



A Focus on Healing, Harmony and Hope for the World



वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

Under India's G20 Presidency, more than **200 meetings at 60 locations were held**, bringing development back to the forefront of the global agenda.

Now, Leaders and Heads of Delegation from **20 member countries, 9 guest countries and 14 International Organisations** have come together at the G20 Summit, New Delhi to work towards a brighter future for the world by

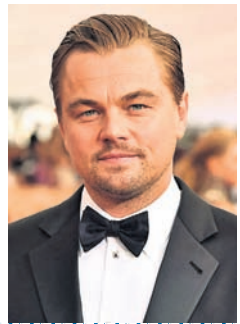
- Galvanising green initiatives as One Earth
- Promoting inclusive growth as One Family
- Synergising technology for One Future

"Let us work together to shape a new paradigm of human-centric globalisation."

Sh. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India



leisure



DiCaprio finds love in 25-yr Italian model

Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio has found love again and has reportedly settled down with the Italian model Vittoria Ceretti. The 48-year-old actor has reportedly been dating Vittoria, 25, for at least two months and they were spotted kissing in a nightclub in Ibiza earlier this week.

Freddie Mercury's piano sells for \$2.2 million

The instrument he used to compose Queen hits including *Bohemian Rhapsody* went under the hammer at Sotheby's in London this week as part of an auction of the later singer's possessions. It was sold for \$2.2 million.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
A tough, action-packed day ahead! There may be difference of opinions with friends over trivial matters, but you will thrive on it. But all pending work will be completed, much to your relief. It's a promising and optimistic day, says Ganesh!

TAURUS
Today, you may have something at the back of your mind that will grip you with its complexity, says Ganesh. Speak freely as your words are capable of making a great impact on others. You may not be willing to confront unpleasant situations today. Don't worry, the stars seem in your favour, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI
You are extremely competitive. And it doesn't matter how far behind the competition is. So today, you will continue your usual quest for getting better. You won't have it any other way as you despise mediocrity. You will find yourself in the company of like-minded people who will inspire you to study new subjects.

CANCER
Today is a good day for you. However, don't expect a windfall. It is just one of those days when you will be in a good mood, irrespective of your problems, if any. You will treat your subordinates well, and they will show their appreciation.

LEO
The Guevara may not hold the beacon any more, and the best of the Beatles are long gone. But your desire to revolutionise the world is as strong as ever, says Ganesh. The best ideas are the ones that come suddenly and subconsciously. So, always carry a pen and paper with you, you may need them to note down ideas that you generate over the course of the day.

VIRGO
Professionalism will be overshadowed by personal preoccupations. Drill your way out of problems today by meeting them head-on. Don't get stuck up on the emotional front, especially in the evening, cautions Ganesh.

LIBRA
Gear up to play the peace maker today! Your ability to handle a 'Brady Bunch' hasn't gone unnoticed. So expect to be put in charge of handling disputes among your subordinates at work today, hints Ganesh. Research work may slow to a crawl today, but the offshoot is that it's an auspicious day to enter into new contracts. You might want to arrange that bit of business over lunch.

SCORPIO
Work pressure will keep on mounting today, predicts Ganesh. But you shall handle it with great style, all thanks to your patience. But keep a watch on the radar and learn how to spot stress early and then act on it as quickly as you can.

SAGITTARIUS
Your ship may be rocked by stormy controversies today. Ganesh advises you to steer clear of people looking to give you a piece of their mind. The storm looks to ease away if you lend a patient ear to all such elements, and try and accommodate their views.

CAPRICORN
You will starve for some free time, but will find it difficult to steal even a minute from your busy schedule, even if it is for unwinding your overworked soul, says Ganesh. In times like these, one can hardly think straight, let alone be innovative. You will, however, work your way out by prioritising matters.

AQUARIUS
Your ideas are bang on target today! Everything you touch turns into gold. You have it in you to make it big, and the time is now. When the going gets tough, the tough get going — you've heard this before, now it's time for some action, says Ganesh.

PISCES
Stabbing with a pen is so much more satisfying than slicing with a sword. With these lofty ideals in mind, you will launch an assault upon your unsuspecting prey with your lethal presentation skills, eliciting cries of sheer ecstasy and tremendous applause.

Kangana calls SRK the 'Cinema God'

New Delhi: Actress Kangana Ranaut lauded superstar Shah Rukh Khan for his recently released action thriller *Jawan*, calling him the 'Cinema God', and said that India needs him not just for hugs or dimples, but for some serious world saving as well.

SRK's blockbuster *Jawan* went house full on the first day of its release in its early morning shows, and even went on to create mass hysteria among fans.

Heaping praise on the 'Badshah', Kangana said his struggle is a master class for all those artistes, who are enjoying long careers, but must reinvent and re-establish.

Taking to her Instagram Stories, Kangana shared a poster of SRK's *Jawan* and penned a long note.

The post read as: "From being the ultimate lover boy of the nineties to a decade long struggle again to reinvent his connection with his audience in his late forties to mid fifties and ultimately rising as the quintessential Indian mass super hero at the age of 60 (almost) is nothing short of super heroic even in real life." The Queen actress added, "SRK is the

cinema God that India needs not just for hugs or dimples but for some serious world saving as well. Bowing down to your perseverance, hard work and humility King Khan (sic)."



Elegant Amrita wins hearts with her radiant stage show



OSNA Secy Prabodh Rath lighting the lamp while Gurus Satchidananda Das, Dhanevwar Swain and Ratikanta Mohapatra look on

BHUBANESWAR: Kuchipudi exponent Amrita Lahiri's engaging depictions and Ustad Akram Khan's Tabla recital marked the penultimate evening of the 29th OMC Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award Festival.

The five-day event is being organised by Srjan, one of the top dance institutions of Odisha, here at Rabindra Mandap to carry forward the vision of the legendary Odissi

Guru. Coming back to performance, Lahiri presented a captivating three-piece Kuchipudi recital, ably accompanied on the nattuvangam by Vijay Kumar S; on the mridangam by Satish Krishnamurthy; on the violin by Mangala Vaidyanathan; and on the mellifluous vocals by the Sujesh Menon. She began with an invocation to Lord Ganesha, seeking His auspicious blessings.

After this, she performed *Usha Parinayam*, a Kuchipudi dance drama. In this solo show, Lahiri beautifully presented the myriad mental states of princess Usha who longed to meet prince Aniruddha. She concluded with a powerful Shiva Tarangam, choreo-

graphed by Jaikishore Mosalikanti. The presentation described the glories of the Almighty Nirguna Parabrahma, from the top of whose matted locks, the Holy Ganga descends. After a brief interlude commenced the much-awaited

OMC GKCM AWARD FESTIVAL: DAY 4



Kuchipudi exponent Amrita Lahiri during her performance

Tabla recital of Khan accompanied by the melodious Harmonium play of Nilay Salvi. The audiences witnessed an intricate and rhythmically captivating percussion recital, that set the auditorium reverberating to the timbre of the maestro's delightful rendition.

Earlier, the programme was kicked off with the lighting of the lamps by Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi (OSNA) Secretary Prabodh Kumar Rath, Guru Dhanevwar Swain and Guru Satchidananda Das, renowned Mardala exponents of Odisha and Festival Director Guru Ratikant Mohapatra. PMW

Mumbai: Actress Kusha Kapila has said that she understands that as a public figure, even her personal life will always be under scrutiny, but added that she works hard, everyday, to ensure she has thick-skin to deal with the scrutiny. Kusha was talking to an entertainment channel when she was asked

about how she dealt with the trolling she has been facing ever since she announced her separation from her former husband Zorawar Ahluwalia.

She told the news channel that has a strong support system of friends, family, and colleagues. She added, "I do understand that this is a part of being a public person like if you're profiting off being a public person, I understand that this is now a part of that. It is the job of the people to comment and which was going to happen. I think my life now is in the service of making my skin

thicker and thicker every day. And that's just what I work towards literally every day I have to be immune, I have to be thick-skinned and the scars will begin to heal soon enough."

She will next be seen in Bhumi Pednekar-Shehnaaz Gill's *Thank You For Coming* as well as Arjun Kapoor's noir thriller *The Ladykiller*.

AGENCIES



Prem : Magic lies in pushing your limits

New Delhi: Actor Prem Parrija, who has captured the hearts of the audience with his jaw-dropping stunts in the series *Commando*, has opened up on his unwavering determination to deliver the most authentic and thrilling action sequences possible.

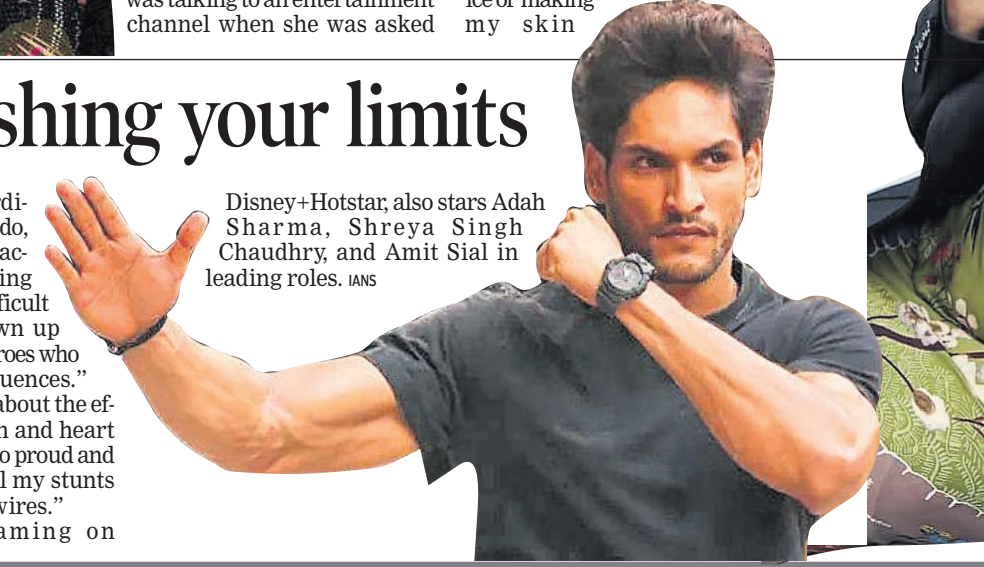
One of the most awe-inspiring moments from the behind-the-scenes footage of *Commando* reveals the extent of Prem's commitment to his role. In a scene that left audiences astounded, Prem lifted and threw a colossal stuntman without the aid of wires or special effects.

Reflecting upon his extraordinary feats as the new *Commando*, Prem shared: "In the world of action, the magic lies in pushing your limits and making the difficult look achievable. I have grown up watching and admiring such heroes who perform their own action sequences."

He went on to add, "It's not about the effects; it's about the dedication and heart you put into every move. I am so proud and happy that I was able to do all my stunts without even a stuntman or wires."

The web series, streaming on

Disney+Hotstar, also stars Adah Sharma, Shreya Singh Chaudhry, and Amit Sial in leading roles. IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

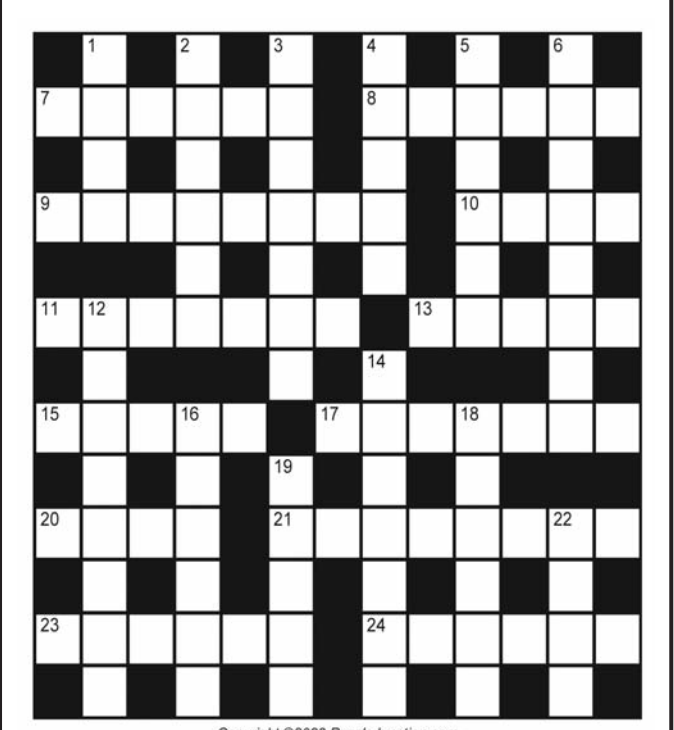


BREVITY



FUN post

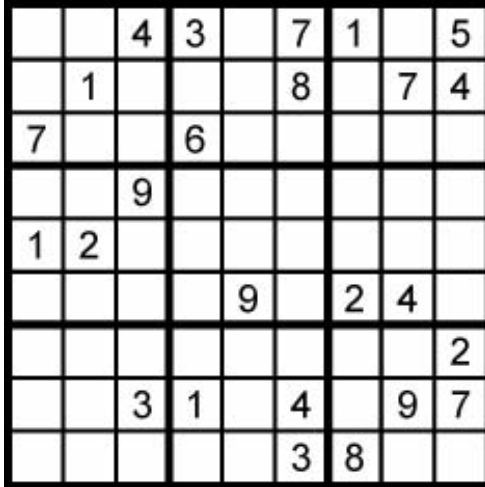
CROSSWORD



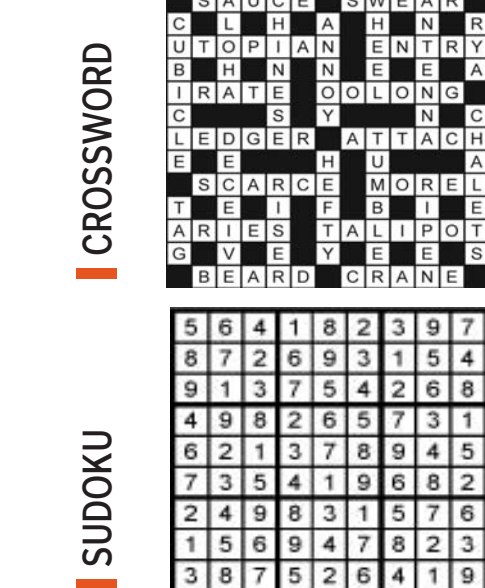
- Across
7 Nook
8 Director's cry
9 Struggle
10 Casket
11 Smart aleck (4,3)
13 Wish granter
15 Flabbergast
17 Po Valley city
20 Thames town
21 Armchair
- Down
23 Moon of Neptune
24 Improvises (2-4)
5 Maintaining equilibrium
6 Unconventional person
12 Juvenile
14 Hide under the rug
16 Highest point
18 Bobolink
19 Pickling liquid
22 River to the North Sea

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



STARTUP YATRA

CM Naveen Patnaik is scheduled to flag off Odisha Startup Yatra and Startup Express 2023 in Bhubaneswar Sept 11

DOWNTOWN P2



BIDEN, MODI HOLD TALKS

Biden and Modi hold wide ranging bilateral talks on the eve of the G20 Summit

NATIONAL P7



GAUFF REACHES FINAL

Coco Gauff sails into the US Open final defeating Karolina Muchova and next faces World No.2 Aryna Sabalenka for title

SPORTS BACK PAGE ****

Cartoonist Ajit Ninan no more

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mysore, Sept 8: Renowned cartoonist Ajit Ninan, best known for the 'Centrestage' series in 'India Today' magazine and



'Ninan's World' in 'Times of India', died at his flat here Friday. He was 68. "He passed away early this morning in his apartment. I think it's a cardiac arrest," a family member said.

Ninan leaves behind wife, two daughters and two grand-children, sources said. Ninan, who was living in Mysuru for the past two years, was alone at home. His wife, who was not keeping well, had gone to their daughter's place in Goa, sources said.

