



## UNDER THE SPELL

Kareena Kapoor says she finds it difficult to come out of the shadows of characters she played earlier

LEISURE P2



## PAK ARMY CHIEF STEPS IN

Pakistan army chief General Asim Munir holds meetings with the business community to bring in foreign investment to the cash-strapped country

INTERNATIONAL P10



## QINWEN HOGS LIMELIGHT

Zheng Qinwen routs last year's US Open runner-up Ons Jabeur to move into the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows

SPORTS P12

### SHORT TAKES

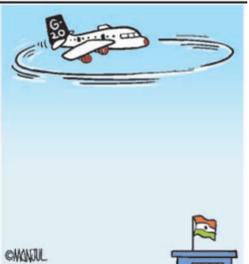
#### Four Odisha teachers get awards from Prez

**New Delhi:** President Droupadi Murmu Tuesday conferred the National Teachers' Award 2023 to four teachers of Odisha on the occasion of the National Teachers' Day at Vigyan Bhawan here. The President conferred awards to Shashi Sekhar Kar Sharma of Kenduapada Nodal High School, Bhadrak, Subhash Chandra Rout of Brundaban government High School Jagatsinghpur, Rabinarayan Sahu, Training Officer at Special ITI for PwDs in Jatani and Sunita Singh, Assistant Training Officer at Govt. Industrial Training Institute, Bhubaneswar.

#### Rahul, Kishan in World Cup squad

**Pallekele (Sri Lanka):** The inclusion of wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul, whose fitness was under scrutiny, headlined the announcement of India's 15-member World Cup squad Tuesday, as the selectors strived for all-round balance. Chief selector Ajit Agarkar said there was no concern about Rahul's fitness, though he did not travel to Sri Lanka for India's group stage Asia Cup matches. The selectors also named Ishan Kishan as the second wicketkeeper-batter, and captain Rohit Sharma did not rule out the possibility of playing both Kishan and Rahul in the 11 if the situation warrants so.

#### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



As soon as the ATC confirms the country's name, we will land sir!

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	65780.26	↑ 152.12
NIFTY	19574.90	↑ 46.10
DOLLAR	83.12	↑ ₹0.35
EURO	89.33	↓ ₹0.19
GOLD	₹59,215	↓ ₹178
SILVER	₹73,634	↓ ₹887

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	31.6°C	31.4°C
TEMP MIN	24.5°C	24.5°C
Humidity	92%	88%
Rainfall	1.6mm	Nil



**BREAKING ICE:** In this undated photo provided by the Australian Antarctic Division, the icebreaker RSV Nuyina is photographed from the air. An Australian who fell ill at the remote Casey research station is returning home on the RSV Nuyina following a mission to rescue him, authorities said Tuesday

## Two elephant carcasses found

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Angul, Sept 5:** Decomposed carcasses of a 15-year-old tusker and a five-year-old female elephant were found at Tainsi reserve forest in Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary in Angul district, Tuesday.

Sources said the carcasses were found in the sanctuary near Jagannathpur village. Some villagers spotted the carcasses and informed Forest officials.

Senior Forest officials and a team of Joint Task Force from Bhubaneswar visited the spot and inquired into the death of the elephants.

Though the exact cause of the death of the pachyderms is yet to be ascertained, Forest officials suspect the elephants might have been electrocuted after coming in contact with the live wires laid by poachers.

It is suspected that the incident might have occurred four days back. However, the Forest department learning about the incident late has raised question on the claims of regular patrolling by officials.

# ROW OVER 'BHARAT'

G20 dinner invite describes Droupadi Murmu as 'President of Bharat', triggers political slugfest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 5:** Invitations for a G20 dinner sent out by President Droupadi Murmu describing her position as 'President of Bharat', instead of the customary 'President of India', triggered a massive furore Tuesday with the Opposition alleging that the Modi government is planning to drop 'India' and stay with just 'Bharat' as the country's name.

Confirming that Bharat has been used as the name of the country in some of the documents relating to G20, sources said it was a conscious decision.

"Bharat is the official name of the country. It is mentioned in the Constitution as also in the discussions of 1946-48," a booklet prepared for G20 delegates said.

As Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Giriraj Singh shared on X their respective G20 dinner invitations from Murmu for Saturday at Bharat Mandapam, the venue for the G20 summit of world leaders, the Congress alleged



that the government was trying to destroy history.

The move also further fuelled the speculation that the issue of changing the name of the country could come up during the five-day special session of Parliament beginning September 18.

The invitation, which was shared on social media, led to a storm of reactions with the Opposition alleging that the move was reflective of the BJP being scared of the INDIA bloc and the ruling party asserting that there was nothing wrong in using Bharat as it is part of the Constitution.

Several Opposition leaders shared Article 1 of the Constitution which states that "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States" and also the provision that refers to the country's president as "President of India".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X, "Now, Article 1 in the Constitution can read: Bharat, that was India, shall be a Union of States. But now even this Union of States is under assault," Ramesh alleged.

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee said, "We all know India is Bharat, but the world

knows us as India." What changed suddenly that we should use only Bharat, she asked.

Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin also lashed out at the government, saying that after 'non-BJP forces united to dethrone the fascist BJP regime' and aptly named their alliance INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance), now the BJP wants to change 'India' for 'Bharat.'

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal asked whether the BJP would change the name of Bharat if the Opposition alliance INDIA rechristens itself Bharat.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar said no one has the right to change the country's name. The row over the issue erupted four days after RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat made a strong pitch for the use of 'Bharat' instead of India.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said while there is no constitutional objection to calling India 'Bharat', he hopes the government will not be so foolish as to completely dispense with 'India' which has incalculable brand value.

## Banks to ensure heirs of customers: Nirmala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 5:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Tuesday asked banks and other financial institutions to ensure that their customers update details about their nominees to help address the problem of unclaimed money in future.

"I want the banking system, the financial ecosystem including mutual funds, stock markets to keep in mind that when someone deals with his (customer's) money, the organisations will have to think about the future and ensure that customers nominate their heirs, give the name and address," Sitharaman said speaking at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) here.

According to a report, the banking system alone has more than Rs 35,000 crore of unclaimed deposits, while the overall quantum of the unclaimed money is said to be more than Rs 1 lakh crore.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) August 17 launched a centralised web portal UDGM (Unclaimed Deposits - Gateway to Access information) to help

people search and claim unclaimed deposits.

The portal, launched by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, has been developed by the central bank to help the public to facilitate and make it easier for them to search their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks in one place.

The Finance minister said that it is essential to build a responsible financial ecosystem, and added that one laggard can cause a disruption, which can lead to trust deficit and the resultant crisis in the financial world. She also noted that tax havens and round-tripping of money are a threat to responsible financial ecosystem. "We equally should talk about the threats to a responsible financial global ecosystem and the global challenges thereof to build a responsible financial ecosystem," she added.

Listing out the threats faced by the financial system, she said there are physical border threats, which are conventional warfare and other things. Then there are cyber threats whose intensity, unpredictability, and the depth and access have gone up too high.

## The Rolling Stones' 1st studio album in 18 yrs

AGENCIES

**Los Angeles, Sept 5:** The wait is over. The Rolling Stones will soon release new music.

The band Monday announced they are preparing to release their first album of original material in 18 years - since 2005's "A Bigger Bang".

Titled "Hackney Diamonds," the band will share details of the release at an event in East London's Hackney district Wednesday, where Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood will be interviewed live by "The Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon.

The event will be livestreamed exclusively on YouTube.

"Hackney may be at the heart of Hackney Diamonds, but this is a truly global moment we want



to share with fans around the world via YouTube," the Rolling Stones shared in a statement.

The announcement of "Hackney Diamonds" follows a cryptic teaser campaign, in which the band's iconic mouth and tongue logo was projected onto the facade of major landmarks in cities around the world, including New York, London and Paris.

The album is also the group's first since the death of drummer Charlie Watts in 2021.

## ASEAN 'jungle' contrasts with pollution outside

Artificial is the only type of jungle that exists in Jakarta. The nearest jungle, home to endangered orangutans, is more than 1,300 kilometres away on Borneo island

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Jakarta, Sept 5:** Indonesian President Joko Widodo will welcome fellow Asian and world leaders with a captivating jungle scene of a two-story waterfall, wild orchids and even an orangutan perched up a tree.

The make-believe wilderness set up in elaborate detail in the huge lobby of the Jakarta Convention Center in the capital includes a widescreen video of a yellow beak hornbill gliding across an azure sky, swaying leaves and piped-in bird chirps.

It's a pleasant icebreaker for Widodo and his guests in Jakarta for a week of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit talks starting Tuesday.



"Indonesia wants to give the best hospitality," Communications Minister Budi Arie Setiadi said about the unique reception for ASEAN leaders and VIPs such as US Vice President Kamala Harris, Chinese Premier Li Qiang and

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The convention centre's lobby was off-limits to the public and a sign barred videos and pictures until the jungle spectacle is unveiled.

Indonesia also wanted to highlight ASEAN's urgent call for

environmental protection and the need to shift to greener energy sources, Setiadi said.

Artificial is the only type of jungle that exists in Jakarta. The nearest jungle, home to endangered orangutans, is more than 1,300 kilometers (more than 800 miles) away on Borneo island.

The Indonesian capital is one of the world's most polluted cities and teems with skyscrapers, traffic and 11 million people.

The government has begun a two-decade project to move the capital from Jakarta to Nusantara, on the island of Borneo, that will involve constructing government buildings and housing from scratch in the area about 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles) northeast of Jakarta.

## Aditya L1 completes 2nd earth-bound manoeuvre

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Sept 5:** Aditya L1, the first space based Indian mission to study the Sun, underwent the second earth-bound manoeuvre successfully during the early hours Tuesday, ISRO said. ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) carried out the operation.

"The second Earth-bound manoeuvre (EBN#2) is performed successfully from ISTRAC, Bengaluru. ISTRAC/ISRO's ground stations at Mauritius, Bengaluru and Port Blair tracked the satellite during this operation. The new orbit attained is 282 km x 40225 km," ISRO said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

The next manoeuvre (EBN#3) is scheduled for September 10, 2023, around 02:30 hrs. IST, it said. Aditya-L1 is the first Indian space based observatory to study the Sun from a halo orbit around first sun-earth Lagrangian point.

# leisure



## CHER OWES HER AGELESS LOOKS TO HER FAMILY'S 'AMAZING' GENES

Singer-actress Cher credits her youthful appearance to her family's 'amazing' genes. "Genes in my family are pretty amazing. I don't know if not feeling old makes you younger," she said, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.

## KYLIE JENNER, TIMOTHEE GO PUBLIC WITH THEIR ROMANCE

Reality TV star Kylie Jenner and actor Timothee Chalamet went public with their romance while attending Beyonce Knowles' *Renaissance Tour* in Los Angeles. The two were photographed getting cozy during the concert date.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

#### ARIES

Today you will land up in a tricky or hazardous situation. You will feel compelled to wade against the tide, which may not be such a productive thing, says Ganesh. Nothing seems to be going your way. Take some time off for yourself to relieve the stress.

#### TAURUS

A short trip could be in the offing today, says Ganesh. Before proceeding, you may, however, be compelled to make changes in your itinerary. If you are not too happy with the new schedules and decide to stick to your original plans, you are likely to feel disturbed, uneasy at the end of the day.

#### GEMINI

You will feel out of sorts today. This could result in distances between you and your loved ones. You may fall into the wrong sorts of debates on account of your ill-temper. You need to keep a curb on your emotions to perform better, says Ganesh.

#### CANCER

You are most likely to appear edgy and hypercritical to others, says Ganesh. Remain your typical poised self. Try not to be harsh to others, if you wish to save your relationships and sustain a reputable image. Avoid clashes with your superiors and colleagues.

#### LEO

Agreed that home is where the heart is. But today, your home is where your troubles will be. The faster you try to run away from them, the quicker they seem to catch up with you, says Ganesh. So, scooting off may not be the best solution.

#### VIRGO

Open the mind gates and let your imagination flow, says Ganesh. At your creative best, you will pursue innovation and creativity today. Luck will be on your side and even those things that you took a risk on may lean your way. You energy levels will be unusually high and you will feel passionate about all that you undertake. A good day to organise social events for family and friends.

#### LIBRA

There is a very strong possibility of major improvements in your public standing and image today. But it all depends so much upon your personal character, and, therefore, you must guard it zealously, even with your own life. Those who seek to malign or dent your reputation will be disappointed, says Ganesh.

#### SCORPIO

Today promises to be an exceptional day for those involved in business. With sheer brilliance, you will steer deals right to your door step, and will display great finesse in negotiations and bartering. Bring out the leader in you and take charge when you introduce new products or market them in business, suggests Ganesh.

#### SAGITTARIUS

As Ganesh foresees, you will be religiously inclined today. Listening to soft, instrumental music will soothe your nerves. You also feel like going back to school days and dig into detective and suspense stories of Nancy Drew or Hardy Boys. It was fun being kid, isn't it?

#### CAPRICORN

If you are planning to fly to foreign shores for further studies, start documentation and other preparations today, says Ganesh. Whether you are a student or not, on this favourable day, all you need to do is to make a priority list, follow it and finish off your work one by one. If you are associated with Stock Market, expect an advantageous day ahead.

#### AQUARIUS

Cooperative and supportive, your colleagues will help you improve your performance at work. Also, your creativity will win you praises from one and all, foretells Ganesh. The day will have a perfect end as you will spend quality time with your friends and family.

#### PISCES

You are going to be very emotional today. You will be able to express your love to your wife or other loved ones in a very unique and dramatic way. It is not a good day for putting forth marriage or love proposals, and if you do it could be disappointing.

## Odissi, soulful violin recitals enthrall viewers



SAIL's Independent Director Ashok Kumar Tripathy, MGM Minerals Ltd MD Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, Sri Sri University VC BR Sharma and Guru Ratikanta Mohapatra (L-R) during a felicitation ceremony at Rabindra Mandap, Tuesday

**BHUBANESWAR:** The 29th OMC Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival, organised by City's foremost dance institution *Sriyan* in collaboration with Sri Sri University of Cuttack, Tuesday kicked off here at Rabindra Mandap with the spectacular performances by Odissi danseuse Shashwati Garai Ghosh and violinists Lalgudi GJR Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi.

Ghosh, a senior disciple of Guru Sharmila Biswas, presented *Mahamaya*, an homage to the 'Divine Mother' Durga, a symbol of Shakti who is in the heart of every being. Her presence as the divine creator seemed manifested in Ghosh's performance.

In her second performance Ghosh presented Yashoda's retelling of *The Ramayana* to Krishna so that he goes to sleep.

The rendition was not only a unique presentation of *The Ramayan*, but also an affection-evoking portrayal of motherhood For the unversed, Ghosh

runs an Odissi dance institution Angashuddi and among other she is the winner of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Pratibha Samman and Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar-2016.

The next performance was a duet musical recital by Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi marked by pristine classicism and aesthetic dignity.

Needless to say, the presentation captivated the audience till the end.

Lalgudi Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi belong to the fifth generation in the shishya parampara of Saint Tyagaraja, heralding the essence of the Lalgudibani with their virtuosity and creativity. The two were also jointly honoured with the Sangeeta Kalanidhi 2022 by The Music Academy, Chennai.

The dignitaries attended the event included Sri Sri University VC BR Sharma, SAIL's Independent Director Ashok Kumar Tripathy and MGM Minerals Limited MD Pankaj Lochan Mohanty. Srjan Director Guru Ratikanta Mohapatra felicitated the luminaries on the occasion.

The second day of the festival will witness performance by Kathak dancer Shila Mehta and Hindustani vocalist Jayateerth Mevundi. PNN

**GKCM AWARD FESTIVAL: DAY 1**

## Kareena struggles to step outside the box

**Mumbai:** Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan Tuesday said she will continue to bring something new with every character, despite being remembered for her popular roles like Poo from *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham* and Geet from *Jab We Met*. The two characters from the blockbuster movies released in 2001 and 2007 form a pivotal part of her filmography and the actor said she still finds it difficult to step outside the box.

"As an actor, you want to try and do something different every time. For me, it is difficult because I've been known for playing Poo and Geet... This thing has been fixed in people. They don't think of the other films that I've done in the past such as *Dev*, *Chameli*, and others. But I'm going to keep trying to do different things," Kareena told reporters here at the trailer launch of *Jaane Jaan*.

The actress is set to make her OTT debut with *Jaane Jaan*, filmmaker Sujoy Ghosh's Hindi language adaptation of popular Japanese novel *Devotion of Suspect X*.

It also stars Jaideep Ahlawat and Vijay Varma, whom Kareena described as natural actors.

*Jaane Jaan* will premiere on OTT on Kareena's birthday, September 21. AGENCIES



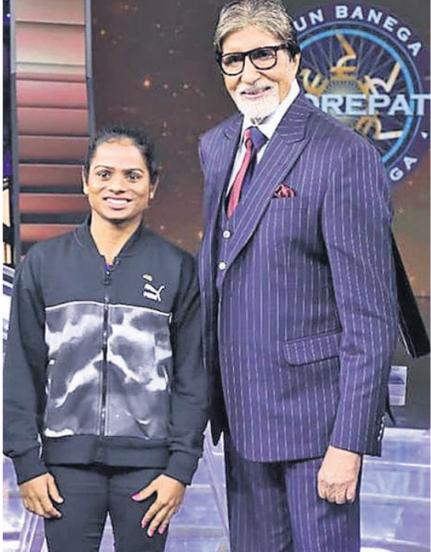
## Big B's sweet revelation about Dutee Chand

**New Delhi:** Megastar Amitabh Bachchan made a sweet revelation about sprinter Dutee Chand in the 16th episode of reality show *Kaun Banega Crorepati* which is being aired at the moment.

