



SELF APPRAISAL

Calling herself Greatest Of All Times (GOAT), Kangana Ranaut compares her with the vigilante superhero Batman

LEISURE P2



FUEL SKYROCKETS IN PAK

Amid double-digit inflation, Pakistan's caretaker government hikes fuel prices to a historic high - over 330 rupee per litre

INTERNATIONAL P10



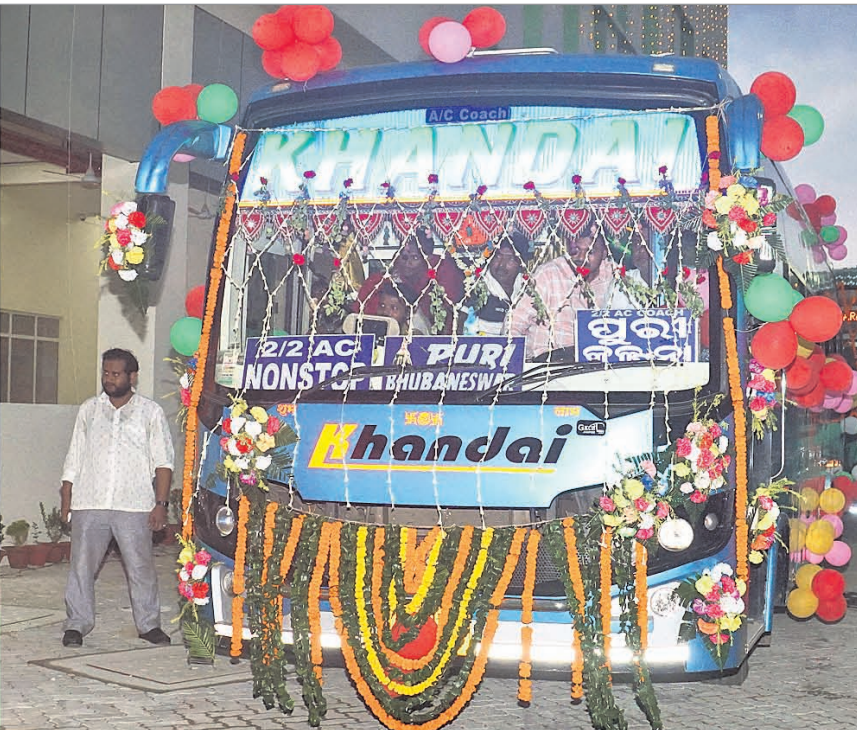
INDIA EYE TRIUMPH

India will look to end their 5-yr title drought in multi-nation events by winning the Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka

SPORTS P12



MARCHING AHEAD: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik flagging off the first bus at the newly-constructed Netaji Bus Terminal following the inauguration of the state-of-the-art commuter facility at Cuttack, Saturday (Report P3)



OP PHOTO

Gita Mehta no more

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: Daughter of legendary leader Biju Patnaik and eminent author, documentary film maker, and journalist Gita Mehta passed away in New Delhi, Saturday. She was 80.

She is survived by her only son Aditya Singh Mehta. Mehta was the elder sister of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and married to late Sonny Mehta, the former head of the Alfred A. Knopf publishing house.

Born in 1943 to Biju and Gyan Patnaik in New Delhi, she had her education in India and University of Cambridge in UK. She had penned five books: 'Karma Cola', 'Snake and Ladders', 'A River Sutra', 'Raj' and 'The Eternal Ganesha'.

She was adjudged for India's fourth highest civilian award the Padma Shri in 2019, which she had declined.



Mehta had produced and directed 14 television documentaries for UK, European and US networks. During the years 1970-1971, she was a television war correspondent for the US television network NBC. Her film compilation of the Bangladesh revolution, 'Dateline Bangladesh', was shown in cinemas both in India and abroad. Her books have been translated into 21 languages and been on the bestseller lists in Europe, the US and India.

Taking to X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has condoled Mehta's demise.

'ONE POLL' PANEL'S 1ST MEET SEPT 23: KOVIND

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: The first meeting of the high-level committee to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous polls will be held September 23, said former President Ram Nath Kovind, who heads it.

The government September 2 notified the eight-member committee to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and panchayats.

"The first meeting will take place September 23," Kovind told reporters here Saturday.

He was in Bhubaneswar to attend the convocation of a private university.

The Centre had earlier formed an eight-member committee chaired by Kovind to suggest changes to the Constitution for holding simultaneous elections.

The committee initially comprised Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, former leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and former Finance Commission chairman NK Singh as members. However, later Chowdhury withdrew from it protesting the exclusion of Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge from the committee.

The panel also includes former Lok Sabha Secretary General Subhash C Kashyap, senior advocate Harish Salve and former Chief Vigilance Commissioner Sanjay Kothari as members. It is learnt that Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal will attend the meetings of the committee as a special invitee.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



See, how he is refusing to engage with my lies, misinformation and hatred! A direct attack on my freedom of speech

WEATHER		
	BHUB	CTK
TEMP. MAX	31.3°C	32.5°C
TEMP. MIN	25.7°C	26.2°C
Humidity	92%	91%
Rainfall	Nil	6.1mm
Forecast	Cloudy sky with light rain	

No Mahanadi relief Speaker election Sept 22

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Sept 16: Four years, 11 months and 23 days after Odisha government moved the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal seeking to address the acute water crisis caused by barrages constructed by Chhattisgarh government, the tribunal Saturday disposed of Odisha's application for interim relief saying that as on date Odisha has no serious issue to be addressed that warrants an interim order.

A three-judge bench of the tribunal headed by retired Supreme Court judge justice AM Khanwilkar granted liberty to Odisha to take out a fresh application for further interim reliefs, if so advised, or to revive the present application if the situation so warrants in future.

Significantly, Odisha had filed the application October 9, 2018 seeking interim relief till the tribunal decided the Mahanadi River water sharing dispute between the riparian states. It pleaded with the tribunal to direct Chhattisgarh to maintain a minimum 1.74 million acre feet (MAF) flow of Mahanadi water during non-monsoon months (November-May) to Odisha at the border.

According to officials, Chhattisgarh has ensured on an average 1.328 MAF flow of water during non-monsoon months at Hirakud reservoir during 2018-19 and 2022-23. The upper riparian state had reduced the water flow to 0.787 MAF, 0.706 MAF and 0.776 MAF to Odisha during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively which compelled the Odisha government to move for an immediate relief. Odisha

WATER DISPUTE WITH CHHATTISGARH



Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal disposes of Odisha's plea for a stay on construction of barrages over the river by Chhattisgarh and specific flow of water during the non-monsoon months

had pointed out that if the rule of status quo is to be maintained, Chhattisgarh shall maintain at least 1.252 MAF flow of water during the pendency of the case.

The state government had submitted that there is acute shortage of water during non-monsoon months, and irrigation and power are badly hit due to this shortage. The application was heard extensively and Odisha also roped in a senior advocate and former attorney general of India for the arguments on its behalf. The state government paid

a whopping ₹1.14 crore for the services rendered by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi.

During Saturday's hearing, the tribunal also turned down the request by both the states for granting 12 weeks' time to submit the data for remaining appendices of common format information (CFI), 16 weeks for recording of evidence and 22 weeks for cross-examination of witnesses. It asked the states to file remaining appendices within four weeks.

The tribunal further proposed to proceed in the case on the basis of the common format information finalised by the assessors and said that it would take into consideration the appendices already submitted by the states including the further appendices or any additional material to be produced by them. The tribunal also asked concerned states to submit the list of witnesses to be examined by them within 10 days.

The case has been adjourned till October 19.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: With the opposition BJP and the Congress deciding to boycott the Odisha Assembly Speaker's election scheduled September 21 due to Nuakhai festival, the state government Saturday deferred the polling by a day.

The election for the post of Speaker will now be held at 9:30am September 22, the day on which the monsoon session of the Assembly will begin, an official said.

The House proceedings will start at 11am after the election, he said, adding that the post has remained vacant since BK Arukha resigned as the Speaker May 12.

The date for filing of nominations for the Speaker's post has also been rescheduled to

September 21 from September 18, sources said.

The government action came after both the opposition parties expressed their inability to participate in the Speaker's election as it coincided with Nuakhai festival, the agrarian festival of western Odisha.

Both the BJP and the Congress had also accused the BJD government of having a "step-motherly attitude" towards the people of western Odisha.

"Our MLAs will not attend the Speaker's election September 21 as it is held on the day of 'Bhet-Ghat', the day following Nuakhai festival. As the government has refused to change the date, we will boycott the Speaker's election," BJP MLA and party vice-president Nauri Naik had told reporters Friday.

Student suicide at NIT-Silchar 40 protesting students hurt in police action

AGENCIES

Guwahati, Sept 16: A third-year student of NIT-Silchar allegedly died by suicide on the campus, following which his classmates began a protest that eventually turned violent, prompting the police to lathicharge, in which 40 people were injured, officials said Saturday.

The body of the student, a native of Arunachal Pradesh, was found hanging in his hostel room Friday evening. Alleging that he was forced to die by suicide because of the actions of the college authority, his classmates stopped the police from taking down the body.

Two hours later, as the police managed to send the body for

post-mortem, the students began a demonstration in front of dean of academics BK Roy's official residence on the campus.

They alleged that Roy had insulted the victim who got six backlogs in his first semester examination, which was held online in 2021 because of the pandemic. Due to the lockdown, he was at home and failed to attend the online classes due to lack of internet connectivity, resulting in the backlog, they said.

He had appealed to the authorities to conduct a special examination so that he could clear the backlogs but Roy allegedly insulted him. Following this incident, he locked himself in his room and later his body was found hanging, they added.

Earlier, the Congress had also announced its decision to boycott the Speaker's election as it coincided with Bhet-Ghat of Nuakhai festival.

"The government usually declares a two-day holiday for Nuakhai festival. Since half of the Congress MLAs, who hail from western Odisha districts, will be busy celebrating Nuakhai festival in their respective areas, they will not be able to participate in the election," Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Narasingh Mishra had said.

Alleging "step-motherly attitude", Mishra had even called upon the people of western Odisha to protest the state government's decision to hold the Speaker's election on the day of Bhet-Ghat.

Pak court against reopening of Bhagat Singh case

AGENCIES

Lahore, Sept 16: A Pakistani court Saturday raised an objection to a plea to reopen the case of Independence war hero Bhagat Singh's sentencing in 1931 and to set it aside by exercising the principles of review and honour him with posthumous state awards.

Singh was hanged by the British rulers March 23, 1931, along with his comrades Rajguru and Sukhdev after being tried under charges of hatching a conspiracy against the British regime.

Singh was initially jailed for life but was later sentenced to death in another "fabricated case".

Saturday, the Lahore High Court (LHC) raised an objection to reopening the decade-old case and constitution of a larger bench to listen to the petition that pleads to set aside the sentence of Singh by exercising principles of review and order the government to honour him with posthumous state awards.

"The Lahore High Court Saturday raised an objection to reopen the Bhagat Singh case and constitution of a larger bench for its early hearing. The court objected that the petition is not maintainable for the constitution of a larger bench," Advocate Imtiaz Rashid Qureshi, chairman of the Bhagat Singh Memorial Foundation and one of the petitioners, told PTI.

Qureshi said that the petition of a panel of senior lawyers of which he is part has been pending in the LHC for a decade.

Musk plays spoiler in Google co-founder's marriage

AGENCIES

New York, Sept 16: Search engine giant Google's co-founder Sergey Brin quietly finalised his divorce from his wife Nicole Shanahan amid allegations of her affair with Elon Musk, Wall Street Journal reported.

According to sources, the judge signed off on the divorce May 26 this year. Brin had filed for divorce in January last year citing "irreconcilable differences" after three-year-long marriage. The duo had met at a yoga retreat in 2015, before tying the knot November 11, 2018 as per court documents. Two weeks later, Brin and Shanahan became parents to their girl child. Shanahan did not contest the divorce, but she asked the court to award her spousal support, the court papers said. They settled other is-



sues including lawyer fees and division of assets in confidential arbitration.

Notably, the two first started dating in 2015, when Brin finalised his divorce from his first wife, Anne Wojcicki, and eventually got married to Nicole



Shanahan in 2018, as reported by Business Insider.

However, they parted ways in 2021 after which Brin filed for divorce in 2022, citing "irreconcilable difference".

As per New York Post, he filed for divorce about a month after

Sergey Brin's wife Nicole Shanahan dubbed the scandal "utterly debilitating" and said that she was never even more than friends with Musk

his wife allegedly had a brief affair with Elon Musk, with whom he had been friends for years. However, both Musk and Shanahan denied their alleged affair.

"Sergey and I are friends and were at a party together last night. I've only seen Nicole twice in three years, both times with many other people around. Nothing romantic," he wrote on X, on July 25, 2022, in response

to a Wall Street Journal article. Shanahan dubbed the scandal "utterly debilitating". She insisted that she was never even more than friends with Musk.

"Did Elon and I have sex, like it was a moment of passion, and then it was over? No. Did we have a romantic relationship? No. We didn't have an affair," she claimed in July. However, the Wall Street Journal said that they are "confident in our sourcing, and we stand by our reporting."

The 50-year-old Google co-founder is the ninth richest person in the world with a net worth of \$118 billion, as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Shanahan, 34, is a California-based attorney and the founder and president of Bia-Echo Foundation, as per her profile in LinkedIn.

leisure



'DAD THOUGHT MODELLING A CODE FOR PROSTITUTION'

Supermodel Cindy Crawford admitted she initially struggled to convince her dad that she was on the path to a respectable career. "He thought modelling was, like, another name for prostitution," revealed Crawford on Apple TV+'s new documentary show The Super Models.

BLAC CHYNA CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF SOBRIETY

Top reality TV star Blac Chyna, who gave up alcohol in September 2022, can't believe how much her life has changed for the better since then. She wrote on Instagram: "This process is not easy but I did it, I plan on continuing practicing sobriety."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

Today ideas will flood your mind, but it is good that you will be able to carry them out efficiently. However, Ganesh warns you not to take rash decisions. Wise people will help you along the way. Pay heed to the advice of experienced people.

TAURUS

Your thinking is expected to be immensely clear and focused this day. So says Ganesh. This, therefore is a great day for holding important meetings with colleagues and partners, for resolving vital issues, for entering new business ties ups. Knowing what you want as well as how to get it will give you tremendous advantage.

GEMINI

A fun and frolic filled day awaits you. You will have a lot of fun with your family members, especially children. You will help your children with their work. Marital life will be blissful. Relations with your spouse will be romantic today. A pleasure filled day awaits, says Ganesh.

CANCER

There is a chance today to benefit from womenfolk. Though you are methodical and disciplined in your work, you will feel rudderless. Yet you will get relief from this monotony and feel jovial, says Ganesh.

