



ASTUTE OBSERVATION

Actor-model Alankrita Anup Sahai feels perceptual change is required in society to address mental health issues

LEISURE P2



LIBYA FLOOD TOLL RISES

The flood toll in the eastern Libyan city of Derna crosses the 5,000-mark and may increase further

INTERNATIONAL P10



SPAIN SCRIPT BIG WIN

Ferran Torres scores twice as Spain overpower Cyprus 6-0 in their Euro Championship qualifying match

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

12 dead in Raj bus accident

Jaipur: Twelve people from Gujarat were killed and at least 11 others injured when a trailer rammed into their private bus from the rear in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district early Wednesday, police said. The bus was on its way to Mathura in Uttar Pradesh when the accident occurred around 4.30am. Expressing grief at the loss of lives Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of the dead and ₹50,000 to the injured. The bus had stopped on a flyover when the trailer rammed into it. The condition of four among the 11 injured is very critical, police stated. Police are investigating whether the trailer suffered any mechanical failure.

6 airbags for cars 'not mandatory'

New Delhi: The government will not make six airbags mandatory for cars, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said Wednesday. The government last year proposed to implement the six airbags safety norm from October 2023 for enhanced safety of occupants. "We don't want to make six airbags rule for cars mandatory," Gadkari said at an event here. Airbags for both front seats are mandatory in vehicles manufactured on and after April 1, 2021. An airbag is a vehicle occupant-restraint system which interferes between the driver and the vehicle's dashboard during a collision, thereby preventing serious injuries.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Meet our new bureau chief. His task is to create chaos in opposition press meets

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	BOURSES	VARIAION
SENSEX	67466.99	↑ 245.86
NIFTY	20070.00	↑ 76.80
DOLLAR	89.02	↑ ₹6.60
EURO	89.03	↓ ₹0.02
GOLD	₹58,628	↑ ₹2
SILVER	₹71,597	↓ ₹337

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
MAX	31.9°C	30.4°C
MIN	24.4°C	25.5°C
Humidity	98%	97%
Rainfall	9.8mm	17.2mm

Forecast: Light to moderate rain



NEW ACQUISITION: Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari poses Wednesday with the C-295 transport aircraft, the biggest in the world, at Seville in Spain. India will buy 56 such aircraft in the next 2 years

4 including Colonel, Major killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 13: Three Army personnel, including a Colonel commanding a battalion and a Major and a deputy superintendent of J&K Police were killed in a gunfight with terrorists in the higher reaches of Kokorenag area in the valley while one soldier went missing, officials said here Wednesday.

Colonel Manpreet Singh, Commanding Officer of 19 Rashtriya Rifles, Major Ashish

Dhonack and DSP Humayun Bhat were critically injured in the gunfight with terrorists that ensued in the Garol area of Anantnag district in the wee hours of Wednesday. The officers succumbed to their injuries during the treatment, officials said. They added that a jawan also died. The whereabouts of another soldier was not immediately known.

DGP Dilbag Singh condoled the death of the officers of the police and the Army. In a message, he said every loss of life is un-

fortunate and asserted that the perpetrators of the crime would be brought to justice soon.

The banned Resistance Front, believed to be a shadow group of Pakistan-based Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT), has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Officials believe that it is the same set of terrorists who had carried out the attack on Army personnel August 4 killing three jawans in the higher reaches of the Halan forest area of Kulgam district.

Asiad-bound athletes get ₹10 lakh incentive

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Ahead of the Hangzhou Asian Games in China, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced Wednesday financial support for the state's athletes who will be representing India at the continental showpiece event. Each Asian Games-bound athlete will receive ₹10 lakh, to support their training and preparation in the prestigious sporting event, an official release issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said. The Games will be held September 23 to October 8.

The 13 Odia athletes who have been selected to represent India at the Asian Games are: Kishore Jena (Athletics); Anshika Bharati, Ritu

Kaudi and Sonali Swain (Rowing); Anupama Swain (Ju-Jitsu); Neha Devi Leichondam (Kayaking and Canoeing); Pyari Xaxa (Football); Deep Grace Ekka and Amit Rohidas (Hockey); Dumuni Marndi, Tarulata Naik, Mama Naik and Hupi Majhi (Rugby). Incidentally this is the first time that rugby will be played at the Asian Games.

Wishing all the athletes the very best, Patnaik expressed hope that they will showcase their talent at the Asian Games and this incentive will empower them to focus solely on their training and performance.

Sports Ministry officials and various other dignitaries are confident that they will win more than 100 medals in this edition of the Asian Games.

Renaming of Jajpur hosp approved

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved Wednesday a proposal to name the Jajpur Medical College and Hospital after Jajati Keshari, the famous Somavansi ruler of ancient Odisha. The hospital will become operational from 2024. The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) had recently received a request from the people of Jajpur to name the medical college after Jajati Keshari.

"Naming of Jajpur medical college after Jajati Keshari is a humble tribute to this great historical personality who enhanced the glory of Odisha," the CMO said in a release.

The Jajati Keshari Medical College and Hospital, Jajpur, has been built at a cost of ₹526.21 crore on a 46-acre campus. The state government is in the process of applying before the National Medical Commission (NMC) for issuing the Letter of Permission (LoP) for admission of 100 MBBS students.

Nowhere to go

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: India at present has at least 150 elephant corridors spanning 15 range-states across four elephant-bearing regions. West Bengal tops the list with 26 such corridors while Odisha has 14 according to a new Union Environment Ministry report. The report has been compiled by the 'Elephant Task Force'.

The report, titled 'Elephant Corridors of India', highlights that the intensity of elephant use has increased in 59 of these corridors, remained stable in 29 and decreased in 29 others. However, in Odisha, elephant movement has decreased in nine of the 14 corridors while one is impaired. Movement in only four corridors has increased.

The report states that Odisha has four inter-state corridors out of the 14. The total length of the corridors is around 387.27km. The inter-state corridors are Karo-Karampada and Deuli-Suliapada (connecting West Bengal), Badampahar-Dhobadhobin and Badampahar-Karida (connecting Jharkhand).

The routes where elephant movements have decreased include Karlapat-Urildani corridor, Badampahar-Dhobadhobin inter-state corridor, Buguda-

Development of infra and setting up of habitats close to corridors have led to frequent human-elephant conflicts as the pachyderms fight for their survival



According to latest estimates there are approximately 30,000 elephants in India

92 jumbo deaths recorded in Odisha in 2022-23, the highest in any state

Central corridor, Kanheijena-Anantapur corridor, Karo-Karampada inter-state corridor, Tal-Kholgarh corridor and a few others. In the report various exterior influences have been named for the decrease of elephant movement. This has contributed largely to the human-elephant conflict in the state, the report added.

A total of 996 people have been trampled to death by elephants in Odisha in the last decade (2013-2023). During the same period, 794 elephants died in the state due to human-elephant conflicts including poaching. The highest number of human deaths due to elephant attacks occurred in 2022-23 when 150 people perished.

The state witnessed the second-highest human casualties (139) in 2020-2021, followed by 117 in

2019-20, 113 in 2021-22 and 105 in 2017-18. Similarly, the highest number of elephants (93) died in 2018-19, and the second highest deaths (92) occurred in 2022-23. The report states that the presence of agricultural plots, human habitats and development of infrastructure such as roads, highways and railway tracks close to the elephant corridors are seriously affecting the movement of the pachyderms.

The report has also asked the Odisha government to take steps and create awareness among the people about elephant movement and also to enforce the law strictly to prevent encroachment and poaching. The report stated that unless the corridors are freed, the conflict will increase.

DSPL-232

Mukhyamantri Sampoorna Pushti Yojana

Nutrition is joy,
Nutrition is happiness

Inaugurated by

Shri Naveen Patnaik

Hon'ble, Chief Minister, Odisha

14th September 2023 | 5:30 pm
Convention Centre,
Lokaseva Bhavan, Bhubaneswar

"Better the nutrition, healthier the life"
Shri Naveen Patnaik

- ▶ Nutritional support to all adolescent girls in the age group of 15-19 years
- ▶ Additional Take Home Ration to pregnant women and lactating mothers across the state
- ▶ Purna Aahara : Community Based Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition in children
- ▶ Fortified Take Home Ration and eggs for MAM and SUW children

Department of Women & Child Development
Government of Odisha

OIPR-46005/13/0002/2324

Surviving on home 'salary'

Approximately 16 million young Chinese have returned to their homes failing to get a decent job and are doing household chores to earn pocket allowances from parents

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taipei (Taiwan), Sept 13: When she first moved to the Chinese tech hub of Shenzhen after graduating from college, Marguerite Wang imagined she would spend her career working hard in a big city. Instead, now she's living with her parents in her hometown in north-eastern China.

A record of more than one in five young Chinese are out of work, their career ambitions at least temporarily derailed by a depressed job market as the economy struggles to regain momentum after its long battle with Covid-19.

Wang, who was laid off from a gaming company in December, is



among an estimated 16 million young Chinese who, daunted by the difficulties of finding decent jobs, have moved back home.

