

'INDIA' MAY BE DROPPED FROM CONSTITUTION

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 4: The Narendra Modi-led Central government is reportedly planning to remove the word 'India' from the Constitution, sources in the know of things claimed, adding that a preparation pertaining to the proposal is underway.

The sources said that in the upcoming Special Session of the Parliament scheduled to be held from September 18-22, the government is likely to present Bills related to the 'India' word omission proposal.

If sources are to be believed, the government is seriously mulling removing the word 'India' from the expression 'India, that is Bharat', which has been used in the definition of India in Article-1 of the Indian Constitution. The agenda for the upcoming Special Session is, however, yet to be announced officially.



SUMMIT AHEAD: President Droupadi Murmu poses for photos during the unveiling of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi near Rajghat ahead of G20 Summit, in New Delhi, Monday

'Shooting the messenger'

FIR filed against Editors Guild members including its president for report on media coverage of Manipur violence

AGENCIES

Kohima, Sept 4: In a move that has been assailed as "shooting the messenger", Manipur government Monday filed an FIR against the president and three members of the Editors Guild of India (EGI) accusing them of trying to ignite more clashes in the ethnic strife-ridden state. Those booked include the

President of the EGI Seema Mustafa, and three members - Seema Guha, Bharat Bhushan and Sanjay Kapoor.

The Press Club of India joined a number of bodies in condemning the filing of the case against the EGI fact finding team and termed it as "a strong arm tactic by the state government which amounts to intimidation of the apex media body of the country".

Slamming the move, the Press Club of India in a statement said, "It is a case of shooting the messenger rather than taking measures to restore peace in the state. We demand that the

FIR against EGI president Seema Mustafa and the three members be withdrawn immediately."

The EGI in a report published Saturday had slammed the internet ban in the state as being detrimental to media reportage, criticised what it termed as one-sided reporting by some media outlets and claimed there were indications that the state leadership "had turned partisan" during the conflict period.

In its report, the Guild said journalists in the north-eastern state wrote one-sided reports and the state government played a partisan role in the ethnic conflict.

NATIONAL PARTIES DECLARE ASSETS WORTH ₹8,829CR IN FY 2021-22

BJP RICHEST PARTY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 4: The total assets declared by the eight national political parties increased to ₹8,829.16 crore during FY 2021-22 from ₹7,297.62 crore in 2020-21 and the highest assets were declared by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at ₹6,046.81 crore during FY 2021-22, poll rights body ADR said in its report Monday.

The Association for Democratic Reforms, an electoral reform advocacy group, in its report analysed the assets and liabilities declared by the BJP, INC, NCP, BSP, CPI, CPI(M), AITC and NPP - the eight national parties - for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22.

In financial year 2020-21, the BJP declared assets worth ₹4,990 crore, up by 21.17 per cent to ₹6,046.81 crore in 2021-22.

According to the ADR, in 2020-21, the declared assets of Congress was ₹691.11 crore, which shot up by 16.58 per cent to ₹805.68 crore in 2021-22.

The BSP was the only national party to show a decrease in its annual declared assets, its report said.

The total assets of BSP between 2020-21 and 2021-22 decreased by 5.74 per cent - from ₹732.79 crore to ₹690.71 crore.

The total assets of TMC increased from ₹182.001 crore in 2020-21 to ₹458.10 crore, an increase of 151.70 per cent, the ADR said.

PARTIES	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21
BJP	₹6,046.81cr	₹4,990.00cr
INC	₹805.68cr	₹691.11cr
NCP	₹74.54cr	₹30.93cr
BSP	₹690.71cr	₹732.79cr
CPI	₹15.72cr	₹14.05cr
CPI(M)	₹735.77cr	₹654.79cr
AITC	₹458.10cr	₹182.001cr
NPP	₹1.82cr	N/A

The total liabilities for FY 2020-21 declared by the national parties were ₹103.55 crore. The Congress declared liabilities of ₹71.58 crore, the highest, followed by CPI (M) with ₹16.10 crore, the ADR said.

For FY 2021-22, the Congress again was at top with liabilities

of ₹41.95 crore, followed by CPI (M) and BJP, which declared liabilities worth ₹12.21 crore and ₹5.17 crore.

Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, five parties declared a decrease in liabilities.

INC declared a decrease in its liabilities by ₹29.63 crore, BJP by ₹6.03 crore, CPI (M) by Rs 3.89 crore, AITC by ₹1.30 crore, and NCP by ₹1 lakh.

The total capital/reserve fund set aside by the national parties during FY 2020-21 was ₹7,194 crore, and ₹8,766 crore for FY 2021-22, after adjusting for liabilities, the ADR said.

For FY 2021-22, the ADR said the BJP declared the highest capital with ₹6,041.64 crore.

China premier, not Xi, to attend G20 summit

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 4: Chinese President Xi Jinping will not be attending the G20 summit in New Delhi, which is scheduled to be held between September 9 and 10.

After days of uncertainty, the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning confirmed Jinping's unavailability for the G20 summit in a statement Monday. It said that Chinese premier Li Qiang will attend the summit in Jinping's place.

"At the invitation of the government of the Republic of India, Premier of the State Council Li Qiang will attend the 18th G20

Summit to be held in New Delhi, India on September 9 and 10. Chinese Premier Li Qiang will attend the 18th G20 Summit in Delhi this weekend," Ning said in a statement.

"China hopes the summit can consolidate consensus, convey confidence and promote development," the spokesperson said.

The Chinese government did not disclose any reason for Jinping's inability to attend the G20 summit.

There is also uncertainty about Jinping attending the Association of South-East Asian Nations and East Asia summits in Indonesia's Jakarta later this week.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



If all elections are held simultaneously only once, what will we do in the rest of five years?

DSPL-188

1 LAKH

BENEFICIARIES AVAIL CASHLESS CARE OF ₹ 200 CRORE EVERY MONTH

"EVERY LIFE IS PRECIOUS"

CHIEF MINISTER, ODISHA

BIJU SWASTHYA KALYAN YOJANA

HEALTHY ODISHA, HAPPY ODISHA

MY LIFE WAS SAVED BY AVAILING CASHLESS HEART SURGERY THROUGH BSKY

ABDUL, KHORDHA

Ajay Kumar Das
4189872XXXX

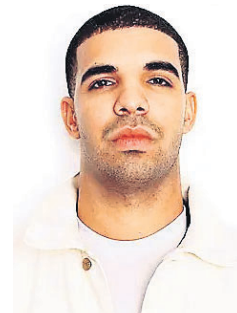
ଓଡିଶା ସରକାର Government of Odisha
ବିଜୁ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଯୋଜନା Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana

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DRAKE GIVES FAN \$50K ON HIS SHOW

Rapper Drake has returned the love to a super fan by gifting them \$50,000 at the It's All a Blur Tour stop in Las Vegas Sunday, reports aceshowbiz.com.

EMMA FELT NO SHAME FILMING NUDE SCENES

Actress Emma Stone felt 'no shame' filming raunchy scenes in *Poor Things*. The actress takes on the lead role of Yorgos Lanthimos' surreal new movie and the filmmaker was grateful for the effort she put into her alter ego Bella Baxter's intimate sequences in the adaptation of Alasdair Grey's novel.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You will have too many choices today, if you are thinking on the lines of changing a job, or in business matters or even in relationships. Ganesh advises you to take into account long-term ramifications before making any commitments. There may be something romantic lined up for the evening.

TAURUS
Today, you may not find the courage to say no even when you disagree with people, predicts Ganesh. Important decisions may see procrastination due to lack of necessary inputs. A few long-standing deals will end on a happy note by evening, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
You will be more emotional today and people might play with your feelings. Therefore you need to rein in your emotions today when it comes to dealing with people. However, you will meet people who will reciprocate your feelings with equal ardour, if not more, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Ganesh foresees a mixed bag of sorrows and joys. Burdens of household work will make you feel exhausted. But in the afternoon you will achieve desired results with your mental prowess and harness your talents.

LEO
There is a possibility of falling in love at first sight for those who are looking for love. It is a good day for romantic endeavours. Personal relationships will be marked by understanding. You will have a co-operative attitude towards your colleagues at work, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Ganesh advises you to get out of the rut and take courageous steps at your workplace, especially in the manner in which you function. Contribute intelligent, out-of-the-box ideas. In the afternoon, however, you are likely to feel confused. But Ganesh says there is no need to despair; just take a break and recharge yourself.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that today you will feel close to your loved ones and will be able to spend the evening with them. Today you will be successful in whatever work you will take up. Your attractive personality will ensure that people will turn to you and seek your company today.

SCORPIO
It's time to make your dreams come true. The house or the vehicle, which you were dreaming of since a long time may be your today. A favourable day for such transactions, foresees Ganesh. Sincerity will help you to survive the cut-throat competition. However, you may get lesser returns in your business than expected.

SAGITTARIUS
Today, you may feel enchanted by home and family as you seek love and joys of life from them. You may plan a getaway with like-minded people. And this time, it's going to be thrill and adventure. You never know when this adventure tour turns into a romantic one, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You will be ambitious and reach out the stars in the sky. You will aim for perfection and leave no stone unturned to ensure expected results at work, says Ganesh. You will not only ideate but also plan successful execution by effective delegation of responsibilities among the team members. All of these efforts will not be a time-wasting exercise, as you'll get the positive results today.

AQUARIUS
You will need the smallest of reasons to party, today! Good news will add to the zest. The day begins on a positive note and it will continue to be like that through out the day, says Ganesh. You will meet new people and make friends for life. Spend evening with your loved ones and bring a perfect end to the perfect day.

PISCES
It is likely to be an extremely hectic day at work, but you will seize the initiative with some bold strategising. You will be busy dressing up for a party in the evening, to offset all the stress of a long hard day at work, says Ganesh.

YAMI TALKS ABOUT HER 'UNDER-UTILISED' TAG

Mumbai: Actress Yami Gautam is on cloud nine for the success of her latest release *OMG 2* preceded by a few other successful projects. However, despite her amazing performance, a fan recently called her an 'under-utilised' actor.

Reacting to the same, the Dasvi actress said, "I do feel there has been a very permanent shift with the kind of films knowing my way. I know the person was trying to give me a compliment and I thanked him. It may have been true at some point in time, you know. But that doesn't change me at all. This is the only way I will ever talk to the media, like right now, I have always talked about my film. I have never asked to write anything about me to make me feel better or bigger than what I have done."

Recently, a fan wrote, "In *OMG 2* she owns every frame she's in! Even her silence speaks a lot. I hate the term 'underrated'. I'd just say she's under-utilised by our filmmakers." To this, Yami also had highlighted her talent for picking out 'good scripts and versatile characters.' She also asserted that she prefers to maintain the same for her personal life as well. "By now all know, that I like to keep my personal life private. I have a professional job and there are many roles beyond it. I like to mark that demarcation very clearly," she signed off.



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'Deepika India's Heroine No. 1'

The 'Piku' actress remains unbeatable ever since 2014 while Amitabh Bachchan tops the list of No.1 Hero for the third time, says the survey

Mumbai: In the ever-evolving world of entertainment, there are some names that have left an indelible mark, becoming synonymous with excellence, talent, and iconicity. Among these names, veteran superstar Amitabh Bachchan has long stood as a pillar of Indian cinema. However, one name in the current times who is walking his path of iconicity already through her work in films and beyond is Deepika Padukone.

The Mood of The Nation (MOTN) poll is an annual benchmark to gauge the popularity and influence of Indian celebrities across various sectors. Deepika Padukone has consistently topped this poll for 10 years, a testament to her unwavering influence and the huge impact that she has had. In the most recent MOTN poll of 2023, Deepika secured 25 per cent of the votes, reaffirming her position as India's most beloved superstar.

She is on the No.1 position and that too by a huge margin. Katrina Kaif is No.2 with 10 per cent of the votes, Alia Bhatt with 9 per cent and Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan with 7 per cent each.

Amitabh Bachchan is No.1 with 27 per cent of the votes, Shah Rukh Khan with 22 per cent, Akshay Kumar with 9 per cent, Salman Khan with 8 per cent and Allu Arjun with 6 per cent have followed him.

On the other hand, Hero for the third time, says the survey



Mumbai: Actress Ameesha Patel has been making headlines for quite some time. Some time back, her statement on her bitter relationship with *Gadar* 2 director Anil Sharma was the talk of the town, and now her reaction to the fact that she sued her father back in 2004 is making it to the press.

For the unversed, Ameesha Patel and her father Amit Patel, like every other daughter-father duo, used to share a very healthy and cordial bond. However, things took a turn for the worse in 2004, when Ameesha accused her father of mismanaging her funds. The two got into a legal feud and she sued him for mishandling the finances and assets amounting to Rs 12 crore.

Speaking on the matter recently during an interview, Ameesha said that he isn't ashamed of the step she took all those years back. She even asked why she should feel ashamed when the money belonged to her. She added nobody has the right to take her money away from her, not even her parents.

Further, according to the actress, her parents conned her grandmother too, and that is why she supported Ameesha in the matter.

Ameesha not ashamed of suing dad for ₹12 cr



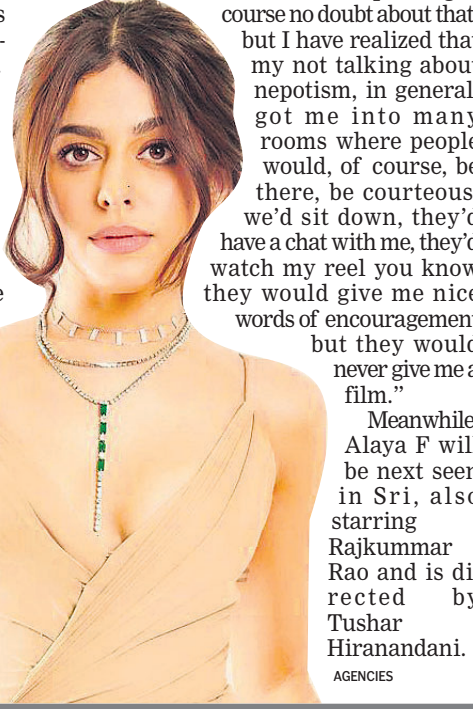
Alaya on advantage of being a star kid

Mumbai: From *Jawaani Jaaneman*, *Freddy*, *Almost Pyaar With DJ Mohabbat*, and *U-Turn*, Alaya F has taken up the distinctive characters of various genres and has established a wide range of acting skills. Her fans crave to see her on screen.

The actress was recently asked about her journey in the film industry as well as whether or not being a star child had an impact on her career. Alaya F answered a very commendable answer to the question and said, "There are of course downsides but there is a good side to it, it makes you reflect and think."

She further added, "There's an advantage course there's a privileged course no doubt about that, but I have realized that my not talking about nepotism, in general, got me into many rooms where people would, of course, be there, be courteous, we'd sit down, they'd have a chat with me, they'd watch my reel you know they would give me nice words of encouragement but they would never give me a film."

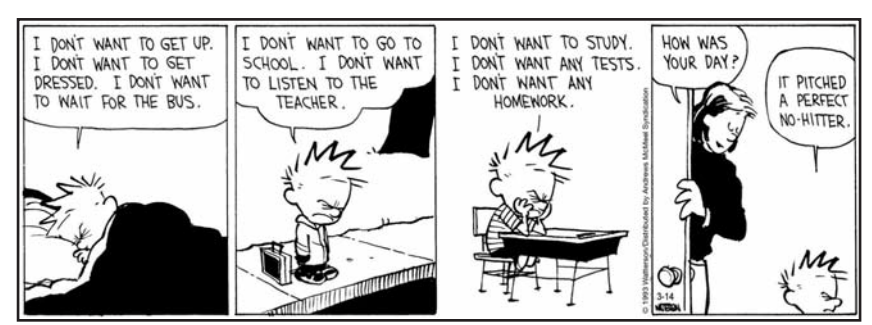
Meanwhile, Alaya F will be next seen in *Sri*, also starring Rajkumar Rao and is directed by Tushar Hiranandani.



PEANUTS



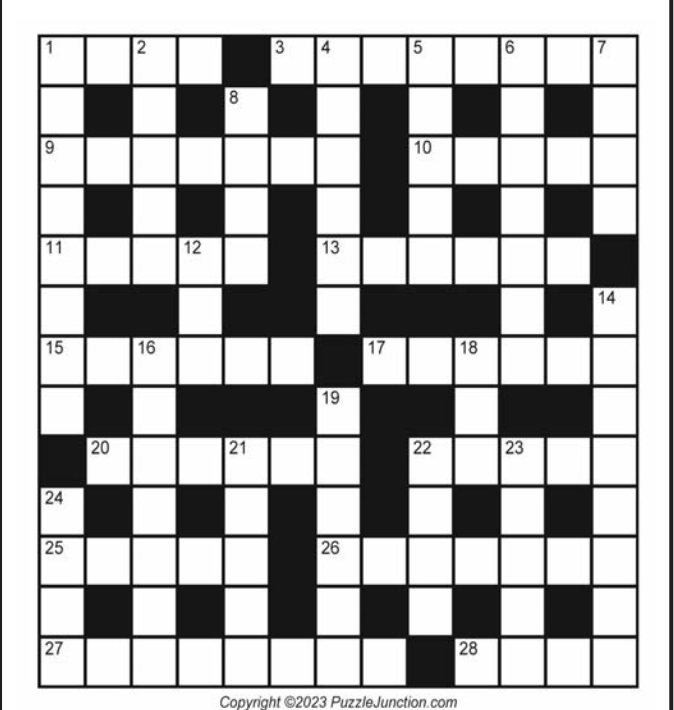
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Boxer's target
 - 3 Forebear
 - 9 Math conundrum
 - 10 Elliptical path
 - 11 Bottomless pit
 - 13 Restless
 - 15 Skin disorder
 - 17 Hearsay
 - 20 Optic membrane
 - 22 Literary genre
 - 25 Lagoon surround
 - 26 Springbok
 - 27 Parting word
 - 28 Farm females
 - Down**
 - 1 Bakery fare
 - 2 Piano material
 - 4 Aura
 - 5 Take the honey and run
 - 6 Hot sauce
 - 7 Appraise
 - 8 Handouts
 - 12 Take to court
 - 14 Wave endings
 - 16 Study of animals
 - 18 Disfigure
 - 19 Annoy persistently
 - 21 Parachute material
 - 22 Mental confusion
 - 23 Radiant
 - 24 Feedbag feed

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.

