

## Former sarpanch, hubby murdered

**Hatadihi:** A former woman sarpanch and her husband were hacked to death by miscreants over suspected political enmity at Mayurnacha village under K Baliapal panchayat and Soso police limits in Keonjhar, police said Thursday. The deceased were identified as Rambhamani Patra, 40, and her husband Niranjan Patra, 45.

## Another scrub typhus death

**Bhubaneswar:** Scrub typhus has claimed a life in Sundargarh, taking the toll in Odisha to six, an official said Thursday. Earlier, five people from Bargharh district had succumbed to the disease. "Since January, 132 scrub typhus positive cases have been detected in Sundargarh, of which almost all people have been cured. However, we received a report claiming that a patient allegedly died due to scrub typhus," said Kanhu Charan Nayak, Sundargarh's chief district medical and public health officer. P3



**FESTIVE FERVOUR:** A worker stands near a newly-installed pandal, a replica of the Raigad fort, at Lalbaug Sarvajanic Utsav Mandal ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in Mumbai, Thursday. PTI PHOTO

# ODISHA THIRD

## 323 CASES PENDING AGAINST LEGISLATORS OF STATE FOR OVER 5 YRS

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** Odisha ranks third in the country in terms of pendency of cases against legislators for over five years, amicus curiae Vijay Hansaria told the Supreme Court, Thursday.

Hansaria was appointed amicus curiae in a petition filed by BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay against the constitutional validity of Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 that disqualifies convicted MPs/MLAs from contesting elections for six years from their release. He told the top court that Uttar Pradesh (719) has the highest pendency of cases against legislators for over five years, followed by Bihar (381) and Odisha (323). As many as 5,175 cases have

been pending against legislators across the country as of November 2022 and, 40 per cent of them (2,116) have been pending for over five years. Odisha stands fourth in terms of such pending cases. "Uttar Pradesh has the maximum of 1,377 cases pending against legislators, followed by Bihar (546), Maharashtra (482) and Odisha (454) cases," Hansaria said in the 19th report, adding that judges in Odisha are burdened with an average of 0 to 30 cases each.

Hansaria advocated that the legislators convicted for offences involving moral turpitude should be disqualified from contesting polls for life instead of the current six years' disqualification. He cited provisions of several statutory bodies which provide

for permanent disqualification from holding a statutory post upon conviction in an offence involving moral turpitude.

MPs/MLAs represent the sovereign will of the people and once found to have committed an offence involving moral turpitude, are liable to be permanently disqualified from holding the said office. Limiting the period of disqualification is a flagrant violation of the equality clause under Article 14 of the Constitution, he said.

"There is no nexus that a person can make law to disqualify another person from holding a statutory office, but the person making the law would incur the disqualification only for a limited period. The lawmakers required to be much more sacrosanct," Hansaria submitted.

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



How can we lodge FIRs against anchors spreading fake news? Won't it be against the govt norms?

# Resume duty, govt asks agitating teachers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** The state government has directed 1.30 lakh agitating primary teachers to call off strike and resume duty at the earliest.

Over 1.30 lakh teachers are on mass leave after closing down around 56,000 schools across the state. The teachers under the banner of United Primary Teachers' Federation have launched an indefinite agitation September 8 for fulfilment of their demands

including abolition of the contractual appointment system, hike in grade pay and restoration of the old pension scheme. In a letter to DEOs and BEOs, the director of Elementary Education said most agitating teachers are staging dharna in front of BEO offices without permission and it is 'gross misconduct'.

There shall be 220 working days in an academic year and if the same is not achieved during the normal working months, it has to be compensated in the

later part, the letter said.

A sub-committee has been formed by the government to examine and discuss the demands in the presence of the office bearers of the teachers' association, it said. "After discussion with the office bearers of the teachers' association, the committee will recommend its decision to the inter-ministerial panel to take a final decision on their demands," read the letter. The education officers have been asked to inform the matter to the teacher

associations at the district and block levels to call off their strike and resume their duties.

The Federation's general secretary Charulata Mohapatra said that the agitations are going on peacefully with permission from BEOs. "We're sensitive towards children and are going to compensate their studies. We'll join work only after the government fulfills our demands," she said, adding that the next course of action will be decided following Saturday's meeting of the Federation.

# 3 Indians among TIME's top 100 emerging leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New York, Sept 14:** Three Indians - cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur, advocate Nandita Venkatesan and artist Vinu Daniel - were named by TIME magazine in its list of top 100 emerging leaders shaping the world.

The '2023 TIME100 Next: the Emerging Leaders Shaping the World' list released Wednesday said that the Indian skipper's

fire and flair have been instrumental in transforming women's cricket from fringe curiosity to one of the world's most valuable sporting assets.

It also featured Indian-origin advocate Nabarun Dasgupta.

Kaur, 34, secured legendary status back in 2017 when she scored a then-record 171 not out off just 115 balls in a World Cup match against Australia, leaving spectators agog at her extraordinary talent, the release said.

DSPL-189



# MO BUS

Globally acknowledged, Odisha's pride



Best City Bus Service Project  
2019

Innovations undertaken in  
Urban Transport during Covid-19  
2020

State which had Implemented  
the Best Urban Transport Projects  
2021 & 2022

Ministry of Housing  
and Urban Affairs,  
Govt. Of India



Honorable Mention Sustainable  
Transport Award 2023



Implemented Solutions under the  
theme Mobility and Transportation 2022

National Institute of Urban Affairs  
(NIUA) & United Nations - India



Promoting Gender-Responsive  
public services to achieve the SDGs  
for the initiative "Mo Bus" 2022

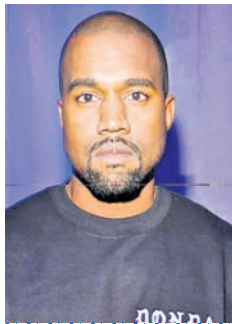
United Nation



the way we MOve



# leisure



## KANYE GETS SUED OVER LABOUR LAW VIOLATION

Rapper Kanye West is being sued over alleged labour violations. The labour violations include having employees sleep in makeshift conditions in an unfinished Malibu house, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

## OZZY OSBOURNE WILL UNDERGO 4TH SURGERY FOR SPINAL INJURY

*Black Sabbath* rocker Ozzy Osbourne has a health update for fans after cancelling multiple performances earlier this year. The rock legend confirmed he will undergo a fourth surgery related to the structural damage he sustained after a 2019 fall, reports *People* magazine.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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

**ARIES**  
You are bristling with excitement about your work and relationships. In your workplace, you will impress other people to join your group. But Ganesh warns you to be cautious and think before taking any action, as things can backfire and you will have to bear the responsibility.

**TAURUS**  
Managers and administrators are in for a very profitable day, assures Ganesh. They must, however, not expect too much from their subordinates. Doing that could be a source of great disappointment and anxiety. Later in the day, you could be in for some cheerful and encouraging news from abroad.

**GEMINI**  
You will feel the urge to chuck your daily routine and spend time leisurely with your friends and family, entertaining and being entertained. You may also decide to embark upon a trip. The number of guests turning up at your place will increase. Family time is here to stay, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Give priority to your life and prestige in stead of meddling in others' matters, says Ganesh. Your enterprising nature will give you prestige and respect. Ganesh suggests that you take time off from your chores and indulge in entertainment or travel.

**LEO**  
You will be busy dealing with health-related issues. You need to watch your diet carefully. You will work with a feeling of responsibility. You will become more serious about your work. Everything will go smoothly in your personal life, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Today will be a day full of emotions and insights into love. Despondency may trouble you all through the day. However, Ganesh advises you to remain unaffected by it in your work. At your workplace you will be in great demand as a problem solver.

**LIBRA**  
Wear your best suit and put on your favourite tie, because today you shall be in the limelight at work. Watch your hard work and innate talents get their share of rewards. Also, expect the best possible assistance from your colleagues. The stars align themselves in a position to give you the maximum leverage possible and boost your reputation by leaps and bounds, says Ganesh.

**SCORPIO**  
Like an oracle, you can feel how things might turn out today. Trust only what you say, and hear yourself to avoid any sort of confrontations. Ganesh expects your antennas to be on high alert especially with your dearest at your side today.

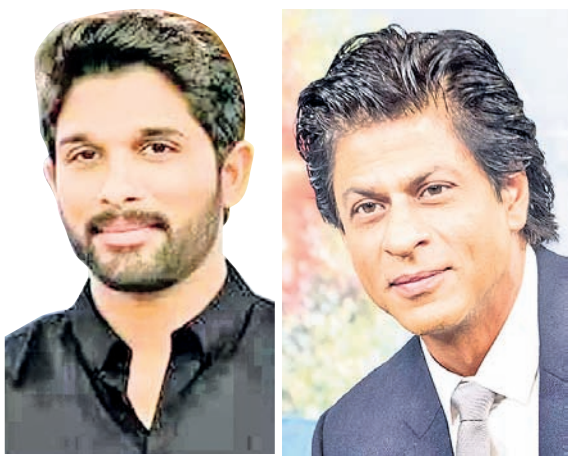
**SAGITTARIUS**  
Charming as ever, your close ones will be swooned by your beauty today. Thanks to the new look your beautician suggested. Clad in the best of attires, you grab eye-balls at a social do. Your status and prestige is likely to increase. As Ganesh says, people may just go gaga over you today!

**CAPRICORN**  
When work starts to give nightmares, even meditation cannot restore the peace of mind. You are likely to have a similar kind of harrowing experience at work today, says Ganesh. But the day won't be completely dulling. It's an auspicious day if you have plans to buy a house or a car. You may also move to a new house some time soon.

**AQUARIUS**  
The rising Sun of today, brings one of the most important days of your life. You will make important decisions which will have long-term impact on your life. During the second half of the day, you may be lucky to have a windfall.

**PISCES**  
In times of adversity, it is your loved ones who will stand you in good stead, and it is your patience and persistence which will get you home. Your actions today will demonstrate your dedication and sincerity to the job at hand, says Ganesh.

## Allu Arjun heaps praises on SRK



THE JAWAN ACTOR, RESPONDING TO THE TELUGU STAR'S X, SAYS HE WATCHED PUSHPA THRICE IN THREE DAYS

Mumbai: Shah Rukh Khan's *Jawan* has been performing exceptionally well in the theatres, both critically and commercially. Joining in the choir of praises is Telugu superstar Allu Arjun, who also congratulated the whole team on the success of *Jawan*.

In particular, he highlighted SRK, Vijay Sethupathi, Nayanthara, Deepika Padukone and Nayanthara as well as composer Anirudh.

Taking to his X, the *Pushpa* star wrote: "Biggg Congratulations to the whole team of #JAWAN for this mammoth blockbuster." Highlighting SRK and Vijay Sethupathi he added: "@iamsrk garu's Massiest avatar ever, charming the whole of India & beyond with his swag. Truly happy for you sir, we prayed this for you." "@VijaySethuOffl garu is so terrific in his role as always."

The actor was also all praises for the female cast, praising both Deepika Padukone's special appearance and Nayanthara's acting and of court the captain of the ship Atlee.

SRK, who was greatly honoured by Allu Arjun's congratulatory message, quickly responded writing: "Thank u so much my man. So kind of you for the love and prayers. And when it comes to swag and 'The Fire' himself praises me....wow...it has made my day!!! Feeling *Jawan* twice all over now!!!"

SRK added: "I must admit I must have learnt something from you as I had seen 'Pushpa' thrice in three days!!! Big hug to u and will come and give u one personally as soon as possible. Keep swagging!!! Love u." IANS



## Mrunal's mantra to stay relevant

Mumbai: Actress Mrunal Thakur, who is known for *Sita Ramam*, *Ghost Stories*, *Toofaan*, *Dhamaka*, *Jersey* and others, has completed five years in the film industry. On this occasion, the actress shared how imperative it is for actors to constantly reinvent themselves and explore more in showbiz to stay relevant.

The *Lust Stories 2* actress said, "I have so much more to explore. There are numerous languages of cinema to be a part of, and so many genres that excite me. I'm ready to experiment and immerse myself in the diversity that the world of films offers. As an actor, if you don't have the appetite to accept new challenges and find ways to reinvent the wheel, and be open to different kinds of work, you will become irrelevant too far, too soon."

She further mentioned, "I have gone from doing television, to indie films, to commercial to south, have worked in 3 languages now and I have committed to myself to keep trying things that excite me. This hunger is what has helped me to be where I'm today."

On the work front, Mrunal will be seen next in Telugu film *Hi Nanna*. IANS



## Suhana: Beauty's far beyond visual appeal

Mumbai: Suhana Khan, although yet to make her Bollywood debut, is already a prominent presence on the social circuit, admired for her charisma and beauty.

Recently, she graced an event where she shared her perspective on 'beauty'.

During the event, Arjun Kapoor, acknowledging Suhana as a representative of Gen Z, asked her to express her views on beauty. Suhana responded, stating, "I believe our generation places more significance on beauty as a form of self-expression and individuality. It's no longer about adhering to unattainable beauty standards; it's about challenging and shattering them."

She continued, "I believe we are reshaping the concept of beauty, adding layers and depth to it, emphasizing that it extends far beyond mere visual appeal." Arjun, reacting to her statement, quipped, "She certainly sounds like someone's daughter, doesn't she? There's power in her words."

On the professional front, Suhana is preparing for her acting debut in *Zoya Akhtar's The Archies*, alongside Amitabh Bachchan's grandson, Agastya Nanda, and Boney Kapoor and Sridevi's younger daughter, Khushi Kapoor. The film is an official Hindi adaptation of the popular comic of the same name, and Suhana will portray the character of Veronica. AGENCIES

## Ayushmann on TIME honour

Mumbai: Actor Ayushmann Khurrana, who is the only Indian to be chosen for the 2023 edition of the TIME100 Impact Awards, Wednesday said he is humbled by the honour which will encourage him to push the envelope of Indian content through his brand of cinema.

"This is the second time that the prestigious TIME Magazine has chosen to recognise the work that I do on camera as well as off it. I'm proud as well as humbled with this honour from TIME Magazine because it validates my core belief

system as an artiste and a human being trying to affect positive social change," said the *Badhaai Ho* actor.

"I'm deeply grateful to TIME Magazine for bestowing me with the TIME100 Impact Award in 2023. I have and will always try to push the content envelope of India through my brand of cinema," the *Dream Girl 2* actor said.

Previous Indians who received the TIME100 Impact Award include actors Alia Bhatt and Deepika Padukone. PTI



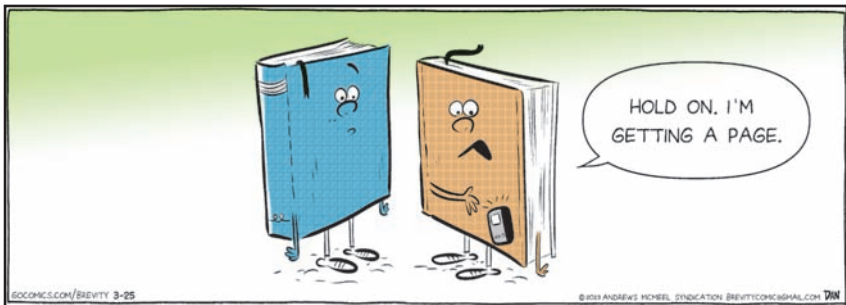
### PEANUTS



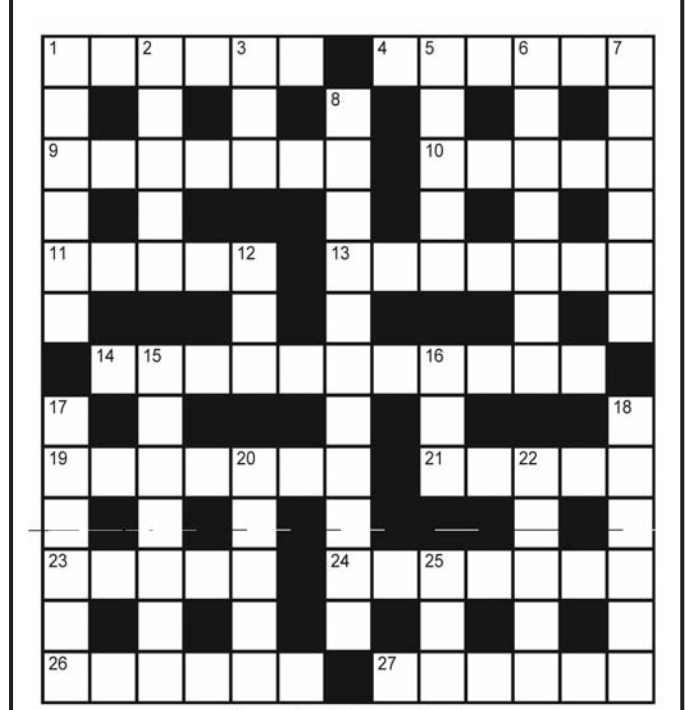
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