At the 2019 Summer Universiade in Napoli, Chand won gold in the 100m race, becoming the first Indian woman sprinter to win gold at the Universiade.

In the above said episode, Dr Apoorva Malhotra from Pathankot, Punjab, made her way to the hot seat.

She was asked: Dutee Chand represents India in which sport? The options given were-



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### FUN post CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8				9			
10			11				
12	13			14	15		
17			18		19	20	21
22				23			
24				25			

Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com

**Across**

- 1 Alluring beauty
- 5 Counterfeit
- 8 Breakfast staple
- 9 Title holder
- 10 Compere
- 11 Gardener's supply
- 12 Kudos
- 14 Court game
- 17 Various
- 19 Come out of denial
- 22 Hungarian composer and piano virtuoso
- 23 Condense
- 24 Lost sheep
- 25 Let go
- 5 Cleaning tool
- 6 Venice transport
- 7 Itch reliever
- 12 Shower leftovers
- 13 Consultant
- 15 Spat
- 16 Fix
- 18 Posh
- 20 Euripides drama
- 21 Motif

**Down**

- 1 Mitten
- 2 Montezuma, for one
- 3 Kitchen aids
- 4 Antiquities

### SUDOKU

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

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

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

CHIN ANCESTOR  
U V V A I L L A A  
P R O B L E M O R B I T  
C R M B P A E  
A B Y S S U N E A S Y  
K U S C B  
E C Z E M A R U M O U R  
S O B A E  
C O R N E A D R A M A  
A T O L L G A Z E L L E  
T G O N A R E E O R  
S A Y O N A R E E W E S

**SUDOKU**

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## DAY FOR TEACHERS

Students of Ravenshaw Collegiate School in Cuttack worship their teacher on the occasion of Teacher's Day, Tuesday



# Teachers on warpath

OSSTA for 7th pay, service benefits SSB lecturers demand grade pay hike

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 5:** Thousands of school teachers staged a protest here Tuesday to press for their demands including salary as per 7th Pay Commission recommendation, equal pay for equal work, pension and other service benefits.

Wearing black badges, the teachers under the banner of Odisha Secondary School Teachers' Association (OSSTA) took out a protest rally at Lower PMG here and urged the state government to consider their demands.

"We have been demanding government aid for unaided schools, implementation of Seventh Pay Commission recommendations, pension and other service benefits for teachers. But, the government is not paying any heed to our genuine demands. So, we were forced to hit the streets on Teachers' Day," said Ranjan Kumar Das, general secretary, OSSTA.

Vinod Mohanty, a protesting teacher, said, "We have spent 30

important years of our lives in the service of society and to build the future generation. But the government neglected us. If we do not get pension, how will we survive after retirement?"

On the occasion of Teachers' Day, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said the contribution of teachers towards building a healthy society by filling life with the light of freedom is unique.

Taking to X, Patnaik said, "My humble tribute on the occasion of holy Guru Divas and birth anniversary of former president, eminent philosopher, veteran politician Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The guru-disciple tradition is a unique feature of Indian culture. The contribution of gurus towards building a healthy society by filling life with the light of wisdom is unique."



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 5:** Lecturers recruited by State Selection Board (SSB) Tuesday observed a peaceful black-badge protest across the state demanding an increase in their grade pay from ₹4,600 to ₹5,400 with retrospective effect from 2016.

They took classes and performed their normal college duty wearing black badges. At least 3,000 SSB recruited lecturers have been demanding an increase in their initial grade pay since 2016. However, they feel that their demand is yet to reach the Chief Minister. So, they decided to hold the black-badge protest to draw the CM's attention to their demands.

Odisha SSB Lecturers' Association president Sarojakanta Nayak said, "We

have been recruited for degree colleges through a transparent and merit-based system by the SSB and are at par with our government college counterparts in discharging duties and responsibilities, but we are getting the salary that doesn't commensurate with our post and status. Though we have been entreating the state government for eight long years to increase our initial grade pay to ₹5,400, we haven't received any response from the government."

While the Chief Minister and the ST Secretary are taking a number of transformative steps in the domain of education through ST initiatives, this issue has been pending for long, he added.

"So, we have organised this peaceful protest to draw the government's attention to our long-standing demand," he said.

The association also said that if the government doesn't fulfil their demand within next seven days, they will be compelled to resort to other forms of protests.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



# Now, govt insurance for certified snake handlers

Forest, Environment and Climate Change department will pay the premium, while OSDMA will provide training to snake handlers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 5:** The state government will provide insurance cover to certified snake handlers, Revenue and Disaster Management (R&DM) Minister Pramila Mallik said Tuesday.

The Forest, Environment and Climate Change department will pay the premium, while the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) will provide training to snake handlers, she said.

After receiving a detailed proposal from the Forest and Environment department, the training programme will be started, she added.

Snake Helpline, an organisation working for the rescue and rehabilitation of snakes, welcomed the decision.

"We are vulnerable to death and permanent disability as we handle poisonous snakes. The



decision of the government is a welcome step. However, some more steps are needed to be taken for the safety of both snake and rescuers," said Snake Helpline general secretary Subhendu Mallik.

Last month, the government issued guidelines for the rescue of snakes from human habitations by certified snake handlers.

Only the certified snake handlers can participate in the rescue and release operations, and they are required to adhere strictly to the stipulated protocols, failing which will invite

**“We are vulnerable to death and permanent disability as we handle poisonous snakes. The decision of the government is a welcome step. However, some more steps are needed to be taken for the safety of both snake and rescuers”**

SUBHENDU MALLIK | SNAKE HELPLINE GENERAL SECRETARY

penal actions as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, it said. Incidents of snakebites are common in Odisha, and the government declared it a state disaster in 2015.

About 40 per cent of total disaster deaths are attributed to snakebites in the state. From 2015 to 2022, 6,351 people died due to snakebites in the state, and from January to July this year, 34 people were killed.

## Man dupes neighbour of ₹33 lakh, arrested

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 5:** The Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested a 59-year-old man for allegedly duping one of his neighbours of ₹33 lakh. The accused was identified as Dillip Kumar Samantray of Khallikote in Ganjam district.

Samantray is currently staying at Royal Heritage Apartment in Patrapada area under Khandagiri police limits.

Police sources claimed that Samantray and complainant Rabintra Prasad Mohanty were staying in the same apartment a few years ago.

Samantray would often visit the residence of complainant on various pretexts. One day, the accused came to know that Mohanty had sold a plot in the City and kept the money in his residence.

Then he started asking Mohanty for loans for different purposes.

Owing to Samantray's continuous insistence, Mohanty reportedly gave ₹33 lakh to the accused for construction of his house two years ago.

The accused had promised to return the money within a year and gave the complainant two post dated cheques.

However, when Mohanty deposited the same in the bank a few months later, the cheques got bounced.

Mohanty asked Samantray to return his money several times, but to no avail.

Finding no other way, he finally lodged a complaint with the police Monday.

## Orissa HC gets 2 new judges



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Cuttack, Sept 5:** Sibho Sankar Mishra and Ananda Chandra Behera were sworn in as new judges of the Orissa High Court Tuesday by Chief Justice Subhasis Talapatra.

With this, the number of judges in the High Court rose to 22, against a sanctioned strength of 33. The number of judges will again come down to 20 after the retirement of Justice Biswanath Rath Wednesday and the Chief Justice October 3.

The Centre September 2 had notified the appointment of ad-

vocate Mishra, and senior judicial officer Behera as judges of the High Court.

The collegium of the Supreme Court, comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud, Justice SK Kaul and Justice Sanjiv Khanna, had recommended their names August 17.

While Mishra began his career in 1991 and specialises in civil, criminal and service law, Behera served as a judicial officer in different capacities over the years. Mishra was an advocate-on-record in the Supreme Court, and represented the Odisha government.

## DGP launches '1930' cybercrime helpline

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 5:** Director General of Police (DGP) Sunil Kumar Bansal Tuesday inaugurated the '1930 cyber helpline call centre' at Cyber Complex here for the victims of online financial frauds.

Victims of cyber frauds can lodge complaints by dialling '1930' for immediate assistance to prevent the transaction and get back money. This facilitation centre has got 10 parallel telephone lines which are manned by trained police personnel. The helpline will be functional 24x7 in three shifts. The call centre maintained by trained personnel would attend the call, initiate the process to track the money trail and take immediate action to block it. It will also try to revert back the money into victim's account.

## SC reserves verdict on pleas against Art 370 repeal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 5:** The Supreme Court Tuesday reserved its verdict on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution which bestowed special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

A five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud reserved the verdict after a marathon 16-day hearing.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant, heard the rejoinder arguments of senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Gopal Subramaniam, Rajeev Dhavan, Zaffar

Shah, Dushyant Dave and others on the concluding day of the hearing.

The top court said if any lawyer appearing for the petitioners or respondents wishes to file a written submission can do so in the next three days. The submission should not extend beyond two pages, it said.

In the course of the hearing over the past 16 days, the top court heard Attorney General R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, senior advocates Harish Salve, Rakesh Dwivedi, V Giri and others on behalf of the Centre and the interveners defending the abrogation of Article 370.

The lawyers dwelt on various issues including the constitutional

validity of the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate the provision, the validity of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which split the erstwhile state into two Union Territories, challenges to imposition of Governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir June 20, 2018 and imposition of President's rule in the erstwhile state December 19, 2018 and its extension July 3, 2019.

Several petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 that divided the erstwhile state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

# Asians have poor sleep on weekdays: Study

The study led by researchers from National University of Singapore shows that people in Asia have shorter sleep, and display higher variability in both sleep timing and duration on weekdays



sleep extension.

While there was a clear association between shorter weekday sleep and longer weekend sleep extension, suggesting that people caught up on sleep at the weekend, even after accounting for this, people in Asia had the shortest weekend sleep extension.

"In Europe, weekends are generally considered time for relaxation, and engaging in social activities with friends and family. In Asia, however, people may use the weekends to catch up on work, do the things they didn't have time for during the week or attend to

more family responsibilities," said Dr Adrian Willoughby, Senior Research Fellow at NUS Medicine's Centre for Sleep and Cognition.

"We think that longer working hours and the difference in work culture in Asia means that people don't catch up on sleep as much at the weekends, but try to catch up whenever they have the opportunity over the course of the week," Willoughby said.

The study, published in the scientific journal Sleep Medicine, is based on sleep data from over 2,20,000 individuals, aged between 30 and 55 years, from across 35

- ▶ People often sleep for longer at the weekends than during the week, a phenomenon known as weekend sleep extension
- ▶ The study, published in Sleep Medicine, is based on sleep data from over 2,20,000 individuals from across 35 countries
- ▶ While there was a clear association between shorter weekday sleep and longer weekend sleep extension, suggesting that people caught up on sleep at the weekend, even after accounting for this, people in Asia had the shortest weekend sleep extension

countries.

Previous studies have shown that shorter sleep duration is usually associated with higher sleep efficiency as people try to make the most of their sleep opportunity; however, in this study, despite sleeping less, people in Asia also had lower sleep efficiency.

This may be because factors that result in short sleep (for example work-related anxiety) also lead to lower quality sleep, the researchers said.

**GURU KELUCHARAN MOHAPATRA Award Festival 2023**  
5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> Sept | 6:00 PM

In Collaboration With

Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityasala

**Shila Mehta**  
Kathak

**Jayateerth Mevundi**  
Hindustani Vocal

**6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Rabindra Mandap  
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Diamond Sponsor

Gold Sponsors

Supported by

Festival Sponsors

Web Partners

Media Partners

ENTRY BY INVITATION ONLY

Srijan, #1340, Guru Kelucharan Marg, Kapilaprasad, Bhimatangi Housing Colony, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751002

# Rain to pound state for next 5 days: IMD

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 5:** A low pressure area (LOPAR) formed over the north-west and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal off the south-Odisha, north-Andhra Pradesh coasts Tuesday. Under its impact, light to moderate rain or thundershowers are 'very likely' at most places of the state in the next five days, IMD predicted.

IMD sources informed the LOPAR formed under the influence of Monday's cyclonic circulation over the north-west Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas, with the associated cyclonic circulations extending up to 7.6km above the mean sea level and tilting south-westward with height. The circulations now persist over the same regions.

"It is very likely that the circulations will move westward across south-Odisha and south-Chhattisgarh in the next 24 hours," IMD sources said, further



adding that the western end of the 'monsoon trough' now runs along the foothills of the Himalayas, and its eastern end passes through Najibabad, Lucknow, Satna, Raipur, and then south-eastwards to the centre of the low pressure area over the north-west and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal off south-Odisha.

Meteorological sources said the average rainfall recorded in Odisha in the last 24 hours was

16.7 mm, while the state's average rainfall recorded from September 1 to September 5 was 50.1 mm, against the September monthly average of 231.9 mm.

The highest rainfall, 142.4 mm, was recorded in the last 24 hours in Belaguntha block of Ganjam. At least three blocks, namely Belguntha in Ganjam, Siluapada, and Khunta in Mayurbhanj, recorded more than 100 mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours.

## 'Country in cusp of new era in maritime'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 5:** In the run-up to the third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS) 2023, the Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal, gave a special address at the roadshow held at a city hotel here, Tuesday.

Addressing the gathering, Sonowal said that India is strengthening its position as a global centre for the blue economy, taking the lead in crafting the next phase of South Asia's maritime history.

He noted that India is on the cusp of a new era in its maritime sector and that the country is beginning a journey of progress through technological advancements and infrastructure enhancement for a well-coming business environment.

The event gathered eminent minds and industry leaders, igniting discussions around key opportunities, innovation, and the roadmap towards a sustainable future for Indian maritime industry. Sonowal said that the roadshows exemplify our commitment to fostering linkages and collaboration in order to advance the Indian Maritime Industry.

# CM: Dreams of new Odisha possible through education

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 5:** On the occasion of Teachers' Day, a 'Nijukti Parva' cum orientation programme was held at the convention centre of Lok Seva Bhawan Tuesday where as many as 542 principals and teachers joined Odisha Adharsha Vidyalayas. Also, 30 principals and teachers joined Odisha Mining Adharsha Vidyalayas making the total appointments to 572 on a single day.

Congratulating the principals and teachers, the Chief Minister said that the new Odisha of our dreams can be built by empowering every child with the power of education. The Odisha Adharsha Vidyalayas were set up to achieve this objective by providing free quality education in English medium to rural talents from Odisha, he added.

The Odisha Adharsha Vidyalayas are like launch-pads for children where they can widen their horizons with wings to fly even higher, the CM underlined.



The Chief Minister advised the teachers and principals to make endeavor to unlock students' potential. He said that this large appointment is a huge boost for Odisha Adharsha Vidyalayas. He expected the new principals and teachers to try their best for making these institutions one of the best in the country.

The success of an educator lies in understanding the inherent potential of students, and making active efforts to un-

lock them. There should be a conscious endeavour to help children dream big, and create the confidence in them to achieve what has been hitherto impossible, he added.

Focusing on the 5-T initiative, he said that this can be an empowering tool for children. The knowledge of technology, learning the essence of teamwork, maintaining transparency, and understanding the importance of time can bring a transformative change in children.

# G20 Crafts Bazaar to exhibit 'Pattachitra'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 5:** On the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, a 'Crafts Bazaar' (exhibition-cum-sale) will be organised at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, from September 8 to 10, to bring the foreign delegates' attention to the rich hand-craft products from different regions of the country.

Among the cultural products to be on display at the Bazaar, there will be Odisha's Pattachitra painting, a traditional art form closely related to mythological and devotional beliefs of the people centering on themes related to Lord Jagannath and Puri Srimandir.

At the Bazaar, particular emphasis will be on items affiliated with the 'one district one product' (ODOP) initiative, especially those bearing geographic indication (GI) tags, and artistic creations of regional women and tribal artisans. Delegates and international media attending the summit will have the opportunity to explore this Crafts Bazaar and acquire locally sourced, artisan-crafted treasures.

In the Pattachitra tradition of painting, on old cotton fabric, cotton saris and tussar silks artisans use traditional colors like red, blue, yellow, green, black etc to create representations of



mythological themes.

Apart from Pattachitra, other products to be on display include art forms such as Phulkari of Punjab, Chamba Rumal of Himachal Pradesh, Chikankari of Uttar Pradesh, Kauna craft of Manipur, Cane and Bamboo craft of Meghalaya, Thanjavur painting of Tamil Nadu, Kalamkari of Andhra Pradesh, Bellmetal of Kerala, Kolhapuri Chappal of Maharashtra, and Bandhej of Rajasthan. "The Bazaar would thus not only promote made in India products on a global stage, but also open up new economic and market opportunities for local artisans," said a government official.

Notably, the exhibition is being organized by the G20 Secretariat in coordination with Textiles Ministry and State/UT governments. Around 30 states and UTs, as well as Central agencies like Khadi Village and Industries Commission will participate in the exhibition cum sales market.

# Govt to sponsor 5 students' higher studies in Australia

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 5:** The state government has decided to send five meritorious B. Tech pass-outs to Australia for higher education, the Chief Minister's office said in a statement.

The five engineering students, including a woman, have completed B. Tech in mining engineering from Government College of Engineering, Keonjhar. They will now have the opportunity to pursue higher education in the field of mining engineering at Curtin University in Australia.

The selected students are Minarva Sahu, Adwik Kumar, Aakib Ahmad, Gitish Sekhar Nayak and Saroj Kumar Biswakarma.

"These students will study mining engineering at the West Australian School of Mines, Minerals, Energy and Chemical Engineering under Curtin University," the statement said.

The students met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik here Monday. The CM wished them luck and advised them to work hard to achieve their career goals.

