



CANDID TALK

Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan opens up on breaking the long-held tradition of Kapoor family

LEISURE P2



MANIPUR VIOLENCE CLAIMS 3

In fresh violence, unidentified men kill three people from tribal community in Kangpokpi district of Manipur, Tuesday

DOWNTOWN P3



INDIA IN ASIA CUP FINAL

India seal spot in the final of the Asia Cup after defeating Sri Lanka by 41 runs

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Two Nipah virus deaths in Kerala

New Delhi: Two deaths reported from Kerala's Kozhikode district were caused by Nipah virus, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said Tuesday. He said a central team of experts has been sent to Kerala to take stock of the situation and assist the state government in the management of the Nipah virus infection. Two "unnatural deaths" following fever were reported from Kozhikode Monday. Relatives of one of the deceased are also admitted to the ICU, the Kerala health department said in a statement. **P9**

Anganwadi asst dies from snakebite

Banki: An Anganwadi assistant died after being bitten by a poisonous snake at an Anganwadi centre in Bilipada village under Banki police limits in Cuttack district, Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Sulochana Swain, 48, wife of Santosh Kumar Swain from Bilipada village. Sources said Sulochana was serving food to the kids when the reptile bit her. She was rushed to Banki sub-divisional hospital in a critical condition where she breathed her last.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



DO NOT pass it to him. He doesn't know how to play. He's in the team because of his horoscope

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	SENSEX	67221.13	↓	94.05
	NIFTY	19993.20	↑	3.10
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	82.99	↓	₹0.08
	EURO	89.01	↓	₹0.19
BULLION	GOLD	₹58,596	↓	₹334
	SILVER	₹71,877	↓	₹65

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 41.2°C	40.2°C
	MIN 28.6°C	28.4°C
Humidity	77%	75%
Rainfall	6.3	Nil
Forecast	PARTLY CLOUDY SKY	



FESTIVE FERVOUR: Women in Nadia collect kans flowers which marks the onset of autumn and the festive season in West Bengal, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

No stopping work

Judicial work cannot be brought to standstill, says SC on Odisha lawyers' agitation

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Sept 12: The Supreme Court Tuesday sternly remarked that judicial work cannot be brought to a standstill, how unfortunate the incident might be, and issued notice to the president and secretary of Rayagada bar association for abstention of court work on account of death of an advocate. A two-judge bench of Justices SK Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia issued notice after the counsel appearing for the Orissa High Court apprised it that the Rayagada bar association has abstained the court work for a day on the account of death of an advocate.

"How unfortunate the incident may be this cannot bring the judicial work to a standstill. Issue notice to president and secretary of Rayagada bar association," the bench said.

The apex court was hearing a petition pertaining to strikes and abstention of court work by advocates in Odisha to press for their demands of Orissa High



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Court benches in western and southern part of the state. In January, the Supreme Court had issued contempt notices to 191 advocates for their alleged involvement in agitation, picketing and vandalism during the protests over demand of new benches of Orissa High Court. The bench had asked the advo-

cate to tender unconditional apology and an undertaking that they will not indulge in such acts in future.

When the matter came up for hearing Tuesday, the apex court noted that several advocates are yet to file the affidavits tendering unconditional apology. The bench granted last opportunity to these advocates to file their affidavits within two weeks. The bench posted the matter for hearing November 7.

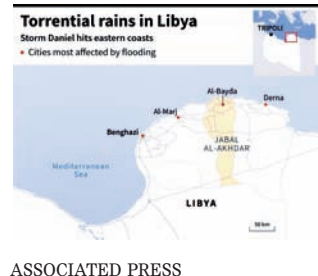
Earlier, the Supreme Court had in February refused to consider the unconditional apology tendered by the advocates, allegedly involved in vandalism and strikes at district courts.

The apex court had held that it is too early for it to consider these unconditional apologies and it will watch if the apology is coming from heart or merely an attempt to escape contempt proceedings.

Along with the apology, the apex court had also asked advocates to give an undertaking that they will not indulge in such acts in future.

A two-judge bench of Justices SK Kaul and Manoj Misra, however, clarified that the apex court has not prevented the consideration of bail applications of arrested advocates due to pendency of the present plea.

Thousands dead, 10K missing in Libya flood



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cairo, Sept 12: Emergency workers uncovered hundreds of bodies as they dug through the wreckage of Libya's eastern city of Derna Tuesday, and 10,000 people were reported still missing after floodwaters broke through dams and smashed through the city, washing away entire neighbourhoods.

At least 700 recovered bodies have been buried so far, the Health Minister for eastern Libya said. Derna's ambulance authority put the current death toll at 2,300.

But the toll is likely to be far higher, in the thousands, said Tamer Ramadan, Libya envoy for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. He told a UN briefing in Geneva via videoconference from Tunisia that at least 10,000 people were still missing.

The situation in Libya was "as devastating as the situation in Morocco," Ramadan said, referring to the deadly earthquake that hit near the city of Marrakesh Friday night. **P10**

40 per cent MPs have criminal cases: ADR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: About 40 per cent of sitting MPs have criminal cases registered against them out of which 25 per cent have declared serious criminal cases under charges of murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping and crimes against women, according to poll rights body ADR.

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW) have analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 763 sitting MPs out of 776 seats of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

This data has been extracted from affidavits filed by the MPs prior to contesting their last elections and any subsequent by-elections. Four seats of Lok Sabha and one seat of Rajya Sabha are vacant and four Rajya Sabha seats of Jammu and Kashmir are undefined.

The affidavits of one Lok Sabha MP and three Rajya Sabha MPs could not be analysed as these documents were not available.

Out of the 763 sitting MPs analysed, 306 (40%) sitting MPs have declared criminal cases against them and 194 (25%) sitting MPs have declared serious criminal cases, it said.

Among the members of both Houses, 23 (79%) out of 29 MPs from Kerala, 41 (73%) out of 56

MPs from Bihar, 37 (57%) out of 65 MPs from Maharashtra, 13 (54%) out of 24 MPs from Telangana and 5 (50%) out of 10 MPs from Delhi have declared criminal cases against themselves in their self-sworn affidavits, it said. About 28 (50%) out of 56 MPs from Bihar, nine (38%) out of 24 MPs from Telangana, 10 (34%) out of 29 MPs from Kerala, 22 (34%) out of 65 MPs from Maharashtra and 37 (34%) out of 108 MPs from Uttar Pradesh have declared serious criminal cases in their self-sworn affidavits.

About 139 (36%) out of 385 MPs from BJP, 43 (53%) out of 81 MPs from Congress, 14 (39%) out of 36 MPs from TMC, 5 (83%) out of 6 MPs from RJD, 6 (75%) out of 8 MPs from CPI (M), 3 (27%) out of 11 MPs from AAP, 13 (42%) out of 31 MPs from YSRCP and 3 (38%) out of 8 MPs from NCP have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

About 98 (25%) out of 385 MPs from BJP, 26 (32%) out of 81 MPs from Congress, 7 (19%) out of 36 MPs from TMC, 3 (50%) out of 6 MPs from RJD, 2 (25%) out of 8 MPs from CPI (M), 1 (9%) out of 11 MPs from AAP, 11 (35%) out of 31 MPs from YSRCP and 2 (25%) out of 8 MPs from NCP have declared serious criminal cases in their affidavits.

Man steals govt bus, collects fare

AGENCIES

Hyderabad, Sept 12: The Telangana Police have arrested the man who stole a bus while the passengers were still on board, police said Tuesday.

The man stole the bus, which is attached to the state owned transport corporation, and escaped after collecting fare from passengers, police said.

The incident took place when the driver of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) bus had stopped for dinner break at Siddipet bus stop Monday. The vehicle was travelling from Sircilla towards Jubilee Bus Station.

The accused, after seeing that the driver had gone for dinner, had boarded the bus, occupied the drivers' seat and drove away.

Meanwhile, the original driver was shocked to see the bus having disappeared and informed the higher authorities. The accused



had taken the bus to a bay where the passengers waited to travel to Hyderabad.

The thief claimed that his bus was going towards Hyderabad and collected fare from them. Several people boarded the bus. When asked for the conductor, the driver stated that he would join him later.

As the accused drove the vehicle recklessly, the passengers grew suspicious about him. At Jillella Crossroad in Sircilla dis-

After seeing that the driver had gone for dinner, the accused boarded the bus, occupied the drivers' seat and drove away

trict, the bus ran out of fuel. The accused quickly got down from the bus and disappeared before the passengers could realize what was happening.

Following the complaint by the TSRTC officials, the Siddipet police began an investigation and tracked the bus. After collecting the videos of the accused from the passengers, the police managed to track the accused and detained him.

Further details are awaited regarding the case. The identity of the accused is yet to be announced by the police.

Mumbai's double-decker buses to go off roads

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 12: Mumbai's iconic red double-decker buses, which have been an integral part of the city's public transport system for more than eight decades, will go off the streets this week, an official from the Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) Undertaking said Tuesday.

The open-deck double-decker buses, which have served as sightseeing buses for tourists since the 1990s, will also disappear from the city streets in the first week of October, he said.

As these buses are going off the roads forever, commuter groups and bus enthusiasts have urged BEST to preserve at least two of these iconic vehicles at its Anik depot-based museum and have written to the Maharashtra Chief Minister, Tourism minister and the BEST administration.

"Currently, just seven double-



decker buses, including three open-deck buses are left in the BEST's fleet. As these vehicles are completing 15 years of their codal life, the double-decker buses will forever go off roads from September 15, while the open-deck buses will be pulled out on October 5," a BEST spokesperson said.

Red double-decker buses were introduced in the city's public transport system in 1937, and they have since become sym-

END OF AN ERA: Iconic red double-decker buses were introduced in the city's public transport system in 1937, and they have since become symbolic of the city itself and interestingly, have also featured in songs of Hindi movies set in Mumbai.

bolic of the city itself and interestingly, have also featured in songs of Bollywood movies set in Mumbai.

In the beginning of the 1990s, the BEST had a fleet of around 900 double-decker buses, but the number gradually declined after the mid-90s.

Citing the high operating cost, the BEST administration stopped inducting double-decker buses after 2008. The BEST since February this year started replacing these iconic buses with leased battery-run red and black double-decker buses and so far,

about 25 such buses have been introduced.

The BEST, in a release last week, said it is going to procure open-deck buses for sightseeing and it has already started the process of acquiring them. Until then, the new battery-run double-decker e-buses will be operated for tourists.

Some commuters, however, argue that though the battery-run buses are comfortable, they lack the charm of their older counterparts.

Meanwhile, Siddhesh Mhatre, working president of commuters' body "Aapli BEST Aaplyasathi" said Mumbai is the only city in the county with so many double-decker buses in public service.

"Hence, these legacy buses must be preserved," Mhatre said, adding that every metro city in the world has a transport museum, but Mumbai doesn't have one and preserving these buses will be a step towards this.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You are ever eager to socialise, and today especially, you may want to mix business with pleasure. You will be welcomed to join in group activities because you can work and play with equal enthusiasm. In fact, you may learn a lot from such a healthy exchange of ideas, says Ganesh.

TAURUS
Light bulbs will flash relentlessly today, as you ideate in the fervour of a creative mood. Your business acumen will help you negotiate problems with ease. The reticent Taurus charm will ring out loud in your laughter, as you deal with your bosses and colleagues at the workplace, says Ganesh.

GEMINI
Routine work bores you, and today you will go all out to break free from the shackles of boredom. The results, however, may not be as dramatic. You will have to depend on your children, if any, to rescue you from the tyranny of routine.

CANCER
You may feel like flaunting your so-called superior social and financial status today. Chances are that all that gas about how successful you are may end up exploding in your face, and you may end up spending a lot more than you would have liked.

LEO
If it's a fresh start that you are looking for, then this day promises to give you just that, predicts Ganesh. If you have chalked out plans for your future, today you may go ahead and implement some. Remember that rushing blindly into anything is not the solution; it is always the slow and steady who wins the race.

VIRGO
Today, your power and finance will be greater than ever before, says Ganesh. You will also be inclined to make monetary provisions for any future economic instability that may arise. The people around you will stand up and take notice of the leader in you. A word of caution from Ganesh: there may be unprecedented fluctuations in financial transactions.

LIBRA
Today promises to be a busy day that will keep you occupied. You may also engage in written correspondence to re-establish some old contacts. Ganesh doesn't rule out optimum use of the phone for this purpose. When it comes to the work front, Ganesh predicts you will be asked to bring order to the workplace.

SCORPIO
You might find your spirit sagging as worries cloud your thinking. Small things might probably bother you in a big way. Do not let them bog you down as life is all about mind over matter. As the day progresses, things will begin to look up.

SAGITTARIUS
Watch out for Cupid's arrow today, warns Ganesh. Love will strike and strike hard. Alternatively, you may also find yourself in an argument with a loved one that ought to have been avoided. An evening of romance beckons... keep the roses ready and the carpet rolled to heal any bruises you might have caused.

CAPRICORN
You may be attentive, as much as an eagle is while chasing its prey, but you still need to be careful when signing any important legal documents, advises Ganesh. Brokers and dealers, especially, are likely to incur heavy losses unless they take necessary precautions to avert misfortune.

AQUARIUS
Today, you're up against those who want to get back at you. But not for nothing are you the king! Ganesh says you needn't worry, as few can match your prowess. Amid all the hullaballoo, your spouse will be a supportive presence.

PISCES
Within adversity, lie the lessons of success; avoid having to resort to that philosophy by implementing your plans, if they are well thought out, in a phased manner. This will help you achieve your targets, says Ganesh.



TINNY WOODALL WAS THROWN OUT OF REHAB CARE FOR WATCHING PORN CLIP

Celebrity stylist Tinny Woodall got kicked out of rehab centre in her 20s for watching porn clips. The 59-year-old, who has been sober for over three decades now, has shared her first rehab ended after she and other inmates were caught watching an X-rated video.

'THANKS TO #ME TOO, YOUNG ACTRESSES ARE NOW UNAFRAID'

Titanic actress Kate Winslet says, opening up about how she spent years being 'fingerprinted' and 'laughed at' for speaking her mind, says young actresses are finally being 'unafraid' in the wake of the #MeToo movement.



Sonam shares life's best moment

Mumbai: Actress Sonam Kapoor recently opened up on the most magical moment of her life when she delivered her baby and he was in her arms. Elaborating more, Sonam said: "When I delivered my baby and he was in my arms, it was one

of the best things I felt. There is a feeling of euphoria. I had a natural birth and it was the most amazing moment. My husband was next to me and the doctor who helped me deliver the baby was my mother's close friend. I had the people who

love me around me -- my parents, my sister, my in-laws. It was just the best moment of my life."

Sharing about her diet during her pregnancy, the Delhi 6 actress said, "My doctor in London told me to eat a balanced inflammatory diet which is basically Indian Khana. So I had dal, roti, and bhaji. If you are a non-vegetarian you can have chicken, fish and dahi. So I had a balanced diet, did walking and a bit of exercise. It really helped me. I had a great pregnancy as I kept it easy and simple."

On the work front, Sonam was last seen in a crime thriller film *Blind*.

Saiyami reflects on her transformation journey

Mumbai: Actress Saiyami Kher, who has been enjoying the response to her latest theatrical release *Ghoomer*, reflected on her transformative journey and on the shift from facing back to back rejection to working alongside some of the best filmmaking talents in the Hindi film industry. For Saiyami, the turning point came when acclaimed director Anurag Kashyap cast her in the lead role for the streaming film *Choked*.

Speaking about her journey, the actress said, "The path hasn't been smooth, and there were times

when the rejections were disheartening. However, I held onto the belief that my time would come."

Saiyami further mentioned that for her, working with filmmakers like Anurag Kashyap, Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, Neeraj Pandey, and Balki has been a dream come true.

The actress added, "Their belief in me and the author-backed roles I've had the privilege to play have been transformative. I'm grateful for the space I'm in now and excited for the opportunities that lie ahead."



Kareena on breaking the Kapoor tradition

Mumbai: Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan is one of the finest actors to grace the film industry. However, a longstanding, unwritten tradition within the Kapoor clan dictated that women did not pursue careers in the film industry. But it was Kareena's elder sister Karisma who defied this tradition.

At a recent event, Kareena acknowledged that the credit for breaking this long-held tradition within the Kapoor family belonged to her father, Randhir Kapoor.

She emphasized that times had evolved, and her father's willingness to adapt to changing circumstances was pivotal. She articulated, "Back in the 1970s, it was different because times were different. But I'm glad that my father moved with the times because that's what it is about. Even now, if he calls me and

he knows I'm shooting, he will be apologetic that 'oh no, okay, focus on your work'."

Recalling Karisma Kapoor's pioneering journey into acting, Kareena lauded her sister's courage to break the mold. She acknowledged the challenges Karisma faced as one of the first Kapoor women to embark on an acting career.



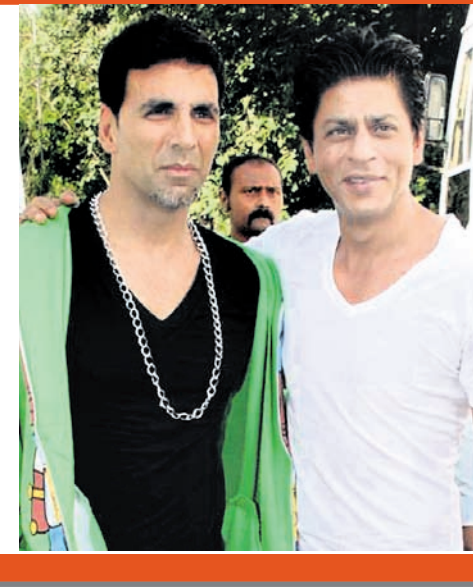
SRK shatters Akshay's record

Mumbai: Shah Rukh Khan is performing like a magician at the Box Office with his action biggie *Jawan* doing bumper business. The superstar started the year with a bang *Pathaan*. Now, with *Jawan*, SRK has finally claimed his throne as the 'Box Office King' and has achieved a rather unique feat

after many years. With the Atlee film, along with Siddharth Anand's *Pathaan*, he will emerge as the superstar with the highest cumulative box office in a year. The spot has been ruled by Akshay Kumar, who gave four box office marvels in the year 2019. This year, the actor delivered four success

stories with *Kesari*, *Mission Mangal*, *Housefull 4*, and *Good Newwz*. *Kesari* collected 151 crore at the box office, and the other three films made glorious entries to the 200 crore club. *Mission Mangal* did a lifetime business of 200 crore, *Housefull 4* finished at 206 crore, and *Good Newwz* collected 201.14 crore.