One of his popular cartoon characters was 'Detective Moochhwa' in the children's magazine 'Target'.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



There too, Ajit Ninan has started spreading smiles

OSWC SUPDT HELD

Bhubaneswar: Vigilance sleuths Friday arrested Debiprasad Mohanty, a Superintendent with the Odisha State Warehousing Corporation (OSWC), at Nahantara near Nimapara over corruption charges following recovery of Rs 4, 67,810 unaccounted cash from his possession. On a tip-off, Vigilance sleuths intercepted Mohanty at Nimapara bus stand while he was waiting for a bus and recovered ₹2, 14,000 cash from his possession. He failed to give satisfactory answer regarding the source of the cash. Soon, searches were conducted at his residential quarters, parental house at Daudpur in Salipur and a house at Mahanadi Vihar in Cuttack. Later, ₹59, 610 cash was recovered during Mohanty's personal search in addition to ₹1, 94,200 from his quarters at Unit-VIII here.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	66598.91	↑ 333.35
NIFTY	19820.00	↑ 93.00
DOLLAR	83.07	↓ ₹0.14
EURO	89.02	↓ ₹0.26
GOLD	₹58,926	↓ ₹72
SILVER	₹71,632	↓ ₹138

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	30.3°C	29.6°C
MIN	25.4°C	25.0°C
Humidity	98%	97%
Rainfall	7.6mm	1.4mm

Forecast: Light to moderate rain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: As world leaders converge at the G20 Summit here, hosts India Friday said the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration will reflect the voice of global south and Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed confidence that the conclave will chart a new path in the human-centric and inclusive development.

Refusing to be drawn into the specifics of contentious issues such as the Russia-Ukraine war and climate-related topics, India's top G20 officials told a news conference on the eve of the two-day Summit that the Declaration was "almost ready" and they were hopeful of clinching a joint communiqué by consensus.

US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and other leaders of the G20 grouping as well as chiefs of many leading world bodies like the International



Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) gathered in the national capital for the summit beginning Saturday.

The leaders were welcomed by traditional dance performances by various troupes and a smiling IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva danced to the beat of the music at the airport.

Security has been beefed up across the national capital, especially in New Delhi district, ahead of the 18th G20 Summit to be held at the iconic Bharat Mandapam, with police, paramilitary forces and other agencies

keeping a hawk-eye vigil. It is for the first time that India is hosting the Summit of the 19 countries and the European Union, representing the world's major developed and emerging economies. Invoking Mahatma Gandhi, PM Modi said on X that it is important to emulate his mission of serving the underprivileged, the very last person in the queue, as he underlined India's great emphasis on a human-centric way of furthering progress.

Rooted in our cultural ethos, India's G20 presidency theme, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One Earth, One Family, One Future', deeply resonates with our world

Palm trees to protect against lightning strike

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: Two days after urging the Centre to declare lightning a natural disaster that has claimed a staggering 923 lives in Odisha in last three years, the state government Friday asked the Forest and Agriculture departments to take up massive palm tree plantation as an effective mitigation measure to avoid injury and fatality due to thunderbolt strikes in rural areas.

The urgency of the situation can be gauged from the fact that 6,000 lightning strikes in Odisha left 12 dead and over 14 injured in just one day, September 4.

Friday's decision was taken at an inter-departmental meeting convened by Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Satyabrata Sahu. "Inter-departmental meeting held by SRC for undertaking disaster resilient projects under Disaster Mitigation Fund. @ForestDeptt & @krushibibhag asked to take up massive Palm tree plantation in reserve forest area and other vulnerable districts as a #Lightning mitigation measures," the SRC said in a post in X.

The SRC's decision came in the wake of many people, mostly farmers, losing their lives due to lightning strikes while working in agricultural fields. As many as 281 lightning deaths were reported in 2021-22, mostly from rural areas. Stating that environmentalists and weather experts have opined that palm trees that give protection against light-



While 351 people died due to lightning strikes in 2019-20, the number was 291 in 2020-21 and 281 in 2021-22

ning have been felled in large numbers, the SRC meeting resolved that it should go for planting palm trees in rural areas. US Dash, a senior scientist at the Regional Meteorological Centre here said that palm trees which are taller than coconut trees often work as shield against lightning. "Lightning used to strike tall palm trees and as a result farmers were escaping from lightning strike while working in their farmlands," he said, adding that the farmers now are hit by lightning strikes as they take shelter under trees during rain.

However, the SRC observed that people in rural areas were no longer planting palm trees after most of the houses became pucca in rural areas. Earlier, people used palm leaves and its log in house construction works.

Though the Forest department in 2018 had taken up an initiative to plant palm trees by encouraging farmers, the effort was not successful.

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Paika Academy in Khurda gets nod

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: In an attempt to promote and spread the valour of Paikas, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Friday approved a proposal to set up Odisha Paika Academy and Research Centre in Khurda district.

Stating that the academy will be set up on the lines of Guru Kelu Charan Mahapatra Odissi Research Centre, an official release issued by the Chief Minister said the proposed Odisha Paika Academy and Research Centre will operate under the Odia Language, Literature and Culture department.

Patnaik asked the Khurda Collector to identify land and submit a detailed project report. It will now temporarily operate from Gada Khurda, the statement said.

Special arrangements will be made at the centre to impart education through special courses and training along with research facilities. Moreover, scholarships will also be provided to students.

The academy will facilitate research and training on study of 'Paika Bidroha', an armed revolt by the warriors of Khurda against British rule in 1817. The rebellion was led by Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhara.

The state government claimed that the 'Paika Bidroha' is considered the first armed rebellion against British Rule in India.

Patnaik said he is hopeful that the academy will help promote awareness about the life and times of the Paikas and the supreme sacrifice made by them against British rule.

G20 Summit kicks off today

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view that the whole world is one family, he said.

"India's G20 presidency has been inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented. We actively voiced the developmental concerns of the Global South."

India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant said New Delhi Leaders' Declaration will reflect the voice of the global south and developing countries. "Our New Delhi Leaders' Declaration is almost ready, I would not like to dwell on it because this declaration will be recommended to the leaders during the summit and the leaders will then accept it and only after it is accepted by the leaders, we will be able to talk about the actual achievements of this declaration," he said.

The silver lining for India's presidency is likely to be the support by almost all G20 countries to its proposal to include the African Union as a permanent member of the bloc that has emerged as perhaps the most influential multilateral forum after the UN.

Bypolls: INDIA 4, BJP 3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow/Agartala, Sept 8: The byelection results for seven assembly seats in six states declared Friday were a mixed bag for the BJP and the Opposition INDIA bloc, with the saffron party winning three seats and one each going to its rivals Congress, JMM and TMC and Samajwadi Party.

The Opposition alliance tasted victory in the Ghosi assembly seat in Uttar Pradesh, where it backed the Samajwadi Party, and in Jharkhand, where the JMM retained the Dumri assembly seat. The BJP maintained its hold on the Bageshwar assembly seat in Uttarakhand and Dhanpur in Tripura and wrested the Boxanagar assembly seat from CPI (M) in the northeastern state, where the INDIA alliance parties had joined hands, but lost the Dhupguri assembly seat in West Bengal to the Trinamool Congress (TMC).

"I would like to congratulate all those who beat the BJP to win the bypolls. The BJP has lost four bypolls out of the seven held September 5. This is a big win for INDIA," West Bengal

Chief Minister and TMC supreme Mamata Banerjee said.

BJP leaders hailed the party's victory in Tripura and Uttarakhand and its in-charge of the northeastern region Sambit Patra said the results have shattered the arrogance of the "ghamandiya" alliance of Opposition parties.

The Opposition Congress-led UDF in Kerala retained the Puthuppally Assembly constituency as its candidate Chandy Oommen, son of late Congress stalwart Oommen Chandy, trounced ruling LDF candidate Jaick C Thomas.

In Ghosi, Samajwadi Party candidate Sudhakar Singh defeated BJP's Dara Singh Chauhan, who had won the seat in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh assembly polls on the Samajwadi Party ticket but returned to the BJP recently.

"It's a win for positive politics and a defeat for negative communal politics... It is Bharat starting towards INDIA's victory," SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said.

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's Bebi Devi won in Dumri in Giridih district by defeating AJSU's Yashoda Devi.

2 killed, 45 hurt in Manipur violence

AGENCIES

Imphal, Sept 8: There is no end to violence in Manipur as two more persons were killed and nearly 50 injured in two separate incidents of firing at Pallel in Manipur's Tengnoupal district Friday, officials said.

Among the injured, four civilians sustained bullet wounds, they said. Firing between two groups of unidentified men began at Pallel around 6am leading to the death of a person, officials added.

He was brought dead to Kakching Jeevan Hospital while the injured who received bullet injuries have been referred to Imphal, they added.

The condition of one of the injured admitted to Regional Institute of Medical Sciences

(RIMS) in Imphal is critical, doctors said.

As news of the firing spread, a large number of people from different sides of Thoubal and Kakching districts rushed to Pallel but were stopped by Assam Rifles personnel leading to the tense face off, officials said.

Moreover, a 48-year-old man was killed in the crossfire between the two groups of unidentified armed men, officials said.

More than 45 women were also injured after Assam Rifles lobbed teargas shells to defuse the situation, officials said. An Assam Rifles jawan was also injured, they added. On the other hand, a contingent of RAF personnel heading to Pallel from Imphal to contain the mob was blocked by locals at Thoubal.

Indian talents among TIME 1st-ever top 100 AI list

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

The youngest individual recognised in the list is 18-year-old Indian-American Sneha Revanur, often called the "Greta Thunberg of AI"



New York, Sept 8: Several Indians and Indian-origin techies have made it to TIME magazine's inaugural 'TIME100 AI List', highlighting the 100 most influential people in artificial intelligence (AI).

The youngest individual recognised in the list is 18-year-old Indian-American Sneha Revanur, who recently met with the Joe Biden Administration as part of her work leading Encode Justice, a youth-led movement organizing for ethical AI. Revanur is often called the "Greta Thunberg of AI".

Neal Khosla, who co-founded telehealth startup 'Curai Health' in 2017, is also on the list. Ramesh and Sunil Wadhvani, Co-founders of Wadhvani AI, have also been named on the list.

Mumbai-based Wadhvani AI is a non-profit organisation

with a mission to develop and deploy AI solutions for social good, including health care, education and agriculture.

Tushita Gupta is the Chief Technology Officer of Refiberd, a US-based company. The aim is to revolutionise textile recycling by using AI to identify the composition of various textile items.

Another Indian on the coveted list is Kalika Bali, Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research India. She has spent several years dedicated to breaking language barriers in technology.

The 2023 TIME100 AI issue features a worldwide cover with illustrations by Neil Jamieson for TIME, featuring 28 list-makers, including Sam Altman of OpenAI, Dario and Daniela Amodei of Anthropic, Demis Hassabis of Google DeepMind, and more from the new list.

"TIME's mission is to highlight the people and ideas that

are making the world a better, more equitable place," said CEO Jessica Sibley.

"At this critical moment of exceptional growth and advancement in AI, we are proud to reveal the first-ever TIME100 AI list to recognise the individuals leading AI innovation, including those advancing major conversations to promote equity in AI," she added.

The list features 43 CEOs, founders and co-founders - Elon Musk of xAI, Sam Altman of OpenAI, Andrew Hopkins of Exscientia, Nancy Xu of Moonhub, Kate Kallot of Amini, Pelonomi Moiloa of Lelapa AI, Jack Clark of Anthropic, Raquel Urtasan of Waabi, Aidan Gomez of Cohere, and more.

Scientists, professors, researchers and activists recognised on the list include computer scientist and artist Joy Buolamwini.

CM to flag off Odisha Startup Yatra Sept 11

The last edition of Startup Yatra witnessed generation of 1,350 ideas, from which the top 22 ideas were selected for the acceleration programme



Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik would flag off Odisha Startup Yatra and Startup Xpress 2023, two of Startup Odisha's flagship initiatives, here September 11.

Startup Odisha, a state MSME department undertaking, announced Friday that the initiatives will be launched with a focus on guiding and empowering youths of the state at the grassroots level to take leadership in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Both these initiatives mark a significant leap for Odisha as a startup ecosystem as they seek to equip the youth to harness the ample opportunities within the ecosystem," said Startup Odisha executive chairman Omkar Rai.

Startup Yatra and Startup Express mark a significant leap for Odisha as a startup ecosystem as they seek to equip the youth to harness the ample opportunities within the ecosystem

OMKAR RAI | STARTUP ODISHA EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

Through a series of activities, including Van Camps and Boot Camps, Startup Odisha will reach educational institutions across all the districts to scout innovative ideas through engagement of more than 200 colleges and schools, involving more than 25,000 students.

As part of these initiatives, more than 200 van camps will be conducted across colleges, along with 60 van camps in various schools, followed by more than 120 bootcamps, generating over 3,500 ideas," informed an official.

Commenting on the significance of Startup Yatra 2023, Industries, MSME, and Energy

Minister Pratap Keshari Deb said, "The Startup Yatra and Startup Xpress 2023 will be pivotal in bringing innovative ideas to the forefront."

The past edition of Startup Odisha Yatra witnessed generation of 1,350 ideas, from which the top 22 ideas were selected for the acceleration programme, culminating in the 'demo day', where 11 finalists were awarded Rs 1 lakh each.

The upcoming edition of the Startup Yatra aims to further take this endeavour to greater heights, where at least 50 short-listed ideas will be invited for a 3-day acceleration programme. The top 25 ideas will be invited to O-Hub for the demo day, out of which 10 will be awarded seed funding worth Rs 3 lakh each to develop their ideas into viable startup ventures," informed the official.

Notably, a mobile application has been developed to collect ideas from the young innovators.

181 MVUs launched for veterinary services in remote areas of state



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: To ensure health services to livestock animals under the Mukhyamantri Bhramyaman Pranichikitsa Seva (MBPS) initiative, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 181 mobile veterinary units (MVUs) here at Kalinga Stadium Friday.

In a video message, the Chief Minister said that the MVUs will provide veterinary services at doorsteps of livestock keepers and farmers in villages located in remote areas, with access to no veterinary institutions.

"The state government is making continuous efforts to make the lives of livestock farmers more comfortable, multiply their income and bring smiles on their faces. The animal resources development sector has been identified as the next level of growth for farmers, Women Self Help Groups and entrepreneurs," he added.

Previously, mobile veterinary units functioned through hired vehicles. Recently, the state government has spent some Rs 30 crore in the first phase, providing own vehicles for 181 mobile

veterinary units. The CM also reiterated his government's commitment to welfare of animals. These mobile veterinary units will provide emergency veterinary health care to stray and abandoned animals through Animal Helpline at the time of need.

"Veterinary services will be provided using new technologies in these mobile veterinary units. The location of the vehicles will be tracked using the Global Positioning System. Application of such technology will bring transparency in operation of the units based on the '5 T' programme of our government," he added.

Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain said that the mobile veterinary units will be able to take the development of animal resources in the state to a new height.

CLASSIFIED

LOST

I, Anupama Madhual, W/o- Shishir Kumar Madhual, Village/P.O.- Chhanpur, P.S.: Sadar Thana, Baleswar, declare that on dated 01.09.2023 while I was sifting from our one home (Gopalgaon) to new home (Chhanpur) I have lost my previous owner original ROR (Khata No.- 497/432, Plot No.- 173/2338) in favour of Gayatri Madhual somewhere. Anybody found, kindly contact this number-9937332856.

AFFIDAVIT

By an affidavit before Notary Public, Rayagada, I have changed my name from IPPILI SUSHMA to IPPILI PRABHAVATHI for purpose.

I, Swaleha Khatoun, W/o Shaikh Abdul Rahim of Village Kazimohalla, P.O/P.S. Puruna Bazar, Dist.- Bhadrak. That my name is wrongly mentioned in my Son's Passport as Swalekha Khatoun but my correct name is Swaleha Khatoun which is mentioned in my Passport, PAN Card and AADHAAR Card. That Swalekha Khatoun & Swaleha Khatoun is one & the same person.

I, Subhrajit Mohanty, S/o-Dusasan Mohanty, resident of word No.-11 Nahardiha, At/P.O.- Barunadiha, P.S.- Rajkanika, Dist.- Kendrapara, PIN- 754220 Odisha declare by this affidavit No. 114 dtd- 07.09.2023. That now onwards I shall be known as Subhrajit Mohanty, S/o-Dushasan Mohanty for all future purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit done before the Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar, I, Amrita Behera declare that after marriage to Amreswar Prasad Pattnaik I have changed my name from Amrita Behera to Amrita Pattnaik. Henceforth, Amrita Behera and Amrita Pattnaik is one and same person for all purposes.

BOOST TO TOURISM

Devpt on cards for coastal Odisha cities



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: In order to boost tourism and create employment opportunities for youths, cities in the coastal region of Odisha will be developed akin to Goa, principal advisor to the Chief Minister, Asit Tripathy said here, Friday.

Reviewing the progress of tourism infrastructure development projects in the state, Tripathy said these projects would be implemented in PPP mode.

