



MISSION

Shakti



CHANGING LIVES OF 70 LAKH WOMEN



₹ 15,000 Cr.
Annual bank
credit support

₹ 250 Cr.
Annual Interest
Subvention to SHGs

₹ 1 lakh
Interest-Free Bank Loans
under Mission Shakti
Scooter Yojana

6800
Mission Shakti Gruhas

₹ 6858 Cr.
Government
Business to SHGs

₹ 325 Cr.
Revolving Funds
to Federations

Empowered Women | Empowered Odisha

Department of Mission Shakti
Government of Odisha



TRAVIS RETURNS TO STAGE AFTER POSTPONING SHOWS

Blink 182 is once again hitting the stage as Travis Barker is back with the pop rock group after he had left the tour to attend to his wife, Kourtney Kardashian's urgent fetal surgery.

CARDI B WAS AFRAID TO GO TO JAIL OVER MIC-THROWING INCIDENT

Rapper Cardi B has finally addressed the mic-throwing incident that happened at her Las Vegas show. She claimed she initially kept mum about it because she was afraid to go to jail, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

You are brimming with your creative instincts today, and will be eager to accept challenging tasks. Some benefits are on the cards at the office. But don't forget to relax, says Ganesha, as your body frequently requires careful attention.

TAURUS

This is one of those days when you are likely to misplace and lose valuable things, particularly money. Ganesha urges you not to indulge heavy gambling or blind speculation in quest of easy money. Have no doubt that you are most likely to lose whatever you wager and incur huge losses. Be careful. Don't get carried away by impulses.

GEMINI

You will be flooded with mental stress and worry today. You will have a hard time expressing your feelings and emotions today. You will feel nostalgic and will be flooded with memories, however, do not let your past cloud your present and your future, says Ganesha.

CANCER

An episode could upset you; so control your anger, suggests Ganesha. A slight hurdle on the job front. You may show interest in antiques.

LEO

In the earlier half of the day you will look to improve your creativity and will have discussions with others regarding the same. You need to pay more attention to your relationships with others. You will try to increase your social status. You will be able to accomplish all your goals today, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Look before you leap. Ganesha warns that there may be trouble brewing for you and it may catch you unawares. You will be very upbeat at work, and you realise that your high spirits benefit your colleagues too. You may reserve the evening for a quiet time with your family, reminiscing the happy times spent together in the past.

LIBRA

Having an elderly hand to guide you and back you up is always a good thing. Today promises to be very advantageous to you when it comes to gaining from your seniors. It may have something to do with your exceptional skills in building rapport with people, or your ability to perform truthfully.

SCORPIO

Get your family together today and spend most of the time with them, says Ganesha. If being practical is important, then have your close friends over at your place too. A romantic dinner with your beloved is on the cards today.

SAGITTARIUS

Self-righteousness, and a sense of duty set the mood for the day today. You'll be a miserly scrooge in the afternoon. But later in the day, expect dinner with your sweetheart to be extravagant and blissful.

CAPRICORN

You may have craved for a mini vacation to some place quaint and peaceful for long, and would have given up the idea every time because of the burgeoning work pressure. But it's time to get impulsive. Give your imagination a free rein today, and go where it takes you, for travel is on the cards, and that too with your sweetheart, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

Put on your best outfit, freshen up your face and look your best as today, you will be the centre of attention. Be it personal or professional, you will perform extremely well on all the spheres of life, leaving everyone, especially your opponents spellbound, says Ganesha.

PISCES

An important day awaits you. Your spirits will be high, and your intuition uncanny. Guided by these, it is likely that you will make several significant decisions today in matters of finance and relationships. Your energy levels will be unflagging and you will find yourself at the peak of your abilities, says Ganesha.

Katrina

wary of overexposure

Mumbai: KatrinaKaif over the years has emerged as one of the most hard working and competent performers in the entertainment industry. Her fan following on Instagram is a sure sign of how famous she is. The actress though has been keeping a low profile off late. However, a source close to the *Boom* actress has revealed that her staying away from the media is a planned move.

She is staying away from the media on purpose. The report claims that after a very long time the actress has multiple releases in the same year and both are big ticket films as *Tiger 3* takes the SPY universe story ahead and *Merry Christmas* will be released in Hindi and Tamil as two separate films. So she is avoiding to get overexposed in the time being as she will need to be out and about during promotions of both these films.

Katrina is supposed to be part of Farhan Akhtar's *Je Leee Zaaa* where she will be seen with Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Alia Bhatt. But it seems the film has been put on the backburner as the three actresses can't seem to be matching dates for the film to go on floors. AGENCIES



THANK U ODISHA: SRK

Mumbai: After collecting over Rs 200 crore in three days, the latest Shah Rukh Khan release *Jawan* has not only created a new box office record for a Hindi film, it's also set to better the performance of his previous movie *Pathaan*.

Meanwhile, the *DDLJ* star has recognised the love of his fans

JAWAN SHATTERING BOX OFFICE RECORDS

in Odisha. Expressing gratitude to his admirers who celebrated *Jawan's* release, the 58-year-old star in his official social media account Saturday shared a video of his Team Shah Rukh Khan fan club members from Kalahandi district of Odisha and wrote "Thank U Odisha."

Earlier, the *Veer-Zaara* actor thanked the fans of Balasore



Fans in Balasore celebrated the release

also. "Thank you Balasore. You are too kind and beautiful. Please take families now to watch the film. Love u," SRK shared on the day of *Jawan's* release.

In capital city Bhubaneswar, the members of Team Shah Rukh Khan, a fan club of the actor, con-

ducted a cake-cutting ceremony and put on *Jawan* movie-themed T-shirts to celebrate the release. A large cutout was also placed at the main gate. The ardent fans also predicted that *Jawan* would perform better than SRK's previous blockbuster *Pathaan*. PNM

CURTAINS ON 29TH OMC GKCM AWARD FESTIVAL

Anant Mahapatra gets top honour for lifelong contribution to theatre



Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra awardees with Sri Sri University President Prof. Rajita Kulkarni and Srjan Director Guru Ratikanta Mohapatra

Bhubaneswar: After four evenings of captivating dance and music performances from September 5-8, 2023, the 29th edition of the Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival organised by Srjan-Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa in collaboration with Sri Sri University Cuttack came to a close here at Rabintra Mandap, Saturday.

The GKCM Award 2023 was presented to veteran theatre personality Anant Mahapatra for his lifelong contribution to theatre. The honour carries an allocation of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a citation. Eminent danseuse Sonal Mansingh, who was also selected for the honour, couldn't attend the event for some reason. This was followed by the presentation of the GKCM Yuva Prativa Samman, which focuses on re-

viving the role of solo artistes in the classical idiom. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 25,000/- and a citation. This year, the honour went to four exceptionally talented performing artistes under the age of 40 years in the field of classical dance and Odissi music. Arupa Gayatri Panda and Siddhi Waikar received the same for Odissi dance, while Vishal Krishna was honoured for Kathak and Arup Das for Odissi music (Mardala).

The final day featured the coveted award presentation ceremony and concluded with a cultural programme. Prof. (Mrs.) Rajita Kulkarni, President, Sri Sri University; Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra awardee Mahapatra, and Srjan Director Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, commenced the evening's proceedings with the lighting of the lamp.

All four awardees of Yuva Prativa Samman captivated the

audience with their soulful renditions. The final performance of the evening was by Smt. Arupa Gayatri Das, who presented the ash-tapadi, a composition from 12th century saint and poet Shri Jayadeva's love song, the Geeta Govinda.

Online viewers can find the live stream on Srjan's Facebook page and YouTube channel while the event was attended both physically and virtually by several dignitaries, influential citizens, luminaries from the world of Art, and audiences from across India and abroad. The entire festival has been curated, conceptualized, and designed by Guru Mohapatra, with the programme execution by Debiprasad Mishra. Mrutyunjaya Rath conducted the proceedings of the evening.

Odia daily Dharitri and English daily Orissa POST were the print media partners of the event. PNM

Raveena recounts dancing barefoot

Mumbai: Actress Raveena Tandon, who graces the dance reality show *India's Best Dancer 3*, will be seen walking down the memory lane as she reminisced about shooting barefoot for the iconic song *Tip Tip Barsa Paani* from *Mohra* at a construction site which was full of nails.

During the episode, contestant Shivanshu Soni and choreographer Vivek Chachere performed on *Tip Tip Barsa Paani*.

Talking about the song, the *KGF 2* actress got nostalgic as she said, "We were shooting at a construction site, and I was barefoot, surrounded by nails that were causing discomfort. I was dressed in a saree, and the move-

ments that Rekha Ji and Chinni Ji were executing, as well as the assistance they provided while wearing knee pads, left me with knee cuts when I returned home. I had to take tetanus injections, and two days later, I fell ill due to the exposure to rain."

She further mentioned, "The glamour you see on screen conceals the untold stories behind the scenes. During rehearsals, injuries are commonplace, yet we all endure them. But the show must go on, whether on screen or stage; one's expressions and smile should never waver, regardless of the pain endured." IANS

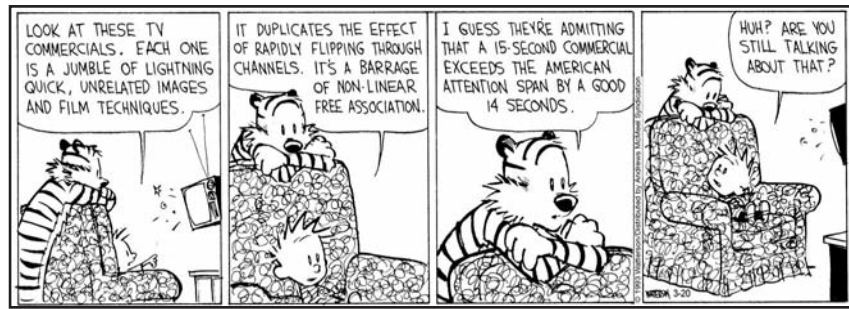


FUN post

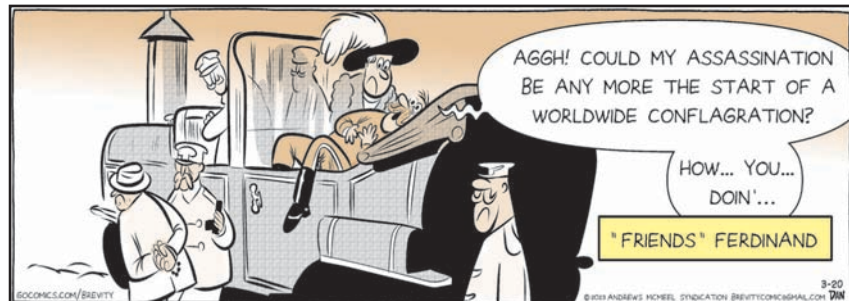
PEANUTS



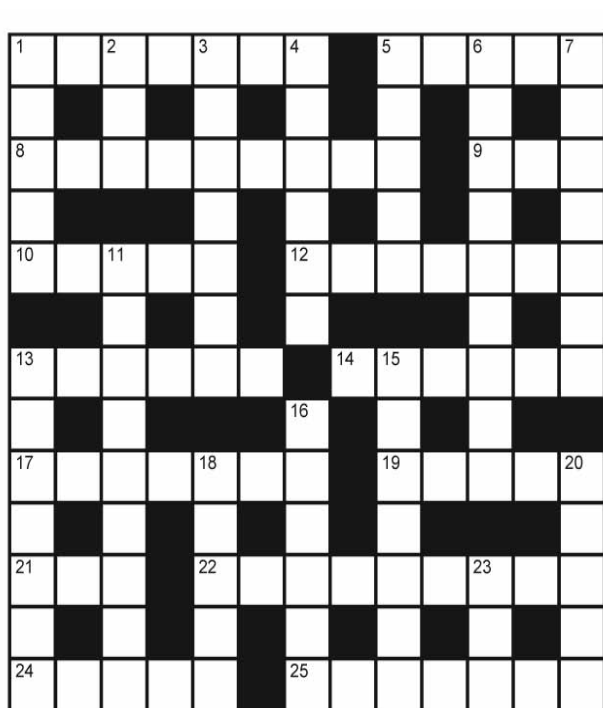
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



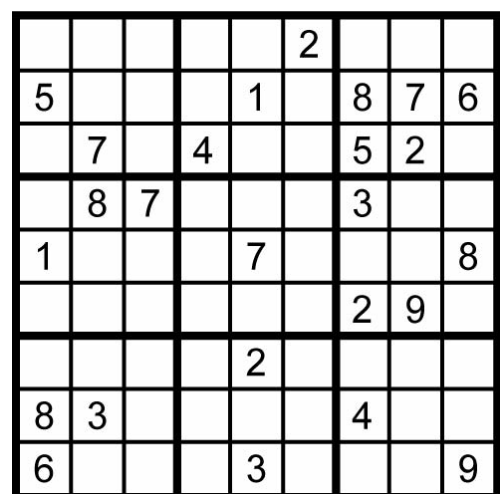
CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Transport, for some
 - 5 Confronted
 - 8 Words to a slowpoke (5,1,3)
 - 9 Safety device
 - 10 Relinquished
 - 12 Oil source
 - 13 Sound quality
 - 14 Aquitania locale
 - 17 Improvement
 - 19 Sin city
 - 21 Follow
 - 22 Old printer type (3,6)
 - 24 Flightless birds
 - 25 File on a person
 - 4 Sign up
 - 5 Unclear
 - 6 Troubled
 - 7 Easement of tensions
 - 11 Rabble-rouser
 - 13 Storm warning?
 - 15 Scamps
 - 16 Not standing
 - 18 Right hands
 - 20 Kitchen utensil
 - 23 King (Fr.)
- Down
- 1 No-frills
 - 2 Chinese brew
 - 3 Cheese type

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.

