

SHORT TAKES

SC RELIEF FOR EGI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court provided relief against any coercive action till Monday to four members of the Editors Guild of India (EGI) in connection with two FIRs lodged against them in Manipur for offences, including promoting enmity between two communities. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also sought response of the Manipur government on the plea filed by the Editors Guild and fixed the matter for hearing September 11. **P9**

DIGENE RECALLED

New Delhi: The DCGI has cautioned against the consumption of Abbott's antacid Digene gel citing safety concerns, even as the US-based drug-maker recalled several batches of the medicine manufactured at its Goa facility. The DCGI said that in August a number of bottles of Digene Gel tasted bitter and had pungent odour as per complaints. The DCGI then declared the product 'unsafe'.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I wish a couple of more leaders would cancel. The limelight will solely be on our leader



JANMASHAMI FERVOUR: Children participate in a fancy dress competition organised at Mahanadi Vihar Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir in Cuttack, Wednesday **OP PHOTO**

Label lightning a natural disaster

■ The Odisha government wants Centre to declare lightning a calamity so that victims' families get extra compensation

- More than 475 people have died after being struck by lightning in 2021 and 2022
- Currently Odisha govt pays ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh to families of the deceased

deceased will then be able to get excess ex-gratia as per the NDRF rules," Mallick added. Mallick however, said that the Odisha government is yet to get a response on this issue from the Centre. "We have also discussed the issue with a Union Minister. He has assured us that he will look into the matter. We are hoping for a positive reply," Mallick said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The Odisha government has written to the Centre demanding that lightning be declared as a natural disaster, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramila Mallick said Wednesday. "There is a huge loss of human and animal lives every year due to lightnings. This is something natural and hence

cannot be prevented manually. Families of those people who die due to lightning strikes get an ex-gratia of ₹4,00,000 from the Odisha government," Mallick stated.

The minister went on to add that if the Centre declares lightning as a natural disaster, the compensation package for the families will increase substantially. "Family members of the

Only a few days back, September 2, a total of 12 persons were killed as more than 60,000 lightning strikes hit various districts of the state. Till August 2023, approximately 3,790 people have lost their lives due to lightning strikes in the last 10 years, according to a report.

'Criminals' undergo musical change

FORMER PRISONERS, THE TRIO HAS NOW BECOME AN INSPIRATION FOR MANY WITH THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 6: Musicians today, prisoners yesterday and they have fittingly named their band 'Naya Savera'. It truly is a new beginning for Sunil Maida, Ashish Sharma and Shoaib Khan as they leave behind the traumatic past and drum up melodic dreams for the future.

And just like different sounds blend into a tune, Maida from Rajasthan, Sharma from UP and Khan from MP, all in their 20s, together make music, performing at various venues across India, including the World Music Festival in Udaipur and many jails. It all

began when they swapped stories at the Udaipur Central Jail where all three were serving time - Maida and Khan for theft, and Sharma for cheating and assault.

Khan wanted to become a bigger 'gangster' behind bars. But after he started learning the guitar, his outlook towards life changed. "This life and that life are starkly different. Now I feel my music is the best thing for me and I can do really great things," the 21-year-old Khan said.

Today, the troika proudly belts out popular Hindi songs as professional artistes in their evocatively named band, giving shape to their new beginnings away



from a world of crime.

Maida, too, wanted to something 'big' in the crime scene under the tutelage of more hardened criminals in prison. And then one day, when he was sitting inside his cell, his reverie was broken by the sweet sound of music. A curious Maida discovered to his

surprise a group of fellow inmates learning different types of musical instruments.

"The sound of music would relax me and I thought to myself this is what I should do. I spent two days just listening to the music and looking at everyone. Then I decided I wanted to learn the tabla," Maida said. From the table he now has graduated to other percussion instruments such as clapbox and cajon.

For Sharma, who whipped out a gun at the drop of a hat, music came as a balm. "It was the only way I could control and at the same time express my emotions," Sharma said.

Confusion over snakebite deaths

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: When the Odisha government has been providing ₹4 lakh as compensation for each snakebite death, mismatching figures of fatalities between 2015 and 2022 in the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) websites raise doubts over the actual toll tally and subsequent ex-gratia that has been given.

According to data (Page 18-22) of the State Disaster Management Plan 2023 prepared by OSDMA, Odisha lost 5,333 lives to disasters in seven years - 2015-16 to 2021-22. However, Page 35 of the same report states that snakebites alone claimed 6,132 lives during the pe-

riod. Additional data presented on Page 36 too confirms 6,132 snakebite fatalities. However Page-109 of the same report, on the other hand, claims a total of 6,351 snakebite deaths during 2015-22.

An analysis of figures available on the website of Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) paints a different picture. Page 54 of the booklet on 'unnatural calamities between 2015 and 2022' available on the SRC's website says snakebites have claimed 5,324 lives, including 1,035 in 2020-21.

When questioned, officials of the various departments could not come with any valid reason for the discrepancy in figures in the two different websites. This also raises doubts regarding the payment of ex-gratia to the families of the deceased.

DSPL-212




Eco Retreat

ODISHA

India's most exciting glamping event is coming soon.

Unplug, Unwind, and Reconnect with Nature

Luxury Tents, Delicious Cuisines, Water Sports, Adventure Activities, Guided Tours, Cultural Events



Bookings open from **15th Sep 2023** on www.odishaecoretreats.com

Konark | Bhitarkanika | Satkosia | Hirakud | Daringbadi | Sonapur | Putsil

OIPR-37001/13/0012/2324

leisure



GOULDING REUNITES WITH HUSBAND ON CONDITION

Pop star Ellie Goulding has reportedly reunited with her husband Caspar Jopling, an art dealer. The two separated after Goulding, 36, reportedly grew closer to politician Zac Goldsmith, 48. But the couple is now said to reconcile on the condition that she cuts all forms of contact with Zac.

JARED LETO CLIMBS BUILDING SANS HARNESS IN NEW YORK

Actor-musician Jared Leto took rock climbing to quite literally the next level, as he was seen climbing a rock building without a harness in New York City, while taking a break during his bike ride.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL \$5181

ARIES
The stars urge you to focus on your finances and savings, and today, you might remain very busy doing just that. But take care, says Ganesh, you don't want a sulking spouse when you go home. Don't cancel any plans; go ahead and enjoy that new film.

TAURUS
Your think tank will be running on overdrive today. Your possessiveness might kick in to cause a conflict. Keep your anger under the carpet to avoid any unnecessary complications. Introspection will also play upon your thoughts, leading you to explore your problems and pry for solutions, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today may not be very meaningful and productive for you, though you will get to spend plenty of quality time with yourself in the afternoon, which may not necessarily be to your liking. By evening, you may feel a little extra sensitive.

CANCER
You are likely to be at your inventive best today, feels Ganesh. You are likely to taste success, much to the delight of your colleagues at work and loved ones back home. However, experience counts, and if you are a beginner at something, you may face problems in your new venture.

LEO
Chess is a good start, but it is nothing compared to the strategic intrigues of your day today. Arguments will lead to further arguments, and nowhere else, reminds Ganesh. So, it only makes sense to counter a disagreement with an agreement. But then again, total agreement is doubly secretive. At the end of the day, all that matters is to get people to agree with you.

VIRGO
You will shine exceedingly well in all the activities that you undertake today. Your dream of starting business operations on foreign shores will fructify today, says Ganesh. You may pay more attention to your personal appearance, which will boost your morale considerably.

LIBRA
Call it your generous side, but today is the perfect day to give back to all those from whom you have received so far. With roots set firmly in community service, it might do you well to extend that helping hand and return something back to them, preferably in the double. Go along with the spirit of an early thanksgiving today.

SCORPIO
An upcoming project of a new joint venture will capsize your personal life and keep you on your toes today, says Ganesh. You may not find the results in proportion to the efforts that you put in, but be patient because everything will fall in place only in due time. If all things in life came at an easy cost, then they would be grossly undervalued, reminds Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
To do or not to do? That will be the question for most of today as you find yourself pulling out of one dilemma only to trip into the next one. Controversy will surround you and you may find yourself at the crossroads, where you are unsure of which direction to take.

CAPRICORN
There are good days and bad days; your day today will oscillate between the two extremes, says Ganesh. While on the one hand, your mind will be flooded with negative feelings that will make you feel miserable, on the other, your efforts at work will yield good results in the future.

AQUARIUS
You are already overloaded with work. On the top of it, people around you will conveniently put their share of load on your back, and you will take it most of the times. You, however, will not get bogged down by the additional responsibilities. In fact, you will rise to the challenge and perform exceptionally well, leaving your rivals surprised.

PISCES
Are you fretting over the obstacles you are facing on the business front? Ganesh tackles the root of your problem and advises you to be patient and have faith in your undertakings. Good things will come your way, in good time.

Audience spellbound at Kathak, Hindustani vocal presentations

Bhubaneswar: The second evening of *Srijan's* 29th OMC Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival witnessed Kathak danseuse Shila Mehta and Hindustani Vocalist Jayateerth Mevundi mesmerise audience here at Rabindra Mandap, Wednesday.

In the first performance, Mehta, who was groomed in the Lucknow gharana by Pt Vijay Shankar and Pt Birju Maharaj, paid tribute to Lord Shiva through her graceful movements while her second presentation was about Kathak's finest technical nuances in "Teentaal", a pure dance sequence where the command over the Taal. An interaction between Lord Krishna and Arjun formed the theme of her third performance.

Speaking about the event, Mehta, the founder director of Nupur Zankar Academy of Performing Arts and Research Centre (Mumbai), said that Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra not only inspired Odissi

of other dance forms to excel. The next presentation was made by Hindustani vocalist Jayateerth Mevundi who spellbound the viewers with his Krishna Bhajans on the occasion of Janamashtami. Talking about Jayateerth of

OMC GKCM AWARD FESTIVAL: DAY 2

Hubli-Dharwad (Karnataka), the vocalist is known as a torchbearer of Kirana Gharana. The A Top graded artist at All India Radio was initiated into the realm of Hindustani music by Pt Anjuna Nakod.

Luminaries present on the occasion included, ECoR General Manager Manoj Sharma, musician Laxmikanta Palit and Paradeep Phosphates Ltd Corporate affairs Head Sudhi Ranjan Mishra.

The third day of the festival will witness performances by Bharatnatyam dancer P Praveen Kumar and Sitarist Niladri Kumar.



Vaani on her fashion choice

Mumbai: Actress Vaani Kapoor is known for her impeccable fashion sense. She has time and again proved herself to be quite the fashion icon, leaving everyone swooning on multiple occasions.

In a recent interview, Vaani spoke about her fashion choices and how they are a reflection of her personality. She said, "Fashion is a big part of who I am. It's how I express my creativity, individuality, and style. It feels amazing when people appreciate my fashion choices."

She added that she believes she can pull off various styles, from edgy to classic, daring to simple. She even loves a bit of bling! Whether she's in Western or Indian clothing, she puts her heart into it.

The *War* actress elaborated, "I think my fashion sense is a mix of elegance and trying new things. I really enjoy dressing up in my own unique way that makes a statement and helps me feel confident. I believe I can pull off various styles - from edgy to classic, daring to simple, and I even love a bit of bling! Whether I'm in Western or Indian clothing, I put my heart into it."

Vaani's fashion sense has been praised by many, including her fans and fellow celebrities. She has been featured in several fashion magazines.

AGENCIES

Konark Chakra: From Odisha to NYC

The team narrates the tale behind journey of the replica of Konark Sun Temple's iconic wheel, a symbol of pride for every Odia, to the US

Bhubaneswar: The recent installation of Konark Chakra at the Times Square in New York made every Odia proud. However, a very few are aware about the story behind such a massive initiative. To shed light on the journey of Konark Chakra to New York City (NYC), a discussion programme was held Wednesday here at Bakul Library.



Sujit Mahapatra, Amaresh Bindhani, Jitendra Mishra, Sabyasachi Mishra and Subash Pujari at a presser

Satya Nagar, involving the team members that made it possible. Among the luminaries who participated in the event included internationally acclaimed filmmaker Jitendra Mishra who spearheaded the project, sculpture's chief designer Subash Pujari, stone sculptor Amaresh Bindhani, noted actor Sabyasachi Mishra

and Bakul Library's founder Sujit Mahapatra. Speaking on the occasion, Jitendra said, "The Konark Chakra at Times Square is a testament to India's ancient cultural heritage and its ability to integrate with modernity. We believe this move will serve as a symbol of unity, diversity, and cultural exchange."

Amaresh added, "Creating the Konark Chakra has been a labour of love, and I am excited to see it inspire people from all walks of life in the heart of NYC." Talking about the difficulties they faced, Pujari said, "It was a daunting task, but we were confident that the Konark Chakra would stand tall and proud at Times Square, representing the spirit of India."

'Plan in place to showcase Sambalpuri fabric in US'

Michelin-starred chef Vikas Khanna recently hogged the limelight after he took an initiative to install a replica of Konark Chakra at Time Square in New York City. However, not many people know that Jitendra Mishra, an internationally acclaimed filmmaker from Odisha, played a crucial role in that project. *The Last Color* director was in Bhubaneswar Wednesday where he shared with **Orissa POST** the inspiration behind the initiative and more.

a year ago but faced shipping delays. Consequently, we decided to wait until this year, and Independence Day was the perfect occasion to showcase it. I reached out to my long-time friend, Subash Pujari Bhai, and shared the concept with him, to which he promptly agreed. He then coordinated with his team and as they say the rest is history.



JITENDRA MISHRA

■ **How was the response from the local community and tourists there?**

■ **Could you describe the process and challenges involved in transporting and installing such a significant cultural artifact at a bustling urban setting like Times Square?**

■ **As an Odia, our roots hold a deep connection to Lord Jagannath and the Konark temple. During discussions with Vikash (Khanna) about his new restaurants, the idea of incorporating Indian artifacts came up. I proposed the idea of including the Konark Chakra, which he enthusiastically agreed to. We initially planned to install it**

■ **I believe that the local Indian community experienced a sense of pride and immense joy at its unveiling. Furthermore, numerous tourists have visited the site and we have received positive feedback.**

■ **What is the message that you hope the Konark Chakra conveys to people in NYC?**

■ **The famous sculpture should spark excitement and curiosity among people, prompting them to explore the intricate architectural**

designs of various monuments in India.

■ **Is there any plan to showcase other artifacts from Odisha?**

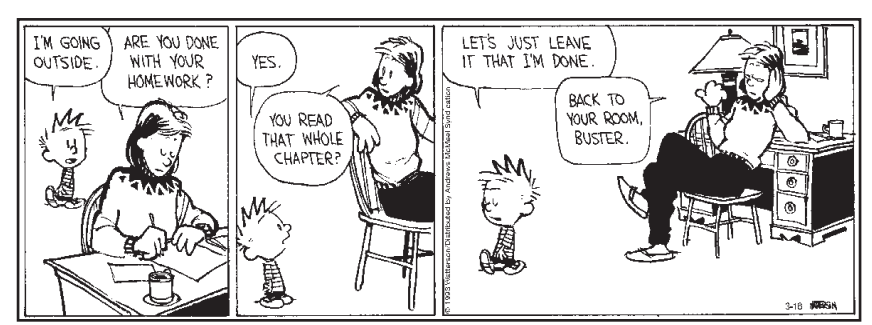
■ **Yes, another project is in the work and that is Sambalpuri fabric. Vikash is currently constructing his new restaurant in New York, and part of his vision for it is to incorporate an Indian museum. Here, he intends to exhibit not only the Konark Chakra but also the Sambalpuri fabric while infusing a touch of Sambalpur culture into the cuisine he serves.**

MADHUSMITA SAHU, OP

PEANUTS



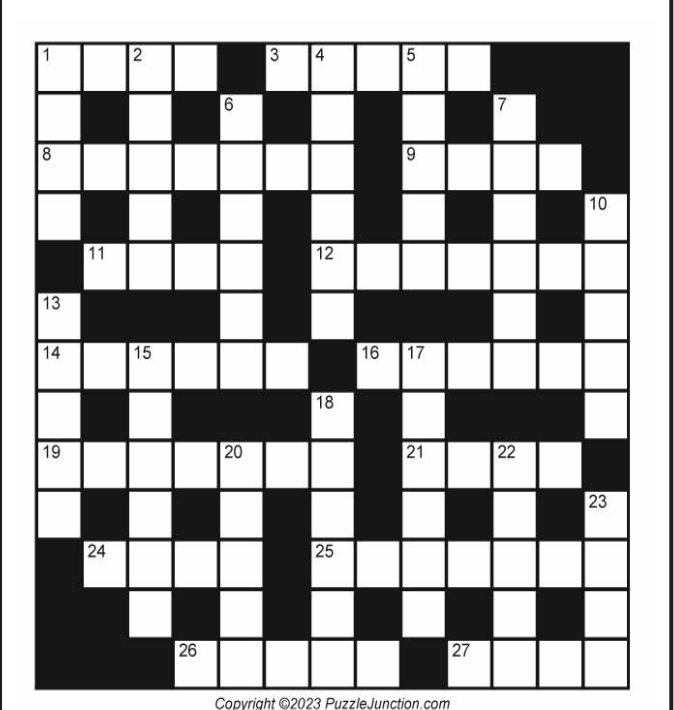
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