After spending six months unsuccessfully applying for jobs in Shenzhen, the 29-year-old moved back home. Now she spends her days watching soap operas and

studying Japanese. However, she also does the household chores diligently as her parents have promised her a 'salary' every month.

The urban unemployment rate for the 16-to-24 age group in China reached a record 21.3 per cent in June.

Take the case of Gui Xiaoru, who was hoping for a better-paying position in a bigger city. She, instead moved back home to Mianyang, in southwestern China's Sichuan province. She cooks dinner for the family and does grocery. In return, she gets a 2,000 Yuan (about USD 274) monthly allowance from her parents.

Parents are also happy in this situation as their first priority is the well-being of their kids.



TAYLOR SWIFT SCRIPTS HISTORY AT MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS

Singer Taylor Swift was the big winner at the 2023 MTV Video Music Awards, scooping nine prizes, and she made history as the first person to win Video of the Year four times.

KOURTNEY BRANDS SISTER KIM A 'WITCH' IN REALITY SHOW TEASER

Kourtney Kardashian called her sister Kim Kardashian a 'witch' and declared: 'I hate you' in an explosive argument shown in the teaser for the new season of their family reality show *The Kardashians*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshaSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES Your charismatic appeal is always ready-to-use. And today, you will possibly reap rich dividends through it. But there is always scope for improvement and you will find yourself drawn to altruism. Ganesha guarantees satisfaction in lending a helping hand to the needy.

TAURUS You will enjoy your responsibilities at the home front, says Ganesha. People whom you trusted to watch your back might let you down today. Remember, what you sow is what you reap, so do not fall short of putting in the effort required to make something fruitful. Be careful and cautious in dealing with people, advises Ganesha.

GEMINI A favourable day to put an end to all the doubts surrounding your ability to do well, especially in the field of communication. People around you will find you incredibly charming and enchanting. You will win hearts with your verve and panache. You may want to spruce up your surroundings at work and at home.

CANCER It is quite possible that your personal life will take precedence over your professional life. You will not be able to repress or ignore your feelings, and you should not either, says Ganesha. But you should be careful about how you express yourself in public.

LEO No matter how far you go, there is always a horizon that you desire to reach. And what holds true for all outer projections of life most certainly holds true for one's inner self as well, reminds Ganesha. Bear this in mind as you strive to improve yourself in as many ways as possible. You might consider part-time courses and crash courses to help increase your skills and double your efficiency. Self-improvement is a never-ending process, says Ganesha.

VIRGO Financial doldrums are headed your way today. In order to seek what you desire, expect shelling out a hefty price. You might just net those short-term goals in the evening. Ganesha foretells large and important business deals will end the day on a high note.

LIBRA Today will be fabulous for you, especially if you are in the world of business. Long-term deals seem to be on the cards for you. If you happen to be a government officer, luck favours you today. Keep your ears and eyes open, there may be news of a possible promotion. All Ganesha has to say to you today is, keep your options open and hopes alive.

SCORPIO Ganesha feels that your intuitive feelings will rule your actions today. You will need to break past your stress threshold and tackle work with zeal and zest. Follow your instincts and relax to some good music when the burden of work is overwhelming. At the end of the day, it is not the thought that matters but how that thought was implemented into action.

SAGITTARIUS Ganesha sees a spectacular day in store for you, especially if you are an artist. Radio jockeys will be heard and cheered for. Television anchors will receive thundering applause and golden opportunities. Go ahead – seize the day!

CAPRICORN Your extraordinary skills, passion for perfection, and an overpowering personality will inspire and motivate those around you, says Ganesha. Many will, in fact, emulate your actions, so much so that you could most likely have a fan following. But while the inspired lot may achieve success and move on to target higher goals, you are likely to miss out on the best of opportunities to make money.

AQUARIUS Spirituality is your new passion and Calvin Klein matters less today! Mysticism attracts you, says Ganesha. This may lead you to seek solace in holy books and religious places. It's going to take some time for you to understand that spiritual attainment can be had in the flesh-and-blood world as well.

PISCES You are ceaselessly driven to find room for improvement. A part-time course to enhance your skills or to increase your efficiency is what you will likely be pursuing today, says Ganesha.

Shruti rocks out to heavy metal

The 'Luck' actress also has her own alternative rock band 'The Extramentals' where she is the lead singer and has done various songs with them, including her big hit 'Edge'

Chennai: Actress Shruti Haasan, apart from being a star in both Bollywood as well as the South industry, is also a big fan of rock music. She recently shared a clip of herself rocking out to heavy metal while shedding weight, calling it a great experience and raising the devil horns.

which currently is one of her better known songs.

The actress-singer, has also done playback singing in films such as *Unnaipol Oruvan* and *En Mana Vaanil*.

Taking to her Instagram stories, she actress was sporting a black sportswear and had no make-up on. With some metalcore playing in the background, the actress said in the clip: "Loosing hormonal weight, and bloating and all kinds of other s*** can be really challenging."

Raising the devil horns she added: "But when you have some heavy metal playing, it feels so good, feels soooo good!"

The Luck actress has never made her love of rock music any secret, having grown up listening to bands

such as *Nirvana, Creed, Linkin Park, Metallica, Iron Maiden, Black Sabbath, Foo Fighters, Pearl Jam, Motley Crue* among many more.

Shruti also has her own alternative rock band where she is the lead singer and has done various songs with them, including her big hit *Edge*,



Aamir's son to debut opposite Sai Pallavi

Mumbai: Actress Sai Pallavi, who is known for her work in *Maari 2, Fidaa, Gargi* and *Shyam Singha Roy* in south, is all set to make her foray in Hindi cinema.

The actress will be making her debut opposite Aamir Khan's son Junaid. It will be made as a love story.

While Aamir has taken a break after the box-office debacle of his last film *Laal Singh Chaddha*, his son is gearing up for his big debut in a film under the banner of Yash Raj Films, according to a source.

For YRF, it has been a successful year at the box-office with the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Pathaan* in theatres and *The Romantics* on the OTT.

After his debut film at YRF, Junaid will be working on his next project. A Sunil Pandey directorial, the film is touted to be a love story.

Mumbai: Actor-model Alankrita Anup Sahai feels that the way mental health issues are perceived in our society needs to change.

"There are just extremes to define mental health issues, and no one talks about the gravity of the subject. Every person has their own share of grief to battle with, and I feel without demeaning the problem one should seek proper counselling as dialogue is the only key," says the *Namaste England* actress.

Sahai lost her father last year and calls it the toughest phase for her.

"I was broken, and anxiety pangs never left my side! I didn't want to work and I just wanted to stay alone. My father was with me through thick and thin. He never left my side and then, just in jiffy, he was gone. It took me months to understand that what worse than this could happen, and I should get back to work as that's what my dad would have wanted. I too sought advice from a counsellor at one point, but it didn't work well in my case. Eventually, it was my family, especially my mum, who helped me cope and get back to work," shared Alankrita.

AGENCIES



'We shouldn't look down upon mental health issues'

Vivek: Naseer likes to back terrorists

Mumbai: Filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri has hit back on veteran actor

Naseeruddin Shah after he said it is disturbing that movies like *The Kashmir Files* and *Gadar 2* are becoming massively popular. In a recent interview, when Vivek was asked to react to Naseeruddin's comment, the director said that the actor perhaps feels 'exposed' with the truth of *The Kashmir Files*, and 'likes to support terrorists' but he does not.

He went on add, "I am a great admirer of Naseer sahab that's why I had cast him in *The Tashkent Files*. But I don't



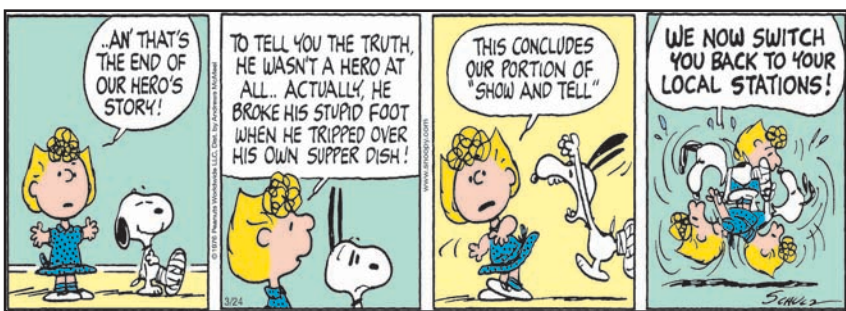
know of late why he has grown old and if that's the case then I should not say any-

thing. Sometimes, people are frustrated with a lot of things, or maybe he feels he is getting exposed with the truth of *The Kashmir Files* something about him is getting naked in front of people through somebody else's art."

He further added, "I mean he is happy doing films that support genocide, he has acted in movies that supports genocide, perhaps he has because of his religion or because of his frustration. For whatever reasons, perhaps he likes to support terrorists, I don't. I don't even care what Naseer says because I have zero tolerance for terrorism, maybe he loves them, and I don't care."

