



UNWARRANTED ATTENTION

Katrina Kaif has been brutally trolled by netizens for allegedly going under the knife for a lip job

LEISURE P2



ADITYA L1 SELFIE OUT

ISRO releases a 'selfie' and images of the Earth and the Moon taken by the camera on-board Aditya-L1 solar mission spacecraft

NATIONAL P9



INDIA LOSE TO IRAQ

A debatable penalty leads to India's loss against a higher-ranked Iraq via penalty shootout in the Kings Cup

SPORTS P12

Biden arrives today for G20

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden are set to hold bilateral talks with a focus on further solidifying the India-US comprehensive global and strategic partnership upon the latter's arrival in New Delhi Friday evening.

The US President is visiting New Delhi to attend the G20 summit that is being held September 9 and 10. It will be his first visit to India as the US President.

The last US President to visit India was Donald Trump in February 2020. Biden is scheduled to arrive in New Delhi Friday evening and will leave for Vietnam Sunday afternoon at the end of the G20 summit.

'Last rites' for love marriage

AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Sept 7: In a bizarre turn of events, family members of a 20-year-old girl here publicly declared their living daughter dead and performed her post-death rituals Thursday to protest her marriage against their wishes.

Dipanjali Mallick, 20, daughter of Muna Mallick of Demal under Aul police limits, married her boyfriend Rajendra Mallick, 23, in a temple August 28.

Infuriated over their daughter defying their decision, the parents took to the extreme step by severing ties with her and pronouncing her dead.

"Our daughter had eloped with Rajendra. We lodged an FIR against him with Aul police. Police handed over our daughter after tracing her. But she rebelled and married Rajendra in temple. It deeply hurt us and tarnished our dignity. We performed obsequies and organised 'Dasaha Bhoji'. For all practical purposes, she's dead for us," said Muna Mallick, the girl's father.

"I've attained marriageable age. I made the right decision," said Dipanjali.

The groom's parents are quite glad on the arrival of the daughter-in-law.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



See, how much we've progressed. G20 delegates will be served in gold utensils



TOUCHING HEIGHTS: A 'Govinda' dives to break the 'Dahi Handi' tied above a well at Kurdu, on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami, in Alibaug of Maharashtra, Thursday

PTI PHOTO

JAPAN JOINS LUNAR RACE

AGENCIES

Tokyo, Sept 7: Japan launched its lunar exploration spacecraft Thursday aboard a homegrown H-IIA rocket, clearing a path to become the world's fifth country to land on the Moon early next year.

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said the rocket took off from Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan as planned and successfully released the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM). Unfavourable weather led to three postponements in a week last month.

Dubbed the 'moon sniper', Japan aims to land SLIM within 100 metres of its target site on the lunar surface. The \$100-million mission is expected to reach the Moon by February.

The launch comes two weeks after India became the fourth nation to successfully land a spacecraft on the Moon with its Chandrayaan-3 mission to the unexplored lunar south pole.

Two earlier lunar landing attempts by Japan failed in the last year. JAXA lost contact with the OMOTENASHI lander and scrubbed an attempted landing in November. The Hakuto-R Mission 1 lander, made by Japanese startup ispace, crashed in April as it attempted to descend to the lunar surface.

Cong plays safe

The grand old party distances itself from comments by leaders of ally DMK on Sanatan Dharma

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 7: In a major disappointment to the DMK which finds itself in the eye of a storm following party leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's remarks on Sanatan Dharma which was seconded by A Raja, the Congress Thursday said it believes in 'Sarvadharm Sambhav' and asserted that every single member of the INDIA alliance has immense respect for all faiths, communities and beliefs.

The assertion came amid a political row after DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin blamed Sanatan Dharma for promoting division and discrimination among people and said it should be eradicated. Also, DMK leader A Raja reportedly said Sanatan Dharma should be compared to diseases such as AIDS and leprosy that have a 'social stigma' attached to them.

Asked about comments by leaders of ally DMK, Congress' spokesperson Pawan Khera said, "The Congress has always be-

PLEA TO BOOK DMK LEADERS

As a hugely divisive debate raged over Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's 'eradicate Sanatan Dharma' remark, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court Thursday, seeking its direction for registration of an FIR against him. The petitioner has also sought an FIR against DMK leader and former union minister A Raja for his comments on Sanatan Dharma. **MORE P9**

lieved in 'Sarvadharm Sambhav' wherein every religion, every faith has its space. No one can treat any particular faith as less than another faith."

Every single member of the INDIA alliance has immense respect for all faiths, communities and beliefs, he added.

"Neither the Constitution allows this nor the Indian National Congress believes in any of these comments," Khera said during a press conference at the AICC headquarters here.

"If you know the history of the Indian National Congress you would know that we have always maintained (this stand) and you will find the same principles in the Constituent Assembly debates and the Constitution of India. There can never be a rethink on the Constitution as far as the Congress is concerned," he said. Pressed further as to why the Congress had not condemned the remarks, Khera said, "I just said we do not agree with such comments."

Asked if the Congress would raise this with its ally DMK, Khera said, "There is no need to raise these issues because we know for a fact that each one of our constituents also respects every religion."

"Now if you want to twist anybody's remarks, they are free to do so. If it suits the PM let him twist those remarks but every single member of the INDIA alliance has immense respect for all faiths, communities, beliefs and religions," he said.

DRI SEIZES 2.4 KG GOLD

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) under Ministry of Finance has seized 2.465 kg foreign origin gold biscuits worth over several crores of rupees reportedly from a businessman here, an official said Thursday.

Following some intelligence inputs, the DRI sleuths carried out raids on the premises of the accused in the City September 4 and 5. Later, the accused businessman was arrested and remanded to judicial custody, said the official.

"During the proceedings, 2.465 kg of foreign marked gold in the form of biscuits and Ten Tola bars were recovered. Investigations revealed that the gold was illegally smuggled into the country. Accordingly, the gold has been seized and one person arrested in terms of the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962," DRI sources revealed, Thursday.

The DRI had earlier seized 13 kg gold worth ₹4.99 crore from two passengers travelling in Mumbai-bound Jnaneswari Super Deluxe Express near Rourkela in 2019. This was the biggest haul of illegal smuggled gold by the Odisha unit of DRI.

Angul only Odisha city to feature in clean air survey

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/New Delhi, Sept 7: Angul is the only place from Odisha to feature in the government's clean air survey, the report of which was released, Thursday.

The township ranked third in the 'Swachh Vayu Survekshan' conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in the category (third) of cities having population below three lakh. Parwanoo in Himachal Pradesh topped the category, while another city in the hill state, Kala Amb, took the second spot.

In the million-plus population category, Madhya Pradesh's Indore secured the first position, closely pursued by Agra (Uttar Pradesh) and Thane (Maharashtra).

The second category, covering cities with populations ranging from 3 to 10 lakh, witnessed Amravati in Maharashtra clinching the top rank, with Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh following it.

'Swachh Vayu Survekshan' ranks cities based on the exe-

cutation of activities approved under the city action plan and air quality in 131 cities covered under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The NCAP stands as a national-level strategy, aiming for a 20 to 30 per cent reduction in PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations by 2024, with a reference base year of 2017.

The Centre has set a new objective of achieving a 40 per cent reduction in particulate matter concentrations in cities covered under NCAP by 2026.

The assessment process relies on the submission of self-assessment reports along with supporting documents by urban local bodies.

These reports and documents undergo scrutiny by the respective air quality monitoring committee (AQMC), chaired by the Principal Secretary of the Environment ministry.

Subsequently, the CPCB conducts further evaluation and ranking based on the assessment framework outlined in the ministry's guidelines.

'Modern Treasures' sale sets world record for 6 Indian artists

THE HIGHEST FETCHER AT THE AUCTION THAT OFFERED AN IMPRESSIVE COMPENDIUM OF CELEBRATED ARTWORKS BY LEADING MODERNISTS WAS A 1970 UNTITLED LARGE-SCALE WORK BY MF HUSAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Online auction house AstaGuru recently concluded the 'Modern Treasures' sale and created a new world record for six Indian artists - Ganesh Pyne, KH Ara, Homi Bhabha, B Prabha, Thota Vaikuntam, Dhanraj Bhagat - as it achieved a white glove result (a sale where all lots are sold) generating a total value of ₹64.71 crore.

The highest fetcher at the auction that offered an impressive compendium of celebrated artworks by leading modernists

was a 1970 untitled large-scale work by MF Husain.

The acrylic on canvas work, touted to be an example of the many works the iconic artist created with the recurring motif of horses, commanded a whopping price of ₹7.19 crore.

The second-highest total in the auction was realised for an exceptional creation by Ganesh Pyne. Executed in 1971 using tempera on canvas laid on board, 'Winter Morning', was sold at ₹5.95 crore.

The artwork depicts a solemn figure of a child adorning a cape, capturing a powerful message



about the child's resilience in the face of poverty.

"The auction catalogue was meticulously curated to feature



an exceptional collection of works by India's revered modernists. Several of the works appeared in an auction for the

first time and were enthusiastically acquired, which underscores the market's continued growth," said Sunny Chandiramani, senior vice-president (client relations) at AstaGuru auction house.

Chandiramani said, "The result is also indicative of the fact that collectors eagerly anticipate and eagerly await more offerings, and when presented with a diverse and captivating collection, they are willing to go lengths to acquire historically significant artworks."

Other significant highlights from the sale include two untitled oil on canvas works by Ram Kumar and J Swaminathan, sold at ₹4.03 crore and 3.89 crore, respectively, and scientist Homi

Bhabha's 1960 artwork 'Angels' Concert...Homage To Mozart' which went for ₹89.46 lakh.

"Scientist and artist Homi Bhabha's work titled 'Angels' Concert...Homage To Mozart' is an oil on canvas painting that brings together his two passions - art and music. It portrays a celestial scene where ethereal figures, resembling heavenly angels, are depicted as musicians, part of an orchestra," read the description of the famous painting.

The auction also witnessed great interest for the 1960 large scale watercolour on paper work 'Bathers' by KH Ara. Sold at ₹3.22 crore, the work showcases Ara's command over figuration and his preoccupation with the female nude.

MARKET WATCH	
INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	66265.56 ↑ 385.04
NIFTY	19727.05 ↑ 116.00
DOLLAR	82.99 ↑ ₹0.27
EURO	88.97 ↓ ₹0.29
GOLD	₹59,010 ↓ ₹78
SILVER	₹71,742 ↓ ₹730

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 32.8°C	31.8°C
	MIN 26.0°C	25.5°C
Humidity	91%	92%
Rainfall	16.0mm	28.6mm
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	

leisure



NOEL GALLAGHER GETS BANNED FROM DRIVING

Noel Gallagher, who is best known as the lead singer of the British rock band *Oasis*, has been banned from driving for six months after it came to light that he never had proper driving lessons.

AL PACINO'S EX GIRLFRIEND FILES FOR CUSTODY OF THEIR BABY SON

Hollywood veteran Al Pacino has split from his girlfriend Noor Alfalah three months after they welcomed a son together and now she's filed paperwork asking a court to grant her physical custody of their son Roman.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
A favourable day as any can be, says Ganesh. You are happy and content with what you have, and you've planned and are working towards what you want. A romantic date may prove interesting or throw up a controversy – decide where you want to take it.

TAURUS
There is every possibility that you will enjoy a good rapport with people around you, predicts Ganesh. You will think with your stomach today, craving for delicacies. Such a feeling might be because of repressed hunger. Something refreshingly different might be on the cards today, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
Your highly competitive nature will push you to perform better and better. You don't even know what being second best means. Getting in touch with like-minded people will only make you resolve stronger. Your desire to be the best will make you take interest in everything that can help you improve.

CANCER
Your business acquaintances will come forward in the manner that may seem nothing short of some divine intervention. This means that they will virtually save your neck from the guillotine, predicts Ganesh. You will grow wiser in your spending ways, as you will know what to buy and what not to buy.

LEO
Motivating people through your own actions is one way; the other is to let your words do the talking. Both are equally effective, says Ganesh. With a bit of help from the stars, today, it is your words that shall hold more weight than your actions, as you make optimum use of your presentation skills.

VIRGO
It is quite possible that you will love financial challenges that are thrown at you, as they whet your appetite for success. You will come up with innovative ideas and improved methods of problem-solving. Ganesh assures you that your current business ideas will work wonders.

LIBRA
Trivialities should be the least of your concerns today. Do not let the small things faze you out. Remember that it is the overall picture that matters, and not one small stroke of the brush. Bear this in mind, since you may come under some pressure from subordinates at your workplace. Just remember to consider all possibilities before making any decisions. Also, take time to relax and maybe even meditate.

SCORPIO
You will live the day in two dominant shades, feels Ganesh. One part of your day will be tinted in nostalgia and thinking, while the other will be spent in making up for the time you lost while star gazing and ignoring your work. Do not let the ghosts of your past haunt you because some things are best left behind while making a new beginning, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Look before you leap, says Ganesh. Cupid has strung his bow and aimed an arrow at you. Love's labour will easily aid you to woo a young, tender heart. But don't be swept away by easy prospects and guard your reputation at all costs.

CAPRICORN
It will be one of those mundane days with nothing remarkable happening on any front. But don't be disheartened, advises Ganesh; planetary movements indicate there may be a change coming soon, most likely a good one. So, perk up and look forward to tomorrow.

AQUARIUS
You do have a way with words and today, you may succeed with your gift of the gab! But Ganesh says that your confused feelings may come in the way of your triumphant achievement. Also, sentiments may lead to a disastrous outcome. Sounds familiar?

PISCES
The fount of your creativity spurts today like there is no tomorrow. For lesser mortals, it takes inspiration, perspiration and a lot of desperation to come up with something creative. You, on the other hand, keenly remember the lessons from your past efforts, and use them today to scale new heights, says Ganesh.

Praveen Kumar's dazzling show charms viewers



Luminaries during the dance and music show at Rabindra Mandap

Bhubaneswar: Bharatnatyam dancer P Praveen Kumar and Sitarist Niladri Kumar captivated the audience here at Rabindra Mandap, Thursday, on the third evening of Srjan's 29th OMC Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival.

In the first performance, Pravin Kumar, who is no stranger to audiences across India, commenced his recital with a Muruga Kavutuvam, invoking the divine and extolling the great virtue of Lord Muruga, who resides amidst the majestic mountains and dis-

pels all the darkness from the lives of the ardent devotee. His commanding stage presence and nuanced presentation in this brief but fitting invocation set the tone for the evening.

He followed his invocation with a Varnam that explored the well-known theme of Lord Krishna's tales of tricks and triumphs. He also touched upon the episode of the *Vishwarupa Darshana* between Krishna and Arjuna. He concluded with a traditional *Padam*,

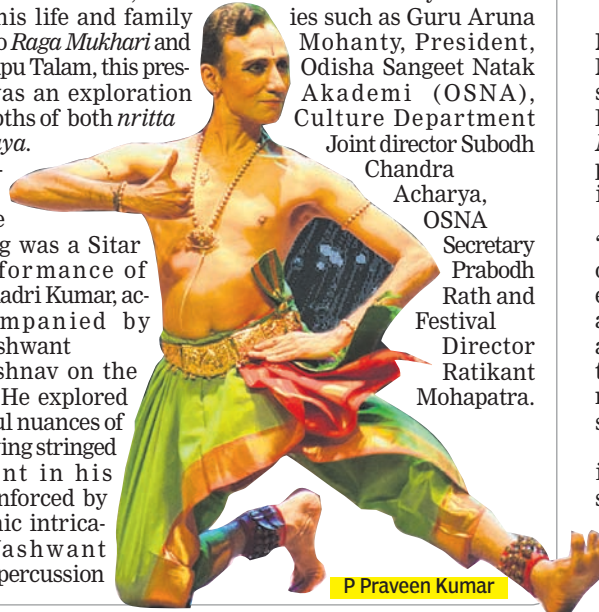
a rare composition centred around the emotions of a *Virahokanthita Nayaka* who is jilted by his beloved, after shunning his life and family for her. Set to *Raga Mukhari* and Mishra Chapu Talam, this presentation was an exploration into the depths of both *nritya* and *abhinaya*.

The second recital for the evening was a Sitar performance of Niladri Kumar, accompanied by Yashwant

Vaishnav on the Tabla. He explored the beautiful nuances of the electrifying stringed instrument in his recital, reinforced by the rhythmic intricacies of Yashwant Vaishnav's percussion

play. The third evening began with lamp-lighting ceremony which was attended by luminaries such as Guru Aruna

Mohanty, President, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA), Culture Department Joint director Subodh Chandra Acharya, OSNA Secretary Prabodh Rath and Festival Director Ratikant Mohapatra.



P Praveen Kumar

OMC GKCM AWARD FESTIVAL: DAY 3

Jawan will do better than Pathaan, predict City fans



Bhubaneswar: Ending month-long wait of millions of fans, Shah Rukh Khan's new pan India movie *Jawan* was released in theatres across the country Thursday.

As expected, the Maharaja Cinema complex here was chock-a-block with the star's admirers for a first-day-first-show viewing which started at 6.10 am.

The members of Team Shah Rukh Khan, a fan club of the *Baazigar* actor, conducted a cake-cutting ceremony and put on *Jawan* movie themed T-shirts to celebrate the release. A large cutout was also placed at the main gate.

Talking to Orissa POST, Debasish Parida, a diehard fan from Bhubaneswar said he watched the first show and will watch the movie again as SRK was never been portrayed like this ever.

Many fans were seen dancing inside the theatres to the tune of the movie's title song.

Another fan Chinmay Mishra said SRK-Atlee collaboration is working big time as the south director has exceeded the expectations. Atlee presented the never-seen-before avatar of SRK which will be liked by

the viewers, he claimed.

Many fans predicted that *Jawan* will do better than SRK's previous blockbuster *Pathaan*.

Contacted, an official of the theatre said that all tickets were booked till the week-ends.

Produced by Gauri Khan and Gaurav Verma under Red Chillies Entertainment, *Jawan* also stars Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi, Deepika Padukone, Priyamani and Sanya Malhotra in key roles.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

KATRINA ATTRACTS UNDUUE ATTENTION

Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif, known for her impeccable style sense and has many fans not only in India but across the globe, was trolled by the netizens for allegedly going under the knife for her lip enhancement surgery.