He said as many as 15 beach shacks will be built in Odisha. The beach shacks will be built in locations such as Gopalpur, Chandipur, Talasari, Paradip and Sonapur.

Facilities like toilets, parking, market complex and sitting arrangements for tourists would be developed in the beach shacks for the benefit of the tourists.

The meeting also decided to install a big cruise vessel in the Hirakud reservoir in Sambalpur within a month and the process for setting up of Hirakud Boat Club will be started soon.

Development of tourism in terms of infrastructure and

other amenities in Harishankar and Nrusinghanath will be completed by December 2023, Tripathy said.

He directed officials to construct market complexes, parking areas, entrance plazas, bathing ghats, toilet blocks, shops, drinking water facilities in modern style and complete the work at the earliest.

Northern and southern slopes of Gandhamardan hills in western Odisha house two picturesque hill shrines, Nrusinghanath and Harishankar. These hill shrines bearing unique scenic charm are major pilgrimage sites.

Inscription on the stone wall of Nrusinghanath in Bargarh district describes the history of the temple. It is surrounded by incredible natural beauty. Here, Lord Vishnu is worshipped as Marjara Keshari. A fountain near the temple is known as Kapil Dhar, Bhim Dhar, Chal Dhar, Sita Kund or Go Kund. In his chronicles Huen Tsang had described this hill shrine as a Buddhist heritage site named Parimalagiri. Buddhist seer Nagarjuna had dwelled here in the past.

On the southern slope of Gandhamardan hills in Bolangir district stands Harishankar. A perennial stream cascades through hard granite bed at this hill shrine. Harishankar region houses amazing variety of flora and fauna. A deer park is added attraction for the visitors.

Nrusinghanath and Harishankar hill shrines are connected by a 16 km long hill-top road.

Over 1.30L primary teachers on warpath

Teachers of around 56,000 schools staged dharnas in front of 314 block education offices Friday for the fulfilment of their demands

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: More than 1.3 lakh primary teachers under the banner of the United Primary Teachers' Federation launched an indefinite cease-work agitation from Friday to press for their three-chapter demands.

The teachers of around 56,000 schools staged dharnas in front of 314 block education offices Friday for the fulfilment of their demands including the abolition of the contractual ap-



pointment system, salary as per the central pay system and reimplementation of the old pension system.

Almost all primary teachers of different cadres are on mass leave and joined the protest as the government is not paying any heed to the demands, said Brahmananda Maharana, president of All Odisha Primary School Teachers' Association.

"We had staged a protest over

Mission Indradhanush 5.0 from Monday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: The Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI.50) drive to identify and register all children under the age of five will be launched in Odisha September 11, an official said Friday.

The drive aims to identify and register all children under the age of 5 years and pregnant women who missed their vaccine doses, said Director of Family Welfare Bijay Kumar Panigrahy at press meet organised by the Directorate here Friday.

The IMI 5.0 drive will be car-



ried out in three rounds between September and November 2023, with each round spanning six days. The first round will be held from September 11 to 16, while the second and third round will be held from October 9 to 14 and November 6 to 11 respectively. The drive intends to vac-

inate 1,04,261 unvaccinated or partly vaccinated children and 19,896 pregnant women in 314 blocks in 30 districts.

Highlighting the objective of the campaign, Panigrahy said, "Odisha is committed to immunise all under-five children who may have been left out or dropped out of vaccination programmes as our objective is to vaccinate every child." He further said, "When it comes to children, mothers cannot be ignored. So, all pregnant women who have missed their vaccination would also be covered during the campaign."

Mental health seminar at RD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 8: Inner Wheel Club organized a mental health awareness seminar at Rama Devi Women's University here Friday in association with the 'Mo College Abhijan'.

The rapid modernization of society is one of the major reasons students today are pressurized to perform, affecting their mental health negatively. How parents and teachers can be careful towards the trend and what they can do were among the subjects that were discussed at the seminar.

Amrit Pattajoshi of Hi-Tech Medical College joined the seminar as chief speaker as he enlightened students on maintaining a healthy mind, especially the girls who should watch out for sexual abuse, unwanted touch,



financial crisis, love life issues, losing a dear one, exam pressure and cyber and job frauds.

The event was coordinated by Sandhya Patnaik, ex-president of Inner wheel club, and university vice chancellor Aparajita Chowdhury joined as chief guest. She discussed relevant topics with students including how digital world and maximum usage of social media can turn fatal to ones mental health.

Club's counseling in-charge Sayantani Behera, president Meera Mahapatra and coordinator Susmita Mohanty were present throughout the seminar.

Sura's son Manmath suspended from Cong

Bhubaneswar: Manmath Routray, a member of Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) and son of Congress MLA Suresh Routray, has been suspended from the party for indiscipline, officials said. In a letter to Manmath, party's disciplinary action committee chairman Santosh Singh Saluja said, "Though you are a PCC member, you have particularly said you don't belong to Indian National Congress (INC). You have also said that you are free to visit the BJP and BJD offices." "A show-cause notice was sent to the PCC member, but he didn't respond. Considering it to be a gross violation of discipline within the party, the committee has suspended him from the party," Saluja told reporters.

Vigilance cuffs on Excise ASI

Bhubaneswar: Vigilance officials Friday arrested assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Excise, Balugaon Circle on charges of amassing huge disproportionate assets that are 173 per cent more than his known legal sources of income. A case (21/23) was registered against accused ASI Sudipta Kumar Dash under Sections 13(2) and 13(1) (b) of Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. The Vigilance produced Sudipta before the special vigilance court here that later remanded him to judicial custody. Earlier, four Vigilance teams comprising four deputy superintendents of police, six inspectors and other staffers Thursday conducted simultaneous searches at different locations related to Sudipta. The sleuths found Sudipta in possession of two double storeyed buildings at Nayagarh Old Town, six plots in Nayagarh town, among other assets.

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Bus service eludes Nagada villages 5 years post launch

Bus service to the Nagada villages was launched August 11, 2017 and continued for a month. However, the bus developed snags and has ever since stopped plying on the route



of rainwater to the ground from the hilltop during rainy season. The officials neither concretized the drain nor constructed a black-topped road. As a result, the drain got buried later while big potholes came up on the road due to sub-standard works.

Reports said that the Nagada villages comprising lower Nagada, Middle Nagada, Upper Nagada, Tumuni and Guhialasal villages are tugged in the remote hills of mineral-rich Sukinda block where basic facilities of education, healthcare, transport, communication and drinking water are a dream for the tribal dwellers.

Tumuni and Guhialasal villages still lack a road for which the villagers have resigned to their fate and continue to travel by the hills and jungles despite presence of wild animals. The villagers are still deprived of basic facilities like education and healthcare services. The same is the fate of the villagers in other Nagada hilltop villages.

The state government, all the mining and industrial firms operating in the area had forgotten their responsibility towards Nagada. Although, delayed, the state government is constructing a black-topped road to Nagada villages. However, the bus service is yet to resume to Nagada villages.

When contacted, Jajpur district Collector Chakraborty Singh Rathore said that a black-topped road is now being constructed to Nagada villages. The bus service will resume again to Nagada villages under Lakshmi scheme after the road works get completed, the district Collector added.

also became accustomed to the bus service as it eased their drudgery and labour in travelling long distance on foot. However, the bus developed snags after a month and has since stopped plying on the route.

Meanwhile, five years have passed but the bus service has not resumed since then. It is alleged that the road which was constructed by spending ₹13 crore is now being used for movement of vehicles of government officials.

The malnutrition deaths of children in Nagada villages first came to notice in July 2016. The state government decided to construct a road first to the villages to provide accessibility to the villagers. It was then said that it is impossible to bring in development to the Nagada villages without providing proper communication facility.

A road was first constructed from Ashokjhar to Lower Nagada village by the Rural Works Division in Jajpur in FY 2017-18 at a plan outlay of ₹13.22 crore. However, the concerned officials only used murrum and metal to construct the road along with a drain on the left side. The drain was constructed to aid the flow



UNIQUE PROTEST: Medical students perform a 'yagna' in front of the Government Ayurvedic College in Bolangir, Friday, protesting the state government's step-motherly attitude and neglect towards AYUSH doctors and demanding creation of posts under the aegis of All Odisha AYUSH Student Association (AOASA)

STF seizes live pangolin, arrests duo

PNN & AGENCIES

Koraput, Sept 8: The Special Task Force (STF) of Odisha Police arrested two persons on the charge of dealing in illegal wildlife smuggling after rescuing a live pangolin from the possession of the wildlife criminals during a raid, sources said Friday.

As per reports, a team of STF personnel, on the basis of reliable information, conducted a raid with the help of forest officials from Jeypore Forest Division and Koraput district police Thursday near Khadupadar Chhaka on the Jeypore-Baipariguda Bypass in Koraput district and apprehended the two wildlife criminals identified as Durya Matpadia and Kartik Harizan.

During the search one live pangolin was recovered along with other incriminating materials from their possession, the STF said in a release, adding that they were booked under different sections of IPC along with Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

STF sources said the accused persons could not produce any authority in support of their possession of such a live pangolin, for which they were arrested.

In this connection, a case under U/s 379/411/120(B) IPC r/w Sec. 51 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, has been registered, and the accused per-



sons will be forwarded to the Court of SDJM, Jeypore.

The Pangolin was handed over to DFO, Jeypore for safe custody. Further investigation is going on, the STF said.

The Indian pangolin (Manis crassicaudata), also called thick-tailed pangolin, scaly anteater and 'bajrakapta' in Odia is a solitary, shy, slow-moving, nocturnal mammal.

It is a schedule-I protected animal under the Wild Life

(Protection) Act, 1972. Schedule I provides absolute protection and offences under these are prescribed for the highest penalties. Special drive against the wildlife criminals and poachers is continuing, it said.

3-yr RI for possession of leopard hide

BOUDH: The Judicial Magistrate First Class, Kantamal has convicted a wildlife criminal and sentenced him three years of rigorous imprisonment along with a fine of ₹10,000 for illegally possessing a leopard hide.

The accused identified as Mahendra of Badalguda village in Boudh district was booked under section 379/411/120(B) IPC r.w. 51 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. In case of default in paying the penalty amount, he will have to further undergo six months imprison-

ment for the offences. The STF apprehended the accused April 28, 2021 near Bandhanjhulli, under Manamunda police station limits in Boudh district.

The STF team recovered one leopard skin from his possession. After successful investigation, a charge sheet

was submitted. During investigation the seized leopard skin was also sent to Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for biological and chemical examination and opinion was received affirmatively. During the trial, prosecution examined seven witnesses in the case.

This is the first wildlife case in Odisha where maximum punishment has been awarded to the accused person under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, STF sources said.

Anganwadi worker found hanging at centre

FAMILY ALLEGES MURDER BY HUSBAND

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bahanaga, Sept 8: The body of an Anganwadi worker was found hanging inside the Anganwadi centre (AWC) at Maharajpur village under Remuna block and Khantapada police station limits in Balasore district, Friday.

The deceased was identified as Pragnya Paramita Das, 30, wife of Bismit Ranjan Das of the village. This has become the talk of the town after family members of the deceased woman alleged murder by her husband. She was

found hanging inside the Anganwadi centre after murder to give it the colour of suicide as she was opposing an extra-marital affair of Bismit with another woman, they alleged.

As per reports, Pragnya Paramita went to the centre as usual Friday. However, when she did not return home after noon, her mother-in-law Renuka Das asked an ASHA working in the same centre to enquire about her. When she went to verify, she found her hanging from the ceiling of the centre

through a rope.

Informed, her husband Bismit and mother-in-law Renuka reached the centre and after recovering the body rushed to Khantapada community health centre, where the doctors pronounced her 'brought dead'.

Later family members of the deceased woman reached the hospital and alleged murder. An angry mob present there also beat up Bismit who was later rescued by the police from their grip. The father of the deceased woman lodged a murder case against Bismit at Khantapada Police Station.

Veterans for proper mgmt of hockey talents

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Sept 8: If what the two coaches say is to be believed then Hockey in Odisha is all set to take the next big leap from where it is today. The two coaches believe that there is no dearth of talent but, what's required is proper management of it along with exposing the trainees to the changing world of hockey.

"Hockey is changing very fast. As you can see the game has become really fast. In this scenario, the talents must be honed as you do with uncut diamonds by polishing them with the utmost care," said former Olympian Edgar Mascarenhas, who is in charge of the Under 21 Women for the national game, his present assignment in hand.

His compatriot BJ Kariappa said, "In the fast changing scenario you must understand the game what it requires. Today's hockey is not what it was three years ago. Now you play positional hockey along with don't let the opponent any space." This he explained through video recording of previous matches where the team did well and where it deviated a little.

Speaking about how they are trying to implement a programme for the coaches at the grassroots level and also for the players, Kariappa, who is in charge of the senior and junior boys' team, said, "We have been conducting workshops, mostly two days, where we impart the advanced basics to the local coaches who are working with talents before entering the academy." So far, they have conducted five such sessions for ground level coaches. "This will bear result in the long run, it is not instant noodles," added Kariappa.

Both had a word of caution for every coach. A coach should reach the field before the players arrive and decide what to do in the session and explain to them. Both believed the time has gone when the coach



would arrive late lazily and have a practice session and go back after sharing some ideas. "Now you have to prepare and be ready with video analysis along with strategy, look after their core strengthening with support staff and much more," said Kariappa.

Earlier during the interview, the duo was confronted with some information that they were rude and angry at times with the trainees. Answering this question they begin by saying some observations. The duo remained very categorical about what they were doing with the trainees whom they call the raw talents or black diamonds. "Hockey is inherent to them. You just need to spot what they lack and what they have naturally. We just work on those and it is easy for us because

they understand the basics more," said Edgar. Kariappa said, "Along with skills, which can be transformed with sustained effort, we are more concerned about their communication skill."

From here both went on to add, "A coach has to shout at times if they continue with the same mistake like it happens in a family. It is not a fact that they react to our shouting. But yes, we are very much careful about the tribal sentiment as they are very docile but talented." "Sometimes to get the talent out you have to be tough, else why are we here?" said Kariappa. Edgar further said, "Communication is not about speaking in public. It is sharing your feelings, giving your suggestions and expressing your intent during the video analysis. This

helps you to understand the game better. By just saying 'yes sir' you are not doing any justice to the money being spent on you and also on your talent. Open up and speak. We are achieving that now and that is heartening for us."

When asked why the transition from junior to senior team was not happening with talents from Odisha, Edgar said, "The coach looks at many aspects and you have to communicate and express then only one will know what is there in your mind. Besides modern hockey is a little different from what they have learned. We are imbibing that. Wait for a while and you will definitely get the result." "You have the best of facilities here, and the government is very serious about it. We are making them understand the pressure of big tournaments at the national level. What was happening earlier was not going to work. So, they have different sessions now like video analysis, strength building with professionals, discussions with fellow players and many more activities," informed Kariappa.

Both coaches have developed another innovative methodology where senior players like Abhishek Lakra, Deepak Prasad, Deepak Kerketta and Biju Ekka have been chosen to act as coaches. "This is because they know the local language and also their emotions. So, they also double up as coaches like helping hands to us. We give them certain tasks during training sessions and they interact with the players and make them understand. This is really helping us now. Now they are less reticent to say rather have become more interactive," added Kariappa.

When asked, Edgar said before parting, "I am confident of a podium finish in the national games that we are going to participate in at Goa in October." And Kariappa who would be going to take part in the senior national tourney for men sometimes later in the year, said, "Nothing less than in the top four."

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Care not for time and success. Act out thy part, whether it be to fail or to prosper.

SRI AUROBINDO



Manipur Gamble

In the recent turn of events in Manipur, it seems that the N Biren Singh government is rolling the dice with a high stakes move. It has appointed a retired Army colonel, Nectar Sanjenbam as the new Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP). While the situation in the state has been dire, it's important to question the wisdom of this decision and its potential consequences in the long run.

Notably, the manner in which this appointment has been made raises eyebrows. The state government appears to have sidestepped due process, creating a new position without a clearly defined scope of duties. The argument put forth by the government is that Sanjenbam's experience in combating insurgency makes him the ideal candidate to quell the unrest in the state. While his credentials as a military officer are impressive, it's crucial to remember that policing and military operations are distinct domains, each with its own set of rules and ethics.

The move also raises concerns about the militarisation of law enforcement in Manipur. It is being seen as a bold move to tackle the ongoing violence, but it comes with inherent risks. Opting for a military-style solution might exacerbate tensions rather than resolve them. So even as it brings hope to some, the manner in which it has been executed raises valid concerns.