LEO

You will not be able to reap the rewards of your hard work fully today. You will take all matters very seriously today. You will feel a sense of responsibility and will try to find lasting solutions to problems today. It is a good day to put to rest some worries that have been haunting you for some time now, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

You will enchant people with your adaptability and your desire to get with your surroundings. For those who are in love, something unexpected may take place, but there is no need to panic as by and by things will turn out to be in your interest. You will spend quality time with your family.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that for people you may appear to be a miser but when it comes to your closed ones you will never hold back or hesitate to spend. Today is a good day to take your loved ones shopping. You may overspend your budget but the spending will give you a feeling of happiness and contentment.

SCORPIO

You wish to make an image makeover in your office. You are tough and determined, and your work knows no limit when it comes to achieving your targets. You will love to brainstorm and give innovative ideas to colleagues and bosses. However, don't give away your best of ideas to anyone, advises Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Your far-sightedness and brilliance will not only impress your peers, but also help you to rope in big clients and huge projects. Cheers to that! Thanks to your systematic and disciplined approach, you are entitled to be the 'most desirable' employee of the company.

CAPRICORN

Singles, you may meet the one of your dreams today and plan about a future together. You will feel and enjoy the exciting feeling of meeting your life partner and letting your heart open in front of somebody, says Ganesh. All of this will not be one sided. Your sweetheart will also shower love and affection upon you unconditionally.

AQUARIUS

You will spend the day introspecting, but the mental peace will still seem distant. Some unavoidable circumstances will force you to handle the situations with diligence, feels Ganesh. Due to your devotion to the Almighty and spiritualism, you will be able to deal with problems pretty well.

PISCES

You will find favourable conditions at work as you co-ordinate with your colleagues and seniors to tackle tough problems. You will be able to get the desirable results for all the effort you put in, in the office, says Ganesh. Those engaging in business will be able to make some strong and useful contacts today which will be handy in the future.

Kangana calls herself GOAT

Mumbai: Actor Kangana Ranaut took to Instagram and talked about being perceived as 'mannerless' and talented at the same time by her colleagues, including filmmaker Hansal Mehta and actor Zeeshan Ayyub. Agreeing with them, she called herself the 'greatest of all times' aka GOAT. She compared herself with the vigilante superhero Batman. Kangana wrote, "This is something everyone can agree, despite political differences that I am very mannerless, violent, extremist, I am spoiled and stubborn; I'm also dangerously talented like Greatest Of All Times kind. This is called being Batman, I am him." Kangana also shared clips from Hansal and Zeeshan's interviews where the two talked about her. Hansal, who had a fallout with Kangana during their film Simran, told a news channel, "She is a wonderful actress. There have been maybe only a few actresses in India like Kangana. Her work in the past has been fantastic. Even though Simran was a weak film, but you can't fault Kangana's performance in the film." She will be next seen in Chandramukhi 2, followed by Tejas in October. She also has Emergency in the pipeline.

SRK's respect for women wins hearts

Mumbai: Shah Rukh Khan is popular not just for his super-stardom, memorable performances, stellar filmography and sense of humour but also for his deep respect for women. At the success press meet of Jawan, SRK opened up about this aspect. The DDLJ star was asked about his chemistry with Nayanthara and how he manages to look so good with all his heroines. Shah Rukh flashed his million-dollar smile at this question and said, "I'll be very honest. People who create characters - the writers, the directors, the chief assistants, some of Atlee's boys and girls like Shilpi, Raghav, Manoj etc - all of them have a lot of respect for women. It stems obviously from Atlee sir: They have a lot of respect for women. So, when people who respect women write love scenes, I think they just flower themselves. All say SRK does well in romantic scenes. But I have always maintained that if you respect women, the scenes automatically become good." The audience clapped loudly at this statement. He clarified, "Nayan ji's character says in the film that she has a nine-year-old daughter. The father of the child declines to marry her only if she goes for an abortion. She refuses. I think that empowerment, that feeling of women being so strong, that strength itself made us feel that prem kahaani khud hi ho jaati hai. How can you not love for a character like Narmada? You'd love them naturally!"

'Was taught to call a spade a spade'

Mumbai: Enjoying the success of the blockbuster film Gadar 2, Ameesha Patel says that her brazen honesty may have cost her films but never friendships. "I was taught to call a spade a spade. With me, what you see is what you get," says the actress. Her honesty isn't just limited to work. She shares, "I have never hidden a relationship, break-up, or make-up, whether with my family, friends, or romantic involvements. Such has been my upbringing." The actress shares it was her grandmother who instilled in her the sense of owning up to her true self. "She would say, the path might be tougher for honest people, but it's a surer path. It's a longer route to success because you don't play dirty games with people to get your way, but you sleep well at night," she says. The Gadar 2 actress, who has seen her share of highs and lows in her career, says that irrespective of the films she landed or lost out on, she didn't align with any camp or banner. "I don't backbite, speak ill, or gossip about colleagues from the industry. I don't idle gossiping and backbiting because that's not why I am here. Some camps thrive on it, but I can't. I can't put someone down to bring myself up," added the actress.

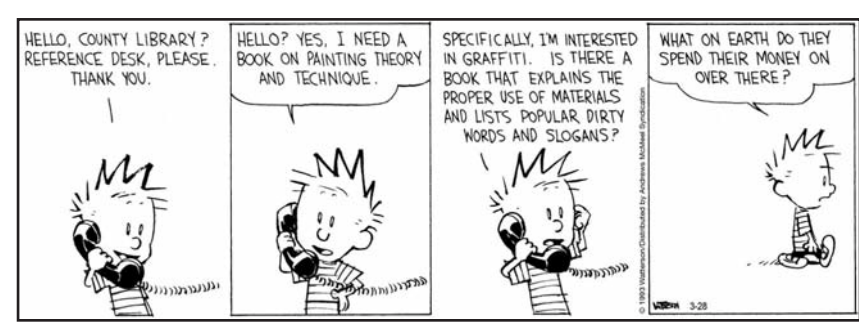
Priyanka can't live without desi food

Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra lives abroad but she definitely can't live without her desi Indian food. Be it her breakfast, lunch or dinner, she always makes sure to add Indian touch to her meals. Saturday, she relished her favourite poha while travelling on a flight. Taking to Instagram Story, Priyanka dropped a picture of a bowl filled with mouthwatering poha prepared with loads of veggies. "Thank you @hungryempire for my favourite breakfast.. poha for the win!" she captioned the post. Priyanka has often expressed her love for poha. Last year, she gave a glimpse of her morning breakfast in LA that made her remember her days in Mumbai. She posted a picture of poha on her Instagram stories with the caption, "Poha in LA that took me back to Mumbai!" while adding folded hands and heart emojis beside it. Poha is one of the favourite breakfast foods in many parts of India. It has many health benefits. Being rich in fibre, poha promotes a slow and steady release of sugar into the blood stream, thereby preventing any sudden spikes in blood sugar levels. It is also light on the stomach and can be easily digested. Meanwhile, on the work front, Priyanka recently came up with Citadel, which is created by The Russo Brothers.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

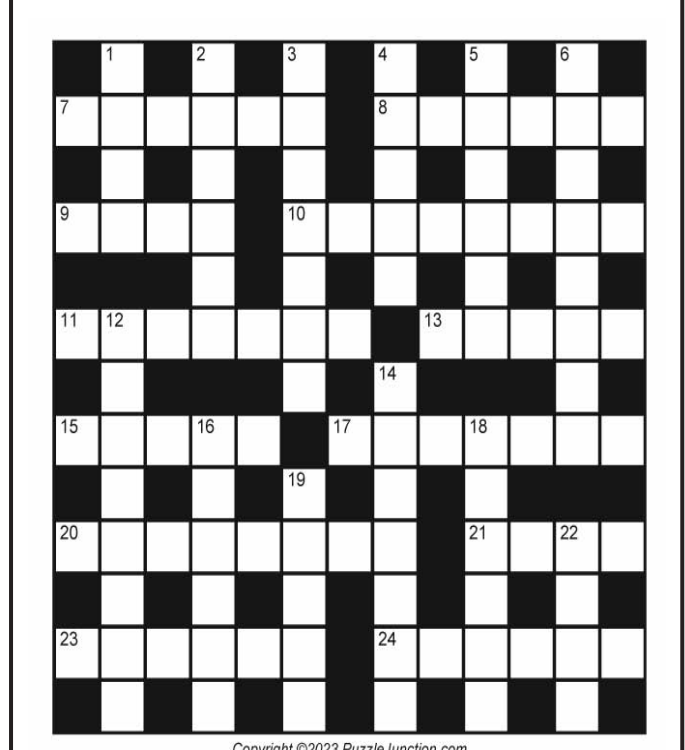


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Ungroomed
 - 8 Lucky charm
 - 9 Ship to Colchis
 - 10 BB gun (3,5)
 - 11 Jeopardise
 - 13 Barrel part
 - 15 PABA and aqua regia, e.g.
 - 17 Fishermen
 - 20 Fragrant
 - 21 Extinct bird
 - 23 Small amount
 - 24 Kind of monkey
- Down
- 1 Norse thunder god
 - 2 Brush aside
 - 3 Egyptian monument
 - 4 Loiter
 - 5 Olde worlde
 - 6 Fall down (4,4)
 - 12 Coconut cookie
 - 14 Symbol of purity
 - 16 Chin feature, at times
 - 18 Painter's tool
 - 19 Method
 - 22 Tambour

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

M	I	L	K	A	C	M	E	D	U	D
A	E	F	H	S	E	E	U			
T	E	M	P	U	R	A	T	I	F	S
O	N	U	N	I	T	I	K			
L	O	N	G	D	I	S	T	A	N	C
U	S	A	D	P	A	R	R	I	A	
H	I	E	E	A						
B	L	A	B	B	E	R	M	O	U	T
E	E	B		A	N					
C	A	M	E	L	P	E	R	S	I	A
H	O	M	E	U	E	F	I			
O	V	A	S	A	B	U	L	F	Y	N

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

₹100cr fund boost for Odisha startups

STARTUP ODISHA LAUNCHES OSGP WITH SIDBI AS FUND MANAGER TO BOLSTER STATE'S STARTUP ECOSYSTEM



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: The Odisha Startup Growth Fund (OSGP) with an initial corpus of ₹100 crore was launched by Startup Odisha here, Saturday to bolster the MSME sector and fund entrepreneurs to harness the startup ecosystem in the state. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will act as the fund manager, Startup Odisha officials said.

The fund for startup founders will be perpetual in nature. As when the initial corpus is exhausted, the state government will consistently keep it replenishing, ensuring long-term support for startups, they added. Speaking on the occasion, de-

velopment commissioner cum additional chief secretary Anu Garg said, "Our endeavour through fund is to make Odisha the preferred destination for entrepreneurs. We are paving the way for innovation to flourish, startups to thrive, and the MSME ecosystem to grow even stronger. In this dynamic environment, Startup Odisha is adding to the inclusiveness of the Odisha growth story."

Omkar Rai, executive chairman, Startup Odisha said the fund marks a pivotal moment in the mission to foster a vibrant startup ecosystem in Odisha. "We are dedicated to providing our state's startups with essential financial backing required for growth. This fund symbolizes our unwavering commitment to

nurturing innovation, catalysing job creation, and propelling our startups to succeed both at national and global levels," he said. Managing director of SIDBI, S Ramann said, "Through financial support and guidance, we will empower startups to thrive as well as make significant contributions to Odisha's economic landscape." He said SIDBI is aiming to continue to act as a catalyst to mobilise domestic capital for country's startup ecosystem.

Established by the state government as part of its 'Fund of Funds' initiative, the OSGF will invest ₹100 crore over five years through Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) in Odisha-based startups. It is set to play a crucial role in bolstering the MSME sector that contributes 33 per cent to India's GDP and generates over 120 million jobs.

OSGF operates as a Fund-of-Funds vehicle, designed to offer co-investment assistance along with centralized tracking and implementation mechanism. The financial instruments used by the fund prioritise equity or quasi-equity investments to nurture long-term growth and sustainability within the ecosystem.

Loan fraud allegation against Soumya

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: A former district correspondent of Odia daily Sambad Saturday leveled serious allegations of loan fraud and exploitation of staffers against the proprietor of Eastern Media Limited and Khandapada MLA Soumya Ranjan Patnaik. The head of Human Resources (HR) department, Baijyanti Kar and other staffers of the media house have also been mentioned as accomplices in the crime in the complaint of the former staffer which was lodged by his advocate with the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Crime Branch, Saturday.

He alleged that the loan fraud was committed at State Bank of India's Cuttack Mangalabag branch, Arunodaya market branch, Bhopur branch at Behrampur, Sambalpur evening branch, Balasore Industrial Estate branch, Jaipur evening branch, Angul and Rourkela Industrial Estate branches as well as the Jayadev Vihar branch of Odisha Gramya Bank. He also alleged that one of the managers at the Arunodaya market branch of SBI had received a Maruti 800 car from Soumya Ranjan in return of the loan deal. Many employees of finance and HR departments of the media house are involved in the fraud, the complainant alleged. He stated that he joined Sambad in 2015 as a district correspondent at a salary of Rs 12,600. Few days after joining, the HR official directed him over telephone to take a bank loan. The official allegedly forced him to avail the loan saying it was Soumya's instruction and he would be dismissed from job if he refused to comply. Later, when he spoke to colleagues at Sambad, he found many of them had been forced to seek loans from banks under duress. The complainant alleged he was asked to report at Sambad office in Rasulgarh. One of the employees there took him to Jaydev Vihar branch of the Odisha Gramya Bank where his signatures were taken on

different documents without his consent. The employee who accompanied him to the bank also took six blank cheques from the complainant. Later, a loan was passed and a cheque book issued in his name. The employee allegedly made the complainant sign all cheques in the book which the accompanying Sambad employee took away. The complainant alleged he was kept in dark about the sanctioned loan amount and purpose for the availing the loan. On inquiring with the bank, he found the loan amount to be Rs 5 lakh. Afterwards, he was again summoned to Sambad office where the accounts department gave him Rs 40,000 telling him that Soumya had asked him to buy a motorcycle using the money. Later, the employee alleged, he was in for a shock when an EMI amount started getting deducted from his salary in lieu of the loan. He further alleged that the HR official again took him to the SBI branch at Mangalabag in Cuttack and made him seek another loan of an undisclosed amount. Bank officials later told him that the loanee's name had been fraudulently changed to Eastern Media Limited instead of him, he alleged. Meanwhile, the EOW has reportedly started an investigation into the allegations leveled by the former Sambad employee following receipt of the complaint.