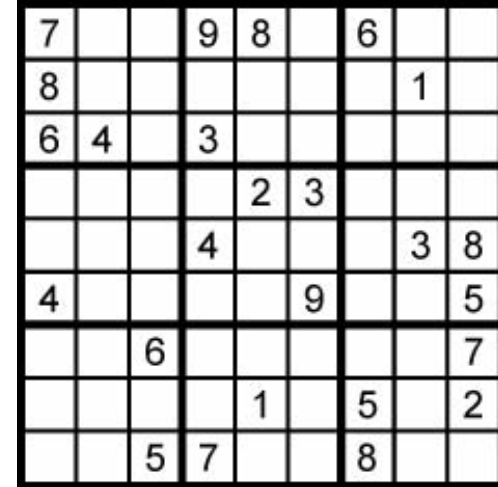
### FUN post CROSSWORD



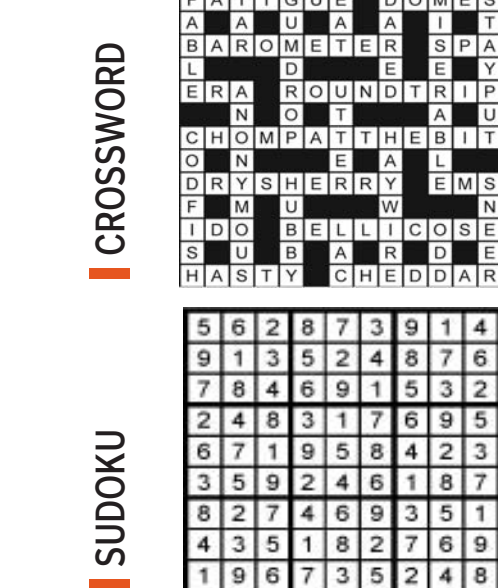
- Across
- 1 Stew meat
  - 4 Peregrine, for one
  - 9 Ramen
  - 10 Cupid's projectile
  - 11 Spirit of a people
  - 13 Choices
  - 14 Hibernia (7,4)
  - 19 Resting place
  - 21 Marina sight
  - 23 Penniless
  - 24 Worship
  - 26 Parthenon site
  - 27 Deleted
  - 8 Shakespeare comedy (2,3,4,2)
  - 12 Lady's man
  - 15 Large extinct beast
  - 16 Slick
  - 17 Anxiety disorder
  - 18 Be there
  - 20 Ancient Greek theatre
  - 22 Poker player's stack
  - 25 Paddle
- Down
- 1 Zoo denizen
  - 2 Incisor
  - 3 Engine need
  - 5 Show flexibility
  - 6 A way to save petrol (3,4)
  - 7 State-of-the-art

### 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

## IN MEMORIAM

Odia Language Literature and Culture Minister Aswini Kumar Patra, Odisha Sahitya Akademi president Dr Hrushikesh Mallick, BJD MLA Debi Prasad Mishra among others attended the birth anniversary celebration of Sabujakabi Baikuntha Nath Patnaik at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Thursday



### AI-powered malaria detection microscope

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Malkangiri, Sept 14:** A first-of-its-kind artificial intelligence-enabled microscope has been installed at the district headquarters hospital here on a pilot basis, an official said. Malkangiri chief district medical and public health officer Prafulla Kumar Nanda inaugurated the device at the hospital, recently. The AI microscope can diagnose malaria with clinical accuracy, he said. The microscope, developed by a startup from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, easily differentiates between two malaria parasites — P falciparum and P vivax — for better diagnosis, he informed.

### Heavy rain throws life out of gear; more in store

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** As heavy rain battered Odisha, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Thursday forecast further heavy to very heavy precipitation with isolated extremely heavy showers in the state. The low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal has intensified and become well-marked and is expected to move across Odisha and Chhattisgarh during the next two days, the IMD said. It also said that the southwest monsoon has also been vigorous over the state, leading to widespread light to moderate rain with heavy to very heavy showers at a few places and isolated extremely heavy rain in Bolangir and Rayagada in the past 24 hours. "With intense spells of rain continuing during the next 24 hours, flash floods may occur in interior pockets with likely increase in the water level of rivers in the state," weather scientist Umashankar Das of Regional Meteorology Centre, Bhubaneswar, told reporters, adding that the intensity of rainfall will gradually decline from September 15. The Met office said that Odisha recorded 49.3 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours till 8:30am and an average of 189.9 mm from September 1 to 14 against the month's average of 231.9 mm. Bolangir block received the highest rainfall of 215 mm in the state.

## Scrub typhus toll mounts to 6

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT ASKS OFFICIALS TO STEP UP SURVEILLANCE FOR EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF SCRUB TYPHUS AND LEPTOSPIROSIS

**WHAT IS LEPTOSPIROSIS**

A bacterial disease which spreads through the urine of infected animals. Humans can get leptospirosis through direct contact with urine from infected animals or through water, soil or food contaminated with their urine

**SYMPTOMS**

- HIGH FEVER, HEADACHE, BLEEDING, MUSCLE PAIN, CHILLS, RED EYES AND VOMITING
- WITHOUT TREATMENT, LEPTOSPIROSIS CAN LEAD TO KIDNEY AND LIVER DAMAGE AND EVEN DEATH

**CURE**

ANTIBIOTICS CLEAR THE INFECTION

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** Following the death of another person allegedly due to scrub typhus, the toll due to the disease has gone up to six in the state, even as the Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department Thursday asked health officials across the state to step up surveillance for early diagnosis of scrub typhus and leptospirosis. The latest scrub typhus death was reported from Sundargarh district. Earlier, five people from Bargarh district had succumbed to the disease. "Since January, 132 scrub typhus positive cases have been detected in Sundargarh district, of which almost all people have been cured. However, we received a report claiming that a patient allegedly died

due to scrub typhus," said Kanhu Charan Nayak, chief district medical and public health officer of Sundargarh. The patient was suffering from various diseases and was under treatment in ICU for 20 days. So, investigation is in progress to find the exact cause of death, he said. The scrub typhus infection spreads when a chigger bites someone. People who frequently visit farmlands or forests are vulnerable to the infection, officials said. When fever continues for several days, the patient should go through an ELISA test to find out if he/she is suffering from scrub typhus. The test is available at the district public health laboratories in every district. If diagnosed early, the disease can be treated effectively, they said.

Meanwhile, the H&FW department has asked healthcare officials to strengthen the surveillance system for early diagnosis of scrub typhus and leptospirosis. Director of Public Health Niranjan Mishra has written to all chief district medical and public health officers and directors of Capital Hospital and Rourkela Government Hospital in this regard. "Scrub typhus and leptospirosis cases are being reported from most districts. So, an intensive surveillance system for early diagnosis is needed to ensure timely treatment," Mishra said. He asked health officials to ensure adequate availability of test kits and medicines in the district public health laboratories. Side by side, Mishra has asked officials to sensitise doctors to advise the tests in case of Pyrexia of Unknown Origin (PUO), increase public awareness and early diagnosis, increase surveillance for scrub typhus and leptospirosis, use of appropriate antibiotics and adequate stock of drugs and conduct online seminars to increase the suspicion level amongst doctors. He added that all deaths due to these diseases should be investigated and necessary containment measures, data pertaining to such diseases should be shared to SSU in the prescribed format regularly.

### POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## Vigilance glare on OAS officer

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** Vigilance sleuths have unearthed properties worth crores of rupees during simultaneous raids at different places in Bhubaneswar and Khurda related to Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) officer Sangram Keshari Jena following allegations of him amassing wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income. Jena is currently posted at the Revenue & Disaster Management department here. As many as four teams of Vigilance sleuths comprising three deputy superintendents of police (DSPs), 10 inspectors



and other staffers Thursday carried out the searches on the basis of the warrants issued by the Special Vigilance judge here. Vigilance sources anticipated recovery of more assets as the searches were continuing till the last report came in. The assets so far unearthed in-

clude two multi-storeyed buildings, including one three-storeyed worth ₹1.36 crore located at Jena Colony in Balugaon area of Khurda, four landed plots in Chhotaraypur Sasan in Banpur town, deposits and investments in bank, postal, insurance policies worth over ₹21.46 lakh, ₹85,000 in cash, three four-wheelers and 2 two-wheelers worth over ₹38.29 lakh, gold jewellery and household articles worth over ₹11.05 lakh. The sleuths also came to know that Jena has reportedly paid ₹11 lakh to a person as advance money towards the purchase of a plot at Rampur mouza in Balugaon.

## STA ponzi scam: EOW to quiz actor Govinda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** The Economic Offence Wing (EOW) of the state Crime Branch (CB) may interrogate Hindi film star Govinda in connection with a ₹1,000-crore pan-India online ponzi scam, said EOW's DSP Sasmita Sahu, who has been part of the team that is investigating the multi-crore ponzi scam involving Solar Techno Alliance (STA-Token). The company, according to the EOW, was involved in illegally operating a pyramid-structured online ponzi scheme under the garb of crypto investment. "We may issue summons to



Govinda for appearing before the EOW for questioning or a team be sent to Mumbai for the purpose," said Sahu, adding that the actor had attended STA's grand function in Goa in July and promoted the company in some

videos. Stating that the EOW does not consider him as suspect or accused, another official said Govinda's role in promoting the company is established from the video. "If EOW finds that the actor's role was limited to only endorsement of the product (STA-Token brand) as per their business agreement, then we will make him a witness in our case," he said. The EOW had last month arrested the ponzi firm's country head Gurtej Singh and its Odisha chief Norod Das. The investigating agency had August 16 apprehended Ratnakar Palai, an up-line member of STA

having huge number of members below him (known as down-line members in the MLM/pyramid-based schemes/scams). An official statement by the EOW said the company had reportedly collected ₹30 crore from 10,000 people in Bhadrak, Keonjhar, Balasore, Mayurbhanj and Bhubaneswar. Meanwhile, the Bureau of Immigration also issued a look-out circular against David Gez, a Hungarian national. He was heading the ponzi firm which allegedly lured people on social media to invest in cryptocurrency and encouraged its members to enroll more investors.

## Stainless steel sector gets subsidy boost



AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** The Odisha government Thursday launched a 'special investment scheme for priority sector - stainless steel' to offer investors a 20 per cent subsidy on capital investment. Principal Secretary, Industries, Hemant Sharma launched the scheme at Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2023 (GSSE 2023) in Mumbai. Speaking about the salient features of the scheme, the top state official said: "Under this scheme, businesses investing in stainless steel downstream sector in Odisha will receive a substantial 20 per cent capital investment subsidy on their investments. This lucrative incentive is designed to stimulate growth and innovation within the sector." The state government will provide the subsidy over a period of 5 years and there is no cap on the investment limit, he said. The scheme also provides for businesses operating in the stainless steel downstream sector a power tariff subsidy of ₹2/unit and a 100 per cent exemption on electricity duty, a move which will significantly reduce the operational costs of the entities and enhance the overall competitiveness of the industry. "To further support the workforce and promote job creation, the scheme provides for a 100 per cent reimbursement of Employee State Insurance (ESI) and Employee Provident Fund (EPF) contributions for up to five years, and land allocation for projects on a priority basis," Sharma said. Over 500 stakeholders of the stainless steel industry from India and abroad are partici-

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- State govt will provide 20% subsidy on capital investment for over a period of 5 years and there is no cap on the investment limit
- The special scheme provides for businesses operating in stainless steel downstream sector a power tariff subsidy of ₹2/unit and a 100% exemption on electricity duty
- The scheme also provides for a 100% reimbursement of Employee State Insurance and Employee Provident Fund contributions for up to 5 years

### MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	67519.00	▲ 52.01
NIFTY	20103.10	▲ 33.10
DOLLAR	82.82	▼ ₹6.20
EURO	88.6160	▼ ₹0.44
GOLD	₹58,397	▼ ₹196
SILVER	₹70,301	▼ ₹1118

### WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	29°C	28°C
TEMP MIN	25°C	25°C
Humidity	98%	97%
Rainfall	2.4	2.0
Forecast	Light to moderate rain	



**ANNUAL DAY FETE:** Forest and Environment Minister Pradip Kumar Amat speaking at the 40th foundation day celebration of Odisha State Pollution Control Board in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

## Sleeping & waking up late may raise risk of diabetes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**San Francisco, Sept 14:** People who sleep late and wake up late could be at an increased risk of developing diabetes than those who sleep early, according to a study. Researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, US, studied the relationship between chronotype (a person's preferred timing of sleep and waking) and diabetes risk and looked at the role of lifestyle factors as well and found it associated with 19 per cent increased risk of diabetes.

The study, published in the journal 'Annals of Internal Medicine', analysed the data of 63,676 female nurses. The result shows that around 11 per cent had evening chronotypes, 35 per cent morning, and 54 per cent intermediate. Those with evening chronotype had a 72 per cent higher diabetes risk, reducing to 19 per cent when factoring lifestyle. Healthiest lifestyles had only 6 per cent evening chronotypes, while unhealthiest had 25 per cent. "When we controlled our unhealthy lifestyle behaviours, the



strong association between chronotype and diabetes risk was reduced but still remained, which means that lifestyle factors explain a notable proportion of this association," said first author Sina Kianersi, a postdoctoral research student in the Brigham's Channing Division of Network Medicine. They also found the associa-

tion between evening chronotype and diabetes risk only in those nurses who worked day shifts and not those who worked overnight shifts. "When chronotype was not matched with work hours we saw an increase in type 2 diabetes risk," said Tianyi Huang, associate epidemiologist at Brigham. "That was another very interesting finding suggesting that more personalised work scheduling could be beneficial." Meanwhile, researchers also found that people with evening chronotypes were found to be

more likely to drink alcohol in higher quantities, have a low-quality food diet, get less hours of sleep per night, currently smoke, and have weight, BMI, and physical activity rates in the unhealthy range. "If we are able to determine a causal link between chronotype and diabetes or other diseases, physicians could better tailor prevention strategies for their patients," said Kianersi. The researchers' next plan is to investigate genetic determinants of chronotype and its association with cardiovascular disease, in addition to diabetes.

# NGT seeks reports on rly contractor's actions



GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to Central and state governments seeking detailed enquiry reports on allegations of illegal extraction of minor minerals and tree cutting by the contractor engaged in railway line construction in Jharsuguda.

The NGT, while hearing a petition filed by one Satrugan Meher Wednesday, directed the state and Central government authorities to submit their reports within four weeks.

The tribunal also constituted a four member team comprising senior scientists of Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) and State

**Satrugan Meher, in his petition, claimed that about 20L cubic meters of morrum have been illegally extracted by RSA from various places in Jharsuguda**

Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), representative of the Jharsuguda Collector, not below the rank of Additional District Magistrate (ADM) and the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) or his representative, to carry out a site inspection.

The OSPCB, which will act as

the Nodal Office, has been directed to submit the inspection report of the committee within three weeks.

The petitioner had alleged that Radheshyam Agarwal (RSA) Infra Project Private Limited has fetched the contract to construct the fourth railway line track from Jharsuguda to Bilaspur. The company has been collecting earth and morrum from various places for construction of earthbed, a structure that serves as the foundation for the superstructure of a railroad track.

Meher claimed that about 20 lakh cubic meters of morrum have been illegally extracted by the RSA from various places in the district.

"The applicant made a complaint to the Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resource department mentioning that one company namely Radheshyam Agarwal (RSA) Group is continuously extracting soil and earth from the acquired area of the Hirakud Reservoir in Jamuapali and Singhabaga, Pudpali, Ib and other villages illegally in connivance with local officials of the Irrigation department," the NGT noted.



**RIGHT TO ELECTION:** NSUI activists scuffle with police as they try to gherao Higher Education Minister Atanu Sabyasachi's residence in Bhubaneswar demanding students' union elections, Thursday

## NSUI activists demand students' union polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** Demanding students' union elections in colleges and universities of the state, the Congress-backed NSUI demonstrated outside the residence of state Higher Education Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak in Bhubaneswar Thursday.

The Higher Education Department has prepared a common academic calendar for the

2023-24 session, in which the schedule for the students' union election was not mentioned.

Protesting against it, NSUI activists led by their state president Yashir Nawaz tried to gherao the minister's official residence and allegedly hurled eggs at it. They were later detained by the police.

"The government cancels the students' union polls each year in the name of campus violence. But, it is the students' wing of the

ruling BJD which creates disturbances on campuses. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is holding the home portfolio, so it is his duty to maintain law and order in the state," said Nawaz.

"If the union elections are held, BJD will be uprooted. So, in fear of defeat the Naveen Patnaik government is not conducting the polls," he claimed.

If the elections are not held, the NSUI will hold demonstrations across the state, he said.

The RSS-affiliated ABVP and Left-wing AISF are also demanding the campus elections. Biju Chhatra Janata Dal president Devi Ranjan Tripathy had earlier said the elections have been put on hold as the Lyngdoh Commission's recommendations are being violated on the campuses by students.

The college elections have not been held since 2018 due to various reasons, such as campus violence and the pandemic.

## CLASSIFIED

### AFFIDAVIT

I, Jugal Kishore Samantaray, S/o- Purna Chandra Barik, Vill- Gudupangi, Word No.-6, PO- Malisahi, Pin-752070, PS-Nayagarh, Dist- Nayagarh, Odisha declare by this affidavit CF No.5/2, Date:12.09.2023. That now onwards I shall be known as DEEPAK BARIK for all future purposes.

By Affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Sunabeda, dated 14.09.2023, I changed my name from ADITYA KUMAR SAMANTARA to ADITYA KUMAR SAMANTARAY and henceforth known as ADITYA KUMAR SAMANTARAY for all purposes.

I Nakshyatra Das, W/o- Prashanta Kumar Mohanty, Resident of At- Jagannathpur, P.O.- Pallahat, PS-Dist- Khordha, PIN-752056 Odisha declared by this affidavit No. 2580, dtd.05.08.2023, that I do hereby declare that Nakshyatra Das, Nakhetra Das and Naliniprava Mohanty both names are one and same person, i.e myself Nakshyatra Das, W/o- Prashanta kumar Mohanty for all purposes.

### LOST

The Record of Rights (Patta) for 15 decimal of land in the name of Upendra Kumar Tarai, S/o- Rankanath Tarei, At- Nuagaon, PS- Krushnaprasad correspondence to Khata No. 136/126, Plot No.61 in Mouza Nuagaon, Tehsil Krushnaprasad has been Lost recorded in Police Diary No. 199, dt.11.11.2013 I wish to create mortgage on above property to Avail loan from State Bank of India, Bajrakote Branch, Branch code- 08215.