Top J&K officials accused of discrimination

A senior AGMUT cadre officer Ashok Kumar Parmar has filed a complaint with the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) against J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, accusing them of harassment and humiliation. Parmar, who had earlier exposed irregularities in the implementation of the Jal Jeewan Mission in Jammu & Kashmir, believes that his frequent transfers and "mistreatment" are a direct result of his role in exposing the Jal Shakti Department's mismanagement of the project.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

In his complaint, Parmar, who is currently the Chairman of the Bureau of Public Enterprises, has reportedly highlighted an incident in which Lt Gov Sinha allegedly barred him from attending a meeting in June, in the presence of other administrative secretaries. He also claimed in July, Chief Secretary Mehta "humiliated" him in a meeting of the Committee of Secretaries, which resulted in his removal from the meeting.

It's rare for an officer to directly accuse two very senior functionaries of the state, so there is heightened interest in the outcome of Parmar's complaint. Notably, how the issue ends will depend on various factors, including the credibility of the officer's claims, the response of the authorities, the level of public attention it garners, and the prevailing legal and administrative mechanisms in place to deal with such issues.

However, as we've noted in earlier instances of whistleblowers in India, they don't always achieve their aim of ensuring transparency and accountability in the government. In fact, the consequences are often negative. This is why this case is being followed keenly in J&K.

Bureaucratic tumult or strategic move?

While political pundits are futilely grasping for explanations, at DKB we are contemplating whether the late-night announcement of a massive secretary reshuffle might signify the government's preparations for an extensive administrative push, aimed at achieving a successful last-mile delivery.

This overhaul included fresh appointments, lateral shifts and in-situ elevations of more than two dozen senior IAS officers, leaving observers scratching their heads. This unusual development comes in the backdrop of the upcoming G20 Summit preparations and speculation surrounding the Special Session of Parliament and historic bills like "One Nation, One Election," among others.

Among some notable changes, S. Krishnan is the new Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, V.L. Kantha Rao is the new Secretary of the Ministry of Mines, Chanchal Kumar has been laterally shifted to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, while Sriram Taranikanti has been appointed the new Director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

In addition to these changes, three senior IAS officers, including Rajendra Kumar, Rakesh Ranjan and Neelam Shammi Rao, have been elevated in-situ to the rank and pay of Secretary as a personal measure, temporarily upgrading the posts they hold.

This reshuffle underscores the intricate dynamics of governance in New Delhi and leaves us pondering the implications for the nation's future policy direction, so close to the general elections.

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WISDOM CORNER

If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Courage is not having the strength to go on; it is going on when you don't have the strength. THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all. DALE CARNEGIE

WORDSWORTH

■ Nebbishy

It's an adjective formed from one of the most characteristic of Yiddish words. It was originally nebech, a word of Slavic origin, with the stress on the first syllable and the second ending in the guttural ch. In Yiddish it was originally an interjection, roughly meaning "You poor thing!". Americans had trouble saying this word when it first appeared in the English language at the end of the nineteenth century, and they changed it to nebbishy, with nebbishy as the much less common adjective. A nebbish is an ineffectual man, someone timid, submissive, weak, helpless or hapless, a nonentity. He's unlucky, but mainly because he's a loser right through to the core. The word has strong undertones of both pity and contempt. Leo Rosten, in The Joys of Yiddish quotes a Yiddish quip: "When a nebech leaves the room, you feel as though somebody just came in". The Random House Historical Dictionary of American Slang cites a 1941 book: "A nebbish person is not exactly an incompetent, a dope or a weakling. He is simply the one in the crowd that you always forget to introduce".

SPECTRUM ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Co-evolving with technology

Everywhere we look nowadays, we find warnings that artificial-intelligence algorithms are coming for our jobs. While Goldman Sachs estimates that two-thirds of all current jobs in the United States and Europe could be "exposed to some degree of AI automation" in the coming years, a report from Pew Research Center puts the figure at closer to one-fifth - with a special emphasis on jobs requiring a college education.

There is a strong consensus that AI algorithms are becoming increasingly capable of performing more tasks far better than humans can, and that this trend will continue indefinitely. Though the future is always uncertain, we are clearly entering a new phase of human development in which AI will play an increasingly central role in our lives, work, and world. Its algorithms will not just offer better versions of existing services like internet search; instead, like written language, electricity, and computing, they will be woven into most every aspect of how we interact with each other and the world around us.

The dawn of a new AI age

does not mean that dusk is approaching for humans. We humans have always co-evolved with our technologies, and this time will be no exception. Learning to cook with fire helped us reallocate energy from digestion to our brains - which in turn allowed us to evolve stronger forms of social organisation. Domesticating plants and animals helped us stay put, so that more people could do things other than hunting, gathering, and farming - which in turn allowed our technologies, cultures, and civilisations to grow. Industrialisation gave us the tools to expand our population, build modern megacities, and make our way into space.

Like these earlier technologies, AI will change us. Complex functions we once valued as uniquely human will suddenly be performed better by AI algorithms. That will include computer programming, deciphering patterns from massive data sets, generating art, and a whole slew of other capabilities whose susceptibility to AI we are only just beginning to explore and understand. AI technologies stand to improve our health, make our

economies more productive and efficient, and potentially build a safer and more sustainable future for all. Of course, the same capabilities also bring considerable risks, from the emergence of autonomous weapons and rapid job displacement to the more fundamental problem of misalignment between our own goals and those of the AI systems we are creating. The potential benefits of AI are too great, and our societies are too competitive - both internally and with each other.

Our time and energy would be better spent preparing for what is inevitably coming. Our goal must be to maximise the benefits and minimise the potential harms. Even if details of the coming labour-market disruption remain uncertain, there is no doubt that many job categories will be effectively eliminated, as happened previously in agriculture, telephony, and other sectors. But some jobs, we will find, are uniquely human. Jobs that we do not much value today - like home health attendants and poets - may come to be considered precious human jobs in the future. And as has always happened in the past, new jobs

that we scarcely could have imagined will be created.

Almost all existing jobs will be hybridised. If an AI algorithm does not displace you, someone who has figured out how to work alongside AI better than you might. That means we will all need our own hybridisation strategies. Since every job can be broken down into a list of core functions, every person and organisation will need to look at these tasks to determine which are better done by humans, which by AI, and which by some combination of the two. The key to success will be to let AIs and humans each do what they do best, and to figure out how AIs and humans can best work together on everything else. Those who find the optimal mix will be the champions of the new economy.

The future does not belong to AI, but nor does it belong to humans alone. As has been the case since the stone age, we will co-evolve with our technology - just faster. Everyone should be scrambling to figure out how best to do that.

The writer is Founder and Chair of OneShared World.

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FOCUS DIPLOMACY

TELLING ABSENCE



Given the growing power differentials and China's global hegemonic ambitions, it is observed that Xi attends mega events where his country has some clout and skips those that could put China in a tight spot



Srikanth Kondapalli

THE PANDEMIC THAT ORIGINATED IN WUHAN AND THE POLICIES THEREAFTER, PROVED TO BE DISASTROUS

A week before the mega event in New Delhi, China's President Xi Jinping announced that he would not be able to make it to the G20 meeting, the most powerful economic grouping in the world today. China's foreign ministry stated that instead of Xi, his protégé and number two in Chinese political hierarchy Premier Li Qiang would attend the meeting.

No reasons for Xi's decision have been made public thus giving rise to speculation surrounding his ill health, severe domestic economic woes, intensification of political factional struggles, dismissal of foreign minister Qin Gang, armed stalemate on the borders with India since the Galwan incident in June 2020 and the release of maps showcasing irredentist claims, the debilitating Ukraine conflict, and China's military adventurism.

Speculation is rife about the health condition of Xi who has a penchant for conducting mega events and going on foreign jaunts. The pandemic may have dampened these outreach programmes. This year, for instance, Xi visited Moscow in March and Johannesburg last month, skipping the Southeast Asian summit meetings, G20 and others. Xi even skipped the BRICS Business Forum meeting at Johannesburg, China's opaque system, however, does not permit scrutiny of its political leaders.

A more plausible reason for Xi's absence at the G20 meeting is traced to the worsening economic woes of China. While China maintained an average economic growth rate of 10% during the Deng Xiaoping-Jiang Zemin-Hu Jintao era, it has come down to 3.3% last year. This year, China's parliament proposed to meet over 5% growth rate. However, the PMI indicators - measuring factory output - are low in the first two quarters of this year. The pandemic that originated in Wuhan and the policies thereafter, proved to be disastrous. Real estate - which consumed nearly 11% of the na-

tion's economic output - is in a state of disarray, affecting hundreds of millions of savings.

As pointed out by the Japanese newspaper Nikkei, economic mismanagement led to the intensification of intra-party factional struggles. Previously, Xi decimated the rival factions in the communist party - notably the Communist Youth League - at last year's 20th party congress, thus disturbing the delicate political balance in the party. It was reported that the party "elders" criticised Xi at the Beidaihe meeting or "summer summit" held annually in Hebei province.

While personal scandals surrounding the then foreign minister Qin Gang allegedly with media personality Fu Xiaotian are said to be responsible for his dismissal from office, political factional struggles are also among the main reasons in this episode given Qin's proximity to Xi. More such political dismissals could be expected in China.

In fact, a number of high-level party cadres are under "investigation" recently - a euphemism for corruption or other scandals. Religious affairs head Cui Maohu was sacked for taking bribes. Admiral Chen Dongfang, the head of the military court was dismissed. Current defence minister Gen Li Shangfu is also said to be under "investigation."

chided the Canadian Prime Minister at the Bali summit meeting of the G20 last year.

If the G20 meeting is seen as a coming out party for India's rise in the international system, then China, the second largest economy in the world and staking claims for Asian and global leadership, needs to act. While the joint statements between India and China mentioned support to the "simultaneous rise" of these two countries, that remains elusive. China began investing in "failing States" rather than in a rising India with geopolitical considerations outweighing lucrative geo-economic prospects.

Given the growing power differentials and China's global hegemonic ambitions, it is also observed that Xi attends mega events where his country has some clout and skips those that could put China in a tight spot and raise questions related to accountability and responsibility. Selective appearances could enhance the aura of an emerging "Middle Kingdom" or so the Chinese leaders think.

The ongoing Ukraine conflict is another reason for Xi skipping the G20 meeting. The previous Bali summit proved to be the battle ground for major power rivalry and it spilled over into various meetings held in India in the last one year. When Putin is not present at G20, Xi's presence could only attract severe criticism regarding "limitless partnership" with Russia. China was isolated internationally in the 1950s and 1960s and Xi's Delhi G20 appearance held such prospects. Wisely, Xi has deflected the "negative force" by skipping the G20 meeting.

Even though Premier Li Qiang is a novice in the Chinese political system "helicoptered" directly into the higher reaches, he is known to favour globalisation, a key G20 issue.

The writer is Dean of the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

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Jamie Metz

THE DAWN OF A NEW AI AGE DOES NOT MEAN THAT DUSK IS APPROACHING FOR HUMANS

Far-reaching effects

Sir, The effects of global warming will be far-reaching and often devastating, scientists have warned. Global warming, the gradual heating of Earth's surface, oceans and atmosphere, is caused by human activity, primarily the burning of fossil fuels that pump carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Already, the consequences of global warming are measurable and visible. "We can observe this happening in real time in many places," Josef Werne, a professor of geology and environmental science at the University of Pittsburgh, told Live Science. "Ice is melting in both polar ice caps and mountain glaciers. Lakes around the world, including Lake Superior, are warming rapidly - in some cases faster than the surrounding environment. Animals are changing migration patterns and plants are changing the dates of activity," such as trees budding their leaves earlier in the spring and dropping them later in the fall. In the name of development man exploits the nature and the consequence is global warming.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Diversionsary tactic

Sir, As we all know, the word "India" was derived from the Sanskrit term "Sindhu" which refers to the Indus river. In English, we say "India," and in Hindi it is known as "Bharat." The SC has dismissed many petitions in the past that have been filed for renaming India, since there was no constitutional or legal right backing the claims. Mere changing the name of the country will hardly instil a sense of pride among citizens, and they cannot be "forced" to feel any surge of love for the country. Patriotism, by pampering or coddling cannot be lasting, which is something that has to be inbred. Our feeling and sense of nationality are certainly with the motherland and not just with the name. The name changing affair is yet another diversionsary tactic by the ruling dispensation and it is a clear political ploy to garner votes in the upcoming general elections. Honestly and importantly, is there any urgent need for the "Bharat" name change at a time when the country is beset with plenty of problems like price rise, unemployment, Manipur unrest, China's intimidating acts, and so on?

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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

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OPERATION HAST

BJP, JD(S) truck for LS polls

AS PART OF THE POLL UNDERSTANDING, THE JD(S) WILL CONTEST IN FOUR LOK SABHA SEATS IN KARNATAKA, WHICH HAS A TOTAL OF 28 CONSTITUENCIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 8: The BJP will have an understanding with former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda-led JD(S) for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said Friday, an announcement that shot up political temperature in the state. The veteran leader, who is also the BJP parliamentary board member, said that as part of the poll understanding, the JD(S) will contest in four Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka, which has a total of 28 constituencies. "I'm happy about that, Deve Gowda ji has met our Prime



Minister, and already they have finalised four seats. I welcome that... I feel happy, BJP and JD(S) will have an understanding. Amit Shah (Union Home Minister) has agreed to give four Lok Sabha seats (to JD(S)), the four-time Chief Minister said in response to a question. Speaking to reporters here, he said, "this has given us great strength, and this will help us in winning 25 or 26 Lok Sabha seats together." The BJP swept the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka by winning 25 seats, while an in-

dependent (Sumalatha Ambareesh from Mandya) backed by it won in one seat. The Congress and JD(S) won one seat each. In the elections to the 224-member Assembly held in May this year, the Congress bagged 135 seats, while the BJP secured 66 and the JD(S) 19. Following the Assembly poll results, there were reports that JD(S) would enter into an alliance with the BJP to fight the Lok Sabha polls. It was also said that the JD(S) leader had met BJP central leadership in Delhi

in this regard. However, subsequently JD(S) supremo Deve Gowda, had indicated that the party will contest Lok Sabha polls alone. JD(S) had contested the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in alliance with the Congress, as both parties were then running an alliance government under the Chief Ministership of Gowda's son HD Kumaraswamy. While Gowda had then lost the polls in Tumakuru, his grandson Prajwal Revanna, was the only winning JD(S) candidate, who had emerged victorious in the party's home turf of Hassan. According to BJP sources, the talks on understanding have taken place between BJP central leadership and JD(S) top brass, and state leaders don't have much clarity on this. BJP may cede Hassan and Bengaluru Rural seats, where it doesn't have sitting MPs, to JD(S), sources said, adding that after deliberations things may be clear in the days to come about the seats, as names of seats like Mandya, Tumakuru, Kolar and Chikkaballapura are also doing rounds.

Shivakumar hints at Oppn leaders joining Congress

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Sept 8: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar Friday gave a clear hint about some prominent leaders of the BJP and JD(S) joining Congress, and said that he was "looking for an auspicious time to facilitate their joining his party." Speaking to reporters at his residence in Bangalore, Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress chief, welcomed the announcement made by the former BJP MLA from Byndoor seat in Dakshina Kannada, Sukumar Shetty to join Congress. Sukumar Shetty held a meeting with Shivakumar Thursday. Shetty was denied ticket to contest in 2023 Assembly elections from BJP. Shetty had said that the BJP "will not allow leaders to grow and there is a trend of pulling the legs in the party. There is no future for the BJP and so have decided to join Congress." Shivakumar while welcom-



ing him to the party, stated, "I will not carry out 'Operation Hast'. I am opposed to 'Operation Hast' as well as 'Operation Lotus'. I am only here for co-operation. I am extending a hand of friendship. Whoever trusts the Congress party and its leadership, its ideology and programmes such as the Bharat Jodo Yatra, will be welcomed." When asked how many leaders are ready, Shivakumar maintained that he can't provide figures but he said that opposition leaders themselves are coming out in the open. Answering a

question on when they will join Congress, Shivakumar stated "we need a good auspicious time so that it brings good to us." "We want good things to happen. In politics, you see no one is permanent. No permanent friends, no permanent enemies. It is said that politics is an art of possibility. You are seeing what is happening in our district? (Referring to development of sworn enemies BJP former minister CP Yogeshwar and former CM HD Kumaraswamy coming closer)," Shivakumar said. When asked about Shivakumar personally inviting the leaders from the opposition parties, he said that he will not invite anyone. "They will also see their future in politics. No one is a fool. They will also have to look after their careers and life. Why people from surrounding regions of Bengaluru come and settle here, is for their career, education and future," he said.