Vaishnav visiting today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: Union Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnav will visit the state, Sunday. During his visit, Vaishnav will attend the MSME programme at Railway Auditorium at Chandrasekharpur here and perform the Vishwakarma Yajana. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the programme through video conferencing from New Delhi. In an effort to promote cleanliness and hygiene, Vaishnav will participate in the Swachhata Abhiyan Drive aboard a local train, travelling from Bhubaneswar to Cuttack. He will interact with the passengers during the journey. Subsequent rainfall has a

Global warming: Wet-hot extremes, not dry-hot, will prevail

Simultaneous rainfall and heat extremes will become more frequent, severe and widespread due to climate change, more so than dry-hot conditions, scientists say. For every 1 degree Celsius rise in temperature, the air's capacity to hold moisture increases by 6 to 7 per cent. The hot-and-humid air, thus, makes more water available to fall as rain, making wet-hot extremes likelier, the scientists said in their study published in the journal Earth's Future. Events such as floods and landslides could become frequent because under wet-hot conditions, the heat waves first dry out the soil, thereby reducing its ability to absorb water.

harder time penetrating the soil and instead runs along the surface, contributing to flooding, landslides and ruining crop yields, they said. Wet-hot extremes will also cover a larger area and be more severe than dry-hot extremes, they projected. While regions such as South Africa, the Amazon and parts of Europe are expected to become drier, many regions, including the eastern United States, eastern and southern Asia, Australia and central Africa, will receive more precipitation; the researchers found using climate models under current emissions scenario. The regions likely to be hit hard by such "compound climate extremes" include many



NEW BEGINNING: The swanky Netaji Bus Terminal in Cuttack glittering with the evening sky in the backdrop following its inauguration Saturday

Chief Minister inaugurates Netaji Bus Terminal

AGENCIES

Cuttack, Sept 16: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the state-of-the-art Netaji Bus Terminal here Saturday. The sprawling terminal is constructed by the state government on 15 acres of land at Khannagar on the Kathajodi river banks with a budget of ₹90 crore. The Chief Minister had laid the foundation stone for the terminal on the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose January 23, 2021. The terminal, equipped with all modern facilities including

bus bays and designated parking place for hassle-free movement of passengers, can accommodate as many as 190 buses, including 52 long journey buses and 20 Mo Buses. It has a three-storey main building with elevated concourse, large waiting halls, executive lounges, space for business meetings and three dedicated elevators for passengers. Two separate air-conditioned dormitories for men and women passengers have been set up for their convenience. The dormitories can accommodate up to 120 passengers. The first ultra modern air

conditioned Aahaar centre has also come up at the bus terminal to offer passengers on journey subsidised meals in an ambient atmosphere. As many as 1,000 people can dine at the Aahaar centre at a time. The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) has spent ₹1.8 crore for this purpose. Besides, the terminal also hosts three restaurants for the passengers. The Chief Minister also inaugurated and laid stones for projects worth ₹541 crore in the Silver City. He inaugurated 10 projects worth ₹341 crore and laid stones for four others worth ₹200 crore. Other than the bus ter-

minal, he dedicated Mahanadi campus of Ravenshaw University being built at ₹66.5 crore, a new library at National Law University built with a cost of ₹30 crore, new building of DAV SCB Medical Public School, housing project for economically weaker section people at Naranpur built for ₹88.31 crore and redeveloped Silver City Boat Club. Patnaik also inaugurated Taladanda canal front development, food court and water sports zone at the canal, urban haat near Malgudown, Ranihaat clock tower and a bridge over Taladanda canal during his visit to the city.

GPPL GIVEN LAND FOR PORT EXPANSION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: State Commerce and Transport department Saturday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gopalpur Port Private Limited (GPPL) handing over 119.71 acre land for further development and expansion of the port. The MoU was signed by ports director Padmalochan Roul in presence of Minister Tukuni Sahu, Transport commissioner Amitav Thakur and department special secretary Sanjay Kumar Mishra. Notably, the Gopalpur Port was operated by the state as a seasonal lighterage port from 1986-87. Then it was given to Gopalpur Ports Private Limited to transform it to an all-weather direct berthing port in public private partnership mode. The Concession Agreement between the government and GPPL was signed September 14, 2006. Currently, the port has three berths built over length of 800m to accommodate multiple vessels with annual cargo handling capacity of 20MMT and it has generated employment opportunity for 8,000 locals. In the first phase of the port expansion plan, 393.67 acre had been handed over to GPPL.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit honours for 4 Odias



Ananda Bag, Gobinda Chandra Pal

New Delhi, Sept 16: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar conferred one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards to four artists from Odisha on the occasion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' at Vigyan Bhawan here, Saturday. The Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit awards were conferred to Sidheswar Das, 94, for his contribution in the field of Chhau dance, Anant Mahapatra, 86, for overall contribution to theatre, Ananda Bag, 82, in the field of folk music (Brahma Veena) and Gobinda Chandra Pal, 76, in the field of Odissi dance (Gotipua). The Vice President conferred the awards to a total of 84 artists

from the field of performing arts of India who are above 75-years-old and haven't been accorded any national honour in their career so far. Significantly, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards is a national honour bestowed on performing artists as well as teachers and scholars in the field of performing arts. The recipients are selected by the Akademi's General Council, comprising distinguished musicians, dancers, theatre artists and scholars in these disciplines and nominees of the government of India, state governments, and Union Territories. The honour carries a purse money of ₹1,00,000 besides a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

'One poll' committee 1st meet Sept 23: Kovind

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: The first meeting of the high-level committee to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous polls will be held September 23, said former President Ram Nath Kovind, who heads it. The government September 2 notified the eight-member committee to examine and make recommendations for holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and panchayats. "The first meeting will take place September 23," Kovind told reporters here Saturday. He was in Bhubaneswar to attend the convocation of a private university. The Centre had earlier formed an eight-member committee chaired by Kovind to suggest changes to the Constitution for holding simultaneous elections. The committee initially comprised Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, former leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and former Finance Commission chairman NK Singh as members. However, later Chowdhury withdrew from it protesting the exclusion of Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge from the committee. The panel also includes former Lok Sabha Secretary General Subhash C Kashyap, senior advocate Harish Salve and former Chief Vigilance Commissioner Sanjay Kothari as members.



heavily populated areas already prone to geologic hazards, such as landslides and mudflows, and which produce many of the world's crops. "These compound climate extremes have attracted considerable attention in recent decades

- Events such as floods and landslides could become frequent because under wet-hot conditions, the heat waves first dry out the soil, thereby reducing its ability to absorb water
- Wet-hot extremes will also cover a larger area and be more severe than dry-hot extremes, researchers have projected
- While regions such as South Africa, the Amazon and parts of Europe are expected to become drier, many regions, including eastern and southern Asia will receive more precipitation

vidual extreme events alone," said Haijiang Wu, lead researcher, Northwest A&F University, China. The European floods of 2021 are an example of the world already experiencing wet-hot extremes. That summer, record high temperatures dried out the soil. Soon after, heavy rainfall poured across the parched soil's surface and triggered massive landslides and flash floods, washing away houses and claiming lives. Climate adaptation strategies should thus account for wet-hot conditions. "If we overlook the risk of compound wet-hot extremes and fail to take sufficient early warning, the impacts on water-food-energy security would be unimaginable," said Wu.

EOW grills Z Estates realtor



GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of state Crime Branch Saturday grilled noted realtor and owner of Z Estates Private Limited, Tapan Kumar Mohanty reportedly in connection with a complaint lodged by the Z One Apartment welfare association. Mohanty was earlier summoned by the EOW to appear Saturday for questioning.

■ Z One Apartment welfare association members reportedly alleged that the real estate company did not deposit the Goods and Services Tax to the tune of ₹5 crore collected from consumers

than three hours of interrogation. When the media persons tried to get his comments, he refused to say anything regarding the interrogation and EOW summon.

Sources claimed the welfare association and the authorities of Z Estates Private Limited have been at loggerheads over several issues related to the Z One Apartments located at Raghunathpur area for the past several years. Both the parties have also registered separate cases in this regard at differ-

ent police stations of the City. The association members have reportedly alleged that the real estate company did not deposit the Goods and Services Tax to the tune of ₹5 crore collected from consumers. The company had secured the approval for the construction of housing project on a land measuring around 26 acres at Raghunathpur around 12 years back.

They also accused the company of constructing new apartments on the same land by illegally occupying the community place which should have been transferred to association as per the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act.

The association also alleged that Z Estates Private Limited has not provided amenities including gym, club and swimming pool as per the brochure for which the company had collected money from them.



STAGING PROTEST: Members of Odisha Pharmacist Seba Sangh hold a demonstration at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Saturday seeking fulfillment of their 5-point charter of demands

Curtains down on 'One Week One Lab'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: One Week One Lab programme concluded at CSIT-IMMT here Saturday. The programme was held from September 11.

CSIR-IMMT Director Ramanuj Narayan, said, "The aim of this program is to create awareness about the available technologies, in the areas of Minerals, Materials and Environmental Sustainability, and services present at CSIR-IMMT among potential stakeholders. These technologies help in providing solutions to industrial partners, societal problems, and develop the scientific temperament among the masses, especially students who are the future bud-



ding scientists of the country. Speaking on this occasion, chief guest Debashish Bhattacharjee, vice president Technology and R&D, Tata Steel said, "It's an exceedingly important role that CSIR needs to continue to play strongly. I am sure with this initiative, dynamic leadership and the passion that we see the CSIR Labs will play this important role. But in order to play this role we, you and I together need to bear few things in mind.

Mahanadi waters inundate parts of state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: Low-lying areas in Cuttack, Boudh and Sambalpur districts of Odisha have been inundated as 4.55 lakh cusecs of water were released through 26 sluice gates of Hirakud Dam, officials said Saturday.

The Hirakud Dam authorities were forced to release the excess water as the reservoir received 4.50 lakh cusecs of water from the upper catchment areas in neighbouring Chhattisgarh, they said.

With the release of the water, the water level downstream of Mahanadi at Mundali in Cuttack district swelled to 7 lakh cusecs Saturday afternoon, inundating



parts of Banki and Athagarh areas in the district. Water Resources department engineer-in-chief Bhakta Ranjan Mohanty, however, claimed there was no fear of floods in the Mahanadi River system.

"Some low-lying areas have been inundated but those were not floods. The passage of 7 lakh cusecs of water through Mundali is manageable," he said.

He claimed that the present situation was due to heavy rainfall in both upstream and downstream of Mahanadi.

"We are operating the gates of Hirakud as per the inflow from the upstream of Mahanadi. As of now, there is no flood threat in Odisha. We are monitoring the situation and working in coordination with the Special Relief Commissioner

(SRC)," Mohanty said. According to the SRC's office, the water level at Hirakud reservoir stands at 627 feet against its optimum capacity of 630 feet. An alert has been sounded in districts downstream of Mahanadi.

With the increase in water level in Mahanadi, agricultural fields in six panchayats in Banki block of Cuttack district have been inundated and water was flowing two feet above Hulhula bridge in the block, revenue department officials said.

Also, road communication between Subarnapur and Banki has been snapped and a similar situation was reported in different panchayats in Tigiria block, they said.

The Mahanadi waters have also inundated the road between Sambalpur and Sonepur, another official said, adding fresh rain in Bolangir and Kalahandi added to the woes.

Meanwhile, thundershowers occurred in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack Saturday evening, causing water-logging in several areas.

Met officials said Odisha has recorded 217.1 mm of rainfall between September 1 and 16 against the monthly average of 231.9 mm. In the last 24 hours, 25 blocks have recorded rainfall of more than 10 mm with the highest of 45.4 mm at Reamal block in Deogarh district.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

Before Executive Magistrate, Berhampur, Ganjam, I, Gorakala Tumbanath (38), S/o Late Gorakala Duryodhan, Badasahi, Paluru, P.O.-Mantridi, P.S.-Golanthara, Ganjam as per my Aadhaar No. xxxxxx 7629 but my passport (No. J9370844) issued dated 22.06.2011 wrongly mentioned as Garabila Tumbanath. Both Garabila Tumbanath and Gorakala Tumbanath one and same person. This affidavit submitted before Passport Office, Bhubaneswar for correction my name and issued new passport which required my future needful purposes.

By virtue of an affidavit before the Executive Magistrate, Bonai on Dtd.11.09.2023, I, Bichitra Ranjan Sahu, S/o. Sanatan Sahu, Vill.: Kantasara, P.O.: Kenaveta, P.S.: Bonai, Dist.: Sundargarh, declare that I am the Proprietor of M/s. Khandadhar Mineral Water Project at Dharanidiharpali. The Money Receipt issued by WESCO, Burla in favour of me bearing No. A 34850008, Dtd.03.09.2023 has been lost in transit while I was returning from Rourkela to my native place Kantasara on Dtd.08.09.2023 and it could trace it out after my several efforts. I have informed missing of this Money Receipt to the Bonai PS. Hence, this affidavit.

Workshop held on WASH Financing



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: The Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM), in partnership with Water.org and Unicef, organised a workshop on sustainable WASH Financing in Bhubaneswar Saturday.

Addressing the participants, Unicef Odisha Chief William Hanlon Jr. said, "Utilising WASH financing serves as an alternative and a supplementary approach to tackle persistent WASH challenges in the community." He further added, "This is the right time to expand the reach of this approach, thus empowering more communities to achieve an improved quality of life."

About 6,000 members across the self-help groups in six intensive districts have been trained on alternative financing. About 13,000 loans worth ₹14 crore have been sanctioned exceeding the annual target of ₹12,084

About 6,000 members across the self-help groups (SHGs) in six intensive districts have been trained on alternative financing. About 13,000 loans worth ₹14 crore have been sanctioned exceeding the annual target of ₹12,084.

Odisha Livelihoods Mission SMD-cum-CEO N Thirumala Naik, emphasised that communities and institutions must actively raise awareness for sustainable WASH practices. With almost 7 million households benefitting from the Odisha Livelihood Mission under the Mission Shakti Department, this initiative might help the state achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6).

Manoj Gulati, Regional Director, South Asia, Water.org mentioned "This workshop is a testament to our commitment to extending access to clean water and sanitation to more communities in Odisha through WASH financing project. It reflects the significant progress achieved in our mission and underscores our dedication to sustainability."

The workshop aimed to facilitate the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and success stories while highlighting the remarkable work undertaken by OLM, Water.org, and Unicef in advancing access to clean drinking water and sanitation through an innovative WASH financing approach.

CME group to provide digital tech training to KIIT students

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: KIIT-DU and CME Group, the world's leading derivatives marketplace, Thursday signed an MoU to drive core technological and financial competencies among students for the job market.

CME Group will offer internship opportunities for undergraduates of KIIT-DU and provide them with training in the areas of digital technology and finance.

KIIT & KISS fonder Achyuta Samanta said there is a great demand for digital technology talent and this collaboration with CME Group provides an amazing opportunity for our students to comprehend complex technology challenges and industry best practices.

He said "We are proud to collaborate with CME Group and expand the learning opportunities offered to our students".