9				4	2			
							8	
	1	7			5			6
			2	8				
		4	1			6	5	3
	3							
				8				6
5				1	6			7
				9		3		2

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

M	D	S	P	O	B
C	A	N	O	P	I
P	R	E	I	M	P
A	D	A	P	T	O
O	M	A	N	I	B
B	A	C	T	E	R
G	U	E	N	R	B
U	R	B	A	N	E
E	L	K	E	T	D

SUDOKU

6	5	3	4	1	9	8	2	7
9	4	2	6	7	8	3	1	5
7	1	8	5	3	2	4	9	6
4	9	5	3	2	6	7	8	1
8	6	1	7	5	4	9	3	2
3	2	7	8	9	1	6	5	4
2	3	4	9	6	5	1	7	8
5	8	9	1	4	7	2	6	3
1	7	6	2	8	3	5	4	9

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

L'IL KRISHNA

A man carries his grandchild, dressed like baby Krishna, from a school fancy dress event ahead of Janmashtami festival, in Old Town area of Bhubaneswar, Monday



BAHANAGA TRIPLE TRAIN TRAGEDY

28 bodies still lie unclaimed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Bodies of 28 passengers remain unclaimed and unidentified though three months have elapsed since the tragic triple train disaster near Bahanaga Bazar railway station in Odisha, an official said here Monday.

The bodies have been kept in special freezers at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar and can be preserved for more time, medical superintendent of the hospital Dilip Parida said.

"We think no more claimants will come forward as no one has arrived in the last 10 days," Parida said.

The bodies will be handed over to CBI after getting instruction from higher authorities as it has taken over the case, the official



- Bodies kept in special freezers at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar and can be preserved for more time
- Those will be handed over to CBI following instruction from higher authorities

said. AIIMS, Bhubaneswar received 162 bodies in two phases. Of them 28 bodies have remained unidentified as no claimant has

come forward, said the official.

"We handed the bodies to the claimants after cross-matching DNA at the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) at Delhi. Now, 28 bodies are still with us. We are waiting for instruction from the Railway ministry for further processing of the unclaimed bodies," Parida said.

More than 100 DNA samples were sent for genetic tests to identify the victims till now.

The tragedy involving Chennai-bound Coromandel Express, a stationary goods train and Yesvantpur-Howrah Express took place near Bahanaga Bazar station in Balasore district June 2 this year. At least 296 people were killed and over 1200 injured in the tragic mishap, considered one of the worst in the country.



BIRD TALES: A pair of sparrows busy weaving nest on the skylight of a house in Bhubaneswar, Monday

PIC: MANORANJAN MISHRA

Prabodh Tirkey joins Congress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Former Indian hockey captain Prabodh Tirkey Monday joined the Congress at the party's Odisha unit headquarters here and expressed his desire to contest the Assembly elections next year.

He joined the party in the presence of Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Sarat Pattanayak, its state in-charge A Chella Kumar and other senior leaders.

The former hockey player has expressed his desire to contest the next Assembly elections from the Talsara segment in the tribal-dominated Sundargarh district.

Tirkey said he decided to join the party as the "work of Rahul Gandhi deeply influenced" him and asserted that his family has a 'long association with the Congress'. Claiming that the people in the Talsara area are 'neglected', he said the 'tribals do not get any benefit from government schemes'.

Fund bungling: 2 engineers held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Vigilance sleuths Monday arrested two engineers of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) for substandard work and misappropriation of funds in construction of hostels for SC students in Subarnapur district.

Following allegations of substandard work and misappropriation of funds in construction of four hostels for SC students in Subarnapur under ST&SC Development department, Vigilance sleuths carried out searches at the office and residence of Sourav Dey, senior site engineer, and Saptarsi Goswami, site engineer, of HSCL in Bolangir district and took them into custody.

The arrests were made in connection with a case (8 of August

26, 2023) registered under Sections 13(2) and 13(1)(a) of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 and 406, 409, 420 and 120B of the Indian Penal Code, a Vigilance official said.

Earlier, Bijay Kumar Agrawal, a Class A contractor, and his power of attorney holder Deepak Kumar Agrawal were arrested in connection with the case, added the official.

According to the case details, the ST&SC Development department had inked a pact with HSCL for execution of projects - construction of hostel buildings for SC&ST students in KBK districts - worth Rs 43.94 crore.

The project included construction of 26 120-seat ST hostels in Rayagada, eight 100-seat SC hostels in Bolangir and four 100-seat SC hostels in Subarnapur districts and three upgraded

high school buildings at Gourmunda, Raska and Bijadore.

Following tenders, HSCL inked a pact with M/s Bijay Kumar Agrawal and his power of attorney Deepak Kumar Agrawal for construction of 12 hostel buildings with agreement value of Rs 8,12,30,877. The project included four 100-seat hostel buildings for SC students in Subarnapur district with an agreement value of Rs 2,71,24,207, the official said.

Dey and Goswami, however, failed to supervise the work being carried out by contractors and, in connivance with them, facilitated release of payments.

"The public servants allowed the contractors to execute substandard work and misappropriate government funds, resulting in wrongful loss to the exchequer," the official.

IndiGo flight makes emergency landing

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: A Delhi-bound IndiGo flight made an emergency landing at the airport here Monday due to some technical snag, an official said.

All passengers are safe, he said. The aircraft made the landing 40 minutes after taking off from the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA).

"After the detection of technical problems mid-air, the Delhi-bound IndiGo flight made the emergency landing at the airport at 8.20 am," BPIA director Prasanna Pradhan said, adding that a full-scale emergency was declared, and the aircraft landed safely. "Shortly after taking off, the pilot informed us about the technical problem and the aircraft made the landing at BPIA safely," Trinath Lenka, a passenger on the flight, said.

LOC against three more Chinese over ponzi scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Bureau of Immigration has issued a lookout circular (LOC) against three Chinese nationals in connection with an online ponzi scam case registered by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch, an official said Monday.

The Bureau of Immigration issued the lookout circular against Liu Huan, Wenhui Zheng and Xu Xiaolu, considered close associates of Guanhua Wang, the prime accused and mastermind of the scam, at the request of the EOW.

A lookout notice was issued against Wang, a 40-year-old resident of Hangzhou in China, in connection with the online scam a few days ago, the EOW official said. The EOW had registered a case against the pan-India online

ponzi scam involving fraud and siphoning off money to the tune of hundreds of crores from innocent people out of India using a complex network of mule bank accounts, shell companies and crypto-traders, he said.

Wang along with the other three Chinese nationals came to India in 2019 and stayed in Bangalore for a few months. They created at least 14 shell companies based in the southern city to run various cyber-financial frauds. Initially, they had focused on the 'killer loan apps' but after these were banned, they switched over to the fraudulent earning and betting apps.

During investigation, the EOW detected more than 85 bank accounts through which Rs 100 crore was transacted. The accused had used numerous mule directors; some of them housewives to cheat the people.

Teachers' role important than ever: Prez

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: President Droupadi Murmu Monday said teachers' contribution to building an equitable and inclusive society and transforming India into the world's knowledge hub is more important than ever.

In her message on the eve of Teachers' Day, she said the role of teachers has acquired a new dimension in the era of technology.

"The teachers should continuously evolve and adopt the latest methods of imparting education and, at the same time, they should also keep in mind the significance of value-based education," Murmu said.

"The contribution of teachers in building an equitable and inclusive society and transforming India into (the) knowledge hub of the world is more important than ever," she said. Murmu greeted citizens on the occasion of Teachers' Day and ex-

Celebrate culture & diversity in schools: PM

New Delhi, Sept 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday interacted with the winners of the National Teachers' Award and urged them to celebrate the culture and diversity of different parts of the country in their schools. In his interaction with the 75 award winners at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, the PM appreciated the efforts of teachers in nurturing the young minds of the country. He highlighted the importance of good teachers and the role they can play in shaping the destiny of the country, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Modi also emphasised the importance of inspiring children by educating them about the success of grassroots achievers. The PM talked about taking pride in local heritage and history, and urged the teachers to inspire students to learn about their region's history and culture, the statement said. "If the student within you is alive, you will never get caught up in problems or feel dejected," he said, according to a video clip of the interaction shared by the PMO on X, formerly Twitter.

He extended warm wishes to all teachers in the country. She said the day marks the birth anniversary of the great educationist, philosopher and former president Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

"Teachers' Day is an occasion when the nation honours the profession of teaching and recognises the services and efforts of teachers towards building the future of the students. A teacher is not merely some-

TEACHER'S DAY TODAY

one who gives the knowledge of subjects for clearing examinations but a teacher is also a mentor and a guide who shows the right path to his student," Murmu said. The president said, "I once again convey my good wishes to the entire teaching community and wish them success in the endeavour of building an enlightened community of students who will take India to greater heights."

Teenage smoking can damage offspring genes

New findings suggest a failure to address harmful exposures in young teenagers today could damage the respiratory health of future generations, further entrenching health inequalities for decades to come

Boys who smoke in their early teenage years risk damaging the genes of their future children, increasing their chances of developing asthma, obesity and low lung function, a new study has said.

Researchers from the UK-based University of Southampton and the University of Bergen in Norway investigated the epigenetic profiles of 875 people, aged 7 to 50, and the smoking behaviours of their fathers.

They found epigenetic changes at 19 sites mapped to 14 genes in the children of fathers who smoked before the age of 15.

These changes in the way DNA is packaged in cells (methylation) regulate gene expression (switch-



ing them on and off) and are associated with asthma, obesity and wheezing.

"Changes in epigenetic markers were much more pronounced in children whose fathers started smoking during puberty than those whose fathers had started smoking at any time before conception,"

said Negusse Kitaba, Research Fellow at the University of Southampton.

"Early puberty may represent a critical window of physiological changes in boys. This is when stem cells are being established which will make sperm for the rest of their lives," Kitaba added.

According to Gerd Toril Morkve Knudsen from the University of Bergen and co-lead author of the study, 16 of the 19 markers associated with father's teenage smoking had not previously been linked to maternal or personal smoking.

This suggests these new methylation biomarkers may be unique to children whose fathers have been ex-

posed to smoking in early puberty.

"Our studies have shown that the health of future generations depends on the actions and decisions made by young people today long before they are parents - in particular for boys in early puberty and mothers/grandmothers both pre-pregnancy and during pregnancy," said Professor Cecilie Svanes from the University of Bergen.

The new findings have significant implications for public health. They suggest a failure to address harmful exposures in young teenagers today could damage the respiratory health of future generations, further entrenching health inequalities for decades to come.

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SCU busts racket in land fraud case

The SCU sleuths arrested the accused persons in connection with a case registered at Chandaka police station following directions of the JMFC court here in 2022

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Special Crime Unit (SCU) of Commissionerate Police has busted a racket involved in fraudulent selling of plots in the City using forged documents. The cops have also arrested four members of the racket including an official at the Khandagiri registrar's office.

The accused persons have been identified as Bikash Panda of Tulaspur, Prasanna Mishra of Choudwar, and Simanchal Mohanty of Jagatpur, Cuttack, Biswajit Behera of Byasanagar in Jajpur and Sanjaya Ku Sarangi of Baseli Sahi in Puri.

The SCU sleuths arrested the accused persons in connection with a case initially registered at Chandaka police station following directions of the JMFC (Judicial Magistrate First Class) court here in 2022.

"The complainant, Sanjukta Panigrahi, a native of Ganjam, had alleged in her plea before the court that her plot in Paikrapur Mouza of the City was sold to two different persons in 2019 without her knowledge," SCU stated in a press note.

The cops, during the course of investigation, found that one Chinmaya Dalei of Nayagarh contacted accused Biswajit who shared his name and mobile number in online property portals to target and collect prospective customers. Subsequently, Chinmaya came to know Bikash through Biswajit.

Bikash assured Chinmaya to help him get a good piece of land on the City outskirts.

"Accordingly the accused duo,



in a criminal conspiracy with Simanchal and Prasanna, forged sale deed of the plot owned by Sanjukta and sold 100 dcm to Puspalata Swain and Kamala Swain with help of an imposter as the landlord," told a senior official of SCU.

The accused Sanjaya, the head clerk of Khandagiri sub-registrar, helped the fraudsters during the registration of the plot, falsely claiming that the land owner is sick, June 26, 2019.

Sanjay who was supposed to visit Sanjukta's house in Ganjam for examination prepared a false report in which he confirmed that the complainant was ailing by identifying the imposter as Sanjukta. The land was transferred to the buyers with help of the false report produced by Sanjaya.

"During house search of the accused persons, forged land records, Adhar card and seals of different offices were seized, which were used to prepare the forged sale deed and other land records," added the senior SCU official.

The accused were Monday produced before the court that sent to judicial custody.

TEACHERS' DAY Resilient teachers pioneering education recovery

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: In a world marked by unprecedented challenges, the role of educators has never been more pivotal. The theme for this year, 'Teachers at the Heart of Education Recovery' is not just a theme; it's a testament to the remarkable spirit of those who've weathered storms, adapted to new realities, and continued to sow the seeds of knowledge amidst adversity, like Covid-19.

In a rapidly changing world, teachers have been the compass guiding students through uncharted territory. Their resilience, creativity, and unwavering commitment have transformed classrooms into sanctuaries of hope, and they have embraced the digital frontier with unwavering determination. Teacher's Day is the perfect occasion to recognize the teachers who have not only adapted but thrived in this ever-evolving landscape.

Moreover, teachers have been on the frontlines to ensure learning continuity when schools

were closed and to provide socio-emotional support to their students, especially the most vulnerable ones. They have had to rapidly adapt to remote learning and manage new digital tools, often without training. Today, they must assess and address learning losses among their students, cope with issues of health and safety in the classroom, and leverage remote, hybrid and in-person methods to minimize disruption.

On the eve of Teachers' Day, OrissaPOST asked the teachers how their role has changed in recent times, the challenges they've faced, the lessons they've learned, and what can be done to strengthen the relationship between teachers and students.

BJEM School Principal Sandhya Jena said, "In today's technological advancement with implementation of National Education Policy, the focus is on foundational stage such as pre-nursery to class III. So, the teachers' role become very important as they need to be patients with students and very passionate about their work. They also must be trained

according to the needs of the time."

Elaborating the teachers' role, SAI International School Chairperson Silpi Sahoo said, "Teachers have become not only conveyors of knowledge but also facilitators of digital learning, adaptable educators in remote and hybrid settings, and champions of personal-

methods to suit every individual student.

According to Mother's Public School Chairman and Principal



Poly Patnaik, the teachers are considered now as facilitators. "Some key changes that have taken place in the role of teachers are shift in teaching methods, personalized Learning, mental health and well-being," she said.

When students feel connected to their teachers, they are more likely to be actively engaged in the learning process and have a more positive overall school experience, Patnaik added.

Srusti Mishra, a student, said that changing the role of a teacher from an instructor to a mentor will lead children to

become more conscious of their learning. Student-teacher interaction that is based merely on academic progress or behaviour management creates inhibitions within a student and stifles true relationship-



building. Becoming more independent and trust are at the foundation of any lasting relationship, she said.

Rupesh Kumar Deep, a teacher, said being a teacher is not a profession rather it's a responsibility that everyone cannot take. The role of a teacher has always been special in the society because a teacher is someone who shows path to the upcoming generation. A teacher should always be up-to-date.



A DAY FOR SCIENCE: Physicist Pinaki Majumdar delivers speech as chief guest at the 49th Foundation Day celebrations of Institute of Physics in Bhubaneswar, Monday

City AIIMS celebrates 'Chandrayan Mahotsav'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The City AIIMS witnessed an atmosphere of excitement and enthusiasms as it celebrated 'Chandrayan Mahotsav' here Monday. Led by Institute's Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas, the faculty along with medical, nursing, and paramedical students came together to mark the occasion in a unique manner.

The highlight of the event was the Rangoli artwork featuring the iconic Rover and Pragnya, intricately crafted by the students of the health institute. The Rangoli masterpiece stole the hearts of all those in attendance. Additionally, the meticulously designed model of the moon mission, placed strategically at two locations within AIIMS, captured the attention of

one and all.

Speaking on this occasion, Biswas emphasised the significance of technology and its potential to position the youth of the nation as global leaders. He said, "With the help of technology, the youth of the country can lead India to be the prime driving force in the world. The Prime Minister has always inspired us to harness technology for comprehensive development."

Biswas also encouraged AIIMS students to step forward with fresh ideas and innovations for the betterment of society. The event was graced by the presence of Dean PR Mohapatra, Medical Superintendent Dillip Kumar Parida, College of Nursing Principal Asha P Setty, PR Cell FIC Prabhakar Ranjan Tripathy and DDA (I/c) Rasmii Ranjan Sethy.

'Prioritize conservation of medicinal plants'

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Environmental Society organised a seminar on the theme 'Potential of medicinal plants in Odisha' here Monday. In the seminar, experts said medicinal plants of various categories have been in use since ancient times in traditional medicine practices. Various plant parts, such as roots, tubers, barks, leaves, flowers and seeds are used for treating different health issues and diseases. We have so many wonderful natural remedies around us that nature has provided for treatment of common health problems like cut, burns, fever, cold, sneezes, indigestion and many more. A strong networking system for cultivation, procurement, marketing and utilization has to be developed for enhanced use of medicinal plants from herbs to trees, the experts opined. Participating in the seminar as the chief speaker, Kunja Bihari Satapathy, Emeritus Professor of Botany, Centurion University, vividly discussed the various species of medicinal plants available in Odisha. He narrated how tribal people, more importantly the traditional physicians, use different plant parts through ayurvedic methods that act as natural therapies for curing varied ailments.

