh district could now sell their harvest to Mayurbhanj traders through eNAM mandis with the help of registered traders of various mandis.

Brinjals harvested in the district were first sold to Mayurbhanj traders in February and March and the farmers are now planning to sell their additional harvest of brinjals to them.

The registered traders in Nayagarh are also similarly getting benefited. They are now able to purchase vegetables produced in other districts through the eNAM mandis and sell them in Nayagarh.

Reports said that 209 types of agricultural produce can be sold through eNAM mandis. There are 66 mandis in the state including the one in Nayagarh while there are 1,361 eNAM mandis operating in the whole country.

The eNAM mandi in this district

In deep sea, man climbs onto

fishing trawler in dead of night

has been functioning since March 28, 2018. Notably, eNAM mandis were started in the country from April 14, 2016.

As many as 11,280 farmers and 22 traders have registered their names with the eNAM mandi at Khandapara main road. The registered farmers are from Nayagarh, Odagaon, Daspalla, Nuagaon and Gania blocks in the district

Farmers from Nayagarh are sell ing their harvested vegetables daily to 22 registered traders through auctions without the involvement of any middleman or agent. All the 22 traders have 22 godowns on Khandapara road to store the vegetables purchased from the farmers. They are getting a good business every day, sources said.

Mandi analyst Prabhas Kumar Sahu said that the eNAM mandi is a platform for the farmers and has proved to be helpful in preventing farmers' losses if they get more harvest.

Farmers will not be forced to go for distress sale in the local market and can get better deals for their harvest by selling it through the eNAM mandis.

However, they have to be aware. They should contact in advance to sell their harvest through eNAM mandis so that the traders from other districts could be contacted online to sell off the excess stocks of farmers through auction.

Moreover, they could also buy the vegetables which are not cultivated or available in the district. The mandi helps the farmers and traders in the district to buy and sell their vegetables easily and at a reasonable price while the consumer is also benefitted.

Vegetable prices will go up if both the farmers and traders face loss, he added.

Farmers Sudam Nayak of Ranpur and Miton Swain of Khanadapara said that the eNAM mandi in Nayagarah has been functioning since 2018 but many farmers are still not aware about its existence.

They said that awareness programmes should be conducted to make the farmers and traders aware and the RMC should take the lead for this, they added



CELEBRATING ISRO SUCCESS: Students and NCC cadets of St. Xavier's High School and Senior Secondary School at Ranapasi in Dhenkana take out a rally with a replica of Chandrayaan-3 to congratulate ISRO scientists on their successful Moon mission, Friday

Dengue under control in Rourkela

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Sept 1: It seems that the rampant spread of dengue in this town has

been brought under control. This has happened due to two factors. First, an aggressive awareness campaign to prevent the spread of the disease was launched by the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC). More importantly, people started following the guidelines of the RMC and thereby could re-

strict the spread of the disease. Till August 30, a total of 907 blood samples for dengue

were tested at the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH). Out of those, only 47 turned out to be positive. "It is a very small number consid-

Rs. 2900/Qtl from Rs. 3100/Qtl.

File No: S&S/2/OMSS(D)/Wheat/2023-24

ering the large quantity of testing that was carried out,' said the director of RGH. Dr Santosh Swain. He added that RGH has created a separate dengue ward for patients so that they can be treated in isolation.

Dr Swain informed that 26 of the 47 positive cases were admitted to the hospital. "So far 22 patients have already been discharged, while the remaining four are recu-perating well," the doctor informed.

garding dengue is heartening as Sundargarh is basically a fever-prone district. Earlier malaria used to play havoc in the district. Now however, it has been brought under control, so much so

that the central governmentrun Malaria Research Centre has seen a significant downsizing of staff. A similar awareness campaign against dengue kept it in control here. Interestingly dengue pa-

tients have been found in well-planned localities like Koel Nagar, Basanti Colony and Chhend rather than in the slums. An RMC staff pointed out that Koel Nagar was one of the worst hit localities in the city. "We received more than a dozen dengue patients from Koel Nagar. A sewage pipe had burst leading to the accumulation of stagnant water. It turned out to be a breeding ground of mosquitoes leading to the outbreak of dengue," the official stated.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

ENGG/2023-24 Dated: 24 Tender No. : 30/eT/SDENE-SBF NAME OF WORK HIRING OF ONE NON-AC ROAD VEHICLE SIMILAR TO TATA SUMO/MAHINDRA BOLERO/ SCORPIO OR EQUIVALENT WITH DRIVER AND FUEL ON CONTRACT BASIS FOR A PERIOD OF 36 (THIRTY SIX) MONTHS FOR THE OFFICIAL USE OF ADEN/SBP

OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION. Approx. Cost of the Work: Cost of tender form : ₹ 2,36

ompletion Period for the work: Thirty Six) Months. Tender closing Date & Time: Hrs. on 15.09.2023.

No manual offers sent by p or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be reject summarily vithout any consideration Complete information including

documents of the above e-tender is available n website : http://www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are ad to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before

date of closing of tender changes/corrigenda issued for this tender Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) PR-521/O/23-24 Sambalpu

DGM -HR(Rectt)

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED A Govt. of India (Department of Atomic Energy) Enterprise ECIL Post, Hyderabad - 500 062, Telangana State

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complete details [including qualifications, experience, age etc.] and online Application Form, please visit Company website: http://careers.ecil.co.in or www.ecil.co.in

THE INCIDENT HAPPENED **AROUND 2AM FRIDAY** The fishermen were taken aback by WHEN THE TRAWLER WAS **AROUND 71 NAUTICAL MILES AWAY FROM THE**

The young man suddenly climbed onto the trawler when the fishermen were sleeping, a police officer said.

the incident, but then they offered him food and then handed him to the marine police, he said.

The man was brought to the Nehru

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

REGIONAL OFFICE, BHUBANESWAR

PRESS NOTE

To moderate the market prices of Wheat and Rice, it has been decided by

Govt. of India to offload 50 LMT Wheat and 25 LMT Rice in the open

market through e-auctions in a phased manner under OMSS (D) through

Food Corporation of India. The reserve price of rice has been reduced to

As per recent tender floated by FCI, 7000 MT Wheat and 6000 MT Rice has

been offered for e-auction from 13 centres of FCI Odisha Region. The sale of

Wheat under the scheme will be carried out on FRIDAY every week by FCI.

Traders are also allowed for Rice e-auction up to 1000 MT per bidde

Interested bidders can register themselves at M-Junction

(http://www.valuejunction.in/fci) for participating in e-auction.

The entire statistics re-

MOUTH OF CHILIKA LAKE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paradip, Sept 1: A man climbed onto a fishing trawler in the dead of the night when it was sailing in the deep sea off the coast of Odisha, police said Friday.

The incident happened around 2am Friday when the trawler was around 71 nautical miles away from the mouth of Chilika lake, they said.

Bangla fishing port in Paradip in the morning, and after a medical examination, investigators began interrogating him.

The man told the police that he was from Jharkhand, the officer said.

He also claimed that he fell into the sea, and after staying afloat for three to four hours, he found the fishing trawler and climbed onto it.

His interrogation is continuing to get the complete details, and his claims are being verified, the officer said.

The P17A Project comprises con-

SAIL has not only supplied steel

cluding aircraft carrier 'INS Vikrant',

warships such as INS Udaygiri and

INS Surat and the heavy artillery

gun 'Dhanush' among others.

SAIL supplies steel for INS Mahendragiri



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 1: Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), one of India's largest steel producers, has once again contributed significantly to India's defence capabilities by providing the entire quantity of special steel plates of about 4,000 tonne for the construction of the seventh frigate under the indigenous P17A Project of the Indian Navy. The warship named 'INS Mahendragiri' was launched Fridav in Mumbai by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's wife, Sudesh. Incidentally 'Mahendragiri' is part of a mountain range in Rayagada district of Odisha.

By doing so, SAIL has once more proved its commitment in helping the country build its own defence products. However, this is not the first instance when SAIL has contributed significantly to development of defence products. Earlier also SAIL had provided steel for the construction of the sixth frigate 'INS

Vindhyagiri'. The warship was launched by President Droupadi Murmu a couple of weeks back in Kolkata.

RSP special steel for ISRO's space missions

Maraging steel is a

parameters, the state-

Generally any steel

with higher strength

will have low ductility

and vice-versa. But the

significance of marag-

ing steel is that it has got

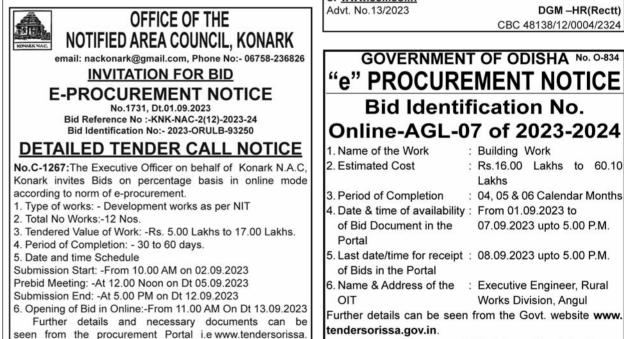
very high strength (to

ment added.

ROURKELA: Odishaof ISRO. based Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has supspecial quality steel conplied special grade MDNtaining nickel, cobalt, 250 (maraging steel) for molybdenum, titanium various space missions and aluminium and is of Indian Space Research manufactured through Organisation (ISRO) invacuum melting cluding Chandrayaan, process. Rolling of Gaganayaan and maraging steel requires Aditya L1. very stringent process

In a press statement, the company said maraging steel plates are used in PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) and GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) programmes the tune of 5-6 times of mild steel) along with good ductility, an RSP official said.

Maraging steel is being used for the launch Vehicle Rocket Motor Casing and for other different defence applications. This exceptional steel variant, renowned for its unparalleled strength and ductility, is playing a pivotal role in enhancing the performance and reliability of crucial components for space exploration, the official added.



General Manager (Region)

gov.in. and www.nackonark.in Sd./-Executive Officer, Konark NAC



with prior appointment of the Authorised Officer. The Sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in (1) https://www.ibapi.in (2) https://www.mstcecommerce.com (3) www.bankofindia.co.in

Last date & time for submission of EMD & Documents: 05.10.2023 upto 4.00 P.M.

Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 05.10.2023

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 01.09.2023

Authorised Officer, Bank of India



बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया बक आफ़ इाडया Bank of India



power post

FOCUS BRICS

Love is, in its essence, the joy of identity; it finds its ultimate expression in the bliss of union. Between the two lie all the phases of its universal manifestation. THE MOTHER



Gujarat's Cyberwar

'n Gujarat, a disconcerting phenomenon is taking root – the rapid proliferation of social media impersonations targeting notable figures, including IAS, IPS officials and medical professionals. These malevolent imposters exploit the easily accessible civil lists of IAS and IPS officers, ingeniously creating counterfeit profiles complete with genuine images. Stories abound of scam artists using these fake profiles to solicit funds for fictional medical emergencies, tugging at the heartstrings of those genuinely wishing to help.

From eminent senior bureaucrats to dedicated doctors on the frontlines, the impact spans sectors. The state cybercrime unit has reportedly confirmed the thwarting of over 53 counterfeit accounts, underscoring the severity of the issue. Among those who have fallen victim to this ruse is former Chief Secretary and 1986-batch IAS officer Pankaj Kumar. Additionally, Rajiv Kumar Gupta of the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation and Bhargavi Dave from the Gujarat State Human Rights Commission have had their social media accounts duplicated. It is believed that since the civil lists of IAS and IPS officials are available online, scammers target popular accounts using original pictures to create fake ones.

Gujarat's struggle echoes the fight against digital malfeasance in other states as well. The fortification of our virtual domain requires the collaborative efforts of bureaucrats, policymakers and citizens. Among the

BABUDOM **BYTES** Dilip Cherian

first things to do is the urgent need for widespread public awareness campaigns to educate individuals about the perils of online impersonation. In tandem, digital platforms must come up with innovative solutions to secure public data, stemming the misuse of available information.