Their tuition fees, accommodation and travel expenses will be met from the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), Keonjhar.

Under the leadership of CM Naveen Patnaik, Keonjhar



**THE STUDENTS WILL STUDY MINING ENGINEERING AT THE WEST AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF MINES, MINERALS, ENERGY AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING UNDER CURTIN UNIVERSITY**

District Administration is focusing on Transformation in Education as well as in other

sectors. This opportunity will inspire other students to focus and build a better career in future, said Keonjhar Collector Ashish Thakare.

By equipping these students with cutting-edge knowledge and skills in mining engineering, Keonjhar aspires to become a model of academic excellence and responsible resource management.

The collaboration between Keonjhar and Curtin University is a testament to the transformative power of education and visionary leadership. It serves as an inspiration to other students and underscores the commitment of the administration to building a brighter future for the youth.

# TPCODL launches 2 mobile dispensaries

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 5:** Supporting the health and well-being of the community, TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL), a joint venture between Tata Power and the state government inaugurated two more Mobile Health Dispensaries (MHDs) under the 'Arogya' project, Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, TPCODL CEO Arvind Singh said, "We believe that access to quality healthcare is fundamental to a flourishing community. Through the 'Arogya' project and the deployment of these Mobile Health Dispensaries, TPCODL continues to play a pivotal role in promoting good health and contributing positively to the lives of our beneficiaries."

The Mobile Health Dispensaries (MHDs) have been strategically positioned to serve

specific areas under the Bhubaneswar Circle-II and Paradeep Circle jurisdictions.

In the Bhubaneswar Circle-II, the Mobile Health Dispensaries (MHDs) will serve regions including Nayagarh, Khurda, and Balugaon division. Similarly, in the Paradeep Circle, the MHDs will provide essential healthcare services to Paradeep, Kendrapada, and Marshaghai divisions.

Equipped with qualified medical professionals and pharmacists, each mobile dispensary is designed to offer free consultations and medications to those in need.

In addition, MHDs also provide comprehensive case-based healthcare consultations, hygiene awareness programs, and coordination with district health officials, including ambulance services for special cases.



# 1 in 3 men worldwide infected with genital HPV: Lancet

**THE GLOBAL STUDY ON THE PREVALENCE OF GENITAL HPV INFECTION CAN CAUSE GENITAL WARTS AND ORAL, PENILE AND ANAL CANCER IN BOTH MEN AND WOMEN**

Almost one in three men over the age of 15 are infected with at least one genital human papillomavirus (HPV) type, according to a new study published in The Lancet Global Health.

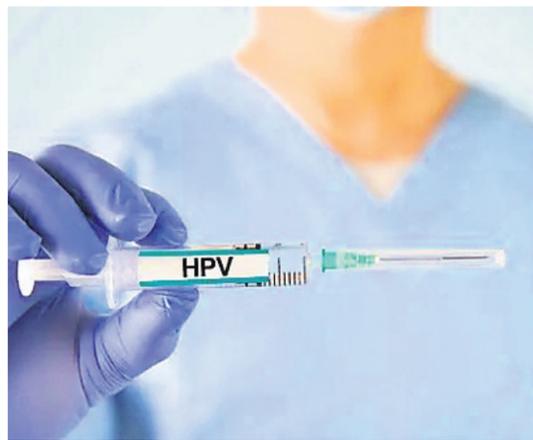
The findings also showed that one in five are infected with one or more of what are known as high risk, or oncogenic, HPV types.

These estimates show that men frequently harbour genital HPV infections and emphasise the importance of incorporating men in efforts to control HPV infection and reduce the incidence of HPV related disease in both men and women.

"This global study on the prevalence of genital HPV infection among men confirms how widespread HPV infection is. HPV infection with high-risk HPV types can cause genital warts and oral, penile and anal cancer in men," said Dr Meg Doherty, Director of WHO's Global HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections Programmes.

"We must continue to look for opportunities to prevent HPV infection and to reduce the incidence of HPV-related disease in both men and women," Doherty added.

The study is based on a systematic review and meta-analysis



assessed the prevalence of genital HPV infection in the general male population based on studies published between 1995

and 2022.

The global pooled prevalence was 31 per cent for any HPV and 21 per cent for high-risk HPV.

The findings showed that one in five is infected with one or more of high risk, or oncogenic, human papillomavirus (HPV) types

The study is based on a systematic review of genital HPV infection in the general male population between 1995 and 2022

HPV prevalence was high in young adults, reaching a maximum between the age of 25 years and 29 years

The International Agency for Research on Cancer estimated that there were about 69,400 cases of cancer in men caused by HPV in 2018

HPV-16 was the most prevalent HPV genotype (5 per cent) followed by HPV-6 (4 per cent).

HPV prevalence was high in young adults, reaching a maximum between the age of 25 years and 29 years, and stabilised or slightly decreased thereafter.

The majority of HPV infections in men and women are asymptomatic, but they can lead to long-term sequelae and mortality. Each year, more than 340,000 women die of cervical cancer.

In men, HPV infection tends to manifest clinically as anogenital warts, which cause significant morbidity and increase HPV transmission rates.

HPV infections are also associated with penile, anal and oropharyngeal cancers, which are commonly linked to HPV type 16. The International Agency for Research on Cancer estimated that there were about 69,400 cases of cancer in men caused by HPV in 2018.

# 3rd line between Haridaspur & Byree stns commissioned

**Bhubaneswar:** The third-line between Haridaspur and Byree railway stations in Odisha on the Howrah-Chennai main line was commissioned Tuesday, an official said. The 16.80km Haridaspur-Byree line is part of the ongoing critical Bhadrak-Nergundi third-line project. The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), South Eastern Circle, Kolkata, recently inspected the section. During the inspection, all safety aspects were thoroughly examined and a speed trial was also conducted to measure the feasibility of train traffic. Construction for the Bhadrak-Nergundi third-line project on the Howrah-Chennai main line, between Bhadrak and Cuttack stations under Khurda road division of East Coast Railway (ECoR), is proceeding in full swing with more than 60 per cent work already completed, the official said.

**FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS**

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

# Eggs hurled at BJD MLAs



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhawanipatna, Sept 5:** Youth Congress workers allegedly showed black flags and hurled eggs Tuesday at vehicles in which three BJD MLAs were travelling at Narla in Kalahandi district. Sources said that Junagarh MLA Dibya Shankar Mishra,

Narla MLA Bhupinder Singh and Lanjigarh MLA Pradip Kumar Dishari were going to Narla to inaugurate a building of the District Primary Teachers' Association and attend the 26th District Level Teachers' Day celebrations. However, as they reached the venue they were shown black flags by Youth Congress members and eggs were hurled at the vehicles in which the lawmakers were travelling. The Youth Congress workers raised slogans against Mishra for his alleged involvement in the murder of school teacher Mamita Meher. They said that Mishra has no right to attend the programme. The Congress workers also condemned the Odisha government as students in schools of the block are suffering due to shortage of teachers. Later on police detained a number of protestors.



**INCULCATING VALUES:** Teachers of Vikash Residential and Higher Secondary School on the outskirts of Bargarh town performed a dance drama Tuesday for the students on the occasion of Teachers' Day

# Mini-India to come alive at G20 summit

This will be a great opportunity for guests to see the temples of Tamil Nadu, the culture of Rajasthan, the mountains of Himachal Pradesh. There will be something from every state showcasing the diverse culture that is found in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 5:** A mini-India will come alive at the massive International Media Centre set up in the Bharat Mandapam complex here which will host the G20 Leaders' Summit later this week. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur reviewed Tuesday the preparations at the media site which will be the nerve centre for broadcasting the proceedings of the G20 meetings to the world. The media centre will host all domestic and international media delegates who will be in the national capital for coverage of the G20 Summit. "The domestic and international media will have a range of facilities here, be it broadband connectivity, media lounges, kiosks, among others," Thakur said. The media centre can house



over 3,000 media delegates and also has facilities such as small media booths for conducting one-on-one interviews, media briefing rooms with different capacities such as 50, 100 and 300 people, officials informed. The live stand-up positions with 'Bharat Mandapam' as the backdrop will also be available for media persons. He said the entire proceedings of the G20 Summit will be recorded in ultra high definition (UHD) and 4K broadcast technologies which has never happened in the country. "What you see behind me is the powerful image of the new India," said Thakur as he toured the sprawling facility. A series of exhibitions have been set up showcasing India's strides in digital economy, its

varied culture, handicrafts and artifacts under the 'One District, One Product' initiative, and the evolution of democracy in the country from the time of 'Anubhav Mandapam', the first Parliament in the history of mankind. "A mini-India has come alive at the Bharat Mandapam complex here. This is an opportunity for the guests to see the temples of Tamil Nadu, the culture of Rajasthan to the mountains of Himachal Pradesh. There is something from every state showcasing its culture," Thakur informed. The minister said a green wall has also been created where a person can click his photograph and choose a backdrop of any part of the country.

# Police crack murder case after 3 yrs

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Deogaon, Sept 5:** Deogaon police have finally cracked after three years the mystery behind the murder of Gajanan Meher, a resident of Hatisara village in Bolangir district, with the arrest of the accused, officials said Tuesday. Police had been on the lookout for accused Shira Rana for the past three years. He was finally nabbed Tuesday and police took him to the crime spot to recreate the scene which led to Gajanan's death. A botched up deal between Shira and Gajanan led to the latter's death, Deogaon police station IIC, Tarabati Pradhan informed. Police said that Shira had given 250gm of gold to Gajanan,



the owner of a jewellery shop. A deal was finalised that Gajanan will sell the gold and give ₹10 lakh to Shira and take ₹30,000 as commission. Gajanan called up Shira November 6, 2020 and asked the latter to come to Bangla Square

here to collect the money. Shira arrived and so did Gajanan along with an accomplice and the three then went to a secluded spot behind the Haragouri temple here. Gajanan handed ₹10 lakh to Shira. However, while counting, Shira discovered a number of

fake notes. A heated argument broke out between Shira, Gajanan and his associate. Suddenly Gajanan and his accomplice attacked Shira. During the scuffle that followed, Gajanan lost his footing and suffered a severe fall dying on the spot. Seeing Gajanan dead, his associate fled the scene. Fearing arrest, Shira took Gajanan's body and bike to a secluded area. He then disposed of the body and bike there and left the spot. Since then he had been on the run for close to three years. Police got a tip-off that Shira had come to his native village and managed to nab him easily. Shira was forwarded to court after a case (No 262/20) was registered at Deogaon police station, Pradhan informed.

# Youth gets 20 years RI for raping minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Sept 5:** A fast track court here Tuesday sentenced Sipun Maharana, 30, to 20 years in prison after convicting him of raping a minor girl. The incident took place November 27, 2017 under Turumunga police station. Justice Bijay Kumar Mishra also slapped a fine of ₹10,000 on the convict. Failure to pay the fine will lead to an additional six months in prison, the judge ordered. As per the case diary, Sipun had forcibly abducted the minor girl when she was playing in front of her home and raped her. At the time of the incident, the family members of the victim had gone to the market. Taking advantage of the situation, Sipun committed the crime, police said. When the family members of the victim returned home, they found her lying in a pool of blood and writhing in pain. The girl then narrated her ordeal to her parents. A complaint was subsequently filed at the Turumunga police station. After medical examination of the victim, police arrested Sipun. During the trial the accused was lodged at the district prison in this town.

# Engineer sacked for using fake certificate

PNN & AGENCIES

**Paradip, Sep 5:** A superintending engineer of Paradip Port has been dismissed from service for allegedly acquiring the job by submitting a fake caste certificate, officials said Tuesday. The action was initiated against Pramod Kumar Bindhani on the basis of a report of the State Level Scrutiny Committee (SLSC), which was constituted to probe the matter, they informed. According to the report, Bindhani had joined Paradip Port as an assistant engineer in



September 1991 by submitting a fake ST caste certificate. He was later promoted to executive engineer in 2002 availing ST reservation quota and then superintending engineer in 2006. During investigation, the SLSC found that Bindhani belongs to OBC/SEBC category and not ST as he had mentioned to avail the job and other promotional benefits. In 2021, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes had directed the Paradip

Port authorities to conduct a probe to ascertain the veracity of Bindhani's caste certificate. The matter was then pending with the SLSC following an order of the Orissa High Court.

# 2 KILLED OVER FAMILY RIVALRY, 7 ARRESTED

**Berhampur:** Two people were killed in a clash between two families in Ganjam district, following which seven people, including three women, were arrested, police said Tuesday. The incident took place in Pankalabadi village in Kabisuryanagar police station area Monday night when 29-year-old history-sheeter Mithun Bhuyan and his 26-year-old brother-in-law Lipun Swain went to the house of 52-year-old Janaki Bhuyan with firearms, a police officer said. He added that the two families had a rivalry for the last three years. Mithun, who had cases of murder, extortion, dacoity and rioting pending against him, and Lipun went to Janaki's house in an inebriated state and fired at least two-three rounds in the air to scare the latter's family, before leaving the place. However, the duo returned again and started assaulting Janaki and her brother Rohit (45), following which the family attacked the duo with swords, stones and sharp objects, Ganjam Superintendent of Police Jagmohan Meena informed. Both Mithun and Lipun sustained grievous injuries and were taken to Kabisuryanagar hospital, and later referred to MKCG Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared them dead on arrival, Meena said. Seven members of Janaki's family, including him, his wife Prabhassini (45), sons Sonu (26) and Bibhu (28), Rohit, his wife Rasmita (38) and Janaki and Rohit's sister Kuni (34), were arrested, Meena stated. A country-made pistol, seven cartridges, a sword, a crowbar, an iron rod, a kitchen knife, a wooden plank and a big stone were seized from the spot, the SP added. Patrolling has been intensified in the village and a strict vigil is being kept, the officer said. He added that further investigation is underway.

# SMC unveils new waste management plans

Services of domestic helps to be utilised for segregation of dry and wet garbage

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sambalpur, Sept 5:** The Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) has decided to rope in the services of domestic helps for segregation of dry and wet waste in households. The separation is necessary for better utilisation of waste treatment plants, officials said. To achieve this goal, the civic body officials are holding meetings in every ward of this town and sensitising the domestic helps. This is among the new measures implemented by the SMC to keep the town clean. Earlier, the SMC had used leaflets and posters to create awareness among the people regarding the disposition of dry and wet waste materials. All



the garbage collection vehicles of the SMC have two compartments - one for dry waste and the other for wet. However, despite its best efforts, the SMC has not been able to educate the people. Residents of this town still continue to dispose of dry and wet wastes together. The SMC had also imposed fines penalising the mixing of dry and wet wastes. However, it also did not work. Now, the SMC has decided to take the issue to the doorsteps of the residents of this town. As a result it has decided to rope in the

services of the domestic helps. The civic body feels that domestic helping hands, if properly educated, will help in segregation of the two types of wastes. SMC enforcement officer Subhankar Mohanty said the daily disposing of waste materials are increasing rapidly. Many families are handing over garbage to the collection vehicles without separating dry and wet materials. The best way to achieve the objective is to take the help of domestic workers, Mohanty stated. For proper waste management, the SMC has divided the house-

holds into three categories. Those segregating dry and wet garbage have been marked green; those not doing so have been placed in orange category. Houses that do not dispose of waste at all have been put in the red category. The SMC authorities are also trying to sensitise students and members of residential societies about the importance of proper waste management. Sources said that the civic body has engaged 140 vehicles including battery-operated ones to collect garbage from the doorsteps of the houses. The collected waste materials are turned into compost for use in cultivation. Waste materials that do not rot are sent to the material recovery centre (MRC). Mohanty pointed out that the segregation of dry and wet garbage is crucial for proper running of the waste treatment plants. "It is very important for the materials to be separated at the micro-composting centre," Mohanty stated.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No.O-892  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, ROURKELA**  
 E-Mail- [rw\\_rourkela@yahoo.co.in](mailto:rw_rourkela@yahoo.co.in)  
**TENDER CALL NOTICE**  
**BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE-SERKL-08 OF 2023-24**

1. Name of the Work	- Road Works
2. Total No. of works	- 05 (Five) Nos.
3. Estimated cost	- Rs.6.48 Lakhs to 40.35 Lakhs
4. Class of contractor	- "D", "C", "B" & "A" Class
5. Period of completion	- 03 (Three) & (04) Calendar Months
6. Type of Tender	- Single Cover
7. Other details	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	
		From	To
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Rourkela	Online-SERKL-08 of 2023-24	14.09.2023 from 10.00 A.M.	26.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
 Sd./ Superintending Engineer, RW Division, Rourkela  
 OIPR-25067/11/0007/2324

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**RWSS DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
 E-mail-[eerwss\\_rai@nic.in](mailto:eerwss_rai@nic.in), [eerwss\\_rai@gmail.com](mailto:eerwss_rai@gmail.com)  
**e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
**IDENTIFICATION No. 25 RWSS/RPUR- 2023-2024/Dated 31.08.2023**  
 No. O-887:- The Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Rairangpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids to be received in online mode for the following works from the eligible experienced contractors in similar nature of work, registered with State Govt. & contractor of equivalent Grade/class registered with Central Govt. / Railways.