Puri police foil man's self immolation bid

AGENCIES

Puri, Sept 4: Police here foiled self-immolation attempt of a man and his daughter Monday in front of the District Magistrate's office.

The duo was brought to the office of the Superintendent of Police and the officials recovered two bottles of petrol from them. The father and daughter were identified as Narayan Tareli, a daily wage earner and his daughter, who live on rent in Baliaipanda slum under the Sea beach police limits.

Narayan narrated how his house owner drove them out and filed false complaints against him and his daughter with the police. The daily wage earner said he had approached police a number of times. After he failed to get justice from the police he took this extreme step.

ECoR clocks over 100MT freight loading

In the current fiscal, 63.59MT of freight has been carried from Khurda Road Division, 29.75MT from Waltair Division and 7.54MT from Sambalpur Division

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: East Coast Railway (ECoR) has become first railway zone in the country to achieve more than 100 MT (metric tonne) of freight loading in 2023-24, an ECoR official informed here Monday.

With a total freight loading of 100.90 MT in the first five months of the current financial year from April 1 to August 31, as against 97.13 MT in the corresponding period from last fiscal, ECoR has registered 3.77 MT incremental cargo loading (an increase of 3.9 per cent) during the current fiscal.

"All this could be possible due to outstanding performance of all the three Divisions of East Coast Railway, Khurda Road, Waltair and Sambalpur," added the official.



In the current fiscal, 63.59 MT of freight has been carried from Khurda Road Division, 29.75 MT from Waltair Division and 7.54 MT from Sambalpur Division.

Given the abundance of mining and industries in the region, during the six month period, ECoR has loaded 61.30 MT of coal, 3.33MT of raw material for

steel plants, 8.21 MT of iron and steel, 11.68 MT of iron ore, 0.76 MT of cement, 1.29 MT of food grains, 2.57 MT of fertilizer, 1.24 MT of POL, 1.76 MT of freight loaded in containers and 8.76 MT of other cargo.

The major contributors of freight include Talcher, Paradeep, Dhamra, Visakhapatnam, Gangavaram, Keonjhar, KK Line, steel plants, Aluminium plants and from other places in the ECoR jurisdiction. In August alone, ECoR carried 20.43 MT of freight as against 19.90 MT in the same period of 2022, with an increase of 2.7 per cent.

Services of special trains extended

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Keeping in view the demands from passengers and for their convenience, the Railways has decided to extend the services of Puri-Santragachhi-Puri and Puri-Bhanjapur-Puri Special trains for one more month.

According to Railway sources, 02837/02838 Santragachhi-Puri-Santragachhi Special leaving Santragachhi every Friday and departing from Puri every Saturday has been extended to run up to September 30, 2023.

Similarly, 08011/08012 Bhanjapur (Baripada)-Puri-Bhanjapur Bi-weekly Special leaving Bhanjapur every Thursday & Saturday, and departing from Puri every Friday & Sunday has been extended to run up to October 1, 2023.

Covid vaccines in India pose no heart attack risk

There is no association between the Covid-19 vaccines used in India -- Covishield and Covaxin -- and increase in the risk of heart attacks, according to an observational study which emphasises the protective effect of the jabs. The research, published recently in the journal PLOS One, determined the impact of Covid-19 vaccination on mortality following acute myocardial infarction (AMI) or heart attack.

The retrospective study used data from 1,578 people admitted to GB Pant hospital in Delhi between August 2021 and August 2022. As many as 1,086 (68.8 per cent) were vaccinated against Covid-19 while 492 (31.2 per cent) were unvaccinated.

Among the vaccinated group,

1,047 (96 per cent) had received two doses of the vaccine while 39 (4 per cent) had received only a single dose.

"Our study found that vaccines used in India are safe. There was no association of vaccination in India with heart attack. In fact, the study found that there were less chances of death after heart attack in vaccinated individuals," Mohit Gupta, who led the study, from GB Pant Hospital, told PTL.

The adverse effects (AEs) of Covid-19 vaccines have mostly been mild, transient and self-limiting. However, concerns have been raised regarding the cardiovascular adverse effects of these vaccines.

Any side effect can have catastrophic effects especially in large



densely populated countries such as India, the authors noted.

In all the enrolled patients, data regarding the patient's vaccination status including details on type of vaccine, date of vaccination and adverse effects were obtained.

The researchers found that the analysis did not show a specific clustering of AMI at any particular time post vaccination,

suggesting there was no significant association between Covid-19 jabs and heart attacks.

On 30-day follow-up, all-cause mortality occurred in 201 (12.7 per cent) patients with adjusted odds of mortality being significantly lower in the vaccinated group.

Similarly, at six months of follow-up, the vaccinated AMI group had lower odds of mortality as compared to the non-vaccinated group.

Covid-19 vaccines showed a decrease in all-cause mortality at 30 days and six months following AMI, according to the study.

However, increasing age, diabetes and smokers had a higher risk of 30-day mortality, the researchers said.

"Findings of our study showed that the 30-day and six months all-cause mortality risk was significantly lower in the vaccinated subjects as compared to the unvaccinated population," the authors of the study said.

This study is the first to be conducted among a larger population of AMI patients which has shown Covid-19 vaccine to be not only safe but also have a protective effect in terms of reduction of all-cause mortality both on short term as well as at six months of follow-up, the authors of the study said.

They noted some limitations, saying that this was a single-centre retrospective study, and the findings need to be validated in further larger studies from different ethnic groups.

2 killed in road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Two youths died in a road mishap at Aiginia Square under Khandagiri police limits here Monday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Anil Kumar Panda, 26, of Phuleswari Basti and Tapan Kumar Senapati, 25, of Aiginia in Khandagiri area.

Sources said Anil and Tapan were returning home from Cosmopolis Square when a speeding truck going towards Khurda hit their motorcycle from rear. They fell off the bike and the truck ran over them.

Locals rushed them to the nearby AIIMS where the doctors declared both of them brought dead. The accused driver managed to flee the spot along with the truck.

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OSOU closure fear sparks outrage



POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 4: The demand to resume post graduate (PG) and under graduate (UG) courses in the Odisha State Open University (OSOU) has increased since the varsity stopped admissions to these two programmes from the current academic session. The OSOU has been forced to close the two programmes due to lack of approval from the UGC.

Annoyed by the state of affairs of the varsity, which was set up by the Odisha government in 2015, a group of residents here under the aegis of 'OSOU

Banchao Abhiyan' announced plans Sunday to launch a campaign to save the varsity. They are planning to submit a memorandum to CM Naveen Patnaik, Union Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan and all MLAs and MPs of this region.

According to the members of the committee, OSOU received approval to offer 14 PG programmes and 11 UG programmes in 2018-19, valid for a period of five years. However, the approval lapsed in 2022-23.

Convener of the 'OSOU Banchao Abhiyan', Dr Sanjeeb Mishra said, according to the rules, universities seeking fresh

approval from UGC must have at least 60% of self-learning materials, three teachers for each UG or PG programmes or five teachers if both UG and PG programmes are offered and NAAC accreditation.

However, Mishra pointed out that unfortunately, the varsity does not have its own infrastructure. Moreover, though more than six years have elapsed since its inception, the state government has not sanctioned teaching posts.

"The Odisha government has completely forgotten the varsity which caters to a large number of people from rural areas and women. Thousands of students from across the state benefit from OSOU courses. We ask the government to appoint teachers, provide required infrastructure so that the institution will be able to secure fresh UGC approval," Mishra said. "We will also urge the Union Education Minister to intervene and give necessary direction to the UGC in this regard," he added.



CLOSE SHAVE: Over 30 passengers travelling in a bus had a close shave Monday after a tusker attacked the vehicle near Artam village in Parvathipuram Manyam district of Andhra Pradesh about 10 kilometres from the Odisha border in Rayagada district

Alarming fall in Indravati water level

POWER PRODUCTION, AGRICULTURE AFFECTED DUE TO LACK OF SUFFICIENT WATER SUPPLY FROM RESERVOIR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Sept 4: The reducing water level in the Indravati reservoir due to scanty rainfall might seriously affect power production and irrigation facilities in the region, sources informed Monday. This year, rainfall has drastically declined in the region in comparison to previous years. Officials said that the rainfall has decreased by more than 40 per cent this year.

The Indravati reservoir is spread over 110 square kilometres touching the borders of Nabarangpur, Koraput, Rayagada and Kalahandi districts in Odisha.

The Indravati reservoir has the highest water-retaining capacity of 642 metres but due to sparse showers, the level has come down to 631.41 metres. Locals pointed out that the re-



duction in water level in the Indravati reservoir will certainly affect power production. Incidentally, the reservoir is the hub of Indravati hydro-electricity project. It is the second largest hydro-electricity project in Asia.

The highest water-retaining capacity of the reservoir stands at 642 metres while the minimum level which has to be maintained is 625 metres. Till

September 1, the water level stood at 640 metres. However, in just three days, the water level has decreased by close to 10 metres.

Officials stated that 71.21 cusecs of water is entering the reservoir per second while 89.54 cusecs are being discharged. They added that if such a situation persists a time will come when water will not be available for irrigation or for power production. Locals

There has been 40% deficit rainfall in Nabarangpur district due to which the reservoir is not getting sufficient supply of water

Prithwiraj Paikaray and Sadashiv Jani said that if such a situation develops cultivation of crops will be seriously hampered. They informed that the present signs are ominous indeed.

Nabarangpur district has experienced 40 per cent deficit rainfall in August for which farm-lands have dried and developed cracks due to lack of water. Lack of sufficient rainfall has sparked fear of drought among farmers in the district.

Last year during the period August 1 to August 31, the power

production from the hydro-electricity project stood at 1,63,056 megawatt (MW). For the same period this year the production has come down to 1,61,417 MW. It is being apprehended that due to deficit rainfall, the power production will further decrease in the days to come.

Janardan Tahsildar, executive officer of Podagada dam division said that the reduction in power production will also hit the revenues of the Odisha government. The state government earns substantial revenues by selling power from the project.

Locals said that the situation will go out of control unless there is sufficient rainfall in Nabarangpur district in the month of September. They also added that the Odisha government must take immediate steps to control the water crisis the reservoir is facing.

Doctor found hanging inside Berhampur house

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, Sept 4: A 51-year-old government doctor was found dead Monday in Gajapati district, police informed. The doctor, identified as Surendra Nath Rath, was working at the district headquarters hospital in Paralakhemundi, they added. Rath was found dead at his in-laws' house at Shakti Nagar under Gosaniuaogaon police station in this city, police further said.

Rath's family said that he hung himself from the ceiling fan of a room in the house. The body has been sent for post-mortem to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital, police said. He went to his in-laws' house Friday where his wife and two sons lived. He used to visit the house on most Fridays and stay over during the weekend, police added.

Rath went to sleep Sunday night with his elder son. When



the son woke up, he could not find his father and started searching for him. The family found another room locked from inside, and after breaking in, they found his body hanging from the ceiling fan, police said.

"We have registered a case of unnatural death and we are investigating the matter. The exact cause of his death will be ascertained only after getting the post-mortem report," said Superintendent of Police Saravana Vivek M. Additional district medical officer, Pramod Kumar Panda said Rath was sincere in his work and never shared anything about stress with anyone. He added that it is a case of 'utter misfortune' to have hit the family.

Women thrash Supplies Officer



POST NEWS NETWORK

Basudevpur, Sept 4: Tension prevailed Monday after women PDS beneficiaries of Karanjadia panchayat dragged the Supplies Officer out of his office and thrashed him mercilessly over non-supply of rice for the last two months here in Bhadrak district. Later, police de-

tained two persons including a woman for the alleged assault.

The incident occurred after a large number of women alleged that over 700 beneficiaries in Karanjadia panchayat have not been getting their entitled rice quantities for the last two months. They marched to the block office here to confront the Supplies

Officer, Ajay Kumar Das.

On arrival, the women demanded that their quota of rice be handed over to them immediately. This led to a heated argument, during which the agitators dragged Das out of his office and started beating him.

The women assaulted Das mercilessly and dragged him across the road to Municipality Square here. Das collapsed due to the assault, but the women were in no mood to let him go. They pulled Das to the main market here all the while beating him.

A scuffle broke out when the police tried to rescue Das. Initially, cops had to retreat due to the meagre number of policewomen present at the spot.

On being informed, personnel from the Chudamani and KASHIA Marine police stations reached the spot and rescued Das from the clutches of the irate women. A case has been registered in this connection at Basudevpur police station and further investigations are on. IIC Jeetendra Kumar Nayak said. The incident has created panic in the locality.

1,115 ft high waterfall discovered in Similipal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Sept 4: A waterfall approximately 1,115 feet in height has been found inside the dense Similipal forest. It is five kilometres away from Subarnamanjari village near Basipitha in Mayurbhanj district and had remained inaccessible for a long time, members of the 'Mayurbhanj Mirror' organisation informed Monday. The waterfall which is known as 'Subarnamanjari' is indeed a beautiful sight to behold.

Members of 'Mayurbhanj Mirror' also stated that the waterfall is just one of the many undiscovered places that exist in the Similipal forest range. They informed that they will continue to look for such hidden natural treasures in an effort to find attractive sightseeing spots for visitors to the district.

The members of the organisation also said that currently only four levels of the waterfall are visible even though it is a six-storey structure. They said that they discovered the waterfall after trekking



over 18km of forest path.

Kumaresh Nayak, Jayaprakash Singh, Sanat Barik, Ranjit Palei, Lokeswar Bhanja, Biswajit Marndi

and Kailash Singh of Subarnamanjari village were involved in the trek to locate the waterfall. They pointed out that if a proper road is developed to the waterfall, it will attract a huge number of tourists.

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No: CWC/RO/Patna/Buss/Empanement-Transportation/Western/05/2023 Dated: 02.09.2023

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Three separate E-Tenders are invited from the interested parties for empanement of contractors for Transportation works of Foodgrains, Industrial Goods, e-Commerce Items etc. in the state of Odisha for Central Warehousing located in Coastal/Southern/Western district & other locations of Patna Region. The Tender will be available online for sale w.e.f. 04.09.2023 from 10:00 hrs. to 24.09.2023 up to 23:59 hrs. The details may be seen and downloaded from CWC's website www.cewacor.nic.in and www.cwecprocure.com. This may also be seen at www.tenderhome.com

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6. Date & time of opening of bid	Dt. 16.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
7. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only.	

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender if any, can be seen in the said website.

Sd./- Executive Engineer
OIPR-32147/11/0002/2324

fincare
Small Finance Bank

Registered Office: 301-306, 3rd Floor, ABHJEET -V, Opp. Mayor's Bungalow, Law Garden Road, Mithakhali, Ahmedabad - 380006, Gujarat. www.fincarebank.com

LOAN AGAINST GOLD - AUCTION NOTICE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS

The below mentioned borrower/s have been issued notices to pay their outstanding amounts towards the loan against gold facilities availed from Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd ("Bank"). Since the borrower/s has/have failed to repay his/their dues, we are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold items/articles on 11 September 2023 between 11:00 AM - 03:00 PM (Time) at below mentioned branches according to the mode specified therein. In case of deceased borrowers, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs. Please note that in the event of failure of the above auction, the bank reserves its right to conduct another auction without prior intimation.

E-auction Branch Details (E-auction will be conducted by using Weblink<https://egold.auctiontiger.net/>)

BHADRAK - 22660001295127, 23660000490895, 23660000510020, 23660000755198 CUTTACK - 23660000164010, 23660000342245, 23660000748812 NARASINGHPUR - 23660000051483.

Note: The auction is subject to certain terms and conditions mentioned in the bid form, which is made available before the commencement of auction.

**Sd/-
Manager**
Fincare Small Finance Bank

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
QUALITY CONTROL (R&B) DIVISION
RAYAGADA, Pin - 765001**
Phone/Fax: (06856)223996, e-Mail: eeqrcgda@gmail.com

Quotation / Tender Call Notice No.

QC(R&B) RGD: 02/2023-24 Dated 25.08.2023 No.807, Dated 28.08.2023
No. B-830: Sealed quotations / tenders are invited from interested reputed Travel Agencies / Tour Operators / Private Individuals for providing 1 No. of AC Petrol / Diesel driven vehicles having sitting capacity not more than 6 persons including driver, which shall conform to the Terms and conditions (Appendix-A) for official use in the following Offices / Department on Monthly rent basis for individual offices.

Sl.No.	Vehicle Use in the Office	Security Deposit
1	Office of the Executive Engineer, Quality Control (R&B) Division, Rayagada	Rs. 5000/-
2	Office of the Research Officer, Zonal Laboratory (R&B) Sunabeda	Rs. 5000/-

- The service provider shall have a valid OGST registration to participate in the tendering.
- The service provider, participating in the bidding process under the jurisdiction of Municipal Corporations. Shall be registered on GeM platform.
- The vehicle must be in road worthy condition shall not be more than 3 years old from the date of initial registration and must have valid Registration Certificate, Insurance Certificate, Fitness Certificate, Pollution Certificate, Valid Contract Carriage Permit, Proof of up-to-date tax payment etc. mandatory for plying of vehicle.
- The Driver of the vehicle must have a valid Driving License for driving light transport passenger vehicle and should be sufficiently experienced in driving transport passenger vehicle.
- The Driver should be well behaved, gentle and obedient in nature.
- A sum of Rs 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only shall be deposited by the intending bidders in shape of Term Deposit Receipt/ Account Payee Bank Draft drawn in favour of the Executive Engineer, Quality Control (R&B) Division, Rayagada and submitted along with the tender as Security Deposit. After completion of tender process, the amount will be refunded to unsuccessful bidders.
- The monthly rate of hire charge be quoted separately in the general bid information (excluding fuel and lubricants).
- The vehicle must achieve a fuel efficiency of 10 Km per liter.
- The details of the make and year of manufacture of the vehicle, registration No. mileage (Km covered per litre) and name of the Driver, Driving License No. and period of validity should be specifically provided in the general bid information to be furnished with the Quotation/ Tender (Appendix-B).
- The Quotation completed in all respect should reach the undersigned on or before 13.09.2023 by 12.30 P.M and shall be opened on the same day at 4.30 P.M in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives.
- The application form of quotation/tender containing General Bid Information & Terms and condition for Hiring of Vehicles etc. will be available with Engineer, Quality Control (R&B) Division, Rayagada of the Department / Heads of Department/ Office on payment of Rs. 1000/- from 01.09.2023 to 13.09.2023 or can be downloaded from Odisha Govt. Website www.odisha.gov.in from Dt. 01.09.2023 to Dt. 13.09.2023. In case the application form is downloaded from Govt. website, the applicant shall furnish a Demand Draft for an amount Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand) only towards the cost of application along with the application.