A new body to supersede CBI and ED !

The idea of introducing a Chief Investigating Officer (CIO) akin to the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and the National Security Advisor (NSA) has resurfaced, capturing the attention of Dilli's elite echelons. The recent spotlight on the outgoing Chief of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) S.K. Mishra has rejuvenated discussions around the concept of a CIO. This, no doubt, is fuelled by the Centre's curious unwavering faith in Mishra's capabilities, transforming the discourse into a litmus test of the Centre's authority and resilience, crucially, ahead of the impending Lok Sabha polls in 2024.

If actualized, Mishra's legacy will be etched as the nation's first CIO, overseeing agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED), paralleling the structure of the CDS and NSA. The recent scrutiny by the Supreme Court over Mishra's extensions signals the government's quest for comprehensive control over such appointments. Notably, the government perceives a CIO's role as instrumental in fostering synergies among key investigative agencies. This envisaged role would have the rank of a secretary.

Clearly, anticipated to be instituted prior to Mishra's departure on September 15, 2023, this new position is set to coexist with the ED operating within the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance, and the CBI operating under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. However, this development could potentially dilute the position of the CBI director. Earlier, the procedure for the CBI director's appointment was instituted to prevent its misuse, but with the creation of the new post that would also become redundant.

Some senior officials believe that in such a situation, the matter may once again bring the Supreme Court's intervention. They also fear that the CBI may lose its status, while that of the ED and IT departments will rise. The issue, therefore, resonates far beyond the mere restructuring of bureaucratic roles.

Babu's suspension underscores Manipur's complex realities The unprecedented suspension of senior IAS officer Ng Roben Singh has sent ripples through the administrative circles, shedding light on the intricate challenges faced in Manipur. Singh refused to assume the role of deputy commissioner of Jiribam district, citing safety concerns amid ethnic tensions in the state.

THE WRONG EXPANSION

t first blush, it may seem like good news that the BRICS(Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) group will expand to includeSaudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates. Ethiopia, Egypt, and Argentina. An 11-strong BRICS+ could be more representative of the world's emerging economies, providing a useful counterweight against American hegemony.

Yet, in many ways, the announced enlargement represents a major lost opportunity. The world does not need more countries to fall under Chinese and Russian influence, or to align against the United States; rather, it needs a genuinely independent third grouping to provide a counterweight against both the China-Russia axis and US power.

Because the enlargement includes only countries that already have friendly relations with China, BRICS+ is poised to be merely another tool of Chinese diplomacy. Rather than representing the interests of emerging economies, it will allow for greater Chinese involvement in them. Most likely, this will come at the expense of their workers and people, because Chinese foreign investors tend to tolerate - or even encourage corruption, reduced transparency, and wasteful mega projects financed with loans that cannot be easily restructured. Moreover, adding Saudi

Arabia, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, and the UAE will turn the BRICS into even more of an "anti-democratic" club. Yet among the institutions that emerging economies most need to ensure their future economic and social success, democracy is high on the list. My own work with Suresh Naidu, Pascual Restrepo, and James Robinson finds that democratization, historically, has equipped countries to achieve faster economic growth within 5-10 years, reflecting increased investments in education, health, and other public services.



As the enlargement includes only countries that already have friendly relations with China. BRICS+ is poised to be merely another tool of Chinese diplomacy. Rather than representing the interests of emerging economies, it will allow for greater Chinese involvement

By contrast, Chinese engagement tends to hamper democratization and even foment authoritarianism. With many emerging economies facing a "democracy crisis," and with a growing number of countries experiencing weakening democratic institutions, the new BRICS+ threatens to pour fuel on the fire. Now that the Sino-American rivalry is intensifying – and potentially reshaping the world order - emerging economies increasingly need their own independent voice. After all, their interests are unlikely to be well served by worsening US-China relations and a reduction in their bilateral trade and financial flows.

Equally, emerging economies need to be able to influence the future of artificial intelligence and other rapidly evolving digital technologies. Even if the current enthusiasm around generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) turns out to be mostly

hype, rapid advances in AI and other communication technologies are still likely in the near term, and these will affect all countries, remaking the global division of labor.

These technologies could have major negative implications for workers, especially in the emerging world, where countries such as India are already exporting various white-collar services. Ultimately, both white-collar and blue-collar workers everywhere may end up competing not against expensive, highly educated labour in rich countries, but against AIpowered advanced software, machinery, and robotics. The same technologies are also likely to restructure politics in many countries, as AI-powered social media and misinformation (including deep fakes and other manipulative technologies) increasingly influence public opinion and electoral politics. Most developing and emerging economies do not have the supporting institutions needed to regulate and create guardrails against such disruptions.

Moreover, new technologies are giving governments unprecedentedly powerful tools for surveilling their populations and dissent. suppressing Authoritarian regimes are already sharing technologies and techniques with each other. Recent research shows that Chinese surveillance technologies are rapidly being exported to other non-democratic countries, with Huawei alone exporting such goods to 50 countries.

As matters stand, the future of technology is being shaped largely by Chinese authorities, US tech giants (with a limited degree of regulatory scrutiny), and - increasingly - European Union rules. None of these poles reflects the interests of the emerging world, and neither will BRICS+, which will most likely do China's bidding.

Fortunately, China's own narrow selection of new members may have created an opening for a promising alternative to BRICS+to emerge. Other major emerging economies - such as Indonesia, Turkey, Mexico, Colombia, Malaysia, Nigeria Bangladesh, and Kenya - could form a truly independent bloc, with the hope of ultimately attracting Argentina, Brazil, India, and South Africa to join them Though each of these countries has had its own problems with democratic processes lately, their experience with democracy, together with their economic size. gives them common ground.

Even more to the point, they could collectively declare independence from both China and the US, giving the wider emerging world a sorely needed voice in debates about the future of globalization and technology. Such choices are far too important to be left to today's geopolitical rivals.

> The writer is a Professor of Economics at MIT. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM ENVIRONMENT

Biggest losers of Forest Amendments

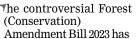


EGYPT, IRAN, **AND THE UAE** WILL TURN THE **BRICS INTO EVEN MORE OF AN "ANTI-**

Daron Acemoglu

ADDING SAUDI

DEMOCRATIC" **CLUB**



the controversial Forest Forest and Climate Change clar-live inside non-recognised forests and restrictions may lead to committee (JPC) that areas iden-

ified to the joint parliamentary or deemed forests. Moreover, the curbs on the tourism industry other important aspect is the and related activities, thereby

Under the invocation of Rule 3 of the All India Service (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969, Manipur's Chief Secretary Vineet Joshi suspended the IAS officer with immediate effect. Singh's decision to challenge his transfer order brought to a head his apprehensions about working in areas dominated by the Kuki community, underlining the vulnerabilities faced by Meitei officers like himself. While pointing out the frequent transfers he had undergone in the past, he had also reportedly expressed willingness to serve as deputy commissioner in the districts most affected by communal violence in the valley.

This episode underscores the complex interplay of safety concerns, ethnic dynamics, and the state administration in Manipur, revealing a multi-faceted reality that demands careful consideration and nuanced solutions.

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

NELSON MANDELA

WISDOM CORNER

No real change in history has ever been achieved by discussions NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE I'm not bound to win, but I'm bound to be true ABRAHAM LINCOLN A winner is a dreamer who never gives up

WORDS**WORTH**

Balductum

means a farrago of words, trash or balderdash. The link in meaning and form between balderdash and balductum is close enough that some writers have tentatively suggested that the former derives from or was influenced in its creation by the latter. Both started life having food implications, with balderdash being a jumbled miUture of liquids, such as milk and beer. Balductum was a type of posset, hot milk curdled with ale or wine. But while we have no idea where balderdash comes from (the supposed link between the two words not being supported by the experts these days), we do know that balductum is from Latin balducta, the curds of milk. Balductum took on its derived and derogatory sense of worthless speech around the time of Shakespeare, the better part of a century before balderdash acquired the same overtones. But balductum never gained the popularity of balderdash and seems to have gone out of use in the seventeenth century.

Warchalking

he name refers to chalk symbols that indicate to those in the know that an unsecured wireless networking station is nearby that can be used to tap into a corporate network and get illicit free Internet access. The term and the code were created by Matt Jones in the UK, based on the symbols that tramps and hobos once chalked on walls and doors to pass on information to others about houses to avoid or where a meal was to be had. Within days of appearing on his web site, the idea had been picked up by SlashDot in the USA and his symbols had been seen in London, New York, and Seattle.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THERE IS A GENUINE FEELING AMONG CRITICS THAT REAL ESTATE AND MINING LOBBIES ARE PRIME BENEFICIARIES

etters

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

requested to send their contact numbers and full

columns (between 750-1250

generated a huge debate and opposition from environmentalists and scientists who are concerned about ecology and nature. Broadly, it seeks to restrict the conservation scope of the Act to only certain forest lands. It also exempts border lands from the obligation to seek permissions to clear forests to construct "strategic linear projects of national importance". Finally, it also allows some non-forest activities on forest lands, such as running zoos and 'eco-tourism' facilities, at a time when global warming has accentuated not just in India but the world over.

The amendments further seek to exempt linear infrastructure projects such as roads and highways from seeking forest clearance permissions if these are located within 100 km of the national border. Experts have raised concerns because "strategic linear projects of national importance" is an undefined term and can thus be misused to push through infrastructure projects that are devastating for the local ecology.

One may mention here that the Ministry of Environment,

tified in 1997 by the expert committees have been taken on record and will therefore be recorded as forests. However, a bare reading of the text of the amendment suggests otherwise and the matter could have been addressed clearly. For forest areas identified after 1997, the status is unclear. Forest lands that are yet to be identified as per the dictionary meaning are excluded from the scope of the post-amendment FCA.

There is a genuine feeling among critics that real estate and mining lobbies are prime beneficiaries. Forest lands in states like Haryana and Uttarakhand, which have not vet identified forest areas will reduce. The biggest losers will be citizens who depend on hydrological functions of forests like groundwater recharge and stream flow. Additionally, those tribals living in forest land would be greatly affected.

The whole exercise entails freeing forest land for developmental projects as also for security purposes. But the big question that arises is the livelihood concerns for those who

question of countering global warming and the imperative need for extending the reach of forests in a bigger and planned way. Experts question, and very rightly, that these amendments run counter to the states' objectives of ecology and environmental protection.

Obviously, the criticisms of the Act related to the amendments, not really contributing towards regenerating natural forests. Many criticised that the amendment weakened the Supreme Court's judgement of Godavarman (1996). Concerns from north-eastern states were raised as it exempted the land near border areas for national security projects. In fact, projects within 100 km of international borders would no longer require forest clearance, which raises concerns about the degradation of forests, thereby jeopardising the environment.

Environmentalists have stated that this should be restricted to less than 50 km and up to two hectares initially so that local livelihoods are not affected. Some are also of the opinion that central protection for deemed forests

affecting local incomes.

Over the years, diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes has become a rule rather than an exception. It is indeed tragic evident that environmental laws, which have been formulated to play a crucial role in the protection and conservation of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources,

are not followed scrupulously. The most striking fact is that when global warming has created havoc in most countries. such tendency to curtail forests is obviously not quite desirable, not just in India but in most countries across the globe. The important consideration for India is that a large section of the population lives inside and derives its livelihood from forest produce. Just talking of renewable energy will not stop nature's fury; there is need to lay emphasis on afforestation and ensure that forests are not indiscriminately curtailed for so-called development projects that do not benefit the impoverished and backward sections of society.

