



## INSTAGRAM OVER TALENT

Actor Manjari Fadnis criticises the film industry's focus on Instagram followers over acting skills

LEISURE P2



## WAR INTENSIFIES

Russian drones hit Danube River port infrastructure that is critical to Ukraine's grain exports

INTERNATIONAL P10



## INDIA TAKE ON NEPAL

Team India aim for Super Four berth when they face Nepal in their Asia Cup match today

SPORTS P12

## 'Destroy Sanatan Dharma': DMK leader sparks row

AGENCIES

Chennai, Sept 3: DMK youth wing secretary and Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin has kicked up a huge political row by saying that Sanatana Dharma should be eradicated. Likening Sanatana Dharma to coronavirus, malaria, and fever caused by dengue virus and mosquitoes, he said such things should not be opposed but destroyed.

After his remarks led to a furore on social media with BJP's IT department in-charge Amit Malviya stating the DMK leader has called for 'genocide' of 80 per cent population who follow Sanatana Dharma, Udhayanidhi rubbished that accusation.

In his address at a meet of Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers and Artists Association here Saturday, Udhayanidhi said Sanatan is against equality and social justice.

Udhayanidhi, son of Chief Minister MK Stalin, said the very name Sanatan is from Sanskrit. "What is the meaning of Sanatan? It is eternal, that is, it cannot be changed; no one could pose any question and that is the meaning." Sanatan divided people on the basis of caste, he alleged.

Home Minister Amit Shah accused the INDIA coalition parties and Udhayanidhi of insulting Sanatan Dharma for votebank and appeasement politics. Shah, who was addressing a rally in poll-bound Rajasthan, said the alliance can go to any extent for votebank politics but "the more they talk against Sanatan Dharma, the less they will be visible."



In Bhopal, BJP chief JP Nadra said: "Throw away such an alliance which is against our Sanatan Dharma and is spreading poison. They want to abolish it (Sanatan Dharma). Eradicate them. Will the Opposition alliance go to the people with the issue of finishing off Sanatan Dharma for the polls?"

Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai too slammed the DMK minister for his malicious ideology. "Tamil Nadu is a land of spiritualism. The best you can do is to hold a mic in an event like this & rant out your frustration!" Reacting to the criticism, Udhayanidhi said on X: "I never called for the genocide of people who are following Sanatan Dharma."

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



If there is no corruption, casteism or communalism in 'developed India' which party will build developed India?

WEATHER	
BHUB	CTK
MAX 33.4°C	33.6°C
MIN 24.2°C	24.0°C
Humidity 95%	97%
Rainfall 6.0mm	4.4mm
	Forecast RAIN LIKELY



ALL GUNS BLAZING: National Cadet Corps being trained to operate guns during their 'Thal Sena Camp' at Nagrota on the outskirts of Jammu, Sunday

PTI PHOTO

## Lightning toll mounts to 12

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The Odisha government Sunday said that the death toll in lightning strikes that occurred across the state a day before rose to 12. The government also announced an ex gratia of ₹4 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased.

Lightning strikes claimed the lives of four people in Khurda district, two in Bolangir and one each in Angul, Boudh, Gajapati, Jagatsinghpur, Dhenkanal and Puri, the office of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) said.

Fourteen people were injured in the lightning strikes in 11 districts of Odisha Saturday.

Among the injured, eight are in Bolangir district, three in Khurda, and one each in Angul, Cuttack and Ganjam, the SRC office said. Besides, eight bovines -- six in Gajapati and two in Kandhamal -- were also killed in the lightning strikes.

All the 11 districts and the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack witnessed heavy rain with lightning strikes a day before, an official said.

The state recorded 36,597 CC (cloud to cloud) lightning and 25,753 CG (cloud to ground) lightning in the afternoon, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) said on X, formerly Twitter.

The Odisha government has declared lightning as a state-specific disaster.

# No Kukis in Imphal

LAST REMAINING KUKI FAMILIES 'FORCIBLY EVICTED' FROM THE MANIPUR CAPITAL

THERE IS NOW TOTAL SEPARATION OF MEITEIS AND KUKIS IN THE STATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Sept 3: The Manipur government has shifted the last of 10 Kuki families comprising 24 members from Imphal's New Lambulane area where they had been living for decades and did not move elsewhere even after the ethnic violence broke out in Manipur four months ago.

These families were taken to the Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi district on the northern side of Imphal Valley early Saturday, as they had become 'vulnerable targets', an official said.

The last of 10 Kuki families were provided 'safe passage' to Motbung in Kangpokpi district, some 25 km from Imphal, the official said.

But Kuki families alleged that they were forcibly evicted from their residences in the New Lambulane area to Motbung.

S Prim Vaiphei, one of the volunteers guarding the Kuki locality in the heart of Imphal, said that a "team of uniformed

## 'Ethnic cleansing complete'

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram Sunday alleged that 'ethnic cleansing is complete' in Manipur's Imphal Valley and said there can be nothing more 'shameful' than this. The former home minister cited a media report which claimed that the last remaining Kuki families in Imphal were 'forcibly removed' from their homes by the authorities. "This means that 'ethnic cleansing' is complete in the Imphal Valley that is dominated by the Meitei people," he said in a post on X. "A state government presides over 'ethnic cleansing' and the central government claims that the government of the state is being carried on in accordance with the Constitution," Chidambaram said. There can be nothing more shameful than this development, he said.

armed personnel claiming to be acting under directions from the Home Department came to New Lambulane, Imphal in the intervening night of September 1 and 2 and forcibly evicted the last remaining residents of the Kuki locality in Imphal from their homes."

Around 300 tribal families, who were living in the New Lambulane area, had earlier left the place in phases since the ethnic violence began May 3.

"Twenty-four of us were not given time to even pack our belongings and we were herded into vehicles with only the clothes we were wearing," Vaiphei said in a statement.

Expressing strong displeasure over the 'forcible eviction', Kuki Inpi Manipur, the apex body of the Kuki tribes, in two statements, said, they stood "aghast at the dastardly attack against the last of the Kuki Zo volunteers (numbering about 24

men) who have been guarding the houses and properties of the Kukis at New Lambulane. The volunteers were later escorted by security personnel."

The Kuki body reiterated its demand for a separate administration.

"There is now total separation of the Meiteis and Kukis. It is imperative that the Central govt should constitutionally recognise this separation at the earliest," it said.

More than 160 people lost their lives and several hundreds were injured since the ethnic clashes broke out in Manipur in early May, after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley. Tribals -- Nagas and Kukis -- constitute a little over 40 per cent and reside in the hill districts.

# Neuroanaesthesia crisis at SCBMCH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 3: SCB Medical College and Hospital (SCBMCH) here, Odisha's premier state-run health facility, is yet to have a neuroanaesthesiology department with neuroanesthesiologists although almost four years have passed when the hospital authorities had urged the state government, highlighting the much-needed facility during neurosurgeries.

Established in 1967, the neurosurgery department has been looking after many complex surgeries like micro neurosurgery, paediatric neurosurgery, neurotrauma, skull surgery, cerebrovascular surgery, spinal neurosurgery and peripheral nerve surgery at the premier hospital. According to SCB Superintendent Dr Sudhanshu Sekhar Mishra, they are forced to manage neurosurgeries with anaesthesiologists due to the absence of neuroanaesthesiology department and neuroanesthesiologists at SCBMCH.

Highlighting the importance of neuroanaesthesiology department, the SCB superintendent said, "A neuroanesthesiologist helps achieve optimal operating conditions for the neurosurgeon while ensuring the patient maintains unconsciousness, good brain blood flow and oxygen levels, and receives appropriate pain management during and after the procedure. The neuroanaesthesiology department plays a key role in successful neurosurgeries."

Dr Mishra, the former head of neurosurgery department at SCBMCH, said, "It's risky to perform complex neurosurgeries with anaesthesiologists. Setting up a neuroanaesthesiology department would definitely help perform complex neurosurgeries." The ambitious initiative of the state government to transform SCBMCH into an AIIMS Plus facility proposes to give a facelift to the 60-bed neurosurgery department that witnesses a footfall of 100 patients on a daily basis.

# FMCG products under lock & key at US stores

Petty thefts and organised shoplifting rise while consumers grapple with a high cost of living

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

New York, Sept 3: Toothpastes, chocolates, washing powders and deodorants -- everyday products are increasingly under lock and key at US retailers, as petty theft and organised shoplifting rise while consumers grapple with a high cost of living.

Major retailers Walmart and Target, drugstore chains CVS

and Walgreens, as well as home improvement firm Home Depot and footwear seller Foot Locker are among those to have voiced concern over more thefts -- including violent incidents -- in their latest earnings results.

"Organised retail crime, and theft in general, is an increasingly serious issue impacting many retailers," said Lauren Hobart, chief executive at Dick's Sporting Goods during a conference call.

The impact of stealing on the company's inventory was 'meaningful' on both its second quarter results and expectations for the balance of the year, she added.

"During the first five months of this year, our stores saw a 120% increase in theft incidents involving violence or threats of



violence," said Target chief executive Brian Cornell in a separate briefing. "Our team continues to face an unacceptable amount of retail theft and organised retail crime," he said.

He noted a loss of inventory well above what is sustainable

over the long term. This comes as interest rates have surged from close to zero to around 5.5% over 18 months -- the highest level in 22 years -- as policymakers seek to curb inflation.

Higher lending costs make it pricier to borrow funds for big

ticket purchases, or for companies to expand their businesses -- and consumers have been feeling the squeeze.

According to the National Retail Federation's 2022 retail security survey, retailers lost an estimated \$94.5 billion nationwide to 'shrink' in 2021 alone. Retail shrink means the loss of inventory from factors including staff theft, shoplifting or administrative errors. The survey also noted that retailers on average saw a 26.5% rise in organised retail crime in 2021, with a majority of respondents reporting that the pandemic has led to an increase in risks.

As a result, stores have been installing transparent walls with locks on shelves, sometimes pad-

locked chains on refrigerators, and scattering call buttons in aisles for staff. Unprotected shelves are often sparsely stocked as well, to limit shoplifting.

But such security measures are not always an effective deterrent. In June, a man in a hooded jacket and face mask used a blowtorch -- in full view of customers and employees -- to melt locked cases at a Walgreens outlet in Queens, New York. He then filled a bag with products and left without paying.

According to media reports, some retailers are asking their staff not to intervene in the event of theft and not to contact the police, for their own safety, while some are considering closing sites.

# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

**GaneshSpeaks.com**  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

**ARIES**  
If you're looking to get married, buy the ring today. But before you take the leap, weigh all the pros and cons carefully, says Ganesh. All in all, this may be a day filled with activities related to your relationship and by the time the day ends, you may be on cloud nine!

**TAURUS**  
You may face conflicts on the personal front and find your thoughts leaning towards aggression today, says Ganesh. There is a possibility of suffering losses due to loved ones. Exercise restraint in arguments with relatives and siblings, advises Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
You are desirous of perfection in everything that you do, and you practice this philosophy in every aspect of your life. You make sure that all of your energies are concentrated on taking forward your efforts in the right direction. You need to replenish your energies and increase your awareness today, to be able to continue your efforts, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Today, your ability to think clearly in the most adverse conditions will be your key weapon as you get cornered by unrelenting assaults of work and deadlines. The clarity will reflect in your work as you deal with inhuman work pressure. Your mind will save the day for you as well as your peers.

**LEO**  
Your children's health may be a cause of concern today, says Ganesh. The best way to put your and your family's fears to rest would be by paying a quick visit to the doctor. As always, kids remain a surprise package of delights; the happiness of your children shall double your joy as a parent. But then, Ganesh reminds, only a healthy kid is a happy kid.

**VIRGO**  
Expenses will mount uncontrollably today, and they will be mostly wasteful in nature. However, positive energies are gathering momentum, and Ganesh says you would do well in making full use of them, both in your personal and professional spheres.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that that this is the right time to enhance your personality and prove your talents to the world. Today you will be able to buy new clothes too. It is essential that you pay attention to people close to you. Today is the day you will spend in your dream world.

**SCORPIO**  
It's the same old rut today, says Ganesh. Nothing new, nothing exciting. People from the opposite sex, however, may bring you out of the routine and try to enliven your spirits, predicts Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Ganesh foresees business expansion on your cards. Your friends, relatives and other contacts across seven seas will lend a helping hand to develop your business. And thanks to your super communication skills that make the task easier. The leader in you is all set to conquer the world. Way to go!

**CAPRICORN**  
If at first you don't succeed, try again. Many people underestimate the power of perseverance and patience. But, these qualities will lead you success. Rather than exploding with anger and anxiety, keep your faith in your plans intact, especially when the results are not as per your plans, advises Ganesh. If you fail to do as per the advice, you may spoil your image in the society.

**AQUARIUS**  
Things have become stagnant but it fails to frustrate your spirit. Slow and steady wins the race and it seems you have imbibed it very well. You will be able to seize opportunities coming your way and march ahead on your path. Financially, you will be on a stable ground, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
While you like cooperating with your colleagues, there is nothing like a little competition to spice things up. You will nonchalantly take on the challenges coming your way, and thrive on the sweet smell of success today. Luck is in your favour as well. Make the most of it, says Ganesh.



## ELIZABETH OLSEN WANTS TO EXPLORE ROLES BEYOND SCARLET WITCH

Actress Elizabeth Olsen wants to explore other characters besides Marvel's Wanda Maximoff/Scarlet Witch. The *Love and Death* star got candid about her feelings surrounding her longtime character in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, who most recently appeared in *Doctor Strange Multiverse of Madness*, reports *The Hollywood Reporter*.

## RODRIGO FEELS STUNTED BECAUSE OF HER FAME

Singer Olivia Rodrigo feels she has had huge success in recent years, but she feels that growing up in the public eye has had a detrimental impact on her, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



# 'THERE'S POETIC JUSTICE IN LIFE'

**Mumbai:** Actress Shilpa Shetty has carved her path in the Hindi film industry with her hard work, passion, dedication and skills, in an interview she has never been counted in the top 10 actors' list.

In conversation with media, the *Dhadkan* actress claimed, "I feel there is poetic justice in life, always. I was never in the top 10 actors (list). I may have received a lot of love and adulation but never counted in the

top 10 actors – maybe lack of opportunity, or what I don't know." "Today look at me I am doing the biggest series. I have just finished filming a movie. I am doing a multilingual movie. I have nothing to complain about today. We all have our journey, I have carved a niche on TV, and my brands are doing well," Shetty further added.

On the work front, Shilpa was last seen in *Nikamma* and has Rohit Shetty's web series *Indian Police Force* in the pipeline.



# Odia boy Patro crowned Mr. India 2023

**Bhubaneswar:** In a spectacular show of talent and charm, the inaugural Mr. India 2023 competition, organized by Global Handsome Treasure, recently concluded with Sharang Patro, a native of Bhubaneswar, Odisha, emerging as the victor.

After an exhaustive selection process, which saw contestants from various Indian states vying for the title, Sharang Patro secured the prestigious Mr. India 2023 crown. The three-day event, hosted at Novotel Hotel, Hyderabad, from August 25 to 27, 2023, featured challenging rounds, including talent, ethnic, and tuxedo segments. Hindi film actor and model Rahul Dev served as the judge, presenting Sharang with the title along with the additional accolades of 'Mr. One in a Million' and 'Mr.



Mr. India 2023, Sharang Patro, proudly displays his trophy alongside Hindi film actor/model Rahul Dev during the finale of Global Handsome Treasure pageant held at Hyderabad

Confident.' Expressing his delight, Sharang, a former tax consultant, remarked, "Winning

my first fashion pageant is a surreal moment." His victory not only brings honour to Odisha but also

serves as an inspiration for aspiring young talents statewide.

PNN

## Jawan is about women empowerment: SRK

**Mumbai:** Actor Shah Rukh Khan said his much-anticipated film *Jawan* is about empowering women and fighting for the right.

During an #AskSRK session with his fans on X, formerly known as Twitter, Shah Rukh was asked about



the message he is trying to convey through *Jawan*.

"The movie reflects upon how we as people can make a change that we want around us. Empower women and fight for the right," he wrote.

Asked how he would define his character in the film, Shah Rukh said, "Upright, honest and patriotic." The 58-year-old superstar described the film as a "mix of mass and international class in terms of action. With some really cool background music!"

Talking about his biggest learning in life, the superstar said one can achieve anything they believe in with hard work and prayers. "I have learnt this in my life... if the mind can conceive it, the heart can believe it... Then you can achieve it. Work always like that and don't forget to pray!" he wrote.

PTI

# 'Acting should matter more than Instagram followers'

**Mumbai:** Actress Manjari Fadnis best known for her performance in the film *Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na* shared that she dislikes the fact that the industry is giving importance to the number of followers on Instagram, rather than the skill and craft of the actor.