## Odisha Startup Xpress to kick off in Khurda today



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** Odisha Startup Xpress, a flagship initiative of the state government, is set to kick off in various schools in the Khurda district starting Friday. Xpress Vans will visit a total of 60+ schools across 30 districts of Odisha to guide and empower young minds in the realms of innovation and entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.

Meanwhile, Odisha Startup Yatra 2023, continuing its remarkable tour, visited several institutions in Khurda with participation from over 1,384 students, resulting in the generation of 130+ innovative ideas from 13 colleges.

Within three days of the Startup Yatra's commencement, it received an overwhelming 360+ ideas from Khurda district, laying a solid foundation for the state government's ambition of

creating 5,000 startups by 2025.

After a remarkable beginning, Startup Yatra Thursday visited thirteen eminent institutes in and around Khurda, including CV Raman Global University, GITA, Gandhi Engineering College, Birla Global University, STPI, OUTR University, IMI Bhubaneswar, CTTC, CIPET, GIET (Baniatangi), NIIS, IITTM, and GIET (Gothapatana).

In the 2023 edition of the Yatra, four dedicated vans will cover all 30 districts of the state. The Xpress Vans will cover ten schools in the Khurda district Friday. On the fourth day, the Startup Xpress Van will reach Kendriya Vidyalaya Jatni (Khurda Road), Doon International School, DAV - Kalinga Nagar, Apeejay School, Prabhujee School, KV - 1 (Janpath), Capital Boys High School, Mother's Public School, ODM Global School, and St. Xavier's International School.

## Kidnapper couple trapped many

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

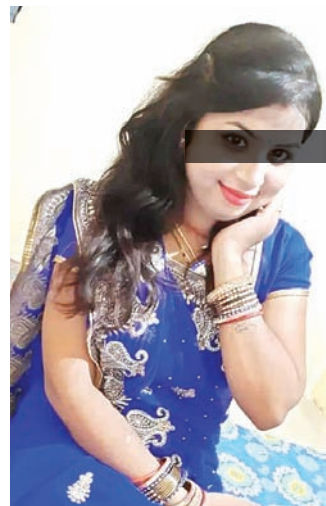
**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** Investigation into the sensational kidnapping and extortion case involving a city doctor has opened a Pandora's box with the police learning about the devious modus operandi of the blackmailer couple who had fleeced many unsuspecting victims through entrapment.

The couple, along with their associates, had allegedly extorted Rs 10 lakh from the Tamando-based doctor before the police rounded them up Tuesday.

"We have so far registered three cases, including the one by the doctor, against the couple. They had swindled gold ornaments, more than Rs 20,000 from a businessman from Bolagada and Rs 5,000 from a student," an officer from Tamando police station, who is privy to the investigation, said.

However, the officer said, the businessman and student who had agreed to pay Rs 2 lakh each were saved in the nick of time following the arrest of the couple.

"The number of cases is very likely to increase as several oth-



IRANI PATRA

ers have also contacted us in the last two days," said Subhranta Kumar Jena, IIC, Tamando police station.

Jena also narrated the modus operandi of the accused couple- Nishikanta Patra and his wife Irani Patra- who originally hails from Jajpur district.

He said Irani used to work in dramas before her marriage. The couple has been living in a

rented accommodation in Naragada under Tamando police limits here for the last four years.

"They would target rich and high profile persons as well as students over social media. Irani would first send a friend request on Facebook and start chatting with the victim/s with an intention to trap them. She would invite the victim to her house under different pretexts after developing friendship," Jena said.

The couple would later capture some intimate videos and pictures of the victim/s and demand hefty amount by threatening to lodge sexual abuse cases against them. They usually targeted persons who would hesitate to seek police help fearing public humiliation, he added.

"We are expecting to obtain vital evidence against the couple from the seized mobile phones which will be sent to the State Forensic Science laboratory Friday. We will soon approach seeking Nishikanta's custodial remand for interrogation. We are also planning to bring Irani on remand afterwards," Jena added.

## 1-day conclave on 'Blue Economy' at CSIR-IMMT

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** As part of the One Week One Lab programme at CSIR-IMMT here Thursday, a one-day conclave was organised on 'Blue Economy' to promote sustainable approaches and technology development efforts aimed at harnessing oceanic resources through exploration and processing of deep sea minerals.

The Earth Sciences Ministry defines Blue Economy as a "subset of the national economy comprising the entire system of oceanic resources and man-made economic infrastructure in marine, maritime, and onshore coastal zones within India's legal jurisdiction."



These resources aid in the production of goods and services and are closely linked to economic growth, environmental sustainability, and national security.

The conclave was attended by stakeholders from key sectors of the economy like deep-sea mining, extractive metallurgy, energy resources management, and fisheries.

Chief guest and Goa CSIR-NIO director Sunil Kumar Singh said, "We all know importance of the ocean. Our other ecosystems depend on it for sustenance. So, the Blue Economy is not only limited to the ocean. And government should be more accountable for this."

CSIR IMMT director Ramanuj Narayan elaborated, "Odisha, a state abundant in natural resources and minerals, plays a crucial role in meeting the increasing demand for minerals due to growing population. And the collaboration between the Ministry and CSIR-IMMT, along with the planned project, will soon make many groundbreaking achievements in the sector."

## LVPEI receives award from PMI South Asia

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) received the Project Management Institute South Asia (PMI South Asia) award in the NGO category for its outstanding project in rural Odisha, aimed at managing Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP), a vision-threatening eye condition in pre-term babies.

The award-winning project, titled 'Screening and Treatment of ROP in pre-term babies in 8 Odisha districts,' has been funded by the Cognizant Foundation. It was implemented by LVPEI's MithuTulsiChanrai campus in Bhubaneswar in collaboration with National Health Mission and Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram. Tapas Ranjan Padhi,



the project lead, along with other team members, accepted the award on behalf of LVPEI.

"We are grateful to PMI for this honour and to the Cognizant Foundation for their unwavering support. We dedicate this award to all our patients, partners and collaborators who played an integral role in the execution of this project, preventing avoidable blindness in newborn babies," said Padhi.



**SPORTING GESTURE:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik receiving a team jersey from Odisha FC head coach Sergio Lobera and players ahead of AFC Cup and Indian Super League in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

OP PHOTO

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RAIN PAIN

# House collapse kills 2 in Kalahandi

# Another minor inmate of tribal hostel pregnant

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** At least two persons died due to wall collapse, over 150 houses were damaged and roads submerged cutting off connectivity in many places, as low pressure-induced heavy rain lashed the state Thursday.



More than 11,000 people have been directly hit by downpours in Koraput, Malkangiri, Kandhamal, Nabarangpur and Kalahandi, while the rain wreaked havoc in Bolangir, Ganjam, Gajapati and Rayagada, the special relief commissioner's (SRC) office said.

The SRC office said two persons died due to wall collapse in Kalahandi district. The deceased were identified as Rusimani Sahu (49) of Dumermunda village and Binita Parabhoi (29), a resident of Harekrushnapur, under Lanjigarh block of Kalahandi district, an official of the SRC office said. Another person was injured when a tree fell on him near Pajibahli Chowk in Madanpur Rampur block of Kalahandi. The injured has been admitted to M Rampur community health cen-

tre, a local revenue official said. During the day, 40 houses were damaged due to rain in Koraput, 14 in Malkangiri, 63 in Kandhamal, and 31 in Kalahandi districts, the official said. Bolangir block received the highest rainfall of 215 mm till 8.30am prompting the district administration to announce the closure of all schools and Anganwadi centres in the district. Drain water overflowing

on the main road and in the adjoining lanes and by-lanes entered into houses, business establishments and government offices. Rain has destroyed properties worth several lakhs. Bolangir Collector Chanchal Rana, municipality chairperson Lika Sahu and executive officer Biswambhar Mishra reviewed the situation. The low-pressure area formed

in Bay of Bengal has resulted in heavy rainfall in Malkangiri district. Floodwater over five feet is reportedly flowing above a submerged bridge near MV-96 village along National Highway-326 under Kalimela block and many others, official sources said. The submergence of the bridge has disrupted all communications between Malkangiri and Motu areas in the district. As a

result, hundreds of vehicles were left stranded on both sides of the bridge including a Malkangiri-Hyderabad passenger bus. Normal life was affected in Kandhamal district as the rainwater submerged many roads in Kotgarh and Phiringia blocks which received more than 100 mm precipitation in the last 24 hours.

The incessant rainfall has played havoc in Umerkote and Papadahandi blocks in Nabarangpur district where rain has disrupted normal life by causing houses to collapse, submerging the farmlands and disrupting the traffic. Road communication to Madaipalpur, Majhiguda, Sanabari and Jharigaon block was disrupted after the bridge got submerged with rainwater overflowing on it near Ghikhandi in Papadahandi block. Crops on hundreds of acres of farmlands were destroyed after rainwater inundated the farmlands.

The authorities have opened 14 gates of Hirakud and the current water level of the reservoir stands at 628.65 ft at 3pm Thursday against its water-holding capacity of 630 cubic feet.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Sept 14:** Yet another minor inmate of the girls' hostel at a residential tribal school under Kanjipani police limits in Keonjhar district has become pregnant, a report said Thursday. The survivor is now six months pregnant but the actual status of her pregnancy can only be ascertained after a medical examination, police said. Meanwhile, police have arrested the accused Jaladhar Dehuri, 19, in this connection. The accused was produced in the court Thursday and remanded to judicial custody Kanjipani police IIC SK Azharuddin said.



Sources said that the survivor was studying in Class IX at a residential tribal school under Telkoi block. Her pregnancy was detected during a health examination in the school, Wednesday. Police registered a case over a complaint filed by the girl and arrested the accused, the IIC said. Telkoi block welfare extension officer (WEO) S Mundari confirmed the development stating the tribal girls' hostel

has opened two months back. The girl was found to be pregnant during a health examination, he said. On being informed, district welfare officer Prabir Kumar Deo visited the school and conducted a probe into the incident. Notably, a Class-X girl student of a girls' high school under ST and SC department became pregnant and delivered a male child recently.

The fresh development has raised question marks on the safety and security of inmates in the tribal residential school. Former MLA Subarna Nayak expressed his displeasure over the development alleging that the incident has occurred due to lack of supervision and proper action by the senior officials of district welfare department.

## 2 labourers killed in stone quarry mishap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Berhampur, Sept 14:** At least two labourers died on the spot and two others were critically injured after a boulder fell on them at a stone quarry in Mahughara Hill area near here, police said Thursday.

The incident took place when the labourers were resting after work, and the boulder came crashing down owing to heavy rain, they said.

All of them tried to run for life. But four persons were crushed under the stone.

The deceased have been identified as Krushna Behera (32) and Sudarshan Badarait (35).

The injured persons have been admitted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital and their condition is stated to be serious, a police officer said. A detailed inquiry has been initiated, he added.

## BJD sarpanch held for killing party man

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Berhampur, Sept 14:** A 53-year-old sarpanch of a gram panchayat in Ganjam district was arrested in connection with the murder of a ruling BJD supporter, police said Thursday.

With this arrest, the number of apprehended persons in the case rose to three as the sarpanch's son and his driver were held earlier, a senior officer said. The sarpanch of the Kumarpani gram panchayat was held Wednesday night in the murder case of Madhusudan Bisoi, 40, he said. Bisoi was hacked to death near Barsingi area September 9.

The sarpanch, who was elected to the panchayat in a bye-election held around three months ago, was also from the BJD.

They belong to the same political party but they have had an enmity for the last several years, the officer said after a preliminary investigation. Some more persons were also involved in the murder. "We are searching for them," SP (Ganjam) Jagmohan Meena said. The preliminary investigation revealed that at least four persons had attacked Bisoi with swords near Barsingi on the night of September 9 when he was returning to his village on his motorcycle from Sheragada, the police officer said.

After killing Bisoi, they dumped the body in the Nandiki river on the same night. The police recovered the body and handed it over to the family members after conducting a post-mortem on the next day, he added.

## FARMER'S ELECTROCUTION NHRC issues notices over compensation

PNN & AGENCIES

**Kendrapara, Sept 14:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the state Energy Secretary, District Magistrate of Jagatsinghpur and CEO of TPCODL on payment of compensation to the next of kin of a farmer who died due to electrocution.

The notice was issued by the commission on a petition filed by Human Rights Activist Radhakant Tripathy who alleged that a farmer was electrocuted while working on his field when an overhead live supply wire fell on him. Tripathy had requested the NHRC for fair investigation, legal action and compensation to the bereaved family. The NHRC directed the officials to submit a report on the



point of compensation to be paid to the Next of Kin (NoK) of the deceased along with proof of payment, including inspection report of the Electoral Inspector as mandated under Section 161 (1) of Electricity Act, 2003, within eight weeks.

Pursuant to the directions of the NHRC, the SP of Jagatsinghpur stated that a case was registered in Paradeep police station and enquiry was conducted by the sub-inspector.

He said as per the autopsy report the cause of death of the deceased was due to electric injury. Local enquiry also revealed that the cause of death of the deceased was due to snapping of live electric conductor/wire on him while he was farming on his land.

The commission was informed that the TPCODL authorities had given cash of ₹20,000 to the deceased family for his obsequies.

Further, it was also decided that the TPCODL will provide contract job to one of the family members of the deceased within three months as per his education qualification.

The NHRC observed the point of compensation is missing in the police report and called for a requisite report within eight weeks stating that it is a case of electrocution death.

**FORM No. 13**  
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK, ORISSA  
C-71, SECTOR - 7, CDA, CUTTACK, ODISHA  
O. A. No. 130/2023  
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. ... Applicant  
Versus  
M/s RAMJEE SINGH AND ANOTHER ... Defendant(s)

To,  
1) Ramjee Singh, S/O Nagina Singh at Kanheipur, PO/PS-Jaipur Road, Jaipur Odisha - 755019  
2) Prakash Singh, S/O Ramjee Singh at Kanheipur, PO/PS-Jaipur Road, Jaipur Odisha - 755019  
3) Rajeev Lochan Swain, S/O Patitapabana Swain, Plot No. 43, Daitari, Talpada, Kendujhar, Odisha - 755026

**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. 130/2023 in the Court of the Debts Recovery Tribunal, Cuttack for recovery of Rs. 33,05,494.41 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 on 03.10.2023 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 and seal of this Tribunal on this 16th day of August, 2023

Sd/-  
Registrar

## 'GST dept will not spare offenders'

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Sept 14:** In bad news for absconding offenders of GST, the department is set to go after them with all seriousness. This was told by Satyendra Kumar Singh, the chief commissioner, GST, Central Excise, Bhubaneswar Zone, Odisha Wednesday during an interaction at Chamber Bhawan, the official building of Rourkela Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI).

When asked about the absconders, with special reference to Rourkela, Singh said, "It is there in my mind and soon we are going to go after them. So, far we have managed to arrest two in this regard and soon actions will be visible against them." This question was asked to him in connection to the number of absconders from the city. The city GST department had put posters in front of their houses as absconders and had made requests to furnish information about them.

The commissioner was here to interact with the members of RCCI. Speaking about his visit to the city, the chief commissioner explained that his post was not that of an enforcer rather a facilitator.

"I am not going to enforce things on anyone. The time has changed. I am a facilitator. So, I thought instead of people going from here on an individual basis to meet me, let me talk to them in a group and try to understand the collective issues. This will help me to get more insight into the problems and it will be easier for me to address their issues. Those I can tackle I will, and in case of issues beyond my purview I will refer those above me," he said citing an example of the 3B and 2B issues which are real issues for businessmen. I could come to know about it and now let us see what can be done to resolve them."

Speaking about the state GST scenario, he said, "Odisha is maintaining collections above the national average by 7-8%." The commissioner informed that the state collection now stands at Rs 23,000 crore and Rourkela contributes over Rs 10,200 crores being a big trading and industry hub of the state. He advised all to take advantage of the 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar'. This is really very helpful to all and I must tell all my business friends not to hesitate in using this new initiative of the government."

## Vig nabs assistant engr over DA worth crores

Baripada: An assistant engineer of Baripada PH division was arrested by vigilance sleuths in a disproportionate assets case.

Vigilance sources Thursday said Banerwar Naik, assistant engineer, now assistant manager, WATCO, Section-I, Baripada, was arrested by the Vigilance and forwarded to the Court of Special Judge, Vigilance, Baripada for possession of disproportionate assets (DA) to the tune of 95 per cent excess of his known sources of income. A case was registered against Naik, and his spouse U/s 13(2) r/w 13(1)(b)/12 P.C. Amendment Act, 2018. During house searches, movable and immovable assets at various places in Mayurbhanj district were detected. Vigilance sources said bank, postal and insurance deposits over ₹33.29 lakhs, 250 gram gold jewellery and household articles worth over ₹16.15 lakh were also detected during the search by the officials.

## FM UNIVERSITY CONCLUDES 3-DAY NAAC ASSESSMENT

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 14:** The three day-long assessment of Fakir Mohan University in Balasore by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) came to a successful conclusion Thursday, culminating in an exit meeting held at the university's conference hall.

This comprehensive evaluation was conducted as part of the 2nd cycle of NAAC review, focusing on the qualitative matrices outlined in the Self Study Report (SSR) previously submitted by the university. Led by Prof BP Sanjay, the six-member peer team from NAAC embarked on a meticulous three-day visit to Fakir Mohan University. Their primary objective was to assess and gauge the university's performance in various aspects, as reflected in the Self Study Report submitted by the University.

