



# leisure



## 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.

## 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

GaneshSpeaks.com  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**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 Ganesh. Meditate, walk, or simply seek the company of friends and loved ones.

**TAURUS**  
Your business is going to thrive this day, says Ganesh. 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 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 it 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 situations by now, for you have been in too many 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 Ganesh. Remember that there is no substitute for hard work, and the sooner you realise this, the better. So sweat it out today.

**VIRGO**  
You may relieve all the tension and pressure inside you today, a day which will be full of light and relaxing moments. Ganesh 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 turn out to be an aggravating and exasperating 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 routine and bring in some freshness.

**SCORPIO**  
Ganesh 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 Ganesh, and that could make all the difference. A crisp application of thoughts to ideas and actions will bring much appreciation from bosses and peers.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
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 Ganesh. You must realise that the only thing permanent is change, and hence, you must overcome any disappointment with strong will and determination.

**CAPRICORN**  
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 Ganesh. Moreover, much to the dismay of your rivals, you will have your way and gain popularity by winning the hearts of your clients.

**AQUARIUS**  
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 Ganesh, 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 Ganesh.

## 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.

She expressed, "I was primarily raised by my mother. I can honestly say that for a significant portion of my life, I remained blissfully unaware of the existence of patriarchy and the patriarchal system simply because I was not immersed in that environment."

AGENCIES

## Tamannaah shakes off insensitive comments

**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 *Bahubali* 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 always 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

## 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 Madhav Prasad Pokhrel, Indian writer Awadhesh Pradhan and Indian actress-writer 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*.  
PNN



## 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 masy comedy commercial single-screen small-town audience. It has the same audience as *Gadar 2*. You can't apply logic here. There's a crazy sus-

pension 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."

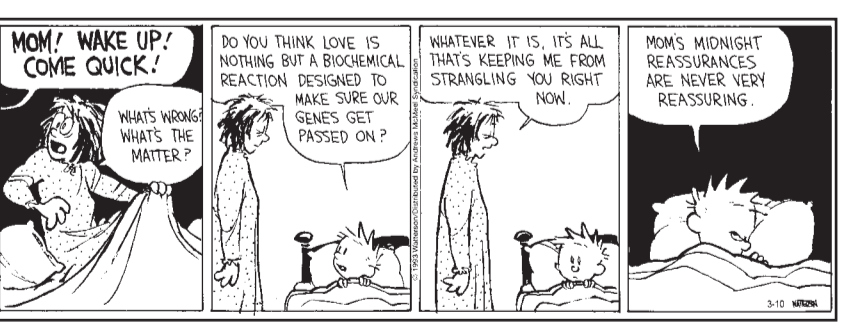
Abhishek Banerjee's character says Love is love at the end. So there's acceptance. A Muslim family is marrying into a Sardar, a Hindu. So the mass audience will find it progressive. But those who scan with a magnifying glass will point out mistakes. This film is not for them," he added.

AGENCIES

### PEANUTS



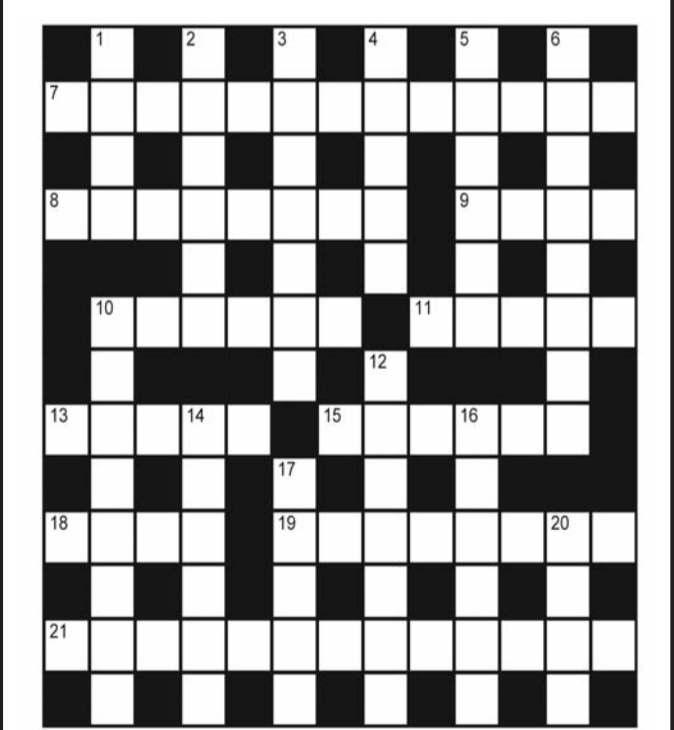
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



