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ODISHA STARTUP YATRA 2023

INNOVATION | DISRUPTION | TRANSFORMATION



11th September 2023

Shri Naveen Patnaik
Hon'ble Chief Minister



Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Department,
Government of Odisha

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FALSIFIED DRUG VERSIONS

DCGI directs states and UTs to keep vigil on sale of falsified versions of Defitelio and Adcetris

DOWNTOWN P2



DRONE ATTACK

Drone attack on an open market south of Sudan's capital, Khartoum, kills at least 43 people

INTERNATIONAL P8



GAUFF TRIUMPHS

Coco Gauff becomes 3rd teenager to win US Open women's singles title after Tracy, Serena

SPORTS Back Page *****

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BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11 | 2023

P1

SHORT TAKES

Morocco quake toll climbs to over 2,000

Rabat: Morocco has declared three days of national mourning after a devastating earthquake late Friday night claimed the lives of 2,000 people. Flags will fly at half-mast on all public facilities during the national mourning, according to a statement released by the Royal Office after Moroccan King Mohammed VI chaired a meeting on the disaster, Xinhua news agency reported. A 6.8-magnitude earthquake hit Morocco Friday at 11:11 pm local time at a depth of 18.5 km, said the United States Geological Survey. The epicentre of the earthquake was near the town of Ighil in Al Haouz Province, some 70 km southwest of Marrakesh. The quake has claimed the lives of 2,012 people and injured 2,059, with 1,404 of them in serious condition, according to the latest update from the country's Interior Ministry. P8

Aditya L1 performs third manoeuvre

Bangalore: Aditya L1 spacecraft, India's first space-based mission to study the Sun, successfully underwent its third earth-bound manoeuvre in the early hours of Sunday, ISRO said. The space agency's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) carried out the operation. "The third Earth-bound manoeuvre (EBN#3) is performed successfully from ISTRAC, Bengaluru. ISRO's ground stations at Mauritius, Bengaluru, SDSC-SHAR and Port Blair tracked the satellite during this operation," the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said in a post on social media platform X. The new orbit attained is 296 km x 71767 km, it said, adding the next manoeuvre is scheduled for September 15, around 2 am. P7

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Are we part of the family? Is living behind the curtains our future? Will we be shifted to the moon?

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	33.8°C	33.4°C
TEMP MIN	26.1°C	26.0°C
Humidity	83%	89%
Rainfall	Nil	3.0
	FORECAST LIGHT	FORECAST RAIN LIKELY



TRIBUTES TO THE MAHATMA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and world leaders pay homage at Mahatma Gandhi's memorial Rajghat on the final day of the G20 Summit, in New Delhi, Sunday.

PTI PHOTO

CURTAINS ON G20 SUMMIT

No major climate goals

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 10: Leaders of the world's 20 big economies ended the G20 Summit here Sunday, overcoming deep divisions over the war in Ukraine to produce a consensus document that lacked any major climate goal. Here are the key takeaways of the Summit:

NO PATHWAY TO GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION

The G20 leaders agreed to pursue tripling renewable energy capacity globally by 2030 and accepted the need to phase-down unabated coal power, but stopped short of setting major climate goals. The group did not provide any plan to amend existing policies and targets in order to achieve the target of ramping up of renewables. It also said \$4 trillion a year would be needed to pay for a green energy transition but did not lay out any pathway to it. The deliberations of the G20 were being closely watched ahead of the COP28 UN climate summit in the United Arab Emirates later this year.

NO DIRECT CRITICISM OF RUSSIA

G20 nations agreed that states

cannot grab territory by force and highlighted the suffering of the people of Ukraine, but avoided direct criticism of Russia for the war. The declaration was seen as an apparent softening from the position that the G20 took last year when it condemned Russia for the war and demanded that it withdraw from Ukraine. Diplomats said Russia would never have accepted an outright condemnation and that it was still a successful outcome because everyone including Russia committed themselves to not seizing territory by force. Host India along with Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa, played a key role in avoiding a fracturing of the G20 over the Ukraine conflict, officials said, reflecting the growing power of the Global South developing nations in the group.

AFRICAN UNION INSIDE THE CLUB

The 55-member African Union (AU) was formally made permanent member of the G20, on par with the European Union, in order to make the grouping more representative. Until now only South Africa was a member of the G20. The entry of the AU

would provide greater voice to the Global South within the G20 where the G7 countries have long played a dominant role. The move also came after the BRICS, another group dominated by China and Russia, was expanded to include Saudi Arabia and Iran among other nations which was seen as an attempt by Beijing to make it a possible alternate to the G20.

AMBITIOUS TRANSPORT CORRIDOR

Leaders of the United States, India and Saudi Arabia among others announced plans to set up rail and ports links between the Middle East and South Asia and eventually to Europe which US President Joe Biden said was a 'real big deal.' The Biden administration is seeking to counter China's Belt and Road push on global infrastructure by pitching Washington as an alternative partner and investor for developing countries at the G20 grouping. But there were no details about financing or a time frame for the project that involved laying down railway lines in the Middle East and then connecting them to India by port. P7

Suicide pact: Siblings die, mother critical

INCIDENT COMES FOUR DAYS AFTER THE DEATH OF THE SIBLINGS' FATHER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sohela, Sept 10: Two siblings committed suicide by consuming pesticide while their mother was left battling for life in a case of suspected suicide pact at Masterpada village in Sohela area of Bargarh district, Sunday. The deceased were identified as Banshidhar Sahu, 25, and his sister Subarna Mahajan, 23, the son and daughter of late Arjun Sahu.

Banshidhar was unmarried while Subarna was married in Chhattisgarh and is survived by a two-year-old daughter. Subarna was staying at her parents' house for a long time for some reason.

The incident comes four days after the death of Arjun Sahu, September 6 due to diabetes and hypertension.

Arjun's wife Kumudini Sahu, 50, was left battling for life after consuming pesticide and is undergoing treatment at VSS Institute of Medical Sciences

and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla. Her condition is stated to be critical.

Sources said that Arjun was the owner of a utensils shop at Sohela while Banshidhar used to move from village to village peddling utensils. Arjun succumbed to diabetes and hypertension. His death left the family members heartbroken and pushed them under severe mental stress. It is believed that they were unable to come to terms with the loss and attempted to end their lives.

The matter came to fore after Subarna's daughter was found crying outside the house Sunday morning. Neighbours rushed to the spot and found the door closed with a foul smell emanating from inside and informed the police.

Sohela police broke open the door and rescued the three in critical condition. They were rushed to the Sohela hospital and later shifted to Bargarh district headquarters hospital after primary treatment. However, doctors shifted them to VIMSAR where Banshidhar and Subarna died during treatment.

Police seized two empty bottles of pesticide from their house. A pall of gloom has descended on the village.

WOMAN STABBED BY MASKED MAN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 10: A 40-year-old woman suffered grievous injuries after being stabbed by a masked man in Dolamundai area here, Sunday.

The victim, Suchitra Khatua, who works at a beauty parlour in Dolamundai area, resides in the Telenga Bazaar area under the Purighat police limits in the city.

According to sources, the incident took place around 2:30pm when Khatua was at the beauty parlour.

"The masked man reached the beauty parlour around 2:30pm and picked up a quarrel with Khatua over a trivial issue. Before the woman could realise, the miscreant took out a knife and stabbed her multiple times," a police official said quoting Khatua.

Hearing Khatua's screams, locals rushed to the beauty parlour. However, the miscreant managed to flee the spot.

Locals rushed a profusely bleeding Khatua to SCB Medical College and Hospital here in an ambulance.

Purighat inspector in-charge (IC) Jatindra Nath Sethy said that no complaint in this connection has been lodged with the police so far. "We're leaving no stone unturned to arrest the culprit," added Sethy.

Nothing Hindu about BJP: Rahul

AGENCIES

London, Sept 10: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has hit out at the BJP during an interaction with students and academics in Paris, saying that the governing party is out to get power at any cost and that there is 'nothing Hindu' about their actions.

During the interaction Saturday at the Sciences PO University in Paris, a leading social sciences institution in France, the 53-year-old Opposition leader covered a broad range of topics such as his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', the Opposition alliance's fight to defend India's democratic structures, changing global order and other key issues.

He stressed that the Opposition was committed to fighting for the 'soul of India' and the country would 'come out just fine' from the current 'turbulence'.

"I've read the Gita, I've read a number of the Upanishads, I've read many Hindu books; there is nothing Hindu about what the BJP does, absolutely nothing," said Gandhi, in response to a question about the rise of 'Hindu nationalism' in the country at

I've read the Gita, I've read a number of the Upanishads, I've read many Hindu books; there is nothing Hindu about what the BJP does, absolutely nothing

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

the interaction, a video of which was released Sunday.

"I have not read anywhere, in no Hindu book, from no learned Hindu person have I ever heard that you should terrorise, harm people who are weaker than you. So, this idea, this word, Hindu nationalists, this is a wrong word. They're not Hindu nationalists. They have nothing to do with Hinduism. They are out to get power at any cost, and they will do anything to get power... They want dominance of a few people and that is what they are about. There is nothing Hindu about them," he said.

On the cases of violence against minority communities, Gandhi said it requires 'political imagination' to combat the issue 'head on.'

World's glaciers could lose 40% of mass by 2100

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Sept 10: If the world reaches 1.5 degree Celsius of warming, 50 per cent of the glaciers would disappear and it would contribute to 9 cm of sea level rise by 2100, finds an alarming study published in the journal Science.

The study projects that the world's glaciers could lose as much as 40 per cent of their mass by 2100.

Researchers from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, US, modelled glaciers around the world -- not counting the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets -- to predict how they will be affected by global temperature increases of 1.5 to 4 degrees Celsius (2.7 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

The study found that with 1.5 degree Celsius of warming, half of the world's glaciers would disappear and contribute 3.5 inches to sea level rise by 2100.

If the world reaches 2.7 degrees of warming -- the estimated temperature increase



based on climate pledges made at the Conference of Parties (COP26) of the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change -- nearly all glaciers in Central Europe, western Canada, and the US (including Alaska) will have melted.

If warming reaches 4 degree Celsius, 80 per cent of the world's glaciers will disappear and contribute 15 cm of sea level rise.

"Regardless of temperature increase, the glaciers are going

to experience a lot of loss. That's inevitable," said David Rounce, assistant professor at Carnegie.

The study by Rounce and team marks the first modelling study that uses satellite-derived mass change data describing all the world's 215,000 glaciers.

The team's sophisticated model used "new satellite derived datasets that were not available on a global level before," said Regine Hock, a glaciology professor at the University of Alaska

ALARMING PROSPECTS

WITH 1.5 DEGREE CELSIUS OF WARMING, THE SEA LEVEL WOULD RISE BY 3.5 INCHES BY 2100	IF WARMING REACHES 4 DEGREE CELSIUS, 80 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S GLACIERS WILL DISAPPEAR AND CONTRIBUTE 15 CM OF SEA LEVEL RISE
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RAPIDLY MELTING GLACIERS IMPACT FRESHWATER AVAILABILITY, LANDSCAPES, TOURISM, ECOSYSTEMS, THE FREQUENCY AND SEVERITY OF HAZARDS, AND SEA LEVEL RISE

and the University of Oslo. It included data from Japan's Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) on NASA's Terra satellite, as well as the USGS-NASA Landsat 8 and ESA's Sentinel satellites.

The model accounted for glacial debris cover, which includes rocks, sediment, soot, dust and

volcanic ash found on the glacier surface.

Glacial debris is typically difficult to measure due to its varying thickness, but it plays an important role because it can influence glacial melting; a thin layer of debris can enhance melting, while a thick layer can insulate and reduce it.

Glaciers in remote regions -- far from human activities -- are particularly powerful indicators of climate change.

Rapidly melting glaciers impact freshwater availability, landscapes, tourism, ecosystems, the frequency and severity of hazards, and sea level rise.

"Sea level rise is not just a problem for a few specific locations," said Ben Hamlington, leader of NASA's Sea Level Change Team.

"It's increasing almost everywhere on Earth."

"We are not trying to frame this as a negative look at the loss of these glaciers, but instead how we have the ability to make a difference," Rounce said.

"I think it's a very important message -- a message of hope."

IUPAC pat for BARC scientist from Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Odisha-born scientist of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, Jyotirmayee Mohanty has received the IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) 2023 Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering award.

Mohanty got the coveted award in 'UTHINGS' category from IUPAC president Javier G-Martinez at the inaugural ceremony of World Chemistry Congress at The Hague in Netherlands recently.

Mohanty is the first woman scientist from India to receive the award in the category. She is the daughter of noted paediatrician Baikunt Nath Patra of

Chauliaganj in Cuttack and married to Rasmiranjan Mohanty, who is also a scientist, of Titira under Balikuda block in Jagatsinghpur.



Last year, Mohanty received the fellowship of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC), an award conferred by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) in the United Kingdom.

To celebrate International Day of Women and Girls in Science, IUPAC had February 11 announced the names of 12 awardees selected based on excellence in basic or applied research, distinguished accomplishments in teaching or education, or demonstrated leadership or managerial excellence in the chemical sciences.



CATCHY GROOVE: Artistes present a scintillating performance at the annual function of Dance Image Academy at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Khimji celebrates 2yrs of Jharsuguda showroom

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Khimji Jewellers celebrated 2nd anniversary of its Jharsuguda showroom Sunday by announcing a set of promotional offers to show gratitude to their customers and jewellery enthusiasts of Western Odisha.

"We not only just celebrated 2nd Anniversary of our Jharsuguda showroom, we also celebrated 87 years of a cherished legacy. Our journey has been a testament to the enduring bond we share with our customers, and to mark this occasion, we have unveiled offers like flat 40 per cent discount on making charges on gold, flat 20 per cent off on diamonds, 25 per cent discount on making charges of silver from September 8 to September 17, 2023," said a showroom manager.

Addressing the staff, Mitesh Khimji, director of Khimji Jewellers, expressed appreciation, saying, "We are profoundly overwhelmed to celebrate our second successful year in the power city of the state. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our valued customers for their trust, which has made us the most beloved jewellery brand in Western Odisha. We look forward to serving even more customers and continuing this remarkable journey together."