© INFA

Cash cow called IPL

Sir, The IPL is nothing but a glorified way of making easy money and the gentleman's game of cricket is brought to disrepute. Cash cows called IPL continue to stun with rookies raking in big bucks as in the past. The 17th edition of the Indian Premier League will be played in the March-May 2024 window. After home and away format returned in the IPL 2023, the same format is expected to continue with two qualifiers, an eliminator, and the final. In 2017, the IPL rights were sold for ₹16,347 crore for five years. In 2022, the same rights were sold for another five years at ₹48,390 crore - the value going up three times. In 2018, the BCCI's bilateral media rights were sold for ₹6,138 crore for five years. What is the value of these rights in 2023? It's only ₹5963 crores. In that lies the answer to how well and truly T20 leagues have eaten into the bilateral space. The IPL extravaganza is getting hotted up with high stakes for both Indian and foreign players in the 17th edition of the tournament.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

Unity in Indian Politics

Sir, The ongoing mega meet of opposition leaders in Mumbai has undoubtedly captured the nation's attention, as it marks a significant juncture in Indian politics. The prospect of an opposition alliance has raised expectations of a united front to challenge the ruling party in the upcoming elections. However, it is imperative that this gathering transcends mere optics and photo opportunities and instead focuses on a substantive and strategic plan for India's future. In a diverse and vibrant democracy like India, a strong and credible opposition is essential to ensure a healthy balance of power. The electorate deserves choices that reflect a wide spectrum of ideas and ideologies. Hence, it is encouraging to witness leaders from different parties coming together to deliberate on seat-sharing and common goals. As citizens, we hope that this mega meet will not only fast-track seat sharing but also fast-track a genuine commitment to the welfare and development of our country. It is time for the opposition to prove that they can rise above differences and provide a credible alternative. The future of Indian democracy hinges on their unity, and we eagerly await the outcomes – of this crucial gathering.

Md Maimul Safui, HOWRAH



B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010





G20 SUMMIT

Anti-drone systems, 1.3 lakh THE FIRST STATUS REPORT OF THE security men to guard Delhi

The event will take place in the sprawling \$300 million venue 'Bharat Mandapam'

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 1: About 130,000 security officers will be deployed as India hosts the world's most powerful leaders at a G20 summit in New Delhi this month, a showcase for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the country's growing presence on the world stage.

The two-day summit, starting September 9, will have the most high-profile guest list India has ever welcomed, from US President Joe Biden to British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Bin Salman.

The event will take place in the sprawling, refurbished Pragati Maidan, a convention-cum-exhibition centre in the middle of one of the most populous cities in the world.

'This is a historic and momentous moment," said Dependra Pathak, a special commissioner of the Delhi Police who is in charge of security arrangements in the city. Thousands of personnel from other government se curity services including the home guards and the para-military Border Security Force will be brought in to maintain law and order, he said.

"To contain protests and gatherings, we will have adequate and robust police presence," he said. While Pathak is in charge of security in the city, the main venue will be guarded by a team under another Delhi Police special commissioner, Ranvir Singh Krishnia.

Although the capital is rela-



tively peaceful, as recently as last month, communal tensions flared up in the neighbouring industrial township of Gurugram in which at least seven people were killed. During the weekend summit, New Delhi's borders will be closely guarded and access to the city will be regulated, officials said.

Within the city of 20 million. the government is planning a partial shutdown during the summit with schools, government departments and businesses being asked to remain closed for three days

DEFENCE IN THE SKIES The city will be guarded by nearly 130,000 security personnel, including the 80,000-strong Delhi Police, officials said.

A spokesperson for the Indian Air Force told Reuters that it will deploy comprehensive measures for integrated aerospace defence in the Delhi and closeby areas. The spokesperson said that the Indian military, including the air force, along with the Delhi Police and paramilitary forces, will deploy anti-drone systems to prevent any aerial

threats. About 400 firefighters will also be on call.

Security control rooms are being set up at the venue and special security arrangements have been made at key hotels like the ITC Maurya Hotel, where Biden will stay

Modi has converted India's year-long presidency of the G20 into a national event, with different meetings of the group being hosted in key parts of the country, including far-flung Arunachal Pradesh state and Srinagar city in Kashmir. Through the year, roads, airports, bus stops, parks, railway stations, government offices and government media have been plastered with G20 advertisements.

In New Delhi, new fountains and ornamental plants adorn kev traffic roundabouts while life-size cutouts of langurs - a large monkey with a black face - have been put up in several areas to fight the city's monkey menace.

Modi inaugurated a \$300 million venue in the capital in July to host the summit meeting - a conch shell-shaped building that can seat more than 3,000.

The government has also leased 20 bullet-proof limousines at a cost of 180 million Indian rupees for ferrying leaders. Many world leaders travel with their own bodyguards and vehicles. India has requested countries to be rational about the number of cars and personnel that they bring, but has not put any restrictions, one government official said.

INVESTIGATION WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONCERNED AUTHORITY BY OCTOBER FIRST WEEK

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Imphal, Sept 1: At least 42 Special Investigation Teams (SITs) will be set up which will investigate all the violence-related cases expeditiously in Manipur, Raj Bhavan sources said Friday.

Former Deputy National Security Adviser DD Padsalgikar, who was appointed by the Supreme Court to monitor and supervise cases handed over to CBI and those of SITs, met Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey and apprised her of the current crisis in the state. Raj Bhavan sources said that Padsalgikar informed the Governor that to begin with 42 SITs will be set up and investigate all the violence-related cases in Manipur expeditiously.

The former deputy national security adviser has been recently posted to Manipur mainly to supervise the cases investigated by the CBI and SITs. "As far as the cases in the Hill districts are concerned, Padsalgikar informed the Governor that video conferencing facilities would be provided through BSNL and NIC to get the cases investigated,' the sources said.

According to Padsalgikar, the first status report of the investigation will be submitted to the concerned authority by the first week of October.

He said that he had visited many relief camps and met internally displaced people in the camps.

Padsalgikar requested the Governor to take all possible steps to extend help to the people. The Governor stated that both the Central and state governments have already taken up necessary common programme of actions to extend help to the violence-affected people and also instructed concerned state machineries to provide help to those people and measures to be taken up to re-settle them at their respective places at the earliest possible time. Meanwhile, the Governor

while interacting about the prevailing Manipur situation with newly appointed Inspector General of CRPF, Manipur and Nagaland sector, Akhilesh Prasad Singh, said that the timely deployment of Central security forces including CRPF could contain the situation.

Further, the Governor requested Singh to extend assistance to the violence affected people who have been taking shelter at different relief camps both in the Valley and Hill Districts.

The CRPF IG said that he is already well aware of the current crisis arising out of the ethnic clash. "Further, the IG informed the Governor that he would extend his fullest cooperation from his side to restore peace and tranquillity in the state which

42 SITs to probe Manipur violence cases



NON-STOP FIRING STILL ON **AS 5 KILLED IN LAST 3 DAYS**

At least five persons, in-cluding a tribal song composer and a Village Defence Volunteer, were killed and 20 others injured in Manipur's Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts during the past three days while gunfights between Kukis and Meiteis were still till Thursday night, officials said. Sources said that the death toll in the incessant firing exchanges was six to seven in three days but officials were yet to confirm it.

The five slain people included LS Mangboi Lhungdim, 50,

was warmly reciprocated by the Governor," the Raj Bhavan sources stated.

Over 170 people have been killed and more than 700 injured since ethnic violence broke out in the state May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

rival ethnic groups started early morning, police officials said in Imphal. In view of the ethnic strife in Manipur, approximately 70,000 men, women and children belonging to different communities have been displaced and are now sheltered in 350 camps set up in schools. government buildings and auditoriums in Manipur and sev-

eral thousand sought refuge

in the neighbouring states in-

cluding Mizoram.

who composed the song I Gam

Hilou Ham (Is this not our

land) after the ethnic violence

broke out in Manipur May 3.

His songs became a rallying

The dead also included VDV

Firing was continuing in the

areas

foothills of Bishnupur and ad-

Churachandpur district till

late Thursday evening, after

a fresh gunfight between two

cry for tribal unity.

Jangminlun Gangte.

joining

MANIPUR ETHNIC CLASH Thousands of displaced kids living in relief camps

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Imphal, Sept 1: Around 12,700 children are living with their displaced parents and guardians

dren having post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), explained why professional counselling is essential to avoid a myriad of mental health issues

According to Heigrujam, art

and dance therapies are the best

techniques that work well with

children to get them out of their

the child isn't able to adjust to it,

a myriad of mental health is-

sues can come out of it. The

most common is post-traumatic

stress disorder or depression in

to dive deep into the layers to

understand how badly they are

affected. There are many tech-

niques to do this. One that works

well with children is art therapy," Heigrujam said.

by the field officers of the Social

Welfare Department to identify

stress-affected children at the

relief camps at Wangjing in

trained to screen for severely

traumatised children by a team

of resource persons from the

National Institute of Mental

Health and Neuro-Sciences

The field officers visiting the

Another cause of concern that

relief camps employ 'play and

dance' methods to identify stress-

the Social Welfare Department

is looking to address is the sta-

tus of the relief camps. As the

relief camps are unplanned and

set up on a need basis, a UNICEF

team, which visited the state,

provided a blueprint for setting

up children-friendly relief camps.

(NIMHANS), Bangalore.

affected children.

These functionaries have been

Thoubal district.

Field visits were conducted

"In order to help them, we've

If the stress is prolonged and

traumatic experience.

childhood or anxiety.

'SHIVLING' FOUNTAINS There is God in every particle of country: LG the Hanuman Mandir junction

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 1: Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena Friday dismissed the AAP's objection to

in the Palam airport's technical area, according to officials. Asked about the AAP's obections to the fountains. Saxena



'Shivling-shaped' fountains installed in Delhi, saying they are just art pieces and there is God in "every particle of the country"

Sources in the ruling AAP claimed the party will file a police complaint over the fountains as they have hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus.

Reacting to this, Saxena said, "This is childish behaviour."

The LG along with Union Minister Meenakashi Lekhi unveiled three Yakshini statues at Ulan Batar in the Palam area here. According to Hindu mythology, Yakshinis are demigoddesses who serve Lord Kubera, the God of wealth.

As Delhi gears up to host the G20 summit from September 9 to 10, arterial stretches in the capital have been given a makeover.

As part of the beautification drive, 18 fountains shaped like the 'Shivling' have been installed at

said, "First of all, they are not Shivlings. They are art pieces. There is God in every particle of this country. People tie rakhis to trees and worship trees. You can see everything the way you want to. We have installed these Yakshini statues and you can call them Devis. Anything can be said. It is their understanding."

"Our delegates will pass through this area. Yakshinis guard the valuables of Lord Kubera. Today, our country is becoming prosperous and these statues have been installed as a symbolic gesture," he told reporters. The AAP had Thursday accused Saxena and the BJP of disrespecting the 'Shivling' by installing fountains shaped like it in the capital ahead of the G20 summit. The party demanded that action be taken against the LG and the BJP apologise to the country



SECURITY DRILL: National Security Guard (NSG) commandos conduct an 'aerial insertion' drill through a helicopter atop a five-star hotel in central Delhi ahead of the G20 Summit

Mary Kom urges Shah to secure Kom villages

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Sept 1: Boxing star MC Mary Kom has sought the intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure security forces prevent both warring groups from intrusion to Kom villages in Manipur.

In a letter to Shah Thursday she said the Kom community is an indigenous tribe of Manipur and one of the smallest among the minorities.

We are all dispersed between the two rivalling communities... There are always speculations

and doubts against my community from both sides, and are caught in the middle of all problems... Due to weak internal administration and tinv size as a community among the minority tribes, we have not been able to stand against any forces that intrude into our jurisdiction," the letter read.

"We seek the help of the security forces to prevent both warring groups from intrusion into Kom villages," the Padma Vibhushan awardee said.

The former Rajya Sabha member requested all the de-

ployed members of the Indian Army, Paramilitary, and state forces to be impartial in carrying out their responsibilities to safeguard the population and to be successful in maintaining peace and normalcy in the state.

Kom also urged everyone in Manipur especially Meiteis and Kuki Zo to join together, set aside their differences and restore peace and normalcy to the state.