- Nature of work:- Construction of 20 KL capacity RCC overhead tank with 12 mtr. Staging including piping arrangement and its accessories and laying of distribution system and installation of pump motor at Jashipur CHC under Jashipur Block in the district of Mayurbhanj (DMF).
- No. of work:- 01 (One) Nos.
- Period of Completion:- 03 (Three) months
- Cost of tender:- ₹6000.00
- Estimated Cost:- ₹17.30 Lac
- Class of Contractor:- (As mentioned in Tender Call Notice)
- Date and time of availability of bid documents in Portal:- from 9 hours of 13.09.2023 to 17.30 hours of 25.09.2023
- Receipt of bid cost, bid security, documents:- Online only
- Date & time of opening of technical bid:- Dt. 26.09.2023 at 11.00 hours onwards.
- Other Documents:- (As mentioned in DTCN)
- The bidders have to participate in on-line bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>
- Any addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
- Concession of 10% will be considered to ST/SC contractors up to B class only on submission of an affidavit over the general category contractors failing which such concession will not be extended to him/her  
 Sd./ Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Rairangpur  
 OIPR-25010/11/0004/2324

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
 Tender Notice No. SDCM-KUR/UTS & PRS-2, Date: 29.08.2023  
**Name of the Work: ANNUAL MAINTENANCE SERVICE CONTRACT WORK OF SYSTEM PERIPHERALS UNDER PASSENGER RESERVATION SYSTEM (PRS), UNRESERVED TICKETING SYSTEM (UTS), NATIONAL TRAIN ENQUIRY SYSTEM (NTES) FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (02) YEARS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.**  
 Tender Value: ₹19,88,020.52, EMD: ₹39,800/-, Cost of Tender Document: ₹2,950/-  
 Bidding Start Date: 04.09.2023, Date & time of Tender Closing: 18.09.2023, 1100 hrs.  
 No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website <http://www.reps.gov.in>  
 Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.  
 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ PR-539/O/23-24 Khurda Road

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
 (1) Notice No. eT-North-WAT-26-2023, Date: 01.09.2023  
**Name of the Work: PLACEMENT OF 1 MT & 10 MT CAPACITY TRUCKS FOR CARRYING RAILWAY MATERIALS FOR A PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE TO SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (PWAY)/RAYGADA, LAXMIPUR ROAD AND TIKURI UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ NORTH OF WALTAIR DIVISION.**  
 Approx cost of the work: ₹42,50,492.40, Cost of Tender Document: ₹3,540/-, EMD: ₹85,000/-  
 (2) Notice No. eT-North-WAT-27-2023, Date: 01.09.2023  
**Name of the Work: PLACEMENT OF 1 MT & 10 MT CAPACITY TRUCKS FOR CARRYING RAILWAY MATERIALS FOR A PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE TO SENIOR SECTION ENGINEER (PWAY)/PARVATIPURAM AND BOBBILI UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/RAYGADA OF WALTAIR DIVISION.**  
 Approx cost of the work: ₹28,33,661.60, Cost of Tender Document: ₹3,540/-, EMD: ₹56,700/-  
 Completion Period of the work: 24 (twenty Four) Months (For both Tenders).  
 Date & time of Tender Closing: 26.09.2023, 1500 hrs (For both Tenders).  
 No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tender, even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be rejected summarily without any consideration. Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website <http://www.reps.gov.in>  
 Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ Corrigendum issued for this tender.  
 Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./ PR-543/O/23-24 Waltair

**“** The happiness you give makes you happier than the happiness you receive. **”**

THE MOTHER



## National Derangements

Whenever a country's social contract unravels, conditions become ripe for rumors and absurdities to circulate. Even when these are outrageous and obviously nonsensical, they can give expression to a people's deepest fears and prejudices.

Such is the case in Russia today, where Sergei Markov, a former adviser to President Vladimir Putin, has warned that Ukraine is creating "gay super-soldiers" to wage war against his country. "Military theorists and historians know which army in Greece was the strongest, remember? The Spartans. They were united by a homosexual brotherhood. They were all homos. These were the politics of their leadership. I think they are planning the same for Ukraine's Armed Forces." Of course, this mixture of homophobia, fake history, and Marvel comic-inspired ideas of super-soldiers indicates that Markov is not interested in encouraging critical thinking and reasoned analysis. No matter: such idiotic statements apparently resonate with at least some important segments of Russian society.

The same derangement also increasingly applies to Russian historical memories of major national traumas and crimes. At a recent ceremony in Velikiye Luki, in Russia's Pskov region, a priest known as "Father Anthony" doused holy water on a 26-foot statue of Stalin. Though "the Church suffered" during Stalin's long reign of terror, he observed, Russians today should be grateful that they have so many "new Russian martyrs and confessors to whom we now pray and are helping us in our Motherland's resurgence."

Such perverse reasoning is just a step away from arguing that Jews should be grateful to Hitler for opening the way for the State of Israel. In fact, precisely that has already effectively happened. According to a 2019 investigation by Channel 13 news in Israel, future Israeli army officers at the state-funded Bnei David military prep school are taught, by rabbis, that:

"The Holocaust was not about killing the Jews. Nonsense. And that it was systematic and ideological makes it more moral than random murder. Humanism, secular culture – that is the Holocaust. The real Holocaust is pluralism. The Nazi logic was internally consistent. Hitler said that a certain group in society is the cause of all the evil in the world and therefore it must be exterminated. ... For years, God has been screaming that the Diaspora is over but Jews aren't obeying. That is their disease that the Holocaust must cure. ... Hitler was the most righteous. Of course he was right in every word he said. His ideology was correct. ... [The Nazis'] only error was who was on which side."

The lesson does not end there. Students also learn that:

"With the help of God, slavery will return. The non-Jews will want to be our slaves. These people around us have genetic problems. Ask an average Arab what he wants to be. He wants to be under occupation. ... They don't know how to run a country or anything. ... Yes, we are racists. We believe in racism. Races have genetic characteristics. So we must consider how to help them."

To be sure, this extreme rhetoric is openly endorsed by only a tiny, fanatical religious minority. And yet, it hints at the underlying premise behind the current far-right government's policies in the West Bank. To compare the situation in Israel and its occupied territories to Nazi Germany may appear a ridiculous exaggeration, and if a non-Jew makes this comparison, he is instantly dismissed as anti-Semitic; but if leading Jewish figures do so, they ought to be listened to. When a society has wrapped itself in layers of tendentious self-justification, it takes insiders to pull back the shroud.

Consider the case of Amiram Levin, the former head of the Israel Defense Forces' Northern Command. Speaking recently to Israel's public broadcasting station about the situation in the West Bank, he contends that "there hasn't been a democracy there in 57 years, there is total apartheid. ... the IDF, which is forced to exert sovereignty there, is rotting from the inside. It's standing by looking at the settler rioters and is beginning to be a partner to war crimes."

When asked to elaborate, Levin invoked Nazi Germany: "It's hard for us to say it, but it's the truth. Walk around Hebron, look at the streets. Streets where Arabs are no longer allowed to go on, only Jews. That's exactly what happened there, in that dark country."

That a retired IDF general could come to such a conclusion attests not only to his extraordinary ethical stance, but also to just how bad things have gotten there. But as long as there are Israelis like Levin, there is hope, because it is only with the solidarity and support of people like him that the West Bank Palestinians have a chance.

In both Russia and Israel today, the social pact is fracturing under the weight of colonialism and fundamental disagreements about foundational principles. These conditions lend themselves to increasingly absurd and extreme forms of rationalisation. But just because you can come up with a reason for doing something does not mean that you should do it. When societies fragment, resisting wrong reasons often requires more strength than following right reasons.

The writer, Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School, is International Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities at the University of London.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

## WISDOM CORNER

**“** If you want something you have never had, you must be willing to do something you have never done. **”** THOMAS JEFFERSON

**“** Life begins at the end of your comfort zone. **”** NEALE DONALD WALSH

**“** The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do. **”** WALTER BAGEHOT

## WORDSWORTH

### Nanofood

Whenever the prefix nano- appears, referring to any manipulation of matter at near-molecular levels, controversy follows. Opponents of such techniques hold in particular that they shouldn't be used in foodstuffs until we know much more about their effects on human bodies. Nanofood refers to the employment of nanotechnological techniques in any part of the food chain – cultivation, production, processing or packaging – not just in food itself. Big companies are researching the possibilities, some of which sound like science-fiction – smart dust that's inserted into plants and animals so that farmers can monitor their health in real time; packaging that includes smart sensors that can sniff out gases given off by deteriorating food or alternatively tell you when it is ripe; a drink whose flavour can be changed just by microwaving it; and stabilise nutrients in food, such as omega-3 fats, iron or vitamins – which degrade quickly in storage – by enclosing them in separate tiny containers.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

**THE PRESENT DISPENSATION IS EXPLOITING THE CONCEPT OF NATIONALISM FOR ACQUIRING VOTES IN ELECTIONS**



Slavoj Žižek

**When a society has wrapped itself in layers of tendentious self-justification, it takes insiders to pull back the shroud**

Political scientists and historians are today engaged in debating what true nationalism is with politicians talking in terms of a new understanding of nationalism. There is confusion in interpreting nationalism as groups of political analysts and politicians are sharply divided on the issue. It is well-known that nationalism is the concept of loyalty towards a nation and is also characterised by love for one's nation.

Since the days of Independence, Indians as nationals, have by and large, carried the legacy of our nationalism. However, India's diversity has led to the approach of nationalism, i.e. following the culture of nationalism in different ways. We are, no doubt a single nation but what is unique is the wide diversity in our lifestyles, food habits, culture, religion and ways of carrying out activities in society. The government's stand of 'one nation' meaning one everything is not quite correct.

India, the world's second-most populous county and most populous democracy, is the homeland for a multi-cultural and multi-religious group of people. Despite the diversity there is unity among people. This comes from the sense of nationalism. It's the feeling of love and pride for the nation that binds the people together. But recent developments in Manipur and Nuh in Haryana add to the growing feeling that communal hatred and projection of any single religion in an aggressive manner can't help the cause of unity or even socio-economic development.

In the film, Chak De India (2007), the coach, who is determined to assemble a winning women's hockey team, asks the players where they were from. When they mention their home states (Andhra Pradesh, Punjab etc.), he disagrees and makes them to say instead they were from India. "Why would the players identify as Indians to a coach who knew it already?" The answer is simple because the

## FOCUS NATIONALISM

# INTEGRATION VITAL



**Nationalism is not a particular idea or thought that can be identified in the name of religion, caste or community of the people, it's beyond all these**

coach wanted to engraft the feeling of nationalism among the teammates to bind them together. The identity of the nation-state matters above all else.

In a general sense, nationalism means oneness, feeling the goodness of the nation and its people, unity in diversity and respect, love and pride towards the nation by its citizens. The concept first emerged in Europe. During the 17th century, a model known as 'The Nation State Model' was developed in Western Europe. It suggests that it is natural for a group of people who share a common territory and culture (language, religion) to have their own state. Thus, the feeling of nationalism led to the formation of nations.

The term 'nationalism' has been understood and defined in many ways. It has been described as "A state of mind in which the supreme loyalty of the individual is due to the nation-state." It denotes the identification of the state or nation with people. Here, the characteristics of the people are – homogenous culture, living together in a close association or territory, sharing belief of common destiny and mentality, tradition, history, etc.

Understanding of the true meaning of nationalism is very important. The sense of na-

tionalism cannot be identified in name of religion, caste or community of people, it's beyond all these. The European model of the nation-state is an old concept. The nation-state model talks about the cultural boundaries of the state that must be like the cultural boundary of the nation. This is a very narrow concept.

In the present scenario, the power-crazed religion of Hindutva in India has become so influential as to largely exclude the ideals of Tagore-Gandhi era. Fritz Stern in his book, 'Einstein's German World' (first published in 1999) remarked that Einstein has "contempt for nationalist narrowness in any form." He believed the continuing persecution of Jews in Europe made their own search for a homeland justifiable. He supported the migration of Jews to Palestine in the belief and hope that "there should be a tiny speck on the earth in which the members of the tribe should not be aliens." Einstein's anti-chauvinist and anti-narcissist philosophy was well expressed in his funeral by fellow physicist, Rudolf Ladenburg in Princeton in 1954: "Brief is this existence as a fleeting visit in a strange house. The path to be pursued is poorly lit by a flickering consciousness, the cen-

tre of which is the limiting and separating."

The hate and violence depicted by Stern through words of Einstein is greatly relevant to conditions existing in India today. While one section of historians argues the present dispensation has been rightly trying to instill a sense of nationalism among Indian citizens which wasn't there earlier; the liberal view is opposed to this as they view things in what could be called unity amidst the diversity of faiths, cultures and different ways of life and living.

If we observe recent debates on nationalism, it can be affirmed that the term is being re-defined for achieving political goals. The present dispensation is exploiting the concept of nationalism for acquiring votes in elections. There are lots of misconceptions and propaganda about nationalism but unfortunately, the levels of education and awareness being very poor in the country, the masses are going for majoritarianism which they confuse with nationalism. Generally, the idea of nationalism becomes negative with irrational blaming and the spread of hatred among people. Nationalism is not a particular idea or thought that can be identified in the name of religion, caste or community of the people, it's beyond all these.

Significantly, people cannot be identified as anti-nationalist just because they have different political views or an ideology that majority people don't follow in the nation at a particular point in time. If a person is critical of the government's style of functioning, this should be welcome as dissent is a part of pluralist democracy where the majoritarian views and beliefs need not be adhered to always. In fact, criticism is in a sense indicative of the concern one has towards the State.

It is not that our political leaders are unaware of what they are doing, but sadly electoral considerations of grabbing the Hindu vote makes them give a new twist to nationalism.

INFA

## IN JEST THIS

# Corruption is everywhere, even in education



Melvin Durai

**MAKING DONATIONS TO GAIN ADMISSION TO GOVERNMENT-RUN INSTITUTIONS IS CONSIDERED ILLEGAL, BUT ANYTHING GOES AT PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS**

Indian Police Service officer Arun Bothra recently posted a picture of several currency notes, including Rs 100, Rs 200, and Rs 500, on the social media network X, formerly known as Twitter.

"Pic sent by a teacher," he wrote. "These notes were kept in answer sheets of a board exam by students with a request to give them passing marks. Tells a lot about our students, teachers, and the entire educational system."

Yes, it tells a lot about the educational system. If these students were better educated, they'd realise that Rs 500 is not enough to bribe a teacher. But if they were better educated, they wouldn't need to bribe a teacher.

As you can imagine, Bothra's post went viral and drew numerous comments, including some from teachers.

"This has happened to me at least thrice during my paper correction days! To colleagues too even 20 years ago," one teacher wrote. "The money is usually accompanied by a sad story narration instead of answers to exam questions. Needless to say, such students usually fail."

I love the honesty in this response, perfectly captured in the word "usually."

Judge: "As part of your personal code of ethics, do you refuse to accept bribes from students?"

Teacher: "Usually."

Judge: "What do you mean 'usually'?"

Teacher: "Almost always."

Judge: "What does 'almost' mean? How many times have you accepted a bribe?"

Teacher: "Fewer times than you have."

Yes, corruption is pervasive. As another commenter on Bothra's post noted, the students' attempts to bribe teachers is "a representation of things beyond the educational system. They know that 'cash' can get things done in our country and they are unfortunately not entirely wrong."

When "cash can get things done" in so many spheres of life, it's not surprising that teachers are also offered cash. Money can also affect whether a student gains admission to a college or university.

Admissions officer: "As you know, Mr. Kumar, this is a very

prestigious medical college. What kind of donation are you willing to make to ensure that your son gets admission?"

Kumar: "Any type of donation – you name it. I will even donate one of my kidneys. You can use it for research."

Admissions officer: "Just one?"

Kumar: "Yes, you can have the other one after I die."

Making donations to gain admission to government-run institutions is considered illegal, but anything goes at private institutions. That's also the case in America, where "cash can get things done" for students who want to attend prestigious institutions.

They can't submit cash with their answer sheets, but they can hire an "admissions consultant" who may be able to hire a professional test-taker for them. This is what one admissions consultant, William "Rick" Singer, did for some students – until he got caught.

In a scheme known as Operation Varsity Blues, dozens of wealthy parents had paid Singer lavishly to get their children into elite institutions. Singer not only helped some students

cheat on standardised tests, he also bribed university coaches and administrators. He is now spending 3.5 years in a not-so-elite institution: Federal Prison Camp.

But wealthy parents don't have to resort to illegal methods of securing admission. There are plenty of legal ways to do so. Hiring an admission consultant (not named Rick Singer) is one of the first steps. These consultants can advise students on the ideal blend of academic courses and extracurricular activities to enhance their college applications. They may also help students prepare for standardised tests and write college admission essays.

If the parents are ultra-wealthy, the best way to ensure admission is to make a hefty donation to the university. That's how Jared Kushner, son-in-law of Donald Trump got into Harvard University, according to Daniel Golden, author of the 2006 book "The Price of Admission." Jared's father, Charles Kushner, pledged \$2.5 million to Harvard.

Jared: "Dad, good news! Harvard has accepted me!"

Charles: "We did it, son! I mean, you did it, son!"

## Respect mandate

**Sir,** Rumours of early elections are doing the rounds. Voters choose their representatives through universal adult franchise for five years of Assembly and Lok Sabha. Dissolving Lok Sabha and Assembly earlier is an affront to the dignity and integrity of voters. MPs and MLAs are given mandate for five years. Frequent elections weaken democracy. Elections should not be forced on voters. The mandate must be respected.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

## Quota fire

**Sir,** The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation has been forced to close 46 out of the 250 bus depots that it operates amidst widespread protests over Maratha quota, leading to service disruptions and financial losses. The impact of the agitation has been most acutely felt in Ahmednagar, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Parbhani, Hingoli, Jalna, Nanded and Dharshivi districts, where bus services have come to a standstill. During the protests, 20 MSRTC buses were set ablaze while 19 suffered various degrees of damage.