Notably, the Jharsuguda showroom boasts a sprawling area of 6,000 square feet, offering customers an extensive selection of designs that cater to the diverse tastes and preferences of Western Odisha. The showroom presents a wide range of options, including gold, diamond, platinum, silver, and fashion jewellery along with silver utensils, gifts and artifacts, all under one roof.

'Important to seek fertility assistance without delay'

Bhubaneswar: Oasis Fertility, a City-based fertility centre, conducted a mass baby shower Sunday to felicitate couples who conceived through in vitro fertilization (IVF). Speaking on the occasion, Oasis Fertility Clinical Head & Fertility Specialist Prasanta Kumar Nayak said, "I want to convey my heartfelt wishes to all the mothers-to-be. We at Oasis Fertility provide advanced fertility treatments to help couples achieve their parenthood dream."

DCGI: Keep vigil on sale of falsified drug versions

Following safety alerts for Defitelio and Adcetris, the DCGI has advised doctors and healthcare professionals to carefully prescribe drugs and educate their patients for reporting any adverse drug reactions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has directed the drugs controllers of all states and Union Territories to keep a strict vigil on the sale and distribution of falsified versions of two drugs, liver medication Defitelio and Takeda's cancer drug Adcetris (injection), following alerts issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

In an advisory September 5, the DCGI said the WHO has issued a safety alert identified with multiple falsified versions of Adcetris injection 50 mg manufactured by Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited, identified in four different countries including India.

"These products are most often available at the patient level and distributed in the unregulated



supply chains (mainly online). The products have been identified in both regulated and illicit supply chains, sometimes at patient levels as well. WHO has reported that there are at least eight different batch numbers of falsified versions in circulation," the DCGI said in a communication to the state drugs controllers.

Adcetris (Brentuximab Vedotin) is a CD30-directed antibody-drug conjugate indicated for the treatment of patients with Hodgkin's lymphoma after the failure of an autologous stem cell transplant and systemic anaplastic large cell lymphoma.

On September 6, the DCGI issued another advisory, referring to a safety alert issued by the WHO September 4 for falsified product Defitelio (Defibrotide) 80 mg/ml concentrate for solution for infusion, manufactured by

Gentium Srl.

"This falsified product has been detected in India (April 2023) and Turkiye (July 2023), and was supplied outside of regulated and authorised channels," the WHO said.

It said the genuine manufacturer of Defitelio has confirmed that the product referenced in the alert is falsified.

"The use of falsified Defitelio will result in the ineffective treatment of patients and may pose other serious risks to health because of its intravenous administration and could be life-threatening in some circumstances," the health body of the United Nations (UN) said.

Following the safety alerts for both the products, the DCGI has advised doctors and healthcare professionals to carefully prescribe drugs and educate their patients for reporting any adverse drug reactions (ADRs).

The DCGI has also asked the state and regional regulatory offices to instruct their officers to keep a strict vigil on the movement, sale, distribution and stock of the mentioned drug products in the market.

They should also draw samples and initiate necessary action in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the rules made thereunder, the DCGI said.

1st woman architect Geeta Patnaik feted at IIA conclave

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: The second day of IIA leadership conclave & design carnival organised by the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA), concluded Sunday.

In the conclave, the Otto Koeinischer Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred upon Geeta Patnaik, the first woman practicing architect in Odisha.

Satyannarayana Achary received the KB Mohapatra Award for outstanding contribution in the field of architecture for his remarkable achievements as an academician and practitioner since 1976. Other notable honours included the Architect of the Year award presented to Srikanth Paikray and the Young Architect of the Year award bestowed upon Saurashtra Das.

Throughout the second day of the IIA Leadership Conclave & Design Carnival 2023, attendees were treated to a series of enlightening sessions and significant book releases. The first session, titled "Understanding IIA Constitution and Byelaw," featured presentations by Divya Kush, Jit Gupta, and Prakash Desmukh. Subsequently, in second session, CR Raju and the chartered accountant of IIA shed light on the roles and responsibilities of office bearers across chapters, centres, and sub centres.

'Vector-borne diseases a challenge to public health'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Vector-borne diseases such as dengue have assumed alarming proportions in the state Capital, pushing the City's infection count beyond the 2,000 mark. Sources said as of September 6, a total of 3,178 dengue cases have been detected in Khurda alone, of which 2,036 are from areas within the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) jurisdiction.

Highlighting the prevalence of these diseases in City, consultant physician MR Patnaik warned the authorities that diseases, such as malaria, dengue, and Lyme disease, remain a formidable challenge to public health.

"Despite advancements in medical science, these diseases persist and often flourish in vulnerable communities. The toll they take on individuals, families, and societies is a call to action that cannot be ignored."

In an era of global connectivity, the fight against vector-borne diseases has taken a renewed urgency. These diseases, transmitted by insects like mosquitoes and ticks, continue to threaten populations worldwide.

The journey toward effective prevention and control begins with awareness. Discussing prevention strategies, Patnaik said, "Educating communities about the risks, transmission methods, and preventive measures



is a crucial first step. However, it must not remain confined to the realm of information. Transforming knowledge into action is the key player in vector-borne disease prevention."

Simple practices, like preventing water stagnation, keeping surroundings clean, and using insect repellents, can have a profound impact. Communities that take ownership of these actions become powerful allies in the fight against vectors, suggested the physician, adding, "By equipping individuals with knowledge, we empower them to protect themselves and others from vector-borne diseases."

Early detection and suitable medical intervention are also crucial in preventing the spread of vector-borne diseases. Among medications, doxycycline, an effective antibiotic, has proven a valuable tool in treating a range of illnesses. It offers a multifaceted approach with anti-inflammatory, antiviral, and immune-modulatory action making it a versatile treatment option.

BUILDING THE CORNERSTONE OF ODISHA'S STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

Startups are not built overnight, and so does any startup ecosystem. It takes constant efforts in the right direction to keep propelling the wheels of a startup ecosystem. Incubation, funding support, mentoring, acceleration, and market outreach are all essential however, what comes first and foremost is identifying and cultivating ideas.

Yes, on the road to entrepreneurship, an idea, whether big or small, complex or simple, feasible or non-viable, singular or in multitudes, explicit or allusive is the first thing that crosses the mind of an aspiring entrepreneur.

I term it as a cornerstone of the startup ecosystem, for it is the ideation that leads to innovation which in turn paves the way for establishing a successful startup or an enterprise.

Young minds should be encouraged, by all means, to openly express their ideas and thoughts. Notwithstanding,

how bizarre or astray it seems first-hand, for it is often the 'Out-of-the-Box' thinking that leads to extraordinary results and lays the foundations for a successful startup or business.

Ideas lead to innovations, and it is only the power of innovations and inventions that has kept the wheels of development rolling and has brought mankind from the primordial Stone Age to the modern age of Generative Artificial Intelligence. No doubt, it was of great help to humanity when someone, somewhere in what now is modern-day Iraq, inserted rotating axles into solid discs of wood somewhat around the 4th millennium BC. Yes, we are talking about the invention of the wheel.

Then there was no looking back, and since then, the wheel of time has rolled on and on, and so has the wheel of Innovation and Invention. When Thomas Alva Edison invented the bulb, the Wright brothers invented the airplane, and James Watt the Steam



Dr Omkar Rai

Engine. All these inventions were revolutionary and changed the face of the world. These all must have been an idea in the beginning.

Imagine, what would have happened had the first man or woman who thought of inserting an axle into the round wooden disc, had not taken the pain to do so? Or had dropped the idea of doing so after being discouraged by his peers or contemporaries. Well, you can

The Startup Yatra 2023 is a mammoth exercise to inculcate the spirit of Innovation and entrepreneurship among students in Odisha

argue that if not for him or her, someone else would have done it.

But I am sure you cannot assert that it would have been done in the 4th millennium BC itself, it could have been not later than the 5th or 6th century BC or even after that. In that case, we would not have been where we are now in 2023. It also goes with all other inventions or innovations that have disrupted the world in the modern, medieval, and ancient ages.

For me, every idea that flickers through someone's mind, particularly youngsters whose brains are replete with thoughts and innovative dis-

ruptions, is as precious as the one that must have crossed the minds of Albert Einstein, Thomas Alva Edison, or any other scientists during their lifetime. For who knows, what brews in the mind of a 17-year-old college-goer in Baripada or Khurda, or any of the 30 districts in Odisha for that say, is the Eureka! the entrepreneurial world needs.

The over 30 days long endeavours - Startup Yatra and Startup Xpress - would serve the purpose of reaching thousands of students in 200+ colleges and 60+ schools spread across the 30 districts of Odisha. As many as 260+ van camps and 120+ Boot Camps would be organized fostering and spurring the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship among the young ones. The outreach and the number of Institutions this year are almost double that of last year, and hence we are hopeful that ideas will also witness exponential growth and many of them

will hit the chart.

Startup Odisha is committed to placing Odisha among the top three startup ecosystems in the country by 2025 and being an ecosystem of 5,000 startups by then.

Furthermore, many of our startups have outshined at the international level and have impressive imprints in the global markets. Startups are poised to increasingly contribute to the state's economy, and grow simultaneously with the state's GDP. This growth of the startup ecosystem has to be equitable, in tandem with overall growth, and sustainable too. I hope Startup Yatra proves to be a stepping stone in the right direction, by laying a strong plinth for the young proponents of the startup ecosystem - our students - who look towards startups with confidence and we look to them with Pride and Promise.

The writer is Executive Chairman of Startup Odisha

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STUDENTS SUFFER IN GANJAM

625 teacher posts vacant in 383 govt high schools



The government has been showing promptness in improving the infrastructure of government schools but it lacks the same zeal when it comes to filling up the vacant posts of teachers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 10: It may sound unbelievable but as many as 625 posts of teachers are lying vacant in 383 government high schools in Ganjam district, a report said Sunday.

The state government has been taking various steps to impart quality education to the students in a conducive environment. It is transforming the schools through establishment of e-libraries, smart classrooms, upgraded playgrounds, improved infrastructure and other facilities through the 5T initiative.

Such steps are being taken so that students from poor backgrounds studying in these smart schools can get all the benefits and facilities of studying in an English medium public school. Infrastructure improvement in these schools is a welcome move by the state government but the students suffer due to inadequate number of teachers.

People alleged that this part is often overlooked. Shortage of teachers in the schools is a serious setback in children's education and the state government seems to be falling short in finding a remedy, they lamented.

This has sparked concern

among the parents and the guardians apprehend that if such situation persists then future of the students will be pushed into darkness.

With a number of subjects' teachers missing, the posted teachers are forced to teach the subjects which are not their specialisation. As a result, students are finding it difficult to understand the lessons taught by other subject teachers. Teachers and guardians have demanded for immediate appointment of all subject teachers in all the schools.

According to reports available from the district education office (DEO), 625 posts of teachers are lying vacant in 383 government high schools in the district. Among them, in posts of headmasters (Class-ID) there are 29 headmasters against 32 sanctioned posts of headmasters while there are 251 headmasters against 352 posts of SES headmasters.

Similarly, in TGT Arts category there are 928 teachers against 1,009 sanctioned teachers, 380 teachers against a requirement of 470 teachers in TGT PCM category. Similarly, there are 358 teachers against a need of 445 teachers in TGT CBZ category, 231 teachers against a require-

ment of 338 teachers in Hindi subject, 306 teachers against the requirement 369 teachers in Classical subject and 243 teachers against the need of 336 PET teachers. The only two departments where there is no vacancy are Telugu language and the posts of block education officers (BEOs). There are 28 teachers to teach Telugu while 22 teachers work as BEOs.

The state has been showing enough promptness in improving the infrastructure of government schools but it lacks the same zeal and enthusiasm when it comes to fill up the vacant posts of teachers, senior leaders of various teachers' associations have alleged. Contacted, additional DEO Pabitra Mohan Sahu said that the state government has created 427 new posts of teachers while 240 retired teachers will be appointed as guest teachers to fill the vacant posts in the district. These guest teachers will teach the students for three periods a day at ₹12,000 salary per month. Advisor Rajendra Panda of district teachers' federation said that several youths in the district have cleared the OTET examination and demanded to appoint them in the vacant posts of teachers in the district.



SWIMMING COMPETITION: Participants at 11th Khatieswar Pandey Memorial All Odisha Open Swimming Meet held at Dr JK Sahu Swimming Pool in Sambalpur and organised by Odisha Masters Swimmers' Club, Sunday

ROB in Sambalpur incomplete after 3 years

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 10: The road over bridge (ROB) at the Durgapali level crossing here is yet to be completed, even though more than three years have passed since work on the project began. The Durgapali road connects the ring road with the National Highway-53 at Laxmi Dungri area of the town.

Official sources said the length of the planned ROB at the Durgapali level crossing will be 947 metre and the width will be 12.5 metre. The project is being implemented by both the Railways and state Public Works department (PWD).

The estimated cost of the project is ₹32.84 crore. While the Railways has sanctioned funds to the tune of ₹14.22 crore, the state government has allocated funds to the tune of ₹18.62 crore



for the project.

Work on the project commenced in 2019 and a target was set to complete the ROB in two years. The Railways undertook construction work on the land belonging to them and the PWD was assigned to work on the approach roads on either sides. The PWD entrusted Odisha

Construction Corporation (OCC) to carry out the work. However, while the Railways has almost completed its part, work on the approach road by the OCC is still underway.

PWD superintending engineer Ashok Lenka said the work is going on at full pace now. A target has been set to complete work

on the project by the end of October this year, he said.

Hundreds of people depend on the ring road to visit Sambalpur town. Similarly, several people of Sambalpur also depend on this road to go to Burla and Hirakud. However, the commuters often face problems because of the railway level crossing at Durgapali, which is the entry point to Sambalpur from NH-53 at Laxmi Dungri.

Because of the frequent movement of trains, the manned railway level crossing is closed at regular intervals. Each time a train passes, the gate closes for at least 15 minutes, obstructing the flow of the traffic on the road and causing severe traffic congestion there. However, the problem will be resolved after the ROB at the level crossing at Durgapali becomes functional.

NCC cadets clean Gopalpur beach



FILE PHOTO

Berhampur, Sept 10: Cadets of Berhampur NCC Group Headquarters have cleaned Gopalpur beach in Ganjam district under the Puneet Sagar Abhiyan on the occasion of the two-day G20 leaders' summit in New Delhi.