AGENCIES

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

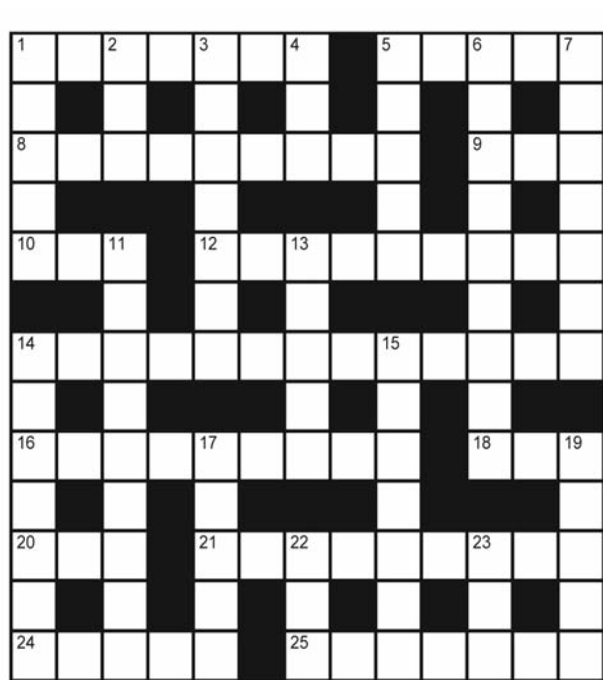


BREVITY



FUN post

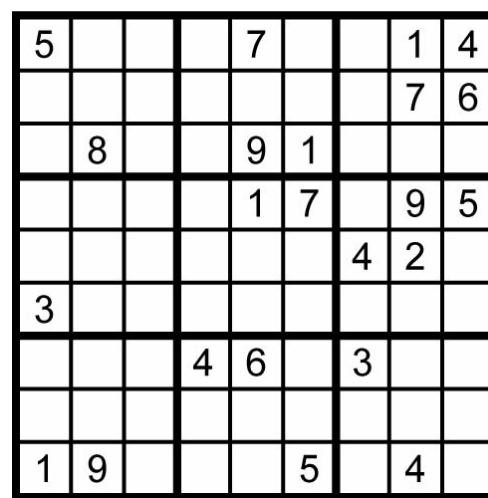
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2023 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Hard work result
 - 5 Cupolas
 - 8 Measuring device for meteorologists
 - 9 Hydromassage facility
 - 10 Generation
 - 12 Airline ticket purchase (5,4)
 - 14 Get excited to start (5,2,3,3)
 - 16 Aperitif wine (3,6)
 - 18 German resort
 - 20 Bachelor's last words
 - 21 Combative meteorologists
 - 24 Rash, possibly alternative
 - 25 Liederkranz
- Down**
- 1 Aesop's forte
 - 2 Sticky stuff
 - 3 Sweet treat
 - 4 Consume
 - 5 Challenged
 - 6 Extremely unhappy
 - 7 "Don't move!" (4,3)
 - 11 Unidentified
 - 13 Exclaim
 - 14 Burbot
 - 15 Out of kilter
 - 17 Spouse
 - 19 Look of disdain
 - 22 Resinous deposit
 - 23 Offbeat

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

STAR CH SMOKER
I L H J O E E
GRIMACE IDELL
N B F T R H Y
ANILE TREMOLLO
L O Y R L N
REBEC ALLEY
B M B T E C
ORIGAMI SALSAB
M N B H O V
BLEAK EYESORE
E N T T E S A
ROTTEN UPBEAT

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

BRAINSTORMING SESSION

Puri Municipality council meeting in progress at the civic body's office in the Pilgrim City, Wednesday



Day 1 business list of special session out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: The government Wednesday listed a special discussion on Parliament's journey of 75 years starting from the Samvidhan Sabha on the first day of the five-day session of Parliament beginning September 18.

During the session, the government has also listed the bill on the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other election commissioners to be taken up for consideration and passage. The bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha during the last Monsoon session.

"Discussion on 'Parliamentary Journey of 75 years starting from Samvidhan Sabha - Achievements, Experiences, Memories and Learnings'" will be held September 18 besides other formal business like laying of papers.

The session is likely to see the proceedings of Parliament moving from the old building to the new Parliament building.

The other listed business for Lok Sabha includes 'The Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023' and 'The Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, 2023', already passed by Rajya Sabha August 3, 2023.

Besides, 'The Post Office Bill, 2023' has also been listed in the Lok Sabha business, according to an official bulletin. The bill was earlier introduced in Rajya Sabha August 10, 2023.

The list of business is tentative and more items can be



added. The government has also convened a meeting of the floor leaders of all political parties September 17, a day before the start of the five-day session, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said.

The invitation for the meeting has been sent to all leaders concerned through e-mail, Joshi posted on social media platform X. Joshi had August 31 announced a "special session" of Parliament for five days from September 18 but did not spell out any specific agenda for it.

"Amid Amrit Kaal, looking forward to having fruitful discussions and debate in Parliament," Joshi had posted on X.

Sharing the agenda for the special Parliament session on X, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said it "is much ado about nothing" and all this could have waited till the Winter session in November, but added that the government could be having "legislative grenades" up its sleeves.

"Finally, after pressure from Sonia Gandhi's letter to the Prime Minister, the Modi Govt has condescended to announce the agenda for the special 5-day session of Parliament beginning September 18th," he said.

"The agenda as published at the moment, is much ado about nothing — all this could have waited till Winter session in November.

"I am sure the legislative grenades are being kept up their sleeves to be unleashed at the last moment as usual. Parde ke peeche kuch aur hai! (there is more behind the curtains)," he said on the agenda.

"Regardless, the INDIA parties will steadfastly oppose the insidious CEC Bill," Ramesh also said.

Former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi when no agenda was listed for the session.

Ramesh also earlier in the day listed several previous special Parliament sessions and said each time the agenda was listed in advance.

The government had in the last session tabled in Rajya Sabha the contentious Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill that seeks to replace the Chief Justice of India with a cabinet minister in the panel for selection of the chief election commissioner and election commissioners.



LEADING THE WAY: Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy addressing students at an elocution competition on 'Media, Democracy and Youth' at Ravenshaw University in Cuttack, Wednesday. The event was organised by Dharitri ahead of the leading Odia daily's 50th anniversary celebrations. (L-R) Director, Students' Welfare, Ravenshaw University Alakananda Parida, Registrar Kanhu Charan Malik, PG Council Chairperson Luna Samanta, Dharitri and Orissa POST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy and jury members - Priyadarshi Kar, Jnanee Debasish Mishra and Urmishree Bedamatta — are present on the dais

SCRUB TYPHUS CLAIMS 5 LIVES

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: At least five people in the state died in a month due to scrub typhus infection, which spreads through bites of infected chiggers (larval mites), an official said Wednesday.

While two of the deceased were from Sohela block, Attabira, Bheden and Barpali blocks of Bargarh district reported one such death case each, said Bargarh Chief District Medical and Public Health Officer Sadhu Charan Das.

Those who died of the infection were diagnosed in hospitals outside the district, he said, adding that two cases were detected in Burla Medical College, two others in a private hospital and another in a Bolangir hospital.

Scrub typhus spreads when a chigger bites someone

Those who frequently visit farmland or forests are vulnerable to the infection

When fever continues for days, the patient should go through an ELISA test

Most common symptoms of scrub typhus include fever and a black inflamed mark on the skin called 'eschar'

Das said that 142 samples were tested for scrub typhus detected in the district between September 1 and 10. Of these, four were found positive and all are now doing fine. As many as 168 samples were tested in Bargarh district during August. However, no one was found infected with scrub typhus, he said.

Public Health Director Niranjan Mishra alerted people about the mite-borne disease. The scrub typhus infection spreads when a chigger bites someone. The persons who frequently visit farmland or forests are vulnerable to the infection, he said. The most common symptoms of scrub typhus include fever and a black inflamed mark on the skin called 'eschar', Mishra said.

When fever continues for several days, the patient should go through an ELISA test to scrub typhus. The test is available at the district public health laboratory of all district headquarters hospitals in the state. If diagnosed early, the disease can be treated effectively, he said.

Student leaders urge govt to announce campus poll dates

The state government has not been holding college elections since 2018 due to various reasons including violence on campuses and Covid-19 pandemic

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Student leaders in Odisha Wednesday demanded that the state government announce the dates for students' union elections in colleges and universities.

They warned of protests in colleges and universities if students' union elections are not held this year as the schedule for the students' elections was not mentioned in the academic calendar 2023-2024 prepared by the state Higher Education department.

The Higher Education department has directed vice-chancellors and principals to strictly implement the common academic calendar.

As per the academic calendar, there will be a minimum of 180 teaching days and 72 holidays excluding Sundays.

However, in the academic calendar, the department has not mentioned a schedule to conduct the students' union election.

Student leaders demanded that the state government announce the dates for conducting the campus polls.

National Students' Union of India (NSUI) activists here burnt the letter of the High Education department in protest.

NSUI, the student wing of Congress, has also warned that it would protest in all the colleges if the students' union election is stopped.