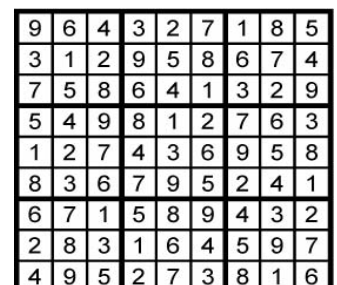


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



MORE RAIN IN STORE

A fresh cyclonic circulation is going to trigger rain and thundershowers in many parts of the state over the next five days

DOWNTOWN P2



TOTAL WITHDRAWAL

Assam govt will recommend Centre for complete withdrawal of AFSPA from the northeastern state from October 1

TWO STATES P5



INDIA FACE PAK TODAY

India lock horns with arch-rivals Pakistan in a high-voltage Super 4 stage match of the Asia Cup

SPORTS P9

SNAKEBITE CLAIMS WOMAN, DAUGHTER

POST NEWS NETWORK

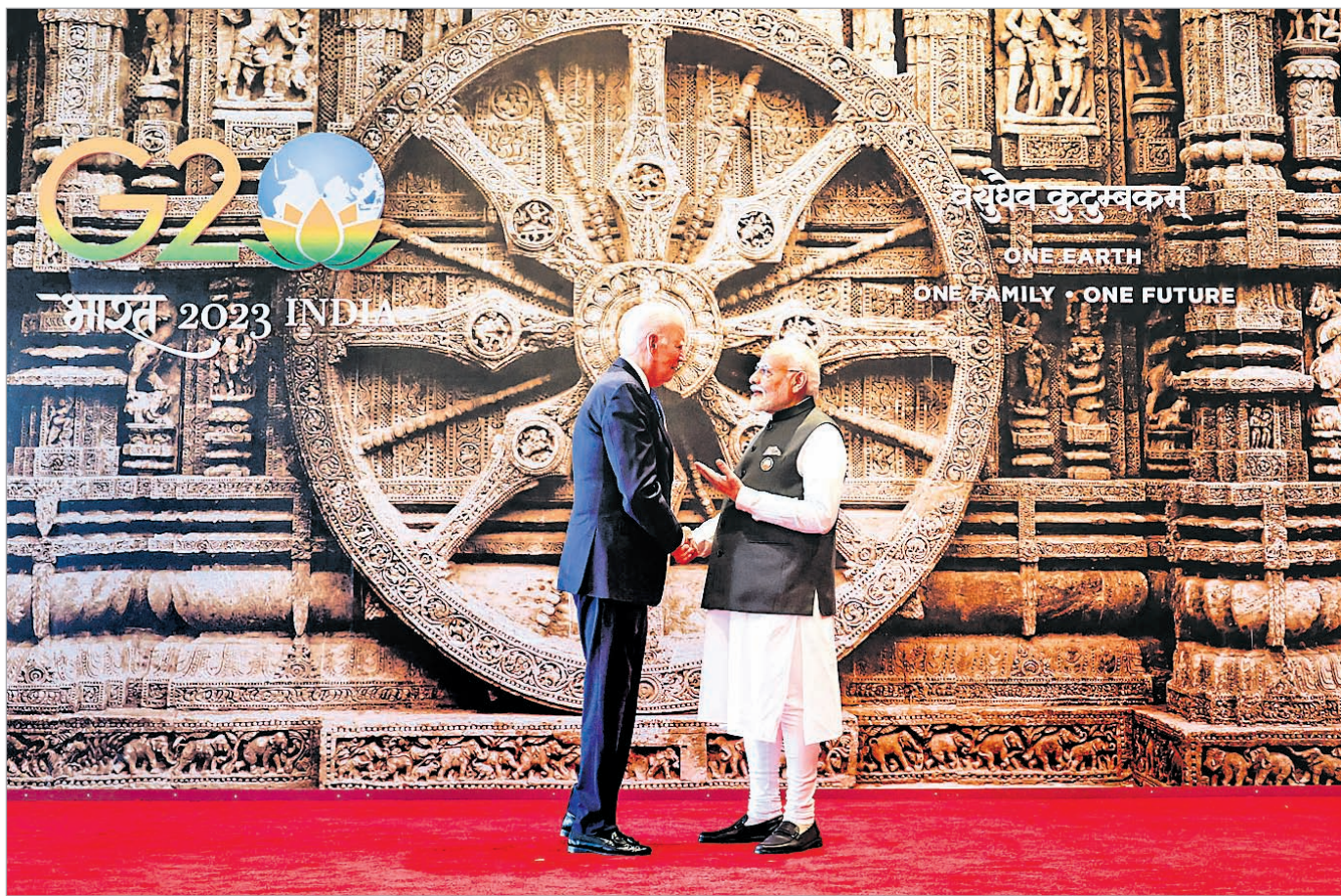
Keonjhar, Sept 9: There is no let-up in snakebite deaths in Keonjhar district as another woman and her 2-year-old daughter died from snakebite in the district, Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Sukhamani Munda, wife of Suren Munda and her daughter at Rugudi Sahi in Murusuan village under Banshapal block in the district.

Government sources said that 28 persons have died till July this year while 10 deaths were reported from July to till date. The death of four students in two hostels under Sadar and Champua blocks had sparked shockwaves in the state.

Police said the woman had gone to sleep after dinner with her three sons and two daughters when a poisonous snake bit her and her toddler daughter late Friday night.

Family members found them sick early in the morning and rushed them to Banshapal community health centre. However, doctors at the hospital pronounced them dead on arrival.



ODISHA SHINES: Konark Wheel replica serves as backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's welcome handshake with US President Joe Biden upon the latter's arrival at Bharat Mandapam for the G20 Summit, in New Delhi, Saturday

Naveen skips G20 dinner

BHUBANESWAR: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik skipped the G20 dinner hosted by President Droupadi Murmu on the opening day of the international mega event in New Delhi Saturday, official sources said. The Chief Minister's Office (CMO), however, did not cite any reason behind Patnaik skipping the G20 programme. Patnaik, who is also the president of the ruling BJD in Odisha, is concentrating on preparing for the simultaneous Assembly and Lok Sabha elections next year and is holding discussions with party leaders, the sources said.

G20 Summit adopts Delhi Declaration

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 9: India Saturday pulled off a big diplomatic win after the G20 Summit adopted a consensus declaration overcoming major differences on the Russia-Ukraine war, as PM Narendra Modi called for ending "global trust deficit". Modi also announced that African Union was admitted as G20's permanent member.

Asserting that "today's era must not be of war", the New Delhi G20 Summit Leaders' Declaration under India's presidency called on all States to uphold the principles of international law, including territorial integrity and sovereignty and pitched for initiatives for "comprehensive, just, and durable peace in Ukraine". "The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible."

The announcement about a consensus on the 37-page declaration and its subsequent adoption was made by Prime Minister Modi at the start of the second session on the opening day of the two-day summit of the grouping of major developed and developing countries. It came hours after India circulated a new text to the member countries to describe the Ukraine conflict.

"Friends, we have just got good news, with the hard work of our teams, and with the co-operation of you all, there is consensus on the New Delhi G20 Summit Leaders' Declaration," Modi said. **MORE P7 & P8**

Quake kills over 1K

AGENCIES

Marrakech (Morocco), Sept 9: Tragedy struck Morocco late Friday night as a rare and powerful earthquake hit the villages from the Atlas Mountains to the historic city of Marrakech leaving at least 1,037 people dead and several hundreds wounded. The toll is expected to rise as rescuers struggled to reach the remote areas hit hardest.

The US Geological Survey said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.8 when it hit at 11:11pm (22:11 GMT), with shaking that lasted several seconds. The US Agency reported a magnitude-4.9 aftershock hit 19 minutes later.

People woken by the quake ran into the streets in terror and disbelief. State television showed people clustered in the streets of Marrakech late at night, afraid to go back inside buildings that might still be unstable.

A man said he was visiting a nearby apartment when dishes and wall hangings began raining down, and people were knocked off their feet and chairs. A woman described fleeing her house after an "intense vibration". A man holding a child said he was jarred awake in bed by the shaking.

Emergency workers looked for survivors in the rubble of buildings, their reflective yellow vests glowing in the dark. A



hole gaped in the side of a home, and a car was nearly buried by the chunks of a collapsed building in other images broadcast by local media. In Marrakech, the famous Koutoubia Mosque, built in the 12th century, suffered damage, but the extent was not immediately clear. Its 69-metre minaret is known as the "roof of Marrakech".

At least 820 people died, mostly in Marrakech and five provinces near the quake's epicenter, and another 672 people were injured, Morocco's Interior Ministry reported Saturday morning. Of the injured, the ministry wrote, 205 were seriously hurt.

The head of a town near the earthquake's epicenter told Moroccan news site 2M that sev-

TREMOR HORRORS

1960 A 5.8 magnitude tremor struck near Moroccan city of Agadir and caused thousands of deaths

2004 A 6.4 magnitude earthquake near Mediterranean coastal city of Al Hoceima left more than 600 dead

eral homes in nearby towns had partly or totally collapsed, and electricity and roads were cut off in some places.

Abderrahim Ait Daoud, head of the town of Talat N'Yaouqoub, said authorities are working to clear roads in Al Hoceima Province to allow passage for ambulances and aid to populations affected, but said large distances between

Conman traps engineer & loots ₹34 lakh, held

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: The Commissionerate Police Saturday arrested a cyber criminal on charges of duping a city-based engineer of more than ₹34 lakh after he entrapped the latter by posing as a female MBBS student in a fake facebook account.

The 26-year-old accused, identified as Sreedhar Maharana, is a native of Lochapoda under Berhampur Sadar police limits in Ganjam district and currently living in Khannagar area of Cuttack.

The Cyber Crime and Economic Offence police here arrested the accused in connection with a case (75/23) registered on the basis of the complaint lodged by Ankit Kumar Gupta, a resident of Pokhariput area, who works as a junior engineer at NTPC.

"During investigation, we found that Maharana created a fake facebook account with a girl's image in profile picture. He

identified himself as a third year MBBS student at a private medical college while her father works in the Indian Army," said Goutam Kisan, ACP Zone-V.

The accused later fooled the victim by lying that her family was undergoing severe financial problems on account of the treatment of her father. Maharana subsequently started asking for more money from Gupta under different pretexts, like college fees, treatment of her family members, et al, police said.

The victim had also proposed to marry which the accused, impersonating the student, agreed. Taking advantage of the victim's innocence, Maharana fled ₹34, 37,500 from Gupta during the last one year. The accused claimed that he had completed diploma in engineering.

"We are verifying his claims and involvement of others in the fraud. We may seek court's permission to take the accused on remand for further probe into the matter," the ACP added.

Sedition law: SC hearing Sept 12

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear September 12 a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of colonial-era provision of sedition under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

These pleas had come up May 1 before the apex court which had deferred the hearing after the Centre said it was at an advanced stage of consultation on re-examining the penal provision.

In a landmark move to overhaul colonial-era criminal laws, August 11 the Centre had introduced in Lok Sabha three bills to replace the IPC, CrPC and the Indian Evidence Act, proposing among other things the repeal of sedition law and introducing a new provision with wider definition of the offence.

As per the cause list of September 12 uploaded on the SC website, the pleas challenging the validity of section 124A (Sedition) of the IPC would come up for hearing before a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

While hearing these petitions May 1, the top court had noted the submission of Attorney General R Venkataramani that the government had initiated the process to re-examine section 124A of the IPC.

May 11 last year, the top court had put on hold the colonial-era penal law on sedition.

6 in 10 female teens anaemic in India: Study

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 9: Even though the Union government is launching a slew of initiatives to address malnutrition among children, nearly 6 in 10 female teens in India were found to be anaemic, if a research analysis on National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) data is to be believed.

Adolescent marriage and motherhood, along with poor nutritional status and other socio-economic variables such as wealth and education, were crucial risk determinants for anaemia in Indian females aged 15-19, the study from Banaras Hindu University, Uttar Pradesh, and other institutes found.

Further, Indian states with anaemia prevalence over 60 per cent more than doubled to 11 in 2019-21 from 5 in 2015-16, the study published in the journal PLOS Global Public Health said.



INDIAN STATES WITH ANAEMIA PREVALENCE OVER 60% MORE THAN DOUBLED TO 11 IN 2019-21 FROM 5 IN 2015-16

Anaemia, a significant public health issue particularly affecting women in India, is characterised by a deficiency in red blood cells, resulting in low vigour and energy.

Using data from the fourth and fifth rounds of the national surveys, NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21), the research studied 1,16,117 and 1,09,400 female teenagers, respectively, to

analyse trends regarding anaemia prevalence and identify risk factors for anaemia.

Prevalence of anaemia was higher in women married before 18 years of age, which accounted for around 10 and 8 per cent of the sampled women in NFHS-4 and NFHS-5, respectively. About 70 per cent of the participants lived in rural areas, the study said.

They further found that teenage mothers with at least 2 children were more anaemic than teenagers without children, with anaemia prevalence being higher in breastfeeding mothers.

More educated women teenagers were less likely to be anaemic, as education is linked to knowledge of nutrition and health and also leads to better access to healthcare and nutritious food through improved employment opportunities and income, the authors wrote.