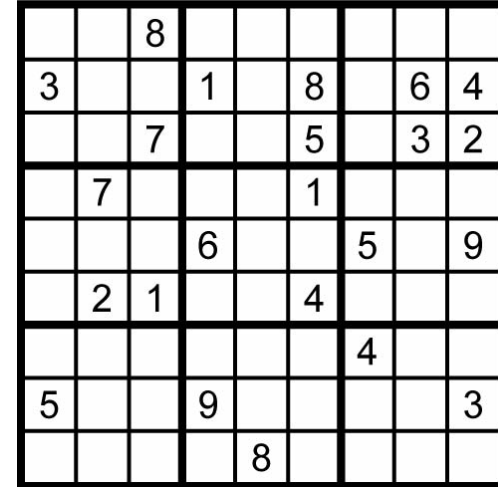
FUN post CROSSWORD



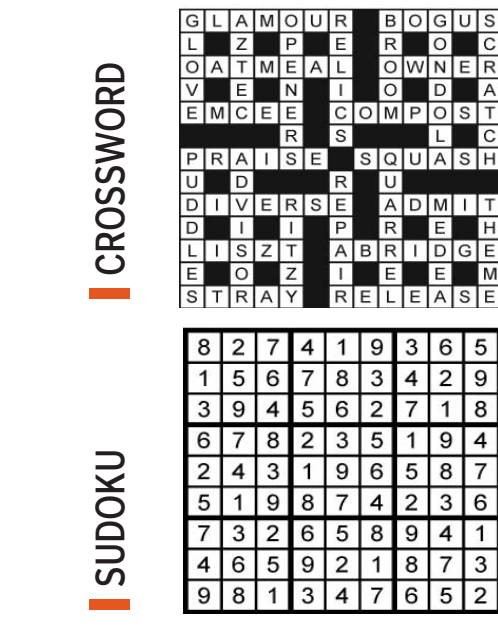
- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Unexciting
 - 3 Songbird's call
 - 8 Origin of the universe
 - 9 Emanation
 - 11 Trifling
 - 12 Without weapons
 - 14 Respectful greeting
 - 16 Sock pattern
 - 19 Ill will
 - 21 Cajole
 - 24 Mostel of Fiddler fame
 - 25 One in the dock
 - 26 Shade of green
 - 27 Buck the odds
 - 6 Up-to-the-minute
 - 7 Cross
 - 10 Venomous snake
 - 13 Loan shark's interest rate
 - 15 Cavalry member
 - 17 Like Chippendale furniture
 - 18 Compact
 - 20 Kind of layer
 - 22 Seating request
 - 23 Jittery
- Down**
- 1 Balance sheet item
 - 2 Vantage point
 - 4 Hardship
 - 5 Wool producer

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

YOUNG FIGHTERS

Victorious participants at the national taekwondo competition held at Ranchi given rousing welcome by the Orissa Taekwondo Association on their arrival at Puri railway station, Wednesday



No full proposal for more HC benches: Law Minister

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Sept 6: The Odisha government has not sent a complete proposal yet for the establishment of Orissa High Court benches in the western and southern parts of the state, Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said.

The Union minister has written a letter to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Basant Panda in response to his demand for establishment of a HC bench in western Odisha, raised in the Lok Sabha. The minister said that the state government has requested for setting up of Orissa HC benches in the western and southern parts of the state.

The Union government has requested the State to identify places after consulting with the



High Court for establishment of benches in western and southern Odisha but the state government has not responded yet, the minister said, adding that no complete proposal for setting up of additional benches of Orissa HC is currently pending

with the Centre.

Earlier July 31, BJP MP Basant Panda had urged the Union government to take steps for setting up a bench of Orissa High Court in western Odisha.

The BJP MP had raised the issue under rule 377 in Lok Sabha. The Kalandi MP had stated that the distance has become a major deterrent in the justice delivery system in Odisha as the litigants have to spend around Rs 500 to visit Cuttack to file cases in the High Court. "Approaching the High Court has become a difficult task for many people due to the huge distance and travelling cost. As a result, most of the people in western Odisha, especially from backward areas, do not file litigations in the High Court," Panda had said.



CHOCK-A-BLOCK: The road outside ISKCON temple in Jaydev Vihar area of Bhubaneswar, witnessed unprecedented traffic jam on the festive day, Wednesday

G20 market shutdown to cost Delhi traders dearly 'BHARAT' SHOULDN'T BE POLITICISED, SAYS BJD

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Sept 6: As the national capital gears up to host the G20 Leaders Summit September 9-10, traders in the city are going to bear the brunt of the closing down of all the major markets in Lutyens' Delhi.

Other important markets in the national capital like Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazaar, among others, will also be regulated due to security reasons.

Traders in popular markets like Connaught Place, Khan Market, Bengali Market, Pandara Road Market, Gol Market, among others, in Delhi will suffer losses to the tune of crores of rupees as the authorities have issued strict orders to keep the markets closed for three days- from Friday to Sunday.

The G20 dates coincide with the weekend, while Jannamashtami festival (September 7) falls on the eve. This is the time when people throng to markets for shopping and dining which acts as a catalyst in accelerating the sales. However, this weekend will be dry

Traders in popular markets like Connaught Place, Khan Market, Bengali Market, Pandara Road Market, Gol Market, et al. in Delhi will suffer losses to the tune of crores of rupees as the authorities have issued strict orders to keep the markets shut for three days- from Friday to Sunday

for the traders in the capital.

The government has cited security of delegates as the prime reason behind the undeclared lockdown in the national capital for three days. For the G20 Leaders Summit, dignitaries from 28 countries will be in Delhi September 9-10.

The United States President Joe Biden will arrive in Delhi Thursday for the summit. Similarly, the heads of other countries like France, United Kingdom, Germany etc will also be arriving in Delhi for the two-day summit which will held at 'Bharat Mandapam' in Pragati Maidan here. The government doesn't want to leave any stone unturned in ensuring the security of the delegates. Therefore, it decided to close all the markets

in the vicinity of the summit venue for three days, September 8-10.

However, the decision to shut down the markets completely didn't go down well with the traders. They even claimed that the government's decision was arbitrary, taken without consulting the stakeholders.

New Delhi Traders Association Connaught Place president Atul Bhargava said the government took the decision without consulting the traders. He asserted that they had initially requested the government to not close the markets completely, but they did not receive any response from the government. He further stated that the traders in Connaught Place market will suffer losses of around Rs 5 crore due to the

shutdown.

"The government's approach is always like 'my way or highway'. We were not in favour of the shut down and had requested the government to not close markets completely. We had even decorated our shops and the market in view of G20 summit. But Nobody listened to us. We are always at the receiving end," Bhargava added. However, he, along with other traders, also expressed support to the government keeping in view the significance of the summit.

Khan Market Traders Association president Sanjeev Mehta said that the market will remain closed for three days due to which the traders there will suffer losses of at least Rs 10 crore. He also said that the traders had initially requested the government to let the market remain open. However, the request was not approved by the authorities, he said.

"What impact will our security agencies fetch at international level? That they are not capable of managing the security with markets being open," he asked.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The push to drop 'India' and keep only 'Bharat' as the country's name should not be politicised, and everyone should support it, senior BJD MLA Amar Prasad Satpathy said, Wednesday.

His remarks came after invitations for a G20 dinner set 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 Narendra Modi government is planning to drop 'India' and stay with just 'Bharat' as the country's name.

"Many things change with time. The names of many places have been changed over the years. Orissa has been changed to Odisha. Names of Bangalore and Madras have

Many things change with time. The name of many places has been changed over the years. Orissa has been changed to Odisha. Names of Bangalore and Madras have also been changed. Even a Congress member had brought a Private Members' Bill to rename India as Bharat as it is being discussed for a long time

AMAR PRASAD SATPATHY | BJD MLA

also been changed," Satpathy said.

"Even a Congress member had brought a Private Members' Bill to rename India as Bharat as it is being discussed for a long time," he said.

The BJD senior leader said there should be a consensus on

the issue.

"There should not be any politics over the name of the country. Everything should not be seen in a political way, certain issues are non-political. This should be considered from a national perspective," he said.

Earlier, BJD MP Bhartruhari Mahtab said the country should officially be called only 'Bharat', and the name 'India' should be permanently removed from Constitution.

The six-time MP from Cuttack had introduced two Private Members' Bills in 2015 and 2019 to remove 'India' from the Constitution.

The last bill is still under consideration, he said.

"I firmly believe that our country should be referred to as Bharat, which is a meaningful word. India has no such meaning," the Cuttack MP had stated.



ELEPHANT TRAIL: A Forest official enquiring with farmers about damages caused to their crop by wild elephants, at Barang on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

Armed miscreants loot ornaments, cash from businessman in Cuttack

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Unidentified miscreants looted gold ornaments and cash from a businessman in Cuttack, Wednesday, police said.

The incident took place near Matagajpur level crossing under Kandarpur police limits here around 11:30am.

"Five to six bike-borne armed miscreants intercepted me near the level crossing. They first kicked my scooter. When I fell down, they asked me for the keys to loot the ornaments and cash from the dicky. Later, they broke the dicky and looted the valuables," said Bikash Patra, the businessman.

When Patra tried to resist them by throwing stones, they fired blanks shots, officials said.

As per preliminary reports, some miscreants looted cash and gold or-

naments from a businessman. A team of police officials and scientific team have been sent to the spot for investigation, said Cuttack DCP Pinak Mishra.

Meanwhile, the traders in Cuttack city demanded protection from police during the festive season.

Prafulla Chotai, general secretary of Cuttack Chamber of Commerce, said, "We are in fear after the firing incident. As business activities increase during festive season, police should be more vigilant."

"As the festive season has started, we have prepared a list of active anti-socials and habitual offenders and others who are on bail. We are keeping them under strict vigil. If we find them indulging in any criminal activities or violating bail conditions, legal action will be taken against them," said DCP Mishra.

'Planet Nine' could be hiding behind Neptune

RESEARCHERS IN JAPAN FOUND THE PRESENCE OF THE EARTH-LIKE PLANET IN THE KUIPER BELT - A DONUT-SHAPED RING THAT STRETCHES JUST BEYOND NEPTUNE'S ORBIT

An Earth-like 'Planet Nine' may be hiding in our solar system, behind Neptune, Japanese astronomers have found.

The study, published in the Astronomical Journal, comes amidst ongoing debate on the existence of a so-called 'Planet Nine', after Pluto was declared a dwarf planet 2006.

Researchers Sofia Lykawka from Kindai University in Osaka and Takashi Ito from the Japan National Astronomy Observatory found the presence of the Earth-like planet in the Kuiper Belt - a donut-shaped ring that stretches just beyond Neptune's orbit.

The Kuiper Belt is a massive ring composed of interstellar objects such as dwarf planets, as-



teroids, carbon masses and icy volatile elements like methane and ammonia.

"We predict the existence of Earth-like planets," said the researchers.

"It's possible that a body of a primordial planet can survive in the far Kuiper Belt as a KBP, as so many bodies existed early in the solar system."

According to them, Planet Nine has a mass that is about 1.5 to 3 times that of Earth, and at a distance of 500 astronomical units from the Sun.

The Kuiper Belt also contains millions of frozen objects, which are referred to as trans-Neptunian objects (TNOs) because they are outside Neptune.

TNOs are believed to be remnants of the formation of the solar system and consist of mixtures of rock, amorphous carbon, and volatile ices such as water and methane.

"We determined that an Earth-like planet located on a distant and inclined orbit can explain three fundamental properties of the distant Kuiper Belt: a prominent population of TNOs with or-

bits beyond Neptune's gravitational influence, a significant population of high-inclination objects, and the existence of some extreme objects with peculiar orbits," they said in the paper.

"That's right, a prominent TNO population with orbits beyond Neptune's gravitational influence, a population of objects with significant high inclinations, and the presence of some extreme objects with peculiar orbits."

Speaking to Daily Mail, they said "the orbit of TNO can indicate the presence of planets that have not been found outside the solar system". Some of these objects have strange orbits that suggest they are being gravitationally influenced by something larger nearby.

GURU KELUCHARAN MOHAPATRA Award Festival 2023
5th to 9th Sept | 6:00 PM

In Collaboration With

Praveen Kumar
Bharatanatyam

Niladri Kumar
Sitar

7th SEPTEMBER

Rabindra Mandap
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Diamond Sponsor

Gold Sponsors

Supported by

Festival Sponsors

Hospitality Partners

Web Partners

Media Partners

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

Good news for startups; 10 to get ₹1.28cr grant



The grant was given to support the growth of startups in sectors such as agri-tech, food and beverages, HR-Tech, enterprise technology, retail, education and logistics

The grant was approved during the second board meeting of Startup Odisha, an initiative backed by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) department

The selected startups will receive the grant in tranches, based on their progress and milestones achieved

officials said. The selected startups will receive the grant in tranches, based on their progress and milestones achieved, an official said, adding that the grant will be used to support the startup research and development activities, product development and marketing activities, and other operational expenses.

"In our relentless pursuit of fostering innovation and nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit, we are proud to announce this significant grant allocation. These investments in our state's startups signify our commitment to creating a thriving ecosystem where innovation knows no bounds. Our vision is to build successful startups by providing necessary financial aid, mentorship and guidance that will help them scale and grow," said Rai.

He said this effort is another significant advancement in Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's firm commitment to nurture 5,000 startups by 2025, steering Odisha towards its goal of establishing itself as one of India's top 3 hubs for innovation.



PUJA PREP: Nayapalli Durga Puja Committee members perform puja on Kuakhari riverbed before collecting soil for Durga idols in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

No charcoal use in Capital from today

BMC imposes ban on charcoal sale and use to bring down pollution levels in the city to normal level within a year. This will be in addition to the existing monetary penalty for burning of garbage in the open

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The sale and use of charcoal, a popular cooking fuel for a majority of roadside eateries, will be completely prohibited in Bhubaneswar from today (Thursday).

The decision to this effect was taken at a preparatory meeting of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to review the air quality index and pollution levels in the city.

Commissioner Vijay Amruta Kulange, who Monday attended the meeting chaired by Mayor Sulochana Das and attended by representatives from Industries, Forest and Transport departments in the run-up to the 'International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies', said the move is in addition to the ₹10,000 fine the civic body had earlier announced to discourage the burning of garbage in public.

"We have set a target to bring down the PM10 level to below 60mg/m3 within a year. Steps are also being taken to reduce the level of PM2.5, another major

INT'L DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES



pollutant in the air in the City," Kulange said, adding, "We have already asked sanitation inspectors at ward-level to impose penalty against those found burning waste in their respective jurisdiction."

Several data suggest that the number of vehicles is increasing rapidly in Bhubaneswar. In fact, the number of registered vehicles in the Capital city has outnumbered the City's population. One of the main concerns from this is the release of greenhouse gases from fossil-fuel based vehicles.

In recent times the air quality index (AQI) in the Capital City with prominent pollutant PM10 has been found to be deteriorating as the ambient air quality data of Bhubaneswar recorded by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) had revealed. Besides, the heat index prepared by the BMC with the help of Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) had also found that nearly two dozen wards in the state capital are prone to severe heat conditions due to burning of garbage and other waste and thus fall in the red

Red category wards

Nearly two dozen wards in the state Capital are prone to severe heat conditions due to burning of garbage and other waste and thus fall in the 'red category' which is for Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 60 and above.

category which is for Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 60 and above.

The theme for the fourth annual 'International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies (September 7) is "Together for Clean Air", highlights the urgent need for stronger partnerships, increased investment, and share responsibility for overcoming air pollution.

Meanwhile, environment activist Dillip Srichandan said to avoid pollution in Bhubaneswar, it is necessary to purify the exhaust gases of factories. "Also we must ensure that dust particles do not come out during construction works. We must also pay attention to the restriction on burning of poisonous firecrackers during the festive season, and above all, try to reduce carbon

dioxide emissions by planting large trees."

Environmentalist JK Panigrahi said, "As the human civilisation is advancing, the impacts of developmental activities and exploding human population are causing greater stress on nature and environment. Enhanced pollution is engendering greater health problems and disease occurrence. We need to identify all the point and non-point sources of air pollution so as to devise well-planned mechanisms for addressing these root causes and reducing the load of pollution. Strict implementation of the existing pollution prevention and control rules by the local administration also holds the key to the pollution regulation efforts."

To address the issue of vehicular pollution, the state government has started promoting sale of electric vehicles (EVs). The government recently issued notification regarding amendment of Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy, 2021. Through this amendment, the government has increased the subsidy on the purchase of two-wheeler, three-wheeler and four-wheeler electric vehicles (EVs).

Environmentalist Ranjan Panda said Bhubaneswar's air quality has come under the 'non-attainable' category as per recent surveys. "This means the city's traffic is getting worse, and green spaces are shrinking. While awareness is necessary, a roadmap to decongest roads, phase out fossil fuel based vehicles, and increase urban forest cover is need of the hour," he said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: With an aim to boost innovation and entrepreneurship, the state government has approved a grant of ₹1.28 crore to 10 high-potential startups.