Prior to the exit meeting and the formal conclusion of their three-day visit, the peer team members undertook an insightful visit to the adopted villages supported by Fakir Mohan University. During this visit, they engaged with community members to assess the impact and effectiveness of various social outreach and extension activities initiated by the university.

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**Notice**

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**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**ST & SC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR**  
**ITDA, KAPTIPADA, UDALA**  
e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. ITDAKPD - 03/2023-24  
No. 1152/ITDA Dt. 12.09.2023  
No. CAD-2077: The Project Administrator, ITDA, Kaptipada on behalf of Government of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in Online mode for construction of the work detailed below:

1. Nature of the work	: Const. of Approach Road to EMRS, Beldiha in Kaptipada GP under Kaptipada Block : 01 (One)
2. Total No. of work	: 'B' & 'A' Class
3. Class of Contractor	: Nine Calendar Months
4. Period of Completion	: From 1.57.39.37/-
5. Cost of the Project	: 10.00 A.M. of 18.09.2023 to 5.00 P.M. of 02.10.2023
6. Availability of Bid	: 10.00 A.M. on 03.10.2023
7. Date of Opening of Tender	: 10.00 A.M. on 03.10.2023

The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. The details will be available in the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in) from 10.00 A.M. of 18.09.2023 to 5.00 P.M. of 02.10.2023.

Sd./- Project Administrator  
ITDA, Kaptipada, Udala  
OIPR-19010/11/0003/2324

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** No. O-1008  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, GAJAPATI, PARLAKHEMUNDI**  
e-mail: [rwd\\_gajapati@yahoo.co.in](mailto:rwd_gajapati@yahoo.co.in)  
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**  
**Identification No. Online Tender 06/GJP/2023-24**

1 Name of the work	: Building works
2 Total No. work	: 02 (Two) Nos. of building works
3 Estimated cost	: Rs. 16.80 lakhs to 21.00 lakhs
4 Class of contractor	: 'D' & 'C' class contractor 'C' & 'B' class contractor
5 Period of completion	: Furnished in Annexure
6 Availability of tender:	: 25.09.2023 at 10.00 A.M. to online for bidding 03.10.2023 upto 5.30 P.M.
7 Date and time of opening of tender	: 04.10.2023 at 11.30 A.M.
8 Place of opening	: As per Annexure

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tenderorissa.gov.in](http://www.tenderorissa.gov.in)

Sd./- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
R.W. DIVN., GAJAPATI  
OIPR-25158/11/0010/2324

**OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, SUNDARGARH FOREST DIVISION**  
Phone No. 06622-272243, E-mail: [dfo.sundargarh@odisha.gov.in](mailto:dfo.sundargarh@odisha.gov.in)  
**INVITATIONS FOR BIDS THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT**  
e-Procurement Notice  
Letter No. 4839 Bid Identification No. DFO/SNG-04/2023-24 Dated: 13.09.2023

1. The Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in Single Cover System on ONLINE mode from eligible contractors with valid licences for execution of <b>Checkdam &amp; Building Works</b> as detailed in DTGN	
2. Nature of Work	: Checkdam and Building Works
3. No. of works	: 08 (Eight) Nos.
4. Tender Paper Cost	: Rs.6000/-
5. Class of Contractor	: D, C & B
6. Availability of Bid document in the website:	: From 11.00 A.M. Date: 16.09.2023 to 05.00 P.M. of Date: 25.09.2023.
7. Date of Opening of Bid	: 11.00 A.M. on Dt.26.09.2023.

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>). Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

OIPR-08034/11/0010/2324 Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer, Sundargarh Forest Division

ପ୍ରଶ୍ନିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ନୂଆଁଖାଇ  
ଗଣପଦ ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଓ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା  
TPWODL ବିପି ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛତ୍ୱ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଜ୍ଞପ୍ତ ସେବା ଉପକ୍ରମ (ସୋ ସୋ ସୋ ସୋ ସୋ ସୋ ସୋ ସୋ ସୋ)

**ପୂଜା କମିଟିର କର୍ମକର୍ତ୍ତାଙ୍କୁ ବିପିତରୁ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ର ଅନୁରୋଧ**

ଆଗକୁ ଆସୁଥିବା ପୂଜା ପାର୍ବଣର ଉତ୍ତମ ସମୟ ଅବସର।  
ପୂଜାମଣ୍ଡପରେ ଆଲୋକପତ୍ର ପାଇଁ ଆଇନ୍ ସମ୍ମତ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ସଂଯୋଗ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ।

ଏଥିପାଇଁ ଉତ୍ତରର ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଅନୁଲଲନ୍ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ଜୁନିୟର ଇଞ୍ଜିନିୟର / ଏସ୍.ଡି.ଓ.ଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଆସ୍ଥାୟୀ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ସଂଯୋଗ ନେବାପାଇଁ ବରଗଣା କରନ୍ତୁ । ଆବଶ୍ୟକୀୟ ନିୟମାବଳୀ ପୁରଣ କରିବାପାଇଁ ୨୪ ରୁ ୪୮ ଘଣ୍ଟା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଉଚିତ୍ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ସଂଯୋଗ ଦିଆଯିବ ।

➤ OERC ଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଧାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଅସ୍ଥାୟୀ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ସଂଯୋଗ ଶୁଳ୍କ ଦେୟ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ: ପ୍ରତି କିଲୋଫାଟ୍ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ପାଇଁ ଧାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ସାଧାରଣ ବର୍ଗ (ବାଣିଜ୍ୟ) ଶୁଳ୍କ ସହିତ ୧୦% ଅତିରିକ୍ତ (GP + 10% extra) ଏବଂ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ନିରାକ୍ଷଣ ବାବଦକୁ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ଦେୟ ଟାଲାଣ ପୈଠ କରିବାକୁ ପଡିବ। ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ସଂଯୋଗ ପାଇଁ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ସରଜାମ ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଗ୍ରାହକ ଯୋଗାଣ ଦେବେ।

➤ ଆପଣ ଜାଣନ୍ତି କି?:- ବେଆଇନ ଓ ଅସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ବ୍ୟବହାର କଲେ ଗ୍ରାହକମାନଙ୍କ ଉପରେ ଅତ୍ୟଧିକ ଗାଜନିତ ବାରମ୍ବାର ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ବିଭାଗ, ଲୋଭାଭୋଲ୍, ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣାଜନିତ ଧନନାସନ ହାନୀ ଓ ଜେଲ୍ ଜୋରିମାନା ଭଳି ଅପ୍ରାପ୍ତିକର ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହୋଇଥାଏ ଓ ଏହା ପୂଜା ପାର୍ବଣ ଆନନ୍ଦ ମୁଖର କ୍ଷତି କରିଥାଏ।

➤ ବିପିତରୁ ଓଡ଼ିଶା - ସର୍ବଦା ଆପଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ, ଆପଣଙ୍କ ସହିତ!  
ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ସେବା ସମ୍ପର୍କିତ ସୂଚନା ଓ ଅଭିଯୋଗପାଇଁ ଗୋଲ୍-ଫ୍ରୀ ନଂ. ୧୮୦୦-୩୪୫୬-୯୯୮୧/୧୯୯୨ ରେ ଯୋଗାଯୋଗ କରନ୍ତୁ।

ଅସୁରକ୍ଷିତ ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶୁଖି, ଚାଲି, ଗ୍ରାହକମାନଙ୍କ ଉତ୍ତମ ଆପଣଙ୍କ ନିଜରୁ ଆସିଲେ ଆମର Whatsapp No. 8093049410 ରେ ପଠାନ୍ତୁ।

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

# DISADVANTAGE CHINA



While the New Delhi G20 summit only appealed to countries to address the serious debt issue, the Damocles Sword of being a part of the problem seems to be hanging over China

China and other observers, the Delhi declaration of G20 proved to be based on everyone's consensus. First, the statement on Ukraine, though watered down compared to the previous Bali declaration, reflected the current dynamics of the Ukraine situation. The declaration did condemn any "territorial acquisition against the territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state" but without naming "aggression by the Russian federation" as the Bali declaration did a year ago. Besides, despite a beeline of US visitors to China such as Blinken, Yellen, Kissinger and Raimondo, Beijing does not seem to have mellowed down. The Biden administration has to consider this new geopolitical situation developing around an assertive China.

Communist Party Congress last year, China's leaders began criticising the US and others for forming "small cliques" to counter their country. Likewise, Li stated that "we must choose solidarity over division, cooperation over confrontation, and inclusiveness over exclusion." He also asserted China will "firmly oppose the politicisation of economic and trade issues." Li's interactions at the G20 venue were also subdued. Third, despite a planned 3rd summit meeting of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) next month, it may not be moving so well. The BRI began a decade ago with a unilateral agenda favouring the Communist Party-state apparatuses and businesses, and leaving no effective room for global or regional participation. On the other hand, the declaration for an India-Middle East-Europe Corridor has public-private partnership arrangements for all countries on the port, road, railways and hydrogen pipelines, in addition to digital connectivity. Triggers for integration - including trade facilitation, digital tools, logistics, resilient supply chains and infrastructure on a massive scale are being planned. It was mentioned that the process would be inclusive, open, fair, secure, non-discriminatory, and address the digital divide. At the Jakarta meeting of the Southeast Asian grouping,

just before the G20 meeting, Prime Minister Modi announced an "economic corridor" connecting Southeast Asia to West Asia through India. These ambitious "spice route" projects maybe eclipsing the BRI. Fourth, China at one time supported the Third World concept and recently invested in developing countries being a part of the BRI. But now that ground seems to be slipping for Beijing. Several Chinese commentators have expressed concern that India is taking over the "leadership of the Global South" through the G20 mobilisation. While China supported activities related to 55-member African Union in G20 meetings, it is hard for China to digest the fact that India became instrumental in successfully pushing for the AU's membership in G20. Fifth, in recent times the G20 began making efforts for "Debt Service Suspension Initiative" and "Common Framework for Debt Treatments" that aim to provide debt relief and restructuring options for heavily indebted developing countries. This is of concern for China as it has become a major lender to Global South, often at exorbitant interest rates. For instance, bilateral debt from Chinese lenders accounts for 24% of Africa's external debt, compared to 32% from global private sector lenders (excluding China), 16% from World Bank, 19% from IMF and other multilateral institutions, and 10% from the Paris Club. The debt phenomenon is so significant that nearly half the AU members are in debt - mostly to state-owned banks of China. Countries in South America and Asia are also catching up on this debt slide. While the G20 summit only appealed to countries to address this serious debt issue, the Damocles Sword of being a part of the problem seems to be hanging over China.

The writer is Dean of the School of International Studies, JNU. ©THE BILLION PRESS

As the G20 summit wound up in New Delhi, China must be pondering over the emergence of a world order that seems to be slipping from its hands. For, overcoming the tectonic East-West divide and the North-South fault lines, India is trying to bring more inclusive and multilateral regional and global orders in the post-pandemic world.

By most indicators, China was at the centre of the G20 processes. Its sheer economic size at over \$19 trillion and average growth of 10% from 1980 to 2010 and above 7% in the last decade positioned China as a key player in G20. It is one of the largest trading partners of many G20 countries, utilising all the privileges offered by the WTO. China hosted G20 at Hangzhou in 2016 and used the platform to advocate its policy priorities and interests. At this meeting it called for financial market reforms, trade liberalisation, infrastructure investment and others. It attracted huge capital, technology and markets in the process.

However, this fairy tale seems to be ending as China has frittered away these benefits as it began showing its teeth prematurely. China's economic growth rates fell to about 3% last year, partly due to its domestic economic restructuring from exports to domestic consumption, import substituting. Made in China 2025 campaign and the disastrous pandemic that originated in Wuhan. Its largest trading partners began questioning China's lack of market economy, as promised under the WTO, soft protectionist policies, non-tariff barriers and currency manipulation practices.

The pandemic, Ukraine conflict, US-China "decoupling," European "derisking" processes, in addition to other geopolitical aspects, are testing China recently. Beijing has shown no comprehensive and transparent responses to these challenges, thus paving the way for others like India to emerge. Despite many objections from



Srikanth Kondapalli

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION HAS TO CONSIDER THIS NEW GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION DEVELOPING AROUND AN ASSERTIVE CHINA



Jason Hsu & Richard YK Chen

A disruption of Taiwan's internet connectivity could all too easily turn into a global crisis

## Fragile Lifeline

Internet connectivity is a lifeline - albeit a fragile one - for Taiwan. A recent war game staged in Taipei with experts from the military, tech industries, academia, and government suggested that, in the event of a Chinese blockade, the island would be particularly vulnerable to a communications cutoff.

The threat to Taiwan's digital infrastructure was made plain in February, when Chinese maritime vessels severed two submarine cables connecting the island to Matsu, a tiny archipelago that belongs to Taiwan but is located just off the coast of China. The months-long outage deprived residents of internet access and left Matsu, which houses a strategic military base, open to attacks. The damaged cables also exposed the vulnerability of the US tech giant Google, which has a data center on Taiwan's western coast.

Currently, 15 submarine cables connect Taiwan to global telecommunications. A Chinese invasion or prolonged blockade could thus cut off the island from the world, with consequences for the global economy and financial markets. Such an outcome could also threaten the security of the United States and its regional allies, including Japan. As a result, the Taiwanese government must focus on strengthening communication capabilities and ensuring robust and reliable internet connectivity.

One potential solution is to engage the services of Starlink, the mobile satellite-internet system operated by Elon Musk's rocket company, SpaceX. Some would argue that Musk, who also owns Twitter (now called X), is the internet's most powerful man; others would describe him as the most erratic. Starlink, a key part of Musk's business empire, provides internet connectivity globally through its more than 4,500 low-earth-orbit satellites.

Soon after Russia invaded Ukraine, Musk allowed his satellites to broadcast in the country free of charge and donated thousands of Starlink terminals to the government in Kyiv, helping it circumvent Russia's attack on Ukraine's telecoms infrastructure. Since then, Starlink has become an essential tool of the Ukrainian military, allowing it to gather intelligence on Russia's latest troop movements and to communicate securely with NATO partners.

But while Musk was touted as a hero early in the war, government leaders are increasingly beholden to his whims. Last year, Musk disabled Starlink near the coast of Crimea to thwart a Ukrainian drone attack on Russian ships, arguing in a text to then-Deputy Prime Minister Mykhailo Fedorov that the country was "going too far and inviting strategic defeat."

Using Musk's Starlink to access the internet and connect with the outside world could prove to be problematic for Taiwan. First, relying solely on Starlink means that any systematic failure or data compromise could be irreversible. Second, Musk has explicitly identified as "pro-China" and even suggested that Taiwan should become a "special administrative zone" of the People's Republic, similar to Hong Kong. Third, Musk has substantial business interests in China: Tesla, Musk's electric-vehicle (EV) company, has its most productive manufacturing hub in the country, which is also the world's largest EV market.

Given all this, in the event of a military conflict between China and Taiwan, there is no guarantee that Musk would not accede to China's demands. Without sovereign control of its data, including data flows and data storage, Taiwan's national security would be at risk.

To protect itself, Taiwan - already a global leader in the semiconductor supply chain - must develop indigenous capabilities in satellite communications and technologies. By integrating and consolidating resources, the Taiwanese government could establish, and maintain control over, public-private partnerships that would be able to ramp up capacity rapidly in the event of a war. The government should also streamline the procurement process to make it easier for start-ups to work with defence contractors.

While Taiwan's National Development Fund invests in satellite technologies and critical communications infrastructure, the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Digital Affairs should work with the Taiwan Space Agency to exchange intelligence and establish a defence-shield system with partners such as Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and Australia. Taiwan needs to launch 120 satellites to ensure uninterrupted backup coverage, but policymakers are racing against time and must leverage allies' support.

The US government, for its part, should consider allocating some of the funds provided by the CHIPS Act and the National Defense Authorization Act to co-develop, with Taiwan, satellite-communication technology and the relevant semiconductor chips. Moreover, as part of its Indo-Pacific strategy, the US should take the lead in establishing this alliance, by forming working groups, establishing technology standards, and arranging high-level exchanges.

The situation in Taiwan is not entirely analogous to that in Ukraine. Unlike Ukraine, which shares a long land border with Russia, Taiwan is separated from China by the notoriously rough seas of the Taiwan Strait. Moreover, Taiwan imports more than 90% of its energy, which means that a blockade would swiftly bring the island's economy to a halt, in addition to threatening the security of its neighbours and the Indo-Pacific region more generally.

A disruption of Taiwan's internet connectivity could all too easily turn into a global crisis. As tensions across the Taiwan Strait rise, the island's security is becoming a shared geopolitical concern. Defeating China may not be possible, but outsmarting it certainly is. Taiwan and its allies should start investing today to ensure that the island's links to the outside world remain robust, even at the darkest hour.

Jason Hsu is a fellow at Harvard Kennedy School. Richard Y.K. Chen is a former chief of naval operations for Taiwan.

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### WISDOM CORNER

- If you really want to do something, you'll find a way. If you don't, you'll find an excuse. - JIM ROHN
- It is not uncommon for people to spend their whole life waiting to start living. - ECKHART TOLLE
- When obstacles arise, you change your direction to reach your goal; you do not change your decision to get there. - ZIG ZIGLAR

### SPECTRUM POLITICS

## Weaponising labels of pride

A political slugfest was kicked off in the country after invitations for a G20 dinner were sent out on behalf of President Droupadi Murmu describing her position as "President of Bharat" instead of the customary "President of India." PM Modi's unequivocal endorsement of the country's name as Bharat was further corroborated when the "Bharat" tag at Modi's table during his opening remarks at G20 summit was observed. Interestingly "Bharat: The Mother of Democracy," a glossy 24-page magazine was kept in book racks at the international media centre of the Summit venue. Now speculations are rife that the Modi-led government might change the name of India to "Bharat" in a special Parliament session this month. Some experts believe that the name may not be changed but in future "Bharat" will be used.