Women belonging to the socio-economically disadvantaged groups such as SC and ST were more likely to be anaemic than other social groups, which the authors attributed to factors like historical, undernutrition, limited healthcare access, early child-bearing and discrimination.

Women adolescents from the northeastern states of India were

at lower risk of anaemia than women from the other parts of the country, the researchers noted.

Overall, among all the 28 Indian states, 21 were found to report an increase in anaemia prevalence to varying degrees.

While Assam, Chhattisgarh and Tripura showed a substantial rise of 15 percentage points, the states of Punjab, Karnataka, Telangana, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh recorded a marginal increase of less than 5 percentage points. However, Uttarakhand and Kerala exhibited a decline in anaemia prevalence during the study period, offering potential insights for further exploration, the researchers said.

Despite the Indian government implementing several programs aimed at addressing anaemia in women and children over the past five decades, anaemia prevalence is rapidly increasing.

Naidu held in ₹300cr skill development scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Sept 9: Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu was arrested Saturday in connection with an alleged fraud case involving misappropriation of funds from the Skill Development Corporation, leading to a loss of ₹300 crore to the state government, AP CID Chief N Sanjay said.

Addressing reporters after Naidu's arrest, the police official said the investigation implicated the former AP CM and TDP as beneficiaries of misappropriation of funds. "... this case revolves around the establishment of clusters of Centers of Excellence (CoEs) in the state

of Andhra Pradesh, with a total estimated project value of ₹3,300 crores. The alleged fraud has caused huge loss to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in excess of ₹300 crores," noted Sanjay, addressing a press conference at the CID office in Mangalagiri.

Reacting to his arrest, Naidu in a post on X (formerly Twitter), said, "For the past 45 years, I have selflessly served Telugu people. I am prepared to sacrifice my life to safeguard the interests of Telugu people. No force on earth can stop me from serving Telugu people, my #AndhraPradesh and my motherland."

During his arrest, he appealed to people and party cadre to exercise restraint.

Fresh cyclonic circulation over BoB to bring rainfall

Odisha is likely to witness wet spells over the next five days with light to moderate rainfall or thundershower predicted at most places

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: A fresh cyclonic circulation is likely to form over north-west and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal (BoB) September 12, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Saturday. The weather agency explained that the monsoon trough at mean sea level is now passing through Jaisalmer; Ajmer; Guna, Mandla, Pendra Road, Jharsuguda, Digha and thence east-southeastwards to north-east Bay of Bengal and extends up to 3.1 km above mean sea level. Under the influence of the developing weather system, Odisha is likely to witness wet spells over the next five days with light to moderate rain-



fall or thundershower predicted at most places across the state. From morning of September 11, one or two places in some districts are likely to witness thundershower with lightning while some are likely to experience heavy rainfall, said the IMD issuing 'yellow warning' for these districts. Similarly, City-based Centre for Environment and Climate (CEC) of SOA Deemed to be University Saturday confirming the IMD forecast said that under influence of the cyclonic circulation, a low pressure area is likely to form the next day.

Light to moderate rainfall is likely at sporadic locations in Odisha till September 11 after which precipitation will increase, a CEC release said. Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected across coastal, northern and western Odisha between September 13 and 15 and it will decrease from September 16. However, moderate to heavy rainfall could occur at one or two places in western Odisha September 16. The weather will improve across the state from September 18 while rainfall is expected to increase in Chhattisgarh, it said.



LEARNING FOR EMERGENCY: A student performs cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) during a training programme organised on World First Aid Day at a private school in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

Allocating mines flouting norms alarming: Bhushan



AGENCIES

Puri, Sept 9: Noted Supreme Court lawyer Prashant Bhushan on Saturday expressed his deep concern over the way the allocation of mines is being made to various corporates by the state and central governments.

Addressing farmers at the Beladal village ground to celebrate the victory of Anti Vedanta University Santharam Samiti in the Supreme Court, Prashant Bhushan said the way union and state governments are allocating mines flouting all existing norms of law to a handful of corporates is alarming.

He said if this practice continues there will be little minerals left for the future generation and millions will be evicted from their land.

Citing the situation in Niyamgiri, Kasipur and Bolangir where native adivasis were being evicted to facilitate the corporates, Bhushan said this will help neither the state nor the corporates in the long run as the natural resources will be depleted to such a level that it would not be even able to sustain the corporates.

He said he had filed a contempt of court case against state government which did not comply with the Supreme Court order.

The Apex court had directed the state government to collect Rs 20,000 crore from the companies who were found illegally mining. After elapse of several years the state could collect Rs 17,000 crore and Rs 3,000 crore is yet to be collected, he said.

Medha Patkar the internationally famous social activist said natural flora and fauna serve as lifeline of all living species. Natives are fighting to protect their Jal, Jangle and Jamin across the country.

The governments are putting them in jail implicating them in various criminal cases, she said. The natural resources are the right of the natives and trying to protect these is no offence, Patkar said.

'Conclave a call to create sustainable urban spaces'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: The Odisha chapter of Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) organised a two-day IIA leadership conclave & design carnival 2023 with the theme 'Samarth-Empowering Architecture'.

The inaugural day of the event witnessed technical sessions, panel discussions, competitions, cultural programs and a capti-

ivating musical night. The conclave offers a platform with participation of more than 600 countrywide delegates, representation of statewide design schools and involvement of more than 200 students of architecture. Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary Anu Garg graced the event as the chief guest. IIA president Villas Avachat joined the occasion as guest of honour. Among other



present included IIA Chairman Swapnadutta Mohanty, IIA Secretary Akshay Beuria and IIA vice chairman Mousumi Nanda. Speaking on this occasion, Mohanty said, "Samarth -

Empowering Architecture is not just an event, it's a call to action. Together, we strive to shape resilient, sustainable urban spaces that not only enrich lives but also safeguard our environment for generations to come." She further said that the theme emphasizes the importance of collective vision and unwavering commitment to creating resilient spaces that withstand the test of time.

146 toppers from 58 schools honoured

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP



Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: The outstanding academic achievement award ceremony of Sahodaya Schools Complex, Bhubaneswar Chapter was held Saturday on the premises of Unit-VIII DAV Public School to honour academic achievers of SSE and SSCCE 2023.

146 toppers from 58 schools were felicitated for their excellence in Class X and XII examination for the session 2022-23. The welcome address was given by the secretary of the Complex, Sanjay Suar, who highlighted the objectives of Sahodaya

Schools Complex and mentioned its achievements.

Vice chairman, S Minaketan also spoke on this occasion. Addressing the students, chief guest, Berhampur IISER Director Ashok Kumar Ganguli said, "Accept your failure as a challenge and try to reach the pinnacle of success by overcoming all hurdles and hardships." The welcome rendition and dance recital electrified the programme in spreading a positive aura. At the end the Principal, Ipsita Das expressed her gratitude to all the guests, heads of different schools and the dynamic achievers.

Open conversation helps battle suicidal thoughts

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: Last year, a total of 417 people ended their lives by suicide in the Capital city of Bhubaneswar which was an alarming 48 per cent jump from the 282 suicide deaths reported in 2021, according to the Commissionerate Police data.

Police said in most of the cases, the victims belonged to the age group of 25-40 years and were the sole breadwinners of their families. Prolonged stress over family discord reportedly triggered the suicides, police said. In some other cases, the victims were students who ended their lives following conflicts with their family members or failed love affairs. Though instances of suicide deaths fell in 2021, they again rose in 2022.

On the eve of 'World Suicide Prevention Day', **OrissaPOST** spoke to experts to understand the present situation and corresponding remedial measures. **Amrit Pattajoshi**, a psychiatrist and president of Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS) Odisha



branch, said that mental health is a serious problem and people should not ignore it.

He said financial crisis, love life issues, losing a dear one, exam pressure, cyber frauds, jobs and many other issues trigger a disturbed mental state. This often leads to suicidal thoughts. To get on with it, one must first focus on stabilizing the mind.

"Collaborating with the state government, we started Mo-School drive to sensitize students about common mental illness, drug addiction, social support, and coping strategies to deal with difficult situations like exams, break-ups and family issues. We are also planning to start an anti-suicide helpline

with support from Rotary Club," he said. Social activist **Shweta Agarwal** said following the onset of Covid-19, India has witnessed profound changes, like the rest of the world. In addition to the tragic loss of over half a million lives to the virus, data reveals that a staggering 3.17 lakh individuals succumbed to suicides in 2020 and 2021 combined.

Shweta's organisation 'Ummukt Foundation' had started a helpline during Covid time for those dealing with loneliness.

She said many people after Covid joined the organisation as volunteers to do something good, escape job dissatisfaction or personal struggles and find a nurturing, non-judgmental environment where they can not

only teach children but get a family to cheer them. "This fosters a sense of accomplishment, helping them battle depression and suicidal thoughts. Having conversation in a safe space and engaging in doing something where your work matters can really help to heal," she added.

AIIMS, Bhubaneswar Psychiatry department head **Biswa Ranjan Mishra** said suicide is a bio-psycho-social problem and there are lots of social angle involved that lead someone to take the extreme step.

"What we are noticing nowadays that this youth population doesn't have stress tolerance power that leads to unwarranted suicide attempts. AIIMS Bhubaneswar has counseling and wellness centre where we provide round the clock counseling," he added.

World is way off track to curb global warming: UN report

With the world far off track on its 2015 pledge to curb global warming, a new United Nations report central to upcoming climate negotiations details how quickly and deeply energy and financial systems must change to get back on a safer path.

The globe has to cut its emissions of heat-trapping gases by 43 per cent by 2030, compared to 2019 levels, and 60 per cent by 2035, the report said. To get there, the report said, "the phase-out of unabated fossil fuels is required," using a phrase international climate negotiators have shied away from before. It also said phasing out the internal combustion engine would be a huge help.

And the way money flows — such as investments, subsidies, loans, grants and payments for

people and places hurt by warming's extreme weather — also has to change, the report recommended. It said countries need to stop USD 450 billion in annual subsidies for coal, oil and natural gas.

"Halting and reversing deforestation" and adopting better crop-growing practices are critical to fighting climate change, the report said. It noted that about 95 per cent of deforestation is in the tropics, but global consumers drive the tree loss.

"We must urgently disrupt business as usual and unite like never before to move from ambition to action and from rhetoric to real results," upcoming international climate negotiations president Sultan Al Jaber said in a statement.

The first-of-its-kind report, called the "global stocktake" on



climate-fighting efforts, put such an emphasis on change that it used variations of the word "transform" more than 50 times in 47 pages.

"The report really puts a spotlight on that kind of transformation of systems that needs to take place," said David Waskow, international climate

initiative director at the World Resources Institute. "We're past the point of incremental type of change if we're going to take seriously what needs to be done."

Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore said on social media, "This latest report shows that we are failing, not because we don't know the answers — but because

we aren't doing our homework."

This comes as leaders of the top 20 economies, responsible for 80 per cent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, meet in India. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told them to act quickly on warming because "the climate crisis is worsening dramatically."

In 2015, as part of the landmark Paris Agreement, the countries of the world agreed to try to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) or at least 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times. It's already warmed about 1.1 degrees (2 degrees Fahrenheit) since the mid-1800s.

Limiting warming to 1.5 degrees is another window of opportunity that is rapidly closing, the report said. Earlier this

year, the World Meteorological Organization said there's a two-out-of-three chance that in the next five years, Earth will exceed that threshold for a year.

The report "feels like a final warning," said Climate Analytics CEO Bill Hare, a climate scientist. "If you guys don't get your act together, we're going to cook." The world just baked through the hottest summer ever recorded, and ocean temperatures keep smashing records.

The way the Paris agreement works is that every country makes its own carbon pollution pledges and efforts — and every five years they are supposed to ratchet them up. Key is that between those five years, climate negotiators come up with what's like a midterm grade for the world's efforts and a roadmap for preventing more dangerous warming.

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FOCUS GLOBAL ECONOMY

ENEMY IS GEOPOLITICS



What some decry as protectionism and mercantilism is really a rebalancing toward addressing important national issues. The biggest risk to the global economy stems not from this broader reorientation – which should be welcomed – but from a Sino-American rivalry that threatens to drag everyone down

Despite this more closed global economy (by today's standards), the Bretton Woods era proved conducive to significant economic and social progress. Advanced economies experienced decades of rapid economic growth and relative socioeconomic equality until the second half of the 1970s. Among low-income countries, those that adopted effective development strategies – such as East Asian Tigers – grew by leaps and bounds, even though their exports faced much higher barriers than do developing countries today. When China joined the world economy with great success after the 1980s, it did so on its own terms, maintaining subsidies, state ownership, currency management, capital controls, and other policies more reminiscent of Bretton Woods than of hyper-globalisation. The Bretton Woods regime operated in the context of the Cold War, when West's economic relations with Soviet Union were minimal and Soviet bloc had only a small foothold in global economy. As a result, geopolitical competition did not derail the expansion of trade and long-term investment.

process is necessary both to heal the social and environmental damage done under hyper-globalisation, and to establish a healthier form of globalisation for the future.

US President Joe Biden's industrial policies, green subsidies, and made-in-America provisions are the clearest examples of this reorientation. True, these policies are a source of irritation in Europe, Asia, and the developing world, where they are seen as antithetical to established free-trade rules. But they are also models for those – often in the same countries – seeking alternatives to hyper-globalisation and neoliberalism.