The 39-year-old actress said, "It is the importance that the industry and everybody in the industry is giving to the number of followers on Instagram. I don't like this trend, the pressure everyone puts on actors to be influencers. We are influencers by default. And being an influencer is not my profession."

"My profession is acting, and I don't want to spend my time and energy creating content for Instagram. I would rather do fun creative things because I enjoy it and not because I have to put it on Instagram and people have to like it," said the *Mumbai Salsa* actress.

"I mean there are castings happening on the basis of how many followers you have on Instagram. I mean seriously. I find that absurd, annoying and I hate it when people tell me 'Manjari you should be more ac-

tive on Instagram'. I mean I love to put things on Instagram when I feel like, it's not a compulsion for me, I don't want it to become like a job," she shared.

"But don't put that pressure on actors, just because they are casting and will see how many followers you have. I don't want to work on projects where they cast you on how many followers you have, rather than your skill and craft as an actor," she shared.

IANS

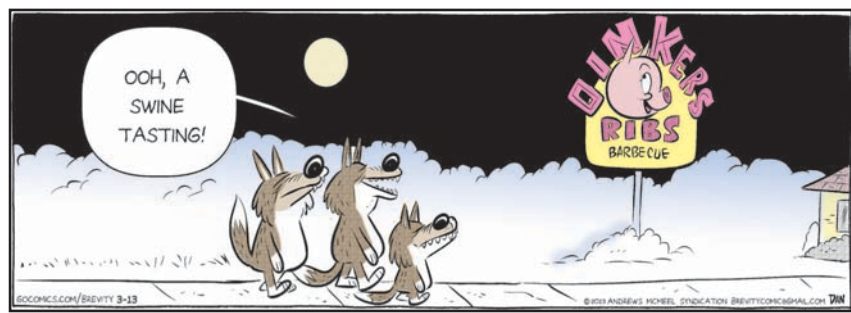
## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBS

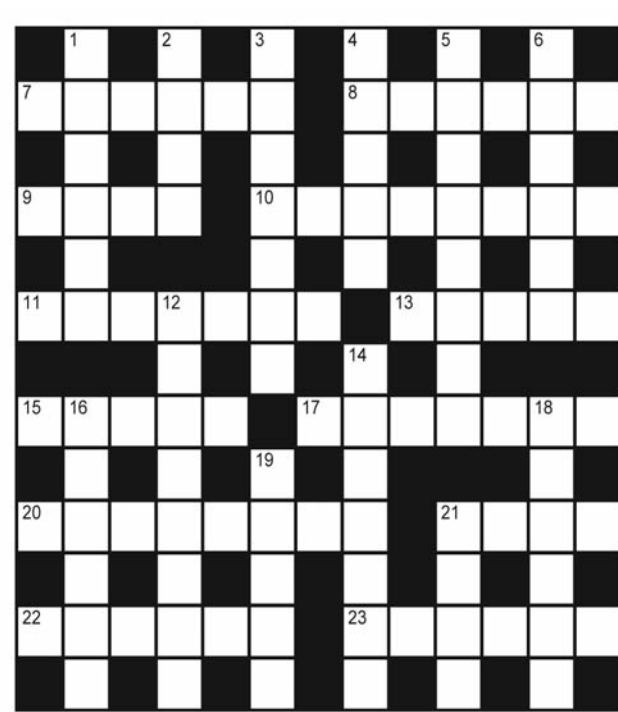


## BREVITY



## FUN post

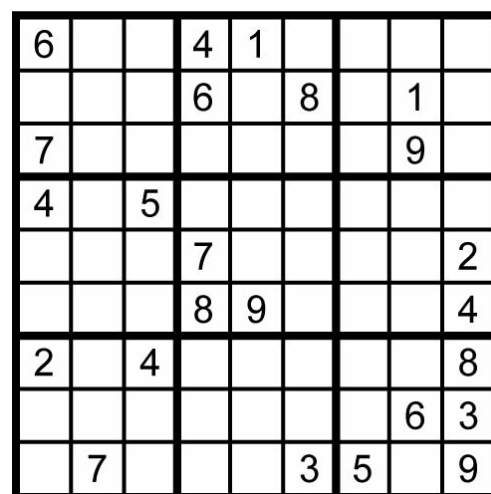
## CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Shade provider
  - 8 Gravity
  - 9 The hunted
  - 10 Like some authors
  - 11 Device for change?
  - 13 Kitchen utensil
  - 15 Muscat native
  - 17 Sea water element
  - 20 Micro-organisms
  - 21 Ballet attire
  - 22 Polished
  - 23 World-wide
- Down
- 1 Spanish capital
  - 2 Small boat
  - 3 Doctor's clue
  - 4 After test or stunt
  - 5 That "up" disposition
  - 6 Cook with liquid
  - 12 Timely
  - 14 Organise
  - 16 Stingy
  - 18 Compliment words (3,3)
  - 19 Stream
  - 21 Horse racing gait

## SUDOKU

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

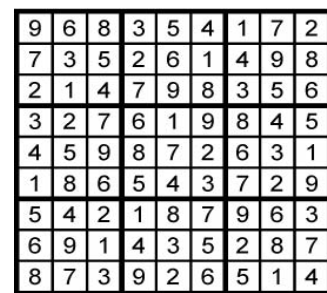


## SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD



### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## FESTIVE SPIRIT

Girls perform 'Khudurukuni' rituals on Kuakhai river bank in Bhubaneswar, Sunday



# Fake notes of ₹41L face value seized

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 3:** The Special Task Force (STF) of state Crime Branch seized fake Indian currency notes worth face value of Rs 41.16 lakh in Sonepur district and arrested one person in the matter, Sunday.

The fake notes are of Rs 500 denominations and meet many security features found in a genuine note, the officials said, informing that the seizures were made near Ulunda. The person arrested was identified as Deepak Meher of Matikhai Nuabasti under Ulunda police limits.



The fake notes are of ₹500 denominations and meet many security features found in a genuine note, the officials said, informing that the seizures were made near Ulunda

The person arrested was identified as Deepak Meher of Matikhai Nuabasti under Ulunda police limits

It is suspected that the fake notes were brought in from Chhattisgarh, officials said. The STF is investigating the case, and trying to identify others involved in the operations, they said. "After the amendment of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), dealing with high quality FICN has been categorized as a 'Terrorist act' if the value of seized notes is more than Rs 1 lakh and matches some other conditions," noted the STF officials. Ideally, offences related to counterfeit/fake currency notes were added to IPC (Sections 489A to 489 D & E) in 1943. The offences related to the counterfeiting of currency notes also come under the scheduled offences in NIA Act, 2008.

# Baramunda ISBT to start ops in Oct

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 3:** Bus services from Baramunda Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) here will commence in October, Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) vice-chairman Balwant Singh said, Sunday.

"More than 90 per cent work at the terminal has already been completed. We've developed the operational framework for the ISBT and it will be operated through a public-private partnership (PPP) model. Bus services will commence from the ISBT in October," he said.

Once operational, the ISBT will become the largest bus terminal in Odisha, accommodating over 500 buses and serving thousands of passengers daily.

The project executing firm is currently focusing on the terminal's lighting system.

Presently, buses are operating from a temporary site near Khandagiri hill. To ensure smooth functioning of the terminal, authorities have devised a comprehensive traffic plan for buses entering and exiting the ISBT. This plan is designed to facilitate passengers while maintaining the orderly flow of traffic in the vicinity.

Under the plan, buses arriving from the Cuttack side will take U-turn at Khandagiri Square before reaching the ISBT. Those approaching from the Khurda side will have direct access to the terminal, it was learnt.



**BIDDING ADIEU:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik pays tribute to former Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro at the latter's residence in Bhubaneswar, Sunday, as ST Secretary VK Pandian looks on

# Patro cremated with state honours

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 3:** The mortal remains of former Assembly Speaker and minister Surjya Narayan Patro was consigned to flames with full state honours at his native place at Digapahandi in Ganjam Sunday evening.

His son Biplab lit the funeral pyre. Patro, 75, breathed his last while undergoing treatment at a private hospital here Saturday. Hundreds of people from all walks of life, including administrative officers and people's

representatives of the district, were present to bid adieu to the departed leader.

Earlier in the morning, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik paid last respects to the departed senior BJD MLA at his residence here. Expressing grief over the demise of Patro, the chief minister described him as an able administrator and a good organiser. "He, as the Speaker of the Odisha Assembly, had all along maintained the dignity of the House and followed democratic norms. A great void is created in

state politics with the demise of Patro. He dedicated his life to the service of the people in Ganjam district. He will always be remembered by the people of Odisha," Patnaik said in a condolence message.

Governor Ganeshi Lal, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and several leaders from BJD and other political parties paid condolences on the demise of Patro.

The Governor said that Patro will be remembered for his life-long public service as a people's representative. "His passing away

is an irreparable and a personal loss for me. May Mahaprabhu Jagannath grant him Sadgati," Pradhan said on X.

Congress leader Suresh Routray said Patro will be remembered for his immense contribution to the development of the state, he said. The mortal remains of Patro were taken to Sankha Bhawan and then to Assembly, where a guard of honour was given. Patro was elected to the state Assembly seven times from Mohana and Digapahandi constituencies.

# Putin, Xi's absence cast shadow

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 3:** The 18th G20 Summit, scheduled to be held September 9-10 in New Delhi, comes under a cloud after leaders of two key members are expected to give it a miss and be represented by lower ranking officials of their respective governments.

While several world leaders, including US President Joe Biden, UK PM Rishi Sunak, Australian PM Anthony Albanese, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau and French President Emmanuel Macron, are expected to attend the meet, the event will be marked by the absence of the heads of state of two important BRICS countries.

Russia and China will not be sending their top leaders at the

summit.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will be represented by his Foreign minister Sergei Lavrov and Chinese President Xi Jinping has also decided to skip the conference and will be sending Premier Li Qiang.

Advancing reasons for the imminent absence of Xi and Putin, media reports are agog stating all summits are faced with abstention of many key leaders. "... As is evident, the level of attendance at global summits varies from year to year. In today's world with so many demands on the leaders' time, it is not always possible for every leader to attend every summit. From time to time, many leaders skip summits for

their own reason. The most glaring example here is the 2021 G20 Summit in Italy.. where there was no major geopolitical or health reason for leaders to skip it, but the circumstances happened in such a way that six countries attended below Head of State (HOS)/ Head of Government (HOG) level. These things do not reflect anything about the host country," reports stated.

However, observers said that the government seems to be in a fire fighting mode to cover up, what they dubbed, 'a politico-diplomatic failure'.

Sushant Singh, lecturer at Yale University and Senior Fellow at 'Centre for Policy Research', called out the government's des-

peration to paint a different picture of the reality, backed by good press.

In a post on X, Singh said, "When you see this excuse being put forth in Indian media, please recognise that this rationalisation is a government plant, sent by MEA, to cover up for the politico-diplomatic failure that the New Delhi G20 summit is turning out to be."

Nevertheless, the government is doing all it can to show that the absence of two major heads of state does not reflect on Modi's credibility as the leader of the non-North Block nations.

It will be interesting to see how the absence of the key heads of state at the crucial summit will play out internationally and before the electorates back home.

# 'False complaints of rape, dowry harassment extreme cruelty'

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 3:** False allegations of dowry harassment or rape lodged by a woman against the husband's family members amounts to 'extreme cruelty' which cannot be condoned, the Delhi High Court has said.

The high court also said that the bedrock of any matrimonial relationship is cohabitation and conjugal relationship, and for a couple to be deprived of each other's company, proves the marriage cannot survive and such deprivation of conjugal relationship is an act of extreme cruelty.

The court's observations came while dismissing a woman's appeal challenging a family court's order granting divorce decree in favour of her estranged husband on the grounds of cruelty.

"In the present case, indisputably parties are residing separately since 2014 which proves that they are unable to sustain matrimonial relationship thereby depriving each other from mutual companionship and conjugal relationship. Such separation of almost nine years is an instance of utmost mental cruelty, asking for immediate severance of matrimonial relationship on grounds of cruelty under the Hindu Marriage Act," a bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Neena Bansal Krishna said.

The bench said false complaints filed by the woman



against the husband constitute mental cruelty against the man.

"It cannot be overlooked that making serious allegations of not only dowry harassment but of rape against the family members of the respondent (husband) which are found to be false, is an act of extreme cruelty for which there can be no condonation," the high court said.

It noted that estranged couple have barely been able to live together for about 13 months and have not been able to sustain their matrimonial relationship. "For a couple to be deprived of each other's company and conjugal relationship is an extreme act of cruelty as has also been endorsed by the apex court," the bench said.

It noted that the woman had filed a criminal case against her husband and brother-in-law with the allegations of rape and cruelty done to her and the two men were exonerated of all the allegations by a trial court.

"The appellant (woman) has pursued her allegations by filing an appeal against the order of acquittal which is pending in

this court. Even though an appeal has been preferred, but this does not wash out the observations of the additional sessions judge that the allegations were manipulative and false. Significantly, it has also emerged in the evidence that the appellant had consulted the lawyer before making the complaint on which FIR was registered," the high court said.

The couple got married in November 2012 and have been living separately since February 2014.

The man claimed that since the day of marriage, the woman failed to discharge household duties and frequently visited her parental home without informing him and his family members.

He alleged that she even threatened to commit suicide and implicate the man and his family members in false cases and that she would often pick fights and physically abused him.

The woman, on her part, claimed she was harassed and humiliated by her mother-in-law physically and mentally and was also beaten by her husband.

# First earth-bound manoeuvre of Aditya L1 successfully performed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, Sept 3:** ISRO said Sunday that it has successfully performed first earth-bound manoeuvre of the country's maiden solar mission, Aditya L1, here from the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC).

The space agency also said the satellite is healthy and operating nominally. The next manoeuvre is scheduled for September 5, 2023, around 03:00 hrs IST.

"Aditya L1 Mission: The satellite is healthy and operating nominally. The first Earth-bound manoeuvre (EBN#1) is performed successfully from ISTRAC, Bengaluru. The new orbit attained is 245km x 22459 km. The next manoeuvre (EBN#2) is scheduled for September 5, 2023, around 03:00 Hrs. IST," ISRO said in an update on X, formerly Twitter.

Aditya L1 was launched Saturday from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The mission aims to study the outer atmosphere of the sun by placing India's first solar observatory at the Sun-Earth L1 point. L1 stands for Lagrange point 1, where the spacecraft would be stationed at.

The satellite started generating power after the solar panels were deployed. According to ISRO, Aditya L1 will stay approximately 1.5 million km away from Earth, directed towards the Sun, which is about one per cent of the Earth-Sun distance. It will neither land on the Sun nor approach it any closer.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Increased intake of multivitamins may up cancer risk

**L**ove to mindlessly pop multivitamin pills, without any proven deficiency? Beware, you may be at an increased risk of cancer, warns a study.

The study led by a team from the Karolinska Institute in Sweden showed that Vitamin C and other antioxidants stimulate the formation of new blood vessels in lung cancer tumours.

The discovery, published in The Journal of Clinical Investigation, corroborates the idea that dietary supplements containing antioxidants can accelerate tumour growth and metastasis. However, the risk is only when taken in excess amounts.

"We've found that antioxidants activate a mechanism that causes cancer tumours to form new blood vessels, which

is surprising, since it was previously thought that antioxidants have a protective effect," said study leader Martin Bergo, Professor at the Department of Biosciences and Nutrition at Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

"The new blood vessels nourish the tumours and can help them grow and spread," Bergo added.

Antioxidants neutralise free oxygen radicals, which can damage the body, and are therefore commonly found in dietary supplements. But overly high doses can be harmful.

"There's no need to fear antioxidants in normal food but most people don't need additional amounts of them," Bergo said.

"In fact, it can be harmful for cancer patients and people with an elevated cancer risk."



**We've found that antioxidants activate a mechanism that causes cancer tumours to form new blood vessels, which is surprising, since it was previously thought that antioxidants have a protective effect**

MARTIN BERGO | PROFESSOR AT KAROLINSKA INSTITUTE IN SWEDEN

Prof. Bergo's research group has previously shown that antioxidants like vitamin C and E accelerate the growth and spread of lung cancer by stabilising a protein called BACH1.

BACH1 is activated when the level of free oxygen radicals drops, which happens, for example, when extra antioxidants are introduced via the diet or when spontaneous mutations in the tumour cells activate endogenous antioxidants.

Now the researchers have been able to show that the activation of BACH1 induces the formation of new blood vessels (angiogenesis).

While low oxygen levels (hypoxia) are known to be required for angiogenesis to occur in cancer tumours, the

new mechanism identified by the researchers demonstrates that tumours can form new blood vessels in the presence of normal oxygen levels as well.