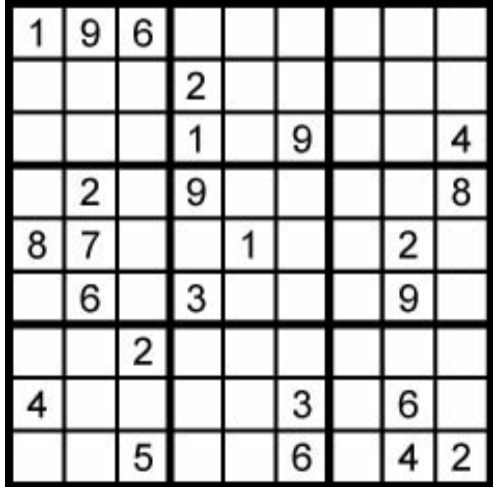
### FUN post CROSSWORD



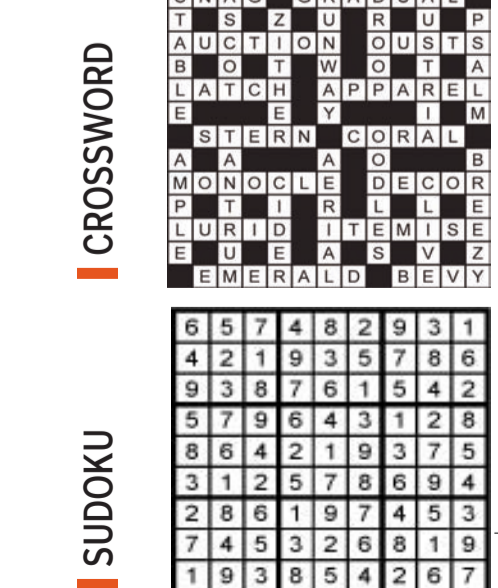
- Across**
- 7 Abnormal propensity for mishaps (8-5)
  - 8 Exhausted emotionally
  - 9 Folklore fiend
  - 10 Spotted wildcat
  - 11 Physically weak
  - 13 Water sources
  - 15 Pepsin, e.g.
  - 18 Karate blow
  - 19 Oxlip
  - 21 Schoolhouse wall hanging (8,5)
- Down**
- 1 Mark left by Zorro?
  - 2 Bacon sound
  - 3 Hotel employee
  - 4 Reading room
  - 5 Passion
  - 6 Invigorate
  - 10 Face lift
  - 12 Antediluvian
  - 14 Dinner jacket parts
  - 16 Strong-scented mat-forming Eurasian herb
  - 17 Theatre lights, briefly
  - 20 Nimble

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## 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



## 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.

## 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

PIC: RAIKISHORE MOHANTY

# 45K deaths on roads

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 government has fixed a target to reduce



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

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 5,467   | 2,991  |
| people died and around 5,000 injured in road accidents in 2022, out of which 2,477 were bike and pillion riders, and 1,695 died for not wearing helmets | people died from January to June 2023 in 6,272 road accidents, compared to 2,489 deaths in 6,029 road accidents during the same period in 2022 |

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

The minister said that 5,467 people died and around 5,000 were injured in road accidents in Odisha in 2022, out of which 2,477 were bike and pillion riders, and 1,695 died for not wearing helmets.

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. Jajpur, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Ganjam, Cuttack and Khurda districts reported the maximum number of fatalities. As many as 2,991 people died

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 road accidents.

## Group clash in Mancheswar village over mishap; 10 hurt

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: A violent clash erupted between two groups at Padmaksharipur 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 assembled at the spot and got into a



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. However, both the groups

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.