Sd./- Executive Engineer
Q.C. (R&B) Division, Rayagada
OIPR-34142/11/0002/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION: BOLANGIR**
e-Procurement Notice

No. O-880 /IFB IDENTIFICATION NO. EEBLGR-Online-08/2023-24
E-mail ID: eerw_blgir@yahoo.co.in

1. Name of Work	: Road Work
2. Total No of Works	: 5 (Five) Nos.
3. Approximate Estimated Cost	: Rs. 5.08 Lakh to 12.70 Lakh
4. Time for Completion	: 1 (One) Calendar Month
5. Mode of Submission of Tender	: Tender Should be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in .
6. Other details are as follow	: As per TCN No. EEBLGR-Online-08/2023-24

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, R.W.Division, Bolangir	EEBLGR-Online-08/2023-24	11.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	26.09.2023 upto 5.00 PM	25.09.2023 upto 1.00 PM	27.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

• Further details can be seen from the website www.tenders.or.nic.in
• Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

OIPR-25068/11/0011/2324 **Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W.Division, Bolangir**

Detachment is the beginning of mastery.

SRI AUROBINDO



Pope & Putin

In a bizarre turn of events, Pope Francis has been caught in a cross-fire of sorts in the raging war between Russia and Ukraine. He is solely to blame for unwittingly championing Russia's cause and helping President Vladimir Putin reinforce Russia's territorial, spiritual and cultural claim over Ukraine. Kyiv, as is natural, is bristling with anger at the Pope. The bone of contention is the Pope's recent video speech to the All-Russian Meeting of Catholic Youth in St Petersburg, urging them to "not forget their heritage."

Precisely, such invocation of Russia's imperial legacies has been regularly used as a historical justification for the military invasion of Ukraine. In this context, the Pope's exhortation has turned out to be particularly insensitive and unwarranted. Putin has been politicising religion in Russia's imperial design to grab territories in its neighbourhood. In fact, the Kremlin's official discourse since 2014 has claimed Kyiv as "the mother of Russian cities" on the back of shared religious heritage.

Rewriting a country's history and interpreting it to suit the interests of a particular regime or ruler has been a trend in different countries. The process is sought to be legitimised through indoctrination of the country's people from the school level. Under Putin's regime, new school textbooks depict the "special military operation" in Ukraine as part of the country's historical mission. Though this exercise has gained fresh impetus in recent years, the Russian government launched a special commission in 2009 "to counter attempts to falsify history."

The national ideology deployed by the Russian Federation over the past decade is one that glorifies the imperial past. Such glorification is closely linked with Russia's self-proclaimed role as a religious authority. Legacies of the empire – among them territorial conquests, cultural subjugation and religious dogma – have been appropriated by the Kremlin to provide the basis for Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This is why Ukraine calls the Pope's praise of the heritage of the Russian empire unfortunate since it seems to overlook how the history of both the Orthodox church and the Russian empire have been weaponised in Russia to justify its invasion.

The clarification from the Vatican that the Pope had no intention to justify the invasion has, so far, failed to assuage the feelings of the Ukrainians. More so because the Pope had earlier questioned the sagacity of Ukraine's decision to seek NATO membership.

Religious leaders would do well to steer clear of politics at this crucial stage in history lest their words be used to justify wrongs.



Ajit Ranade

ONE NATION ONE ELECTION WILL REQUIRE AMENDMENTS TO AT LEAST FIVE ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

The government of India has set up a high-level committee (HLC) to examine and make recommendations on holding simultaneous elections across the country, for national and State legislatures and also village, town and city councils. The committee is chaired by former President of India Ram Nath Kovind. The terms of reference of the HLC say that it is expected to examine requisite amendments to the Constitution, recommend a possible solution to problems like a hung house, defections or no-confidence motions, suggest safeguards to ensure continuity of the cycle of one-election only, of logistics of EVMs, and the use of a single electoral roll for all elections.

Popularly known as one-nation one-election (ONOE), this was in the 2014 manifesto of the BJP. During 2015 and 2016 it was the subject matter of a Parliamentary Standing Committee, and the subject matter of a communication between the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and the Election Commission of India (ECI), and a Union Law Ministry's report sent to ECI. In 2017, President Pranab Mukherjee made a mention of ONOE in his address on the eve of Republic Day. Later that year the Niti Aayog published a discussion paper on this topic. In 2018, President Kovind in his joint address to the two Houses of Parliament indicated the desirability of holding simultaneous elections. ONOE has thus been around in discussions for at least nine years now.

The rationale for ONOE is that it will reduce the excessive spending on elections since we seem to be always in election mode. It will remove roadblocks to development caused by the model code of conduct which is in force during elections. And it will reduce large scale deployment of security forces for prolonged periods of time during elections. Each one of these three issues can be questioned.



Much debate and discussion are expected in the coming days, but the road ahead for One Nation One Election is bumpy for sure

For instance, if there is excess spending on elections, who is going to pay? The government's own spending is not even 0.1% of its total budget, both at the Centre and the state level. This is as per accounts submitted by the ECI or the State Election Commissions. The "excessive" expenditure is actually what is spent by candidates and political parties. This too is not confirmed in official documents. As per accounts submitted to ECI, on an average the official spending by candidates is not even 50% of the permissible ceiling. The candidates are at least officially, underspending not overspending. So, this means that much of the spending is via black money. Prime Minister Modi himself has said that electoral reforms are necessary to get rid of black money. But neither the candidates nor the parties have ever complained or seem to be bothered about excessive spending. If that were so, then a major step forward to get rid of black money would have been to legislate complete transparency on the source and use of funds by political parties. But parties have repeatedly resisted being subjected to the Right to Information Act. The introduction of electoral bonds has made political funding even more opaque since the source and destination can no longer be connected by the voter.

model code of conduct seriously hinders developmental work by incumbent governments. If the prime motivation is reducing the evil influence of money power, then several electoral reforms and funding transparency laws can be introduced, without going toward ONOE. But be that as it may, let us examine the hurdles in going toward ONOE? Here are five of them.

Firstly, it will require amendments to at least five Articles of the Constitution. These are Articles 83, 85, 172, 174 and 356. This will need two thirds majority in both Houses.

Secondly even if the amendments go through, their validity is likely to be challenged in Supreme Court. This is because these amendments affect the federal character of the Constitution. The federal character of the Constitution is part of the basic structure of the Constitution, which cannot be amended as per the landmark 1973 judgement of the SC. We can do so, only by writing a new Constitution, which needs a new Constituent Assembly. This is thus an enterprise with implications which go far beyond ONOE.

Thirdly, implementing ONOE will require much more paraphernalia for the conduct of elections, of which the security forces and arrangements would be paramount. Even for one large state like Uttar Pradesh, elections had to be conducted in seven phases

spread over two months, mainly to ensure law and order and prevent violence. Imagine conducting national, state and local elections at one go. The requirement of security forces, election observers, returning officers and other resources, as also EVMs would completely overwhelm the current capacity. What if even one accident or sabotage happens which will vitiate the entire process, and "ring fencing" such incidents will bring constitutional difficulties. The precision and synchronisation effort required are formidable, and unless capacity is substantially enhanced this is going to be a hurdle.

Fourthly, how to deal with governments that fall in middle of the term? And what about premature dissolution before the completion of full terms? This is a democratic prerogative which cannot be denied. Of the 17 Lok Sabhas, 8 were prematurely dissolved. Will the mid-term fall of a government or dissolving of a legislature be only replaced by President's rule? That would be even more detrimental to democratic norms and aspirations of the people. The ONOE also undermines the effort of empowerment of the third tier, by having directly elected mayors.

Fifth, it is not clear that excessive spending will come down, which is the prime motive behind ONOE. Since more than 90% of spending on elections is black money from unaccounted sources, it needs to be tackled differently. And it won't simply go away with ONOE. Strong reforms have been proposed by Law Commissions, the Election Commission and citizens' groups, for over two decades. But not much has been done by lawmakers to reduce black money in elections. ONOE is not likely to make a dent, and that is its very purpose. Much debate and discussion are expected in the coming days, but the road ahead for ONOE is bumpy for sure.

The writer is a noted economist. ©THE BILLION PRESS

WISDOM CORNER

The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today. H. JACKSON BROWN JR.

Have confidence in your ability to do it right, and work hard to do the best possible job. WALT DISNEY

If you don't back it up with performance and hard work, talking doesn't mean a thing. MICHAEL JORDAN

WORDSWORTH

Nano

In that descriptive British term for becoming upset or angry, the heir to the throne has been getting his knickers in a twist over the implications of nanotechnology, a new field in which scientists are learning to manipulate matter pretty much atom by atom. He is reported to have called on the Royal Society to discuss the risks of this new technology, which has left British researchers somewhat bewildered, as they consider there is no significant peril in what they're doing. King Charles's attitude towards the field has been described as nanophobia, yet another addition to the cornucopia of nano- terms that have appeared in the past decade, as the implications of this new technology have begun to filter through to the general public. It's a comment on the huge advances made in our understanding of the very small that the prefix nano- is first recorded only in the 1940s, when it became necessary to specify sub-units that were a factor of a thousand million smaller (10⁻⁹). It was used first in measurements of small electric currents (nanoamps), or powers (nanowatts), small volumes of liquid (nanolitres), and the like. Whimsical computer scientists have since invented nanoacre, for an area about 2mm square on the surface of a microchip. It was the publication in 1986 of Eric Drexler's book The Engines of Creation that brought to most people's attention the idea that it might be possible to directly manipulate matter at the atomic level. He didn't invent the term nanotechnology – it's first recorded from 1974 – but he certainly gave it its current associations, based on the fact that the size of atoms and molecules is in the nanometre range. Many technologists use nanotechnology or nanotech to mean any way to construct things on the nanoscale, such as the creation of ever-smaller microchips. However, Drexler meant two ideas in particular by the term. One was to create new substances, or better ways of making existing materials, by moving atoms one by one to where we want them to be. The other was the creation of molecular-sized machines, capable of carrying out a variety of useful functions semi-autonomously. Science-fiction writers sometimes call these nanomachines, nanobots (where bot is from robot), nanites, or nanos for short. These might, to take an example, monitor a person's health, as Greg Bear imagined in Moving Mars: "Medical nano filled my bloodstream, rooting out problems, controlling my tendency to slip into shock". Nanos might act as construction tools, turning raw materials into useful objects, acting as nanoassemblers, as in The Hammer of God by Arthur C Clarke: "Luckily all the necessary components are standard items – propellant tanks, thrusters, control systems, and the framework to hold them together. So the nanoassemblers can build ATLAS in a few days". One of the key abilities of these machines would be to make copies of themselves – self-replicating machines, or replicators. This is where Charles's worries arise. Somebody evidently told him about grey goo, the unlovely name for what would result if such tiny machines ever got out of control and turned the world and everybody on it into an amorphous atomic soup. Nobody seems to have explained to him that for the foreseeable future the concept lies strictly in the realm of science fiction.

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

This Cold War is different

US President Joe Biden recently brought the leaders of allies Japan and South Korea to Camp David to discuss how to contain China and counter Russia's influence, for example in Africa's Sahel region, which has recently experienced a string of coups d'état. Leaders from BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – gathered in Johannesburg to criticise the West's dominance over international institutions established after World War II. It was enough to give Cold War historians déjà vu.

The West's main adversary today is China, not the Soviet Union, and the BRICS is no Warsaw Pact. But with the world entering a period of uncertainty following the demise of the post-Cold War order, the parallels are sufficient to convince many to turn to pre-1989 conceptual models to gain insight into what might come next. This includes the US and China, though each is betting on a different model. Between the end of WWII and the fall of the Berlin Wall, the two main forces defining the international order were ideological conflict, which split the world into two camps, and the quest

for independence, which led to the proliferation of states, from 50 in 1945 to over 150 in 1989-1991. While the two forces interacted, ideological conflict was dominant: struggles for independence often morphed into proxy wars, and countries were forced either to join a bloc or define themselves by their "non-alignment".

The US seems to think a similar dynamic will dominate this time around. Faced with its first peer competitor since the fall of the Soviet Union, the US has sought to rally its allies behind a strategy of "decoupling" and "de-risking" – essentially an economic version of the Cold War policy of containment. Whereas the US may be expecting Cold War II, shaped primarily by ideological polarisation, China seems to be betting on global fragmentation. Yes, it has tried to offer non-Western countries an alternative to Western-dominated institutions such as the G7 or the International Monetary Fund. But, in China's view, the quest for sovereignty and independence is fundamentally incompatible with the formation of Cold War-style blocs. Instead, China expects a multipolar world. While China cannot win a battle against

a US-led bloc, President Jinping seems convinced that it can take its place as a great power in a fragmented global order.

Even America's closest allies are not immune from the trend toward fragmentation, despite US leaders' best efforts. Consider the recent Camp David summit. Though some media were quick to herald a "new cold war," the participants' interests diverged in several ways. South Korea's main focus remains North Korea, and the intelligence-sharing agreements and nuclear consultations announced after the summit were as much about signaling their resolve to push back against North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un's regime as they were about countering China. Japan, for its part, is eager to avoid strategic escalation over Taiwan – a development that would threaten its economic model, which depends significantly on trade with China (including in semiconductor-related technology). And both South Korea and Japan are unhappy with the zeal with which America is pursuing its de-risking strategy.

Perhaps the biggest surprise last week was the BRICS' announcement that six countries – Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran,

Saudi Arabia, and the UAE – would become full-fledged members by the beginning of next year. Pre-summit editorialising notwithstanding, China is under no illusion that countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE will join it in a bona fide anti-Western bloc; China's goals are more subtle.

Joining the BRICS increases countries' freedom of action – for example, by increasing access to alternative sources of financing or, eventually, providing a genuine alternative to the US dollar for trade, investment, and reserves. A world in which countries are not dependent on the West, but free to explore other options, serves China's interests far better than a narrower, more loyal pro-China alliance ever could.

Contrary to how it may appear to many, not least in the US, the new cold war seems to be based not on the old logic of polarisation, but on a new logic of fragmentation. Judging by the growth of the BRICS, there is no shortage of countries that find that new logic enticing.

The writer is Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Mark Leonard

THE NEW COLD WAR SEEMS TO BE BASED NOT ON THE OLD LOGIC OF POLARISATION, BUT ON A NEW LOGIC OF FRAGMENTATION

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Noble profession

Sir, Annually, on 5 September, India unites in a collective celebration known as Teachers' Day. It goes beyond being a mere tribute to educators; it serves as a commemoration of the lasting legacy of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, India's second President. Radhakrishnan, widely acknowledged as one of 20th century's most eminent Indian thinkers, transcended the conventional role of a teacher; he embodied the noble profession of education. September 5 holds a unique place in India as a day when we openly express our gratitude and admiration for teachers and their unwavering commitment to imparting knowledge. Teachers are like guiding lights in a world where the thirst for learning knows no bounds. Radhakrishnan played a pivotal role in shaping modern India's educational system, which is why his birthday was chosen as the day to honour and appreciate the contributions of all teachers in India. On this remarkable day, our observation goes beyond commemorating Radhakrishnan's birth; it's an opportunity to extend heartfelt appreciation to all teachers who play a pivotal role in shaping India's educational landscape. As we celebrate Teachers' Day, we are reminded of Radhakrishnan's profound words: "Teachers should be the best minds in the country." Therefore, on Teachers' Day, students and communities openly express their profound gratitude for the unwavering dedication and significant impact that teachers have on our lives.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Foot in the mouth

Sir, Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare Minister and Chief Minister MK Stalin's son, Udhayanidhi Stalin, has courted a controversy by equating Sanatana Dharma with diseases like dengue, malaria and coronavirus and urging its "eradication." Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) scion Udhayanidhi pointed out that Sanatana Dharma divides people in the name of caste and religion. DMK leaders have also drawn attention to this topic earlier, with its MP A Raja sparking a row for his comments on the caste system within Hinduism and the Manusmriti. Udhayanidhi's remarks have infuriated the Bharatiya Janata Party which has accused the Opposition INDIA alliance of insulting the country's tradition and history.

NJ Ravi Chander, BANGALORE

Cong eyes Raj return with freebies

BJP HAS BEEN QUESTIONING THE RULING GOVERNMENT OVER THE HIGHEST PETROL-DIESEL PRICES, POOR LAW AND ORDER, AND POWER CRISIS IN THE STATE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Sept 4: Free mobiles, free ration kits and free power till 100 units... Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has announced a series of freebies as assembly polls approach near, aiming to make a comeback in the state for next tenure.

Eventually, the million dollar question is, will these freebies help Congress in making a comeback in Rajasthan? While Congress seems confident of making a comeback via these free schemes and its social security announcements, the BJP, on the other hand, has been questioning the ruling government in Rajasthan over the highest petrol diesel prices, poor law and order state, and power crisis in the state.

A senior Congress worker said, "CM seems confident that the people of Rajasthan will reelect Gehlot govt. We have taken care for each segment of society. With the aim of women empowerment and reducing the digital divide, one crore women have been announced to be given smartphones under the Indira Gandhi Smartphone Scheme. So far we have given smartphones to 40 lakh women. Next, all 1 crore women will be given a guarantee card, so that they will be able to easily get smartphones from the government in the coming times."