"Several welfare programmes are going on across the country during the G20 summit. We cleaned the Gopalpur beach under the Puneet Sagar campaign," said an NCC officer.

Around 200 NCC cadets of Army and Naval wings partici-

pated in the drive and collected more than 20 kg garbage.

The cadets also held a rally and staged street-corner dramas in the town to raise awareness about clean beaches among people.

The campaign was organised by the 1 (Odisha) Naval Unit NCC here and participated by NCC cadets of different colleges and schools in and around Berhampur. Several local people, fishermen and visitors also took part in the campaign.

Commander DJ Singh, the commanding officer, was present on the occasion.

BJD worker killed in Ganjam district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: A worker of ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) was murdered in Ganjam district, a police officer said Sunday. The deceased was identified as Madhusudan Bisoyi.

"When Bisoyi was going through the Nandini bridge at Sheragada, four people suddenly intercepted him and attacked his head with strong plastic pipes. Later, they threw him off the bridge. Bisoyi's head again hit a concrete wall under the bridge, which resulted in his death Saturday," Sheragada Inspector-in-Charge Satyajit Benia told PTI over phone.

As per preliminary investigation, Bisoyi was murdered over past political rivalry with his political opponents, he said.

A murder case has been registered in this regard and the body sent for post-mortem. Two persons have been arrested in this connection, Benia said.

HM suspended after 45 students vacate hostel



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nabarangpur, Sept 10: The Nabarangpur district education officer (DEO) has suspended the headmaster of a high school after 45 students left the hostel alleging torture in the hands of the teacher and accusing him of engaging them as domestic help.

DEO Pradip Kumar Nag suspended Harendra Kumar Behera, headmaster of Government Upgraded High School at Bargaon under Koshagumuda block in this district. The matter came to the fore after the DEO issued a letter-4187 in this regard, Thursday.

After his suspension, Behera

has been asked to report at the Government High School at Koshagumuda daily and register his attendance. Assistant teacher Narayan Prasad Giri of the Government Upgraded High School at Bargaon has been appointed as the headmaster (in-charge).

Reports said that the concerned high school has a 100 bedded hostel. Among the inmates, about 45 students alleging various problems left the hostel. They alleged that the teachers are engaging them as domestic help by involving them in their personal work.

The teachers are even asking them to massage their body and to wash their bikes and scooters, they alleged. Despite several complaints no action has been taken in this regard. Left with no option, they finally left the hostel without informing anybody. The DEO taking cognizance of the matter suspended the headmaster.

Jumbo menace grips Sundargarh villages



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 10: An elderly woman survived an elephant attack in Kantara village Sunday following the presence of mind of a person who happens to be the member of the forest protection squad.

Reportedly it is the same rogue tusker that has got separated from its herd and has been roaming alone. According to information, the old woman Tuni Munda, 55, wife of Gharisharam Munda, was in her house in Kantara village when the incident took place. Her husband was away at that time.

Tuni was cooking when the rogue elephant barged into the 'kachcha' house after breaking a portion of the wall. The elephant pulled her out and bashed her on the ground. Luckily, however, the impact was not fatal just because there was not enough space to lift her to a height. Meanwhile, Tuni and her neighbours raised an alarm and fortunately someone called the forest squad member Bhairab Mahanata. Mahanata focused the headlight of his bike from a distant and others kept on shouting.

All the commotion scared the elephant and it ran away from the scene. Later Tuni was shifted

to a vehicle and was taken to the local hospital. The doctor there found out that her thigh bone was broken and she was shifted to Koira for further treatment, where her condition was stated to be stable.

This is the fourth attempt by the same elephant to attack the Munda couple's house. All are surprised why it is repeatedly targeting the house. Meanwhile, member of the forest squad Mahanta said, "She will get all the financial help which is due in such cases."

Elephant menace has been haunting the entire Bonai Division for the last month or more. On occasions, elephants even enter the villages during day time. On August 14, two elephants separated from the herd entered Talita and Kansar village under Bonai forest division during the day. The two elephants got separated from their herd some three weeks back during a drive, informed a forest official.

Since then all efforts to unite them or drive them away have failed and the two are creating havoc in the locality. Sometimes they sneak away to Jharkhand and again come back after some days. On August 30 the duo again broke houses in Kuderma and Kileiposh areas.

Sunken French ship Velda poses hidden danger

THE IRON MAST OF THE FRENCH SHIP STILL BECOMES VISIBLE WHEN THE SEA WATER EBBS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Sept 10: A French cargo ship Velda had sunk in Bay of Bengal in 1832 off the coast here in Kendrapara district. The sunken ship has now become an impediment to the movement of boats as the wreckage is yet to be retrieved from sea, a report said Sunday.

The French cargo ship carrying food grains, sugar, liquor, wine and other goods had sunk near Madali sea mouth, some distance away from Hukitola Island under the present Gahirmatha marine sanctuary area. The ship was on its way to Haldia port in Kolkata when it drifted from its route due to the inclement weather and got stuck after hitting a large heap of sand under the sea. The sailors tried



to rescue the ship but in vain as it started sinking.

About 187 years have passed since the mishap, but its wreckage is yet to be retrieved. The iron mast of the French ship is still visible when the sea water recedes. It gets submerged in sea water when there is high tide.

Notably, the Madali sea mouth under Gahirmatha marine sanctuary is the main entry point to the sea.

The wreckage has been posing danger to the fishing boats and trawlers, and tourists visiting the Hukitola island. There have been instances of trawlers and boats colliding with the sunken

ship in the sea, said some fishermen of Jambu, Tubi and Kajalapatia areas. Boats of local fishermen often meet with accidents while venturing into sea for fishing or while returning to shore, fishermen Shaktipad Mirdha, Shankar Mandal, Gurupad Mandal, Gourahari Das, Fani Mandal of Jambu area said.

It is pertinent to mention that most of Odisha was reeling under the grip of great famine during that time and people were dying of starvation in thousands. The British government had imported foodgrains and other essentials like edible oil, coconuts, molasses and flattened rice

through Velda. The ship was on its way to Jambu island where it was to unload the essentials. But as ill luck would have it, the ship sank mid-sea, locals said.

The then British rulers had tried to ascertain the real reason behind the capsizing. They discovered a large sand island at some distance from the place of mishap. They found a large sand dune on the false point of the island and constructed a light house on it. The construction of the light house helped foreign cargo ships and local ships.

Locals said mishaps declined in the sea after the construction of the light house. The foreign and local ships are able to track their routes and move accordingly after the construction of the light house. The country achieved independence in 1947 but the Union government never made any effort to trace or retrieve the wreckage of the ship. Later, some unscrupulous persons and pirates stole the valuable parts of the ship.

A well known scuba diver Sabir Bux tried to probe the

sunken ship and dived into the deep sea near Madali sea mouth in 2009. However, the then ranger Mihir Kumar Pattnaik registered a case against Bux as he had undertaken the exploration without the permission of the Forest department.

Since the ship is posing threat to trawlers and boats, various local outfits and fishermen have been demanding that the administration should take safety measures to get rid of the wreckage in order to ward off accidents of boats, ships and trawlers. They have also suggested that the spot can be marked with floating warning signs around it.

The wrecked ship should be retrieved and kept as showpiece at Hukitola island to draw tourists. Contacted, environmentalist Samarendra Mahali said that Madali sea mouth has stood as the silent witness to the sinking of the French ship in the sea. He said efforts should be made to ascertain the real reason behind the sinking Velda as is being done in the case of famous Titanic that sank in the Atlantic Ocean in 1912.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for notice of the General Public that a Political Party is proposed to be registered by the name of 'Manas Lokshakti Dal'. The office of the party is located at Plot No.4505 (P), Shakti Vihar, Gadhakana, Po - Mancheswar Railway Colony, Bhubaneswar, Dist-Khurda, Odisha - 751017. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951. Name /address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows:
President : Manas Ranjan Das, At -Plot-B/29, P.O.- Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Dist -Khurda, Odisha - 751007.
Vice President - Dipak Ranjan Nayak, Vill-Hirapur, P.O.-Botalamba, Dist-Khurda, Odisha - 752038.
Vice President - Susanta Kumar Behera, At/Po - Nuanantha, Nimapada, Dist-Puri, Odisha - 752105.
General Secretary - Akshay Nayak, Vill-Kankadhada, P.O.- Bangida, Dist-Khurda, Odisha - 752056.
Treasurer - Balkrushna Bhoi, Vill-Alanda, P.O.-Kumarpada, Dist-Puri, Odisha-752105
If anyone has any objection to the registration of 'Manas Lokshakti Dal' they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the Publication of this Notice.

All existence is a manifestation of God.

SRI AUROBINDO



4100 Crore For G20

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was both correct and wrong when he insisted that the decision of Russia's President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping not to participate in the ongoing G20 summit had nothing to do with India. He is right because the absence of the two top world leaders from the forum is a reflection of the fact that the G20 bloc is problematic with internal tension and rift rather than an outright disapproval of India's presidency. At the same time Jaishankar and the government are wrong to project the summit as a momentous event since they are aware of the extremely limited clout the bloc enjoys over influencing world affairs. The Indian government has pointlessly falsified the routine rotational turn of host countries to the event appear as if it were a high point of its leadership in geopolitics. That is why a country-wide publicity campaign was launched with the logo of G20 becoming ubiquitous throughout the country. This has even made the Opposition level the charge that the ruling party is trying to draw propaganda mileage for the coming Lok Sabha elections a few months away. Even if there is truth in the charge, it is only natural that any political party running the government would capitalise on such events for electoral gains. Hence, the BJP is no exception.

It also seems the government is determined to mix the occasion with domestic politics for gaining political advantages at home. This alone explains the unusual decision to drop the country's name - India - which the world is familiar with and use the second name, Bharat instead. This name was not heard of earlier in international events. It has suddenly appeared on the invitation card for a dinner hosted by India's President for G20 summit participants. The government did not stop at that. The country name card placed in front of the Prime Minister at the session itself had only Bharat on it, instead of India, which had always been the case. The Opposition alleges the government has done this as it is scared by the name the alliance of 26 parties has chosen. The bloc's acronym - I.N.D.I.A (Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance) tallies with the country's name. The alliance claims it is working to preserve the country's democratic principles and inclusive politics which are under threat now. The name, it says, so strongly resonates with the people of the country that the BJP government is out to erase the country's name itself and substitute it with the second name that also finds place in the Constitution.

No one expected Putin to show up in New Delhi for the G20 summit. He had been absent from last year's session in Indonesia too. This is because he would not allow the forum to be used for condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine. He did not even risk showing up in South Africa for the recent BRICS summit, despite his friendly relationship with the ruling African National Congress.

But the decision of Xi to skip the Delhi G20 and send Premier Li Qiang in his place, appeared to be a last-minute snub of host nation India. The Chinese leadership seemed to send out the message loud and clear that this summit is not likely to resolve the geopolitical fissures increasingly dividing the two countries.

Xi's absence may also be intended to tell the world that China no longer feels a need to meet with India at the highest level. Beside India, it may also reflect a desire to avoid being forced to endorse or reject statements Xi is uncomfortable with, such as condemnation of its ally Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

Last year's G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia took place in an atmosphere of high tension over the invasion in Ukraine. Putin stayed away but Xi did not. To the surprise of many and thanks partly to the adroit backstage management skills of host President Joko Widodo, the summit was able to produce a joint declaration that all 20 members were able to sign, including Russia. The document was a compromise of sorts as it mentioned "most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine, while there were other views as well."

The global conflict where Russia and China are involved has been exacerbated further. That a joint declaration or a communiqué would be difficult to arrive at was made clear by US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan who said getting an "absolute consensus on a statement on Ukraine is challenging."

However, a "consensus declaration" has finally been made, but it refrains from condemning Russia for the Ukraine war. It is mostly a pious platitude on war and aggression so as not to provoke Russia. This only shows how little the bloc could be effective in addressing global conflict situations where big powers are involved.

In a nutshell, although 4100 crores have reportedly been spent for arrangements, the recently concluded G20 meet has been much smoke and noise without any tangible and beneficial diplomatic or economic fallout for India (that is Bharat) or its people.

WISDOM CORNER

There are always flowers for those who want to see them. HENRI MATISSE

If we're growing, we're always going to be out of our comfort zone. JOHN C. MAXWELL

If you realized how powerful your thoughts are, you would never think a negative thought. PEACE PILGRIM

WORDSWORTH

Nerd

Nerd has become firmly established in the language since its first appearance in print a little over half a century ago but we don't know enough to be sure where it comes from. The Oxford English Dictionary says "Origin uncertain and disputed". It's worth noting that nerd (also nurd) has evolved in meaning. Early on, it meant a dull, unattractive, or offensive person. The associations with obsessive technical expertise and fussy dressing (remember nerd pack for a pocket protector?) only came along in the 1970s - illustrated in the National Lampoon's "Are you a Nurd?" poster of 1977 (see right). Compare and contrast geek, which once had similar links (if you disregard the stories about biting the heads off live chickens in fairground booths) but has largely been rehabilitated. Geeks are intelligent, hugely knowledgeable about a technical subject but able to get ahead in life (Time had a headline in 1995: "The Geek Shall Inherit the Earth"). Nerds are thought to be obsessively good at one thing but poor at anything else. Nerds are geeks with no social skills. There's also knurd, which is drunk backwards. The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute usually gets a mention here, since there are persistent reports that the term was in use there in the 1950s. The joke is one that might have turned up at any time and a version of it is recorded in John Camden Hotten's Dictionary of Modern Slang of 1859. It also appears in Henry Mayhew's London Life and the London Poor of 1851 in the spelling kanurd (which suggests the k wasn't then silent); it seems to have been a popular bit of back slang at this time. Readers of Terry Pratchett know he reinvented knurd in his Discworld fantasy story Sourcery as being "as far on the other side of sober as drunk is on the inebriated side". We can't point to the British English nerker or nurk as being its source because the experts are sure that it's a blend of nerd and berk, the latter being an abbreviated form of the euphemistic rhyming slang Berkshire Hunt. Joyce Melton said that the word has long had another meaning. "Cartoonists, illustrators and other artists have used nerds to mean eraser crumbs for more than sixty years. When I worked at newspapers in the sixties, we had a special brush for getting rid of nerds before inking a drawing because the tiny pieces of rubber would cause blots and blobs on the art." It would be impossible - or at least deeply unwise - to support a claim for any of these words being the direct source.