There is no need to rename India. It may be noted that the Supreme Court dismissed a petition in June 2020 asking to remove the word "India" from the Constitution and replace it with the word "Bharat" in order to "ensure the citizens of this country get over the colonial past," stat-

ing that "India is already called Bharat in the Constitution itself." Whether it is India or Bharat, the essence of the meaning that it conveys remains the same. Jawaharlal Nehru's 'Discovery of India' offers a profound look into the nation's rich history. Nehru seamlessly interwove the terms "India", "Bharata", and "Hindustan," illustrating the diverse ways one can refer to this vast land. India and Bharat have both evoked the same emotions among patriots for decades, but these labels of pride have now been weaponised for narrow political ends.

The word "India" is not linked with colonial slavery as propagated, rather India's naming origin brags of a vast and intricate lineage, tracing back to the Sanskrit word "Sindhu," which signifies the mighty Indus River and the lower Indus basin. The Greeks, in their encounters around the 5th century BCE, labelled the region surrounding the Indus River as "India."

On the other hand, the roots of "Bharat," "Bharata," or "Bharatvarsha" are traced back to Puranic literature, and to the epic Mahabharata. The great

King Bharata was the son of Queen Shakuntala and King Dushyant. Some others say that Bharata is the son of Jain T rtha kara Rishabhhanatha.

Anyways, the rebranding exercise will have huge financial ramifications and will cost the exchequer heavily. As reported by Outlook Business, according to an intellectual property lawyer who devised a method to calculate the approximate cost of re-naming a country, the estimate comes to a whopping Rs 14,304 crore, which is more than what the Centre spends every month on its food security programme.

The question is not what is right or wrong, but the question is can a nation afford to debate on such extraneous matters when problems like poverty, hunger, price rise, unemployment, and inequality continue to have devastating impacts on larger sections of society? In reality, it is not easy to solve these problems when the system is rigged in favour of the rich. Hence the ruling classes resort to diversionary tactics by evoking emotions in people in various ways. They change goalposts, give catchy slogans, and incite re-

gional chauvinism, and religious fanaticism. The ruling dispensation at the Centre is resorting to such diversionary tactics.

During the last nine years of the Modi regime, BJP had itself introduced several schemes containing the word "India" such as Start-up India, Make in India, Skill India Mission, and Digital India Mission. In 2004, Samajwadi Party chief late Mulayam Singh Yadav-led Uttar Pradesh cabinet had passed a resolution that the Constitution must be amended to say "Bharat, that is India," instead of "India, that is Bharat." But the BJP had staged a walkout before the resolution was passed.

The truth is the BJP is terrified and fretful as 26 Opposition parties are challenging it ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections coalescing under the banner of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance whose acronym is I.N.D.I.A. BJP wants not to use the word "India" with the apprehension that the same may strengthen Opposition parties and increase their popularity.

The writer is an Odisha-based economist and columnist.



Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

THE RULING CLASSES RESORT TO DIVERSIONARY TACTICS BY EVOKING EMOTIONS IN PEOPLE IN VARIOUS WAYS

### Nipah returns

Sir, The Nipah virus has infected at least five persons in Kerala's Kozhikode district in the recent surge. The state administration is also trying to trace the contacts of the people who have tested positive for the virus. Kozhikode district's administration has ordered not to conduct any type of big events in the district till September 24. As per the reports, the virus found from the positive cases belongs to the Bangladesh strain which is less infectious but has a higher mortality rate. The central and state governments have to work together before the deadly virus spreads to other parts of Kerala and to the rest of the country. The situation can become serious if the virus spreads to other parts of the country. The state administration needs to take quick action to trace the positive patients and break the chain.

Deba Prasad Nayak, DHENKANAL

### Ocean exploration

Sir, After a successful mission to the Moon, Indian scientists are now preparing to send three people 6,000 metres under water in an indigenously built submarine to search for precious metals and minerals like cobalt, nickel and manganese under the Samudrayaan Project. The Samudrayaan mission's ocean craft Matsya 6000 being developed by the NIOT Chennai will take a dip in the Bay of Bengal next year. The number 6000 in the name of the ocean craft depicts the ability of the submersible to go 6000 metres underwater. The self-propelled Samudrayaan will take three human beings on an ocean exploration mission 6000 metres under the ocean where the scientists will look for precious minerals and metals like nickel, cobalt and manganese. The Matsya 6000 ocean craft will be equipped with various underwater instruments such as Autonomous Coring System (ACS), Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) and Deep Sea Mining System (DSM) for the exploration of the deep sea. The project is part of the larger Deep Ocean Mission, which supports the Centre's Blue Economy policy. This policy aims to utilise the ocean's resources sustainably for the country's economic growth, improved livelihoods, job creation, and maintain ocean ecosystem health.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

## 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, Rihalgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

ACCESSION ANNIVERSARY

# Hyd set for big political action

TELANGANA CAPITAL WILL TURN INTO A POLITICAL THEATRE WITH ALL THE PARTIES - BRS, BJP, CONGRESS & AIMIM - CELEBRATING THE DAY IN TUNE WITH THEIR IDEOLOGIES

INDO-ASIAN NEW SERVICE

Hyderabad, Sept 14: Hyderabad is all set to witness big political action September 17 with all the major political parties looking to get into election mode on a day which marks the anniversary of the accession of erstwhile Hyderabad State to India.

Telangana capital will turn into a political theater with all the parties celebrating the day in tune with their ideologies. The occasion has always been a sensitive issue in the region as it evokes different emotions among different political groups.

With Assembly elections only a couple of months away, this year the occasion has assumed more significance. With its eyes on the polls, the BJP is looking to capitalise on the sensitive issue by celebrating it as Telangana Liberation Day while ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) will be trying to counter the saffron party by celebrating National Integration Day.

For the second year in a row, the government of India will be organising the official programme in Hyderabad to mark the occasion. Like last year,

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will review a parade by the armed forces at Parade Grounds, Secunderabad. Led by Minister for Tourism and Culture G. Kishan Reddy, the state BJP is making every effort to politically cash in on the event.

Hyderabad State, which comprised Telangana and parts of present day Maharashtra and Karnataka, acceded to India September 17, 1948, about 13 months after India gained Independence. This followed an Indian military operation codenamed Operation Polo against the Nizam's Army.

Political observers say by celebrating September 17 as National Integration Day, KCR has taken fizz out of a sustained campaign by BJP to politically exploit the issue.

He announced three three-day celebrations to counter BJP's Telangana Liberation Day.

For the first time since Telangana came into existence, the day witnessed official celebrations with the chief minister hoisting the national flag.

Like the previous governments of Congress and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in undivided Andhra



Pradesh, the TRS (now BRS) government in Telangana had rejected demands for officially celebrating the day in view of the reservations by Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM) and other Muslim groups, who say that Muslims were massacred during 'police action', as the Operation Polo was popularly called.

These parties have been celebrating it as 'Telangana Merger Day' by hoisting the national flag and paying tributes to a freedom fighters. Being an emotive issue with the potential of communal polarisation, the BJP has been aggressively pushing for official celebrations. At every public meeting, Amit Shah and other central leaders of BJP had been attacking KCR for not celebrating September 17 officially due to 'fear' of MIM.

As the BJP was going ag-

gressively to exploit the issue for electoral gains, KCR came out with a strategy to counter it.

Though the saffron party claimed that it forced KCR to organise the official celebrations, KCR's emphasis on national integration is seen as an attempt to send a message of unity in the face of divisive politics of BJP.

Interestingly, the State Cabinet's decision last year came a couple of hours after MIM, a friendly party of BRS, demanded that September 17 be celebrated as national integration day. AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi wrote to both Amit Shah CM KCR, suggesting that September 17 be celebrated as national integration day. For the first time in its history, the MIM last year celebrated September 17 as national integration day.

# ED summons politically motivated, says Kavitha

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter has been questioned several times in March at the ED headquarters and had to submit her mobile phones to the federal agency for investigation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad/ New Delhi, Sept 14: MLC K Kavitha of the ruling BRS Thursday said the Enforcement Directorate notice issued to her in the Delhi Excise Policy case is politically motivated, and that the party's legal team would decide the future course of action on it.

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned the daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao to its Delhi office Friday for questioning in the case over her alleged involvement in certain irregularities. Kavitha was questioned several times in March at the ED headquarters and had to submit her mobile phones to the federal agency for the investigation. Describing the ED notice as "Modi notice", the BRS leader said there is no need to react much to it as it was sent with "political vindictiveness".

Responding to questions about the notice, Kavitha, in a press conference in Nizamabad, said using central agencies has been the modus operandi of BJP in any poll-bound state and since Telangana is going to polls, the same technique is being used here. "I received a notice (from ED).



We have given it to the party's legal cell. We'll go by their advice. We strongly believe that it is politically motivated because of the charged up environment in Telangana -- upcoming elections," she told reporters. She compared the ED investigation to a "never ending TV serial".

"But, unfortunate it is, in the past one year, the investigation is happening. I don't know how long it will happen. I don't think even 2G (scam) went on for so long. It is unfortunate, but it is political and highly politically motivated," Kavitha said. She expressed confidence that the "people of Telangana will not take it seriously".

Stating that the BRS is not the B-team of anybody but the

"A-team of people of this country and Telangana", she said that people would see through this kind of "operation by the BJP" and teach the party a lesson, she said.

It is alleged that the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22 to grant licences to liquor traders allowed cartelisation and favoured certain dealers who had paid bribes for it, a charge strongly refuted by the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the national capital. The policy was subsequently scrapped and the Delhi lieutenant governor had recommended a CBI probe, following which the ED registered a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. During its probe, the ED had recorded the statement of Butchibabu, an accountant allegedly linked to Kavitha, in which he had said "there was political understanding between K Kavitha and the chief minister (Arvind Kejriwal) and deputy chief minister (Manish Sisodia)".

Kavitha has asserted that she has done no wrong and accused the BJP-led Centre of "using" the ED as the saffron party could not gain a "backdoor entry" into Telangana.

# Techies in Hyd come out in support of Naidu

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Sept 14: Several techies in Hyderabad have come out in support of former Andhra Pradesh chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu who was arrested in alleged Skill Development Corporation scam.

IT professionals working in various companies in Hyderabad participated in a protest organised by the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) at Wipro Circle in Gachibowli, a key IT cluster.

Holding placards with the slogan 'I am with CBN' the protesters raised slogans showing solidarity with Naidu.

The protestors demanded immediate release of Chandrababu Naidu. They called for saving democracy in Andhra Pradesh.

While some IT employees have individually shown their support for Naidu since his arrest

on Saturday, this was the first time that a large number of people gathered to show their solidarity. Several techies from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh working in various firms in Hyderabad joined the protest.

Naidu was chief minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh from 1995 to 2004. He is credited with placing Hyderabad on the world IT map by bringing Microsoft and other global giants to set up their operations in the city.

The first IT park Cyber Tower was built by the Naidu-led government in 1996-97. Its subsequent phases and the development of HITEC City created job opportunities for local youth.

Several IT professionals believe that the policies adopted by tech savvy Naidu and better infrastructure created during his rule developed Hyderabad as a global IT hub.

# Kotastrophe: 'Parents tell children there's no going back'

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota, Sept 14: One of the major reasons behind poor mental health of students in this coaching hub that often prompts them to take the extreme step is 'parents telling them there is no going back', according to police and district officials attempting preventive measures as record student suicides rock 'Kota factory'.

Top coaching institutes also claim that majority of parents refuse to accept feedback provided to them and want their children to continue anyway in their preparation for engineering and medical entrance exams.

The comments by the stakeholders came on a day when a 16-year-old NEET aspirant al-



legedly hanged herself in the hostel room. She is the 23rd student in the coaching hub to have died in this manner, the highest number for any year. Last year, the figure was 15.

From reaching out to parents about possible signs of depression in their child, no aptitude

for the particular subject or career, inability to live away from home, police and coaching institutes say their communications to parents about such issues are often met with resistance and majority of them refuse to accept these.

"Amid our interactions with

the students, we found a student who was visibly depressed. I decided to call his father. His response was 'ye to auron ko depress kar de, aisa kuch nai hai' (he can depress others, there is nothing like that). The father refused to accept that there is an issue which needs his attention or intervention," Kota ASP Chandrasheel Thakur told PTI.

"When I insisted him to come and take his son home for few days, the man kept giving me excuses that he will not get train reservation this soon. I had to finally threaten him with an FIR and that is when he agreed to come but I was left thinking that if it took me so much to convince him, certainly his son did not stand a chance... Parents tell their own children that there is no going back," he added.

Thakur heads a student cell set up by to reach out to students and make attempts to detect early signs of stress and depression.

A representative of a top coaching institute who did not wish to be identified told PTI, "In the last one year, we have reached out to over 50 parents telling them clearly that their child is not fit for this exercise and needs to be with them. At least 40 of them did not agree to take their child back home or withdraw from coaching. Others who paid some heed to the advice, withdrew from our coaching but shifted them to other institute. Such is the rigidity."

"We also organise counselling sessions and activities for parents but the attendance during such initiatives is very low. Parents often cite their inability to travel due to engagements or financial issues," he said.

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.

# In this part of Raj, 'virugiri' is a tool of protest

THERE ARE OVER HUNDREDS OF WATER TANKS IN HANUMANGARH, SRIGANGANAGAR AND ANUPGARH DISTRICTS AND MOST HAVE BEEN VENUES OF PROTESTS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hanumangarh, Sept 14: On a scorching summer afternoon, the villagers of Ramgarh watch in awe and disbelief as Viru, precariously perched atop a towering water tank, confesses his love for Basanti. He is protesting as Basanti's mausi (aunt) is against their union. As his protests get louder, we see mausi melt or rather give in to Viru's demands.

This iconic scene from the 1975 blockbuster 'Sholay' is surely a favourite of many movie buffs. And it seems like Viru's antics have left a mark in the minds of the residents of Hanumangarh and Sriganaganagar in Rajasthan.

Here, climbing a water tank — known locally as virugiri — is the easiest way to register protest. The last eight years have seen several such cases, with the most recent one taking place September 1.

"This mode of protest has been around for the last 25 to 30 years. The recent spurt is also because people have so much to fight against," says Karnidan Singh Rajput (78), an independent journalist from Suratgarh.

"Hanumangarh was carved out of Sriganaganagar district in 1994. Recently, on August 7, another district Anupgarh was also formed from Sriganaganagar. Administratively, Sriganaganagar has been divided into three, but

the problems and needs of the area are the same as before."

"Drinking water supply is not regular in villages and ration distribution is delayed. Waterlogging occurs after heavy rains, yet water is not available for irrigation," says Rameshwar Verma, a CPM leader in Hanumangarh.

"If you raise your voice any other way, you might not get a response. However, if you climb atop a water tank, the administrative officials and police come running. They are scared of the consequences, if someone actually jumped," says Verma.

Take for example what happened in Pilibanga town August 22. The residents had been protesting in front of the municipal office for 17 days under the leadership of municipal councillor Laxman Goyal, seeking proper sanitation and an end to corruption.

"When no one responded, Goyal and four others climbed onto a water tank. The administration then swung into action, with sub-divisional magistrate, tehsildar and thana prabhari [station house officer] reaching the spot in no time," says Yash Gupta, a local resident.

After about 10 hours of negotiation, the officials, on behalf of the district Collector, gave Goyal in writing that a special audit will be conducted on the allegations



of corruption in the municipality. All five came down only after getting the assurance. There are over hundreds of

water tanks in Hanumangarh, Sriganaganagar and Anupgarh districts and most have been venues of protests. Seven such

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-890

### e-Procurement Notice

#### Angul (R&B) Division

Bid Identification No. 17 of 2023-24

e-mail ID: angulrbdivision@yahoo.co.in

- Number of Works : 04 (Four) Number of Building Works
- Approximate estimated cost : Varies from Rs.13.00 lakh to Rs.17.00 Lakh
- Period of Completion : 01 (One) to 03 (Three) Calendar months
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal : Dt.18.09.2023 at 10.00 A.M.
- Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : Dt.28.09.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
- Date of Opening Bid : Dt.29.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Office Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, Angul (R&B) Division, Angul
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Engineer  
Angul (R&B) Division

OIPR-34074/11/0013/2324

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

No. C-1414 E-Mail Id: ae-elect@bmc.gov.in XXVII-43/20

### E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

- Bid Reference No. : BMC-EE (Elect.) 11 (El.) /2023-24
- Tender Call Notice No. : No.43660 / Dtd.14.09.2023
- No. of Work : 1 No.
- Bid Value of each work : Rs.23,14,340.00
- Period of Completion : 20 days

Date and time Schedule

Start	End	Opening
11.00 A.M. of 18.09.2023	5.00 P.M. of 28.09.2023	11.00 A.M. of 30.09.2023

6. Tender details can be seen for the Procurement portal <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Sd./- Executive Engineer (Elect.)  
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

OIPR-13002/11/0151/2324



Indian Air Force's (IAF) HAL Kiran aircraft fly in arrowhead formation during an orientation capsule for the media at BKT Air Force Station in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh



Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha workers protest against Pakistan after 3 Army men were killed in a gunfight with terrorists in J&K's Anantnag district, in Jammu



Children on their way to school near Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh



Hungarian President Katalin Novak, left, welcomes Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni, front right, ahead of the 5th edition of the biennial Budapest International Demographic Summit at the Museum of Fine Arts in Budapest, Hungary



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz wears plastic overboots as he visits an organic farm in Bremen



National Security Guard (NSG) commandos during a mock drill at the UP Legislative Assembly building in Lucknow



Nikolskaya Street in Moscow, Russia. Nikolskaya Street is a pedestrian street in the Kitay-Gorod of Moscow. It connects Red Square and Lubyanka Square



# national



In Amritsar, we will establish a police unit related to tourism  
BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB, CM

## INDIA, MONGOLIA REVIEW OIL REFINERY PROJECT

India and Mongolia reviewed the progress of the central Asian country's first oil refinery which is being built with assistance from New Delhi. The review of the project was done during the three-day visit of Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs, to Mongolia which concluded Thursday



### of the day quote

As I continued on my Bharat Jodo Yatra, I thought to myself, what better way to visit Ladakh than on a motorcycle! And so began this epic journey

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

The enforcement agencies should keep a close watch on the illegal liquor movement in the border areas of the state, especially from Goa. The production and sale of illegal liquor adversely affects the income and health of the poor

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

Amid election and other issues, other subjects (BJP-JD(S) poll understanding) did not come up for discussion. After the meeting I have come back. Neither did they (BJP national leadership), nor did I raise any other subjects

B S YEDYURAPPA | VETERAN BJP LEADER

### SHORT TAKES

#### Janasena, TDP to fight next polls together

Rajamahendravaram (Andhra Pradesh): Janasena Party and TDP will go together in the next elections as Andhra Pradesh cannot afford the rule of YSRCP, party chief Pawan Kalyan said here on Thursday, while the ruling party said it is likely a move to bring BJP into their alliance. Kalyan made the announcement about the alliance outside the Rajamahendravaram central prison after meeting TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, who is detained there for his alleged role in a multi-crore Skill Development Corporation scam.