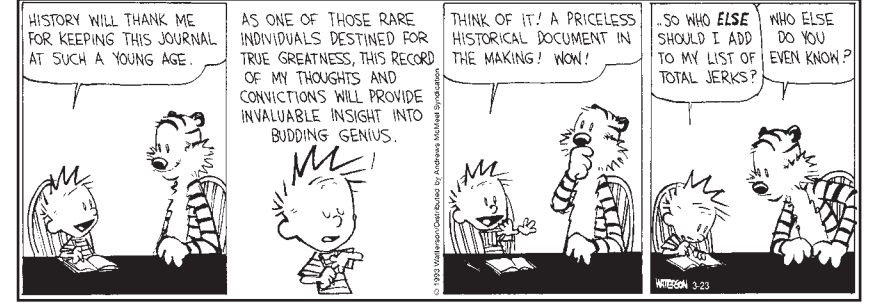
Akshay Kumar collectively earned 760 crore at the box office that year. Shah Rukh Khan has already claimed this spot with *Pathaan's* 543 crore and *Jawan's* 319 crore. A total of 862 crore! The superstar will earn 1000+ crore at the Box Office by claiming the throne for a long time, it seems.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

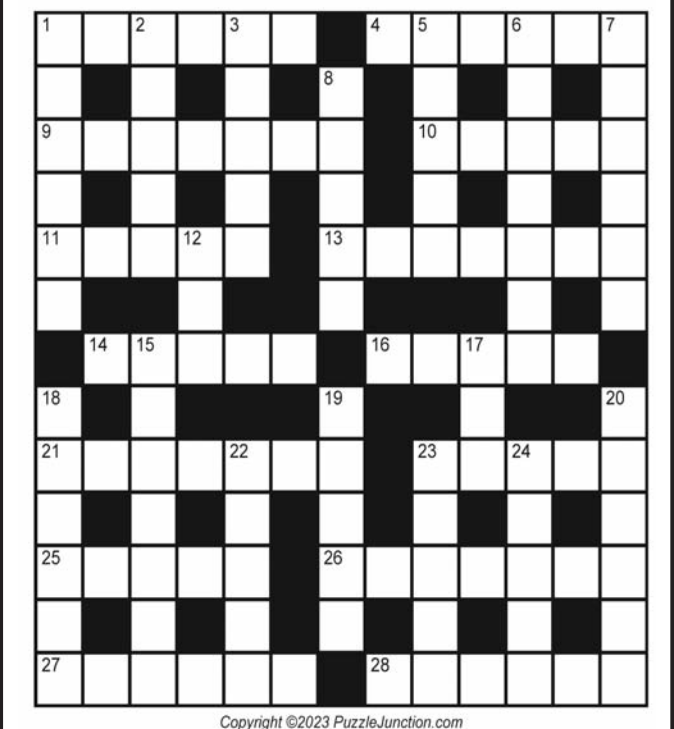


BREVITY



FUN post

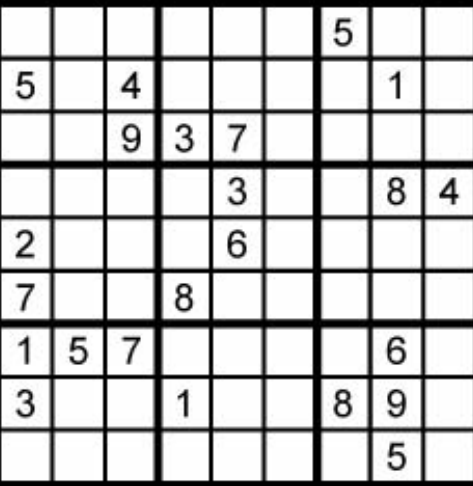
CROSSWORD



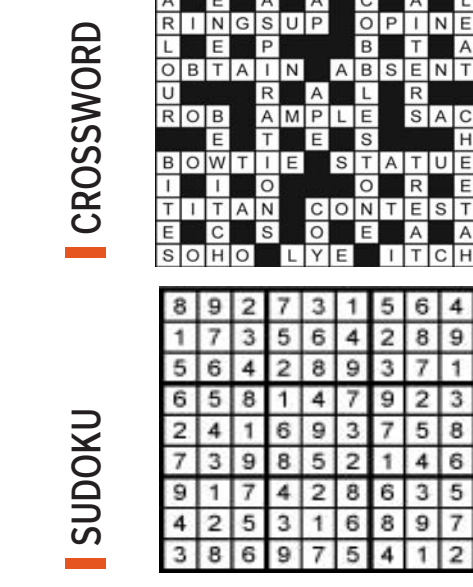
- Across**
- 1 Sago or arrowroot
 - 4 Turkey cooker, at times
 - 9 Wince
 - 10 Tennyson poem
 - 11 Feeble
 - 13 Vibrating effect
 - 14 Renaissance fiddle
 - 16 Back street
 - 21 Paper folding art
 - 23 Latin dance
 - 25 Cheerless
 - 26 Blight
 - 27 Decayed
 - 28 Optimistic
 - Down**
 - 1 Radio beam
 - 2 Cover story?
 - 3 Irritate
 - 5 Wavelike design
 - 6 Voyeur's target
 - 7 Trust (4,2)
 - 8 Bulwark
 - 12 Court ploy
 - 15 Distinguished
 - 17 Pastoral setting
 - 18 Military plane
 - 19 Yak's home
 - 20 Warning
 - 22 Leg joint
 - 23 Blind followers
 - 24 Baggy

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

CULTURAL FETE

Artiste Sujata Mohapatra performs Odissi during a cultural programme organised at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



3 killed in fresh Manipur violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Sept 12: Manipur witnessed fresh violence Tuesday as unidentified armed men, suspected to be cadres of banned terror groups, attacked people from the tribal community, killing three of them in Kangpokpi district, officials said.

The incident took place between Ireng and Karam Vaiphei villages in the tribal-dominated Kanggui area, located at the bordering districts of west Imphal and Kangpokpi.

The three persons had started their journey from Ponlen in Kangpokpi district and were proceeding towards Lemakong using the hill road when they were stopped by the armed assailants at Ireng near Singhda dam and gunned down, the officials said, adding automatic weapons were used in the incident.

Immediately after hearing the gunshots, security forces and the Army units arrived from nearby locations and saw the three bodies lying in pool of blood, the officials said, adding later Manipur Police arrived at the scene and took over the investigations.

The 19-km 'kachha' hill road is often frequented by the tribals to reach to Churachandpur, which

Restriction on use of 'Press' stickers

Imphal: To check misuse of jackets, vest and stickers with wording and inscription "PRESS", the Manipur government has allowed the use of these only to those possessing genuine identity cards from media organisations and holding accreditation cards from the state and central governments, officials said Tuesday. Manipur government Commissioner (Home) T Ranjit Singh in a notification said that the state acknowledged from reliable sources about the misuse of jackets, vest and stickers with wording and inscription "PRESS" while covering various incidents related to the ongoing law and order crisis in the state.

otherwise could be easily approached by using road network going through the Imphal valley. But after the violence that erupted in May, the tribals have refrained from coming down to the valley.

A central paramilitary post had seen movement of a group of around 30 people, dressed in police uniform, in the area. In the past, cadres of the banned terror groups like United National Liberation Front (UNLF), People's Liberation Army (PLA), Kanglei Yawol Kanba Lup (KYKL) and

People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) have been using combat uniform of Manipur Police to carry out attacks on the tribals.

All these organisations are banned under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), a joint body of Kuki-Zo tribals, condemned the incident and urged the Centre to crack down on insurgent groups and reimpose Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in the valley.

The chorus for AFSPA, which has been extended only to the hill areas by the state government by another six months, is gaining momentum among the security establishment as they reason out that the armed assailant including terror cadres disappear in the valley after carrying out attacks on tribals and security forces in the hills.

The ITLF said the tribals have steadfastly tried to maintain peace after the initial bout of violence in May but the 'unending attacks and arson are testing us to the limit'.

Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU), a Kangpokpi-based civil society organisation, also condemned the attack.

"If the Union government is serious about its appeal for restoration of normalcy, it must immediately declare all the valley districts as disturbed areas and impose the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958," it said in a statement.



ALL SET: Cuttack Netaji Bus Terminal readies ahead of its inauguration by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik September 16

OP PHOTO

4 held for abducting, extorting doctor

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: The Commissionerate Police Tuesday arrested four persons including a couple for allegedly kidnapping a doctor and extorting ₹10 lakh from him. The accused were identified as Nishikanta Patra, 33, and his wife Irani Patra, 27, of Naragada, Manoranjan Pradhan, 30, and Saktikanta Harichandan, 36, of Sijput under Tamando police limits. The complainant doctor during his posting as medical officer at Madhuban primary health centre (PHC) in Jajpur district came across an ailing Irani in 2016-17. Later, Irani managed to collect the

phone number of the doctor and used to consult him over phone whenever anyone in her family fell ill. Meanwhile, the accused along with her family shifted to Bhubaneswar and was staying in Tamando area.

"September 8, accused Irani called the doctor over phone and requested him to come to her rented house in Tamando on the pretext of some medical emergency. The victim, who was present in Bhubaneswar, agreed to visit Irani's house following her continuous insistence," told a senior police officer.

When the doctor entered Irani's house, other accused persons including Irani's husband

bolted the door from inside.

"Later, they forcefully took away his cellphone, gold bracelet and car keys. The accused demanded ₹25 lakh from the complainant at knifepoint and also threatened him to register sexual abuse case against him if he fails to pay the ransom amount. Finding no other way, he agreed to give ₹10 lakh to the accused kidnappers," the officer added.

The kidnappers transferred ₹1 lakh to the account of Irani through UPI by forcefully taking the password of the victim's PhonePe account. They later brought the doctor to his Infocity residence and took a

cheque of ₹9 lakh.

The doctor, who was initially reluctant to inform the police fearing public disgrace, later filed a case September 11. Based on the complaint, Tamando police registered a case (233/23) and arrested the four accused.

Police later came to know that the accused had extorted lakhs of rupees from one PhD student of a private institute and a businessman through similar modus operandi.

Meanwhile, police found accused Saktikanta is involved in a murder case too.

The accused were Tuesday produced before the court that sent them to judicial custody.

If the Union government is serious about its appeal for restoration of normalcy, it must immediately declare all the valley districts as disturbed areas and impose the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958

COMMITTEE ON TRIBAL UNITY (COTU) | CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION

Modi gifts Ikat stole to Mauritius PM's wife

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/ New Delhi, Sept 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted a timeless masterpiece created by the artisans of Odisha – a traditional mulberry silk stole adorned with the exquisite Ikat technique – to Mauritius PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth's wife Kobit Jugnauth Tuesday.

"Ikat" is a meticulous dyeing process on silk or cotton. It involves tying and dyeing specific sections of threads to produce a symphony of shades.

As these threads intertwine, they create a resplendent fabric, graced with pale motifs against a dark backdrop. Precision is the heart of this art. Originating in the 12th century when artisans migrated from Gujarat, the legacy of Odisha Ikat endures and thrives.



The stole is presented in a teak wood box which has been handcrafted by artisans of Gujarat using the hardy and durable teak wood. Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth visited Delhi for the G20 Leaders' Summit held September 9-10. He and his wife Monday offered prayers at the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi, a day after the conclusion of the G20 Summit in New Delhi.

Sanitation workers' stir hits services at Capital Hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: About 250 sanitation workers at the state-run Capital Hospital here resorted to a cease-work protest Tuesday over a host of demands, affecting healthcare services.

Among their demands was a hike in pay and cancellation of the fresh tender to engage a new contractor for sanitation works. The protestors demonstrated outside the hospital director's office.

"We've been working for over 10 years with ₹10,500 salary, excluding the PF and ESI. However, instead of a hike, the new contractor is asking us to work for ₹8,500 a month," said Mani Dei, a housekeeping staff of the hospital.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Lopar to trigger heavy rain in parts of Odisha

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: A fresh low-pressure area (Lopar) is brewing over the Bay of Bengal and due to it, heavy rains are likely in parts of Odisha till September 15, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Tuesday.

The Lopar would form over

the Bay of Bengal in the next 24 hours, it said.

The current weather conditions indicate that widespread rains, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, are likely to occur in some districts during the next two-three days, it added.

Heavy rains are likely in parts of Malkangiri, Koraput,

Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Bolangir, among others.

Due to the rains, flash floods and water logging may occur in low-lying areas, while landslides may occur in hilly areas, the IMD said.

In the 24 hours till 8:30am Tuesday, the highest rainfall of 208 mm was recorded at Semiliguda in Koraput district.

JAJPUR KEONJHAR-DHAMRA RAILWAY LINE

₹2.4cr allocated for feasibility study

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: In a significant development, the Union government has allocated ₹2.4 crore for feasibility study of Jajpur Keonjhar-Dhamra Railway project. This crucial allocation marks a major milestone in the realisation of a transformative railway line that holds immense potential for the economic development of Jajpur and Bhadrak districts, ECoR officials said.

Spanning over a distance of 96 km, the Jajpur Keonjhar-Dhamra Railway project has been a longstanding demand of the people. This railway line is not only expected to facilitate improved connectivity but also promises to play a pivotal role in promoting the tourism sector in these two districts.

One of the notable highlights of this project is its connection with important religious and tourist destinations. The Akhandalamani temple (Aradi Pitha in Bhadrak district) and Navigaya (Birajakhetra in Jajpur Town) will be accessible by this railway line. This accessibility is expected to boost tourism and provide pilgrims and tourists with a more convenient and enjoyable travel experience.



Spanning over a distance of 96 km, the Jajpur Keonjhar-Dhamra Railway project has been a longstanding demand of the people	Accessibility to two important shrines in Jajpur and Bhadrak districts is expected to boost tourism and provide pilgrims and tourists with a more convenient and enjoyable travel experience	The feasibility study will provide crucial insights into the project's viability and pave the way for its future implementation
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The economic implications of this railway project are substantial. By providing efficient transportation and connectivity, it is anticipated to promote economic growth in the region. This railway line has the potential to facilitate the movement of goods and people, creating opportunities for businesses to thrive and contributing to the overall prosperity of the districts.

Local authorities and residents have long championed the establishment of the Jajpur Keonjhar-Dhamra Railway line, recognising its potential to bring about posi-

tive change and progress to the area. The allocation of ₹2.4 crore for the feasibility study is a significant step towards making this vision a reality.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains committed to the development and progress of the Jajpur and Bhadrak districts, and the Jajpur Keonjhar-Dhamra Railway project is a testament to this commitment, said the ECoR officials. The feasibility study will provide crucial insights into the project's viability and pave the way for its future implementation, they added.

Lead exposure likely caused 5.5mn deaths in 2019: Study

Exposure to lead may have caused 5.5 million adult deaths from cardiovascular disease and the loss of 765 million IQ points in children under the age of five worldwide in 2019, according to a study published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal.

Up to 95 per cent of the effects were in low and middle-income countries (LMICs), with children losing an average of 5.9 IQ, or intelligence quotient, points during their first five years of life, the researchers said.

The findings indicate the global health effects of lead exposure could be similar to the estimated health effects of small particle pollution, PM2.5, and household air pollution combined, and three times greater than the health effects of unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and handwashing, they said.

IQ loss in LMICs due to lead exposure is nearly 80 per cent higher than a previous estimate, while deaths from cardiovascu-

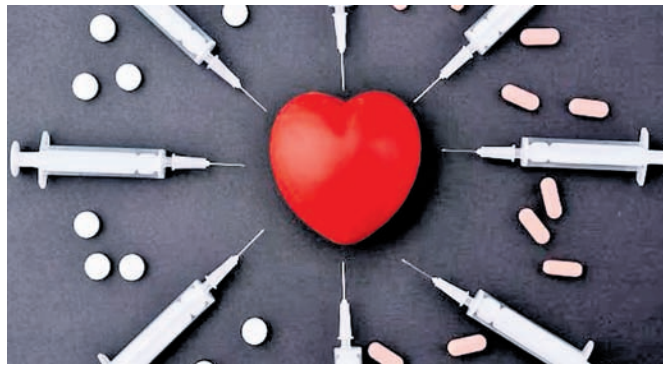
lar disease are six times higher, the researchers said.

The global cost of lead exposure in 2019 was estimated to be USD 6 trillion, equivalent to 7 per cent of global GDP. In LMICs, it was equivalent to more than 10 per cent of GDP, or twice as high as in High-Income Countries (HICs), they said.

Exposure to lead can seriously harm young children's health, including damage to the brain, slowed development, and learning difficulties. In adults, lead exposure can increase people's risk of cardiovascular disease – which accounts for almost 95 per cent of deaths linked to lead exposure – as well as chronic kidney disease and learning disabilities.

Despite the fact that lead-containing petrol has been phased out around the world, exposure to the toxic metal still poses major global health risks, especially in LMICs, the researchers said.

Key sources of exposure include lead acid battery recycling,



IQ loss in low and middle-income countries due to lead exposure is nearly 80 per cent higher than a previous estimate, while deaths from cardiovascular disease are six times higher

Key sources of exposure include lead acid battery recycling, metal mining, food, soil and dust, leaded paint, cookware from recycled materials, lead-glazed pottery and ceramics, spices, toys, cosmetics, electronic waste, fertilisers and cultured fish feed

metal mining, food, soil and dust, leaded paint, cookware from recycled materials, lead-glazed pottery and ceramics, spices, toys, cosmetics, electronic waste, fertilisers and cultured fish feed,

they said. "We know that lead exposure has continued to cause huge impacts on human health, despite most countries banning the use of leaded petrol more than 20 years ago," said study lead

author Bjorn Larsen from The World Bank, Washington, US.

"What is concerning about our study is that it indicates these damaging health effects are much greater than we previously thought and that they come at a very high economic cost, especially in low- and middle-income countries," Larsen said.