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

It is official: July was the hottest month on record. Global warming is happening, and its costs continue to mount. The World Meteorological Organisation recently noted that, "Extreme weather, climate and water-related events caused 11,778 reported disasters between 1970 and 2021, with just over 2 million deaths and US\$ 4.3 trillion in economic losses."

Like a pandemic, climate change affects everyone, everywhere. In Canada, the Northwest Territories' capital, Yellowknife, was recently evacuated, as hundreds of wildfires scorched the region, while the United States faces a resurgence of mosquito-borne infectious diseases such as malaria, West Nile virus, and dengue fever. In parts of Asia, severe monsoon rains have caused floods and destroyed livelihoods. In Malawi, two destructive storms compounded a protracted cholera outbreak that claimed more than 1,600 lives. The list goes on. But the effects are not distributed evenly: nine in ten deaths and 60% of economic losses from climate shocks and extreme weather are in developing countries.

The disastrous consequences of climate change are reminiscent of the COVID-19 pandemic, which killed more than six million people, destroyed businesses and livelihoods, and ravaged the world economy. In fact, the global response to COVID-19 - now an ongoing health issue, rather than an emergency - holds important lessons for mitigating global warming.

For starters, climate change constitutes what the World Health Organisation calls a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) and should be treated as such. Global warming certainly meets the WHO's typical definition of a PHEIC: "an extraordinary event



Addressing climate change requires viewing and understanding the global community as one entity

which is determined to constitute a public health risk to other states through the international spread of disease and to potentially require a coordinated international response." But the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), rather than the WHO, is better positioned to lead the charge, since it already provides governments with scientific information to develop climate policies.

Second, the Global South must assume a larger climate leadership role. The underrepresentation of African health leaders in the construction of the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility, for example, dealt a major setback to the global pandemic response. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, together with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and the WHO, had created COVAX to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, but the initiative - which was conceived with a colonial mindset - fell far short of this ideal.

The IPCC has made the same mistake: only a small percentage of the authors of its reports are from Africa. As I have argued elsewhere, leaders from Africa, which bears a disproportionate

burden of the effects of climate change and contributed the least to the global emissions that are driving it, must be at the center of decision-making processes.

Third, governments must take steps to counter misinformation and disinformation. Falsehoods ran rampant during the pandemic, resulting in an infodemic - a surplus of both legitimate and misleading information. With nearly five billion users worldwide, social media platforms accelerated the spread of fake COVID-19 claims. But policymakers and academics could also use them to set the facts straight.

To educate the public about climate change, its consequences, and how to build a greener world, more scientists and other experts should post on social media platforms and engage with other users. Worryingly, of the users who tweeted regularly about global warming and biodiversity, nearly half had become inactive six months after Elon Musk took over Twitter, now called X, and created more space for false information to flourish.

Fourth, all countries should pay their fair share for global response efforts. During the pan-

dem, wealthy countries were encouraged to provide financing to help low- and middle-income countries access COVID-19 vaccinations, tests, and medicines, with mixed results.

Similarly, wealthy countries bear a moral responsibility to provide climate aid to poorer countries, owing to their historical emissions. Last year, the COP27 took an important step in this direction with the creation of a loss and damage fund for developing countries facing the effects of global warming. But as commendable as this measure was, vulnerable countries must also improve governance and combat corruption to mitigate climate change.

Lastly, hoarding is futile when tackling crises that are truly global in scope. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries in the Global North exacerbated inequity by stockpiling personal protective equipment, tests, vaccines, and therapeutics, and by clinging to intellectual-property protections. Yet infectious diseases do not respect borders; nor does climate change. Every country in the world is experiencing its devastating consequences, albeit in different forms.

Addressing climate change requires viewing and understanding the global community as one entity. My tribe in Nigeria, the Igbo, has a phrase that underscores the importance of acting collectively: Igwèbùkè. It means "we are stronger together when we are united." The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the necessity of an equitable model of global governance if we are to have any hope of bequeathing a healthy planet to future generations.

The writer is a Senior New Voices Fellow at the Aspen Institute.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM TECHNOLOGY

AI in energy: A double-edged sword

In recent years, the energy industry has undergone a transformative shift with the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies. This fusion has not only redefined operational practices but has also sparked a new era of sustainable energy solutions. From optimising energy production to enhancing distribution systems, AI has become a cornerstone in driving efficiency, reducing costs, and mitigating environmental impact. One of the primary applications of AI in the energy sector lies in predictive maintenance. Traditional maintenance practices often lead to unplanned downtime and increased operational costs. However, AI-driven predictive maintenance uses advanced algorithms to analyse data from sensors, enabling operators to forecast equipment failures and conduct proactive repairs. This not only ensures uninterrupted energy production but also prolongs the lifespan of machinery, reducing overall environmental footprint.

Renewable energy sources have also greatly benefited from AI's capabilities. Solar and wind power generation, for instance, heavily depend on weather conditions. AI algorithms analyse historical data and real-time weather forecasts to optimise the operation of renewable energy systems. By accurately predicting cloud cover or wind pat-

terns, AI helps balance energy production and consumption, making renewable sources more reliable and stable.

The smart grid is another area where AI has made substantial contributions. Modernising the grid with AI enhances its efficiency and responsiveness. AI algorithms process massive amounts of data from various sources, including power consumption patterns, weather forecasts, and electricity prices. This enables the grid to dynamically adjust energy distribution, reducing wastage and ensuring steady supply of power.

Moreover, AI aids in development of energy-efficient buildings and urban planning. Building management systems powered by AI continuously monitor occupancy, lighting, and heating/cooling requirements. By adapting energy usage based on real-time data, these systems minimise energy wastage and decrease overall consumption. Furthermore, AI-assisted urban planning optimises infrastructure design, minimising energy demands in densely populated areas.

The exploration and extraction of fossil fuels also stand to gain from AI integration. In oil and gas drilling, AI-driven algorithms analyse seismic data to identify potential drilling locations, increasing the accuracy of resource discovery. AI-powered robots are

used in hazardous environments, such as offshore drilling rigs, minimising human risks.

AI's impact on energy consumption extends to consumer-level applications as well. Smart home devices, enabled by AI, learn and adapt to homeowners' energy consumption patterns. These devices autonomously regulate heating, cooling, and lighting, leading to reduced energy bills and lower carbon footprints. Moreover, electric vehicle charging stations leverage AI to manage peak loads, ensuring efficient use of electricity and preventing strain on the grid.

An exemplary case of AI's transformative power can be seen in the wind energy sector. Danish energy company Ørsted utilised AI algorithms to optimise the operations of its offshore wind farms. By analysing data from turbines, weather forecasts, and maintenance records, the company increased energy production by 5%, equivalent to powering an additional 10,000 homes. Such advancements underscore AI's potential to drive innovation and efficiency across the industry.

While AI's integration into the energy sector has brought about remarkable advancements, ethical and regulatory considerations must be addressed. Data privacy, algorithm transparency, and accountability are critical factors that require attention.

Ensuring that AI systems are fair, unbiased, and secure is essential to maintaining public trust and fostering responsible innovation.

The integration of AI in the energy industry has brought positive impacts, but potential drawbacks exist. Job displacement due to AI's sophistication raises concern for workforce disruption. AI's effectiveness depends on vast data, prompting worries about data privacy and ethical handling by energy companies. Overreliance on AI may sideline human expertise, making the industry vulnerable to AI failures. Maintaining a balance between AI and human knowledge is essential for a robust energy sector.

In a nutshell, AI's integration into the energy industry offers numerous opportunities for innovation, efficiency gains, and sustainability improvements. However, it's crucial to address the potential negative consequences such as job displacement, data privacy concerns, biases in AI algorithms, and the energy consumption of AI systems. Responsible and mindful deployment of AI technology can maximise its benefits while minimising adverse effects.

The writer is Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute of Energy policy and Research, Universiti Tenaga Nasional, Malaysia.



Malayaranjan Sahoo

RESPONSIBLE AND MINDFUL DEPLOYMENT OF AI TECHNOLOGY CAN MAXIMISE ITS BENEFITS WHILE MINIMISING ADVERSE EFFECTS

Win-win situation

Sir, Finally, the cat is out of the bag. BJP's tallest leader in Karnataka BS Yediyurappa has confirmed the BJP-JD(S) alliance in the state for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The BJP high command has agreed to give 4 out of the 28 seats to the JD(S). It is assumed that Hassan, where the JD(S) won last time will be allocated to the party whereas Tumakur, Kolar and Mandya, that have a considerable Vokkaliga population, the power base of the party, will be the other three. For former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, this election is a question of survival because the party is on the verge of being decimated by Congress that has made significant inroads into the Vokkaliga votes. For the BJP, every seat counts, and after being humiliated in the May Assembly elections, the party appears to be in no mood to take chances. Therefore, it is a win-win situation for both the parties.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

India story

Sir, G20 Summit has been a grand success in India. Bilateralism, climate change, impact of Russia-Ukraine war on the globe and financial inclusion were the top agendas for this Summit. India is a nuclear power, has a powerful economy, is technologically advanced and still a developing country. It has all the qualities of P5 countries. India is a pacifist country. "No first use of nuclear arsenal" is our mantra. It is astonishing to believe that in spite of fulfilling all criteria, India finds no place in P5.

Prabhudutt Dash, BHUBANESWAR

Set agenda

Sir, I think, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has rightly written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to fix the agenda of the special session of Parliament to be held from September 18. In the fitness of things, the government ought to have listed the agenda to get the Opposition leaders prepared to participate in the discussions. It is also the duty of the Speaker to prepare the agenda in consultation with the Prime Minister: The Congress parliamentary party chief Sonia Gandhi wants 9 issues to be discussed during the special session of Parliament, the demand of which should be honoured.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

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UP students to learn basics of coding, AI from next year

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 10: The Uttar Pradesh education department will now teach the basics of coding, computational thinking and artificial intelligence (AI) to over 50 lakh students of Classes 6-8 in around 45,000 state-run schools.

The course will be introduced from the 2024-25 academic session. Developed by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), the course will be a part of the science subject. SCERT has already prepared the books for all three classes that will soon be launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Once considered as a skill reserved for tech savvy people,



coding and computer programming has now emerged as one of the crucial tools for the development of overall personality of students. Coding plat-

forms have now become an integral part of learning at the school level. Considering the importance of technology in today's competitive world, cod-

As part of the course, Class 6 students will learn Microsoft word, programming, python and other basics of computer science

Students of Classes 7-8 will learn networking and cyber security, logical thinking, Microsoft excel, data and AI

ing has been mandated under NEP-2020 from Class 6 onwards.

As part of the course, Class 6 students will learn Microsoft word, programming, python and other basics of computer science. Students of Classes 7-8 will learn networking and cyber security, logical thinking, Microsoft excel, data and AI.

SCERT director Pawan Sachan said: "Introducing coding and increasing exposure to technology at a young age will go a long

way in helping the youth lead the way to a new world of innovation and creativity, thus, giving children the opportunity to set their own goals and reach new heights." After developing books, SCERT is now in the process of finalising training modules for master trainers who will train teachers at district level.

Director general school education Vijay Kiran Anand said: "Following the mandate of NEP, SCERT is working with experts and organisations to ensure introduction of content and curriculum for future, training of teachers and regular assessment for financial intelligence, business intelligence, coding, and AI. This will make government school students more competitive."

BJP woos Dalit vote bank with 'labharthi' pitch



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Lucknow, Sept 10: The Dalit politics in Uttar Pradesh is all set to play out in full force for the Lok Sabha elections and this time without the Bahujan Samaj Party occupying centrestage.

The ruling BJP and its allies are already working overtime to make a further dent in the Dalit vote bank.

The BJP plans to continue to woo the 'labharthi' with sops and has deployed its foot soldiers to create greater awareness about welfare schemes launched by the Central and state governments for the weaker sections.

Dalits form a large chunk of 'labharthi' (beneficiaries of government schemes) and supported the BJP in the 2022 assembly elections which led to the decimation of the Bahujan Samaj Party. The BSP was left with just one seat in the House of 403 members - the party hit rock bottom with this election.

The main problem with the BSP is that the party does not have any second rung leadership left that could be accessible to its voters.

Mayawati remains locked in her ivory tower and her nephew Akash Anand is equally unwilling to reach out to party cadres. As a result, the grass-root workers in the BSP are moving towards other parties. The BSP has also not taken the trou-

ble of visiting the homes of those Dalits who have faced atrocities in the past few years.

Meanwhile, even as the BJP focuses on OBC sub-castes and Dalits to improve its tally in 2024, the Samajwadi Party is working on its PDA strategy which targets 'Pichhda, Dalits, Alpasankhyak'.

The SP is using leaders like Swami Prasad Maurya to chip away at the BJP's inclusive 'Hindu First' policy and statements against the 'Sanatan Dharma' and Ramcharitmanas are a part of the strategy.

Maurya is already drawing the ire of the upper caste Hindus in his party but SP president Akhilesh Yadav has not yet reined him in which makes it obvious that Maurya is working on the party strategy.

The Samajwadi Party plans to wean away Dalit voters with help from Dalit leaders of the BSP who have joined the SP and these include the likes of Swami Prasad Maurya, Lalji Varma, Inderjit Saroj.

The party is using cases of Dalit atrocities to highlight the anti-Dalit mentality of the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh, with the Hathras rape case being the focal point.

The Congress, on the other hand, is also banking on 'borrowed' leaders from the BSP like Naseemuddin Siddiqui and Nakul Dubey to win back its Dalit support.

B'lore police get over 15K SIM cards used by fraudsters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 10: The city police have identified and blocked in the last three weeks more than 15,000 SIM cards used by fraudsters to cheat residents of Bangalore, in a bid to curb cybercrime.

The police action came after a surge in cases of cybercrime registered across its city limits, they said Saturday.

According to the police, a special drive was started August 16 with an aim to check incidents of cybercrime in the city. As part of the initiative, the police have managed to identify and get blocked 15,378 SIM cards from August 16 to September 7. Most of these SIM cards were found to be operational in northern India and were used by fraudsters to cheat residents of Bengaluru through various fraudulent modus operandi.