The *Tiger Zinda Hai* actress recently introduced her new product – a lip oil, and took to Instagram to share a video of herself applying the same claiming it gives a glossy finish while also hydrating and rejuvenating the lips.

While the star of the party was lip oil, it was Katrina's face that caught unwarranted attention. Many people in the comment section of the video are claiming how her lip fillers have gone wrong while her face is swollen as she looks almost unrecognisable.

"She looks different," one user said. Another mentioned, "She has had lip enhancement already," while pointing out at her swollen lips. "Kya haal ho gaya hai muh ka bola bhi nahin jaa raha theek se," wrote another user. "Surgery kr kr ke shakal change kar di," added one Instagram user.

Fans have been expressing dismay over Katrina's alleged surgery/botox/lip fillers while bringing it to her attention that she should remain true to her brand's tagline – It's Kay To Be You. AGENCIES

Never stop being a student: Radhika

Mumbai: Actress Radhika Madan, who has shared the screen space with late actor Irrfan Khan in the movie *Angrezi Medium*, has opened up on an important learning that she has imbibed from the latter.

The *Shiddat* actress said, "I would say fear has been one of the greatest teachers in my life. And just acknowledging, that addressing that, getting past that, has made me grow as a person a lot."

On the biggest learning that she follows, she shared, "Never stop being a student of life, no matter where you reach, always be open to learn another perspective, another skill and then just go with the student approach and I don't think you'll ever, ever backfire."

"The learning that never stop being a student,

was imbibed by Irrfan sir. And I remember that like before an important scene a night before he was always seen with a script rehearsing, and he didn't need to at that stature, and at that position, so I just looked at that and I was like, I'm always gonna be that and that is one learning that I imbibed from him," she said.

On the work front, Radhika has Sanaa, yet-untitled remake of Sooraj Potru, and Happy Teacher's Day in the pipeline.



FUN post CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6				
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12				13					14
15	16					17	18		
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20		21				22		23	
24									
25					26				
27							28		

- Across
- 1 Hollandaise, e.g.
 - 4 Cuss
 - 10 Perfect
 - 11 Vestibule
 - 12 Choleric
 - 13 Tea type
 - 15 Account book
 - 17 Connect
 - 20 Meagre
 - 22 Edible mushroom
 - 25 Astrological ram
 - 26 Fan palm
 - 27 Santa Claus feature
 - 28 Large wading bird
 - 7 Office space, at times
 - 8 Tick off
 - 9 Swedish shag rug
 - 14 Ski lodges
 - 16 Lead astray
 - 18 Type of glass or acrobat
 - 19 Substantial
 - 21 Stair part
 - 23 Mature
 - 24 Label
- Down
- 2 Island greeting
 - 3 Checkers type
 - 5 Cart part
 - 6 Wave catcher

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

Members of Odisha Nursing Employees Association staged a protest in front of the SCB Medical College and Hospital superintendent's office in Cuttack, Thursday, to press for fulfillment of their 12-point charter of demands



Monsoon active: IMD forecasts more rain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Heavy rains lashed parts of Odisha, including the Capital City of Bhubaneswar Thursday disrupting normal life.

The heavy rain is due to an active south-west monsoon and a cyclonic circulation and more such precipitation is forecast for one more day, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The heavy rainfall during the day affected normal life in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack as the downpour continued for about three hours in the afternoon. Office goers and students had a tough time due to the incessant rain and most of the low lying areas were inundated.

The intense spells, however, have not been able to overcome the rainfall deficit in the state, which recorded 867.9 mm precipitation against its normal of 984.9 mm till September 7 this monsoon. While 10 districts received deficient rainfall, the remaining 20 of Odisha are in the normal category, the local met office said.

"Intense spells of rain are continuing over some parts of Cuttack, Angul, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Deogarh, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Boudh, Kalahandi, Nuapada and Jajpur," the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, said in a post on X, formerly twitter, at 3.30 pm.

According to the midday bulletin of the IMD, there is yellow warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall in one or two places in Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Bargarh districts. Heavy rainfall is forecast at one or two places in the districts of Malakangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Subarnapur, Boudh, Deogarh, Angul, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj till 8.30 am of Friday.

Yellow warning is also issued at one or two places of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Deogarh, Angul, Cuttack, Dhenkanal on Saturday, it said.

There is, however, no warning of heavy rain after Saturday, an IMD official said.

Test evidence meticulously when FIR delayed, says SC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Courts must be on guard and test evidence meticulously to rule out possibility of embellishments in the prosecution's story when an FIR is delayed and there is absence of proper explanation, the Supreme Court has said.

The apex court acquitted two people whose conviction and life sentence for the offence of murder in a case lodged in 1989 was affirmed by the Chhattisgarh High Court.

A bench of justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra noted that the accused were tried for allegedly murdering a man August 25, 1989, while the FIR in the case was lodged the next day in Bilaspur district.

"When an FIR is delayed, in absence of proper explanation, the courts must be on guard and test the evidence meticulously to rule out possibility of embellishments in the prosecution story, inasmuch as delay gives opportunity for deliberation and guess work," the bench said in its verdict delivered September 5.

"More so, in a case where probability of no one witnessing the incident is high, such as in a case of night occurrence in an open place or a public street," it said.

The bench delivered its verdict

The SC acquitted two people whose conviction and life sentence for the offence of murder in a case lodged in 1989 was affirmed by the Chhattisgarh High Court

on the appeals filed by appellants - Harilal and Parasram - challenging the February 2010 judgment of the high court which had affirmed the July 1991 order of a trial court convicting and sentencing them to life imprisonment for murder.

It noted that three people were tried for allegedly committing the murder and the trial court had convicted all of them.

They had filed separate appeals before the high court challenging their conviction, the bench noted, adding that proceedings against one of them stood abated consequent to his death during pendency of the appeal.

"In this case, we notice from the record that the trial court as well as the high court while appreciating the evidence have not properly addressed various aspects, namely, (a) there is no clear cut motive proved against the accused except that there was some incident concerning a lady of the village....," the

bench observed.

It said although there might not have been a specific question put to the informant, who was a prosecution witness in the case, as regards the delay in lodging of the FIR, but the fact that "it was a delayed FIR cannot be ignored".

The bench observed that the statement of one of the eye-witnesses of the incident was inconsistent with his previous statement. It would be unsafe to rely on his testimony to convict the accused for the offence of murder, it noted.

"No doubt, different people react differently to a given situation. But if it had truly been an issue between few individuals fighting on the street, natural course of human conduct would be to collect people to solve out issues," the bench said.

"However, where villagers in general, and none in specific, assault a person accused of his involvement with a lady, it is quite natural for bystanders not to intervene," it said.

The bench said the prosecution has not been able to convincingly prove the genesis of the crime and the manner in which the murder took place and by whom.

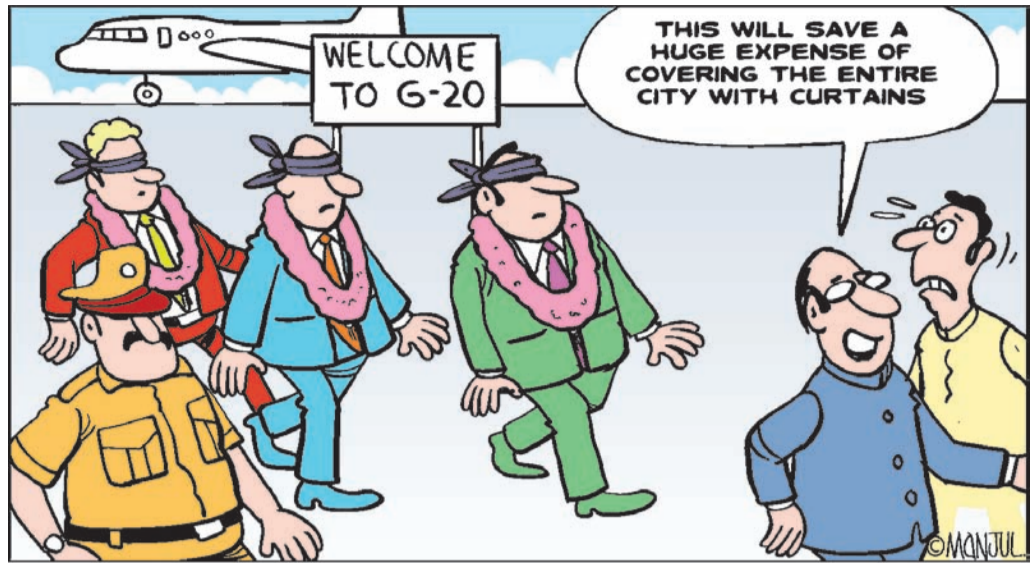
The bench observed that evidence led by the prosecution gives rise to a strong probability of the killing being a consequence of mob action on the deceased for his alleged involvement with the woman.

"The judgment and order of the high court as well as of the trial court are set-aside. The appellants are acquitted of the charge for which they have been tried," it said, while allowing the appeals.

The apex court noted the appellants are reported to have been released on bail during the pendency of appeal and they need not surrender.

"In case they are not on bail, they shall be released forthwith unless wanted in any other case," it said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Chain snatcher duo gets 3-yr RI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: A local court here Thursday sentenced two notorious robbers to rigorous imprisonment for three years each after holding them guilty in a chain snatching case.

The conviction of Ranjan Pradhan and Chandan Sahu alias Kalu came within four months after the incident.

Police sources said that around 1pm April 21, 2023 Monalisa, wife of Manoj Kumar Patra, and her son were on their way to BJB College on a scooter to bring her daughter from the College.

Meanwhile, Ranjan and Chandan came on a motor cycle from behind and snatched away a gold chain Monalisa was wearing near Tara Pattnaik Lane. In the melee, Monalisa lost her balance and fell from the scooter.

Both Monalisa and her son sustained severe injuries in the accident, police said.

Based on the complaint lodged by Manoj, the Badagada police registered a case (199/23) under Section 394 of the IPC and apprehended the accused duo later.

The court, after examining the statement of eight witnesses and other documents, pronounced the judgment Thursday. Assistant public prosecutors Biswa Ranjan Rout and Sushant Kumar Dash represented the prosecution in the case.

Top Odia educationist stirs row on meat eating

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 7: Noted Odia educationist and IIT Mandi Director Laxmidhar Behera has stirred a controversy after he asked students to take a pledge not to eat meat while claiming that landslides and cloudbursts in Himachal Pradesh are happening because of cruelty on animals.

"Himachal Pradesh will have a significant downfall... If we do not stop butchering animals. You are butchering animals there... The innocent animals. It has a symbiotic relationship with the degradation of the environment as well... Which you cannot see right now but is there..."

"It is having landslides, cloudbursts and many other things again and again, these are all effects of cruelty on animals... People eat meat," Behera said while addressing the students, a video of which is doing the rounds

on social media. "To become good human beings, what you have to do? No to meat eating," he further said and then went on to ask the students to vow not to eat meat.

There was no response from Behera on the controversy. His comments attracted criticism from netizens. "The collapse is complete. These superstitious fools will destroy whatever little was built in 70 years," Sandeep Manudhane, an entrepreneur and IIT Delhi alumni, said on X. Gautam Menon, a professor of biophysics, said, "In the current dispensation, having views like those of the director of IIT Mandi featured here is a feature, not a bug. It's simply sad."

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This is not the first time Behera has stirred a row with his controversial comments. Last year, he hit the headlines for claiming that he was involved in an act of exorcism to rid his friend's apartment and family of 'evil spirits' by chanting "holy mantras".

Cong holds padayatra to mark Bharat Jodo anniv

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) Thursday held a padayatra to commemorate the first anniversary of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari.

The padayatra led by OPCC president Sarat Pattanayak started from the party's state headquarters and culminated at Indira Gandhi Park.

Several senior leaders including MLA Suresh Routray and former state president



Prasad Harichandan joined the march. A photo exhibition was also organised to mark the special day of the Congress.

Pattanayak said there is no other leader in the country who participated in such a massive padayatra. The name of Rahul Gandhi will be written in golden letters in history, he said.

"Irrespective of caste, colour

and religion, we are Indians. We must remain united to maintain the unity of India... Stay away from those who are spreading hatred and trying to trigger riots in states. To spread this message, such programmes were organised in state headquarters across India," the Congress leader said.

The Bharat Jodo Yatra began from Kanyakumari September 7 last year and ended in Srinagar January 30 this year. During the yatra, Rahul Gandhi travelled more than 4,000 km with several party leaders.

Over 1 kg brown sugar destroyed

Bhubaneswar: The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police Thursday destroyed brown sugar weighing over 1 kg, as per instructions of the state government, officials said. The contraband was earlier seized by the STF. The 1.2-kg brown sugar was destroyed at a designated incinerator in Khurda in the presence of Additional District Magistrate (ADM) and other senior officials, they said. The contraband was first certified by the concerned court and handed over to the drug disposal committee. Till date, the STF has disposed/destroyed 63.94 kg brown sugar and 136 quintals of ganja, the officials added.

ODMDA spreads awareness on rare illness

Parents/caregivers have a harrowing time in taking care of their children, while there is no hope for medicines in India. Although gene therapy has got FDA approval in the United States, it costs around ₹26 crore and is age specific

RATAN KUMAR PRADHAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: In a first, the Odisha Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Association (ODMDA) launched a campaign in more than 10 districts of the state to sensitise people about Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a rare genetic disorder affecting children, to mark the World Duchenne Awareness Day, (September 7) Thursday.

ODMDA is an association of parents of the children affected by DMD. Members of the association, led by its president Bishnu Charan Panigrahi, affixed posters and banners at district headquarter hospitals and other major healthcare facilities, including the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Capital Hospital here.

Several members of the association in districts like Khurda, Cuttack, Puri, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Keonjhar, Balasore, Angul, Bolangir, Bargarh and Subarnapur marched various healthcare facilities and hung banners and posters

depicting the symptoms of the genetic disorder.

World Duchenne Awareness Day is an initiative by World Duchenne Organization. The Day aims to raise awareness about Duchenne and Becker Muscular Dystrophy, caused by mutations in the dystrophin genes. These are devastating genetic conditions that produce symptoms such as learning disabilities, frequent falls, waddling gait, and many more. It significantly impairs one's ability to function normally in their daily life.

Children born with DMD start showing symptoms at an early age of 5-6 years and become wheelchair-bound by 12-13 years of age.

This day shines a light on what it is, how it affects lives of people having DMD in kids, and what could be done about it. It also equips people with the right knowledge needed to care for someone suffering from this condition.

Earlier this year, the state government, following judicial intervention, had announced a one-time assistance of ₹10 lakh to meet



requirements like electric wheelchair, appropriate physiotherapy, genetic tests and treatment at super specialty institutions, among others. Many of the parents/patients have received the amount. However, there is no proper treat-

ment available in India so far. Parents and caregivers are having a harrowing time in taking care of their children while there is no hope for medicines in India. Although gene therapy has got FDA approval in the United States, it costs around ₹26 crore and is age specific.

Meanwhile, some children have received Exon-skipping injections in New Delhi but the impact is yet to be known.

Speaking to **Orissa POST**, the ODMDA president said, "We have been running from pillar to post for proper treatment of our children but to no avail. Today, we have launched a campaign in Odisha to raise awareness among the people about the dreaded disease as most of the people in our state are unaware of the genetic disorder. We request the State and the Union governments to formulate a policy to prevent birth of DMD children through proper tests. We also pray for treatment of our children at the earliest."

Tracking devices must on public vehicles from Oct 1

New vehicles purchased before October 1 must have tracking devices fitted before registration and vehicles registered before September 30 must get safety devices before December 31

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: State government has made vehicle location tracking device (VLT) mandatory on all vehicles meant for public transport from October 1 to ensure safety of the travelling passengers, particularly women and children.

The state Transport commissioner, in a public notice Thursday, said all vehicles engaged in public transport must be fitted with VLT and panic button before registration from October 1.

Under this provision, apart from passenger buses, school and college buses, ambulances,



cabs and omni-buses, private service vehicles and goods vehicles with national permit are also required to fit tracking devices. However, two-wheelers, three-wheelers and rickshaws are exempted from the order.

Releasing the schedule of installing the devices, the commissioner said that new vehicles purchased before October 1 must have these devices before

registration. Similarly, vehicles registered before September 30 must have the safety devices installed before December 31.

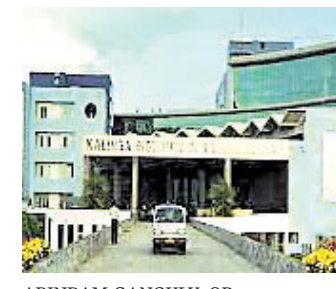
Vehicles that fail to install the devices within the fixed deadline will be penalized with cancellation of fitness certificate, change of ownership and road permits, the notice warned. The commissioner has advised vehicle owners to install the safety devices from authorised dealers who have been enlisted on the official website of the Transport department. They can also avail the facility at Retro Fitment Centres. But the devices must be approved by the State government.



CULTURAL RAPPORT: Artistes pose for a photo-op during cultural activities by India-Japan Friendship Centre in Puri, Thursday

OP PHOTO

World Physiotherapy Day today at KIMS



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) will observe World Physiotherapy Day Friday with a focus on arthritis and forms of Inflammatory Arthritis including Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and Axial Spondylo-Arthritis (Axial SpA).

KIMS department of Physiotherapy Chief Priyabrata Dash said, "Arthritis isn't a single condition; there are many different types that affect all ages and physical fitness - including children (Juvenile Arthritis), teenagers, and athletes. Physiotherapists are part of a multidisciplinary team that can help to manage arthritis. They will be able to assess a patient's condition and abilities and guide on how to keep active and help manage your symptoms."

"Regular physical activity and exercise are important in the management of all forms of Inflammatory Arthritis (IA), including Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and Axial Spondylo-Arthritis (Axial SpA), and offer numerous health benefits," Dash added.