The grant was given to support the growth of startups in sectors such as agri-tech, food and beverages, HR-Tech, enterprise technology, retail, education and logistics.

The grant was approved during the second board meeting of

'State has a thriving fintech ecosystem'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Under the leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Odisha has launched several citizen welfare schemes, leveraging technology for the delivery of public services and financial assistance, E & IT Minister Tusharkanti Behera said at the Global Fintech Festival 2023 jointly organised by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Payments Council of India (PCI), and the Fintech Convergence Council (ECC) in Mumbai, Wednesday.



Behera highlighted Odisha's remarkable participation in the fintech revolution and expressed the state's commitment to innovation. This commitment has already yielded promising results, with several fintech startups making a mark nationally, he said.

He added that the state's financial inclusion has been recognised nationally and internationally for schemes like Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) and the Social Protection Delivery Platform (SPDP), which offer cashless, paperless, and faceless access to social benefits and services.

New PPP policy for infra building

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The state government has notified a new Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy, 2023 to attract private investment in the construction of public infrastructure.

The new policy notified by the state Finance department will be applicable to all infrastructure projects including roads, bridges, ports, railways, airports, irrigation, heliports, industrial parks, logistic hubs, water supply, power, tourism, sports, health-care, education, and inland waterways implemented through the PPP route.

The government has also made a provision for levying user fees to boost the commercial viability of the projects and the amenability of private sector participation, according to a notification.

As per the policy, projects with capital expenditure up to ₹10 crore will be approved by the director of the PPP Cell of the state government, provided that



these projects do not require any assistance from the Odisha Infrastructure Development Fund (OIDF) or the state Viability Gap Funding (VGF).

For its proper monitoring, the Empowered Committee on Infrastructure (ECI) headed by the Chief Secretary has been formed. The ECI will approve the PPP projects from ₹10 crore up to ₹500 crore and for proposals more than ₹500 crore, the ECI will make its recommendations to HILCA (high level clearance authority), headed by the Chief Minister, for approval.

A PPP committee will be established at the district-level and will be headed by the district collector to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of infrastructure projects in PPP mode.

LAXMANANANDA MURDER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The Opposition BJP and Congress Wednesday slammed the BJD government for not making public the judicial commission report on the killing of VHP leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati even eight years after it was submitted.

The issue was raised as the

Oppn slams govt for not revealing probe report

inmates of Saraswati's Jaleshpata Ashram in Kandhamal district observed his 15th death anniversary. Saraswati along with his four associates was gunned down at the ashram while observing the Janmashtami festival August 23, 2008. It led to large-scale violence in the district leaving 40 people dead.

The Odisha government had instituted a Commission of

Inquiry headed by Justice Sarat Mohapatra. As Justice Mohapatra passed away, the commission was headed by Justice AS Naidu to probe the assassination of Saraswati.

Though the Commission submitted its report in 2015, the state government is yet to make the findings public, said state VHP leader S Satpathy.

Hitting out at the state gov-

ernment, state BJP vice-president BN Tripathy said people should know the findings of the probe conducted by the Commission.

Stating that Saraswati dedicated his life to the development of tribals, former BJP state president Samir Mohanty claimed that the culprits have not been punished.

Senior Congress leader and MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati

said the BJD and the BJP were running a coalition government when the VHP leader was killed.

BJP was initially very happy when the Commission of Inquiry was formed, but the party was subsequently dumped by the BJD, he said.

The Congress legislator wondered why the state government was trying to "suppress" the report public.

5th accused in ₹4.13-cr loan fraud case nabbed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch has arrested another accused in connection with the ₹4.13-crore bank loan fraud case, a police official said Wednesday.

The accused Md Sarfaraj Jawed was arrested here Tuesday.

An EOW official said the ex-branch manager and former senior assistant of Nuapatna branch of Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd in conspiracy with three loanees including Md Sarfaraj Jawed had availed 25 loans submitting fake LIC policies, out of which eight loans amounting to ₹4.13 crore could not be recovered.

Jawed had availed four loans amounting to ₹1.58 crore against four LIC policies showing him as the assured, whereas actually policies stand in the name of different persons.

Earlier, four other accused in the case—branch manager Sk Abdul Hayee, senior assistant Prakash Kumar Mohapatra and loanees Md Mustakim Raza and Md Iftekar Asif Khan were arrested.

AI-based tech helps eliminate train-elephant collision

None of the 11 Northeast corridors has reported any train-elephant collision ever since the launch of the Intrusion Detection System

The introduction of an AI-based surveillance mechanism in 11 elephant corridors in the Northeast has helped eliminate elephant deaths due to train collisions there and the Northeast Frontier Railway now plans to introduce it across the zone, an official has said.

The Intrusion Detection System (IDS) was introduced by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) in December 2022 in 11 elephant corridors – five in Alipurduar division and six in Lumding division.

According to the NFR, in the eight months between its launch in December 2022 and July this year, the IDS has sounded 9,768 alerts, or an average 41 alerts daily. "Every time an elephant steps on to the track, the system generates an alert to the train controller, station master, train drivers and other stakeholders who take precautionary measures to avoid the imminent danger," Sabyasachi De, Chief Public Relations Officer of NFR, said, adding the pilot project was introduced at a cost of



around ₹6 crore.

De said that since the launch of the system, these 11 corridors have not reported any train-elephant collision.

Government data shows that on an average 20 elephants die

due to train collisions in the country every year and a majority of these incidents take place in the Northeast Frontier Railway.

The success of the IDS holds out hope that such accidents

will be a thing of the past, officials said.

They said the optical fiber cable (OFC) that the railways has laid beneath the tracks for tele-communication and signalling purposes comes in handy for the implementation of IDS.

The device, fitted in the OFC network, captures the vibration when an elephant comes on the track and sends out a real-time alert to the division control room and a mobile application. The system is able to detect and locate moving elephants up to 5 metre from the fibre optical cable.

De said that there are 80 such elephant corridors in the Northeast region and consider-

ing the 100 per cent success rate of IDS, the zonal railway has decided to introduce it on other corridors as well and the Railway Ministry has sanctioned ₹77 crore for it.

The system was the brainchild of then General Manager of NFR Anshul Gupta, who came to know about this technology 13 years ago while he was on a visit to London.

"Experimented it twice, once in 2011 and then in 2016 in different railway divisions but its successful implementation took place only in December 2022 when we launched this project in the 11 corridors," Gupta, who retired in March 2023, said. PTI

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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



RAIN PAIN: Villagers along with their livestock wade through knee-deep water on an overflowing bridge which connects MV-28 village with Markelguda under Kamawada panchayat in Korukonda block of Malkangiri district following heavy rainfall, Wednesday

JHARSUGUDA NEW BUS STAND

Locals, traders unhappy as agency fleeces users

The private agency has been accused of demanding exorbitant security money from the traders for allotment of kiosks and charging heavy parking fees from the users

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 6: After a long wait, the newly built bus stand at Jharsuguda town near here was finally inaugurated July 9 and put into public use. This had spread cheers among the commuters, auto-rickshaw drivers as well as small and marginal traders dependent on the bus stand for their livelihood. However, their happiness was short-lived as the agency managing the bus stand has been reportedly fleecing the users since its inauguration.



The new bus stand having all the modern facilities and amenities for the benefit of the commuters was constructed with ₹20 crore funds sanctioned from the district mineral foundation (DMF).

Soon after the inauguration, a private consultancy agency 'Aryabhata Computer' was given the responsibility to manage the bus stand. However, locals allege that the private agency has been demanding security money from the traders for allotment of shops and kiosks and charging heavy parking fees from auto-rickshaws and other vehicles if they enter the bus stand premises.

The agency is even denying entry to auto-rickshaws carrying passengers and two-wheeler riders who are going to drop their kin at the bus stand. It is charging heavy fees from them if they want to gain entry into the bus stand premises.

Demand for heavy parking fees from the auto-rickshaw drivers and two-wheeler riders is often leading to face-off between the agency employees and the users but the former refuses to pay any heed.

This has sparked sharp resentment among the residents with many lodging complaints

before the district administration and regional transport officer (RTO). However, their pleas are yet to be addressed.

Reports said that the consultancy agency had signed an agreement with the district administration for management of the newly built stand. However, it is reportedly violating the conditions as laid out in the agreement. It was reportedly decided that retail traders who had their shops on the old bus stand premises will be given first priority in allotment of shops and kiosks in the new bus stand. However, this never happened and hundreds of vendors and traders lost their livelihood.

The agency is denying entry to outside vehicles inside the bus stand due to which senior citizens, pregnant women and children are facing a harrowing time to board their buses. Locals have demanded the administration to intervene and look into their demands as the agency is overlooking their problems and fleecing them of money.

A tea stall owner Raju Meher said that he had a stall at the old bus stand and was earning ₹500 to ₹700 daily. He was hoping to set up a permanent tea stall after the establishment of the new bus stand but the agency is demanding ₹4 lakh to ₹5 lakh as security deposit and ₹10,000 as rent for allotment of a kiosk which is difficult for him to do.

He questioned how much he will earn from a small tea stall that he will be able to pay the security deposit and rent after setting aside money to meet his family expenses and keep his business running. He demanded the administration to resolve the problems of small vendors like him.

When contacted, agency official Swatantra Kumar said the two-wheeler riders have been exempted from payment of parking fee while other vehicles are being charged as per government approved rate.

Stalls have been allocated to the traders of old bus stand while some have been left out. The left out will be allotted stalls as per norms. A nominal fee is being charged as security deposit while the security money has been relaxed in many cases. The rest of the problems will be resolved soon, he added.

DENGUE SCARE IN JODA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Joda, Sept 6: Dengue is spreading its tentacles in mineral rich Joda block of Keonjhar district with the death of a person and scores being hospitalised owing to the vector-borne disease, sources from a private hospital said.

Sources said, an affected person from the block died August 27 and over 70 persons are undergoing treatment for the disease. Currently, over 20 persons from Jurudi area under the block are undergoing treatment for the disease.

However, no information is available on the exact number of affected patients or the number of deceased from the government hospitals in the area. This has raised question marks on the functioning of the Health department. The disease is reportedly spiraling due to mutation of dengue virus, a health official said.

Sources said that two months back, nine persons were diagnosed with dengue in Jurudi area of Joda block. After reports surfaced, a medical team from Basudevpur community health centre (CHC) visited Jurudi for two days and examined the affected persons.

However, no steps were taken



Private sources said that an affected person from the block died of the disease August 27 and over 70 are undergoing treatment

No information is available on the exact number of affected patients or deceased from the government hospitals in the area

by the Health department causing the disease to again spread its tentacles in the area.

Recently, a woman health worker posted at Jurudi sub health centre was diagnosed with dengue while another woman once again caught dengue fever due to lack of proper treatment.

According to reports available from the local panchayat, more than 17 persons have been admitted to the Keonjhar headquarters hospital and undergoing treatment after their blood samples tested positive for dengue. Similarly, over 55 persons have been admitted to a private hospital in Joda and undergoing treatment for dengue from July 22.

The disease is spiraling in Joda town and various rural pockets of the block during last

two months. According to a private estimate, the number of affected persons is over 70 while one person has died of the disease. A medical team from Basudevpur community health centre (CHC) visited the house of the deceased and conducted a probe after reports appeared in various media. The medical again visited and took stock of the deceased's residence, Tuesday.

However, the medical team only visiting the house of the deceased and not visiting rest of the houses in the area sparked resentment among the residents.

When contacted, medical officer Dr LK Singh of Basudevpur community health centre (CHC) said two persons from Jurudi area have been afflicted with dengue and undergoing treatment at the Keonjhar headquarters hospital.

Woman's body found under bridge; murder suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Sept 6: The body of a woman was recovered from the Jira river bed under a bridge linking Bhatli PS and Srigida under Sohela PS Wednesday morning.

The woman identified as Sheela Behera, 40, of Burla contractor colony in Sambalpur district is suspected to be brutally murdered by unknown miscreants on the Jira river bridge in the district late Tuesday night. From the preliminary investigation it was ascertained that miscreants by slitting the throat killed her on the bridge and fled the spot after throwing the body to the river bed.

As per reports, some passers-by on the river bridge spotted blood stains on the bridge and noticed blood soaked body of a woman on the river bed Wednesday morning and informed the police.

Police seized the body and recovered a knife, wallet of the deceased, ATM card and a bus ticket from the spot. Bhatli police have registered a murder case (No- 206/23) and sent the body to Bargarh hospital for post-mortem.

After arrival of the family member of the deceased woman to the spot the body was sent for post-mortem. Police suspecting that the woman has come in the bus and later taken to the spot and killed by the miscreants as per a plan.

Scientific team and a dog squad have been pressed into action. Investigation is underway and the exact reason of the gruesome killing will be ascertained after completion of probe, said Bargarh SDPO Padarabinda Tripathy.

Berhampur varsity signs MoU for marine science scholarship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Sept 6: The Berhampur University in Ganjam district Wednesday signed an agreement with the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) for implementation of ocean country partnership programme (OCP).

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), a UK government agency, will provide scholarship for at least five students of the Marine Science Department of the varsity under the programme.

The programme will be managed by the ACU on behalf of the CEFAS.

"We have signed a MoU with the ACU for implantation of the OCP," said Vice-Chancellor Geetanjali Dash.

On behalf of the varsity, registrar Sachidanand Nayak signed the MoU with ACU's membership

engagement coordinator Ikita Pokharna.

The scholarship will support research in marine pollution, sustainable seafood and marine biodiversity.

Dash said the term of the MoU will be for two years, and it could be extended further.

"We will also explore some other areas for collaborative research, student and teacher exchange programmes," she added.

Koraput tribal woman to attend G20 meet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Koraput, Sept 6: A 36-year-old tribal woman farmer from Bhumia community has received invitation to participate in the upcoming G20 summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi September 9 and 10.

Raimati Ghiuria's inclusion in the summit is linked to her role in an exhibition centred on millets, including millet start-ups, millet rangoli and live cooking.

This event is being organised by the Ministry of Agriculture for the special visit of G20's first spouses to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) campus in New Delhi September 9 to showcase the country's significant strides in the fields of agri-tech and millet production, offering visitors a first-hand millet experience.

"I am very much delighted to attend the G20 summit. I have heard that leaders of at least 20 nations will participate in the meeting and I will showcase the 'kundra bati mandia' (finger millets) and the tribal method of cultivating it," said an ecstatic Raimati.

The woman emphasised the importance of better technology and scientific farming methods intro-



PROMOTING MILLETS

"I will share my experience on the benefits of better technology and scientific farming methods introduced by the OMM since 2017 in our area"

RAIMATI GHIURIA

duced by the Odisha Millet Mission (OMM), which has significantly improved the yield and quality of millet farming in the district.

"I will share my experience on the benefits of better technology and scientific farming methods introduced by the OMM since 2017 in our area," she said.

Belonging to Nuaguda village under Kundra block in the district, Raimati, for her active participation

in revitalising traditional crops, including traditional rice and millet varieties, has now turned to be a role model for women in her community.

Her dedication towards agriculture has turned her into a resourceful person and so far she has imparted training to over 2,500 farmers on millet intensification, line transplanting, intercropping, and organic pest management.

As a custodian farmer, Raimati has preserved more than 72 traditional varieties of indigenous rice and more than 30 varieties of the millets. Her exceptional contributions to agriculture have earned numerous accolades, including the Genome Saviour Community Award in 2012, Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy Fellowship Award in 2015, Best Farmer Award by TATA Steel in 2015, 2017 and 2018 among others.

"Currently, I am focussed on promoting millet value addition and processing activities, as well as providing drudgery reducing implements to women farmers," said Raimati.

Raimati's inclusion in the G20 summit highlights the importance of sustainable agriculture and how lives of farmers and their communities change when traditional farming practices are combined with modern technology and scientific methods, said Prasant Parida, a scientist at Swaminathan foundation, Jeypore.

Along with Raimati, 45-year-old tribal woman farmer Subasa Mohanta of Matigarh village of Mayurbhanj district will also participate in the summit.

Central Bank of India
REGIONAL OFFICE: 108-B, Unit-VII, Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003, Ph. No.: 0674-2397551, 2397199

INVITATION OF BIDS/OFFERS FOR PREMISES ON LEASE

Central Bank of India requires premises admeasuring 92.90 to 139.35 Sq. m. (1000-1500 sqft.) carpet area in ready possession / ready for possession within 3 months at Bhadrak preferably on the ground floor with adequate parking space & approach road for their Bhadrak Branch. There should be a provision for an on site ATM with an area of 5.94 to 9.29 Sq.m. (64 to 100 Sq.ft.). No brokers or intermediaries please. Priority will be accorded to Government / Semi Govt. bodies or public sector undertakings.