The study also shows that BACH1 is regulated in a similar way as the HIF-1alpha protein – a mechanism that was awarded the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and that allows cells to adapt to changes in oxygen levels. HIF-1 alpha and BACH1 work together in the tumours, the new research showed.

"Many clinical trials have evaluated the efficacy of angiogenesis inhibitors, but the results have not been as successful as anticipated," said Ting Wang, doctoral student in Professor Bergo's group at Karolinska Institute. IANS

# HEAVY RAINFALL LIKELY FOR NEXT FIVE DAYS: IMD



Deogarh, Bargarh, Angul, Dhenakani, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Boudh, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nawarangpur, Kalahandi, Raygada, and Sonepur.

Similarly, heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20cm) is very likely to occur Wednesday at isolated places over the districts of Koraput, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, and Nabarangpur. Heavy rainfall (7 to 11cm) is very likely to occur at isolated places over the districts of Khurda, Puri, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Sambalpur, Angul, Sonepur, Boudh, Bargarh, Raygada, Bolangir, Nuapada, Ganjam and Gajapati.

Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at isolated places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Bargarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Malkangiri, Koraput, Raygada, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Sonepur, and Boudh.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20cm) is very likely to occur at isolated places over the districts of Malakangiri, Koraput, and Nabarangpur. Heavy rainfall (7 to 11cm) is very likely to occur at isolated places over the districts of Gajapati, Ganjam, Raygada, Nuapada, Kandhamal, Puri, Khurda, and Kalahandi.

during the next five days. Thunderstorms with lightning activity are also very likely during the next two days and it is advised to take safe shelter during thunderstorm activity to protect from lightning.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20cm) is very likely to occur Monday in isolated places over the districts of Angul, Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Boudh, and Kandhamal. Heavy rainfall (7 to 11cm) is very likely to occur at isolated places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Sonepur, Malkangiri, Koraput, and Nabarangpur.

Thunderstorm with lightning are very likely to occur Tuesday at isolated places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur,

The current meteorological features indicate that fairly light to moderate rainfall activity with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely over Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 3:** India Meteorological Department (IMD) regional centre Sunday issued Yellow warning for next five days. It said that due to prevalent monsoon trough and cyclonic circulation, a low pressure area is likely to form over the northwest and adjoining west-central BoB during the next 48 hours.

In its evening bulletin, the IMD regional centre said, "The monsoon trough at mean sea level continues to run along the foothills of the Himalayas. The cyclonic circulation over north-east Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood persists and now extends up to 5.8 km above mean sea level.

The current meteorological features indicate that fairly light to moderate rainfall activity with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely over Odisha



**BOOK RELEASE:** Sujit Mahapatra of Bakul Foundation releasing the book 'Ajira Dina Mora' by BMC Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange at an event in Satya Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Sunday

## Induction event held for Utkal PG students

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 3:** Post Graduate Department of Public Administration here at Utkal University organised an 'induction programme' for students joining the department to pursue Masters in Public Administration.

During the inaugural address, former NALCO (HR) executive



director spoke about leadership and human resources, saying, "Resource management is crucial because having resources is not enough, you need to manage them properly for maximum output."

Management is key to performance evaluation and last but not the least, there's nothing like failure, so you should better replace it in your vocabulary with feedback, he added. In his speech, he urged everyone to follow the 5D principle of

dream, desire, dedication, direction and discipline to achieve success in life.

Head of department Pratima Sarangi of presided over the meeting. Professor Padmalaya Mahapatra and assistant professor Jyotirmayee Tudu spoke during the programme with assistant professor Hemanta Kumar Dash delivering the welcome address.

## Bhub FLO holds general body meet

**Bhubaneswar:** FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) Bhubaneswar hosted the second general body meeting of FICCI FLO during which it signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with Common Services Centres (CSC), KIIT Technology and Business Incubator (TBI), Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster (BCKIC) and Sri Sri University.

## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

**BHAGBATA PATRA, S/o** Late Krishna Chandra Patra resident of Ward No.15, At- Dolamandap Sahi, Shyamakunja Lane, Post- Puri, Dist.- Puri, Pin- 752001, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.261 dated 02.09.2023 that now onwards I shall be known as BHAGBATA PATRA for all future purposes.

**I, Gunamani Mallia, S/o** Late Bihari Mallia, resident of Kapileswar Dandasahi, P.O.- Bhubaneswar-2, P.S.- Shree Lingaraj, Dist.- Khordha, Pin- 751002, Odisha declare that now onwards I shall be known as Gunamani Mallia for all purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Executive Magistrate, Nabarangpur, Odisha dated 21.08.2023 I, Miss. Sabnam Taranum Bano, D/o- Saikh Wazir Mahammad, Gadabaguda, Nabarangpur, P.O./P.S./Dist.- Nabarangpur, Odisha, Pin- 764059 have changed name from Taranum Bano to Sabnam Taranum Bano. Henceforth, I shall be known as Sabnam Taranum Bano for all purpose.

# 'Potential in tourism to be tapped'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 3:** "OTDC has been the change agent since the time the nation was grappling with pandemic. The corporation aims to promote the huge untapped potential in the travel and tourism sector." OTDC Director Sachin Ramchandra Jadhav said while speaking at an event organised to celebrate the corporation's 44th Foundation Day at Panthanivas in City Sunday.

The event was held at the Kalinga Convention Hall in OTDC Panthanivas in presence of senior officials from department of Tourism and OTDC, bloggers and social media influencers, members from the tourism and travel fraternity of the state and media personnel.

OTDC Chairman Lenin Mohanty said, "Over the years, OTDC has not only promoted tourism but has also contributed significantly to the state's economy by creating employment opportunities and boosting state's businesses. It has played a pivotal role in preserving our cultural heritage and natural beauty, making Odisha a jewel in India's tourism crown."

On this occasion, the OTDC flag was hoisted followed by a



plantation drive. The dignitaries inaugurated 12 newly renovated rooms of Panthanivas which was made open for public booking.

As part of the Foundation Day celebrations, the best-performing units of OTDC which excelled in the last financial year were awarded by the manage-

ment of the Corporation. Panthanivas Puri was adjudged the best performing accommodation unit (more than 30 rooms) and Panthanivas Gopalpur was awarded the best performing accommodation unit (up to 30 rooms). Nimantran Bhubaneswar bagged the best performing transport unit award.

## OTDC 'NIMANTRAN' CELEBRATES 2ND ANNIVERSARY



**Bhubaneswar:** 'Nimantran' Restaurant, the epitome of Odia culinary excellence celebrated its second anniversary Sunday at Janpath in City outlet in presence of OTDC Chairman Lenin Mohanty. For the past two years, Nimantran has been a culinary destination, delighting patrons with the rich and diverse flavors of Odisha. "We are thrilled to mark this significant milestone in our journey. Our commitment to preserving and promoting the essence of Odia cuisine has been unwavering, and we are grateful for the love and support we've received from our patrons," said Mohanty. On this occasion, a cake was cut in presence OTDC officials as well as guests. Divn. Manager (Finance) Abhijit Swain, Divn. Manager (Marketing) Prashant Panda, Divn. Manager (Personnel) Alok Mishra, Divn. Manager (Transport) Ranjan Mishra, Superintending Engineer Sunil Behera, Executive Chef of Nimantran Sanjoy Sarkar and Manager Chittaranjan Mallick were present in the programme.

## KISS students pay gratitude to CM

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 3:** Fifty-five KISS students who have won the 'sports incentive' provided each year by the state government for outstanding performance in various disciplines expressed their deepest gratitude to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Sunday.

Felicitating the students, KIIT & KISS founder Achyuta Samanta said that the Chief Minister has always supported and encouraged sports and sportspersons in the state, which has led to Odisha producing several national and international level sporting talents. He further said, "Students of KIIT and KISS have brought glory to the state with their stellar performances at national and international sport-

ing events. The Chief Minister has always encouraged students of KISS to excel in sports and students of KIIT and KISS deeply admire his support for the institute."

Odisha is among the only states in India to spend maximum amounts of money towards promotion of sportspersons, Samanta said, encouraging the students to continue playing sports with determination and concentration to achieve success at the national and international levels.

This year, KIIT student Swasti Singh has been awarded 'the Biju Patnaik Sports Award' on the National Sports Day. A total of 388 sportspersons have been bestowed with 'sports incentive,' out of which 55 students are from KISS alone. Out of 55 students, 41 are from KISS rugby.



# Antarctic ice shelves thinner than previously thought: Study

**A**s global ice dams begin to weaken due to warming temperatures, a new study suggests that prior attempts to evaluate the mass of the huge floating ice shelves that line the Antarctic ice sheet may have overestimated their thickness.

The research, published in the Journal of Glaciology, is the first large-scale study of its kind to compare ice shelf thickness data from ice-penetrating radar measurements to thickness data estimated from contemporary surface elevation measurements.

By juxtaposing vast datasets of 20 of the 300 total separate ice shelf systems that surround

about 75 per cent of the Antarctic ice sheet, researchers from The Ohio State University found that on average, the Antarctic ice shelves are nearly 6 per cent thinner than previous studies had assumed, a difference of about 17 metres.

This may seem like a small shift in scale, but typical ice shelves can be anywhere from 50 to 600 metres thick.

The study said that while prior assumptions about the ice shelves' thickness were correct on a large scale, their accuracy varied greatly on a small scale, such as for individual structures like valleys or crevasses that are either too narrow or too



small to be measured accurately. Yet as ice shelves play a large role in stabilising the Antarctic

ice sheet as well as Earth's complex climate system, getting an accurate estimation of their size

is essential for calculating how their melt could contribute to sea level rise, said lead author Allison Chartrand, from the University.

"Because the Antarctic ice sheet is so big, a 1 per cent mis-estimation in how fast it's melting could mean inches or feet of sea level rise that we're not accounting for," she said. "So it's really important to be as accurate as we can."

Even the most minute changes to Antarctica's ice shelves could pose a significant threat to coastal communities, Chartrand said, as a few inches of significantly displaced ice shelf could cause thicker ice to flow into the ocean

and potentially cause some coastlines to retreat several feet.

One of the largest discrepancies the study found was that the assumptions used to estimate ice shelf thickness in previous research sometimes exaggerated ice shelf thickness in some areas, and at other times understated it, said Chartrand.

Overall, the study concludes that more abundant and accurate data is needed to enable better predictions of ice shelf loss in Antarctica, as the ultimate goal of their work is to improve observations of the processes that contribute to sea level rise, she noted.

## FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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

MoU ON COASTAL SECURITY TURNS 1 YEAR

# Kendrapara coast remains vulnerable

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Sept 3:** In a bid to protect the coastlines and strengthen the saline embankments, the state Water Resources department had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) August 10 last year.

A year has since passed but the state government is yet to take up any work on the project especially in Kendrapara district which has a long coastline. The MoU aimed at creation of climate change resistant coastline and protection of saline embankments by 2026 was signed by Engineer-In-Chief Bijay Kumar Mishra and NIOT Director GA Ramdas in the presence of state Water Resources minister Tukuni Sahu.

The district which has a 744.37-km long saline coastline stretching from Dhamra seamouth to Batigarh is prone to natural calamities like floods, cyclonic storms and tsunami. There is an urgent need to protect the coastline which divides the hinterland from the sea. Water from the sea and rivers enter into as many as 455 villages in the district during natural calamities as the coastline is lying unprotected.

The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences has been sanctioning



■ Kendrapara district's 744.37-km long saline coastline stretching from Dhamra seamouth to Batigarh is prone to natural calamities like floods, cyclonic storms and tsunami

■ As many as 455 villages situated along the coastline in the district get impacted severely during natural calamities as the coastline is lying unprotected

■ The CAG in his report from 2015-2020 which was submitted to the President had expressed serious concern over the increasing natural calamities the district has been facing

funds for the protection of coastlines. Moreover, an environment protection law has been formulated in 1986 for protection of the environment in the area. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) has also been identified thrice in 1991, 2011 and 2019 and notifications have been issued in this regard.

However, despite all the measures in place, the coastlines of Kendrapara, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Ganjam districts are not secured. The Comptroller and Auditor General in his report from 2015-2020 which was submitted to the President had expressed serious concern

over the increasing natural calamities in the district.

The CAG had expressed displeasure that no serious concern is being shown towards the increasing frequency of natural calamities and said in its report that despite funds being spent, benefit is missing.

According to the CAG report, the coastlines have become industrial estates where industries have come up during these years. Moreover, prawn gheries have mushroomed and human habitats have been spreading which are the other reasons behind the destruction of the coastlines.

This has pushed the em-

bankments and coastal environment under threat. The State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) was handed over ₹2.17 crore funds in between 2013 to 2015 for establishment of 19 laboratories to monitor the environment on the coastlines from Paradip to Dhamra. The SPCB is required to collect details on the changing environmental conditions on the coastlines through these laboratories.

However, it is yet to complete the work on these laboratories and consequently lagging behind in monitoring the air and water quality on the coastlines. It was claimed that 228 hectare of mangrove forest cover has been created under Rajnagar forest division and Puri wildlife division. However, only up to 35 per cent of mangrove forests were found in the area during a probe.

Similarly, a geo-synthetic tube wall was constructed at an expense of ₹33 crore at Pentha beach in Kendrapara to check soil erosion on the coastline. However, the wall has failed to serve any purpose as rocks and boulders have washed into the sea after tumbling out of the gabion box. The state government had even spent ₹4.65 crore for the protection of the geo tube wall in 2018 and an additional ₹3.28 crore after it caught fire in August, 2019.



**PITTABLE CONDITION:** Women of ward no. 10 under Sadashivpur panchayat in Odapada block of Dhenkanal district Sunday digging pits on Brahmani riverbed to fetch drinking water after the electric transformer in the area developed snags. The villagers have also stopped going to Brahmani river for water after the Forest department warned people not to venture into the river owing to crocodile menace

OP PHOTO

## Surat Police nabs duo for theft of sculptures

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Udala, Sept 3:** Surat Police arrested two persons from Mayurbhanj district Sunday for allegedly stealing a sculpture from a Jain temple at Surat in Gujarat.

The accused were identified as Chandan Kumar Mallick, 24, and Trinath Murmu, 16, of Siripur village under this police limit in Mayurbhanj district.

As per reports, the accused duo was working as labourers at a Jain temple where renovation was underway under Umra police station limits in Surat. A sculpture was reportedly stolen from the temple and a written complaint in this regard was registered at Umra police station.

During investigation, police came to know about the accused duo after verifying the CCTV cameras of the temple. As the accused duo absconded from Surat and returned with the sculpture to their native Siripur after the incident, Surat police reached their village and arrested them.

Police faced stiff resistance from Siripur villagers when they



**The accused duo was working as labourers at a Jain temple where renovation was underway under Umra police station limits in Surat**

went to arrest the duo. Later, with the help of the local police, the accused duo were arrested by the Surat police.

After arrest minor Trinath Murmu was sent to the juvenile home whereas the main accused Chandan Kumar Mallick was taken to Surat for further investigation. As per reports the stolen sculpture laced with pearls was worth more than ₹7 lakh.

## Minor killed in road accident

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Nilagiri, Sept 3:** In a tragic incident, a 14-year-old boy died in a road accident at Lingeswar Chowk under this police limit in Balasore district Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Manoj Kumar Das, son of Lakshminarayan Das of Gop village under Shyamsundarpur panchayat in this district.

Reports said, Manoj who was studying in Class-IX was standing near a shop at Lingeswar Bazar Saturday evening when a speeding Bolero coming from Soro side rammed into Manoj so hard that he was flung on the road.

Both his hands and legs got fractured and he received severe injury on his chest in the accident.

Locals rushed him to Nilagiri hospital but as his condition deteriorated, he was then shifted to Cuttack. However, he succumbed to his severe injuries on the way to Cuttack.

Later police seized the Bolero from the spot. A pall of gloom has descended in the area after the untimely death of Manoj, who was a bright student.

## Body fished out of pond

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhadrak, Sept 3:** The body of a man identified as Batakrushna Munda, 48, was fished out of a pond Saturday night at Parabandha village under Agarapada police limits in Bhadrak district.

It is suspected that Batakrushna slipped while going to the nearby Durgamandap pond and drowned in it. Villagers spotted his floating body at around 9 o'clock in the night and informed police. Informed, Agarapada PS IIC Amit Kumar Bhuyan reached the spot and recovered the body from the pond with the help of the fire brigade personnel. A case of unnatural death was registered and the body was sent to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) Bhadrak for post-mortem.

## YOUTH HELD FOR RAPE OF MINOR

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Baripada, Sept 3:** Police Sunday arrested a youth on charge of raping a minor girl under Baripada Sadar police limits in Mayurbhanj district.