The authors of the study used blood lead levels (BLL) estimates from the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2019 study to estimate the global health impacts and costs of lead exposure.

The average BLL in LMICs was 4.6 microgrammes per decilitre (µg/dL), compared with 1.3 µg/dL in HICs.

People in North America and in Europe and Central Asia had the lowest average BLLs, with the highest among people in South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa, the researchers said.

The analysis estimates that lead exposure contributed to 5.5 million deaths from cardiovas-

cular disease globally in 2019, or 30 per cent of all cardiovascular disease deaths.

This is more than six times higher than the GBD 2019 estimate of 850,000 CVD deaths from lead exposure. Of the 5.5 million deaths from lead exposure, 90 per cent were in LMICs, they said.

The analysis also suggests that lead exposure caused the loss of 765 million IQ points in children under five years old in 2019, with 95 per cent of the losses among children in LMICs, according to the researchers.

During their first five years of life, children in LMICs on average each lose 5.9 IQ points from lead exposure. The authors estimate this can reduce these children's total lifetime income by as much as 12 per cent, they said.

The authors acknowledge some limitations to their study. These mainly revolve around the accuracy of global estimates of BLLs, as nationwide measurements are not available for many countries, particularly LMICs.

BJD holds workers' training with an eye on elections



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: With Lok Sabha and Odisha Assembly elections due next year, the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has started a 37-day long training programme at 'Sankha Bhavan' the party headquarters here Monday for the grassroots level party workers, to be trained on skills to win elections.

"The master trainers will take the party's message to each household in the state and development is our main agenda. The people will be told how the Naveen Patnaik transformed

Odisha from a poor state to a developing region," BJD vice-president and convener of the training programme Debi Prasad Mishra said.

During the 37-day-long programme, as many as 29,400 workers from each 147 Vidhan Sabha segment will be imparted training on how to make people understand the contribution of Patnaik in transforming Odisha, Mishra said.

Stating that the focus is on the achievement of the Patnaik government, Mishra said the state government's flagship programmes like Biju Swasthya

Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) where women are given health assurance worth ₹10 lakh, will be highlighted.

He said the BSKY, launched August 15, 2018, is the most effective scheme of the government as 96 lakh of the state's 1.11 crore families are covered.

The training will continue for the next 36 days. Apart from Mishra, party's top leaders will train the party workers.

While Mishra and others are imparting training on the political significance of a regional party in Odisha, experts from finance, industries and economics are roped in to sensitise the BJD workers on how the poor state procuring rice from other states for its survival transformed into a food grain surplus state. The trainees will tell the people how the transformations have taken place in different spheres starting from politics to economics and sports.



MESSY AFFAIR: Commuters negotiate a ramshackled road at Bomikhal in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

Govt to utilise vacant land for employment generation

Chief Minister Office, in a meeting, decided to explore alternative options for using vacant industrial land to set up projects that will generate employment

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: During a high-level meeting to review the status of several industrial and infrastructure projects, the Chief Minister Office (CMO) Tuesday decided to explore alternative options for utilising industrial land lying vacant in state to set up projects that will generate employment.

The meeting was attended by 5T Secretary VK Pandian, development commissioner, revenue & disaster management ACS, forest environment & climate change ACS, Industries principal secretary, IDCO MD and Cuttack, Jharsuguda and Ganjam collectors along with concerned department officials.

During the meeting, it was discussed that textile and locomotive industries have expressed interest in setting up units in the vacant OTM land in Choudwar measuring 521 acres which had been taken over by the state Government after clearing all the employment dues.

Similarly as large tracts of industrial lands leased to Orient Paper Mills in Brajrajnagar in Jharsuguda are lying unutilized, the Jharsuguda district administration and IDCO were directed to explore alternative uses within a month and the Industries de-



partment was directed to invite potential industries to set up employment generating industries in the area.

The 5T Secretary suggested that henceforth all industrial projects should be mapped with the requirement of skilled workforce for specific projects and skill development institutions like ITI and polytechnics should be tagged for making local workers readily available.

According to sources, in several meetings held by the 5T Secretary, locals have requested for setting up of labour intensive industries in the vacant lands.

At the CMO meeting, IDCO and IPICOL presented the action taken report and after detailed discussion, it was decided to transfer the suitable portions

of vacant land to IDCO for development of a 'model industrial park.'

"It was decided in the meeting that the IPICOL will offer industrial plots to well-known Industrial Investors. It was also resolved to develop the industrial park in a phased manner so as to provide maximum employment opportunities to local youths," said an official.

While reviewing the action taken reports of Ganjam district administration and IDCO on the development of Gopalpur Industrial park, it was decided that the IPICOL and IDCO will invite other large industries to set up projects in the Gopalpur Industrial park taking advantage of the port facilities available nearby.

State SSB lecturers hold silent protest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: More than 3,000 SSB-recruited lecturers staged silent protests in front of Mahatma Gandhi's portraits across the state Tuesday demanding an increase in their initial grade pay from ₹4,600 to ₹5,400 with retrospective effect from 2016.

The lecturers have been observing symbolic black-badge protest demanding increase of their grade pay since September 5. "However, we feel that our voice has not reached the CM. Hence we have adopted this unique way of protest in hope to draw his attention and get some positive response," said Odisha SSB Lecturers' Association president Sarojakanta Nayak.

"Though we have been recruited for degree colleges through a transparent and merit-based system by State Selection Board, Odisha and are equal with our government college counterparts in discharging duties and responsibilities, we are placed in a lower pay scale and are getting salary that doesn't commensurate with our post and status," Nayak said adding that they have been requesting the government for 8 years to increase their initial grade pay to no avail.

"As our symbolic black-badge protest since Teacher's Day has achieved no effect, we have decided to hold this silent protest in front of Gandhiji to request the government to take prompt steps to increase our grade pay to ₹5,400," Nayak said.

Startup Odisha Yatra a hit among students



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Odisha Startup Yatra embarked on a journey from Khurda with enthusiastic participation from the more than 1,500 students. During the occasion, a total of 107 innovative ideas were generated from across 15 colleges. The Yatra has laid solid foundation to materialising state government's ambition of creating 5,000 startups by 2025.

The journey started Tuesday with various institutes in and around Khurda including IMIS, BJB Autonomous College, Government ITI-Bhubaneswar, Ekamra College, PN College, Centurion University, Gandhi Institute for Technology (GIFT), Silicon Institute of Technology, Srusti Academy of Management, KISS University, RD Women's University, KIIT University, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Nalanda Institute

of Technology and ASBM University.

The excitement and enthusiasm from the student community was palpable with their passionate pitches.

The aim of Startup Odisha Yatra and Startup Xpress 2023 is to encourage grassroots innovators and promote entrepreneurship among them. In 2023 edition of the Yatra, Startup Odisha has four dedicated vans that will cover all 30 districts of the state.

As the Yatra moves forward, it will cover another nine institutes of Khurda district. On the second day, Startup Yatra Van will reach Utkal University, SOA University, IIIT Bhubaneswar, Institute of Hotel Management, XIMB University, ITER, National Institute of Science Education and Research, Skill Development Institute, IIT Bhubaneswar, OUAT and World Skill Centre.

'Coffee, Katha o Kabita' crowd-puller once again

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Kalinga Bhasha Muktamanch (KBM) organised the fifth edition of 'Coffee, Katha 'o' Kabita' at Outcasts Community Studio here recently with participation of more than a hundred literature aficionados who soaked themselves in an evening of poetry, music and short stories along with a cup of hot coffee.

Literature is not just meant to be read, it should also gather appreciation through performances on the stage, expressed the audiences present at the event. In addition to the performances, there was a quiz about Odia literature where people received awards for giving correct answers. Renowned literary figures Hiranmayee Mishra, Saroj



Bal, Mausumi Das, Suriyasnata Tripathy and Debabrata Das joined as guests, while young writers and literature enthusiasts Subrat Senapati, Sumit Panda, Anshuman Sahoo, Samarпита Panda, Arpita Pati, Gouri Sahoo, Jyoti Ranjan Barik and Rashmita Behera helped conduct the event.

For the event, Srisikta Suvadarsini served as anchor and KBM head Satya Shiba Sundar Das delivered the vote of thanks, assuring literature lovers of the City that the event will soon be back with performances from promising young storytellers and poets.

UU students observe suicide prevention week

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Utkal University department of psychology is observing here in City the Suicide Prevention Awareness week from September 10 to 16 with support from World Bank Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence and Equity (WB-OHEPEE).

Joining the inaugural function as the chief guest, university vice chancellor Sabita Acharya encouraged the students and stakeholders to become a part of this mental health awareness campaign and actively work towards suicide prevention. "Since every life is precious, every effort towards suicide prevention is praiseworthy," she opined.

Creating Hope through Action, the theme of this event, emphasizes the fact that we can all create hope through action and be the light, she added.



The guest of honour Nigamananda Das, director of IQAC and WB-OHEPEE Coordinator at the university expressed concern over increasing rate of suicide among students and encouraged everyone to create hope and support for each other when we need it most.

Additionally, the department is organizing a skit competition as well as a poster competition for the students based on the theme to create community

awareness in the campus regarding the menace of suicide.

The week long observation started off on World Suicide Prevention Day, September 9, with release of a video prepared by students of the department on the theme of farmers' suicide to create awareness among the masses. A series of videos, made by the students on various themes related to suicide prevention will continue to be uploaded this week.

ASO caught taking bribe

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Vigilance officials Tuesday arrested an assistant section officer (ASO) for accepting bribe of ₹5,000 from another staff for processing his housing loan file. The accused identified as Saumya Ranjan Dash is deployed at Establishment Section office of the Engineer in Chief, Water Resources department here.

The complainant, Kaustuva Senapati, works as a peon at the office of additional chief engineer (Drainage circle). Kaustuva recently applied for a housing loan. When the file came to Saumya, he asked Kaustuva to pay ₹5,000 else he would not process his file. Later, Kaustuva filed a complaint with Vigilance in this regard. Accordingly, Vigilance laid a trap and caught Saumya red-handed at his office Tuesday. "Saumya will be forwarded to court Wednesday. A case (23/2023) has been registered in this regard," said a Vigilance official.

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Illegal black stone mining rampant

SEIAA DIRECTS JAJPUR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE PROMPT ACTION AGAINST ERRANT MINERS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 12: The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has asked District Collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore to probe into illegal mining of black stones beyond permissible limits as well as smuggling in Dharmasala tehsil area of Jajpur district as per EPA Act-1986, sources informed Tuesday.

The member secretary of SEIAA has urged the Collector to treat the matter urgently and take immediate action and submit a report before it, in a letter dated August 31, 2023.

The matter assumes significance after villagers in Dharmasala tehsil filed a petition before SEIAA alleging excess mining and smuggling of black stones. They alleged that the district administration has not been prompt enough in issuing show-cause notices and imposing fines on errant companies.

Reports said that the allegation of excess stone mining has been proved correct during the satellite mapping of mines in Dharmasala tehsil. Directions have been issued to collect ₹320 crore in penalties from 22 leaseholders who have plundered the mines.

Meanwhile, the leaseholders have moved the court in protest against the penalty notice. While the hearing is underway



FILE PHOTO

the accused have resorted to mining and smuggling of stones during night to avoid getting caught during the day, locals pointed out.

Sources said looting of minor minerals like black stones beyond permissible limits has become common in Dharmasala tehsil. They alleged that smuggling of black stones is being carried out in association with the Revenue and Tehsil department officials in this district.

Locals pointed out that in the past official action had been initiated against 10 sub-collectors and tehsildars, but nothing has come out of it.

The Odisha government ordered satellite mapping of the stone quarries after the issue was raised in the Assembly. The satellite mapping started April 2022 and after that the penalty notice was issued against the violators.

Sources said the Dharmasala tehsil office has issued show-cause notices to the defaulting leaseholders 11 times. However, by using their political clout,

the defaulters have managed to escape punishment.

Things have come to such a stage that the district administration has not even written to the SEIAA to withdraw the environmental clearance of leaseholders who are violating the rules.

Sources said that if steps are taken for withdrawal of environmental clearances then the leases of Srinivas Jena, Biswa Parida and Sudhanshu Jena of Bababati black stone mines, Manoj Samal and Sarat Jena of Aruha hill, Jyotshna Jena of Dankari hill, Krushna Chandra Sahu of Anjira hill, Gangadhar Ojha and Rangadhar Jena of Lunibar hill and Akshaya Parida of Rahadpur hill will be cancelled.

Locals also pointed out that the unholy nexus between leaseholders, politicians and some officials of the district administration is a big hindrance to stop smuggling. Such is the situation that the leaseholders use explosives with impunity at night to extract black stones. They are even threatening the complainants and pressurising them to withdraw the allegations. In the process, the Odisha government is losing out on huge amount of revenues.

Efforts to contact Dharmasala tehsildar Swagat Das failed as he did not respond to repeated calls on his mobile.



BEAUTY PAGEANT: Participants walk the ramp at Nuakhai Nani-2023 competition held at Panthanivas in Sambalpur, Tuesday. OP PHOTO

NITR conducts skill development workshop

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 12: The Central Research Facility (CRF), NIT Rourkela, organised a workshop titled Skill Development Workshop and Training on Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM) and Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) here, Tuesday.

Over 50 participants comprising students and researchers (from IITs, NITs, Central Universities, State Institutes and top private institutes), faculties, industry professionals and scientists from different parts of the country took part in the workshop.

Briefing about the CRF, Prof Dayal Parhi, Head of CRF and coordinator of the workshop said, "Through establishing the CRF we have created a massive infrastructure for research and development. The aim is to house modern equipment for scientific research and testing to keep pace with developments taking place globally."

Prof K Umamaheshwar Rao (Director, NITR) said, "In this era of technology, knowledge is insufficient if the required skills do not accompany it. Global universities are looking for skilled students/professionals who have hands-on experience with the

equipment related to their area of study or research."

Addressing the participants, Prof Rohan Dhiman (Registrar) said, "We welcome all the participants from different parts of the country. This workshop is an opportunity for all those who are searching for career options in this field."

Prof Arnab Sarkar, another coordinator of the workshop and Dr Smrutisikha Bal (Senior Scientific Officer, CRF-NITR) also spoke on the occasion.

CRF-NIT Rourkela is considered as one of the most highly equipped centres among technical institutes in India.

Sambalpur gets a smart park



FILE PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 12: The residents of this city have been gifted a smart park, officials informed Tuesday. The Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) has dedicated the venue, which has been developed adjacent to the planetarium and the Science Park premises in Burla locality of the city, to the public on the occasion of the local self-governance day, August 31.

"The smart park is slightly different from the normal one.

In normal parks there is an area for plants and a separate place for recreation. In smart parks along with plants and trees, emphasis is laid on installation of different types of equipment and providing various facilities," said an official of the SMC.

The smart park can be used not only by children and youth but also by the elderly persons. Amenities that have been provided inside the smart park include an amphitheatre, yoga platform and a scenic walking stretch. Apart from the playing

equipment for kids, beautiful decorative energy-saving lights have also been installed in the park, the official informed. Among other facilities provided are washrooms and ATMs.

Enforcement officer of SMC, Subhankar Mohanty informed that the park has been developed over an area of the two acres at a cost of approximately ₹2 crore.

Mohanty informed that Burla is home to Sambalpur University, Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) and Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIM-SAR). Burla is considered an educational hub due to the presence of such institutes.

Mohanty pointed out that the students will get a beautiful recreational place with the establishment of the park. Moreover, tourists who come to Burla to visit the Hirakud Dam, Nehru Minar, Zero Point, planetarium and Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary will find an added attraction in the smart park, added Mohanty.

Minor held for 'raping' mate

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkikote, Sept 12: Police detained Monday a boy on charges of raping of a minor girl under Ghatagaon police limits in Keonjhar district. Police said that both the accused and the victim are classmates and studying in the Plus-II stream.

According to the police, both belong to the same village and were allegedly having an affair. Subsequently the boy entered into a physical relationship with the girl after promising to marry her. Police said that the two had once eloped also.

However, things took a turn for the worse when the two were brought back to the village by their respective families. The accused then refused to marry the girl following which the latter lodged a complaint at the Ghatagaon police station.

The accused, also a minor was picked up from his house and detained at the police station, IIC Anjan Patra said. A case was registered in this connection and the two were taken for medical examination. The minor boy was produced before a juvenile justice board, Tuesday, SI Tapan Jena said.

5-yr-old kid swept away in flash flood

Tikiri: A five-year-old boy was swept away Tuesday due to a flash flood while taking a bath in Dhangidisi river under Kodipari panchayat of Kashipur block in Rayagada district. The deceased was identified as Baikuntha Majhi, son of Basanti Majhi in Kuturaguda village. The mishap occurred when the woman and her son were returning from Dhangidisi village after attending to some work. Both stopped to take a bath in the river when tragedy struck. Locals later said that the flash flood had occurred due to heavy rains on the upstream. On being informed, Andirakanba police officials reached the spot and fished out the kid's body. A case of unnatural death was registered in this connection and body sent for post-mortem.

FIR filed against 5 for assaulting forest staff



FILE PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 12: An FIR was filed Tuesday by the Forest department here against five persons belonging to Talabani village for allegedly assaulting two officials the previous day. A crowd had gathered in front of the Forest department office protesting against the failure of the personnel to drive away two rouge elephants. The tuskers have been destroying crops and properties for the past couple of weeks.

The accused have been identified as Mithu Mahanta, Guranga Patra, Pati Mahanta, Ganesh Mahanta and Surendra Oram of Talabani village, under Lahunipara PS. However, none of them have been arrested so far.

Rourkela DFO, Jasobanta Sethi confirmed that the FIR has been filed against five persons. He also blamed the locals for the escalation of human-elephant conflict. "The elephants have a corridor to pass. However, locals have encroached on it. They have build habitations on the corridor. With forests shrink-

ing rapidly, the elephants are now coming to human habitats," Sethi pointed out.

It should be stated here that around 5.00pm Monday, the two tuskers entered Juniani village from Atekucha jungle side. Later they ventured into the Talabani village. Forest officials duly arrived and drove the elephants away using crackers and bugles. However, locals alleged that by that time, the tuskers had caused massive damage to crops and property.