We don't have to go too far back in history to find an analog to the system that could emerge from these new policies. During the post-1945 Bretton Woods regime, which prevailed in spirit through the early 1980s, governments retained significant autonomy over industrial, regulatory, and financial policies, with many prioritising the health of their domestic economies over global integration. Trade agreements were narrow and weak, placing few constraints on advanced economies, but even fewer on developing countries. Domestic control over short-term capital flows was the norm, rather than the exception.

The situation today is entirely different. America's main rival now is China, which occupies a very large position in the world economy. A true decoupling between the West and China would have major repercussions for the entire world, including the advanced economies, owing to their heavy dependence on China for industrial supplies. One therefore can find plenty of good reasons to worry about the future health of the world economy. But if the global economy does become inhospitable, it will be because of American and Chinese mismanagement of their geopolitical competition, not because of any supposed betrayal of "free trade." Policymakers and commentators must remain focused on the risk that really matters.

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The era of free trade seems to be over. How will the world economy fare under protectionism? This is one of the most common questions I hear nowadays. But the distinction between free trade and protectionism (like the one between markets and the state, or mercantilism and liberalism) is not especially helpful for understanding the global economy. Not only does it misrepresent recent history; it also misconstrues today's policy transitions and the conditions needed for a healthy global economy.

"Free trade" conjures an image of governments stepping back to allow markets to determine economic outcomes on their own. But any market economy requires rules and regulations – product standards; controls on anticompetitive business conduct; consumer, labour, and environmental safeguards; lender-of-last-resort and financial-stability functions – which are typically promulgated and enforced by governments.

Moreover, when national jurisdictions are linked up through international trade and finance, additional questions arise: Which countries' rules and regulations should take precedence when businesses compete in global markets? Should the rules be designed anew through international treaties and regional or global organizations?

Viewed in this light, it becomes clear that hyper-globalisation – which lasted roughly from the early 1990s until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic – was not a period of free trade in the traditional sense. The trade agreements signed over the past 30 years were not so much about removing cross-border restrictions on trade and investment as they were about regulatory standards, health and safety rules, investment, banking and finance, intellectual property (IP), labour, the environment, and many other issues that previously lay in the domain of domestic policy.

Nor were these rules neutral. They tended to prioritise the in-

terests of politically connected big businesses, such as international banks, pharmaceutical companies, and multinational corporations, over all else. These businesses not only got better access to markets globally; they also were the primary beneficiaries of special international arbitration procedures to reverse government regulations that reduced their profits.

Similarly, tighter IP rules – which allow pharmaceutical and tech companies to abuse their monopoly positions – were smuggled in under the guise of freer trade. Governments were pushed to free up capital flows, while labour remained trapped behind borders. Climate change and public health were neglected, partly because the hyper-globalisation agenda crowded them out, but also because the creation of public goods in either domain would have undercut business interests.

In recent years, we have witnessed a backlash against these policies, as well as a broad re-consideration of economic priorities more generally. What some decry as protectionism and mercantilism is really a rebalancing toward addressing important national issues such as labour displacement, left-behind regions, the climate transition, and public health. This



Dani Rodrik

POLICYMAKERS AND COMMENTATORS MUST REMAIN FOCUSED ON THE RISK THAT REALLY MATTERS



Aakar Patel

This form of government, where secrets and major decisions are kept from the Cabinet itself, appears to be continuing, which is why the speculation around this special session

“Never grumble. All sorts of forces enter you when you grumble and they pull you down.
THE MOTHER



In The Dark

A report was published on Saturday, 9 September, with the headline "Joint sitting of both Houses to bid farewell to old Parliament building?"

The question mark is normal, because few know what the agenda of the special session is. The report reads: "Just ahead of the five-day special session, there is considerable speculation over whether a joint meeting of the two Houses will be convened on September 19 in the iconic Central Hall to say goodbye to the existing Parliament building."

Why one need five days to say goodbye to a building? And why is there the need for "considerable speculation" in a democracy when laws and changes should be discussed openly and transparently? This, the report did not enlighten readers on.

When this special session was first announced on 31 August, there began a guessing game on why it was being called so shortly after one session had just ended on 11 August. The winter session will begin in November so it is not as if there is no other time for Parliament to meet. Why again this month?

Some said it was to change the name of India to Bharat. Two days of media focus went into that. Ministers defended the move saying there was nothing wrong with it, but were unable to confirm whether or not this change in the nation's name was what the session was for. Another guess was that it had to do with the passing of the Women's Reservation Bill. This was originally passed by the Rajya Sabha in 2008 but then it stalled because of a lack of support and demands of sub-reservation within this category for marginalised sections. If this is on the agenda and it goes through it will set aside one third of all seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women. This is a considerable reform and if it is indeed this law that is being taken up, one hopes it passes. But of course one doesn't know.

Another guess in the media was that the government, for whatever reason, was calling elections early. They are due in May next year, meaning in another eight months, but they might be advanced just as the Vajpayee government had done in 2004. This theory has not found many takers but again who knows. Vajpayee's gambit to call polls early did not succeed and the government fell, so there will likely be caution on this front.

The most fervent speculation was around something called one nation one election, a system whereby all states and the Union will go into election every five years together and citizens will vote for Assembly and Lok Sabha at the same time. Will corporation elections also be included? One doesn't know. What about by-elections? And how will the EVMs be set up for multiple elections? One does not know that either but perhaps wiser minds have already sorted such things out. A committee has been set up under a former President to look into the idea, but how this committee will meet and give its findings all in time for the special session is unclear.

One more story floated in the media was that the session was about a commission set up in 2017 to look at sub-categorisation of OBCs so that reservations could be made more equitable.

The parliamentary form of government carries with it something called collective responsibility, meaning that decisions are jointly owned. But here the Cabinet is as much in the dark about decisions as the rest of us are. Two instances from the past will suffice to demonstrate this.

The first was a report from 10 November 2016, headlined "Don't bring your phones': Modi's cabinet meet that took everyone by surprise." The report said that Union ministers found out about Demonetisation the same day as the rest of us, meaning that it was neither discussed nor debated. Another instance is the BBC's filing of more than 240 Right to Information queries with the government about the national lockdown of 2020. They asked the Union government departments of health, finance, disaster management and the rest about what they knew regarding the lockdown and how they prepared. The answer was that they did not know and did not prepare.

This form of government, where secrets and major decisions are kept from the Cabinet itself, appears to be continuing, which is why the speculation around this special session. There is to be no Question Hour either in this session, and while this is expected it is not necessary. Even questions asked are not answered in the Lok Sabha so what is the point of stopping them from being asked?

The Opposition has sent a list of things they would like discussed in the session. These include inflation, joblessness, MSP for farmers, the continuing violence in Manipur, the Adani scandal, communal tensions across India, Chinese actions in Ladakh and elsewhere, the need for a caste census (or any census, given that the primary one has been inexplicably delayed), the strains on federalism and impact of natural disasters and climate change. It is unlikely that, assuming these are not already on the agenda, they will be taken up by the government.

When even the Cabinet itself has such little say in what should be discussed and passed, why should the Opposition be listened to?

WISDOM CORNER

- To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.** RALPH WALDO EMERSON
- People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.** MAYA ANGELOU
- The ability to discipline yourself to delay gratification in the short term in order to enjoy greater rewards in the long term, is the indispensable prerequisite for success.** BRIAN TRACY

WORDSWORTH

Nepenthes

Nepenthes (you will note the word is singular) is a drug or potion that brings welcome forgetfulness of bad memories. It appears in Homer's *Odyssey*, in which it was the name of the drug that Paris gave to Helen after he had abducted her to make her forget her old home. It's from classical Greek nepenthes (pharmakon), "anti-sor-row drug", where the first word is made up from ne-, not, plus penthos, grief. (The second word is the root of English words such as pharmaceutical.) Expert plantspeople probably know it best as the botanical name for a genus of tropical carnivorous pitcher plants. As the pitcher plants contain liquid in which the captured insects drown, the botanical name would seem appropriate, though in this case any forgetting is terminal. Some writers have suggested Homer's potion was opium. This is one old recipe, which should be enough to make anybody forget anything: Take of tincture of Opium made first with distilled Vinegar, then with spirit of Wine, Saffron extracted in spirit of Wine, of each an ounce, salt of Pearl and Coral, of each half an ounce, tincture of species Diambrae seven drams, Ambergis one dram: bring them into the form of Pills by the gentle heat of a bath (The Complete Herbal, by Nicholas Culpeper, 1653). It would make a wonderful name for some spirituous drink and indeed the owner of an Australian winery has called his enterprise Nepenthes.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Poverty estimation in post-pandemic era

Estimating poverty is a vital exercise for shaping effective public policies, especially in the aftermath of the pandemic that has potentially exacerbated poverty rates worldwide. In India, this estimation is further complicated due to the absence of an official Consumption Expenditure Survey since 2017-18. This column delves into the complexities of estimating poverty amidst these challenges and highlights measures necessary to combat poverty in the post-pandemic landscape.

The pandemic has introduced unprecedented challenges to poverty estimation. As a response, several authors have attempted to gauge prevailing poverty levels in India in absence of recent consumption data. Given the pandemic's impact on income, these estimates have become crucial for policy formulation.

In a positive trajectory, policies targeted towards vulnerable populations, coupled with expanded entitlements during the pandemic, have been effective in mitigating the consumption shocks induced by the crisis. Temporary fiscal interventions

have shown their ability to absorb a significant portion of the income shock.

We can employ a novel methodology that adjusts the 2011-12 household consumption expenditure levels to project consumption distributions for the years 2011-2020. This approach leverages estimates derived from average per capita nominal private final consumption expenditure growth. By analysing the impact of PDS food subsidies, the researches calculate the average rupee food subsidy transfer across the years 2004-5 to 2020-21. This consideration of subsidies is essential, as relying solely on reported consumption expenditures would lead to an overestimation of poverty levels.

Incorporating subsidy data yields insightful conclusions. It becomes evident that the pandemic support measures implemented by the Indian government played a pivotal role in preventing an increase in extreme poverty rates. Moreover, research reveals that food subsidies have consistently reduced poverty since the enactment of the Food Security Act in 2013

and the concurrent improvement in targeting efficiency through the Aadhaar system.

An intriguing aspect that emerges is the significance of definitions in poverty estimation. While traditional methods indicated a substantial increase in extreme poverty due to the pandemic, the revised mixed method, which considers food transfers, presents a more optimistic scenario. This modified approach shows minimal increase in extreme poverty with transfers, and only a 1% rise in population without transfers.

The low levels of extreme poverty, hovering around 0.8% in both 2019 and 2020, emphasise the need to update the official poverty line to reflect the reality more accurately. A suggested shift to PPP \$3.2 as the poverty line is indicated by these findings, reflecting changing economic dynamics. Our analysis underscores the critical role played by India's expanded food subsidy programme as a robust social safety net. This programme has not only absorbed a significant portion of the economic shock triggered by the pandemic but has

also functioned as a vital insurance mechanism for the nation's vulnerable population.

However, estimating poverty in the absence of updated consumption data is an intricate challenge, particularly in the post-pandemic era when economic disparities have been exacerbated. We emphasise the paramount importance of well-considered policy interventions, including the expansion of entitlements and targeted support measures, to mitigate the potential surge in poverty rates. To navigate this complex terrain effectively, India should recalibrate estimation methodologies, reassess poverty lines to reflect current economic realities, and acknowledge the significant impact of social safety nets in preventing destitution. It is imperative that India adapts its policy strategies by acknowledging the crucial role of social safety nets in its overarching poverty eradication efforts.

The writer is a former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune.



SN Tripathy

ESTIMATING POVERTY IN ABSENCE OF UPDATED CONSUMPTION DATA IS AN INTRICATE CHALLENGE, PARTICULARLY IN THE POST-PANDEMIC ERA WHEN ECONOMIC DISPARITIES HAVE BEEN EXACERBATED

Conspicuous absence

Sir, This refers to "Telling absence," *Orissa POST*, Sept 9. The G20 Summit in New Delhi is in progress with the conspicuous absence of Chinese President Xi Jinping. The possible reason could be that China had released its new map that included Aksai Chin as well as Arunachal Pradesh as its share. India had also given a befitting reply to China's action. Not only this, the G20 meeting was also held in Arunachal Pradesh and China was even more agitated. Another reason for Jinping not coming to Delhi could be India's growing stature. In the last few years, the stature of India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has increased rapidly all over the world. Jinping knows that G20 is India's show, the more this show becomes a hit, the stronger will be India's reputation. In such a situation, it is possible that Jinping wants to make this show fade away by keeping distance from Delhi. India's non-acceptance of China's conditions could also be another cause for Jinping's absence. It is being said that the stage was being set for bilateral talks between Modi-Jinping amid the border dispute. It is possible that some such conditions may have been set by Jinping before the talks, which India has refused.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Adieu master

Sir, The demise of master cartoonist Ajit Ninan no doubt has created a void in the world of cartoons that can never be filled. An inspiration for many of the younger generation cartoonists, Ninan did not show any inclination to any party. He in fact did not spare any politician - be it the ruling or the Opposition. When it comes to social issues one could see an "RK Laxman touch" in his creations - gentle but striking pictures powered with satire and humour that taught everyone a lesson!