"In an undemocratic way, the government has stopped conducting the union polls since 2018. If the college union polls are held, BJD will be rooted out from the state. So, in fear of defeat, the Naveen Patnaik government is not conducting the campus polls," said Yashir Nawaz, state president of NSUI.

Arijit Patnaik, state secretary, AVBP said the government has killed the leadership quality of the students. There are about 20 lakh youth voters on college campuses. So, the government fears that they will go against it, he alleged.

"We strongly demand the conduct of the college polls. Otherwise, ABVP will hit the

streets," warned Patnaik. He also indicated that the student leaders would move the court for seeking the conduct of students' union elections.

State president of All India Students' Federation (AISF) Sanghamitra Jena said the government wants to cancel the students' union polls to stop building new leaders because the ruling BJD allegedly has now become a party of 'bureaucrats'.

President of Biju Chhatra Janata Dal, the student wing of ruling BJD, Devi Ranjan Tripathy said the students are violating the norms set by the Lyngdoh Commission. That's why the college polls are put on hold.

"In this year's academic calendar, there is no proposal to conduct the campus polls. If the students' union election will not be conducted, the students can put forth their demands and issues at the administrative level," Tripathy said.

The state government has not been holding college elections since 2018 due to various reasons including violence on campuses and Covid-19 pandemic.

In this year's academic calendar, there is no proposal to conduct the campus polls. If the students' union election will not be conducted, the students can put forth their demands and issues at the administrative level

DEVI RANJAN TRIPATHY | BIJU CHHATRA JANATA DAL PRESIDENT

Cops nab four, foil highway robbery bid



GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The Commissionerate Police foiled a highway robbery bid by four robbers who they rounded up during a raid in Nayapalli area of the city late Tuesday night.

The accused were identified as Pintan Nayak, 23, and Mantu Naik, 25 - of Jhumpudia in Dhenkanal district, Santosh Kumar Pradhan, 26, and Rakesh Mukhi, 20 - of Mundaahi in Nayapalli police limits of the city.

A team of sleuths from Nayapalli police station during night patrolling Tuesday received a tip-off about the assembly of some anti-social elements near an isolated spot adjacent to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) office at IRC village. The cops immediately made a snoop at the place and nabbed four of them while their fifth associate managed to give police the slip.

The cops allegedly recovered a knife, a sword and other sharp weapons along with various incriminating materials from the possession of the accused persons who turned out to be robbers. They allegedly confessed to the police that they were planning to commit robbery on National Highway 16 the same night.

During the course of investigation, the police found that two robbery cases were registered against Mantu at Nayapalli police station and one more at Khandagiri police station. Similarly, four cases at Nayapalli and one at Tamando police station are pending against arrested accused Santosh. Rakesh was involved in one criminal case registered against him at Nayapalli police station.

The accused Wednesday were produced before a local court that remanded them to judicial custody.

Delete names of 3.45L dead voters: EC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The Election Commission Wednesday asked district Collectors to focus on the special summary revision of electoral rolls, and ensure that names of '3.45 lakh deceased people' are deleted from the voters' list, an official said.

The directions were issued at a meeting of an EC team comprising Senior Deputy Election Commissioners Dharmendra Sharma and Nitesh Vyas, which was attended by Chief Electoral Officer Nikunj Bihari Dhal, the Collectors of all the 30 districts, revenue divisional commissioners (RDCs) and other senior officials.

It was mentioned in the meeting that names of 'as many as 3.45 lakh deceased people were found in the voters' list'.

"The EC team asked the Collectors to take necessary action to make the list flawless," the official said.

The Collectors were also asked to create awareness among people on the use of different applications for making corrections in the voters' list.

Though the meeting fuelled speculations of early Assembly polls in Odisha, a senior official claimed it was a routine exercise ahead of the 2024 general elections. Assembly polls in the state are due in March-April next year.

MEDIA TRIAL MAY DEFLECT 'CAUSE OF JUSTICE': SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: A media trial may result in "deflection of cause of justice", the Supreme Court observed Wednesday and directed the union home ministry to prepare within three months a comprehensive manual on how police should brief journalists about criminal cases.

The top court said there is an urgent need for a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) about how journalists should be briefed as there has been an upsurge in reporting on criminal offences in print, electronic and social media since the last guide-

lines on the subject were issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in 2010.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said a delicate balance has to be maintained between the media's fundamental right to free speech and expression, the right of the accused to fair investigation, and the privacy of the victim.

The top court also asked the Directors General of Police (DGP) of all states to submit their suggestions to the MHA within a month on how to go about preparing the manual. "All DGPs, in a month, should communicate to Ministry of

Home Affairs, their suggestions for guidelines...National Human Rights Commission's suggestions may also be taken," the bench, also comprising Justices PS Narasimha and Manoj Misra, said.

The SC said any disclosure by police at a "premature stage", when the

investigation is on, triggers a media trial that affects administration of justice since it could also influence the judge conducting the trial. The top court said the nature of disclosure by police, in the absence of an SOP, cannot be uniform as it would depend on the nature of

crime and participating stakeholders including victims, witnesses and accused. The age and gender of the victim and accused also have a significant bearing on the disclosure, it said.

"Media reporting in matters involving commission of crimes involves several aspects of public interest. At a basic level, the fundamental right to free speech and expression is directly both in terms of rights of media to portray and disseminate news, views and information and the right of the viewing public and readers to receive a diversity of opinions.

"There can be no gainsaying in the fact that the media in terms of its right to speech and expression and consumers have a right to receive fair and unbiased information. Criminal offences and investigation by law enforcement machinery involves significant elements of public interest bearing upon the right to inform as well as the right to know," the bench said.

The apex court said there are competing considerations involving the accused and the victim which needed to be considered as they have immense significance.



SAMBALPUR NECKLACE ROAD PROJECT

NHAI unearths fraud for fat compensation

18 HOUSES ERECTED ON LAND ACQUIRED FOR PROJECT DECLARED ILLEGAL

fat compensation constructed houses even after notices were issued to them for acquisition of their land.



houses was done despite NHAI having proof about the wrongdoing. They claimed that the involvement of bigwigs and government officials will stand exposed if the irregularities are probed by a special team.

Shila Narmada, ₹59 lakh of Gangadhar Sethi, ₹27 lakh of Ranjit Singh Chawla and ₹78 lakh of Bipin Bihari Seth at Sunderpur.

The NHAI authorities have termed the construction of these houses on land already earmarked for ring road project and after issuance of notice as illegal and void.

When contacted, NHAI project director S Nageshwar Rao said the district administration has been issued a letter informing them about the fraud.

Sources said that the NHAI has floated a tender for construction of the ring road while acquisition of land for the project is also underway.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 13: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has declared 18 houses constructed on the land acquired for construction of a necklace road in Sambalpur as illegal and void, a report said Wednesday.

Moreover, questions have been raised on the survey of special land acquisition department.

Notably, the NHAI has planned for construction of a four-lane outer necklace road or ring road at an expense of ₹1,000 crore in Sambalpur town to ease the town's burgeoning traffic.

The ring road will start from Goshala, Katapali on NH-53 and run via Maneswar, Jayantpur and Kabrapali via Sunderpur on the state highway connecting Sonepur to connect with the Rourkela-bound Biju Expressway at Sasan and the two national highways connecting Cuttack and Kolkata.

However, many people eyeing date of issue of notice. As per norms, the status of land cannot be changed in the concerned area after notification for land acquisition is issued.

This letter has exposed a major fraud involving crores of rupees. Locals questioned how the valuation of newly constructed



for acquisition as illegal and void. The letter mentions the names of the beneficiaries, the valuation of their houses and that the houses have been constructed after the date of issue of notice.

As per norms, the status of land cannot be changed in the concerned area after notification for land acquisition is issued. The notice debar the land owners from construction of any new structure or further construction on their land identified for acquisition.

Notably, the NHAI has planned for construction of a four-lane outer necklace road or ring road at an expense of ₹1,000 crore in Sambalpur town to ease the town's burgeoning traffic.

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Sex racket busted; 3 women rescued, 3 held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 13: Acting on a tip-off, police busted a sex racket operating from a rented house at Shakti Nagar, first lane under Nimkhandi police limits in Ganjam district Wednesday.

A team from Nimkhandi police station raided a house at first lane in Shaktinagar. The police team caught three women there in compromising position. The women including one from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh were rescued while the house owner and two youths were arrested.

Five mobile phones, liquor bottles, cash worth ₹5,000 and several objectionable items were seized from the house. The rescued women were handed over to their family members.

The arrested accused are house owner Amulya Padhi, Abdul Kalim of Khaja Sahi here and Surya Kiran Jena of



Bhabinipur village. During probe, police found out that Amulya has been running the sex racket in the house for long.

Abdul and Surya used to lure girls with attractive monetary offers and engage them in flesh trade. A case was registered in this connection and the accused persons and the women were taken for medical examination. Amulya managed to get bail under Section-41 of CrPC while the other two accused were produced in the court and remanded to judicial custody.