"Since January this year, there has been a surge in cases related to cybercrimes and we received a lot of complaints where the victims shared contact numbers through which they were approached by fraudsters with various schemes and were ultimately duped by them. So, we identified these numbers, verified it and got them blocked immediately," he said.

Fight for LS polls in K'taka warms up

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Sept 10: As the BJP and the JD (S) inch closer to an alliance in Karnataka, the fight in the Lok Sabha elections has intensified. The Congress government which was having a dream run following implementation of its guarantee schemes in the state will now face stiff competition.

Political analyst Channabasappa Rudrappa told IANS that the entry of the JD(S) into the NDA is seen as a turning point in Karnataka politics. It is being viewed as a morale booster for the BJP and JD(S) leaders, who had become almost irrelevant in state politics after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's emergence as a formidable leader.

"The JD (S) may regain its 5 percent vote share in the Vokkaliga belt. The Vokkaligas always vote strategically. In the 2002 parliamentary by-election in Kanakapura, they supported Deve Gowda, a JD(S) leader, as their caste man SM Krishna was already the chief minister of the state."

"Here in Bangalore SM Krishna, there in Delhi Deve Gowda" was their slogan. They will follow this strategy this time too. They want to see Kumaraswamy in the Union cabinet if the NDA comes back to power," Rudrappa said.



The Congress leadership which bombarded the opposition leaders with taunts following its thumping victory in the assembly elections will have to watch out for the opposition BJP and JD (S) forming a bloc

Political analysts are divided on the political gains and whether the alliance will have an impact on the influential Vokkaliga vote bank in south Karnataka

The Congress managed to wrest a five per cent vote share in the south Karnataka districts considered as bastions of the JD (S)

Former BJP MLC Captain Ganesh Karnik told IANS that, as a political party we have the interest of the common man as a priority. Since winning the assembly elections, the Congress has only one strategy -- to destroy Karnataka.

To save Karnataka from mis-governance and to ensure that people get justice, whether it is the Cauvery water issue or the economy, we welcome the JD (S) joining us and also to ensure that the good work being done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji continues, Karnik stated. Journalist B. Samiulla told

IANS that, in the last Lok Sabha elections in 2019, the Congress and the JD (S) had an understanding. Both the parties got one seat each while the BJP managed to win 25 out of 28 seats.

The alliance at the level of leaders will have to get converted at the level of workers as well. Now the BJP and the JD (S) are forming a bloc. However it is to be seen how it will work out.

For instance, the BJP will have to give the Hassan Lok Sabha seat. BJP leader Preetam Gowda is a sworn enemy of the Deve Gowda family and will he support the JD (S) can-

Private transporters' bandh in B'lore today

The federation comprises a total of 32 private transport associations, and most of the private transport services are unlikely to be available starting from midnight today to midnight Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 10: Lakhs of private vehicles including autos, taxis, maxi cabs, goods vehicles and corporate buses could stay off the roads on Monday, making commuting difficult for school students and office-goers, among others, as the Federation of the Karnataka State Private Transport Associations has called for a 'bandh'

The federation comprises a total of 32 private transport associations, and most of the private transport services are unlikely to be available starting from midnight today to midnight Monday.

As private maxi cabs are one of the main modes of transport for several school children, some schools in the city have declared a holiday Monday to avoid inconvenience to students, official



sources said.

Those commuting to the airport would need to find alternative means as well. The federation has called for bandh seeking a ban on bike taxis, and urging the government to extend the Shakti scheme - that offers free bus rides to women on state-run transport buses - to private buses as well, among other demands. The private transporters have claimed that they have been negatively impacted by the Shakti scheme and that the state government has not fulfilled their demands despite repeated discussions.

About 7 to 10 lakh vehicles including autos, taxis, airport taxis, maxi cabs, goods vehicles, school vehicles, also stage carriages, contract carriages and corporate buses, will go off the roads tomorrow, S Nataraj Sharma, president of the federation said. Federation office bearers have said that they have organised a protest march from Sangolli Rayanna circle to Freedom Park in the city as part of the bandh. The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) will run more bus trips and services in the city and also to Kempegowda International Airport Monday to mitigate the inconvenience caused to the public by the bandh.



Farmers pack dragon fruits in crates in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

Dispute over Karnataka govt's scheme for minority community

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Sept 10: The Karnataka government's scheme to provide ₹3 lakh financial assistance to minority community for purchasing taxi or goods vehicles has created a controversy.

Union Minister for State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics and Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar slamming the Congress government in the state, said, "Here comes another example of shameless, lazy, appeasement politics by Rahul's Congress in Karnataka."

"Buy a vehicle for ₹6 lakh, using 50 per cent subsidy, sell it the next day for ₹5 lakh. Cool profit of ₹2 lakh. Only available for non-Hindus and does not in-

clude poor deprived Hindu communities," he said.

"Shameless bribing of a community by using public resources meant for all Kannadigas. Brazen discrimination and violation of Article 14 of Constitution from a party that goes abroad and talks of Bharat's Constitution being under threat."

"State sponsored Conversion inducement. This is the appeasement and corrupt politics of dynasts UPA and I.N.D.I.A alliance," Chandrasekhar said.

Responding to Chandrasekhar, state Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "You are forgetting that this scheme was there even during your BJP government. Don't let your blind hatred for the minorities make you look like a fool. Correct your stupid tweet."

LATHI-CHARGE ON LAWYERS

Allahabad HC sets up special committee for probe

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

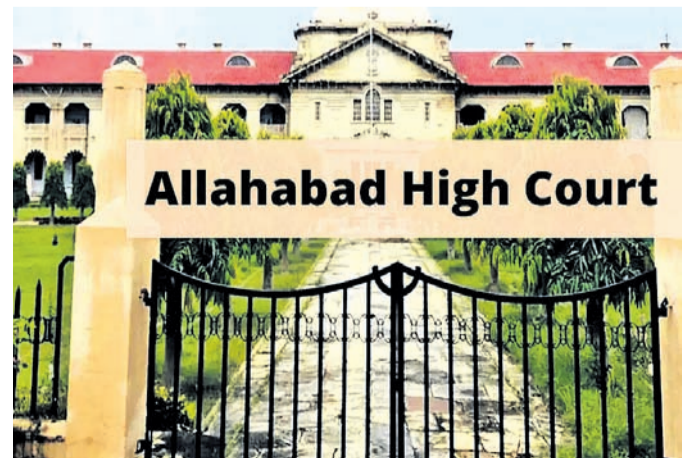
Prayagraj, Sept 10: The Allahabad High Court has formed a committee to look into the recent incident of police lathi charge on lawyers in Uttar Pradesh's Hapur district.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Pritinker Diwaker and Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi, in a special sitting Saturday, also referred to this committee an application filed by the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh containing grievances by lawyers over the incident. The committee looking into the matter would be headed by a

sitting Allahabad High Court judge, Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta.

The other members of the committee are Justices Rajan Roy and Mohd. Faiz Alam Khan, the Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh or his nominee, the chairperson of the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh and the president of the High Court Bar Association.

The court also directed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) already constituted by the state government to inform the bench about what action has been taken on the first information reports



(FIRs) lodged by the lawyers in the matter.

The issue has its genesis in a protest held by lawyers over a

police case filed against an advocate, Priyanka Tyagi. The protest is stated to have led to a lathi-charge by the police against

advocates in Hapur last month.

The Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh later resolved to abstain from judicial work August 30 and later for a further period of three days September 4, 5 and 6 over the issue.

The High Court eventually took suo motu cognisance of the ongoing strike.

On September 4, the Court directed the Uttar Pradesh government to include a retired judicial officer, Hari Nath Pandey as a member of the SIT looking into the matter.

The matter will be heard next on September 15.

Senior Advocate Anoop Trivedi along with advocates Abhinav Gaur and Vibhu Rai appeared for the Bar Council of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday.



A US Navy landing craft takes part in an amphibious landing operation at the Super Garuda Shield multi-national military exercise in Situbondo, East Java, Indonesia, Sunday. Thousands of military personnel from the United States, Indonesia and other allied forces showcased their armor capabilities Sunday in combat drills on the Indonesian island of Java as China takes more aggressive actions in the region



Tourists take ropeway ride in Mussoorie



UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak with wife Akshata Murthy offers prayers at the Akshardham Temple in New Delhi



Participants during oxen race competition, at Perumanna in Kozhikode



CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat with children during an event in Hyderabad



CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat takes part in procession organised by the party to observe Telangana Rebellion anniversary in Hyderabad



National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets during a training camp at Nagrota, on the outskirts of Jammu

national

of the day quote

BJP and JD(S) may come together to fight 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Karnataka, but they will not be able to suppress Congress' prospects in the state

The Election Commission of India will give the right decision about the NCP

Attacking the 'Sanatan Dharma' has become a 'fashion' for the 'frustrated fraternity' but the 'blasphemous bankruptcy' of the 'Sanatan bashing brigade' will backfire

SHORT TAKES

Man stabbed to death in Delhi

New Delhi: A 25-year-old man was stabbed to death by his inebriated friend in south Delhi's Kishangarh when he tried to stop him from assaulting his wife, police said Sunday. The accused, identified as Mingchang alias Jimmy, has been arrested, they added. The incident took place around 4.30 am on Saturday at the house of the victim, Robin Shrestha (25), a resident of Munirka, who has been staying with his live-in partner for the last two years. Robin worked at a call centre in Noida. A PCR call about the stabbing incident was received at the Kishangarh police station Saturday, following which a team was dispatched to the spot and the accused was nabbed.

Elephant found dead in Raigarh

Raigarh: An elephant died allegedly of electrocution on a farm in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district Sunday, an official said. The carcass of a male elephant, aged around 40-45 years, was found with the tusks intact near Medarmar village around 4 am, said Abhishek Jogawat, division forest officer of Dharamjaigarh division.

12-yr-old boy dies

Jalpaiguri (WB): A 12-year-old boy was killed Sunday after being run over by a vehicle in West Bengal's Jalpaiguri, triggering a protest by locals who torched the goods carrier, police said. The accident occurred in Debinagar area under the Maynaguri Police Station limits when the occupant of the goods vehicle, who was trying to learn to drive on a school ground, ran over the Class 7 student, a senior officer said.

5 killed in Thane

Thane: At least five persons were killed when a lift in a high-rise located in Thane city of Maharashtra collapsed Sunday evening, a civic official said. Yasin Tadvi, who heads the disaster management cell of Thane Municipal Corporation, said the building where the incident occurred is located on Ghodbunder Road.

Boy dies of dengue

Chennai: A 4-year-old boy died here Sunday of dengue fever, prompting political leaders to call out the "negligence" of the ruling DMK government and urging it to take preventive measures to halt the spread of the virus. Principal opposition party AIADMK and Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) condemned the incident and urged the health department to step up awareness on dengue.



INDIA alliance is very strong. This is the reason for the BJP's panic. This is the reason that the BJP wants to change the name of the country

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

JAWAN'S BODY FOUND ON TRACKS

In a shocking incident, the body of an Army jawan, 33, hailing from Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur, was found near the tracks in Punjab's Ambala. The jawan's wife received a message on WhatsApp which said, "I have sent your husband to God, Pakistan Zindabad. If the Indian Army can save its soldiers, then save them"



MODI CALLS FOR UNSC REFORM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday made a renewed push for expansion of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and reforms in global institutions to reflect world's "new realities", as the G20 Summit concluded here with world leaders lauding India's presidency for ensuring several tangible outcomes.

Marking the ceremonial transfer of the rotational G20 presidency, Prime Minister Modi handed over the gavel to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who hailed India for giving voice to topics of interests of emerging economies. Lula also said the UN Security Council needs new developing countries as permanent and non-permanent members to regain political strength and greater representation for emerging countries at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In his concluding remarks at the final session of the two-day G20 Summit, the prime minister also proposed a virtual session of the G20 around the end of November to take stock of the suggestions and decisions made by the leaders of the major developed and developing countries here. "With this (proposal), I declare the G20 Summit as closed," Modi said.

Modi, who noted that India's presidency of G20 would offi-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulates Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva while handing him over the presidency of G20 after the closing session of the G20 Summit at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi, Sunday

cially continue till November 30 and that over two-and-half months were left for its tenure as the head of the grouping, cited a Sanskrit shloka to pray for hope and peace in the entire world.

Official sources, meanwhile, said the text relating to Russia-Ukraine conflict in the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration is a "convergent consensus" rather than a "divisive consensus" and it could show a path to a resolution of the crisis, a day after a breakthrough on the contentious issue was achieved to help the G20 leaders come out with a 37-page Declaration marking a huge

diplomatic win for India.

India achieved '100 per cent' consensus on developmental and geo-political issues in the Declaration, which avoided mentioning the Russian invasion of Ukraine and made a general call to all states to follow the principle of respecting each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Addressing the 'One Future' session at the summit, Modi said it is necessary the global bodies should reflect the "new realities" to lead the world towards a better future. "In order to take the world towards a better future, it is necessary that the

global systems are according to the present realities. Today, the 'United Nations Security Council' is also an example of this. When the UN was established, the world was completely different from what it is today. At that time there were 51 founding members in the UN. Today the number of countries included in the UN is around 200," Modi said.

"Despite this, the number of permanent members in the UNSC remains the same. The world has since changed a lot in every aspect. Be it transport, communication, health and education, every sector has been transformed. These new realities should reflect in our new global structure." The UNSC has five permanent members—the US, China, France, Britain and Russia.

Pitching for reforms, Modi said this was why a historic initiative was made on Saturday by granting the 55-nation African Union (AU) permanent membership of the G20.

"Similarly, we also need to expand the mandate of multilateral development banks. Our decisions in this direction should be immediate and effective," said Modi, who also led G20 leaders in a symbolic tree plantation ceremony at the swanky convention centre Bharat Mandapam to mark the 18th summit of the grouping which was established after the 1999 Asian financial crisis.

Priyanka slams BJP



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot felicitates AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during a public rally in Tonk district, Rajasthan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Sept 10: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra flayed the BJP-led government at the Centre Sunday, saying its policies are meant to benefit the rich and not the poor.

Addressing a Congress rally at Niwai in Tonk district in poll-bound Rajasthan, Priyanka Gandhi alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi goes on foreign trips and strikes deals for his 'industrialist friends'.