People with RA and other inflammatory joint disorders have an increased cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk. Healthy lifestyle choices, including regular physical activity, are important in the management of RA to reduce the risk of CVD. People with Axial SpA should be referred to a physiotherapist to maintain spinal flexibility, whole body flexibility, and reduce pain. Even when the patient has pain, continuing to exercise at levels that suit him/her has significant benefits.

'Providing subsidy for agri machinery'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: The financial assistance in shape of subsidy is being provided to popularize farm mechanization and the state government is providing subsidy and credit facilities to the farmers for the supply of improved agricultural machinery and equipment, Agriculture and FE, Fisheries and ARD Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain said at farm machinery manufacturers' meet held at Krushi Bhawan here Thursday.

Swain further said that farm machinery is an important intervention to make agriculture more time bound, reduce drudgery and reduce cost of cultivation. Agricultural mechanization is one of the major interventions to increase agricultural productivity, food grain



production, timely farming and depleting natural resources and farm investment.

Addressing the gathering for "Krushi Yantrapati Mela-2023", Swain said that the state government has provisioned a 40 to 60 per cent subsidy for various approved agricultural machineries /equipment/ imple-

ments for the farmers and 75 per cent subsidy for women self-help groups. The subsidy is being provided to the farmers under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme.

SAFAL App (Simplified Application for Agricultural Loans) has been launched since 2022-23 to make this process easy.

Through this portal, the farmers can apply for agricultural loans from banks and various lending institutions and purchase the machinery. In the last four years from 2019-20 to 2022-23, 1, 70,296 pieces of agricultural machinery/equipment have been given to the farmers of Odisha with subsidy amount of Rs.1005.83crore. Swain put emphasis on popularisation of small equipment, especially women-friendly equipment, the Minister said.

Major machinery such as tractors, power tillers, combine harvesters, reapers, rotavators, rice transplanters, multi-grain axial flow threshers, power weeder and mini rice mills, rubber roll sheller, mini oil mill, rice puffing machine, rice flattening machine and pulverisers have been supplied to the farmers, he added.

Rly Board okays 2 projects for state

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Railway Board has sanctioned two infrastructure-related railway projects worth Rs 11.92 crore for Odisha, East Coast Railway (ECOR) said Thursday.

The Board sanctioned Rs 5.43 crore for the installation of a quick watering facility at Sambalpur city and Rs 6.49 crore for the drainage system at the west side of Balasore Railway Station. "Quick Watering System" is a new facility that would make available water in train coaches at Sambalpur City Railway Station.

A 24-coach train can be filled up within five minutes and multiple trains can be watered under

the system. Presently, there is no such facility at Sambalpur City Railway Station. The provision of drainage arrangements at the west side of Balasore station will ensure it has a proper sewage system, ECoR sources said.

Under conventional system, a train of 24 coaches normally takes about 20 minutes to fill water. Hence, the new Quick Watering System shall provide the benefit to the passengers of the enroute trains, especially, the trains passing through the Bilaspur-Bhubaneswar route.

By using quick watering system, a 24-coach train can be filled up within 5 to 6 minutes. Moreover, multiple trains can be watered at the same time.



TOGETHER FOR CLEAN AIR: Participants march in a procession organised by BMC to mark the 'International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies' in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

OP PHOTO

Ensure banking to unbanked: Arukha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), Odisha, held its 172nd meeting here Thursday under the chairmanship of SLBC chairman and UCO Bank MD-cum-CEO Ashwani Kumar.

Apart from banking officials, state Finance Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha joined the meeting with additional chief secretary cum development commissioner Anu Garg, Finance principal secretary Vishal Kumar Dev, RBI regional director Sarada Prasan Mohanty and NABARD chief general manager Sudhansu KK Mishra.

Minister Arukha in his address highlighted the different



financial parameters attained by the banks. He urged the banks to focus on providing housing and education loans to the poor, providing banking services in the unbanked areas, and improving credit facilities to SHGs helping them move to SME sector.

UCO Bank general manager and SLBC convener Goutam Patra welcomed the participants and reiterated the proactive role played by SLBC towards achievements of various goals set by the banks in Odisha. Ashwani

Kumar congratulated all banks for their dedicated efforts in maintaining an impressive credit-deposit (CD) ratio of 81.44 per cent which is one of the highest compared to other states of the country. Mohanty of RBI highlighted the importance of price stability, financial stability for maintaining high growth rates of the state's economy. He also urged the bankers to deal with the people with empathy.

Later, Dev and Agriculture & Farmers Welfare department principal secretary Arabinda Padhee, MSME principal secretary Saswat Mishra, Mission Shakti commissioner-cum-secretary Sujata R Karthikeyan participated in the discussion and shared their views.

Emulsifiers in ultra-processed food up risk of heart disease

High intake of industrially processed and packaged foods may raise risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) due to the increased presence of several emulsifiers used to improve texture and extend shelf-life, warned a study.

Given that these food additives are used ubiquitously in thousands of widely consumed ultra-processed food products, these findings have important public health implications, said the researchers from Universite Sorbonne Paris Nord and Universite Paris Cite in France.

Emulsifiers are often added to processed and packaged foods such as pastries, cakes, ice cream, desserts, chocolate, bread, margarine and ready meals, to enhance their appearance, taste, texture and shelf life. They include celluloses, mono- and

diglycerides of fatty acids, modified starches, lecithins, carageenans (derived from red seaweed; used to thicken foods), phosphates, gums and pectins.

As with all food additives, the safety of emulsifiers is regularly assessed based on the available scientific evidence, yet some recent research suggests that emulsifiers can disrupt gut bacteria and increase inflammation, leading to potentially increased susceptibility to cardiovascular problems.

The findings could "contribute to the re-evaluation of regulations around food additive usage in the food industry to protect consumers," the researchers said.

Meanwhile it is also "recommended limiting the consumption of ultra-processed foods as a way of limiting exposure to non-essential controversial food



additives," they added.

In the study, published by The BMJ, the team examined 95,442 French adults with no history of heart disease between 2009 and 2021. The findings showed an increased risk with part of the 'E numbers' group of food additives.

After an average follow-up of 7 years, higher intake of total cel-

luloses (E460-E468), cellulose (E460) and carboxymethylcellulose (E466) were found to be positively associated with higher risks of CVD and specifically coronary heart disease.

Higher intakes of monoglycerides and diglycerides of fatty acids (E471 and E472) were associated with higher risks of all studied outcomes.

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Among these emulsifiers, lactic ester of monoglycerides and

diglycerides of fatty acids (E472b) was associated with higher risks of CVD and cerebrovascular diseases, and citric acid ester of monoglycerides and diglycerides of fatty acids (E472c) was associated with higher risks of CVD and coronary heart disease.

High intake of trisodium phosphate (E339) was also associated with an increased risk of coronary heart disease.

There was no evidence of an association between the other studied emulsifiers and any of the cardiovascular outcomes, the researchers said.

This is a single observational study, so can't establish the cause, and the researchers acknowledge some study limitations such as the high proportion of women, higher educational background, and overall more health conscious behaviours.

IAN5

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HARIDASPUR-PARADIP LINE

Passenger train service yet to become a reality



Congress leader Soumendra Prusty said that the district Congress leaders had submitted a memorandum to the Union Minister of Railways and the Governor in 2021.

The district Congress workers had even staged a rail roko agitation, November 9 in 2021. He said that over 3 lakh migrants returned to the district during the spread of Covid pandemic in 2020. The struggles and sufferings they faced in order to get back home were reported in various media.

Prusty lamented that the district is yet to see passenger train service despite so many people from Kendrapara working outside the state. Any person wishing to take a train to his destination has to go to Paradip, Cuttack or Haridaspur railway stations to avail the service. He demanded that the Railway authorities should immediately introduce passenger train service on the route in Kendrapara district.

Social activist Nihar Ranjan Pradhan said that the residents have been eagerly looking forward to commencement of passenger train service on the route. The demand has gained momentum after Aswini Vaishnav, a Rajya Sabha MP from Odisha, became the Union Minister of Railways. He said that the plying of passenger train will resolve the commuting woes of the residents and help in establishment of industrial plants in the district.

Nirakar Das, a former senior railway official, said preparations are soon to get completed for beginning passenger train services on the route. A passenger train can only run after a verification of the station and signal system, he added.

ing which a memu train can run on the route.

When contacted, Goutam Kumar Behera said that the first goods train started on Haridaspur-Paradip new broad gauge railway line via Kendrapara district from July 24, 2020. At present, over 30 goods trains are running daily on the route. However, over three years after the launch of train services on this line, passenger train service is yet to be launched on the route.

The proposal for construction of a rail route between Haridaspur and Paradip was first moved in FY 1996-97. The project got shelved for long and was finally completed after many hiccups.

Residents have been regularly demanding passenger train services on the route but their pleas are yet to be addressed. The youth outfit Utkalmani Yuvak Sangha also submitted a memorandum to Railway authorities in this regard.

It was also assured that passenger train services will be launched on the route after necessary infrastructure is put in place and the existing infrastructure supervised. The district's residents are hopeful that a passenger train will soon ply on the route.

Notably, a resident Goutam Kumar Behera of Utkalmani Yuvak Sangha, a youth outfit of Deuli village under Pattamundai block had written to the Railway authorities demanding passenger train services on the route.

In reply to his letter, DR Paul, deputy chief operations manager of railways (letter no-95/22) had mentioned that a memu train will run soon from Paradip to Keonjhar.

In his reply, the official had also informed that there is lack of infrastructure and need of supervision by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) follow-



AGRARIAN FETE: Priests finalising the 'lagna', the propitious moment for this year's Nuakhai festival, at a Pandit Mahasabha held at Brahmapura temple premises in Jhaduapada of Sambalpur, Thursday. According to the 'lagna', Goddess Samaleswari, the presiding deity of Sambalpur, would be offered Nabanna (season's first harvest) between 10.27am and 10.42am on the day of Nuakhai, western Odisha's mass agrarian festival, September 20

Row over GI tag for Kala Jeera Rice in Koraput

The MSSRF, Jeypore has contended that the application for the GI tag by a private company could potentially exclude local farmers from benefits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Koraput, Sept 7: The MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) at Jeypore town in this district has raised objection to a recent advertisement published by the Geographical Indicator (GI) authorities regarding the formal granting of the GI tag to Koraput's renowned 'Kala Jeera Rice', often referred to as the 'Prince of Rice'.

The MSSRF contended that the application for the GI tag by

a private company, identified as Jaivik Shree Farmers Producers Company (JSFPC), could potentially exclude local farmers from benefits.

This allegation is based on the belief that once the GI tag is granted, the applicant company would have exclusive rights to cultivate and market Kala Jeera Rice, potentially leaving other farmers in the district without access.

"Kala Jeera Rice is an exclusive product of Koraput district and the application for the GI tag has to be done by a government agency and not by any private organisation. Once a private organisation gets the GI tag then the applicant company will be the sole beneficiary as it will get the rights for its cultivation, which will put the farmers involved in growing the va-



riety at a disadvantage," said Prasant Parida, the MSSRF, Jeypore director.

"Soon we will file an objection with the GI authorities, which function under the jurisdiction of the union government," he added.

The GI authorities have given a three-month window from the date of the publication of the advertisement for the submission of objections related to the Kala Jeera Rice GI tag.

According to Parida, while the MSSRF has worked extensively for the preservation and promotion of Kala Jeera Rice in the district, it had never applied for the GI tag as it should be done by the government to ensure that the entire farmer community is benefited by it.

"The applicant has drawn upon MSSRF's publicly available research on Kala Jeera Rice while applying for the GI tag," Parida alleged.

Prabhakar Adhikari, a representative of JSFPC, countered MSSRF.

He said, "JSFPC is an organisation of farmers of 14 blocks of the district and its farmers have applied for the GI tag for Kala Jeera Rice. If it gets it then the entire farming community will be benefited and not any single organisation."

KUANRMUNDA BANDH AFFECTS NORMAL LIFE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 7: Normal life came to a halt and traffic on NH-143 at Kuanrunda in Sundargarh district was gridlocked following a bandh call given by Kuanrunda Nagarik Manch, an all party outfit and that of residents, decrying establishment of a sponge iron plant in the area, Thursday.

Thousands of trucks, passenger buses and other vehicles were stranded on both sides of the

highway as protesters staged a road blockade during the bandh. A majority of government offices, all private offices, business establishments were shut while schools in the area remained open during the period.

"We don't want jobs. We want to live free from pollution as there are enough industries here polluting the entire area," said Lalu Singh Deo of erstwhile Kuanrunda Zamindar family and a BJP leader in the area.

According to an order of Orissa

High Court, the unit has been allowed to set up its plant in the area. Social activist Manoj Satpathy said, "The high court order doesn't mention about the land where the sponge iron plant is to be established." So why did the state government allow it to come up on the government owned dairy farm land, he questioned adding that they smell something fishy.

The outfit gave the bandh call after construction work for the plant was started under full police protection. Speaking about it,

tehsildar Susant Kumar Behera of Biramitrapur and in-charge of Kuanrunda said, "Nothing other than the staff quarters is being allowed to be constructed." When asked about the opposition of locals he said, "We will go to the people and make them understand."

Police arrested three leaders Rajesh Kerketta, Lalu Singh Deo and Manoj Satpathy of the outfit and took them in preventive custody around 4pm in the afternoon. The strike was later lifted in the evening.

40-year-old bridge caves in; 25 villages left high and dry



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, Sept 7: A four decade-old bridge which was built on a tributary of Sona river collapsed Wednesday under Begunia panchayat of Nilagiri block in Balasore district, reports said Thursday.

As per reports, the bridge caved in following incessant rain and as a result, road communication to Begunia, Totapada and Sansapal villages has been completely halted.

Residents of as many as 25 villages who were dependent on the bridge will now have to travel 15 km more distance to reach their work places and to take their children to schools.

Plight of these villagers has suddenly aggravated after the collapse of the bridge. As the bridge comes under the Rural Development department, locals demanded that the government should immediately focus on the issue and reconstruct the bridge as soon as possible.

Local MLA Sukanta Kumar Nayak visited the spot and discussed the communication woes of the locals with the district administration. Incidentally, the MLA after realising the dilapidated condition of the bridge had earlier requested the government to renovate or reconstruct a new bridge on the rivulet some days ago.

The project has also been approved by the state government August 21 and a DPR is under making, said the MLA.

After completion of the formalities, the tender process will be completed and the construction work on the bridge will start by the Rural Works department, the MLA said.

Man gets 10-yr RI for raping minor girl

Baripada: A local court in Mayurbhanj district Thursday sentenced a 35-year-old man to 10 years of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) for raping a 14-year-old girl around five years ago. Mayurbhanj District Special POC SO Court Judge Sumita Jena also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on the convict Samray Hansda, said special public prosecutor Abhinna Kumar Pattnaik. The court also directed Mayurbhanj District Legal Services Authority to pay Rs 4 lakh to the girl as compensation. Hansda had raped the girl at Kochila village under Rasgovindpur police station area when she had gone to a pond to attend the call of nature January 24, 2018. Police registered a case under Section 4 of POCSO Act and 376 of IPC and arrested the accused. The judgment was based on the statement of the girl, 17 witnesses and the medical report, said Pattnaik.

Jalaka river in spate, triggers panic

Jaleswar: Water level in the Jalaka river flowing in Balasore district crossed the danger mark near Mathani area Thursday triggering panic as heavy downpour continued to thrash several districts of the state. According to reports, the water level in the river was recorded at 6.21 meter at 3pm Thursday afternoon whereas the danger mark is 5.50 meter near Mathani under Basta Block. Sources said, water level has also gone up in the upstream of the river in Mayurbhanj district following incessant rainfall. The river has swollen and Suliapada, Morada, Chitrada, and Rasagobindapur areas of the district have seen increase in the water level. As per prediction, rain will continue for the next couple of days owing to the active low-pressure area. This may give rise to a flash flood situation in the low-lying areas.

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

No. O-900 E-mail ID: rwdsonapur@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SNPR - 04 of 2023-24
Letter No. 2761 Dated: 04.09.2023

- Name of the Work : Building Works as per DTCN available in the website. www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Total No. of Work : 1 (One) No.
- Approximate Estimated Cost : Rs. 30.16 lakh
- Period of Completion : 06 (Six) Calendar Months
- Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding : 11.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 21.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date and time of opening of Tender : 22.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : S.E.R.W. Divn., Sonepur

(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website: www.tenderodisha.gov.in.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Rural Works Division, Sonepur
OIPR-25054/11/0004/2324

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, PIPILI, PURI - 752104

Phone: 06758-240746, e-mail: ori-pipili@nic.in

TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.: 05/Pipili/Dt.05.09.2023

The Block Development Officer, Pipili, Puri invites sealed tenders on behalf of Government of Odisha from Registered and Eligible Contractors of the State PWD (R&B)/Water Resource/Rural Works/M.I./CPWD, PWD F-2 for the following work, eventually to be drawn up in the forms in conformity with the Detailed Tender Call Notice. The bidders may submit bid for the following work.

Bid Statement						
Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (in Rs.)	EMD Cost (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Paper (in Rs.)	Time Period of Completion	Class of Contractor
1	Empowerment Centre for Rural Women and Youth for creating Smart Gram Panchayat	6925850/-	69259/-	10000/-	06 Calendar Months	'B' & 'A'

Sale/Receipt/Opening of the Tender Papers:

- The tender papers can be obtained from the Block Development Officer, Pipili on payment towards the cost of tender papers as mentioned above (Non-refundable) in shape of Bank Draft from any Nationalized bank in and around Pipili on any working day from 07.09.2023 to Dt.21.09.2023 for the above mentioned work. The tender document will be sold during the above mentioned period between 10 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. on working days only. The bidders have to submit the sealed papers mentioning the name of the work over the envelope in complete shape through Registered Post/Speed Post/Drop Box at Block Campus, Pipili only by directly sending to the BDO, Pipili in his/her Official Postal address. Tender papers received through Courier services will not be entertained. The date for receipt of tender papers is from 07.09.2023 to Dt.21.09.2023 during office hour. The undersigned will not be responsible for postal delay, if any or non-receipt of the papers in time. The tender papers shall be opened on 22.09.2023 at 11 A.M. in the Block Campus, Pipili in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives having written authorization for the purpose and the tender committee framed by the undersigned.
- The EMD is to be deposited in shape of Post Office short term deposit/term deposit/NSC/KVP/Deposit receipt from any Nationalized Bank duly pledged in favour of Block Development Officer, Pipili. The tender papers without required amount of EMD will not be considered and transfer or adjustment of EMD is inadmissible.
- The additional performance security for the unbalanced bid shall be asked to deposit in the shape of Postal Pass Book (TD)/N.S.C./Deposit Receipt of Nationalized/Scheduled Bank duly pledged in favour of the Block Development Officer, Pipili at the time of execution of agreement.
- Document to be attached:
The following document should be furnished with the tender paper, failing which tender will be liable to rejection, a) Attested copy of contractor Registration Certificate, b) Attested copy of PAN Card, GST Certificate, c) Attested copy of labour licence, d) Attested copy of valid Caste Certificate issued by competent authorities in case of SC/ST, contractors desirous for availing preference.
- Submission of more than one tender paper by a bidder for the work will be liable for rejection of all such tender papers.
- The undersigned reserves the right either to reject any or all tenders or cancel the entire process without assigning the reason thereof.