BEAR MAULS FARMER

Kantipal: A farmer was killed in bear attack Wednesday at Sana Purunapani area under Manoharpur panchayat of Anandapur block in Keonjhar district. The deceased was identified as Ghanashyam Hembram, 45, of Sana Purunapani village. The incident occurred when Ghanashyam had gone to his farmland about 500 metre from his house to oversee his cultivation works.

Abdul and Surya used to lure girls with attractive monetary offers and engage them in flesh trade. A case was registered in this connection and the accused persons and the women were taken for medical examination. Amulya managed to get bail under Section-41 of CrPC while the other two accused were produced in the court and remanded to judicial custody.

Advertisement for Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. It includes the company logo, name, and a notice for engagement of service provider for its retail outlets (COCO). The notice details the scope of work, application process, and contact information.

Over 1.23 lakh monsoon birds throngh Bhitarkanika



PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Sept 13: An estimated 1,23,867 monsoon birds were sighted and 26,118 nests were spotted by forest enumeration teams during the monsoon bird census this year in Bhitarkanika National Park in this district.

Park sources Tuesday said 7,797 more residential birds thronged Bhitarkanika National Park this year for the nesting process. This year, 1,654 more nests were reported in comparison to last year.

The monsoon bird census was carried out from September 3 to September 8 at four places in and outside Bhitarkanika National Park.

The monsoon birds selected 1,760 trees inside the park to build 26,118 nests, DFO of Rajnagar Mangrove Forest and Wildlife Division Gopinath Sudarshan Jadav said.

However, not a single nest has been spotted at Bagagahan Heronry, which has been a favourite nesting place for the monsoon bird species over the years. Last year, the monsoon birds did not visit the Bagagahan heronry.

The monsoon birds have preferred to build nests at Laxmi Prasad Dia, Mathadia and Durgaprasad Dia heronries.

a new nesting place at Bali Dia under Rajnagar forest Range.

In Laxmi Prasad Dia, the forest personnel sighted 12,480 nests, 11,599 nests at Mathadia, and 1,532 nests in Durgaprasad Dia.

Altogether, 507 nests were found at Bali Dia. As many as 10 out of 11 types of species thronged to Bhitarkanika National Park this year.

The residential bird species that visited Bhitarkanika this monsoon included the Asian open-billed stork, large Egret, intermediate Egret, Little Egret, purple heron, Grey heron, Little cormorant, Black crowned Night heron, Black headed Ibis and Darter. DFO Jadav said.

Asian open-billed stork once again came in larger numbers than other bird species. Similarly, the darter, which is called a snake bird and has become a rare species nowadays, was spotted during the census drive.

Every year, with the onset of monsoon season, these birds generally come in large numbers to Bhitarkanika, and the nesting process is completed by the end of November.

Darter, Grey Heron and Purple Heron start breeding early, and often chicks are seen during the first week of August, whereas Open-billed Stork and White Ibis are among the late breeders, with hatchlings seen during the August last week or September first week.

Open-billed Storks prefer to form their nests in Guan trees, and avian species form their nests on the top canopy, whereas the lowermost branches are preferred by smaller birds like little cormorants, forest official sources said.

Decomposed body of doctor recovered from locked house

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 13: Police Wednesday recovered the decomposed body of a doctor from a locked house at Mahadeijoda village under Sadar police limits in Keonjhar district.

The deceased was identified as Dr Balaram Sahu, 65, of the village. He was staying in the house after his retirement from Bhandra community health centre (CHC) under Champua block.

The deceased doctor was unmarried and staying alone in the house. Neighbours said he was under mental stress due to old-age related problems and loneliness.

Police said that the house had been locked for the last two days but neighbours informed them after stench started emanating from the house.

Police broke open the door and seized the decomposed body in the presence of his kin. A case was registered in this connection and the body sent for post-mortem.

It is suspected that the doctor may have died because of heart stroke but the actual reason can be ascertained only after the post-mortem report is available to us, Sadar IIC Ramakant Roy said.



2 brand new nature parks inaugurated in Sambalpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 13: Two new nature parks - Hirakud Nature Park at Govindpur and Debrigarh Nature Park at Zero Point, which are the two ends of Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary located here - were inaugurated Wednesday.

Both the nature parks are adjoining Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary and the Ramsar wetland of Hirakud. PCCF (Wildlife) Sushil Kumar Popli inaugurated both the parks in presence of local villagers who will manage them under supervision of Debrigarh forest authorities in the presence of divisional forest officer (DFO) Anshu Pragnay Das.

Govindpur is a beautiful village on Odisha-Chhattisgarh border, on the banks of Hirakud reservoir on the foothills of Debrigarh sanctuary while Zero Point is the entry point to Debrigarh from Sambalpur side.

Hirakud Nature Park is at Govindpur village on the foothills of Debrigarh sanctuary overlooking Hirakud wetland. Hirakud Wildlife Division has recently started boating facilities at



Govindpur Birds' Village.

The village was declared as 'birds' village' during 2022 as this village community since ages has been providing protection to the migratory birds coming to Hirakud lake from various countries of the world and thereby aiding their conservation.

Thousands of picnickers, bird watchers and visitors come to the birds' village for picnicking and boating in Hirakud. This area of the artificial lake has many submerged temples and hills within the reservoir.

Debrigarh Nature Park at Zero Point, entry point to Debrigarh Sanctuary, has similar amenities. It will be managed by the local forest-dependent communities as an alternative livelihood option.

The refreshment kiosk, souvenir shop, boating facilities have been completed.

Advertisement from the Government of Odisha, Department of P.R. & D.W. It is an invitation for bids (IFB) for the renovation of Siva Mandira at Ghantapada Village, Jagannath Temple at Kankili Nuasahi Village, and renovation of Jagannath Mandira at Gopalprasad Village. It includes details on the bidding process, contact information, and the name of the Block Development Officer, Talcher.

Advertisement from the Government of Odisha, No. O-1010. It is a procurement notice for Bid Identification No. Online-AGL-10 of 2023-2024. It lists the name of the work, estimated cost, period of completion, and date of availability. It also provides contact information for the Executive Engineer, Rural OIT, Works Division, Angul.

Advertisement from the Office of the Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Rairangpur. It is an invitation for bids for the shifting of water supply utilities affected due to widening and strengthening of Bahalda station approach. It includes details on the nature of work, period of completion, cost of tender, and contact information for the Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Rairangpur.

Advertisement for a free job oriented training programme (Residential) funded by NTPC-SAIL Power Company Ltd., Rourkela, under CSR Scheme 2023-2024. It lists various job roles like Machine Operator, Testing and Quality control, and Product Supervisor, along with their respective durations and requirements. It also provides contact information for the training program.



Director General Air (Operations) Air Marshal Surat Singh meets IAF contingent on the sidelines of exercise 'Bright Star 2023' in Egypt



Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar greets Bangladesh Navy Chief, Admiral Mohammad Nazmul Hassan (R) as he arrives to inspect a guard of honour at South Block lawns in New Delhi



An artist gives final touches to a clay idol of Lord Ganesha ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Mumbai, Maharashtra



Bavarian herdsmen drive their beasts on a road during the return of the cattle from the Summer pastures in the mountains near Oberstdorf, Germany



Britain's King Charles III meets schoolchildren during his visit the Discovery Centre and Auld School Close to hear more about the 3.3million pound (4.1 million US dollars) energy efficient housing project in the area in Tomintoul, Scotland



Police use water cannons to disperse Congress party activists during a protest against the recent incident of an alleged assault and urination on a watchman in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh



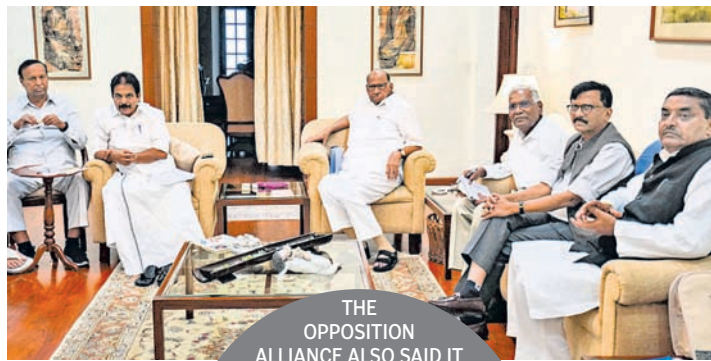
All India Federation of India & College Teachers Organisations including KYS members protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi

national

INDIA to hold talks on seat-sharing soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: Taking another step in its strategic plan to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Opposition bloc INDIA Wednesday decided to hold their first joint public meeting in Bhopal in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh in the first week of October...



ruption of the BJP government. The parties present in the meeting agreed to take up the issue of the caste census, the Congress leader said. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha later told reporters that the BJP is "badly scared" of the INDIA alliance...