Dengue surveillance app, dashboard in Bangalore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 8: Amid a surge in dengue cases in the city, Karnataka Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao Friday launched a disease surveillance dashboard and a mobile application for effective monitoring and curbing of the vector-borne disease. The dashboard, a disease forecasting software, has been developed in partnership with the Department of Health, Bengaluru municipal corporation -- Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) -- and the AI and Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to assist policymakers and public health officials in preparing for



outbreaks and managing disease control activities. According to officials, the dashboard uses Artificial Intelligence to predict a surge in infections four weeks in advance. It provides a map of outbreaks across Karnataka at the district and sub-district levels along with case trends across years. A 4-week predictive risk map of outbreaks will also be made available to state and district officers. In addition to predictions, data

from multiple sources is being standardised and streamlined for improved analysis. Both the dashboard and mobile app are focused on dengue, to begin with, and the aim is to expand to additional diseases in the future, the officials said. On Thursday, the health minister along with officials reviewed the measures taken by the BBMP in containing the spread of dengue. More than 3,200 dengue cases have been reported in Bangalore in the past two months, said the minister who has directed the civic body to intensify their efforts to control the spread of the virus. According to him, 1,649 and 1,590 dengue cases were detected in July and August, respectively. As many as 416 cases have come to light in September so far.

Shivaji's 'wagh nakh' to return from UK

Culture Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar says efforts were also on to bring the famed 'Jagdamba' sword of the 17th century Maratha warrior king from a museum in London

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 8: The 'wagh nakh', an iron weapon shaped like tiger claws that was used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to kill Bijapur sultanate's general Afzal Khan in 1659, is likely to be brought to Maharashtra from London in November, state Culture Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar said Friday. He said efforts were also on to bring the famed 'Jagdamba' sword of the 17th century Maratha warrior king from a museum in London. Mungantiwar will travel later this month to the UK to sign an MoU to get the wagh nakh back to India. "In the first phase we are bringing the wagh nakh. It should be brought here in November and we are signing an MoU for that.



Our effort is to bring it on the day when Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj disembowelled Afzal Khan," Mungantiwar said. The wagh nakh is likely to be housed in the Chhatrapati Shivaji Sanghralaya (museum) in south Mumbai. The killing of Afzal Khan marks an important chapter in

the annals of Maratha history. Superior in numbers, Khan's powerful army was defeated by the Marathas using guerrilla warfare. The legendary Maratha king killed Khan using a wagh nakh, a sharp iron made weapon shaped like tiger claws, (when the two met at the foot of Pratapgad fort in present-day Satara dis-

trict) and since then the episode has become a part of the folklore. "When Afzal Khan stabbed Shivaji Maharaj in the back (during the meeting), Shivaji Maharaj used a 'wagh nakh' to kill the cruel, demonic Afzal Khan," said the minister. "The wagh nakh is a source of inspiration and energy for us. This year also marks the 350th anniversary of Shivaji Maharaj's coronation," he said. According to the London's Victoria and Albert Museum, where the 'wagh nakh' is currently housed, the weapon belonged to James Grant Duff (1789-1858), an officer of the East India Company who was appointed Resident (political agent) of the then-Satara state. The relic was given to Duff by the then-Peshwa (Prime Minister) of the Maratha empire.

Sexagenarian jeweller gears up to adorn Mumbai's Ganeshas

SANJAY NANA VEDAK, LOVINGLY CALLED NANA, HAS BEEN MAKING JEWELLERY FOR GANESHA IDOLS FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES NOW



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 8: As Mumbai gears up to welcome Lord Ganesha, Sanjay Nana Vedak is busy crafting beautiful jewellery for the city's favourite visitor in his small workshop tucked away in the crowded

bylanes of Girgaon. Preparations are underway for the 10-day Ganpati festival, which begins September 19, with pandals being erected on street corners and idol makers showcasing their creations in the main markets of the city. Sanjay Nana Vedak, lovingly called

Nana, has been making jewellery for Ganesha idols for more than three decades now and has roped in 17 artisans, who are employed at his four workshops. "I started making ornaments for idols in 1992 when I was approached to make a crown and necklace for the Ganesha idol at the famous Siddhivinayak temple here. That was just the beginning and before I knew it, I was making ornaments for Ganeshas across Mumbai!" the 66-year-old said. In 2006, Nana made a covering for the feet of Lalbaugcha Raja, one of the most celebrated Ganpatis in Mumbai, using 40 kg of silver with one kg of gold. "We made a feet cover for the idol in 2006. Lakhs of devotees touch the idol's feet when they through the pandal each year, due to which the feet made of mud used to get damaged. With this cover, it stays protected," said Nana, who comes from a family of jewellers. Nana and his artisans make armlets, necklaces, crowns, earrings, anklets and other ornaments to adorn idols. "We have made ornaments for around 20,000 Ganpati mandals till now, and people from far-off places come to buy jewellery for their idols. This year, I even made ornaments for a Ganpati idol, which will be installed in Seattle, USA," Nana said beaming with pride. Orders for jewellery are taken well in advance and the work on the ornaments begins four months before the festival, he said. "We first take measurements of the idol and then decide on the design of the ornaments. We have never received any complaints about the design. Everyone leaves here with a smile," said the sexagenarian, who attributes his success to Lord Ganesha.

Maratha quota row escalates

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Solapur, Sept 8: With Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange warning that he would intensify his ongoing hunger strike from the weekend, a five-member delegation left for Mumbai from here Friday evening to hold talks with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Jarange, whose hunger strike for reservation for the Maratha community at Antarwadi Sarati village in Jalna district entered 11th day on Friday, told reporters that he will stop taking even IV fluids if no solution was found by Saturday evening. As the Maharashtra government grapples with the Maratha reservations issue,

the Dhangars Friday adopted an aggressive stance for quotas and threw turmeric on a Minister to press for their demands Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Revenue Minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil was the target of the turmeric attack by two persons at the government guest house, catching his aides and security unawares. Vikhe-Patil was reading a memorandum the duo had handed to him when one of them whipped out a packet of turmeric powder and emptied it on the minister's head and face, even as some others clicked videos which went viral. As the aides and security caught the person, thrashed him and then handed him over to the local police, he

was heard raising slogans demanding reservations for the Dhangar community. The Dhangars get quotas under the Vimukta Jati & Nomadic Tribes category, around 3.5 per cent, but they are on a warpath for quotas in the Scheduled Tribes group akin to the 'Dhangad' in other parts of India who are getting reservations under the SC category. They claim that a typo-error in Dhangad which made them 'Dhangar' has created the complications and they are being clubbed with the VJNT category in Maharashtra. The Samiti leaders have said that the Dhangars had reservations under ST category during the Nizam era, and that should be taken into account.

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EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: ST-OT-ARC-CEL-CARDS-336, Dt. 05.09.2023

Name of Work: ANNUAL REPAIRING CONTRACT (ARC) FOR VARIOUS CARDS OF HASSD/C/SSD/C (CEL MAKE) FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Tender Value: ₹1,51,33,250.02, EMD: ₹25,700/-

Bidding Start Date: 13.09.2023, Date & time of Tender Closing: 1100 hrs of 27.09.2023.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against the e-Tenders. Even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and receipt 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-Tender is available in website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/PR-560/O/23-24 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) Tender Notice No.: 26-SBP-TRD-OT-2023-24, Dt. 04.09.2023

Name of the work: TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED ROAD OVER BRIDGE (ROB) IN LIEU OF MANNED LEVEL CROSSING NO. RV-71 ON NH-217 IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹49,82,683.32, EMD: ₹99,700/-

(2) Tender Notice No.: 27-SBP-TRD-OT-2023-24, Dt. 05.09.2023

Name of the work: TRD RELATED WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORK OF 'REHABILITATION AND UP GRADATION TO 4 LANNING OF ANGUL TO SAMBALPUR SECTION NH-42 FOR CROSSING OF ROAD OVER BRIDGE (ROB) AT THE LOCATION OF LEVEL CROSSING NO. ST-75 UNDER EXECUTION BY NHA/ (NHDP-IV).

Approx cost of the work: ₹23,94,187.97, EMD: ₹47,900/-

Completion Period of the Work: 08 Months (for Sl. No. 1) and 06 Months (for Sl. No. 2).

Date & time of Tender Closing: 26.09.2023 at 1530 hrs. (for Sl. No. 1) and 27.09.2023 at 1530 hrs. (for Sl. No. 2).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against the 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.ireps.gov.in>

The tenderers/bidders must have Class-II Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered or IREPS 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 visit the website fifteen days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)/PR-559/O/23-24 Sambalpur



Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty being welcomed by the Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar Choubeey upon their arrival at Palam Airforce Airport ahead of the G20 Summit in New Delhi



Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina being welcomed by Union Minister of State for Railways and Textiles Darshana Jardosh upon her arrival at Palam Airforce Airport ahead of the G20 Summit, in New Delhi



Tibetan Youth Congress members get their bodies painted during a protest against China, ahead of the G20 Summit, in New Delhi



Evacuees from flooded villages arrive by helicopter at a soccer stadium, in Karditsa, Thessaly region, central Greece



Cadets perform during the combined display of martial arts and combat skills organised as part of the Passing Out Parade of Gentlemen and Lady Cadets, at Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai



Britain's Prince William and Princess of Wales, Kate, arrive at St Davids Cathedral for a commemoration on the first anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's death, in St. Davids, Wales, Britain



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents a memento to United States Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen after a meeting in New Delhi



Subarnarekha river in full flow following continuous rainfall in Ranchi

national

of the day quote

Let the Central government bring the issue of changing the name of the country to Bharat in Parliament if it has the courage

OMAR ABDULLAH | NC LEADER

Dhugguri is a big win. The seat was with the BJP. It's a historic win and I congratulate all the people of Dhugguri. This is a win of the people

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

G20 (meeting) is a normal process. It rotates between the 20 countries. It is a good forum where these 20 countries put themselves together and discuss their issues and look for their solutions. It is a good forum rather than the UN where there are so many countries

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

Terrorist shot dead

Jammu: A terrorist wanted in India was shot dead by unidentified gunmen inside a mosque in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir Friday, officials said. This was the fourth such killing of a top terrorist commander operating from across the border this year. Riyaz Ahmad alias Abu Qasim, affiliated with the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba, was one of the main conspirators behind the Dhangri terror attack on January 1. Seven people died and 13 were injured when terrorists struck Dhangri village of Rajouri district and fired indiscriminately. They also left behind an improvised explosive device that went off the following morning. Originally hailing from the Jammu region, Ahmad exfiltrated across the border in 1999. He was considered as the brains behind the revival of terrorism in the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri, the officials said. Quoting reports from Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK), they said Ahmad was shot dead by unidentified gunmen inside the Al-Qudus mosque in the Rawalakot area during pre-dawn prayers.



It is not right to attract the anger of the entire country by making such remarks. No one agrees with the remarks made by Udhayanidhi on Sanatan Dharma. Even if such views are personal, they should keep it to themselves

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

COURT RESERVES ORDER ON KEJRIWAL'S PLEA

A sessions court in Ahmedabad Friday reserved its order on the pleas filed by AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Sanjay Singh, challenging the summons issued to them by a local magistrate in a criminal defamation case over comments about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational qualification



GYANVAPI SURVEY

Court grants four more weeks to ASI

The survey began after the Allahabad High Court upheld a Varanasi district court order and ruled that the step is 'necessary in the interest of justice' and will benefit both the Hindu and Muslim sides



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Varanasi (UP), Sept 8: A Varanasi court Friday issued an order granting four more weeks to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to complete the scientific survey of the Gyanvapi mosque complex and submit its report.

A copy of the court order was uploaded late Friday evening. Earlier, government counsel Rajesh Mishra had said that eight more weeks were provided by the court to the ASI for completing its survey work.

District Judge A K Vishvesh dismissed the mosque management committee's objection and provided the additional time to the ASI, Mishra said. The ASI is carrying out a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi mosque premises, next to Kashi Vishwanath temple here, to determine whether the 17th-century mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple.

The survey began after the Allahabad High Court upheld a Varanasi district court order and ruled that the step is "necessary in the interest of justice" and will benefit both the Hindu and Muslim sides.

Advocate of the Hindu side Madan Mohan Yadav said the court had earlier given time till September 4 to survey the

Gyanvapi complex except the Wazoo khana and submit its report. As the survey work was not complete, the advocate of the ASI had sought additional time of eight weeks to complete the survey work.

During the last hearing, the Muslim side had presented its objection and said the ASI team was not authorised to survey the premises by removing debris or garbage. The Muslim side alleged that ASI is digging in the basement as well as other places of the Gyanvapi complex without permission and accumulating debris on the western wall of the structure, which may pose a risk of collapse of the structure.

Secretary of Intezamia committee Mohd Yaseen said they would give their reaction to the latest judgment only after seeing the order. The ASI survey work resumed on August 4. The Varanasi court, the same day, also granted the ASI an additional month to complete the survey, extending its original deadline from August 4 to September 4.

The mosque side also went to the Supreme Court against the Allahabad HC's order. The apex court had on August 4 refused to stay the Allahabad High Court order on an ASI survey.

Modi, Biden hold talks

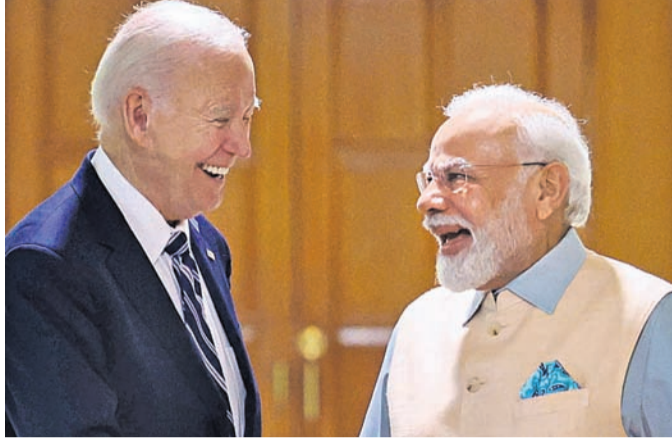
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday exuded confidence that the outcomes of the G20 Summit will advance the shared goals of accelerating sustainable development, bolstering multilateral cooperation and building consensus around inclusive economic policies to address greatest global challenges.

In their over 50-minute talks, Modi and Biden vowed to "deepen and diversify" the bilateral major defence partnership while welcoming the forward movement in India's procurement of 31 drones and joint development of jet engines.

The two leaders also deliberated on cooperation in nuclear energy, critical and emerging technologies such as 6G and artificial intelligence, and ways to fundamentally reshape multilateral development banks. A joint statement issued at the end of the talks said President Biden lauded India's G20 Presidency for further "demonstrating" how the G20 as a forum is delivering important outcomes.

His comments came a day before the leaders of the Group of 20 large economies are set to hold deliberations on pressing global challenges and ways to deal with them at the bloc's annual summit in New Delhi. Biden arrived in Delhi at around 7 pm



on his first visit to India as the US president. He was greeted at the airport with songs and a musical show.

"The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the G20 and expressed confidence that the outcomes of the G20 Leaders' summit in New Delhi will advance the shared goals of accelerating sustainable development, bolstering multilateral cooperation, and building global consensus around inclusive economic policies to address our greatest common challenges, including fundamentally reshaping and scaling up multilateral development banks," the statement said.

The joint statement said the "leaders re-emphasised that the shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights, inclusion, pluralism, and equal opportunities for all citizens are critical

to the success our countries enjoy and that these values strengthen our relationship".

It said the US president welcomed the issuance of a Letter of Request from India's defence ministry to procure 31 MQ-9B remotely piloted aircraft from American defence giant General Atomics. The two leaders also welcomed the completion of the Congressional notification process and the commencement of negotiations for a commercial agreement between GE Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to manufacture GE F-414 jet engines in India.

They "recommitted" to work collaboratively and expeditiously to support the advancement of this unprecedented co-production and technology transfer proposal, the statement said.

'Assault on democratic institutions of India'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 8: There is a full-scale assault on the democratic institutions of India and there are concerns in the European Union (EU) quarters over this attempt to "stifle" the country's democratic structures, Rahul Gandhi said Friday as he pledged that the Opposition will stop this "onslaught on our freedom".