Kindly download the formats/terms and conditions from the website <http://www.centralbankofindia.co.in> or collect the same from Central Bank of India, Bhadrak Branch, College Road, At/PO.: Bhadrak, Dist.: Bhadrak, State: Odisha, Pin - 756100/ Regional Office at 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit - VII, Surya Nagar, Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar - 751003 during office hours. Interested owners should send their proposals in prescribed formats in two separate and sealed covers superscribed as Technical Bid (Cover-I) and Financial Bid (Cover-II). The last date for submission of offers is 21.09.2023 upto 4.00 p.m. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason therefor.

Date: 05.09.2023 **Sd/- Chief Manager**

EAST COAST RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No.ETCECONVSKP 2023044. Dated. 30.08.2023

Name of Work: JEYPORE-MALKANGIRI NEW LINE PROJECT- CONDUCTING FINAL LOCATION SURVEY AND GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION FOR BALANCE WORKS BETWEEN KM. 33 TO 126 I.E. BETWEEN THE PROPOSED NEW STATION TANGINIGUDA (INCLUDING)-MALKANGIRI (INCLUDING) OF WALTAIR DIVISION, EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Approx. Cost of the work: ₹256.47 lakhs, EMD: ₹2,78,200/-. Completion Period of the work: 6 (Six) Months.

Tender Closing Date & Time: 21.09.2023, 1200 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.ireps.gov.in>

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any Change/Corrigenda issued for this tender. The changes/Corrigenda issued for the tender. The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered or IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering.

The tenderers/bidders should read all instructions to the tenderers carefully and ensure compliance of all instructions including check lists, para 3.1 (additional check-list) of Tender form (Second sheet) Annexure-I of chapter 2 of Tender documents, submission of Annexure-B duly verified and signed by Chartered Accountant.

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/ Bhubaneswar

PR-88/CG/23-24

TRIBAL COOPERATIVE MARKETING DEVELOPMENT FEDERATION OF INDIA LIMITED (TRIFED)
(MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
HEAD OFFICE: NSIC Business Park, NSIC Estate, Okhla Phase-III Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi - 110020

Advertisement No.: 06/2023

Inviting applications from Retired Personnel of Central/State Government Ministries/Departments/Autonomous/Statutory Bodies/PSUs retired from level 6 to level 10 of 7th CPC and equivalent for engagement of 10 Consultants.

TRIFED (An organization under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GoI) proposes to engage 10 Consultants with experience in Personnel/Audit/Finance/HR/Projects etc. from amongst retired personnel of Central/State Government Ministries/Departments/Autonomous/Statutory bodies/PSUs on contract basis. The last date of receipt of application is 25.09.2023.

For further details, applicants may visit TRIFED's website <https://trifed.tribal.gov.in> under opportunities - careers section or contact the Personnel Division, TRIFED, Head Office, New Delhi at 011-20883014/15/16.

General Manager (Personnel) CBC-43104/12/0016/2324

Government of India
Ministry of Minority Affairs
Public Notice

The Ministry of Minority Affairs in collaboration with CSC e-Governance Services Limited is organizing a special drive to re-validate the applications and verification of State Nodal Officers/District Nodal Officers/Head of Institutes/Institute Nodal Officers and applicants through Aadhaar based Biometric authentication for the scholarships of Ministry of Minority Affairs for the year 2022-23.

2. The process has been started with effect from 01.08.2023 and will be completed by 8th September, 2023. All concerned are hereby informed to ensure their bio-metric Aadhaar authentication by visiting special camps being organized at district and institute level by concerned District Level Nodal Officer and Head of Institutes respectively as per schedule provided. For further details please log on to [www.https://scholarships.gov.in](https://scholarships.gov.in) and alternatively may call to Helpline at 011-24364311.

(Under Secretary, Scholarships) SS-15/8/2022-Scholarship-MoMA CBC-27101/11/0007/2324

The principle of Yoga is the turning of one or of all powers of our human existence into a means of reaching divine Being.

SRI AUROBINDO



Quiet Rise

China's sharp economic slowdown has raised alarm bells around the world. But it has also thrown into relief the rise of another demographic powerhouse next door. The Indian economy grew at an impressive 7.8 per cent annual rate in the second quarter of 2023, and the country recently reached an important milestone by becoming the first to land a spacecraft on the Moon's potentially water-rich south pole. And, India's ascent, unlike China's, has not been accompanied by an increasingly assertive foreign policy or an appetite for other countries' territory.

As India's geopolitical, economic, and cultural clout grows, so does its global footprint. China's "decline," as some have begun to call the conclusion of the country's four-decade-long economic boom, opens new opportunities for the Indian economy and other developing and emerging countries.

Earlier this year, India reached another milestone when its population officially surpassed that of China, which had been the world's most populous country for more than 300 years. While China's shrinking, rapidly aging population is likely to impede economic growth and may curtail its geopolitical ambitions, India - one of the world's youngest countries, with a median age of 28.2 - is poised to reap a huge demographic dividend.

But the driving force behind India's emergence as a major global power is its rapid economic growth. While India's GDP is still smaller than China's, the country is currently the world's fastest-growing major economy and is projected to account for 12.9 per cent of global growth over the next five years, surpassing the United States' 11.3 per cent share.

In addition to fueling a consumption boom, India's youthful population is also driving innovation, as evidenced by the country's world-class information economy and its recent Moon landing, which the country managed to achieve despite a national space budget equivalent to roughly 6 per cent of what the US spends on space missions. Having already surpassed the United Kingdom, its former colonial ruler, India's GDP is poised to overtake that of Japan and Germany to become the world's third-largest economy by 2030, behind the US and China.

Given its increasingly unstable neighbourhood, it should come as no surprise that India has the world's third-largest defence budget. The deepening strategic alliance between China and Pakistan underscores India's precarious position as the only country bordering two nuclear-armed revisionist states with expansionist ambitions. Moreover, for the past three years, India has been locked in a tense military standoff with China along its Himalayan border. Bilateral relations, marked by intermittent clashes in the disputed Tibet-Ladakh border region, are at their lowest point in decades.

By confronting China despite the risk of a full-scale war, India has challenged Chinese power in a way no other country has done in this century. But despite leaning toward forging closer ties with the West, India remains hesitant to enter into formal military alliances with Western countries.

Western powers are partly to blame. US President Joe Biden's reluctance to comment on the Sino-Indian military standoff, let alone openly support India, has sent a clear signal that India is responsible for its own defence. Given that the country's future growth hinges on its ability to defend itself against external threats, India will likely step up its efforts to modernise its conventional armed forces and enhance its nuclear deterrence.

The escalating geopolitical rivalry between China and India could also impede efforts to unite the Global South and transform the BRICS group into a credible alternative to the G20 and G7. The BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) recently agreed to expand the group by adding six new members: Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Ethiopia, Argentina, and Iran. Given the 11 members' divergent interests, BRICS+ will likely find it even harder to reach consensus on any major issue.

Meanwhile, China's economic slump could prompt President Xi Jinping to double down on his expansionist agenda. Biden recently characterised the stagnating Chinese economy as a "ticking time bomb," warning that, "When bad folks have problems, they do bad things." China's controversial new national map, which depicts vast areas of India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Bhutan (and even a bit of Russia) as Chinese territory, underscores the threat posed by China's increasingly aggressive behaviour.

In addition to these external threats, India's future will be shaped by its response to domestic economic challenges. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made great strides in modernising the notoriously outdated Indian bureaucracy and promoting e-government to reduce red tape and attract foreign direct investment. His government has invested heavily in upgrading and expanding the country's infrastructure, implemented regulatory reforms, and sought to boost domestic manufacturing through Modi's "Make in India" initiative. But to transform itself into a global manufacturing hub, India must invest in human capital, particularly in education and training.

Moreover, India's size and diversity also pose enormous challenges. India may be the first developing economy that, from the beginning, has pursued modernisation and prosperity through a democratic system. But as one of the world's most culturally diverse countries, its seemingly never-ending election cycle has often fueled division and polarisation.

But, despite its US-style polarised politics, India's democratic framework has served as a pillar of stability. By fostering open expression and dialogue, the Indian political system has empowered grassroots communities and individuals, enabling members of historically marginalised classes and castes to rise to the highest levels of policymaking.

Whether India can maintain its current upward trajectory will depend on its ability to maintain political stability, rapid economic growth, domestic and external security, and a forward-looking foreign policy. Success would enhance India's global standing and help advance US interests in the Indo-Pacific, the world's new geopolitical fulcrum and home to its fastest-growing economies.

The writer is Professor of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- The truth is, you don't break a bad habit; you replace it with a good one. DENIS WATLEY
- Commit to stop making excuses. When we make excuses, we lie to ourselves and continue bad habits. JOYCE MEYER
- You are what you do repeatedly every day. If excellence is something you're striving for, then it's not an accident. It's a habit. GREG PLITT

FOCUS FAMILY PLANNING

OVERCOMING THE ODDS

The government's family planning initiative 'Mission Parivar Vikas' (MPV), now in its seventh year, has achieved some success in 146 districts which were originally identified as "high fertility" areas with a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of more than three. The districts are spread across seven states - Rajasthan, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. MPV hopes to reduce TFR in these high-focus areas to 2.1 by 2025.



Dr Sanjana Mohan & Lekha Rattanani

SENIOR OBSTETRICIANS RECOMMEND THAT OPERATIONS SHOULD BE THE LAST OPTION AS OPENING THE BODY HAS ITS RISKS



Brahma Chellaney

Whether India can maintain its current upward trajectory will depend on its ability to maintain political stability, rapid economic growth, domestic and external security, and a forward-looking foreign policy

The focused efforts are yielding results that can be seen in the numbers, but they come with hidden problems that the numbers do not or cannot capture. For example, contraceptive use has picked up in these areas following the government's efforts to increase access to family planning services. But the most popular method of contraception is the irreversible method of family planning involving surgery. This is good from the point of view of outcomes but not always good from the point of view of the women. The popularity of the permanent method mirrors the national preference, where 36.3% (NFHS-5) of currently married women took the option - making it the most popular of all choices. Across states with MPV districts, many more women opted for the permanent method. But because MPV runs essentially in districts with an overall higher level of backwardness, signalling weaker communications and poorer delivery of healthcare, the downsides of female sterilisation will be more pronounced here.

A permanent method like female sterilisation is usually adopted when the couple have had the number of children they wanted and opt to have no more. But in rural India, the death of children and young adults is not unusual, particularly in tribal communities where many unexpected incidents happen, including snakebites, falls from tree, drowning in pond, and many caused by preventable or treatable diseases. Not having timely access to care often leads



The entire burden of population control in India has been borne, and continues to be borne, by women

to death of the child. There have been cases where women who opted for the permanent method after two or three children find themselves suddenly with fewer children, or without a son, after mishaps in the family. In such cases, reversal of surgery is difficult, if not impossible, and the trauma of the family is endless. These are the unfortunate consequences of the growing acceptance of female sterilisation in rural India. They also highlight the uniquely Indian problems of irreversible methods of contraception, given the poor health infrastructure that leads to preventable complications and even deaths during the surgery and a bigger trauma if the woman survives surgery, then goes on to lose her children and can't have any more.

A total of 358 deaths in 2014-2017 were reported after sterilisation, Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare Anupriya Patel told the Lok Sabha in March 2018. In terms of numbers alone, female sterilisation in rural areas (as a percentage of currently married women) grew from 32.2% to 44.5% in Rajasthan; 22.6% to 35.3% in Bihar; 39.8% to 47.6% in Chhattisgarh; 19.8% to 37.4% in Jharkhand; and 46.9% to 55.7% in Madhya Pradesh in the period from NFHS-3 to NFHS-5

Three recent developments have possibly contributed to the steady increase in sterilisation numbers. First, the presence of ASHAs (Accredited Social

Health Activists) in every village has given a human face to the system, built credibility and trust, and has taken system-driven persuasion to the last household in the village. Second, the arrival of smartphones and high connectivity in villages has upped aspirations. DJs at rural marriages, birthday celebrations, the changing attire of rural girls, are cases in point.

Rural families are also noting the small family size and lifestyle in cities and are ready to adopt it for themselves as well. The third factor contributing to increasing tubectomy numbers is the growing trend of male migration from rural areas to cities for work: in southern Rajasthan itself, some 70% of households see at least one male member migrating to cities in Gujarat, or Maharashtra, or elsewhere for livelihood. In the absence of the husband, it becomes doubly difficult for the women to bring up children. An operation then seems a win-win for everyone.

Senior obstetricians recommend that operations should be the last option as opening the body has its risks. So other methods available that are safer should be used. Complications and fatalities from female sterilisation are not uncommon but appear not to impact the number of women opting for this method. Yet, we cannot run away from the problem: The entire burden of population control in India has been borne, and continues to be borne, by women. And this is

especially the case with sterilisations. This has remained true over ten years, from the last NHFS in 2005-2006, all the way to the survey by the government for 2015-2016. Saying 'no' to tubectomy is much more possible today with emergence of several choices for women that work almost like a permanent method: intrauterine contraceptive devices such as Copper-T or other hormonal devices, which are effective for long durations. Using these once or twice may be sufficient to prevent a pregnancy for the entire reproductive cycle of the woman, thus also acting as a permanent method.

Where PHCs are not regularly open, doctors and nurses not fully present, and people have little trust in public health systems, tubectomy is a sure-fire way to ensure birth control. The alternative will require training of our doctors and nurses, making these methods available, and strengthening communication to dispel fears and myths associated with the different methods. As an example, a common fear that exists with Copper-T is that "it will move up in the abdomen." Overcoming this will require listening and acknowledging their fears, and helping them understand why these may be unfounded. It will also require the primary healthcare facilities to be open 24x7 and the healthcare workers to be present, to be able to manage any side effects of the other methods such as bleeding and abdominal pain.

The renewed emphasis on primary healthcare, emergence of the Health and Wellness Centres, growing numbers of doctors and skilled staff across the PHCs and sub-centres, are welcome steps that can make this paradigm shift possible.

Dr Sanjana Mohan is co-founder of Basic Healthcare Services, a Rajasthan-based non-profit that runs primary healthcare centres. Lekha Rattanani is the Managing Editor of The Billion Press.

©THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM GEOPOLITICS

The siren song of big history

Behind today's global disorder are two related narratives about countries' relative strengths and weaknesses in the competition for global power. One is about the long-term rise and fall of nations and civilisations, and the other is about much shorter-term conjunctures. From the Western standpoint, the first narrative regards China as a threat because of its extraordinary strength, whereas the second narrative presents it as a threat by dint of its inherent weakness. At the same time, Chinese leaders view America as a threat because it is structurally feeble and dominated by a gerontocratic political elite, but also because it remains extraordinarily powerful and determined to cut off any rivals in the near term.

The first view of the future relies on the simple - and therefore apparently compelling - analytical lens of geopolitics. Geopoliticians are in the business of sketching out long-term scenarios of rise and fall. Their plot lines are always clear: one country dominates the world for a century or so before suffering

a reversal as it becomes exhausted and discredited.

A brilliant example of this approach is historian Paul Kennedy's famous 1987 book, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, which continues to set the terms of debate to this day. As he recounts, Spain was the hegemon from the mid-1500s to the mid-1600s, followed by France in the eighteenth century, Britain in the nineteenth century, and the United States after 1945. The implication, according to this long-term framework, is that it is now China's turn. Often, a transition from one great power or superpower to the next will produce tensions and wars, since the old declining power will try to resist and frustrate the challenger's rise. But this tends to create a self-fulfilling prophecy: in each of Kennedy's historical case studies, the demise of the great power was hastened by military conflict.

In the current context, the "decoupling" of the Sino-American relationship follows from almost symmetrical fears on each side. Americans accuse China of systematically subverting the US-led rules-based

international order, stealing technology and intellectual property, crossing red lines with spy balloons, hacking government agencies, and deploying disinformation to erode confidence in the US political system.

It is easy to forget that in the 1980s and early 1990s, US worries about unfair industrial competition from Japan were so pronounced that well-known commentators were publishing books with titles like *The Coming War with Japan*. When the Japanese asset-price bubble burst in 1991, many Japanese suspected a US conspiracy, owing to the role that US policy had played in Japan's unsustainable accumulation of debt in the 1980s. It is easy enough to update this scenario for the current context. After all, wasn't China's big asset-price surge in the 2010s partly the result of the loose US monetary regime after the global financial crisis?

The sad truth is that both narratives are poor guides to the policy predicaments in the present. When thinking about the long term, policymakers must avoid the siren call of determinism. There is no historical law dictating how

long reliable institutions can last. British financial supremacy endured for more than two centuries. But that does not mean American financial supremacy will last as long.

Short-term fluctuations are an even worse guide. After all, many countries that have benefited from globalization have experienced shocks and setbacks, only to adapt and bounce back stronger. A collapsing real-estate bubble need not destroy China, just as the 2008 real-estate collapse did not destroy the US. China might learn from the experience of other rapidly developing Asian economies, such as South Korea, which experienced profound disruptions in the 1970s, in the early 1980s, and again in the late 1990s. On each occasion, it adapted its growth model and prospered.

Everyone wants a simple story. But the real task of historical analysis should be to dismantle deterministic narratives, not to indulge them.