# Simultaneous polls idea evokes mixed reactions

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 crucial development



## Weighty political plank for BJP

For BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's big move to push through his 'one nation one election' concept promises to be the big ticket idea which can disrupt conventional calculations and allow it to frame the upcoming Lok Sabha polls along helpful lines as the party believes the issue has the potential to catch popular imagination.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said simultaneous polls is a good concept. "It is in the interest of the country. Generally, you will see that elections are taking place in some or other part (of the country) all 365 days. It results in an increase in expenditure," he said. Simultaneous polls will reduce expenses, he added. The deputy

CM said reforms also get delayed to multiple elections.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar commended the Centre's decision to form a committee to explore the feasibility of 'one nation, one election' while his deputy Dushyant Chautala and Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal also lauded the idea of holding simultaneous polls.

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 to imposition of the model code of conduct ahead of each poll.

## Against country's interests: DMK

The ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in Tamil Nadu opposed the proposal to hold simultaneous polls to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, to examine which a committee has been set up by the 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 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 all along been opposing it as part of its Dravidian ideology of good governance. 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.

## Threat to federal structure: Oppn

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.

Congress president 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 it 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

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is of the view 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

Two former chief election commissioners said the idea of 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 exercise.

One of the former CECs said for the Election Commission, simultaneous elections are both convenient and logical. But many argue that frequent elections are not so bad after all.

"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 between July 30, 2010 and

June 10, 2012.

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."

He said if all the parties are not on board, then it would send a wrong message to the people and they will be suspicious about it.

Rawat recalled that when the poll panel was asked about simultaneous polls, it had informed the government that 'One nation, One election' had happened in 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967.

## INDIA bloc represents 60% of popn: Rahul

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" Mauritius-based investment funds.

# 5T Secy reviews public infra projects in Jajpur



- The 5T Secretary visited Biraja Temple to review the progress of development projects and availability of pilgrim amenities
- 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

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.

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

district federation office and interacted with the members. The Secretary emphasized that the Chief Minister has high priority for women empowerment and assured all support from the government.

Pandian visited the ongoing medical college project site at Jajpur. The project is progressing as per schedule and will be operational from next academic year. The academic block will be ready shortly for the inspection of the National Medical Commission (NMC).

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 projects will provide water supply to the households across all the blocks. The projects will be operationalized in phases from February 2024 onwards. He di-

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.



**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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**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.

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

of Rs 3,883.90 crore in the corresponding period of 2022 – a growth rate of 13.50 per cent, the officials said.

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.

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 growth rate of 25.84 per cent.

## 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 Shramajeebe Manchha, Mahila Shramajeebe Manchha, 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 rained.

## Man's body found hanging

**Bhubaneswar:** The body of a 56-year-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 post-mortem.



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

## 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 discussions. These will be relevant to welding activity going on in a variety of industries, such as steel, aluminum, petrochemicals, 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.

## Gene therapy for brain tumour shows promise: Lancet

**A** therapy combining cell-killing 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 high-grade 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 therapy vectors were supposed

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to be active for up to a month, the researchers discovered that activity 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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ISRO's PSLV-C57 carrying 'Aditya-L1' spacecraft sits at the launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, in Sriharikota



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida takes part in a joint disaster drill in Sagami-hara, Kanagawa prefecture