#### Stalin writes to Jaishankar

Chennai: Chief Minister MK Stalin has written a letter to Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, seeking diplomatic intervention to release 17 Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu who are in Sri Lankan custody. It may be noted that 17 Indian fishermen from Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram and Mylathurai districts of Tamil Nadu along with their mechanised boats were taken into custody by the Sri Lankan Navy. The fishermen were detained during late Wednesday night and early morning hours of Thursday.

#### Birth certificate new rule from October 1

New Delhi: A new amended law will facilitate use of birth certificate as a single document for a host of works and services like admission to educational institutes, issuance of driving licences, applying for Aadhaar card or passport and registration of marriage and will come into effect from October 1. The Parliament passed the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023 in the last monsoon session while President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent August 11.

#### EC calls rival factions of NCP for hearing Oct 6

New Delhi: The Election Commission has called rival factions of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) for a personal hearing on October 6, sources said Thursday. A faction led by Ajit Pawar had rebelled against NCP leader Sharad Pawar and moved the poll panel staking claim over the party name and symbol. After due consideration of the totality of information available on record, the commission has arrived at the conclusion that there are two rival groups in the Nationalist Congress Party -- one led by Sharad Pawar and the other by Ajit Pawar -- the sources pointed out.

## INDIA announces boycott of shows of 14 TV anchors

The media committee of the bloc took the decision to boycott the programmes of these journalists and not send their representatives on debates hosted by them on such channels or platforms



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 14: The Opposition alliance INDIA Thursday announced that it will boycott shows of 14 television anchors on several platforms, a decision the BJP compared with the Emergency. The News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA) said the boycott sets a dangerous precedent and goes against the ethos of democracy.

The media committee of the bloc took the decision to boycott the programmes of these journalists and not send their representatives on debates hosted by them on such channels or platforms.

"Pursuant to the decision taken by INDIA Coordination Committee in its meeting September 13, 2023, the INDIA parties will not send their representatives on the shows and events of the following anchors," a statement from the media committee of the Opposition bloc said while listing the names of such journalists.

Justifying the action, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara, who is a part of the committee of opposition parties that took

the decision in their virtual meeting, said some channels have put up a "nafrat ka bazaar" (market for hatred) for the last nine years.

The INDIA parties have decided not to legitimise this "hate-filled narrative" which is corroding our society, he noted.

"That was the idea behind this decision," he said, adding that the Opposition bloc does not want to be a party to any such action which adds hatred in society.

"We are not opposed to any of the anchors, but we do not want to be a party to such endeavours," Khara said, adding that they can create memes or target their leaders but will not create such an atmosphere.

Union minister Hardeep Puri compared the move to the Emergency that curbed media rights.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur also hit out at the opposition bloc, saying this move shows their desperation.

Addressing a public meeting in Rajasthan's Bhilwara, he said, "Everyday, the leaders of Congress and their allies say they will destroy Sanatan

### Oppn slams BJP for 'celebrations' at HQ

Several INDIA bloc parties slammed the BJP on Thursday for holding "celebrations" to mark the success of the G20 Summit on a day security personnel were killed by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir, with the Congress saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi cannot postpone receiving accolades no matter what happens. Colonel Manpreet Singh, Commanding Officer of 19 Rashtriya Rifles; Major Ashish Dhonack, and Deputy Superintendent Humayun Bhat were killed in the gunfight with terrorists in the Garol area of Anantnag district early Wednesday. An army jawan was also killed. Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Chairman of the Congress' Ex-Servicemen Department Col (ret'd) Rohit Chaudhary alleged the prime minister displayed "shameless insensitivity" towards the martyred officers and soldiers by going ahead with his "self-praising celebrations" at the BJP headquarters while the news of the incident was being flashed at the same time.

Dharma and leave no stone unturned to insult Hindus. Now they have even started boycotting journalists and are filing cases. Be it in Chennai or Bengal, they are filing cases out of desperation and panic, and at the same time they are saying that they will eradicate Sanatan Dharma."

BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya also took to X to say, "So INDI Alliance has released a list of journalists, who refused to even bend, when the Opposition expected them to crawl. They should wear it as a badge of honour. More power to them."

### Two LeT terrorists 'encircled' by cops

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 14: The operation to neutralise the terrorists involved in the encounter that led to the killing of four security forces personnel continued for the second day Thursday as police claimed to have "encircled" two Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists in the higher reaches of Anantnag district of south Kashmir.



Gunshots were heard in the Gadole forests of Kokernag in Anantnag district in the early hours of Thursday as reinforcements were rushed to the area to take down the terrorists who were believed to be hiding in a natural cave in the mountains, the officials said. Helicopters were seen hovering over the Gadole forests as army and police personnel maintained a tight cordon around the area, the officials said.

Earlier in the day, the police said it has "encircled" two Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists in Anantnag district where four security forces personnel -- Colonel Manpreet Singh, commanding officer of the 19 Rashtriya Rifles, Major Ashish Dhonchak, Deputy Superintendent of Police Humayun Bhat and a soldier -- were killed in the encounter on Wednesday morning.

"In solemn tribute to the unwavering valor of Col Manpreet Singh, Major Ashish Dhonchak & DSP Humayun Bhat who laid down their lives leading from the front during this ongoing operation. Our forces persist with unwavering resolve as they encircle 2 LET terrorists including Uzair Khan," Kashmir Zone Police said in a post on X.

### Udhayanidhi hits out at Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 14: Slamming Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his remark that "Hindi unites", Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin Thursday said it is "absurd" to claim that Hindi, spoken in just four to five states, unites the entire Indian union.

Udhayanidhi said the union minister has as usual shown his love for Hindi by commenting that only "Hindi unites people and empowers regional languages."

"This view is only an alternative form of a clamour for Hindi; that if it is learnt, a person can develop," the Minister said in Tamil on social media platform X. "In Tamil Nadu it is Tamil, and Malayalam is the language in neighbouring Kerala. How is Hindi uniting these two states? How is it empowering?" he asked.

Further, he said: "It is absurd to say that Hindi, spoken in four to five states, is uniting the whole of the Indian Union."

Amit Shah should stop rele-



gating non-Hindi languages to the status of provincial languages and insulting them. Udhayanidhi said in Tamil on X and added the hashtag #StopHindiImposition.

The union home minister on Thursday said that Hindi unites the diverse languages in India and it has honoured different Indian as well as global languages and dialects. In a message on the occasion of 'Hindi Diwas', Shah said Hindi has never competed nor would compete with any other Indian language and that a strong country would emerge only by strengthening all its languages.

The home minister expressed confidence that Hindi would become a medium to empower all the local languages.

## Husband-wife must equally divide housework: HC

A division bench of Justices Nitin Sambre and Sharmila Deshmukh made the observation September 6 while dismissing an appeal filed by a 35-year-old man seeking the dissolution of his 13-year-old marriage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 14: In modern society, the burden of household responsibilities should be borne equally by husband and wife, the Bombay High Court has said.

A division bench of Justices Nitin Sambre and Sharmila



Deshmukh made the observation September 6 while dismissing an appeal filed by a 35-year-old man seeking the dissolution of his 13-year-old



Officials gather around a damaged aircraft after it veered off the runway with six passengers and two crew members on board at the Mumbai airport amid heavy rains in Mumbai, Maharashtra. No casualty has been reported as of now, they said. The Learjet 45 aircraft VT-DBL belonging to VSR Ventures was operating a flight from Vishakhapatnam to Mumbai, according to the sources

## Antiviral against Nipah arrives in Kerala: State govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 14: The Kerala government Thursday said the monoclonal antibody required for treatment of those infected by the Nipah virus has arrived in the state.

State Health Minister Veena George said a meeting was held between the Principal Secretary of the Health Department and the Union Health Ministry earlier in the day and now the monoclonal antibody has arrived.

She told reporters that stability of the medicine, which is not clinically proven yet but is the only available antiviral treatment for Nipah virus infection, was discussed with a central expert committee. "Further steps or course of action would be decided by the expert committee," she said.

Earlier in the day, in the state Assembly the Minister said there was no need to be apprehensive about the Nipah outbreak in Kozhikode district, but caution needs to be exercised by people as they go about their daily activities. "There is no need for any apprehension. We can all together deal with the issue with caution," she said in a statement in the Assembly. The brain-damaging virus has killed two people and infected three others in Kozhikode district. On Wednesday, a 24-year old health worker became Kerala's fifth

### The brain-damaging virus has killed two people and infected three others in Kozhikode

confirmed Nipah case since its recent outbreak.

Of the three infected persons under treatment, the condition of a nine-year-old boy continues to remain critical. Following the outbreak, all educational institutions in Kozhikode district were closed Thursday and Friday. Kozhikode District Collector A Geetha announced this in a Facebook post and said educational institutions can arrange online classes on the two days for students.

However, there will be no change in university exams schedule, she added. A 24-hour control room was set up in the neighbouring district of Wayanad following the Nipah outbreak in Kozhikode. The Wayanad district administration also constituted 15 core committees to lead the prevention and surveillance activities and effectively deal with emergency situations.

The virus strain seen in the state was the Bangladesh variant that spreads from human to human and has a high mortality rate, though it is less infectious, the government has said.

### Assam CM's wife to file defamation suit against Congress MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 14: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife Riniki Bhuyan Sarma Wednesday said that she will file a defamation suit of ₹10 crore against Congress Deputy leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi for his alleged 'slandorous campaign' against the company with which she is associated.

Gogoi Wednesday alleged that the company of the chief minister's wife got a credit subsidy of ₹10 crore from the central government under a scheme. In reaction to the development, the Congress stated that this lawsuit should be filed against the Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal as his reply in Parliament has "exposed the truth".



Bhuyan Sarma, in a statement, alleged that Gogoi has attacked a 17-year-old Assamese enterprise, headed by a woman entrepreneur, with the intention to malign and defame the company which has adhered to every aspect of the law.

"To protect the reputation of our hardworking employees from this slanderous campaign by MP Gaurav Gogoi, I am hereby constrained to file a case of defamation with ₹10 crore damages against him in the court of law," she said.

Bhuyan Sarma, the Chairperson cum Managing Director of Pride East Entertainment Private Limited, said that in the present case, pertaining to the PMKSY scheme, the company has neither claimed nor received a single paisa of government subsidy, despite meeting all eligibility criteria.

2018 order of a family court dismissing his plea seeking divorce.

The couple had got married in 2010. The man contended in the plea that his wife was always on the phone with her mother and did not do household work.

The woman claimed that she was forced to do all the household work after returning from office, and faced abuse when she contacted her family. She also claimed that her estranged husband had physically abused her on several occasions.

The bench, in its order, noted that both the man and woman were employed, and expecting the wife to do all the household work reflects a regressive mindset.

"In modern society the burden of household responsibilities have to be borne by both husband

and wife equally. The primitive mindset expecting the woman of the house to solely shoulder the household responsibilities needs to undergo a positive change," the HC said.

The marital relationship must not lead to the wife in this case getting isolated from her parents and she cannot be expected to sever the ties with her parents, the court noted.

"Being in contact with one's parents cannot by any stretch of imagination be construed as inflicting mental agony on the other party. In our view, putting restrictions on the respondent to curtail her contact with her parents, has in fact, subjected the wife to mental cruelty apart from physical cruelty," the bench said.

# international



As we do with countries around the world, we urge Pakistan to hold free, fair and timely elections, and to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law  
MATTHEW MILLER  
| US STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON

## NIGERIA HIT BY POWER BLACKOUT

Nigeria experienced a nationwide power outage for about 10 hours Thursday after the country's electrical grid collapsed due to a fire, authorities and the nation's electricity distribution companies reported



### of the day quote

More than 20 million people — almost half Sudan's population — are experiencing acute hunger and food insecurity  
EDEM WOSORNU | UN HUMANITARIAN OFFICE'S OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

The strategic relationship between India and the US has never been so dynamic as they team up on everything from advanced semiconductors to defence cooperation  
ANTONY BLINKEN | US SECRETARY OF STATE

I would fire more than 75 per cent of the federal workforce and shutter several major agencies like the FBI if I win the 2024 elections  
VIVEK RAMASWAMY | INDIAN AMERICAN-REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT

### SHORT TAKES

#### SL Navy arrests 17 Indian fishermen

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested at least 17 Indian fishermen and seized three trawlers for allegedly poaching in the country's territorial waters, an official statement said Thursday. The fishermen were arrested on Wednesday off the coast of Jaffna's Kakarathivu island. "The Sri Lankan Navy on Wednesday arrested at least 17 Indian fishermen and took in custody three trawlers for illegally poaching in the island nation's territorial water," said the statement from the Sri Lankan Navy.

#### Hunter indicted on gun charge

Washington: Hunter Biden was indicted Thursday on federal firearms charges, the latest and weightiest step yet in a long-running investigation into the president's son. Biden is accused of lying about his drug use when he bought a firearm in October 2018, a period when he has acknowledged struggling with addiction to crack cocaine, according to the indictment filed in federal court in Delaware. President Joe Biden's son has also been under investigation for his business dealings.

#### Russia expels two US diplomats

Moscow: Russia's Foreign Ministry Thursday declared two US diplomats "persona non grata" and ordered them to leave the country within seven days as they were allegedly involved in "illegal activity." The ministry charged in a statement that the first secretary at the US Embassy in Russia, Jeffrey Sillin, and the second secretary, David Bernstein, "kept in touch" with a former employee of the US Consulate in Vladivostok who was arrested earlier this year.

## Outrage in US over Indian student's death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington/Seattle, Sept 14: The Biden administration has assured the Indian government of a quick investigation into the horrific death of Indian student Jaahnavi Kandula in Seattle after being struck by a speeding police patrol car and bringing to justice the police officers who were responsible for it.

The US government swung into action after India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, strongly raised the issue at the highest level in Washington and sought prompt action on the killing of Kandula, and the highly insensitive behaviour of the police officer in Seattle in Washington state.

Kandula, 23, was killed in January after she was struck by a police vehicle driven by Officer Kevin Dave. He was driving 74 mph (more than 119 kmph) on the way to a report of an overdose, the Seattle Times newspaper reported on Monday.

Kandula was in the crosswalk and was thrown 100 feet when she was struck by the police patrol car on January 23. In bodycam footage released on Monday by the Seattle Police Department, Officer Daniel Auderer laughed about the deadly crash and dis-

JAAHNAVI KANDULA, 23, WAS KILLED IN JANUARY AFTER SHE WAS STRUCK BY A POLICE VEHICLE DRIVEN BY OFFICER KEVIN DAVE  
KANDULA WAS IN THE CROSSWALK AND WAS THROWN 100 FEET WHEN SHE WAS STRUCK BY THE POLICE PATROL CAR ON JANUARY 23



missed any implication Dave might be at fault or that a criminal investigation was necessary. US lawmakers and Indian-Americans have expressed outrage over the death of Kandula. The Biden administration has assured the Indian government of a quick investigation into the incident and bring to justice the police officers who were responsible for it. Senior administration officials are believed to have assured the Ambassador and the Indian government that the entire incident has been taken very seriously by them. They are monitoring its investigation from Washington

DC the progress of the case to ensure that there is adequate accountability. Officials said that they were "shocked" and "horrified" at this incident. The Consulate General of India in San Francisco on Wednesday termed the handling of Kandula's death as "deeply troubling." "We have taken up the matter strongly with local authorities in Seattle and Washington State as well as senior officials in Washington DC for a thorough investigation and action against those involved in this tragic case," the mission said in a post on platform X. "The Consulate & Embassy will

continue to closely follow up on this matter with all concerned authorities," it added. "Jaahnavi Kandula came here for graduate work from India. She was killed on a crosswalk by a speeding police car, and officer Auderer said her life had "limited value." I thought of my dad who came here in his 20s. Mr. Auderer, the life of every Indian immigrant has infinite value," Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna said. "Anyone who thinks that a human life has "limited value" should not be serving in law enforcement," Khanna said. Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal said: "This is appalling. I hope to see justice for Jaahnavi Kandula's family and accountability for those involved." In a letter to the Kandula family, Seattle City Mayor Bruce Harrell said that the comments made by one person do not reflect the feelings of the Seattle city or the communities that call it home. "We recognise that Jaahnavi's death is a loss for our whole community — the loss of a young woman who had so much life ahead of her to do amazing things and share that joy with loved ones," Harrell said in his communication to the Kandula family.