THE OPPOSITION ALLIANCE ALSO SAID IT WILL RAISE ISSUES RELATED TO RISING PRICES, UNEMPLOYMENT, CORRUPTION AND CASTE CENSUS. THE DECISIONS WERE TAKEN AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF THE INDIA GROUPING WHICH WAS HELD AT THE RESIDENCE OF NCP SUPREMO SHARAD PAWAR

"We decided that seat sharing should be completed as soon as possible." Asked if there will be seat sharing in assembly polls as well, he said, "It is an alliance... If they bring one nation one election, even for Panchayat elections there will be seat sharing, but that is not the case at present."

Balasahab Thackeray) leader Sanjay Raut.

Holding of joint public rallies while taking up public issues was decided at the last meeting of the grouping held in Mumbai.

The resolution issued September 1 after the third meeting of the bloc in Mumbai, said the parties would contest polls together "as far as possible", and that seat sharing in arrangements in different states would be "initiated immediately" and concluded "at the earliest".

According to opposition leaders while seat sharing in states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Bihar have been more or less sorted out, the negotiations in Delhi, Punjab and West Bengal could be challenging.

The meeting also focussed on finalising campaigns and rallies to be held in the coming days, but no decision in this regard was announced.

Over two dozen opposition parties have formed the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) to challenge the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) unitedly in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

At the first meeting of the Opposition bloc in Patna in June, it was decided that the strongest candidate from each seat would be picked up for the Lok Sabha polls.

SHORT TAKES

AP HC stays CID petition against Naidu's custody

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh High Court Wednesday stayed the proceedings in a petition filed by the state CID seeking the custody of TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu in connection with the multi-crore Skill Development Corporation scam, till September 18.

Petrol pumps to remain shut in Raj

Jaipur: More than 6,300 petrol pumps in Rajasthan remained closed from 10 am to 6 pm Wednesday as part of a strike by operators against high VAT on diesel and petrol.

I-T raids against SP leader Azam Khan

New Delhi/Lucknow: The Income Tax Department Wednesday conducted raids at more than 30 premises in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh as part of a tax evasion probe against Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan and those linked to him, official sources said.

Fresh violence

Imphal: Conflict-torn Manipur witnessed a fresh incident of violence as unidentified gunmen, suspected to be cadres of banned terror groups, attacked people and hurled bombs at a village in Imphal West district, bordering Kangpokpi where three persons were killed a day before, officials said Wednesday.

23rd student suicide in Kota

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota, Sept 13: Less than six months after she moved to Kota to prepare for medical entrance exam NEET, 16-year-old Richa Singh from Jharkhand's Ranchi allegedly died by suicide by hanging herself to death in her hostel room, police said Wednesday.

She is the 23rd student who committed suicide here this year, the highest ever for the country's coaching hub. Last year, the figure was 15.

"The police received information about Sinha's death around 10.30pm on Tuesday from the private hospital where she was taken," said Amar Chand, an assistant sub-inspector at the Vignay Nagar police station.

He added that no suicide note was recovered from her room and police are investigating the reason behind the alleged suicide. Hostel warden Archana Rajawat said the student com-

plained being unwell Tuesday night and was given medicines. "Earlier, there were no signs of stress. She used to get well with her friends, eat meals on time," Rajawat said.

Over 2.5 lakh students come to Kota annually to prepare for competitive exams such as the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) for engineering and the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NET) for admission to medical colleges.

Packed schedules, cut-throat competition, constant pressure to do better, the burden of parents' expectations and homesickness are among the common struggles of the students here, according to those working there. With the record spike in such incidents, the administration has taken several steps including mandating installation of an anti-hanging device in fans and ordering coaching institutes to not take any exam for two months.

ED questions Abhishek for nine hours

Kolkata: Senior TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee was Wednesday questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for a marathon nine hours in connection with the West Bengal teacher recruitment scam, officials said. Soon after coming out of the ED office here, Banerjee said the interrogation was an effort to prevent him from participating in the INDIA meet and a testimony to the vital role TMC is playing in forging the opposition unity.

Nipah scare: Kerala shuts schools, offices

The Kerala government has strengthened measures to prevent the spread of Nipah infection after the brain-damaging virus killed two people and infected two others in this north Kerala district

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 13: A 24-year-old health worker has become Kerala's fifth confirmed Nipah case since its recent outbreak, as the government stepped up its efforts to cure a 9-year-old boy suffering from the deadly infection by ordering the only anti-viral treatment available. Kerala shut some schools, offices and public transport Wednesday in a race to stop the spread of the, which has killed two people.

An adult and a child were still infected in hospital, and more than 130 people have been tested for the virus, spread via contact with the bodily fluids of infected bats, pigs or people, a state health official said. "We are focusing on tracing contacts of infected persons early and isolating anyone with symptoms," said the state's Health Minister Veena George, who told reporters the virus detected in Kerala was the Bangladesh variant, which spreads from human to human with a high mortality rate but has a his-



tory of being less infectious. Two infected people have died since August 30 in the state's fourth outbreak of the virus since 2018, forcing authorities to declare containment zones in at least seven villages in the district of Kozhikode. Strict isolation rules have been adopted, with medical staff being quarantined after contact with the infected. The first victim was a small landholder growing bananas and areca nuts in the district's village of Marutunkara, said a government official who retraced the movement of the victim to track down all the people he could have interacted with and the places visited before his health started to deteriorate.

Cabinet okays 75 lakh free LPG connections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Lucknow, Sept 13: The government Wednesday allocated ₹1,650 crore towards the release of additional 75 lakh free LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) over three years ending March 2026.

As per the existing modalities of Ujjwala 2.0, the first refill and stove will also be provided free of cost to Ujjwala beneficiaries, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters after the meeting of the Union Cabinet. He said Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the extension of PMUY for the release of 75 lakh LPG connections over three years from Financial Year 2023-24 to 2025-26.

UJJWALA SCHEME

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his government accords top priority to ensure pollution free kitchen and good health for women.

"It has been our government's priority to ensure pollution-free kitchens for every family across the country. We are taking strong steps in this direction, so that along with the good health of our mothers and sisters, their standard of living becomes even better," he said on 'X'.

The total financial implication will be ₹1,650 crore.

This includes ₹2,200 per connection (14.2 kg single bottle connection / 5 kg double bottle connection), and ₹1,300 per connection (5 kg single bottle connection).

A targeted subsidy of ₹200 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder for up to 12 refills per year is being provided to PMUY consumers. With the release of additional 75 lakh connections, the number of PMUY beneficiaries will go up to 10.35 crore.

Cabinet approves phase-III of eCourts Project

Seeking to upgrade the digital infrastructure of the lower judiciary, the Union Cabinet Wednesday approved the third phase of the eCourts Project as a central sector scheme with a financial outlay of ₹7,210 crore

Table with columns: UCO Bank, Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar - 751009, GOLD AUCTION NOTICE. It lists various branches and their respective gold ornaments for auction, including details like name, address, balance, and weight.

international

of the day quote

It's not untrue that the architecture of the Security Council was designed a very long time ago, decades ago when geographically and geopolitically the world was a very different place

DENNIS FRANCIS | PRESIDENT, UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

One shouldn't give in to the narrative used by the coup leaders that consists of saying France has become our enemy

EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

So basically, two things came out. One is that you have a single communique coming out, but more important is that India came out as the leader of the Global South. That also means that it was a loss for China because they did not send their president there

MUKESH AGHI | PRESIDENT, US-INDIA STRATEGIC AND PARTNERSHIP FORUM

SHORT TAKES

Updated Covid-19 vax for Americans

Washington: Most Americans should get an updated Covid-19 vaccine, health officials said Tuesday. Advisers to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention endorsed the new shots for everyone six months and older and the agency's director quickly signed off Tuesday on the panel's recommendation. That means doses should be available this week, some as early as Wednesday. The severity of the Covid-19 pandemic has faded, but there are still hundreds of hospitalisations and hundreds of deaths in the US each week. Hospitalizations have been increasing since late summer, though the latest data indicate infections may be starting to level off, particularly in the South.

Pak polls on Nov 6

Islamabad: Pakistan President Arif Alvi Wednesday unilaterally proposed November 6 as the date for the general elections in a letter written to the chief election commissioner, amidst controversy over polling dates in the cash-strapped country. In his letter to CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja, President Alvi cited Article 48(5) of the Constitution, which he said: "empowers and mandates the president 'to appoint a date not later than 90 days from the date of the dissolution, for the holding of a general election to the Assembly'".

Ukraine hits Russian naval targets in Crimea

Ukraine says it attacked Sevastopol port in annexed Crimea which is seen as biggest on Sevastopol since 2022 invasion

AGENCIES

Kyiv, Sept 13: Ukraine said it struck Russian naval targets and port infrastructure early Wednesday in the Crimean city of Sevastopol, in what appeared to be the biggest attack of the war on the home of the Russian navy's Black Sea Fleet.

The strike on Crimea, which was seized and annexed by Russia in 2014, was confirmed by Moscow. It highlighted Kyiv's growing missile capabilities as Russia continues to bombard Ukraine from afar with long-range missiles and assault drones.