"We all need to co-exist, so let's put our differences and wounds aside," she added.

in relief camps across ethnic violence-hit Manipur, officials said here on Friday.

The officials of the Social Welfare Department, who compiled data on children staying in different relief camps, said that out of around 12,700 children, 100 are severely traumatised needing professional counselling.

The Director of the Social Welfare Department, Ngangom Uttam Singh, said "A child may not get traumatised immediately. But that trauma can come up after one week or even a month. Whenever our teams visiting the camps find such severely traumatised children, they identify them and take them to professional counsellors.

'We've done this for little more than 100 children. We hope that this number does not increase and these traumatised children become normal very soon."

To address the mental health issues of the displaced children, counsellors are deployed through the District Children Protection Office in every district.

They visit children's homes and relief camps to give counselling and to identify children who actually require professional help. The department has a team of qualified medical practitioners and child psychiatrists working as volunteers who aid in providing professional counselling to those who are severely traumatised, Singh said.

Child psychiatrist Jina Heigrujam, who has visited several relief camps to identify chil-



DMRC special drive to stop male passengers' entry in women coach

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 1: Delhi Metro Friday started a special drive to stop the entry of male passengers in the coaches reserved for women, a DMRC official said.

"The drive will be jointly conducted by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and DMRP from 6 pm to 10 pm on all lines of the network for the next 10 days till September 10,' said the official.

"We also plan to continue with intensified surprise checks across the network even after the conclusion of such drives as it accords highest priority to the safety of its female passengers," said the official. "This drive may be extended further after the first 10 days based on the outcome achieved. Necessary punitive action shall be taken against the offenders as per the existing provisions," he said.

Recently, a brief video clip, shared on X by the well-known



page Ghar Ke Kalesh, reveals a tense confrontation involving a female companion.

In direct violation of the metro authorities' established rules, the man boldly asserts that he has no intentions of causing discomfort to anyone. However, this assertion sparks a heated confrontation with a female passenger who questions his disregard for railway regulations.

The situation intensified dramatically when the man's female companion attempts to physically engage with the protesting woman, as per video.

a man who entered the women's coach accompanied by



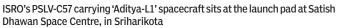




OrissaPOST SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 2 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

PHOTO POST







Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida takes part in a joint disaster drill in Sagamihara, Kanagawa prefecture



An artisan gives final touches to an idol of Lord Krishna ahead of 'Janmashtami' festival in Nadia



P8

President Droupadi Murmu being presented a memento during the 10th convocation of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee felicitates Congress leader Sonia Gandhi as Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) leaders pose for a group photograph ahead of their meeting in Mumbai



Delhi Police trainee commandos during helicopter slithering training session at Delhi Police Academy in New Delhi



Trial run of motor trolly underway on India-Bangladesh railway line in Agartala



Students of Shivkalyan Vidyalaya hold placards during an awareness programme held for preventive measures against dengue, at Ghansoli village, in Navi Mumbai рті рнотоз







national

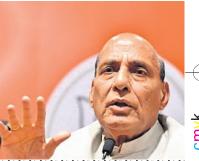


China has encroached upon our 2,000 sq km. We had already demanded that a special session be convened. We hope and demand PM Modi that a comprehensive debate will take place on China in the special session. We lost land in Depsang and Demchok

ASADUDDIN OWAISI AIMIM PRESIDENT

RAJNATH TO VISIT SRI LANKA

The government Friday said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's two-day visit to Sri Lanka on September 2 and 3 will be an important 'landmark' in building strong bonds of friendship between the two countries



evening. He had left the gun at

his residence and police are in-

vestigating how the weapon was

used in the incident and by

Deputy Commissioner of

Police Rahul Raj said the de-

ceased had a single gunshot

wound to his head. "It is being

said that the gun used in the in-

cident is registered in the name

of Vikas Kishore. This is being

verified. The gun was recovered

from the crime spot." he added.

Vinay Srivastava had gone to

Vikas Kishore's house at night.

"One Ajay Rawat, Ankit Verma,

Shamim and Baba live there.

They had dinner with my brother.

An altercation over some matter

occurred between them. Meanwhile, my brother was shot

and he died due to a bullet injury.

I suspect that my brother has

that Vinay Srivastav was a friend

of Vikas Kishore and often used

Jai Devi, an MLA from the Malihabad constituency of Lucknow, said, "The land on

which the house is built is in

my husband's name. The house

has not been registered yet. I

built it for my son Vikas Kishore

The complainant also said

been shot dead," it read.

to stay at the house.

who lived there.

According to the complaint,

whom," the minister added.



India is expected to have 42.5 crore air passengers by 2035 from the current level of 14.5 crore and that is the

growth potential that international players can look at JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

Today the world is divided into North-South and East-West and it is India's responsibility to bring the divided world together

S JAISHANKAR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER



ASHOK GEHLOT RAJASTHAN CM

SHORT TAKES

📕 Jaya Verma Sinha takes charge

New Delhi: Senior railway traffic service officer Java Verma Sinha Friday took charge as the first woman chief executive and chairperson of the Railway Board. Sinha was at the centre stage of the railways' media interactions recently when, as the Member (Operations and Business Development), she explained the complex signalling system after the tragic Balasore accident. She ioined the Indian Railway Traffic Service in 1988. She succeeds Anil Kumar Lahotiin her new role and will be in office till August 31, 2024. Sinha is slated to retire on October 1, but will be reemployed the same day till her tenure gets over.

Rape bid: UP girl stabbed 16 times

.

Lucknow: A girl was stabbed 16 times after she resisted rape attempt in the PGI Kotwali area of the state capital, police said Friday. The police said that a young man pulled away the girl, who was returning from her coaching class on a scooty, and attempted to rape her. The incident happened Thursday. The girl resisted and the accused, Pankaj Rawat and his friends, stabbed her 16 times before people heard her screams and rushed her to a nearby hospital and also informed her family members.

SC gives Bihar ex-MP life term for double murder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

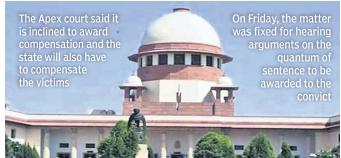
New Delhi, Sept 1: The Supreme Court Friday sentenced former Lok Sabha MP from Bihar Prabhunath Singh to life imprisonment for killing two people on the day of polling for assembly elections in Bihar's Saran district in 1995.

A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said Singh, a multiple-term former MP from Bihar's Maharajganj, and state of Bihar will have to pay Rs 10 lakh each compensation separately to the families of the two deceased and 5 lakh each to an injured victim of the case. "Never seen a case like this

before," the bench, also comprising Justices A S Oka and Vikram Nath, observed without elaborating. On August 18, the apex court had convicted Singh while overturning the orders of the trial court and the Patna High Court acquitting him in the case.

On Friday, the matter was fixed for hearing arguments on the quantum of sentence to be awarded to the convict. At the outset, the bench observed, "There are two options only, there is no third option available.... Life (sentence) or death, these are

the only two options". The counsel representing Singh said it is not a case where the court may consider granting death sentence. "Do you seriously feel that we are consider-



ing death penalty?" the bench asked. The counsel said concurrent acquittals by the courts below have been reversed by the apex court in this case and they have also filed a petition seeking

review of the top court verdict convicting Singh. The bench observed the review petition will come up for consideration in-chambers. The apex court said it is inclined to award compensation and the state will also have to compensate the victims. "Life sentence, 10 lakhs each for both the deceased and five lakhs for the injured, both by the respondent number two (Singh) and by the state separately," the bench said, adding, "We have already announced that, the orders you will get".

On the apex court's query about Singh's age, one of the advocates said he is 70-year-old. While convicting Singh in the matter, the apex court had observed that it was dealing with a case which was an "exceptionally painful episode of our criminal justice system".

The top court had observed there was not even an iota of doubt that Singh was instrumental in making all possible efforts to "wipe out" the evidence against him. It had said the prosecution machinery, as also the presiding officer of the trial court, were used as a tool of his "high handedness"

The top court had observed the three main stakeholders in a criminal trial -- the investigating officer, the public prosecutor and the judiciary - have "utterly failed" to discharge the duties and responsibilities cast upon them. The bench had convicted Singh, also a former MLA. for the murders of Daroga Rai and Rajendra Rai and for attempting to kill a woman.

It had noted that an FIR was registered on March 25, 1995 at Chapra on the statement of Rajendra Rai, who said that he along with eight-nine other villagers was returning after casting their votes when a car pulled over.

Deemed university status for NCERT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: The National Council of Educational Research and Training has been granted deemed-to-be-university status, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced Friday.

nouncement during his address on the 63rd foundation day of the NCERT. "NCERT has been given the status of a deemed-tobe-university. It has established a formidable presence in research, and actively shaped school education, teacher training and adult literacy. NCERT, on becoming a research university, will offer opportunities for global collaborations and contributions to the global educational landscape," he said.

The NCERT has been granted the deemed-to-be-university status in the 'De Novo' category. A De-Novo deemed university is an institution that can apply to the UGC for setting up a new institution as deemed-to-be-university, which will undertake study and research in unique and emerging areas of knowledge that are not offered by any existing institution.

According to officials, with the deemed-to-be-university status, the NCERT will be able to award its own degrees to teachers and decide the courses they want to offer the teachers.

Friend of minister's son shot dead in UP

The minister's son. Vikas Kishore, was in Delhi at the time when Vinay Srivastava, described as his friend, was shot in the head

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 1: A 30-year-old man was shot dead under mysterious circumstances at the home of Union Minister Kaushal Kishore's son here in the early hours of Friday, police said.

The minister's son, Vikas Kishore, was in Delhi at the time when Vinay Srivastava, described as his friend, was shot in the head. The revolver used is a licensed weapon owned by Vikas Kishore, according to his father.

The land on which the house is built belongs to Kaushal Kishore, the Union minister of state for housing and urban affairs and BJP MP from Lucknow's Mohanlalganj constituency. But the house is yet to be registered, the minister's wife Jai Devi said.

Four men who stayed at the house invited Srivastava for dinner where an altercation took place, according to a complaint filed by the victim's brother. The man was shot dead around

4 am, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Akash Kulhary said.

Kaushal Kishore said the gun is registered in his son's name who currently is in Delhi. "He left Lucknow for Delhi on Thursday

K'taka HC disqualifies Deve Gowda's grandson

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 1: The election of JD(S) Member of Parliament from Hassan, Prajwal Revanna, was declared null and void by the High Court of Karnataka Friday.

Justice K Natarajan in his judgment partly allowing the two petitions filed by G Devarajegowda, a voter from the constituency and A Maniu. the then BJP's defeated candidate (2019 LS polls) also directed the Election Commission of India to take action against Prajwal Revanna for election malpractice as per the Conduct of Election Process Rules. Prajwal Revanna is the grandson of JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, and is the only candidate from the party to have won

on a BJP ticket and lost, subsequently joined JD(S), and is currently an MLA.

The petitions had claimed that Revanna indulged in election malpractice and did not declare his assets to the Election Commission. Justice K Natarajan dictated the operative portion of his judgment in the court on Friday.

"Both the election petitions filed by the petitioners are al



The minister made the an-

As the apex organisation for school education, the NCERT undertakes various activities and programmes, including educational research and innovation, curriculum development and development of textual and teaching-learning materials.

Sisters gangraped

Raipur: Ten men including the son of a local BJP leader were arrested Friday for allegedly raping two sisters in Chhattisgarh's Raipur district, police said. The incident took place Thursday night near Bhansoj village when the sisters, accompanied by a man, were returning after celebrating Rakshabandhan festival, said Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Prashant Agrawal. The survivors, aged 19 years and 16 years, lodged a complaint at Mandir Hasaud police station around 1 am Friday.



the Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka in 2019.

Manju, who fought the Lok Sabha election against Revanna lowed in part. The election of returned candidate. Respondent No 1 namely Prajwal Revanna alias Prajwal R, Member of the Parliament, Constituency 16, Hassan (General) having been declared as returned candidate dated 23.5.2019 is hereby declared as null and void," Justice Natarajan said.