We the teens of the 1980s can never forget his celebrated comic strip, "Detective Mochhwala and his dog Pooch" which featured in the famous detective comic series published in the Target magazine of 1980s. His works stand unique as they had the ability to effortlessly transform complex issues into easy thought-provoking visuals with a sharp sense of humour.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

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

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Assam for complete withdrawal of AFSPA

IN VIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN SECURITY SITUATION OF THE STATE, THE CABINET APPROVED RECOMMENDATION FOR WITHDRAWAL OF AFSPA FROM REMAINING EIGHT DISTRICTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 9: The Assam government will recommend to the Centre for the complete withdrawal of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 or AFSPA from the state from October 1, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

In view of the significant improvement in the security situation of the state, the cabinet approved the recommendation for the withdrawal of AFSPA from the remaining eight districts of the state, Sarma said late on Friday night.

"The final decision, however, will be taken by the Government



of India," he added.

The AFSPA empowers security forces to conduct operations and arrest anyone without any prior warrant besides giving immunity from arrest and prosecution to the security forces if they shoot someone dead.

The state cabinet also approved an additional ₹41.77 crore for developing infrastructure for the newly-raised 2nd battalion of the Assam Police in Hailakandi,

4th battalion in Sivasagar and 5th Battalion in Biswanath, Sarma said.

The cabinet also decided to provide a one-time financial aid of ₹10 crore to the Himachal Pradesh government from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to deal with the devastation caused by the heavy rains and floods.

This aid will help alleviate the sufferings caused by the monsoons and support the

Himachal Pradesh government's efforts to provide immediate relief and rehabilitation in the affected areas, Sarma said.

The cabinet also approved the creation of 79 subdivisions, to be known as sub-districts, with geographical limits that would be co-terminus with the boundaries of assembly constituencies, he said.

The existing civil sub-divisions, except under Bodoland Territorial Region districts and sixth schedule districts of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts, will cease to exist.

This will ensure effective governance and bring public administration closer to the people, the chief minister said.

The cabinet also decided to amend the Assam Disaster Management Manual for revising the annual flood season in the state from May 1 to October 31, and rationalisation of the fodder rate for flood-affected livestock, he said.

The cabinet decided to upgrade seven colleges to universities in line with NEP 2020, he said.

The cabinet also gave its nod for the declaration of the Charaideo archaeological site and 17 monuments located in its buffer area as protected monuments.

PIL in HC flags 'elephant trafficking' from Bengal

The petition alleged that 28 elephants have been trafficked from West Bengal to other states or even foreign countries during the last couple of years

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Sept 9: A unique PIL was filed at the Calcutta High Court Saturday alleging rampant trafficking and illegal selling of elephants from West Bengal to other states and even other countries.

Claiming that elephants being public property cannot be sold or purchased in such a manner, the petitioner, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), has sought the intervention of the Calcutta High Court to prevent their trafficking.

The petition alleged as many as 28 elephants have been trafficked from West Bengal to other states or even foreign countries during the last couple of years.

The petitioner especially mentioned a case where three elephants were found at an ashram in Bihar. On inquiry, the petitioner found that the elephants originally belonged to a circus company which gifted them to the ashram authorities.



The petitioner argued that since elephants are public properties, selling, purchasing or even gifting them is not permitted under the Wildlife Protection Act.

Wildlife activists also agreed with the petitioner that elephants have to be retained in the state where they are registered.

"Although elephants can move freely through the elephant cor-

ridors from one state to another or even from one country to another, that movement has to be spontaneous without any human intervention. It has to be seen whether the three elephants that the petitioner referred to were registered in West Bengal. If they were, then handing them over to an ashram in Bihar was an illegal act," said a city-based wildlife expert.

TUSSLE BETWEEN GUV, BENGAL GOVT ESCALATES

War of words continues between the state government and the Raj Bhavan over the appointment of interim vice-chancellors in universities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 9: A day after West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu accused him of trying to 'destroy' the higher education system in the state and running a 'puppet regime' in the universities, Governor CV Ananda Bose Saturday warned of much bigger action at midnight.

"Wait for the stroke of midnight today. You will see what is the action," Bose told reporters on the sidelines of a programme here.

Minutes after Bose's comment, Basu, without naming the governor, mocked him by calling him the "new vampire in town" and cautioned the people to "be aware of him".

"See till midnight, see the action" BEWARE! BEWARE! BEWARE! New Vampire in the town! Citizens please watch yourselves. Eagerly waiting for the



"Rakkhas Prahar" (monster prahar), according to Indian Mythology!" Basu posted on 'X'.

In the continuing war of words between the West Bengal government and the Raj Bhavan over the appointment of interim vice-chancellors in universities, Basu had Friday accused the governor of trying to 'destroy' the higher education system in the state.

"The honourable governor wants to run a puppet regime by appointing people according to his whims to satisfy someone's ego. He is making a constant ef-

fort to dismantle the higher education system," Basu said.

Later, the West Bengal Educationists' Forum, in a statement, described Bose's statements on midnight action as 'threats'.

"It is unfortunate to witness the chancellor blaring out threats of staging a midnight drama of revenge against the educationists and the officials and functionaries of the state higher education department," the statement said.

The governor, in his capacity as the chancellor of state-run universities, has recently appointed interim vice-chancellors for eight varsities, including the prestigious Presidency University, MAKAUT and the University of Burdwan, a step which was severely criticised by the chief minister as a bid to interfere with the running of state-administered universities.

Sources said the interim vice-chancellors of eight other universities have also been finalised and appointment letters 'will be issued soon'.

EVMs to be introduced in Assam rural polls

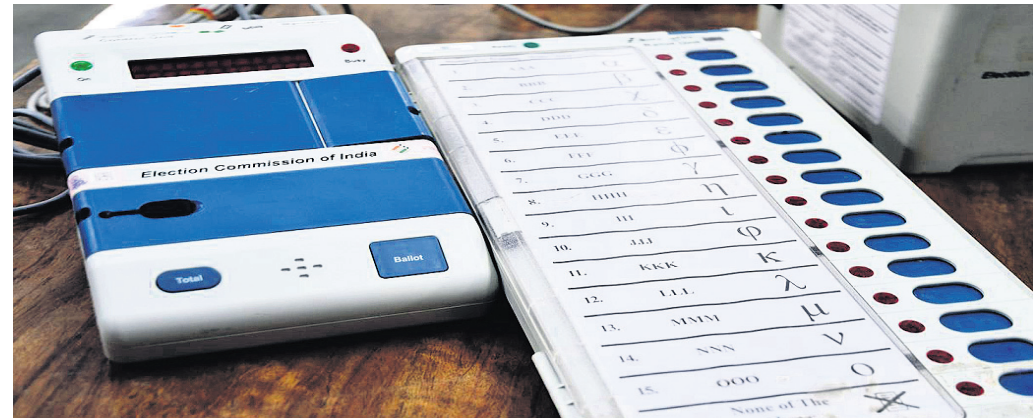
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 9: The Assam cabinet has approved the amendment of certain provisions of Assam Panchayat Act to introduce electronic voting machines (EVMs) in panchayat elections and disqualify elected representatives for violating legal age of marriage, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said here.

The amended provisions will include constitution of a district delimitation commission to decide the size of the constituencies for zilla parishad, anchalik parishads and gaon panchayats, Sarma said here Friday night.

The categorisation of the districts will be on the basis of population and the gaon panchayats will also be reorganised accordingly, he said.

The amendment will also fix a minimum educational qualification of matriculation for gaon panchayat members and pass the higher secondary for anchalik and zilla parishad members. Scheduled castes, tribes and backward caste members will be required to pass the matriculation examination.



Assam Panchayat Act amended to disqualify elected representatives for violating legal age of marriage

"EVMs will be introduced in panchayat polls.

Panchayat elected representatives,

if found to have violated the legal marriage age will be disqualified and members of political parties are also liable to be disqualified under the anti-defection law," Sarma said.

The district delimitation commission will comprise the dis-

trict commissioner as its chairperson, the chief executive officer of the zilla parishad as the member secretary and the election officer as member, the chief minister said.

Political symbols for elections will be introduced for zilla parishad and anchalik parishads and there will be no party symbols for candidates for gaon panchayat poll, he said.

The president of gaon panchayat will be elected from among the 10 gram panchayat members and a no-confidence motion cannot be initiated for the first two and half years of the term of the president and

vice president.

The audit of zilla parishad accounts will be done by the Assam accountant general and members may be allotted some departments for monitoring and supervision, he said.

The zilla parishad president will nominate members to supervise and monitor the progress of activities of different departments at the district level as decided by the government, Sarma added.

The state level recruitment commission will conduct the Grade III and Grade IV recruitments in the Panchayat, he added.

Assam plans to create world record in planting saplings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 9: A 22-km line made with 3.5 lakh saplings was launched here at the first event for creating a Guinness World Record of tree plantation by Assam Environment and Forest minister Chandramohan Patowary Saturday.

Patowary launched the longest line of potted seedlings arranged in a spiral pattern as part of the first of the series of activities under the state government's Amrit Briksha Andolan campaign.

The seedlings would be distributed among the public on September 10 for the next set of events.

The state government is planning to plant one crore commercially viable tree saplings in a single day as part of the

Amrit Briksha Andolan and create a world record.

The objective of the campaign is to promote a tree-based economy in Assam and enable people to derive economic benefits by growing commercial trees, Patowary said.

The Assam government is striving to increase forest cover in the state from 36 per cent to 38 per cent, he said.

The campaign has been envisaged by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to enable people to take ownership of these commercial trees and derive benefits, he said.

"Next year, we are targeting to plant 3 crore saplings. Efforts will be made to produce those tree saplings in our government nurseries under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management

and Planning Authority (CAMPFA) funds next year and not import from outside," the minister said.

As many saplings planted each year die due to various reasons, efforts will be made to grow all these trees successfully this time and ensure a high success rate, he said.

Informing that 49 lakh people have already registered themselves on the portal for planting one crore saplings, Patowary congratulated forest officials for this campaign.

The minister pointed out that Vaishnav saint Srimanta Sankardev had also emphasised the importance of trees for human society which is evident from his quote "eka briksha dasha putra sama" (one tree is equal to 10 sons).

Bengal: No free treatment for foreign patients in govt hospitals

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Sept 9: The West Bengal government has now taken an official decision not to offer free treatment facilities to foreign patients in state-run hospitals.

A formal notification on this count was issued by the state health department Saturday.

The notification says that while any foreign patient coming to a state-run hospital for treatment on an emergency basis will have to pay a certain amount of fees.

In case of treatments covered under the state government's health insurance schemes, the fees that the foreign patients will have to pay will be equivalent to the amount fixed for the treatments.

However, in case of non-specified treatments, the hospitals will have the liberty to fix the rates for foreign patients.

Department sources said that recently it came to the audit officers hat huge amounts of money were draining out of the state exchequer because of the free-treatment of thousands of overseas patients every year, majority of whom are from neighbouring Bangladesh.

The state government had recently formed a detailed policy about the treatment of overseas patients in state-run hospitals.

CCTVs mandatory in Bengal girls' schools

RECENTLY, A FRESHER AT JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY DIED DUE TO ALLEGED RAGGING, WHILE TWO MINOR GIRLS WERE RAPED AT AN ORPHANAGE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Sept 9: The West Bengal education department has decided to make CCTV cameras compulsory at all girls' schools, state-run or private, in the state.

A notification on this count might be issued by the state government soon, a top official from department said.

The West Bengal government has been prompted to take a decision on this count following two recent developments.

The first is the August 10 ragging-death of a fresher at the Jadavpur University (JU) and the second in the recent revelation about the rape of two minor girls at a girls' orphanage on the southern outskirts of Kolkata.

While the state government will bear the expenditure of installing CCTV cameras in the state-run girls' school, the private schools will have to install the same by spending money from their own coffers.

However, any final decision on this count, will be binding

on all girls' schools, state-run or private.

After the girls' school, said the official of the state education department, the same might be compulsory for all the girls' colleges in the state.

After the fresher's death at JU, the university authorities faced widespread criticism for the absence of CCTV cameras within the campus.

In wake of these criticisms,

the JU authorities have finally decided to install 26 artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled CCTV cameras at different corners of the university campus.

Similarly, after the incident of prolonged sexual harassment of two minor girls at the orphanage which lead to arrest of three officials of the home, it was noticed that there was no CCTV camera installed.

"The state government now also has decided to step in to make CCTV compulsory and the decision to install the same at all girls' schools is the first step in this direction," the education department official said.





Cadets celebrate after their Passing Out Parade at Officers Training Academy (OTA) in Chennai



Dutch police use water cannon to disperse protesters who blocked a highway during a climate protest of Extinction Rebellion and other activists near the Dutch parliament in The Hague, Netherlands



A man tries to put his bike back in upright position after it fell on a waterlogged road after heavy rainfall in Mathura



Paragliders showcase a demonstration at the Ridge in Shimla



Police personnel lathi-charge Telugu Desam Party (TDP) supporters protesting against the arrest of party chief Chandrababu Naidu, at Tadivarpalli village in Prakasam district



A Tibetan wears a hollow head in the likeness of China's President Xi Jinping and stands with children holding placards during a street protest as they observe International Day to Protect Education from Attack, in Dharamshala



A priest performs rituals at the Lotus pond in front of a temple dedicated to 'Gandharva' at Thottakom in Kottayam district



Police snatch the posters of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin from protestors protesting against the state government on Cauvery water dispute, in Bangalore

national



It would have been nice to have China's President Xi Jinping at the G20 Summit, but it is 'going well'
JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

ASSAM COP ARRESTED

In Assam's Dhubri district, a police constable was arrested on suspicion of stealing onions while on duty at night, officials said Saturday. According to the authorities, the alleged event occurred Friday, and he was taken into custody later



G20: India pulls off big diplomatic win

Modi uses 'Bharat' for G20 nameplate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: India Saturday pulled off a big diplomatic win after the G20 summit adopted a consensus declaration overcoming major differences on the Russia-Ukraine war, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for ending "global trust deficit". Modi also announced that African Union was admitted as G20's permanent member.