Gehlot has also announced to give free ration kits to 33 lakh people. According to the Chief Minister, families deprived of the benefits of the National Food Security Scheme will be given free ration kits. At the same time, kits will also be provided to those people who are taking advantage of the National Food



Security Scheme and are in need. CM has already announced to give LPG cylinder to families below the poverty line (BPL) and beneficiaries of the Ujjwala scheme in Rajasthan for Rs 500, with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot approving a financial proposal of Rs 750 crore.

However, the opposition BJP has termed these announcements as 'Chunavi Revdis'.

BJP state president CP Joshi said that the people of the state are suffering due to the false claims and promises of the Congress government. "Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has promised free electricity, but as he

couldn't take concrete steps for power generation, the power crisis has deepened in the state. As a result, today there is no electricity for 10 hours in the villages and also in the cities. The situation is bad. Everyone including public, youth, women, farmers, laborers and industrialists are troubled due to power cuts. The Chief Minister's inaction and corrupt policies have brought the development and standard of living of the state into the abyss," he added.

As this debate continues in the desert state, the discussion definitely goes to other states where free election promises

have played an important role in victory and defeat. Congress' five guarantees scheme has spoiled the game of the BJP in the Karnataka assembly elections.

In the five guarantees of Congress in Karnataka, it promised a monthly allowance of Rs 2000 to women, unemployment allowance to youth, free electricity up to 200 units to homes and free grains. The Congress won 135 of Karnataka's 228 seats, while the BJP was reduced from 116 to 65.

In Himachal Pradesh, Congress' old pension scheme and 5 lakh government jobs prevailed over BJP's other promises. Apart from these two announcements, the Congress has also announced to give Rs 1500 pension to women and 300 units of free electricity to every family. The Congress won 40 seats in the 68-member Himachal Assembly.

Free promises played an important role in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh elections as well. Just before the polls, BJP promised to give two gas cylinders in a year. Along with this, the party also promised to give free scooty to college-going girls. Both these free promises of BJP overshadowed the old pension scheme of the Samajwadi Party (SP).

Meanwhile, political experts told IANS that free election promises work as a masterstroke in seats with low margins. Political parties do not want to miss out on making free promises as per their convenience.

So amid the war of words over freebies in Rajasthan, all eyes are set on which party will win in the state assembly polls to note if 'revdi politics' really matters in the long run.

KOTASTROPHE We are by your side: Collector to coaching students

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota, Sept 4: Amid the rising number of suicides by NEET and JEE aspirants in this coaching hub, District Collector OP Bunkar wrote a letter to encourage them and assured that he and his team were by their side. In the inspirational letter he penned down Sunday, Bunkar asked students not to get defeated by failure, saying, "If one road closes, other roads are open and waiting for you."

"I and my team are with you," he said, adding, "You are not alone in the city. I am here (main hoon na), doors of my office and home are always open for every student. Don't hesitate. Learn to share the stress. Whatever kind of fear or stress you have, do share it with me."

The collector directed coaching institutes, hostels, and paying guests to put up his letter on their display boards.

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 has seen 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. A packed schedule, cut-throat competition, constant pressure to do better, the



burden of parents' expectations and homesickness are the common struggles of the students here. In his letter, the Kota collector expressed concern over the suicide incidents and urged students not to get disheartened over failures. Referring to the students who recently allegedly died by suicide here, Bunkar wrote, "You have gone, but before going, you should have thought what would happen to your parents who were committed to fulfilling your dreams by willingly sacrificing whatever they had."

"You all became members of my family on the very first day you reached this city to fulfill your dreams and I am constantly in an effort to care for you and to provide you a happy environment here," the collector wrote to the students.

Bunkar, in his letter, also recollected the joyous time he spent during interaction with some students.

"All of you work very hard to attain your target," the collector said, adding, "If one road is

closed, several other roads are open and waiting for you."

"With a little fall in ranking in a test, you take yourself broken down, sink into tension and pack yourself in a room and continue to think that nothing could happen now," Bunkar pointed out to the students, while adding that "failure is the first step to success" and none of their failures was a parameter to decide their personality.

The collector exhorted the students to explore the city and visit the nature parks and recreation centres for relaxation.

He also advised students to take some time out to meet friends and for other fun activities so that they feel refreshed.

Concluding his letter to students with an inspirational note, the Kota DC said, "Dear students, you are strong, have got a lot to live life. You have the courage to move on ahead surmounting every weakness and difficulty. Believe it, nobody can defeat you until you yourself succumb to defeat."

Uma continues tirade against MP BJP



Bhopal, Sept 4: Enraged over not being invited to the 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' ahead of the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, former chief minister Uma Bharti continued her attack on the state BJP leadership.

Expressing her anguish through a series of posts in her social media handle, the BJP leader said, "I did not receive an invitation at the beginning of Jan Ashirwad Yatra. It is true that I have said so, but receiving an invitation does not me more or less important. Now, even if I am invited, I will not go. Neither in the beginning nor in the closing ceremony September 25."

The fire-brand leader, however, said that her bond with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will continue and she will campaign for the party as and when asked. "Whenever and wherever Shivraj ji asks me to campaign, I will obey and respect him. I am among whose blood and sweat made this BJP," she said.

MP may face drought-like situation

26 OF THE STATE'S 52 DISTRICTS HAVE RECEIVED AROUND 20% DEFICIENT RAIN IN AUGUST

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Sept 4: Poor rainfall during August has raised worries of a possible drought-like situation across Madhya Pradesh as 26 of the state's 52 districts have received around 20 per cent deficient rain, and nine, including capital Bhopal, around 30 per cent, according to IMD reports.

The situation prompted Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to call an emergency meeting of senior officials late Sunday and issue directions to chalk out a plan to combat the possible drought threat looming in the state. During the meeting, Chouhan said that due to poor rainfall, farmers may face tough situation in coming days as their crops have been damaged.

"We have to be prepared to combat this possible drought. We have to take steps to protect our farmers," he told officials.

The officials apprised the Chief Minister about the situation of dams and other water resources in Madhya Pradesh.

Chouhan also said demand of electricity has increased manifold



and has directed the officials to provide water for irrigation.

According to India Meteorological Department in Bhopal, the entire state as on September 3 has reported 18 per cent below normal rain. As many as 47 out of districts have reported below normal rains, ranging between 2 per cent below normal in Anuppur and 46 per cent below normal in Satna district - both in the Vindhya region.

The IMD report suggested very serious position in at least 29 districts, spanning from Sehore and

Vidisha (21 per cent) in central MP and Satna, Mandasaur and Ashok Nagar (40 per cent to 46 per cent below normal) in Vindhya, west MP and Gwalior-Chambal regions, respectively.

While 17 of the 29 worst hit districts have reported 21 per cent to 28 per cent below normal rain, between June 1 and September 3, at least eight districts have recorded 30 per cent to 39 per cent below normal rain, while three other districts have reported over 40 per cent below normal rain in the same period.

In western parts of the state

such as Mandasaur, Neemuch, Ujjain, Ratlam, Barwani and Khargone, which form the main soybean and cotton cash crop cultivating areas of the state, farmers have been resorting to bizarre rituals, like feeding gulab jamuns to donkey, village sarpanches riding a donkey and donkeys ploughing the parched fields to propitiate the rain gods.

Meanwhile, state Congress president Kamal Nath has expressed his concern over possible drought-like situation and demanded prompt action from the government.

Struggle for safe commute to remote villages

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ratlam, Sept 4: The sight of women from the Bhill community sitting on the rooftop of an overloaded van - hanging on to their luggage and dear life as the van ascends the hilly roads - is pretty common on the 50 km stretch of the Ratlam-Shivgarh-Bajna road, traversing a predominantly tribal area bordering Rajasthan.

An old joke about an RTO officer telling an auto-driver that he will not levy a fine on him if he shows how he managed to accommodate 20 passengers in a seven-seater auto still makes residents of Ratlam laugh, even as they live this reality every day.

The roads are damaged and steep,



and covering 50 km takes over two hours. The private bus service that starts at nine in the morning ceases after five pm, the two villages of Bajna and Shivgarh being the last stops. Those who live in the villages farther away have to rely on the overloaded autos and vans. This includes government and private employees who have to commute to and from Ratlam every day for work. The hilly, potholed roads are

frequented by these overloaded vehicles many times a day. Everyone, including women and children, boards these crammed autos, some sitting in the trunk while others even climb atop the mini-vans and sit on the luggage racks on the roof.

Ahesham Ansari, a supervisor with the Women and Child Development Department in Ratlam, commutes to Bajna to oversee the functioning of the village anganwadis every day. She catches the bus at nine in the morning, reaching the village a little before noon.

She tries finishing off her work before five in the evening to take the last bus home.

"This is a remote area so I cannot miss the five o'clock bus, else I have to shell out over Rs 2,000 to

book a private cab or take the crammed autos or vans, which do not look safe," she says. Capitalising on the situation, autos charge arbitrary prices whereas bus charges are capped at Rs 50.

The situation is even more challenging for the residents of 24 villages lying on the other side of the Mahi River. Residents in the dhanis (small cluster of houses) of Rajpada and Jholi Chandragarh panchayat rely on boats to cross the river, and then catch shared vehicles to reach Bajna, from where they can avail of the private bus service. The lack of a bridge over the river makes the situation more challenging as boats are the only sources of commute to the other side.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-829
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
BHANJANAGAR (R&B) DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR
 (Phone/Fax: (06821) 241133 / E-mail: eernbngr@yahoo.in
 Ltr. No. 8835 Dtd. 18.08.2023

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
E-Procurement Bid Identification No. S.E.-BNJ-R&B-15/2023-24

- Name of Work : Building Works
- No. of Works : 09 Nos. Building Works
- No. of Covers : Single Cover
- Estimated Cost : Rs.6.63 lakhs to Rs.28.74 lakhs
- Period of Completion : Three to Six Calendar Months
- Date of time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 12.00 Noon of dated 14.09.2023 to 5.00 P.M. of dated 14.09.2023
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : Upto 5.00 P.M. of dated 14.09.2023
- Date of opening of bid documents : At 11.00 A.M. of 15.09.2023
- Class of Contractor : "D", "C" & "B" Class Contractor
- Name and address of Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The Addendum/Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
 Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division
 OIPR-34015/11/0013/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, SADAR, KEONJHAR
1st "CORRIGENDUM" to ONLINE Bid ID No.
TCN No. 01-KjrSadar/2023-2024, Dated: 24.08.2023
No. 3602/Dev. Dated: 02.09.2023

No. 1-360: This is for information of all concerned for Online Bid ID No. TCN No. 01-Kjr/Sadar/2023-2024 Dated: 24.08.2023 (Single Cover). Due to technical issues of Online Bank Account Mapping, the payment mode could not make possible to enable for online payment. Therefore all concerned are requested to pay the tender paper cost (in shape of Demand Draft) and EMD (Bank pledged in favour of BDO, Sadar, Keonjhar) respectively to the projects mentioned in the above bid and submit scanned photocopies of relevant documents through Registered or Speed Post on or before 5.00 P.M. of 11.09.2023.

Sd/- Block Development Officer
 Sadar, Keonjhar
 OIPR-19123/11/0012/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
KANUPUR REHABILITATION, CAMPS & BUILDING DIVISION
 AT/Po-Basudevpur, Dist-Keonjhar, PIN-758047
e-Procurement Notice
 Bid Identification No. SE, KRC & BD-07/2023-24
 Email: eekrcbdbasudevpur@gmail.com

No. A-516:

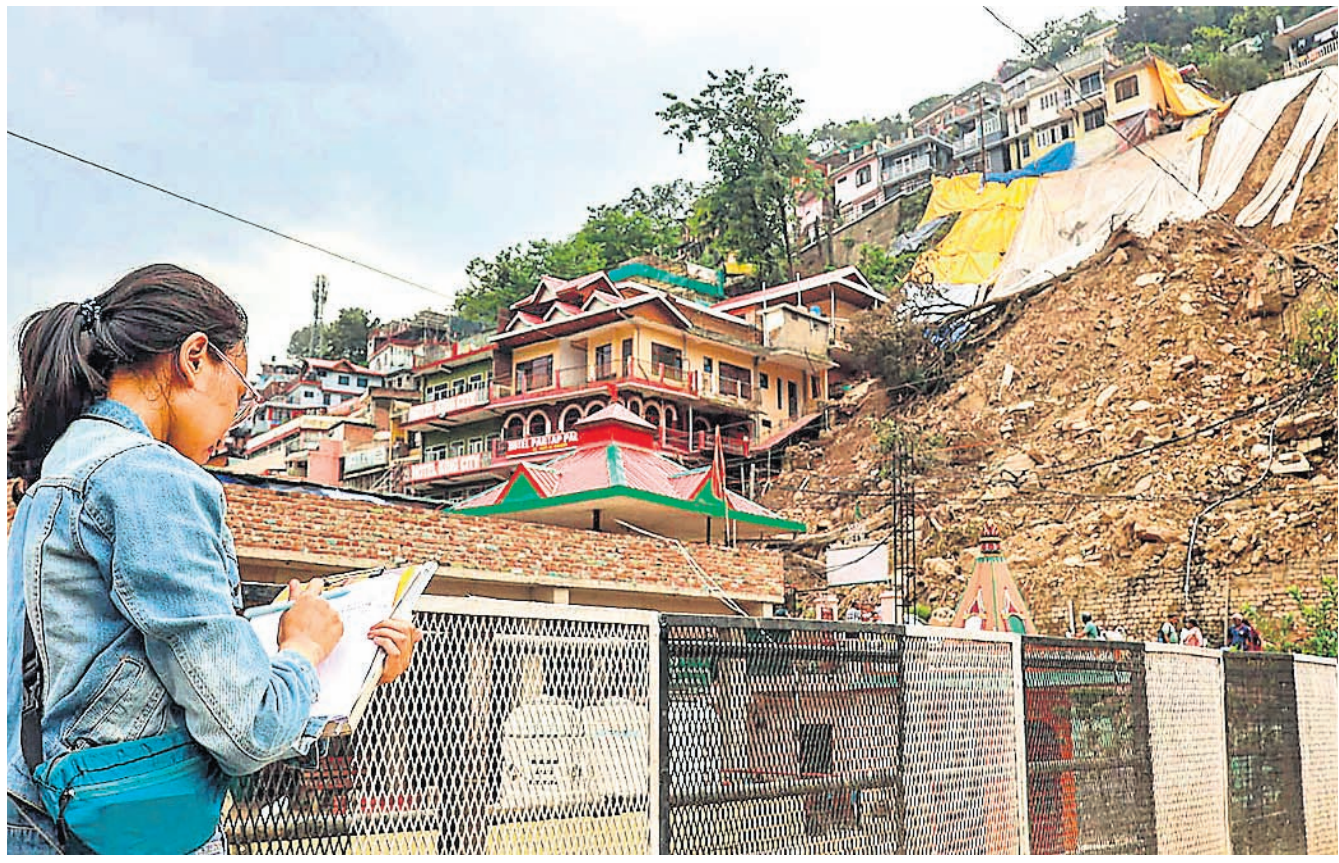
Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakh)	E.M.D./Bid Security in Rs. (To be remitted online)	Cost of Bid document in Rs. (To be remitted online)	Period of Completion	Class of Contractor	Name & Address of the Division under which the work will be executed
1	"Construction of Sanitation facilities to each house at Basudevpur phase-II R&R colony under KIP"	47.38	47,400.00	6,000.00	06 (Six) Calendar Months	"B"	Kanupur Reh. Camps & Building Division, At/Po-Basudevpur, Dist-Keonjhar
2	"Construction of club house with boundary wall at Kumulanani (Dhotakuchuda) R&R Colony for the DPs of village Dhotakuchuda"	14.88	14,900.00	6,000.00	06 (Six) Calendar Months	D & C	Kanupur Reh. Camps & Building Division, At/Po-Basudevpur, Dist-Keonjhar
3	"Construction of community centre 02 nos (for Munda sahi and Patra sahi) alongwith electrification, water supply and sanitary facilities at Birkala & Gobindapur R&R colony for the DPs of Birkala & Gobindapur village of KIP"	27.71	27,750.00	6,000.00	06 (Six) Calendar Months	C & B	Kanupur Reh. Camps & Building Division, At/Po-Basudevpur, Dist-Keonjhar

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding		Date & Time of opening of tender		Place of Opening
		From	To	Date	Time	
Superintending Engineer, Kanupur Reh. C & B Division, Basudevpur, Dist-Keonjhar	SE, KRC & BD 07/2023-24	10.09.23	20.09.23	21.09.23	11.00	O/o. the Superintending Engineer, Kanupur Reh. C & B Division, Basudevpur, Dist-Keonjhar

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Kanupur Reh. C & B Division, Basudevpur
 OIPR-32053/11/0003/2324



School students pose near a 'rangoli' of former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a day before his birth anniversary which is also celebrated as Teachers' Day, in Moradabad



An official of Geological Survey of India conducts a survey of the landslide-hit areas in Mandi



People amid rains at a market near Mecca Masjid, Hyderabad



A helicopter drops water over woodland during a wildfire in the suburb of Stamata, in northern Athens, Greece



In this photo provided by NASA, from left to right, Roscosmos cosmonaut Andrey Fedyayev, NASA astronaut Warren "Woody" Hoburg, NASA astronaut Stephen Bowen, second from right, and United Arab Emirates astronaut Sultan al-Neyadi are seen inside a SpaceX capsule onboard the SpaceX recovery ship MEGAN shortly after having landed in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Jacksonville, Florida



Children dress up as Lord Krishna ahead of Janmashtami festival in Nadia



Delhi Lt. Governor VK Saxena and Union MoS Meenakshi Lekhi during the unveiling of sculptures made from scrap metal, at NDMC Park in New Delhi



A worker cleans a water body at a hotel in Kolkata

national

of the day quote

The Centre should declare the calamity caused by heavy rains in Himachal Pradesh as a national disaster
SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHA | HIMACHAL CM

Truth has become a casualty and stating facts can invite punishment in Jammu and Kashmir following the abrogation of Article 370
MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP CHIEF

I met Hon'ble Union Home Minister @AmitShah ji at his residence to discuss the roadmap for the complete withdrawal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act from Assam. The Government of Assam will take further steps based on the suggestions of Hon'ble Home Minister
HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

SHORT TAKES

Four of family hacked to death

Tiruppur (TN): Four members of a family, including two women, were hacked to death allegedly by three persons due to previous enmity at Palladam in Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu, police said Monday. One person has been detained in connection with the crime, said police. Expressing shock over the incident, Chief Minister M K Stalin said he had directed the police to trace and nab two others involved in the crime. He ordered the officials to provide a solatium of Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the deceased from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund. However, relatives and friends of the deceased declined to accept the bodies till all the culprits were brought to book. They staged a demonstration at Palladam in support of their demand. Senior police officials rushed to the spot to pacify them.