The high court however dismissed the prayer of the petitioners to declare Manju as the winning candidate as he himself was "involved in corrupt practices". "The prayer of the petitioners in both the cases to declare A Manju as returned candidate is rejected in view of the findings that he himself (is) involved in corrupt practices," the HC said. The HC also directed the Election Commission to take action against Prajwal's father H D Revanna (MLA and former minister) and brother Suraj Revanna (MLC) for election malpractice.

Police personnel arrest a woman protesting against an eviction drive by Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority at Silsako Beel in Guwahati PTI PHOTO

Children of invalid marriages to get parents' property: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court Friday held that children born out of invalid marriages are entitled to claim a share in the property of their parents under the Hindu succession law.

The top court, however, held that the children from such "void or voidable" marriages will not be able to inherit the ancestral properties of the coparceners other than their parents under the Hindu law. The verdict from

The top court said that its verdict would be applicable only to Hindu joint family properties governed by the Hindu Mitakshara law

a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, and justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra on a 2011 plea pertaining to the vexatious legal questions as to whether children, born out of annulled or invalid marriages, were entitled to a share in the ancestral property of their parents under Hindu laws.

nder the Mitakshara law, the son, grandson, and great grandson have a right to the family property through birth

The judgement has dealt with

the question whether the share

of such children is limited only

to the self-acquired property of

their parents under Section 16(3)

of the Hindu Marriage Act.

Pronouncing the verdict, the

bench explained that under

Section 6 of the Hindu Succession

Act, the interest of coparceners

is defined to be the share of the property that have come to them if the partition had taken place immediately before their death.

Coparceners denote 'joint heir' of a Hindu undivided familv (HUF) who share legal rights for inheriting property, title, and money as defined under the Hindu succession laws. The top court held the children born out of invalid marriages are entitled to such property which would devolve upon their parents on a notional partition on their death.

Rajasthan recorded least rainfall in August in last 85 years

Man arrested

Palghar: A 43-year-old man has been arrested for thrashing a Railway Protection Force personnel after the latter objected to him urinating on a railway station premises in Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said Friday. Around 1.15 am on Thursday, an RPF jawan spotted the man, later identified as Chand Badsha Ajij Khan, relieving himself near the booking office at Nalasopara railway station, on the outskirts of Mumbai, the official said. When the uniformed personnel asked Khan not to dirty the station premises, the accused abused and thrashed him. the official said.

Met officials said that the situation worsened in August under the influence of El Nino and the same weather conditions are expected to remain in the month of September as well

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Sept 1: MeT officials have said that Rajasthan has received the least rainfall in the month of August for the first time in the last 85 years.

It said that in August, Rajasthan witnessed 80 per cent less than the average rainfall and this is the third season in the last 117 years when the month of August has received the least rainfall. Officials said that the average rainfall for the month of August in Rajasthan remains around 155.7MM. However, Rajasthan has received around only 30.9MM rainfall.

Met officials said that the situation worsened in August under the influence of El Nino and the same weather conditions are expected to remain in the month of September as well. "After 85 years, there has been 30.9MM rain in August 2023. The lowest rainfall in August in Rajasthan



is 15.2MM, which happened in 1905. In 1937, Rajasthan had witnessed around 27.4MM in the month of August. In 2022, there was more than 50MM rainfall in Rajasthan in August," the MeT officials said.

The officials said that 10 out of 31 days witnessed dry weather in the entire state in the month of August. Light rain or drizzle was witnessed only at one or two places in the state for only a period of five days.

They said that the Ganganagar district received the least rainfall in Rajasthan in August. The average rainfall in the district was recorded only at 0.3MM. Similarly, Barmer also received only 0.4MM rain in August. Karauli received the maximum rainfall of 213.7MM, but it is also nine per cent less than the normal.

Officials said that there was absolutely no rain in Sikar, Jalore, Churu, Bikaner, Barmer, Ganganagar, Jaisalmer, and Jodhpur in August. "The millet crop has started getting damaged. In 9 districts of western Rajasthan, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur, Pali, Hanumangarh, Sriganganagar, Bikaner, Nagaur and Churu, there is maximum possibility of crop damage," the officials said.

In view of the apprehension of damage to the crops, the Agriculture Department has started preparations to get the damage assessment done. The department has also sought data from the Meteorological Department about the rains in August.

According to meteorologists, the country is expected to receive less rainfall this September as well. The major reason behind this is the effect of El Nino and the neutral condition of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). Also, no major weather system is forming in the Bay of Bengal, due towhich the rainfall is decreasing in the entire country.













international

prestigious awards, has reversed

its invitation policy and invited

Russia, Belarus and Iran, as well

as the leader of a far-right

Swedish party, who had previ-

director of the private founda-

Vidar Helgesen, the executive

ously been banned.

They (G20) need to step up, accelerating their reduction of emissions they account for 80 per cent of them - and supporting countries that are already paying the price for decades of heating caused by fossil fuels ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

POPE'S FIRST MONGOLIA TRIP

Pope Francis arrived in Mongolia Friday morning on a visit to encourage one of the world's smallest and newest Catholic communities. It's the first time a pope has visited the landlocked Asian country and comes at a time when the Vatican's relations with Mongolia's two powerful neighbours. Russia and China, are once again strained



uote

NOBEL BODY REVERSES INVITATION POLICY RUSSIA, BELARUS, IRAN AND FAR-RIGHT LEADER ARE NOW WELCOME

We are continuing to surge in the race and that means the knives are continuing to come

out, so we're going to keep debunking the myths as they come up because I think it's important to be transparent and address criticisms

VIVEK RAMASWAMY REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT, US

There will be no general declaration on behalf of all members if ou position is not reflected

SERGEI LAVROV FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA



MATTHIAS HUSS METEOROLOGIST, GLAMOS GLACIER MONITORING CENTRE

SHORT TAKES

Congo clash kills 26

Goma: A clash between Congolese armed forces and members of a religious sect protesting Western organisations operating in Congo killed at least 26 people, a local official said Thursday. The violence broke out early Wednesday in the eastern city of Goma where Wazalendo followers gathered for a protest, which had been banned by the city mayor, against a UN peacekeeping mission and other international organizations they accuse of exercising colonial-like power. Protesters accused the army of firing indiscriminately with live rounds on protesters, while the Congolese army said in a statement that the protesters had stoned a policeman to death. The army also said 160 people were arrested.

Relief for Thaksin

ASSOCIATED PRESS

stand the Nobel Prize and the im-Stockholm, Sept 1: The Nobel Foundation that administers the

The foundation said that invitation for the 2023 events was extended to all countries with diplomatic missions in Sweden and Norway and parties "that have parliamentary representation via democratic elections," adding that "this common approach promotes opportunities to convey the important mes-

tion said in a statement that there was a global trend in which "dialogue between those with sages of the Nobel Prize to everydiffering views is being reduced." one, and in future this practice will be common to the entire or-To counter that, he said, "we are now broadening our invitaganisation.' tions to celebrate and under-

portance of free science, free culture and free, peaceful societies.'

Last year, the diplomatic en-

SHAM ELECTIONS



voys of Russia and Belarus were barred from attending the glittery prize ceremonies and banquets, which always take place December 10, because of the war in Ukraine, and the ambassador of Iran was also excluded because of "the serious and escalating situation" in the country. All the Nobel Prizes are handed out in Stockholm other than the Nobel Peace Prize, which is awarded in Oslo.

The foundation also extended the invitation to the Sweden Democrats party leader Jimmie Akesson who declined it, saying on Facebook that "unfortunately I'm busy that day.'

Swedish political party leaders are traditionally invited to the banquet but Akesson, who heads a nationalist party with far-right roots, has been snubbed in the past. The Sweden Democrats, which are seen by some as a threat to fundamental values in

the Scandinavian country's society, including tolerance toward asylum-seekers from conflict zones in the Middle East and Africa, came second in the 2022 parliamentary elections.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Friday he would not have allowed Russia to attend if it had been his choice.

"To isolate Russia in every possible way — militarily, economically — it is necessary," he told the TT news agency. "In that situation, I would not have invited to a purely social celebration." This year's Nobel prize win-

ners will be announced in early October.

PIO wins Singapore

presidential election

16 held for armed robberies targeting Indian, Asian stores

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 1: A total of 16 members of a major crime ring have been arrested for allegedly committing multiple violent armed robberies targeting Indian and other Asian jewellery stores across four east coast US states in a span of one year.

Federal law enforcement arrested eight suspects Wednesday, while the remaining eight were apprehended previously, according to a release by the US attorney's office, District of Columbia.

According to the indictment, between January 7, 2022 and January 27, 2023, the defendants conspired in the District of Columbia to commit robberies in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Florida, targeting jewellery stores owned by Asian Americans

The chargesheet listed nine 'South Asian" jewellery shops that were targeted by the gang. Out of those, at least four could be identified as owned by people of Indian origin.

The gang disguised in dark clothing, masks, and gloves, armed with a gun and used stolen vehicles, to commit and flee from the robberies, the press release issued Wednesday said.

"The defendants targeted small businesses along the East Coast, stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of jewellery from hardworking families,³ said Assistant Director in Charge

"For the past 20 months, the FBI worked with our partners across state lines to connect the defendants to these heists. Today's indictment is a testa-

ment to the strength of our partnerships and the commitment we all share to eradicating violent crime," Sundberg said.

Russia stages polls in occupied Ukraine Russia does not fully control any of the four regions where the votes are being held - Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson

AGENCIES

Moscow, Sept 1: Russian-installed authorities began holding regional elections Thursday in parts of Ukraine Russia claimed as its own last year, seeking to cement Moscow's authority in what it calls its "new territories" despite the ongo-

ing conflict. Russia does not fully control any of the four regions where the votes are being held - Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson. Along with Crimea annexed by Moscow in 2014 - they

make up almost a fifth of Ukraine. Three quarters of countries at the United Nations General Assembly condemned what they termed Russia's "attempted illegal annexation" of the four regions in a vote last October. Ukrainian officials say the



months and they face only nominal opposition. In the Donetsk region port

city of Mariupol, which was taken by Russia in May 2022 after a grinding, months-long siege, Reuters saw electoral officials set up a temporary polling booth Thursday in the courtyard of a residential complex.

A trickle of residents came out to cast their ballots, showing newly-distributed Russian passports to officials while police of-

ficers stood by. Many people have fled Russianoccupied territory, which has suffered some of the worst damage of the conflict.

The exiled Ukrainian mayor Mariupol. Vadvm Boichenko.



nearby, carrying machine guns, and they tell the people that they must vote," he said.

MOSCOW EXPECTS BIG WIN

Voting also began Thursday in the Zaporizhzhia region, whose Russian-installed governor Yevgeny Balitsky held talks with Putin in August shown on state television in which he said said the province would return an emphatically pro-Kremlin vote.

'We are sure that United Russia will receive the result it deserves in the elections," said Balitsky, a former pro-Russian MP in the Ukrainian parliament whose region is at the forefront of the ongoing Ukrainian counteroffensive. Only around 80% of

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Singapore, Sept 1: Tharman Shanmugaratnam, an Indianorigin Singapore-born economist, registered a landslide victory in Singapore's presidential election Friday, winning over 70 per cent of votes in the coun-

try's first contested presidential polls since 2011. The 66-year-old former senior minister bagged 70.4 per cent

(1.746.427 votes) of the 2.48 million votes cast, while his Chinese-origin rivals Ng Kok Song and Tan Kin Lian received 15.72 per cent and 13.88 per cent respectively, the Elections Department said.

The result was announced by Returning Officer Tan Meng Dui at past midnight, making Tharman Singapore's third Indian-origin president.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong congratulated Tharman, who served as Singapore's

"I'm humbled by this vote - it is not just a vote for me, it is a vote

for Singapore's future, a future of optimism and solidarity. That's what it really is. My campaign was one of optimism and solidarity, and I believe that's what Singaporeans want," Tharman said.