Pro-Vice Chancellor, KIIT-DU Saranjit Singh said "Our Industry Engagement Programme is a step in that direction and we are excited to



collaborate with global technology companies like CME Group". Executive Director, Referential Data Services, CME Group Prabhuram Duraiswami said the agreement with KIIT-DU is the first-of-its-kind for CME Group in India.

"We are excited to collaborate with KIIT-DU to provide further education and internship opportunities to students in India," he said.

The MoU will provide students with an industry-oriented experience, enabling them to work on practical and capstone projects aligned closely to industry requirements along with the senior technology leaders and learn from their professional experience.

VSSUT, VIBHA MARK ENGINEER'S DAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 16: Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla in Sambalpur district in collaboration with the Odisha Vigyan Mandal (VIBHA) Saturday orchestrated a captivating showcase of live working models, highlighting the essence of electromechanics and coding, the foundational pillars of engineering.

The programme served as a spark to the batch of 2023, who had their orientation programme Friday.

The event was held at the Biju Patnaik E-learning Centre, commemorating the birth anniversary of M Visvesvaraya, in honour of whom Engineer's Day is celebrated in India. Dignitaries, including Vedbhushan, IAS (SMC, Commissioner), and Prof Bansidhar Majhi, Vice-Chancellor of VSSUT, graced the occasion, in which faculty members, staff and students were present.

ODISHA STARTUP YATRA

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 16: Odisha Startup Xpress, a flagship initiative of the state government to nurture entrepreneurial mindset in the state at grass-root level, has received and collected more than 540 ideas in just 5 days, with participation from 5,618 students across 47 colleges and 12 schools. Saturday, the startup vans visited 8 colleges and 2 schools of Cuttack and received 72 ideas with participation from 858 students.

In Cuttack, the Yatra covered eight educational institutes namely Ajay Binay Institute of Technology (ABIT),

Over 500 ideas received in five days



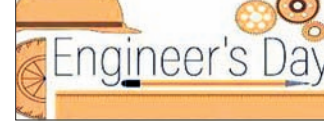
Ravenshaw University, Shaila Bala Women's university, Udayanath Autonomous College of Science & Technology, Govt ITI Cuttack, DRIEMS College, Ganapati Institute of Engineering and Technology (Polytechnic) & Madhusudan Law University. Meanwhile, Startup Xpress visited

Cambridge School and Bidanasi Municipality High school. Odisha Startup Yatra & Xpress, taking its journey forward will tour three coastal districts namely Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Puri from September 18 (Monday) to foster entrepreneurship and innovation at district level.

During this tour, Odisha Startup Yatra & Xpress will cover four colleges and one school of Puri namely XIM University (Puri), SCS Autonomous College, Government ITI, College of Pharmaceutical Sciences and St Xavier High School respectively. In Kendrapara, district the vans will visit

Kendrapara Autonomous College and St Joseph's School, whereas in Jagatsinghpur district it will visit Suddhananda Vidyalaya, SVM Autonomous College and Paradeep College.

After remarkable achievements in the past edition, this year Odisha Startup Yatra aims to leap forward by visiting 200+ colleges and 60+ schools thus impacting 25,000+ students. With a core focus on guiding and empowering young minds at the grassroot level in the realms of innovation and entrepreneurship, the initiatives seek to equip them for harnessing the ample opportunities within the startup ecosystem.



The programme commenced with a plantation drive. The heart of the event consisted of quizzes that tested the knowledge of participants on the works of renowned scientists, infusing an educational spirit into the celebration. The highly enthusiastic audience displayed their wit and wisdom, making the quizzes an engaging and enlightening experience.

As the curtains came down on this electrifying event, VSSUT extended its heartfelt wishes and motivation to the younger generation. They were encouraged to harness their skills and talents to serve the nation and contribute to its betterment.

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PERILOUS PROPOSITION

Boat Rules thrown to winds at river ghats of Kendrapara



POST NEWS NETWORK

Kendrapara, Sept 16: There are no bridges to connect as many as 17 panchayats in the coastal Kendrapara district which has seven rivers and 27 rivulets flowing through its territory. People in these panchayats have no other option but to depend on boats, most of the times overloaded, to move from one place to another.

Despite the district witnessing several incidents of boat capsizing claiming many lives in the past, the boat safety rules have been thrown to the wind as they travel onboard the boats without life jackets. As a result, boat rides have become a risky proposition for the residents as well as for scores of tourists visiting various tourist destinations in this coastal district.

There are 63 major river ghats from where boats ply one after another to various destinations. A quick check by this correspondent established that not even a single person in any of the boats wears a life jacket.

The state government has framed boat rules for passengers' safety but the owners and boatmen continue to flout the rules and carry passengers in their boats without any life jackets. Moreover, fishing boats are being used to carry passengers to their destinations and to various tourist sites in the

tion as those have not been insured under the Boat Rules.

Meanwhile, over 60 boats lacking fitness are plying inside the Bhitarkanika National Park.

A villager Narendra Kumar Das of Gupti village under Rajnagar block said there are over 1,700 crocodiles in various water bodies in and around Bhitarkanika. The boats from Gupti, Chandbali, Khola, Jaynagar, Kharinasi, Bahakud and Jambu areas ply in these water bodies. What is worse is that, many of the boatmen are even minors.

The boatmen ferry more passengers overloading their boats due to lure of money putting the life of these passengers at risk. However, the district administration has failed to take any action against them.

Bibhuti Bhushan Rout of Mahakalapara said a fishing trawler capsized in a river under Talchua police limits of Rajnagar block, June 16, 2022 in which one person drowned while 12 persons were rescued.

Similarly, five labourers had a close shave after a boat overturned near Pitapata of Mahakalapara block, June 19, 2020. At the same spot, a boat carrying cricket players from neighbouring Jagatsinghpur district had capsized following which 13 budding cricketers lost their lives, March 1, 2013.

Similarly, 10 women and children died after a boat capsized at Nipania, January 2, 2019. Delay in construction of bridges has become another reason of increasing boat mishaps. The construction of bridges at Bahakud and Kharinasi are underway but yet to be completed. Similarly, boat is the only mode of transport at many places during the rainy season.

When contacted, ADM Pitambar Samal said awareness programmes are being conducted for the boatmen and action is taken against the boat owner and boatmen if they are found flouting rules.

OVER 60 BOATS LACKING FITNESS ARE PLYING INSIDE THE BHITARKANIKA NATIONAL PARK

Bhitarkanika National Park. Lack of action on part of the district administration has only emboldened them to carry on their illegal business with impunity.

Social activist Pratap Kumar Padhi said that over 17 panchayats including Padanipal, Ekamania, Singhagaon, Batighar are surrounded by rivers and nullahs. Tourists visiting the sites like Hukitola, Havelikhati, Batighar and Barunei in and around the Bhitarkanika National Park are not spared from the serious life threat lurking behind them.

He alleged that despite small country boats being the primary mode of transport in this district, but the state government's Boat Rules 2004 are yet to be implemented in the district.

Another social activist Rashmi Ranjan Swain said many boats and boatmen have not been insured as per Boat Rules yet. They even carry passengers lacking in fitness. In case of any mishap, the passengers travelling in boats are not entitled to compensa-

Man killed in clash

Sambalpur: A 30-year-old man was allegedly killed in a clash in Sambalpur district Saturday, police said. A clash took place between two groups over a dispute regarding the collection of puja donation in Katapali in Burla police station area Friday night, a police officer said. The two groups clashed again Saturday, when one person died after being hit with bamboo sticks while another person was injured, a police officer said, adding a motorcycle was also set on fire in the incident. Burla SDPO S Dash said the injured is being treated at VIMSAR, Burla and further investigation is underway.

Youth held for patricide

Berhampur: A youth thrashed his father to death for denying him money to purchase liquor at Kumarpur village under Kukudakhandi block in Ganjam, Friday night. The deceased was identified as Ramesh Pradhan and his accused son as Damodar Pradhan of the village. Informed, police reached the spot and rushed the Ramesh to MKCG Medical College and Hospital here in critical condition but doctors declared him dead on arrival. Police registered a case over a complaint filed by the deceased's daughter Nirmla and seized the murder weapon - a wooden plant, SDPO Shiba Shankar Mohapatra said.

7 fresh cases of scrub typhus in Sundargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 16: With the detection of seven more cases of scrub typhus in Sundargarh district Saturday, the district is certainly witnessing a rise in the number of affected patients but the situation is not alarming, an official said adding that with a little caution and awareness, it will not become widespread.

Sundargarh CDMO Kanhucharan Nag Saturday downplayed any fear about the disease resulting from the bite of a bug. "There is nothing to fear about it because this is curable with doxycycline and azithromycin. But one needs to be a little cautious when someone is going to the jungle, farmland or garden.

The only death in the district so far cannot be ascribed to scrub

typhus, because the deceased had issues with his kidney and liver. "We treated him with usual medicines for the disease but he succumbed to other complications he had," Nag said.

Tests are being done at Rourkela Government Hospital and Sundargarh District Headquarters Hospital. "So far 169 positive cases have been found at both centres from the beginning of January this year. The test kits and its medicines are available at both places. One should not worry about the availability of test kits and medicines. At this moment, ASHAs and ANM volunteers have been pressed to spread awareness on the disease by visiting door to door.

Of the 169 positive cases, nine have been from outside the district and ten from outside states Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh," the CDMO said.

Abandoned jumbo calf rescued

Karanjia: Forest officials Saturday rescued an ailing 18-day old elephant calf after it was abandoned by its mother owing to its illness near Badadeuli under Karanjia forest division in Mayurbhanj district. A medical team pressed into service started treatment of the ailing jumbo calf. It is part of an elephant herd that came from Jharkhand and reached Keonjhar forest by crossing the Deo river. Later, the herd made its way to Badadeuli under Karanjia forest division in Mayurbhanj district. The herd comprises five tuskers, nine female elephants and calves. Among them, a calf which was born 18 days back fell sick. Subsequently its mother and other herd members abandoned it near a farmland at Bhanra Hudisahi village and went inside the Badadeuli reserve forest. Contacted, Karanjia DFO Srikant Nayak said that the calf has been undergoing treatment after being brought to Karanjia forest office. The condition of the calf is critical as it is suffering from severe cold and fever.

GOPALPUR-RAIRAKHOLE RAIL CORRIDOR

Citizens' body for inclusion of Phulbani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Phulbani, Sept 16: A citizens' forum in Kandhamal district has urged the Odisha government and the Centre to include Phulbani town in the proposed railway connectivity from Gopalpur to Rairakhole under the 'Janjatiya Gaurav Corridor'.

The District Railway Action Committee (DRAC), Kandhamal has sent representations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw through Kandhamal District Collector A Ishwar Patil.

In its representation, the citizens' forum claimed that the East Coast Railway (ECoR) had prepared a detailed project report (DPR) for the 245-kilometre new



FILE PHOTO

railway line from Gopalpur to Rairakhole. "The corridor had 18 stations including Phulbani, but in the re-

vised DPR, the station at Phulbani was dropped as the line was diverted from Chakapad (Kandhamal) to Madhapur

(Boudh), reportedly citing some technical and economical reasons," the citizens' body said.

The committee urged the government to reconsider its demand to include Phulbani, the district headquarters of Kandhamal, in the proposed railway project, action committee's chairman Kamala Kanta Pandey said.

The Kandhamal district has over 40 per cent tribal population, a huge stock of minerals, forest produce and tourism potential, which will be explored if the railway line is linked, he said. If no assurance will be given on the demand within two weeks, the action committee threatened to launch a district-wide agitation in a phased manner from Gandhi Jayanti.

11,856 meritorious students bag scholarships worth ₹18cr



POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 16: The DMF Scholarship-2023 distribution ceremony was held Saturday at the Keonjhar Auditorium. District Collector Ashish Thakare presided over the ceremony, and state government's School and Mass Education Minister Sudam Marndi graced the occasion as the chief guest. A total of 11,856 students from various categories were awarded scholarship grants exceeding 18 crore rupees.

Addressing the gathering, chief guest Marndi emphasized that a robust education system is the cornerstone of a progressive nation. "The government's transformative initiatives, such as the ST programme have yielded significant success. In this context, the special DMF scholarship provided by the Keonjhar district administration and the District Mineral Fund (DMF) is a laudable endeavour," he said.

Similarly, District Collector Thakare said that the Chief Minister and the Government of Odisha have given utmost importance to the strengthening of the education system. On this occasion, the Collector announced a special scholarship 'DMF Ananya' for the female students of Keonjhar, 'DMF UTKARSHA' for the students of the district enrolled in national-level educational insti-

tutes, a Higher Secondary Scholarship (HSS) for Plus II students and extension of mid-day meal for the students of Class IX and X in government schools of Keonjhar district.

A dedicated portal (scholarship.dmfkeonjhar.in) was also launched by the chief guest and the scholarship amounts were transferred to the bank accounts of meritorious students.

As many as 9,991 meritorious students of Keonjhar district who passed Class X examination from government high schools were awarded a total scholarship amount of ₹14.47 crore, with the 13 block toppers receiving their certificates from the chief guest.