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Pipili

Indian Bank
Zonal office: Bhubaneswar
CORRIGENDUM
With reference to our "E-Auction Sale Notice" published in "Orissa Post" on 03.09.2023, the Branch Name of Borrower/Mortgagor: Mrs. Saminder Kaur, Should be read as **Bhupi Nagar Branch** Instead of Bhubaneswar Branch. All other facts remain unchanged.
Date: 07.09.2023 Authorised Officer

EAST COAST RAILWAY
E-AUCTION FOR CATERING UNIT
No. Comm/SBP/E-auction/Catg./23/20, Date: 31.08.2023
(1) Assets Description: Provision of Tea Stall (GMU-UR) at MAHASAMUND "D" Category Railway Station for 05 Years. Station Name: MAHASAMUND (MSMD), Place of Unit: On Platform No.01.
(2) Assets Description: Provision of Tea Stall (SMU-OBG/Women) at RAIRAKHOL STATION "D" Category Railway Station for 05 Years. Station Name : RAIRAKHOL (RAIR), Place of Unit: On Platform No. 01.
Auction Start Date & Time: 18.09.2023 at 1100 hrs. (for both Sl. No.).
Auction Close Date & Time: 18.09.2023 at 1140 hrs. (for both Sl. No.).
Note: Complete information including e-auction documents of the above e-auction is available in website <http://www.reps.gov.in>
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ PR-548/O/23-24 Sambalpur

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 36/ET/SBP/ENGG/2023-24 Date: 01.09.2023
(1) e-Tender No. 18-eT-DENW-SBP-23
Name of the work: CONSTRUCTION OF 20 UNITS OF STAFF QUARTERS (08 UNIT TYPE-III AND 12 UNIT TYPE-IV) AT AMBODLA STATION AND 04 UNIT TYPE-II STAFF QUARTERS AT MAHASAMUND STATION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹8,24,61,723.50, Bid Security: ₹5,62,400/-
(2) e-Tender No. 19-eT-DENW-SBP-23
Name of the work: 3D SCANNING OF RIVER BEDS OF BR. NO. 343 (SPAN: 20X30.5 M) AT KM. 213/12-2148 IN TITLAGARH-KESINGA SECTION, BRIDGE NO.77 UP (SPAN: 11X 30.5 M + 13X24.4 M + 6X9.950 M) AT KM. 42/4-17 IN ARANG MAHANADI-BELSONDA SECTION AND BR. NO.7 (SPAN: 8X45.7 M) AT KM.522/4-11 IN BRUNDAMAL-LAPANGA SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹14,68,058.34, Bid Security: ₹28,400/-
Completion Period of the work: 12 (Twelve) Months (for sl. no. 1) & 03 (Three) Months (for sl. no. 2).
Date & time of Tender Closing: 28.09.2023 at 1500 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 considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tenders is available in website <http://www.reps.gov.in>
The bidders/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered of REPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant papers must have to be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)/ PR-553/O/23-24 Sambalpur

“ We find in others what is in us. If we always find mud around us, it proves that there is mud somewhere in us.



THE MOTHER

Elected Criminals

While Donald Trump holds the dubious distinction of being the first former US president to run for office while facing criminal charges, he is not the first political candidate in American history to have been indicted, convicted, or even incarcerated. Trump's secretary of energy and former Texas Governor Rick Perry, for example, had an abuse-of-power charge pending against him when he briefly sought the Republican Party's presidential nomination in 2016.

Then there was Eugene Debs, who ran for president in 1920 from the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary, where he was serving a ten-year sentence for violating the Sedition Act of 1918 by delivering a speech opposing the United States' involvement in World War I. Running as the Socialist Party's candidate, Debs did not win the presidency but received nearly a million votes – the most a socialist has ever received in a US presidential election.

Some convicted candidates even managed to win their races. Marion S. Barry, Jr. won a fourth term as mayor of Washington, DC, in 1994, despite serving six months in prison for drug possession four years earlier.

While it is uncommon for candidates who have previously been indicted or jailed to secure prominent government positions in democratic countries, it is not unheard of. Sometimes, it accompanies the democratisation process. Nelson Mandela won South Africa's first free election in 1994 after being imprisoned for 27 years by the apartheid regime. More recently, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won in 2022 after being sentenced to a 12-year prison term on corruption charges, of which he served less than two before his conviction was annulled.

Others have benefited politically from their time behind bars, Adolf Hitler being the most infamous example. Before his failed coup d'état in Munich in 1923, Hitler was a relatively unknown beer hall agitator with a criminal record. He was sentenced to five years in prison for the Beer Hall Putsch, but not before he became a national news story after the remarkably sympathetic judges allowed him to present his political arguments.

Hitler ended up serving only nine months in Landsberg prison, during which he wrote his anti-Semitic manifesto, Mein Kampf. By the time he was released, he had become famous. Less than a decade later, the former rabble-rouser was Germany's Führer.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Kishi Nobusuke, the grandfather of the late Prime Minister Abe Shinzō, is another example. Unlike Hitler, Kishi was a member of his country's bureaucratic elite.

After graduating from Tokyo Imperial University (now the University of Tokyo) at the top of his class, Kishi quickly rose within the government bureaucracy. Remarkably, he was still in his thirties when he was entrusted with overseeing the economy of Manchukuo, the Japanese puppet state in Manchuria, where he ruled over an industrial empire built on Chinese slave labour. During the Pacific War, Kishi served as vice minister of munitions.

Kishi could be likened to Albert Speer, Hitler's architect and minister of munitions, who was handed a 20-year prison sentence by the Nuremberg tribunal, largely owing to his exploitation of slave labour. But, despite being arrested for war crimes in 1945 and imprisoned for three and a half years, Kishi was never formally tried and convicted.

During his incarceration, Kishi plotted his political comeback with fellow prisoners, including a notorious gangster and a prominent Japanese fascist. After the Americans determined that opposing Chinese and Soviet communism was more important than prosecuting Japanese war criminals, they decided that Kishi was just the kind of man they needed. Running for the highest office soon after he was released, Kishi repaid the Americans' trust by consolidating Japan as a staunchly anti-communist US ally. He served as Japan's prime minister from 1957 to 1960.

Trump is neither a dictator nor a war criminal. He is a malevolent self-promoter seeking to leverage his legal troubles for political and financial gain. As a self-proclaimed outsider, he has turned his indictments into political assets, portraying himself as a martyr persecuted by entrenched, corrupt elites.

So far, at least, his strategy seems to be working. Each new indictment has boosted Trump's popularity among Republican voters and fueled more contributions to his presidential campaign. With his motorcades and incendiary speeches attacking and mocking judges and prosecutors, Trump's public appearances are sensational media spectacles. When he steps into a courtroom – particularly in Fulton County, Georgia, where his trial for election interference will be televised and livestreamed – Trump will undoubtedly relish the opportunity to campaign from the dock.

None of this implies that Trump will succeed. Hitler, for example, lost the 1932 presidential election to the esteemed but aging Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg. At 84, Hindenburg bore some resemblance to US President Joe Biden in at least one respect: moderates and leftists voted for him just to prevent his demagogic opponent from rising to power. But the Nazis had become the largest party in the Reichstag, and conservative politicians, industrialists, and businesspeople made the fatal mistake of supporting Hitler as the new chancellor in 1933. Their misguided belief that they could rein in Hitler's ambitions hastened the demise of German democracy.

To be sure, the US today is not the Weimar Republic, and Biden is not Hindenburg. Trump's violent rhetoric and threats against opponents are worrying, especially since many of his supporters are armed. But without the support of the armed forces, as well as Wall Street, it is difficult to see how he could force his way into power. In a creaky electoral system that favours rural over urban America it is of course possible that he will win enough votes to become president, even while running his campaign from a prison cell.

A Trump victory wouldn't be anything like Hitler's coup in 1933, but it would be bad enough, and certainly much worse than Japan under Kishi in the late 1950s. Counting on indictments to prevent Trump from winning is as misguided as German conservatives' notion that they could tame Hitler. As history has shown, sometimes crime does pay.

The writer is the author, most recently, of The Collaborators: Three Stories of Deception and Survival in World War II.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

“ Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself. **GEORGE BERNARD SHAW** ”

“ Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. **MAHATMA GANDHI** ”

“ Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving. **ALBERT EINSTEIN** ”

FOCUS NATION

FINDING IDENTITY

The Article 1 of the Constitution states that “India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States.” This is being used for the first time smartly as a political-cultural strategy by the highest authority of India. The term ‘President of Bharat’ has been used for the first time, by replacing the usual ‘President of India’, in an official invite for a dinner hosted by the President for dignitaries attending the G20 summit. Subsequently the BJP spokesperson's tweet on 5 September reads “visit of Prime Minister of Bharat to Republic of Indonesia (20th ASEAN-India Summit and the 18th EAS Summit)” on 7 September, has propelled speculative discourses on the name of our country.

What has prompted a majoritarian government with a comfortable majority in both Houses of Parliament (tacit understanding in Rajya Sabha) to resort to such secrecy in naming Bharat in a limited invitation and a spokesperson's tweet? Is it the mounting pressure from the emerging coalition of Opposition - I.N.D.I.A. that compelled the government to use “Bharat” to connect with the rural masses? Or is it a part and parcel of this government's ongoing decolonisation project (Project-D)? Or, Will the government initiate a larger Constitutional Amendment process, no less than the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, including Article 1 in the coming Special Session (September 18-22) before the General Elections?

There is no illegality or unconstitutional tinge in calling India as “Bharat” in the President's invitation, or in the Prime Minister's itinerary to Indonesia. Neither is it confusing as some Opposition lead-



From Parliament to passport, the Ashoka Emblem has given the 140 crores Indians a political identity

ers have considered. The identity cards of Indian officials at G20 Summit on September 9-10 will also be reading “Bharat - Official.” “India, that is Bharat” in Article 1 allows both the usage. While in vernacular, local and regional languages we use Bharat within our country with a sense of social-political-cultural connotation, in English it is India as a political entity. No one would disagree that Bharat has a sense, of meaning, understanding and belonging than India. However, India and Bharat in the Constitution have been unintentionally provided dual identity. During classes, I intend to provoke students' argument by deliberately mentioning “Bharat, that is India, shall be a Union of States” - as if “India” represents the anglicised elites, mostly urbanised ones, “Bharat” represents rural inhabitants.

During the Constituent Assembly debate, the members of the drafting committee had deliberated at length on Article -1 with namakaran (naming ceremony) of the newly born republic as Bharat, Hindustan, Hind, Bharatbhumi or Bharatvarsh. While drafting member Govind Ballabh Pant ad-

vocated for “Bharat Varsha” as the only name of new India, HV Kamath, another member, rued that the construction of “India, that's Bharat” was somewhat clumsy. His submission during the debate was “Bharat, or, in the English language, India, shall, be and such” had a direct inspiration from the article of the 1937 Constitution of the Irish Free State that reads: “The name of the State is Eire, or, in the English language, Ireland.” However, the drafting committee rejected HV Kamath's motion by 38 votes for and 58 against and approved Article-1 as it is today, in last moment, as put forward by Dr BR Ambedkar, who was not interested in a long debate on name.

In all probability, there will be limited domestic or international implications. While Indian in Germany, Indus in Kyrgyzstan and other Central Asian countries, Hindustan for many countries, Hindia in Indonesia, the name Bharat won't be a major surprise for fellow countries of India.

From Parliament to passport, the Ashoka Emblem has given the 140 crores Indians a political identity. The speculation of

massive activities of substituting India with Bharat in the domestic and international arena is neither necessary nor required. On the other hand, if this government can enact laws in Parliament with Hindi language or Sanskritise its foreign policies for the last nine years during the so-called “Amrit Kal,” officially calling the country Bharat instead of India is an easy task. The problem lies in the lack of transparency. Let's look forward to the Special Session of Parliament for which the government has not shared any agenda so far. Despite the government's rejection of the amendment of Article-1, however, there is a high probability that the government may use its shock and awe strategy, as used in August 2019 to revoke Article 370 in Parliament, to introduce several amendments to the Constitution including Article-1 and nearly more than 30 provisions in the Constitution related to it. At best, this can be not less than the 42nd Amendment Act, which means a revision of several aspects of the Constitution.

The argument for Project-D by using Bharat instead of India has its technical limitations though. The name India can be traced back to the Greek incursion into India; it was not a creation of the British colonial era. It may be argued that the government's Project-D is to get rid of anything external. Thus, “Republic of Bharat” as Assam CM tweets sounds like somewhat a cultural jet lag. The correct version would be “Bharat Ganarajya.” Can the duality of Bharat and India in Article 1 be resolved by the government and Opposition in Parliament?

The writer is a scientist at IIT Madras. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM DIPLOMACY

Red herrings & opportunities

The much-awaited G-20 Summit is happening on 9-10 September. As the President of the Group, India will have the final opportunity to display its leadership and showcase quite a bit of its cultural heritage. New Delhi is splashed with posters, banners, festoons with carefully selected evocative messages. Inhabitants of Delhi and the guests arriving for the occasion can savour them all as they drive along the streets. Let us look at some of the red herrings and the opportunities that are associated with the Summit.

One conspicuous development is the absence of Russian President Putin. Although it was expected as the Russian strongman is not stirring out of his country to evade an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court, his absence will be felt. More notable is the mysterious refusal of Chinese President Xi Jinping to attend the Summit. Several theories are peddled about his absence from the Summit.

Be that as it may, the opportunities presented around the Summit for India are largely two. One, India may emerge as the voice of the Global South. New Delhi has commendably brought in the African Union as a new permanent member of G-20. It will add to India's claim to represent the developing countries. Second is the Modi and Biden bilateral meeting on 8

September. Biden has gratuitously expressed his disappointment over Xi's absence from the Summit. What he has not said and should be obvious is that he is looking forward to meeting Modi, as is the letter.

The moot question is what will constitute the agenda for the Modi-Biden meet. Both sides have been working on an ambitious set of outcomes for the bilateral engagement. These include a nuclear pact on small, modular nuclear reactors. An academic programme tailor-made for Indian students, the drone deal, a defence deal on jet engines, a joint humanitarian aid for Ukraine, opening of new consulates, easing of visas. Discussion on most of these was initiated during Modi's State Visit to Washington on 22 and 23 June. It is expected to move ahead on what was agreed upon.

India and the US signed the nuclear deal in October 2008 but not much business collaborations have happened since. In the recent meetings, it has gained some momentum. Negotiations are on between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) and US-based Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC) for the construction of six nuclear reactors at Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh. Also, consultations have taken place between the US DOE (Department of Energy) and India's DAE (Department of Atomic Energy)

for facilitating WEC to develop the Kovvada project.

The deal on jet engines, which was kind of the highlight in PM Modi's State Visit, will receive a boost. The deal allows GE Aerospace to transfer 80% of its technology to India for the production of F414 fighter jet engines. This deal also entails the joint production of the jet engines in India under the Air Force's Light Combat Aircraft programme. Last week, the US Congress gave the green signal to Biden administration to pursue the jet engine deal. The bilateral meeting should lead to the conclusion of the deal.

Ease of issuance of visa is also on the cards. During Modi's visit, the in-country renewal of H-1B visa was announced. This facility will help thousands of Indian professionals working in the US to continue to stay without having to leave the country to renew their work visas. A definite date for this programme is expected to be announced during Biden's India visit. Opening of the Consulates in the respective countries will also be pursued. Two new US Consulates – Bangalore and Ahmedabad – are expected to be announced. A new Indian Consulate in Seattle is also expected to open.

Two geo-political issues that are of critical importance to each country will come up for discussion, although not reported

so much in the public domain. One is the war in Ukraine which is of utmost concern to the US. The second issue that deeply concerns India is Chinese belligerence on the borders.

Reverting to Xi's non-attendance in the Summit, one could draw several inferences. While such an exercise may amount to speculations, what is crystal clear is that Xi is delivering a big snub to India by refusing to come. The meeting between Modi and Xi during the BRICS Summit was expected to lead to cooling-off of tensions between the countries. It was not to be. On the contrary, China came up with a controversial map showing Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh as parts of China.

Prime Minister Modi should take this opportunity to impress upon Biden that the US should have a consistent policy vis-à-vis India-China rivalry. The Prime Minister also should commit to a strategic alliance like NATO Plus membership to safeguard India's security interest in face of Chinese aggression. In concrete terms, the US should commit to letting India pick the weaponry from American arsenal to fight China should Beijing lose its head on the border. Let this bilateral meeting cement the partnership vis-à-vis China.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism.



DK Giri

PM MODI SHOULD TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS UPON BIDEN THAT THE US SHOULD HAVE A CONSISTENT POLICY VIS-À-VIS INDIA-CHINA RIVALRY

Unclaimed deposits

Sir, It is reported that unclaimed deposits of the public with banks, other financial institutions, mutual funds, and stock exchanges have reached a whopping Rs 1 lakh crore. The main reason is the absence of nominees. Union Finance Minister Niramala Sitharaman has rightly asked the banks and other financial institutions to obtain/update nominees from each and every customer to help resolve the problem of unclaimed deposits. Banks and other financial institutions must start a special drive to reach depositors or nominees for early refund of unclaimed money and also update nominee details of customers. The RBI should launch awareness campaign in print and electronic media to educate the depositors. It does not augur well to sit on such enormous unclaimed deposits.