"We confirm a large landing vessel and submarine were hit. We do not comment on the means (used) for the strike," Ukrainian military intelligence

LIBYA LEVELLED A QUARTER OF CITY WASHED AWAY

LIBYA STORM DEATH TOLL EXPECTED TO SWELL AS SEA WASHES BODIES ASHORE

AGENCIES

Derna, Sept 13: Thousands of 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.

A senior medic in Derna told Reuters that more than 2,000 people were dead, while eastern Libya officials cited by local television were estimating a toll above 5,000.

In Derna, a city of around 125,000 inhabitants, Reuters journalists saw wrecked neighbourhoods, their buildings washed out and cars flipped on their roofs in streets covered in mud and rubble left by a wide torrent after dams burst.

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.

Storm Daniel barreled across the Mediterranean into a country divided and crumbling after more than a decade of conflict.

Bodies are lying everywhere - in the sea, in the valleys, under the buildings. I am not exaggerating when I say that 25% of the city has disappeared. Many, many buildings have collapsed

OTHMAN ABDUL-JALIL | HEALTH MINISTER, LIBYA

Dead bodies are laid out on the ground in the hospital corridors. As more bodies were brought to the hospital people looked at them, trying to identify missing family members.

The local al-Masar television said the eastern administration's interior minister had said more than 5,000 people died.

Tamer Ramadan, head of a delegation of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said the death toll would be "huge".

"We can confirm from our independent sources of information that the number of missing people is hitting 10,000 so far," he told reporters via video

DEATH TOLL RISES TO MORE THAN 5,000

DEATHS EXPECTED TO RISE TO 10,000

AT LEAST 30,000 PEOPLE DISPLACED

STORM FLOODS BURST DAMS IN DERNA



link.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said emergency response teams had been mobilised to help on the ground.

As Turkey and other countries rushed aid to Libya, including search and rescue vehicles, rescue boats, generators and food, distraught Derna citizens rushed home in search of loved ones.

'NEVER FELT AS FRIGHTENED'

In Derna, Mostafa Salem, 39, said he had lost 30 of his relatives. "Most people were sleeping. Nobody was ready," Salem said.

Raja Sassi, 39, survived the flood with his wife and small daughter after water had reached an upper floor, but the rest of his family had died, he said.

"At first we just thought it was heavy rain but at midnight we heard a huge explosion and it was the dam bursting," he said.

The floods are the most fatal environmental disaster in the country's modern history. Years of war and lack of a central government have left it with crumbling infrastructure that was vulnerable to the intense rains. Libya is currently the only country yet to develop a climate strategy

International aid

Governments including Egypt, Qatar and Turkey have rushed aid to Libya. The Italian defence ministry said it was sending two military planes, carrying firefighters and other emergency rescue personnel, and a navy ship. The United Arab Emirates has sent two aid planes carrying 150 tonnes of urgent food, relief and medical supplies to eastern Libya, the UAE's state news agency WAM reported.

At Tripoli airport in north-west Libya, a woman wailed as she received a call saying most of her family were dead or missing. Her brother-in-law, Walid Abdulati, said: "We are not speaking about one or two people dead, but up to 10 members of each family dead."

Karim al-Obaidi, a passenger on a plane from Tripoli to the east, said: "I have never felt as frightened as I do now ... I lost contact with all my family, friends and neighbours."

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



BLAZE ENGULFS 56 IN VIETNAM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hanoi, Sept 13: A fire in a nine-story apartment building in Vietnam's capital killed at least 56 people, including at least four children, while 37 more are being treated, state media reported citing the police.

Of the 56 people confirmed dead, the police have identified 39 victims, the state-owned Viet Nam News said Wednesday evening.

Initial reports about the death toll were unclear since the injured and dead were taken to different hospitals across the



city. The fire started around midnight and was extinguished in the morning, rescue operations continued throughout the day.

The police have detained the owner of the building as part of their investigation. State-

owned national television channel VTV said four children were among those killed.

The fire was believed to have started late Tuesday and rescuers struggled to reach the building on a narrow lane in south Hanoi. It wasn't immediately clear how much of the building had burned.

It was home to 150 residents, and 54 of the 70 people rescued from the fire were hospitalised for their injuries, state media said. Residents were being treated for smoke inhalation and injuries sustained as they tried to escape the building.

WAR-TIME FRIENDS

Kim meets Putin in Russia as missiles launched from NK

AMID US SKEPTICISM, KIM JONG UN VOWS "FULL AND UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT" FOR VLADIMIR PUTIN



REUTERS

Moscow, Sept 13: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin met for a rare summit on Wednesday at which they discussed military matters, the war in Ukraine and possible Russian help for the secretive Communist state's satellite programme.

Putin showed Kim around Russia's most advanced space rocket launch site in Russia's Far East after Kim arrived by train from North Korea. Kim asked numerous detailed questions about rockets as Putin showed him around the Vostochny Cosmodrome.

After the tour, Putin, 70, and Kim, 39, held talks for several hours with their ministers and then one-on-one, followed by an opulent lunch of Russian "pelmeni" dumplings made with Kamchatka crab and then sturgeon with mushrooms and potatoes.

Kim raised a toast with a glass of Russian wine to Putin's health, to the victory of "great Russia"

The Russian army and people will certainly win a great victory in the sacred struggle for the punishment of a great evil that claims hegemony and feeds an expansionist illusion

KIM JONG UN | LEADER, NORTH KOREA

discussed but disclosed few details. Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu attended the talks and the Kremlin said neighbours discuss sensitive issues which are not for discussing in public.

When asked by Russian media, who were given significant access at the summit, if Russia would help Kim build satellites, Putin said: "That's why we came here."

For Russia, the summit was an opportunity to needle the United States, the big power supporter of Ukraine, though it was unclear just how far Putin was prepared to go in fulfilling any North Korean wish lists of technology.

Putin said Kim now planned to visit military and civilian aviation factories in the Russian city of Komsomolsk-on-Amur and inspect the Russia's Pacific fleet in Vladivostok.

Putin and Kim called each other "comrades" at lunch and Putin repeatedly reminded Kim that it was the Soviet Union which backed North Korea - and was first to recognise it just over 75 years to the day since it was established.

Amid the Ukraine war, which has become a grinding artillery war of attrition, the United States and Kyiv's other allies are watching to see if Kim's visit paves the way for a supply of artillery to Russia.

SPAIN ROUT CYPRUS



IMPRESSIVE OUTING: Ferran Torres reacts after scoring one of his two goals against Cyprus, Tuesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Granada, Sept 13: Spain's men restored normal service on the field, beating Cyprus 6-0 in a European Championship qualifying game two days after disgraced football federation president Luis Rubiales resigned. Rubiales still managed to cast a further shadow over Spanish soccer that has been in turmoil because of his conduct at the Women's World Cup final on Aug. 20 and in the fallout since. At almost exactly the time Gavi gave Spain an 18th-minute lead Tuesday, a television interview given by Rubiales began broadcasting on a British cable news channel. Excerpts from the interview on TalkTV aired Sunday and were widely reported. The full interview aired hours after it was reported Rubiales has been summoned by a judge to a Madrid court Friday as part of a criminal investigation into him kissing star player Jenni

UNEXPECTED INTERRUPTION

Bucharest (Romania): The Romania and Kosovo teams were taken off the field for 45 minutes during a European Championship qualifying game in Bucharest when home fans aimed pro-Serbia chants at the visiting players. "Due to discriminatory behavior from supporters, the match has been suspended," UEFA said in an in-game report on its website. Romania fans chanted and displayed a banner with the "Kosovo is Serbia" slogan and the game was stopped after 18 minutes when the score was 0-0. The half resumed after a 45-minute delay and Romania eventually won 2-0. Kosovo's declaration of independence from Serbia in 2008 is formally recognized by about 100 countries and the majority of European Union members, but not Romania. Romania will face punishment from UEFA from a disciplinary case that must now be opened for making a prohibited political statement at a game.

Hermoso at the trophy ceremony in Australia. Spain kept on scoring to keep its fans focused on the soccer action and Mikel Merino doubled the lead in the 33rd. Four goals in a 13-minute spell from the 70th sealed the comfortable win, scored by substitutes Joselu, Ferran Torres, twice, and Alex Baena. The six-goal win followed a 7-1 rout at Georgia Friday to close the gap on Group A leader Scotland to six points. Spain, who have played one game fewer,

hosts Scotland next October 12. Also in the group Tuesday, Norway stars Erling Haaland and Martin Odegaard scored first-half goals in a 2-1 win over Georgia to stay in outside contention for a top-two finish that would earn a place at Euro 2024 in Germany. **ITALY BACK ON TRACK** Luciano Spalletti engineered his first win as Italy coach as the Azzurri beat Ukraine 2-1 in a crucial European Championship qualifier thanks

to two goals from Davide Frattesi. The Inter Milan midfielder scored both goals in a dominant first half for Italy before Andriy Yarmolenko got Ukraine back into the match four minutes before the break. Italy moved into second place in Group C, above Ukraine on head-to-head record — with the return match scheduled for next month. The Azzurri have played a game less than Ukraine and England, who lead the group by six points. North Macedonia also moved onto seven points after winning 2-0 at Malta, who have zero points. The win boosted Italy's chances of qualifying for Euro 2024 and defending its title — after the misery of failing to reach last year's World Cup. Another positive note was the manner of the victory as Spalletti appears to have got Italy playing like his former Napoli team, even at this early stage of his tenure.