Similarly, 389 meritorious students who passed Class X from Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya (OAV) were given a scholarship amount of ₹73.85 lakh, with 11 students receiving their certificates from the chief guest. Additionally, 1,472 meritorious students in the higher secondary category were granted scholarships amounting to ₹3.33 crore, and four students received certificates from the chief guest. During the event, 9 candidates who successfully passed the Odisha Civil Service (OCS)-2021 examination from Keonjhar district were felicitated by the chief guest.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/23-24/
E-Tender/76, Dt. 09.09.2023
1. Tender No. etendernorthkur-231-2023,
Date: 06.09.2023
Description: REPAIRS AND RAISING OF
SIDE DRAINS FROM KM. 17/13 - 42/30
BETWEEN EX JAROLI TO GOALDIH
STATIONS & KM. 45/2 - 85/30 BETWEEN EX
GOALDIH TO SITABINJI STATIONS UNDER
ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/
KENDUJHARGARH JURISDICTION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹268.01 lakhs,
EMD: ₹2,84,000/-
2. Tender No. etendernorthkur-232-2023,
Date: 06.09.2023
Description: REPAIRS AND RAISING OF
SIDE DRAINS FROM KM. 108/3 - 143/11
BETWEEN HARICHANDANPUR TO
TANGIRIAPAL STATIONS & KM. 90/24 -
106/2 BETWEEN SITABINJI TO
HARICHANDANPUR STATIONS UNDER
ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/
KENDUJHARGARH JURISDICTION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹299.31 lakhs,
EMD: ₹2,99,700/-
Completion Period of the work: 12 (Twelve)
Months (For both Tenders).
Date & time of Tender Closing: 29.09.2023,
1500 hrs (For both Tenders).
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in
person shall be accepted against such e-
Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's
letter head and received in time. All such manual
offers shall be considered invalid and shall be
rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender
documents of the above e-Tenders is available
in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised
to visit the website 10 (ten) days before the
date of closing of tender to note any changes/
corrigendum issued for this tender.
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg./
PR-585/O/23-24 Khurda Road

EAST COAST RAILWAY
(1) Tender Notice No. 28-SBP-TRD-OT-
2023-24, Dt. 11.09.2023
Name of the work: ELECTRICAL TRD
WORKS FOR PROVISION OF 12M WIDE
FOOT OVER BRIDGE AT KESINGA STATION
OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹30,72,765.71,
EMD: ₹61,500/-
(2) Tender Notice No. 29-SBP-TRD-OT-
2023-24, Dt. 11.09.2023
Name of the work: AUGMENTATION FOR
PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SWITCHING
BANKS WITH AUTOMATIC SWITCHING
ON/OFF CAPACITOR BANKS WITH LOGIC
CONTROLLER IN 02 NOS. OF TRACTION
SUB-STATION AT MAHASAMUND AND
DUNGURIPALLI OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work: ₹63,73,318.90,
EMD: ₹1,27,500/-
Completion Period of the Work: 08 Months
(for both SI. Nos.).
Date & time of Tender Closing: 03.10.2023 at
1530 hrs. (for both SI. Nos.).
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in
person shall be accepted against such e-
Tenders, even if these are submitted on firm's
letter head and received in time. All such manual
offers shall be considered invalid and shall be
rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender
documents of the above e-Tenders is available
in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised
to visit the website fifteen days before the date
of closing of tender to note any changes/
corrigendum issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD)/
PR-586/O/23-24 Sambalpur

**FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE, BHUBANESWAR
PRESS NOTE**
Sale of wheat and Rice under-OMSS (D) by Food Corporation of India
through its Regional Offices in East Zone
Open Market Sale Scheme- Domestic (OMSS) refers to offering of food
grains (wheat & rice) in the open market at prices, fixed by the Ministry of
CAF&PD, Govt. of India through e-auction in order to control the prices in the
market by providing food grains at reduced prices with the aim to curb inflation.
Under the Scheme, Govt. of India through Food Corporation of India, offers
wheat to Processors/Atta Chakki/Flour Millers of Wheat Products only
(Traders/Bulk Buyers are not allowed) through e-auction. An eligible bidder
can bid for a minimum quantity of 10MT to max. of 100 MT in case of wheat.
In case of rice, traders are eligible and can bid a minimum quantity of 10 MT
and max. quantity of 1000 MTs.
The bidder must have valid FSSAI license, GST/ Trade Tax Registration,
PAN and he must declare his existing stock holding in the WSP Portal of
Govt. of India in the case of wheat.
All regional offices of Food Corporation of India under Zonal Office (East),
Kolkata i.e. Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal are offering wheat
and rice from the stocks lying at FCI/agencies depots on every Friday
through m-junction platform at <http://www.valuejunction.in/fci>. Existing rate
is Rs. 2150/- per quintal for wheat (FAQ), Rs. 2125/- per quintal for wheat
(URS), Rs. 2900/- per quintal for normal rice and Rs. 2973/- per quintal for
fortified rice (Boiled/Raw) with applicable taxes.
In East Zone, a total quantity of 651120 MT of wheat and 797493 MT quantity
of rice has been offered by all regions i.e. Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and
West Bengal, out of which a total quantity of 318740 MT of wheat and 45750
MT of rice has been sold so far.
Eligible parties/bidders, who fulfil above prescribed criteria are advised to
take part in the e-auction through their respective States as the auction is
being carried out on weekly basis.
Food Corporation of India
Zonal Office (East)
10A, Middleton Row
Kolkata - 700 071

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT announces

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 69 LAKH SCHEDULED CASTE students to pursue Higher Education under the Post-Matric Scholarships Scheme for SC students for the Year 2023-24

Eligibility	Scope	Entitlement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents'/Guardians' annual income not exceeding Rs 2.50 lakhs Students pursuing courses in recognized Colleges/Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All recognised courses from class 11 onwards Applications are accepted and verified by the State Government/Union Territory Coverage of the poorest households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compulsory non-refundable fees (including tuition fee) Academic allowance ranging from ₹ 2500 to ₹ 13500 per annum 10% extra allowance for Divyang (specially abled) students

- Students to apply on their respective State Scholarship Portals
- Student should have a valid Mobile number, Aadhaar number (UID), Aadhaar seeded Bank Account, Income Certificate and Caste Certificate

Scheme guidelines and detailed eligibility criteria available on <http://socialjustice.gov.in/schemes/25>

cbc 38101/11/0029/2324



He who chooses the infinite has been chosen by the infinite.

SRI AUROBINDO



Extension of Govt

The Opposition INDIA alliance has announced the names of 14 anchors whose programmes their spokespersons will boycott. No reason was cited when the list was put out but various Opposition leaders have said this was the "WhatsApp group of BJP Media Cell." The arguments against the boycott are various including press freedom and the "Emergency." Let us look at what evidence we have to suggest that some anchors and TV stations act as extensions of the government.

On 19 June 2020, NDTV correspondent Arvind Gunasekar tweeted the text of a note the government had given to journalists as "talking points" after an all-party meeting on the Chinese intrusion. This was the meeting in which Modi claimed that there had been no intrusion by China. The talking points the Modi government wanted the media to focus on in their headlines included: "India stands solidly behind PM. Most leaders express their confidence in way Modi Government has handled the situation." And "Congress efforts to create wedges trashed by KCR, Naveen, Sikkim Kranti Morcha."

The channels obeyed the instructions. The primetime debate for Times Now a few hours later was headlined: "All parties unite behind India but Sonia Gandhi won't slam China?" Republic TV's main debates on 19 June were headlined: "Unarmed with fact, Congress insults army"; "Is there a 'special relation' between Congress and China?" and "People's movement against China gets bigger".

For my book "Price of the Modi Years", which is being republished this month in paperback, I looked at the two top English news channels. What were the subjects of their prime time debates in this period when there was Chinese intrusion and the economy was contracting because of the lockdown?

In the months of May, June and July, Times Now had 33 primetime debates which criticised the Opposition's actions. It had none that criticised the Modi government. There were zero debates on the economic recession. In the same three months, Republic TV had 47 debates that criticised the Opposition's actions. It had none that criticised the Modi government's actions and none on the economic recession. This was a period in which between 7 June and 27 June, the price of petrol/diesel was hiked every single day for 21 days.

On 16 June India announced that it had lost 20 soldiers, who were bludgeoned to death in hand to hand combat with the Chinese in Ladakh. Daily COVID infections rose from 2,300 cases on May 1 to over 57,000 daily cases on July 31. But note the focus of the "debates".

A few days later, the Indian Journalism Review published another note that the PMO had circulated to channels, instructing them on what to focus on. The note read: "Modi Effect loud and clear. Taming expansionist China is a herculean task but the right strategies and actions can yield to (sic) outstanding results. China hasn't pulled back. China has been pushed back, by a united nation led by a leader who led from the front. By taking decisive military, economic and strategic moves, PM Modi has pushed back China. The notion of economic infallibility of China has received a tight slap with the PM's clarion call of Aatmanirbhar Bharat."

Times Now responded with debates headlined: "PM Modi punishes Expansionist China, doubters put to shame?" "China admits it was pushed back, will army doubters surrender?"

"China admits push back but Lobby continues to lie?"

And Republic with: "Prime Minister leads from the front" "PM Modi's strong leadership pushes back China" "Ladakh reality check: Galwan victory a slap in Lobby's face".

Others have looked at the data and arrived at similar numbers. In a study published at the end of 2020, political scientist Christophe Jaffrelot and data analyst Vihang Jumble examined Republic's content. They wrote in Caravan magazine: 'We studied all primetime debates held since the channel was launched in May 2017, until April 2020, when we began the study - 1,779 in all. Our conclusion was clear: Republic TV's debates have been consistently biased in favour of the Modi government and its policies, as well as the ideology of the BJP. What's worse, these debates have rarely featured some of the most pressing issues that impact Indians, such as the state of the economy, education or health. Instead, they have consisted mostly of attacks against the Opposition as well as any groups or persons that oppose the ruling government's ideology. Some figures are staggering, if unsurprising. Nearly fifty per cent of Republic TV's political debates criticised the Opposition, but it has not conducted even one debate that we could classify as being in the Opposition's favour.'

To return to the question we began with: what is the evidence we have to suggest that some anchors and TV stations act as extensions of the government? The evidence is quite clear for anyone who wants to seek it. There is absolutely no question that the Opposition is correct in having concluded that it is being asked to play a rigged game by large sections of the media. It has every right to refuse to be a part of this. One hopes, though one is not optimistic, that this action to some extent corrects the lunacy which has infected our national media and has damaged our nation.



Aakar Patel

One hopes, though one is not optimistic, that this action to some extent corrects the lunacy which has infected our national media and has damaged our nation

CLIMATE AUTHORITARIANISM

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

This summer - with its record temperatures, deadly floods, and raging wildfires, which in Canada alone destroyed the equivalent of all the trees in Germany - might have felt like a final warning: without urgent and drastic action, the current climate emergency will become an inescapable climate disaster. Some might be tempted to think that we have reached a point when our only chance of mounting a sufficiently rapid and potent response to the threat is to embrace decisive state authority, even outright authoritarianism. But the notion that ecologically minded authoritarians will outperform democratic leaders on climate is a dangerous fantasy.



Given that climate action will inevitably harm at least some capitalists' interests, these interests seem likely to prevent the necessary steps from being taken in time - or perhaps ever

is inevitable. If the authorities deem new restrictions necessary to quell criticism or resistance, they may well end up eroding other basic freedoms, including the freedom to produce and exchange potentially transformative ideas.

Imagine this. A group of climate scientists decry the climate dictator's policies as insufficient and try to mobilise others to demand stronger action. In an attempt to restore "order," the dictator imposes measures that curtail academic freedom and freedom of association. Now, not only are experts less able to influence the state's climate response; they might not have opportunities to develop or share ideas and innovations that could enhance our collective ability to meet the climate challenge.

True, none of this necessarily means that democratic systems are particularly well-equipped to advance climate action. Instead, one might conclude that there are no good political instruments at all. But this neglects a key point: the obstacles to effective climate action in today's democracies are not inherent. On the contrary, they are inconsistent with democratic ideals, and in a well-functioning democracy, should be removed.

The fossil-fuel industry's disproportionate influence on the political process, for example, is not only damaging to the environment; it is also fundamentally undemocratic. Even without the urgent need to address the climate emergency, citizens would have good reason to demand change. The conclusion is clear: if we do not get serious about the climate emergency, we will not save democracy, and if we do not take democratic ideals seriously, we will not save the climate.

The writer is Professor of Politics at Princeton University.



Jan-Werner Mueller

THE FOSSIL-FUEL INDUSTRY'S DISPROPORTIONATE INFLUENCE ON THE POLITICAL PROCESS IS NOT ONLY DAMAGING TO THE ENVIRONMENT; IT IS ALSO FUNDAMENTALLY UNDEMOCRATIC

Concerns about democracies' capacity to act swiftly and efficiently are nothing new. Government that allows all to participate (in theory, if not always in practice) makes for an imperfect and slow-moving system. Influential players can often veto actions that the majority supports. On the other hand, the view that irrational masses wield too much power - long expressed sotto voce - has become entirely salonfähig in the age of Donald Trump. For example, voters tend to punish politicians for taking measures to prevent catastrophes, and reward them for appearing heroic during a disaster, even though disaster relief is far more expensive than prevention.

In addition to well-known prejudices - many as old as Plato's writings - one can argue that some of democracy's benefits do not count for much in the climate emergency. Democracies pride themselves on the fact that every decision can be revisited - that policies can be updated and improved, and that the losers in one election can become winners in the next (and thus have reason to keep playing the democratic game). But climate-related decisions have

major, irreversible consequences, so even if bad choices - such as doing too little - are revisited later, serious damage will have been done.

Other contemporary criticisms are blunter. Democracies are based on compromise, but bargains often turn out to be incoherent, especially in multiparty systems, because too many different political players want to get their way. Germany's current governing coalition would appear to be a case in point. Correcting such incoherence takes time, which democracies might have under normal circumstances, but certainly do not have when the planet is becoming hotter and more apocalyptic practically by the day.

Another key concern stems from the de facto dominance of business interests in capitalist democracies. Given that climate action will inevitably harm at least some capitalists' interests, these interests seem likely to prevent the necessary steps from being taken in time - or perhaps ever.

Now, with the climate crisis escalating fast, unabashed calls for more authoritarian decision-making are increasing. Some advocate a more technocratic approach, and hold up China as a shining example.

(The irony that China is the world's largest greenhouse-gas emitter is apparently lost on them.) Others - notably, the Swedish thinker Andreas Malm - envision a novel form of Leninism-cum-War Communism.

These proposals raise obvious questions, which their proponents never quite address. If, for the sake of climate action, power is concentrated in the hands of a state that does not answer to the people, what would prevent abuses of that power? Why, in the absence of any mechanisms of accountability, would an authoritarian regime actually tackle climate change at all? Does one really expect the powerful interests that are currently impeding climate action not to be just as powerful, if not more so, under a climate-autocracy?

Authoritarian regimes are notoriously corrupt. So, the notion that such a system would be free of "special interests," and run by neutral, rational technocrats, is implausible. In fact, far from bolstering climate action, a shift toward authoritarian-style decision-making would likely make things worse.

Climate authoritarianism might also backfire in less obvious ways. In a polity with any amount of freedom, opposition

SPECTRUM POLITICS

Changing role of Indian diaspora

The growing political influence of the Indian diaspora in the global context represents a significant shift in India's approach to its overseas citizens. Historically, India's leaders, including Jawaharlal Nehru, maintained a non-interference policy in other countries' internal affairs, considering the diaspora as citizens of their host nations. However, this perspective has evolved over the years into a strategic recognition of the diaspora as an asset for India's economic and diplomatic interests.

This transformation in India's outlook can be attributed to several key factors. One pivotal moment was the post-Cold War era, marked by the rise of information technology (IT) dominance. India began to realise the untapped potential within its vast diaspora as Indian IT professionals played a crucial role in the global tech industry. India's stance underwent a profound shift as the diaspora expanded and achieved higher social and economic status globally.

As of 2022-2023, more than 30 million Indians reside in 205 countries worldwide, with significant communities in countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada,

Australia, and Gulf nations. The economic impact of this diaspora is substantial, with India receiving approximately \$80 billion annually in remittances.

The political recognition of the diaspora's significance gained momentum with the BJP, especially during the Vajpayee governments' tenure. This government established a dedicated Ministry for Overseas Indians and initiated the annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, or Overseas Indians Day, to celebrate and strengthen India's connections with its global diaspora.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, diaspora engagement has reached new heights. Modi's approach involves high-level, direct, and personalised attention, characterised by large public gatherings in every country he visits. Since coming to power in 2014, he has undertaken over 100 foreign trips, visiting more than 60 countries. During these visits, he has held grand rallies and events, drawing vast crowds of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in various cities.