Asserting that "today's era must not be of war", the New Delhi G20 Summit Leaders' Declaration under India's presidency called on all States to uphold the principles of international law, including territorial integrity and sovereignty and pitched for initiatives for "comprehensive, just, and durable peace in Ukraine". "The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible."

The announcement about a consensus on the 37-page declaration and its subsequent adoption was made by Prime Minister Modi at the start of the second session on the opening day of the two-day summit of the grouping of major developed and developing countries. It came hours after India circulated a new text to the member countries to describe the Ukraine conflict.

"Friends, we have just got good news, with the hard work of our teams, and with the cooperation of you all, there is consensus



Prime Minister Narendra Modi hugs President of the Union of the Comoros and Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Azali Assoumani as the latter takes his seat after the Union became a permanent member of the G20 during the G20 Summit 2023 at the Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi, Saturday

on the New Delhi G20 Summit Leaders' Declaration," Modi said. "I announce that this declaration is adopted," he said, and banged the gavel thrice.

"History has been created with the adoption of the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration. United in consensus and spirit, we pledge to work collaboratively for a better, more prosperous, and harmonious future. My gratitude to all fellow G20 members for their support and cooperation," Modi said later on X.

The G20 leaders also condemned terrorism in all its forms and called for strengthening of efforts to increase the effectiveness of international cooperation to deny terrorist groups safe haven, freedom of operations

as well as financial, material or political support. "It constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security."

"They also called for a strong, sustainable, and inclusive growth as an answer to the uneven recovery the world has seen from the pandemic-infused plunder, and flagged the need for trillions of dollars for countries to meet their climate goals and clean energy technologies.

On other issues, the G20 grouping strongly deplored all acts of religious hatred against persons, religious symbols and holy books. They emphasised the freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly.

In his opening remarks, Prime Minister Modi urged world leaders to turn the "global trust deficit" into trust and confidence and announced that the African Union has been granted permanent membership of the grouping.

All member countries of the G20 accepted Modi's proposal to bring the 55-member African Union (AU) to the high table of the world's top economies in a significant milestone under India's G20 presidency.

Modi said the African Union becoming a member will strengthen the G20 and also the voice of the Global South. The union collectively has a GDP of nearly USD 3 trillion and a population of around 1.4 billion. It is the first expansion of the G20

since its inception in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis.

"It is time for all of us to walk together for global good," Modi said while addressing the 'One Earth' session of the 18th G20 summit and the first to be hosted by India. The leaders attending the two-day summit included US President Joe Biden, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

However, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin skipped the summit. "Following the Covid pandemic, the world faced a new challenge of trust deficit and unfortunately, the wars have further deepened this," Modi said addressing the gathering at the swanky new exhibition-cum-convention centre Bharat Mandapam.

"But we must remember that if we can defeat a pandemic like Covid, we can also win over the challenge of this trust deficit. Today, as the president of the G20, India calls upon the entire world to turn this global trust deficit into trust and confidence," said Modi.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 9: Amid the debate over the India-Bharat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday delivered his inaugural speech at the G20 Summit representing the 'Bharat' country tag in front of him.

"This comes in the backdrop of the name change row. The country tag in front of Modi read 'Bharat' as he welcomed the world leaders and expressed grief over the Morocco earthquake in his inaugural address to G20 Summit.

Earlier, a controversy erupted after the invite for the G20 dinner from the Rashtrapati Bhavan read 'President of Bharat' instead of 'President of India' adding fuel to the speculations that the Centre might change the official state title from India to Bharat.

The Opposition has targeted the government, saying it is an attempt to change the name since their coalition name reads INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance).

On Friday, while addressing a press conference in Belgium's Brussels, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi spoke on the name change row dubbing it as a "distraction tactics" and said that these are panic reaction,



there is a little bit of fear in government and it actually disturbs Prime Minister Narendra Modi very much that he wants to change the name of the country which is "absurd".

Rahul Gandhi said, "I am happy with the names that we have in the Constitution. 'India' that is Bharat works perfectly for me. I think these are panic reactions, there is a little bit of fear in the government and it is a distraction tactic."

He said that the opposition parties came out with the name INDIA (Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance) for our coalition and it's a fantastic idea as it represents who we are. "We consider ourselves as the voice of India so the word works very well for us. But it actually disturbs the Prime Minister very much that he wants to change the name of the country which is absurd. But that's what it is," he said.

Drone flying over central Delhi sends cops into tizzy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: A drone over central Delhi while world leaders arrived for the G20 Summit! Police personnel scrambled and reached the spot - only to find that a photographer was using one to capture to best effect a birthday party.

The drama unfolded on Friday evening, when the city went into virtual lockdown ahead of the summit. A control room detected that a drone was being flown in central Delhi's West Patel Nagar area. It alerted the police and a team was rushed to the spot, a senior police officer said on Saturday.

After reaching the spot, one Vineet had organised a party for the first birthday of his nephew on the terrace of his house. He had arranged a drone to cover the celebration, the officer said. An inquiry found that the drone belonged to one Harmanjeet Singh (29), a resident of Shadi Khampur, and was being flown by him during the party, the police said.

Police checked the video clips recorded by the drone camera and seized the device, they added. A case has been registered against Harmanjeet Singh at Patel Nagar police station for violation of the prohibition on the use of drones and other flying objects. He has been booked under section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the Indian Penal Code, the officer said.

The Delhi Police had prohibited the flying of sub-conventional aerial platforms like paragliders, hang-gliders and hot air balloons in Delhi from August 29 to September 12 for security reasons.



Spouses of heads of G20 nations visit the National Gallery of Modern Art during the G20 Summit, in New Delhi



President of France Emmanuel Macron being received by the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel on his arrival for the G20 Summit, in New Delhi, Saturday

Discussions are at initial phase: Kumaraswamy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 9: Discussions regarding BJP and his party contesting the 2024 Lok Sabha polls together are still at initial phase, JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy said Saturday, a day after the saffron party veteran B S Yediyurappa stated that both parties have reached an understanding.

Maintaining that the seat sharing and other things are yet to be discussed, the former chief minister said more than give and take, trust and respect is important for him.

"These are initial phases of discussions. I have seen reports in the media on this (understanding) for the last couple of days...I have seen senior leader Yediyurappa's statement. He has spoken good about our party, Deve Gowda (JDS supremo) and me. Thank him for his statement that in the days to come we will work together," Kumaraswamy said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said the seat sharing and other things have not been discussed yet, and also date has not been fixed for his Delhi visit. "There are reports in the media that - we are adamant on the Mandya seat, what will happen to the sitting MP there, what will happen to Tuamkuru

and Kolar seats -- all these have not yet been discussed. I appeal to media friends not to speculate as they want, when the discussions are still at the initial phase," Kumaraswamy said.

Media is projecting as though understanding has been finalised, he further said.

"But in my opinion there is still time for it, still a lot of discussions are yet to happen. It is not give and take that is important, trust and respect is important for me."

A meeting of party workers has been called on Sunday, where their opinion will be gathered, he said, adding that "time to respond to all these issues -- preliminary discussions regarding alliance, Congress leaders' statements - is still far."

Yediyurappa on Friday said the BJP will have an understanding with former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda-led JD(S) for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, an announcement that shot up political temperature in the state. The veteran leader, who is also the BJP parliamentary board member, had said that as part of the poll understanding, the JD(S) will contest in four LS seats in Karnataka, which has a total of 28 constituencies.

Congress forms panels for Telangana polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The Congress Saturday constituted several panels for poll-bound Telangana with Damodar Raja Narasimha, former deputy chief minister of united Andhra Pradesh, appointed as chairman of the election management committee.

Telangana legislator Duddilla Sridhar Babu has been appointed as chairman of the manifesto committee. "The Congress president has approved the proposal for the constitution of the committees for the ensuing assembly elections in Telangana with immediate effect," the party said

in a communication.

The election management committee, chaired by Raja Narasimha, will include Vamshi Chand Reddy, E Komraiah, Gnyaneshwar Mudiraj, Namidla Srinivas, Jaganlal Naik, Suprabhat Rao, Bharat Chavhan and Fakrudin.

The Sridhar Babu-led manifesto committee will include Gaddam Prasad as vice-chairman and 22 other members. These 22 members include Raja Narasimha, Poonala Lakshmaiah, Balram Naik, R Damodhar Reddy, G Chinna Reddy, Sambhani Chandrasekar, Potla Nageswara Rao, M Ramesh Mudiraj,



Obaidullah Kotwal, Taher Bin Hamdan, Yerra Sekhar, G Nagaiah, Gandrath Sujata, Ravali Reddy, K Venkata Swamy, Marri Adithya Reddy, Janaiah, Deepak John, Medipally Satyam, Chanda Lingaiah, Movva Vijay Babu and Chamala Srinivas.

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee chief, the Congress Legislature Party

Konark Wheel replica in backdrop, Modi welcomes guests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: A replica of the Konark Wheel from Odisha's Sun Temple served as the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's welcome handshake with G20 leaders as they arrived at the summit venue, Bharat Mandapam, here on Saturday.

The backdrop carried a striking image of the Konark Wheel with the G20 logo on one side and the theme of India's presidency of the grouping -- 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - One Earth. One Family. One Future' -- on the other.

Modi welcomed heads of state and other leaders amid melodious strains of shehnai as flags of G20 member countries, invited nations and several international organisations fluttered in the pleasant morning breeze.

The Konark Wheel was built during the 13th century under the reign of King Narasimhadeva-I. The wheel embodies India's ancient wisdom, advanced civilisation and architectural excellence. Its rotating motion symbolises time, 'Kaalchakra', as well as progress and continuous change.

It serves as a powerful sym-

bol of the wheel of democracy that reflects the resilience of democratic ideals and commitment to progress in society.

US President Joe Biden, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and several other top leaders were among those welcomed by Modi at the G20 Summit. Artists played 'Vaishnav Jan To', 'Padharo Mharo Des' and 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram' on shehnai as the leaders walked the red carpet at the Bharat Mandapam.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomes Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina upon her arrival at the Bharat Mandapam for the G20 Summit, in New Delhi, Saturday

of the day quote

India's 1580+ Global Capability Centers (GCCs) are continuing to evolve from support function hubs to strategic value centres, cementing the country's position as a destination for world-class talent and innovation

MOHAMMED FARAZ KHAN | PARTNER, ZINNOV

We would like to thank all the market participants for showing their trust & confidence in the NSE WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas Futures contracts, and we are confident that the same will continue with the Options on Futures contracts as well

SRIRAM KRISHNAN | CHIEF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, NSE

Investors (in US) are rarely getting adequate compensation in the equity market

SEEMA SHAH | CHIEF GLOBAL STRATEGIST, PRINCIPAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

SHORT TAKES

Adani, Kowa form JV

New Delhi: Billionaire Gautam Adani's group Friday said it has formed an equal joint venture with Japanese trading house Kowa Group for marketing of green ammonia and green hydrogen produced by the Indian conglomerate. "Adani Global Pte Ltd, Singapore, a step-down wholly-owned subsidiary of (Adani Enterprises Ltd) has signed a joint venture agreement with Kowa Holdings Asia Pte Ltd, Singapore on September 8," the Adani group flagship firm said in a stock exchange filing. Adani Group is investing multi-billion dollars in setting up facilities to produce green ammonia and green hydrogen from water. Adani and Kowa will hold a 50 per cent stake each in the joint venture.

Go first insolvency

Mumbai: The deadline for submitting preliminary interest to bid for insolvent Go Airlines (India) is likely to be extended by another two-to-three weeks amid lack of any such application by suitors, two banking sources told Reuters Friday. The resolution professional for the company, which operated the Go First carrier, had in July invited investor interest on behalf of creditors after the airline filed for insolvency in May. The deadline was initially set for August 9, but was later extended to September 8. "There is no formal EoI (Expression of Interest) as on the September 8 deadline," said a banker with a state-run bank that has exposure to the carrier.

States, UTs mop up ₹2L-cr in FY23 from real estate sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The real estate sector is one of the major contributors to revenue of states and UTs, which collected an estimated Rs 2 lakh crore during last fiscal year in various forms, including stamp duties, according to a Naredco-Knight Frank India report.

This is equivalent to 5.4 per cent of the total revenue collected by all states and UTs in India during 2022-23, it added.

"Real estate sector is one of the key contributors to the revenue of state governments. In FY 2022-23, an estimated Rs 2 trillion was collected by all states and UTs (Union Territories) in India from stamp duties, registration fees and land revenue," the report said.

Realtors' body Naredco and property consultant Knight Frank

G20 SUMMIT

Global Biofuels Alliance unveiled

The Global Biofuels Alliance, which the world's third biggest oil consumer wants to push, mirrors the International Solar Alliance piloted by New Delhi and Paris in 2015 to bring clean and affordable solar energy within the reach of all

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: India Saturday launched the Global Biofuels Alliance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging the G20 nations to join the initiative with a plea to take ethanol blending with petrol globally to 20 per cent.

The Alliance was launched on the sidelines of the G20 Summit by Modi along with a host of global leaders, including US President Joe Biden, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

Besides India, the initiating members included Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Italy, Mauritius, South Africa, the UAE and the US, while Canada and Singapore are observer countries.