The accused was identified as Budhiram Singh, 27, of Shamakhunta block in the district. Later, police took Singh and the survivor to the hospital and conducted medical examinations on them. A case was registered in this connection and the accused produced in the court.

The incident occurred when the survivor was home alone as her family was away over some work. Singh barged into her house and raped her, August 31 afternoon. The girl narrated her ordeal after her family members returned home. The police action came after the girl's family members lodged a complaint.

## Monsoon bird census begins at Bhitarkanika

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapada, Sept 3:** A five-day long monsoon bird census kick started at Kanika forest range under Bhitarkanika National Park from Sunday.

The forest officials started the census by forming four teams at three places within Kanika forest range under Rajnagar mangrove forest and wildlife division.

The census is being carried out at Laxmiprasad Dia, Durgaprasad Dia and Mathadia heronries, Manas Kumar Das, ranger of Kanika forest range said. He said this year 10 out of 11 types of monsoon birds



have thronged Bhitarkanika and formed nests.

Basically 11 types of local birds throng Bhitarkanika for nesting and breeding during the monsoon. Open bill stork, Little cormorant, Intermediate Egret, Large Egret, Little Egret, Purple Heron, Grey Heron, Night Heron, Darter, White Ibis and Cattle

Egret use mangroves for constructing nests in the trees of Guan, Bani, Choranda, Keruaun and Oruan trees. Mathadia heronry seems to be the favourite nesting and breeding place for these monsoon birds for the last couple of years. Each team consists of five forest personnel, informed official sources.



**ELEPHANT GOD:** An artisan applying white primer to a 20-feet Ganesh idol before applying colours at Fatak area in Sambalpur, Saturday as Ganesh Puja draws near

OP PHOTO

## Rourkela denizens blame RMC for unclean city

**ROURKELA'S RANK IN THE LAST YEAR'S SWACHH SURVEKSHAN WAS 57 AMONG 372 CITIES**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Sept 3:** At a time when this year's Swachh Survekshan is being carried out, residents here feel that such a survey has no meaning as they blamed the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) for failing to maintain cleanliness.

Notably, Rourkela's rank in

the last year's Swachh Survekshan, the world's largest urban sanitation and cleanliness survey, was 57 among the 372 Indian cities.

"This is a big farce. I hold the RMC responsible for making Rourkela dirty. For the last couple of days, the sludge cleaned from a manhole in front of my house is still lying there. It is the duty of the RMC to clean that immediately after cleaning," said a woman at Koel Nagar. She added, "Dry sludge enters home when the wind blows. Are we all paying taxes for this?"

A senior citizen at Civil Township made another interesting observation in this regard. "Look at the construction sites and you will understand. As long as work is going on the area

remains dirty. After work is over, the leftover materials and dug earth are not removed. Is it cleanliness?" he asked expressing disappointment.

In another observation, Sudesh Babu, a schoolboy at Basanti Colony who catches school bus near one of the dustbins kept on the roadside, said, "The bins are not cleaned regularly and one usually finds stray dogs or cows salvaging food from these bins while spilling the dirt on the road." Sometimes it becomes impossible to stand near the bins because of bad odour. RMC should do something in this regard, he said.

RMC, during the period of Dibyajyoti Parida had made a rule that no construction material or debris should be left in



front of any house after work is over. This was followed in letter and spirit for a while and this drive stopped. "So, contractors flouting this rule are punishable. Is the municipality doing anything in this regard," asked one Mahesh Sharma at Chhend.

Similar sentiments were in abundance when **Orissa POST** interacted with residents.

When this was brought to the notice of RMC deputy commissioner Sudhansu Bhoi, he accepted that he had received such complaints from different sources. "It has already been discussed and soon you will see action being undertaken by RMC to make the city clean and green. We aim to achieve a better rank in this year's survey," he said.

## ROLE REVERSAL Former women ultras now fight Red rebels

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Malkangiri, Sept 3:** Former women ultras who worked for long years in various Maoist outfits have been given new charge to participate in counter insurgency operations against the Red rebels in neighbouring Chhattisgarh bordering this district, a report said Sunday.

The former female cadres after getting disillusioned with the Maoist ideology and outfits have surrendered before police from time to time expressing their wish to join the mainstream. Realising their potential, Chhattisgarh Police decided to use their services and inducted them in the District Reserve Guard (DRG), a front-line anti-Maoist force and a specially-raised squad for anti-Maoist operations by Chhattisgarh Police.

The women ultras trained with proper and extensive forest combat have become powerful commandos and are taking the lead role in anti-Maoist operations now. The women commandos of the DRG in Chhattisgarh can be seen holding AK-47 rifles ready to carry out offensives matching shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts.

These women commandos have been given three months of advanced in-house training in jungle warfare tactics. They are trained for motorcycle patrolling in the dense forests, map reading, understanding Maoist profiles and counter ambush strategy, the report said.

With their prior experience, all of them are well acquainted

with the densely forested terrain and the local language which are key factors in the fight against Maoists.

Among them, there is a fearless woman commando nicknamed as Sumitra by parents in her childhood. Sumitra, a resident of Bijapur district on the fringes of Malkangiri district was involved with a Maoist outfit for long years. She took part in major offensives in Sukma, Dantewada and Bijapur districts. She was an active member of Dandakaranya Maoist outfit for 10 long years and had worked as a close associate of top Maoist leader Hidma.

She, however, decided to join the mainstream after receiving a handwritten letter of her brother, who is a CRPF jawan. She surrendered before the Bijapur police in 2020 and later, was inducted as a woman commando in DRG. She has been assigned major tasks in the counter insurgency operations.

Sumitra is not the lone woman to be inducted into DRG. Rajkumari and Mamata are two other women commandos who surrendered before Chhattisgarh police and have been inducted as women commandos in the DRG.

The DRG group has over 75 women commandos which include the former women Maoists. Confirming the development, Bijapur SP Anjane Barnoi said there are also 125 women commandos who have been engaged in various camps of security forces in Maoist hit areas of Chhattisgarh.



OP PHOTO



It is not God who made man wicked. It is man who makes himself wicked by separating himself from God.

THE MOTHER



## Not One

Surprise, stunt and secrecy have characterised the style of functioning of the current national BJP leadership. The same trick is being tried once again in the name of introduction of a system of "One Nation, One Election" at the fag end of the present Lok Sabha when preparations for the 2024 polls are already underway. Since the disastrous demonetization, the BJP government has been producing from its hat one policy or the other in a secretive and dramatic fashion only to wreak havoc with the country's economy and social fabric. The sudden implementation of lockdown at the start of COVID-19 and the inept handling of the pandemic itself had brought untold suffering to people at the time, betraying a deep disconnect of the government with the people.

That the government is not serious about the whole exercise of simultaneous Parliamentary and Assembly elections is becoming clear from the pronouncements of the Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi. The ruling party could use it for electoral purposes to divert people's attention from the government's disappointing performance, price hike of essential commodities and disclosures of corruption.

The idea of simultaneous elections is not new and has been advocated by the BJP government and PM Modi several times in the past as well. The just formed Committee to go into the theory of One Nation, One Election, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, will be the fourth to examine the idea. Earlier, the Law Commission, NITI Aayog, and a Parliamentary Standing Committee also examined the matter and no conclusive decision had been reached since important legislative changes and constitutional amendments are to be effected, apart from the need of taking all political parties on board. That is a near impossibility for the present government. In that context, the legitimate question that arises is why the government has mooted the proposal when its term is coming to an end. Also to be considered is the appointment of a former President of the Union to work for a political goal. No other previous President, as far as one can remember, had been offered or had accepted such a responsibility. This downgrades the stature of the Rashtrapati for sure.

In fact, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister himself said that once the Committee comes up with a report, it will be put in the public domain to be followed by a discussion at different levels, including the Parliament. One may wonder if there will be enough time for all those steps before the 2024 election. The Minister's assertion that "There is nothing to be nervous about" also sounds suspicious.

He did not say who was getting nervous. On the other hand, the Opposition has slammed the government instead and said the BJP is "nervous" after their alliance INDIA has started finalising its electoral strategy and programs. Opposition leaders have levelled the charge that the government has suddenly called the special five-day Parliamentary session to be held from September 18 and then announced the Committee to examine the feasibility of holding simultaneous elections to distract the people's attention from their new alliance.

The idea of simultaneous elections is not new. The first few post-independence Lok Sabha elections were indeed held simultaneously with the state Legislative Assembly elections. That is why it was termed 'General' Election. The practice continued up till 1966. Political awareness and differing aspirations at the grassroots levels changed that situation and states started to move away from one single party to multiple parties. Due to premature dissolution of some state Assemblies, the system of simultaneous elections got disrupted of its own volition. In August 2018, the Law Commission of India, in its draft report on this subject, noted that simultaneous elections cannot be held within the existing framework of the Constitution as appropriate amendments to the Constitution, the Representation of the Peoples Act 1951, and the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies will have to be made.

All these developments suggest the momentous issue cannot be decided overnight or in just one special Parliamentary Session. Knowing it well, the Centre has made this stunning announcement. Practical points are not being discussed. For example, the Election Commission, as of now, has about 12 lakh Electronic Voting Machines and equal number of VVPATs. Simultaneous elections would require about 25 lakh of each of these gadgets. That would be an expensive and time-consuming move.

Ostensibly, the high cost involved in holding elections at different times is being touted as a reason for supporting the idea of One Election. A close examination of the way state and Central governments are often formed before the expiry of their terms due to internal wrangling and breakaway groups toppling one government and forming another will make simultaneous elections a mockery of democracy. The BJP itself is often accused of engineering such defections and fall of governments. History proves that in the past, the BJP led NDA had dissolved the Lok Sabha and gone for early Parliament elections.

In such a situation, the plan of mooring simultaneous elections could be prompted by the BJP's under confidence that its current mascot, PM Modi, may not be able to clinch the required figure all by himself after a decade of governance where not much can be shown as achievements. The Moon landing and voyages to the Sun may fail to catch the poor Indians' imagination. As they say 'A hungry man is an angry man'. For BJP strategists that hunger may be met not by bread but by imaginary glory. The party's recent rout in Karnataka, the possibility of defeat in the coming elections to Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Chhattisgarh and the new disclosures of corrupt practices by the Adani business group, may have convinced the BJP leadership that victory in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections may not be a done and dusted thing, as some are trying to project. The possibility of losing one or few of the important states which are slated to be going for polls in November 2023 might also be a reason for hurrying up with the One Nation One Election agenda. The wish for these state elections to get postponed might be stemming from the ruling party's fear of the results impacting Lok Sabha polls negatively.

The main plank of the BJP is that a simultaneous election to Lok Sabha and all state Assemblies will help save money of the state exchequer. This argument is far from truth as the cost of all arrangements including security bandobust, polling station numbers and preparations, staff, transport and everything else would remain the same. Only difference could be that the expenses, which are now staggered, would come together if elections are held at one time.

Let it be assumed that BJP is successful in conducting simultaneous elections this time around. Then would come the perplexing situation of any House, Assembly or Lok Sabha, not coming up with a clear mandate favoring one political party and resulting in a situation where Governor's rule (in a state) or dissolution would be the only way out. What happens then would be a critical poser. Most importantly, for a healthy democracy to have intermittent elections which act as progress reports for showing the nation what the parties have achieved in regard to their poll promises is vital. Otherwise, a 5-year tenure of any House without checks and balances would result in arbitrariness in policies and programs detrimental to people's interests.

Just as Panchayat (Rural) and Urban Local Body (Municipality) elections keep a State government on its toes, so also Assembly elections at different times keep the Union government alert and responsive.

The idea of One Nation One Election is undemocratic, impractical and anti-people and must be unequivocally opposed.



Kaushik Basu

A MORE STABLE, PROSPEROUS FUTURE DEPENDS ON THE CHOICES INDIA MAKES TODAY

The chaos and cacophony of bazaars have a life-affirming quality. In fact, the marketplace – with all its exchanges, wrangling, and camaraderie – has shaped human society from the very beginning. So, it should not be surprising that anthropologists often turn to marketplaces in their efforts to understand distant cultures. It is certainly a good way to glean insights into modern India.

Walking through a Delhi bazaar last week, chatting with friendly shopkeepers and roadside merchants and reveling in the warm glow of traditional India, it was impossible not to feel optimistic about the country's prospects. This is not a place where one turns to their mobile phone to answer a question or guide them to their desired destination. Simply ask for the information you need, and several locals rush to provide it.

In my case, that exercise led me down a narrow lane lined by buildings bearing torn posters and peeling paint – the impression was that of a Raoul Dufy sketch – toward a local photo studio to get a new headshot. When I stepped through the door, the ample store-owner – who, with two assistants and no work, had been listening to melodious Vedic chants – gave a broad grin and asked if I wanted to have a "lovely" photograph taken. Before I could respond, his assistants were preparing the scene: setting up the camera, arranging the lights, adjusting the screen behind me, and tilting my head by my chin "to get the best angle."

A few clicks later, the three gathered to scrutinise the results, and kept looking at my face and the photograph. "I think we can make it better looking," one assistant said (presumably referring to the photograph). "Perhaps I should put in more hair," the other assistant suggested. "Do you want to replace the plain white backdrop with the skyline of New York or

FOCUS NATION

# BIGOTRY & CRONYISM



The biggest cause for concern is the deteriorating political environment: the erosion of democracy, the rise of cronyism, and the heightened sense of insecurity among minority groups

London?" the owner asked me. I explained, to their disappointment, that the passport office would throw me out if I handed them a photograph of me standing in front of the Statue of Liberty with a head full of fake hair. A basic headshot would do just fine.

It was a brief encounter, but one that brought me back to the time when I lived and worked in India. To me, in that photo studio – and, indeed, throughout my visit – there was a sense that time had stood still, in the best possible way. At the same time, however, there was something just a bit off about it – a current of anxiety beneath the surface.

India is at a crossroads. There are undoubtedly factors working in its favour. In some areas, India's economy has performed well. This is reflected in strong economic growth in 2022-23. As a large emerging economy, India is well-positioned to capitalise on fraying relations between the United States and China.

But the true picture is not as rosy as it might seem. Recall that, in 2020-21, India's economy, still recovering from an unwarranted demonetization,

contracted by 7% as a result of a poorly executed pandemic lockdown, making it one of the world's worst-performing economies. As a result, from 2020 to 2023, India's average annual growth turned out to be less than 4%, which is not bad for a time of global economic turmoil, but far less impressive than recent figures, and the slogans and headlines, suggest.

Furthermore, the benefits of this growth are going almost entirely to the rich. Young people are struggling to earn a decent income, and youth unemployment exceeded 23% last year. That is worse than 120 of the 176 countries for which the World Bank provides data. Jobs in the manufacturing sector are disappearing, leaving the agricultural sector employing a growing share of the workforce. Small businesses are struggling. High food-price inflation is further squeezing the middle and lower-middle classes. And private investment, as measured by gross fixed capital formation by the private sector, has declined significantly, from consistently more than 25% of GDP in 2005-13 to less than 20% in

2020-21. Confidence about the future is clearly waning.

But the biggest cause for concern is the deteriorating political environment: the erosion of democracy, the rise of cronyism, and the heightened sense of insecurity among minority groups. These trends fly in the face of the values and principles on which independent India was founded and globally admired. While the country did occasionally slip up over the years, its commitment to inclusion and democracy had few parallels in the developing world.

Cronyism, in particular, is self-reinforcing. In countries where it is rampant, international actors realise that they can cut some of their best deals (from their point of view), because they must please only the wealthiest and a few leaders. Whether a deal is good – or even neutral – for the rest of society is irrelevant.

Add religious discrimination to this and you have a formula for long-run economic decline. Pakistan had a higher per capita income than India until 2004. But the combination of cronyism and religious fundamentalism weakened the Pakistani economy's fundamentals, and India quickly pulled far ahead.

In the bazaars and beyond, the sense of unease is palpable. But conversations with a cross-section of people – from market sellers to university students and even government bureaucrats – suggest a growing awareness of the harm that religious bigotry and cronyism can do to a country. That provides grounds for hope. A more stable, prosperous future depends on the choices India makes today.

The writer, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India, is Professor of Economics at Cornell University.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM PERSONAL FINANCE

## Preparing for a critical life skill



Sourajeet Pradhani

IN THE EDUCATION CURRICULUM ACROSS THE GLOBE, FINANCIAL LITERACY AS A DISTINCT SUBJECT IS RARELY TAUGHT

Personal finance plays a major role in all our lives.

Without financial planning and setting financial goals, we would end up nowhere. This is precisely the reason as to why financial education is essential for children. If children are able to comprehend or at least relate to the basic fundamentals of personal finance in our day-to-day lives, it would help them to understand the importance of financial planning as they grow up. They themselves would set financial goals for their future.