The scale and intensity of these diaspora engagement events have been meticulously orchestrated, involving various organisations, including Indian

embassies and consulates, overseas branches of the BJP, and affiliated organisations like the Sangh Parivar. These events are strategically leveraged to convey India's growing stature and influence on the global stage. They are often live telecast to Indian audiences and the diaspora worldwide, showcasing India's emergence as a global power under Modi's leadership.

Furthermore, these gatherings serve as tools for mobilising Indian public opinion in favour of Modi, positioning him as a strong leader and India as a rising global force. Given India's diverse cultural and linguistic landscape, the responses of the Indian diaspora to political and social developments in India vary considerably. For instance, during the farmers' movement against the three farm Bills, the Sikh diaspora organised protest marches in several countries to support the farmers' cause. In contrast, those aligned with the BJP and its sister organisations supported the Bills.

Recently, the Congress, led by Rahul Gandhi, has also started engaging with the Indian diaspora in different countries. After a successful meeting with the Indian community members in London, the Congress replicated

its efforts with a well-attended meeting with the Indian diaspora in the United States. This move indicates that the Congress is entering a political field that Modi and the BJP have already mastered. Whether Rahul Gandhi and the Congress can generate similar levels of support and energy through their engagements with the Indian diaspora remains to be seen. However, diaspora engagement has transitioned into a hotly contested political arena as India's foremost national political parties vie for influence and support among the global Indian community.

The growing political influence of the Indian diaspora in the global context reflects a significant shift in India's perspective from non-interference to strategic engagement. With a diaspora of over 30 million people worldwide, India recognises this community's economic and diplomatic potential. The BJP and the Congress are actively courting the diaspora's support, marking a new phase in global Indian politics where overseas citizens play an increasingly pivotal role.

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



SN Tripathy

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT HAS TRANSITIONED INTO A HOTLY CONTESTED POLITICAL ARENA AS INDIA'S FOREMOST NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES VIE FOR INFLUENCE AND SUPPORT

WISDOM CORNER

Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value. ALBERT EINSTEIN

Goodness is the only investment that never fails. HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it. DAVID STARR JORDAN

WORDSWORTH

Ninnyhammer

This term for a person who is a fool or a simpleton has for the most part vanished except in works that consciously seek to evoke a bygone age through antique language. The most likely place to encounter it is in Volume Three of J R R Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings: "You're nowt but a ninnyhammer, Sam Gamgee: that's what the Gaffer said to me often enough, it being a word of his." At one time, it was an excellent addition to one's armoury of invective, as here in John Arbuthnot's satirical pamphlet of 1712, The Law is a Bottomless Pit: "Have you no more manners than to rail at Hocus, that has saved that clod-pated, numskull'd ninnyhammer of yours from ruin, and all his family?" Ninnyhammer is first recorded from the late sixteenth century. Its origin isn't altogether clear. The first part, ninny, looks like the word we still know today, which is thought to come from a shortened and modified version of an innocent, because innocent at this time could mean a person lacking in intelligence or sense, who was silly, half-witted, or imbecilic. However, it's far from certain from the dates when they were first used whether ninny comes from ninnyhammer or the other way around. The second part is less obvious, but might be from hammer-headed, which could also then refer to a person who was dull-witted or stupid.

Landmark announcement

Sir, The recently concluded G20 Summit in New Delhi was historic with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leaders from the USA, Brazil, Bangladesh, and Italy jointly launching the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA). This announcement marks a promising and significant development. This initiative, led by India, promotes global collaboration in adopting eco-friendly biofuels from renewable sources like agricultural waste and crops. The GBA's objectives encompass broadening biofuel usage, serving as a central knowledge hub, and assisting national biofuel programmes. As the host, India gains global recognition, economic benefits, and drives faster progress in biofuel initiatives. This alliance will foster worldwide sustainable biofuel development through capacity-building, technical support for national programmes, and the exchange of policy insights. This comes at a crucial time with the growing ethanol market and the need for sustainable energy to combat climate change.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

Untenable ONOE

Sir, The idea of 'One Nation, One Election (ONOE),' proposed by the Modi government as a solution to continuous election cycles, high costs and disruptions to daily life, faces serious challenges. While this concept isn't entirely new and was used a few times in India during the 1950s and 1960s when there were fewer states and voters, the current landscape has evolved significantly. Today, conducting such synchronised elections would demand an enormous number of EVMs and VVPATs, nearly double the current quantity. This would undoubtedly come with substantial expenses, contradicting the notion of cost-saving. Furthermore, the political arena, especially in the last five years under the leadership of Modi and Amit Shah, has become almost a constant campaign mode. This perpetual electioneering mode is contrary to the aim of ONOE which seeks to reduce such disruptions. Implementing this concept would require significant changes to India's Constitution, involving amendments to Articles 83(2), 85(2) (B), 172(1), and 174(2)(B), along with ratification by at least half of the states through resolutions in their Assemblies. This process itself poses challenges and raises concerns about its impact on federalism and democratic principles.

Bishal Kumar Saha, MURSHIDABAD

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, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010



'Unholy' Akali Dal-BJP alliance finalised: AAP

The SAD broke off its ties with the BJP over the now-repealed farm laws in 2020. It had been part of the NDA since 1997, having stitched up a pre-poll alliance with BJP ahead of the assembly polls in Punjab that year

Chandigarh, Sept 16: The AAP Saturday claimed that the SAD and the BJP have already "finalised" an alliance in Punjab and are waiting for a suitable time to announce it. Malvinder Singh Kang, the AAP's chief spokesperson in Punjab, claimed that former Union minister and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal initiated efforts to seal the alliance. He also said that leaders of the two parties met in Delhi 15 days ago to discuss the terms of the coalition. The Shiromani Akali Dal

(SAD), however, rubbished the claims with senior party leader Daljit Singh Cheema slamming the AAP for spreading misinformation to "divert attention from the AAP and the Congress' unprincipled and unholy alliance". Both the Congress and the AAP are part of the opposition INDIA bloc. Kang claimed in a statement on Saturday, "The terms of the alliance are already decided... the BJP does not want SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal and his brother-in-law Bikram Singh Majithia to contest the Lok Sabha elections." "People in the BJP know the obvious dislike the people of Punjab have for these two leaders," he said. Kang also claimed that "behind the curtain", the BJP and the SAD were "always one and never separated". The SAD broke off its ties with the BJP over the now-repealed farm laws in 2020. It had been part of the National Democratic Alliance since 1997, having stitched up a pre-poll alliance with the BJP ahead of

the assembly elections in Punjab that year. Kang further claimed that the SAD only did the "drama" of breaking its alliance with the BJP to "mislead" people during the farmers' protest. "But the people of Punjab already hate both the parties and their alliance will only make the public dislike them even more," he said. Kang further claimed, "The SAD and the BJP are a team but they are not announcing it to the public yet because they are scared of the ire they will face from the people of Punjab." Responding to Kang's claims, SAD leader Cheema asked the AAP to stop its misinformation campaign. "The AAP wants to divert public attention from the AAP-Congress unprincipled and unholy alliance, which both the parties are not able to explain to the public," he said in a post on X. Cheema also asked AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal what his compulsion is to make his party spokesperson provide false statements to the media.

Purvanchal: Girls outnumber boys in higher edu

IN CONTRAST, THE NUMBER OF ENROLMENT OF BOYS IS HIGHER AS COMPARED TO GIRLS IN WESTERN UP

Prayagraj, Sept 16: More girls, than boys, are pursuing higher education in various districts across the Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh, showing greater commitment to girls' education. The higher education figures for Uttar Pradesh in the Statistical Report 2022-23 (prepared by the state higher education department) reveal a significant trend as in Gorakhpur division, 2,26,163 girls were enrolled for higher education whereas 1,40,466 boys were enrolled for the same. In Varanasi, 50,000 more girls are enrolled for higher education, in Mirzapur the difference was 18,000. In Azamgarh, it was 80,000 as 2,24,958 boys were enrolled as compared to 3,13,914 girls. This trend is evident in Gorakhpur, Deoria, Kushinagar, and Maharajganj of Gorakhpur division as well as Varanasi, Chandauli, Jaunpur, and Ghazipur of Varanasi division. In western UP, the number of enrolment of boys is higher as compared to girls. For instance, in Meerut 65,682 boys were enrolled for higher education



whereas the number of girls was 61,474. Conversely, in divisions such as Agra, Meerut, Kanpur, and Bareilly in western UP, data indicates that boys outnumber girls in higher educational institutions. This data excludes the number of students enrolled in medical and technical institutions within the state. Additionally, information about Jhansi, Chitrakoot, and Aligarh divisions is yet to be made available by the state education department.

Director of Higher Education, Prof Brahma Dev, said, "The interest in higher education has surged, especially among those who have traditionally been distant from it in the state. Data reveals a notable increase in the number of women students, particularly in government-run and government-aided colleges in the Purvanchal region. Girls and their parents are displaying great enthusiasm for higher education." He attributed this positive change to the state government's

sustained efforts in recent years. The UP government is now focusing on further improving these numbers across the state. Of the 75 government new colleges under construction, 18 have already commenced operations as constituent colleges of different state universities within their respective divisions. An additional 21 government colleges, managed by the state minority welfare and waqf department, are under construction and are scheduled to function as constituent colleges soon.

Punjab CM demands rollback of curbs on basmati rice exports

Ludhiana, Sept 16: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Friday said that the restrictions on exports of basmati rice imposed by the Union government is against the interests of the farmers and demanded its immediate rollback.

Addressing a gathering during 'Kisan Mela' organised here at the Punjab Agricultural University, the chief minister lamented that 'this illogical decision will do considerable damage to the economic situation of the farmers as well as the traders'. The Union government has fixed Minimum Export Price of basmati at USD 1,200 per tonne 'which adversely hit the domestic price of the crop'. Mann, according to an official statement, said that the Union government must remove all these restrictions to safeguard the interests of the farmers from the state. The chief minister said that the hard working and resilient farmers of the state are already at a crossroads due to the ever escalating cost of the farm inputs and 'low MSP'. He said that the state produces maximum basmati rice in the country and this decision of the Centre will adversely hit the interests of the peasants of the state. Mann said that on one hand the state government is making concerted efforts for crop diversification and other alternative crops but on the other hand 'such decisions of the Union government are giving major setbacks to it'.

BHIM ARMY MAY SOON JOIN OPPOSITION ALLIANCE

Lucknow, Sept 16: The Bhim Army could be a new entrant to the opposition bloc INDIA. The Rashtriya Lok Dal is making efforts to bring Bhim Army

chief Chandra Shekhar Azad on board and get the advantage of Dalit votes for the opposition since he wields considerable influence in the region. RLD national general secretary (organisation) Trilok Tyagi said

the party certainly has 'good relations' with Azad. However, he refrained from commenting on when and how the Bhim Army chief would join the opposition bloc, but said the number of constituents of INDIA 'have in-

creased' over a period of time and 'would certainly increase further' in the coming days. RLD sources said that Azad can help the opposition to firm up its footprints among Dalit voters, amid the electoral de-

cline of BSP chief Mayawati in Uttar Pradesh. Azad, who hails from Ghadkhali of Saharanpur district, has always invoked Dalit icon BR Ambedkar and Kanshi Ram in his bid to fortify his standing among Dalits.



OBCs are with BJP: Maurya

OUT OF 80 LOK SABHA SEATS IN UTTAR PRADESH, MORE THAN 25 REGIONS ARE REPRESENTED BY MPs FROM BACKWARD CLASSES

New Delhi, Sept 16: Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya Saturday dubbed the victory of Samajwadi Party candidate in the Ghosi assembly by-election as an 'accident' and asserted that the BJP will win all 80 Lok Sabha seats in the state in the 2024 general elections. The senior BJP leader also asserted that the OBCs are with the BJP and recalled that in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, when the SP, BSP, Congress and others 'had contested together', his party received '51 per cent votes' in Uttar Pradesh. In an exclusive interview to PTI Video, Maurya also felt that Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party leader Om Prakash Rajbhar should not have said that he and Dara Singh Chauhan, who recently returned to the BJP, would join the Yogi Adityanath government. He said anything on Cabinet expansion in the state should come from the chief minister only. Downplaying the BJP's defeat

in Ghosi, where the SP was supported by the other INDIA opposition bloc parties, he said the by-election result was 'an accident' and the party will learn from it to ensure that in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls the BJP's Lotus symbol blooms. Chauhan, who left the BJP in January last year, had won the Ghosi assembly poll on a Samajwadi Party ticket but switched to the BJP again and was fielded by the ruling party in the recent by-election. He was defeated by SP's Sudhakar Singh by a margin of over 40,000 votes. Responding to a question on SP, Maurya claimed the opposition party was fast becoming 'samaptwadi' (reaching its end) party. Attacking the INDIA bloc, he said the opposition alliance does not have any issue and is leaderless. "Their agenda is to divide the society. They will not succeed," he said. Maurya said in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, when the SP, BSP, Congress and others 'had con-



tested together', his party had won comprehensively. The BJP had 64 members in the Lok Sabha from UP and after the Azamgarh and Rampur LS bypolls, its MPs from the state have gone up to 66. He said when the SP was in government in the state, the BJP, along with allies, had won 73 seats and lost four by a very small margin. Maurya asserted that Uttar Pradesh will contribute to making Narendra Modi the prime minister for the third time with BJP winning all 80 seats in the state. He said the philosophy of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas,' as well as the development achieved by the 'double engine' government will help the BJP sweep polls. Responding to a question, he said the Uttar Pradesh govern-

ment acts against criminals and mafia without any Hindu-Muslim bias. It was the opposition, he alleged, which was raising only Muslim-related issues. He said, 'Action in the state is not taken on the basis of religion. Action is based on who has encroached upon the land of the poor.' 'It is our responsibility as the government to get it vacated,' he said, adding the guilty are not protected under the Yogi Adityanath government. To another question on people belonging to the caste of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath having influence, Maurya said the CM "is a saint and a saint has no caste". Asked if the Ghosi result shows that the Other Backward Classes (OBC) voters have deserted the BJP, Maurya responded, "OBC were with BJP and will remain with BJP". Out of 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh, more than 25 regions are represented by MPs from backward classes. OBC leaders claim that the population of OBCs in the state is up to 56 per cent. OBCs include Yadav, Kurmi, Shakya, Saini, Rajbhar, and Chauhan, among other communities.