Earlier while speaking at the G20 Summit session on 'One Earth', Prime Minister Modi also proposed launching the 'G20 Satellite Mission for



India will in future not import AI. You will export AI. This should be the largest exporter of AI in the world. You have the largest workforce of IT in the world. They will all be reskilled. This will be the largest skilled workforce on the planet, JENSEN HUANG | FOUNDER & CEO, NVIDIA

BoB LAUNCHES 6K UPI ATMS

State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Friday announced that it has enabled the UPI ATM facility at over 6,000 ATMs across the country. It is the first public sector bank to launch UPI ATMs, in coordination with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and powered by NCR Corporation, BoB said



IMPORT CURBS

PC manufacturers meet MeitY officials

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 9: As PC and laptop makers urge the government to rethink its decision on import licensing requirements accompanied by a quota, the industry stakeholders have met IT Ministry officials to seek solutions on the matter.

The meeting discussed proposed changes, like linking the import of IT hardware to the local manufacturing of a company value and its export value of electronic items, according to sources. The meeting Friday was called to give suggestions on how the proposed import management system should work and get the stakeholders' feedback.

Another meeting is likely to happen again next week to continue discussions on the issue.

Last month, the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) wrote to the IT Ministry, requesting the government to rethink its decision on import licensing requirement accompanied by a quota, which was extended by 3 months until October 31, fearing that this may lead to price rise in consumer electronics products as companies are not yet prepared for manufacturing PCs, laptops and servers domestically at scale.

The letter said that an overarching factor that should be taken into consideration in "avoiding supply chain disruption till domestic production ramps up" is that any "reduction in supplies or even an indication will lead to hoarding and market distortion".



Environment and Climate Observation' and urged leaders to commence work on the 'Green Credit Initiative'.

"Today, the need of the hour is that all countries should work together in the field of fuel blending. Our proposal is to take an initiative at a global-level to take ethanol blending in petrol up to 20 per cent," he said.

"Alternatively, we could work on developing another blending mix for the greater global good, one that ensures a stable energy supply while also contributing to climate security," Modi said at the session attended by US President Biden, Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak among others.

Prime Minister Modi said energy transition is a significant need of the 21st century world considering the challenge of climate change. He said trillions of dollars are required for an inclusive energy transition and that the developed countries

Biofuels are important from the perspective of a circular economy. Markets, trade, technology, and policy all aspects of international cooperation are crucial in creating such opportunities

NARENDRA MODI | PM, INDIA

play a very crucial role in this. "Along with India, all the countries of the Global South are pleased that developed countries have taken a positive initiative this year, in 2023. Developed countries have expressed their willingness to fulfill their commitment of \$100 billion for climate finance for the first time," he said.

Biofuel is a renewable source of energy which is derived from biomass. India, which imports over 85 per cent of its crude oil needs, is gradually building capacity to produce fuel from such items as crop stubble, plant waste, and municipal solid waste. While India is on schedule to double the mixing of ethanol extracted from sugarcane and

agriculture waste to 20 per cent with petrol by 2025, it is also setting up dozens of compressed biogas (CBG) plants.

The Global Biofuels Alliance is aimed at facilitating cooperation and intensifying the use of sustainable biofuels across sectors, including transportation. Its focus is primarily on strengthening markets, facilitating global biofuel trade, developing concrete policy lesson-sharing and providing technical support for national biofuel programmes worldwide.

Such an initiative is also aimed at helping India's transition to alternative fuels and cutting its import bill, as it seeks to achieve its net zero carbon emissions goal by 2070.

On the other hand, the ISA

IT notices to startups seeking investors' creditworthiness

Taxmen can seek details of ITRs filed by investors in startups

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The Income Tax Department has slapped notices on some startups seeking information on creditworthiness of their investors as it looked to verify if the amount invested was commensurate with the income declared by the investors.

The tax department replying to a social media post of BharatPe co-founder and former MD Ashneer Grover, said under the law, the onus was on the assessee-company to provide the identity and creditworthiness of the investors as well as the genuineness of the transaction.

"In the last one month, a number of startups (a few in my portfolio as well) have received Income Tax notices asking to furnish information about shareholders," Grover had said on a post on X, formerly Twitter, on September 8.

"Bahut interesting hai (it is very interesting) - they are asking



ing start-up companies to furnish a 3 year ITR [income tax return] of all shareholders."

He went on to ask how and why the startup would have ITR of shareholders. "Why would a shareholder/individual share their ITR with a private company?"

He went on to state that the reason given is to "establish creditworthiness of shareholders". "Why," he asked. Company shareholders aren't given loans and instead are putting equity in the firm, he added, asking the Union Ministry of Finance to look into this.

Replying to him, the Income Tax Department in a post on X said, "Section 68 of Income-tax Act, 1961 (the Act) under which the Assessing Officer (AO) has made the enquiry about creditworthiness of the shareholder/investor, places initial onus on the assessee-company to

prove the following: a) Identity of the investor, b) Creditworthiness of the investor and c) Genuineness of the transaction."

It went on to state that the "Finance Act, 2012 mandated that the nature and source of any sum credited as share capital, share premium etc., in the books of a closely-held company (excluding Venture Capital Fund or a Venture Capital Company registered with SEBI) shall be treated as explained u/s 68 only if the source of funds from a resident shareholder is also explained by investor."

On the cases raised by Grover, it said: "In the present case, it appears that the AO has sought to examine the genuineness of the transaction and source of investment by the shareholder-investor, to verify if the amount invested is commensurate with the income shown in the ITRs of the investors."

Alternatively, it sought income tax permanent account numbers or PAN of the investors to be shared so that the income tax returns of the investors can be verified. "This has been the practice," it added.



Renault Urban Night Limited Edition was unveiled at Super Sales Automobiles Bhubaneswar North. The guests for the event were Subash Chandra Behera, Regional Manager of SBI (Cuttack) and Adarsh Dhawan, Director of Super Sales Automobiles

X sues new US transparency law

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, Sept 9: Elon Musk-run X (formerly Twitter) has filed a lawsuit, alleging that a new California law requiring social media platforms to declare certain moderation practices, alleging it is "unconstitutional" and a clear violation of the company's right to free speech.

The law, called AB 587, requires social media companies



to publicly detail moderation practices around hate speech, racism, extremism, disinformation, harassment and foreign political interference, reports TechCrunch.

In the lawsuit, X said through AB 587, "the State is compelling social media companies to take public positions on controversial and politically-charged issues".

"Because X Corp. must take such positions on these topics as they are formulated by the State, X Corp. is being forced to adopt the State's politically-charged terms, which is a form of compelled speech in and of itself," the lawsuit alleged.

India, US settle last trade dispute at WTO

WITH THIS, THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MUTUALLY RESOLVED ALL THE SEVEN PENDING TRADE DISPUTES AT THE WTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: India and the US have settled the last trade dispute at the World Trade Organization (WTO) over poultry products, according to a joint statement released Friday.

"The leaders lauded the settlement of the seventh and last outstanding WTO dispute between India and the United States. This follows the unprecedented settlement of six outstanding bilateral trade disputes in the WTO in June 2023," the joint statement said.

It was issued after the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra



Modi and United States President Joseph R Biden, Jr, here. Biden is here to attend the G20 Summit to be held Saturday and Sunday. Modi and the US President vowed to "deepen and diversify" the bilateral major defence partnership while welcoming forward movement in India's procurement of 31 drones and joint development of jet engines.

In their over 50-minute talks, the two leaders deliberated on India's G20 presidency, cooperation in nuclear energy, critical and emerging technologies such as 6G and artificial intelligence, and ways to funda-

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

mentally reshape multilateral development banks.

Earlier, the seventh dispute was discussed during the visit of US Trade Representative Katherine Tai's meeting with Commerce and Industry

Minister Piyush Goyal meeting last month here.

They had tasked their respective teams with continuing discussions on this dispute in order to reach a solution soon.

During Modi's visit to the US in June, the two countries announced ending of six trade disputes at the WTO and India's removal of tariffs on certain US products (chickpeas, lentils, almonds, walnuts, apples, boric acid, and diagnostic reagents).

The poultry case was filed by the US against India in the WTO in 2012. India has lost the dispute both at the panel as well as the appellate body levels. It was ruled against India that New Delhi's ban on imports of poultry products from the US was inconsistent with global norms.

As India was not able to implement the decision within the stipulated time frame, the US had demanded compensation. After that, both countries were discussing ways to resolve the case mutually.

HIGH-VOLTAGE CLASH AGAINST PAKISTAN IN ASIA CUP SUPER 4 INDIA SEEK ANSWER TO RAHUL-KISHAN RIDDLE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 9: The Indian team management's predicament to choose between KL Rahul and Ishan Kishan will be the dominating theme amid the usual edgy emotional quotient, when they face arch-rivals Pakistan in the most-awaited Super 4 match of the Asia Cup here Sunday.

Alongside focusing on the team goals, the Indian management will want to assemble the best possible 11 in the park against Pakistan, whom the Rohit Sharma-led outfit is facing for the second time in the event.

But for that, they need to find answers for the aforementioned puzzle, and hope that rains will stay away despite adding a controversial reserve day to the match Monday.



man opened the innings against the Caribbeans while batted in the middle-order against Pakistan. Additionally, Kishan brings in a bit of variety to the Indian batting line-up as he is a left-hander.

So, it seems that Kishan has everything going for him. But Rahul's claim for the No.5 position is hard to ignore despite the fact that the Bangalore cricketer has not played an ODI since March this year, courtesy a high injury and the ensuing phase of post-surgery convalescence.

The 31-year-old remains one of India's steadiest ODI batters since 2019. In that year, he made 572 runs from 13 matches at 47.67.

The trend continued in the following years - In 2020: 443 runs from 9 matches at 55.38, in 2021: 108 runs from 3 matches at 88.50, in 2022: 251 runs from 10 matches at 27.89 and in 2023: 226 runs from 6 matches at 56.50.

If one filters the stats further, while batting at No.5, Rahul has

MATCH SCHEDULE
India vs Pakistan
Time: 3 pm
Telecast: Star Sports Network
Stream: Disney+Hotstar

amassed 742 runs from 18 matches at 53 with a hundred and seven fifties. So, the team management will have to take a hard call on the match day.

While that decision is important for the team to achieve the desired balance, they will also be eager to start the Super 4 with a win notwithstanding the combination they field.

Pakistan have already bagged two points after beating Bangladesh, and another win will place them comfortably on the way to the final.

So, India will also want to enter the log sheet but they will have to counter a potent Pakistan bowling attack that can make an impact irrespective of the nature of the pitch.

Djoko faces Medvedev for US Open crown

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 9: Novak Djokovic limited big-serving Ben Shelton to five aces and broke him five times in their US Open semifinal Friday. Djokovic pushed back when the 20-year-old unseeded American produced a late stand that got the home crowd into the match.

And after overcoming what he called "a little black hole" caused by tension to right himself, finish off a 6-3, 6-2, 7-6(7-4) victory and reach his record-tying 10th final at Flushing Meadows and 36th at all major tournaments, Djokovic added a touch of insult to injury by mimicking the kid's "Hang up the phone!" celebration gesture.

Djokovic then pointed to his temple and pounded his fist on his chest, before a stone-faced Shelton met him at the net for the most perfunctory of handshakes.

A year after Djokovic could not travel to the United States for the Open because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19, the 36-year-old from Serbia is one victory away from a fourth title in New York

and 24th Grand Slam championship overall. His triumph would make him the oldest man to win the US Open in the professional era, which began in 1968.

He has made it to the finals of all four majors this season, with victories at the Australian Open in January and French Open in June.

Djokovic, Sunday, will face 2021 US Open champion Daniil Medvedev, who advanced by eliminating defending champ Carlos Alcaraz 7-6(7-3), 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 in the second semifinal Friday night. Medvedev denied Djokovic a calendar-year Grand Slam by beating him in the final at Flushing Meadows two years ago.

Djokovic vs. Shelton certainly seemed like a mismatch beforehand: Djokovic was participating in his record 47th Slam semifinal and his 100th US Open match; the 47th-ranked Shelton was in his first major semi and only his seventh career match at the Open.

The retractable roof was closed because of rain in the forecast, creating echoes for the sound-track of yells and applause in Arthur Ashe Stadium, where there were additional police officers and security guards a day after four climate protesters - including one man who glued his bare feet to the concrete in the stands - caused a 50-minute delay during Coco Gauff's semifinal victory.

In his sleeveless muscle shirt, Shelton came out smacking his high-rate lefty serves. After one at 140 mph (226 kph), he shook his racket. After an ace at 145 mph (233 kph), he screamed.

In the end, though, all of Djokovic's experience prevailed, along with that ability to return serves, to grind away, point after point, with his sneaker-squeaking, body-bending defense and more.



Sri Lanka register comfortable win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 9: Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh by 21 runs in their Asia Cup Super 4 match here, Saturday. Sadeera Samarawickrama (93, 72b, 8x4, 2x6), Kusal Mendis (50, 73b, 6x4, 1x6) scored fifties while Pathum Nissanka played a useful 40-run (60b, 5x4) knock guiding the home team to 257/9 after being invited to bat first. Bangladesh were served well by Hasan Mahmud (3/57), Shoriful Islam (2/48) and Taskin Ahmed (3/62).

In reply, Bangladesh were bowled out for 236. Towhid Hridoy (82, 97b, 7x4, 1x6) fought well but didn't find an ably ally. Dasun Shanaka (3/28), Matheesa Pathirana (3/58) and Maheesh Theekshana (3/69) shared nine wickets among themselves.