Central Election Committee set up

New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Monday constituted the party's Central Election Committee with 16 members including himself and former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. The development comes ahead of key assembly elections in states like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The panel discusses and finalises the list of candidates for any parliamentary or state elections, including bypolls.

Flood situation improves in Assam

Guwahati: The flood situation in Assam improved on Monday with no fresh area getting inundated and the number of affected people dipping to nearly 80,000, an official bulletin said. This year's death toll in floods remained unchanged at 18 as no fresh fatality was reported. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin said 79,060 people were still affected by the deluge in eight districts. The number of affected people was 1.22 lakh in seven districts on Sunday.

Two killed in blast

Tapi (Gujarat): At least two labourers were killed and three others were critically injured in a blast at a newly-constructed factory yet to start operations in Tapi district of Gujarat Monday, police said. The incident occurred at around 4.30 pm at a fruit juice unit located at Virpur village in Valod taluka, a police official said. Five workers were setting up machinery at the factory when one of the parts exploded, he said.



Our foreign policy should always be based on reciprocity. If China doesn't accept a one India policy, then why should India accept One China Policy?
OMAR ABDULLAH | FORMER J&K CM

THANKHAR TO VISIT KOTA

Vice President Jagdeep Thankhar will arrive in Rajasthan's Kota on a day-long visit during which he will attend a slew of events on Tuesday, an official said



Sanatan Dharma row escalates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: The row over Udhayanidhi Stalin's "eradicate Sanatan Dharma" remark escalated Monday with the senior BJP leaders and Union ministers intensifying its attack against the opposition bloc INDIA, asking it if the recent Mumbai meeting was to target the Hindu religion and the Congress saying that it respects all religions but others have the freedom to express their views. In his address at a meeting of the Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers and Artists Association in Chennai on Saturday, DMK leader Udhayanidhi likened Sanatan Dharma to coronavirus, malaria and dengue and said such things should not be opposed but destroyed. While AICC general secretary K C Venugopal asserted that the party ideology of respecting all religions was very clear, some other Congress leaders expressed different views with Karan Singh condemning Udhayanidhi's comments. Attacking the opposition bloc INDIA, the BJP questioned the silence of its leaders on the issue and accused the alliance of being



against the Hindu religion. Also, a petition was filed by Muzaffarpur-based advocate Sudhir Kumar Ojha before a court in Bihar against Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and his son Udayanidhi, alleging that the remarks have hurt Hindu sentiments. Responding to a query on the row at a press conference here, Venugopal said while the Congress' stand is clear, every other political party has the freedom to express its own view. "Actually, our view is very clear - 'Sarvadharmasambhav' (equal respect to all religions) is the Congress ideology. But, you have to understand that every po-

None should be involved in any matter that hurts people: Mamata

KOLKATA: Amid the raging controversy over DMK leader Udayanidhi Stalin's controversial remarks against Sanatan Dharma, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Monday said no one should be involved in any matter which might hurt people. Every religion has separate sentiments and India is about unity in diversity, she told PTI VIDEO here. "I have high regards and respect for the people of Tamil Nadu and south India. But my humble request is respect all, as every religion has separate sentiments. India is a secular and democratic country. India is about unity in diversity," she said. About Stalin's comment, Banerjee said "He is a junior and may not know about it. From my side, I am not clear about why and on which grounds he has made his comments. I feel that each and every religion should be equally respected. I respect Sanatan Dharma and we derive our leanings from the Vedas," she added. Banerjee said the West Bengal government gives pension to Hindu priests. "We have so many temples across the country. We visit temples, mosques and churches. We should not be involved in any matter which might hurt a section of people," she stressed.

litical party has its own freedom to tell their views," he said. "We are respecting everybody's beliefs," the Congress leader said. Reacting to the controversy, Karnataka minister and Congress leader Priyank Kharge said any religion that does not give equal rights is not a religion and "is as good as a disease". "Any religion that does not promote equality, any religion that doesn't ensure that you have the dignity of being a human being is not a religion, according

to me. So it is as good as a disease," Priyank, who is the son of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, said. Terming the DMK leader's statement as "preposterous" and "most unfortunate", former Union minister Karan Singh said, "Thiru Udhayanidhi's preposterous statement that Sanatan Dharma should be eradicated is most unfortunate. Crores of people in this country follow, to a lesser or greater extent the tenets of Sanatan Dharma."

VOICE OF ISRO'S COUNTDOWNS DIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 4: ISRO scientist N Valarmathi who did the countdown for a number of missions including the Chandrayaan-3 died in Chennai on September 2 following cardiac arrest, an official said here Monday. Valarmathi died at a Chennai hospital, the ISRO official added. Chandrayaan 3 is said to be her last countdown assignment. Condolences poured in for Valarmathi, with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar among others expressing grief over her death. Many fondly recalled her resonating countdown from the Mission Control Centre at ISRO's Sriharikota spaceport during many launches. Dr P V Venkitakrishnan, former ISRO Director said "the voice of Valarmathi Madam will not be there for the countdowns of future missions of ISRO from Sriharikota."



"Chandrayaan 3 was her final countdown announcement. An unexpected demise. Feel so sad. Pranams," he said in a post on X. In his social media post, Chandrasekhar expressed grief over Valarmathi's demise. "Saddened to hear about the passing of N Valarmathi ji, the voice behind many @isro launch countdowns, including Chandrayaan 3," the Minister of State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics & Technology, said.

PRO-PAK SLOGAN

SC asks Lone to file affidavit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: The Supreme Court Monday asked National Conference leader Mohd Akbar Lone to file an affidavit swearing allegiance to the Constitution of India and accepting the country's sovereignty unconditionally, after the 'Pakistan zindabad' slogan that he allegedly raised in the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly in 2018 kicked up a massive row.

Lone, the lead petitioner challenging the abrogation of Article 370 that accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, will file the affidavit by Tuesday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who represented him in the matter, told a five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY



Chandrachud. The senior lawyer said he will not represent Lone if he does not file the affidavit as sought. "He is an MP of Lok Sabha. He is a citizen of India and sworn to his office by the Constitution. He accepts the sovereignty of India," Sibal told the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant.

Earlier in the day, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told the bench that the central government wanted Lone to apologise for raising 'Pakistan zindabad' (long live Pakistan) slogan in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in 2018. Lone has to state that he owes allegiance to the Constitution and apologises for raising the slogan on the floor of the House, the law officer said, while pointing to the matter having been brought to the court's notice by a Kashmiri Pandit group.

NGO 'Roots in Kashmir', which claims to be a group of Kashmiri Pandit youths, has questioned the credentials of Lone, claiming he was a supporter of secessionist forces.

AFTER ROVER, LANDER SET INTO SLEEP MODE

ISRO SAID THAT VIKRAM WILL FALL ASLEEP NEXT TO PRAGYAN ONCE THE SOLAR POWER IS DEPLETED AND THE BATTERY IS DRAINED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 4: After a successful hopping experiment where the Vikram lander was elevated and soft landed again on the Moon, ISRO Monday said it has exceeded its objectives and now its payloads have been switched off. The hop test will help scientists in future Moon missions where samples could be brought back to Earth and more importantly help the human missions being planned, ISRO added. The space agency said Vikram

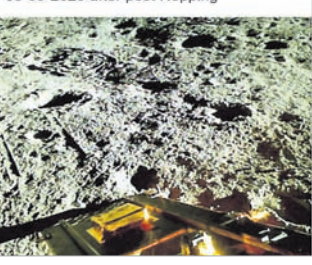
lander has been set into sleep mode around 8am Monday. Payloads have been switched off while lander receivers are kept on. Before going into sleep mode, in-situ experiments by ChaSTE, RAMBHA-LP and ILSA payloads on lander were performed at the new location. The data collected was received at the Earth. ISRO sources said that the payloads and ramp of the lander were folded back before performing the hop test. Further, it was elevated by firing its engines and making it hop once on the lunar surface.

Pre and Post Hop Ramp images captured by Lander Imager-1 Camera

Ramp Deployed Position Captured on 25-08-2023



Ramp Deployed Position Captured on 03-09-2023 after post Hopping



"On command, it (Vikram lander) fired the engines, elevated itself by about 40 cm as expected and landed safely at a distance of 30 to 40 cm away," ISRO said in an update on X. "Vikram soft-landed on the moon, again!"

Vikram Lander exceeded its mission objectives," ISRO added. After the successful hop test, Vikram and Pragyan payloads are now in a power-off mode until the south pole of the lunar surface is back in the range of the Sun

again. ISRO said that Vikram will fall asleep next to Pragyan once the solar power is depleted and the battery is drained. The space agency said it was hoping for their (Vikram and Pragyan's) awakening, around September 22, 2023.

Scientists at ISRO said that after the Chandrayaan 3 mission landed on the lunar surface August 23, Vikram and Pragyan performed all their planned experiments within one lunar day or approximately 14 earth days and finally after a hop test, have been put on sleep mode. The temperatures could go up to -200 degree Celsius on the lunar surface soon. The payloads may not be able to withstand extreme temperatures while they are still powered on.

INDIA fights for survival, BJP for just one more stint in power

Chaos is impatient. It tears down everything just for change then feeds on itself in constant hunger. But it is also appealing for it tempts you to believe that nothing matters except what you want.

In a fast paced, event-packed fortnight that saw us race from moon to sun and our Prime Minister from Johannesburg to Athens, the Indian political pot began stirring furiously in Delhi even as the combined opposition's INDIA conclave was underway in Mumbai. The frenetic whimpering-whispering in the corridors of power and then the cymbal swell - a five-day joint session of Parliament had just ended on September 18. All hands on deck, all leave for officialdom cancelled...the build-up begins..... It is by now, a familiar sce-

nario of national wonderment with the present BJP led unitary government, beginning with the 2016 demonetisation flowing onto the Covid-induced 2020 lockdown and furthermore.

A special joint session of Parliament is a matter of national importance. It is the first time in nine years that such a session is being held after the Narendra Modi government took charge at the Centre in 2014. Interestingly, the perfunctory announcement from Parliamentary affairs minister Prahlad Joshi came on X (Twitter), the moonson session of Parliament had just ended on August 11. What transpired in-between? Whither decision making? Another example. Take the



case of Dr Vallabh Kathiria BJP leader from Rajkot, Gujarat and former minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. On August 17, the surgeon was appointed President of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Rajkot. On August 20, he was directed to resign (He himself said so). On August 25, his resignation was accepted. The appointment was by the Centre so the resignation was also sought from there. And nothing in Gujarat moves without clearance from the top. Kathiria was in the

midst of a line-up of felicitation functions when he had to announce that he had been asked to quit leaving organisers embarrassed and partymen speculating. Kathiria's ordeal apart, his supporters let float that the correctives became necessary as his name figures for Lok Sabha from Rajkot.

The Kathiria issue in Gujarat has inadvertently got linked to a larger one in this home state of Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. Are the Lok Sabha elections planned to be held early or is the entire one nation -one election exercise a scripted play to divert attention from the INDIA conclave underway in Mumbai at that time. The INDIA team is absolutely sure it is so. An attempt to di-

vert attention from a national opposition combine that is set to challenge Modi and also away from the fresh allegations against the Adani group". However one thing is certain that nothing will be held or divulged before the G20 Summit in Delhi slated for September 9-10.

The government, meanwhile, remains tight-lipped on the agenda for the session gloating in the build-up as speculation runs riot. Let's assess its pros and cons. The thrust of the media blitz is on one-nation, one election as the primary reason for it. A panel headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind is set to go into it and recommend. Polls are due in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh,

Mizoram and Telangana later this year. Ground reports point to BJP facing rough weather in three of them with dim chances of making it on its own in Telangana. Adverse results in these state elections will impact the Lok Sabha outcome.

The best possible option for Modi personally would be to make hay while the sun shines. If the announcement of a joint session of Parliament was to be timed to draw attention from an INDIA conclave, how much more heave-ho efforts would be needed if the Opposition alliance gets its act together and gives the ruling BJP (read Modi) a run for its money. For once the combined opposition is deadly serious and on the other side BJP insiders admit that the Modi magic is waning.

international

of the day quote

We will have to decide soon about how Israel exports its gas and the same decisions have to be made by Cyprus. We are looking at the possibility of cooperating on this

Prime Minister Prachanda is embarking on a visit to China leading a Nepalese delegation towards the third week of September, and the agenda of the visit range from agricultural development to opening northern checkpoints to hydropower development

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

SHORT TAKES

Hindu community protests in Pakistan

Islamabad: The Hindu community in Kashmir district of Pakistan's Sindh province has had enough of the continuous lawlessness, kidnappings for ransom and failure of authorities to recover the victims. The continued kidnappings targeted on Hindu traders and community members in Kashmir has sparked a wave of protests across the province. Kashmir's Hindu community staged a strong protest, blocking the main Indus Highway for at least 34 hours, disconnecting the road route of Sindh province from Balochistan and Punjab.

Thousands without power in Taiwan

Taipei: At least 44 people were injured and thousands of households were left without power as the powerful typhoon Haikui slammed into Taiwan, authorities said. Haikui, the first typhoon in four years to directly hit Taiwan, made landfall along the southeastern coastal township of Donghe at about 3:40 p.m. Sunday after which it storm crossed the island and then left land at 8 p.m., report said.

Drone attack on police compound kills five

Bangkok: A drone attack on a police headquarters in a major border town in eastern Myanmar has killed at least five officials including a senior army officer and a district administrator, members of two emergency rescue teams and media reports said Monday. The attack, carried out Sunday evening in two stages, is believed to be the deadliest aerial bombing targeting high-ranking security and administrative officials since armed resistance was launched more than two years ago against the military that seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

5 killed, 3 others hurt in Labour Day crash

Duluth (US): Five people were killed and three more injured in a Labour Day crash along a Georgia interstate northeast of Atlanta, authorities said. The three-vehicle collision happened shortly before 4 am Monday on a ramp to the southbound lanes of Interstate 85 in the Duluth area, Gwinnett County police said. A vehicle went over a wall of the elevated ramp, falling onto traffic lanes, police said. Five people were found dead at the scene, and three others were taken to local hospitals.



The Chancellor [Jeremy Hunt] has been crystal clear that schools will be given extra money for these mitigations, it won't come from their existing school budgets

RISHI SUNAK | UK PM

EMERGENCY RELIEF BY JAPAN

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced Monday a 20.7 billion yen (USD 141 million) emergency fund to help exporters hit by a ban on Japanese seafood imposed by China in response to the release of treated radioactive wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant



Massive Greece wildfire coming under control

Athens, Sept 4: A massive wildfire that decimated vast tracts of forest in northeastern Greece over 17 days was gradually abating Monday, although hundreds of firefighters were still tackling pockets that continued to burn, the fire department said. Reinforcements were sent over the weekend to battle the wildfire burning in the Evros region near the border with Turkey, bringing the total number of

firefighters on Monday to 741, backed by 124 vehicles and two aircraft. The blaze has been blamed for the deaths of 20 people, all believed to have been migrants who had recently crossed the border. The fire, which broke out August 19 near the north-eastern city of Alexandroupolis and joined with other blazes to form one massive wildfire, burned more than 93,000 hectares (230,000 acres) of land by Sunday, according to the European

Wildfires are common in Greece and other southern European countries during their hot, dry summers

Union's Copernicus Emergency Management Service, making it the largest single blaze to hit an EU country since records began in 2000. Wildfires are common in Greece and other south-

ern European countries during their hot, dry summers. Dozens of fires have been breaking out each day across the country for weeks, with the fire department saying its forces tackled 82 wildfires between Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon, with 49 of them having broken out in those 24 hours. Another fire broke out Monday in woodland on the northern outskirts of Athens. More than 70 firefighters, including 18 from France, backed by two airplanes

and three helicopters, managed to bring the blaze under partial control within hours, the fire department said. With its firefighting forces stretched to the limit, Greece appealed for help from other European countries and has received hundreds of firefighters, as well as a fleet of planes and helicopters, from across the continent. On Sunday, forces from France, Spain, Cyprus, Romania, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Albania and Serbia were still operating in the country.

Gabon coup leader sworn in as interim Prez



Libreville, Sept 4: The leader of a coup that ousted Gabon's President Ali Bongo was sworn in as interim president and cheered by jubilant supporters Monday in a televised ceremony designed to cast the military as liberators of an oppressed society.

In West and Central Africa's eighth coup in three years, army officers led by General Brice Oligui Nguema seized power August 30, minutes after an announcement that Bongo had won an election they annulled and said was not credible.

Nguema was given a standing ovation by military officers and officials as he arrived for the ceremony, and again just after he was sworn in by a panel of constitutional court judges.

State TV showed images of a cheering crowd and armoured personnel carriers firing into the sea to mark the moment.

In a speech, Nguema proposed reforms including a new constitution to be adopted by referendum, new electoral and penal codes, and measures to prioritise local banks and companies for economic development. He also said political exiles would be welcomed back and political prisoners freed.

Repeatedly interrupted by cheers, he described the coup, which ended the Bongo family's 56-year hold on power in the oil-producing country, as a moment of national liberation and a manifestation of God's will.