## Most Libya flood deaths could have been avoided: UN



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Geneva, Switzerland, Sept 14: The United Nations said Thursday that most of the thousands of deaths in Libya's flood disaster could have been averted if early warning and emergency management systems had functioned properly. With better functioning coordination in the crisis-wracked country, "they could have issued the warnings and the emergency management forces would have been able to carry out the evacuation of the people, and we could have avoided most of the human casualties"

With better functioning coordination in the crisis-wracked country, they could have issued the warnings and the emergency management forces would have been able to carry out the evacuation of the people, and we could have avoided most of the human casualties  
PETTERI TAALAS | HEAD OF THE UN'S WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

forecasting and dissemination and action on early warnings was a large contributor to the size of the disaster. The years-long internal conflict wracking the country meant its meteorological "observing network has been very much destroyed, the IT systems have been destroyed", he said. "The flooding events came and there was no evacuation taking place, because there were no proper early warning systems in place."

If evacuations had taken place, the human toll would have been far lower, he said. "Of course we cannot fully avoid economic losses, but we could have also minimised those losses by having proper services in place," he said. Libya's National Meteorological Centre (NMC) did issue early warnings for the extreme weather coming 72 hours in advance and had notified governmental authorities by email, urging them to take preventative measures.

But WMO said it was "not clear whether (the warnings) were effectively disseminated". It said that while there had once been close cooperation between meteorological services and disaster management throughout Libya, this was no longer the case.

#### Kakar leaves Nawaz arrest decision to LEAs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Sept 14: Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul Haq Kakar has said that the law enforcement agencies (LEAs), will decide about arresting former premier Nawaz Sharif upon his return to the country from self-imposed exile next month.

Kakar made the remarks during an interview with SAMAA TV on Wednesday when asked about any action against 73-year-old Nawaz upon his arrival in Pakistan. In February 2020, Nawaz was declared an absconder. Later in the same year, an accountability court declared him a proclaimed offender in the Toshakhana vehicles reference. "The law enforcement agencies (LEAs) will decide this matter in light of the law. If they think he (Nawaz) should be chained then they will adopt that path and vice versa," Kakar said when the host asked whether Nawaz would be handcuffed or not on his return.

He said that the leadership of LEAs would decide the issue of his arrest "to the best of their ability". "I reiterate that the leadership of legal and law enforcement agencies is present. Whatever they decide, whether they send him (Nawaz) behind bars or allow freedom of movement, it will be the decision of the leadership of the judicial process and law enforcement," he said.



Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, The Duchess of Sussex, attend a meeting with NATO representatives on the sidelines of the 6th Invictus Games in Duesseldorf, Germany, Thursday. Harry founded the Invictus Games to aid the rehabilitation of service members and veterans by giving them the challenge of competing in sports events similar to the Paralympics  
PTI PHOTO

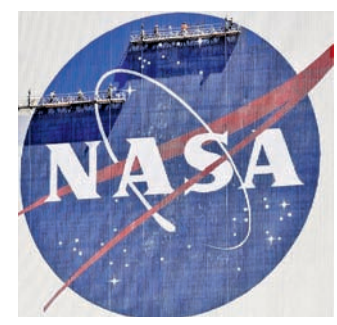
In its 33-page report, an independent team commissioned by NASA cautioned that the negative perception surrounding UFOs poses an obstacle to collecting data

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cape Canaveral (US), Sept 14: NASA said Thursday that the study of UFOs will require new scientific techniques, including advanced satellites as well as a shift in how unidentified flying objects are perceived. The space agency released the findings after a yearlong study into UFOs. In its 33-page report, an independent team commis-

## NASA releases UFO report

sioned by NASA cautioned that the negative perception surrounding UFOs poses an obstacle to collecting data. But officials said NASA's involvement should help reduce the stigma around what it calls UAPs, or unidentified anomalous phenomena. "At this point there is no reason to conclude that existing UAP reports have an extraterrestrial source," the report said. The 16-member panel noted that artificial intelligence and machine learning are essential for identifying rare occurrences, including UFOs. NASA "with its world-leading experience in these aspects is well-positioned to play a leading role," it wrote. At the one



and only public meeting earlier this year, the independent team selected by the space agency insisted there is no conclusive evidence of extraterrestrial life associated with UFOs. No top-secret files were accessed by the scientists, avia-

tion and artificial intelligence experts, and retired NASA astronaut Scott Kelly, the first American to spend nearly a year in space. Instead, the 16-member group relied on unclassified data in an attempt to better understand unexplained sightings in the sky. NASA said there are so few high-quality observations that no scientific conclusions can be drawn. The government refers to unexplained sightings as UAPs versus UFOs. NASA defines them as observations in the sky or elsewhere that cannot be readily identified or scientifically explained. The study was launched a year ago and cost under USD 100,000.

## Tharman sworn in as S'pore Prez

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Sep 14: Indian-origin Singapore-born economist Tharman Shanmugaratnam was Thursday sworn in as the ninth President of the predominantly Chinese and economically prosperous city-state.

Indian-origin Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon administered the oath of office to President Tharman at a ceremony held at Istana, a 154-year-old palace in the heart of Singapore's Shopping and Hotel Belt of Orchard Road. The Istana is the official resi-



dence of the President of Singapore. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, members of the Cabinet, MPs, top civil servants and members of the diplomatic corps. Tharman, 66, will serve a six-year term. He succeeds President Halimah Yacob, Singapore's first female president, whose tenure ended on September 13. Tharman, who has served Singapore all his life in public service, was overwhelmingly endorsed by the city-state's predominantly Chinese society. He surprised everyone by securing 70.4 per cent of the votes in the presidential election held September 1.

## Scientists call fraud on supposed aliens presented to Mexican Congress

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico City, Sept 14: Supposed aliens landed in Mexico's Congress but there were no saucer-shaped UFOs hovering over the historic building or bright green invaders like those seen in Hollywood films. The spectre of little green men visited Mexico City as lawmakers heard testimony on Tuesday from individuals suggesting the possibility that extraterrestrials might exist. The researchers hailed from Mexico, the United States, Japan and Brazil. The session, unprecedented in the Mexican Congress, took place two months after a similar one before the US Congress in which a former US Air Force intelligence officer claimed his country has probably been aware

of "non-human" activity since the 1930s. Mexican journalist Jose Jaime Maussan presented two boxes with supposed mummies found in Peru, which he and others consider "non-human beings that are not part of our terrestrial evolution". The shriveled bodies with shrunken, warped heads left those in the chamber aghast and quickly kicked up a social media fervour: "It's the queen of all evidence," Maussan claimed. "That is, if the DNA is showing us that they are non-human beings and that there is nothing that looks like this in the world, we should take it as such." But he warned that he didn't want to refer to them as "extraterrestrials" just yet. The apparently desiccated bodies date back to 2017 and were found deep



underground in the sandy birds-eye-view. Most attribute the Nazca Lines to ancient indigenous communities, but the formations have captured the imaginations of many.

In 2017, Maussan made similar claims in Peru, and a report by the country's prosecutor's office found that the bodies were actually "recently manufactured dolls, which have been covered with a mixture of paper and synthetic glue to simulate the presence of skin". The report added that the figures were almost certainly human-made and that "they are not the remains of ancestral aliens that they have tried to present". The bodies were not publicly unveiled at the time, so it is unclear if they are the same as those presented to Mexico's congress. On Wednesday, Julieta Fierro, researcher at the Institute of Astronomy at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, was among those to ex-

press scepticism, saying that many details about the figures "made no sense". Fierro added that the researchers' claims that her university endorsed their supposed discovery were false, and noted that scientists would need more advanced technology than the X-rays they claimed to use to determine if the allegedly calcified bodies were "non-human". "Maussan has done many things. He says he has talked to the Virgin of Guadalupe," she said. "He told me extraterrestrials do not talk to me like they talk to him because I don't believe in them." The scientist added that it seemed strange that they extracted what would surely be a "treasure of the nation" from Peru without inviting the Peruvian ambassador.

# business



I am not against diesel and neither are we going to levy any new tax on diesel vehicles

NITIN GADKARI | UNION ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER

## GOOGLE AXES HUNDREDS

Google conducted another round of layoffs Wednesday, telling its recruiters that by the end of the day hundreds of them would be losing their jobs, three people with knowledge of the layoffs said. Google's recruiting group, which at one point had more than 3,000 employees, has already been hit hard by layoffs this year



### of the day quote

India will emerge as a key player in renewable energy equipment supply chain globally and become an exporter as its solar manufacturing capacity alone would touch 100GW by 2026

Any additional receipts from small savings provide an opportunity to alter/reduce borrowings from other sources of financing the government's fiscal deficit

I have not seen interest in India among global corporations as I see today, India is at an inflection point

## LOCAL MFG THRIVES

### Solar imports from China drop 76% YoY

INDIA'S SOLAR MODULE IMPORTS FROM CHINA DIPPED FROM 9.8 GW IN H1 OF 2022 TO A MERE 2.3 GW YOY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** In a departure from global trends, India has recorded a substantial 76 per cent drop in solar module imports from China during the first half of 2023 which reflects New Delhi's resolute shift towards self-sufficiency in solar manufacturing, a new report said Thursday.

Year-on-year, India's solar module imports from China plummeted from 9.8 GW in the first half of 2022 to a mere 2.3 GW during the corresponding period in 2023, the report by global energy think tank Ember said.

This strategic shift, coupled with the imposition of tariffs, underscores India's determination to minimise dependency on imports and prioritise the development of its domestic manufacturing capacity.



As India edges closer to self-sufficiency in solar manufacturing, reliance on Chinese modules and cells is no longer a constraint. What's crucial now is creating an enabling policy environment to ensure that solar installations keep pace with the National Electricity Plan

NESHWIN RODRIGUES | INDIA ELECTRICITY POLICY ANALYST, EMBER

Neshwin Rodrigues, an India Electricity Policy Analyst at Ember, said, "India's dependence on China for solar module imports is well and truly receding post-2022. Domestic manufacturing is gaining momentum, thanks to recent policy interventions."

India started levying a customs duty of 40 per cent on solar modules and 25 per cent on solar cells from April 2022 in a bid to cut imports and boost local manufacturing.

The country's commitment to reducing import dependency and nurturing a robust domestic solar manufacturing ecosystem aligns with the nation's broader goals of sustainability and energy self-reliance.

According to its updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which are national plans to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, India has committed to achieving 500 GW of installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel-based resources by 2030. Solar is at the heart of this ambitious goal.

## China's solar dominance globally

The report also said China's exports of solar panels rose by an impressive 3 per cent in the first half of 2023, reaching a total of 114 GW shipped worldwide. This marks a substantial increase from the 85 GW exported during the same period in the previous year.

China's dominance in the solar panel manufacturing market, accounting for about 80 per cent of the global market share, has

significant global implications.

More than half of the solar modules exported from China during the first half of 2023 were destined for Europe, making up 52.5 per cent of exports.

Europe experienced the most substantial absolute growth worldwide, with exports from China increasing by 47 per cent year-on-year (21 GW), reaching a total of 65 GW during the first half of 2023 compared to 44 GW in the same period the previous year.

While Europe led in absolute growth, the fastest expansion occurred in Africa and the Middle East.

South Africa witnessed a remarkable increase of 438 per cent (2.7 GW) in solar panel imports from China in the first half of 2023 compared to the same period last year.

## RBI says 15 large NBFCs to comply with enhanced regulatory requirements

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 14:** Reserve Bank of India Thursday said 15 large NBFCs, including LIC Housing Finance, Bajaj Finance, Shriram Finance and Tata Sons, will be subject to enhanced regulatory requirements.

The central bank has categorised NBFCs into Base Layer (NBFC-BL), Middle Layer (NBFC-ML), Upper Layer (NBFC-UL) and Top Layer (NBFC-TL).

A list of 15 large Non Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) falling in the Upper Layer category has been released.

Besides LIC Housing Finance, Bajaj Finance, Shriram Finance and Tata Sons, others in the list include L&T Finance, Piramal Capital & Housing Finance, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company.

Indiabulls Housing Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services, Tata Capital Financial Services, PNB Housing Finance, HDB Financial Services, Aditya Birla Finance, Muthoot Finance and Bajaj Housing Finance are also part of the list.

According to RBI, despite qualifying for identification as NBFC-UL as per scoring methodology, TMF Business Services Ltd (formerly Tata Motors Finance Limited) is not being included in the list of NBFC-UL in the current review due to its ongoing business reorganisation.

There is a prescribed methodology to identify the NBFCs in the Upper Layer as per their asset size and scoring methodology.

## 5-MONTHS IN A ROW

# WPI inflation -ve

Wholesale inflation at (-) 0.52% in Aug; prices of veggies, onion, pulses remain firm

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** Wholesale price inflation remained in negative for the fifth straight month in August at (-) 0.52 per cent, though it rose sequentially from the previous month on account of firming prices of food items, especially vegetables, onion and pulses.

The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation rate has been in the negative since April and was (-)1.36 per cent in July.

In August last year, WPI inflation was 12.48 per cent.

According to economists, fading base effects and elevated food inflation led to a (-)0.52 per cent WPI in August, which came in higher than July numbers.

Inflation in food articles remained in double digit for the second straight month at 10.60 per cent in August, lower than 14.25 per cent in July.

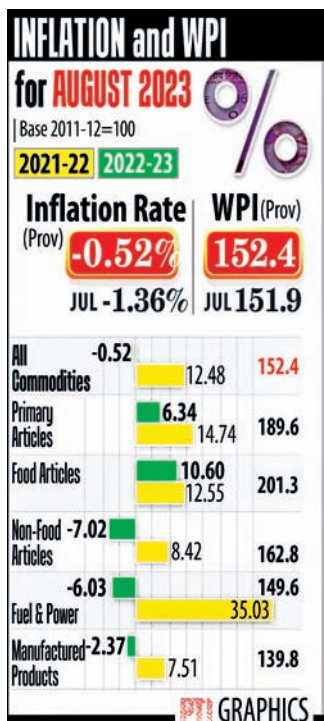
Wholesale inflation in vegetables was 48.69 per cent in August, against 62.12 per cent in July.

In pulses, inflation was 10.45 per cent, while in onion it skyrocketed to 31.42 per cent in August.

Fuel and power basket inflation was at (-)6.03 per cent in August, against (-) 12.79 per cent in July.

In manufactured products, inflation rate was (-)2.37 per cent, as against (-)2.51 per cent in July.

"The negative rate of inflation in August 2023 is primarily due to fall in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, chemical & chemical products, textiles and



Within food, prices of vegetables, which surged in July, moderated sequentially in August, but year-on-year, inflation remains high. Additionally, a small sequential increase in prices of manufactured products (which have the largest weight in WPI) also contributed to the slower headline deflation

RAHUL BAJORIA | MD & HEAD OF EM ASIA ECONOMICS, BARCLAYS

the price scenario till the end of the current fiscal," Chowdhury said.

The softer pace of decline in WPI in August follows the larger than expected moderation in CPI inflation, data for which was released earlier this week.

Retail inflation data for August came in at 6.83 per cent in August, lower than 7.44 per cent in July.

"We expect CPI inflation to moderate further in September, supported by reversal in vegetable price shock and price cuts for LPG... Currently there is limited pressure on consumer prices, resulting in broadly stable CPI core inflation. This is likely to comfort the RBI; however, we expect it to remain on hold for longer, as it monitors risks to inflation from generalisation of food price pressures and El Niño," Bajoria said.

The RBI expects annual CPI inflation to moderate in coming months given the short-term nature of vegetable price shocks.

Nevertheless, the threat of El Niño means that inflation could exceed our forecasts, although the impact on consumers and the economy is likely to be temporary, Fitch said.

## UPTICK IN PRICES

## Govt further slashes stock limit on wheat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** The government Thursday further reduced the stock limit on wheat traders, wholesalers and big chain retailers to 2,000 tonne from 3,000 tonne with immediate effect to control wheat prices which are showing uptick again after being stable for some time.

On June 12, a stock holding limit of 3,000 tonne was imposed on wheat traders/wholesalers; 10 tonne on retailers, 10 tonne for each outlet of big chain retailers

and 3,000 tonne at all their depots.

Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra said: "Keeping in view of recent uptick in the prices, we had a review of the stock limits and effective today the stock limit on wheat traders, wholesalers and big chain retailers stand reduced to 2,000 tonne."

The stock limits for processors and small retailers remain unchanged. One month has been given to traders, wholesalers and big chain retailers to bring down their wheat stock levels to 2,000 tonnes, he said.

## D-St continues bull market run

### NIFTY HITS FRESH RECORD; SENSEX EXTENDS RALLY FOR TENTH DAY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 14:** The NSE benchmark Nifty advanced over 33 points to close at a fresh lifetime high of 20,103 while Sensex ticked higher for the tenth straight session Thursday, helped by lag-end buying in oil & gas, metal and commodity stocks amid a largely firm trend in global equities.

After swinging between gains and losses throughout the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 52.01 points or 0.08 per cent to settle at 67,519. During the session, it jumped 304.06 points or 0.45 per cent to hit its all-time intraday high of 67,771.05.

The Nifty advanced 33.10 points or 0.16 per cent to end at its all-time closing high of 20,103.10. During the day, it gained 97.65 points or 0.48 per cent to reach its lifetime intra-day peak of 20,167.65.