The writer is Professor at Princeton University.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE



Harold James

THE REAL TASK OF HISTORICAL ANALYSIS SHOULD BE TO DISMANTLE DETERMINISTIC NARRATIVES, NOT TO INDULGE THEM

Call for action

Sir, The recently released Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) by the University of Chicago reveals a shocking fact: the average Indian's life expectancy is cut short by approximately 5.3 years due to PM2.5 pollution. This is a worldwide problem caused by tiny particles known as PM2.5, which are hazardous to health. In India, this issue is especially severe. According to the report, Delhi is one of the seven states and union territories in the Northern Plains region, which also includes Bihar, Chandigarh, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. These areas bear the highest health burden in the country due to particulate pollution. Particularly in heavily polluted areas like Delhi, people face increased health risks and shorter life spans because of polluted air. Reducing PM2.5 pollution is a matter of utmost urgency. It's a substantial concern that calls for immediate actions to better air quality and protect public health. The CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) should swiftly review national ambient air quality standards and set ambitious targets to decrease pollutants at their source. Furthermore, it's essential for policymakers, communities, and individuals to collaborate and work together to take prompt actions to achieve a healthier and improved future for our citizens.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Xi's reluctance

Sir, Chinese President Xi Jinping's reluctance to attend the G20 Summit at Delhi shows how perturbed one of the world's most powerful leaders is to come face-to-face with some of his global counterparts. Even as political experts are engaged in a guessing game, the general opinion is that Xi is wary of coming across Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the backdrop of Beijing's antics with regards to Arunachal Pradesh and at the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Some view his skipping the summit is a step to avoid United States President Joe Biden, and Xi Jinping seems to be in awe of these leaders. He gave a miss to the ASEAN at Jakarta as well because a hostile environment prevailed there due to China's maritime policies. All these show that the Chinese President is loathe to face leaders in summits or on a one-on-one basis which does not bode well for his "powerful" image.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

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

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

Dragon's dam plan alarms Arunachal

CHINA HAS PROPOSED A 60,000 MW HYDRO-POWER PLANT ON THE SIANG RIVER, CALLED TSANGPO IN TIBET, IN ITS 14TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, Sept 6: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu Wednesday expressed concern over China's proposed mega hydropower project on the upstream of Siang River in Tibet, stating it will have a cascading effect on India and Bangladesh in the near future.

During a zero-hour discussion in the state Assembly, initiated by Congress MLA Lombo Tayeng seeking a declaration of recurring annual floods in Siang Valley as a national calamity, Khandu said China has proposed a 60,000 MW hydro-power plant on the river, called Tsangpo in Tibet, in its 14th five-year plan.

"We are worried about the project's impact in the future. Accordingly, a high-level meeting of the Brahmaputra Board was convened recently. The Centre has proposed a barrage on Siang river so that Chinese activities do not affect the river," he said.

Khandu said a survey for the proposed barrage will be carried out, and once it is completed, the Centre will decide on the next step.

Tayeng, while initiating the discussion, pointed out that the Siang river is frequently changing its course causing massive land erosion of a few lakh hectares of cultivated land, and reducing the area of the D Ering wildlife sanctuary.



Siang's course

POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF CHINA BEHIND RECURRING FLOODS IN THE SIANG VALLEY HAS LED TO DEMANDS FOR ITS DECLARATION AS A NATIONAL CALAMITY

AT LEAST 3 DISTRICTS OF THE NORTHEASTERN STATE - SIANG, UPPER SIANG AND EAST SIANG - EXPERIENCE ANNUAL FLOODS DURING THE MONSOON

calamity and adequate measures taken, it may be disastrous in near future, Tayeng said.

Khandu, in response, informed the Assembly that there is no provision, executive or legal, to declare a recurring natural calamity as a national calamity.

The existing guidelines of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) do not contemplate declaring a disaster as a national calamity.

There is also no mention of national calamity in Disaster Management Act 2005, the chief minister added.

He said in case of any major disaster, an inter-ministerial central team visits the affected areas and on the basis of their recommendation and report, the

"We are worried about the project's impact in the future. Accordingly, a high-level meeting of the Brahmaputra Board was convened recently. The Centre has proposed a barrage on Siang river so that Chinese activities do not affect the river"

PEMA KHANDU | CM, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) allocates additional funds to the state from the NDRF.

At least three districts of the state - Siang, Upper Siang and East Siang - through which the river passes before entering Assam, where the river is known as Brahmaputra, experience annual floods during the monsoon.

He said a proposal for erosion control and flood management in the left bank of the Siang river in the Mebo sub-division of East Siang district was submitted by the Arunachal Pradesh government to the Union Jal Shakti Ministry.

The ministry asked the state administration in May this year to resubmit the proposal in an integrated manner by adopting a basin or sub-basin approach covering the major length of the rivers and their tributaries instead of proposing separate works in selected or arbitrary reaches, he added.

KERALA CHILD RIGHTS PANEL REPORT

Over thousand kids molested in their own homes last year

There were a total of 4,642 survivors in the 4,582 POCSO cases reported in the state last year indicating more than one survivor in many cases

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

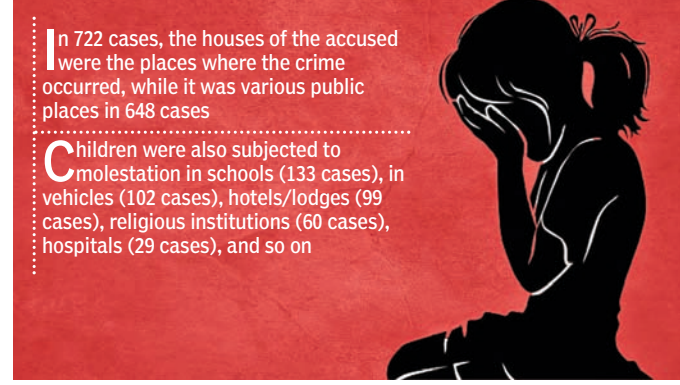
Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 6: Of the total number of child abuse cases reported in Kerala in 2022, most of the offences took place at the residence of the survivors itself, according to a report compiled by the state child rights panel.

The startling figures, which appeared in the recent report, indicated that their homes were not safer for the survivors. According to the annual report of Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights for 2022-23, of the total 4,582 cases reported in the southern state under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act during 2022, the survivors' homes were the places of the crime in 1,004 incidents.

In 722 cases, the houses of the accused were the places where the crime occurred, while it was various public places in 648 cases.

When the places of occurrence of the offence were analysed in 4,582 POCSO cases reported, it was found that the children were subjected to abuse in their own home in 1,004 cases, it said.

Children were also subjected to molestation in schools (133



In 722 cases, the houses of the accused were the places where the crime occurred, while it was various public places in 648 cases

Children were also subjected to molestation in schools (133 cases), in vehicles (102 cases), hotels/lodges (99 cases), religious institutions (60 cases), hospitals (29 cases), and so on

cases), in vehicles (102 cases), hotels/lodges (99 cases), religious institutions (60 cases), hospitals (29 cases), and so on.

There were a total of 4,642 survivors in the 4,582 POCSO cases reported in the state last year.

This indicates that there is more than one survivor in many cases. Under this circumstance, children should be given awareness about POCSO laws and child-friendly procedures, the report added.

Out of the total cases reported, most were from Thiruvananthapuram (583), while a smaller number were reported from Pathanamthitta (189).

Of the total 4,642 survivors, 4,008 were girls and 578 were

boys, the report said, adding that the figures indicate that girls were more subjected to sexual assault.

Among the accused, 16 per cent were lovers, 12 per cent neighbours, 9 per cent were family members, 8 per cent were relatives, and 3 per cent were teachers.

The majority of survivors were found to belong to the age group of 15-18 years (2,563 children).

There were 55 survivors who belonged to the age group of 0-4 years.

The child panel report also found that 93 per cent of the accused in the POCSO cases were men, while two per cent were women.

Arunachal Assembly adopts resolution on Chandrayaan-3 feat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, Sept 6: The Arunachal Pradesh assembly Wednesday adopted a resolution celebrating the historic success of Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Science and Technology Minister Honchun Ngandam while bringing the resolution said, "The Assembly joins the nation in celebrating the historic success of the lunar mission and extended heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated scientists behind the monumental achievement..." In the resolution, the minister welcomed the decision of the Centre to designate August 23 as 'National Space Day' to commemorate the momentous occasion.

The Assembly commends ISRO for its tireless efforts. Landing near the moon's South Pole with precise accuracy is a remarkable feat in itself, showcasing the indomitable spirit of our scientists. The data collected by the 'Pragyan' rover promises to advance knowledge and unlock mysteries on the moon's surface and beyond, the minister said.

The minister said, "The state Assembly welcomes naming of two moon points - Tiranga point (Chandrayaan-2 footprint) and Shivshakti point (Chandrayaan-3's landing site), symbolising our rich heritage and scientific aspirations. Later, the House adopted the resolution by voice vote before Speaker Passang Dorjee Sona adjourned sine die.



RELIGIOUS RALLY: Devotees take part in a 'Shobha Yatra' taken out on Krishna Janmashtami, in Kochi, Wednesday

PTI PHOTO

IN A FIRST, MEGA 'TAWANG MARATHON' IN ARUNACHAL

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Itanagar, Sept 6: The Indian Army and the Arunachal Pradesh government are jointly organising the 'Tawang Marathon' October 1 to establish Tawang on the adventure sports and marathon map, be-

sides boosting tourism in the region.

Defence spokesman Lt Col Mahendra Rawat said that apart from large number of marathon enthusiasts from across the country, the Army, Navy, Air Force and all major CAPF personnel from ITBP and SSB will field strong

teams in the first of its kind 'Tawang Marathon'.

The event will include marathon, half-marathon, and 10 km and 5 km races, he said.

Tawang, which is at an average elevation of 10,000 feet above mean sea level, will present the participants a unique chance to

take part in one of the very few and possibly the most challenging high-altitude runs in the country, he added.

Lt Col Rawat also said that Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu is supporting the event and was the first to register for it.

LIGHT AT THE END OF TUNNEL

First mother ship to berth at Vizhinjam Port soon

Incidentally, this momentous event takes place five years later than its original plan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 6: A mother ship carrying heavy-weight cranes from China will be the first to berth at the Vizhinjam port - the first phase of which is nearing completion.

According to top port sources, the first ship is expected to berth here in the last week of this month and would be received by the Union Minister of Shipping Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and top officials.

Incidentally, this momentous event takes place five years later

than its original plan. An international meeting of port stakeholders is also being planned here in October.

During the commencement of the port by Adani December 5, 2015, its founder Gautam Adani had announced that the first ship will berth here September 1, 2018, in a record time of less than 1,000 days.

But it failed to meet the deadline due to various factors. At the moment, more than 80 per cent of the first phase of the work at the port is over.

Soon after the first ship arrives, seven more ships are scheduled to arrive and the port will be opened to commercial operations in May next year.

Once opened, the port will prove to be a game-changer not just for Kerala but for the entire country as 80 per cent of



transshipments to India which currently takes place at Colombo, Singapore and Dubai, will arrive at Vizhinjam.

Inked during the Congress-led UDF government under Chief

Minister Oommen Chandy (2011-16), the work for the port began at the fag end of Chandy's tenure, but after the Pinarayi Vijayan government took over, due to numerous reasons, the pace

could not be followed.

After cyclone Ockhi hit the construction site in 2017, a portion of the constructed breakwater was washed away and since then the shortage of limestone, the most important raw material for the project, caused yet another delay.

The total cost of the port project is Rs 7,525 crore for which the state government has contributed 500 acres of land.

According to the agreement, Adani will operate the port for 40 years, extendable by 20 more years, while the state government will get a portion of the revenue from the port after 15 years.

According to the project, a record one lakh jobs which includes direct and indirect ones will be created and hence the arrival of the first mother ship is eagerly awaited.

Invasive mussel species from Caribbean waters threaten native variant

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 6: The coastal waters of Kerala are witnessing a massive spread of an invasive species, the Caribbean false mussel (*Mytilopsis saleii*), which is wiping out the native clams and oysters that are crucial for the state's fisheries, a report from the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) said.

The latest Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and Their Control' from IPBES said the Caribbean false mussels, originally from the Atlantic and Pacific coast of South and Central America, have spread widely through the coastal waters of Kerala.

The report said the invasive species could have reached the Indian coast through ballast waters (the seawater that ships carry inside for better stability) and later spread to the estuaries through smaller fishing vessels.

It's possible that tropical cyclone Ockhi, which struck the Kerala coast in 2017, may have triggered the spread of the 'Varathan Kakka' ('alien bivalve mollusk' in Malayalam) across the state by carrying it into new waters, the report said.

IPBES has referred to a study on this species conducted by A Biju Kumar, professor and Head of the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries in the Kerala University, along with Ravinesh R, his department colleague, Oliver PG from the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff, Tan SK from Lee Kong Chian National History Museum in Singapore, and Sadasivan K from Travancore Nature History Society.

This invasive species has spread across estuaries from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod. It has now started affecting the mussel aquaculture farms also in Kerala, lead au-

thor of the report, Biju Kumar A told PTI.

He said this edible mussel, smaller in size compared to that of native mussel species to Kerala, has caused mass displacement of the native variant.

The Caribbean false mussel reproduces rapidly and is very tolerant, and can even survive in freshwater. They grow in the similar habitats where our mussels grow and displace them massively, Biju Kumar said.

Controlling the spread of this species now would be impossible, the scientist added.

He said the only way to reduce the number would be to harvest as much as possible so that there would be stock replacement of our native species.

He said Kerala is yet to carry out an assessment regarding the economic loss to the fisheries sector due to the extensive spread of the invasive species and resultant displacement of the native variants.

"We only know that in most areas these invasive mussels are harvested and sold, instead of our native varieties. A full-scale economical impact assessment needs to be done," Biju Kumar said.

The IPBES report said more than 37,000 species have been introduced by many anthropogenic activities to regions and biomes around the world.

The conservative estimate is now rising at unprecedented rates. More than 3,500 of these are harmful invasive alien species-seriously threatening nature, nature's contribution to people, and good quality of life, the IPBES report said.

Approved Saturday in Bonn, Germany, by the representatives of 143 member states to IPBES, the report found that alongside dramatic changes to biodiversity and ecosystems, the global economic cost of invasive alien species exceeded USD 423 billion in 2019.





Shia Muslims take part in a 'Chehlum' procession taken out on the 40th day after Muharram, in New Delhi



An aerial view of the flooded town central in Fuzhou city in southeast China's Fujian province. A few people have been killed and thousands forced to evacuate by floods brought by tropical storm Haikui in China's southeastern coastal Fujian province



Sufi classical dancer Bina Mehta and her group members perform a dance on Janmashtami at Krishna temple in Ahmedabad, Gujarat



New Parliament building in New Delhi



Students perform in a street play to raise awareness on mental health ahead of World Suicide Prevention Day in Mumbai



Maratha Kranti Morcha members burn tyres on Pune-Solapur Highway while staging 'Rasta Roko' protest against the state government over 'Lathi' charge incident on protestors demanding Maratha Reservation in Solapur, Maharashtra



Director General of Indian Coast Guard Rakesh Pal with others during the 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) in Istanbul



A shepherd with a flock of sheep and goat in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

of the day quote

The world knows us as India. What happened suddenly that the name of the country needs to be changed?

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

People have waited for 75 years for one Modi to come and root out this colonial hangover. How can Modi ji be blamed for something done by (Jawahar) Nehru?

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER

Tourism is not just an industry. It is a window to our heritage and a testament to our hospitality

ANMOL GAGAN MAAN | PUNJAB TOURISM MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Parl session likely to begin in old building

New Delhi: The upcoming Parliament session September 18 is likely to begin in the old building and shift to the new structure the next day, officials said Wednesday. According to officials, the shift to the new Parliament building will coincide with Ganesh Chaturthi, considered auspicious to make new beginnings. They said the agenda for the week-long session of Parliament is expected to be finalised after the G20 Leaders' Summit from September 9-10.

2 terrorists killed as infiltration bid foiled

Jammu: Two terrorists were killed in a fierce gunfight with army soldiers Wednesday as the troops foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said. While the body of one terrorist has been recovered along with war-like stores, a search operation for the body of the second is underway, Jammu-based defence PRO Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said. He said the operation was launched after two terrorists were observed crossing the LoC on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday in the Mandi sub-sector of Poonch.

Six of family killed in TN road mishap

Salem: Six members of a family, including a one-year old girl child, were killed and two others injured here Wednesday after the van they travelled in rammed into a truck parked on one side of the road, police said. The vehicle with eight people including the driver met with the accident in the wee hours at Sankagiri. They were travelling from Kondalampatti here to Erode district. The van hit the stationary lorry and in the impact two women and three men died on the spot besides the child.

Grand-nephew of Netaji quits BJP

Kolkata: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grand-nephew Chandra Kumar Bose, who had been a leading face of the BJP in West Bengal, resigned from the primary membership of the party Wednesday. In his letter to the BJP's national President Jagat Prakash Nadda, a copy of which is available with IANS, Bose has claimed that he has chosen to take this critical step on a significant date for the Bose family "which is the 134th birth anniversary of my grandfather Sarat Chandra Bose, the elder brother Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

SC protects four members of EGI

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 6: In a relief to four members of the Editors Guild of India (EGI), the Supreme Court Wednesday directed the Manipur police not to take any coercive steps against them till September 11 in connection with two FIRs lodged for offences including promoting enmity between two communities.