First 'parkash purb' of Guru Granth Sahib celebrated

Amritsar, Sept 16: Scores of devotees offered prayers at the Golden Temple and Gurdwara Sri Ramsar Sahib here Saturday on the occasion of the first 'parkash purb' of Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of the Sikhs. Various religious events have been organised by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on this occasion. While a series of religious events have been organised in Amritsar city for the past several days, a huge 'nagar kirtan' (religious procession) was held from Gurdwara Sri Ramsar Sahib to the Golden Temple. At the departure of the procession, led by 'panj piaras' (five beloved ones), jathedar of Akal Takht Giani Raghbir Singh and SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhama, 'nishanchi' (flag bearers) and 'nagarchi' (drum beaters) were honoured with 'sirapao' (robe of honour). Before commencing the 'nagar kirtan', 'bhog' (concluding ceremony) of the 'akhand path' (uninterrupted recitation of Guru Granth Sahib) was held and 'hazuri



Devotees carry the Guru Granth Sahib during a procession on the 419th anniversary of the installation of the Guru Granth Sahib at the Golden temple, in Amritsar, Saturday. ragi jathas' performed gurbani kirtan. Akal Takht jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh congratulated the devotees on the first 'parkash purab'. "Guru Granth Sahib is the 'guru' (master) of the Sikhs and it is the duty of every Sikh to live life following the path shown by the holy gurbani," he said. The jathedar said that Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh guru, compiled Guru Granth Sahib with his own hand in 1,604 and did first enshrinement at the Golden Temple. On the same day, Guru Arjan Dev honoured Baba Budha with the service of the first 'granthi', which started the granthi tradition. "Since the time of the Guru till today, a large number of devotees gather on the occasion of the first 'parkash purb' and pay respect and reverence to holy Guru Granth Sahib," the jathedar said. He encouraged the 'sangat' (community) to adopt the holy Gurbani of Sri Guru Granth Sahib in their lives and lead a life according to 'gurmat' (teachings of Sikh Gurus). During the procession, 'gatka' (Sikh martial art) performances by the Sikh youths as well as batches of devotees expressed their devotion by singing 'gurbani' (holy Sikh verses). Meanwhile, 'langar' (community kitchen food) of different dishes were also organised by the devotees at several places. On the occasion of the first 'parkash purb' of Guru Granth Sahib, 'jalau' (grandeur) was decorated at Sri Harmandir Sahib (sanctum sanctorum), the Akal Takht and Gurdwara Baba Atal Rai Sahib. The complex of Harmandir Sahib was also decorated with colorful flowers, which remained a center of attraction. About 50 to 70 tonnes of flowers offered by a devotee have been used to decorate the complex. Harmandir Sahib and Gurdwara Ramsar Sahib have also been decorated with lighting for the evening celebration. SGPC chief Dhama, who attended the congregation and events, urged the devotees to live life as per 'gurmat'.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.B-905
E-Procurement Notice
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SONEPUR (R&B) DIVISION, SONEPUR
E-mail - eepwdsnr@gmail.com Phone - 06654-221081
BID IDENTIFICATION No. SE/R&B/SNPR/13/2023-24
No.5039/ Dtd. 14.09.2023
1. The Superintending Engineer, Sonepur (R&B) Division, Sonepur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Single & Double Cover System in Online Mode for Building works detailed in the DTCN from the eligible Class of Contractors.
2. No. of work: 06 (Six)
3. Tender Cost: Rs.10,000/- for Serial No.1 & 2, Rs.6,000/- for Serial No.3 to 6.
4. Class of contractor: "B" Class Contractor for Serial No.1 to 4; "C" & "B" Class Contractor for Serial No.5; "D" & "C" Class Contractor for Serial No.6
5. Date & Time of Available in Website & receipt of Bids: From 10.00 A.M. of 26.09.2023 to 5.00 P.M. of 10.10.2023.
6. Date of Opening of Tender: 11.10.2023 at 11.30 A.M.
7. The Bidders have to participate in Online bidding only, further details can be seen from the Website.
8. Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only.
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Sonepur (R&B) Division, Sonepur
OIPR-34081/11/0011/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.L-96
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRI.), BOLANGIR DIVISION, BOLANGIR
AT- ADARSHAPADA, POST/DIST- BOLANGIR-767001
e-mail: eea.blgr@gmail.com Notice No.1244 Dt.15.09.2023
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No. 05/Agri/EE(Blgr)/2023-24 Dt.15.09.2023
01 Nos. of work : 5 Nos.
02 Tended amount in Rs. : Rs.5,83,300/- to Rs.16,85,430/-
03 Period of completion : 120 days to 180 days
04 Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 11.00 Hrs. of 28.09.2023 to 17.00 Hrs. of 09.10.2023
05 Last date/ time of receipt of copies of uploaded documents, drafts etc in the tender box in the office of the undersigned at Adarsha Pada, Near Cold Storage, Bolangir, PIN-767001 : Up to 17.00 Hrs. of 13.10.2023
06 Date & Time of opening of bids : 11.00 Hrs. of 16.10.2023
07 Name and Address of the officer inviting bid : Executive Engineer (Agril.), Bolangir Division, Bolangir At/Po- Bolangir, Pin-767001
Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.)
OIPR-01462/11/0006/2324 Agriculture Engineering Division, Bolangir

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BALASORE (ROADS & BUILDINGS) DIVISION-I AT/PO- PADHUANPADA, BALASORE No. B-909 CONTACT NO.- 06782262045, E-MAIL ID:- ee_blsrb@yahoo.co.in
BID INVITATION NO. SE (R and B) BLS-Divn-I-50/2023-24
Letter No. 9039 Date: 14.09.2023
1. The Superintending Engineer, Balasore (R&B) Division-I, Balasore on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate bids to be received in ONLINE MODE only for road and Building works.
2. No. of Work : 1 No.
3. Nature of Work : Building work of Balasore (R&B) Division-I
4. Class of Contractor : "B" Class Contractor
5. Approx. value of work : Rs.84.44 Lakh
6. Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/-
7. Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From 10.00 Hours of dt.18.09.2023 to 16.00 hours of dt.27.09.2023
8. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 28.09.2023 at 10.00 Hours
9. Other details can be seen in the Bidding documents from the website: https://tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Balasore (R&B) Division-I
OIPR-34157/11/0013/2324



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Union Ministers of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal and Meenakashi Lekhi, and Sangeet Natak Akademi Chairperson Sandhya Purecha with awardees during the Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards in New Delhi



Devotees during a 'Tirupati Kudai' rally organised ahead of 'Brahmotsavam' in Chennai



Students take part in a cleanliness drive at Marina beach in Chennai



Devotees show their 'Gatka' skills during a 'nagar kirtan' procession on the 419th anniversary of the installation of the Guru Granth Sahib at the Golden temple in Amritsar



A beach wears a deserted look after the imposition of restrictions in view of the Nipah virus spread in Kozhikode



NCC cadets and students during the celebration of 100 years of Shivaji Bridge in Pune



Tourists participate in river rafting in Kullu



Participants during the 'snake boat' competition held on the backwaters at Ernakulam Marine Drive

national

of the day quote

The Marathwada water grid scheme was killed by the previous (Maha Vikas Aghadi) government. They are levelling allegations only because they are trying to stall the cabinet meeting aimed at the development of Marathwada region

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHARASHTRA DEPUTY CM

The government has decided to give financial assistance of Rs 10,000 per month to all the poor people undergoing organ transplant

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA | UNION HEALTH MINISTER

The public will never accept the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) of opposition parties, which is attacking the Constitution, suppressing the voice of the media and thinking of destroying Sanatan Dharma

ANURAG THAKUR | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Noida lift crash: Toll rises to eight

Noida: Four more workers who were hospitalised after a service lift crashed at an under-construction society in Noida Extension succumbed to their injuries Saturday, raising the death toll in the accident to eight, officials said. A financial aid of Rs 25 lakh each has been granted to families of those killed, a senior officer said.

Indigo flight makes emergency landing

New Delhi: An IndiGo flight from Lucknow to Abu Dhabi suffered a hydraulic system issue and made an emergency landing at the Delhi airport Saturday, according to a source. The flight 6E 093 had more than 150 people onboard, the source in the know said. The source said the aircraft had a hydraulic system issue and later landed safely at the Delhi airport.

Vlogger booked

Kochi: A case was registered against a vlogger for allegedly attempting to misbehave with a woman from Saudi Arabia, under the pretext of an interview, police said Saturday. The case was registered against Shaker Suban alias Mallu Traveller on Friday, for the alleged incident that took place on September 13 at a hotel in the city, they said. According to the complainant, the accused allegedly attempted to outrage the modesty of the foreign national.

Try to extend COVID schemes to all orphans: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 16: An orphan is an orphan, irrespective of how the death of his or her parents happened, the Supreme Court has said, asking the Centre if there are ways the benefits of schemes, including PM Cares fund, which were meant for children orphaned during the COVID-19 pandemic, can be extended to all orphans.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra Friday asked Additional Solicitor General Vikramjeet Banerjee, appearing for Centre, to seek instructions in the matter.

"You have rightly brought out a policy for orphans, whose parents died due to the COVID pandemic. An orphan is an orphan, irrespective of whether the parents died in an accident or ill-

ness. By bringing these schemes, you are attending to the condition and not the parentage.

"You seek an instruction on whether benefits of schemes including PM Cares fund meant for children orphaned during the COVID-19 pandemic can be extended to other orphaned children," the bench told Banerjee.

The ASG said he was recently given a brief to appear in the matter and would respond to the court's query in four weeks' time. Petitioner Poulomi Pavni Shukla, who appeared in person, said that children orphaned during the pandemic were provided benefits under the Right to Education Act and similar benefits can be given to other orphan children on the court's direction.

"Two states Delhi and Gujarat have been providing benefits of the Right to Education Act by issuing a simple government order



under section 2(d) of the Right to Education Act and this can be done in other states also," Shukla told the bench.

Section 2(d) of the Right to Education Act, 2009, deals with a child belonging to a disadvantaged group - which means a child belonging to a Scheduled Caste, a Scheduled Tribe, a socially and educationally backward class, or such other group

that has a disadvantage owing to social, cultural, economical, geographical, linguistic, gender or such other factor, as may be specified by the appropriate government, by notification. The bench took note of the submission and asked the Centre to consider the expression "such other group" in section 2(d) of the RTE Act and consider extending the benefits to all orphans

by issuing suitable directions. Shukla said that notice on her plea was issued in 2018, the year she filed the petition, but the Centre even after five years has yet to file its response. "In 2018, I was studying law when I filed this petition. Five years have passed, I have written a book and am married now but still Centre has not filed its response," she said.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, also appearing in the matter, said orphan children should be extended the benefit of a 20 per cent quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) as given to other children in school admissions.

The bench asked Banerjee to seek instructions and file a detailed affidavit and also directed the states to file their responses on the aspect of section 2(d) of the Right to Education Act.



We guarantee that if AAP is elected to power in Chhattisgarh, PESA will be implemented within a month of the formation of the government in the interest of tribals and to protect their 'jal, jungle and zameen' (land). All rights will be given to the gram sabha

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

23 NEW SAINIK SCHOOLS APPROVED

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the setting up of 23 new Sainik Schools in partnership mode, officials said Saturday



3 militants try to infiltrate under Pak cover, killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 16: The Pakistan Army gave cover fire to infiltrating terrorists and targeted quadcopters of the Indian Army during a bid to cross the Line of Control in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday that was foiled with the killing of three militants, officials said.

Addressing a press conference in north Kashmir's Uri, Brigadier PMS Dhillon said the operation at Hathlanga in the Uri sector along the LoC was launched early Saturday following specific inputs about infiltration attempts by Pakistan-based outfits.

"We had been receiving intelligence inputs that Pakistani outfits were trying to infiltrate into Uri to destabilise peace in Jammu and Kashmir. So, we strengthened our counter-infiltration and surveillance grid," he said. "At 6.40 am this morning, despite bad weather, an ambush noticed three to four terrorists

THE OFFICER SAID THE ARMY USED UNDER-BARREL GRENADE LAUNCHERS (UBGL), MULTI-GRENADE LAUNCHERS (MGL), AND ROCKET LAUNCHERS TO NEUTRALISE THE TERRORISTS



Brigadier PMS Dhillon, Commander 161 Brigade and other Army officials display arms and ammunition recovered from the killed militants at a press conference in Hathlanga area of Uri in Baramulla, Saturday

trying to cross the LoC in the Hathlanga area. Immediately contact was established and the firefight continued for two hours," he added. The officer said the army used under-barrel grenade

launchers (UBGL), multi-grenade launchers (MGL), and rocket launchers to neutralise the terrorists. "One terrorist was neutralised. The ambush party then realised that two injured ter-

THE OFFICER SAID THREE TERRORISTS FROM PAKISTAN HAVE BEEN NEUTRALISED IN THE OPERATION AND THE BODIES OF THE TWO HAVE BEEN RETRIEVED

rorists had changed their movement. The ambush party then got into a second firefight with them at around 9.15 am which continued for about half an hour and resulted in the neutralisation of the second terrorist," he said.

Brigadier Dhillon said the third injured terrorist "exfiltrated" with the help of firing from a nearby Pakistani post. "The Pakistani Army post gave fire support for his exfiltration and fired towards us. They fired on our quadcopters as well. According to our estimate, the injured terrorist succumbed about 300 metres from the Pakistani post, in the general area. The weather is very bad, but the search continues in the area," he said.

The officer said three terrorists from Pakistan have been neutralised in the operation and the bodies of the two have been re-

trieved. "This shows how the Pakistan Army backs terrorists and lends them full support to infiltrate. It also establishes how Pakistan Army is involved in destabilising peace in Kashmir," he said.

The security forces also recovered an AK-47 and AK-74 rifle, seven magazines, a five-kg IED, some ammunition, a Chinese pistol and some grenades along with Indian and Pakistani currency from the terrorists.

"We think they wanted to use the IED at some sensitive target, including minority pocket or security forces' establishment," Dhillon said. The infiltration bid and the subsequent encounter comes at a time when an operation is underway in Anantnag district to neutralise terrorists who have taken positions in the forest area in a hilly terrain. The gunfight entered its fourth day on Saturday.

NIA conducts raids to foil ISIS inspired hirings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 16: The National Investigation Agency Saturday raided 31 locations in Tamil Nadu and Telangana to thwart a radicalisation and recruitment campaign by proscribed global terror group ISIS, an official said.

Several digital devices, documents and incriminating books in vernacular and Arabic languages, and Rs 60 lakh as well as USD 18,200 in cash were seized during the searches, a spokesperson of the federal anti-terror agency said. The official said the agency is in the process of examining the data in the seized mobile phones, laptops and hard discs. NIA teams raided 22 locations in Coimbatore, three in Chennai and one in Kadaiyanallur of Tenkasi district in Tamil Nadu, and another five locations in Telangana's Hyderabad, the spokesperson said.