The Congress leader, who is on a European tour starting with Belgium, addressed a broad range of topics at a media briefing in Brussels, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict to say that the

Opposition agrees with the government's current position on the issue.

On India hosting the G20 Summit, Gandhi said it was a "good thing" and pointed to the lack of an invitation for Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge to the event as reflective of a "type of thinking" from the government that "did not value the leader of 60 per cent of India's population".

"There is an increase in discrimination and in violence in India and there is a full-scale assault on the democratic institutions of our country, that everybody knows," said Gandhi.

Asked about the reaction of the European parliamentarians to some of these issues, he replied: "They were very concerned and they felt that there is an attempt to stifle the democratic structures of India, for sure. I mean, they were very, very clear with us," the 53-year-old leader said.

"The democratic fight and the fight for democracy in India is ours. And it's our responsibility and we will take care of it. We will make sure that the sort of onslaught on our institutions and our freedom is stopped. The Opposition will make sure it happens," he added.

Flight attendant's murder accused ends life in custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 8: A 40-year-old man, who was arrested for allegedly killing flight attendant Rupal Ogrey, was found hanging in the Mumbai police's custody in the early hours of Friday, an official said. It is a suspected case of suicide, he said.

The accused, Vikram Athwal, was found hanging using a pair of pants as a noose inside the toilet of Andheri police station, he said. Athwal took his life perhaps out of guilt, the police official said. However, the crime branch will probe into the death as he died in police custody, he said.

Ogrey, 24, was found dead with her throat slit late Sunday night in a rented flat in Marol area of suburban Andheri. She hailed from Chhattisgarh and came to Mumbai in April this year for training with a leading private airline.

Athwal, who was doing housekeeping work over the last year in the residential society where the victim lived, was arrested on Monday on the charge of killing her. A local court had remanded him in police custody till September 8. During the probe, the police recovered a knife allegedly used by him to kill Ogrey along with the clothes he was wearing at the time of the crime.

Athwal and Ogrey used to argue over petty issues, the police said, adding that as per their preliminary investigation, Athwal entered Ogrey's flat under the pretext of picking up a garbage bag and cleaning the commode and then killed her.

On Friday morning, Athwal had told the police personnel posted at the lockup that he was going to the washroom, the official said. As he did not return after some time, cops entered the toilet only to find him hanging with his pair of trousers, the official said. Senior police officials were alerted about the incident following which doctors were called to the police station, he said.



Navy personnel during the phase 2 of the 21st edition of 'Varuna' bilateral exercise between Indian and French Navy in the Arabian Sea

Man held for sexually harassing air hostess

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 8: A 30-year-old Bangladeshi national was arrested here for allegedly sexually harassing a woman flight attendant on board a Muscat-Dhaka flight travelling via Mumbai, a police official said Friday.

The incident took place in the early hours of Thursday some time before the Vistara flight was scheduled to land at the Mumbai international airport, he said.

"The accused, identified as Mohammed Dulal, who is a Bangladeshi national, was going to Dhaka from Muscat via Mumbai on a Vistara flight. Half an hour before the plane was to land in Mumbai, Dulal got up from his seat, hugged a female flight attendant and tried to kiss her," the official said.

He also tried to flash at other cabin crew members and passengers when they tried to intervene, he said.

South Asia heatwave of 2022 most intense in last 70 yrs: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: The 2022 heatwave was unprecedented and the most intense in the last 70 years, severely affecting millions of people in South Asia, according to new research from India.

Such heatwaves are expected to increase in the near future, enhancing heat accumulation in the region and threatening food, water and energy security in the region, the study from institutes including IIT-Gandhinagar and IIT-Jodhpur, said.

South Asia faced five continuous heatwave spells that lasted about 35 days during late February and April 2022, affecting a large part

of the region. The heatwave lasted for a longer duration and had more spells than the historical heatwave events, compared to the historical heatwave events during 1950-2021, the study published in Environmental Research Letters said.

Exceptional heating with more than 3.9 degrees Celsius rise in maximum temperature was experienced by majority region of South Asia, which includes countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, along with India, the study found after analysing observational datasets from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US, and European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts Reanalysis



version 5 (ERA5).

The study projected an increase in frequency of mega heatwave, more severe than that of 2022, in a warming planet under all types of emissions scenario. Deficits in soil moisture was observed over Pakistan due to an intense prolonged temperature anomaly during March and April 2022, causing several wildfires in the region, the

study found after analysing satellite-based soil moisture and normalised difference vegetation index (NDVI) for the period 1982-2022.

The heatwave spells also negatively impacted the vegetation and crop yield in Punjab and Haryana, primary food-producing states in the region, the study said. The study projects 2030 to be the year when mega heatwaves start to emerge under all types of emissions scenarios.

The study findings could be used to develop a more resilient system for energy, water, and food availability in the region for addressing the severe challenges posed by such intense and heatwaves in the future warming climate, it said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-913
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SUNDARGARH
E-Mail: rw_sundargarh@yahoo.co.in
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE - SESNG - 11 OF 2023-24

1. Name of the Work	Road Works
2. Total No. of Works	26 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost	Rs. 5.04 Lakhs to Rs. 37.82 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor	'D', 'C' & 'B'
5. Period of Completion	01 Calendar Month
6. Type of Tender	Single Cover
7. Other details :	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sundargarh	Online-SESNG-11 of 2023-24	11.09.2023 10.00 A.M.	22.09.2023 05.30 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in
OIPR-25046/11/0016/2324 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sundargarh

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
PANCHAYATIRAJ & D.W. DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, BIRIDI, JAGATSINGHPUR
Email: ori-biridi@nic.in
No.i-369: e-Procurement Notice No.BDO-BIRIDI-PS-03/2023-24

1 Total No. of Work	: 01 (One) Lakh
2 Tender Cost (Approx.)	: Rs. 10.65 Lakh
3 Tender Paper Cost	: Rs. 6,000/- (On-line Payment) (Non-refundable)
4 Bid Security	: 1% of BID value (Online Payment)
5 Class of Contractor	: 'D' & 'C' Class Contractor

6. Other details are as follows.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender		Date & Time of Opening of BID	Place of Opening of Bid
		From	To		
Block Development Officer, Biridi	BDO-BIRIDI-PS-03/2023-24	11.09.2023 at 10.00 Hours	25.09.2023 at 17.00 Hours	26.09.2023 upto 11.00 AM during office hours	O/o. the Panchayat Samiti, Biridi

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>
OIPR-19221/11/0003/2324 Sd/- BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, BIRIDI

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, DEOGARH DIVISION
Phone No. 06641-291002 (Office/Fax), Email: dfo.deogarh@odisha.gov.in
Notice No. 02 of 2023-24 **WALK-IN-INTERVIEW on Dt.21.09.2023** Date: 07.09.2023

No. MM-146: Divisional Forest Officer, Deogarh Forest Division invites applications from interested Retired Forest & Engineering Personnel for contractual engagement in OMBADC Cell of Deogarh Forest Division. The Walk-in-Interview is scheduled to be held on dated 21.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M. in the Conference Hall of Deogarh Forest Division. The application form along with detailed role and responsibilities shall be available on the website www.Deogarh.nic.in/www.odishaforest.in from Dt.08.09.2023 to 18.09.2023.

Sl. No.	Job Description	Name and Number of Posts	Consolidated Monthly Remuneration	Remarks
1	Retired Forest Personnel	Retired Forest Personnel - 01	Rs. 20,000/- or Rs. 35,000/- as per the pay level under ORSP Rules, 2017	Retd. Forester/Retd. Range Officer/Retd. ACF etc.
2	Retired Engineering Personnel	Retired Engineering Personnel - 01		Retd. A.E./Retd. A.E.E.

Retired Forest & Engineering Personnel are requested to send their resumes and certified copies of the educational qualifications, Experience Certificate, Email ID, Mobile No. and Expression of Interest (EOI) to work at Deogarh (Deogarh Forest Division and Rourkela Circle as per the exigencies) to the mail id of the DFO, Deogarh Forest Division. Authority reserves the right to cancel the engagement without assigning any reason thereof.

The candidates need to send all these documents to the Office of the undersigned by e-mail id/By Registered Post/Speed Post/By Courier before 05.00 P.M. of 18.09.2023.
Email Id: dfo.deogarh@odisha.gov.in, Post/Courier: Divisional Forest Officer, Office of the DFO, Deogarh Forest Division, At: Traffic Chowk, PIN - 768108.
OIPR-08041/11/0005/2324 Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Deogarh Forest Division

international



China attaches great importance to the G20 and has participated in the consultations and discussions on the G20 New Delhi Summit document in an active and constructive way
MAO NING | CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON

TOUGH DAYS AHEAD

Turkey is poised to experience above-average temperatures in September this year, following a summer plagued by a series of heat waves attributed to climate change, according to scientists



of the day quote

I am very disappointed that a lawmaker has been arrested. I believe that as lawmakers we must focus on the job at hand with a sense of vigilance
FUMIO KISHIDA | JAPANESE PM

I'm confident that India will do everything possible to make sure that the geopolitical divides that exist are overcome and that the G20 can conclude with possible results
ANTONIO GUTERRES | UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

Presently, a comprehensive plan formulated by Surbana Jurong (Singapore-based major infrastructure consulting firm) pertains to the Trincomalee district's development, supported by an established agreement between Sri Lanka and India
RANIL WICKREMESINGHE | SL PRESIDENT

Cuba arrests 17 for luring young men to fight for Russia

Havana, Sept 8: Cuban authorities said they arrested 17 people in connection to a human-trafficking ring that allegedly coaxed young Cuban men to fight for Russia against Ukraine. Earlier this week, the Cuban foreign ministry exposed a Russian trafficking operation used to entice Cubans into the Kremlin's war against Ukraine. Cuba condemned the recruitment racket and the interior ministry said authorities were working to "neutralise and dismantle" the network. On Thursday evening, César Rodríguez, a colonel with Cuba's interior ministry, said 17 people had been arrested, including the "internal organiser" of the ring, reported Reuters.

NK UNVEILS FIRST TACTICAL, NUKE-ARMED SUB

Seoul, Sept 8: North Korea has launched its first operational "tactical nuclear attack submarine" and assigned it to the fleet that patrols the waters between the Korean peninsula and Japan, state media said Friday. Submarine No. 841 - named Hero Kim Kun Ok after a North Korean historical figure - will be one of the main "underwater offensive means of the naval force" of North Korea, leader Kim Jong Un said at the launch ceremony Wednesday. Analysts said the vessel appears to be a modified Soviet-era Romeo-class submarine, which North Korea acquired from China in the 1970s and began producing domestically.



Its design, with 10 launch tube hatches, showed it was most likely armed with ballistic missiles and cruise missiles, analysts said. But such weapons won't add much value to the North's more

robust land-based nuclear forces, because the aging submarines used as the core of the new design are relatively noisy, slow and have limited range, meaning they may

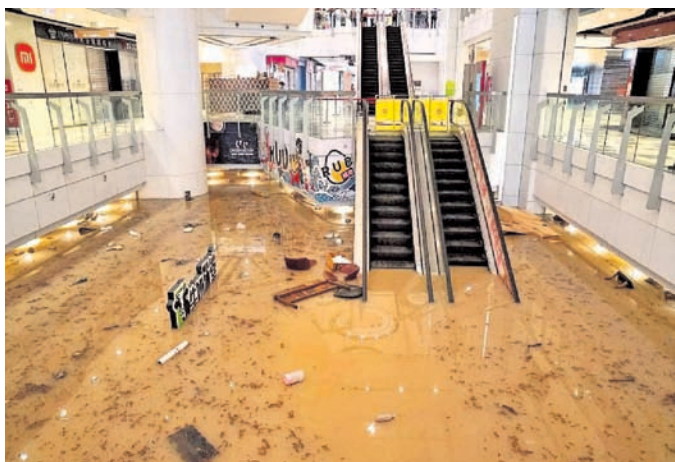
not survive as long during a war, said Vann Van Diepen, a former US government weapons expert who works with the 38 North project in Washington. South Korea's military said that the submarine didn't appear ready for normal operations, and that there were signs North Korea was attempting to exaggerate its capabilities. Shin Seungki, research Fellow at Korea Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA), cautioned that South Korea and the United States

cannot be guaranteed to detect and destroy submerged submarines. At the launch ceremony, Kim said arming the navy with nuclear weapons was an urgent task and promised more underwater and surface vessels equipped with tactical nuclear weapons for the naval forces, news agency KCNA reported. North Korea plans to turn other existing submarines into nuclear armed vessels, and accelerate its push to eventually build nuclear-powered submarines, Kim said. North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs are banned by United Nations Security Council resolutions, and the submarine launch drew condemnation from South Korea and Japan.

HEAVIEST RAIN ON RECORD

Hong Kong, Shenzhen deluged

Hong Kong, Sept 8: The heaviest rain since records began 140 years ago drenched Asian financial hub Hong Kong Friday, killing two people and injuring more than 100, media reported, as unusually wet weather caused by typhoons brought more disruption to southern China. Videos showed water cascading down steep hillsides in the former British colony, flooding waist-deep in narrow streets, and inundating malls, metro stations and tunnels. The extreme weather also brought chaos to the nearby Chinese city of Shenzhen, a tech hub of more than 17.7 million people, with business and transport links across the economically important Pearl River Delta severely hit. The torrential rain was brought by Haikui, a typhoon that made landfall in the Chinese province of Fujian Tuesday. Although it later weakened to a tropical depression, its slow-moving clouds have dumped huge volumes of precipitation on areas still soaked by rain from a super typhoon a week earlier. Hong Kong's weather bureau issued its highest "black" rain-storm warning early Friday. It said more than 200 mm (7.9 inches) of rain was recorded on



Hong Kong's main island, the Kowloon district and the northeastern part of the city's New Territories from late Thursday. The alert was lowered by 6 p.m. (1000 GMT) but authorities warned of risks from ongoing flooding. The city's leader, John Lee, said he was very concerned about the severe flooding in most parts of the territory and had instructed all departments to respond with "all-out efforts". Hong Kong authorities shut schools Friday and told workers to stay at home. The city's stock exchange was also closed. MTR Corp (0066.HK), which operates the city's rail network, said at least one line was shut while others were operating with delays. One video clip showed metro workers wading waist-deep in a station. Some roads were partly washed out, including a main route to the city's southern beaches. A car was swallowed up by a metres-wide pothole when

HONG KONG, SOUTH CHINA HIT BY RESIDUAL RAIN FROM TYPHOON HAIKUI
HONG KONG'S SCHOOLS CLOSED, TRANSPORT DISRUPTED
CITY STOCK MARKET DOES NOT OPEN ON FRIDAY MORNING
MORE RAIN FORECAST IN SOUTHERN CHINA OVER NEXT FEW DAYS

Evacuation orders for areas in central Greece as river bursts

Athens (Greece): Rescue crews in helicopters and boats were plucking people from areas of central Greece inundated by tons of water and mud Friday after severe rainstorms caused widespread flooding that left at least six people dead, another six missing and many clinging to the roofs of their homes. Flooding triggered by rainstorms also hit neighbouring Bulgaria and Turkey, killing a total of 18 people in all three countries since the rains began Tuesday.

one section of road collapsed, social media pictures showed. Hong Kong's cross-harbour tunnel, one of the main arteries connecting the island to Kowloon, was inundated and a shopping mall in the Chai Wan district was half-submerged. Some passenger and cargo clearance operations at two border points between Hong Kong and Shenzhen were suspended due to flooding. Macau ferry operators in Hong Kong said several sailings would be suspended to the gambling hub. More than 100 pigs in an area near the border with Shenzhen drowned in a flood, media reported.

ZELENSKY: PUTIN KILLED PRIGOZHIN



Kyiv, Sept 8: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday Russian leader Vladimir Putin was behind the death of mutinous mercenary boss Yevgeny Prigozhin, who died in an unexplained plane crash with his top lieutenants last month. Zelenskyy, who provided no evidence to back up his assertion, made the comment in passing at a conference in Kyiv as he was asked a question about the Russian president. "The fact that he killed Prigozhin - at least that's the information we all have, not any other kind - that also speaks to his rationality, and about the fact that he is weak," Zelenskyy said in statement. The Kremlin says all possible causes of the crash will be investigated, including the possibility of foul play. It has called the suggestion that Putin or-

dered the deaths of Prigozhin and his men an "absolute lie". Prigozhin this summer led a brief mutiny in Russia that posed the biggest challenge to Putin's rule since he rose to power in 1999. It prompted the Kremlin chief to accuse its authors of "treason" and a "stab in the back". Many critics of Putin have died in unclear circumstances during his 23 years in power, or narrowly escaped dying.