Shanthi Ramanathan, GHAZIABAD

## Rabble-rousing remark

**Sir,** This refers to "Sanatan Dharma row escalates," Orissa POST, September 5. The Tamil Nadu Minister and son of Chief Minister MK Stalin, Udhayanidhi Stalin has crossed all the limits while giving a call to eradicate Sanatan Dharma last Saturday. Unperturbed by the condemnation against his attack, the political dynast reiterated his stand displaying the hubris and showing utter disregard to the sentiments of the people. India's vast population of Hindus of more than 1.1 billion professing Sanatan Dharma, have been deeply hurt by the incendiary comment made by a political figure holding a constructional position that outrightly prohibits him from passing such inflammatory statements. Add to this, the interpretation of the statement by the proponents of Udhayanidhi that it doesn't amount to genocide or hate speech doesn't hold water. By comparing Sanatan Dharma to dreadful viruses, the Minister views the Hindus as lethal and has pitched to eradicate the group. This is bad politics being practiced by a young politician from the Dravidian fort which doesn't augur well not just for the DMK, but also for the constituents of the Opposition I.N.D.I.A block, especially the Congress.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

# Delhi court summons Kejriwal's wife

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 5:** A Delhi court has summoned Sunita Kejriwal, the wife of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, for allegedly violating the law by getting herself enrolled in the voters list of two assembly constituencies.

Metropolitan Magistrate Arjinder Kaur summoned Sunita Kejriwal as an accused on November 18 on an application moved by BJP leader Harish Khurana. The BJP leader has alleged in his complaint that the Chief Minister's wife has violated the provisions of the Representation of the People (RP) Act.

"After considering the testimony of complainant and other witnesses, this Court is of the considered opinion that prima



The BJP leader has alleged in his complaint that the Chief Minister's wife has violated the provisions of the Representation of the People (RP) Act

Metropolitan Magistrate Arjinder Kaur summoned Sunita Kejriwal as an accused on November 18 on an application moved by BJP leader Harish Khurana

facie case is made out against accused person namely Sunita Kejriwal, W/o Arvind Kejriwal, for the alleged commission of

the offences punishable under section 31 of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1950. Hence, the accused be summoned accordingly," the judge said in an order passed on August 29.

The offence attracts a maximum punishment of imprisonment for two years. Khurana claimed Sunita Kejriwal was registered as a voter on the electoral rolls of Sahibabad assembly constituency (parliamentary constituency Ghaziabad), UP, and also Chandni Chowk assembly constituency in Delhi, which was in violation of Section 17 (no person to be registered in more than one constituency) of the RP Act. He claimed she was liable to be punished for the offences under Section 31 of the Act which deals with making false declarations.



B.Ed-degree holding applicants shout slogans during 'Vishal Mahapanchayat' protest demanding an ordinance from the central government to re-induct the students in the post of primary teacher on the occasion of Teachers' Day in Prayagraj

# 'Savera' launched for senior citizens



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Prayagraj, Sept 5:** The Prayagraj police have launched the 'Savera' scheme that offers services during health and other emergencies to senior citizens in seven districts of the Prayagraj zone.

The Fatehpur police have taken the lead with over 700 senior citizens having registered themselves in the past three days. Under the scheme, police are maintaining a record of people aged 60 and above and are available on call on helpline number 112 for quick response.

The police personnel are also checking the homes of the elderly to ensure their safety and wellbeing. Services under 'Savera' scheme include sending beat police personnel to visit seniors to their homes regularly and ask them about their wellbeing. Additional DG (Prayagraj zone), Bhanu Bhaskar said that the "Savera scheme for elderly people is launched to enhance response time and prevent delays in addressing senior citizens' concerns".

"Senior citizens are coming forward to get themselves registered under the scheme in all districts. They can visit the nearest police station, or use 112 helpline." Safety and security are big issues for the elderly people who live alone and all by themselves.

The scheme seeks to address the difficulties they face. Police are drafting a list of seniors under their police circles and

jurisdiction for quick emergency assistance. Apart from personnel at the police stations, a police response vehicle (PRV) will also cater to their needs.

Bhaskar further said: "The initiative seeks to reach out to all registered senior citizens and to provide timely help against harassment and other crimes, in which they often do not get timely assistance. Savera scheme has been drafted to address senior citizens' issues sensitively and delicately.

"Our focus is on offering timely response to elderly citizens and for that, beat personnel must know the addresses of those registered." This scheme will considerably reduce the reaction time and help send aid faster because the details of the seniors, such as their names, addresses, and phone numbers would already be there in the records.

A person aged 60 and above can register for the service online. The information is transmitted to local police station automatically via 112. Details are registered with the police station concerned, which will verify the information by sending a police officer. Once verification is complete, senior citizen will become a registered user. Seniors face many problems, mainly health and crime-related.

Helpline services, such as 108 for ambulance, 181 for women in distress, and 101 for fire services are integrated with helpline number 112 so that senior citizens registered with Savera scheme can avail of all services.

# Basic schools in UP to have quarterly evaluation of students

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Prayagraj, Sept 5:** The schools of basic education department will be conducting quarterly assessment of its students in Uttar Pradesh.

For this, tests will be conducted from September 11 to 16. It will be based on target/learning outcomes achieved through Saral App. The level of knowledge, in language and mathematics, of students from Classes 1 to 5 and that of mathematics and science subjects of students from Classes 6 to 8 will be tested.

Printing of question papers and OMR sheets for evaluation is being done by the state project office through GeM portal. Selected printers will supply



question papers and OMR sheets in the districts and later the same will be taken to schools.

For students of Classes 1 to 3, one question paper will be provided for every five children. Question papers will be given to every student of Class 4 to 8. The responsibility of conducting

- Printing of question papers and OMR sheets for evaluation is being done by the state project office through GeM portal
- Selected printers will supply question papers and OMR sheets in the districts and later the same will be taken to schools

themselves with a black ball pen. If there is no answer, the circles will be kept blank. After this the OMR sheet will be scanned through the Saral app. The duration of the exam will be one hour 30 minutes. Teachers will have to complete the scanning process within an hour.

Likewise, for the evaluation of students of Class 4 to 8, the OMR sheet will be filled by the students themselves. Every student will also have to fill a nine-digit student ID.

students of Classes 1 to 3 in the form of an interview. On receiving the answer, they fill the OMR sheet

# 400 electric buses launched



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 5:** Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday flagged off 400 electric buses, taking the number of such buses to 800 in the national capital.

The flag-off event happened at the IP Depot here. "The number of electric buses has now gone up to 800 in Delhi. I want to con-

gratulate Delhiites on this," Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said at the flagging off event.

Later in a post on X, Kejriwal explained the breakup of the budget outlay for the buses. "Together with the Honorable Lieutenant Governor flagged off 400 new electric buses today and dedicated them to the people of Delhi.

"These buses are part of the

examination with integrity will be of the Basic Education Officer (BEO), Block Education Officer and District Coordinator (Training).

According to BSA, Prayagraj, Praveen Kumar Tiwari, the teachers will ask questions from the question paper to evaluate stu-

921 buses under the subsidy scheme, for which a subsidy of Rs 417 crore has been given by the Centre and the Delhi government will spend Rs 3,674 crore," Kejriwal said in a Hindi post.

There are now a total of 800 electric buses on the roads of Delhi, which is the highest in the country, he said. "Our target is to introduce a total of 8,000 electric buses on the roads of Delhi by the end of 2025. At that time there will be more than 10,000 buses in Delhi, of which 80 per cent will be electric. "Very soon Delhi will also be known all over the world for its excellent electric buses," he added.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-839**  
**"e" Procurement Notice**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER KORAPUT (R&B) DIVISION, KORAPUT**  
 Bid Identification No. S.E. (R&B) KPT - 06/2023-24

- Name of the work : Building works
- Total No. of works : 08 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 10.63 to 10.69 lakhs
- Period of Completion : 04 (Four) Months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 08.09.2023 at 11.00 hours to 25.09.2023 upto 17.00 hours
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 25.09.2023 upto 17.00 hours
- Date of Opening of Tender : 26.09.2023 at 12.00 hours
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Koraput (R&B) Division

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer  
 Koraput (R&B) Division  
 OIPR-34096/11/0007/2324

**OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, ODAGAON**  
 At/PO - Odagaon, Dist. - Nayagarh, Pin - 752081  
 Phone: 06753-260062; Email: [nacodagaon@gmail.com](mailto:nacodagaon@gmail.com)  
 Letter No. 1657/Date: 04.09.2023

**QUOTATION CALL NOTICE**

No. C-1321:- Sealed quotations are invited from the intending authorized dealers / intending firms / other authorized reputed companies for "Installation of Stainless Steel Board with Retro Reflecting Sheeting" at Odagaon NAC area. The rate should be quoted inclusive of all taxes. The quotations can receive the QCN from this Office from 05.09.2023 to 14.09.2023 within Office hour (except Govt. holidays) with payment of cost of quotation paper of Rs. 2000/- in shape of cash / draft.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

- The quotations will be received from 10.00 AM of 05.09.2023 to 03.00 PM of 14.09.2023 in the office of the undersigned during office hour and shall be opened on the same day i.e on 14.09.2023 at 04.00 PM in presence of the quotationer or their authorized agents who may wish to remain present at the time of opening.
- The quotationer should submit valid copy of GST registration certificate, copy of PAN.
- Bidding documents will be received up to the above stipulated time only. The undersigned will not be held responsible for any delay.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason therefor.

The bidders can download the details from the website i.e <http://odagaonnac.co.in/>

Sd./- Executive Officer, N.A.C., Odagaon  
 OIPR-13142/11/0019/2324

**OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, RAMBHA**  
 Letter No.2009/NAC Rambha Date:04.09.2023

**'e'-Procurement Notice**  
**TENDER REFERENCE NO.RAB-NAC-04/2023-24**  
 No.C-1323:Bid documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://tendersodisha.gov.in).

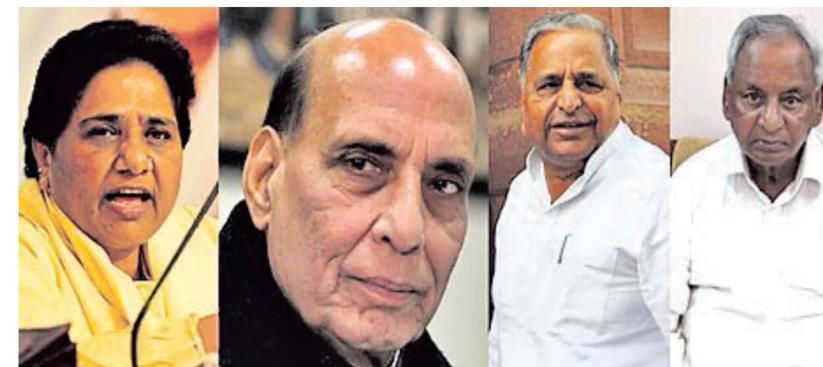
- Name of the Work : Civil Construction works as mentioned in DTCN.
- No. of Works : 11 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs.5.97 lakhs to Rs.19.99 lakhs.
- Period of Completion : As per DTCN
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 10.00 AM of 05.09.2023 to 5.00 PM of 18.09.2023.
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 18.09.2023 upto 5.00 PM
- Last Date/Time of receiving of documents relating of tender Off-line : 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. of 21.09.2023
- Bids received online shall be opened on : 22.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Officer, NAC, Rambha

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- Executive Officer, NAC, Rambha  
 OIPR-13114/11/0008/2324

# Teachers-turned-politicians who shaped UP politics

These teachers-turned-politicians, who had since long given up their academic activities and interests, are no longer playing a role in UP politics. In fact, many of the new generations do not even know that they started out as teachers



the Congress out of the political centre-stage in the state.

The most famous teacher turned politician was Mulayam Singh Yadav, former founder President of the Samajwadi Party. Mulayam Singh Yadav, who completed his masters in Political Science, worked as a lecturer in a college in Karhal in Mainpuri before he was sucked into the vortex of the socialist movement and then politics.

Mulayam, sources say, had maintained contact with his former students, some of whom continued to visit him even when he ceased to be active in politics.

Interestingly, Mulayam had always been a champion of promoting politics among students.

"The colleges and universities should be a nursery for politicians and we must encourage students to take part in politics," he had said on several occasions. BSP President Mayawati is another teacher-turned politician in Uttar Pradesh. The four-time chief minister started out as a teacher in Inderpuri J.J. Colony in Delhi.

She was studying for civil services examination when she met late Kanshi Ram and the latter persuaded her to join politics instead. Mayawati, however, does not

meet her former students and neither is she inclined to revive her relationship with the past.

Satyadev Gautam, one of her students, said: "When she became Chief Minister for the first time, I tried to meet her but she simply refused to recognise me even though I introduced myself. She has not bothered to meet any of her ex-students." The BSP President is averse to 'goondaism on the campus' and had banned student union polls in 2008.

"She is averse to 'mobocracy' that rules the campus and the BSP does not even have a youth wing or a student wing like other

parties," said an aide of the BSP leader.

After consecutive defeats in the 2014 Lok Sabha, the 2017 and 2022 assembly elections and the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Mayawati and her party have been reduced to a non-player in state politics - for the moment, at least. Another teacher turned politician who has risen to great heights, surpassing many of his peers, is Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

He may have deliberately cut himself off from state politics but he still welcomes his former teacher colleagues and students with open arms.

Rajnath Singh, who worked as a physics lecturer in Mirzapur before plunging into politics, had created a furore with his first decision as Education Minister in Uttar Pradesh in 1991 when he brought in the Anti-Copying Act in 1992, making copying a non-bailable offence.

Former chief minister Kalyan Singh was also a teacher-turned politician, who started his career as a school teacher in Aligarh before moving on to politics.

His former colleagues say that Kalyan Singh, who passed away in 2021, had always maintained a warm relationship with his former colleagues.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



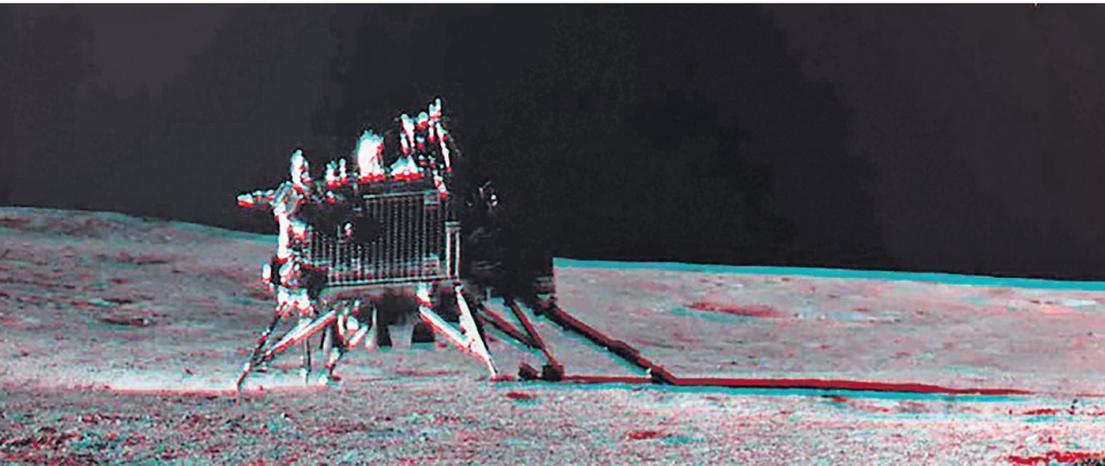
People walk past a mural depicting 'Chandrayaan-3' made on a garbage house in preparations for the upcoming G20 Summit near Nizamuddin in New Delhi

An elderly voter being assisted as she arrives to cast her vote during the by-elections to Bageshwar Assembly seat in Uttarakhand's Bageshwar district



Frontline healthcare workers hold a demonstration on Labor Day outside Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center in Hollywood in Los Angeles

Students celebrate Teachers' Day at a school in Jammu



3D image of Vikram lander on the Moon's South Pole. The ISRO created the image by using the anaglyph technique. Anaglyph is a simple visualisation of the object or terrain in three dimensions from stereo or multi-view images

Union Minister of State for Rural Development Fagga Singh Kulaste with Jabalpur MP Rakesh Singh and others at a road show during 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' in Mandla district, Madhya Pradesh



From left to right, Philippine's President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Thailand's Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Sarun Charoensuwan, Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Indonesia's President Joko Widodo, Laos' Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Manet, Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, and East Timor's Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao hold hands as they pose for a family photo during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia

# national

## of the day quote

There is news of big relief for Delhi's people. The PM 10 and PM 2.5, which are two important parameters of air quality and determine the level of air pollution in Delhi, have registered a downward trend since 2014 due to efforts of Delhi's people and the government

GOPAL RAI | DELHI ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

I would like to wish Manish Sir on the occasion of Teachers' Day today. It is because of him that the (Arvind) Kejriwal government has been able to take huge steps for the teachers and has been providing them world-class training facilities

ATISHI MARLENA | DELHI EDUCATION MINISTER

I am also from Sanatan Dharma. There will be many from Sanatan Dharma. We should respect each other. Insulting other religions is not a good thing

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

## SHORT TAKES

### Mumbai reports second Zika case

**Mumbai:** A second case of Zika virus has been found in Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said Tuesday. The first case was reported August 23. The second patient is a 15-year-old girl from suburban Kurla in eastern Mumbai which is under the jurisdiction of the civic body's L-ward, a BMC release said. The girl, who had other comorbidities, complained of fever and headache since August 20 and received treatment from a private hospital, the release said. She was Tuesday shifted to a government hospital where her condition is stable, the corporation said.

### Search operation extended in Reasi

**Jammu:** Security forces Tuesday extended the search operation to adjoining villages to track down a terrorist who managed to escape from a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said. While one terrorist was killed and two security personnel injured in the initial gunfight at Gali Sohlab village in Tuli area on Monday, the second terrorist slipped out from the cordoned house located on a slope, taking advantage of rough terrain, the officials said.