Financial literacy is the ability to take sound financial decisions. Such decisions can be like budgeting, saving, and investing. Since financial planning and setting financial goals are predominantly done by parents, then what is the need for children to learn about financial literacy? The young minds of children are active and can absorb a lot of information. All the things that we have learnt in school, we still remember them vividly. Hence financial literacy at a young age can help children develop this critical life skill. They may not be ready for the technical part of finance, but they would definitely grasp the basics and

build upon it.

Another huge advantage of incorporating financial education in the minds of children is to build strong habits at a young age. Habits, by nature, are difficult to let go. When we form a habit, our brain releases "dopamine." It enhances the feeling of happiness and pleasure, which further strengthens the habit.

Going through the lives of successful entrepreneurs like Steve Jobs or Mark Zuckerberg one will notice that these visionaries realised the value and importance of money at a very young age and worked upon it. Hence financial literacy and entrepreneurship are two sides of the same coin.

In the education curriculum across the globe, financial literacy as a distinct subject is rarely taught. Concepts such as coding, blockchain technology, are incorporated in the curriculum, but not financial literacy. Mathematical concepts like Pythagoras Theorem and trigonometry are taught to children, which may not be useful to them in their daily lives.

The schools believe that while coding and artificial intelligence enhance the probability of stu-

dents getting employed, financial education is merely a habit. But schools need to realise that financial education will also lead to employment opportunities in financial analysis, investment banking and credit analysis.

Certain educational institutes still consider discussion on money matters to be a taboo and against their ethos. But with a rapidly changing entrepreneurial ecosystem, the education curriculum must adapt to the change.

Talking to children about financial education doesn't have to be a serious conversation. The best way to explain to children is through stories and relating those stories to our everyday lives. Slowly, it becomes a part of the value system of the family and a part of the child's personality.

As a starting point, one can start with concepts like "needs vs wants." This will make them understand the value of money and prevent them from unnecessary spending. The second concept which can be discussed is the habit of saving. Saving doesn't imply keeping money aside in a piggy bank, it should be linked to short-term and long-

term financial goals. A simple example can be saving money to buy an anniversary gift for one's parents.

For teenagers, understanding the basics of investing is the fundamental objective. The source of income can vary from the prize money to cordial gestures from relatives. Such income should be invested to create wealth for their higher education.

Since financial literacy is not a part of the formal education curriculum, it is the responsibility of the family members to introduce the basic concepts to their children.

With increasing complexity in the financial decision-making process, the education system must mandate financial education in schools. Our society is undergoing a tectonic shift. Entrepreneurship, through integration of technology, is leading the way for the youth of this great country. As India embarks as the most populous country in the world, the demographic dividend must be preceded by enabling of requisite skill sets.

The writer is an investment banker.

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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### Foreign policy blunder

Sir, This refers to "The wrong expansion," Orissa POST, Sept 2. While more than 40 countries had expressed interest in joining the BRICS bloc, six were chosen in an effort to expand the interests of the Global South. For India, the presumptive leader of the emerging region, the decision to expand BRICS is a major foreign policy blunder, one that puts additional power into the hands of its regional rival China, while restricting its own. Experts have argued that BRICS has been beneficial for India, which as a multinational economic body, allows a comfortable, moderating space for both Beijing and New Delhi to talk without political distraction, even when there are security vulnerabilities ongoing for both. But, the BRICS expansion carries more risks than rewards for India, as it dilutes its standing in the organisation, while maximising China's influence through ties to countries it already has stronger partnerships with. While the repercussions of the expansion will not be felt until next year, and the shift in the world economic order might not be as large as some might predict due to currency valuations, India's status within the bloc will diminish and it will be arduous for New Delhi to balance its odd relationship with Russia, its strategic rivalry with China, and maintain its influence in an alliance that now overwhelmingly favours Beijing.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Safety first

Sir, This refers to the news "45K deaths on roads," Orissa POST Sept 2. It is indeed a matter of concern that road accidents in Odisha have of late assumed a serious proportion after the Transport Minister Tukuni Sahu disclosed the road accident statistics, which are shocking as majority of victims are youths. The Road Safety Council has been desperately trying to bring down the number of fatal accidents, but the outcome of its efforts is far from encouraging. There must be some lacking somewhere and the Council has to zero in on that aspect. Besides, Odisha is known for tourist attractions and if road accidents multiply each year, there may be some impact on tourists, which is not desirable.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

# G20 SUMMIT Delhi Police holds full dress rehearsals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: Delhi Police Sunday held full dress rehearsals for the G20 Summit, escorting carcades from different parts in the national capital, officials said.

The police advised people to follow real-time traffic updates on the 'G-20 Virtual Help Desk' for route suggestions for commuting from/to the airport, railway stations, or bus terminals.

The first rehearsal was held from 8 am to 9 am, the second one between 9.30 am and 10 am; and the last will be held from 12.30 pm to 4 pm, police said.

On Sunday, there will be regulations on the movement of traffic at Mahatma Gandhi Marg, IP Flyover, Rajghat

**The police advised people to follow real-time traffic updates on the 'G-20 Virtual Help Desk' for route suggestions for commuting from/to the airport, railway stations, or bus terminals**

Chowk, Shanti Van Chowk, Saleem Garh Bypass, Bhairon Road, Ring Road, Mathura Road, Shershah Road, C-Hexagon, roundabouts at Mansingh Road, Gol Methi, Teen Murti, Yashwanth Place, Brig Hoshiyar Singh Marg, and Tolstoy Marg. The traffic police has warned



that commuters may experience more than normal traffic on these roads and junctions, and advised them to plan their journeys in advance so that they could avoid these roads

during the specified time slots, police said. The commuters have been advised to use metro services during the rehearsal. Similarly rehearsals were held Saturday as well.

The commuters could take Ring Road, Ashram Chowk, Sarai Kale Khan, Delhi-Meerut Expressway, Noida Link Road, Pusta Road, Yudhistir Setu, ISBT Kashmiri Gate, Ring Road and Majnu Ka Tila for the north-south corridor, police said.

Passengers would be allowed to use their private vehicles, auto-rickshaws, and taxis for travelling to New Delhi and Old Delhi railway stations or the airport, police said. City bus services would remain unaffected in most parts of the national capital. However, there may be diversions on certain road stretches in the New Delhi district depending upon the real-time traffic situation, police added.

# HP imposes 2-week ban on hill cutting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 3: Hill cutting for any kind of private development and construction activity except for rebuilding disaster-affected buildings and roads have been banned in Himachal Pradesh for two weeks up to September 16, a spokesperson of the state government said.

Besides, fresh permission for planning and building construction has also been banned for commercial or tourism units in Shimla, Mandi, Kullu, Kangra, Solan and Chamba districts for two weeks.

The spokesperson said during the ongoing monsoon season, unprecedented environmental disruptions, including catastrophic landslides, land subsidence, river-bank failures and severe erosion, have been witnessed across the state, leading to the tragic loss of lives and properties.

He said the decision has been taken to ensure utmost safety

**Besides, fresh permission for planning and building construction has also been banned for commercial or tourism units in Shimla, Mandi, Kullu, Kangra, Solan and Chamba districts for two weeks**

for human lives, habitations, infrastructure and to preserve the fragile ecological environment of the hill state. The order shall come into force with immediate effect and violations will be dealt in accordance with law, the spokesperson added.

So far, 257 people have been killed in rain-related incidents in the state since the onset of monsoon June 24. Himachal Pradesh has also suffered losses of ₹8,663 crore, according to the state emergency operation centre.

# Hoteliers offer discounts to increase footfall in HP

The tourism industry in the hill state, which was in the revival process after Covid-19, received another blow as the monsoon wreaked havoc, leading to low tourist footfall



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 3: The tourism sector in Himachal Pradesh suffered losses of about ₹2,000 crore in July and August, owing to which hoteliers in the state have started offering attractive packages to get back on track.

This sector, which contributes over ₹14,000 crore annually to Himachal Pradesh's GDP, lost around ₹2,000 crore during July and August as heavy rains damaged road infrastructure -- the lifeline of the hill state -- and also cast a shadow on the already restricted air and rail connectivity, officials of the tourism department said.

About 8.24 lakh pilgrims visited Chintpurni, Sri Naina Devi, Jawalaji, Brajeshwari, Sri Baglamukhi and Chamunda Devi shrines during the Navratri from August 17 to 25, according to police data.

The pre-monsoon season, however, witnessed a surge in tourist arrival and a maximum of 1.06 crore tourists visited Himachal Pradesh during the

first six months of 2023 as compared to 86.4 lakh in the corresponding period in 2022, but the monsoon fury played the spoilsport, Kashyap added.

Meanwhile, Shimla Hotels and Tourism Stakeholders Association president M K Seth said the roads to Shimla are opened and the tourism industry is offering attractive packages with 40 to 50 per cent discounts. Seth said the situation is not as bad as portrayed in the news and on the flip side, hotel rates are discounted and traffic is less than usual.

Gajender Thakur, the president of the Federation of Himachal Hotels and Restaurant Associations, said the roads along the Beas River were washed away in Manali, but the traffic is being diverted through alternate roads.

Thakur added the association is also writing a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to defer the loans raised by the hoteliers and revoke the fixed charges of electricity and others till tourism is revived.

# GENEROSITY FLOWS TO DISASTER-HIT HIMACHAL

**THE MONSOON, THE DEADLIEST IN 50 YEARS, HAS CAUSED HUGE DAMAGE TO ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE, WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES AND BUILDINGS -- PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROPERTY**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Shimla, Sept 3: Soma Devi, a resident of Panthagathi in the suburbs of the Himachal Pradesh capital Shimla, came all through to meet Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to present him a cheque for ₹61,000, her one month pension, as a contribution towards the Chief Minister's relief fund to help disaster-hit people.

Likewise, Anvi Singh donated ₹51,000 on her 15th birthday towards the relief fund named Aapada Raahat Kosh.

The monsoon fury during the last two months caused severe devastation triggering flash floods and landslides, causing massive damage to both the public and the private property. Over 330 people lost their lives, besides livestock. To comfort the people, many individuals and organisations have come forward to help the traumatised -- directly or indirectly. The mon-



Thousands of people have come forward to lend help to the affected. As a result, a contribution of more than 163 crore has been received in the Aapada Raahat Kosh -- 2023, a government statement said Sunday. This shows the gesture of a common Himachali extending support voluntarily to the sufferers of the natural calamity that ravaged the state, and help government to make Himachal stand again.

soon, the deadliest in 50 years, has caused huge damage to road infrastructure, water supply schemes and buildings -- private and public property. The state not only took measures to rescue the stranded people amidst flashfloods but also adopted concrete steps to compensate for the losses.

With a little aid from the central government, the Chief Minister dwelt upon an idea to constitute Aapada Raahat Kosh and appealed to everyone to donate generously towards it. Since then, the contributions from all

the sections of society have started pouring in. Prominent Shaktipeeths located in the state also contributed towards the noble cause. Mata Shree Chintpurni Trust donated ₹2 crore, Shree Jawalamukhi Temple Trust ₹5 crore, besides Tara Devi Temple Trust, Sankat Mochan and other temple trusts have also contributed towards it. Various social organisations, government and non-government organisations, educational and other institutions, local bodies have also contributed for the relief fund. Also, contributions have been made on behalf of various state governments, including Rajasthan donated ₹15 crore, Karnataka ₹15 crore, Chhattisgarh ₹11 crore, Tamil Nadu ₹10 crore and Haryana ₹5 crore.

# Delhi: Revenue Minister Atishi pulls up officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: Delhi Revenue Minister Atishi has pulled up officials over the alleged non-payment of salaries to civil defence volunteers for the last several months.

Atishi has instructed the principal secretary (revenue) to release the salaries of all civil defence volunteers within a week, according to a statement issued by the Delhi government Sunday.

In the orders given to the principal secretary (revenue), the minister has stressed the need for immediate coordination with the finance department to expedite the process of disbursing salaries to the civil defence volunteers.

"It has come to my attention that despite their service in various government departments, civil defence volunteers have not received their salaries for the past several months. This situation is alarming and should be addressed immediately," she has said.

The revenue minister further said the role played by the civil defence volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic was extraordinary. They assisted millions of Delhi residents as well as supported the govern-



ment in mobilising people and delivering relief services to those in need.

Additionally, she mentioned that when the national capital faced floods recently, the role of the civil defence volunteers was of utmost importance. They worked diligently in every relief camp, delivering relief supplies to the affected people and organising facilities for them, she said.

Despite being on duty during such critical times, not releasing their salaries is not appropriate, the minister noted.

# DMRC conducts drive to stop entry of male passengers into women coaches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: Delhi Metro recently started a special drive to stop entry of male passengers into coaches reserved for women and issued penalties to violators.

The drive may be extended beyond the stipulated ten days, based on the outcomes achieved, a senior official said.

"Delhi Metro today started a special drive to stop the entry of male passengers in the coaches reserved for ladies. The drive will be jointly conducted by DMRC, CISF & DMRP from 6 pm to 10 pm on all lines of the network for the next 10 days till 10th September, 2023. #DelhiMetro," the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) said on 'X'. The quantum of penalty for a male passenger who enters a women-only coach is ₹250, the official said. "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," the Delhi Metro said on 'X' and also added pictures of the drive on its account.



Vehicles move in slow pace during traffic jam in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

# 'Delhi govt sold over 61cr liquor bottles last year'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: Under its current excise policy, the Delhi government earned more than ₹7,285 crore in the last year by selling over 61 crore liquor bottles, officials said Saturday.

The excise policy (old) currently under operation since September 1, 2022, was brought by the Delhi government after its ambitious new excise policy for 2021-22 came under the CBI scanner for alleged irregularities in its implementation.

The total excise revenue collection from September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023, was ₹7,285.15 crore, including ₹2,013.44 crore collected as value-added tax (VAT), said an Excise Department officer.

In comparison, the revenue collection from the new excise policy was ₹5,487.58 crore in 2021-22. The new excise policy, under which private parties were involved in retail liquor sales, was withdrawn by the Delhi government last year after LG VK Saxena recommended a CBI

probe into alleged irregularities in its implementation, officials said.

The then deputy CM and Excise Minister Manish Sisodia was arrested by the CBI in a case registered by it in the alleged irregularities in the excise policy 2021-22.

The excise policy was implemented November 17, 2021, and wrapped up August 2022.

The old excise policy was implemented September 1, 2022, with Delhi government agencies taking retail sale of liquor in the city.

# Poker, Rummy are games of skill: IIT Delhi study

**THE FINDINGS INDICATED THAT IN BOTH POKER AND RUMMY, SKILL VARIABLES IMPROVE AS USERS PLAY MORE GAMES**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 3: The professors of the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi), have said that card games Poker and Rummy are games of 'skill' whether it is played online or offline.

Professor Tapan K. Gandhi, Cadence Chair Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Automation along with his team recently conducted an extensive study affirming that Poker and Rummy are games of skill. The study reinforces the importance of cognitive and other skills required for success in Poker and Rummy.

It further analysed the impact of experience and learnable skills in the game and the role it play in the player's long-term success in the sport. "Throughout our research, we were presented with compelling cases that made it clear that these sports indeed require a level of innate understanding



that aided in building the cognitive abilities of the players," Gandhi said in a statement.

"Not just limiting the skill aspect to the sport, we also noticed that the player's softer skills like that of understanding social cues, taking decisions under high-pressure situations, memory retention among others advancing throughout the time they were playing consistently," he added.

The study provided a quantitative analysis using mathematical tools to determine whether long-term success in online poker and rummy can be attributed to skill.

The data was analysed using a larger set of user data spanning 30 to 100 games in 2-player, 3-player, and 6-player formats.

The findings indicated that in both poker and rummy, skill variables improve as users play more games. Furthermore, the

measured correlation between users' win rates was 0.904, indicating a positive relationship and emphasising the persistence of skill in the game, highlighting the significance of skill over mere chance in shaping outcomes over consecutive periods of time.

"In the realm of online card games like Poker and Rummy, the analysis leaves no room for doubt: skill, not chance, is the driving force behind long-term success," said Deepak Dhayanithy, Associate Professor, Strategic Management, IIM Kozhikode.

"Both online and offline, skill reigns supreme, reducing variability like in other sports such as Cricket, Golf, etc., as players rise to the challenge. The research establishes that skill prevails, enriching our comprehension of cognitive prowess in the gaming arena," he added.