"Modi comes back from abroad and says our (India's) respect has gone up. Later, we get to know that he made deals for his industrialist friends," she said. For everything, he keeps the interests of his industrialist friends above that of the public, she said. The Congress general secretary alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) only focus is to remain in power, whereas the poor and middle class are being neglected.

Referring to "waterlogging" at the venue of the G20 Summit in Delhi, she took a swipe at the prime minister and said, "Perhaps, the god has said what the people of our country are not able to say out of fear - reduce your ego, this country has made you a leader, put the country first, make the people supreme."

The Assembly polls in Rajasthan are due later this year. The Congress leader said politicians should have the same kind of respect for people that people

display when they go to temples. "It is important for the public and the leaders to understand this. When people assume power, their ambitions get ahead of them," she said.

Priyanka Gandhi said the BJP leaders have become so arrogant that they have forgotten these things. She said when houses were damaged due to rain in Himachal Pradesh, the price of cement, needed to reconstruct the structures, was increased by the Adani Group and the rates of apples were decreased when farmers went to sell those.

She alleged that this happened at the behest of the prime minister.

"The prime minister, who used to call himself a 'bhumi putra', is moving in a convoy worth crores," Priyanka Gandhi said.

She said the oil companies have made huge profits, but the prices of fuel are still very high and inflation is skyrocketing.

The Congress leader said when people were struggling with inflation, the Rajasthan government organised relief camps.

"Why has this situation arisen in the country that the state government had to organise inflation relief camps? Why is fuel so expensive when the companies are earning profits? You will have to raise these questions," she said.

She also hit out at the Modi government over the Agniveer scheme for recruitment into the armed forces.

Naidu sent to judicial custody for 14 days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Sept 10: After a local court in Vijayawada remanded TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu in judicial custody for 14 days in an alleged multi-crore corruption scam Sunday, he is being taken amid tight security to Rajamahendravaram Central Prison, 200 km away from Vijayawada.

Soon after the court came out with the order, the Telugu Desam Party called for a statewide bandh on Monday in protest against the arrest of its leader.

In a pre-dawn operation on



Saturday at Nandyal, officers knocked on the door of the caravan in which Naidu was sleeping and arrested him for his alleged role in the Skill Development Corporation scam. He was termed "principal conspirator" in the case. The former CM was arrested by the CID around 6 am on Saturday from outside a marriage hall, where his caravan was parked, at Gnanapuram in Nandyal. After an arrest saga of more than 36 hours, the ACB Court gave the remand order around 6:50 pm on Sunday evening.

TMC hits out at WB Governor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 10: After West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose sent two sealed letters to the Centre and the state government at midnight, the ruling TMC Sunday lashed out at him, accusing him of "deliberately adopting a confrontationalist approach on behalf of the BJP".

The BJP, on the other hand, accused the ruling party in the state of "humiliating the governor by attacking him for his efforts to clean up the mess in the state's education system".

TMC Rajya Sabha MP Santanu Sen said the governor's latest act of sending confidential letters at midnight stems from his wish to be in the



"good books of BJP with an eye on a plum posting in New Delhi as a reward".

"The governor is destroying the state's higher education sector by violating all rules, statutes and constitutional provisions. Despite the state pointing out the anomalies in his action, he appears nonchalant and has adopted a confronta-

The BJP accused the ruling party in the state of 'humiliating the Governor by attacking him for his efforts to clean up the mess in the state's education system'

tionist stance because of the support of BJP," Sen said.

TMC state spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that the governor's penchant to becoming hyper-active in midnight hours requires notice.

"It is clear he is acting at someone's behest and is not listening to anybody else," he said.

Aditya L1 completes 3rd earth-bound manoeuvre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

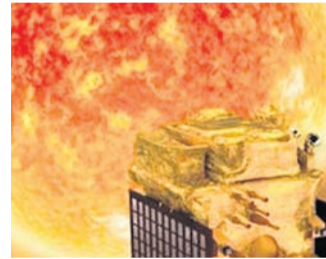
Bangalore, Sept 10: Aditya L1 spacecraft, India's first space-based mission to study the Sun, successfully underwent its third earth-bound manoeuvre in the early hours of Sunday, ISRO said.

The space agency's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) carried out the operation. "The third Earth-bound manoeuvre (EBN#3) is performed successfully from ISTRAC, Bengaluru. ISRO's ground stations at Mauritius, Bengaluru,

SDSC-SHAR and Port Blair tracked the satellite during this operation," the ISRO said in a post on social media platform X.

The new orbit attained is 296 km x 71767 km, it said, adding the next manoeuvre is scheduled on September 15, around 2 am. Aditya-L1 is the first Indian space-based observatory that will study the Sun from a halo orbit around the first Sun-Earth Lagrangian point (L1), which is located roughly 1.5 million km from the Earth.

The first and second earth-bound manoeuvres were successfully performed on



September 3 and 5, respectively. The spacecraft will undergo one more earth-bound orbital manoeuvres before it is placed in the transfer orbit towards the Lagrange point L1.

The manoeuvres are required to be performed during the spacecraft's 16-day journey around the earth, during which it will gain the velocity necessary for its onward journey to L1.

ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C57) had on September 2 successfully launched Aditya-L1 from the Second Launch Pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The spacecraft is expected to arrive at the intended orbit at the L1 point after about 127 days, the space agency had said soon after the launch.

According to ISRO, a space-

craft placed in the halo orbit around the L1 point has the advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation or eclipses. This will provide a greater advantage of observing solar activities and their effect on space weather in real-time.

Aditya-L1 carries seven scientific payloads developed indigenously by the ISRO and national research laboratories, including the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, and the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune.



Special session may spring surprises

Even as ruling BJP and INDIA parties slug it out on the India that is Bharat, the Congress has adopted a cautious approach sensing it could boomerang on the Opposition. After all, it is envisaged by the makers of the Constitution that Bharat can be used if an invite is to be sent in Hindi and India be used if it is English. Many legal luminaries assisting the Congress have also cautioned the party leadership that the party should not follow in the trap of the BJP on this issue. They said using Bharat is not illegal. The problem may arise when the government

officially proposes to remove India completely. Since it will require a 2/3 majority in both houses of Parliament, perhaps the government may opt for slight delay on the nomenclature issue. The fact that the government has not announced any agenda for the special session has only added to the speculation. PM Modi is more keen to ensure the "One Nation One Poll" issue be brought before Parliament. But it is unlikely that ex-President Ram Nath Kovind headed committee will be able to submit its report before the Special session though this committee has reports of four such committees for ready reference. Even if the report is submitted, it may be a long shot for the "One Nation One Poll" bill to be ready by September 18-19 for circulation during the special session.

Udhayanidhi in deep trouble

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has never been seen making comments on controversial issues and ducks them for days, weeks and even months

together. For example, he has not reacted to the ethnic crisis in Manipur even after hundreds of deaths and violent clashes. But in the case of remarks made by Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi, the Prime Minister made a rare response. In his first reaction to the Sanatan Dharma controversy, the PM has said the remarks of Udhayanidhi "needs proper response". It is not immediately clear who will respond properly as desired by the PM. Will it be Governor of Tamil Nadu or the ministers. Under the provisions of the Constitution, the Governor of Tamil Nadu can issue notice to the minister concerned and withdraw his pleasure to continue as minister and sack him unilaterally. Governors have powers under the constitution to sack ministers who serve in the government as long as they enjoy the pleasure of the Governor.

Centre doesn't have data of internet shutdown

Out of 187 internet shutdowns globally recorded by Access Now, 84

took place in India. Out of 84 shut downs, 49 in Jammu and Kashmir, said an international agency. But the government made it clear that as per the seventh schedule of the Constitution, police and public order are State subjects. Therefore, the states are responsible and empowered to issue orders for temporary suspension of internet service to maintain law and order in the State or part thereof under the provisions contained in the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017. The government also made it clear that the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) also does not maintain records pertaining to internet shutdowns ordered by the states. However, it said that the permissions granted for internet shutdown to Delhi Police have been made available on MHA website as Delhi is a Union Territory. Interestingly, the government made it clear that it's not maintaining authentic information regarding internet shutdown.

Modi's bait to Opposition-ruled states

Strange it may sound but true. The Central government's move to amend the Mines & Mineral Amendment Act passed in Parliament amid ruckus, has benefited a majority of non-NDA ruled states. Be it Bihar, Jharkhand, Telangana, Odisha, Kerala or West Bengal; are all mineral rich states and have been unable to extract value due to one reason or the other for decades. The new act makes it easier for them to harness the massive potential of rare minerals and reap the harvest. Of the 107 identified such mines, the states were permitted to auction only 19 of them. The Centre is set to auction 88 mines containing critical lithium-bearing minerals, beryl and other beryllium-bearing minerals, titanium-bearing minerals and ores, and zirconium-bearing minerals through a competitive bidding process. But the revenue from the auction will not go to the Union government's coffers. The money will be transferred to the state governments.

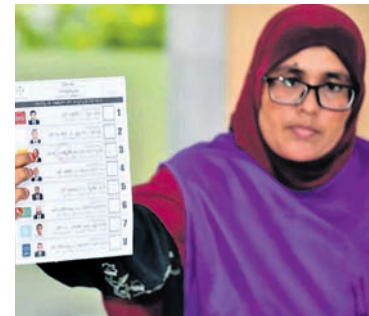
international



Russia, Ukraine and Turkey are going to continue to discuss the grain deal
TAYYIP ERDOGAN | TURKISH PRESIDENT

MALDIVIAN PREZ ELECTION HEADS FOR A CRUCIAL RUNOFF

Maldivians will return to the polls September 30 to vote in a runoff election between the top two candidates in the country's presidential race after neither secured more than 50% in the first round, the elections commission said Sunday



of the day quote

I welcome the statement that was released today by the United States, India, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and the European Union, as well as France, Italy and Germany



BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

It's too early to say whether the counter-offensive had failed, but Ukraine was progressing at a very steady pace through the Russian front lines



MARK MILLEY | US ARMY CHIEF GENERAL

I'm thinking of conducting a personnel change of party leadership and of the cabinet as early as the 13th



FUMIO KISHIDA | JAPANESE PM

SHORT TAKES

Putin discusses Niger crisis with Mali leader

Kyiv: Russian President Vladimir Putin Sunday held a phone call with the interim leader of Mali, Assimi Goita, and discussed topics including anti-terrorism efforts and the crisis in Mali's neighbour Niger, the Kremlin said in a statement. According to the statement, the two leaders agreed that the crisis in Niger, where a July coup ousted President Mohammed Bazoum, could only be resolved by diplomatic means.

6 killed, 50 hurt in Pak bus mishap

Lahore: An overloaded speeding bus carrying Christian pilgrims for a religious gathering overturned while taking a turn in Pakistan's Punjab province on Sunday, killing at least six people and injuring 50 others. The accident took place in Sheikhpura, some 50 km from Lahore. According to rescue officials, the bus was carrying Christian pilgrims to the religious gathering at the National Marian Shrine in Mariamabad when it overturned while taking a turn at Khanika Dogran, Sheikhpura.

2 aid workers dead in Russian strikes

Kyiv: Two foreign aid workers were reportedly killed in eastern Ukraine Sunday as Russian shelling hit a van carrying a team of four working with a Ukrainian NGO, while dozens of Russian drones targeted Kyiv and wounded at least one civilian. The four volunteers from the Road to Relief NGO, which helps evacuate wounded people from front-line areas, were trapped inside the van as it flipped over and caught fire after being struck by shells near the town of Chasiv Yar, the organisation said on its Instagram page.

Madagascar President quits

Antananarivo: Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina has resigned after he was officially confirmed as a candidate in the Indian Ocean Island nation's presidential elections scheduled for November 9, according to the country's constitutional court. Madagascar's constitution requires a sitting head of state who wants to contest a presidential election to first resign. Rajoelina sent his resignation letter to the court Saturday following confirmation of his candidature in the elections, the High Constitutional Court said in a statement late Saturday.

Morocco survivors seek aid

MOROCCO HAS DECLARED THREE DAYS OF NATIONAL MOURNING AFTER A DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE LATE FRIDAY NIGHT CLAIMED THE LIVES OF 2,000 PEOPLE

AGENCIES

Moulay Brahim, Morocco, Sept 10: Survivors of Morocco's deadliest earthquake in more than six decades struggled to find food and water Sunday as the search for the missing continued in hard-to-reach villages and the death toll of more than 2,000 seemed likely to rise further.

Many people spent a second night in the open after the 6.8 magnitude quake hit late on Friday. Relief workers face the challenge of reaching the worst-affected villages in the High Atlas, a rugged mountain range where settlements are often remote and where many houses crumbled.

Moroccan media reported the collapse of a historically important 12th century mosque, underlining damage to the country's cultural heritage. The quake also damaged parts of Marrakech old city, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

In Moulay Brahim, a village near the epicentre 40 km (25 miles) south of Marrakech, residents described how they had dug the dead from the rubble using their bare hands.

Later, sacks of food were unloaded from a truck which local official Mouhamad al-Hayyan said had been organised by the government and civil society organisations.

Twenty-five bodies had been brought to Moulay Brahim's small medical clinic, according to staff there who warned they were starting to face a shortage of some first aid supplies.

With many homes built of



mud bricks and timber, structures in the area crumbled easily. It was Morocco's deadliest earthquake since 1960 when a quake was estimated to have killed at least 12,000 people, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Makeshift tents had been erected on a dirt soccer pitch.

Residents were wrapped in blankets after spending the night outside. One man, who was salvaging mattresses and clothes from his wrecked home, said he believed his neighbours were still under the rubble.

In the village of Amizmiz, 27 km (17 miles) west of Moulay Brahim, residents also struggled to find food. "We used blankets to make a tent," said Ali Ait Youssef. "The tents the government distributed are not enough."

The government said on Saturday it was taking urgent measures to address the disaster including reinforcing search and rescue teams, providing drinking water and distributing food, tents and blankets.

France said it stood ready to help and was awaiting a formal request from Morocco. "France is ready to offer its aid to Morocco if Morocco decides it is useful," President Emmanuel Macron said at the G20 Summit in New Delhi.

Other countries offering assistance include Turkey, where earthquakes in February killed more than 50,000 people. By Sunday, the Turkish team had not yet departed.