### ED summons to Nusrat Jahan

**Kolkata:** The TMC has criticised the Enforcement Directorate's summons to party MP and actor Nusrat Jahan for questioning in a case related to alleged fraud against senior citizens, calling it a "vindictive" move to tarnish the party's image before the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, while the BJP dismissed it as baseless and questioned the TMC's "panic reaction". "This is vendetta politics by the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. They are using everything they can to accuse us and other opposition parties. This summons is just another attempt to tarnish our image before elections," TMC leader and State Parliamentary Affairs Minister Sovandeb Chattopadhyay said.

### Tourists can now safely travel to HP

**Shimla:** Tourists can now safely travel to popular destinations like Kasauli, Shimla, Chail, Narkanda and Kinnaur as roads to these locations are open, Director, Tourism Amit Kashyap said here Tuesday.



Seems like the BJP is rattled by a single term called India because they recognise the strength of unity within the Opposition. During the elections, 'India' will chase BJP out of power! #IndiaStaysIndia

M K STALIN | TN CHIEF MINISTER

## BIHAR CASTE CENSUS: APEX COURT TO HEAR PLEAS TODAY

The Supreme Court is slated to hear Wednesday the clutch of special leave petitions filed against the Patna High Court's order dismissing pleas challenging the caste-based survey in Bihar. As per the cause list published on the website of the apex court, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti will continue to hear the matter September 6. Last week, the Union government withdrew its affidavit which had said that nobody except it is entitled to conduct a census or any exercise akin to a census



## INDIA VS BHARAT RENAMING ROW

# WHAT DOES SC SAY

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 5:** The citizens are free to call the country India or Bharat as per their wishes, the Supreme Court had said in 2016 while dismissing a PIL which sought a direction that India be called 'Bharat' for all purposes.

The apex court's summary dismissal of the PIL becomes relevant in view of a massive nation-wide debate which got triggered following the G20 dinner invitation from President Droupadi Murmu describing her position as 'President of Bharat'.

"Bharat or India? You want to call it Bharat, go right ahead. Someone wants to call it India, let him call it India," a bench of Chief Justice T S Thakur and Justice U U Lalit, both retired, had observed while trashing the PIL filed by Niranjan Bhatwal from Maharashtra. The Centre, facing opposition criticism over the G20 invite, had told the top court in November 2015 that the country does not have to be called 'Bharat' instead of 'India'.

It had said, "There is no change in circumstances to consider any change in Article 1 of the Constitution of India." Article 1(1) of the Constitution says, "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States."

Opposing the PIL, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had said issues regarding the country's



name were deliberated upon extensively by the Constituent Assembly during the drafting of the Constitution and clauses in Article 1 were adopted unanimously. It had said there was no change in circumstances since the Constituent Assembly debated the issue to warrant a review.

The Supreme Court had also taken strong exception to the petitioner and asked him whether he thinks it has nothing else to do, and reminded him that public interest litigations are meant for poor. "The PIL is for poor people. You think we have nothing else to do," the bench had said March 11, 2016. The petition had also sought a direction to NGOs and corporates that they use the term Bharat for all official and unofficial purposes. The PIL had said the prominent suggestions before the Constituent Assembly for naming the country were "Bharat, Hindustan, Hind and Bharatbhumi or Bharatvarsh and names of that kind".

## NETIZENS CONFUSED

**New Delhi:** The G20 dinner invitation from President Droupadi Murmu created a buzz on social media Tuesday. Users jocularly wondered if the name of institutions such as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will be changed. The lyrics "Bharat Kaa Rahane Waalaa Hoon, Bharat Kee Baat Sunaataa Hoon" a popular song from Manoj Kumar starrer Purab Aur Paschim also trended on X with the hashtag "Bharat" (in Hindi and English). "Toughest think to do ISRO to BISRO," a user on X said, while others put out lists of what the abbreviations of names of institutes having India or Indian in them would look like -- "IIM-BIM, IIT-BIT, IISc-BISC, AIIMS-ABIMS, RBI-RBB". "New abbreviation of BCCI would be Bharat Controlling Cricket Internationally," posted another user in lighter vein. Former cricketer Virender Sehwag posted on X, "I have always believed a name should be one which instills pride in us. We are Bhartiya, India is a name given by the British & it has been long overdue to get our original name 'Bharat' back officially. I urge the @BCCI @JayShah to ensure that this World Cup our players have Bharat on our chest".

## GYANVAPI ROW Management opposes ASI plea for more time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Varanasi (UP), Sept 5:** The Gyanvapi mosque management committee has objected to the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) seeking eight more weeks to complete the survey of the complex.

The Varanasi district court had July 21 directed the ASI to conduct a "detailed scientific survey" -- including excavations, wherever necessary -- to determine if the Gyanvapi mosque located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple is built upon a temple.

The Muslim side in the case has claimed the ASI is digging in the basement and other places in the Gyanvapi complex without permission, and is removing the debris next to the western wall, endangering the structure.

Government counsel Rajesh Mishra said the ASI has given an application in the court of District Judge A K Vishvesh seeking an eight-week extension for the survey.

The Anjanam Intejamia Masjid Committee filed its objection Monday.

According to Mishra, the Muslim side has objected to the ASI seeking extra time for the removal of debris and garbage and argued that the court only ordered it to survey the premises through scientific methods.

## SANATAN DHARMA ROW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 5:** Over 260 eminent citizens, including former judges and bureaucrats, have written to Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud urging him to take cognisance of DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's eradicate "Sanatan Dharma" comment, calling it "hate speech".

In a letter to the CJJ, the signatories, including former Delhi HC judge S N Dhingra, said not only did Udhayanidhi Stalin make a hate speech but refused to apologise for his remarks.

The letter, signed by 262 people including 14 retired judges, 130 former bureaucrats and 118 ex-armed forces officers, said they are deeply concerned over the remarks made by the Tamil Nadu

## Eminent citizens write to CJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

minister which undeniably amount to "hate speech" against a large population of India and strike at the very core of the Constitution of India which envisages a secular nation.

The letter said action is needed in order to preserve the secular character of the country. Any delay on the part of the administration in taking action on very serious issues will invite the court's contempt, it said.

The letter said the state government has refused to take ac-

AS a massive controversy erupted over his remarks, Udhayanidhi Stalin stuck to his guns and said he will continue to speak out against caste discrimination in all religions

tion and acted in contempt of the court's orders and "gravely undermined or rather made a mockery of the rule of law".

"We urge the Supreme Court to take suo moto (on its own) notice of contempt, ensuring accountability for the inaction of the State Government of Tamil Nadu, and take decisive steps to prevent the inducement of hate speech, preserving public order and peace and we request you to take immediate ap-

propriate actions." "We sincerely hope for the thoughtful consideration of our plea and implore immediate measures to ensure justice and rule of law to prevail," it said.

The letter referred to a Supreme Court order wherein it had asked the authorities to take action in cases of hate speech on its own without waiting for a complaint to be filed.

In his address at a meeting of the Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers and Artists Association in Chennai on Saturday, the DMK leader, a film actor and son of Chief Minister MK Stalin, had likened Sanatan Dharma to coronavirus, malaria and dengue and said such things should not be opposed but destroyed.

## 23 ACCUSED SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN JAIL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow/Kanpur (UP), Sept 5:** A special court Tuesday sentenced 23 accused to 10 years in jail in connection with the 2020 killing of eight policemen, including a DSP, in an ambush by the Vikas Dubey gang in Bikru village, a senior police official said.

Seven other accused were acquitted in the case by the special Gangster Act court in Kanpur Dehat district, Special Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said in a statement issued in Lucknow.

### BIKRU KILLINGS BY VIKAS DUBEY GANG



The court in Mati in Kanpur Dehat district gave its final judgement in the Bikru case September 5, 2023 and sentenced 23 out of the 30 accused persons to 10 years of imprisonment. It

also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on each of them, it said. Mati is the district headquarters of Kanpur Dehat district.

Slain gangster Vikas Dubey's aide Shyamu Bajpai (35) and his alleged financier Jaikanth Bajpai alias Jay (37) are among the 23 accused who were sentenced by Additional District Judge-5 Durgesh.

Earlier, 41 people including Vikas Dubey's close aides Daya Shankar Agnihotri, Shyamu Bajpai, Jahan Yadav, Shashikant Panday, Shivam Dubey, Gopal Saini, Heeru Dubey, Shiv Tiwari, Vishnu Pal, and Ram Singh were

either arrested by the Special Task Force and Kanpur police or surrendered before the court, Additional DCP West (Kanpur) Lakhansingh Yadav said.

While the Gangster Act was invoked against 30 of them, the remaining 11, including some policemen and women, were not booked under the law, he said.

Eight policemen, including Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Devendra Mishra, were ambushed in Kanpur's Bikru village when they were on their way to arrest Vikas Dubey shortly after midnight July 3, 2020.

## High voter turnout in Kerala, Tripura, West Bengal seats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow/Agartala, Sept 5:** High voter turnout was recorded in most of the seven assembly constituencies in six states where by-election was held Tuesday, with Dhanpur in Tripura at the top with over 89 per cent voting.

The by-election saw the INDIA alliance putting up a united front in the Ghosi constituency in Uttar Pradesh, where the voting was moderate at around 50.30 per cent, and in Jharkhand's Dumri where a total of 64.84 per cent of 2.98 lakh voters exercised their franchise

## ASSEMBLY BYPOLLS

Uttarakhand's Bageshwar, where the main contest is between the BJP and the Congress, saw 55.44 per cent voting. In Dhanpur and Boxanagar seats in Tripura, where the Congress had extended support to the CPI(M), there was 89.20 per cent and 83.92 per cent polling respectively. Six persons were injured in a stray incidents of violence in the northeastern state.

In Dhupguri in West Bengal and Puthuppally in Kerala, where the INDIA bloc constituents were up against each other, the voting was around 76 per cent and nearly 73 per cent respectively. The Akhilesh Yadav-led party has alleged misuse of official machinery and has written to the Election Commission on the matter.

# Current climate policies not enough to meet Paris goals: Study

The study shows that if current trends continue, even the 11 high-income countries that have 'decoupled' carbon emissions from gross domestic product (GDP) growth would on average take over 200 years to get their emissions close to zero

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 5:** Attempts to pursue "green growth" in high-income countries will not deliver the emission reductions required to meet the climate targets and fairness principles of the

Paris Agreement, according to a study.

The study, published recently in The Lancet Planetary Health journal, shows that if current trends continue, even the 11 high-income countries that have "decoupled" carbon emissions from gross domestic product (GDP) growth would on average take over 200 years to get their emissions close to zero.

These countries would emit more than 27-times their fair share of the "global carbon budget" that must not be exceeded if we are to avert catastrophic warming beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius, as required by the Paris Agreement.

The researchers argue that the pursuit of economic growth in high-income countries is at odds with internationally agreed climate targets, and call for trans-

formative "post-growth" climate policy centred around sufficiency, fairness, and wellbeing. The study compared carbon emission reductions in these countries with the reductions required under the Paris Agreement. "There is nothing green about economic growth in high-income countries," said lead author of the study, Jefim Vogel, from the University of Leeds, UK.

"It is a recipe for climate breakdown and further climate injustice. Calling such highly insufficient emission reductions 'green growth' is misleading, it is essentially greenwashing," Vogel said.

Continued economic growth in high-income countries is at odds with the twin goal of averting catastrophic climate breakdown and upholding fairness principles that protect develop-



Representational image

ment prospects in lower-income countries, the researchers said. The study identified 11 high-income countries that

achieved "absolute decoupling" -- decreasing CO2 emissions alongside increasing GDP -- between 2013 and 2019, which were Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the UK.

For each country, it compares "business-as-usual" future emission reduction rates to the "Paris-compliant" rates needed to comply with the country's "fair-share" or population-proportionate share of the respective global carbon budget that must not be exceeded if we are to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius or even just to 1.7 degrees Celsius.

The researchers found that none of the high-income countries who have "decoupled" emissions from growth have achieved

emission reductions anywhere near fast enough to be Paris-compliant.

At current rates, these countries would on average take over 200 years to get their emissions close to zero, and would emit more than 27 times their fair share of the global carbon budget for 1.5 degrees Celsius, they said.

The scale of the gap between achieved and Paris-compliant emission reductions is dramatic. Among the 11 high-income countries examined, emission reductions between 2013 and 2019 were on average just 1.6 per cent per year, the researchers said.

By contrast, reduction rates of 30 per cent per year are needed by 2025 for countries to comply with their fair-shares of the global carbon budget for 1.5 degrees Celsius, they added.

# international

## of the day quote

Climate change is 'relentlessly eating away' at Africa's economic progress and it's time to have a global conversation about a carbon tax

WILLIAM RUTO | KENYA PRESIDENT

Diplomacy is the accumulation of step by step. Taiwan's steps onto the globe not only will not stop. We will continue forward more resolutely, with self confidence, to let the world see Taiwan's steady and good power

TAI ING-WEN | TAIWAN PRESIDENT

We certainly can have things that are more acceptable to teenagers (than uniforms)

EMMANUEL MACRON | FRENCH PRESIDENT

## SHORT TAKES

### Imran Khan's party president rearrested

Islamabad: Parvez Elahi, the president of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party, was rearrested Tuesday soon after the Islamabad High Court suspended his detention and ordered his release. The Islamabad police in a post on X said the former Punjab province chief minister was arrested in a terror case. It posted the update soon after saying that the 77-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader was released after the high court's order. Elahi is among several PTI leaders and workers arrested amid the state's crackdown on the PTI leadership following the May 9 riots during protests over party chief Khan being whisked away by paramilitary personnel at the Islamabad High Court (IHC) premises.

### Four sentenced to death in Pak

Lahore: A Pakistani court has handed down death sentences to four youths for committing blasphemy on social media, the country's top investigating agency said Friday. Additional District Sessions Judge (Rawalpindi) Ahsan Mahmood Malik sentenced the four to death on Monday for posting blasphemous material on Facebook. Each of them has also been handed a 28-year jail term for committing blasphemy against the Quran as well, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) said. However, a fifth suspect, Usman Liaqat, was handed seven years of imprisonment.

### Israel opens new embassy in Bahrain

Manama: Israel opened its new embassy in Bahrain, days ahead of the three-year anniversary of a US-brokered deal in which the kingdom agreed to normalise relations with Israel, the media reported. The embassy was officially inaugurated in the presence of visiting Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, the Bahrain News Agency quoted Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani as saying on Monday. The Bahraini top diplomat said that "the historic step is another important milestone in relations between the two countries".

### Palestinian killed

Ramallah: Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian in overnight clashes at a West Bank refugee camp, amid rising tension in the region, sources said Tuesday. An Israeli military spokesperson said that army and paramilitary Border Police forces, accompanied by a bulldozer, raided the Nur Shams refugee camp near the city of Tulkarm, reports Xinhua news agency.

# Will work with all parties for G20 Summit success: China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 5: China Tuesday said it has supported India in hosting this year's G20 Summit and it's ready to work with all parties to push for the success of the high-profile global conference in New Delhi this week.

On Monday, the Chinese foreign ministry announced that Premier Li Qiang will represent China at the G20 Summit instead of President Xi Jinping.

Asked whether the decision to send the Premier instead of the President to India reflect tensions between the two countries, foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning at a regular briefing Tuesday said that China-India relations have been stable on the whole and the two sides have "maintained dialogue and communication at various levels".

Without mentioning the boundary dispute, she said, "the continued improvement and growth of China-India relations serves the common interests of the two countries and two peoples. We stand ready to work with India to further improve and advance bilateral relations."

On the G20 summit, the spokesperson said China always attaches high importance to the grouping and actively participates in relevant activities.

"We support India in hosting this year's summit and stand ready to work with all parties to make the G20 Summit a success," she said on the conference to be held in New Delhi on September 9-10. The G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation, she said.

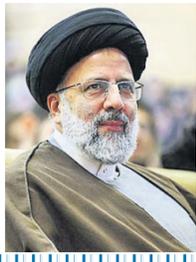
The ties between India and



THE TIES BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA HAVE BEEN UNDER SEVERE STRAIN SINCE THE DEADLY CLASHES IN EASTERN LADAKH'S GALWAN VALLEY IN JUNE 2020. PREMIER LI WILL BE REPRESENTING CHINA AT THE ASEAN SUMMIT IN INDONESIA FROM SEPTEMBER 5 TO 8. HE WILL TRAVEL TO INDIA AFTER ATTENDING THE EAST ASIA SUMMIT IN JAKARTA

China have been under severe strain since the deadly clashes in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley in June 2020. The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) were key for normalisation of overall ties. Premier



Iran is ready to transfer its experiences and achievements to friendly countries, especially those in Africa

EBRAHIM RAISI | IRANIAN PRESIDENT

# Two detained for damaging Great Wall

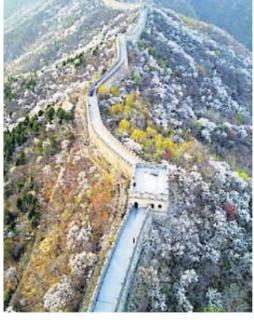
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Beijing, Sept 5: Authorities in China's Shanxi province have detained two people for allegedly damaging a section of the Great Wall with an excavator, according to state media.

On Monday, state broadcaster CCTV reported that the authorities in Youyu county said they received a notification on August 24 that a gap in the wall was created in Yangqianhe township.

After an investigation, police found a 38-year-old man and a 55-year-old woman had used an excavator to breach the wall in order to create a shortcut to pass through, causing "irreversible" damage to the integrity and safety of that portion of the wall, CNN quoted the broadcaster as saying.