A farmer runs with his bulls during 'Nangrani' festival, the traditional bull racing event, at Margatamhane village in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra



An avalanche hits Kedarnath hills in Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand



An aircraft of the Egyptian Air Force being refuelled by IL-78 AAR aircraft of the Indian Air Force mid-air during the Exercise Bright Star



Boxer Mary Kom poses with students during a function at a school in Gurugram



A member of Bomb Disposal Squad examines the area using a metal detector after an IED was found lying on a roadside in Rajouri district, Jammu and Kashmir



An artist gives finishing touches to an idol of Lord Ganesh ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi in Amritsar



People holding placards and candles take part in a prayer service for peace in Manipur, in Dimapur, Nagaland



Vehicles stranded on the Manali-Chandigarh highway due to its closure owing to landslides, at Banala in Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh



# national

## of the day quote

Be it in the Congress-ruled Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh or upcoming governments of our party in Telangana and Madhya Pradesh, our government will be the government of the poor and not the government of Adani

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

Those seeking reservations in jobs and education for the Maratha community must do so peacefully, should keep calm

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP CHIEF

The political winds in Andhra Pradesh are shifting and the TDP will certainly emerge victorious in the forthcoming Assembly elections

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | TDP CHIEF

## SHORT TAKES

### Teacher transferred

**Shivamogga (Karnataka):** A teacher at a government school here in Karnataka has been transferred after she allegedly asked two Muslim students to go to Pakistan. The Karnataka Department of School Education and Literacy has also ordered a departmental inquiry against the teacher. Manjula Devi, who was working at Urdu Government Higher Primary School in Shivamogga, has been transferred to a school at Hosamana Tanda in Hassan taluk. The teacher had allegedly told a couple of Class 5 students to go to Pakistan while scolding them for making noise in the classroom. She told them that this is a country of Hindus and they should go to Pakistan. The incident occurred August 30. The students returned home after school and reported the incident to their parents.

### Sonia hospitalised

**New Delhi:** Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has been admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here with mild fever, but her condition is stable, sources said Sunday. Sonia Gandhi was admitted to the hospital in central Delhi Saturday evening, a senior doctor said. "She has mild fever, but she is doing fine. Her condition is being monitored by a team of doctors," he said. Her condition is stable, the sources added.

### Cong to hold yatras

**New Delhi:** The Congress is set to hold yatras at the district level to commemorate the Kanyakumari-to-Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra, which was launched on September 7 last year, sources said Sunday. The party is planning to mark in a big way the beginning of the cross-country march that saw Rahul Gandhi, along with several party leaders, traverse more than 4,000 km and interact with a cross-section of society. The sources said yatras will be held at the district level to mark the one-year anniversary of the beginning of the Bharat Jodo Yatra on September 7 last year.

### Jalna SP sent on leave

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Sunday announced that Jalna district superintendent of police, Tushar Doshi, is sent on compulsory leave, two days after protesters demanding Maratha quota were baton-charged, triggering violence. Shinde said ADGP (law and order) Sanjay Saxena would probe the lathi-charge incident, and if required, the judicial probe would be conducted.



The INDIA alliance has rattled the ruling BJP which has forced the Central government to explore the possibility of holding Assembly and national elections simultaneously. The move betrays panic in the BJP after they saw the unity of opposition parties under the INDIA coalition

NITISH KUMAR | BIHAR CM

## BOOSTING HEALTH

In line with the Centre's push for millets, Assam Rifles troopers are slowly reducing rice and wheat from their diet and replacing it with high-fibre millets to boost their overall health, force chief Lt Gen PC Nair has said



# Ghosi bypoll to see first INDIA bloc, BJP clash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, Sept 3:** The stage is set for the first electoral showdown between the BJP and an INDIA bloc constituent in Uttar Pradesh, with leaders of both sides going all out to drum up support for their candidates for the September 5 Ghosi assembly bypoll.

The Congress and the Left parties have not only extended support to the Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate but are also campaigning for him, in accordance with the spirit of the new opposition togetherness ahead of next year's general election.

Though not a major force in Uttar Pradesh, Arvind Kejriwal's AAP is also drumming up support for the SP nominee. The BJP's Dara Singh Chauhan, the sitting MLA who crossed over to the saffron party from the SP and resigned from the seat, is seeking re-election. The SP has fielded Sudhakar Singh.

Singh has got support from the Congress, the CPI(M) and the CPI(ML)-Liberation. Interestingly, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, who had given campaigning for the other two prestigious bypolls in the Rampur and



According to estimates, of the 4.37 lakh voters in Ghosi, 90,000 are Muslims, 60,000 Dalits and 77,000 from the "upper castes" -- 45,000 Bhumihars, 16,000 Rajputs and 6,000 Brahmins

The bypoll will be held September 5 and the counting of votes September 8

the Azamgarh Lok Sabha seats last year a miss, addressed an election meeting in Ghosi.

He had said this election would bring a change in the country's politics. Without Yadav at the helm of its campaign and facing

activities of the INDIA alliance, said, "The parties once against us are now supporting the SP. We thank them for supporting the 'samajwadis'. This is an important fight. This will be your (voters) big decision as the bypoll's outcome will bring a change in the politics of the country."

Yadav also underlined that such an election would hardly have been seen in Uttar Pradesh, where "all boundaries from caste to religion were broken for the SP candidate". Though the Left parties have remained on the fringes of Uttar Pradesh politics for a long time, their influence in the area has remained important.

"Ghosi is a historical place from where Comrade Jharkhande Rai had been MP or MLA from 1952 to 1985. This election in the Purvanchal area is very important as there are three major players -- the SP, CPI and the Congress -- and these three major constituents of the INDIA alliance, as well as the CPI(M) and the RLD (Rashtriya Lok Dal), have together made this contest a 'pratishtha ka chunav (contest for pride)', " Communist Party of India (CPI) National Secretary Atul Kumar Anjaan said.

## SIMULTANEOUS POLLS

# TOP OFFICIALS BRIEF KOVIND

People aware of the development said, Law Secretary Niten Chandra, Legislative Secretary Reeta Vasishtha and others met Kovind Sunday afternoon to understand how he would like to go about the agenda before the committee



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 3:** Top officials of the Union Law Ministry Sunday held a preparatory briefing for former president Ram Nath Kovind who heads the high-level committee to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies.

The government had Saturday notified the eight-member committee. People aware of the development said, Law Secretary Niten Chandra, Legislative Secretary Reeta Vasishtha and others met Kovind Sunday afternoon to understand how he would like to go about the agenda before the committee.

While Chandra is also the secretary to the high-level committee, Vasishtha's department deals with the issue of elections, the Representation of the People Act and related rules. Responding to a question on why the government issued a 'resolution' ('sankalp' in Hindi) to announce the names of the members of the high-level committee, an official explained that the ministry was following precedents.

The Indrajit Gupta Committee on state funding of elections was constituted through a resolution. The law commission is also reconstituted every three years by a resolution adopted by the Union Cabinet.

According to the resolution issued Saturday, elections to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies were mostly held si-

multaneously from 1951-52 to 1967 after which this cycle got broken and now, elections are held almost every year and within a year too at different times, which result in massive expenditure by the government and other stakeholders.

Asynchronous elections also lead to diversion of security forces and other electoral officers from their primary duties for significantly prolonged periods, it said. The resolution said in the "national interest" it is "desirable" to have simultaneous elections in the country. Frequent polls, it said, disrupt developmental work on account of prolonged application of the Model Code of Conduct.

It cited reports of the law commission and parliamentary panels that had supported the idea of simultaneous polls to Lok Sabha and state assemblies. "Now, therefore, in view of the above and that in the national interest it is desirable to have simultaneous elections in the country, the Government of India hereby constitutes a high-level committee to examine the issue of simultaneous elections and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections in the country," the resolution said.

According to former Union law secretary P K Malhotra, the executive decisions of the government are generally brought to public notice by means of communication named as notification, order or resolution.

## INDIA MPs to meet ahead of special Parliament session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 3:** Opposition MPs of the INDIA bloc will meet September 5 to discuss their joint strategy for the upcoming special session of Parliament, the agenda for which is still under wraps.

Sources said MPs of the opposition alliance in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will meet to chalk out their joint strategy for the session from September 18 to 22. The meeting has been convened by Kharge at his Rajaji Marg residence here, they added.

Congress General Secretary, Organisation, K C Venugopal said party president Mallikarjun Kharge has called a meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Strategy group on September 5. "Kharge ji has also called a meeting of MPs of like-minded opposition parties," he told reporters adding that the agenda for the upcoming session would be discussed in the meeting.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi met Kharge at the latter's residence to discuss organisational issues and the current political situation.

The opposition INDIA alliance is working in cohesion with each other and is planning to take on the BJP unitedly on various fronts as well as the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. It functioned in unison during the recent Monsoon session of Parliament too.



Aspirants selected in the Patwari recruitment exam stage a protest demanding their appointments in Bhopal PTI PHOTO

# Man hung upside down, beaten up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, Sept 3:** A person belonging to Scheduled Caste community, was allegedly hung upside down and beaten up in a shed in Mancheril District of Telangana by a man and his family members on suspicion of stealing a goat and an iron pipe, police said Sunday.

The incident took place at Mandamarri Mandal of the district September 1. The man was rescued by his relatives and was treated for his injuries. A video

of the incident has gone viral on social media, though it was not clear who videographed it.

A man and his family members along with another person working with them allegedly hung upside down the Dalit person in the cattle shed, hit him with a stick and also lit a fire on the floor. His friend was also tied up in a similar way, police said.

The Dalit man's aunt approached the police Saturday and lodged a complaint stating that her kin was tortured by the four persons.

The incident took place at Mandamarri Mandal of the district September 1

During the course of investigation, four persons including the man, his wife and their son along with another person were arrested, a senior police official said Sunday

Based on the complaint, a case was registered under relevant sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act besides under IPC sections 342 (wrongful confinement) and 307 (attempt to murder), police said.

During the course of investigation, four persons including the man, his wife and their son along with another person were arrested, a senior police official said Sunday

Police said a fortnight ago, the man found one of his goats missing and last week an iron pipe being stolen.

Suspecting that the Dalit man was involved in the theft, the accused brought him along with his friend to the shed and allegedly tied them upside down, police said.

## BJP names Dinesh as RS candidate from UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, Sept 3:** The BJP Sunday named former Uttar Pradesh deputy chief minister Dinesh Sharma as its candidate for the September 15 by-election to a Rajya Sabha seat from the state.

The bypoll has been necessitated due to the death of incumbent MP Hardwar Dubey, who was also from the BJP. The term of the seat is till November 2026. Dinesh Sharma thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other senior party leaders for the opportunity to be a member of the Upper House of Parliament.

"I will work for the party to ensure that Narendra Modi ji becomes the prime minister for the third time," Sharma, who is a member of the UP legislative council, said. Sharma's election is all but certain due to the strong majority the BJP enjoys in the state assembly. Like Dubey, he is also from the Brahmin community.

In the 403-member UP legislative assembly, the BJP has 255 MLAs, while its allies Apna Dal (Sonelal) and NISHAD party have 13 MLAs and six MLAs respectively. New NDA partner SBSP has 6 MLAs in the Assembly. The SP has 108 MLAs and its ally Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) has nine MLAs. Congress and Jansatta Dal Loktantrik have two MLAs each, while the BSP has one MLA. One seat (Ghosi) is vacant.

Sharma was one of the two deputy chief ministers in the first term of the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led government between 2017 and 22. He held portfolios of secondary education, higher education, science and technology and IT and electronics.

# Cops make new attempts to check Kota suicides

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kota (Rajasthan), Sept 3:** Rocked by a spate of student suicides, the coaching hub of Kota is roping in wardens, mess workers and tiffin service providers to look for any signs of depression or stress among the students staying in hostels and PG accommodations.

While the wardens are being encouraged to participate actively in the 'Darwaze pe dastak' (knock on door) campaign, the city police has urged the mess workers and tiffin providers to report if a student is repetitively absent from the mess and skipping meals or anyone's tiffin is found unconsumed.

"We have launched a campaign called 'Darwaze pe dastak' where we are encouraging wardens to make it a routine to knock on each students' door at around 11 pm, ask them if they are okay, notice their activities, and keep a vigil just to ensure that there are no signs of stress, depression or abnormal activity.

"After coaching, the students spend maximum time in hostels, and hence wardens should



be the first one to notice the signs," Chandrasheel Thakur, ASP, Kota said. Over 2.5 lakh students move to Kota annually to prepare for competitive exams such as the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) for engineering and the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to medical colleges.

The year 2023 saw the highest number of student suicides -- 22 so far -- with two ending their lives in a gap of a few hours on August 27. Last year, the figure was 15. Packed schedule, cut-throat competition, constant pressure to do better, burden of parents' expectations and homesickness are the common struggles of the students here.

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

ing that there are always signs that go undetected before any child takes the extreme step. "The idea is to detect these early signs. If any student is repetitively missing classes or skipping meals, there has to be something. We want to identify these children, get them counselled before they get pushed to the brim. We have launched a dedicated number on which wardens, mess workers and tiffin providers can give us this information," he added.

Amratalgali Girls Residency said she knocks on the doors of children regularly.

"The idea is not to disturb them, but to keep a check if they are fine. If someone is sleeping for unusual hours, I discuss with them if they are just tired or unwell. I check their mess logbooks too. If someone has not eaten meals in the mess, I ask if he or she did not like the food or is it because of some stress," she said.

The district administration recently directed the coaching institutes to stop conducting routine tests for students preparing for NEET and other competitive exams for the next two months in the wake of the latest suicides.

Gagendra Soni, warden of a boys hostel said, "Some boys opt for tiffin service rather than mess food. We notice sometimes that the tiffin is lying outside the room. We take it very seriously now and try to strike a conversation." In a desperate move, the authorities had recently ordered hostels to install a spring device on ceiling fans to stop students from taking their lives.

# international



The vandalism and arson May 9 were witnessed by the whole world and international newspapers reported the tragedy. This kind of manipulation is not acceptable in any form of government  
ANWAAR-UL-HAQ KAKAR | PAK'S CARETAKER PM

## PAKISTAN'S SECURITY SITUATION WORSENS

Pakistan's security situation has further deteriorated as the country fights a relentless rise in terrorist attacks by militant groups, active in the volatile northwestern and southwestern regions, according to a media report citing data from a prominent think tank



### of the day quote

Russia and Belarus are increasing the pressure on the borders, increasing the number of their provocations, and we must be aware that the number of these provocations will grow  
MATEUSZ MORAWIECKI | POLISH PM

Armenia's security architecture was 99.999% linked to Russia, including when it came to the procurement of arms and ammunition  
NIKOL PASHINYAN | ARMENIA PM

The debt crisis faced by 40 per cent of the developing countries is because of the inequality built into our outdated global financial system, which reflects the colonial power dynamics of the era when it was created  
ANTONIO GUTERRES | ANTONIO GUTERRES

# Russia hits Ukraine port

AGENCIES

**Kyiv, Sept 3:** Russian drones hit Danube River port infrastructure that is critical to Ukraine's grain exports, injuring at least two people in the attack on southern parts of the Odesa region Sunday, Ukrainian officials said.

The Danube has become Ukraine's main route for exporting grain since July, when Russia quit a UN and Turkey-brokered deal that had given safe passage to Kyiv's exports of grains, oilseeds and vegetables oils via the Black Sea.

Sunday's attack took place the day before Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan are due to hold talks in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi. Turkey has been pressing to revive the grain deal.

Ukraine's South Military Command said on social media that at least two civilians were injured in the early morning attack on what it called "civil infrastructure of the Danube".

The Ukrainian Air Force said air defence systems shot down 22 of the 25 Iranian-made Shahed drones launched by Russia.

Officials did not give details of which port facility was hit but some Ukrainian media reported blasts in the Reni port, which along with Izmail is one of Ukraine's two major ports on the Danube. The military said a fire that resulted from the attack at the facility was quickly extinguished.

The Russian Defence Ministry was quoted by Interfax as saying that a group of Russian drones successfully struck fuel depots at the Reni port used by the Ukrainian military.

Reni and Izmail have been repeatedly attacked by Russian drones in recent weeks.

"Russian terrorists continue to attack port infrastructure in the hope of provoking a food crisis and famine in the world," the Ukrainian president's chief of staff Andriy

Elsewhere in Ukraine, two people were killed and two others were wounded during Russian shelling Sunday on the village of Vuhledar in the Donetsk area

Ukrainian prosecutors also announced Sunday that they had opened a war crimes investigation into the death of a police officer killed by Russian shelling on the town of Serehdyna-Buda on Saturday afternoon

Two other police officers and one civilian were wounded during the attack, which hit Ukraine's north-eastern Sumy region

Yermak wrote on Telegram.

He posted a photo of a firefighter directing water at the burning ruins of concrete structures. The Black Sea grain deal, reached in July 2022, aimed to alleviate a global food crisis. Ukraine is a major producer of grains and oilseeds and the interruption to its exports after the outbreak of war in February last year pushed global food prices to record highs.