On September 4, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh had said a police case had been filed on the basis of a complaint against the president and three members of the Editors Guild of India and accused them of trying to "provoke clashes" in the state.

A second FIR was also registered against the four members of the Guild, with the additional charge of defamation. "Till next date of listing, no coercive step shall be taken against the (four) petitioners in connection with the FIRs..." a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra ordered after a brief hearing.

The top court also sought the response of the state government on the plea filed by the Guild and fixed the matter for hearing Monday.

Initially, the bench was of the view that it will protect the EGI members against possible coercive State action for a limited period and, in the meantime, they can move the Manipur High Court for relief.

However, the bench later kept the case to itself after hearing senior advocate Shyam Divan who appeared for the journalists' body.

Giving details of the case, Divan said the Editors Guild had prepared a report after sending three of its members to the ground in Manipur.

"They (EGI members) went there for four days between August 7 and August 10, 2023

Top court dismisses PIL seeking steps to stop religious conversions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: The Supreme Court Wednesday refused to entertain a petition seeking a direction to the Centre to take steps to curb fraudulent religious conversions in the country. "Why should the court enter into this thicket? How can the court issue a writ of mandamus to the government," said a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

The lawyer, appearing for Karnataka-based PIL petitioner Jerome Anto, said Hindus and minorities are being targeted and they are being converted "fraudulently". "If there is a live challenge and someone is persecuted then we can entertain," the bench said.

EXPERTS WARN AGAINST BATCH SEGREGATION IN KOTA

Over 2.5 lakh students move to Kota annually to prepare for competitive exams such as the JEE for engineering and the NEET for admission to medical colleges

The year 2023 saw the highest number of student suicides -- 22 so far -- with two ending their lives in a gap of a few hours August 27

Last year, the figure was 15. Packed schedule, cut-throat competition, constant pressure to do better, burden of parents' expectations and homesickness are some of the common struggles of the students here

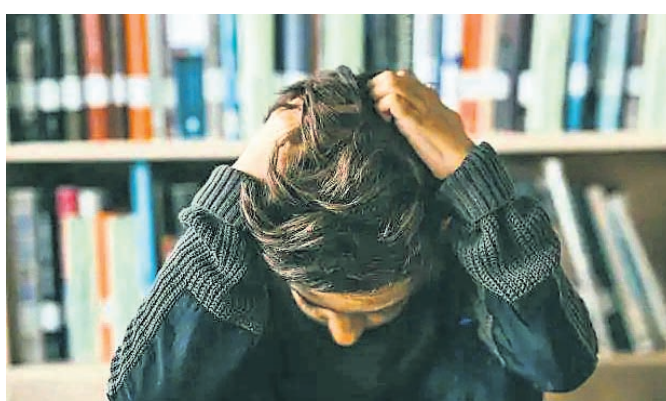
Experts suggest that naming and segregating batches with names like Star, Leader, Repeater, and Enthusiast, acts as a demotivating agent for students from the non-elite batches

THE SO-CALLED "KOTA FACTORY" HAS BECOME AN EPICENTRE OF DEBATE ABOUT VARIOUS FACTORS CAUSING STRESS AMONG STUDENTS, PROMPTING THEM TO TAKE THE EXTREME STEP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota (Rajasthan), Sept 6: Star, Leader, Dropper, Achiever, Repeater or Enthusiast - experts have warned coaching centres in Rajasthan's Kota not to segregate batches on these criteria as increasing students' suicides have become a cause for worry.

According to the district administration and psychological experts, the practice of dividing students into these batches and giving an obvious push to the "elite" batches, is a demotivating factor for other students and often gives them a feeling of defeat. District Collector OP Bunkar told PTI that the coaching institutes are being advised against



this "batch segregation". "The students are not apples and oranges that we can segregate them accordingly. Every student has different require-

ments and segregating them in batches is like stereotyping and leaves less scope of benefiting from each other," he said. "Star batch" is considered as

the best batch in all coaching institutes here which caters to the top performers. Best teachers, extra attention and focus, motivational classes, solving tricks sessions - are especially arranged for this batch and ultimately some of the students make it to the banners splashed across the country when results are out. For coaching institutes, star batch is their best bet and also the key for further business.

"Repeater" and "Dropper" batches are for students who have had made previous attempts at the exam and have taken a gap year in their study plan. "Achiever" batch is for students who have potential of doing better but are currently not per-

forming well and "Enthusiast" batch is for students who aspire to do well but have to improve a lot to achieve the feat.

"The moment you shift one student to a different batch on basis of his or her deteriorating performance, you are already telling the student that it is a lost battle. The confidence of the student takes a hit and at times they do not recover. The whole battle becomes about moving to the 'elite' batches and not the main exam. Sometimes when parents get to know about the 'downgrade' they put pressure on the student and the cycle never ends," said Neena Vijayavargia, psychiatrist at Health Mind Clinic.

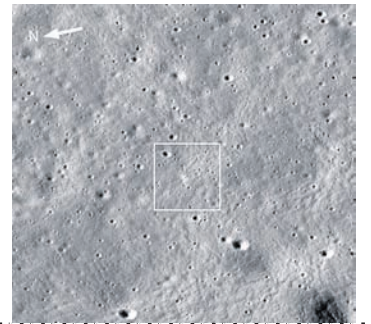
Let us all take a pledge to follow the path shown by Lord Krishna and contribute to strengthen our society and nation by moving forward with the spirit of well-being of humanity

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT OF INDIA



CHANDRAYAAN-3 OBSERVED BY NASA

US space agency NASA has released an image of Chandrayaan-3 lander 'Vikram' on the lunar surface, which was captured by its Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter spacecraft. The Chandrayaan-3 lander is in the centre of the image, and its dark shadow is visible against the bright halo surrounding the Vikram



Enthusiasts participate in a cycle rally as part of "Cyclothon - A cycle tour in the name of drug free Haryana", which will traverse through all districts in Gurugram, Haryana



Top court seeks report on recovery of arms from all sources

The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Manipur government and the law enforcement agencies to file a status report on the recovery of arms from "all sources" in the ethnic violence-hit state. The top court's direction assumes significance as submissions have been made in proceedings that besides illegal ones, a huge cache of arms and ammunition were stolen from police stations and army depots in the state.

and they published a report. The report is dated September 2, 2023 and there was a small error in the report which was corrected immediately September 3," he said in a statement.

The senior lawyer said two FIRs were lodged on the basis of the report alleging that "in correct and false statements" have been made in it which provokes enmity.

Earlier, the top court agreed to hear their plea, which was not listed, on an urgent basis during the day itself.

The initial complaint against the EGI president and its three members was filed by Ngangom Sarat Singh, a retired engineer who had worked for the state government. The second FIR was lodged by Sorokhaibam Thoudam Sangita of Khurai in Imphal East district.

NO AGENDA FOR PARL SESSION: SONIA TO MODI

The issues listed by Sonia Gandhi include Centre-state relations, rise in cases of communal tension, border transgressions by China and the demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to investigate the transactions of the Adani business group in light of several revelations

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 6: Congress leader Sonia Gandhi Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to point out that no agenda was listed for the special Parliament session and to raise nine issues, including violence in Manipur and price rise, for discussion during it.

"I must point out that this special session has been convened without any consultation with other political parties. None of us have any idea of its agenda. All we have been communicated is that all five days have been allocated for government business," Sonia Gandhi said in her letter.

"We most certainly want to participate in the Special Session because it will give us an op-



portunity to raise matters of public concern and importance. I earnestly hope that time will be allocated under the appropriate Rules for a discussion and debate on these issues," she said.

According to her party colleague Jairam Ramesh, this is the first time no agenda has been discussed or listed in the business of the House.

Seeking time to hold a discussion on the nine issues raised, Sonia wrote of the "continued agony faced by people of Manipur and breakdown of Constitutional machinery and social harmony in the State".

She also brought up the rise in communal tension in different states such as Haryana. Raising

the China issue, she listed the continued occupation of Indian territory by China and "challenges to our sovereignty on our borders in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh".

Sonia also raised the "urgent need for a caste census", a demand which the Congress and some other parties have been raising for quite some time.

Meanwhile, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi Sonia of trying to politicise the functioning of Parliament and create unnecessary controversy.

"It is very unfortunate that you are trying to politicise the functioning of Parliament, our temple of democracy, and create unnecessary controversy," the parliamentary affairs minister said in his response to Sonia Gandhi.

Joshi said the Parliament session has been convened from September 18 after following all established procedures. Political parties are never consulted before calling a Parliament session, he said in his letter to the Congress leader.

MANIPUR CRISIS

Protesters defy curfew, over 40 hurt in police crackdown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Sept 6: More than 40 people, mostly women, were injured after security forces fired several rounds of teargas shells to disperse thousands of protesters who tried to breach security barricades at Phougakchao Ikhai in Manipur's Bishnupur district Wednesday, officials said.



The injured have been rushed to Bishnupur district hospital and Moirang public health centre for treatment, they said.

Defying curfew, hundreds of locals came out of their houses at Oinam in Bishnupur district and squatted in the middle of a road around 2.30pm to block the movement of police and other central forces' personnel who were on their way to Phougakchao Ikhai from Imphal, officials said.

Around 11.40 am, protesters on way to Phougakchao Ikhai were stopped by state police forces which had put a barricade at Kwakta, around 2km away. Though police fired a few rounds of teargas shells, the protesters overran the barricade and proceeded towards Phougakchao Ikhai. No one was injured in the commotion, officials said.

Responding to the call of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) to storm army barricades at Phougakchao Ikhai, people had gathered in Bishnupur district demanding that those be pushed towards Churachandpur side. COCOMI had called upon the people to storm the barricades as their repeated requests to the government to remove those by August 30 had fallen on deaf ears.

G20 SUMMIT



ence. The ministers have been asked to ditch their official vehicles and use the shuttle service to reach the Bharat Mandapam and other venues of various meetings.

They were also told by the prime minister to let designated people speak on various matters pertaining to G20 issues and avoid speaking out of turn,

spoke positively of Sanatan Dharma's endurance over the millennia and asked ministers to strongly refute the suggestions made by opposition leaders. With opposition leaders accusing the government of violating the Constitution after Droupadi Murmu was addressed as the "President of Bharat" and Modi as the "Prime Minister of Bharat" in official communications recently, ministers were asked to avoid joining the debate.

Government sources have insisted that the Constitution itself refers to the country as India as well Bharat and accused opposition parties of stoking an unwarranted row over the matter. At the meeting, Modi asked ministers to download the G20 India mobile app and make best use of its translation and other features while conversing with foreign dignitaries, sources said.

international



North Korea will face consequences if it provides Russia with weaponry to fight its war against Ukraine
JAKE SULLIVAN | NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR, US

UK TARGETS WAGNER

Britain is set to ban Russian mercenary outfit the Wagner Group as a terrorist organisation, media reports said Tuesday, quoting Home Secretary Suella Braverman. The UK will make the Wagner Group a "proscribed" organisation under anti-terror laws, putting it on a par with Islamic State and al-Qaeda



of the day quote

No form of extremism is acceptable in the UK, and I take the duty of the government to disrupt and counter violent, divisive ideologies, whatever they may be, very seriously

Only together will we shake off the mildew of bureaucracy, risk aversion and despondency that has settled on our country over years and decades. We must clear the thicket of bureaucracy

It is a cruel reality that in many humanitarian operations, aid agencies are scraping along with very little funding right at a time when people's needs compel them to scale up

SHORT TAKES

iPhones banned in China for officials

Beijing: China has ordered officials at central government agencies to not use Apple's iPhones and other foreign-branded devices for work or bring them into the office, the Wall Street Journal reported Wednesday, citing people familiar with the matter. The orders were given by superiors to their staff in recent weeks and it wasn't clear how widely the orders were being distributed, the WSJ said. The ban comes ahead of an Apple event next week that analysts believe will be about launching a new line of iPhones, and could trigger concern among foreign companies operating in China as Sino-US tensions escalate.

Armenia- US drills concerns Russia

Moscow: Armenia said Wednesday it would host a joint military exercise with the United States next week, a development that Russia said was cause for concern. The Armenian Defence Ministry said the purpose of the September 11-20 "Eagle Partner 2023" exercise was to prepare its forces to take part in international peacekeeping missions. Despite the small scale of the exercise, the Kremlin said it would be watching closely. "Of course, such news causes concern, especially in the current situation. Therefore, we will deeply analyse this news and monitor the situation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

22 years in jail for Jan 6 rioter

Washington: A former leader of the right-wing Proud Boys group, Enrique Tarrio, was sentenced to 22 years in prison Tuesday for his role in the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol, the longest sentence so far in the case. US District Judge Timothy Kelly imposed the sentence on Tarrio, 39, of Miami, for his role in the riot by then-President Donald Trump's supporters.

Floods kill 12

Istanbul: The death toll from severe rainstorms that lashed parts of Greece, Türkiye and Bulgaria increased to 12 Wednesday after rescue teams in the three neighbouring countries recovered four more bodies. A flash flood at a campsite in north-western Türkiye near the border with Bulgaria killed at least four people — with two found dead Wednesday — and carried away bungalow homes.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Summer '23 hottest on record

Meteorologists say this summer's swelter was a global record breaker for high heat

AGENCIES

Geneva, Sept 6: The summer of 2023 was the hottest on record, according to data from the European Union Climate Change Service released Wednesday.

The three-month period from June through August surpassed previous records by a large margin, with an average temperature of 16.8 degrees Celsius (62.2F) - 0.66C above average.

Last month was the also the hottest August on record globally, the third straight month in a row to set such a record following the hottest ever June and July, the EU said Wednesday.

August is estimated to have been around 1.5 degrees Celsius hotter than the pre-industrial average for the 1850-1900 period. Pursuing efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius is a central pledge of the Paris international climate change agreement adopted by 196 countries in 2015.

July 2023 remains the hottest month ever recorded, while August's record makes the northern hemisphere's summer the hottest since records began in 1940.

In Europe, August was wetter than normal last month over large parts of central Europe and Scandinavia leading to flooding, while France, Greece, Italy and Portugal saw droughts that led to wildfires.



The dog days of summer are not just barking, they are biting. Climate breakdown has begun
ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

The average global temperature through the first eight months of 2023 is the second-warmest on record

So far, 2023 is the second hottest year on record, behind 2016, according to Copernicus.

Scientists blame ever warming human-caused climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas with an extra push from a natural El Nino, which is a temporary warming of parts of the Pacific Ocean that changes weather worldwide.

Usually an El Nino, which started earlier this year, adds extra heat to global temperatures but more so in its second year.

Climatologist Andrew Weaver said the numbers announced by

WMO and Copernicus come as no surprise, bemoaning how governments have not appeared to take the issue of global warming seriously enough. He expressed concern that the public will just forget the issue when temperatures fall again.

"It's time for global leaders to start telling the truth," said Weaver, a professor at the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria in Canada. "We will not limit warming to 1.5 C, we will not limit warming to 2.0 C. It's all hands on deck now to prevent 3.0 C global warming — a level of

Russian shelling kills 16, wounds dozens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kyiv, Sept 6: At least 16 people were killed and dozens were wounded Wednesday when Russian shelling struck a market in a city in eastern Ukraine, officials said.



aged about 30 pavilions at the outdoor market, Klymenko said. Crews searched the rubble for any trapped civilians.

Twenty shops, power lines, administrative building and the floor of an apartment building were damaged, according to the prosecutor general's office.

NEW FUNDING

Blinken's visit also was aimed at assessing Ukraine's 3-month-old counteroffensive and signal continued US backing as some Western allies express worries about Kyiv's slow progress in driving out Russian forces after 18 months of war, according to US officials.

"We want to make sure that Ukraine has what it needs, not only to succeed in the counteroffensive but has what it needs for the long-term, to make sure that it has a strong deterrent," Blinken said. "We're also determined to continue to work with our partners as they build and rebuild a strong economy, strong democracy."

Blinken was set to pledge more than \$1 billion in new US funding, a senior State Department official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in order to discuss the announcement before it was made.



Shi'ite Muslim pilgrims take part in a mourning ceremony, during the holy Shi'ite ritual of Arbaeen, in the holy city of Karbala, Iraq

ASEAN SUMMIT

REUTERS

Jakarta, Sept 6: Chinese Premier Li Qiang said Wednesday it is important to avoid a "new Cold War" when dealing with conflicts between countries as world leaders gathered in Indonesia amid sharpening geopolitical rivalries across the Indo-Pacific region.

Speaking at an annual summit involving members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China, Japan and South Korea, Li said countries needed to "appropriately handle differences and disputes".

"At present, it is very impor-

China warns against 'new Cold War'

China's Li warns against 'taking sides' Focus on disputes over South China Sea

tant to oppose taking sides, bloc confrontation and a new Cold War," Li told the meeting.