Police said the investigation was ongoing. The area, known as the 32nd Great Wall, is one of the surviving complete walls and watch towers dated back to the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) and is listed as a provincial cultural relic site. The Great Wall was designated a Unesco World Heritage Site in 1987.



# Economic crisis: Pak Army chief steps in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Karachi, Sept 5: Signalling the powerful military's key role in Pakistan, army chief General Asim Munir has held a series of meetings with the business community, promising all-out efforts to bring in foreign investment worth billions of dollars to the cash-strapped country.

Gen Munir held a marathon four-hour meeting Saturday with 50-odd prominent businessmen, including Zubair Motiwala, chairman, Businessmen Group (BMG), Tariq Yousuf, president, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI).

The meeting came on the back of a traders' strike Saturday protesting the soaring cost of living, including higher fuel and utility bills and record depreciation of the Pakistan rupee against the US dollar.

The army chief updated the business community about his recent visit to Saudi Arabia and said Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman assured him of investing USD 25 billion in Pakistan under the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the Dawn newspaper reported Tuesday.

In the same meeting, Gen Munir also "assured businessmen of bringing USD 25-30 billion investment from Qatar and Kuwait in his next visit." In another report by the Geo News website, FPCCI president Sheikh said that the army chief had told the business community that Saudi Arabia had assured Pakistan of investment in IT,



## JILL BIDEN TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID

US First Lady Jill Biden has tested positive for Covid-19, the White House announced. However, President Joe Biden, 80, tested negative



THE MEETING CAME ON THE BACK OF A TRADERS' STRIKE SATURDAY PROTESTING THE SOARING COST OF LIVING, INCLUDING HIGHER FUEL AND UTILITY BILLS AND RECORD DEPRECIATION OF THE PAKISTAN RUPEE AGAINST THE US DOLLAR

minerals, agriculture and defence.

"COAS Munir requested for USD 10 billion to be kept in the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This will be returned in the form of the Pakistani rupee or goods so that the foreign exchange could increase," Sheikh was quoted as saying.

The army chief said he was banking on the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) "to do away with the bureaucratic hurdles", which were identified by the Saudi Crown Prince as obstacles to investment.

Motiwala was reported as saying that even when every new Pakistan Army chief holds meetings with traders, "the body language of the army chief was different this time as compared to the traders' meetings held with his predecessors.

# Kim, Putin plan to meet in Russia



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Seoul, Sept 5: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un expects to make a rare trip abroad to meet with President Vladimir Putin in Russia to discuss providing arms to Moscow for its war in Ukraine, the United States said Monday.

Ukraine is pushing a highly-scrutinised counteroffensive in both the south and east that Putin on Monday dismissed as a failure, though Moscow appears eager to urgently secure more military supplies to bolster its forces.

The White House's National Security Council (NSC) spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said that "arms negotiations between Russia and the DPRK are actively advancing," using an acronym for North Korea. "We have information that Kim Jong Un expects these dis-

cussions to continue, to include leader-level diplomatic engagement in Russia," she added. The United States last week warned that Russia was already in secret talks with the North to acquire a range of munitions and supplies for Moscow's war effort.

Kim is likely to head by armored train later this month to Vladivostok, on Russia's Pacific coast not far from North Korea, to meet with Putin, according to The New York Times. The paper said Putin wanted artillery shells and antitank missiles from North Korea, and Kim could even travel to Moscow, but that was uncertain.

Kim is reported to be seeking advanced technology for satellites and nuclear-powered submarines as well as food aid for his impoverished nation. An official at Seoul's unification ministry, which handles inter-Korean relations, said various developments "indicated" the growing possibility of an arms deal between Pyongyang and Moscow.

"Any form of cooperation between North Korea and neighboring countries must be conducted in a way that does not undermine international norms and peace," he said.

# China to deploy most powerful sky survey telescope

The telescope will likely start operation in mid-September, helping scientists monitor the dynamic astronomical events and carrying out the time domain astronomical observation research, according to the observatory, Xinhua news agency reported

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 5: China will soon put into operation a wide-field survey telescope, set to be the most powerful sky survey telescope in the Northern Hemisphere, that will help scientists monitor dynamic astronomical events and carry out the time domain astronomical observation research, the official media reported Tuesday.

The telescope was jointly developed by the University of Science and Technology of China and the Purple Mountain Observatory under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The telescope will likely start operation in mid-September, helping scientists monitor the dynamic astronomical events and carrying out the time domain astronomical observation research, according to the observatory, Xinhua news agency reported.

Measuring 2.5 meters in diameter, the Wide Field Survey Telescope (WFST) is now the largest time-domain survey facility in the Northern Hemisphere, it said. "After the WFST becomes fully operational, we can use it to detect some very faint and distant celestial signals, including those from distant



galaxies and galaxy clusters outside the Milky Way," said Lou Zheng, chief engineer of the observatory's Qinghai observation station.

It will become the most powerful sky survey telescope in the Northern Hemisphere, said Kong Xu, the project's chief designer at the University of Science and

Technology of China."The use of the WFST will greatly improve China's near-Earth object monitoring and early warning capabilities." In 2022, the telescope was nicknamed after the ancient Chinese philosopher Mozi, or Micius, who is said to be the first in history to conduct optical experi-



Floodwaters cover a car and the yards of houses in Milina village, Piliion region, central Greece, Tuesday. Greek police have ordered vehicles off the streets of the central town of Volos and the nearby mountain region of Piliion as a severe storm has hit the area, turning streets into flooded torrents

# TURKEY, GREECE TO REVIVE TALKS

Ankara: The foreign ministers of Greece and Turkey agreed Tuesday to revive high-level contacts between their countries and seek "new approaches" to problems as part of efforts to improve ties between the two NATO allies who are at loggerheads over a string of decades-old disputes. Discussions between Greece's Giorgos Gerapetritis and Turkey's Hakan Fidan were held in a friendlier climate triggered by Greece sending assistance to Turkey following a devastating earthquake earlier this year, and Turkey offering condolences after a deadly train accident in Greece. "We have entered a new and positive period in our relations with Greece," Fidan told journalists at the end of their talks. "We reiterated our belief that our problems will be resolved through a constructive dialogue between the two neighbours and allies." The meeting came as Ankara, in the throes of an economic downturn, is seeking a reset of its often-troubled relations with Western nations.



**We have the fastest growing economy today compared to the US, and China and all have been left behind. So I think that is really where we have even greater credibility in our efforts to influence the world because we are not speaking from a position of weakness.**

RC BHARGAVA | MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA CHAIRMAN

## COAL DESPATCH GROWS 6% DURING APR-AUG

Coal despatch to the power sector increased 6 per cent to 324.5 million during the April-August period of the current fiscal, an official statement said Tuesday. Coal despatch to the power sector was at 306.70 MT during the year-ago period, the Ministry of Coal said.



## of the day quote

**We have 3.88 billion monthly activities. So AI has been a huge tool here**

SANDHYA DEVANATHAN | META INDIA HEAD

**We have this huge economy which will continue growing at 7 to 8 per cent for the next 2 to 3 decades. Our energy requirements are huge. Our power demand has grown up by 21 per cent in August 2023, as compared to August 2022**

RY SINGH | UNION POWER MINISTER

**We have been through a pandemic (in the) last two years. Then we had supply (chain) challenges. This year, it looks normal... If you look at the overall economy, there is generally a very positive sentiment. I think it (festive season) should be really good**

JYOTI MALHOTRA | VOLVO CAR INDIA MANAGING DIRECTOR

# Inflation to remain elevated: S&P

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 5:** Inflation in India is likely to remain elevated in the near terms but government policies will prevent it from rising further, S&P Global Ratings Economist (Asia Pacific) Vishrut Rana said Tuesday.

In July, the consumer price index based retail inflation spiked to 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July, with specific food commodities mainly driving the increase.

Speaking at the 'Monthly Asia-Pacific Credit Focus' webinar, Rana said in India the monsoon has been very patchy and overall rain was about 11 per cent below normal.

"That is a significant concern as it can affect grain prices in India over next few months," he said.

The government has already imposed export curbs on rice and levied a 40 per cent export duty on onions to make available enough stock in local market ahead of the festive season.

"Supplies remain very strong and the government is likely to step in to prevent significant increase in commodity, wheat and rice prices. It will help to keep



food price inflation little bit low," Rana said.

Tomato prices, which had skyrocketed in July, had started cooling in late August.

The significant spike in vegetable prices is coming down, Rana said.

"Overall, the inflation environment for India will depend on energy prices. Food prices will remain elevated but is unlikely to go up because of public policies. We expect overall inflation to remain elevated but not rising further for India over the next few months," Rana added.

The finance ministry in its monthly report had last month said that price pressure on food items is expected to be

transitory, but the government and RBI need to step up vigil to deal with elevated inflationary pressure.

Going forward, while domestic consumption and investment demand are expected to continue driving growth, global and regional uncertainties and domestic disruptions may keep inflationary pressures elevated for the coming months, warranting greater vigilance by the government and the RBI, it had said.

## RBI focused to bring down inflation: Das

**New Delhi:** Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das Tuesday said the central bank is firmly focused on bringing down inflation to 4 per cent and remains prepared to undertake policy responses to deal with supply shocks, which have become more frequent with profound implications. The current episode of high global inflation and preceding overlapping shocks of the pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war have raised significant issues and challenges for the conduct of monetary policy, the governor said in a speech on 'Art of Monetary Policy Making: The Indian Context' at Delhi School of Economics (DSE) Diamond Jubilee Distinguished Lecture. He said the monetary policy framework in India has evolved in line with the developments in theory and country practices, the changing nature of the economy and developments in financial markets. Within the broad objectives, the relative emphasis on inflation, growth and financial stability has, however, varied across monetary policy regimes since independence.

# RBI plans to widen use of digital currency

*The pilot in wholesale segment, known as the Digital Rupee-Wholesale, was launched November 1, 2022, with use case being limited to the settlement of secondary market transactions in government securities*



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 5:** Reserve Bank is planning to extend wholesale Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) as token for interbank borrowing or call money market, RBI sources said Tuesday.

The pilot in wholesale segment, known as the Digital Rupee-Wholesale, was launched November 1, 2022, with use case being limited to the settlement of secondary market transactions in government securities.

"RBI is now planning to go into interbank borrowing market. The purpose of wholesale CBDC has been to try out different technologies...Experimenting on technology is relatively easier for wholesale pilot because participants are related," RBI sources said.

The introduction of CBDC was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23, by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and necessary amendments to the relevant section of the RBI Act, 1934 was made with the passage of the Finance Bill 2022.

The RBI began the pilot project wholesale CBDC and picked up nine banks - State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, YES Bank, IDFC First Bank, and HSBC.

Besides, RBI has already rolled out a pilot in the retail version of the CBDC, December 1, 2022. It is in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender.

It is being issued in the same denominations as the paper currency and coins. It is being distributed through financial intermediaries, i.e., the banks.

With regard to RuPay, sources said no instructions have been given to promote this. However, sources said, this has to be popularised by making it attractive. Asked when CBDC pilot ends,

sources said, there is no deadline as of now and 10.83 crore transactions amounting to ₹24,000 crore witnessed in August.

Meanwhile, RBI will showcase various digital initiatives in the financial sector at the exhibition pavilion at the G20 Summit later this week.

These include Public Tech Platform (PTP) for Frictionless Credit, CBDC, UPI One World, RuPay On-The-Go, and Bharat Bill Payment System.

At Public Tech Platform, visitors can experience an interactive demonstration of the entire process i.e., from onboarding to sanction and disbursement of the KCC and dairy loans in an entirely digital manner in a few minutes, revolutionising rural credit.

Sources said going forward this platform can be used for distribution of small ticket loans like MSME, personal loans etc.

Besides, the central bank will showcase an informational video on the RBI's digital rupee and its journey and there would be live digital rupee transactions demonstrated by select banks which are participating in the pilot.

UPI One World would enable visitors to be on boarded to UPI without having a bank account in India.

RuPay On-The-Go would allow customers to carry out contactless payment transactions through accessories they wear (watch, ring) or use (key chain) every day and highlight the adaptability of the domestic card scheme associated products at par with such global products.

BBPS (Bharat Bill Payment System) cross-border bill payment will highlight the adaptability of the BBPS platform to integrate with fintechs and conventional financial players to facilitate domestic as well as cross-border payment transactions.

## SHORT TAKES

### BSE firms' m-cap hits all-time high

**New Delhi:** The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies hit a fresh all-time high of ₹316.64 lakh crore Tuesday as the benchmark Sensex logged its third day of rally amid strong macroeconomic data. In three days, the benchmark index has gained 948.85 points, or 1.46 per cent. Helped by the optimistic trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms reached a new lifetime peak of ₹3,16,64,085.18 crore. Investors' wealth also went up by ₹7 lakh crore in the three days of market gain. "While markets extended gains for the third straight session, the mood was more or less range-bound with a positive bias as US markets were shut on Monday and investors preferred to take selective bets. One needs to be watchful about the sharp volatility in rupee, which could impact FI flows going ahead," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

### AI to induct 2 A350 planes

**New Delhi:** Air India will induct two A350 aircraft this year for which it has received DGCA approval and expects to have six such planes in its fleet by the end of March 2024, according to officials. Steered by the Tata Group, the loss-making Air India is expanding its fleet as well as operations. In February, the carrier placed an order for 470 aircraft, including 40 A350-900/1000 planes. The officials in the know said, Air India has received the Letter of Type Acceptance (LoTA) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for inducting two A350 aircraft - A350-900 and A350-1000. Both planes will be powered by Rolls Royce engines. An official at the airline said it will be inducting the two wide body aircraft this year.

### JFSL to be out of NSE indices

**New Delhi:** Jio Financial Services Limited, the demerged financial services unit of Reliance Industries, will be excluded from various indices of NSE, including the benchmark Nifty 50, from September 7. Shares of Jio Financial got listed on the stock exchanges August 21, after its spin-off from parent Reliance Industries. In accordance with the index methodology, as JIOFIN has not hit price band on two consecutive trading days on September 4 and 5 at NSE, the Index Maintenance Sub Committee (Equity) of NSE Indices Ltd has decided to exclude JIOFIN from various indices effective from September 7, 2023 (close of September 6, 2023), as per a statement by NSE Indices Ltd.

## Indian Bank, Bhubaneswar Zone opens new branch



BIZ BUZZ

**Bhubaneswar:** Indian Bank Bhubaneswar Zone opened its sixth branch in Puri district in unbanked Samanga gram panchayat Monday. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Puri Sadar Block Chairman Dibakar Patra, Block Development Officer Sambheet Satapathy, Sarpanch of Samanga, Basudevpur, Sasan Damodarpur and more than 200 customers of the locality. From the Bank's side M. Aruna, Field General Manager, Bhubaneswar, PK Rath, Zonal

Manager Bhubaneswar, NK Patnaik, Dy. Zonal Manager Bhubaneswar and other staff of the Zonal Office and nearby branches were also present on the occasion.

The Bank's responsibility towards the uplift of the society and providing banking facility to the unbanked population was discussed at large. The Bank is committed to provide better customer service in the coming days to become a familiar brand in the locality.

## FOOD PROCESSING CONCLAVE IN CITY

**Bhubaneswar:** PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry in association with Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Govt. of India, organised ODISHA FOOD PROCESSING CONCLAVE, EXPO & INDUSTRY MEET 4-5 September here. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Arun Kumar Rath, Retd IAS, Chairman IIPA, Jitendra Kumar, Director - MoFPI, Surendra Singh, Joint Industrial Advisor, MoFPI and Milli Dubey, Director - Agri & Food Processing Committee - PHDCCI.

The objective of the event was on processed food, cold chain industry and cold supply chain network with a view to increase business opportunities and investments, bring together industry, academia and policy agencies on a common platform, to understand the opportunities, schemes and incentives, market development and post-harvest management, technologies/innovations and management practices, devel-

opment of multi-modal transportation facilities for perishable agricultural, horticultural and allied commodities and establishment of national green grid perishable commodities and enumerate policy recommendations for the state and central governments through a dialogue process.

Two technical sessions took place after inauguration session. The first session was dedicated for export, marketing and logistics. S K Mandal, Regional Head Kolkata, APEDA, Archiman Lahiri - Deputy Director MPEDA, SK CHATTERJEE, SMM, IFFCO, Frts. Gautam Mohanty - Founder President, B-School Forum Knowledge Centre (Moderator) and T Badrinarayan, Joint Director of Industries, Odisha took part in the session.

The second technical session was an interactive session between industry members and panel members. Panel members took many questions from industry and tried to solve as many issues as possible live.

## Markets log gains for 3rd day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 5:** Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher for the third straight day Tuesday on gains in market heavyweights ITC, Reliance Industries and Infosys amid a bearish trend in global equities.

Besides, robust domestic macroeconomic data added to the positive momentum, traders said. The BSE benchmark index climbed 152.12 points or 0.23 per cent to settle at 65,780.26. During the day, it gained 203.56 points or 0.31 per cent to 65,831.70.

The Nifty rose 46.10 points or 0.24 per cent to end at 19,574.90.

Sun Pharma emerged as the biggest gainer from the Sensex pack, climbing 2.09 per cent, followed by ITC, Titan, Bajaj Finance, Nestle, Infosys, L&T, JSW Steel, Reliance Industries and Kotak Mahindra Bank. UltraTech

Cement, Maruti, HDFC Bank, Wipro, State Bank of India and NTPC were among the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap jumped 1.09 per cent, and smallcap gained 0.61 per cent. Sectorally, healthcare rallied 1.29 per cent, realty climbed 1.08 per cent, energy (1.01 per cent), consumer durables (0.90 per cent), oil & gas (0.83 per cent) and services (0.72 per cent).