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



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



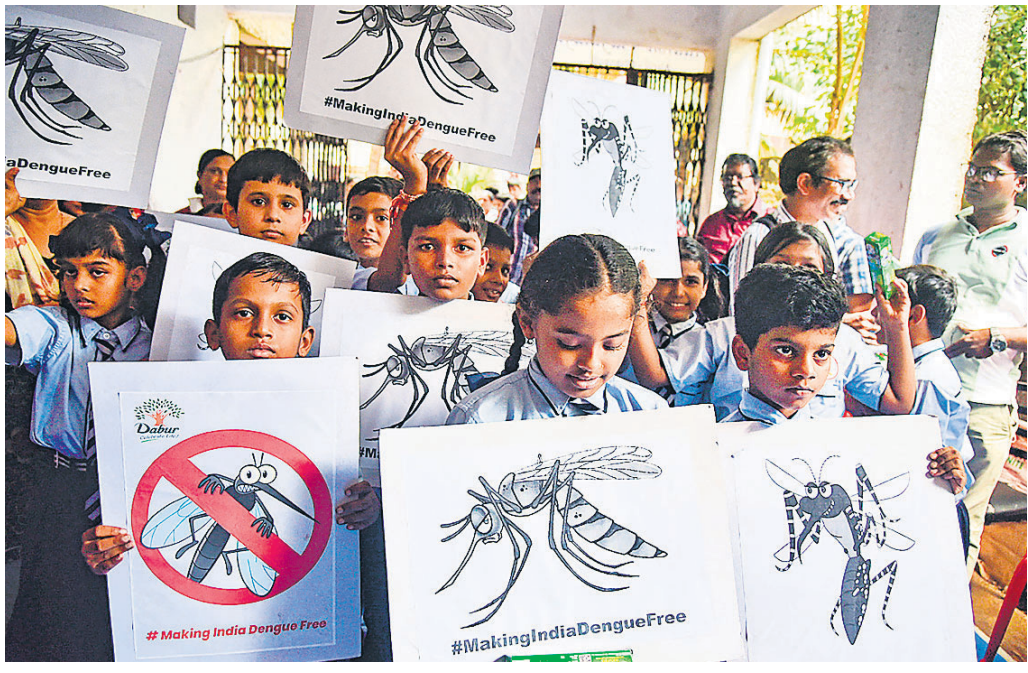
West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee felicitates Congress leader Sonia Gandhi as Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) leaders pose for a group photograph ahead of their meeting in Mumbai



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



Trial run of motor trolley 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



# national

## of the day quote

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

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

I clearly believe that every citizen should respect and trust the judiciary. This will strengthen democracy

## SHORT TAKES

### Jaya Verma Sinha takes charge

New Delhi: Senior railway traffic service officer Jaya 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 joined the Indian Railway Traffic Service in 1988. She succeeds Anil Kumar Lahotini her new role and will be in office till August 31, 2024. Sinha is slated to retire on October 1, but will be re-employed 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 scooter, 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.

### 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 Bhanjora 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.

### 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 Ajj Khan, relieving himself near the booking office at Nalaspore 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.

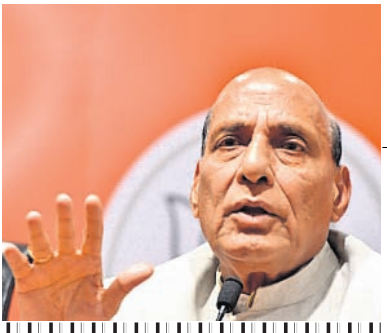


China has encroached upon our 2,000 sq km. We had already demanded that a special session be convened. We hope and demand PM Modi that a comprehensive debate will take place on China in the special session. We lost land in Depsang and Demchok

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



# SC gives Bihar ex-MP life term for double murder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

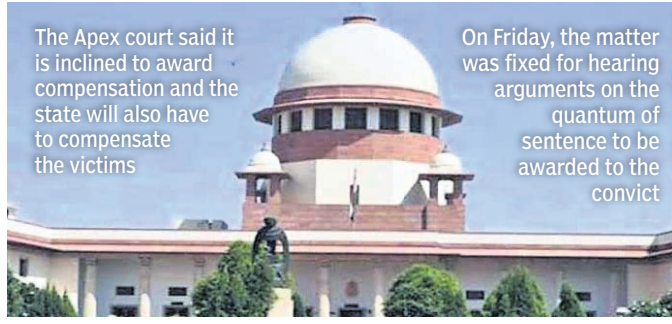
New Delhi, Sept 1: The Supreme Court Friday sentenced former Lok Sabha MP from Bihar Prabhunath Singh to life imprisonment for killing two people on the day of polling for assembly elections in Bihar's Saran district in 1995.

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-



The Apex court said it is inclined to award compensation and the state will also have to compensate the victims

On Friday, the matter was fixed for hearing arguments on the quantum of sentence to be awarded to the convict

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.

# 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 Manju, 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 allowed 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.



the Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka in 2019.

Manju, who fought the Lok Sabha election against Revanna



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

# 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

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

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.

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 family (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

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 av-

erage 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 to which the rainfall is decreasing in the entire country.