"I will honour the trust that Singaporeans have placed in me and respect all Singaporeans including those who did not vote for me," he added.

Deputy prime minister from 2011 to 2019, on winning the presidential election.

David Sundberg.

Bangkok: Thailand's king Friday reduced the prison term of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra from eight years to one year following the divisive politician's return from 15 years of self-imposed exile. The decision by King Maha Vajiralongkorn was published Friday in the Royal Gazette, making it effective immediately. Thaksin was prime minister from 2001 to 2006, when he was ousted by a military coup. He fled Thailand in 2008 when he faced prison time on charges he described as politically motivated.

elections are also illegal and show why it is impossible to hold any peace talks with Moscow until Russia withdraws all its

troops from Ukrainian territory. In all four regions, Moscow's handpicked governors, a mix of veteran pro-Russian politicians and others known only locally, are seeking full terms of office in the polls, which conclude September 10, when Russia holds

regional polls. The governors are all running with Russian President Vladimir Putin's endorsement having joined the Kremlin's United Russia bloc with fanfare in recent

told Reuters people from the city, which he escaped on Feb 26, 2022, two days after Russia's invasion, had told him there were no voter lists and no candidate lists.

"It is clear that there is no trust from the people toward this process, which should be called a sham election," he said in an interview in Kyiv, adding that he expected a repeat of what he said had happened in annexation votes last year.

"They (Russian-installed officials) are going to walk from apartment to apartment, as they did before, talking to people. There are two soldiers standing

it is controlled by Russia.

Russian-installed authorities in the four regions extended voting over multiple days, saying it was necessary to reduce danger to voters

Data published by a Kremlincontrolled pollster in early August showed United Russia candidates drawing at least 80% of the vote across all four regions. According to independent Russian news site iStories, only around half of United Russia's candidates in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions are locals. with the balance being drawn from Russia itself.



Tropical Storm Idalia drenched the Carolinas before departing the US Eastern Seaboard, while officials in Florida, where the tempest made landfall as a major hurricane a day earlier, stepped up recovery and damage-appraisal efforts

HISTORIC FIRST

Pak fuel prices cross Rs 300-mark

THE PRICE OF PETROL IN THE CRISIS-HIT **COUNTRY NOW STANDS AT RS 305.36. THE DIESEL PRICE HAS REACHED RS 311.84**

AGENCIES

Lahore, Sept 1: The prices of petrol and diesel in Pakistan have crossed Rs 300 mark for the first time in the nation's history

As Pakistan lurches from one crisis to another, the finance ministry last evening announced that the price for petrol has been increased by Rs 14.91, high-speed diesel (HSD) price by Rs 18.44. While the price of petrol now

stands at Rs 305.36, the diesel price has reached Rs 311.84.

Pakistan has been facing its worst economic crisis in decades. Recent economic reforms have led to historic levels of inflation and high interest rates, putting pressure on ordinary people and businesses.

The constant devaluation of the Pakistani rupee has compelled the central bank to raise



the interest rates. The country's currency is trading at a record low of 305.6 per US dollar, compared to the previous close of 304.4 Tuesday. The country swore in a care-

taker cabinet under interim Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Hag Kakar last month, tasking it with running the country until fresh elections - which may be delayed beyond November

The caretaker cabinet's top job will be to lead Pakistan towards economic stabilisation,

Lanka ends fuel rationing

Colombo: Sri Lanka has formally announced an end to the fuel rationing scheme imposed one year ago during the height of the unprecedented economic crisis, a senior minister said Friday, hinting at an improvement in the island nation's economy. Energy minister Kanchana Wijesekera said the ORbased fuel rationing system, imposed in August 2022, when Sri Lanka plunged into its worst economic crisis since 1948, would be discontinued from Friday. Under the rationing system, registered consumers at filling stations were guar anteed a weekly guota. Sri Lanka announced its first-ever sovereign default in April 2022 and faced its worst economic crisis in history due to a shortage of foreign exchange

with the \$350 billion economy treading a narrow recovery path after getting a last minute \$3 billion bailout deal from the International Monetary Fund.

reserves.

REUTERS

Seoul, Sept 1: South Korea approved a Seoul city plan Friday to let 100 foreign domestic workers into the country through a pilot programme aimed at boosting birth rates by helping more women rejoin the workforce.

The issue sits at the confluence of South Korea's sharply declining birthrate, aging population, and its historical reluctance to accept more immigrants.

South Korea is in talks with the Philippines as one of the potential sources of workers with an aim to start the pilot programme as early as December, officials said.

Under the current rules, only certain foreigners, such as spouses of Korean nationals and ethnic Koreans, are allowed to work as household workers.

The government estimates the current market price for fulltime domestic workers living with the host families to cost around 3.5 million won (\$2,600)



Rapidly aging SK opens door for foreign maids

MANY KOREAN WOMEN FACE THE PRESSURE TO STAY HOME AND RAISE FAMILIES OR OPT NOT TO HAVE A CHILD ALTOGETHER DUE TO THE HIGH COST OF RAISING CHILDREN

to 4.5 million won a month.

The new scheme is the latest in a series of efforts by the government to reverse the plunging birth rate of Asia's fourthlargest economy.

South Korea reported the world's lowest fertility rate again in 2022, with the average number of expected babies for each woman standing at 0.78, and Seoul even lower at 0.59

Among countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) the average rate was 1.59 in 2020.

Meanwhile, the country's inflow of foreign settlers as a percentage of its population is among the lowest in the OECD.

Responding to criticism that the government is importing cheap labour amid already poor

Foreign domestic helpers could revitalise our society. Especially it could immediately help with career breaks

OH SE-HOON | MAYOR, SEOUL

conditions for household labourers. officials said the immigrant workers would be guaranteed the same 9,620 won minimum wage as Koreans.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to low birth rate," Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon said. "The point is to leave open all the possibilities as we face this crisis of our country disappearing."

Dozens of civic groups urged the government to scrap the plan, saying it should focus instead on cutting the country's long working hours.

"Parents need more time to spend with their children, not someone to outsource raising their kids," said Park Min-ah,co-head of civic group Politicalmamas.





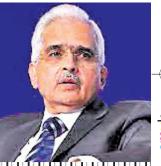
business



India continues to be a very exciting market. So worldwide Amazon is very focused and continues to be super excited with India MANISH TIWARY | HEAD, AMAZON INDIA

RBI GUV: TOP CENTRAL BANKER GLOBALLY

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has been ranked as the top central banker globally by USbased Global Finance magazine. Das has been rated 'A+' in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023. Das has been placed at the top of the list of three central bank governors who have been rated A+





India Inc's ability to improve earnings will depend on its ability to navigate ongoing headwinds such as

tepid growth in the developed markets and impact of fluctuations in foreign exchange on import as well as export-oriented sectors

KINJAL SHAH CO-GROUP HEAD (CORPORATE RATINGS), ICRA

We have a few games in our publishing pipeline. I think there could be one or two games we could even launch within this vear

SEAN HYUNIL SOHN CEO, KRAFTON INDIA

We intend to emerge as one of the top manufacturers of finished cover glass parts for use in mobile consumer electronic devices in the next five years

ASHOK KUMAR GUPTA CHAIRMAN, OPTIEMUS INFRACOM

SHORT TAKES

ATF price hiked by steepest ever

New Delhi: Jet fuel or ATF price Friday was hiked by the steepest-ever 14 per cent -- the third straight increase, while the commercial cooking gas rate was cut by Rs 157.5 per cylinder in line with divergent trends in international benchmarks. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was increased by Rs 13,911.07 per kilolitre, or 14.1 per cent, in the national capital to Rs 1,12,419.33 per kl, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. Rates, which vary from state to state depending on the incidence of local sales tax or VAT, have been increased on firming up of global prices in the last couple of months. The hike comes on the back of an 8.5 per cent or Rs 7,728.38 per kl increase effected from August 1. Prior to that, rates had gone up by 1.65 per cent or Rs

GST mop-up rises 11%

TAX COLLECTIONS STAND AT RS 1.59 LAKH CRORE IN AUGUST ON IMPROVED COMPLIANCE. LOWER EVASION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: GST collections grew by 11 per cent to over Rs 1.59 lakh crore in August on the back of improved compliance and reduced evasion. The gross GST revenue col-

lected in August 2023 is Rs 1,59,069 crore of which Central GST is Rs 28,328 crore, State GST is Rs 35,794 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 83,251 crore (including Rs 43,550 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 11,695 crore (including Rs 1,016 crore collected on import of goods).

Average GST collection every month this fiscal has been ₹1.60 lakh crore

"The revenues for the month of August 2023 are 11 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year During the month, revenue from import of goods was 3 per cent higher and the revenues from domestic transactions (including import of services) are 14 per cent higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Monthly GST collection was at Rs 1.65 lakh crore in June, the approaching the same as the average festive season GST monthly GST collection collections are expected projected for this fiscal by to be better in the policy makers. coming months

Compared to the receipts in July. GST revenue in August showed moderation in the tax collected by the Centre

(CGST), states (SGST) and the revenue from imports and inter-state sales (IGST) but experts said the slight fluctuation **GST Revenue Collection** (in₹Crores) for AUGUST 2023 Total Collection GST

Revenue/83,251 35 794 **IGST Revenue** 83,251 SGST Revenue 35,794 28,328



about India's consumption story. This fiscal year, April had seen the highest ever GST revenue collection of Rs 1.87 lakh crore,

in monthly tax figures do not

suggest anything of concern

followed by the second highest in July. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection was over Rs

1.43 lakh crore in August 2022. Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said GST collections have grown more than nominal GDP growth rate in the April-June quarter despite no increase in tax rates.

"This is because of better compliance and improved tax collection efficiency." Malhotra said, adding tax evasion and avoidance too have been low.

GST reward scheme unveiled in 6 states, UTs

Gurugram: The GST lucky draw 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' scheme was launched in six states and Union Territories Friday and the Centre and states have set aside a Rs 30-crore corpus for this fiscal for the reward scheme. Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said the mobile app for the scheme has been downloaded by over 50,000 people so far. Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra said the 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' GST lucky draw is being launched on a pilot basis in six states and the prize money will be contributed equally by the Centre as well as states. "GST has benefitted citizens, customers and governments. Revenues are increasing every month and Centre and states have come together to ensure that tax rates comes down under GST," Malhotra

said. As against 15 per cent revenue neutral rate as envisioned before GST launch, the average GST rate today is 12 per cent, he said. The government Friday launched the Mera Bill Mera Adhikar scheme on a pilot basis September 1 in Assam, Gujarat & Haryana and UTs of Puducherry, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman ABHISHEK JAIN | PARTNER AND & Diu. Every month there will be 810 lucky draws. Every quarter there will be 2 bumper lucky draws. The monthly draws include 800 lucky draws

of GST invoices of prize value of Rs 10,000 each and 10 draws with prize of Rs 10 lakh each. Every quarter the bumper draw would be Rs 1 crore each.

After Adani, OCCRP now targets Vedanta

Anil Agarwal's Vedanta ran covert lobbying campaign to weaken environmental laws, says OCCRP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: Mining and oil giant Vedanta ran a "covert" lobbying campaign to weaken key environmental regulations during the Covid pandemic, the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) alleged in a new report.

After coming out with a damning report on Adani group promoters allegedly using proxies to route money in their own shares, the George Soros-funded organisation in a new report said the Indian government approved the changes without public consultation and implemented them using "illegal methods".

push to ensure mining companies could produce up to 50 per cent more without new environmental approvals," it said.

India, also successfully lobbied to have public hearings scrapped for exploratory drilling in oil blocks it won in government auctions. Since then, six of Cairn's controversial oil projects in Rajasthan have been approved despite local opposition,

founder and chairman Anil Agarwal told the then environment minister Prakash Javadekar that the government could add impetus to India's rapid economic recovery by allowing mining companies to boost production by up to 50 per cent without having to secure new environmental clearances.