Financial Services, telecommunication and bankex were the laggards. In Asian markets, Tokyo settled in the green, while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the negative territory.

The rupee plunged by 35 paise to close at 83.06 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, amid a strong American currency and higher crude oil prices.

According to a survey, manufacturing activities in India gained momentum in August.

# Sebi to have 1-hr trade settlements

FROM ONE DAY TO ONE HOUR TO INSTANTANEOUS IS THE ROADMAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 5:** Markets regulator Sebi will introduce one-hour trade settlements by the end of this fiscal, in the run up to making such processes instantaneous, a top official said Tuesday.

Amid concerns raised by certain foreign portfolio investors on the shortening of the settlement cycles citing forex-related worries, the official made it clear that faster settlements are optional and investors can opt out.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has adopted a roadmap towards realising its aim of making trade settlements instantaneous, the official told reporters.

"From one day to one hour to instantaneous is the roadmap," the official said, adding one hour settlements are much quicker to implement than instantaneous.

The official said technology for one hour trade settlements already exists and the regulator is confident about the same, while the instantaneous settlements need more technology development.

At present, Sebi is thinking of rolling out the one hour trade set-



tlement for all investors by March next year, and is looking at a time frame of 6-8 months more for the instantaneous settlements, the official said.

The Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA)-like facility for secondary markets will start by January for all investors and it will take another couple of months for the one-hour cycle to set-in after that, the official said.

Addressing investor concerns, the official said the early settlement facility will be optional for investors and they can opt out of it and stressed that data analysis does not indicate any problems on the trading side if some investors were to opt out.

"If the FPIs don't want to do that (instantaneous), they're free to do that. And we've looked at the matching data (on) whose trade matches with whom. So,

**THE APPLICATION SUPPORTED BY BLOCKED AMOUNT (ASBA)-LIKE FACILITY FOR SECONDARY MARKETS WILL START BY JANUARY FOR ALL INVESTORS AND IT WILL TAKE ANOTHER COUPLE OF MONTHS FOR THE ONE-HOUR CYCLE TO SET-IN AFTER THAT**

our belief based on that data is that it will not be a problem for anybody," the official said.

Elaborating on the recently issued proposals to tackle the menace of financial influencers, the official said Sebi is acting keeping the future in mind and its intent is only to get into a situation if a regulated entity comes into the picture.

Separately, the markets regulator is also keeping tabs on activities with the help of states-law enforcement agencies, the official said.





# RAHUL, KISHAN in for WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pallekele (Sri Lanka), Sept 5:** The inclusion of wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul, whose fitness was under scrutiny, headlined the announcement of India's 15-member World Cup squad Tuesday, as the selectors strived for all-round balance.

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar said there was no concern about Rahul's fitness, though he did not travel to Sri Lanka for India's group stage Asia Cup matches. Rahul is scheduled to reach Sri Lanka ahead of India's Super 4 matches, starting September 9 against Pakistan. Agarkar said the 31-year-old managed to prove his fitness at the NCA on both batting and wicket keeping counts.

The selectors also named Ishan Kishan as the second wicket-keeper-batter, and captain Rohit Sharma did not rule out the possibility of playing both Kishan and Rahul in the 11 if the situation warrants so.

The selection of both Rahul and Kishan meant that there was no place for Sanju Samson, who is currently in Sri Lanka as a travelling reserve for the Asia Cup.

## SEHWAG'S REQUEST

**New Delhi:** Former India cricketer Virender Sehwag Tuesday urged the BCCI to have "Bharat", instead of India, inscribed on the jerseys of the national team players in the upcoming ODI World Cup. Sehwag tagged BCCI secretary Jay Shah and suggested that the players wear a jersey with Bharat written on it. "I have always believed a name should be one which instills pride in us. We are Bhartiya, India is a name given by the British and it has been long overdue to get our original name 'Bharat' back officially. I urge the BCCI (secretary) Jay Shah to ensure that in this World Cup our players have Bharat on their chest," Sehwag posted on X. In another post, he wrote, "Team India nahin #TeamBharat. This World Cup as we cheer for Kohli, Rohit, Bumrah, Jaddu, may we have Bharat in our hearts and the players wear jersey which has 'Bharat' @JayShah." Sehwag, a swashbuckling opener of his time, also cited examples of other nations who had changed their names. "In the 1996 World Cup, Netherlands came to play in the World Cup in Bharat as Holland. In 2003, when we met them, they were The Netherlands and continue to be so. Burma have changed the name given by the British back to Myanmar. And many others have gone back to their original name," he added in another tweet.

Shreyas Iyer, who played against Pakistan in the Asia Cup, occupied one spot in the middle-order, and there was a two-way tie for the remaining position between Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma.

However, Suryakumar was preferred over the youngster despite the former not having a good run in the ODIs. The 32-year-old floundered in the three-match ODI series against West Indies recently, but the selectors took into account the Mumbaier's ability to explode with the bat.

In view of the players who missed out on the selection such as Samson and Tilak, Rohit said the management at times will have to take tough calls for the benefit of the team.

On the bowling front, the selectors went on expected lines picking up Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Mohammed Shami as three front-line pacers. Bumrah has recently returned from a long injury lay-off during the T20I series against Ireland, and he is also a part of India's Asia Cup squad.

Vice-captain Hardik Pandya

and Shardul Thakur will give India the option of two more pacers. As expected, India opted for left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel, the left-arm spinners, in the squad.

Hence, veteran leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal continued to be on the sidelines, while the absence of R Ashwin and Washington Sundar ensured that India will not have the services of an off-spinner during the World Cup.

Rohit said the decision to go ahead with Thakur and Axar aligned with the team's desire to attain as much balance as possible. The Indian captain also hoped that players like Thakur and Axar will be able to provide some crucial runs in the back-end of the innings which at times can be a deciding factor.

### THE SQUAD

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

## Qinwen stuns Jabeur, enters last 8

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**New York, Sept 5:** Zheng Qinwen routed last year's US Open runner-up Ons Jabeur 6-2, 6-4 Monday to move into the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows for her deepest run ever in a Grand Slam tournament.

Zheng, who is seeded No.23, becomes the first Chinese player to reach the quarterfinals of the US Open since Wang Qiang in 2019. She did it by overpowering the fifth-seeded Tunisian with an aggressive baseline game that produced 21 winners.

For Jabeur, who committed 33 unforced errors and has appeared ill at times during her US Open run, it was a disappointing finish after reaching the finals of three of the last five Grand Slam events, including the last two Wimbledons.

Zheng's win means three of last year's four US Open singles finalists are gone, leaving only second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka, a Belarusian who will take over the No.1 spot in the WTA rankings because of the fourth-round loss by No.1 seed Iga Swiatek.

Zheng will next play Sabalenka. That will give Zheng the chance to play for more history — to equal the best runs ever by Chinese players at the US Open, semifinals appearances by Peng Shuai in 2014 and Li Na in 2013.

Earlier, Carlos Alcaraz had little trouble beating unseeded Matteo Arnaldi 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals, the third time in as many appearances he's gotten at least that far at Flushing Meadows.

The top-seeded Alcaraz, who is seeking to defend his title after winning Wimbledon in July, said afterward that he now prefers hard courts over any other surface and also likes playing under the Arthur Ashe Stadium roof.

By advancing to the round of eight, the 20-year-old Spaniard became the youngest player to reach three US Open quarterfinals in the open era that dates to 1968 and the only player other than Andre Agassi to do so before turning 21. Alcaraz next faces Alexander Zverev, who defeated Jannik Sinner 6-4, 3-6, 6-



2, 4-6, 6-3.

Eighth-seeded Andrey Rublev of Russia slugged his way past Jack Draper of Britain 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to advance to his fourth US Open quarterfinals and the ninth Grand Slam quarterfinals of his career. He will face third-seeded Daniil Medvedev, a 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 winner over Alex de Minaur.

Earlier, Madison Keys overpowered fellow American Jessica Pegula 6-1, 6-3 in just over an hour to book her spot in the quarterfinals. Keys' quarterfinals opponent will be ninth-seeded Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic.

### Sabalenka through

Sabalenka is going to be the No.1 player in the WTA rankings next week, replacing Swiatek there. That much is certain. The way Sabalenka is playing at the moment, she might very well supplant Swiatek as the US Open champion, too.

In Sabalenka's first match since being assured of rising to the top of women's tennis, she showed off the power-based game that allows her to dominate so many opponents, overwhelming No.13 seed Kasatkina Monday night in Arthur Ashe Stadium to advance to her fifth consecutive major quarterfinal.

## FAN EJECTED

**New York:** A fan was ejected from a US Open match early Tuesday morning after German player Alexander Zverev complained the man used language from Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime. Zverev was serving at 2-2 in the fourth set of his match against No.6 Jannik Sinner when he suddenly went to chair umpire James Keothavong and pointed toward the fan, who was sitting in a section behind the umpire. "He just said the most famous Hitler phrase there is in this world," Zverev told Keothavong. "It's not acceptable." Keothavong turned backwards and asked the fan to identify himself, then asked fans to be respectful to both players. Then, during the changeover shortly after Zverev held serve, the fan was identified by spectators seated near him, and he was removed by security. Zverev said after the match that he's had fans make derogatory comments before, but not involving Hitler. "He started singing the anthem of Hitler that was back in the day. It was Deutschland über alles' and it was a bit too much," Zverev said.

## Sri Lanka break Afghan hearts in thrilling match



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lahore, Sept 5:** Mohammad Nabi's game changing 65 off 32 balls came to nothing as Sri Lanka pulled off a thrilling two-run win over an audacious Afghanistan to qualify for the Super4s of the Asia Cup, here Tuesday.

Kusal Mendis' high-quality 92 had pushed Sri Lanka to 291 for eight at the Gaddafi Stadium. Due to their inferior run rate, Afghanistan needed to chase down 292 in 37.1 overs and Nabi put them on the cusp of a famous win by smashing the fastest half century by an Afghanistan batter in ODIs.

In what turned out to be a riveting finish, the qualifying equation came down to 15 runs needed off seven balls and Rashid Khan increased the heart rate on either side of the dressing rooms by finding three fours off left-arm spinner Dunith Wellalage in the 37th over.

At that tense moment, Afghanistan needed three runs off the first ball of the 38th over with two wickets in hand. However, Mujeeb Zadran's wicket on the first ball of the over caused heartbreak in the Afghanistan camp with the disappointment written all over the players' faces in the dressing room.

Such was the level of their dejection was that they were not alert enough to know that Afghanistan still had a chance if they hit a six of the following

three balls of the 38th over. Rashid was left stranded at the end with Fazalhaq Farooqi trapped in front by Dhananjaya de Silva.

Following the close finish, Sri Lanka became the second team to qualify for Super4s from Group B after Bangladesh.

Afghanistan had lost their top three for 50 runs before Nabi produced an innings to remember while batting alongside skipper Hashamatullah Shahidi (59). His special effort comprised five sixes and half a dozen boundaries.

Earlier, Sri Lanka openers Pathum Nissanka (41) and Dimuth Karunaratne (32) gave a brisk start to the innings before being dismissed by medium pacer Gulbadin Naib. Batting at No.3, Mendis then put Sri Lanka on course for a 300 plus total with a near flawless effort comprising six boundaries and three sixes.

His 102-run stand with Charith Asalanka (36 off 43) further consolidated for Sri Lanka. In the end, Sri Lanka did well to get close to the 300-mark thanks to a 64-run stand for the eighth wicket between Maheesh Theekshana (28) and Dunith Wellalage (33 n.o).

**BRIEF SCORES:** Sri Lanka 291/8 (Kusal Mendis 92, Pathum Nissanka 41; Gulbadin Naib 4/60) beat Afghanistan 289 (Mohammad Nabi 65, Hashamatullah Shahidi 59; Kasun Rajitha 4/79) by 2 runs.

## Hima Das provisionally suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 5:** Star India sprinter Hima Das has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for three whereabouts failures in 12 months, according to sources.

The 23-year-old Assam runner has not been named in the Hangzhou Asian Games team due to an injury she had sustained earlier this year.

"Yes, she has committed three whereabouts failures in one year period and so she has been provisionally suspended by the NADA," an Indian team official told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Hima, who has already left the national camp, faces a maximum two-year ban, which can be reduced to a minimum of one year depending on the degree of her fault.

Under the World Athletics Anti-Doping (WADA) rules, any combination of three whereabouts failures — filing failure and/or missed test — within a period of 12 months constitute an anti-doping rule violation. The details of whether Hima's whereabouts failure related to filing or missed test is not known.

Athletes included in the



Registered Testing Pool (RTP) must provide full address for their overnight location, the name and full address of each location where they train, work or conduct other regular scheduled activities, as well as the usual time-frames of each activity.

RTP athletes must also identify a 60-minute window and location for each day of the quarter, during which they must be available for testing. Failure to comply with whereabouts and testing obligations will result in a whereabouts failure.

A lower back problem has been troubling Hima for the past few years. Indian athletics chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair had earlier said that Hima had suffered a hamstring injury too in April just before a Grand Prix event in Bangalore, and she has been on "medical investigation and treatment".

That was why Hima missed the Federation Cup in Ranchi in May and the National Inter-State Championship, which was the final selection event for the Asian Games, in June in Bhubaneswar.

## PRANNOY, SEN DISAPPOINT, MAKE FIRST ROUND EXITS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Changzhou (China), Sept 5:** World Championship bronze medalist HS Prannoy made a shock opening-round exit from the China Open Super 1000 badminton tournament after going down in three games to Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong here Tuesday.

The World No.6 Indian toiled hard for one hour six minutes before losing 12-21, 21-13, 18-21 to the Malaysian, who is ranked 22nd. Reigning Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen also crashed out of the tournament in the first round after los-

ing to Anders Antonsen of Denmark in three games — 21-23, 21-16, 9-21 — in one hour and 18 minutes.

Priyanshu Rajawat then went down 13-21, 24-26 to Indonesia's Shesar Hiren Rhustavito.

With that, the Indian challenge ended in the men's singles.

The women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand lost to top seeds Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan of China 18-21, 11-21. There is no Indian in the women's singles after star shuttler PV Sindhu pulled out in a last-minute decision to focus on the upcoming Asian Games.



## Asia Cup: Super Four, final matches to stay in Colombo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Colombo, Sept 5:** The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Tuesday decided to keep the Asia Cup Super 4 and final matches in Colombo itself as the weather in the Sri Lanka capital has shown signs of improvement.

It has been speculated over the last few days that the Super 4 and final games of the Asia Cup could be shifted to Hambantota after heavy rains lashed Colombo.

The PTI has been informed that the ACC held parleys with Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), hosts Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the official broadcaster before arriving at the decision to keep the matches in Colombo itself. The broadcaster too has explained the difficulties to relocate their equipment and staff to Hambantota, a deep Southern district, at such a short notice.

In fact, it was SLC who suggested Hambantota as an alternate venue for the five Asia Cup Super 4 matches and the final as the city has been experiencing a drought over the last few weeks.

The Sri Lanka-leg of Super 4 will be started with a game between India and Pakistan



September 10 at the R Premadasa Stadium. This will be the second time India will take on Pakistan in the Asia Cup. The league match between the two sides was rained off.

The ACC also briefly dabbled with the idea of shifting the matches to Pallekele and Dambulla only to abandon it later. While Pallekele too has been experiencing heavy rains, the Rangiri International Stadium in Dambulla is under maintenance to install new floodlights and a few other facilities.

Both of India's group matches were affected by rain. The much anticipated India-Pakistan clash at the Pallekele stadium in Kandy was called off after one innings due to heavy downpour Saturday, while India's match against Nepal Monday was also truncated due to rain.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### India eves finish sixth, mixed pairs bow out

**PYEONGCHANG (South Korea):** The Indian women's team finished sixth in the Asian Table Tennis Championships after being blanked 0-3 by Thailand here Tuesday. The Indians beat Singapore 3-2 in a 5-8 positions match before going down to Thailand in the fifth-position showdown. The women's team was comprised of Manika Batra Sreeja Akula and Ayhika Mukerjee. The paddlers faltered in the mixed doubles too. G Sathiyani and Manika went down 2-3 to Thai pair, Phakpoom Sanguansin and Orawan Paranang. Harmeet Desai and Sreeja Akula followed suit and lost to the top-seeded Japanese pair of Tomokazu Harimoto and Hina Hayata 0-3.

### India clubbed with Egypt, Switzerland, Jamaica

**NEW DELHI:** Reigning Asian champions India have been clubbed alongside Egypt, Switzerland, and Jamaica in Pool B of the upcoming FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup slated from January 24-31 in Muscat. Sixteen national teams will compete in the inaugural edition of the tournament and they have been divided into four groups of four teams each. India earned their qualification after beating Pakistan at the inaugural Men's Hockey5s Asia Cup. The Netherlands have been drawn with Pakistan, Poland and Nigeria in Pool A. Australia, New Zealand, Trinidad & Tobago and Kenya are placed in Pool C, while hosts Oman will face Malaysia, the United States and Fiji in Pool D.

### Shubham finishes 3rd

**RIYADH:** Making his debut at the World Championships, Indian weightlifter Shubham Todkar finished third in Group D of the men's 61kg event here. The 26-year-old national champion from Maharashtra lifted a total of 269kg (119kg+150kg), which was six kilograms better than his Asian Championships effort (263kg) in May and 10kg heavier than his 259kg lift that fetched him a gold medal at the Commonwealth Championships in July. As expected, Tokyo silver medalist and former World Champion Mirabai Chanu, who is saving her best for the Asian Games later this month, withdrew after weighing-in for the women's 49kg event, where she was placed in Group D.