This led to an altercation between the villagers and the Forest staff who were not in uniform. Later Forest department staff alleged that they were assaulted by the villagers following which the FIR was lodged.

NH-143 was also blocked for some time by the irate mob. They alleged that the forest staff had arrived late. However, the allegation was denied by Ajay K Xess, senior official of Banki Range. "We arrived in time and took care of the situation and managed to drive away the elephants. Despite that, the locals assaulted some of us," Xess alleged.

Soumya removed from BJD's VP post

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: BJD vice-president Soumya Ranjan Patnaik was removed from his post Tuesday, for allegedly writing critical editorials about the government in an Odia daily. The party has, however, not cited any reason for removing him from the post.

"Shri Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, vice-president, Biju Janata Dal, is hereby removed from the post of vice-president with immediate effect," a release signed by BJD president and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said.

The action against Soumya Ranjan came after senior leaders including some ministers accused him of "blackmailing" the party by writing critical editorials in a vernacular daily and giving statements in television channels.

Soumya Ranjan however, did not seem perturbed by his removal. "It is the party president's discretion as to who he will take in his team. The BJD president had appointed me its vice-president. Now he has removed me, there is nothing unusual in this," Soumya Ranjan said.

"Positions in BJD are only ceremonial. Neither I nor any other BJD leader in any position has any work in actuality. So I don't think I lost anything by losing the vice president's post," Soumya Ranjan added. The Khandapada MLA also raised question on the official notice which was signed by the chief minister. He doubted whether it was the CM's original signature.

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
 (Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841221

E-Open Tender Notice No.-S/RW/P/E/19/2023-24, Dated : 11.09.2023, Principal Chief Materials Manager/Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the President of India invites online "e-Open Tender", through Indian Railways E-Procurement Website www.ireps.gov.in, for supply of following Stores item at RWP/Bela. The closing time of all tenders is 14:00 hrs. SN : 1. Tender No. : 02235132, Short Description of item : Up gradation of PLC, Quantity : 1 Set., Date of Tender Closing/Opening : 06.10.2023 at 14:00 hrs., 1. Website address, on which full tender details can be seen and downloaded from, is www.ireps.gov.in. 2. The prospective firms / bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with the above website for updates including Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation with respect to the above tender. However, this information will also be invariably published in the all concerned newspapers.
 For PCMM/RWP/Bela
 RWP/CPRO/Adv/L/2023-24/56

MUTUAL FUND INVESTOR AWARENESS PROGRAM
 Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds.
Date and Venue:
 Friday, 15th September, 2023; 6:30 pm onwards.
 at The Sarovar Court, Ispat Market, Ambagan Circle, Bank Street, Sector -19, Rourkel - 769 005, Odisha.
 For registration, please contact: Rajnik Majhi, Mobile: 99370 88035.
 Registration is compulsory.
 The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.
 It is mandatory to follow the COVID safety guidelines during the event.
 No walk-ins will be allowed.

SEBI **HDFC**
AN INDEPENDENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY **MUTUAL FUND**
 An Investor Education by HDFC Mutual Fund

Visit <https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how-to-know-more-about-the-process-to-complete-a-one-time-know-your-customer-kyoc-requirement-to-invest-in-mutual-funds>. Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in/informations.htm) or <http://www.sebi.gov.in/informations.htm>. For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMC's and/or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints on <https://scores.gov.in> if they are unsatisfied with the resolutions given by AMCs. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status.
MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS, READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.

<p>FORM No. 13 BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ODISHA C-71, SECTOR - 7 CDA, CUTTACK, ODISHA O.A. No. 69/2023 KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. ...Applicant Versus PATRASTORE AND ANOTHER ...Defendant(s)</p> <p>SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED Take Notice that the applicant has instituted an O.A. No. 69/2023 in the Court of the Debts of Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of Rs. 20,72,511.39 only together with current and future interest, costs and other reliefs. The above mentioned defendants are therefore, directed to appear before this tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the publication or on 13.10.2023 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in their absence. Given under my hand seal of this Tribunal on this 29th day of August, 2023 Sd/- Registrar</p>	<p>FORM No. 13 BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ODISHA C-71, SECTOR - 7 CDA, CUTTACK, ODISHA O.A. No. 75/2023 KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. ...Applicant Versus RUDRANARAYAN MISHRA AND ANOTHER ...Defendant(s)</p> <p>SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED Take Notice that the applicant has instituted an O.A. No. 75/2023 in the Court of the Debts of Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of Rs. 39,11,326.24 only together with current and future interest, costs and other reliefs. The above mentioned defendants are therefore, directed to appear before this tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the publication or on 13.10.2023 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in their absence. Given under my hand seal of this Tribunal on this 29th day of August, 2023 Sd/- Registrar</p>	<p>FORM No. 13 BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ODISHA C-71, SECTOR - 7 CDA, CUTTACK, ODISHA O.A. No. 150/2023 KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. ...Applicant Versus SUBRAT KUMAR ROUT AND ANOTHER ...Defendant(s)</p> <p>SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED Take Notice that the applicant has instituted an O.A. No. 150/2023 in the Court of the Debts of Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of Rs. 36,09,414.01 only together with current and future interest, costs and other reliefs. The above mentioned defendants are therefore, directed to appear before this tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the publication or on 13.10.2023 at 10.30 a.m. as to why reliefs prayed should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in their absence. Given under my hand seal of this Tribunal on this 29th day of August, 2023 Sd/- Registrar</p>
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No. O-991

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR (MAYURBHANJ)
Email ID: eerwairangpur@yahoo.com
Letter No. 4081 / Date- 11.09.2023

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works | Bid Identification No.: RWRDRP-09/2023-24

1. Name of the Work : Special repair to roads for the year 2023-24. 2. Estimated Cost: From Rs. 6.70 to 29.41 lakhs (Approximately). 3. Class of Contractor : "D" & "C" = 1, 2, 3 & 5 Class or relevant Class of works license. "C" & "B" = 4 Class or relevant Class of works license. 4. Period of Completion : SI No.1, 2, 4 & 5 = 02 (Two) Calendar Months. SI No. 3 = 1 (One) Calendar month. 5. Tender Paper Cost : As per annexure.
 The details are as follows:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/S.R.W. Division, Rairangpur. Technical Bid & Financial Bid
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
S.E.R.W. Division, Rairangpur	RWRDRP-09/2023-24	15.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	25.09.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	22.09.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	26.09.2023 at 11.30 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in
 OIPR-25107/11/0011/2324
 Sd/- Er. D. Behera, Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Rairangpur

No. O-948

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, KEONJHAR
Tel. 06766-258094 (O), Mail: eerw1_kjr@yahoo.com
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works
Identification No. Online NCB-06/2023-24

1. Name of the Work : 01 No. Building Work; 2. Total Number of Work : 01 No.; 3. Estimated Cost: Rs.42.00 Lakhs; 4. Class of Contractor : B Class; 5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure of e-Procurement Notice No. 06/2023-24. 6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/S.E., R.W. Division-I, Keonjhar. Technical Bid
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Keonjhar	Road Online NCB No. 06	Dt.13.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt.22.09.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.21.09.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.25.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the Website: www.tenderorissa.gov.in
 OIPR-25110/11/0012/2324
 Sd/- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division-I, Keonjhar



FOCUS GOVERNANCE

THE LOST LESSONS



It has been said that a crisis is a terrible thing to waste. As matters stand, we will meet our next health crisis having largely wasted this one (which is still not over)

In October 2020, India and South Africa requested a temporary waiver of provisions of the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to enable the rapid production and distribution of vaccines and therapeutics in the developing world. Despite the support of the US (at least in principle) and dozens of other countries, the agreement eventually reached in June 2022 was a mere shadow of the original vision. Meanwhile, the scenario that the TRIPS waiver was supposed to prevent had come to pass, exposing the current system's fault lines.

Running counter to the industry narrative of private-sector risk-taking against incredible odds, vaccine development is a long-term endeavour achieved through public-private partnership. Much of the basic research that led to mRNA vaccines had been publicly funded for decades, mainly by the US, the United Kingdom, and European Union countries. Additional public funding accelerated research on COVID-19 vaccines, while pre-orders for millions of doses and reduced costs and procedures for clinical trials rounded out the subsidy regime for drug manufacturers. By the time the first COVID-19 vaccines appeared in the West, their production had been mostly de-risked for Big Pharma, thus creating "the vast

debacle of global vaccine inequity."

The pharmaceutical companies used their oligopoly power to negotiate the best deals for their shareholders, under the cover of confidentiality. South Africa, for example, paid more than double the EU price for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, even though its per capita income is roughly one-fifth that of the bloc. Moderna is embroiled in a dispute with the US National Institutes of Health over its COVID-19 vaccine patent, with the NIH arguing that three of its researchers must be listed as co-inventors. Even now, vaccine availability in many African countries is woefully inadequate, and the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, created to coordinate the equitable distribution of tests, vaccines, and therapeutics, faces a funding shortfall of \$247 million.

Moreover, COVID-19 is only one part of the public-health landscape. The African Union has set a target of meeting 60% of the continent's total vaccine needs through regional manufacturing by 2040. But even this modest goal relies heavily on foreign funding and faces barriers seemingly built into the current innovation and IP systems.

The upcoming trials – funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust – of a promising tuberculosis vaccine have highlighted the ambiguous commercial

arrangement between the Gates Foundation and GSK, the vaccine's developer. (The Gates Foundation has long advocated for exclusive rights to drugs and allegedly convinced researchers at the University of Oxford to partner with the biotech company AstraZeneca instead of offering non-exclusive, royalty-free licenses for its COVID-19 vaccine.)

This matters for many reasons, not least because the AS01 adjuvant used to increase the vaccine's efficacy – and which GSK will supply – has immense potential for other drugs. One of its components, QS-21, has been cultivated by indigenous peoples in Chile for centuries, which raises the question of how this population is benefiting, if at all, from the molecule's pharmaceutical monetisation.

The global community has demonstrated an ability to harness science and innovation for the public good. Consider how 50 years ago, when hunger and malnutrition were at the top of the agenda, governments, international organisations, and foundations banded together to fund the Green Revolution and CGIAR, a global network of agricultural research centers that has produced significant advances in food and agricultural technology and policy.

But, clearly, the current governance structures are no longer fit for purpose. Imagine if an innovator were to unveil a technological fix for climate change. The global community would almost surely struggle to encourage its rapid and comprehensive uptake, and it would be no different for other innovations that exhibit positive externalities.

It has been said that a crisis is a terrible thing to waste. As matters stand, we will meet our next health crisis having largely wasted this one (which is still not over). Given that the innovation and IP regimes remain largely unchanged, we will have to count on getting lucky again.

The writer is a distinguished fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Rohinton P. Medhora

GIVEN THAT THE INNOVATION AND IP REGIMES REMAIN LARGELY UNCHANGED, WE WILL HAVE TO COUNT ON GETTING LUCKY AGAIN

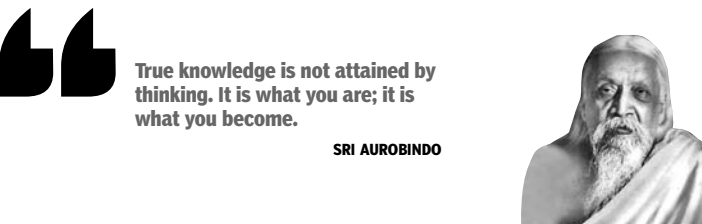
The rituals of fall in the northern hemisphere now include preparing for a fresh variant of COVID-19, in addition to the annual flu season. This year, it is EG.5 (nicknamed Eris, the ancient Greek goddess of strife and discord), a subvariant of Omicron that is already prevalent in the United States, Canada, and several Asian countries.

Although the World Health Organization has identified EG.5 as a "variant of interest," it is not a major public-health threat by dint of being a subvariant. COVID-19, the thinking goes, has ebbed: the vaccines worked, and herd immunity has been attained in some parts of the world, causing infection rates and the attendant morbidity and mortality rates to fall from their peaks in 2021 and 2022. But is this indicative of our successful response, or have we simply been lucky?

To be sure, the scientific community mobilised to develop tests, vaccines, and other therapeutics in record time. But, even at its worst, COVID-19 was not as virulent or deadly as past plagues. And, more importantly, scientific ingenuity was not accompanied by innovation in global governance.

In fact, it has become difficult to track new variants, because many countries have reduced or stopped surveillance and widespread testing of suspected COVID-19 cases. Masking in public places and other precautionary measures have become exceptional. This raises several salient "what ifs." What if a deadly variant emerges in one of the low-income countries where less than 40% of the population has been vaccinated with at least one dose? What if rich countries have let their guard down too soon? And, perhaps most importantly, what if a new virus causes another pandemic?

There will undoubtedly be a next time, at which point our failure to strengthen the governance of innovation will become glaringly apparent. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have repeatedly missed opportunities to leverage scientific breakthroughs for the public good.



True knowledge is not attained by thinking. It is what you are; it is what you become.

SRI AUROBINDO

Art of Translation

Translators of literary masterpieces were destined to live in obscurity without getting any recognition for their labour of love both in academic and monetary terms. That their work also rises to the stature of art, though certainly not at par with that of the original creators, was never understood till the phenomenon called Edith Grossman, appeared on the literary scene. Grossman is not only elevated the art of translation, but completely redefined it. Her death a few days ago at the ripe old age of 87 has brought back into focus the importance and glory of translation.

For the past four decades, she has been the "English voice" of such Latin-American writers as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Cervantes, Isabel Allende, Carlos Fuentes and Antonio Muñoz Molina. She has earned a name for herself as a creative translator for her nuanced translation of Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes and Love in the Time of Cholera, by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, among others. Her translation of literary pieces is not merely reproduction of the original in a different language word for word. She regarded translation as an art of delving deep into the mind, consciousness, vision and sensibilities of the creator and interpreting them in a way the author himself would have appreciated. She compared the craft with the skill of an actor who delivers dialogues written by a playwright conveying the sense with his insight into the mind of the writer and intonations.

In Grossman's opinion, a translator cannot be dismissed as a mere labourer in the literary business who should be satisfied with the wages that she or he gets. She fought for the translators' right to be recognised – and remunerated – with their names on the books' covers alongside the writers'. It was a defining moment for the world of translation where translators were always treated as second class citizens. She wrote in the introduction of her essay, Why Translation Matters, way back in 2010, "Translation expands and deepens our world, our consciousness, in countless, indescribable ways."

Grossman dedicated herself to translating Latin American and Spanish authors at a time when literary translation was not considered a serious academic discipline or career. She rightly described translators as the "humble Cinderella" of publishing. She was the first to understand the role of a translator as a "living bridge between two realms of discourse, two realms of experience, and two sets of readers."

She insisted that on any book she translated, her name must also appear on the cover along with that of the author. This was a practice that publishers had traditionally resisted for both financial and marketing reasons. They thought translation was a mundane job of one with some knowledge of words for which the translator should be happy with whatever money she or he was given. A translator, who knows the art, tries to think and feel the way the writer does. The translation then becomes a recreation. This is the reason why Marquez became alarmed and envious when he came to know Grossman was about to translate Cervantes' Don Quixote as well. He paid glowing tribute to his translator when he said she was his "English voice." He sounded jealous because he wanted Grossman to be his voice alone which shows how the translator became identified with the creator himself.

When her translation of Don Quixote appeared in 2003, with her name on the cover along with that of Cervantes, it raised her to a different pedestal and also helped enhance the position of literary translation. There had been many valuable translations of Don Quixote, but as the celebrated critic Harold Bloom wrote Grossman's version is distinguished for the extraordinarily high quality of her prose.

It was not simply for money and fame for which Grossman fought the case of translators. Literary translations represent a global conversation that builds mutual understanding through the exchange of ideas, culture and a shared love of literature. This is what is most needed in the present world torn with conflict, intolerance and apathy to listen to many voices.

WISDOM CORNER

If you focus on success, you'll have stress. But if you pursue excellence, success will be guaranteed. DEEPAK CHOPRA

In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure. BILL COSBY

The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack in will. VINCE LOMBARDI

WORDSWORTH

Nick of time

It's definitely one of the stranger idioms in the language. The language experts are sure that nick here is the same word as that for a small cut or notch. Sometime round about the 1580s the phrase in the nick or in the very nick began to be used for the critical moment, the exact instant at which something has to take place. The idea seems to have been that a nick was a narrow and precise marker, so that if something was in the nick it was precisely where it should be. It seems that users of the expression pretty soon afterwards found this association of ideas needed some elaboration, so started to add of time to the expression, and that's the way it has stayed ever since. These days, the phrase more usually refers to something that only just happens in time, at the last possible moment. There are a number of other expressions involving nick, as in yet another name for the devil (this time from the personal name Nicholas). There are the British slang terms for theft ("my car's been nicked!") or for a police station ("the nick"), or the act of being arrested ("you're nicked!"). There's also the American sense of defrauding a person of money, and the Australian ideas of moving quickly or furtively. Most of these, except perhaps the last, come from senses of nick that may derive from an old and defunct colloquial sense of seizing an advantage or grabbing an opportunity, which isn't far from the idea of being in the nick of time. But the history of the word is confused and complicated (there's also the animal breeders' sense of a mating that has had excellent results, for example, as well as the old sporting sense of a winning throw at dice) to the extent that you'd need half a book to explain them all.

Niddering

This obscure word – meaning a coward, or cowardly – is the result of an error, but one which has been rubbed true by time. It's very rare, but it can carry a special punch when it appears: Stripped of its outer integuments of salacity and fraud, the inner man is revealed as timid and niddering, lying to the last firm handshake and as sickly yellow as a poisonous toadstool (Paul Johnson, writing in the Spectator, 22 May 1999). The historically correct form, which is now even rarer still, is nithing. The fault was that of the printer in the 1590s who had the job of setting William of Malmesbury's historical works in type. He misread the eth character in the old spelling niding as a d followed by a mark, which he assumed meant an e had been omitted. The result was niddering, which later writers made to conform with the usual rules of English spelling by adding a second d. Its original, nithing, derives from an ancient Scandinavian legal term, the Oxford English Dictionary explains, that meant a person "who has committed a crime so heinous that no possible compensation may be made for it." It was taken over into the legal system of England before the Norman Conquest in the sense of a coward or outlaw. Later, it came to mean a miser or a treacherous person. Conversely an unnothing was an honest or generous man. Niddering owes much of what little circulation it has had in the past two centuries to the once-popular Sir Walter Scott, who used it in Ivanhoe in 1819.