Russia has complained that under the deal its own food and fertiliser exports faced obstacles and that not enough Ukrainian grain was going to countries in need.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, two people were killed and two others were wounded during Russian shelling Sunday on the village of Vuhledar in the Donetsk area.

Artillery fire hit eight settlements across the region, Ukraine's National Police wrote on Telegram.

Ukrainian prosecutors also announced Sunday that they had opened a war crimes investigation into the death of a police officer killed by Russian shelling on the town of Serehdyna-Buda on Saturday afternoon. Two other police officers and one civilian were wounded during the attack, which hit Ukraine's north-eastern Sumy region.



Italian Airforce planes fly over before start of the Formula One Italian Grand Prix auto race, at the Monza racetrack in Monza, Italy

AP/PTI PHOTO

## SHORT TAKES

### Tamaki re-elected as Japan's oppn leader

**Tokyo:** Japan's opposition Democratic Party for the People (DPP) has re-elected its incumbent head Yuichiro Tamaki as the leader. Securing a decisive victory over the party's acting chief Seiji Maehara, Tamaki was re-elected as the party's leader for a new three-year term in the leadership election Saturday, Xinhua news agency reported. Tamaki, in his victory speech, expressed his commitment to hear the opinions of different relevant parties for improvements in terms of issues exposed during the leadership election, in preparation for the upcoming general elections.

### Moscow makes a bid to woo tourists

**Moscow:** To woo tourists from across the world, the Moscow City Tourism Committee is taking several measures and to address payment-related issues the Russian government is planning to come out with a virtual "Foreign Tourist Card", that will enable cashless payments for various services. During the Covid pandemic the tourist flow to Moscow had dropped significantly. However, the number of Indian tourists visiting Moscow is slowly witnessing an uptrend and with tourist-friendly measures like e-visa this number is likely to grow in the coming months.

### Raimondo warns Beijing

**Washington:** US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo warned China in interviews broadcast Sunday that the patience of US business was "wearing thin," saying American companies deserved a "predictable environment and a level playing field." The two biggest economies in the world used to be each other's largest trade partners, but Washington now trades more with neighboring Canada and Mexico, while Beijing trades more with Southeast Asia.

### Sudanese army deepens airstrikes

**Khartoum:** The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have intensified airstrikes and artillery bombardments on positions of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum. A source in Khartoum told Xinhua Saturday that the SAF warplanes conducted airstrikes on RSF locations within Omdurman, northwest of Khartoum. These strikes targeted neighbourhoods such as Ombada and Dar Al Salam to the west of Omdurman, as well as the Al Salha neighborhood to the south.

## Typhoon makes landfall in Taiwan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Beijing, Sept 3:** Taiwan suspended flights, rail transport and ferry services along with classes and outdoor events and urged workers to stay home Sunday as Typhoon Haikui churned across the southern part of the island.

The typhoon made landfall in Taitung county on the Pacific-facing east coast around 3 pm (0700 GMT) Sunday, bringing sustained winds of 155 kph (96 mph) and gusts of 190 kph (120 mph).

The winds and driving rains forced in unsecured doors, uprooted trees — at least one of which crushed a parked minivan — and caused flooding in some low-lying areas.

There had been no mass evacuations, although dozens sheltered in school gymnasiums and public meeting halls.

There appeared to be little serious damage, and some shops remained open, partly to dispose of locally grown fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste.

Haikui's arrival came as Typhoon Saola continued to weaken while swirling along the Chinese coast, where 900,000 people and 80,000 fishing vessels had been moved to safety.

Most of Hong Kong and parts of the coastal mainland had suspended business, transport and classes. Damage appeared to be minimal, however, and restrictions had largely been lifted by Sunday.

## NK stages tactical nuclear attack drill



REUTERS

**Seoul, Sept 3:** North Korea conducted a simulated tactical nuclear attack drill that included two long-range cruise missiles in an exercise to "warn enemies" the country would be prepared in case of nuclear war, the KCNA state news agency said Sunday.

KCNA said the drill was successfully carried out on Saturday and two cruise missiles carrying mock nuclear warheads were fired towards the West Sea of the Korean peninsula and flew 1,500 km (930 miles) at a preset altitude of 150 meters.

Pyongyang also said it would bolster its military deterrence against the United States and South Korea. South Korea's military said the claim of success could be an exaggeration as "not all of them succeeded," Seoul's Yonhap News reported, citing a

senior official at the Joint Chiefs of Staff. KCNA also reported that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited Pukjung Machine Complex, which produces marine engines, and a munitions factory to stress the importance of strengthening Pyongyang's naval forces.

"He affirmed that a future plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the WPK (Worker's Party of Korea) would set forth an important modernization of the complex and the development direction of the shipbuilding industry," a KCNA statement said.

It did not specify the date of his visit. The latest missile test came just after the joint annual exercises between South Korea and the United States, known as Ulchi Freedom Shield, came to a close on Thursday. It featured air drills with B-1B bombers.

Pyongyang said it would bolster its military deterrence against the United States and South Korea

## Pope, Mongolia's Catholics under one roof at papal Mass

REUTERS

**Ulaanbaatar, Sept 3:** In an unprecedented event, Pope Francis and just about the entire Catholic population of a country were in the same room when he presided at a Mass in Mongolia's capital Sunday.

The Mass in Ulaanbaatar's Steppe Arena was the religious highlight of the pope's trip to visit the Catholic community of just 1,450. Most of Mongolia's population of about 3.3 million are Buddhists.

Most of Mongolia's nine parishes are in the capital, but one in a remote area has only about 30 members and Church officials said they expected everyone who could make it to attend.

Many Mongolians still live a nomadic tradition to graze their animals and in his homily, the pope used the image to make his point.

"All of us are God's nomads, pilgrims in search of happiness, wayfarers thirsting for love," he said, adding that the Christian faith quenched that thirst.

Several Buddhist monks in their saffron robes attended the Mass, which was conducted in Mongolian, English and Italian.

Francis, who leaves for Rome on Monday after inaugurating a Church charity and health centre, began his day at an inter-religious service where he called himself one of the "humble heirs" of ancient schools of wisdom and quoted the Buddha.

There, sharing a theatre stage with a dozen other religious representatives, he urged all religions to live in harmony and shun ideological fundamentalism that foments violence.



## UK discloses plans for 'fitting tribute' to late Queen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**London, Sept 3:** The plans for a permanent memorial to the late Queen Elizabeth II will be unveiled by an independent body chaired by her former Private Secretary in 2026, the year that would have marked the monarch's 100th birthday, the UK government announced in London Sunday.

Queen Elizabeth II died aged 96 at Balmoral Castle in Scotland September 8 last year before being laid to rest at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle in a State Funeral September 19.

As the one-year anniversary of her passing approaches this month, the Cabinet Office unveiled plans for a "fitting tribute" to be finalised by a new Queen Elizabeth Memorial Committee



to be chaired by Lord Robin Janvrin. The committee will be responsible for considering and recommending proposals for a memorial to Queen Elizabeth II, jointly supported by the UK government and the Royal Household.

It will develop proposals for both a permanent memorial and a national legacy programme that will allow everyone in the

UK to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's life of service, the Cabinet Office said.

"It is an honour to be asked to chair the Queen Elizabeth Memorial Committee. It will be a unique challenge to try to capture for future generations Her Late Majesty's extraordinary contribution to our national life throughout her very long reign," said Lord Janvrin.

## Italian victims of Nazi crimes to get compensation

REUTERS

**Fornelli, Italy, Sept 3:** In October 1943, after the Nazis began a brutal occupation of their former ally, German troops hanged six Italian civilians on a hillside in southern Italy as collective punishment for the killing of a soldier, who had been foraging for food.

Eighty years later, some of the relatives of the men put to death in Fornelli are finally set to receive a share of 12 million euros (\$13 million) awarded by an Italian court as compensation for their families' trauma.

All but one of the family members alive at the time of the

killings are now dead, but under Italian law, damages owed to them can still be passed on to their heirs. This means Petrarca is set to receive around 130,000 euros (\$142,000) under the terms of a 2020 court ruling.

In an ironic twist, it will be Italy rather than Germany that pays up, after it lost a battle in the International Court of Justice over whether Berlin could still be liable for damages tied to World War Two crimes and atrocities.

Jewish organisations in Italy believe Berlin should be paying to acknowledge their historical responsibility. But victims' groups also fear Rome is dragging its feet



A woman in front of a monument dedicated to the 560 victims of one of the worst Nazi war atrocities in Italy, in the Tuscan village of Sant'Anna di Stazzema, Italy

AFP PHOTO

2020 court ruling awarded damages to families
More than 1,200 suits lodged before June deadline
Study estimates 22,000 Italian victims of war crimes
Lawyers say 61 million euro fund might be too little
Fornelli campaigners hail justice and town's pride

in dealing with a deluge of claims that could weigh on state accounts. A study funded by the German government and published in 2016 estimated that 22,000 Italians were victims of Nazi war crimes, including up to

8,000 Jews deported to death camps. Thousands more Italians were forced to work as enslaved labourers in Germany, making them eligible for reparations.

The first people likely to benefit from the new government fund set up to deal with claims are descendants of the six Catholic Fornelli men, who were hanged as German soldiers played music on a gramophone stolen from a nearby house.

Their killing came a month after Italy had signed an armistice with the Allied forces, ending its participation in World War Two and abandoning the Nazis, who immediately started their occupation of the country.

# business

## of the day quote

On the global front, problems in China's real estate, fluctuations in the dollar index, and the US bond yields will play a pivotal role in shaping market dynamics throughout the week

**PRAVESH GOUR** | SENIOR TECHNICAL ANALYST, SWASTIKA INVESTMART

In an era where consumers are increasingly conscious of product sourcing, ethics, ingredients, and environmental impact, the product itself must take centre stage to sustain meaningful conversations

**BALA SARDA** | FOUNDER & CEO, VAHDAM INDIA

We need all the technologies to basically shift away from petrol and diesel fossil fuels. There is so much in terms of what needs to be done. Even if we have all these green technologies. There is still going to be a gap

**VIKRAM GULATI** | HEAD & EXECUTIVE VP, TKM INDIA

## SHORT TAKES

### BSE revises JFSL circuit limit

**New Delhi:** Leading stock exchange BSE has revised the circuit limit of Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL), the demerged non-banking financial services unit of Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance group, to 20 per cent from the existing 5 per cent. The new limits will be effective from Monday, September 4, according to a notification issued by BSE. The move would ensure stock prices do not fluctuate beyond a prescribed level during a session. Further, market experts believe that the stock will be out of the trade-to-trade segment next week.

### PSB looks to raise ₹250cr via QIP

**New Delhi:** State-owned Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) plans to raise Rs 250 crore through share sale to institutional investors in the third quarter of the current fiscal. "The bank has got approvals for capital raising of Rs 250 crore via Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) in the next quarter," Punjab & Sind Bank managing director Swarup Kumar Saha told PTI. It will help achieve the twin objective of capital raising and dilution of the government's holding in the bank, he said. Government of India holds a 98.25 per cent stake in the bank which was listed on the stock exchanges in 2010. He said that the government's nod is also in place for the capital raising.

## Walmart raises stake in Flipkart, pays \$3.5 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 3:** US retail giant Walmart has increased its stake in Indian e-commerce subsidiary Flipkart as it paid \$3.5 billion (around Rs 28,953 crore) to acquire shares from its non-controlling interest holders in six months to July 31, 2023.

Additionally, during the six months ended July 31, 2023, the company received \$700 million related to new rounds of equity funding for the company's majority-owned PhonePe subsidiary, said the Bentonville-based retailer in a US Securities & Exchange Commission (US SEC) filing.

"During the six months ended July 31, 2023, the company paid \$3.5 billion to acquire shares from certain Flipkart noncontrolling interest holders and settle the liability to former noncontrolling interest holders of PhonePe," said Walmart filing.

After this, Walmart's total holding in the Indian e-commerce player Flipkart would increase to 80.5 per cent, some reports said.

Walmart has bought a stake from hedge fund Tiger Global and Accel Partners. Besides, the US retail major also acquired the residual stake of Binny Bansal, Flipkart cofounder.

PhonePe is a digital payments company, in which Walmart has a majority stake following the takeover of parent outfit Flipkart, which had shifted its headquarters from Singapore to India.

US-based Bentonville in 2018 completed the acquisition of a 77 per cent stake in Flipkart and became the majority owner of the Indian e-commerce company. Walmart plans for the public listing of Flipkart.

Last month, in an investor call, Walmart said Flipkart's GMV was strong and e-commerce grew 26 per cent in the June quarter.

Flipkart's Mynta is the country's largest e-commerce marketplace for fashion and lifestyle products, offering top brands to customers across India. Mynta now provides access to more than 6,000 brands on its marketplace.



In the first eight months of 2023, the EU introduced five regulations on climate change and trade. The G20 nations should ignore this elephant in the room and discuss before individual countries rush to the WTO. This may soon unravel world trade

**AJAY SRIVASTAVA** | CO-FOUNDER, GTRI

## MUSHROOMING NUMBERS

» The move will help investors to get accurate, unbiased information

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 3:** The rise of financial influencers or finfluencers, who charge as high as Rs 7.5 lakh for a post on social media, introduced a new way for people to access and interpret financial information, and now they will soon come under the regulatory purview as Sebi proposed measures to curb their mushrooming numbers.

The proposed move by Sebi not only ensures that investors receive accurate and unbiased information but also helps in preserving authenticity and reducing fraud, Anand Rathi

## Sebi brings strict norms for finfluencers

Wealth Deputy CEO Feroz Azeez told PTI.

Under the proposal, finfluencers need to be registered with Sebi and adhere to specific guidelines. Also, it has been proposed to ban unregistered finfluencers from partnering with mutual funds and stockbrokers for promotional activities.

While many finfluencers provide valuable insights, there has been a growing concern over the potential risks associated with unregulated finfluencers who might offer biased or misleading advice. They usually work on a commission-based model.

In addition, many of them make money from referral fees or profit sharing for promoting the product, channel, platform, or services or get compensation directly from social media and

## IKEA ON EXPANSION MODE

Swedish furniture maker Ikea is looking for omnichannel expansion with diverse retail formats besides kicking off online operations in Delhi-NCR by the end of 2024 as it enters the second phase of growth in the Indian market. Ikea, which has completed five years of retail operations after opening its first store in Hyderabad August 9, 2018, plans to increase its employee count to 10,000 from 3,000 in the coming years



Finfluencers charge as little as ₹10,000 to as much as ₹7.5 lakh for an individual post, excluding tax. Influencer marketing agencies quote as much as ₹20 lakh for a campaign, plus taxes, to entice their followers

**FEROZ AZEEZ** | DEPUTY CEO, ANAND RATHI WEALTH

Founder and Fund Manager at Wright Research, PMS, said.

"The regulatory move to address the role of financial influencers, or finfluencers in the financial sector is undoubtedly significant in enhancing investor protection and promoting transparency in the industry," Anand Rathi Wealth's Azeez said.

Also, the regulator has proposed to create a closed ecosystem for fee collection by Sebi-registered Investment Advisers (IAs) and Research Analysts (RAs) from their clients.

This ecosystem will help investors ensure that their payments are reaching only registered IAs and RAs. This would also help investors identify, isolate, and avoid unregistered entities, who would be unable to access this closed ecosystem.

other platforms.

To address the risk associated with finfluencers, Sebi floated a consultation paper late last month proposing to restrict the association of registered intermediaries or regulated entities with unregistered influencers.

In an era where financial advice is increasingly dissemi-

nated through social media, the line between credible advice and misleading information can become blurred.

By requiring finfluencers to register with Sebi and adhere to specific guidelines, the regulator is setting a standard for accountability and expertise in the sector, Sonam Srivastava,

## Credit to realty up 38%

Despite the hefty rise in interest rates on home loans by RBI, the real estate sector is moving at a fast pace

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 3:** Bank credit to housing as well as commercial real estate witnessed nearly 38 per cent annual growth in July, taking the loan outstanding to the realty sector to a record Rs 28 lakh crore, as per the latest RBI data.

It is evident from the Reserve Bank's loan outstanding data as well as property consultants data on housing sales and new launches across major cities that activities in the real estate sector are moving at a fast pace.

The credit outstanding in housing (including priority sector housing) rose 37.4 per cent annually in July crossing Rs 24.28 lakh crore, showed the RBI's data on 'Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit - July 2023'.

The credit outstanding to the commercial real estate increased by 38.1 per cent to Rs 4.07 lakh crore.

Commenting on the RBI data,



The growth in credit indicates that the real estate sector is growing and people are investing in the sector. This also indicates that the banking sector is positive about real estate and willing to provide capital for construction of commercial and housing projects

**AMAN SARIN** | DIRECTOR & CEO, ANANT RAJ

Loan outstanding to real estate sector at record high of ₹28L-cr

Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri said the impressive loan growth in the real estate sector is a function of a large-scale demand revival across the board.