RESIDENTS DESCRIBE DIGGING THE DEAD FROM RUBBLE

MACRON SAYS FRANCE READY TO HELP 'THE SECOND' IT IS REQUESTED

SPAIN SAYS MOROCCO REQUESTS AID, SENDING TEAMS

NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS SEEN CRITICAL TO SAVING LIVES

FALLEN ROCKS PARTIALLY BLOCK SOME ROADS

Spain, however, said it had on Sunday received a formal request from Morocco for assistance and would be sending search and rescue teams. Qatar also said its search and rescue team had departed for Morocco.

A spokesperson for Morocco's government did not immediately respond to Reuters phone calls seeking comment.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

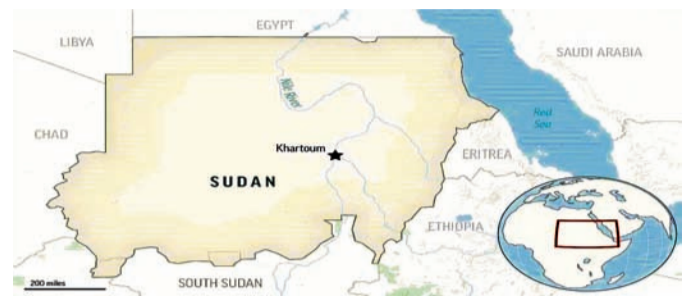
The latest casualty figures from the Interior Ministry, released late Saturday, put the death toll at 2,012, with 2,059 people injured, including 1,404 in critical condition. The World Health Organisation said more than 300,000 people have been affected by the disaster. Pope Francis offered prayers and solidarity for the victims.

Morocco has declared three days of mourning and King Mohammed VI called for prayers for the dead to be held at mosques across the country. The quake's epicentre was 72 km (45 miles) southwest of Marrakech, a city beloved of Moroccans and foreign tourists for its medieval mosques, palaces and seminaries richly adorned with vivid mosaic tiling amid a labyrinth of rose-hued alleyways.

Marrakech is due to host the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank from Oct. 9.

An IMF spokesperson, asked Saturday about the planned meetings, said: "Our sole focus at this time is on the people of Morocco and the authorities who are dealing with this tragedy."

43 killed in air strike on Khartoum market



» Khartoum is in 'dire' need of medical assistance for the dozens injured in the drone attack south of the capital, with no ceasefire in sight

AGENCIES

Cairo, Sept 10: A drone attack Sunday on an open market south of Sudan's capital, Khartoum, killed at least 43 people, activists and a medical group said, as the military and a powerful rival paramilitary group battle for control of the country.

More than 55 others were wounded in the attack in Khartoum's May neighbourhood, where paramilitary forces battling the military were heavily deployed, the Sudan Doctors' Union said in a statement. The casualties were taken to the Bashair University Hospital for treatment.

The Resistance Committees, an activist group that helps organise humanitarian assistance, posted footage on social media showing bodies wrapped in white sheets in an open yard at the hospital. The RSF blamed the

military's air force for Sunday's attack, though it was not immediately possible to independently verify the claim. Indiscriminate shelling and airstrikes by both factions are not uncommon in Sudan's war, which has reduced the Greater Khartoum area to a battleground.

The conflict has since spread to several parts of the country. In the Greater Khartoum area, which includes the cities of Khartoum, Omdurman and Bahri, RSF troops have commandeered civilian homes and turned them into operational bases.

In the western Darfur region — the scene of a genocidal campaign in the early 2000s — the conflict has morphed into ethnic violence, with the RSF and allied Arab militias attacking ethnic African groups, according to rights groups and the United Nations.

The conflict has killed more than 4,000 people, according to August figures from the United Nations. However, the real toll is almost certainly much higher, doctors and activists say. The number of internally displaced persons has nearly doubled since mid-April to reach at least 7.1 million people, according to the UN refugee agency. Another 1.1 million are refugees in neighbouring countries.

EASTER ATTACKS

LANKA TO PROBE BRITISH CHANNEL'S ALLEGATIONS



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 10: Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe Sunday announced that he will appoint a probe panel to investigate the allegations made by a British channel on the 2019 Easter terror attacks by an Islamist extremist group on churches and posh hotels that killed 270 people, including 11 Indians.

UK's Channel 4 television station Tuesday aired a documentary titled 'Sri Lanka's Easter Bombings - Dispatches' alleging the involvement and complicity of certain government officials, including intelligence service chief Major General Suresh Sallay, in orchestrating the 2019 Easter suicide bombings. It called the attacks a "crafted act" aimed at forcing a political change in favour of the

Rajapaksa brothers.

On Sunday, an official statement said a committee chaired by a retired Supreme Court judge would be appointed to inquire into the allegations that accused the country's intelligence chief of plotting the 2019 Easter bombings.

Wickremesinghe also pledged to appoint a parliamentary select committee to investigate allegations levelled by a former Attorney General that the whole attack was a conspiracy and there is a mastermind behind the attacks. The two reports would then be presented in parliament for final action.

Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry Saturday defended the country's intelligence chief, saying it "vehemently denounces the accusation of orchestrating the attack and assisting the bombers against a dedicated senior military officer who has served the nation for 36 years."

The move came two days after ousted former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's denial of Major General Sallay's involvement in the bombings and that he had benefited from the attacks to win the presidential election in November 2019.



Indonesian Marines fire an artillery round during an amphibious landing operation at the Super Garuda Shield multi-national military exercise in Situbondo, East Java, Indonesia. Thousands of military personnel from the United States, Indonesia and other allied forces showcased their armour capabilities Sunday in combat drills on the Indonesian island of Java as China takes more aggressive actions in the region

Iran, US on verge of prisoner swap

REUTERS

Dubai/Doha, Sept 10: When \$6 billion of unfrozen Iranian funds are wired to banks in Qatar as early as next week, it will trigger a carefully choreographed sequence that will see as many as five detained US dual nationals leave Iran and a similar number of Iranian prisoners held in the US fly home, according to eight Iranian and

other sources. As a first step, Iran August. 10 released four US citizens from Tehran's Evin prison into house arrest, where they joined a fifth, who was already under house arrest.

Later that day US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called the move the first step of a process that would lead to their return home.

They include businessmen Siamak Namazi, 51, and Emad

Sharqi, 59, as well as environmentalist Morad Tahbaz, 67, who also holds British nationality, the US administration has said. The Tahbaz and Sharqi families did not respond to requests for comment. A lawyer for the Namazi family declined to comment.

The identities of the fourth and fifth Americans, one of whom according to two sources is a woman, have not been disclosed.

Myanmar receives first shipment of Russian fighter jets

REUTERS

Kyiv, Sept 10: Myanmar has received the first shipment of two Russian Su-30 fighter jets, Charlie Than, Myanmar's trade minister, told the Russian RIA state news agency in remarks published Sunday.

"Two aircraft have already been delivered," Than told RIA on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum, Russia's annual forum aimed at developing economic cooperation in the region and encouraging foreign investment, which starts on Sunday in the port of Vladivostok.

Russia and Myanmar signed a contract in September 2022 for the delivery of six Su-30SME fighter jets, RIA said. The Sukhoi Su-30SME multi-role fighter jet is designed for enemy's aerial targets engagement, aerial reconnaissance, combat employment and pilot training, according to Rosoboronexport, Russia's state-controlled arms exporter. Separately, Than told the Russian TASS state news agency that a number of bilateral agreements will be signed at the East Economic Forum, including on developing tourism between the two countries. The Russian defence ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

US, VIETNAM UPGRADE TIES AS BIDEN VISITS

AGENCIES

Hanoi/Washington, Sept 10: US President Joe Biden secured deals with Vietnam on semi-conductors and minerals as the strategic Southeast Asian nation elevated Washington to its highest diplomatic status alongside China and Russia.

The US has been pushing for the upgrade for months as it sees the manufacturing dynamo as a key country in its strategy to secure global supply chains from China-related risks.

A half-century after a lengthy and brutal Cold War-era conflict, Biden arrived in Hanoi to a ceremony organised by the ruling Communist Party that included school children waving American flags and honour guards carrying bayoneted rifles.

Biden noted the strides that had been taken toward improved



ties. Vietnam is having to navigate frosty relations between Washington and Beijing as it seeks its own foothold in the international economic competition.

Top Chinese officials, possibly including President Xi Jinping,

are expected to visit Vietnam in the coming days or weeks, officials and diplomats said, as Hanoi seeks to maintain good relations with all super powers.

It also comes as Vietnam's longstanding relationship with

Russia faces tests over the war in Ukraine, including talks with Russia over a new arms supply deal that could trigger US sanctions.

Reuters has seen documents describing talks for a credit facility that Russia would extend to Vietnam to buy heavy weaponry, including anti-ship missiles, antisubmarine aircraft and helicopters, anti-aircraft missile systems and fighter jets.

One of them, a letter sent in May by Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh to the Russian government, showed interest in the possible new deal.

A Vietnamese military officer confirmed the authenticity

of the letter and the talks for a new \$8 billion credit facility to buy heavy weaponry.

A spokesperson for Vietnam's foreign ministry did not respond to multiple requests for comment on the documents, which show Moscow pushing for months for a loan deal that would bypass Western sanctions on Moscow.

Hanoi is in similar talks with multiple arms suppliers including the United States. In recent weeks, Vietnam has engaged in several high-level defence meetings with top Russian officials.

The upgrade will include a security dimension, Jon Finer, the US principal deputy national security adviser, told reporters Sunday, while on the plane with Biden to Vietnam from a Group of 20 summit in India.

business

of the day quote

So I would say two areas -- one, the subsidies or whatever benefits that the government can consider for promoting electric vehicles is of course welcome, and then some type of payment security mechanisms are also required. It would help the industry to grow at a faster pace

DHEERAJ HINDUJA | CHAIRMAN, ASHOK LEYLAND

I think Indian industry now needs to recognise that it cannot always keep blaming the government for this inability to grow faster and become globally competitive. Indian industry also has to look at itself and see what it can do to improve its overall efficiency, productivity and cost control

RC BHARGAVA | CHAIRMAN, MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA

Demand for bigger homes remains undeterred, with 3BHKs once again superseding 2BHKs in the current survey. Around 48 per cent property seekers prefer 3BHKs over other configurations, while 39 per cent still prefer 2BHK units

ANU PURI | CHAIRMAN, ANAROCK

SHORT TAKES

FPIs turn net sellers

New Delhi: After six months of consistent buying, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have turned net sellers to pull out ₹4,200 crore from equities in September, so far, on rising US bond yields, a stronger dollar and concerns over global economic growth. The outflow of foreign portfolio money could continue in the coming week or two, Nitasha Shankar, Chief Investment Advisor, YES Securities (India) Ltd, said. We also need to keep an eye on the sharp volatility in the rupee, which could impact FPI flows going ahead, he added.

Adani hikes stake in two group cos

New Delhi: Billionaire Gautam Adani-led promoter group has increased stake in two of the group's listed companies, as the ports-to-energy conglomerate continues to work on a claw back strategy after being hit by damaging reports. The promoter group has increased stake in flagship Adani Enterprises to 71.93 per cent from 69.87 per cent, according to stock exchange filings. This is the second time in less than a month that the promoters have raised stake in the flagship firm that incubates new businesses. The promoters had last month increased stake in Adani Enterprises Ltd from 67.65 per cent to 69.87 per cent. The promoter group has also increased stake in Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd from 63.06 per cent to 65.23 per cent, the filings showed.

Tesla's \$25K car, robotaxi to have futuristic design

Tesla's next-generation platform appears to be designed for this purpose

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

San Francisco, Sept 10: Tesla's \$25,000 car and the company's dedicated robotaxi will feature a futuristic design -- inspired by the Cybertruck, according to Elon Musk biographer Walter Isaacson.

According to an excerpt from Isaacson's upcoming book, Musk was so focused on self-driving robotaxis that it took a team effort from Tesla executives to convince him to pursue an affordable car as well, however, the CEO only relented when his aides revealed a plan to build

Dollar's longest winning streak in nearly 9 years

STORM CLOUDS HOVER OVER THE ECONOMIES OF CHINA AND EUROPE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

London, Sept 10: The US dollar is enjoying its longest winning streak in nearly nine years, CNN reported.

The greenback was heading for its eighth-straight week of gains against a basket of other major currencies Friday, its best run since winter 2014-2015. It has gained 5 per cent since mid-July, CNN reported.

The rally comes after months of volatility, fueled by concerns

The rally comes after months of volatility, fueled by concerns that the dollar may be losing its status as the world's reserve currency

The greenback was heading for its eighth-straight week of gains against a basket of other major currencies Friday, its best run since winter 2014-2015

that the dollar may be losing its status as the world's reserve currency. Speculation about the potential de-dollarization of global trade rose again last month after the Chinese-led expansion of the BRICS group of nations to include major oil producers, such

We see no slowdown in India and we continue to see very high load factors, extremely high rates of profitability amongst the airlines and we see extremely strong demand for aeroplanes as we have seen in some of the largest orders ever placed in the world

SALIL GUPTA | PRESIDENT, BOEING INDIA

NO DAMAGE DUE TO OIL SPILL, SAYS ONGC

ONGC Sunday said there was no damage to either farmers or fishermen due to last week's minor oil spill near Uran in Mumbai. Undersea pipelines bring crude oil from ONGC's fields in the Arabian Sea to Uran before it is transferred to refineries



NCLAT dismisses insolvency plea against Wipro

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal has dismissed an operational creditor's petition to initiate insolvency proceedings against Wipro Ltd.

A two-member Chennai bench of the appellate tribunal held earlier that there was a pre-existing dispute over the payment between Wipro and the petitioner and observed that the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code was not framed for being a mere recovery legislation for creditors.

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has upheld the order of the NCLT.

Earlier, the Bengaluru Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), on January 16, 2020, dismissed the plea by Tricolite Electrical Industries in the capacity of operational creditor.

The order was challenged by the Delhi-based operational creditor, a manufacturer of LT/ HT Electric Panels' before the appellate body NCLAT.

India's external debt -service ratio within comfort zone: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: India's external debt of USD 624.7 billion at March-end 2023 with a debt-service ratio of 5.3 per cent is within the comfort zone and modest from a cross-country perspective, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said.