IN JEST THIS

So much to experience at airport



Melvin Durai

ONE INDIAN MAN SLEPT ABOUT THREE MONTHS AT AN AMERICAN AIRPORT

I do not enjoy flying, but I've always loved airports. As a child, I loved to watch airplanes taking off and landing. I didn't know how the pilots managed to get those huge planes into the air while carrying so many people and so much luggage. At least the luggage had weight limits, but the people could be any size and the planes still managed to take off.

I also enjoyed those magical moving stairs at the airport. I would ride the escalator with such excitement, being careful to step off at the right moment and avoid being sucked into the floor like so many missing children.

As an adult, the sight of a plane gliding through the air still enralls me, but what I enjoy watching most at the airport are the people. You can see all kinds of people at the airport, including celebrities (if you're lucky) and politicians (if you're unlucky). Actually, you might be lucky enough to spot a

politician you love and take a selfie with them.

You can view or experience a full range of emotions at the airport, including sadness (friends and relatives leaving, baggage lost), joy (friends and relatives arriving, celebrity spotted), and anger (flights delayed, bank account depleted on overpriced food).

You can see a lot of love at the airport, such as the love between Yashraj Chhabra and Riya Shukla, who recently got engaged at Auckland Airport in New Zealand. Not many people would think of an airport as an ideal place for a marriage proposal, but Chhabra had a good reason to pop the question there.

"In Bollywood movies, I think eight out of 10 times, the couple would only come together at the airport," he told CNN Travel. "The actress is leaving. The actor would run to the airport (to stop her) and they will live happily ever after."

Chhabra, who lives in New Zealand, has been having a long-

distance relationship with Shukla, who lives in Melbourne, Australia. He decided to propose to her during one of her visits to New Zealand. After getting permission from Auckland Airport management, he recorded a proposal that was played on the airport announcement system. Dozens of friends and relatives cheered as Chhabra greeted Shukla with a ring and bent knee.

The couple plan to get married in India, honeymoon in another country and settle in New Zealand.

"As much as I thought Melbourne was my home," Shukla said, "now, I would say he is my home."

I'm glad her home isn't the airport. Many people have to sleep at the airport while they await their flights. In fact, one Indian man slept about three months at an American airport. Well, he didn't sleep the whole time, but he did make the airport his home, going undetected from October 2020 until

January 16, 2021.

Aditya Singh, 37, had been living in America on a student visa, but when it expired, he decided to return home to India. But according to media reports, fear of COVID prevented him from flying and he instead stayed at O'Hare Airport in Chicago.

How did he survive at the airport? He apparently relied on the generosity of strangers, who bought him food at the airport. He also used the public bathrooms and wore an employee badge that he had found.

Singh was initially arrested and charged with trespassing, but he was acquitted of those charges. I hope he writes a book about his airport stay. Did he spot any celebrities? Did he see anyone getting engaged? Did he witness any arrests – other than his own?

I'd love to read about everything he experienced. But perhaps it would make me envious, wishing I could also live at the airport.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST

B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Asteroid sample

Sir, After years of waiting, NASA is finally on the verge of completing a historic mission. On September 24, the OSIRIS-REX spacecraft will bring the first-ever asteroid sample to the US soil, having travelled a distance of almost seven billion kilometers. The sample is of an asteroid known as Bennu, which has a 1/2700 chance of impacting Earth between 2175 and 2195. The NASA spacecraft has completed a two-year investigation of the asteroid and plucked a sample of the asteroid material from its surface. The spacecraft has also been studying how light absorbed from the Sun and re-radiated by Bennu affects its orbit? And consequently, how that orbit could become more dangerous for Earth?

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Bolt from the blue

Sir, The arrest of N Chandrababu Naidu in an alleged case of corruption is a bolt from the blue to the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh who had been pivotal in the national politics in his heydays. Given the hard-boiled politics in Andhra between the YSR Congress Party (YSRP) government led by the popular Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and the weakened Opposition, the Telugu Desham Party (TDP), Chandrababu Naidu's arrest is not at all surprising. In his advanced age, Chandrababu Naidu with a zeal to bring back the past glory to the TDP relied on his son Nara Lokesh's "padayatra" which failed to inspire and enthuse the people of the state, leaving the party disappointed. With the state Assembly elections due in less than eight months from now, the arrest of the TDP chief in a serious case of corruption can prove disaster to the TDP. Meanwhile, the bonhomie between Andhra CM Jagan Mohan Reddy and Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives rise to the doubt that arrest of Chandrababu Naidu couldn't have happened without the Centre's nod as the TDP chief had turned foe to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) just before the 2019 general elections. However, the law should take its own course of action in the case involving a former Chief Minister.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Declare HP calamity a 'national disaster': Priyanka urges govt



Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi visits the flood-affected Deori village to review the current situation in Mandi district

Shimla, Sept 12: Urging the Centre to rise above "party politics", Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Tuesday demanded that the recent calamity in Himachal Pradesh due to heavy monsoon rains be declared a "national disaster".

Priyanka, who visited rain-affected areas of Kullu district and reviewed relief and restoration works, urged the Centre to rise above "party politics" without taking into consideration whether there is a Congress or BJP government in the state, a statement issued here said.

Flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains had wreaked havoc in Kullu and Mandi districts July 14 and 15.

During her Kullu visit, Priyanka lauded the spirit with which the people and state government are facing the situation. Even as the state government is doing far beyond its capacity by using its limited resources to provide succour to the affected families, however, without the assistance of the Union government, it is difficult to restore normalcy and complete renovation works besides providing aid to the people, the leader added.

The Congress leader visited affected areas on her way to Manali from Kullu, including the Sangam Bridge at Bhuntar which was damaged by the overflowing Beas river following heavy rains in July, and interacted with the flood victims at the Aloo ground in Manali.

The farmers and horticulturists of the state have also suffered enormous losses and the

- Flash floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains had wreaked havoc in Kullu and Mandi districts July 14 and 15
- Himachal Pradesh has suffered losses of Rs 8,679 crore since the onset of monsoon June 24 till September 11

Centre should pay heed towards their plight as well. Some big industrial houses, dealing in fruit marketing, have reduced the price of the apple crop thereby causing losses to the horticulturalists, Priyanka said.

Priyanka, who arrived at the Bhuntar airport in Kullu this morning, earlier spoke with Congress workers and local growers about apple production, transportation and rates of apple boxes offered by the Adani group. The centre has also reduced the import duty on the Washington apple, which will also directly affect the horticulturalists of the State, thereby causing losses to them. The Central leadership should also think about the benefits of the farmers and horticulturalists of the State, the statement said.

Priyanka was accompanied by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, State Congress chief, who is also the sitting Congress MP from Mandi Parliament constituency, and Public Works Department Minister Vikramaditya Singh.

The Congress leader will also visit Mandi, Shimla and Solan districts. Himachal Pradesh has suffered losses of Rs 8,679 crore since the onset of monsoon June 24 till September 11.

HIMACHAL LANDSLIDES

Experts to be roped in for undertaking in-depth study

Experts from the Geological Survey of India, Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar and Wadia Institute of Seismology will be roped in for the in-depth study of landslides

In the ongoing monsoon season, 111 people died in 165 landslides between June 24 and September 11, according to state emergency operation centre data. There are 17,120 landslide-prone sites in the state and 675 of these are near critical infrastructure and habitations



Shimla, Sept 12: Experts from the Geological Survey of India, IIT Ropar and Wadia Institute of Seismology will be roped in for an in-depth study of landslides in Himachal Pradesh, officials said Tuesday.

In the ongoing monsoon season, 111 people died in 165 landslides between June 24 and September 11, according to state emergency operation centre data.

There are 17,120 landslide-prone sites in the state and 675 of these are near critical infrastructure and habitations, the data showed. Expressing concern over the landslides, the officials said the study would examine the reason behind land subsidence at nearly 200 places where there is no construction. Experts from the

Geological Survey of India, Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar and Wadia Institute of Seismology will be roped in for an in-depth study of landslides in the state, Principal Secretary (revenue) Onkar Chand Sharma told PTI. Meanwhile, a committee constituted last month to study the causes of landslides in Shimla city said in its report that water saturation in soil, construction on drains and loose strata led to the collapse of buildings, according to officials. Principal Scientific Officer, Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology and Environment (HIMCOSTE), S S Randhawa

1 lakh poor to get houses in Haryana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 12: Furthering its efforts to support the underprivileged in the state, the Haryana government has prepared a plan to provide houses to one lakh poor people, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said.

Khattar's announcement came during a programme in Samalkha, Panipat late Monday evening, where he said the state government is continually striving to provide essential necessities to its citizens, a statement issued here Tuesday said.

In this regard, with the aim of providing shelter to the underprivileged, the government has formulated a plan under which 1 lakh poor people will be provided with homes, he said.

However, no timeline for the project was mentioned in the official statement. The Chief Minister said the government is committed to extending the benefits of various schemes to eligible citizens, the release added.

These schemes encompass a range of welfare programmes, pension schemes, student scholarships, Mukhya Mantri Vivah Shagun Yojna and housing projects, all designed to ensure the well-being of the population, he added.

Khattar further stated that the inception of the 'Parivar Pehchan Patra', a scheme that provides identity cards to families, has streamlined the distribution of essential resources like ration cards and pensions to citizens from the comfort of their homes.

The government has also taken strong measures to curb corruption in government jobs, thereby promoting transparency and fairness, he added.

Apples being transported through ropeway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 12: Apples and peas are being transported by a ropeway in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur after a major landslide blocked the national highway connecting the district to state capital Shimla.

After the successful trial of the ropeway (span) Monday, apples, peas and other crops would be transported through the ropeway at Negulsari free of cost so that the produce reaches the markets and no loss is caused to state capital Shimla.

Negi, who is also the sitting



Congress MLA from Kinnaur, said over 20 apple-laden trucks have been diverted from Kaza-Kunzum road. The ropeway has been set up at Krampa in Negulsari to Dhumti on Chauraru link road. Machinery has

been deployed on both sides of the landslide-hit road and majority of the stretch has been cleared but the rocky 70-metre path is creating hindrance as the slide is continuing, he told PTI. The minister also directed of-

officials to arrange for transportation of all essential items so that there is no inconvenience caused to the people of Kinnaur. Apple transportation from the lower belts of Kinnaur starts in August while apples from higher reaches arrive till November end. Apple production has declined this year due to vagaries of the weather.

About 30 lakh boxes are expected in 2023 as compared to about 40-42 lakh boxes in 2022, Deputy Director, Horticulture (Kinnaur), Ajay Kumar Dhiman told PTI. In wake of the landslide, locals have also come forward to facilitate the stranded people.

Haryana police to enhance cybercrime initiatives

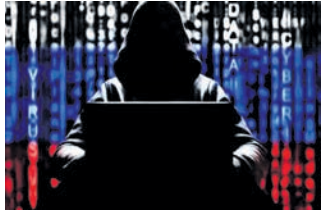
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 12: A State Cybercrime Coordination Centre will be set up in Gurugram as part of the Haryana Police's concerted efforts to streamline and bolster its cybercrime initiatives, an official spokesperson said Tuesday.

As digital threats continue to evolve and pose challenges to the very fabric of our interconnected society, the Haryana Police has decided to give its cybersecurity juggernaut fresh momentum, he said.

The state police force is charting a fresh course towards an enhanced cybersecurity infrastructure with operational headquarters in Panchkula, he said.

With an understanding of the intricate nuances that the digital age demands, the department is making concerted efforts to streamline and bolster its cy-



bercrime initiatives, he said.

Besides, the State Cyber Police Station and Cyber Forensic Lab in Panchkula will be strengthened, and the call handling capacity of its dedicated helpline for cyber-related grievances, 1930, will be increased, he said.

He said the Haryana Police recognises the need for robust policy frameworks that can guide the future of cybersecurity in Haryana. Thus, efforts are in full swing to curate and recommend policy inputs tailored to address the challenges of cybersecurity, digital threats and cybercrimes, he said.



Officials stand next to Billing Setu bridge after being virtually inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in Manali district, Himachal Pradesh

Haryana: Boost to self-help groups at int'l trade fairs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 12: Hand-made products designed by Haryana women's self-help groups would be showcased in domestic and international trade fairs held in the country, the government said.

Various items crafted by women of self-help groups (SHG) would be exhibited at the Haryana Pavilion section of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2023 scheduled from November 14 to 27 in New Delhi, an official statement said.

The government also plans to promote SHG products at other trade fairs, both domestic and international, Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal said while presiding over the governing body meeting of the Trade Fair Authority of Haryana (TFAH) here.

He added that the government is extending its full support to SHGs to help them market their products to a wider audience.

Kaushal said providing a platform to SHG products was a step towards the government's commitment to boost the economic empowerment of women in the state.

A committee will be formed to select the items to be displayed at the IITF 2023. The IITF is one of Asia's largest trade fairs and it provides an ideal platform for showcasing SHG products,



Kaushal added.

To boost the visibility of these items, a dedicated stall will be set up at the IITF 2023, which will serve as a one-stop shop for visitors to explore the diverse range of SHG products, he said.

Government of Odisha No. O-984
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, JHARSUGUDA
Email: eerw_jharsuguda@yahoo.co.in, Tel.: 06645-271643
Bid Identification No. Online - SEJSG - 07 of 2023-24
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR BUILDING WORKS IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

- Name of the Work : Building works as per DTCN available in the www.tendersorissa.gov.in
- Total No. of Work : 02 (Two) Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 15.55 Lakh to Rs. 16.80 lakhs
- Period of Completion : 04 (Four) Calendar Months
- Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding : Dt. 15.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 25.09.2023 upto 05.00 P.M.
- Date and time of bid opening : Dt. 26.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : S.E., R.W. Division, Jharsuguda

1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.
Sd./ Superintending Engineer
R.W. Division, Jharsuguda
OIPR-25104/11/0008/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-981
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BOLANGIR
E-mail ID: eerw_bigr@yahoo.co.in
e-Procurement Notice
IFB IDENTIFICATION No. EEBLGR-Online-10/2023-24

- Name of Work : Building Works
- Total No. of Works : 05 (Five) Nos.
- Approximate Estimated Cost : Rs. 20.17 lakh to 26.89 lakh
- Time for Completion : 04 (Four) Calendar Months
- Mode of Submission of Tender : Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
- Other details are as follow : As per TEC No. EEBLGR-Online-10/2023-24

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding		Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Bolangir	EEBLGR-Online-10/2023-24	14.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	28.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	27.09.2023 upto 1.00 P.M.	30.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

• Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
• Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender website only.
Sd./ Executive Engineer
R.W. Division, Bolangir
OIPR-25068/11/0014/2324

GOVT. OF ODISHA No. O-979
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, PATNAGARH
E-mail: eerw_ptng@yahoo.in, Phone No.: 06658-222121
e-Procurement Notice
IFB IDENTIFICATION No. EEPNTG-Online-05/2023-24

- Name of Work : Special Repair of Road & Bridge works
- Total No. of Work : 06 (Six) Nos. Road & Bridge Works
- Time for Completion : 01 (One) Calendar Month
- Approximate Estimated Cost : 5.08 lakhs to 27.97 lakhs
- Mode of Submission of Tender : Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
- Other details are as follow

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for Bidding		Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, R.W. Divn., Patnagarh	EEPTNG-Online-05/2023-24	14.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	22.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	21.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	25.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

• Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
• Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender website only.
Sd./ Executive Engineer
R.W. Division, Patnagarh
OIPR-25154/11/0009/2324

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Tel. No. 06752 222092, e-mail Id: eerwpuri@gmail.com
TCN No. Tender Online - 05 of 2023-24
No. 5797 Dt.: 05.09.2023
No. O-996: The Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Puri on behalf of Government of Odisha invites percentage rate tenders through e-Procurement for 7 Nos. of work for the year 2023-24 in the District of Puri.

- Total No. of Works : 7 Nos.
- Tender cost of Packages : Amount varies from Rs. 16.81 lakhs to Rs. 33.56 lakhs
- Class of Contractor : As per DTCN
- Period of Completion : 2 (Two), 4 (Four) & 5 (Five)
- Period of availability of Tenders Online/Date & time of bidding Online/Last date of seeking clarification/Date of opening of tender papers.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender Online for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date, time & venue of opening of tender
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
S.E., Rural Works Division, Puri	Online - 5	21.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	04.10.2023 upto 3.00 P.M.	03.10.2023 upto 1.00 P.M.	05.10.2023 at 11.30 A.M., Office of the S.E., R.W. Division, Puri

6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in/>".
OIPR-25065/11/0007/2324
Sd./ Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Puri



Indian Army personnel display professional prowess in Exercise Bright Star - 2023



Women row their boats carrying water chestnuts after harvesting them from Wular Lake, in Bandipora district. More than ten thousand families from Bandipora district of North Kashmir depend on Wular Lake for chestnut extraction and fish



Rescuers pull American researcher Mark Dickey out of Morca cave near Anamur, south Turkey Tuesday. Teams from across Europe had rushed to Morca cave in southern Turkey's Taurus Mountains to aid Dickey, a 40-year-old experienced caver who became seriously ill on September 2 with stomach bleeding



Members of All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) during a protest demanding distribution of ration under the PDS scheme in Mumbai



Newly-developed Chambal riverfront following its inauguration by Rajasthan UDH Minister Shanti Kumar Dhariwal in Kota, Rajasthan



An artisan gives final touches to an idol of Lord Vishwakarma ahead of Vishwakarma Jayanti in Amritsar



Volunteers take part in a campaign to save the Himalayan meadows, at Regdi village in Chamoli



President Droupadi Murmu during the inauguration of the First Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights, in New Delhi. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar is also seen

national

of the day quote

The state has nearly exhausted power generation capacity from its own sources as the huge spike in demand for electricity this year has caught it off-guard

It is our clear stand to give reservations to the Maratha community. When Devendra Fadnis was chief minister (between 2014 and 2019), we had given reservations to the Maratha community but it was set aside by the Supreme Court

India is emerging as a star on the world stage because of which some parties are feeling uneasy. There are some people whose thinking is not to draw their own line longer, but to shorten others' line



The situation in the country is not good. Inflation and unemployment are at its peak. People are falling prey to hunger. Narendra Modi has resorted to deceiving people again with elections round the corner....But his exit is certain this time

LALU PRASAD YADAV | RJD SUPREMO

MAMATA LEAVES FOR SPAIN, DUBAI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday left for a 12-day tour of Spain and United Arab Emirates to seek investments for the state. Banerjee's flight to Dubai, which was scheduled around 8:30 am, was delayed by at least three hours due to some technical glitches



SC refuses govt plea to defer sedition law hearing



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The Supreme Court Tuesday referred to a constitution bench of at least five judges a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the IPC provision on sedition, a month after the Centre introduced in Parliament bills to replace the colonial-era penal statutes IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act, proposing among other things the repeal of the sedition law.