FRESH ATTACK

A Russian missile attack Friday on President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown in central Ukraine killed one policeman and injured at least 52 others, emergency officials said, while another attack in the southern Kherson region killed three people. The strikes were among multiple Russian attacks across the country overnight, officials said.

SHORT TAKES

3 Indian-origin men jailed in UK

London: A group of Indian-origin men, including a father-son duo, have been sentenced to a total of 24 years imprisonment after being convicted of running what Scotland Yard described as a large-scale drugs factory in west London. Allen Valentine, 63, his son Roshan Valentine, 39, and Roshan's childhood friend Krunal Patel, 40, were sentenced at a hearing at Isleworth Crown Court Thursday after the Metropolitan Police's Cyber Crime Unit were able to prove in court that the men were selling fake pharmaceutical drugs illegally on the dark web.

Oz, Philippines strengthen ties

Manila: Australia and the Philippines elevated their seven-decade ties to a strategic level Friday to broaden an alliance underpinned by their rejection of China's increasingly provocative actions in the disputed South China Sea. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Philippine Ferdinand Marcos signed the pact upgrading their ties in Manila. They also agreed to hold an annual meeting of their defense chiefs.

Italy's govt approves crackdown on juvenile

Rome: Italy's right-wing government Thursday approved a decree to crack down on juvenile delinquency, broadening conditions under which minors aged 14 or above can be jailed, following a spate of high-profile "baby gang" crimes that gained attention this summer. The decree was adopted by the Cabinet a week after Premier Giorgia Meloni visited a crime-infested Naples suburb, where two girls were allegedly raped repeatedly by local youths. During the visit, Meloni promised to improve safety in the town of Caivano and to rehabilitate an abandoned, rundown sports complex where some of the alleged rapes occurred.

Mali military camp attacked

Bamako: A military camp in Mali's restive north was attacked Friday, a day after two separate assaults by al-Qaida-linked insurgents killed 49 civilians and 15 government soldiers, the military said. "Response and evaluation in progress," the armed forces said in a brief statement about Friday's attack on a Malian military camp in the Gao region.

Researcher trapped 3,000 feet deep in Turkish cave



Taseli Plateau (Turkiye), Sept 8: An American researcher who fell ill almost 1,000 meters (more than 3,000 feet) below the entrance of a cave in Turkiye has recovered sufficiently for res-

cue teams to start the process of moving him out, an operation that could last three or four days, a Turkish official was quoted as saying Friday. Mark Dickey, a 40-year-old experienced caver, suddenly became ill with stomach bleeding during an expedition with a handful of others in the Morca cave in southern Turkiye's Taurus Mountains. Rescuers from across Europe have rushed there to help treat Dickey and to extract him from the cave. More than 170 people, including doctors, paramedics and experienced cavers, are involved in the rescue operation.



Smoke rises during clashes between members of the Palestinian Fatah group and Islamist militants in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh near the southern port city of Sidon, Friday

Much more climate action needed 'on all fronts': UN

The world is not on target to curb global warming and more action is needed on all fronts, the United Nations warned Friday, in the run-up to crucial international talks aimed at stemming the growing climate crisis. The Global Stocktake report, the latest warning from the UN about environmental perils, will form the basis of the COP28 talks in Dubai at the end of the year and follows months of terrifying wildfires and soaring temperatures. The report, culminating a two-year evaluation of the 2015 Paris climate agreement goals, distils thousands of submissions from experts, governments and cam-

paigners. "The Paris Agreement has driven near-universal climate action by setting goals and sending signals to the world regarding the urgency of responding to the climate crisis," it said. "While action is proceeding, much more is needed now on all fronts." Nearly 200 countries agreed in 2015 Paris to limit warming to no more than 2 Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to strive to keep the increase to 1.5 C. While each country is responsible for deciding its own climate actions, they also agreed to submit to a progress report by 2023 to see what more should be done. The UN said existing national pledges to cut emissions



were insufficient to keep temperatures within the 1.5 C threshold. More than 20 gigatonnes of further CO2 reductions were

needed this decade - and global net zero by 2050 - in order to meet the goals, the UN assessment said. "BOLD TO-DO LIST" The report urged countries to cut the use of "unabated" coal power by 67-92% by 2030, compared to 2019, and to virtually eliminate it as a source of electricity by 2050. Low and zero-carbon electricity should account for as much as 99% of the global total by mid-century, and technological challenges holding back carbon capture must be resolved. The report also called for funding to be unlocked to support low-carbon development, noting that billions of dollars were still being invested in fossil fuels. "It serves up a bold to-do list for governments to limit warming to 1.5C and protect people

everywhere from climate devastation," said Tom Evans, policy advisor on climate diplomacy at British climate think tank E3G. Commitment was needed to phase out fossil fuels, set 2030 targets for renewable energy expansion, ensure the financial system funds climate action, and raise funds for adaptation and damage, he said. Sultan Al Jaber, who will preside over the November 30-December 12 summit in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), told Reuters the stocktake gave good direction, and urged states and private sector leader to come to COP28 with real commitments.

of the day quote

We need to grow at 8-9 per cent till at least 2047 to become a developed economy... Moving away from middle income level... To grow at that pace is not easy. Very few countries in the world have been able to grow at a pace of 8-9 per cent year-on-year

ROMAL SHETTY
CEO (SOUTH ASIA), DELOITTE

In Q1 of 2023-24, the discrepancy of 2.8 per cent has a plus sign. This indicates that the expenditure side has explained only 97.2 per cent of the income side. It does not mean that the 2.8 per cent that has yet to be explained does not exist

V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN
CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR

The tea industry, once a gold mine for the British planters and a major source of foreign exchange earnings that played a critical role in India's trade and economy in the last century, struggles today even for survival

RAKESH MOHAN JOSHI | DIRECTOR, IIPM

SHORT TAKES

Proptech firms' H1 funding falls

New Delhi: Funding in proptech firms fell 10 per cent to \$243 million in the first half of 2023 amid global economic uncertainties, real estate technology firm Housing.Com said in a report Friday. Investment in proptech firms stood at \$271 million in the year-ago period. Housing.Com also noted that the cumulative proptech investments in the country since 2009 surpassed the \$4 billion-mark, backed by tech adoption in real estate, especially in the last few years. As per the Housing.Com data, funding in proptech stood at \$719 million in 2022, lower than \$742 million in 2021 and the same stood at \$551 million in 2020.

Apple mcap sinks

New Delhi: Shares in Apple have fallen for a second day in a row after reports that Chinese government workers have been banned from using iPhones, the media reported. The firm's stock market valuation has fallen by more than 6 per cent, or almost \$200bn, in the last two days, the BBC reported. China is the technology giant's third-largest market, accounting for 18 per cent of its total revenue last year. The Wall Street Journal reported that Beijing had ordered Central government agency officials to not bring iPhones into the office or use them for work.



"We've been working towards an ambitious and comprehensive free trade deal, but it's not a given. These things are a lot of work and a lot of time. We need to end up with something that works genuinely for both sides"

RISHI SUNAK | PM, UK

OIL PLANS NET ZERO BY 2040

Oil India Ltd (OIL) aims to invest Rs 165 billion in clean energy projects to meet its 2040 net zero carbon emissions goal, said two sources. State-run energy companies - Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp, Hindustan Petroleum Corp, GAIL (India) Ltd, Oil and Natural Gas Corp have already announced their net zero goal



AMID EVER-GROWING DEMAND

Reliance eyes chipmaking

INDIA'S SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING AMBITIONS, FIRST LAID OUT IN 2021, HAVE SUFFERED SETBACKS AS THE COUNTRY DOES NOT HAVE ANY CHIP MAKING PLANTS YET

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 8: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has begun exploring a foray into semiconductor manufacturing, a move that could address its supply chain needs and cater to growing chip demand in India, two people familiar with its strategy said.

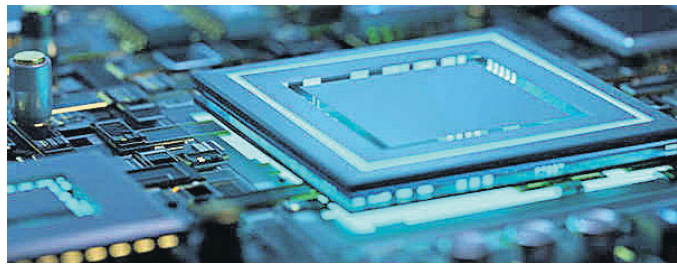
The telecoms-to-energy conglomerate, encouraged by the Indian government, has held early-stage talks with foreign chipmakers that have the potential to become technology partners, said one of the people who has direct knowledge of the plans.

"There is intent, there is no timeline," said the person, adding that Reliance has "yet to make a call on whether they want to ultimately invest."

The sources were not authorised to speak to media and declined to be identified. Reliance, whose interest in making semiconductors has not been previously reported, did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

Reliance sees merit in getting into semiconductors as the move would help safeguard against chip shortages that could affect its telecom and electronic devices businesses, the sources said. In 2021, for example, the conglomerate delayed the launch of a low-cost smartphone it was developing with Google citing the chip shortage.

Demand for semiconductors in



Reliance, which has a market capitalisation of around \$200 billion, would be one the best-positioned companies in India to delve into semiconductors

ARUN MAMPAPZHAY
FORMER EXECUTIVE, GLOBALFOUNDRIES

India and globally is also increasing, they noted. India's government has forecast the domestic chip market will be worth \$80 billion by 2028 compared with \$23 billion currently.

Reliance, which has a market capitalisation of around \$200 billion, would be one the best-positioned companies in India to delve into semiconductors, said Arun Mampazhy, a former India executive at US-based chipmaker GlobalFoundries.

"They also have deep pockets and know how to work with the government," he said.

But chip manufacturing is an industry that has historically been beset with boom and bust cycles and requires much expertise.

"Getting a tech partner - as a joint venture, or via transfer of technology, is the make or break point" for Reliance, said Mampazhy.

Setbacks for India's chip ambitions have come despite the government's offer of \$10 billion in incentives.

A \$19.5 billion venture between Vedanta and Foxconn collapsed in July even before it got off the ground as the two sides struggled to find a tech partner, with Foxconn complaining that the project had not moved fast enough.

Foxconn has since decided to invest in India without Vedanta. Plans by ISMC, a venture between Abu Dhabi-based Next Orbit Ventures and Israel's Tower Semiconductor, to invest \$3 billion in India, have moved slowly after Intel sought to acquire Tower. Talks between Intel and Tower later collapsed.

Reliance has for months been considering an investment of \$300 million that would give it a 30% stake in the venture, a third source said.

Reliance, NVIDIA partner to build AI supercomputers

US technology company NVIDIA and billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Friday announced a partnership to build AI supercomputers in India. "The companies will work together to build AI infrastructure that is over an order of magnitude more powerful than the fastest supercomputer in India today," the firms said in a statement. Days before the announcement, NVIDIA founder and CEO Jensen Huang met Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday. Starting operations in India in 2004, NVIDIA has four engineering development centres in the country - in Gurugram, Hyderabad, Pune and Bangalore with over 3,800 employees. Its collaboration with Reliance will "develop India's own foundation large language model trained on the nation's diverse languages and tailored for generative AI applications to serve the world's most populous nation," the statement said. NVIDIA will provide access to the most advanced GH200 Grace Hopper Superchip and DGX Cloud, an AI supercomputing service in the cloud. GH200 marks a fundamental shift in computing architecture that provides exceptional performance and massive memory bandwidth.

Equities rally for 6th straight day



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 8: Benchmark BSE Sensex rallied further 333 points Friday to extend its winning run to a sixth straight session driven by buying in index heavyweights HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro and Reliance Industries.

Shrugging off weak global market trends, the BSE Sensex jumped 333.35 points or 0.50 per cent to close at 66,598.91. During the day, it climbed 501.36 points or 0.75 per cent to 66,766.92.

The broader Nifty advanced 92.90 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 19,819.95, rising for a sixth session in a row. Nifty has gained 473 points or 3 per cent in the six trading sessions while Sensex rallied 1,434 points or 2.41 per cent.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 878.4 points or 1.34 per cent and the Nifty climbed 384.65 points or 1.97 per cent.

From the Sensex pack, NTPC rose the most by 2.65 per cent. Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, Titan, Power Grid and State Bank of India were the major gainers.

ITC, UltraTech Cement, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services and JSW Steel were among the laggards.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.07 per cent to

\$89.98 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets Friday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 224.22 crore.

The BSE benchmark ended with a gain of 385.04 points or 0.58 per cent at 66,265.56 Thursday. The Nifty advanced 116 points or 0.59 per cent to settle at 19,727.05.

₹ BREAKS LOSING STREAK

The rupee snapped a four-day losing streak to close 21 paise higher at 83.02 against the US dollar Friday, helped by a firm trend in domestic equities and suspected intervention by the RBI.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.13 against the US dollar and moved in a range of 82.91 to 83.17 in the day trade.

The rupee finally settled 21 paise higher at 83.02 against its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee depreciated 10 paise to its lifetime low of 83.23 against the US dollar.

BSE-LISTED FIRMS SHINE

Buoyed by the ongoing rally in domestic equities, the market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed firms surged to a fresh record of Rs 320.94 lakh crore.

Helped by the encouraging trend in domestic equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped to a new all-time high of Rs 3,20,94,202.12 crore.

SGB subscription to open Sept 11

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday said the issue price for the next tranche of Sovereign Gold Bond has been fixed at Rs 5,923 per gram and will open for subscription from September 11.

"The nominal value of the bond based on the simple average of closing price (for gold of 999 purity)... Works out to Rs 5,923 per gram of gold," it said, while announcing the issue price of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2023-24 Series II (second tranche).

The government, in consultation with the RBI, has decided to offer a discount of Rs 50 per gram less than the nominal value to investors applying online and making the payment against the application through digital mode.

For such investors, the issue price of gold bond will be Rs 5,873 per gram, it said.

The issue will be open from September 11-15, according to the statement.

The bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd (SHCIL), designated post offices, and recognised stock exchanges - the NSE and the BSE.

Forex kitty jumps to \$598.89bn

RESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 8: India's forex reserves jumped by \$4.039 billion to \$598.897 billion for the week ended September 1, the Reserve Bank said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped by \$30 million to \$594.858 billion.

It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee



amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year.

For the week ended September 1, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$3.442 billion to \$530.691 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

RBI to withdraw I-CRR in phased manner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 8: The Reserve Bank on Friday decided to discontinue the Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR), which was put in place to absorb surplus liquidity following the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 currency notes, in a phased manner beginning Saturday.

On August 10, the RBI mandated banks to maintain an incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR) of 10 per cent on the increase in their net demand and

THE MEASURE WAS INTENDED TO ABSORB THE SURPLUS LIQUIDITY GENERATED BY VARIOUS FACTORS, INCLUDING THE RETURN OF ₹2,000 NOTES TO THE BANKING SYSTEM

time liabilities (NDTL) between May 19, 2023 and July 28, 2023.

"On a review, it has been decided to discontinue the I-CRR in a phased manner," RBI said.

Based on an assessment of current and evolving liquidity conditions, it has been decided that the amounts impounded under the I-CRR would be released in stages so that system

liquidity is not subjected to sudden shocks and money markets function in an orderly manner, it added.

The RBI said 25 per cent of the amount of I-CRR maintained by banks will be released Saturday and another 25 per cent on September 23. The rest will be released October 7.

The RBI had announced that the

I-CRR would be reviewed September 8, 2023, or earlier with a view to returning the impounded funds to the banking system ahead of the festival season.

Following the withdrawal of the Rs 2,000 notes, the liquidity with the banks had surged significantly, the I-CRR was aimed to absorb the excess cash.

As much as 93 per cent of Rs 2000 currency notes that were in circulation May 19 - the day when the currency was withdrawn from circulation - have been returned to banks.

TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL

WB LAUDS INDIA'S DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Aadhaar, UPI, Digilocker have found a special mention among the examples of DPis "all of which play a leading role in the advancement of financial inclusion in many countries"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 8: Advocating DPI's potential in helping nations leapfrog digital transformation, a G20 document prepared by World Bank has praised India's approach in unlocking the power of digital public infrastructure, including Aadhaar and UPI, for financial inclusion.