OCCRP said. "Apart from immediately boosting production and economic growth, this will generate huge revenue for the government and create massive jobs," Agarwal wrote to Javadekar, recommending that the change could be made with "a simple notification".

Javadekar quickly got to work. "VIMP [Very Important], he scribbled on the letter, directing the secretary of his ministry and the director general of forestry to "discuss [the] policy issue.



"In early 2022, after a series of closed-door meetings, India's environment ministry loosened regulations to allow mining companies to increase production by up to 50 per cent without needing to hold public hearings. which many in the industry considered the most onerous requirement of the environmental

clearance process." it said. OCCRP said it combed through thousands of government documents -- ranging from internal memos and the minutes of closed-door meetings to letters like the one from Agarwal -- obtained using freedom of information requests. "The records show government officials tailored the rules in line with requests made by the industry, and in particular Vedanta," it claimed.

93% of ₹2000 notes returned to banks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 1: The Reserve Bank Friday said that as much as 93 per cent of Rs 2000 currency notes that were in circulation May 19 -- the day when the currency was withdrawn from circulation -- have been returned to banks

According to the data received from the banks, the total value of Rs 2000 banknotes received back from circulation is Rs 3.32 lakh crore up to August 31, 2023. it said in a statement.

"Consequently, Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation as at the close of business on August 31, 2023 stood at Rs 0.24 lakh crore. Thus, 93 per cent of the Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, have since been returned," it said.

Data collected from major banks indicates that out of the total banknotes in Rs 2000 denomination received back from circulation, about 87 per cent is in the form of deposits and the remaining around 13 per cent has been exchanged into other denomination banknotes.

The Reserve Bank of India had announced the withdrawal of Rs 2000 banknotes from circulation May 19, 2023.



The total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation, which amounted to Rs 3.62 lakh crore March 31, 2023, had declined to Rs 3.56 lakh crore as at the close of business May 19, 2023.

RBI requested the members of the public holding the high-value banknote to utilise the remaining period until September 30, 2023, to deposit and/or exchange them.

FESTIVE PV sales at record high in August D-St rally around 1%

THE PREVIOUS HIGHEST DESPATCHES FOR THE INDUSTRY WAS 3.55.400 UNITS **REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER 2022 WHICH NOW STANDS AT 3.60.897 UNITS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: Domestic passenger vehicle sales hit a record in August led by highest-ever



declined by 3.5 per cent at 45,513 units last month as against 47,166 units in August 2022. MG Motor India reported a 9 per cent vear-on-vear increase in

TOP **BSE Sensex** GAINERS Previous day close: 4.84% NTPC Change () +555.75

Sensex, Nifty rise on strong macro data, global cues



Vedanta's oil business, Cairn

it claimed. In January 2021, Vedanta group

With

NATIONAL HEAD INDIRECT

TAXES, KPMG

CIL output grows 13%, supply 15%

1,476.79 per kl July 1.

.....

New Delhi: Coal India Ltd (CIL) Friday posted a 13.2 per cent growth in its output at 52.3 million tonne (MT) in August 2023 compared to 46.2 MT in the year-ago month. The supplies rose to 59 MT in August 2023 from 51.2 MT in the same month last fiscal, registering a rise of 15.3 per cent, the company said in a statement. In FY2023-24 so far, the state-owned coal miner produced 281.5 MT, posting an 11.1 year-on-year growth. During April-August 2023, total coal off-take rose by 8 per cent to 305.5 MT compared to 283.1 MT in the same period of the last year. In August, the supplies to the power sector at nearly 47 MT increased by nearly 8 compared to 43.6 MT of the same month last year.

monthly dispatches from Maruti Suzuki on the back of festive demand and the continued strong offtake of SUVs

Hyundai Motor India, Mahindra & Mahindra and Toyota Kirloskar Motor also reported strong dispatches to dealers last month.

Tata Motors, however, saw a dip in domestic passenger vehicle sales in August.

'The month of August was a very good month for the industry. Passenger vehicle sales in August stood at 3,60,897 units. This is the highest ever monthly sales in any month in any year in the industry." Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava said.

The industry wholesales last month grew by 9.7 per cent to 3,60,897 units as compared with 3,26,980 units in August 2022, Srivastava said. The SUV contribution to the

industry sales crossed the 17 lakh units mark which is a growth of 8 per cent over the same period of the previous fiscal

> SHASHANK SRIVASTAVA SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER (MARKETING & MALES), MSI

In the April-August

period, the

domestic passenger vehicle industry stood at 43 per cent in FY23.

MSI reported its highest-ever monthly wholesales at 1,89.082 units in August on the back of robust sales in the SUV segment. The country's largest carmaker became the leading player in the domestic SUV segment in the April-August period on the back of models like Grand Vitara, Brezza and Jimny

Hyundai Motor India said its domestic wholesales rose by 9 per cent to 53.830 units last month, from 49.510 units in the year ago period.

The festival season in the country has kicked off on a positive note with strong Onam sales in the Kerala market and this is an indication of the festive fervour in other parts of the country in the coming months, Hyundai Motor India COO Tarun Garg noted.

Mahindra & Mahindra said its passenger vehicle sales in the domestic market rose by 25 per cent to 37,270 units last month as against 29,852 units in August last year.

Tata Motors said its passenger vehicle sales, including electric vehicles, in the domestic market

retail sales at 4,185 units in August. The automaker had sold 3,823 units in August 2022. In the two-wheeler space, Bajaj Auto said its total vehicle sales, including sale of commercial vehicles, declined 15 per cent to 3,41,648 units in August.

The company had reported total sales of 4,01,595 vehicles in August last year.

TVS Motor Company reported a 4 per cent growth in total sales at 3.45.848 units in August 2023 as compared to 3.33.787 units in the same month last year. Midsized motorcycle maker Royal Enfield said its total sales increased by 11 per cent at 77,583 units in August 2023.

The company had sold 70.112 units in the same month last year, Royal Enfield said in a statement.

Domestic sales were at 69.393 units as against 62.892 units in the year-ago month, a growth of 10 per cent.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 1: Equity benchmark Sensex Friday rallied around 556 points, logging its best single day in two months, while Nifty closed above the 19,400 level on value-buying in power, metal and oil stocks following strong domestic macro data and global cues.

The BSE barometer closed higher by 555.75 points or 0.86 per cent at 65,387.16 with 26 of its constituents ending in the green. The index opened higher and later touched a high of 19.435.30 in day trading. It touched a low of 64,818.37.

The broader Nifty spurted by 181.50 points or 0.94 per cent to close at 19,435.30. As many as 44 Nifty stocks advanced while six declined.

NTPC was the lead gainer among Sensex stocks, rising by 4.84 per cent. JSW Steel (3.37 per cent), Tata Steel (3.33 per cent), Maruti (3.24 per cent), Power Grid (3.07 per cent), IndusInd Bank (2.95 per cent), Bajaj Finance (2.12 per cent) and Tech Mahindra (2.22 per cent) were among major gainers. On the other hand, Ultratech Cement, Sun Pharma, Nestle

and L&T were the losers.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said, "Domestic markets made significant gains, buoyed by favourable global cues, a higherthan-expected domestic manufacturing PMI, and positive GDP growth data.

This robust economic outlook propelled key manufacturing sectors to lead the rally, while strong sales figures generated increased interest in auto stocks, Nair added.

Official data released on Thursday showed that the Indian economy grew 7.8 per cent in the June quarter, mainly on the back of double-digit expansion in the services sector, and retained its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy

Overall market breadth was positive as 2,183 stocks advanced, 1,479 stocks declined and 124 stocks closed unchanged. As many as 281 stocks hit their 52-week high levels while 22 scrips traded at 52week lows.

On Thursday, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers of domestic equities as they offloaded sharesworth Rs 2,973.10 crore, as per exchange data.

Moody's raises India's Air India-Vistara merger gets nod growth hope to 6.7%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: Moody's Investors Service Friday raised India's growth projection for 2023 calendar year to 6.7 per cent citing upside to growth performance helped up robust underlying economic momentum.

In the Global Macro Outlook 2023-24 (August update), Moody's said strong services expansion and capital expenditures have propelled India's 7.8 per cent real GDP growth in the second (April-June) quarter from a year ago. "Given the robust underlying economic momentum, we also

recognise further upside risk to India's economic growth performance, Moody's said while



raising its 2023 calendar year growth forecast for India to 6.7 per cent, from 5.5 per cent.

The global rating agency, however, lowered 2024 growth forecast to 6.1 per cent from 6.5 per cent, citing a high base of 2023.

India's monsoon season which runs from June to October could also see below average rainfall, resulting in higher food prices. As of August 29, the India Meteorological Department has estimated a 9 per cent rain de-

ficiency across the country.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: Competition Commission Friday approved the proposed merger of Air India and Vistara subject to certain conditions

The development is a major step forward for Tata Group in consolidating its aviation business. In a post on platform X, the

Competition Commission of India (CCI) Friday said it has approved the merger.

CCI approves the merger of Tata SIA Airlines into Air India. and acquisition of certain shareholding by Singapore Airlines in Air India subject to compliance of voluntary commitments of-

fered by the parties," it said. Vistara and Air India are fullservice carriers that are part of the Tata Group, and Singapore



Airlines holds a 49 per cent stake in Vistara.

In November last year, Tata Group announced the merger of Vistara with Air India under a deal wherein Singapore Airlines will also acquire a 25.1 per cent stake in Air India. The deal would mark a major consolidation in India's fast-growing aviation space.

The approval for the proposed combination was sought from CCI in April this year. The parties to the combination are Tata Sons Pvt Ltd (TSPL), Air India Ltd, Tata SIA Airlines Ltd (TSAL) and Singapore Airlines Ltd.

The deal will make Air India the country's largest international carrier and second-largest domestic carrier.









TRIAL BY FIRE INDIA TAKE ON PAKISTAN IN A 50 OVERS GAME FOR THE 1ST TIME SINCE 2019 WITH LOT AT STAKE FOR THE ARCH RIVALS

AGENCIES

Pallekele, Sept 1: It is a game that is already being billed as 'The Match' of Asia Cup 2023 as no one knows whether the two teams will again meet in the tournament. However, it will be a trial by fire for both India and Pakistan as they eye the big event ahead, the World Cup. An India-Pakistan game is always one of intense rivalry keeping in mind the history between the two sides in all the sporting disciplines. The one to be played Saturday will not be any exception.

Things will definitely be more cut-throat than ever before with the BCCI staunchly refusing to play in Pakistan for which a lot of bad blood has been created. Make no mistake, this is the

biggest rivalry of the Asia Cup and it can turn out to be spicier and nastier than any other game in the tournament. The last time the two sides had met in an ODI was in the 2019 World Cup, a game which India won. However, since then much have happened and so it is impossible to say as to who is the favourite for this game.

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri predicts India to be the favourite, but only 'just'. "I would say India start as favourites. This is their strongest team since 2011, this mix of players. And a captain who is seasoned, who understands the terrain better than most," Shastri told 'ESPN Cricinfo' Friday.

"Having said that, Pakistan have narrowed the gap. Seveneight years (ago), there was a

gap if you looked at the strength of both teams and man to man. But now they are a very good side, so you have to be on top of your game. Pakistan will not be mere pushovers," Shastri added.

Virat Kohli won't mind an encore of that magical moment against Haris Rauf while Rohit Sharma would be ready with his answers for Shaheen Shah Afridi's banana in-swingers in India's 'battle royale' against Pakistan, which will be more than just a World Cup dress rehearsal.