Several figures from Bongo's government, including the vice president and prime minister, attended the ceremony.

Russia denies new grain deal

PUTIN MADE THE STATEMENT AFTER TALKS WITH TURKISH PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN, WHO ALONG WITH THE UN BROKERED THE DEAL SEEN AS VITAL FOR GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLIES, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND ASIA



Russian President Vladimir Putin shakes hands with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan during their meeting at Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi

Moscow, Sept 4: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that the grain deal that allowed Ukraine to export grain safely through the Black Sea won't be restored until the West meets its obligations to facilitate Russian agricultural exports.

Putin said that if those commitments were honoured, Russia could return to the deal "within the nearest days".

He also said that Russia is close to finalising an agreement to provide free grain to six African countries. The Russian leader added that Russia will ship 1 million metric tons (1.1 million tons) of cheap grain to Turkey for processing and delivery to poor countries.

Since Putin withdrew from the grain initiative, Erdogan has repeatedly pledged to renew arrangements that helped avoid a food crisis in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

A lot is riding on the talks for the world food supply, and beforehand analysts predicted Putin would drive a hard bargain. "My gut feeling is that Putin recognises the leverage he has by using food as an economic weapon, and thus will fight for all he can get in terms of concessions on his wish-list," said

- UN seeks to bring Russia back in to deal
Ukraine and Russia are major suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other goods that developing nations rely on

Tim Benton, a food security expert at the Chatham House think tank.

Those may include Russia's grains, or fertiliser exports, or wider issues, he said. Data from the Joint Coordination Centre in Istanbul, which organised the Ukraine shipments, shows that 57% of the grain from Ukraine went to developing nations, with the top destination being China, which received nearly a quarter of the food.

The meeting took place against a backdrop of Ukraine's recent counteroffensive against the Kremlin's invasion forces.

In the latest development, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov would be re-

placed this week. The job requires "new approaches", Zelenskyy said, without elaborating.

In addition to pulling out of the grain deal, Russia has repeatedly attacked the Odesa region, where Ukraine's main Black Sea port is. On Monday, the Ukrainian air force said it intercepted 23 of 32 drones that targeted the Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk regions but did not specify damage caused by the drones that got through.

The Turkish President has maintained close ties with Putin during the 18-month war in Ukraine. Turkey hasn't joined Western sanctions against Russia following its invasion, emerging as a main trading partner and logistical hub for Russia's overseas trade.

Opening the talks, Putin mentioned various areas of bilateral cooperation, such as a proposed Russian gas hub in Turkey and the construction of the first nuclear power plant there, in which Moscow is actively involved.

Absence of Putin, Xi to dent G20 summit

AGENCIERS

New Delhi, Sept 4: Deeper and more entrenched divisions over Russia's war in Ukraine risk derailing progress on issues such as food security, debt distress and global cooperation on climate change when the world's most powerful nations meet this weekend in New Delhi.

The hardened stance on the war has prevented agreement on even a single communique at the 20 or so ministerial meetings of the G20 during India's presidency this year, leaving it to the leaders to find a way around, if possible.

But China will be represented by Premier Li Qiang, not President Xi Jinping, while Russia has confirmed President Vladimir Putin's absence, suggesting that neither nation is likely to join any consensus.

That means the two-day summit from September 9 will be dominated by the West and its allies. The G20 leaders who will attend include US President Joe Biden, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron, Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Bin Salman and Japan's Fumio Kishida.

A failed summit would expose



the limits of cooperation between Western and non-Western powers, and prompt countries to double down on the groups they are more comfortable with, analysts said.

To tackle global threats "breaking off into Western and non-Western blocs isn't what you want," said Michael Kugelman, the director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center in Washington. Failing to forge a consensus will also hurt the diplomatic credentials of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is using the presidency to bolster New Delhi's position as economic powerhouse and a leader of the global south. India, which has not condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine, will have to either convince the bloc to agree to a joint statement - the so-called Leaders Declaration - or allow its presidency to be the first to end without such a communique since 2008.



Conservationist, scientists gather outside the Houses of Parliament in London, after having written to MPs demanding the Government not to support new oil and gas developments

Weight-loss drug Wegovy debuts in UK

REUTERS

London, Sept 4: Novo Nordisk (NOVO.CO) launched its weight-loss injection Wegovy in Britain Monday, expanding into a second major market in Europe in just over a month even as it struggles to keep up with soaring demand.

The Danish drugmaker said in a statement that the weekly injection would be available in the United Kingdom "through a controlled and limited launch".

Surging demand for Wegovy, and Novo's highly effective diabetes drug Ozempic, have sent the company's shares and earnings to record highs. On Friday it unseated LVMH (LVMH.PA) as Europe's most valuable listed company, ending the French luxury group's 2-1/2 year-long reign at the top.

The shares rose as much as 2.3% in mid-morning trading Monday to a record high of 1,331 Danish crowns (\$193). They have risen by 41% so far this year.



Wegovy, shown to help patients reduce body weight by around 15% when used along with exercise and lifestyle changes, is so far available in the United States, Norway, Denmark, and as of late July, Germany.

Novo's inability to keep up with US demand for Wegovy has effectively delayed the launch in most of Europe.

Reuters reported last week that Wegovy supplies were limited in Germany less than a month after its launch in Europe's largest drug market, highlighting the challenge for Novo's ambitions in Europe.

Novo says Wegovy launch in UK will be "controlled and limited"

Drug to be available through specialist NHS scheme and privately

Price for private patients will be 199-299 pounds, says one online pharmacy chain

"We are closely monitoring Wegovy demand and are working with regulators and providers to ensure people living with obesity can have access to and remain on treatment," Novo said in a statement.

The company and Britain's drug cost-effectiveness watchdog NICE declined to comment on how much it would cost.

In an early indication of prices, UK-based online pharmacy chain Simple told Reuters it would charge private patients between 199 pounds and 299 pounds (\$251-\$377) for a monthly supply. That includes a consultation

with a general practitioner, prescription and dispensing costs.

In the United States, the drug sells for as much as \$1,350 a month. In March, NICE recommended the use of Wegovy in adults with at least one weight-related condition and a body mass index of 35, but only within the National Health Service's (NHS) specialist weight management scheme.

NICE's recommendation also calls for Wegovy to be used "for a maximum of two years". Novo said the drug will be available on the NHS' weight management scheme and "privately through a registered healthcare professional".

It was not immediately clear what the implications would be of the drug being available through private healthcare professionals.

Two of the country's leading private insurers, Aviva (AVI.L) and AXA Health, told Reuters that they would not pay for Wegovy.

Sudan's top general in South Sudan for talks on the war

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, Sept 4: Sudan's top military general arrived in South Sudan Monday for talks with its president on his second trip abroad since the war in his country started in April.

Gen Abdel-Fattah Burhan, chairman of the ruling Sovereign Council, landed at the airport in South Sudan's capital and was received by South Sudanese President Salva Kiir.

Both leaders inspected an honour guard and then headed for talks that would focus on the conflict in Sudan, according to the council. In April, simmering tensions between the military, led by Burhan, and the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, commanded by Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, exploded into open fighting in the capital and elsewhere. The fighting has reduced Sudan's capital, Khartoum, to an urban battlefield, with neither side

managing to gain control of the city. The military headquarters, where Burhan has purportedly been stationed since the conflict began, has been one of the epicentres of the conflict.

In the western Darfur region — the scene of a genocidal campaign in the early 2000s — the conflict has morphed into ethnic violence, with the RSF and allied Arab militias attacking ethnic African groups, according to rights groups and the United Nations. South Sudan's Minister of Cabinet Affairs Martin Elia Lomuro said that the South Sudanese president has a solution "to resolve the conflict" in Sudan, according to a statement by the South Sudanese presidency.

Early in the ongoing war in Sudan, South Sudan's Kiir attempted to mediate between the warring generals, as part of an initiative by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, an eight-member regional bloc that includes Sudan.



To protect the region from the impacts of climate change and preserve biodiversity, we will need both large-scale and local action - and we are committed to investing in both

KARA HURST | GLOBAL VP FOR SUSTAINABILITY, AMAZON

NEW NORMS: CV PRICES MAY GET DEARER

Implementation of multiple proposed regulatory specifications can push up commercial vehicle prices by 10-12 per cent, ratings agency ICRA said Monday. The domestic automotive industry is undergoing rapid transformations, with increased focus by the government on implementing emission norms, safety systems and other standards



of the day quote

In G20 we have both, the biggest producers and consumers of toys in the world. From the US, India can learn about improving per capita consumption of toys as they are excellent learning tools for kids

MANU GUPTA | CHAIRMAN, TOY ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

As a leader in India's data centre industry, Nxtara is committed to become a net zero company by 2031.

ASHISH ARORA | CEO, NXTARA BY AIRTEL

Gaming in India is poised for strong growth in the years to come and Nazara has built a well-diversified, profitable gaming platform well suited to take advantage of opportunities in the years ahead

NIKIL KAMATH | PARTNER, KAMATH ASSOCIATES

RECORD POWER DEMAND

COAL USE UP TO STOP OUTAGES

THE DRIEST AUGUST IN MORE THAN A CENTURY HAS RESULTED IN POWER GENERATION SURGING TO A RECORD LEVEL

REUTERS

Singapore, Sept 4: India has stepped up the use of coal to generate electricity in a bid to stop outages caused by lower hydroelectricity output, and as an increase in renewables is struggling to keep pace with record power demand.

It is unusual for India's electricity use to spike in August, when temperatures are lower due to the annual monsoon that runs between June and September. Demand typically peaks in May, when Indians crank up air-conditioners to beat the heat, and industries operate without rain-related disruptions.

However, the driest August in more than a century has resulted in power generation surging to a record 162.7 billion kilowatt hours (units), a Reuters analysis of data from the federal grid operator Grid India showed.

Coal's share in power output



Given the already stressed supply situation, as poor monsoon in August resulted in high agricultural demand, the sudden fall of wind generation has further aggravated the situation

EMA SOLUTIONS | A POWER ANALYTICS FIRM

depressed in recent months.

Analysts and industry officials attribute the higher power use to farmers using more electricity to irrigate fields due to insufficient rain, intermittency of renewables, and increased cooling demand with warmer-than-usual temperatures.

India's peak demand - the maximum capacity required during any time of the day - rose to a record 243.9 gigawatts (GW) August 31, the Grid India data showed, exceeding available capacity by 7.3 GW.

Electricity supply fell short of demand by 780 million units in August, the data showed, marking the highest shortage since April 2022, when India faced its worst power cuts in six and a half years.

rose to 66.7% in August - the highest for the month in six years, according to a Reuters analysis of government data. Lower rainfall lead to the share of hydro power in overall output plunging to 14.8%, compared with 18.1% in the same period last year. The government has repeatedly defended the use of coal citing lower per capita emis-

sions compared with richer nations, and rising renewable energy output.

LOW IMPORTS
Despite higher demand for coal, power plants have slashed imports by 24% to 17.85 million metric tonne during the first four months of the fiscal year ending in March 2024, government data showed, due to a 10.7% increase in production by state-run Coal India.

Lower imports by the world's second largest importer of the polluting fuel behind China have kept global thermal coal prices

Weather officials expect country-wide rainfall in September to be in line with the long-term average, possibly providing some respite to utility operators.

RENEWABLE CHALLENGE
Coal's share in output rose to 74.2% in the eight months that ended in August, the Grid India data showed, compared with 72.9% in the same period last year and on track for a third consecutive annual increase. The share of hydro fell from 10.9% to 9.2%.

Overall power generation has risen by more than 108 billion units this year, dwarfing an increase of about 16 billion units in renewable generation.

India failed to achieve a target to install 175 GW in renewable energy by 2022, and has since stated that it would try to boost non-fossil capacity - solar and wind energy, nuclear and hydro power, and bio-power - to 500 GW by 2030.

Achieving that target would require over 43 GW more of non-fossil capacity every year, nearly three-times the average non-fossil capacity addition over the last two years to July.

Pre-sanctioned credit lines allowed via UPI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 4: The Reserve Bank Monday said the UPI System will also include pre-sanctioned credit lines issued by banks for transactions.

Earlier, only the deposited amount could be transacted through the UPI System.

In April, the RBI proposed to expand the scope of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by enabling transfer to/from pre-sanctioned credit lines at banks.

Currently, savings accounts, overdraft accounts, prepaid wallets and credit cards can be linked to UPI.

The scope of UPI is now being expanded by the inclusion of credit lines as a funding account, it said in a circular on 'Operation of Pre-Sanctioned Credit Lines at Banks through UPI'.

"Under this facility, payments through a pre-sanctioned credit line issued by a Scheduled Commercial Bank to individuals, with the prior consent of the individual customer, are enabled for transactions using the UPI System," the RBI said.

This can reduce the cost and help in the development of unique products for Indian markets.

UPI, used for immediate money transfer through mobile devices round the clock, transactions crossed the 10-billion-mark in August. The number of UPI transactions in July was 9.96 billion (996.4 crore) and 9.33 billion in June.

Budget FY25: FinMin begins preparations

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry has initiated the process to prepare the interim Budget for 2024-25 by inviting inputs on expenditure from different ministries and departments. It will be an interim Budget as the elections for the Lok Sabha are due early next year. The full Budget for FY25 will be presented after the formation of the new government after the general elections. "Pre-budget meetings chaired by Secretary (Expenditure) shall commence in the second week of October 2023... Shall continue till around mid-November, 2023," according to the Budget Circular (2024-25) of the Budget Division under the Department of Economic Affairs of the Finance Ministry.

SHORT TAKES

Honda plans 5 SUVs

New Delhi: Honda Cars India plans to introduce five sports utility vehicle in the country by 2030 as it looks to have a strong presence in the robustly growing segment, according to a top company executive. The company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Japanese auto major Honda Motor Company, Monday made a foray into the mid-sized SUV segment with an all-new product -- Elevate -- priced between ₹10.99-15.99 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). The model will compete with the likes of Hyundai Creta, Maruti Suzuki Grand Vitara, Kia Seltos and Toyota's Urban Cruiser Hyryder, among others.

IndiGo extends order

New Delhi: The country's largest airline IndiGo has decided to place an order for another 10 A320 neo family aircraft. These planes will be in addition to the nearly 1,000 planes already ordered by the carrier. The latest decision comes little over two months after IndiGo announced placing a firm order to buy 500 narrow-body planes from Airbus, which was one of the largest-ever aircraft purchases by an airline. In a regulatory filing Monday, IndiGo's parent InterGlobe Aviation said its board of directors, at their meeting Monday, "approved placing the order for 10 additional A320 NEO aircraft with Airbus and execute the amendment agreement to the purchase agreement".

IDBI disinvestment

New Delhi: The government is looking to engage an asset valuer for valuing assets and providing assistance in the strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank. The government along with the LIC is selling about 61 per cent stake in IDBI Bank and has received multiple Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the same. Currently, the government and the RBI are in the process of vetting the bids received. Security clearance from the government and 'fit and proper' clearance from the RBI would be necessary for the bidders to move to the second stage of bidding process which is due diligence and subsequent invitation of financial bids. The last date to submit bids is October 9.

Flipkart's 1L jobs

Mumbai: Homegrown e-commerce marketplace Flipkart Monday said it is looking to create more than 1 lakh seasonal job opportunities across its supply chain to cater to demand during the festive season.

SpiceJet gives lessors shares to clear dues

REUTERS

Bangalore, Sept 4: Indian low-cost carrier SpiceJet Monday said it allotted over 48 million shares to nine aircraft lessors to clear outstanding dues worth ₹2.31 billion (nearly \$28 million), as the troubled airline looks to return to full operations.

The carrier's shareholders had Thursday passed a number of resolutions, including a ₹25 billion fundraise and a preferential issue of shares to lessors to clear outstanding dues.



SpiceJet has been scrambling to raise funds and restore operations for about a fourth of its fleet that has been grounded amid fierce competition in the sector.

The fund crunch and grounded fleet has eroded SpiceJet's market share to 4.2% as of July - lower than that of new entrant Akasa, which only began commercial operations in August 2022.

SpiceJet, which in February converted around \$100 million in dues to aircraft lessor Carlyle Aviation into equity and debentures, still finds itself in legal battles with other lessors over dues.

Moreover, two weeks back, an Indian court ordered the airline to pay \$12 million by September 10 to former owner Kalanithi Maran over money owed.

Two months back, SpiceJet's top shareholder and managing director, Ajay Singh, said he would infuse ₹5 billion into the company.

Its cash and cash equivalents for the year-ended March 31 stood at ₹337 million.

Edible oil imports at all-time high

Palm oil buying lifts India's August edible oil imports to record

REUTERS

Mumbai, Sept 4: India's edible oil imports in August rose 5% to a record 1.85 million metric tonne as refiners purchased more than 1 million tonne of palm oil for the second consecutive month to build stocks for upcoming festivals, four dealers told Reuters.

Higher purchases by the world's biggest importer of vegetable oils could help to lower palm oil stocks in Indonesia and Malaysia and support benchmark futures. The buying has helped strengthen soybean oil futures and could reduce inventories in sunflower oil-producing Black Sea countries.

India's average monthly edible oil imports in the 2021/22



As the discount of palm oil relative to soy oil and sunflower oil continues to widen, refiners are increasing their purchases in anticipation of demand during the upcoming festivals

SANDEEP BAJORIA | CEO, SUNVIN GROUP

marketing year were 1.17 million tonne, trade body Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) said.

Palm oil imports increased from 1.09 million tonne in July to 1.12 million tonne in August, the highest in nine months, according to average estimates from the dealers.

The SEA is likely to publish its August vegetable oil import data

In July, India imported 1.76 million tonne, which was also a record high

by mid-September. "Refiners were making aggressive buying for the upcoming festival season," said Rajesh Patel, managing partner at GGN Research, an edible oil trader and broker. "Retail demand was moderate, but the industry is expecting it would pick up in coming months."