Pratap Nayak, BHUBANESWAR

Wealthy parties

Sir, The wealth of the country's eight major national parties has increased dramatically during the fiscal year 2021-22. The political parties' assets climbed to Rs 8,829.158 crore, with the BJP having the highest declared assets of Rs 6,046.81 crore. The information provided by the Association for Democratic Reform reveals numerous significant patterns. If we look at the graph of political party wealth in 2021-22, the BJP, which has been in power at the Centre since 2014, has risen the most, albeit the Congress, being in Opposition, is not far behind in terms of percentage increase. If the BJP's assets increased by 21.17% from Rs 4,990 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 6,046 crore in 2021-22, the Congress' assets increased by 16%, reaching Rs 805.68 crore from Rs 691 crore. However, the discrepancy in assets between the ruling party and the main opposition party of more than Rs 5,000 crore speaks volumes about the level playing field available in the country's contemporary politics. True, elections are not won solely via the use of money and power, but the importance of money and the resources derived from it in elections cannot be overstated. However, two more facts are significant in this depiction. One point is that the Trinamool Congress is so far ahead of other parties in terms of increasing assets that it cannot be compared. Its fortune soared by 151.70% in a year. The BSP is the only political party whose assets have dropped.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

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, Rusalgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



G20 SUMMIT

Delhi removes stray dogs from streets

THE MCD DID NOT DIRECTLY LINK THE REMOVAL OF STRAY DOGS TO THE SUMMIT, STATING THAT THE CANINES ARE BEING PICKED UP 'ONLY ON AN URGENT NEED BASIS'

REUTERS



Trudeau and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida among others.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) did not directly link the removal of stray dogs to the summit, stating that the canines are being picked up "only on an urgent need basis".

Ambulances being used for the roundup of strays that were seen by Reuters, however, displayed "On Duty G-20" boards.

The national capital territory of Delhi has over 60,000 stray dogs, according to government data, which are fed and doted upon by many of its 20 million residents, but instances of them attacking people are not uncommon.

The MCD, in August, had issued an order for removal of

stray dogs "from the vicinity of prominent locations in view of the G-20 summit", but withdrew the directions two days later following a backlash.

Animal activists say the civic body then started capturing stray dogs "in an inhumane manner" last week, without using methods like "net catching or hand catching" mandated by guidelines. Almost 1,000 dogs have been rounded up so far from areas like the airport and the G20 venue, they said.

Reuters' witnesses saw MCD teams capturing dogs using rods with a loop at one end. The animals were then dragged to ambulances.

"What India is doing is ironic given the theme of the G20 - one earth, one family, one future. It

is hypocritical to talk of a shared future when we do not make room for our co-beings," said Ambika Shukla, trustee of People for Animals, a non-governmental organisation. Sanjay Mohapatra, founder of the House of Stray Animals NGO, termed the action "needless".

"If delegates see people feeding stray dogs, it will actually create a good impression of the country," he said.

The MCD, in a statement, said the captured dogs were being tracked and would be released back from where they were taken, but did not give a timeframe.

"All the dogs are safe and comfortable with necessary medical help available to them," it said.

Friendicoes, one of the groups working with the MCD to round up the canines, said it has picked up 234 dogs using nets and moved them to its three shelters in the city. Reuters images showed the animals inside cages, with a white-board hanging at the entrance detailing the 'token number' assigned to each of them, and detailing their gender and fur colour. "We have stopped the work now since we have reached full capacity. The dogs will be released at the same locations from where they were picked up after the summit," said co-founder Geeta Seshamani.

New Delhi, Sept 7: Hundreds of stray dogs that roam the streets of the Indian capital Delhi are being rounded up by authorities and moved to shelters in the run-up to the G20 summit this weekend, according to animal activists and Reuters witnesses.

Authorities have already cleared many slums in the city and put up cutouts of langurs to scare away monkeys from public spaces ahead of the meeting.

The G20 summit, the biggest ever gathering of world leaders in the Indian capital, will be attended by U.S. President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, Canadian Prime Minister Justin

Rising air quality concerns in Delhi despite measures

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 7: Despite concerted efforts to improve the air quality in the national capital during the high-profile G20 Summit in the national capital this weekend, the Air Quality Index (AQI) has taken a turn for the worse.

While multiple agencies have implemented measures around the summit venue, 13 hotspots in Delhi continue to exert a negative impact on the AQI.

According to sources, Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar has issued an order for rapid mobilisation to prepare Delhi for the Summit scheduled to take place on Saturday and Sunday.

The Delhi government also bears the significant responsibility of ensuring clean ambient air quality during this event,



given the presence of several international leaders.

"In the early days of September, Anand Vihar and Mundka have been identified as areas with poor air quality. Immediate action is imperative to sustain satisfactory air quality across Delhi. As part of this effort, ACSO officers will serve as nodal officers in 13 hotspots, including Anand Vihar, Vivek Vihar, Dwarka, Okhla, Vajirpur, Ashok Vihar, RK Puram, Bawana, Narela, Jahangirpuri,

Rohini, Mundka, and Punjabi Bagh," a source revealed.

These officers will be responsible for tasks such as mechanical road sweeping, water sprinkling, deploying mobile anti-smog guns, conducting road repairs, and converting unpaved roads into paved ones.

Their primary mission is to en-

sure improvements in air quality in hotspots areas.

Additionally, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPC) has established 30 special mobile teams to maintain air quality at the appropriate standard across various parts of Delhi.

According to a report from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) released three days ago, Delhi's AQI stands at 136, while Faridabad's is at 126, Ghaziabad 133, Greater Noida 172, Gurugram 151 and Noida 142, all falling under the 'Moderate' category.

It is expected that air quality will remain in this category for the next three days.

Tight security in New Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

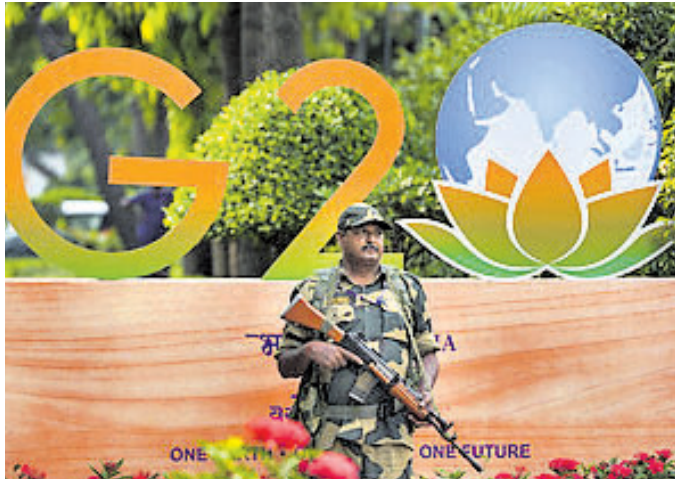
New Delhi, Sept 7: The New Delhi area, which houses the G20 Summit venue and hotels where delegates will be staying, will be put under a tight security ring from Friday morning and there will be a slew of traffic restrictions in place, officials said.

The movement of vehicles will be regulated in the New Delhi district as the area will be considered as Controlled Zone-I from 5 am Friday till 11.59 pm Sunday due the G20 summit.

However, movement of ambulances will be allowed and local residents of the area and tourists accommodated there will be permitted to move after presenting proper identification papers, police said.

They further stated that all online delivery services, except medicines, will be barred in the New Delhi district during the G20 Summit.

According to officials, police will be maintaining a hawk-eye vigil during the summit, with the assistance of over 50,000 personnel, K9 dog squads and mounted police. In an advisory released August 25, the Delhi Traffic Police has listed out restrictions on the movement of goods vehicles, buses, auto-rickshaws and taxis and has urged people to make maximum use of metro services in view of regulated movement of traffic. Police have also urged people not to visit India Gate and Kartavya



Path for activities such as walking, cycling and picnicking in view of the G20 Summit.

Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) SS Yadav had said as India Gate and Kartavya Path have been "designated in the controlled zone", the Delhi Police appeals to people not to visit the area for "walking, cycling or picnicking" during the G20 Summit.

He said that essential services such as postal and medical services, sample collections by pathological labs will be allowed throughout Delhi.

The police have also advised people to use the navigation app 'MapmyIndia' to reach their destinations.

The entire area of New Delhi will be considered as "Controlled Zone-I" from 5 am September 8 till 11.59 pm September 10.

The traffic police has desig-

nated the entire area inside Ring Road (Mahatma Gandhi Marg) as "Regulated Zone" from 5 am September 8 to 11.59 pm September 10.

This means that only bonafide residents, authorised vehicles, emergency vehicles and vehicles of passengers travelling to the airport, Old Delhi and New Delhi Railway Stations will be allowed to ply on the road network beyond Ring Road towards New Delhi district.

Vehicles dealing with house-keeping, catering, waste management, etc. For hotels, hospitals and other important installations in New Delhi district will also be allowed after verification.

Nearly 16 roads and junctions will be treated as "Controlled Zone II" from 12 noon till 2 pm Sunday.

JD-U's INDIA poster with Nitish at centre

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Sept 7: Amid the ongoing 'India vs Bharat' debate in the country, the JD-U in Patna has come up with posters featuring leaders of 14 political parties who are part of the Opposition INDIA bloc.

The posters with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at the centre features Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge (Congress), Lalu Prasad (RJD), Mamata Banerjee (Trinamool Congress), Sharad Pawar (NCP), M.K. Stalin



(DMK), Akhilesh Yadav (Samajwadi Party), Anvind Kejriwal (AAP), Hemant Soren (JMM), Uddhav Thackeray (Shiv Sena-UBT), Farooq Abdullah (National Conference), Mahbooba Mufti (PDP), Sitaram Yechury (CPI-M) and Dipankar

Bhattacharya (CPI-ML).

When asked about Nitish Kumar leading the Opposition alliance, senior JD-U leader Arun Kumar said that everyone wants their leader to stay at the centre stage, and JD-U is no different. The JD-U put up the poster in the press briefing hall of the party office having the slogan "Jitega India, Chak De India."

However, after JD-U national president Lalan Singh saw that the poster did not have photographs of himself and Tejashwi Yadav.

Delhi 'cycle walk' envisions planting thousands of trees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: The first leg of the DDA's 'cycle walk' project envisions planting thousands of indigenous trees and trans-planting a few species within forests, the urban body said Thursday.

The project, a pro-ecology initiative, is part of the government's climate change resilience efforts to serve the twin purpose of strengthening forests and green cover and creating a safe dedicated walking and cycling track for citizens to "engage meaningfully with the beautiful city forests and master plan greens of Delhi", the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) said in a statement.

"Leg A of the 'cycle walk' project starting from Sangam Vihar to the Malviya Nagar metro station imagines planting of thousands of indigenous trees and transplantation of a few trees within the forests," it said.

In Sangam Vihar, there is hardly any vegetation on the ground except some 'kikkar' trees. Through the 'cycle walk' project, indigenous trees will be planted along the tracks. The DDA is adding approximately eight acres of new forest land to the city.

The city's biomass and carbon sequestration capacity will get upgraded as a result of the project, the DDA said. Indigenous trees being planted will also have many fruit trees such as 'gular' and 'pilkhan' that

offer a great habitat for birds to thrive. Nearly 4,000 indigenous trees are being planted. Shrubs and ground covers that attract bees and butterflies are being introduced to strengthen the ecosystem, the DDA said.

Cycling tracks currently exist in Sanjay Van and "no adverse effect on the ecology" has been observed over the years, it said.

"Walking tracks exist within the Jahanpanah City Forest and no adverse effect on the ecology has been noticed so far. The proposed cycle track has a 'kuccha' track for walking as well as a 'kuccha' track for cycling, planned very carefully, meandering through the trees in order to avoid damage," the DDA said in its statement.

"Walking tracks exist within the Jahanpanah City Forest and no adverse effect on the ecology has been noticed so far. The proposed cycle track has a 'kuccha' track for walking as well as a 'kuccha' track for cycling, planned very carefully, meandering through the trees in order to avoid damage," the DDA said in its statement.

Campaign against tortoises as pets

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Sept 7: The Bihar Forest and Wildlife Department has started a campaign against people who are keeping tortoises in their homes as pets.

As per the Hindu tradition, people used to keep tortoises in aquariums for prosperity. People believe that this helps in passing the examinations, and a growth in wealth and business.

Due to this, demand for the animal turns high during Dushahra and Diwali and the smuggling of tortoises also increases during the festival session



after monsoon.

With this in view, Bhagalpur administration has appealed to people to hand over tortoises to the Wildlife Department or the Sundarvan tortoise rescue center.

"Keeping tortoises as pets in the home is a crime. It comes under animal cruelty act and the of-

fenders can be liable to pay hefty fines or face jail as well," said wildlife official Sanjit Kumar.

As per the Animal Cruelty Act, 1960, keeping pets hungry, or teasing them is a crime.

The tortoises smuggling network has a deep route starting from the coastal areas of West Bengal, Bihar and going all the way to Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and other parts of the country.

Bihar Police also seized a number of tortoises smuggled through trains and through private and commercial vehicles.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-918
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR
 Ph. No.- 0674-2301787, Fax No.-0674-2300965, E Mail I.D.- eerw_bbsr@yahoo.co.in
 No.- Tender - Online-BBSR Divn.- 15 Date:- 04.09.2023

e-Procurement NOTICE

- Name of the work : Repair / Maintenance of road work
- Total No. of Road : 03 Nos. of Roads
- Class of Contractor : 'B' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivalent class of other licensing authorities. 'C' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivalent class of other licensing authorities. 'D' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivalent class of other licensing authorities.
- Above Rs.20 lakh and upto 3 crore
- B) Upto Rs.40.00 lakh
- C) Upto Rs.20.00 lakh
- Estimate cost of individual project : Rs.5.00 lakh to Rs.21.00 lakh
- Time for completion : 2 (Two) calendar months

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Date & Time of opening of tender
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Bhubaneswar	Tender Online - BBSR Divn.- 15	11.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	21.09.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	22.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
 OIPR-25189/11/0003/2324 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Divn., BBSR

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER DHENKANAL (R&B) DIVISION, DHENKANAL
 E-mail: eedklpvd@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. SEDKL (R&B) 19/2023-24
Invitation for Bids

No.B-842:

- The Superintending Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division, Dhenkanal, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in single cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Building work as detailed below.
- Nature of Work : Building Works (05 Nos.)
- No. of Work : 05 Nos.
- Bid Cost : Rs.6,000/- & Rs.4000/-
- Class of Contractor : 'B', 'C' & 'D' Class
- Availability of Bid document in the website : From 10.00 AM of 07.09.2023 to 5.00 PM of 21.09.2023.
- Date of Opening of Bid : Dt.22.09.2023 at 11.00 AM
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Dhenkanal (R&B) Division
 OIPR-34016/11/0019/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA O-901
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, MOHANA
 E-mail: rwdmohana@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No. Online Tender 04/MOHANA/2023-24

- Name of the Work: Road works. 2. Total No. Work : 04 (Four) Nos. 3. Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.8.41 lakhs to Rs. 37.82 lakhs. 4. Class of Contractor : As per annexure. 5. Period of Completion : As per annexure. 6. Other Details:-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Works	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender
			From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Mohana	Online Tender 04/MOHANA/ 2023-24	04 (Four) Nos.	11.09.2023 from 11.00 AM	21.09.2023 upto 5.00 PM	16.09.2023 upto 5.00 PM	22.09.2023 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen from the Website www.tenderodisha.gov.in
 OIPR-25148/11/0005/2324 Sd./- Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Mohana

Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice
 e-mail ID- rw_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in; Phone No. 0663-2401850
 No. 4480, dated. 05.09.2023

Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SBPR-06 OF 23-24
 No.O-922-

- Name of the work : Road & Building Works as per DTGN available in the website. www.tendersodisha.gov.in
- Total No. of Work : 08 (Six) Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.5.04 lakhs to 25.21 lakhs
- Period of Completion : 01 (One) to 04 (Four) Calendar months
- Period and time of availability of bid : 08.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to document in the portal for bidding 14.09.2023 upto 5.00 PM
- Date and time of opening of Tender : 15.09.2023 at 11.00 AM
- Name and address of the officer : S.E.R.W. Divn. Sambalpur inviting bid

(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website www.tendersodisha.gov.in. (2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website: www.tenderodisha.gov.in
 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sambalpur
 OIPR-25076/11/0012/2324

GOVT. OF ODISHA No.MM-144:
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER ANGUL DIVISION, ANGUL
 e-Procurement Notice, Angul Forest Division
 Bid Identification No.01 of 2023-24
 e-mail ID: dfoangul@gmail.com

- Number of Works: 08 (Eight) number of Building Works
- Approximate estimated cost: Varies from Rs. 14.01 lakh to 17.53 lakhs.
- Period of Completion: 03 (Three) Calendar Months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: Dt.12.09.2023 at 10.00 A.M.
- Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal: Dt.27.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date of Opening Bid : Dt.28.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Office Inviting Bid: Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Division, Angul.
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer Angul Division, Angul
 OIPR-08027/11/0008/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-921
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KORAPUT
 PHONE: OFF: (06852) 251263; email: eerwkoraput@yahoo.com
 e-Procurement for Road Works
Bid Identification No.: SERWKPT - Online - 03/2023-24
 Letter No. 3780 Date: 05.09.2023

- Name of the work: Road Works in the district of Koraput for the year 2023-24. 2. Total Number of works : 5 Nos. 3. Approximate Estimate cost: Rs.5.00 to RS.30.00 Lakhs (Approximately). 4. Class of Contractor: "B", "C", "D" Class. 5. Period of Completion: Within 1-4 Months. 6. Other Details:-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Koraput	Online Tender/03/RWD/KPT/2023-24	12.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	20.09.2023 upto 5.30 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in/nicep/app. All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.
 *N.B.: Any Addendum or Corrigendum will be available in the Website only.
 Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Koraput
 OIPR-25088/11/0006/2324