Kohli's lofted check-drive off Rauf under the Melbourne skyline last year during the T20 World Cup became a part of Indian cricket fans' muscle memory while Pakistanis rejoiced when Rohit failed to negotiate a lethal tailing-in delivery from Shaheen

DATE	VENUE	RESULT	RAIN
April 13, 1984	Sharjah	India won by 54 runs	SPOI
Oct 31, 1988	Dhaka	India won by 4 wickets	3501
April 7, 1995	Sharjah	Pakistan won by 97 runs	Pallekel
July 20, 1997	Colombo	No results	the wor
June 3, 2000	Dhaka	Pakistan won by 44 runs	game b
July 25, 2004	Colombo	Pakistan won by 59 runs	and Pak
June 26, 2008	Karachi	India won by 6 wickets	Saturda every p
July 2, 2008	Karachi	Pakistan won by 8 wickets	that rai
June 19, 2010	Dambulla	India won by 3 wickets	spoilspo
March 18, 2012	Mirpur	India won by six wickets	reports thunder
March 2, 2014	Mirpur	Pakistan won by 1 wicket	could o
Feb 27, 2016	Mirpur	India won by 5 wickets	the gan
Sept 19, 2018	Dubai	India won by 8 wickets	weathe
Sept 23, 2018	Dubai	India won by 9 wickets	cent po
August 28, 2022	Dubai	India won by 5 wickets	heavy s
Sept 4, 2022	Dubai	Pakistan won by 5 wickets	ing the

and was caught plumb in front. Such performances help players grow into legends and Saturday's game will be another opportunity for cricketers from both the sides to emerge as heroes.

The Indian team, that are yet to fit-in all the jigsaw puzzles will be hoping that their 'holy trinity' of skipper Rohit, the peerless Kohli and his heir apparent Shubman Gill is ready to fight fire with fire against Shaheen, Rauf and the feisty Naseem Shah.

RESULT	RAIN N
India won by 54 runs	SPOIL
India won by 4 wickets	SPUIL
Pakistan won by 97 runs	Pallekele
No results	the worl
Pakistan won by 44 runs	game be
Pakistan won by 59 runs	and Paki
India won by 6 wickets	Saturday every po
Pakistan won by 8 wickets	that rain
India won by 3 wickets	spoilspo
India won by six wickets	reports s
Pakistan won by 1 wicket	could oc
India won by 5 wickets	the gam
India won by 8 wickets	weather
India won by 9 wickets	has pred cent pos
India won by 5 wickets	heavy sh
Pakistan won by 5 wickets	ing the n

The problem with the Pakistan middle-order is that they have really been called upon to do service. With their top three consisting captain Babar Azam (689 runs), Fakhar Zaman (593 runs) and Imam-ul-Haq (361 runs) having fired more often than not, the middle-order has rarely been exposed. Usama Mir, Saud Shakeel and Agha Salman have been largely inconsistent barring the odd flicker and this game

Rohit banking on⁻ experienced players

Indian skipper not bothered by undue pressure

they can

ROHIT SHARMA

AGENCIES

Pallekele, Sept 1: India skipper Rohit Sharma said Friday his batters will have to rely on their rich experience to counter Pakistan's potent pace trio in the much awaited Asia Cup clash here Saturday. A mouth- watering contest await when the likes of Rohit and Virat Kohli face the highly skilled Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium here.

"We don't have Shaheen, Naseem and Rauf in our nets. We practice with the bowlers we have. **Every player in the** They are all quality side knows what bowlers. We just have sort of a game is this and what is to use our experience to play them tomorexpected of them row (Saturday),' Rohit said on the eve I am sure they will of the game when do the very best asked about his team's plans against the highly skilled op-

position pace attack. With a few key players entering the Asia Cup after their recent recovery from injuries, Rohit asserted that the tournament is not a fitness test and the team will have to put their game face on. India's match against Pakistan will see pacers Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna and middle-order bats-

"By no means this (Asia Cup 2023) is a fitness test for players. This tournament is played between the top six Asian teams.





The battle between Shubman Gill (left) and Shaheen Shah Afridi is expected PHOTOS: PTI AND TWITTER to be mouth-watering

asserted Rohit. "The fitness tests, fitness camps, all that was done in Bangalore. Now, we have to go ahead and get our game face on and see what we can achieve in this (tournament). We are here to win," added the Indian skipper. Rohit also pointed out that the tournament just not is a onegame affair and added that any of the six teams are capable of beating the other on a given day.

So, it's a very big tournament,"

"There are six very competitive teams in the Asia Cup and on a given day anyone can beat anyone. Rivalry is there for people to talk about. As a team, what we see is we have an opposition to play and see what we want to do. What is going to help us is to keep doing the right things on the field," pointed out Rohit

After a considerable time, India will enter a tournament with a near-full squad, barring the injured KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant. Rohit said it's good to have several players to choose from for an important tournament.

"I would probably have this kind of headache, rather than having no headache. It's always nice to have a good pool of players to choose from, and to have such kind of competition as well. I would certainly go for an 11 without any injury concerns,' Rohit informed. He did not however, divulge much as to what India's combination will be for the game.

SHORT TAKES Gukesh dethrones

will be an acid test for them.

AY PLAY SPORT waiting fo man Shreyas Iyer returning to en India the ODI set-up after a considerable time. an here: ere is

Latest oility o

javelin star Kishore WORLD CHAMPION CITES MENTAL TIREDNESS FOR SILVER-WINNING SHOW

Rousing welcome for Chopra finishes 2nd in Zurich



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: Odisha iavelin thrower Kishore Jena. who finished fifth in the recently concluded World Championships in Budapest, was accorded a rousing welcome when he arrived back in the city Friday evening. Among others, sports director, Siddhartha Das, joint secretary of the Sports department Ranjit Parida and head coach, Odisha Reliance Foundation Athletics HPC, Martin Owens were present at the BPIA to welcome Kishore.

Kishore is the first Odia athlete to represent India at the World Athletics Championships. His show at the World Championships will certainly inspire others to take part in sports. Already Kishore has made a name for himself in the Indian athletics fraternity, officials said.

World and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra also has termed Kishore as a very promising

3

javelin thrower. His achievements resonate with the dreams and aspirations of countless young athletes across the nation. In fact Kishore's visa problems ahead of the Worlds was sorted out by Chopra.

"The Odisha government has pledged unwavering support to Kishore's continued journey towards excellence in the world of athletics," an official said Friday.

"Kishore's remarkable achievements are a testament to the immense talent that exists in Odisha. His success story serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for aspiring athletes, proving that with relentless dedication and hard work, they too can achieve success on the global stage," Das said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik will be felicitating Kishore with a cash award of Rs 25 lakh in a function Saturday. The Odisha government had announced the award immediately after Kishore finished fifth in the Worlds.

AGENCIES

Zurich, Sept 1: Newly-crowned World Champion Neeraj Chopra missed out on a top podium finish to settle for second position with a final round throw of 85.71 metres in the men's javelin event of the Diamond League event here early Friday morning (Indian time).

The 25-year-old Chopra, also the reigning Olympic champion, produced three legal throws of 80.79m, 85.22m and 85.71m while the remaining three were fouls. He finished behind Jakub Vadleich (85.86m) of the Czech Republic, who had won a bronze in the World Championships.

The champion thrower said after the event that physically he was feeling 'very good' but was a little tired after the World Championships in Budapest, where he won gold.

"I feel very good now (physically), but a little drained out as all the throwers gave more than their 100 per cent in Budapest. I have to focus now

TODAY IN SPORTS CRICKET

India vs Pakistan

(Asia Cup) **Star Sports channels** 2pm **TENNIS**

US Open Sony Sports (7.30pm) **PREMIER LEAGUE**

Man City vs Fulham Star Sports (7.30pm)



for Eugene (Diamond League finals September 17) and then the (Hangzhou) Asian Games (from September 23).

Chopra also said he will do everything under the sun to defend his Olympic gold in Paris next year and his World Championships title in 2025.

Chopra was asked he can emulate the legendary Czech Republic athlete Jan Zelezny, who won three Olympics and three World Championships titles. Chopra said he will try his

level best

"Everything is possible if I remain motivated and focused in my game," Chopra asserted. "My endeavour would be to defend my title (Mera koshish hai ki mujhe mera title phirse dohraana hai) and whatever hard work I need to do to achieve that, I will do," Chopra added

Zelezny, Chopra's idol, clinched the Olympics gold in 1992, 1996 and 2000 while winning the World Championships title in 1993, 1995 and 2001.

The most important thing is to save myself from injury. I need to remain healthy and injury-free so that I can retain my titles NEERAJ CHOPRA

Chopra, however, admitted that it would be a big challenge to defend his Olympics gold in Paris. "It was a big challenge to win the first title (in Tokyo), and it will be a bigger challenge to do (defend) it again because everybody will come prepared. There will be more pressure than the Tokyo Olympics because there will be a lot more expectations than earlier, even I have my expectations," pointed out the star javelin thrower.

The Indian superstar, who was unbeaten this season before Thursday, qualified for the Diamond League finals in Eugene, USA, with 23 points from three meets. He had won the Diamond League trophy last year.

Anand after 37 yrs

Chennai: Teenaged Grandmaster D Gukesh has replaced the legendary Viswanathan Anand as India's top chess player after more than three decades. Anand has been India's No.1 since July 1986. The 17-year old Chennai GM, who recently lost in the guarterfinals of the FIDE World Cup to Magnus Carlsen, moved ahead of Anand to be ranked No 8 in the world. Anand, a fivetime World Champion is currently ranked No.9. Praggnanandhaa who lost in the final to Carlsen has also gained in rankings to be No. 19 in the world.

Divya shines

Kolkata: India's Divya Deshmukh continued her stellar performance on the second day of the Tata Steel Chess tournament by winning all the three rounds played here Friday. At the end of day, Deshmukh finished with 5.5 points, followed by the reigning World Champion Ju Wenjun at four points and Polina Shuvalova with 3.5 points. There was no stopping Deshmukh as she made it a perfect 3/3 after battling past International Master Vantika Agrawal. Woman Grandmaster M Koneru Humpy finally brought up her first win, against GM Nino Batsiashvili.

tournament come to an end after

a one-sided defeat to second seed

Sabalenka of Belarus, the reign-

ing Australian Open champion.

Sabalenka, 25, has reached

the semifinals or better at the

past four Grand Slams and can

replace Iga Swiatek as World

sult in New York.

No.1 if she matches the Pole's re-

Another of 2023's Grand Slam

winners, Wimbledon champion

Vondrousova of the Czech

Republic had too much fire-

power for Italy's Martina

Sabalenka prevailed 6-3, 6-2.

Alacaraz eases into third round

AGENCIES

New York, Sept 1: World No.1 Carlos Alcaraz edged closer to a US Open rematch with Italy's Jannik Sinner as Grand Slam winners Aryna Sabalenka and Marketa Vondrousova booked their places in the third round Thursday

Defending champion Alcaraz eased into a last 32 meeting with Britain's Dan Evans after dispatching South Africa's Lloyd Harris 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (7/4) in a match that lasted 148 minutes at the Arthur Ashe Stadium court. It means Alcaraz is just two

wins away from a potential quarterfinal collision with Italian sixth seed Sinner, who continued his serene progress through the draw with a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 defeat of compatriot Lorenzo Sonego.

Last year, Alcaraz and Sinner produced an epic five-set quarterfinal classic that was not completed until 2.50am local time the latest ever finish in the US Open history.

"I think I played a great match from the beginning to the last ball," Alcaraz said after his defeat of Harris. "To be able to win in straight sets is really important to me in

the first rounds," he added. The 22-year-old Sinner meanwhile looks to be firing on all cylinders on the evidence of his second round performance. The Italian conceded just 10 points on serve without giving Sonego a single breakpoint throughout the 125 minutes encounter.

Sinner will play 2016 US Open champion Stan Wawrinka in the third round Saturday. Wawrinka, 38, rolled back the years to eliminate Argentine No.30 seed Tomas Martin Etcheverry 7-6 (8/6), 6-7 (7/9), 6-3, 6-2.

Trevisan, winning 6-2, 6-2 in just Brit Jodie Burrage, saw her 80 minutes

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