Sunflower oil imports jumped by 11.5% from a month earlier to

365,000 tonne, the highest in seven months, while soy oil imports edged up 3.7% to 355,000 tonne, dealers estimated.

India buys palm oil mainly from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, while it imports soy oil and sunflower oil from Argentina, Brazil, Russia and Ukraine.

August imports surged because a few vessels initially intended for unloading in July at Kandla port were eventually offloaded in August due to port congestion, said a New Delhi-based dealer with a global trading house.

Concerns over local soybean and groundnut production due to the dry weather are also prompting refiners to import more edible oils, the dealer added.

India experienced its driest August in more than a century, with the country receiving 36% less rainfall than normal during the month.

SBI digital ₹ now linked with UPI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: The State Bank of India (SBI) Monday said it has implemented UPI interoperability in its digital rupee, called Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

With this move, the bank aims to deliver unprecedented convenience and accessibility to its customers, SBI said in a statement.

This cutting-edge feature, accessible through the 'eRupee by SBI' application will empower SBI CBDC users to effortlessly scan any merchant UPI QR code for swift and secure transactions, it said.

SBI was among the first few banks to participate in the RBI's



retail digital e-rupee project in December 2022.

"The seamless integration of CBDC with UPI marks a significant leap for the bank, enhancing the acceptance and utilization of digital currencies in everyday

transactions," it said.

This integration will be a game changer for the digital currency ecosystem, it said, adding, the move is the outcome of our unwavering commitment to pushing the boundaries of digital innovation to accelerate the transition to a more cashless economy.

SBI remains dedicated to providing secure, efficient, and user-friendly solutions that reshape conducting transactions.

By bridging the gap between CBDC and the extensively used UPI platform, SBI aims to revolutionize payments made in India. With this move in the realm of digital payments, it said, the future of CBDC integration appears promising.

Indices rise for 2nd day

Fresh foreign fund inflows and intense buying in IT and commodity stocks also bolstered sentiment



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 4: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rallied for the second straight session Monday following encouraging domestic macroeconomic data amid a firm trend in global markets.

The BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 240.98 points or 0.37 per cent to settle at 65,628.14. During the day, it jumped 296.75 points or 0.45 per cent to 65,683.91.

The Nifty rose 93.50 points or 0.48 per cent to end at 19,528.80.

"Recent domestic macroeconomic data have portrayed a positive picture for the domestic markets, allowing them to maintain their momentum. Despite profit-booking in Nifty Auto after reaching an all-time high, the market regained its footing with robust buying in IT stocks. The increase in the US unemployment rate has solidified expectations of a pause in rate hikes,

and positive global cues have further boosted market sentiment," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Wipro was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 4.34 per cent, followed by HCL Tech, UltraTech Cement, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, Infosys,

Power Grid, Tata Consultancy Services and State Bank of India.

Mahindra & Mahindra, ITC, Axis Bank, Nestle, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Asian Paints were among the laggards.

The rupee depreciated by 9 paise to close at 82.71 against the US dollar Monday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were buyers Friday as they bought equities worth Rs 487.94 crore.

The BSE barometer had Friday ended higher by 555.75 points or 0.86 per cent at 65,387.16. The Nifty had spurred by 181.50 points or 0.94 per cent to settle at 19,435.30.

DJOKOVIC IN QUARTERS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 4: Novak Djokovic did not encounter any of the sort of trouble he did in his previous match, eliminating qualifier Borna Gojo 6-2, 7-5, 6-4 to reach the US Open quarterfinals.

Djokovic — who has won three of his men's record 23 Grand Slam titles at Flushing Meadows — needed to come back from a two-set deficit in the third round before eventually winning in five against Laslo Djere.

This time, Djokovic played far more cleanly and was in control throughout. He finished with only 12 unforced errors, while Gojo made 40. Djokovic, who already is assured of replacing Carlos Alcaraz at No.1 in the ATP rankings next week, won five of the big-serving Gojo's 15 service games while only getting broken once himself.

Next up for Djokovic will be a matchup against No.9 seed Taylor Fritz, a 25-year-old from California, who is the only remaining player in the men's bracket to not have dropped a set so far. Djokovic owns a 7-0 head-to-head career record against Fritz.

Their matchup Tuesday will be Djokovic's 13th quarterfinal in New York and Fritz's first. Fritz defeated Swiss qualifier Dominic Stricker 7-6(7-2), 6-4, 6-4 earlier Sunday.

Fritz is one of three American men who won fourth-round matches, along with No.10 Frances Tiafoe and unseeded Ben Shelton. It is the first time a trio of men from the United States made it to the quarterfi-



BOPANNA-EBDEN THROUGH

New York: India's Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden advanced to the men's doubles quarterfinals at the US Open with a hard-fought three-set win over Julian Cash and Henry Patten. The sixth seeded Indo-Australian pair won 6-4, 6-7(5-7), 7-6(10-6) against the British duo of Cash and Patten after toiling hard for two hours 22 minutes in the third round at the Arthur Ashe Stadium Sunday. They will next face the winners of the third round match between top seeds Wesley Koolhof of Netherlands and United Kingdom's Neal Skupski and the local duo of Nathaniel Lammons and Jackson Withrow. Bopanna, however, crashed out of the mixed doubles event. Partnering Indonesian Aldila Sutjiadi, Bopanna went down 2-6, 5-7 to the American duo of Ben Shelton and Taylor Townsend in the second round.

nals at Flushing Meadows since 2005, when Andre Agassi, James Blake and Robby Ginepri did it. **Swiatek bows out**

Iga Swiatek arrived at the US Open as its reigning champion, as the winner at three of the past six Grand Slam tournaments and as the owner of the No.1 ranking for nearly one and half years.

None of that mattered Sunday night against Jelena Ostapenko, whose powerful style disrupts Swiatek's rhythm — and beats her every time.

Swiatek's title defense at Flushing Meadows ended in the fourth round with a 6-3, 3-6, 1-6

loss to 2017 French Open champion Ostapenko in the fourth round at Arthur Ashe Stadium. The result also means Swiatek's stay at atop the WTA will end next week, when current No.2 Aryna Sabalenka will rise to the top spot for the first time.

Ostapenko finished with just 20 unforced errors — quite an improvement from the 80 she had in her second-round victory last week. In truth, this was not necessarily a huge surprise, based on their previous matchups:

Ostapenko improved to 4-0 against Swiatek over their careers. No other player owns four

victories against the woman who has led the WTA rankings since April 2022.

After getting off to a terrific start to the second set, which she led 4-1, Ostapenko wavered for a bit. That allowed Swiatek to get a break back and pull to 4-3. But that was only a blip.

With Swiatek having trouble serving — perhaps owing to all of the squeaking Ostapenko's shoes did as she moved around during the ball toss while waiting to return — the contest quickly tilted in one direction. Ostapenko reeled off seven consecutive games to go up 5-0 in the third set.

Ostapenko broke one last time to end it, meaning she won seven of Swiatek's 13 service games in the match. And Swiatek could not explain why she did not have that same amount of mistakes against Ostapenko's serve.

Ostapenko's first quarterfinal at Flushing Meadows will come against Coco Gauff, the 19-year-old American who eliminated Caroline Wozniacki 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 earlier Sunday.

India enter Super Four stage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pallekele (Sri Lanka), Sept 4: Unfazed by a bland bowling effort, India hit the top gear through Rohit Sharma (74 n o, 59b, 6x4, 5x6) and Shubman Gill (67 n o, 62b, 8x4, 1x6), who made polished unbeaten fifties, to post a 10-wicket win over Nepal that also ensured them an Asia Cup Super Four berth here Monday.

Amidst frequent rain interruptions, Nepal posted an impressive 230 after being asked to bat first. India, required to score 145 from 23 overs as per DLS calculations, went past the line as Rohit and Gill gave power to their chase.

Hence, India finished their Group A engagements with three points, while Pakistan had already entered the Super Four having logged three points. Nepal bowed out of the Asia Cup without any points. But they had some special moments in the match both with ball and bat.

Though the victory might be treated as a solid step, the Indian think-tank would not have liked the way their bowlers performed against Nepal, who were expected to get rolled over.

Their day was also not made easier by fielders who were quite shabby on the field. India dropped three catches inside the first five overs, and there were several misfields and overthrows.

But that should not be held against the gutsy Nepalese batsmen.

Aasif Sheikh (58, 97b, 8x4), Kushal Bhurtel (38, 25b, 3x4, 2x6) and Sompal Kami (48, 56b, 1x4, 2x6) gave some tight moments to the Indian attack. Nepal who were bundled out for 104 by Pakistan in their opening match, went off the blocks in a cracking style, reaching 65/1 in the first 10 overs.

Bhurtel was the engine room of that initial charge in their

first international match against India. However, India would soon regret the two reprieves they gave to Bhurtel.

Thakur brought India the first breakthrough when he induced an edge from Bhurtel and this time Kishan did not commit any mistake. Ravindra Jadeja joined the act with three wickets between the 16th and 21st overs to reduce Nepal to 101/4.

The left-arm spinner dismissed captain Rohit Paudel, Kushal Malla and Bhim Sharki to slow down Nepal's progress. Sheikh, however, kept his end going with a pragmatic approach.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav was expected to pose a big threat to the Nepal batsmen. But Sheikh played Kuldeep well, reading his googlies and the only time he looked in trouble was when the Indian bowled the deliveries that skid-

ded away from him.

However, Siraj ended Sheikh's stay with a delivery that climbed on him which he jabbed uppishly to Virat Kohli. Nepal were 132/5 at that stage and they soon slipped to 144 for six with the dismissal of Gulsan Jha by Siraj.

India might have hoped to put a quick end to Nepal's innings from that point but that proved futile. Perhaps, the best bowling strategy against lower order batsmen is to adopt a stump-to-stump line. But the Jasprit Bumrah-less Indians rather opted for an outside the off-stump line.

BRIEF SCORES: Nepal 230 (Aasif Sheikh 58, Sompal Kami 48, Kushal Bhurtel 38; Ravindra Jadeja 3/40, Mohammed Siraj 3/61) lost to India 147/0 (Rohit Sharma 74 n o, Shubman Gill 67 n o) by 10 wickets via DLS method.



Lewa's late penalty fashions Barca win



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona, Sept 4: For a second straight game, Robert Lewandowski came to Barcelona's rescue after he earned and converted an 86th-minute penalty to grab a 2-1 win for Barcelona at Osasuna.

Lewandowski's winner came 10 minutes after substitute Chimy Avila equalized for Osasuna. Barcelona defender Jules Kounde headed in the opening goal in first-half injury time.

Barcelona's win kept it two points behind Spanish league leader Real Madrid after four rounds. Lewandowski also scored the winner for Barcelona in a 4-3 thriller at Villarreal last weekend.

The game in Pamplona included the debuts of Joao Cancelo and Joao Felix as second-half substitutes. The Portugal players joined Barcelona on loan deals just before the close of the summer transfer window Friday night.

Osasuna played the final minutes with 10 men after Alejandro Catena earned a red card for his foul on Lewandowski with only goalkeeper Aitor Fernandez to beat Lewandowski's goal from the resulting penalty was his second of the season.

For Xavi, the win was not pretty but it was well earned at Osasuna, a team which reached the Copa del Rey final last season and whose physical style puts most visitors to the test.

Kounde broke through in first-half injury time when he brushed off his marker and headed a corner kick by Ilkay Gundogan inside the far post and out of reach of Fernandez. Cancelo made his first appearance as a substitute just

GAME POSTPONED
Atletico Madrid's home game against Sevilla scheduled for Sunday was postponed ahead of forecasts of heavy rain in central Spain, the Spanish league said. The Spanish league said it postponed the match after considering the warnings from Spain's national weather service and the recommendation of Madrid's municipal government.

two days after he joined Barcelona on loan from Manchester City. The right back replaced Sergi Roberto with just over half an hour to go.

Shortly after, Osasuna coach Jagoba Arrasate renewed his entire attack, sending on Chimy, Ante Budimir and Kike Barja. The hosts soon pressed Barcelona into defending its area.

Chimy's equaliser was similar to so many goals scored by fellow Argentine Lionel Messi for Barcelona. Apparently well marked by Alejandro Balde outside the area, Chimy sped from right to left along the edge of the box before unleashing a left-footed strike that curled around a group of defenders and went in off the post.

Lewandowski and Frenkie de Jong linked up in time to pull out the win. De Jong, who had started the game with a shot off the post, met a run by Lewandowski with a long ball that the Poland striker used one touch to control — just before he tumbled when Catena yanked his arm.

Central defender Inigo Martinez also made his Barcelona debut in the final moments of the game. The former Athletic Bilbao player had been injured since signing for Barcelona this summer as a free agent.

Paddlers assure Asian medal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pyeongchang (South Korea), Sept 4: The Indian men's table tennis team assured itself of at least a bronze medal in the Asian Championships with a 3-0 win over Singapore in the quarterfinals here Monday.

The opening singles between veteran Sharath Kamal and Izaak Quek went down to the wire with the 41-year-old Indian prevailing 11-1, 10-12, 11-8, 11-13, 14-12.

The seasoned G Sathiyam then blanked Yew En Koen Pang 11-6, 11-8, 12-10 to give India a 2-0 lead in the last eight clash. India's highest-ranked player at 61, Harmeet Desai, sealed the tie by outplaying Zhe Yu Clarence Chew 11-9, 11-4, 11-6.

At the Asian Championships, the losing semifinalists are also awarded bronze medals. Third seeds India play either Iran or Chinese Taipei in the semifinals. The men's team finished with a bronze in the previous edition in Doha two years ago.

After a long time, Sharath and Sathiyam find themselves out of the top-100 in the singles rankings and would be looking to make amends in the individual events here. The revised points system



and not playing enough tournaments have contributed to their steep drop in the rankings.

In the women's quarterfinals, fifth seeds India suffered a 0-3 loss against Japan Monday. World No.8 Mima Ito got past Ayhika Mukherjee in the opening singles without much difficulty, winning 11-7, 15-13, 11-8.

Indian star and World No.36 Manika Batra took a game off seventh ranked Hina Hayata be-

fore going down 7-11, 9-11, 11-9, 3-11. Suthiritha Mukherjee also did well to win the opening game against 14th ranked Miu Hirano before the Japanese found her rhythm for a 7-11, 11-4, 11-6, 11-5 victory.

Following the loss, India will play classification matches for 5-8 positions Tuesday. The continental event is being played ahead of the Hangzhou Asian Games beginning September 23.

Indian shuttlers seek China Open success



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Changzhou (China), Sept 4: Fresh from winning his maiden World Championships bronze medal, HS Prannoy will spearhead India's campaign alongside Lakshya Sen, who will strive to regain top form before the Asian Games, at the China Open Super 1000 Tournament, beginning here Tuesday.

There will be no Indian in the

reer-high world ranking of No 6 on the back of the World Championships show, will open his campaign against Ng Tze Yong of Malaysia.

Should he overcome the opening round, Prannoy could potentially face World No.4 and third-seed Kunlavut Vitidsarn from Thailand in the round of 16, a competitor he has yet to defeat in their two previous face-offs.

Prannoy, who achieved his ca-

reer-high world ranking of No 6 on the back of the World Championships show, will open his campaign against Ng Tze Yong of Malaysia.

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Prannoy, who achieved his ca-

Messi assists twice as Inter Miami beat LAFC

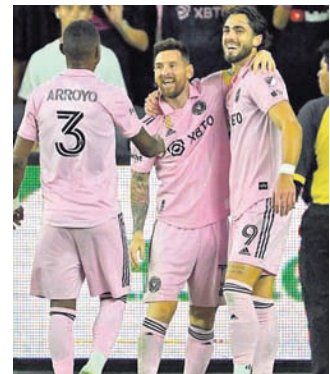
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles, Sept 4: Inter Miami have been unbeaten since Lionel Messi arrived at the club in mid-July. Sunday night they played their best game of the season on the road against the defending MLS Cup champions. Messi had two assists in front of a star-studded crowd in Inter Miami's 3-1 victory over Los Angeles Football Club.

Facundo Farias, Jordi Alba and Leonardo Campana scored for Miami, who are unbeaten in their last 11 matches across all competitions. Ryan Hollingshead scored for LAFC.

Miami's visit to Los Angeles was marked as one of the high-light games since Messi signed. It was viewed by 22,921 fans, a record for LAFC's BMO Stadium. It also vaulted into one of the most-demanded tickets in MLS' 27-year history.

According to TickPick, the average purchase price for the match was USD 717, which was 51% more than the USD 110 before he signed. By comparison, Beyonce's concert at SoFi Stadium had an average pur-



chase price of USD 493. Among the celebrities in attendance were Prince Harry, LAFC co-owner Will Ferrell, Leonardo DiCaprio, Selena Gomez, Owen Wilson, Mario Lopez and Edward Norton among others.

Sunday's match, though, will be Messi's last with Miami for at least the next two weeks. The 36-year-old will be part of Argentina's World Cup qualifiers against Ecuador Thursday and Bolivia five days later.

Messi has 11 goals and eight assists for Miami, who are eight points out of a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference with eight regular-season matches remaining.

Neeraj felicitated by Switzerland Tourism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Zurich, Sept 4: Switzerland Tourism felicitated their 'Friendship Ambassador' Olympic and World Champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra for his achievements.

The 25-year-old Chopra became only the third javelin thrower in history to hold both the Olympic and World Championships crowns after winning the worlds title in Budapest last month.

"We are honoured and delighted to celebrate India's sports legend Neeraj Chopra. Neeraj is paving the way and inspiring an entire generation. For us at Switzerland Tourism, we are extremely happy with our association with Neeraj as our 'Friendship Ambassador' in India," Pascal Prinz, Head of global partnerships at Switzerland Tourism, said in a media release.

Chopra has been enjoying the adventurous, sporty and scenic outdoors of Switzerland. He shared his Swiss experiences of popular adventure sports like skydiving, canyon jumping and jetboating in Interlaken, paragliding, and helicopter tour over the Zermatt landscape.