A child dressed as Lord Krishna during Janmashtami celebrations at Durgiana temple in Amritsar, Punjab



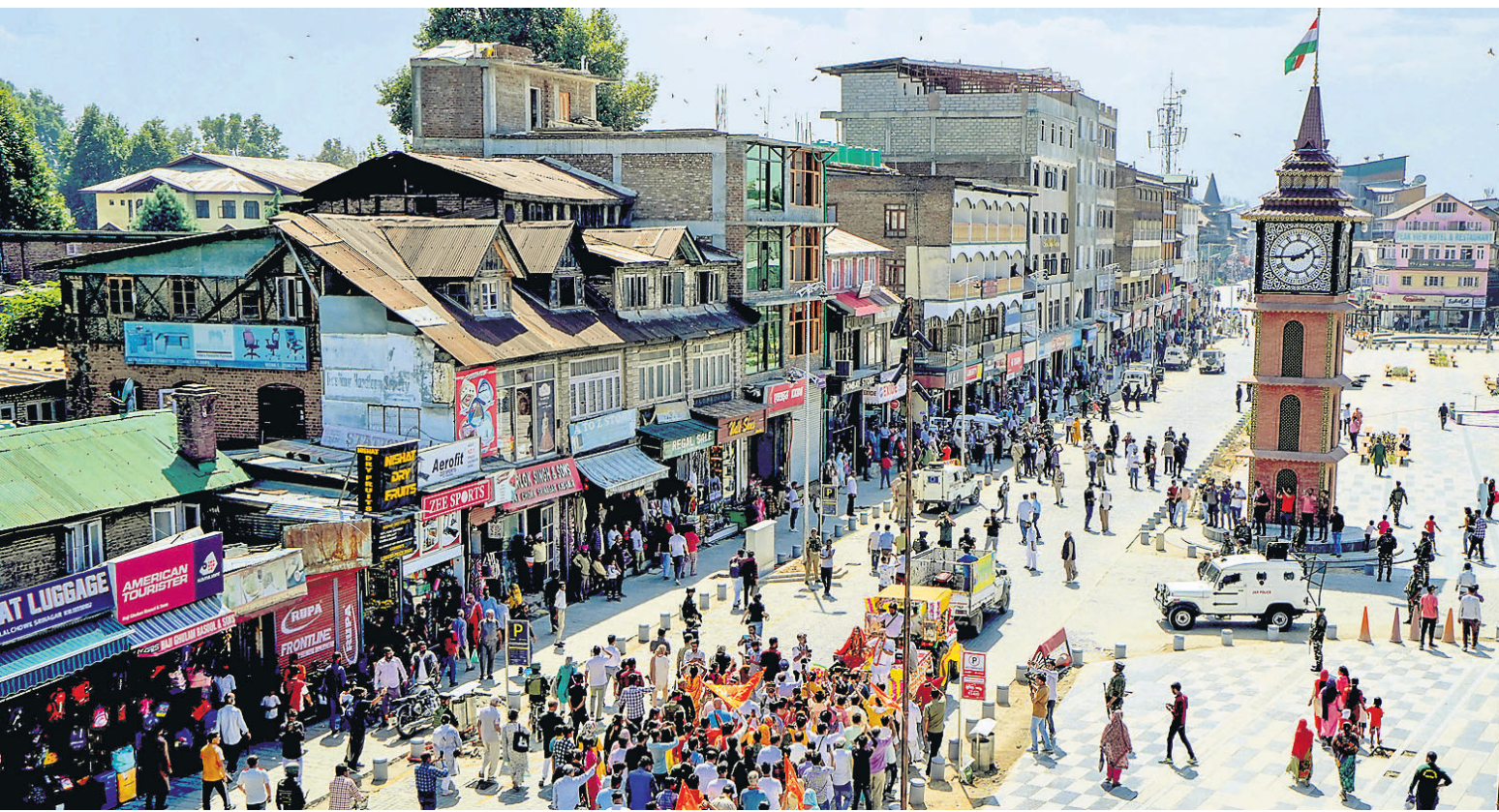
A Grevy zebra (Equus Grevyi) foal feeds from its mother, in Rome's Bioparco zoo. The Grevy zebra foal was born late September 2/early September 3, as part of a conservation project for this species threatened with extinction



Floodwaters cover a farm and a house after the country's record rainstorm in the village of Kastro, near Larissa, Thessaly region, central Greece. The death toll from severe rainstorms that lashed parts of Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria increased after rescue teams in the three neighboring countries recovered more bodies



School students stand in the formation of Literacy Mission logo, a day before International Literacy Day in Karad, Maharashtra



Kashmiri Pandits participate in a procession at Lal Chowk in Srinagar



People from Maratha community stage a protest over the issue of Maratha reservation in Nagpur



Devotees participate in Tiger dance during the celebration of Krishna Janmashtami festival in Udupi, Karnataka



Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and first lady Rosangela Silva wave at the start of the military parade on Independence Day in Brasilia, Brazil



national



Bharat Jodo Yatra was not a Mann ki Baat lecturing exercise for Rahul Gandhi but an opportunity to listen to Janta ki Chinta (concerns of the people)
JAIRAM RAMESH | CONG GENERAL SECRETARY

ROBOTS TO TEACH AUTISTIC KIDS

A 62-year-old retired hospital employee has built robots at his own expense that can perform tasks which can help autistic children learn, spread awareness on diseases such as dengue and even work as a waiter. Atanu Ghosh, a resident of Howrah city, said he learnt to design robots from his father Nripendra Nath Ghosh, who worked in Calcutta University's Department of Physiology as a research equipment designer



of the day quote

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is my honoured colleague. She is welcome to Raj Bhavan. She can come inside Raj Bhavan and stage all her protest demonstrations there. She can come as the honoured guest of Raj Bhavan to demonstrate here

Parliament session was called. No problem. Sonia Gandhi is asking about the agenda of the session but they are not revealing. It is a dangerous thing. I mean to say that what they have on their mind is not known

Those opposing Sanatan Dharma their political end is certain. There is no beginning or end of Sanatan Dharma

HUMAN-CENTRIC GLOBALISATION

NARENDRA MODI

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - these two words capture a deep philosophy. It means 'the world is one family'. This is an all-embracing outlook that encourages us to progress as one universal family, transcending borders, languages, and ideologies. During India's G20 Presidency, this has translated into a call for human-centric progress. As One Earth, we are coming together to nurture our planet. As One Family, we support each other in the pursuit of growth. And we move together towards a shared future - One Future - which is an undeniable truth in these interconnected times.

The post-pandemic world order is very different from the world before it. There are three important changes, among others. First, there is a growing realisation that a shift away from a GDP-centric view of the world to a human-centric view is needed. Second, the world is recognizing the importance of resilience and reliability in global supply chains. Third, there is a collective call for boosting multilateralism through the reform of global institutions. Our G20 Presidency has played the role of a catalyst

Taking G20 to the last mile, leaving none behind



in these shifts.

In December 2022, when we took over the Presidency from Indonesia, I had written that a mindset shift must be catalysed by the G20. This was especially needed in the context of mainstreaming the marginalized aspirations of developing countries, the Global South and Africa.

The Voice of Global South Summit, which witnessed participation from 125 countries, was one of the foremost initiatives under our Presidency. It was an important exercise to gather inputs and ideas from the Global South. Further, our Presidency has not only seen the largest-ever participation from African countries but has also pushed for the inclusion of

the African Union as a permanent member of the G20.

An interconnected world means our challenges across domains are interlinked. This is the midway year of the 2030 Agenda and many are noting with great concern that the progress on SDGs is off-track. The G20 2023 Action Plan on Accelerating Progress on SDGs will spearhead the future direction of the G20 towards implementing SDGs.

In India, living in harmony with nature has been a norm since ancient times and we have been contributing our share towards climate action even in modern times.

Many countries of the Global South are at various stages of development and climate action must be a complementary pursuit. Ambitions for climate action must be matched with actions on climate finance and transfer of technology.

We believe there is a need to move away from a purely restrictive attitude of what should not be done, to a more constructive attitude focusing on what can be done to fight climate change.

The Chennai HLPs for a Sustainable and Resilient Blue Economy focus on keeping our oceans healthy.

A global ecosystem for clean and green hydrogen will emerge

from our presidency, along with a Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre.

In 2015, we launched the International Solar Alliance. Now, through the Global Biofuels Alliance, we will support the world to enable energy transitions in tune with the benefits of a circular economy.

Democratising climate action is the best way to impart momentum to the movement. Just as individuals make daily decisions based on their long-term health, they can make lifestyle decisions based on the impact on the planet's long-term health. Just like Yoga became a global mass movement for wellness, we have also nudged the world with Lifestyles for Sustainable Environment (LiFE).

Due to the impact of climate change, ensuring food and nutritional security will be crucial. Millets, or Shree Anna, can help with this while also boosting climate-smart agriculture. In the International Year of Millets, we have taken millets to global palates. The Deccan High Level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition is also helpful in this direction.

Technology is transformative but it also needs to be made inclusive. In the past, the benefits of technological advancements have not benefited all sections of

society equally. India, over the last few years, has shown how technology can be leveraged to narrow inequalities, rather than widen them.

For instance, the billions across the world that remain unbanked, or lack digital identities, can be financially included through digital public infrastructure (DPI). The solutions we have built using our DPI have now been recognised globally. Now, through the G20, we will help developing countries adapt, build, and scale DPI to unlock the power of inclusive growth.

That India is the fastest-growing large economy is no accident. Our simple, scalable and sustainable solutions have empowered the vulnerable and the marginalised to lead our development story. From space to sports, economy to entrepreneurship, Indian women have taken the lead in various sectors. They have shifted the narrative from the development of women to women-led development. Our G20 Presidency is working on bridging the gender digital divide, reducing labour force participation gaps and enabling a larger role for women in leadership and decision-making.

For India, the G20 Presidency is not merely a high-level diplomatic endeavour. As the Mother of Democracy and a model of

diversity, we opened the doors of this experience to the world.

Today, accomplishing things at scale is a quality that is associated with India. The G20 Presidency is no exception. It has become a people-driven movement. Over 200 meetings will have been organised in 60 Indian cities across the length and breadth of our nation, hosting nearly 100,000 delegates from 125 countries by the end of our term. No Presidency has ever encompassed such a vast and diverse geographical expanse.

It is one thing to hear about India's demography, democracy, diversity and development from someone else. It is totally different to experience them firsthand. I am sure our G20 delegates would vouch for this.

Our G20 Presidency strives to bridge divides, dismantle barriers, and sow seeds of collaboration that nourish a world where unity prevails over discord, where shared destiny eclipses isolation. As the G20 President, we had pledged to make the global table larger, ensuring that every voice is heard and every country contributes. I am positive that we have matched our pledge with actions and outcomes.

The author is the Prime Minister of India

SHORT TAKES

Results for seven Assembly bypolls today

Kolkata/Lucknow/Kottayam: The results for bypolls to seven assembly seats in six states will be declared Friday in what is being seen as a major test for the opposition alliance INDIA against the BJP-led NDA ahead of the polls in five states later this year and Lok Sabha elections in 2024. The seven seats -- Bageshwar in Uttarakhand, Ghosi in Uttar Pradesh, Puthuppally in Kerala, Dhuppuri in West Bengal, Dumri in Jharkhand & Boxanagar, Dumri in Jharkhand & Boxanagar and Dhanpur in Tripura -- went to poll September 5.

Mamata raises pay of WB MLAs by 40K

Kolkata: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Thursday announced a hike of Rs 40,000 per month in salaries of MLAs of West Bengal. Banerjee, who made the announcement in the House, said there will be no revision in the chief minister's salary as she has not been drawing any pay for a long time. "The salary of MLAs of the West Bengal Assembly is much less than that of other states. So, it has been decided that their monthly salaries will be hiked by Rs 40,000. The MLAs used to get 10,000, ministers of state used to get 10,900 and ministers-in-charge Rs 11,000. Now, they will get 50,000, 50,900 and 51,000 per month," she said.

Tribal woman gangraped, 5 held

Patna: A tribal woman in Bihar's Munger district was kidnapped and gangraped by 6 persons, police said Friday. The accused kidnapped the woman from Maoist-affected Haveli Kharagpur village and took her to an isolated place and sexually assaulted her. Following the incident, the victim reached the local police station at Haveli Kharagpur and lodged the complaint against six persons.

UN's take on 'Bharat' row

A row erupted in India Tuesday after invitations for a G20 dinner were sent out by President Murmu, describing her position as 'President of Bharat' instead of the customary 'President of India', with the opposition accusing the Narendra Modi government of planning to drop India and stay with just Bharat as the country's name

AGENCIES

United Nations, Sept 7: The United Nations considers requests from countries to change their names as and when the world body receives them, a top UN official has said, amid a row over President Droupadi Murmu's G20 dinner invites referring to her as 'President of Bharat' instead of 'President of India'.

Deputy Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Farhan Haq Wednesday cited the example of Turkey changing its name to Turkiye last year.

"Well, in the case of Turkiye, we responded to a formal request delivered to us by the Government. Obviously, if we get requests like that, we consider them as they come," he said in response to a question on reports that India's name could be changed to Bharat.

A row erupted in India Tuesday after invitations for a G20 dinner were sent out by President Murmu, describing her position as 'President of Bharat' instead of the customary 'President of India', with the opposition accusing the Narendra Modi government of planning to drop India and stay with just Bharat as the country's name.

Prime Minister Modi Wednesday told his ministerial colleagues to avoid the po-



Deputy Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Farhan Haq Wednesday cited the example of Turkey changing its name to Turkiye last year

litical row around the Bharat issue, noting that it has been the country's ancient name. Modi spoke on the issues during his interaction with the Union Council of Ministers in which he laid down the dos and don'ts to be observed by them during the upcoming G20 summit.

He asked them to remain in the national capital during the mega exercise and discharge any duty assigned to them to ensure that visiting dignitaries are not put to any inconvenience. The G20 Summit is being held in New Delhi September 9 and 10 under India's presidency and several heads of state from across the world, including US President Joe Biden, are attending the event.

Meanwhile, high offices in the country have typically stuck to titles such as President of India, Prime Minister of India and Chief Justice of

India while communicating in English.

Over the years though, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has been changing colonial names to, what it says, help India move past a mentality of slavery.

Supporters of the name change in the invitation said British colonial rulers had coined the name India to overshadow Bharat and forge a British legacy.

The change to "President of Bharat" comes less than two months after opposition parties formed the "INDIA" alliance to challenge BJP in national elections next year.

INDIA, they said, stands for Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance. Political analysts said it was a clever coinage to take on the BJP's nationalist platform.

India's President is a non-party executive with only ceremonial powers. She is traditionally backed and elected by the party in power.

Plea in SC for FIR against Udhayanidhi Stalin, A Raja

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: As a hugely divisive debate raged over Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi Stalin's "eradicate Sanatan Dharma" remark, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court Thursday seeking its direction for registration of an FIR against him.

The petitioner has also sought an FIR against DMK leader and former union minister A Raja for his comments on Sanatan Dharma. Throwing his weight behind Udhayanidhi Stalin, the son of DMK chief and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, Raja has likened 'Sanatan Dharma' to leprosy and HIV.

The application, filed in the top court by advocate Vineet Jindal, has also sought issuance of a contempt notice against Delhi and Chennai Police, accusing them of not implementing the directions of the apex court on hate speech.

The top court had April 28 this year directed all states and Union Territories to register cases against those making hate speeches even if no complaint was made.

The petitioner has sought direction to police to lodge FIR against Udhayanidhi Stalin, the film actor son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, and Raja for their comments, claiming they promoted enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race etc. These offences are punishable under the Indian Penal Code.

Jindal has also sought his impleadment in a pending petition that sought the apex court's directions to curb hate speech.

"It is respectfully submitted that the applicant, being a



Hindu and Sanatan Dharma follower, his religious sentiments are hurt by statements made by the non-applicant Udhayanidhi Stalin calling for eradicating Sanatan Dharma and further comparing Sanatan with mosquitoes, dengue, corona, and malaria," Jindal has said in his application.

Raja, a former union minister, defended Udhayanidhi, saying his remarks were "mild and soft" and went on to equate Sanatan Dharma, a term loosely used to describe Hinduism, with even more dreaded diseases.

"If Sanatan Dharma should be commented in disgusting terms; once upon a time the leprosy and recently the HIV had stigma and as far as we are concerned, it (Sanatan) should be regarded like HIV and leprosy that had social stigma," the DMK's Deputy General Secretary said at a public event in Tamil Nadu Wednesday.

The DMK is avowedly wedded to atheism.

Earlier, over 260 eminent citizens, including former judges and bureaucrats, had written to Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud urging him to take cognisance of Udhayanidhi Stalin's eradicate "Sanatan Dharma" remark.

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

Aditya L1 takes selfie, images of Earth and Moon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 7: ISRO Thursday released a "selfie" and images of the Earth and the Moon -- the first of the images taken by the camera on-board Aditya-L1 solar mission spacecraft, which on reaching its intended orbit would begin sending as many as 1,440 images a day to the ground station for analysis.



"Aditya-L1, destined for the Sun-Earth L1 point, takes a selfie and images of the Earth and the Moon," the Bangalore-headquartered national space agency said on social media platform 'X'. The images show VELC (Visible Emission Line Coronagraph) and SUI (Solar Ultraviolet Imager) instruments as seen by the camera on-board Aditya-L1 September 4, 2023. ISRO also shared images of the Earth and Moon as seen by the camera.

VELC, the primary payload of Aditya L1, was built by Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA). Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune, had developed the SUI payload. VELC is an internally occulted coronagraph, with 40 different optical elements (mirrors, gratings, etc) inside it that are aligned precisely. The atmosphere of the Sun, the Corona, is what we see during a total solar eclipse.

A coronagraph like the VELC is an instrument that cuts out the light from the disk of the Sun, and can thus image the much fainter corona at all times, IIA officials say. VELC will be sending 1,440 images per day to the ground station for analysis on reaching the intended orbit, according to them.

VELC, "the largest and technically most challenging" payload on Aditya-L1, was integrated, tested, and calibrated at the IIA's CREST (Centre for Research and Education in Science Technology) campus in Hoskote near here with substantial collaboration with ISRO.