ASEAN, which has warned of the danger of getting dragged into major powers' disputes, is also holding wider talks with Li, US Vice President Kamala Harris and leaders of partner countries including Japan, South Korea, Australia and India.

Neither US President Joe Biden nor his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, is attending. High on the agenda at the gath-



erings in Jakarta is concern about China's increasingly assertive activity in the South China Sea, an important trade corridor in which several ASEAN members have claims that conflict with China. In remarks at the start of her

meeting with ASEAN leaders, Harris said the United States was committed to the region.

"The United States has an enduring commitment to Southeast Asia and more broadly to the Indo-Pacific," she said. Harris also said the United States would continue to press the Myanmar junta to end "horrific violence" that has erupted since a military coup in 2021.

The 10 members of ASEAN held their summit earlier in the week with leaders seeking to assert the bloc's relevance in the face of criticism it is failing to press Myanmar's military leaders to cooperate on a plan for peace.

G20 SUMMIT

INDIA WILL BECOME THE FIRST SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRY TO HOST THE G20 SUMMIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 6: India has arrived at the global high table and is positioning itself as a country that brings other nations together, according to experts.

In its capacity as the current president of G20, India is hosting the annual summit of the influential grouping in New Delhi September 9 and 10.

"This week India will host the G20, the first time a South Asian country has hosted this summit. India has long sought a place at the global high table and hosting these summits is symbolic that India has arrived," Aparna Pande, from the presti-

'India has arrived at global high table'

gious Hudson Institute think-tank, told PTI.

The year 2023 is the year of India when the world's most populous country and fastest-growing economy has enjoyed the global spotlight for over nine months, she said.

"In December 2022, India was president of the UN Security Council. In January 2023, India convened the Global South Summit, and in May 2023, India attended the G-7 and Quad summits in Japan," she added.

"In July, India hosted the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit and participated in the expansion of the BRICS summit in South Africa," Pande said.

India's G20 presidency couldn't have come at a better time, said MR Rangaswami, entrepreneur, philanthropist and founder of Indiaspora.

"India is an ascending global power, and is positioning itself as a country that brings other nations together, literally and



India is an ascending global power, and is positioning itself as a country that brings other nations together, literally and metaphorically

metaphorically," he told PTI. "India's growing strength and its diaspora's increasing visibility and impact across many different fields are mutually reinforcing and beneficial," Rangaswami said.

US President Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, German

Chancellor Olaf Scholz, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva are among the G20 leaders who have already confirmed their participation in the summit.

Modi will hand over the baton of the G20 Presidency to Brazilian President Lula

BIDEN TO VISIT INDIA TODAY

The key focus areas for President Joe Biden at the G20 Summit include delivering for developing nations, making progress on key issues like climate, technology and reshaping the multilateral development banks, the White House has said, expressing hope that the bloc will be able to make headway on those topics under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. On Thursday, President Biden will travel to New Delhi to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit. On Friday, President Biden will participate in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi and Saturday and Sunday, the President will participate in the official sessions of the G20 Summit.

RIGHT NATION AT RIGHT TIME: UK

India's diversity and its extraordinary successes means it is the "right country" at the "right time" to hold the G20 presidency, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said Wednesday, as he hailed Narendra Modi's leadership over the last year, noting that India's presidency of the bloc came when the world is facing innumerable challenges. In an exclusive interview to PTI just days ahead of the G20 summit here September 9-10, Sunak, the first Indian-origin prime minister of Britain, said the relationship between the UK and India will define the future of the two countries, even more than it is defining the present.

September 10. Brazil will formally assume the G20 Presidency October 1. The G20 member countries represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

The grouping comprises Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU).

business

of the day quote

The G20 presidency has helped India earn respect of other countries by focussing on inclusivity, digital infrastructure and efforts to bring in the African Union within the fold of the grouping

Suzuki is tackling to reduce greenhouse gas in ways that suit the situations of each country and region. In India, there is expectation for biogas which is said to have high reduction effects

Generative AI has the transformative power to bring conversational medicine to clinicians and patients alike

SHORT TAKES

EU targets 6 firms

London: The European Union Wednesday targeted Apple, Amazon, Microsoft, Google parent Alphabet, Facebook owner Meta and TikTok parent ByteDance under new digital rules aimed at reining in the market power of online companies. The six companies were classed as online "gatekeepers" that must face the highest level of scrutiny under the 27-nation bloc's Digital Markets Act. The act amounts to a list of do's and don'ts that seeks to prevent tech giants from cornering new digital markets, with the threat of whopping fines or even the possibility of a company breakup.

Strict vigil on masur

New Delhi: The government has directed traders, millers and importers of pulses to compulsorily disclose details about their stockholding of masur (lentil) as part of efforts to prevent market manipulation and control price rise. To ensure availability of all kinds of pulses at reasonable prices in the festive season, the government is "watching" the developments very closely and would initiate "stringent measures" to get the stock released into the market, according to Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh.

PepsiCo's 1st plant in NE

New Delhi: Leading beverage & food maker PepsiCo Wednesday said it will invest ₹778 crore to set up its first food manufacturing plant at Nalbari, in Assam. Spread over 44.2 acres, the plant is proposed to be operational in 2025 and aims to provide direct and indirect employment opportunities to 500 people from Assam, said a statement from PepsiCo. This is the first investment in the North Eastern region by the company with portfolio of beverages and food brands, including Pepsi, 7UP, Mountain Dew, Slice, Tropicana, Mirinda, Lay's, Kurkure, Uncle Chips and Quaker Oats.

Tata Steel, ABB India ink MoU

New Delhi: Automation company ABB India and Tata Steel have partnered to jointly work on technologies for reducing the carbon footprint of steel production. The steelmaker has a medium-term target to reduce carbon emissions to less than two tonnes of CO₂ per tonne of crude steel in its Indian operations by 2025, ABB India said in a statement.

Market cap of BSE-listed cos at fresh peak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms reached a new lifetime peak of ₹317.33 lakh crore Wednesday as the benchmark Sensex maintained its winning run for the fourth day running.

Fag-end buying helped the BSE Sensex climb 100.26 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at 65,880.52. In four days, the benchmark index has jumped 1,049.11 points or 1.61 per cent.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed firms hit a fresh peak of ₹317,33,804.37 crore at the end of trade. Investors' wealth also climbed ₹7,74,665.67 crore in four days of market rally.

"Markets witnessed a choppy ride in intra-day trade but selective buying in late trade helped benchmark indices log gains for the 4th straight session," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

The rupee depreciated by 9 paise and settled at its all-time low level of 83.13 against the US dollar Wednesday, weighed down by a surge in crude oil prices and strong American currency.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, Titan, UltraTech Cement, ITC, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the major gainers. Tata Steel, Axis Bank, NTPC, ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank were the major laggards.

TCS, JLR expand partnership with over \$1bn deal

REUTERS

Bangalore, Sept 6: India's Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Britain's Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) have expanded their partnership, valued at more than \$1 billion over five years, the two Tata Group companies said Wednesday.

As part of the partnership, India's top IT services exporter would deliver a range of services for the vehicle manufacturer spanning application development and maintenance to cloud migration, cybersecurity and data services.

JLR and TCS are longstanding partners, collaborating on various fronts since 2012.

Over the last few months, top IT services companies in India have secured a handful of multi-million and billion-dollar deals and contract renewals amid worries of client spending cuts in the key United States and European markets.

FinMin tightens PMLA rules

Finance Ministry brings partners with 10% stake under its purview



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: The finance ministry has tightened the anti-money laundering rules by bringing in partners holding 10 per cent stake in a firm, as against 15 per cent earlier, under the definition of beneficial owners.

The ministry has amended the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005, which also provides for management-level functionalary as 'Principal Officer' responsible for providing information to the financial intelligence unit.

The amendment also said that in the case of a trust, the reporting entity shall ensure that trustees disclose their status at the time of commencement of an



Fintech players need to evolve industry best practices, privacy and data protection norms in sync with the law of the land

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

UK'S 2ND BIGGEST CITY GOES BANKRUPT

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HAS ISSUED A SECTION 114 NOTICE TO SAY THAT ALL NEW EXPENDITURES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND STATUTORY SERVICES WILL STOP IMMEDIATELY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 6: The local authorities running Britain's second-largest city, Birmingham, have shifted focus on maintaining vital services as they declared the council effectively bankrupt due to an annual budgetary shortfall of millions of pounds.

Birmingham City Council, which is run by the Opposition Labour Party and is the largest local authority in Europe comprising over 100 councillors, issued a Section 114 notice Tuesday to say that all new expenditures with the exception of protecting vulnerable people and statutory services will stop immediately.

The council said the dire fi-

ancial situation arose as it must fund an "equal pay liability" that has accrued to date in the region of GBP 650 million to GBP 760 million, but it does not have the resources to do so.

"On that basis, the Council's Interim Director of Finance, Fiona Greenway, has issued a report under section 114(3) of the Local Government Act, which confirms that the Council has insufficient resources to meet the equal pay expenditure and currently does not have any other means of meeting this liability," the council statement reads.

"The Council will tighten the spend controls already in place and put them in the hands of the Section 151 Officer to ensure there is complete grip. The notice means all new spending,



It is no secret that local authorities up and down the country have faced significant cuts over the past decade - even if the funding from government has been improving in recent years - and it has been a real challenge to keep services running to the standard that people expect

ANDY STREET | MAYOR, WEST MIDLANDS

with the exception of protecting vulnerable people and statutory services, must stop immediately," it adds.

The UK government's Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) said it had been "engaging regularly" with the coun-

cil in recent months over the "pressures it faces" and had "expressed serious concern over its governance arrangements".

"We have requested written assurances from the leader of the council that any decision regarding the council's issues over equal pay represents the

best value for taxpayers' money," DLUHC said.

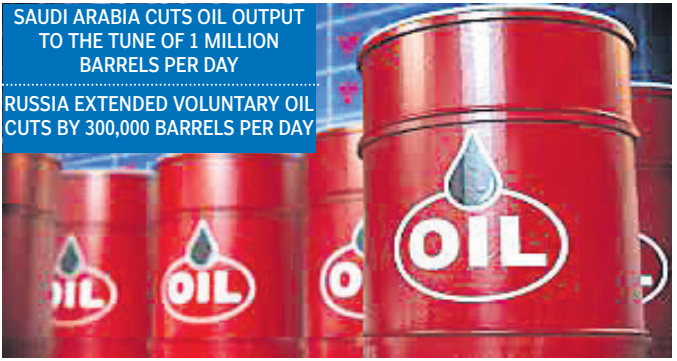
Andy Street, the Mayor of the West Midlands region which covers Birmingham, said the news was "deeply disturbing" for residents and called for an "inquisition" into what had happened.

Birmingham Council has paid out almost GBP 1.1 billion in equal pay claims since a landmark case was brought against the authority in 2012. The UK Supreme Court ruled in favour of 174 mostly female employees - working in roles such as teaching assistants, cleaners and catering staff - who had missed out on bonuses, which were given to staff in traditionally male-dominated roles such as refuse collectors and street cleaners.

FIRST TIME IN 2023

Oil just shy of \$90

The development reduces chances of a petrol, diesel price change in India



SAUDI ARABIA CUTS OIL OUTPUT TO THE TUNE OF 1 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY
RUSSIA EXTENDED VOLUNTARY OIL CUTS BY 300,000 BARRELS PER DAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Oil prices hit a 10-month high of nearly \$90 per barrel as Saudi Arabia and Russia extended their voluntary production and export cuts until the end of the year.

For a nation that is more than 85 per cent dependent on imports for its oil needs, the surge in prices means India will have to shell out more and the prospect of returning to market-driven petrol and diesel prices in the near future diminished further.

Brent crude prices surged around 6.5 per cent over the past week after Saudi Arabia, which leads the expanded OPEC+ cartel with Russia, decided to keep its one million barrels a day reduction in supplies to the global market until the end of December. Russia has added its own voluntary export cuts in recent months.

On Wednesday, Brent was trading at \$89.67 per barrel.

The basket of crude oil that

India imports has averaged \$89.81 per barrel this month, up from \$86.43 in August, according to oil ministry data. The Indian basket was hovering in the range of \$73-75 per barrel in May and June, rekindling hopes for a return to market-based pricing and a reduction in petrol and diesel prices.

But rates spurt to \$80.37 per barrel in July and now to near \$90.

"Public sector oil companies had been recouping losses they incurred for holding rates when crude oil prices shot through the roof last year. In May, international oil prices and retail pump rates had come at par. But now with the prices rising, the difference between cost and retail prices will reappear," an industry official said.

India imports 85 per cent of its oil needs and its fuel pricing is indexed to international rates.

Petrol and diesel prices have been on a freeze for a record 17 months in a row. Petrol costs ₹96.72 per litre in the national capital and diesel comes for ₹89.62 a litre.

State-owned fuel retailers are supposed to revise petrol and diesel prices daily based on a 15-day rolling average of benchmark international fuel prices but they haven't done that since April 6, 2022.

Prices were last changed May 22 when the government cut excise duty to give relief to consumers from a spike in retail rates that followed a surge in international oil prices.

Sources said if international oil prices had stayed around \$73-74 a barrel range, oil companies would have re-started daily price revision.

Higher prices would mean domestic producers like the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) get a higher price. However, the incremental revenues are likely to be ploughed by the government in the form of a windfall profit tax.

The tax, levied in the form of Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED), on domestically produced crude oil was reduced to ₹6,700 per tonne starting September 2, from ₹7,100 a tonne previously.

A windfall tax is levied on domestic crude oil if rates of the global benchmark rise above \$75 per barrel.

Crude oil pumped out of the ground and from below the seabed is refined and converted into fuels like petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel.

Altigreen's first-ever experience centre in City



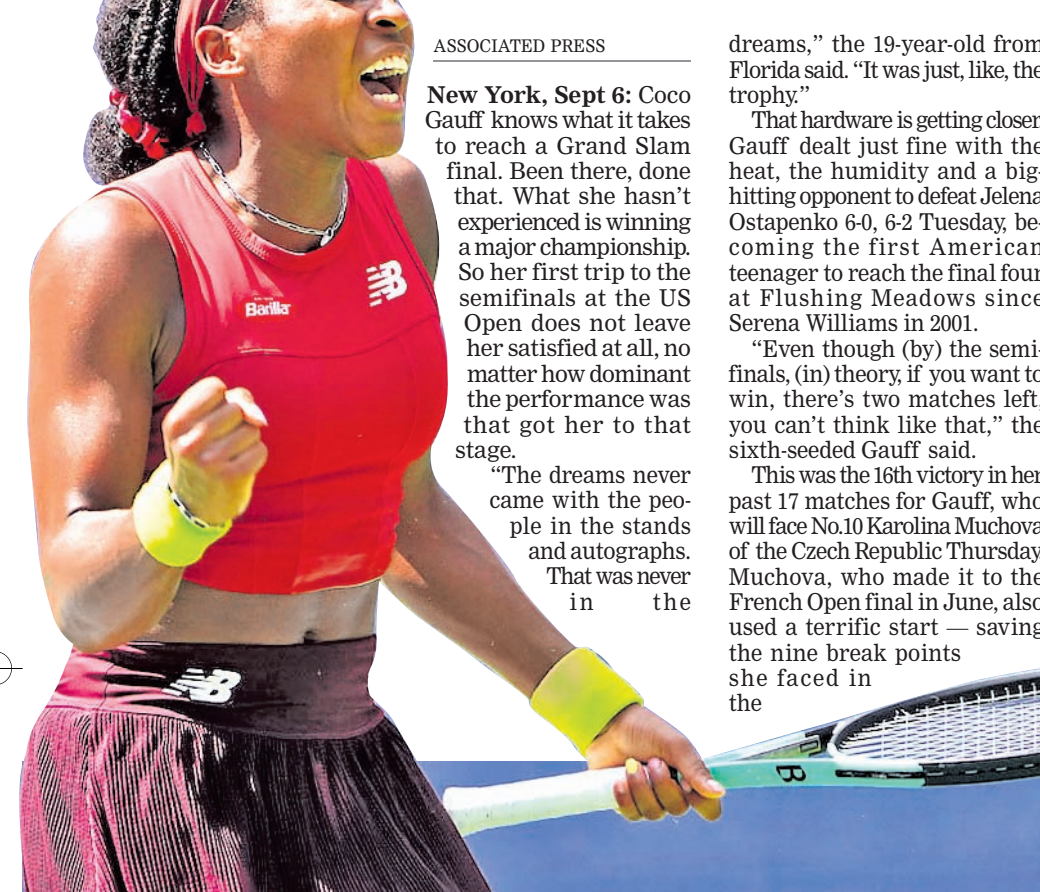
Bhubaneswar: India's leading commercial electric vehicle maker Altigreen today inaugurated its first ever brand-new retail experience centre in Bhubaneswar. For the partnership, Altigreen opted to partner with Jyote - one of the most reliable and experienced names in the industry. The experience centre - "Altigreen Showroom - Jyote" will allow EV enthusiasts to access Altigreen's range of electric cargo vehicles. The new showroom is located at Puri Bypass Road, Bhubaneswar. The centre in Bhubaneswar was launched by Amitabh Saran, CEO & Founder of Altigreen. Established in 1996, Jyote Motors is the most popular chain of automobile showrooms in Odisha that vouches for its quality in terms of service, product, delivery, and being the single point of contact for the customer to put their needs into motion. Its diverse portfolio includes an extensive range of renowned auto-brands like Audi, Maruti Suzuki Arena, NEXA, TVS two-wheelers, Suzuki Motorcycles, Harley-Davidson Motorcycles and a pipeline of tech-enabled service stations enabling us to clinch the top spot in market leaderboard. Altigreen is the newest feather in this illustrious cap of Jyote Motors.