The apex court declined to accept the Centre's fervent request that reference of the petitions to a larger bench be deferred as

Parliament is in the process of "re-enacting" the provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and a bill has been placed before a standing committee.

The court said assuming that the bill, which proposes among other things the repeal of the sedition law and introduction of a new provision with a wider definition of the offence, becomes a law, it cannot be applied with retrospective effect.

"We are not inclined to accept the request for deferring the consideration of the constitutional challenge in these batch of matters for more than one reason," said the bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud.

The bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra observed that Section 124A (sedition) of the IPC continues to remain in the statute book, and even if the new bill becomes a law, there is a presumption that any new law in the penal statute will have prospective and not retrospective effect.

Two Nipah virus deaths in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kozhikode (Kerala), Sept 12: The Nipah virus has killed two people and infected two others in Kerala's Kozhikode district, the state government said Tuesday.

"Nipah virus infection has been confirmed in Kozhikode district. Two people died due to infections. Of the four people whose saliva was sent for testing, two were Nipah positive and two were Nipah negative," Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in a Facebook post.

The chief minister urged people not to panic and to take precaution instead. "Everyone should strictly follow the instructions of the health department and the police and fully cooperate with the restrictions," he said. Talking to reporters in Kozhikode after receiving confirmation from the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, where the samples were sent for testing, state Health Minister Veena George said one of the people who was infected with the virus is a nine-year-old boy.



People wear masks at a medical college after the Nipah virus alert in Kozhikode

"The samples of the person who died yesterday and two others under treatment, including the nine-year-old boy, have tested positive," she said. The death of the first person, on August 30, was initially considered a death due to the comorbidity of liver cirrhosis, she said.

"However, his son, the nine-year-old boy who is already in ICU, and his 24-year-old brother-in-law are the two positive cases that were detected today," the minister said. The sample of the person who died Monday also tested positive.

The minister added that two epicentres of the disease have

been identified, which will soon be declared as containment zones by the district collector after following due procedure. The man who died on August 30 was 44 years old, while the person who died Monday was a 40-year-old man.

The health department has also found out that the deceased persons were together in a private hospital for almost one hour at a particular point of time and as of now, there are no other points of contact for them other than that.

"As of now, it is understood that the index case is the man who died on August 30. Because

his nine-year-old son and his brother-in-law have now tested positive," she said. A massive contact tracing exercise has already begun, she added.

The health department has identified 168 contacts among the two deceased persons found infected with the Nipah virus. The minister said that in the first case, 158 contacts were identified, out of which 127 were health workers and the rest were family or those from the locality of his residence.

In the second case, nearly 200 contacts were traced, out of which 10 have been identified along with their mobile numbers.

She said the control room and the call centre have started functioning, and asked people who experience any symptoms to contact the call centre, from where an ambulance for their transportation to the hospital will be arranged. Earlier in the day, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said that the two deaths reported from Kerala's Kozhikode district were caused by the Nipah virus.

HARYANA HANDS OVER MONU TO RAJ POLICE

He was handed over to Rajasthan police after it obtained a transit remand for him from a court in Haryana's Nuh. The arrest was made by the Nuh police, reportedly in Gurugram's Manesar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram/Jaipur, Sept 12: Cow vigilante Monu Manesar, who was booked by Rajasthan police for the murder of two Muslim men in February and is also accused of inciting communal hatred in home state Haryana, was arrested Tuesday, officials said.

He was handed over to Rajasthan police after it obtained a transit remand for him from a court in Haryana's Nuh. The arrest was made by the Nuh police, reportedly in Gurugram's Manesar.

A pistol, three live bullets and a mobile phone were seized from Manesar, police said. They are checking if the pistol is licensed. Nuh police said they informed neighbouring states and districts about the arrest, following standard procedure. Deeg district in Rajasthan adjoins Nuh.

Manesar, whose official name is Mohit Yadav, was accused by some of being a trigger for the July 31 episode, in which a Vishva Hindu Parishad procession was targeted by mobs in Nuh - leading to the deaths of six people in that district and neighbouring Gurugram.

However, the FIR registered by the Nuh police is related to a message he posted on social media amid plans by the VHP to take out another procession on August 28 to "resume" the disrupted yatra.

The Nuh police said the post attempted to create disharmony between groups on the basis of

A PISTOL, THREE LIVE BULLETS AND A MOBILE PHONE WERE SEIZED FROM MANESAR, POLICE SAID

HARYANA CHIEF MINISTER MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR HAD SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE ANY ASSISTANCE TO RAJASTHAN POLICE REQUIRED TO NAB MANESAR



religion and wounded religious sentiments. It allegedly used objectionable language. The local authorities had denied permission for this second yatra.

In Rajasthan's Deeg district, Manesar was accused of being part of a conspiracy to abduct and kill two men after branding them cow smugglers. In February, Nasir (25) and Junaid (35) were allegedly abducted from Rajasthan's Bharatpur district, from an area which is now part of Deeg after the state government recently created more districts. Their bodies were found in a burnt car in Loharu in Haryana's Bhiwani the next morning.

Rajasthan police last month said Manesar's role in hatching a conspiracy and abetting the crime was "under active investigation". Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had also told reporters that his government would provide any assistance to Rajasthan police re-

quired to nab Manesar.

Bharatpur Inspector General of Police Rupinder Singh said a team from Deeg went to Nuh on Tuesday after learning about Manesar's arrest. "He was produced in the court by the Nuh police and Rajasthan Police also moved an application to seek his custody. The court granted his custody to Rajasthan Police and he is now being taken from Nuh to Deeg," he said in the evening.

Earlier, Manesar was under the scanner over a video that surfaced online before the Nuh violence. Asked about the clip days later, Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij had said, "I have seen that video, nowhere is he investigating people to riot... He is asking people to join the yatra." Haryana Police, however, had said Manesar's role in the July 31 would be investigated. The Nuh case on the new social media post is being investigated by the district's cyber crime unit.

ED GRILLS NUSRAT JAHAN FOR SIX HOURS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 12: TMC MP and actor Nusrat Jahan was Tuesday grilled by Enforcement Directorate (ED) sleuths for nearly six hours at its office in a case linked to alleged duping of senior citizens by promising them flats in New Town area here, a senior official of the probe body said.

The 33-year-old actor, who was summoned by the federal agency for questioning last week, was asked to clarify her role as the director of the real estate company besides other questions related to the investigation.

"I answered all the questions I was asked. Thank you so much," was her brief reply to questions by reporters after coming out of the ED's office in the evening. The TMC leadership distanced itself from Jahan while affirming her cooperation with the central agencies.

An ED official said that Jahan during the questioning was also asked about the huge loan (over Rs one crore) that she allegedly took from the company.

"She was asked how she repaid the loan. She has submitted some documents to our officers and they are being probed. Our officers also asked her to specify the respective roles of Rakesh Singh and small-time actor Ruplekha Mitra who were co-directors in the company," he said.

ED has summoned Mitra for questioning in the same case. "We have nothing to say regarding it. From the very first day, we have said we have zero tolerance (towards corruption). She was summoned, she had gone and cooperated," senior TMC minister Partha Bhowmick said when asked to comment on Jahan's questioning by the ED.

New dress code sparks controversy



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: A new dress code with floral motif for Parliament staff kicked off a political row Tuesday with the Congress dubbing it as "cheap" tactics to promote the ruling party's poll symbol.

According to an internal circular issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the marshals, security staff and officials, chamber attendants and drivers have been issued new uniforms which they have to don once the new parliament building starts functioning.

The 'bandhgala' suit of bureaucrats will be replaced with a magenta or deep pink Nehru jacket.

The shirts for them will also have floral design. The employees will wear khaki-coloured pants.

The new attire for the marshals in both houses of Parliament will now include Manipuri turbans. The Parliament Security Staff will be seen in army camouflage pattern fatigues instead of the blue

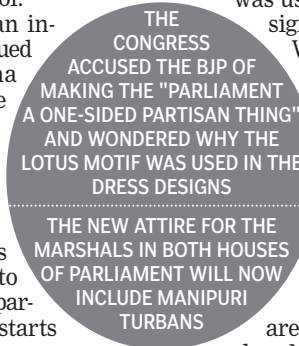
safari suits. Women officers have been assigned bright coloured saris with jackets to be worn during winters.

The Congress accused the BJP of making the "Parliament a one-sided partisan thing" and wondered why the lotus motif was used in the dress designs. "Why lotus only?"

"Why can't a peacock or why can't a tiger? Oh, they're not BJP party election symbol. Why this fall sir Om Birla," Congress whip in Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore said on X.

"How cheap they are. They did it in G20 also. Now also they are doing it and saying it is the national flower," he said. "This kind of pettiness is not right. Hope the BJP grows up and not make the Parliament a one-sided partisan thing," he alleged.

Tagore said the Parliament is becoming a part of a party's symbol. "It is unfortunate. The Parliament was above all parties. It shows that the BJP is interfering in every other institution," he said. The Parliament session is set to begin September 18 in the old building.



WATCHING PORN IN PRIVATE IS NOT AN OFFENCE: HC

The High Court said that declaring such an act as an offence would amount to intrusion of a person's privacy and interference with his personal choice

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Sept 12: Watching pornographic photographs or videos in one's private time without showing it to others is not an offence under the law as it is a matter of personal choice, the Kerala High Court has held.

The High Court said that declaring such an act as an offence would amount to intrusion of a person's privacy and interference with his personal choice. The ruling by Justice P V Kunhikrishnan came while quashing a case of obscenity under Section 292 of the Indian Penal Code against a 33-year-old man who was back in 2016 caught by police while watching porn videos on his mobile phone on

the roadside near the Aluva palace here.

The order and ruling came on the accused person's plea to quash the FIR and the court proceedings against him in connection with that. The court said pornography was in practice for centuries and the new digital age has made it more accessible, even to children.

"The question to be decided in this case is whether a person watching a porn video in his private time without exhibiting it to others amounts to an offence? A court of law cannot declare that the same amounts to an offence for the simple reason that it is his private choice and interference with the same amounts to an intrusion of his



privacy," it said.

The court also noted that there was no allegation that the petitioner (accused) publicly exhibited the video. "I am of the considered opinion that watching an obscene photo by a person

in his privacy by itself is not an offence under Section 292 (obscenity) of IPC. Similarly, watching an obscene video by a person from a mobile phone in his privacy is also not an offence under Section 292 IPC. "If the accused

is trying to circulate or distribute or publicly exhibit any obscene video or photos, then the offence under Section 292 IPC is attracted," Justice Kunhikrishnan said.

Therefore, no offence under Section 292 of the IPC is made out against the accused, the court said and quashed all the proceedings in the magisterial court in connection with the case. At the same time, Justice Kunhikrishnan also cautioned parents against giving mobile phones with internet access to children to make them happy.

"The parents should be aware of the danger behind it. Let the children watch informative news and videos from the mobile phones of their parents in their presence. Parents should never hand over mobile phones to minor children to make them happy and thereafter complete their daily routine works in their

house allowing unsupervised use of mobile phones by children," the judge said.

Justice Kunhikrishnan said that if minor children end up watching porn videos, which are now accessible in all mobile phones, "there will be far reaching consequences". "Let the children play cricket or football or other games they like during their leisure time. That is necessary for a healthy young generation who are to become the beacons of hope of our nation in the future. "Instead of purchasing food from restaurants through 'swiggy' and 'zomato', let the children taste the delicious food made by their mother and let the children play at playgrounds and come back home to the mesmerising smell of their mother's food. I leave it there to the wisdom of the parents of minor children of this society," the judge said.

Trudeau takes off from Delhi

New Delhi: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his delegation departed from the national capital Tuesday afternoon after the technical issue with his aircraft was resolved. Trudeau, who arrived in Delhi on Friday, was scheduled to leave on Sunday but was stranded for two days due to a technical issue with the aircraft. A source in the know said the aircraft took off at around 1310 hrs (1:10 pm IST). Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar was at the airport to see off Trudeau. "On behalf of PM @narendramodi Ji and my colleagues in govt, I was at the airport today to thank Mr. Justin Trudeau, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Canada @JustinTrudeau for his presence at the #G20Summit and wished him and his entourage a safe trip back home," the minister said in a post on platform X. The Minister of State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics & Technology also shared a picture of him with Trudeau.

international

of the day quote

Now is the time to clearly demonstrate that the international community's determination to deter North Korea's nuclear weapons program is stronger than North Korea's desire to develop nuclear weapons



YOON SUK YEOL | SOUTH KOREA'S PRESIDENT

Safety of the staff at India's diplomatic mission in the country is paramount



JAMES CLEVERLY | UK FOREIGN SECRETARY

Russian authorities, who were discussing reintroducing some capital controls last month, had tools to keep the currency and markets under control, but promised there would be no sudden moves to limit rouble volatility for now



VLADIMIR PUTIN | RUSSIAN PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Taliban reject Pak's claims

Kabul: The Taliban Tuesday rejected Pakistani government accusations that they're to blame for the closure of a key border crossing. Pakistan shut the vital commercial artery of Torkham in its northwest last Wednesday after guards from the two countries exchanged fire. A Foreign Ministry spokesperson in Islamabad Monday accused the Taliban of building unlawful structures and indiscriminate and unprovoked firing. The spokesperson, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, also repeated claims that Afghanistan allows its soil to be used for terror attacks on Pakistan.

Iran wants five prisoners from US

Dubai: Iran Tuesday identified the five prisoners it hopes to see freed in the United States in exchange for five Iranian-Americans now held in Tehran and billions in assets once held by South Korea. The acknowledgment by the Iranian mission to the United Nations in New York comes as the Biden administration has issued a blanket waiver for international banks to transfer \$6 billion in frozen Iranian money from South Korea to Qatar without fear of US sanctions.

Nawaz will return to Pak Oct 21: Shehbaz

Islamabad: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif will return to the country from London October 21 to lead the party's political campaign in the upcoming elections, ending his over four years of self-imposed exile in the UK. "Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan October 21," his younger brother and former Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who is currently in London, said Tuesday.

US FDA approves new Covid shots

Washington: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved newly formulated Covid vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna that are more closely targeted to current variants of the disease. The new Covid vaccines target the XBB.1.5 variant, which was dominant when vaccine makers began to formulate and test a new version.

PIO dies

New York: A 55-year-old Indian-American died while attempting to hike from the South Rim of the Grand Canyon to the North Rim in a single day, according to a media report. Ranjith Varma from Manassas, Virginia, was hiking with a group of about six others September 9 when the incident occurred, sources said.



Never, ever before has such a vast area been destroyed by wildfires. Then, floods devastated large regions of Greece

URSULA VON DER LEYEN | EU COMMISSION PRESIDENT

POPULATION CRISIS

More than half of the regions in South Korea are facing the risk of losing population completely, amid the country's critically low birth rate, data showed Tuesday



Floods wreak havoc in Libya

THE DESTRUCTION CAME TO DERNA AND OTHER PARTS OF EASTERN LIBYA SUNDAY NIGHT WHEN MEDITERRANEAN STORM DANIEL POUNDED THE COAST

AGENCIES

Derna, Libya, Sept 12: More than 2,000 people were killed and at least 10,000 were missing in Libya in floods caused by a huge Mediterranean storm that burst dams, swept away buildings and wiped out as much as a quarter of the eastern coastal city of Derna.

Officials expected the death toll to rise further after Storm Daniel barreled across the Mediterranean into a country divided and crumbling after more than a decade of conflict.

Residents in the city of some 90,000 were on their own in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, with authorities in eastern Libya saying they were unable to reach Derna. On Tuesday, most of the eastern government had arrived in the city. Mohamad al-Qabisi, director of the Wahda Hospital, said 1,700 people had died in one of the city's two districts and 500 had died in the other.

Local emergency responders, including troops, government workers, volunteers and residents were digging through rubble to recover the dead. They also used inflatable boats to retrieve bodies from the water. Bodies were lined up on the



- ▶ Storm Daniel hits country crumbling from conflict
- ▶ Hospital director says death toll stands at 2,200
- ▶ Dams burst in Derna, wiping out parts of city
- ▶ UN says emergency teams being mobilised on the ground

street outside a crowded hospital, with residents looking under the shrouds covering them in search of loved ones.

Similar devastation reigned on the way into Derna, with ve-

An interior ministry spokesperson told Al Jazeera that naval teams were searching for the "many families that were swept into the sea in the city of Derna".

Libyan TV station al-Masar showed people searching for bodies and men in a rubber boat retrieving one from the sea.

A video posted on social media showed remnants of a collapsed dam 11.5 km (7 miles) upstream of the city where two river valleys converged, now surrounded by huge pools of mud-coloured water. Northeast Libya is one of the country's most fertile and green regions.

The Jabal al-Akhdar area — where Bayda, Marj and Shahatt are located — has one of the country's highest average annual rainfalls, according to the World Bank.

Known for its white-painted houses and palm gardens, Derna was largely built by Italy when Libya was under Italian occupation in the first half of the 20th century.

The city was once a hub for extremist groups in the yearslong chaos that followed the NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.