YAMAL YOUNGEST TO SCORE FOR SPAIN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tbilisi (Georgia), Sept 9: Lamine Yamal became the youngest player to score for Spain in a 7-1 win over Georgia in European Championship qualifying Friday, and Alvaro Morata grabbed a hat-trick.

At age 16 years and 57 days, Yamal struck in the 74th minute to round off the rout and bettered Gavi's mark as Spain's previous youngest-ever scorer at 17 years and 10 months.

Yamal had come on as a first-half substitute to become the youngest player to appear for Spain, a record also previously held by Gavi in 2021 when he was 17 years and 62 days.

Spain took a 4-0 lead inside 40 minutes at Boris Paichadze Stadium in Tbilisi to move up to



second in Group A on six points after three games. Scotland, who beat Cyprus 3-0, lead the group on 15 points after winning all five of their games so far.

Besides Morata and Yamal, Dani Olmo and Nico Williams also scored a goal each, while

Neymar eclipses Pele

SAO PAULO: Neymar became the top goal scorer for Brazil's national team after surpassing the total of three-time World Cup winner Pele Friday. The goal that put the 31-year-old Neymar on the top of Brazil's scoring mark with 78 came in the 61st minute in a World Cup qualifying match against Bolivia in the Amazon city of Belem. It was Brazil's fourth goal of the match in a 5-1 win. Neymar's record-breaking goal came after a low cross into the penalty box, which the striker finished with accuracy close range. He celebrated with a punch in the air, as Pele usually did.

Solomon Kvirkvelia scored an own-goal. Giorgi Chakvetadze found the consolation strike for Georgia.

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international



The Security Council -- the main guarantor of international peace and security -- has remained blocked, unable to fully carry out its mandate
CSABA KOROSI | PRESIDENT, UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PELOSI TO SEEK RE-ELECTION

Former Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi said that she will seek a 19th term in office in November 2024. Pelosi, 83, was first elected to her San Francisco district in 1987, before serving two terms as speaker between 2007-2011 and 2019-2023



of the day quote

I remain deeply concerned about the possible dangers facing the planet (nuclear) at this time of heightened military tension in the region

RAFAEL MARIANO GROSSI | DIRECTOR GENERAL, IAEA

This new agreement with Singapore will take us even further in delivering our priorities and ensure that, as we map the future of the world economy, we are doing so alongside our closest partners

RISHI SUNAK | PM, UK

Discussions are going on with multilateral institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to increase the inflow of dollars

SHAMSAD AKHTAR | FINANCE MINISTER, PAKISTAN

SHORT TAKES

Nawaz to return

Islamabad: Ending his over four years of self-imposed exile in the UK, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is likely to return to Pakistan next month, according to a media report Saturday. Quoting sources present at a meeting in London where Sharif, the supreme leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), was speaking to his party workers, the Dawn newspaper reported that he "spoke about his return, but a clear date for travel has not been disclosed." Sharif, 73, has been living in self-imposed exile in London since November 2019.

6 arrested in Iran

Tehran: Authorities in Iran's southwest have arrested six people accused of "organising riots" on the first anniversary of Mahsa Amini's death in custody which triggered nationwide protests, state media reported Saturday. Mahsa Amini, an Iranian Kurd, died September 16, 2022, after her arrest in Tehran for alleged breach of the Islamic republic's strict dress rules for women. The intelligence organisation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province suspended five social media pages and arrested the six individuals behind them, it said.

Terror bid foiled

Lahore: Pakistani law enforcement agencies foiled a major terror plot to target key installations in the Punjab province and arrested two terrorists of the Islamic State (ISIS) militant group during intelligence-based operations, police said Saturday. According to the spokesperson of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police, the terrorists were arrested from Gujranwala and Rawalpindi cities. "The CTD has foiled a major terror plot in Punjab province and arrested two suspected terrorists of Daesh (ISIS) with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials. The terrorists had planned sabotage across the province and wanted to target important installations," he said.

Refugees clash

Beirut: Clashes resumed early Saturday at the largest refugee camp in Lebanon between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah group and militant Islamist groups, killing three people and wounding 10 others. Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, discussed with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas the volatile situation in an attempt to end the fighting.

MOROCCO MAYHEM

RESCUERS RACE AGAINST TIME TO SAVE SURVIVORS, IN THE WAKE OF MOROCCO'S DEADLIEST EARTHQUAKE IN MORE THAN SIX DECADES, WHICH HAS KILLED MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE

AGENCIES

Rabat, Sept 9: A strong earthquake jolted Morocco Friday and killed more than 1,037 with over 1,200 injured. The 6.8-magnitude quake -- which is said to be the most powerful earthquake to hit the country to date -- struck 72 kilometres southwest of tourist hotspot Marrakesh.

According to Morocco's interior ministry, more than half of people were killed in Al-Haouz and Taroudant provinces. Deaths were also reported in Ouarzazate, Chichaoua, Azilal and Yousseoufia provinces, as well as in Marrakesh, Agadir, and the Casablanca area.

"I could see buildings moving. We don't necessarily have the reflexes for this type of situation. Then I went outside and there were a lot of people there. People were all in shock and panic. The children were crying and the parents were distraught," Abdelhak El Amrani, a 33-year-old in Marrakesh, told the news agency AFP.

Another resident said he felt the tremors three times in his building.

"People went out into the street just after this total panic, and there are families who are still sleeping outside because we were so scared of the force of this earthquake," Faisal Baddour told AFP.

"It was as if a train was passing close to our houses," he added.

Frenchman Michael Bizet, 43, told AFP that he had been in bed at the time of the quake. "I thought my bed was going to fly away. I went out into the street half-naked and immediately went to see my riads. It was total chaos, a real catastrophe, madness," he said.

Another Marrakesh resident, Brahim Himmi, said people were frightened and were staying outside in case of another earthquake. "The chandelier fell from the ceiling and I ran out. I'm still on the road with my children



- Earthquake claims over 1,037 with more than 1,200 injured
- Minaret in Marrakech old city fell
- Deadliest earthquake since 1960
- Rescuers rush to save survivors

rushed downstairs from the second floor," Hamid Afkar, a teacher, said.

In Marrakech, residents described desperate scenes as people fled for safety. "I still can't sleep in the house because of the shock and also because the

ALGERIA OFFERS TO OPEN ITS AIRSPACE

Algeria has offered humanitarian aid to neighbouring Morocco after a powerful earthquake in the kingdom on Friday night left more than 1,000 people dead. In an exceptional move, Algeria offered to open its airspace to allow eventual humanitarian aid or medical evacuation flights to travel to and from Morocco. Algeria closed the airspace when its government severed diplomatic ties with Morocco in 2021 over a series of issues. The countries have a decades-long dispute involving the territory of Western Sahara.

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS OFFERS HELP

Doctors Without Borders, or MSF, says it is prepared to respond to the earthquake in Morocco that killed more than 1,000 people and left many more injured. People were jolted out of bed Friday night by the magnitude-6.8 quake, a rarity in Morocco. In addition to the dead and injured, scores of structures not built to withstand such a powerful tremor crashed to the ground. Avril Benoit, executive director of MSF-USA, said in a statement that people who live in the affected region are "key to the initial response" when searching for survivors.

and we're scared," Houda Hafsi was quoted as saying by the news agency Reuters.

A resident of Taroudant said he had fled his home and felt aftershocks. "The earth shook for about 20 seconds. Doors opened and shut by themselves as I

old town is made up of old houses," said Jaouhari Mohamed, an old city resident.

Moroccan state television broadcast images of troops deploying to help with rescue efforts.

It was Morocco's deadliest earth-

REACTIONS

We pray that all the injured people get well soon. The entire world community is with Morocco in this difficult time and we are ready to provide them all possible assistance

NARENDRA MODI | PM, INDIA

I express my deep sadness at the loss of life and destruction caused by yesterday's earthquake in Morocco and extend my heartfelt condolences to the families of those affected. The United States is ready to provide any necessary assistance as Morocco responds to this tragedy

ANTONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

Please accept my sincere condolences on the tragic consequences of the devastating earthquake in the central regions of your country. Russia shares the worry and sorrow of the friendly people of Morocco

VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

We stand by our Moroccan brothers with all our means in this difficult day

TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

We are all shocked after the terrible earthquake in Morocco. France stands ready to help first aid responses

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE



People work next to damage in the historic city of Marrakech, following a powerful earthquake in Morocco
REUTERS



Families sit outside their destroyed homes after an earthquake in Moulay Ibrahim village, near Marrakech, Morocco
PTI PHOTO



A man stands next to a damaged hotel after the earthquake in Moulay Ibrahim village, near the epicentre of the earthquake, outside Marrakech
PTI PHOTO



People inspect their damaged homes after an earthquake in Moulay Ibrahim village, near Marrakech, Morocco
PTI PHOTO

GEOPOLITICAL RACE

Maldivians vote for Prez amid India, China rivalry

Both India and China vie for influence in the tiny archipelago state made up with some 1,200 coral islands in the Indian Ocean, located by the main shipping route between East and the West



ASSOCIATED PRESS



Male, Sept 9: Voting started in the Maldives presidential election Saturday, a virtual referendum over which regional power -- India or China -- will have the biggest influence in the Indian Ocean archipelago state.

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, perceived as pro-India, sought re-election for a second term amid allegations by his main rival, Mohamed Muiz, that he has allowed India an unchecked presence in the country.

Muiz promised that if he won the presidency, he would remove Indian troops stationed in the Maldives and balance the country's trade relations, which he said, is heavily in India's favour.

Muiz's party, the People's National Congress, is viewed as heavily pro-China. Its leader, Abdullah Yameen, when he was president between 2013 and 2018, made Maldives a part of China's 'One Belt One Road.' The initiative envisages building ports, railways, and roads to expand trade -- and China's influence -- in a swath across Asia, Africa,

and Europe.

Mohamed Shareef, a senior official for Muiz's party, told The Associated Press that removal of Indian military personnel was a "non-negotiable" position for the party. He said that the number of Indian troops and their activities are hidden from Maldivians and that they have near-exclusive use of certain parts and airports in the country.

Solih was considered the front-runner in the field of eight candidates since his strongest rival, Yameen, was blocked from running by the Supreme Court because he is in prison for corruption and money laundering convictions. Muiz hoped to take advantage of a split in Solih's Maldivian Democratic Party that led Mohamed Nasheed, a charismatic former president, to break away and field his own candidate.

More than 2,82,000 people were eligible to vote in Saturday's election. A candidate would need to get 50 per cent plus one vote to win outright. Otherwise, the top two finishers would meet in a runoff election later this month.

Russia junks UN bank proposal

REUTERS

Moscow, Sept 9: Russia said Saturday it was sticking to its conditions for a return to the Black Sea grain deal which it quit in July.

In particular, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia needed its state agricultural bank - and not a subsidiary of the bank, as proposed by the United Nations - to be reconnected to the international SWIFT bank payments system.

"All our conditions are perfectly well known. They do not need interpretation, they are absolutely concrete and all this is absolutely achievable," Peskov said.

"Therefore Russia maintains its responsible, clear and consistent position, which has been repeatedly voiced by the president."

The Black Sea deal was bro-

BLACK SEA GRAIN DEAL



kered by Turkey and the United Nations in July 2022 to enable Ukraine to export grain by sea despite the war and help ease a global food crisis.

It was accompanied by an agreement to facilitate Russia's own exports of food and fertiliser, which Moscow says has not been fulfilled.

Moscow's uncompromising restatement of its position came five days after President Vladimir Putin met his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan and discussed the grain issue.

North Korea celebrates 75th anniversary

KIM JONG UN HOSTS CHINESE, RUSSIAN GUESTS AT THE PARADE AS THE COUNTRY MARKS FOUNDING DAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



to celebrate North Korea's 75th founding anniversary, came amid expectations that Kim will travel to Russia soon for a meeting with President Vladimir Putin that could focus on North Korean arm sales to refill reserves drained by the Kremlin's war on Ukraine.

While China has sent a delegation led by Vice Premier Liu Guozhong to the North Korea's anniversary celebrations, Russia

sent a military song and dance group.

South Korean media speculated that the lack of Russian government officials at the festivities in Pyongyang could be related to preparations for a summit between Kim and Putin, which Washington expects within the month. According to some US reports, it could happen as early as next week.

Putin is expected to attend an

UK's hottest day of the year so far

REUTERS

London, Sept 9: Britain recorded its hottest day of the year so far Saturday, the country's national weather service said, with provisional data showing a high of 32.7 degrees Celsius at Heathrow airport.

This year's previous high was 32.6 C, which was reached Thursday. The Met Office said Saturday was also the sixth day in a row the UK has recorded a temperature over 30 C - well above average for the time of year.

The Met Office said last week that Britain had experienced its eighth warmest summer since 1884. June was the hottest on record in the country. A wet July and a mixed August followed.

In July 2022, Britain recorded its hottest ever day when temperatures topped the 40 C mark for the first time.

international forum that runs from Sunday to Wednesday in the eastern city of Vladivostok, which was also the site of his first summit with Kim in 2019 and is now seen as a possible venue for their next meeting.

South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers in a closed-door briefing Thursday that North Korea and Russia could also be arranging an unexpected "surprise" route for Kim's visit to avoid potential venues reported by the media.

North Korea has not confirmed any plans for Kim to visit Russia. KCNA said Kim received letters from Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the anniversary, where both leaders said that their countries' strengthening ties with North Korea would contribute to the region's peace and stability.