ISRO successfully launched the Aditya-L1 using its trusted PSLV-C57 rocket September 2.

The Aditya-L1 spacecraft carries a total of seven different payloads to study the Sun, four of which will observe the light from the Sun and the remaining three will measure in situ parameters of the plasma and magnetic fields.

DIVORCE CASE Cruelty for woman and man may differ: SC

The Supreme Court said courts must adopt an empathetic and contextual construction of the facts to avert the possibility of perpetuating trauma- mental and sometimes even physical- on the vulnerable party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: What is cruelty for a woman in a given case may not be cruelty for a man, and a relatively more elastic and broad approach is required when a court examines a case in which a wife seeks divorce, the Supreme Court has said while granting a decree of divorce to a woman.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and MM Sundresh said the word 'cruelty' under Section



tending circumstances, the bench said. "Therefore, what is cruelty for a woman in a given case may not be cruelty for a man, and a relatively more elastic and broad approach is required when we examine a case in which a wife

seeks divorce. Section 13(1) of the Act of 1955 sets contours and rigours for grant of divorce at the instance of both the parties," the bench said.

The bench, which pronounced the verdict Wednesday, took note

of the submission by advocate Dushyant Parashar, appearing for the estranged wife, seeking divorce on ground of cruelty and claiming her husband had cast aspersions on her character.

Parashar contended that both the high court and the trial court had erred in refusing to grant divorce. The bench said the facts of the case spoke for themselves.

The couple had got married in the year 2002. It ran into rough weather after the birth of their child. Disputes started between the parties from 2006.

"The appellant-wife registered a complaint under Section 498A of Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. The respondent-husband had ques-

tioned the character of the appellant-wife," the bench noted.

The bench noted the husband claimed it was his wife who had left the matrimonial home and also demanded a medical examination of the wife, alleging she was living in adultery and had given birth to a child during the period of non-cohabitation.

The request was rejected by the high court, the bench said, adding the couple has been living separately for a decade and half.

The top court said courts must also keep in mind that the home which is meant to be a happy and loveable place to live, becomes a source of misery and agony where the partners fight.

international

of the day quote

China is the first country to explicitly voice support for the AU's accession to G20

If Donald Trump's the nominee -- yes, I will support him, and if I'm the President, yes, I will pardon him because that will help reunite the country. But it's not the most important thing I'm going to do as the next President. It is the table stakes for moving this country forward

What is worrying about the influx in refugees is that most of them are young men and women. That threatens our entity's independence and could create harsh imbalances that could affect Lebanon's demographic balance



The American people have a profound stake in the future of the Indo-Pacific
KAMALA HARRIS | US VICE PRESIDENT

NO VIDEO ADDRESS: RUSSIA

Russian President Vladimir Putin is not planning to make a video address at the upcoming G20 summit in New Delhi this weekend, the Kremlin said Thursday



INS Sumedha arrives at Port Alexandria to participate in the multi-nation military exercise 'Bright Star' in Egypt

China's draft law against harming 'national spirit' triggers concern

REUTERS

Beijing, Sept 7: Proposed changes to a Chinese public security law to criminalise comments, clothing or symbols that "undermine the spirit" or "harm the feelings" of the country have triggered the concern of legal experts, who say the amendments could be used arbitrarily. The changes were first made public last week as part of a mandatory "soliciting opinion" process, as concerns mount about the increasingly authoritarian and nationalistic rule of President Xi Jinping. This week, several legal scholars and bloggers wrote editorials and social media posts calling for the removal of certain articles in the draft. The scholars and commentators also encouraged citizens to give their feedback on the draft, and so far around 39,000 people have done so via the website of China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC).



"Who confirms the spirit of the Chinese nation' and according to what procedure? Who recognises the feelings of the Chinese nation' and according to what procedures?" wrote Tong Zhiwei, a constitutional studies scholar at the East China University of Political Science and Law, on his Weibo social media account. "If the NPC Standing Committee adopts this article as it is now drafted, law enforcement and judicial work will inevitably lead to the practical consequences of arresting and convicting people according to the will of the chief, and there will be endless harm," Tong added.

China to join NK to rejoice its founding



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul (South Korea), Sept 7: A Chinese delegation led by Vice Premier Liu Guozhong will visit North Korea to participate in celebrations for its 75th founding anniversary, which is on Saturday, the North's state media said Thursday. The report came amid speculation that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is preparing to visit Russia soon for a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin that could focus on North Korean arms sales to refill Russian reserves drained by its war on Ukraine. The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the visit by Liu's delegation comes at the invitation of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party. It didn't specify the events the Chinese officials would participate in or whether they would meet Kim. North Korea didn't immediately say whether a Russian delegation was also invited for the celebrations, which are expected to be highlighted by a parade of North Korean militia units. A US official said Monday that Washington expects Kim to make

a trip to Russia within this month to meet Putin as the Kremlin tries to acquire military equipment for its war in Ukraine. According to some US reports, the meeting could happen as early as next week in the eastern Russian city of Vladivostok, where Putin is expected to attend an annual economic forum that runs from Sunday to Wednesday. South Korean intelligence officials believe Russia and North Korea may arrange a "surprise" route for Kim's visit to avoid potential venues reported by the media, according to lawmaker Yoo Sang-bum, who attended a closed-door briefing with officials from Seoul's National Intelligence Service. In exchange for providing Russia with artillery shells and other ammunition, North Korea could seek badly needed energy and food aid and advanced weapons technologies, analysts say. There are concerns that potential Russian technology transfers would increase the threat posed by Kim's growing arsenal of nuclear weapons and missiles that are designed to target the United States and its Asian allies, South Korea and Japan.

Modi presents 12-point roadmap to expand ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jakarta, Sept 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday presented a 12-point proposal to expand cooperation between India and 10-nation ASEAN in a range of areas such as connectivity, trade and digital transformation even as he called for building a rules-based post-COVID world order. Establishment of a multi-modal connectivity and economic corridor linking South East Asia, India, West Asia and Europe and offering to share New Delhi's digital public infrastructure stack with ASEAN partners are among the proposals announced by Modi at the annual ASEAN-India summit in this Indonesian capital. In a joint statement on maritime cooperation, the two sides agreed to deepen their comprehensive strategic partnership with concrete actions through practical implementation of the 'Plan of Action' to implement the ASEAN-India partnership for peace, progress and shared prosperity. The document said it was agreed to support India's con-



The 10-member countries of ASEAN are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim as US Vice President Kamala Harris looks on, on the sidelines of the 20th ASEAN-India Summit, in Jakarta, Thursday

nectivity initiatives in the region to ensure seamless connectivity in the Indo-Pacific, besides boosting cooperation in a range of areas including blue economy, space and food security among others. A separate joint statement on

food security said the two sides decided to strengthen cooperation on food security and nutrition through promoting mutual trade and investment. The 12-point proposals also included the prime minister's call for collective fight against ter-

rorism, terror financing and cyber-disinformation as well as to raise issues being faced by Global South in multilateral fora. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region, and India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners. In his remarks, Modi reaffirmed the ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific and highlighted the synergies between India's Indo-Pacific Ocean's Initiative (IPO) and ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). He also emphasized the need to complete the review of ASEAN-India FTA (AITIGA) in a time bound manner. In his address at the summit, Modi said that progress towards a free and open Indo-Pacific and elevating the voice of the Global South is in the common interest of all. In his opening remarks, Modi described the grouping as the epicenter of growth and that New Delhi is committed to working "shoulder to shoulder" with it.

SHORT TAKES

Over 800 people rescued in Greece

Athens: More than 800 people have been rescued over the past two days from floods in Greece, the fire department said Thursday, after severe rainstorms turned streets into raging torrents, hurling cars into the sea and washing away roads. The rainstorms have also hit neighbouring Bulgaria and Turkey, leaving 14 people dead in the three countries, including three people in Greece.

Pak court indicts four govt officials

Islamabad: A Pakistani high court Thursday indicted Islamabad's district commissioner and three police officers in a contempt case for violating court orders regarding the detention of two leaders of former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party. Justice Babar Sattar of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) presided over the hearing where Islamabad's Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon, Senior Superintendent of Police for Operations Jamil Zafar, Superintendent of Police Farooq Butt and Margalla Station House Officer Nasir Manzoor were present.

Hunt on after terror suspect escapes

London: A manhunt is on across airports and ports of the UK Thursday after a terrorist suspect escaped from a London prison where diamond merchant Nirav Modi, who is wanted in India on fraud and money charges, has also been lodged for over three years.

Aus, China open first high-level talks in 3 yrs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taipei (Taiwan) Sept 7: Australia and China opened their first high-level dialogue in three years Thursday in a sign of a slight thaw to relations between countries that have clashed on everything from human rights to COVID-19 origins to trade. "I welcome the recent positive developments in the bilateral relationship, but we know that there is more work to do," said Craig Emerson, the head of the Australian delegation and a

former trade minister. The dialogue being held in Beijing will focus on trade, people-to-people links, and security. China's former Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said the two countries should work together, but added that "we should adhere to the liberalization of trade and jointly oppose the Cold War mentality, bloc confrontation and trade protectionism". Beijing often uses those terms in opposing the actions of Western countries, particularly the US.

Gotabaya rejects TV channel's allegations

UK's Channel 4 television station Tuesday aired a documentary titled 'Sri Lanka's Easter Bombings - Dispatches' alleging the involvement and complicity of certain government officials in orchestrating the 2019 Easter suicide bombings



vious films broadcast by the same Channel." He said that to claim a group of Islamic extremists launched suicide attacks to make him President is absurd. Responding to the claims that Major General Suresh Salley, who was accused in the documentary of plotting the 2019 attacks with the Muslim extremists, was a Rajapaksa loyalist, the former president said that Salley was a career military officer who has served under many presidents and all military officers are loyal to the State and not to private individuals. Rajapaksa claimed that he had no contact with Salley after leaving the position of Defence Secretary in 2015 and until he was elected President in 2019. He added that Salley had informed Channel 4 that he was not in Sri Lanka when the documentary alleged a meeting between the Major General and the suicide bombers. "Hence, this story about Maj Gen Salley meeting the suicide bombers in February 2018 is clearly a fabrication," Rajapaksa said.

UK rejoining EU's science-sharing programme

ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Sept 7: Britain is rejoining the European Union's USD 100 billion science-sharing programme Horizon Europe, the two sides announced Thursday, more than two years after the country's membership became a casualty of Brexit. British scientists expressed relief at the decision, the latest sign of thawing relations between the EU and its former member nation. After months of negotiations, the British government said the country was becoming a "fully associated member" of the research collaboration body. UK-based scientists can bid for Horizon funding starting Thursday and will be able to lead Horizon-backed science projects starting in 2024. Britain is also rejoining Copernicus, the EU space programme's Earth observation component. "The EU and the UK are key



strategic partners and allies, and today's agreement proves that point," said European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who signed off on the deal during a call with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Wednesday. "We will continue to be at the forefront of global science and re-

search." The EU blocked Britain from Horizon during a feud over trade rules for Northern Ireland, the only part of the UK that shares a border with an EU member, the Republic of Ireland. The two sides struck a deal to ease those tensions in February, but Horizon negotiations had dragged on over de-

tails of how much the UK will pay for its membership. Sunak said he had struck the "right deal for British taxpayers." The EU said Britain would pay almost 2.6 billion Euros (USD 2.8 billion) a year on an average for Copernicus and Horizon. The UK will not have to pay for the

British scientists expressed relief at the decision, the latest sign of thawing relations between the EU and its former member nation

period it was frozen out of the science-sharing programme, which has a 95.5 billion-Euro budget (USD 102

billion) for the 2021-27 period. Relations between Britain and the bloc were severely tested during the long divorce negotiations that followed Britain's 2016 vote to leave the EU. The divorce became final in 2020 with the agreement of a bare-bones trade and cooperation deal, but relations chilled still further under strongly pro-Brexit UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Johnson's government introduced a bill that would let it unilaterally rip up parts of the Brexit agreement, a move the EU called illegal. Johnson left office amid scandal in mid-2022, and the Sunak government has quietly worked to improve Britain's relationship with its European neighbours, though trade friction and deep-rooted mistrust still linger. British scientists, who feared Brexit would hurt international research collaboration, breathed sighs of relief at the Horizon deal.



India's G20 presidency is inclusive. It's giving a voice to many countries that may not have had a voice before. In some cases, with the Global South, a wide span of countries ranging from the geographical regions of Africa, Central and Latin America, and a large chunk of Asia

ANISH SHAH | MD & CEO, MAHINDRA GROUP

TEPID PERFORMANCE BY DIGITAL ₹

Transactions in the Indian digital rupee are averaging close to 18,000 a day, a source directly familiar with the matter said Thursday, well below the target of hitting a million transactions a day by year-end. The central bank last year began pilot programmes to use the e-rupee in retail and wholesale markets as an alternative to cash



of the day quote

The agrochemical industry has achieved a miracle growth of nine per cent... Much of this growth rate has happened during the Covid-19 pandemic years when the production activities were seriously disrupted

RAMESH CHAND | MEMBER, NITI AAYOG

European Union's carbon tax or carbon border adjustment mechanism move imposes massive data compliance requirements on Indian exporters.

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | CO-FOUNDER, GTRI

'ONDC in a Box' empowers our customers with not only the payments and settlement tool-kit facilitated by HSBC India, but also the technology stack required for ONDC enablement, which is powered by our partners

SIDDHARTH RUNGTA | MD & HEAD (GLOBAL PAYMENT SOLUTIONS), HSBC INDIA

Tomato pushes cost of veg thali in August

Vegetarian thali cost is expected to fall this month on lower vegetable and LPG prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 7: Higher tomato prices pushed up the cost of vegetarian thali by 24 per cent in August compared to the year-ago period, according to a report.

The cost, however, eased marginally when compared to July, Crisil Market Intelligence and Analytics monthly 'Roti Rice Rate' report said Thursday.

In August, the cost of a vegetarian thali declined marginally month-on-month on a high base and was elevated year-on-



year for the second time this fiscal, primarily because of firm tomato prices.

The cost of a non-vegetarian thali rose 13 per cent year-on-year, it added.

Of the 24 per cent rise in the

vegetarian thali cost, 21 per cent can be attributed solely to the price of tomato, which rose 176 per cent year-on-year to ₹102 per kg in August compared to ₹37 per kg in the same month last year, the report said.

As per the report, for non-vegetarian thali, the increase was less as the price of broilers, which contributes to more than 50 per cent of the cost, is estimated to have risen a moderate 1-3 per cent year-on-year.

A 17 per cent decline in the price of vegetable oil and 14 per cent in potatoes in August as against the year-ago period, cushioned the cost of both thalis to an extent, it said.

The report said the prices of thalis could drop in September as tomato retail price has halved month-on-month to ₹51 per kg.

Also, the cost of a 14.2 kg LPG cylinder, which was ₹1,103 in August, has been cut to ₹903 from September, could provide more relief to consumers, it added.

VEGETARIAN THALI SURGES 24% YOY
NON-VEGETARIAN THALI UP 13% YOY

CHINA IPHONE CURBS

Apple sees worst one-day plunge in over a month

REUTERS

Washington, Sept 7: Apple fell nearly 4% Thursday and sparked a selloff in tech stocks after reports that China has widened curbs on iPhone use by government staff in one of the US company's biggest markets.

The world's most valuable firm was set to lose around \$100 billion in market value after suffering its worst one-day drop in more than a month Wednesday.

Apple suppliers and companies with large China exposure including Broadcom, Qualcomm and Texas Instruments fell between 1.4% and 4.7%. The iPhone maker's drop also weighed on the three main U.S. stock indexes.

Reuters reported earlier in the day that Beijing told employees at some central government agencies in recent weeks to stop using their Apple mobiles at work.

The reported move deepened fears about the financial toll from rising tensions between Washington and Beijing.

The US has in recent years restricted China's access to key technologies including cutting-edge chips, while Beijing has tried to reduce its reliance on American tech and curbed shipments from US firms including planemaker Boeing.

Several Wall Street analysts said the curbs on the iPhone show that even a company with a good relationship with the Chinese government and large presence in the world's second-largest economy was not immune to rising Sino-US tensions.

₹ AT NEW NADIR

RUPEE FALLS 9 PAISE TO SETTLE AT ALL-TIME LOW OF 83.22 AGAINST US DOLLAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: The rupee depreciated for the fourth straight day and settled 10 paise lower at its lifetime low of 83.23 against the US dollar Thursday amid a firm American currency and elevated crude oil prices.

Besides, elevated crude oil prices in the international market weighed on investor sentiments, according to forex traders. A positive trend in the domestic equity markets, however, provided a cushion to the rupee, traders added.

Crude oil breached the \$90 per barrel-mark after oil producing countries agreed to extend supply cut till December this year while dollar stayed firm on safe-haven demand.

We expect rupee to trade with a negative bias on strong dollar and elevated crude oil prices. Disappointing European data may further support dollar. Rising US treasury yields and concerns over global economic growth may also weigh on rupee

ANUJ CHOUDHARY | RESEARCH ANALYST, SHAREKHAN

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 83.15 against the dollar and traded in the range of 83.12 to 83.22 against the greenback. It ended at the lowest level of 83.22 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a fall of 9 paise from its previous close.

On Wednesday, the rupee settled 9 paise lower at 83.13 against the dollar. Earlier, the Indian



RBI's regular interventions to uplift rupee has brought foreign currency reserves below \$600bn. It burned through about \$14bn of foreign reserves in just over a month in August

currency had closed at the same level of 83.13 August 21.

The domestic unit has declined 60 paise since Monday when it had closed 9 paise lower at 82.71 against the greenback. On Tuesday, the unit had plunged 33 paise, the sharpest fall this week.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of

RUPEE HAS DECLINED 60 PAISE SINCE MONDAY
CRUDE OIL BREACHED \$90 PER BARREL-MARK

six currencies, rose by 0.09 per cent to 104.95.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.39 per cent lower at \$90.25 per barrel.