Lavie opens first exclusive store in Utkal Kanika Galleria mall

Bhubaneswar: Lavie, a leading name in fashion accessories, is delighted to announce the grand opening of its first exclusive store in Utkal Kanika Galleria mall, Bhubaneswar. This marks a significant milestone for Lavie as it expands its presence to cater to the style-conscious residents of Bhubaneswar and beyond. The Lavie store is a haven for fashion enthusiasts seeking the latest trends in handbags, sling bags, wallets, clutches, backpacks, duffle bags and other chic accessories. The brand's products are renowned for their quality, craftsmanship, and contemporary designs that appeal to a diverse range of tastes. "We are thrilled to bring Lavie's exclusive handbag collection in Bhubaneswar," said Suman Chaki, Branch Manager of Lavie. "Our goal is to provide customers with a premium shopping experience and a wide array of stylish options to express their individuality." The new Lavie store at Utkal Kanika Galleria mall features a spacious and inviting layout, ensuring that shoppers can browse and select their favourite pieces with ease. The grand opening celebration will include exclusive discounts, exciting giveaways, and special promotions for the early bird shoppers. The franchisee owner of Lavie, Rajalakshmi Sahu said, "We are thrilled to welcome the wonderful people of Bhubaneswar to our new store".



MAIDEN US OPEN SEMIFINAL FOR 19-YEAR-OLD, WHILE DJOKOVIC ALSO MAKES IT TO LAST FOUR STAGE AT FLUSHING MEADOWS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 6: Coco Gauff knows what it takes to reach a Grand Slam final. Been there, done that. What she hasn't experienced is winning a major championship. So her first trip to the semifinals at the US Open does not leave her satisfied at all, no matter how dominant the performance was that got her to that stage.

"The dreams never came with the people in the stands and autographs. That was never in the

dreams," the 19-year-old from Florida said. "It was just, like, the trophy."

That hardware is getting closer: Gauff dealt just fine with the heat, the humidity and a big-hitting opponent to defeat Jelena Ostapenko 6-0, 6-2 Tuesday, becoming the first American teenager to reach the final four at Flushing Meadows since Serena Williams in 2001.

"Even though (by) the semifinals, (in) theory, if you want to win, there's two matches left, you can't think like that," the sixth-seeded Gauff said.

This was the 16th victory in her past 17 matches for Gauff, who will face No.10 Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic Thursday. Muchova, who made it to the French Open final in June, also used a terrific start — saving the nine break points she faced in the

COCO ROLLS INTO SEMIS

opening set, all in one game — to get past No.30 Sorana Cirstea of Romania 6-0, 6-3 at night.

For Gauff, a first-round exit at Wimbledon in July sure feels like ages ago. She reached the final at Roland Garros last year, but lost that title match to Iga Swiatek; they could have met again in the US Open quarterfinals.

But Swiatek didn't make it, instead losing to Ostapenko in the fourth round. That defeat not only ended Swiatek's title defense but also meant she will relinquish her spot at No.1 in the WTA rankings to Aryna Sabalenka next week.

Ostapenko complained that she had a short turnaround because that Swiatek victory ended so late and then the Gauff match was so early — it began shortly after noon, with the temperature at 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 Celsius) and the humidity above 50%, prompting a rule change about the use of the roofs on the two largest arenas.

Djokovic routs Fritz
In Tuesday's first men's quarterfinal, played with the Arthur Ashe Stadium roof partly closed, 23-time major champion Novak Djokovic of Serbia defeated No.9 Taylor Fritz of the United States 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

Djokovic next meets No.10 Frances Tiafoe or unseeded Ben

Shelton, who joined Fritz in making this the first time since 2005 that three US Men were in the final eight in New York.

Shelton tops Tiafoe
Ben Shelton is still just 20, still new to this whole professional tennis thing. He is equipped with a tremendously good serve, but don't think he can't come through in other ways when it matters the most.

On a muggy night in which, yes, he hit 14 aces but also hit 11 double-faults, Shelton used one blink-and-you-missed-it booming return to save a set point in the pivotal tie-breaker and reached his first Grand Slam semifinal by edging Frances Tiafoe 6-2, 3-6, 7-6(9-7), 6-2 at the US Open in a back-and-forth contest filled with huge hitting by both. Shelton will face Djokovic Friday for a berth in the final.

The matchup, which began in Arthur Ashe Stadium Tuesday evening and ended after midnight on Wednesday, was the first major quarterfinal between two African-American men in the Open era, which dates to 1968.

It was also the first US Open quarterfinal since 2005 between two men from the host country, which hasn't claimed a Slam trophy in men's singles since Andy Roddick won at Flushing Meadows two years prior to that.

Heat forces organisers to partially close arena roofs



ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 6: It got so hot and humid at the US Open on Tuesday that the folks in charge adopted a new policy for the rest of this year's tournament: They will partially shut the Arthur Ashe Stadium roof in extreme conditions to offer some extra shade.

The temperature climbed above 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 Celsius) and the humidity topped 50% Tuesday, making it the steamiest day of the two-week Grand Slam tournament in Flushing Meadows.

The change to the roof policy was made during Coco Gauff's 6-0, 6-2 victory over Jelena Ostapenko, when the conditions crossed a threshold for protecting players in the heat, but that match was over too quickly to adjust the retractable cover, tournament referee Jake Garner told this agency. The new policy is "in the best interest of fans and players," Garner said.

An Associated Press analysis showed the average high temperatures felt during the US Open and the three other major tennis tournaments steadily have gotten higher and more dangerous in recent decades, reflecting the climate change that created record heat waves around the globe this summer. For athletes, it can keep them from playing their best and, worse, increases the likelihood of

heat-related illness. The forecast calls for even hotter temperatures in the coming days; the tournament ends Sunday.

The roof on Louis Armstrong Stadium was pulled shut some of the way after the first set of a women's doubles quarterfinal with Magda Linette and Bernarda Pera against Jennifer Brady and Luisa Stefani.

"What went into today was we're at a point in the tournament where all singles matches are on Ashe, so we felt we could comfortably put into a place a practice that was the same for all singles matches," Garner said.

"As the temperature and the forecast were continuing to rise, we convened and made the decision that for 2023, our policy will be when the heat rule ... Comes in, we will partially close the roof at the next set break."

The heat rule allows for a longer break between sets in singles matches when a reading that takes into account temperature and other facts crosses above 30.1 C (86.2 F).

The US Tennis Association said the decision was made by Garner; he said tournament management and medical staff were involved in the discussions. "The immediate impact is specifically that more fans were shaded," Garner said, "and at the same time, the decision to close the roof puts the court in full shade, which does improve the conditions on court."

BOPANNA-EBDEN PAIR REACHES SEMIFINALS

NEW YORK: Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden saved seven set points in the opening set before downing Nathaniel Lammons and Jackson Withrow to move to the US Open men's doubles semifinals, their second straight last-four appearance in Grand Slams this year. The sixth seeded Indo-Australian pair beat the American combo 7-6(12-10), 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the hard court major. The 43-year-old Indian now has the opportunity to secure a place in a Grand Slam men's doubles final for the second time in his career. Up against the sixth seeds is now the French pair of Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut, who beat American Robert Galloway and Albano Olivetti from France in the other quarterfinal.

SHORT TAKES

India men paddlers sign off with bronze

Pyeongchang (South Korea): The Indian men's table tennis team signed off with a bronze medal after going down 0-3 to Chinese Taipei in the Asian Championships semifinal here Wednesday. In a disappointing display, both veteran Sharath Kamal and the experienced G Sathiyar surrendered meekly to their higher-ranked opponents while Harmeet Desai showed the stomach for a fight. Sharath was handed a 6-11, 6-11, 9-11 defeat by Chuang Chih-Yuan, ranked 26th, while Sathiyar went down 5-11, 6-11, 10-12 to World No.7 Lin Yun-Ju as the third-seeded Indian team trailed 0-2. Harmeet gave India some hope as he took a game off Kao Cheng-Jui. But the World No.33 sealed the tie for Chinese Taipei, seeded second, with 11-6, 11-7, 7-11, 11-9 win.

Career-best rankings

DUBAI: Riding on their exploits at the ongoing Asia Cup, young India opener Shubman Gill and wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan have achieved career-best ratings in the latest ICC ODI Rankings released Wednesday. Gill has broken into the top three among batters, attaining the third spot with 750 rating points. He is trailing second-placed Rassie van der Dussen of South Africa by 27 points. Kishan, on the other hand, has risen 12 places to the 24th spot with 624 rating points. Pakistan skipper Babar Azam continues to lead the chart with 882 rating points. Among the bowlers, pacer Mohammed Siraj is the highest-ranked Indian in eighth place with 652 rating points.

Floodlights malfunction

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board, Wednesday, was left reeling after a floodlight malfunctioning led to a 20-odd minute stoppage during the Asia Cup match between the hosts and Bangladesh. After bowling Bangladesh out for 193, Pakistan were 15 for no loss in five overs when light in one of the towers installed at the Gaddafi Stadium went off. The exact reason for the malfunction wasn't known but the match had to be halted for a good 20-minute period. Finally, the bulbs on the tower started glowing once again and the players were back on the field for the proceedings to start.

Indian challenge ends after Satwik-Chirag duo bows out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Changzhou (China), Sept 6: Commonwealth Games men's doubles champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty suffered an opening-round defeat in the China Open Super 1000 tournament, going down in three games to Indonesia's Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Maulana Bagas here Wednesday.

The Indian pair, ranked two, lost to the World No.13 duo 17-21, 21-11, 17-21 in one hour eight minutes. The Indian mixed doubles pair of Sikki Reddy and Rohan Kapoor also crashed out of the tournament, going down to the Malaysian duo of Chen Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei 15-21, 16-21 in the first round.

With the defeats, the Indian challenge came to an end as no shuttler from the country could advance to the second round of

the tournament.

The loss in the opening round just ahead of the Asian Games would be a huge disappointment for Satwik and Chirag after their success in the Swiss Open Super 300, Korea Open and the Indonesia Open Super 1000 earlier this year.

This is the second time the Indonesians have beaten the Satwik-Chirag pair this year. They had defeated the Indian duo in the pre-quarterfinals of the Thailand Open in June.

World Championship bronze medallist HS Prannoy too had made a shock opening-round exit Tuesday after going down in three games to Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong. Reigning Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen had also crashed out of the tournament in the first round after losing to Anders Antonsen of Denmark in three games.

Rauf, Imam shine as Pak beat Bangla

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore, Sept 6: Haris Rauf bowled a couple of hostile spells, while Imam-ul-Haq struck a silken 78 (84b, 5x4, 4x6) as Pakistan secured a comfortable seven-wicket victory over Bangladesh in a Super Four clash of the Asia Cup, here Wednesday.

Rauf (4/19) proved to be too quick for the Bangladeshi batters, who were also troubled relentlessly by Naseem Shah (3/34) after Shakib Al Hasan opted to bat.

Bangladesh were eventually bundled out for a paltry 193 in just 38.4 overs, despite a 100-run stand and twin half-centuries by Shakib (53, 57b, 7x4) and former captain Mushfiqur Rahim (64, 87b, 5x4).

The target was never going to pose a problem for the hosts, who knocked it off in just 39.3 overs. Even though Fakhar



Haris Rauf reacts after dismissing a Bangladeshi batter, Wednesday

Zaman's lean patch continued and Babar Azam was played on by a delivery from Taskin Ahmed that kept low, southpaw Imam anchored the innings in company of Mohammad Rizwan (63 n o, 79b, 7x4, 1x6). The duo added 85

runs for the third wicket and ensured that there are no hiccups in the chase.

Earlier, Bangladesh suffered two batting collapse — first they were reduced to 47/4 during the first powerplay and again lost six

wickets for 47 runs between overs 30 to 39.

The trouble started in the second over as last match's centurion Mehidy Hasan Miraj (0) got out. Mohammed Naim (20) and Litton Das (16) hit a flurry of boundaries, before Shaheen Shah Afridi (1/42) broke the stand getting rid of Das. After that Rauf had Naim. Towhid Hridoy (2) didn't measure up as Rauf castled him.

Shakib and Mushfiqur then steadied the ship but the top-order failure left them with too much to do. Once Shakib was holed out in the deep off Faheem Ashraf (1/27), Bangladesh's innings derailed.

BRIEF SCORES: Bangladesh 193 (Mushfiqur Rahim 64, Shakib Al Hasan 53; Haris Rauf 4/19, Naseem Shah 3/34) lost to Pakistan 194/3 (Imam-ul-Haq 78, Mohammad Rizwan 63 n o; Shoriful Islam 1/24) by 7 wickets.

Tennis grapples with a fuzzy yellow recycling problem

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 6: Tennis has a fuzzy yellow problem most players don't think about when they open can after can of fresh balls, or when umpires at US Open matches make their frequent requests for "new balls please."

Because tennis balls are extremely hard to recycle and the industry has yet to develop a ball to make that easier, nearly all of the 330 million balls made worldwide each year eventually get chucked in the garbage, with most ending up in landfills, where they can take more than 400 years to decompose.

It's a situation highlighted by Grand Slam events like Flushing Meadows, which will go through nearly 100,000 balls over the course of the tournament.

That harsh reality in an age of heightened environmental awareness has sent ball makers, recyclers and the game's worldwide governing body scrambling for solutions, and spurred sustainability activists to sound the alarm in online posts that pose

the question: Are tennis balls a disaster for the planet?

"Tennis balls, like a lot of objects, are made to be indestructible, which means they're very resistant to mechanical processing," said Nickolas J Themelis, director of Columbia University's Earth Engineering Center. "But do you take a useful object that lasts forever and say people shouldn't use it because it lasts forever? That's nonsense."

Themelis and other experts note that tennis balls make up a tiny fraction of the hundreds of millions of tons of garbage produced every year, and the keys with all difficult-to-recycle materials are finding ways to extend their useful life through other purposes and taking care in their ultimate disposal to keep them out of the environment.

"Anyone who would say you shouldn't play tennis because of the tennis balls is misinformed," said Jason Quinn, director of Colorado State University's Sustainability Research Laboratory. "In terms of the impact, it's a blip on the radar. And



there are things you can do to reuse and repurpose tennis balls to lessen the impact."

Among them are efforts by nonprofits and others to go beyond just using old balls for dog toys and the bottom of chairs. That includes collecting balls in bulk and grinding them down into material that is used to make products including the footing for horse arenas and — in a bit of perfect symmetry — tennis courts.

But experts and environmentalists question whether

those initiatives are viable enough to make a dent, and they say such efforts don't address the underlying problem of a lack of a fully recyclable tennis ball, or the factors that make balls particularly troublesome.

At the top of the list is the tennis ball design — substantially unchanged since the advent of pressurized balls in the 1920s — consisting of a felt covering glued to a hollow, air-filled rubber core.

The biggest barrier to recycling the rubber in the ball is the difficulty of removing the felt

from the rubber core because of the tight glue designed to hold that cover on when it's thwacked by a racket. And the felt is also a problem: a blended combination of wool and nylon that cannot be recycled.

What's more, the core of most top-level tennis balls — such as the Wilson US Open extra-duty model in play at Flushing Meadows — is only made from newly created, virgin rubber, which activists say leads to deforestation of rubber trees in the Amazon.

Another issue carbon-footprint-wise are the places most balls are made — Thailand and China — because those balls have to be shipped thousands of miles to reach North America and Europe, where most of the world's tennis is played.

Seeking to tackle these problems is the International Tennis Federation, which certifies tennis balls and sanctions competitions around the world. It launched a technical working group last year made up of manufacturers, officials from other tennis governing bodies and recyclers

with an ambitious set of goals.

"We want to try and identify ways of making the consumption pattern more sustainable and the product more sustainable as well," said Jamie Capel-Davies, the ITF's technical head who works out of the federation's lab in London.

"The overall strategy is to use the waste hierarchy," Davies said. "First of all, to try and reduce the number of balls that are being used. Then reuse balls as best we can. Recycling is third. And then disposing of balls is right at the bottom, the least desirable."

A positive on the recycling front are nonprofits taking on the task of collecting and repurposing tennis balls, most notably Vermont-based RecycleBalls, which says it is on pace to collect 3 million tennis balls this year from across the US and Canada.

RecycleBalls distributes collection boxes at hundreds of tennis clubs, city parks, colleges and tournaments, where used balls can be shipped post-paid to the organization's warehouse to be sorted for a variety of uses.