Overtaken cars lie among other debris caused by flash floods in Derna



A general view of the city of Derna Tuesday

Google's search dominance challenged in antitrust trial

AGENCIES

Washington, Sept 12: Google has exploited its dominance of the internet search market to lock out competitors and smother innovation, the Department of Justice charged Tuesday at the opening of the biggest US antitrust trial in a quarter century.

"This case is about the future of the internet and whether Google's search engine will ever face meaningful competition," said Kenneth Dintzer, the Justice Department's lead litigator.

Over the next 10 weeks, federal lawyers and state attorneys general will try to prove Google rigged the market in its favour by locking its search engine in as the default choice in a plethora of places and devices. US District Judge Amit Mehta likely won't issue a ruling until early next year. If he decides Google broke the law, another trial will decide what steps should be taken to rein in the Mountain View, California-based company.

Top executives at Google and its corporate parent Alphabet Inc, as well as those from other powerful technology companies are expected to testify. Among them is likely to be Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, who succeeded Google co-founder Larry Page four years ago. Court documents also suggest that Eddy Cue, a high ranking Apple executive, might be called to the stand.

The Justice Department filed its antitrust lawsuit against



The United States argued Tuesday that Google did not play by the rules in its efforts to keep its dominance in online search, paying \$10 billion to ensure that smaller rivals never got traction

Google nearly three years ago during the Trump administration, charging that the company has used its internet search dominance to gain an unfair advantage against competitors.

Government lawyers allege that Google protects its franchise through a form of payola, shelling out billions of dollars annually to be the default search engine on the iPhone and on web browsers such as Apple's Safari and Mozilla's Firefox. Regulators also charge that Google has illegally rigged the market in its favor by requiring its search engine to be bundled with its Android software for smartphones if the device manufacturers want full access to the Android app store.

Kim in Russia amid US warnings

AGENCIES

Seoul, Sept 12: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrived in Russia Tuesday where he is expected to hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Russia's far east amid warnings from the US and South Korea against a potential arms transfer.

This meeting is a chance for the North Korean leader to get around crippling UN sanctions and years of diplomatic isolation. For Putin, it's an opportunity to refill ammunition stores that the war has drained.

Any arms deal with North Korea would violate the sanctions, which Russia supported in the past. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim boarded his personal train bound for Russia Sunday afternoon, accompanied by members of the ruling party, government and military.

His final destination is uncertain. Many had assumed Kim and Putin would meet in Vladivostok, a Russian city close to the border where the two leaders had their last meeting in 2019, and which Putin is visiting this week for an economic forum. But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed only that Kim has entered Russia, and state news agency RIA-Novosti later reported his train had headed north after crossing the Razdolnaya River, taking it away from Vladivostok.

The South Korean news agency Yonhap later published a photo that it said showed the train in Ussuriysk, a city about 60 kilometres north of Vladivostok that has a sizeable



- ▶ This year, Pyongyang's relations with Moscow are in the spotlight, with Kim choosing Russia - not China - as his first foreign visit since before the Covid-19 pandemic, raising the prospect that he may be looking to balance the two major powers on his borders against each other, analysts said.
- ▶ It remains to be seen whether Putin and Kim agree on anything substantive such as an arms deal or economic aid, but their moves to repair ties may have implications for the war in Ukraine, tensions with South Korea and Japan, and the China-US rivalry

ethnic Korean population.

Some Russian news media speculate that he is headed for the Vostochny spaceport, which Putin is to visit soon. Putin declined during the forum to say what he intended to do there. The launching facility is about 900 km (550 miles) northwest of Ussuriysk, but the route there is circuitous and it is unclear how long Kim's slow-moving train would take to get there. Peskov

said Putin and Kim will meet after the Vladivostok forum, and that the meeting would include a lunch in Kim's honour.

Officials identified in North Korean state media photos may hint at what Kim might seek from Putin and what he would be willing to give. Kim is apparently accompanied by Jo Chun Ryong, a ruling party official in charge of munitions policies who joined the leader on recent tours of factories producing artillery shells and missiles, said South Korea's Unification Ministry. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu will be part of the Russian delegation, according to Peskov.

North Korea may have tens of millions of aging artillery shells and rockets based on Soviet designs that could give a huge boost to the Russian army in Ukraine, analysts say. Also identified in photos were Pak Thae Song, chairman of North Korea's space science and technology committee, and Navy Adm Kim Myong Sik, who are linked with North Korean efforts to acquire spy satellites and nuclear-capable ballistic missile submarines.

Israeli Supreme Court hears first challenge to PM's judicial overhaul

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, Sept 12: Israel's Supreme Court heard the first challenge Tuesday to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's contentious judicial overhaul, deepening a showdown with the far-right government that has bitterly divided the nation and put it on the brink of a constitutional crisis.

Netanyahu's coalition, a collection of ultranationalist and ultrareligious lawmakers, unveiled the overhaul earlier this year, saying it was necessary to rein in an unelected judiciary they believe wields too much power.

Critics say the plan — which would weaken the Supreme Court — is a profound threat to Israeli democracy and that it would concentrate power in the hands of Netanyahu and his allies. They say the court is a key counterweight on majority rule in a country with an otherwise weak system of checks and balances — just one house of parliament where the governing coalition is headed by the prime minister. The country's president has largely ceremonial powers, and there is no firm, written constitution.

US House Speaker orders impeachment inquiry against Biden

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, Sept 12: US House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy Tuesday announced he had asked three congressional committees to launch an impeachment inquiry against President Joe Biden.

McCarthy had been under pressure from the right flank of the party and may have ordered the inquiry to protect himself from being ousted by these lawmakers.

"Today, I am directing our House committees to open a formal impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden," McCarthy told reporters outside his office at the Capitol. The inquiry will be conducted by the House committees of oversight, justice and way and means and is the first step towards impeachment.

The Speaker accused the US President of lying about his son Hunter Biden's business dealings and providing him special treatment in a criminal tax investigation. "House Republicans have uncovered serious and credible allegations into President Biden's conduct," McCarthy said.

World's hungriest could face 'doom loop': UN

AGENCIES

Rome, Sept 12: The World Food Program warned Tuesday that humanitarian funding cuts by governments are forcing the UN agency to drastically cut food rations to the world's hungriest people, with each 1% cut in aid risking to push 400,000 people toward starvation.

The agency said the more than 60% funding shortfall this year was the highest in WFP's 60-year history and marks the first time the Rome-based agency has seen contributions decline while needs rise.

As a result, the WFP has been forced to cut rations in almost half its operations, including in hard-hit places like Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia and Haiti. In a statement, WFP warned that 24 million more people could slip into



emergency hunger over the next year as a result.

Meanwhile, prices for rice grown in Kenya soared a while ago because of higher fertilizer prices and a yearslong drought

in the Horn of Africa that has reduced production. Cheap rice imported from India had filled the gap, feeding many of the hundreds of thousands of residents in Nairobi's Kibera slum

who survive on less than \$2 a day. WFP's executive director, Cindy McCain, said with starvation at record levels, governments should be increasing as-

WFP'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CINDY MCCAIN, SAID WITH STARVATION AT RECORD LEVELS, GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE INCREASING ASSISTANCE, NOT DECREASING IT

stance, not decreasing it. "If we don't receive the support we

need to avert further catastrophe, the world will undoubtedly see more conflict, more unrest, and more hunger," she said.

"Either we fan the flames of global instability, or we work quickly to put out the fire." The WFP warned that if the trend continues, a "doom loop" will be triggered "where WFP is being forced to save only the starving, at the cost of the hungry," the statement said.

Nearly half of the 11.6 million people targeted for food aid during the June to August lean season are not receiving any assistance, the agency said in a statement.

It warned that hundreds of thousands of people are at risk of joining armed groups, getting married early or engaging in "survival sex" in their desperation to survive.

business

of the day quote

It is a natural phenomenon that as the emission regulations keep tightening, the cost of acquisition will keep increasing, and this process (decline in diesel vehicle percentage) will be much faster going forward

While the government is already taking initiatives, we believe some additional subsidies on alternative fuel will accelerate the adoption and provide much-needed impetus to the industry

We don't see the need for funding in the near future. We have zero debt, and we are very healthy from a balance sheet standpoint

SHORT TAKES

CIL's ₹24,750cr for green projects

New Delhi: Coal India Ltd has committed a capital investment of about Rs 24,750 crore in the next few years on as many as 61 first-mile connectivity (FMC) projects in a bid to boost eco-friendly coal transportation. In a statement, the world's largest coal producer said the projects, which will be set up in three phases, will have a combined capacity of 763.5 million tonnes per annum on completion. FMC projects involve the transportation of coal in mechanized piped conveyors from production points to coal handling plants/silos with a rapid loading system where coal is loaded directly into rail wagons.

IOB adopts online locker allotment

Chennai: Public sector Indian Overseas Bank has introduced online allotment of safe deposit locker facility to serve its customers, the lender said Tuesday. The safe deposit locker facility is accessible at the bank's online portal to customers who seek to avail of the service. "Importantly, there is no need to physically visit a branch for allotment and the allotment letter will be sent to their email and SMS on their cell phones immediately," the city-headquartered bank said in a statement. "We have introduced a new feature at Indian Overseas Bank for the allotment of safe deposit lockers. This digital upgrade is a testament to our commitment to providing the best banking solutions," the bank's Managing Director and CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava said.

Nabard partners with UNDP India

New Delhi: UNDP India and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding to co-create data-driven innovations in agriculture and food systems to support smallholder farmers. Under the MoU, the organisations will work to improve lives and livelihoods of smallholder farmers by sharing open-source data for product development, transfer of technology and supporting the framing of agrarian policies, Nabard and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India said in a joint statement Tuesday. The partnership aims at enhancing and disseminating collaborative digital public goods like DICRA (Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture).



What happens in many places is that when you have these basic no-frills accounts, they are not seen as being economically viable to operate. A lot of charges are put on those accounts. So, people stop using those accounts

NANDAN NILEKANI | INFOSYS CO-FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN

DOMESTIC AIR PASSENGER TRAFFIC UP

India's domestic air passenger traffic rose about 23 per cent year-on-year to 1.24 crore in August and was 6 per cent higher than the pre-Covid level (August 2019) of around 1.18 crore, credit rating agency Icria said Thursday.



'Say bye to diesel'

Road Transport Minister warns automakers of even higher levies to come to force them away from diesel-burners and cut fuel emissions and pollution

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 12: India's road transport minister Tuesday said he will propose an additional 10% tax on diesel vehicles and warned automakers of even higher levies to come to force them away from diesel-burners and cut fuel emissions and pollution.

Nitin Gadkari made the comments at the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) annual conference in New Delhi, where executives of Tata Motors, Mahindra and Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki and Mercedes and Volkswagen had gathered.

Gadkari spoke of the need to levy an additional 10 per cent tax on diesel-run vehicles to help cut emissions, but later clarified that there was no proposal under government consideration to impose such a tax.

"Say bye to diesel soon, otherwise we will increase so much tax that it will become difficult for you to sell these vehicles," Gadkari told the conference.

"I am requesting the Finance Minister to impose an additional 10 per cent GST on diesel engines/vehicles. This is the only way to phase out diesel vehicles," he said, indicating a meeting was scheduled with the Finance Minister for handing over a letter he had drafted on the issue.

But soon after he took to X, for-



merly known as Twitter, to clarify the government's position.

"It is essential to clarify that there is no such proposal currently under active consideration by the government," he said in a post on X, referring to media reports quoting him as suggesting an additional 10 per cent GST on diesel vehicles.

He emphasised that there was a need to embrace cleaner fuels to cut emissions.

Gadkari's comments sparked widespread discussion among auto executives at the Delhi conference, with some describing the move to Reuters as a "bombshell" announcement. Mercedes India managing director, Santosh Iyer, said many customers still prefer diesel vehicles and any change in tax policies will lead to a shift in automakers' "portfolio strategy".

About 962,000 commercial vehicles were sold in India from April 2022 to March 2023, up 34% from a year earlier, while passenger vehicles sales rose 27% to 3.9 million for the period.

AUG RETAIL INFLATION SLIDES TO 6.83 PER CENT

Inflation down mainly due to softening prices of vegetables, but still remains above RBI's comfort zone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: Retail inflation declined to 6.83 per cent in August after touching a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July, mainly due to softening prices of vegetables, but still remains above the Reserve Bank's comfort zone.

The overall inflation in the food basket stood at 9.94 per cent in August as against 11.51 per cent in July, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Tuesday.

Retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was at 7 per cent in August 2022.

While the retail inflation declined to 6.83 per cent in August, it still remains above the comfort level of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which has the mandate to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

As per the data, inflation in the vegetable basket eased to 26.14 per cent in August as against 37.4 per cent in July.

The prices of 'oil and fats' products declined to 15.28 per cent in August while there was low inflation in 'meat and fish', 'eggs', 'sugar and confectionary', 'non-alcoholic beverages', 'fruits' and 'prepared meals and snacks'



Headline inflation had eased to 4.8 per cent in June from peak of 7.8 per cent in April 2022. It surged to 7.4 per cent in July, mainly on account of a spurt in vegetable prices

on an annual basis.

The data also showed that inflation in the 'housing' was at 4.38 per cent and 'fuel and light' at 4.31 per cent.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Head Research & Outreach at rating agency ICRA said that within food items, inflation in vegetables fell to 26.1 per cent in August from 37.4 per cent in the previous month, contributing as much as 28 basis points of the 61 basis points decline in the headline CPI inflation print

between these months.

"Core inflation (CPI excluding food and beverages, fuel and light and petrol and diesel) eased marginally to 5.06 per cent in August 2023 from 5.12 per cent in the previous month. This was the third consecutive month of a dip in inflation of this metric," she said.

The RBI has projected the CPI inflation at 5.4 per cent for 2023-24, with an estimate of 6.2 per cent for the second quarter, 5.7 per cent for the third quarter and 5.2 per cent in the fourth quarter, with risks evenly balanced.

The inflation for the first quarter is projected at 5.2 per cent. Headline inflation had eased to 4.8 per cent in June 2023 from the peak of 7.8 per cent in April 2022. However, it surged to 7.4 per cent in July, mainly on account of a spurt in vegetable prices which have already started moderating.

Russian sellers stop fertiliser discounts to India

REUTERS

Mumbai/London, Sept 12: Russian companies have ceased offering fertiliser such as di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) to India at discounted prices due to tightening global supplies after becoming the biggest suppliers to the country last year, three industry sources told Reuters.

"There are no discounts," said a New Delhi-based senior industry official involved in the negotiations with overseas suppliers.

"Russian companies are offering fertilisers at the market prices," the official said, declining to be named due to the



sensitivity of the matter.

India's fertiliser imports from Russia surged 246% to a record 4.35 million metric tons in the

2022/23 financial year ended on March 31 as suppliers gave discounts to the global market price for DAP, urea and NPK fertilisers.

Russia's aggressive selling last year eroded the Indian market share of other fertiliser exporters including China, Egypt, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates.

"Russian companies were offering DAP at discounts of as high as \$80 (per ton). However, now they are not offering discounts of even \$5," said another Indian company official.

The current price of Russian DAP is approximately \$570 per ton on a cost and freight (CFR) basis for Indian buyers, which is the same price offered to other Asian buyers, said a Russian industry official.

Global fertiliser prices have been surging over the past two

months, making it challenging for Indian companies to accumulate stocks for the upcoming winter season when demand for DAP rises for the wheat crop, said an official from a Mumbai-based fertiliser company.

In July, global suppliers were offering urea at approximately \$300 per ton on a CFR basis, but are now quoting \$400 per ton, he said. DAP prices were around \$440 per ton in July, he added.

"The global fertiliser prices are rising just before crucial state elections in India. The government has no choice but to increase subsidies to protect farmers," added the official from the Mumbai-based company.

IIP at 5-month high of 5.7%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: India's industrial production growth rose to a five-month high of 5.7 per cent in July, mainly due to good showing by the manufacturing, mining and power sectors, according to the official data released Tuesday.

The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) stood at 2.2 per cent in July 2022.

The previous high was recorded at six per cent growth in February 2023. Thereafter, the growth rate declined to 1.9 per cent in March 2023 before rising to 4.6 per cent in April and further to 5.3 per cent in May. The IIP growth again decelerated to 3.8 per cent in June this year.

During April-July 2023-24, the IIP growth works out to be 4.8 per cent, down from 10 per cent in the corresponding period a year ago.

"The growth rates over the corresponding period of the previous year are to be interpreted considering the unusual circumstances on account of the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020," an official statement said.

As per the IIP data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output grew 4.6 per cent in July 2023 against 3.1 per cent a year ago.

Power generation rose eight per cent in July 2023 compared to 2.3 per cent in the year-ago period.

Mining output rose by 10.7 per cent during the month under review against a 3.3 per cent contraction a year ago.

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment grew 4.6 per cent in July this year compared to 5.1 per cent.

Consumer durables output during the month declined by 2.7 per cent against a 2.3 per cent growth in the year-ago period.

Consumer non-durable goods output increased by 7.4 per cent compared to a contraction of 2.9 per cent a year earlier.

Infrastructure/construction goods posted a growth of 11.4 per cent over a 4.8 per cent expansion in the same period a year ago.



RBI'S FRESH NORMS FOR BANKS' INVESTMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 12: The RBI Tuesday issued revised norms for classification, valuation, and operation of investment portfolios of commercial banks, aligning them with global standards and best practices.

The revised 'Reserve Bank of India (Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio of Commercial Banks) Directions, 2023' will be applicable from April 1, 2024, to all Commercial Banks excluding Regional Rural Banks.

The revised directions include principle-based classification of investment portfolio, tightening of regulations around transfers

to/from held to maturity (HTM) category and sales out of HTM, inclusion of non-SLR (statutory liquidity ratio) securities in HTM subject to fulfilment of certain conditions and symmetric recognition of gains and losses. As per the revised norms, banks will have to classify their entire investment portfolio under three categories - Held to Maturity (HTM), Available for Sale (AFS) and Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVTPL).

"Held for Trading (HFT) shall be a separate investment sub-category within FVTPL. The category of the investment shall be decided by the bank before or at the time of acquisition and this decision shall be properly documented," RBI said.