Sensex revisits 66K

Equity benchmark Sensex climbed over 385 points to reclaim the 66,000 mark Thursday, propelled by robust buying in index majors HDFC Bank, L&T and SBI amid a weak trend in global equities. Rising for the fifth straight day, the BSE Sensex recovered all the early lost ground and finally closed with a gain of 385.04 points or 0.58 per cent at 66,265.56. During the day, it hit a low of 65,672.34 and a high of 66,296.90. The Nifty advanced 116 points or 0.59 per cent to settle at 19,727.05.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market Thursday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 758.55 crore. In the previous session Wednesday, fog-ened buying helped the BSE benchmark climb 100.26 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at 65,880.52. The Nifty advanced 36.15 points or 0.18 per cent to end at 19,611.05.

BSE-listed firms' mcap climbs to fresh peak

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms climbed to a fresh all-time peak of ₹319.10 lakh crore Thursday, driven by an optimistic trend in equities, where Sensex recorded its fifth straight day rally. The buoyancy in equities helped the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms reach a new record high of ₹3,19,10,019.04 crore. Investors wealth also climbed ₹9.50 lakh crore in five days.

Fuel consumption rises 6.5% YoY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 7: The consumption of diesel rose 5% while that of petrol increased 3% in August over last year on increased mobility and economic activity, according to the oil ministry data.

Jet fuel sales jumped 14% from a year earlier while liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) consumption grew 3% in August.

The overall consumption of refined fuels rose 6.5% in August from a year earlier.

The gains in sales of petrol and diesel in August have mainly been on account of the



- DIESEL CONSUMPTION ROSE 5%
- PETROL CONSUMPTION JUMP 3%
- JET FUEL SALES INCREASES 14%
- LPG CONSUMPTION GREW 3%

private fuel retailers. State fuel retailers such as Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum together sold 2.9% less diesel in August over last year and 0.4% more petrol.

Private sector retailers such as Reliance-BP and Rosneft-backed Nayara had reduced their retail sales last year after state-run companies chose to sell fuel at below-market rates.

Private sector retailers are now regaining market share.

Jet fuel sales were strong in August as air traffic grew. Jet fuel sales have recovered from their Covid lows, with August sales being 1.5% higher than in the same month of 2019.

Diesel, which has a wide range of applications from goods transport to mining and farming, accounts for nearly 40% of the country's oil demand.

IAF to get first Airbus C-295 transport aircraft this month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: India will get its first Airbus C-295 tactical military transport aircraft this month, an official of the European aircraft manufacturer said Thursday.

"The first C-295 aircraft will be delivered to the Indian Air Force this month only," Remi Maillard, Airbus India President and Managing Director, told a press conference here.

Maillard was interacting with reporters after Airbus inked a memorandum of understand-

ing with the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya to train engineers for the aviation sector.

India had inked an agreement with Airbus for supply of 56 C-295 military transport aircraft in September 2021.

As per the agreement, 40 aircraft will be built at the facility set up by Tata Advanced Systems Limited in partnership with Airbus at Vadodra.

Airbus will supply 16 aircraft in fly away condition from its facility in Spain. Maillard said the aircraft production in India will begin in 2026.

STABLE OUTLOOK

'Air passenger traffic may increase 8-13%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 7: Domestic air passenger traffic is likely to grow 8-13 per cent in the current fiscal and the aviation industry is also expected to trim the losses further, credit rating agency Icria said Thursday.

Icria, in its mid-year update on Indian aviation, also maintained a "stable outlook" on the industry, amidst the continued recovery in domestic and international air passenger traffic in FY2024, and improved pricing power of the carriers.

After the fast-paced recovery in FY2023, Icria said it estimates growth in domestic air passenger traffic in FY24 at 8-13 per cent, thus reaching 150-155 million passenger traffic, surpassing the pre-Covid levels of 141.2 million passengers in FY2020.

It said that the domestic air passenger traffic during the first five months of the current fiscal stood at 63.2 million, witnessing a year-on-year growth of 20 per cent from 52.6 million a year earlier and 7 per cent higher than the pre-Covid levels of 58.9 million.

The international passenger traffic for Indian carriers, surpassed the pre-Covid levels in FY2023, although it trailed the peak levels of 25.9 million in FY2019.

India scraps additional duties on certain US products

THE MOVE COMES AHEAD OF US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN'S VISIT TO INDIA TO ATTEND THE G20 SUMMIT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: India has removed additional duties on about half a dozen US products, including chickpeas, lentils and apples, which were imposed in 2019 in response to America's decision to increase tariffs on certain steel and aluminium products.

India had imposed these duties on 28 US products in 2019 in retaliation to the US' move. The finance ministry through a notification dated September 5 informed about removal of duties on the



products, including chickpeas, lentils (masur), apples,

walnut in shell and almonds fresh or dried, as well as al-

mond shelled.

The move comes ahead of US President Joe Biden's visit to India to attend the G20 Summit September 9-10, which would be preceded by a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday.

During the prime minister's state visit to the US in June, both countries decided to terminate six WTO (World Trade Organization) disputes and also remove the retaliatory tariffs on certain US products.

As part of the agreement, India will be removing additional duty on chickpeas (10 per cent), lentils (20 per cent), almonds fresh or dried (Rs 7 per kg), almonds shelled (Rs 20 per kg), walnuts (20 per cent), and apples fresh (20 per cent).

In July, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel in a written

reply to the Rajya Sabha had said the government has decided to remove retaliatory customs duties on import of almonds (fresh or dried, in shell), walnuts, chickpeas, lentils, apples, medical diagnostic reagents, and boric acid.

The removal of retaliatory tariffs or cuts in import duty with the US did not result in a loss to India, she had said.

The US is the largest trading partner of India. In 2022-23, the bilateral goods trade increased to \$128.8 billion as against \$119.5 billion in 2021-22.



ALCARAZ EASES THROUGH

Top-seeded Spaniard reaches US Open semifinals, closes in on a second consecutive Grand Slam title

New York, Sept 7: Carlos Alcaraz found himself in a hint of a predicament 35 minutes into his US Open quarterfinal against Alexander Zverev.

At 3-all in the first set under the lights in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Wednesday night, Zverev earned the first break points of the match. An opening. An opportunity to gain an early edge against the defending champion. And then — poof! — gone. Alcaraz dismissed those chances to hold, then gained a break himself in the next game by depositing an overhead that bounced into the stands. One more service hold arrived and, just like that, the set belonged to Alcaraz, as did, eventually, a spot in the semifinals.

The top-seeded Alcaraz pushed aside Zverev 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 and moved a step closer to becoming the first man to win consecutive titles at Flushing Meadows since Roger Federer collected five in a row from 2004-08.

The 12th-seeded Zverev, a 26-year-old German who was the runner-up at the 2020 US Open, said he felt something bothersome in his left hamstring area early in the second set. And because of that, he explained, sprinting and pushing off properly to serve became problematic. There have not been many instances in which anyone has managed to slow down Alcaraz, a 20-year-old from Spain, in any real way over the past year-plus of Grand Slam action.

He improved to 24-1 in his past four major tournaments: After the championship in New York 12 months ago, he sat out the Australian Open with a leg injury, made it to the semifinals of the French Open before cramping up in a loss to Novak Djokovic, and

added the Wimbledon trophy by beating Djokovic in the final, before the run over these two weeks.

There could be an Alcaraz vs Djokovic rematch in Sunday's final.

Yes, first things first. Alcaraz will take on 2021 US Open champion Daniil Medvedev in the final four on Friday, while 23-time Slam champ Djokovic faces unseeded Ben Shelton, a 20-year-old American who's never been this far at a major.

On a sweltering evening, Alcaraz showed off several aspects of his varied game against Zverev. The powerful forehands that elicit gasps from the crowd. The delicate drop shots. The hammered returns. The all-court speedy coverage. The willingness to try — and ability to succeed on — shots others wouldn't even consider.

There's also a sense of the moment, knowing when there are points, or games, he absolutely needs to have. On Wednesday, he saved all five break points he faced and converted each of the four he earned in Zverev's service games.

Alcaraz said he tries to think of those potentially outcome-altering junctures as "normal point; try to do the things that I was doing well. Trying to play my style, trying to (be) aggressive".

He wound up gathering 11 of 13 points in the stretch that closed the opening set, in part by picking on Zverev's second serves. It was a perfect return on a 129 mph (208 kph) first serve that led to a cross-court backhand winner by Alcaraz for the break that tilted the second set his way at 2-1. While Zverev was being tended to by a trainer after that set, Alcaraz whiled away the time by twirling his racket as if it were a baton.

A player is "gonna die"!

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 7: Soaked with sweat as the temperature neared 95 degrees Fahrenheit (35 Celsius) on the hottest day at this year's US Open, 2021 champion Daniil Medvedev walked slowly to towel off between points of his victory, looked into a court-side camera and issued what sounded like a mix between a warning and a plea.

"You cannot imagine," he said Wednesday. "One player (is) gonna die, and they're gonna see. The only thing that is a little bit, let's call it dangerous, is that the question is: How far could we go?" Medvedev, a 27-year-old Russian seeded No.3, said after eliminating Andrey Rublev 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the semifinals at Flushing Meadows for the fourth time.

"I'm not sure what we do. Because probably we cannot stop the tournament for four days — because it's been, what, three, four days it's been brutal like this? — because then it basically ruins everything: the TV, even the tickets, everything. It ruins everything," said Medvedev, who said he needed an ice bath and something to eat after leaving the court. "So I don't think this could be done."

An AP analysis shows that it is feeling hotter and hotter at Grand Slam tournaments in recent decades, reflecting the climate change seen in heat waves around the globe this summer. Week 2 at the US Open is pushing players to the limit.

They're using ice — so much ice, in plastic bags or wrapped

Bopanna-Ebden duo sails into US Open men's doubles final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Sept 7: Continuing their dream run, India's Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden entered the final of the US Open with a straight-set win over French pair of Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut here Thursday. This will be Bopanna's second appearance in a Grand Slam men's doubles final.

The sixth seeded Indo-Australian pair, who had reached the semifinals of the Wimbledon

Championships this year, beat the French combination 7-6(7-3), 6-2 in the semifinals of the hard court major.

With this feat, the 43-year-old Indian also became the oldest player to reach a Grand Slam final in the Open era. Bopanna beat the record of Daniel Nestor of Canada, who was 43 years and 4 months when he played in a Major final, by two months.

Interestingly, it was also in the US Open where Bopanna competed in his maiden Major

final way back in 2010 along with Pakistani partner Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi.

In the final, Bopanna and Ebden will play the winner of the other semifinal between the American pair of Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury and the Croatian-American duo of Ivan Dodig and Austin Krajicek at the Louis Armstrong stadium.

Bopanna is already out of the mixed doubles event with a second round defeat with Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi.



"I'm not sure what we can do. Because probably we cannot stop the tournament for four days — because it's been, what, three, four days it's been brutal like this"

DANIIL MEDVEDEV

"At the end of the first set, I couldn't see the ball anymore," Medvedev said, adding that he looked across the net at No.8 seed Rublev — his countryman, good pal and godfather to his daughter — and thought: "Wow. It seems like he cannot run anymore." Medvedev wore a white towel around his neck during the on-

court interview at Arthur Ashe Stadium after finishing off the 2-hour, 48-minute match, which is relatively short for a best-of-five-set Grand Slam men's match.

Medvedev said he felt dizzy afterward and that both he and Rublev rubbed their faces raw by towel-drying so frequently. Rublev described feeling his heart racing between points.

Under a new rule adopted Tuesday for the rest of the event, the US Tennis Association partially closed the retractable Ashe roof — normally used to block out rain — to provide some additional protection from the sun for spectators and competitors. One unintended result: The shadows can make it hard to see the tennis balls as they zip through the air.

Zheng Qinwen, the No.23 seed who defeated 2022 runner-up Ons Jabeur in her previous match, said that dynamic bothered her during a 6-1, 6-4 loss to Aryna Sabalenka. Sabalenka won 20 of the initial 24 points to race to a 5-0 lead after just 17 minutes.

She reached the semifinals for the fifth major in a row and will rise from No.2 to No.1 in the WTA rankings next week, replacing 2022 US Open champion Iga Swiatek, who exited in the fourth round.

Ronaldo-Messi '15-year rivalry over'

AGENCIES

Lisbon, Sept 7: Portuguese forward, Cristiano Ronaldo, has declared an end to the rivalry between him and Argentine forward, Lionel Messi.

Addressing a press conference Wednesday before training with the national side at Oeiras, on the outskirts of Lisbon, ahead of upcoming European Championship qualifiers, the Al Nassr forward said the "rivalry is over".

Both Messi and Ronaldo stayed at the top of the football chain for 15 years, dating back to when Ronaldo won his first Ballon d'Or in 2008 and Messi his first in 2009.

Besides the Portuguese and Argentine, there have been only two others to lift the most coveted individual trophy



Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi vie for ball possession during their last face-off when PSG had played Al Nassr

in football since then — Luka Modric in 2018 and

Karim Benzema in 2022. He said, "I don't see things

like that; the rivalry is over. It was a healthy rivalry, and the spectators liked it a lot. Whoever likes Cristiano Ronaldo doesn't have to hate Messi and vice versa, because they are both very good. We've done well; we have changed the history of football, and we'll keep on doing it. We are respected all over the world; that's the most important thing.

"He makes his way; I make mine, even if we're playing outside Europe. From what I've seen, he has done well, and so have I. It's about continuing; the legacy continues."

"I've said there's no rivalry. We've shared the stage for 15 years, and we ended up being — I wouldn't say friends — because I never dined with him. We are professional colleagues, and we respect each other."

SUTIRTHA IMPRESSES AT ASIAN TT C'SHIPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pyeongchang (South Korea), Sept 7: India's Sutirtha Mukherjee beat higher-ranked Szu-Yu Chen to enter the women's singles round of 32 at the Asian Table Tennis Championships here Thursday.

The World No.104, against 40th-ranked Chen from Chinese Taipei, won 10-12, 11-8, 11-7, 11-7 in a round-of-64 match. Ayhika Mukherjee defeated Nepal's Suwal Sikka 11-2, 11-0, 11-1.

Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah blanked the Uzbekistan combine of Abdulaziz Anorboev and Kutbidillo Teshaboev to enter the men's doubles quarterfinals. In the women's doubles, the duo of Ayhika and Sutirtha got past Kazakhstan's Angelina Romanovskaya and Sarvinoz Mirkadirova 11-1, 13-11, 10-12, 11-7 to reach the quarters.

Debatable penalty leads to India's defeat vs Iraq

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chiang Mai (Thailand), Sept 7: A Sunil Chhetri-less India conceded a late goal off a debatable penalty to miss out on their first ever win over higher-ranked Iraq who won via penalty shootout in the Kings Cup here Thursday.

India were leading 2-1 till the 79th minute when the referee awarded a soft penalty to Iraq after their striker Aymen Ghadhban was squeezed by two defenders in the box during a tussle to get on to a high cross.

It did not look like a clear-cut penalty but Ghadhban himself stepped up to take the kick from the spot and scored to level the match 2-2 and take it to the penalty shootout. Iraq then won 5-4 in the shootout with Brandon Fernandez failing to score as his kick hit the post and went out.

Under the tournament's rule, the match will be decided via penalty shootout if the scores are levelled in the regulation time

and there will be no extra time play. It was a creditable show by the Indian team, who were without their talismanic striker and captain Chhetri, who missed the tournament after becoming a father recently. India played on equal terms against Iraq, ranked 70th in the FIFA chart (as against their 99th), for the most part of the semifinal match.

Earlier, Mahesh Naorem had given India the lead in the 16th minute before Karim Ali equalised in the 28th minute, also from a penalty goal. India took the lead in the 51st minute with Iraq captain and goalkeeper Jalal Hasan conceding an own goal with a howler of an effort.

Iraq were reduced to 10 men in the injury stoppage time as Zidane Iqbal was sent off for elbowing Brandon Fernandez but India could not capitalise much on that as the regulation time ended within a minute and there was no extra time of play. The loss ended India's 11-match unbeaten streak this year.

Odisha FC to open their ISL campaign against Chennaiyin FC

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 7: Odisha FC will begin their Indian Super League 2023-24 campaign against Chennaiyin FC (CFC) at the Kalinga Stadium here, September 23. As the ISL marks its milestone 10th season, the league welcomes Punjab FC as the 12th club.

Odisha FC qualified for the playoffs for the first time and finished sixth in the table. Odisha FC will compete against 11 other clubs in the ISL this season, including the newly entrant

Punjab FC.

The ISL schedule was announced Thursday amid doubts over the release of a few India players by clubs for the Asian Games later this month. The league clashes with the Hangzhou Asian Games where the football competition begins September 19 and continues till October 7. The ISL 2023-24 kicks off September 21 with the match between Kerala Blasters and Bengaluru FC in Kochi. League organisers FSDL announced the fixtures of the first

ODISHA FC FIXTURE

DATE	OPPONENT	VENUE
Sept 23	Chennaiyin FC	Home
Sept 28	Mumbai City FC	Home
Oct 7	Goa FC	Away
Oct 27	Kerala Blaster FC	Away
Oct 31	Bengaluru FC	Home
Nov 3	NorthEast United FC	Home
Dec 1	Jamshedpur FC	Away
Dec 6	Mohun Bagan SG	Away
Dec 17	Hyderabad FC	Home
Dec 22	East Bengal FC	Away
Dec 26	Punjab FC	Away
Dec 29	Jamshedpur FC	Home

half of the ISL, till December 29. The 12-team ISL, now the country's top-tier league, will be in its 10th edition.

The 22-member Indian men's squad for the Asian Games has players from 10 ISL clubs and it is learnt that some of them are reluctant to release all their players.

Out of the 22 players named in the squad, six are from Bengaluru FC, three from Mumbai City FC, while FC Goa, Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Odisha FC and Kerala Blasters have two each. Newly-promoted

Punjab FC, Chennaiyin FC and Hyderabad FC have one each.

All India Football Federation (AIFF) Secretary General Shaji Prabhakaran had Monday written to the 10 ISL clubs to release their players selected for the Asian Games, keeping the "national interest in mind".

It is, however, not mandatory for the clubs to release players as the Asian Games do not fall in any FIFA international match window. The last such window before the Asian Games is from September 4 to 12.