"While the north-bound journey continued the uptick lacked



## In the past 10 sessions, BSE index has jumped 2,687.59 points or 4.14%

the firepower as seen in recent sessions as valuations are becoming expensive and investors are taking a cautious route. Rising global crude oil prices are also making investors jittery as this could stoke inflation and force central banks worldwide to maintain the rate hike regime. Despite early volatility and a range-bound trend thereafter, metals, oil & gas and realty shares sparkled, indicating that traders are willing to take selective bets,"

Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

Mahindra & Mahindra was the biggest gainer on the Sensex chart, rising 2.56 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Nestle, Power Grid, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Axis Bank, UltraTech Cement and L&T. In contrast, Asian Paints, ITC, Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel and Tata Motors were among the laggards.

The rupee pared initial gains to settle 2 paise lower at 83.03 against the US dollar.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,631.63 crore Wednesday.

## GROWING SKEPTICISM

### THE INFLUX OF CHEAPER CHINESE EVs HAS DOMINATED EUROPEAN MARKET SPACE, HURTING THE DOMESTIC FIRMS AS THEY ARE FORCED TO SLASH PRICES

REUTERS

**Shanghai, Sept 14:** Beijing Thursday blasted the launch of a probe by the European Commission into China's electric vehicle (EV) subsidies as protectionist and warned it would damage economic and trade relations, as shares in Chinese EV makers slipped.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the investigation Wednesday, accusing China of flooding global markets with electric cars that had artificially low prices because of huge state subsidies.

The probe, which could result in punitive tariffs, has prompted analyst warnings of retaliatory action from Beijing as well as pushback from Chinese industry executives who say the sec-

## Beijing blasts 'protectionist' EU probe on EVs

timately levy duties against subsidized Chinese EVs, Beijing would likely impose countermeasures to hurt European industries.

### STRAINED RELATIONS

The anti-subsidy probe, initiated unusually by the European Commission and not from any industry complaint, comes amid broader diplomatic strains between the EU and China.

"China will pay close attention to the EU's protectionist tendencies and follow-up actions, and firmly safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies," it added.

Eurasian Group analysts warned that should Brussels ul-

Relations have become tense due to Beijing's ties with Moscow after Russian forces swept into Ukraine, and the EU's push to rely less on the world's second-largest economy, which is also its top trading partner.

The EV probe will set the agenda and tone for bilateral talks ahead of the annual China-EU Summit, set to take place before year-end, with a focus returning to EU demands for wider

access to the Chinese market and a rebalance of a trade relationship that Brussels describes as "imbalanced".

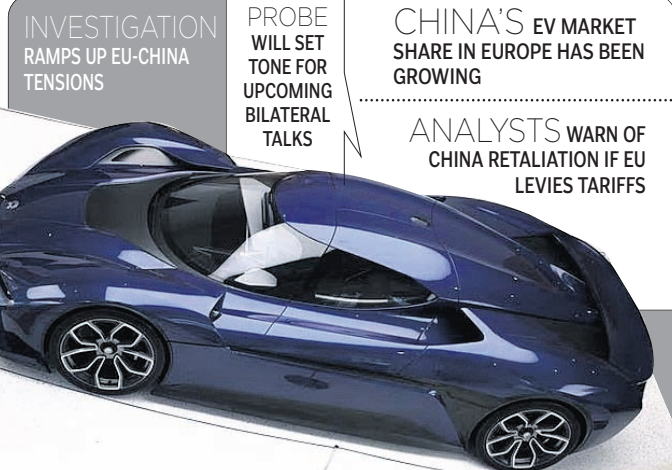
EU officials believe Chinese EVs are undercutting the prices of local models by about 20% in the European market, piling pressure on European automakers to produce lower-cost EVs.

The European Commission said China's share of EVs sold in Europe had risen to 8% and could reach 15% in 2025.

In 2022, 35% of all exported electric cars originated from China, 10 percentage points higher than the previous year, according to US think-tank the Center for Strategic and Internal Studies.

Most of the vehicles, and the batteries they are powered by, were destined for Europe where 16% of batteries and vehicles sold were made in China in 2022, it said.

The single largest exporter from China is US giant Tesla, CSIS data showed. It accounted for 40.25% of EV exports from China between January and April 2023.



INVESTIGATION RAMPS UP EU-CHINA TENSIONS

PROBE WILL SET TONE FOR UPCOMING BILATERAL TALKS

CHINA'S EV MARKET SHARE IN EUROPE HAS BEEN GROWING

ANALYSTS WARN OF CHINA RETALIATION IF EU LEVIES TARIFFS

## INFLATION RISKS REMAIN

### Fitch retains India's growth hope

Annual headline inflation was 6.8% in August after 7.4% in July and 4.9% in June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 14:** Fitch Ratings Thursday retained India's growth forecast for the current fiscal at 6.3 per cent saying the Indian economy continues to show resilience despite tighter monetary policy and weakness in exports, but upped year-end inflation projection on El Niño threat.

The Indian economy grew 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter of current fiscal on strong services sector activity and robust demand.

"The Indian economy continues to show resilience despite tighter monetary policy and weakness in exports, with growth outpacing other countries in the region," Fitch said, while projecting 6.3 per cent growth for current fiscal, and 6.5 per cent for next fiscal.

In its September update of



the Global Economic Outlook Fitch, however, said that high-frequency indicators suggest that the pace of growth in the July-September quarter is likely to moderate.

Growth in the July-September quarter is likely to moderate as exports continue to weaken, credit growth flatlines and the Reserve Bank of India's latest bi-monthly consumer confidence survey shows consumers becoming a little more pessimistic on income and employment prospects, Fitch said.

On the price front, it said that the temporary increases in inflation, in particular rising food inflation, in coming months could curb households' discretionary spending power.

Notwithstanding the risk of higher food prices, Fitch maintained its RBF's benchmark interest rate forecast at 6.5 per cent for the end of this calendar year.

# Time to tweak a bit!

India's workload management plans in focus against Bangladesh, Shami may get a look-in



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 14: Having already sealed a place in the final, India will be tempted to test their fringe players when they face an already knocked out Bangladesh in a Super 4 match of the Asia Cup here Friday.

The Rohit Sharma-led outfit will think deep whether to give as much game time as possible to its first-choice team or give an opportunity to some of the fringe players ahead of the World Cup at home next month.

The question of workload management is pertinent particularly in the case of bowlers. Jasprit Bumrah has bowled just 12 overs so far in the Asia Cup – five against Pakistan and seven against Sri Lanka. He did not play against Nepal.

So, it could boil down to Bumrah's choice whether he wants to have a crack at batsmen in one more match or take a step back and return for the summit clash September 17.

On the other hand, Mohammed Siraj has bowled

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

19.2 overs and Hardik Pandya 18 overs in this tournament. It might not appear heavy numbers but the humidity in Colombo has been energy-sapping, so the team management might just give a break to one of them.

In that context, it would not be a major surprise if Shami re-places Siraj against Bangladesh. It will also help the senior pacer to register some valuable real-match time under his belt before the quadrennial big bash, starting October 5. It is important because Shami has not been used as a back-up seamer behind Bumrah, Siraj and Pandya.

But the dwindling bowling graph of Axar Patel will concern the thinktank as he has been marked as a cover for Ravindra

Jadeja. The left-arm spinner has neither been able to take wickets and contain the run-flow, an area where Jadeja excels.

Axar has played seven ODIs this year, and managed to take only three wickets and his economy is hovering around six. He will need a significant lift in his game, and immediately too!

KL Rahul's return to full fitness has straightened a lot of creases for the team management. He has batted with fluency and kept wickets with agility here.

After the match against Sri Lanka, Rahul had spoken at length about the role clarity given to him by the team management, that he would be India's premier wicket-keeper-cum-middle-order batsman. So, it can be assumed that Rahul is all set to continue his duty against Bangladesh as well.

But Shreyas Iyer's fitness will be keenly watched as he missed the Super 4 matches against Pakistan and Sri Lanka with back spasm. However, Shreyas batted and bowled at nets Thursday

without any visible discomfort, and that should come as a pleasing development for the team.

But if the management wants to give some extra time for the Mumbaier to recuperate, they can weigh their options between Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav. While Kishan has been impressive in ODIs so far, Suryakumar's numbers were quite disappointing in the format.

Despite that, Suyakumar has been viewed as an important cog in India's white ball establishment, and the thinktank would want to give another chance for him to push his case.

When it comes to the Bangladesh camp, they will not have the services of wicket-keeper batsman Mushfiqur Rahim for this match. Rahim had flown back home after their Super 4 match against Sri Lanka, which they lost by 21 runs.

In the absence of Rahim, Litton Das is expected to keep wickets. However, their captain Shakib Al Hasan has rejoined the team after returning home to spend some time with his family.

# Coach happy with fit pace unit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 14: India bowling coach Paras Mhambrey Thursday said the return of Jasprit Bumrah has beefed up their pace unit and it is pleasing to have four fully-fit fast bowlers going into next month's World Cup.

During the recent tour to Ireland, Bumrah wore India colours after a long injury lay-off, and impressed with his intensity during the ongoing Asia Cup as well.

"We have been following Bumrah's progress from the NCA, and we are very happy with the report that we have got. Now, we have four quality bowlers, and it is always great to have those options. The problem of plenty is always good," Mhambrey said ahead of India's final Super 4 match against Bangladesh Friday.

However, India's first-choice pace attack is now centred around Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj and Hardik Pandya, forcing the management to bench Mohammed Shami.

"It's not very easy to drop someone like Shami. The experience that he has and the performance that he has done for the country is phenomenal. It's never easy to have that kind of a conversation (dropping a player)," he said.

Mhambrey said while it was a difficult choice, the player concerned has been conveyed clearly about the team decision. "But we are clear in the way we have gone about the conversation with the players and they have shown confidence in us. Players know any decision that we take and they know that it is for the benefit of the team," said Mhambrey.

The former India pacer was also delighted to see the strides Pandya has taken as a bowler in recent times. "I am very happy with the way Hardik has shaped up, something that we have worked on for a long time. We have been managing his workload, making sure that he is fit and able to achieve what we ex-



pect out of him.

"Once he hits 140 kmph he is a different bowler. From the team perspective it's a wicket-taking option that we have," added Mhambrey.

Mhambrey also said the Indian team has undertaken the process of developing the bowling skills of some batsmen, so that they have more options to choose from when needed.

Tilak Varma features prominently in that scheme. "I have been working with Tilak since his U-19 days. We were in South Africa and we realised he has bowling skills. We are working on it consistently.



"If the captain gets confidence that he can bowl one over and deliver; this one over can turn into two overs. But it depends on circumstances where we need that extra bowler," he said.

## CLUB VS COUNTRY CONUNDRUM

# Chhetri gives priority to national duty for Asiad



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 14: In the club versus country conundrum over the Hangzhou Asian Games, Indian football turned out to be the loser but Sunil Chhetri, arguably the country's greatest footballer ever, rose above all these and gave precedence to national duty.

The 39-year-old talisman, who has created seemingly unsurmountable national records in his 18-year-long international career, raised his hand and decided to lead a rag-tag national team after many Indian Super League (ISL) clubs refused to release their players.

Thirteen players, including key defender Sandesh Jhingan and No.1 goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, from the original 22-member squad announced last month were not released by their respective ISL clubs.

A hapless All India Football Federation (AIFF), after hectic parleys, was able to stitch a second-rung 18-member team made up mostly of inexperienced players with Chhetri being the lone notable face.

"He (Chhetri) is such a reputed player and it's not a full strength team. But he stuck his neck out and said he wanted to go for the sake of the country and he's ready for the Asian Games. Hats off to him," an AIFF official told PTI. "We knew that he would rise above all these and would give the call of the nation priority and he did just that."

Chhetri's club Bengaluru FC

had six players in the initial 22, including Gurpreet, and it released two players, the other one being Rohit Danu.

"Of course, his (Chhetri's) club said yes and released him. So, credit to Bengaluru FC also. The club made the sacrifice of releasing its best player when it is not a FIFA window," the official said.

The clubs are, however, are not bound to release the players as the Asian Games did not fall in the FIFA international match window. Football competition in Asian Games is basically U-23 affair with three over-aged players permitted per team.

This will be Chhetri's third Asian Games, the first being the 2006 edition as a 22-year-old under English coach Bob Houghton. The team was led by Bhaichung Bhutia, who was included as one of the over-aged players.

In the 2014 edition in Incheon, Korea, Chhetri captained India after being included as one of the above-23 players permitted. He recently became a father but despite that he has chosen to travel to China for the Asian Games.

The Indian team, which is expected to leave for China Saturday, begins its Asian Games campaign with a match against China September 19, followed by games against Bangladesh (Sept 21) and Myanmar (Sept 24). The top two teams from the six groups will make it to the pre-quarterfinals, with four best-ranked third-placed sides also qualifying.

# Smith, Warner to wear neck guards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Melbourne, Sept 14: Veteran batters Steven Smith and David Warner could be forced to wear neck guards as Cricket Australia (CA) has made it mandatory for international and domestic players to do so from October 1.

Under the new playing conditions for 2023-24, every Australian player on international and domestic cricket will be required to wear neck protectors fixed or fitted to the rear of helmets when facing fast or medium pace bowling in all CA-sanctioned competitions, according to cricket.com.au.

The regulation update came a week after all-rounder Cameron Green was struck by a Kagiso Rabada bouncer on the neck guard fixed to his helmet and substituted out of the first ODI against South Africa with concussion at Bloemfontein September 7.

The move will impact several Australian players, including David Warner and Steve Smith, who have resisted using the neck guards since their introduction in 2015. Usman Khawaja also does not currently wear the protectors when batting.

CA will make wearing neck protection at international train-



ing and matches mandatory via a change to its clothing and equipment regulations, the report said. The rule does not apply to facing spinners or for wicket-keepers and close-in fielders.

CA had recommended the use of neck protectors since their introduction in 2015 following the tragic death of Phillip Hughes but several veteran players have been reluctant to take them up.

Smith had earlier said the neck guards made him "feel claustrophobic". He was not wearing a neck guard when struck by a Jofra Archer delivery at Lord's in the 2019 Ashes. Warner said in 2016 that he does

"not and will not wear" one because it "digs into" his neck and is an "uncomfortable distraction".

Australia international players will now be required to wear neck guards during both home and away matches. Although international umpires won't enforce the regulation like in domestic cricket, players could face sanctions under CA's code of conduct for a breach of clothing and equipment regulations, the report said. Among other changes, CA has removed the COVID-19 substitute rule from its playing conditions in line with the ICC doing the same.

# Unadkat, Yadav bag fifiers in maiden County outings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 14: India seamer Jaydev Unadkat and spinner Jayant Yadav made impressive debuts in the English County circuit, taking five-wicket hauls for Sussex and Middlesex respectively.

Unadkat, who could be back in contention for selection in the Indian Test side later this year for the tour of South Africa, took an overall nine wickets for Sussex against Leicestershire to help them win by just 15 runs in a Division Two match.

The left-arm seamer took 3 for 23 in the first innings and returned with figures of 32.4-6-94-6 in the second essay to help Sussex not only record a narrow win but also revive their hopes of promotion into Division One.

India batter Cheteshwar Pujara, who is also Sussex's captain, scored 26 and 23 in the game and also took a spectacular catch to dismiss Leicestershire opener Rishi Patel.

Yadav, playing in a Division One game for Middlesex against Lancashire, toiled for his five-wicket haul as he returned with



figures of 33-4-131-5 in a drawn game at Manchester.

Meanwhile, also making his County debut this season, leg spinner Yuzvendra Chahal took an overall five wickets – 3/63 and 2/43 – for Kent against Nottinghamshire in a Division One game at Canterbury.

# Clock ticking as 90kg snatch lift continues to elude Chanu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 14: Mirabai Chanu has been a frontrunner in the women's 49kg category for years but with an increasing number of weightlifters breaching the elusive 90kg mark, the pressure is mounting on the Tokyo Olympics medallist to nail the coveted lift.

As many as seven athletes, including five in this current Olympic cycle, have lifted 90kg or more in the snatch section. Chanu herself has been working to cross the mark since 2019. However, the much-anticipated 90kg snatch lift has eluded her in her two attempts in the past four years.

The Manipuri athlete had first attempted it at the National Championships in February 2020 and then again at last year's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Chanu's personal



best in the section remains an underwhelming 88kg and the gulf between with her competitors is increasing every tournament.

The Chinese duo of Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Hou

two-year suspension has made the field more competitive with both Thanyathon Sukcharoen and Surodchana Khambao lifting 90kg at the Asian Championships in May this year.

European champion Mihaela Valentina Cambei (92kg) of Romania and North Korea's Ri Song Gum (91kg) are the other athletes to have snatched more than 90kg.

The Asian Games, starting in Hangzhou, China on September 23, will be the perfect opportunity for the star Indian lifter to successfully hoist 90kg or more.

"We are aiming to cross the 90kg mark (in snatch) at the Asian Games. It's been a while since we have been trying to get over that line," India head coach Vijay Sharma told PTI.

The former World Champion has prioritised the Asian Games this year as a medal in the con-

tinental event is the only silverware missing from her decorated trophy cabinet.

With two athletes each from weightlifting powerhouses like China and Thailand competing at the Asiad, Chanu will have to elevate her game to stand on the podium in Hangzhou.

Chanu had confessed that the 90kg lift had become somewhat of a mental block last year, ahead of the CWG. "To reach 96kg, it will take some time and it will be a little difficult for me. But I can reach 93-94kg," she said.

Zhihui holds the snatch world record – 96kg – in the lightest women's Olympic category, which is 8kg more than Chanu's personal best. "We have to keep in mind Mira's body as well. She is aging, and the chances of injuries increase with age. So we have to be careful with the workload," Sharma said.