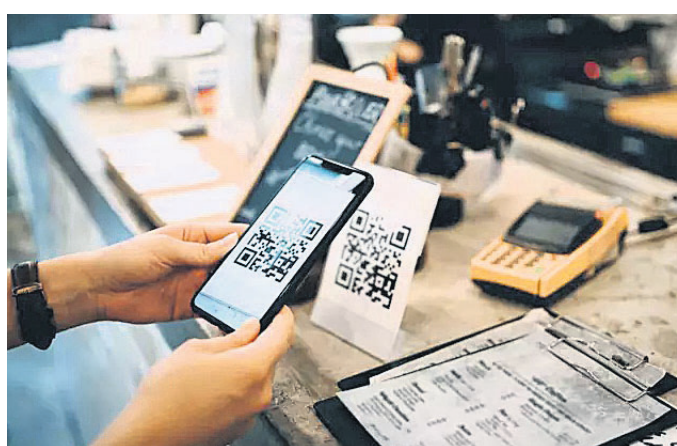
The impact of DPI goes beyond inclusive finance, to supporting health, education, and sustainability, says the forward of the document 'G20 policy recommendations for advancing financial inclusion and productivity gains through DPI'.

"The India stack exemplifies this approach, combining digi-

tal ID, interoperable payments, a digital credentials ledger, and account aggregation. In just six years, it has achieved a remarkable 80 per cent financial inclusion rate—a feat that would have taken nearly five decades without a DPI approach," it said.

India's digital ID system Aadhaar, digital payment system UPI, data-exchange platform Digilocker and its other showcase platforms have found a special mention among the examples of DPis "all of which play a leading role in the advancement of financial inclusion in many countries".

Other systems mentioned were Singapore's Singpass, the Philippines' PhilSys, and the



UAE's UAE-Pass among the digital ID systems; Brazil's Pix, India's UPI, Türkiye's FAST, the European Union's TIPS, and Thailand's PromptPay under fast payment systems; as well as Estonia's X-Road, Singapore's MyInfo, Australia's Customer Data Right, and the UK's Open Banking.

Put simply, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) refers to blocks or platforms such as digital identification, payment infrastructure and data exchange solutions that help countries deliver essential services to their people, empowering citizens and improving lives by enabling digital inclusion.

DPIs are interoperable, open, and inclusive systems supported by technology and provide essential, society-wide, public and private services that play a critical role in accelerating this digital transformation in an inclusive manner.

The document also cites India's Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA) and India's Account Aggregator (AA) Framework. On Fast Payment Systems, it noted that in some countries, such as India and Brazil the adoption has been "particularly quick and transformative".

UPI, it said, has been widely adopted, benefiting from a user-friendly interface, open banking features, and private sector participation. "The UPI platform has gained significant popularity in India; more than 9.41 billion transactions valuing about Rs 14.89 trillion were transacted in May 2023

alone. For the fiscal year 2022-23, the total value of UPI transaction was nearly 50 per cent of India's nominal GDP," the report said.

The document goes on to say that an aspect that makes DPis unique, and that can further reduce existing constraints, is their ability to complement each other or be integrated in end-to-end workflows.

A case in point is India's Aadhaar biometric identification system, which covers over one billion people and supports APIs, enables remote identification and authentication, it observes.

According to the document, in India, the implementation of various DPis is considered to have played a critical role in the increase in account ownership from just one-fourth of adults in 2008 to almost 80 per cent a decade later "a journey that is estimated would have taken up to 47 years without DPis".

CRAZE OVER

ChatGPT traffic slides for third month in a row

REUTERS

Washington, Sept 8: OpenAI's ChatGPT, the wildly popular artificial intelligence chatbot launched in November, saw monthly website visits decline for the third month in a row in August, though there are signs the decline is coming to an end, according to analytics firm Similarweb.

Worldwide desktop and mobile website visits to the ChatGPT website decreased by 3.2% to 1.43 billion in August, following approximately 10% drops from each of the previous two months. The amount of time visitors spent on the website has also been declining monthly since March, from an average of 8.7 minutes on site to 7 minutes on site in August.

But August worldwide unique visitors ticked up to 180.5 million users from 180 million.

School coming back into session in September may help ChatGPT's traffic and usage, and some schools have begun to embrace it. US ChatGPT traffic in August rose slightly, in concert with American schools being back in session.

ChatGPT set off a frenzied use of generative AI in daily tasks from editing to coding and reached 100 million monthly active users in January, two months after its launch. Generative AI technology uses past data to create new content, for instance to write essays or poems.



COCO SETS TITLE DATE WITH SABALENKA



COCO GAUFF



ARYNA SABALENKA

Climate protesters glue feet to floor, delay game

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 8: Coco Gauff's US Open semifinal victory over Karolina Muchova was delayed by 50 minutes because of a disruption by four environmental activists in the Arthur Ashe Stadium stands. One protester glued his bare feet to the concrete floor. Gauff was leading 1-0 in the second set when play was halted.

Security guards and, later, more than a half-dozen police officers went over to confront the protesters, who were wearing shirts that read, "End Fossil Fuels." The US Tennis Association said three of the protesters were escorted out of the stadium without further incident, but it took longer to remove the person who stuck his feet to the ground.

The USTA added that NYPD and medical personnel were needed in order to safely remove that person. All four activists were taken into police custody. Muchova said that, initially, she "thought it was, like, fans screaming, cheering."

A group called Extinction Rebellion said it was responsible for the protest. One of the protesters, who identified himself only as Ian, told The Associated Press the group believes the US

Open has sponsorship deals with corporations whose policies are contributing to global warming.

"We are not trying to harm the athletes in any way. We have nothing against the sport," he said. "But we are really trying to draw attention to an issue here that there will be no tennis left for anybody in the world to enjoy."

Spectators were asked to move away to clear a path for the police, who were cheered by fans sitting near the section where the disruption happened. Both players headed toward the locker room after some time as the delay continued.

It is the latest in a recent series of protests at sporting events — and tennis, in particular — related to the use of fossil fuels.

At Wimbledon in July, two matches were interrupted when environmental activists jumped out of the stands at Court 18 and scattered orange confetti on the grass.

At a US Open tune-up tournament in Washington last month, about a dozen people were asked to leave the site after chanting and displaying signs protesting the use of fossil fuels.

"We see it here and there on some occasions. Not just with tennis," Muchova said. "It is what it is. ... What can we do about it?"



ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 8: Coco Gauff never wavered one bit. Not when match point after match point went by the wayside. Not during a 40-shot exchange that ultimately helped decide the outcome. And not, most distracting of all, when her US Open semifinal against Karolina Muchova was interrupted for 50 minutes by environmental activists — one of whom glued his bare feet to the concrete floor

in the stands. It's been rather obvious for quite some time that Gauff is no ordinary teenager. Now she is one win away from becoming a Grand Slam champion. Gauff, a 19-year-old from Florida, reached her first final at Flushing Meadows by defeating Muchova 6-4, 7-5 on what was anything but an ordinary evening. The No.6-seeded Gauff will meet No.2 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus for the championship Saturday. Sabalenka beat 2017

US Open runner-up Madison Keys 0-6, 7-6(7-1), 7-6(10-5) in a topsy-turvy second semifinal that finished at nearly 1 a.m. Sabalenka won the Australian Open in January, is 23-2 in Grand Slam matches this season and is guaranteed to move up to No.1 in the world for the first time next week. She was on the verge of losing to Keys, who was up 5-3 in the second set, but used a 12-point run to get back into the match. Tie-breakers at 6-all in the

third sets of women's Grand Slam matches now are first-to-10 — unlike the old first-to-seven setup — but Sabalenka clearly forgot that. When she moved out front 7-3, she dropped her racket and put her hands to her face, covering a huge smile. Then Sabalenka quickly realized there was work to be done and finished the job on her third match point. The toughest part against Muchova for Gauff might have been closing out the victory —

ASIA CUP SUPER 4 CLASH

Exclusive reserve day added for Indo-Pak tie

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 8: In view of the prevailing weather conditions, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Friday decided to add an exclusive reserve day for the Super 4 match between India and Pakistan, which is scheduled for September 10, here Sunday.

However, there will not be a reserve day for any of the other Super 4 matches in Sri Lanka. It means that if the rain plays spoilsport during marquee clash September 10, the match can be resumed from the point it was halted on the very next day.

"A reserve day has been incorporated for the Asia Cup 2023 Super 4's match between Pakistan and India scheduled to take place on 10th September 2023 at R. Premadasa International Cricket Stadium in Colombo," the ACC said in a statement.

"If adverse weather suspends play during the Pakistan vs India game, the match will continue on 11th September 2023 from the point it was suspended," the statement added.

The Asia Cup final, to be played September 17, already has been provided with a reserve day considering the heavy rains in the Lankan capital. In such an eventuality, the ACC said spectators can hold on to their match tickets which will remain valid on the reserve day.

Recently, the PCB management committee chairman Zaka Ashraf had written to ACC chairman Jay Shah, demanding compensation for allegedly losing out considerable money on gate

EXPRESSING DISPLEASURE

Colombo: Sri Lanka coach Chris Silverwood and his Bangladesh counterpart Chandika Hathurasingha Friday expressed displeasure over the unilateral decision to provide a reserve day for the Super 4 match between India and Pakistan. Hathurasingha said he was not aware of the reason behind the sudden change in Asia Cup playing conditions. "There is a technical committee (in Asia Cup) represented by every participating country - 6 nations. They might have decided it for some other reason," the Bangladesh coach said. Hinting that no move was made to take a consensual call on the issue, Hathurasingha said his team also would have liked to have a reserve day. "It is not ideal, and we also would have liked to have an extra day," he added. Hathurasingha also hinted that the officials concerned did not consult other teams before arriving at the decision. Silverwood said he was surprised when conveyed about the decision. "Yeah! Look, obviously, I was a little surprised when I heard it first. But we don't organise the competition, so we can't do a whole lot about it, right?" asked Silverwood. The Lankan coach also said the reserve day could give a bit of an unfair advantage to either India or Pakistan if they manage to log in points on that particular day.

receipts due to poor crowd response for matches in the island nation.

While there is not even remotest of chance of ACC giving any compensation to PCB, the reserve day is the most amicable settlement that could have been reached amidst rising tension between continental body and the tournament hosts.



France stay perfect in Euro qualifiers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Sept 8: Two-time champion France were rock solid again as they resumed their qualifying campaign for the European Championship, also called Euro 2024 which will be hosted by Germany next summer, with a fifth straight win, while the Netherlands eased to a 3-0 victory over Greece to keep their chances alive in Group B.

France remained perfect and produced yet another clean sheet, beating Ireland 2-0 here and extending their lead to nine points over both the Netherlands and Greece.

The Dutch defeated their Greek rivals as both sides have six points, but Ronald Koeman's team has played one match fewer than Greece. France has scored 11 goals so far, conceding none.

Aurelien Tchouameni and Marcus Thuram netted at the Parc des Princes. The game was played at Paris Saint-Germain's stadium because of the Rugby World Cup's opening game scheduled Friday at the Stade de France.

In Eindhoven, Denzel



Dumfries had three first-half assists for his Dutch teammates Marten de Roon — who scored his first international goal — Cody Gakpo and Wout Weghorst. The Netherlands play Ireland in Dublin Sunday, when Greece faces last-place Gibraltar in Athens.

LEWANDOWSKI DELIVERS In trouble after losing two of

their opening three games, Poland revived their chances with a brace from Robert Lewandowski in a 2-0 win over the Faeroe Island in Group E. The Czech Republic, still unbeaten, lead the group with eight points, one more than Albania, after they drew 1-1. Lewandowski took his international tally to 81 goals.

IMPRESSIVE HUNGARY

MESSI FREE-KICK GIVES ARGENTINA WIN VS ECUADOR

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buenos Aires (Argentina), Sept 8: Once again, and now as a World Cup champion, Lionel Messi came to Argentina's rescue when the team most needed him.

The 36-year-old captain scored from a free-kick in the 78th minute to give Argentina a 1-0 win against Ecuador in the first round of South American World Cup qualifying Thursday.

It was Messi's 104th goal in 176 international appearances, including his 29th in World Cup qualifying. Those 29 goals equal the record of Luis Suarez of Uruguay. More than 83,000 fans at the nearly full Monumental de Nunez Stadium were getting jittery until Messi scored.

Argentina and Colombia lead the standings with three points. Paraguay and Peru are next with one. Ecuador have minus three points because of a FIFA punishment that caused a deduction in South American qualifying for the falsification of birth information of defender Byron Castillo, who is of Colombian origin.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Squad announced

NEW DELHI: National U-19 team head coach Shuvendu Panda Friday announced a 23-member Indian squad for the SAFF U-19 Championship, to commence in Kathmandu September 21. The squad flew to Saudi Arabia for an exposure-cum-training camp early Friday from where they will travel to the Nepal capital September 19. India have been drawn in Group B along with Bhutan and Bangladesh. The final will be played September 30. THE SQUAD: (Goalkeepers) Lionel Daryl Rymmei, Divyaj Dhaval Thakkar and Manjot Singh Parmar; (Defenders) Thomas Kanamoottil Cherian, Jahangir Ahmad Shagoo, Vijay Marandi, A Siba Prasad, Manabir Basumatary, Surajkumar Singh Nangbam and Ricky Meetei; (Midfielders) Manglentheng Kipgen, Ishaan Shishodia, Arjun Singh Oinam, Yash Chikro, Ebindas Yesudasana, Raja Harijan and Thumsol Tongsin; (Forwards) Ggwqmsar Goyary, Sahil Khurshid, Linky Meitei Chabungbam, Kelvin Singh Taorem, Naoba Meitei and Dinesh Singh Soubam.

Manav goes down fighting at Asian TT

PYEONGCHANG (SOUTH KOREA): India's Manav Thakkar had his moments against Chinese legend Ma Long before going down fighting in a round of 16 men's singles contest at the Asian Table Tennis Championships here Friday. The 23-year-old from Surat suffered a 0-3 defeat against arguably the greatest player of all time but ended up giving a good account of himself. Manav, ranked 100, led 9-5 in the first game and had an 8-4 advantage in the second, but was not able to sustain the high level of table tennis he needed against the five-time Olympic gold medalist. Long won the match 11-9, 12-10, 11-5 win.

Dhoni spotted playing golf with Trump

NEW JERSEY: India's World Cup-winning captain MS Dhoni was spotted enjoying a friendly round of golf with former President of the United States of America Donald Trump, here. Trump hosted Dhoni to play golf at Trump National Golf Club Bedminster. A picture of the two and a video of them playing have been doing the rounds on social media.

Dutch cricket board in need of net bowlers

AMSTERDAM: The financial inequality and gulf in resources among 10 participating nations in the upcoming World Cup couldn't have been more stark unless one bumped into a social media advertisement posted by the Netherlands cricket board seeking Indian net bowlers to help them in their preparations for the mega event. While it is a convention (not a rule) for local state associations (Karnataka State Cricket Association in this case) to provide net bowlers for visiting teams, the Dutch cricket board, in a first of its kind advertisement on 'X', formerly twitter, has sought one left-arm seamer, right arm seamer, mystery spinner and a left-arm spinner for their five-day pre-Cup camp in Alur from September 20-24.

India colts rout Maldives to enter SAFF U-16 C'ship final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thimpu (Bhutan), Sept 8: India produced a dominant show to crush Maldives 8-0 in the semifinal and qualify for the SAFF U-16 Championship summit clash, here Friday.

While Aiborlang Kharthangmaw and Mohammad Arbash scored a brace each, Vishal Yadav, Mohammed Kaif, Levis Zangminun and Manbhakupar Mangliang scored one goal apiece.

The Blue Colts controlled the proceedings from the beginning and created several chances before taking the lead in the 21st minute, when Karish Soram's aerial assist saw Yadav go past a couple of defenders to shoot the ball in.

While Maldives goalkeeper Ahmed Mifzal did well to deny the Indians in just over the 30 minute mark, Mate

Ngamgouhou's corner kick in the 36th was comfortably headed in by Kaif. India were ahead 2-0 at the halftime break.

After a strong start to the second half, Zangminun fired in the third goal in the 53rd minute with Yaipharemba Chingkhamb presenting a pass from the left flank. While India coach Ishfaq Ahmed made three changes, Kharthangmaw and Mangliang scored one goal each in the 62nd and 70th minutes respectively.

Ahmed also substituted the goalkeeper, bringing in Rohit for Suraj Singh. In the 77th and 84th minutes, Arbash netted a brace to make it 7-0 for India, before Kharthangmaw completed his brace in the 82nd to end the annihilation.

India will be up against the winner of the other semifinal fixture between Pakistan and Bangladesh, in the final to be played Sunday.