"The commercial office segment was reeling under the pandemic's pressure last year as employers were contemplating strategies around complete work from the office, work from home, or a hybrid model. However, as the situation gained normalcy, employees returned to offices and the demand for good quality commercial offices is high this year," he said.

## Tushi Motors holds women's off-roading event with JIMNY

BIZ BUZZ



**Bhubaneswar:** Tushi Motors, the leading Maruti Suzuki car dealership, recently hosted an unprecedented women-exclusive off-roading experience featuring the all-new Maruti Suzuki JIMNY. The event, aptly titled "Woman Exclusive with New Maruti Suzuki JIMNY," marked a remarkable convergence of rugged adventure, off-road prowess, and a strategic move to explore new horizons in the market. Tushi Motors NEXA, renowned for its commitment to customer satisfaction and its comprehensive range of Maruti Suzuki cars, took a bold step in providing women with a unique and thrilling opportunity to conquer the untamed terrain. "We wanted to create an unforgettable experience for the adventurous women in our community and the Maruti Suzuki JIMNY was the ideal vehicle to make it happen," said Preeti Pallavi Patnaik, MD, Tushi Motors. "This event was not just about off-roading; it was to embrace the thrill of the great outdoors and conquer the rugged paths less travelled," she added.

## Canara Bank's coconut plantation drive

**Puri:** Canara Bank, Circle Office, Bhubaneswar in association with Welfare Agency for Rural Development and NR Foundation, Satapada organised mass coconut tree plantation programme at Charichhak, Krushnaprasad block, Puri as a part of its CSR activity September 3. Coconut saplings were distributed to the villagers as a part of planting 40,000 coconut trees. Dibakar Prasad Harichandan, Director and Jagdish Chander, General Manager, Canara Bank graced the occasion. Ashok Kumar Meher and Prem Kymar Sahu also participated in the programme. Large number of villagers from nearby villages participated enthusiastically in the event.



## Adani rejects OCCRP report

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Sept 3:** India's Adani Group Saturday said its stocks and financials were unaffected days after the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) said business partners of the family used 'opaque' funds to invest in stocks.

Adani Group said the 'misleading reports' had no substantial impact on the group's business performance, and said the group remained in compliance with the law.

The conglomerate highlighted investments by entities, including Qatar Investment Authority and G&G Partners, adding that it was committed to attracting investors as part of its 10-year capital program initiated in 2016.

Nonprofit media organisation OCCRP reported Thursday that millions of dollars were invested in publicly traded Adani Group stocks through funds in Mauritius, obscuring the involvement of alleged business partners of India's Adani family.

The Adani Group, which is controlled by billionaire Gautam Adani, said it categorically rejected what it called recycled allegations in the OCCRP report "in their entirety".

The Adani group's listed companies lost more than \$100 billion in market value earlier this year after US-based Hindenburg Research raised several governance concerns in January and suggested the group had made improper use of tax havens.

## GDP share of six new BRICS members to be 11%: SBI report

THE NEW MEMBERS ARE ARGENTINA, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, IRAN, SAUDI AND UAE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 3:** GDP share of the six new members, being added to the five-member BRICS grouping of emerging economies from January, will be just 11 per cent, with Saudi Arabia's contribution the highest at 4 per cent, an analysis shows.

The proposed addition of Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to the five-member BRICS, or Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, will also see the grouping's share in the global GDP rising to 30 per cent from 26 per cent now and that of the population to 46 per cent, according to an analysis by the SBI Research.



at Rs 18,680 crore and Ethiopia at Rs 5,154 crore, said Soumya Kanti Ghosh, chief economic adviser at State Bank of India.

Among the new members, Saudi Arabia will be the biggest economy chipping in with 4 per cent GDP contribution, followed by Argentina, the UAE and Egypt with 2 per cent each, and Iran adding 1 per cent incremental to the GDP with Ethiopia's addition making practically no impact to the grouping's economy.

The Saudi economy was about \$1.1 trillion in 2022 (already a G20 member), Argentina's at \$632 billion, the UAE's at \$507

billion, Egypt at \$477 billion, Iranian economy stood at \$388 billion and that of Ethiopia at \$127 billion, according to the available data.

Even after the new addition, China (\$18.1 trillion in 2022) and India (\$3.75 trillion) will continue to contribute 74 per cent of the overall GDP of the grouping, down from 83 per cent of the \$26.2 trillion economy pre-expansion.

Russian economy was \$2.2 trillion in 2022, while Brazil's was \$1.8 trillion and South Africa's was at \$468 billion.

BRICS+6 and G20 (Group of 20

These six economies will add 11 per cent to the current GDP of the BRICS, which is 4 per cent of the global GDP in 2022 terms and will help boost the BRICS+6's share to 30 per cent

**SOUMYA KANTI GHOSH** | CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER, SBI

largest economies) have their share in the global population at 3.7 billion and 5.1 billion, while that of GDP share is \$29.2 trillion and \$70.4 trillion, and forex reserves at \$5.5 trillion and \$9.4 trillion, respectively now.

Currently, the five-member grouping is home to 40 per cent of the world's population, which controls 26 per cent of the global GDP. But with the six new members (BRICS+6), their GDP share will jump to 30 per cent and share of population will go up to 46 per cent.

However, the biggest impact

will be on the share of global oil production that will increase to 40 per cent from the current 18 per cent, while their oil intake share will jump from 27 per cent to 36 per cent, according to the note.

Similarly, their share in global merchandise trade will rise from 20 per cent to 25 per cent, and that of global services trade will increase to 15 per cent from 12 per cent, the note said, adding that their share in the global forex reserves will increase by 600 basis points to 45 per cent.

On the massive increase in the share of oil trade -- Saudi has the second largest oil reserves after Russia -- the oil math will be the potential game changer for payment system and price discovery, says the report.

The acronym BRICS was originally coined in 2001 by Goldman Sachs economists led by Jim O'Neill. Later in December 2010, South Africa was added as the fifth member.

# Alcaraz marches on

# Rahul to be included in India's CWC squad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pallekele (Sri Lanka), Sept 3:** Having received a clearance certificate on his fitness from the NCA, KL Rahul is set to be included in India's 15-member provisional ICC Men's Cricket World Cup (CWC) squad, which will be announced by Tuesday.

Rahul has been recuperating at the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore post a thigh surgery, and he will have one final round of fitness drills before flying out to Sri Lanka to join the Indian team for the ongoing Asia Cup. It is understood that the NCA trainers and the team management have been left with little doubt after Rahul batted extensively at nets and in the match simulation process.

India is expected to announce their World Cup-bound 15 within the September 5 cutoff date. But the selectors decided to go ahead with the announcement after Rahul received the fitness clearance. He can be expected to keep wickets too in the World Cup.

Chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar had reached Pallekele Saturday, and it is understood that he held discussions with captain Rohit Sharma and head coach Rahul Dravid post India's match against Pakistan, which was abandoned due to rain.

Ishan Kishan will be the second wicketkeeper in the side and his composed 81 against Pakistan Saturday was the clincher. It means that Sanju Samson will miss out on an India berth. Samson is in Sri Lanka with the Indian team as a travelling reserve.

Suryakumar Yadav too has found a place in the squad despite his less than satisfactory outings in the ODIs. Suryakumar could not get going in the ODIs against West Indies (July-August),



making just 78 runs from three matches averaging 26. However, the team management felt that the Mumbaier can add further meat to the middle-order.

The selectors and the management thought deeply about the third spinner; after Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav, and zeroed in on left-arm spinner Axar Patel, whom they thought will also give a bit more depth in batting if needed.

In that context, veterans R Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal, who had plucked 12 wickets from eight matches in the 2019 World Cup, will miss the cut.

Provisional WC squad: Rohit Sharma (c), Hardik Pandya (vc), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Axar Patel, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav.

## Ex Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak no more

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Harare, Sept 3:** Former Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak died Sunday at the age of 49, his family confirmed on social media. Streak, who played 65 Tests and 189 ODIs for Zimbabwe from 1993-2005, was battling liver cancer for a long time.

"In the early hours of this morning, Sunday the 3rd of September 2023, the greatest love of my life and the father of my beautiful children, was carried to be with the Angels from his home where he wished to spend his last days surrounded by his family and closest loved ones," wrote Streak's wife Nadine on Facebook.

"He was covered in love and peace and did not walk off the Park alone. Our souls are joined for eternity Streaky. Till I hold you again," Nadine added.

A few days ago, former Zimbabwe fast bowler Henry Olonga announced the demise of Streak on social media, only to deny it hours later after a message from his captain, but by then condolence messages by several former cricketers had surfaced. "RIP Streaky," Olonga wrote on X, formerly Twitter, Sunday.

He went on to coach several teams including Zimbabwe after his playing days were over and became bowling coach of the national side, followed by a similar role with Bangladesh.

Streak was also associated with Indian domestic cricket team Uttar Pradesh and he also worked with IPL teams Kolkata Knight Riders and Gujarat Lions.

## Former umpire dies

**MUMBAI:** Former Indian umpire Pilo Reporter, who was among the first neutral umpires to officiate in Test cricket, died here Sunday. He was 84. Reporter officiated in 14 Tests and 22 ODIs in a career lasting 28 years, including in the 1992 World Cup organised in Australia and New Zealand. Reporter also officiated in 13 first-class matches in which he was a match referee in two. He was famously called upon by former Pakistan captain Imran Khan to officiate in the series against the West Indies in 1986 along with VK Ramaswamy, thus making the pair as the first since 1912 to operate as neutral.



Alcaraz scrambling to his left for a defensive backhand.

On his follow-through, Alcaraz stumbled a bit, nearly tumbling to the blue court. But he gathered himself and quickly switched direction, sprinting to his right with seven lengthy strides before sliding wide of the doubles alley as he flicked a down-the-line forehand.

The ball caught the back of

the baseline for a winner that converted a break point for a 4-2 edge in the fourth set. Evans chucked his racket toward the bottom of the net, grimaced and placed his hands on his hips. Alcaraz raised his arms, using his left index finger to make a "No.1" gesture.

Less than 12 hours after the man he's expected to meet next weekend for the title, Novak

Djokovic, needed to overturn a two-set deficit to win in a match that ended a tad after 1:30 am. Alcaraz progressed to the fourth round at Flushing Meadows for the third consecutive year.

Alcaraz improved to 14-1 over his nascent career in New York and is trying to become the first man to win two titles in a row in New York since Roger Federer took five straight from 2004-08.

Matches Monday that will put the winner in the quarter-finals include No.8 Andrey Rublev against Jack Draper, a 21-year-old left-hander from Britain who has never been this far at a major, and No.6 Jannik Sinner against No.12 Alexander Zverev.

Alcaraz's next foe is Matteo Arnaldi, a 22-year-old from Italy who is ranked 61st. Arnaldi, who had won a grand total of one Grand Slam match before this tournament, reached the fourth round by eliminating No. 16 seed Cameron Norrie of Britain 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

**Pegula outlasts Svitolina**  
Jessica Pegula and Madison Keys kept noticing their names near each other in tournament draws this summer. At the US Open, they finally will meet. Pegula beat Elina Svitolina 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 Saturday, setting up a fourth-round matchup against the No.17-seeded Keys.

Pegula, the No.3 seed, is still trying to advance beyond the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam tournament. First, she'll have to get by the 2017 runner-up in Flushing Meadows who also needed three sets to move on. Keys came back to eliminate No.14 Liudmila Samsonova 5-7, 6-2, 6-2. Ons Jabeur, the No.5 seed who lost in the finals last year, also reached the fourth round by outlasting No.31 Marie Bouzkova 5-7, 7-6(7-5), 6-3. Jabeur will face No.23 Zheng Qinwen of China, who edged Lucia Bronzetti 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

Other winners on the women's side Saturday included No.2 Aryna Sabalenka, who routed Clara Burel 6-1, 6-1, and No.13 Daria Kasatkina, who topped Greet Minnen 6-3, 6-4 and will face the Australian Open champion Monday.

# MBSG CLAIM DURAND CUP TITLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Sept 3:** A moment of sheer brilliance from Dimitri Petratos proved decisive as 10-man Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) beat arch-rivals East Bengal 1-0 in a fiercely contested final to clinch Durand Cup title for the first time after 23 years here Sunday.

Mohun Bagan were one-man down after Anirudh Thapa was sent off in the 62nd minute, but they still scored the decisive goal through a brilliant solo effort from Petratos in the 71st minute.

In a swift counter-attacking move, the Australian player skillfully weaved past the East Bengal defence, before unleashing a powerful strike from 25 yards out. East Bengal goalkeeper Prabhukhan Singh Gill was left a mute spectator.

This was Mohun Bagan's 17th Durand Cup title. They last won the title in 2000 when they beat Mahindra United via a golden goal.

As the clock ticked away, East Bengal coach Carles Cuadrat made three changes, bringing in Nishu Kumar, VP Suhair and Edwin Vanspaul in the last 10 minutes in a bid to restore parity. His Mohun Bagan counterpart Juan Ferrando pressed eight players



into his defence with Anwar Ali rock solid in the middle.

In a heated exchange, East Bengal's assistant coach Dimas Delgado got into a war of words with Ferrando, and after a scuffle, the former received a red card in the second-half extra time.

In the 86th minute, Edwin

Vanspaul attempted a shot on target from outside the box, but Anwar Ali was quick to react, making a timely block to deny East Bengal any chance of an equaliser.

Mohun Bagan thus avenged their 2004 Durand Cup final defeat to East Bengal when they had lost 1-2. In this phase,

Mohun Bagan had lost three Durand Cup finals, the last being against Gokulam Kerala (1-2) in 2019.

From East Bengal's perspective, a national-level title continued to elude them for more than 11 years now. Their last title at senior-level remains the Federation Cup in 2012.

## Verstappen makes it 10 in a row with Italian GP triumph

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Monza (Italy), Sept 3:** Runaway Formula One leader Max Verstappen secured a record 10th straight win with victory at the Italian Grand Prix Sunday, with a Red Bull one-two on Ferrari's home track.

Another flawless performance from the two-time defending champion saw Verstappen beat teammate Sergio Perez by 6.802 seconds. Carlos Sainz Jr. Was third, 11.082 behind Verstappen and just ahead of Charles Leclerc as the two Ferrari drivers battled for the final spot on Monza's iconic podium.

The victory also saw Verstappen increase his huge championship lead to 145 points in a crushingly dominant season for the 25-year-old Dutchman.

Verstappen has won 12 of the 14 races for unbeaten Red Bull and matched Sebastian Vettel's F1 record of nine straight victories last weekend at the Dutch GP. Perez has the other two victories.

## Salah on target in Liverpool victory



Mohamed Salah (R) reacts after scoring against Aston Villa, Sunday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Liverpool (England), Sept 3:** Mohamed Salah put aside intense speculation about his future by scoring again for Liverpool in its dominant 3-0 win over Aston Villa that made it three straight victories in the Premier League for Jurgen

Klopp's team Sunday. Salah, the subject of a reported bid on Friday worth 150 million pounds (USD 188 million) by Al-Ittihad in Saudi Arabia, tapped home a finish in the 55th minute to round off the scoring at Anfield as Liverpool built on recent wins against Bournemouth and Newcastle.

## India eye Super 4 spot, face Nepal in Asia Cup



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pallekele (Sri Lanka), Sept 3:** Coming off a washout, India would hope they only have greenhorns Nepal to tackle and not rain as the heavyweights eye a berth in the Super Four of the Asia Cup here Monday.

From Group A, Pakistan have already qualified to the Super Four with 3 points, and India have one point from the washed-out game against their arch-rivals Saturday. Even in the event of another rain-marred match on the morrow, India can advance to the Super Four with two points, but Rohit Sharma's men will certainly not want it that way.

India received some encouraging signals from their match against Pakistan, and they would want to build on them ahead of the business end of this tournament and much sterner assays in the waiting.

Pakistan pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf had reduced India to 66/4 by the 15th over. At that point, India's worries might have been accentuated by the fact that they have a jelly middle-order.

Ishan Kishan was playing the first match of his career at No.5 in ODIs and Hardik Pandya never really fitted the bill of a firefighter. However, both Kishan and Pandya overcame their personal predicaments to amass 138 runs for the fifth wicket, cornerstone

## Bangladesh beat Afghanistan by 89 runs

**LAHORE:** Bangladesh beat Afghanistan by 89 runs to remain in contention for Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup here Sunday. Bangladesh posted 334/5 after opting to bat with Najmul Hossain Shanto (104) and Mehidy Hasan Miraz (112) hitting centuries and then bowled Afghanistan out for 245 in 44.3 overs for a big win.