Sensex logs 8th day of gain; Nifty flat

Nifty retreated from record high levels in a volatile trade as investors turned cautious amid high valuation concerns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 12: Benchmark Sensex closed higher by 94 points while the broader Nifty retreated from record high levels in a volatile trading Tuesday as investors turned cautious amid high valuation concerns.

Rising for an eighth day in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 94.05 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 67,221.13. During the day, it jumped 412.02 points



or 0.61 per cent to 67,539.10.

The broader Nifty, however, pared all its gains and ended marginally lower by 3.15 points or 0.02 per cent at 21,110.35. During the day, the 50-issue barometer climbed 114 points or 0.57 per cent to hit its all-time

high of 20,110.35.

Among the Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services, Larsen & Toubro, Infosys, UltraTech Cement, ICI Bank, Nestle, ITC and Sun Pharma were the major gainers.

Power Grid, NTPC, Tata

Motors, Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra and Reliance Industries were among the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge tumbled 4.02 per cent and midcap index fell by 2.96 per cent.

Among the indices, utilities tanked 3.74 per cent, power declined by 3.66 per cent, telecommunication (3.63 per cent), realty (3.26 per cent), oil & gas (3.07 per cent), energy (2.77 per cent) and industrials (2.76 per cent). IT, bankex and teck were the gainers.

In Asian markets, Tokyo settled in the green while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading on a mixed note.

Crypto market saw illicit transactions of \$70 bn in 5 yrs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 12: The cryptocurrency market witnessed nearly \$70 billion worth of illicit transactions in the last five years, a new report said Tuesday.

According to data presented by AltIndex.com, illicit crypto transactions increased by 308 per cent since 2017.

The crypto space saw a shocking \$20.6 billion worth of illicit transactions last year, the highest figure in the market's history.

funds, scams, ransomware, human trafficking, terrorism financing, and dark net markets.

In 2017, the crypto space saw \$4.9 billion worth of illicit transactions. After falling to \$4.6 billion a year later, this figure nearly tripled and hit \$12.3 billion in 2019.

Statistics showed that 2020 saw another downturn, with roughly 30 per cent fewer illegal transactions in the market. But it was downhill from there, with 2021 and 2022 seeing a surge in illicit crypto activity, according to the report.



Moreover, between 2020 and 2021, the total transfer volume of

illicit transactions in the crypto space more than doubled to \$18.1

billion.

The illegal activity continued growing in 2022, with the total value of transactions rising to \$20.6 billion and showing a massive 308 per cent increase in five years.

However, the proportion of illicit transactions in total crypto volume has decreased during this time. They accounted for 0.86 per cent of all cryptocurrency transactions five years ago. Last year, this share fell to 0.24 per cent, the report showed.

Although the illicit activities in the crypto space surged in the past five years, so did the

number of sanctioned entities and addresses.

According to Chainalysis data, 2018 saw the first crypto-related sanctions of the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the US Department of the Treasury when it designated two Iranian nationals associated with the SamSam ransomware.

Over the next two years, most of the addresses included as sanctions identifiers were personal wallet addresses owned by individuals, with an average of two addresses per crypto-related designation in 2018, four in 2019, and nine in 2020.

Kuldeep decimates Sri Lanka

INDIA ENTER ASIA CUP FINAL AFTER ALL-ROUND SHOW BY BOWLERS AGAINST HOSTS

AGENCIES

Colombo, Sept 12: Indian bowlers led by Kuldeep Yadav (4/43) produced a splendid collective effort to carry their team to a 41-run win over a spirited Sri Lanka in a Super 4 match, and into the Asia Cup final here Tuesday. Rohit Sharma's (53, 48b, 7x4, 2x6) was the cornerstone of India's sub-par 213 after Lankan spinners Dunith Wellalage (5/40) and Charith Asalanka (4/18) bamboozled them. However, India, guided by Kuldeep bowled out Sri Lanka for 172. Kuldeep was well-supported by Jasprit Bumrah (2/30), Ravindra Jadeja (2/33), Hardik Pandya (1/14) and Mohammed Siraj (1/17).

India, who entered the final with four points, will either face Sri Lanka or Pakistan in the summit clash Sunday. The hosts will face Pakistan in a crunch match Thursday.

Chasing 214 for victory Sri Lanka found themselves in trouble against the Indians till Wellalage (42 n.o, 46b, 3x4, 1x6) and Dhananjaya de Silva (41) added 63 runs for the sixth wicket. However, once De Silva was dismissed by Jadeja, the rest of the wickets fell in a jiffy with Kuldeep wiping out the tail in his last over.

Wellalage batted exceptionally well under pressure against a fancied opponent and tried to bridge the gap. But the task was a tad too hard to achieve with a one-man show.

Earlier, left-arm spinner Wellalage and offie Asalanka did not allow Indian batters to settle into any sort of rhythm, as they knifed through their line-up taking nine wickets among them.

But before Lankan spinners ex-



SPINNING A WEB: Kuldeep Yadav celebrates with teammates after dismissing a Sri Lankan batter Tuesday PTI PHOTO

BRIEF SCORE

India 213 in 49.1 overs (Rohit Sharma 53, KL Rahul 39, Dunith Wellalage 5/40, Charith Asalanka 4/18) beat Sri Lanka 172 in 41.3 overs (Dunith Wellalage 42 n.o, Kuldeep Yadav 4/43, Jasprit Bumrah 2/30, Ravindra Jadeja 2/33) by 41 runs.

exploited the generous turn and grip on the Premadasa pitch, India started their innings in a blazing fashion. Rohit added 80 runs for the opening wicket with Shubman Gill (19), and that remained the brightest phase of Indian innings.

However, the introduction of

Wellalage changed the whole complexion of the game, as the spinner halted Indian batsmen's early charge. Later on KL Rahul (39),

Ishan Kishan (33) and Axar Patel (26) took India past the 200-run mark on a pitch where scoring was always going to be difficult.

Rohit 6th Indian batter in 10K club

Colombo: India captain Rohit Sharma became Tuesday the sixth batter from his country and 15th overall to complete 10,000 ODI runs. Rohit achieved the feat during India's Asia Cup Super 4 contest against Sri Lanka here. The India skipper hit a six off Sri Lanka's Kasun Rajitha to complete the milestone. Rohit completed 10,000 runs in 241 innings, which is second fastest ever after Kohli did so in 205 innings. The other Indians in the 10,000-run club are Sachin Tendulkar (18,426), Virat Kohli (13,026), Sourav Ganguly (11,363), Rahul Dravid (10,889) and MS Dhoni (10,773). As the only player in the history to have hit three double centuries in 50 overs cricket, Rohit also holds the record of the highest individual score, 264 against Sri Lanka at Eden Gardens in November 2014.

Imbrogio continues over football team

AIFF writes to ISL franchises requesting release of players for Asian Games squad

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 12: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has urged the 10 Indian Super League (ISL) franchises to release players selected for the upcoming Asian Games, keeping the 'national interest in mind'. The Hangzhou-bound 22-member Indian men's squad have six players from Bengaluru FC, three from Mumbai City FC, two each from FC Goa, Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Odisha FC and Kerala Blasters and one each from Punjab FC, Chennaiyin FC and Hyderabad have one each.

The ISL starts September 21, while the Asian Games start September 23. Despite the Asian Games starting officially September 23, the football event will start earlier. India begin their campaign September 19 against China. The two other teams in India's group are Myanmar and Bangladesh. It should be stated here that despite not being among the top eight teams in Asia, government heeded to a special request from the AIFF and allowed the Indian team to participate, marking their return at the continental showpiece after nine years.

AIFF secretary-general Shaji Prabhakaran however, is hopeful that an amicable solution will be achieved after the ISL franchises refused to release footballers. "We very much understand that this Asian Games is outside the FIFA window, and you are not obliged to release the players," Prabhakaran wrote in a letter Tuesday to the 10 ISL clubs.

"But we all have the responsibility towards the country to make India proud... As Indians we are obliged to make sacrifices for the country and, in this



Head coach of the Indian football team Igor Stimac and captain Sunil Chhetri

2 players from Odisha FC in the squad are Narender Ghelot and Aniket Jadhav

1 SL begins September 21 while India's first game at the Asian Games is September 19

1 SL franchises still unwilling to release more than two players

process, you have to take a decision by releasing the players considering the national interest in mind," Prabhakaran added.

Prabhakaran also said in the letter that he is hoping the ISL franchises will release the players on time. "We are hopeful that you will release these players in time for the full strength team to be in Asian Games," Prabhakaran stated.

The Indian men's team are currently ranked 99th in FIFA rankings. A total of 23 teams have been divided into six groups for the Asian Games.

In a late night development Tuesday, Mohun Bagan revealed that they will not release for the Asian Games. They said they are 'furious' at the way Ashique Kuruniyan's injury was handled by the physio of the Indian team during the recently held Kings Cup. "For five days Kuruniyan's injury was neglected and not even an MRI was done," Mohun Bagan officials said. "We will not release players for the Asiaad," they added.

Two players from Mohun Bagan, Liston Colaco and Ashish Rai have been included in the Indian team for the Asian Games.

SHORT TAKES

Chahal shines

Kent (England): India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has made an impressive start to his County Championship stint with Kent, claiming three wickets against Nottinghamshire in a Division One fixture here Tuesday. Chahal returned figures of 29-10-63-3. He dismissed Nottinghamshire batters Matthew Montgomery, Lyndon James and Calvin Harrison to help his side bowl out their opponents for 265 as Kent took a first innings lead of 181 on the penultimate day of the four-day contest. It should be state here that Chahal decided to take up the four-game assignment with Kent after being snubbed for the World Cup. Earlier this season, Kent had signed up India pacer Arshdeep Singh who played five matches and took 13 wickets.

Pogba suspended

New Delhi: Juventus and France midfielder Paul Pogba has been provisionally suspended from playing because of an anti-doping offence, Italy's national anti-doping tribunal (NADO Italia) said Tuesday. The tribunal said Pogba returned a test with elevated levels of testosterone after Juventus' 3-0 win at Udinese August 20, according to a report in the 'BBC'. NADO Italia said Pogba had violated anti-doping rules when they found the prohibited substance 'non-endogenous testosterone metabolites' in his blood. If Pogba is found guilty of doping he faces a ban of four years. Pogba however, has denied taking of any banned substance. However, officials said that they have concrete proof.

Portugal register record win



Bruno Fernandes (No 8) of Portugal is jubilant after scoring against Luxembourg

AGENCIES

Lisbon, Sept 12: Bruno Fernandes ran the show for Portugal as they romped to a record 9-0 win over Luxembourg Monday here without suspended talisman and all-time top goalscorer Cristiano Ronaldo.

Roberto Martinez's side have now won all six of their qualifying games, without conceding a single goal and scoring 24 themselves, with this the country's largest ever margin of victory. Portugal lead the Group J standings, five points clear of Slovakia in second place, whom they beat in Bratislava Friday. Luxembourg are third, three points behind Slovakia.

In other European Qualifiers played Monday, the Netherlands kept themselves in the race with a narrow 2-1 victory over Ireland.

However, it was Portugal's victory that was most talked about along with the scintillating display by Fernandes. Manchester United playmaker Fernandes, who scored Portugal's winner against Slovakia, assisted three goals and scored one himself.

Goncalo Ramos, Diogo Jota and Goncalo Inacio struck two goals each, while Ricardo Horta and Joao Felix also scored.

Martinez, who replaced Fernando Santos after the Qatar World Cup, has a 100 per cent record at the helm to date. "We are still at the beginning of a new era with a new coach and we are still taking on board the coach's ideas," said Jota. "Today we set a reference point match (to look at in) the future."

Sporting Lisbon defender Inacio put the hosts ahead in the 12th

minute with a header from Fernandes' exquisite cross with the outside of his foot. Paris Saint-Germain striker Ramos drilled home the second five minutes later after Fernandes pressed high to win the ball back. The 22-year-old striker then grabbed another goal in the 33rd minute with a clever turn and clinical finish for his sixth goal in eight appearances for his country. The game was as good as over by then.

Meanwhile the Dutch will remain indebted to Wout Weghorst, who came off the bench to score the winner against Ireland. Ronald Koeman's side had a nightmare start when Adam Idah converted to put Ireland ahead. However, Liverpool's Cody Gakpo netted a penalty soon after and the visitors wrapped up the points thanks to Weghorst's second half strike.

FIH selects Prasad as Paris Games umpire

Lausanne (Switzerland), Sept 12: Seasoned umpire Raghu Prasad is the lone Indian match official selected by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for the Paris Olympic Games 2024. The FIH confirmed Tuesday the names of the technical delegates, officials, umpire managers, umpires and medical officers who have been appointed to the Paris Olympic Games.

The selection was made by the FIH technical officials and umpiring committees, chaired by Sheila Brown (South Africa) and Roger St Rose (Trinidad and Tobago) respectively.

Continuing hockey's drive towards maintaining gender equality in the sport, there will again be a 50-50 split of the officials at the Games across umpires and technical officials. This is a key target for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) which aims to achieve this across all sports at the Paris Games, the FIH informed in a release Tuesday. Speaking on the announcement of officials for the Olympics, FIH President Tayyab Ikram said: "Officials play a fundamental role and give a very substantial part of their free time to their passion for the sport. This is remarkable and I'd like to thank each and every hockey official, anywhere in the world. Congratulations to all those who have been selected for the Paris Olympics." The Paris Olympic Games will be held July 26 to August 11, 2024.

Double crown for Odisha's Aahan



Winners of the various categories pose with their trophies at the Kalinga Stadium tennis complex

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Aahan of Odisha won a double crown in the 3rd Ganeswar Memorial AITA-OTA All India Super Series U-12 and U-14 ranking tennis tournament, which ended here recently. The tournament was conducted at the Kalinga Stadium tennis complex in the Odisha capital.

In the U-14 girls' final, Aahan defeated compatriot Avipsha Dehury 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a match that lasted more than three hours. Then showing that she had enough steam left in her, Aahan teamed up with Avipsha to trounce West Bengal's Indrakshi Bhattacharya and Riya Roy

6-1, 6-1.

The boys' under-14 title was bagged by Ayush Poojary of Maharashtra who defeated compatriot Raghav Sarode 6-1, 2-6, 6-0 in a match which lasted more than two hours. In the boys' U-14 doubles final, Aditya Bikram Acharya of Odisha teamed up with Poojary and defeated Aahaan Mishra and Sankalp Kumar Sahani 6-4, 6-4.

OTHER RESULTS

Boys U-12 singles: Ronnie Vijay Kumar bt Nibras Hussain 6-2, 6-2.

Boys U-12 doubles: Monodip Dey & Nirvaan Margana bt Vir Chattur & Ronnie Vijay Kumar 6-1, 6-1.

Girls U-12 singles: Tamanna Nair bt Pradatta Das 6-3, 1-6, 10-5.

TOUGH TEST AWAITS INDIAN HOCKEY EVES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Sept 12: The Indian women's hockey team will begin their campaign at the upcoming Asian Champions Trophy with a clash against Thailand here October 27, according to the schedule announced Tuesday by Hockey India. The tournament will begin on the same day with Malaysia and Japan playing the first game at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astro Turf hockey stadium here.

The Asian Champions Trophy will see Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, China and hosts India go into battle to lift the coveted trophy. The six-team tournament will conclude November 5. The hosts have won the Asian Champions Trophy in 2016 and were runners-up in

2018. They will face Korea in their last match of the group stage November 2.

"We are proud to host another major Asian tournament and I'm sure the Women's Asian Champions Trophy will be a great spectacle with some of the top hockey teams in the world participating in the tournament," HI president Dilip Tirkey said in a release.

All the participating teams are part of one group and the top four teams will qualify for the semifinals, officials said.

Defending champions Japan will face a stiff challenge from Korea, the most decorated team in the history of the tournament. They have won three out of six editions of the tournament in 2010, 2011, and 2016.

Metei-Kuki combo makes India proud

2 GOALS, 1 BY A METEI AND THE OTHER BY A KUKI HELP INDIA WIN SAFF U-16 TITLE

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Imphal, Sept 11: Their clans are fighting viciously in Manipur. In spite of that two boys from the state - a Meitei and a Kuki - made the country proud by helping India emerge champion in the SAFF Under-16 football tournament which ended Sunday night at the Bhutanese capital Thimphu. India defeated Bangladesh 2-0 in the final to win the trophy.

Manipur government officials said here Tuesday that of the total 23 players in the Indian squad, 16 are from strife-torn Manipur, and among them 11 are non-tribal Meitis, four tribal Kukis and one a Meitei Pangal (Manipuri Muslim). The footballers are fervently hoping for

peace to return to the strife-torn state so that they can return to their homes.

Hailing from Bishnupur district's Nambol, Bharat Lairenjam netted the first goal in the eighth minute, while Levis Zangminlun, a resident of Churachandpur, scored the second in the 74th minute of the final.

Despite all the clashes in Manipur and the pain people are suffering, the Meitei and Kuki boys set aside all speculation and concentrated just on one aspect, and that is to make India the champion in the tournament.

An elated Bharat said that he was happy to score the goal since it was his 'goal of the championship'. "Though players belong to different communities, we mingle happily and there is good



The victorious Indian colts celebrate with the trophy at Thimphu PHOTO X

team spirit," Bharat said Tuesday. "My teammate, midfielder Levis, told me before the match that I should score so that we can win the match. His (Levis) second goal was a crucial one for India and made me so happy that I rushed towards him and

gave him a tight hug," a beaming Bharat added.

Bharat asserted that he would like to see the state returning back to normalcy like the good old days. The striker dreams to continue playing for the country at the senior level by pol-

ishing his skills. However, at the moment only peace in Manipur is on his mind.

Levis, who plays for Srinidhi Deccan FC club in Hyderabad, informed that Meitis and Kukis don't really matter to him. "Football is our common passion and that allows us to set aside all differences. Our main aim is to make India proud and that is the reason why other issues are not important," Levis stated.

Abbas Shingjamayum, the Meitei Pangal player from Manipur who bagged the 'most valuable player' and top scorer (with three goals) in the championship, said: "We never talked about the conflict in Manipur, and instead focused on football and team spirit."