ARGENTINA BEAT ALTITUDE, BOLIVIA IN SOUTH AMERICAN WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

No Messi, no problem

ASSOCIATED PRESS

La Paz (Bolivia), Sept 13: Argentina expected a struggle in the altitude of La Paz. The World Cup champions' climb appeared even steeper with Lionel Messi out of the lineup. Argentina still beat Bolivia 3-0 Tuesday in their second match of the qualifying campaign for the 2026 World Cup. It's now two for two in qualifiers for coach Lionel Scaloni's team, which was led by veteran Angel Di Maria and a strong midfield. Uruguay had the chance to join Argentina atop the standings table, but lost 1-2 at Ecuador. The Ecuadorians now have moved back to zero; they started the tournament at -3 after having three points deducted by FIFA for the falsification of birth information of defender Byron Castillo, who is of Colombian origin. The 2026 World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada is expanding to a 48-team format. The top six teams in South America will secure a direct spot. The seventh-place

team will contest an intercontinental playoff for a berth. Argentina defined the match in the first half with two goals, kept their pace in the second half and added a third near the final whistle. A red card for Bolivia's Roberto Fernandez in the 39th minute also made it less troublesome for the Argentinians. Enzo Fernandez opened the scoring in the 31st from close range after a low cross by Di Maria from the right. The veteran striker also took part in the second goal — lifting the ball into the penalty box from a free-kick in the 42nd for Nicolas Tagliafico to score with his shoulder. Nico Gonzalez added Argentina's third in the 83rd



Argentina players celebrate a goal against Bolivia, while Lionel Messi (inset) watches the game from his team's dugout

GERMANY BEAT FRANCE TO END WINLESS STREAK



Thomas Muller (No.13) was ecstatic after opening Germany's account against France, Tuesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dortmund, Sept 13: From jeers to cheers inside three days. Germany beat World Cup runners-up France 2-1 in a friendly Tuesday in a dramatic turnaround from being whistled by the crowd in a 1-4 loss to Japan Saturday. That defeat cost Hansi Flick his job as coach the following day. The win lifts some of the gloom around the team hosting the European Championship next year. Thomas Muller scored early on and Leroy Sane added a second on a late counterattack, ending the run of five winless games which led to Flick being ousted Sunday. The search is on for a new permanent coach ahead of games against the United States and Mexico next month. Against France, Germany was coached by a three-person caretaker team including sporting director Rudi Voller. He was Germany's coach when they reached the 2002 World Cup final but hadn't taken charge of any game for 18 years. France had not conceded a

goal in five games since losing the World Cup final to Argentina last year, but Germany scored in just the fourth minute. Muller, brought back to the squad by Flick last week for the first time this year, controlled Benjamin Henrichs' cross and hammered the ball past goalkeeper Mike Maignan. France could have had a penalty when Antonio Rudiger appeared to shove Randal Kolo Muani to the ground in the penalty area in the 20th, but the referee opted not to give it. Sane made it 2-0 on a swift counter in the 87th but almost immediately gave away a penalty for a foul on Eduardo Camavinga. Antoine Griezmann converted the spot-kick. Barcelona midfielder Ilkay Gundogan, who went off injured in the 25th after landing heavily on his back following an aerial challenge.

BELLINGHAM SHINES Scotland versus England is international football's oldest rivalry. Jude Bellingham is one of the sport's brightest young stars. And Tuesday the Real Madrid midfielder continued his outstanding start to the season by inspiring England to a 3-1 win at Hampden Park. Bellingham scored a goal and provided an assist for Harry Kane after Phil Foden had fired the Three Lions ahead in the game that celebrated the 150-year anniversary of the Scottish Football Association. A Harry Maguire own goal provided the only moment of cheer for the hosts. The 20-year-old Bellingham dominated a Scotland team that is on the verge of qualifying for Euro 2024 itself after winning five out of five games in qualifying to top a group that includes Spain. Scotland's form had given their supporters hope of a famous win against their fiercest rivals in the 116th meeting between the teams. The fixture dates back to 1872 and, but for a pause during World War II, the clash was held annually until 1989. This was only the ninth meeting since then, with the majority of those matches in tournaments or qualifying.

Rahul 'was a little nervous on comeback'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 13: India batter KL Rahul admitted that he was a bit nervous ahead of his comeback game against Pakistan but grew in confidence once he spent some time in the middle before going on to complete a memorable hundred. In a rain-marred Asia Cup match, Rahul struck an unbeaten 111 and then kept wickets for the entire duration in his first match for India since March. "I am happy with how the last two games have gone. I was a little nervous initially but as I started facing a few balls I felt alright," said Rahul in the post-match press conference Tuesday night after India's 41-run win over Sri Lanka. Rahul said his strong preparations during the rehabilitation period at the NCA helped him prepare for his return. "I was thinking that I will be in the playing 11 and that's how I prepared. I was confident that I can still go there and do the job,"



ing wickets," said Rahul. In that context, the Bangalore man said he worked on his wicket-keeping during his time at the NCA. "I have been keeping wickets for the last couple of years. So, it is not new to me. I think I started keeping in 2019 when Rishabh (Pant) got concussed against Australia. "During my time at the NCA, I have worked on my keeping with the coaches there. Hopefully, I can do both the roles well," he added. Rahul patted Kuldeep Yadav, India's highest wicket-taker in ODIs this year, for upgrading his skills and coming back as a better bowler. "I am really en-

SHUBMAN GILL MOVES TO SECOND

Dubai: Opener Shubman Gill has achieved a career-best second position and is the highest-ranked among three Indian batters, who are now in the top 10 of the ICC Men's ODI rankings issued Wednesday. The other two Indians in the top 10 are skipper Rohit Sharma (8th) and the peerless Virat Kohli (9th). Last time, three Indian batters were in ODI's top 10 list, it was way back in January, 2019. At that time, Rohit, Kohli and out-of-favour veteran Shikhar Dhawan were the three batters. Pakistan also have three batters — Babar Azam (No.1), Imam-ul-Haq (5th) and Fakhar Zaman (10th) — in the top-10. Indian left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav has gained five places to reach seventh position in bowlers' chart.

joying watching him bowling and I can see that he has developed a few new tricks that are giving some results to him. "We keep talking between the overs about the strategy to be adopted to get a batsman out or how to keep a set batsman away from the strike. His rhythm has also been good in the last two matches," said Rahul.

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

Chhetri only notable face in Asiad team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: Veteran striker Sunil Chhetri was the only notable face in the 17-member Indian squad for the Hangzhou Asian Games as All India Football Federation (AIFF) finally managed to stitch a second-rung team, but there is still a big question mark on head coach Igor Stimac accompanying the team. Most of the clubs had shown unwillingness to release the 22 players named in the Indian squad as the Asian Games' football competition schedule clashes with the ISL, which starts September 21. After prolonged and hectic parleys, the AIFF was able to announce an under-strength team made up of nine players from the original 22, including Chhetri, while the remaining were made up of inexperienced players from the clubs.



But there are doubts whether Stimac will travel to Hangzhou at the helm of such an under-strength team. He had earlier said that the Asian Games was a priority. It could be a rare instance of India sending an under-strength football team in a major competition. The only saving grace was the inclusion of the current Indian football poster boy Chhetri, who recently became a father. The national federation, which

THE SQUAD

Gurmeet Singh, Dheeraj Singh Moirangthem, Sumit Rathi, Narender Gahlot, Amarjit Singh Kiyam, Samuel James, Rahul KP, Abdul Rabeeh Anjukandan, Ayush Dev Chhetri, Bryce Miranda, Azfar Noorani, Rahim Ali, Vincy Bareto, Sunil Chhetri, Rohit Danu, Gurkirat Singh, Aniket Jadhav.

was able to stitch together the team just three days before its departure for China, still thanked the Indian Super League clubs and the FSDL "for coordinating with it for the release of players". The Indian team is scheduled to begin their Asian Games campaign with a match against China September 19, followed by games against Bangladesh (September 21) and Myanmar (September 24). The top two teams from the six groups will make it to the quarterfinals, with four best-ranked third-placed sides also qualifying.

NASEEM RULED OUT OF ASIA CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 13: Pakistan were Wednesday dealt a big blow as fast bowler Naseem Shah has been ruled out for the remainder of the Asia Cup due to a shoulder injury. Naseem's unavailability will hurt Pakistan badly ahead of their must-win clash against Sri Lanka Thursday. Pakistan will take on Sri Lanka in a virtual semifinal here, with the winner progressing to Sunday's final against India. The Pakistan Cricket Board named 22-year-old Zaman Khan, who is yet to make his ODI debut, as Naseem's replacement in the 17-member squad, while also calling up fast bowler Shah Nawaz Dahani. Naseem suffered the injury during the game against India, and left the field after bowling 9.2 overs without any wicket.