In her foreword to 'India's External Debt A Status Report 2022-23' released earlier this month, Sitharaman said the ratio of external debt to GDP declined to 18.9 per cent at March-end 2022-23 from 20 per cent a year ago.

The long-term debt constituted 79.4 per cent of total external debt, while short-term debt, which is 20.6 per cent of the total external borrowing, is basically incurred to finance imports, enhancing the stability aspects of the total external debt, she said.

The report said the debt service ratio during 2022-23 has increased marginally to 5.3 per cent from 5.2 per cent during the previous year.

Digital rupee pilot likely in call money market by Oct

The RBI will introduce the wholesale digital rupee (CBDC) in the call market either this month or next month, a top RBI official said on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: The Reserve Bank is likely to launch the pilot of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for transactions for interbank borrowing or call money market by October, central bank Executive Director Ajay Kumar Choudhary said Sunday.

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

The RBI will introduce the wholesale CBDC in the call market either this month or next month, Choudhary said on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit here.

The introduction of CBDC was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and necessary amendments to



- Introduction of CBDC was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- The pilot of the wholesale CBDC, known as the Digital Rupee-Wholesale (e-W), was launched November 1, 2022
- Central bank has already rolled out a pilot in the retail version of the CBDC (e-R) December 1, 2022

the relevant section of the RBI Act, 1934, were made with the passage of the Finance Bill 2022.

The RBI picked nine banks -- State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, YES Bank, IDFC First Bank and HSBC -- for its

pilot project for wholesale CBDC. Besides, the central bank has already rolled out a pilot in the retail version of the CBDC (e-R) December 1, 2022. The e-R is in the form of a digital token that represents legal tender.

It is being issued in the same denominations as the paper currency and coins. It is being distributed through financial intermediaries like banks. Users can transact with e-R through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks.

The RBI is showcasing various digital initiatives in the financial sector at the exhibition pavilion during the G20 Summit.

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

STEEL OUTPUT GROWS 5% IN JAN-JUN

TREND TO CONTINUE IN SECOND HALF: STEELMINT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: India has produced 66.14 MT crude steel in January-June 2023, registering a 5 per cent year-on-year growth and the uptrend is likely to continue in second half of the year as well, according to SteelMint.

The domestic industry had produced 63 million tonnes (MT) crude steel in the January-June period of 2022, the research firm said.

The increase in production



was mainly on account of improved capacity utilisation rates coupled with the ramping up of capacities by key Indian steel players, it said.

According to SteelMint these factors will continue to support the growth in production in the second half of the ongoing year,

SteelMint added. The domestic steel consumption also registered an 11 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) increase to 58.4 MT in the first half of 2023, from 52.7 MT in the same period of 2022.

Steel exports took a hit of 30 per cent during the period under

review, as China increased its out-bound shipments of steel.

India's steel exports dropped to 4.74 MT in H1 from 6.70 MT recorded in the first half of 2022. The reason behind the drop in exports was majorly because of the cheaper availability from China and subdued demand in traditional import markets, SteelMint said.

China's home demand had not been up to the mark. Therefore, it had no other way to liquidate the inventory rather than to divert it to exports at discounted rates, the research firm said.

After China, India is the second largest steel producing country in the world.

In a first, PSU general insurers' market share tumbles below a third

In another first, driven by the health segment, standalone health insurers' market share also rose to double digits at 10.4 per cent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 10: For the first time, state-run general insurers account for less than a third of the industry premium at 32.5 per cent, as larger private non-life insurers have consolidated their position in the first five months of the current fiscal, according to the General Insurance Council data.

Public sector insurers saw their premium income fall by 1 per cent to ₹34,203 crore during the first five months of the current fiscal.

As a result, their market share plunged to less than a third at 32.5 per cent from 33.4 per cent, while premium income slipped from ₹37,100 crore to ₹34,203 crore.

In another first, driven by the health segment, standalone health insurers' market share also rose to double digits at 10.4 per cent during this period from 9.2 per cent.

Although segment-wise data is yet to be released, standalone health insurers' performance shows higher growth



in the segment.

The General Insurance Council data showed that the non-life insurance sector grew by 11.7 per cent during the first five months to August, recording premium income of ₹1.14 lakh crore, compared to ₹1.02 lakh crore in the same period in FY23.

There are 26 operational general insurers in the country, of them, six are owned by the Centre.

The public sector players are National Insurance Company, New India Assurance, Oriental Insurance, United India Insurance and the specialized players like Agriculture Insurance Company of India and ECGC (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation).

That apart, the industry also has five standalone health insurers -- Aditya Birla Health Insurance, Care Health Insurance (formerly Religare Health Insurance), Manipal Cigna Health Insurance Company, Niva Bupa Health Insurance and Star Health & Allied Insurance.

SHORT TAKES

Jena, Srabani shine

Chandigarh: Odisha's javelin thrower Kishore Kumar Jena who recently finished fifth in the World Championships, put up a flawless display to win the gold medal in the Indian Grand Prix 5 Athletics Championships here Sunday. Jena took the top spot with an effort of 82.53m while Vikas Yadav of Uttar Pradesh was second, hurling the spear to a distance of 72.88m. The women's 100 metres was won by Odisha's Srabani Nanda who clocked a time of 11.77 seconds. In the men's high jump Swadhin Kumar Majhi of Odisha leapt 2.06m to bag the silver medal behind Jesse Sandesh of Karnataka (2.11m).

Title for Kiran

Medan (Indonesia): Rising Indian shuttler Kiran George claimed his second BWF World Tour Super 100 title Sunday, winning the Indonesia Masters trophy, with a hard-fought straight-game win over Japan's Koo Takahashi in men's singles final here. The 23-year-old from Kochi, who had won his maiden title at the Odisha Open last year, beat World No. 82 Takahashi 21-19, 22-20 in a 56-minute battle. Both the games were exciting with the Indian holding his nerves at crucial junctures to emerge victorious.

2nd successive loss

Chiang Mai (Thailand): A 77th-minute strike by Kaseem Al-Zein put paid to India's hopes of retaining the third place in the King's Cup football tournament as Lebanon emerged 1-0 winners here Sunday. Al-Zein scored the all important goal for Lebanon in a game that was largely dominated by the Blue Tigers. India paid heavily for missed chances and they will rue this fact when they look back on the game. India had also lost to Iraq in the first match on penalties.

Sweet homecoming for Gauff

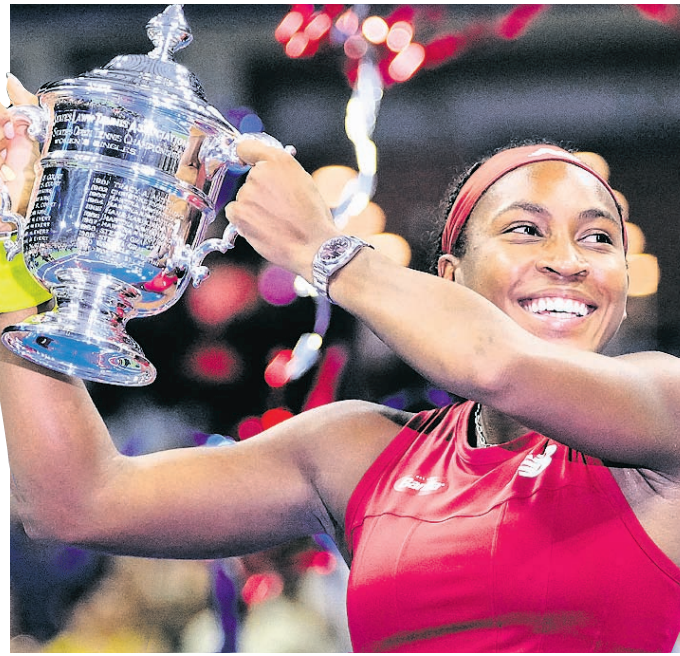
3rd American teenager after Tracy Austin and Serena Williams to win US Open title

AGENCIES

New York, Sept 10: American teenager Coco Gauff came from behind to win the US Open women's singles title here Saturday. It was Gauff's first Grand Slam win as she defeated Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in a match that lasted 126 minutes. It was a huge victory for Gauff considering she had lost in the first round at Wimbledon. Despite the loss, Sabalenka will become World No. 1 when the rankings are announced next week.

With both players making a slew of mistakes throughout an error-strewn final watched by a record crowd of 28,143 it was Gauff who held her nerve when it mattered to seal a deserved victory. This was the second Grand Slam final for Gauff who had lost in the summit clash of the French Open last year.

"It (victory) means so much to me," an elated Gauff said afterwards. "I feel like I'm a little bit in shock in this moment."



That French Open loss (last year) was a heartbreak for me. It makes this moment even sweeter than I could imagine." Gauff, the third American

teenager to win the US Open after Tracy Austin and Serena Williams, also used her victory speech to thank those who doubted her talent. "Honestly

thank you to the people who didn't believe in me," Gauff joked. "To those who thought they were putting water on my fire, they were putting gas on my fire and I'm burning so bright right now," she added.

The first set was full of breaks with both players breaking each other's service games on a number of occasions. Sabalenka however, held her nerves to win the set comfortably.

However, Gauff finally clicked into gear in the second set, making fewer unforced errors and ironing out the kinks in her serve. She broke Sabalenka in the fourth game to lead 3-1 and then easily held her remaining serves to close out the set and level the match.

Gauff then secured a break in the opening game of the third set and there was no looking back for her. She led 4-0 and was in no mood to let her grip on the match slip though. Gauff swept to victory with a backhand winner by holding her serve to love in the eighth game.

Beating mental barrier was a challenge: Rahul

AGENCIES

Colombo, Sept 10: Overcoming the mental barrier was the biggest challenge India wicket-keeper-batter KL Rahul faced while rehabilitating after suffering a serious quadriceps injury which laid him low for nearly four months. Rahul had suffered the injury during the IPL, which later necessitated surgery in London.

The 31-year-old underwent rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru to get fit for the Asia Cup. But a 'niggle' resulted in him missing the first two group matches of the tournament in Sri Lanka. He however, was back in the team for the game against Pakistan which will resume Monday (See box).

"A lot of times, it's a big mental battle where you're always thinking at the back of your head that, 'okay, I might feel pain'. And when you are in that mindset, you can't really start focusing on skills," said Rahul in a video posted Sunday by BCCI. "So, the biggest challenge was to get rid of that fear," Rahul informed.

MATCH SHIFTED TO RESERVE DAY

Colombo: Intermittent rain pushed the Asia Cup clash between India and Pakistan to a reserve day here Sunday. India were 147 for two in 24.1 overs when rain lashed the Premadasa Stadium here. Play will resume at 3.00pm local time Monday. Playing on the reserve day means India will have to play Sri Lanka in their Super Four encounter Tuesday. Before weather played spoilsport, Virat Kohli (8) and KL Rahul (17) were at the crease. Earlier Rohit Sharma (56) and Shubman Gill (58) struck fine half centuries.

The player pointed out that that wicket-keeping requires a lot of strength in the quads and the biggest 'question mark' in his mind while rehabilitating was how he would convince himself to don the role again after such a big surgery.

"The big thing was to feel confident in my own body and be pain free in movements that require a lot of intensity. Especially, I knew coming back, I'll have to keep wicket as well," Rahul said.

Vineet triumphs in school chess

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Vineet Nayak of Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium School won the title at the State Schools' Open Chess Championships which ended Sunday here. Vineet finished with five points in the tournament which was jointly organised by Mother's Public School and the Odisha State Chess Association.

Sai Bidyashree of St Xavier's High School, Bhadrak and Adarsh Kumar Behera of Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1, Bhubaneswar finished second and third respectively in the competition with 4.5 points apiece. Both Bidyashree and



Adarsh finished on the same number of points but the former was declared second by implementing the tie-breaker rule.

The fourth and fifth places were occupied by Sai Ranjan

Mishra and Aditya Jena. Mishra represented the DAV Public School, Jajpur while Jena belongs to DAV, Kalinganagar.

There were age group prizes also. Akshit Acharya won the U-7 category while Mrigank Sekhar Das emerged victorious in the U-9 segment. In the girls' segment Niyati Niharika Mohapatra was adjudged the best player while the U-11 title was bagged by Prasanna Jayasingh in the boys' section.

Overall the tournament once more proved the rich pool of chess players the state possesses. Many of the kids demonstrated exemplary skills to surprise a host of dignitaries who were present during the event.

OZ THRASH PROTEAS

AGENCIES

Bloemfontein, Sept 10: Centuries by David Warner (106, 93b, 12x4, 3x6) and Marnus Labuschagne (124, 99b, 19x4, 1x6) set up yet another big win by Australia against South Africa and a 2-0 lead in their ODI series here Saturday. Australia racked up 392-8, their third highest ODI total, and bowled out South Africa for 269 with 8.1 overs to spare to emerge victorious by 123 runs. Leg-spinner Adam Zampa (4/49) was the star with the ball for Australia.

Travis Head (64, 36b, 9x4, 3x6) took a liking to Marco Jansen and Kagiso Rabada in the power play, in which Australia reached 102 without loss. He fell to spinner

Tabraiz Shamsi (4/61), who also got Mitch Marsh on review.

The baton was picked up by Warner, who got to his 50 off 52 balls. He and Labuschagne put on 151 runs for the third wicket to completely take the game away from South Africa. Josh Inglis (50, 37b, 7x4, 1x6) then propped the Aussie innings past the 375-run mark.

South Africa were never in the chase despite a number of batters including Quinton de Kock (45), captain Temba Bavuma (46) and David Miller (49) getting starts.

Australia 392 for 8 (Marnus Labuschagne 124, David Warner 106, Tabraiz Shamsi 4/61) beat **South Africa** 269 (David Miller 49, Adam Zampa 4/49) by 123 runs.

Massive win for TN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Tamil Nadu thrashed Sports Authority of India (SAI) XI 4-1 in a match of the Dr BC Roy Junior football tournament played here Sunday. Vijaya Darshan (34th and 60th) and Abdul Shahan (44th and 87th) got the goals for the winning side. However, it was the SAI team that had taken the lead in the 26th minute through a goal scored by Pangai Konyak.

In another match played on the day, Punjab defeated Goa 1-0 with the all-important goal being scored by Gursajan Singh. In other games, fancied Bengal were held to a goalless draw by J&K while Meghalaya and Kerala shared two goals and a point apiece.

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