Varun raises concerns over India's cheetah import plan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 16: With the central government revealing plans to import more cheetahs from South Africa, BJP MP Varun Gandhi Saturday said India should focus on conserving its own endangered species and habitats.

"Importing cheetahs from Africa and allowing nine of them to die in a foreign land is not just cruelty; it's an appalling display of negligence," he wrote on X. In an interview, Project Cheetah head SP Yadav said the next batch of cheetahs would be imported from South Africa and introduced into Madhya Pradesh's Gandhi

Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, which is expected to be ready to welcome the spotted felines by the end of the year.

Varun Gandhi said, "We should focus on conserving our own endangered species and habitats rather than contributing to the suffering of these magnificent creatures. This reckless pursuit of exotic animals must end immediately, and we should prioritise the welfare of our native wildlife instead."

Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi ridiculed the announcement, saying, "After the wildly successful project of Cheetahs from Namibia (9 dead already) & behold Cheetahs from South Africa (sic)."

'INDIA bloc consolidation rattles PM, BJP'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Sept 16: Gearing up for the upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha polls, the Congress Saturday made a strong pitch for social justice and resolved to make the INDIA bloc an "ideological and electoral success" to free the country from "divisive politics".

After about five hours of deliberations at the first meeting of the reconstituted Congress Working Committee, the party also called for the passage of the women's reservation bill in the

coming special session of Parliament, conducting a caste census and increasing the limit of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs.

The resolution also rejected the idea of "one nation, one election", calling it an attack on the federal structure. The CWC, in a resolution adopted unanimously, also reiterated the Congress' demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Adani issue and rejected any move to change the Constitution of the country.

This was the first meeting of the CWC which was reconstituted by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge on August 20. This is also after years that the CWC has met outside of Delhi, a move seen as an attempt to consolidate the support base in poll-bound Telangana and go all out to oust the BRS from power in the state.

The CWC "wholeheartedly" welcomed the continuing consolidation of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) claiming it has already rattled Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP. "The CWC re-

iterates the Congress party's resolve to make the INDIA initiative an ideological and electoral success so that our country is freed from divisive and polarising politics, the forces of social equity and justice are strengthened, and the people get a Union Government that is responsible, responsive, sensitive, transparent and accountable," the resolution read.

The CWC also demanded that the women's reservation bill be passed during the special session, beginning Monday.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
SAMBALPUR FOREST DIVISION
 Near Jail Chowk, e-mail id - dfo.sambalpur@odisha.gov.in
EXTENSION OF DATE LINE OF WALK-IN INTERVIEW

No. MM-163- In continuation to the advertisement published in The Samaj/Prameya & The Times of India newspaper on dated 09.08.2023 for Walk-in-interview which was scheduled on 21.08.2023 is hereby extended upto dt.25.09.2023 at 11.00 AM in the conference hall of Sambalpur Forest Division. The date line is extended for engagement of One Veterinary Officer, One Livestock Assistant & Two Attendants for Mobile Veterinary Unit (MVU) of Sambalpur Forest Division. The application form along with detail terms and conditions shall be available on the website www.sambalpur.nic.in/www.odishaforest.in from 16.09.2023.

Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer
 Sambalpur Forest Division

OIPR-08104/11/0007/2324

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, MALKANGIRI
 Odisha, Pin-754045, Ph- 06861-230244, e-mail- eomalkangiri@gmail.com
 L.T. No. 5044/Dev/2023 Dated:- 15.09.2023

e-NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. EOMKGM/04/2023-24

No. C-1438- The Executive Officer, Malkangiri Municipality, Malkangiri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites for bidders of eligible class registered with any State Govt. and bidders of equivalent grade/class registered with central Govt./ PSU / MES / Railways according to norm of e-procurement system in online mode for the work as per DTCN.

1. Name of the Work	: As per DTCN
2. Number of Work	: 05 Nos.
3. Estimated cost	: As per DTCN
4. Period of Completion	: As per DTCN
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid Document in the Portal	: From 10 hours of Dt. 16.09.2023 to 17 hours of Dt. 22.09.2023
6. Last date and time for receipt of Bid in the Portal	: 17 hours of Dt. 22.09.2023
7. The bid received online shall be opened on	: 11 hours of dttd. 25.09.2023
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Officer, Malkangiri Municipality

Further details can be seen from the Procurement Portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in
 OIPR-13125/11/0013/2324 Sd./- Executive Officer, Malkangiri Municipality

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.O-1065
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, GAJAPATI, PHULBANI
 Phone- 06842-253708, E-mail: rw_phulbani@yahoo.co.in
 No. 4232/RWDP, Dated the 15.09.2023

Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice
 Bid Identification No. Online Tender/03/EERWD PHULBANI/2023-24

1. Name of the Work	: Road Work (1 No.)
2. Estimated Cost	: Rs.15.45 Lakhs
3. Period of Completion	: Two Calendar months
4. Date & Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal	: From 03.10.2023 10.00 AM to 13.10.2023 Upto 5.00 PM
5. Last Date/Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	: 13.10.2023 upto 5.00 PM
6. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Phulbani

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
 OIPR-25077/11/0003/2324 Sd./- Executive Engineer Rural Works Division, Phulbani

international



The EU is making efforts to sever ties with Turkey. We will evaluate the situation, and if needed we will part ways with the EU
TAYYIP ERDOGAN
PRESIDENT, TURKEY

MAHSA AMINI'S 1ST DEATH ANNIV

Iranian security forces briefly detained the father of Mahsa Amini Saturday and spread across mainly Kurdish areas of the country in anticipation of protests, a year after her death in police custody set off some of the biggest outrages since the fall of the Shah in 1979



of the day quote

There will be more drones, more attacks, and fewer Russian ships. That's for sure.



MYKHAILO FEDOROV
DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION MINISTER, UKRAINE

North Korea may be able to boost Russia's supply of artillery munitions for the war in Ukraine, but that is not likely to make a big difference



MARK MILLEY | CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, US

While many of the countries of the G7 have helped lift millions of people from poverty, they still face a lot of crises, including hunger, inflation, climate disasters and debt, and they haven't gotten enough help



ANTONIO GUTERRES | SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

SHORT TAKES

UN to end probe of Iraq IS extremists

United Nations: The Security Council Friday voted unanimously to end, a year from now, a UN probe into activities of Islamic State extremists in Iraq. The vote came at the request of the Iraqi government. The UK-sponsored resolution noted that Baghdad also asked that UN investigators hand over evidence they have gathered so far to the government, so that Iraqi authorities can pursue IS members' accountability, as well as that of those who assisted and financed "this terrorist organization." The Security Council in September 2017 set up the investigative team — also at Iraq's request — to collect evidence against members of the Islamic State group to be used in trials.

PAF holds drills with China, Egypt

Islamabad: The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has carried out two large-scale flying exercises, one each at China and Egypt, and claimed it marked "a significant milestone" in its journey towards emerging as a "formidable air force." The annual bilateral China-Pakistan Joint Air Force Training Exercise 'Shaheen (Eagle) - X' is being held at Jiuquan and Yinchuan in northwest China. The exercise that started last week in August will continue till mid-September.

ECONOMIC CRISIS

Pak fuel fight gets tough

YET ANOTHER HIKE PUSHES FUEL PRICES TO RECORD HIGH OF OVER RS 330/L IN PAKISTAN, PROMPTS FURORE AND A LEGAL CHALLENGE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Sept 16: Amid double-digit inflation, Pakistan's caretaker government has effected yet another hike in the prices of petrol and diesel taking them to a historic high — over Rs 330 per litre — prompting immediate protests and a legal challenge too.

As Saturday, \$1 was equivalent to 296.41 Pakistani Rupee. The Ministry of Finance Friday night announced the price hike of petrol by Rs 26.02 and diesel by Rs 17.34 per litre.

After the hike, petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) are costing over Rs 330 at the filling stations, "a psychological barrier that has been crossed for the first time in the country's history," the Dawn newspaper wrote.

The fuel price hike comes on the heels of over 27.4 per cent increase in the rate of inflation in August, putting an unbearable burden on the masses, as petrol and HSD are used by all private and public service vehicles.

The caretaker government September 1 jacking up the petrol and diesel prices by over Rs 14. The rise is on top of Rs 32.41 and Rs 38.49 per litre increase in



Petrol and diesel have become costlier by 20 per cent since the caretaker government took over in August

petrol and HSD prices since August 15.

Public furore
Meanwhile, the hike in the petrol and diesel prices has prompted Pakistan's opposition parties to vociferously criticize it even as a judicial activist challenged it in the Lahore High Court.

Rejecting the massive increase in petroleum prices, Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) announced sit-ins outside the governors' houses

in all four provinces of Pakistan. JI chief Sirajul Haq said the government has made the life of a common man miserable by increasing the petroleum prices on the directions of the IMF, Dunya News channel's website reported Saturday.

Sardar Abdul Rahim of the Grand Democratic Alliance too rejected the increase as he said that the PDM, i.e. the consortium Pakistan Democratic Movement's agreement with IMF has "proved to be fatal for Pakistan's economy."

In Lahore, advocate Azhar Siddique, the head of the Judicial Activism Panel, has filed an application in the Lahore High Court, in which the caretaker federal government has been made a party, Dunya News said in another report.

The petitioner pointed out how there was no mechanism to determine the prices of the products and that the increase in prices of petroleum products would lead to a new wave of inflation.

Earlier, the Finance Ministry blamed "the increasing trend of petroleum prices in the international market" for revising the existing consumer prices of petroleum products.

Crimea authorities to sell 100 Ukrainian properties

REUTERS

Kyiv, Sept 16: Russian-installed authorities in Crimea said Saturday they planned to sell about 100 Ukrainian properties, including one belonging to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Vladimir Konstantinov, speaker of the Crimean parliament, said the nationalised properties would be sold "soon" and the authorities had held the first eight auctions for the properties of Ukrainian business figures.

The sale contracts amounted to more than 815 million roubles (\$8.51 million), Konstantinov said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app.

Russian-installed authorities in Crimea said in February that they had nationalised around 500 properties in Crimea including some belonging to senior Ukrainian politicians and business figures.

Crimea, internationally recognised as part of Ukraine, has been controlled by Moscow since 2014, when Russia annexed the Black Sea peninsula, eight years before its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.



Kim views Russian N-capable bombers

Russia has gone out of its way to publicise Kim's visit and drop repeated hints about the prospect of military cooperation with North, which was formed in 1948 with the backing of the Soviet Union

REUTERS

Vladivostok, Sept 16: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected Russian nuclear-capable strategic bombers, hypersonic missiles and warships Saturday, accompanied by President Vladimir Putin's defence minister.

A smiling Kim was greeted in Russia's Knevichi airfield, about 50 km (30 miles) from the Pacific port city of Vladivostok, by Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, who saluted him. The North Korean leader then inspected a guard of honour.

The United States and South Korea fear the revival of Moscow's friendship with Pyongyang could give Kim access to some of Russia's sensitive missile and other technology while helping arm Russia in its war in Ukraine.

Shoigu showed Kim Russia's strategic bombers - the Tu-160, Tu-95 and Tu-22M3 - which are capable of carrying nuclear



weapons and form the backbone of Russia's nuclear air attack force, Russia's defence ministry said.

"It can fly from Moscow to Japan and then back again," Shoigu told Kim of one aircraft. Kim was shown asking about how the missiles were fired from the aircraft, at times nodding and smiling.

Shoigu showed him the MiG-31I supersonic interceptor aircraft equipped with "Kinzhal" hypersonic missiles. The Kinzhal, or dagger, is an air-launched ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear or conventional warheads.

It has a reported range of 1,500 to 2,000 km (930-1,240 miles) while carrying a payload of 480 kg (1,100 pounds). It may travel at up to 10 times the speed of sound (12,000 kph, 7,700 mph).

Russia's ambassador to North Korea, Alexander Matsegora, told reporters that Kim's programme was "very intense" and that it was not yet clear how long he would remain in Russia, Russian state news agency RIA reported.

Trump blasts Biden

'JOE BIDEN NOT TOO OLD BUT INCOMPETENT'



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Washington, Sept 16: Joe Biden, America's oldest president, received support from an unexpected ally over his age: Donald Trump said the Democrat was "not too old" to seek a second term, while quickly adding: "I think he's incompetent."

The former president's comments, made in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" to be aired Sunday, come as America faces a profound debate over the ageing of its po-

litical class, a major factor ahead of the 2024 elections — when Joe Biden will be just shy of 82 and Trump himself 78.

Polls show that while the age gap between the two men is small, Americans worry more about President Biden's age, with one survey finding that three in four people doubt his ability to last a second term.

That Trump ended his own term in office as the second-oldest president ever (Ronald Reagan was 77 at the end of his term) presents the real estate magnate with a challenge, however, in repeatedly portraying Biden as too "sleepy" to do the job.

But that hasn't stopped the Republican, who would be 82 at the end of a second term, from trying to thread that needle.

"Some of the greatest world leaders have been in their 80s," he told NBC. "I'm not anywhere very near 80, by the way." "And Biden's not too old," Donald Trump added. "But I think he's incompetent, and that's a bigger problem."



Women with beer glasses pose for a photo at the 188th 'Oktoberfest' beer festival in Munich, Germany

PTI PHOTO

The public face of China's military disappears

DEFENCE MINISTER LI SHANGFU, WHO HAS BEEN MISSING FROM PUBLIC VIEW FOR MORE THAN TWO WEEKS, HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER CORRUPTION PROBE BY CHINESE AUTHORITIES

REUTERS

Beijing, Sept 16: General Li Shangfu, a veteran of China's military modernisation drive, rose through the ranks to become defence minister this year. Within six months, he disappeared under the cloud of a corruption probe.

Li grew to prominence under President Xi Jinping's pursuit of military might during his decade in power while China's relations with the United States soured over issues including Taiwan, the democratically governed island that Beijing claims.

But part of Xi's drive to improve his fighting force has been



to stamp out corruption that has long plagued China's military and other state institutions.

A leader of China's space and cyber warfare development and then head of military procurement, Li, 65, was elevated to defence minister in March.

After he disappeared from public view last month and missed meetings, including with

at least once foreign counterpart, Reuters reported Friday that Li was under investigation in a broad probe over procurement of military equipment.

While his post as defence minister is viewed as largely diplomatic and ceremonial, Li is one of China's five state councillors, a cabinet position that outranks other ministers.

He also has a more public role than others on the Central Military Commission, China's top defence body, commanded by Xi. His relations with the United States, which sanctioned Li in 2018 for buying weapons from Russia, have defined his spell in the role.

SANCTIONS OR DIALOGUE

Li's tenure began as Washington was pushing to restore military dialogue and communications that Beijing froze in reaction to a visit last year to Taiwan by the then-speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi.

Chinese officials have repeatedly said the US should drop sanctions on Li if it wants to resume high-level military communications - a risky dynamic as Washington and Beijing spar over issues ranging from trade to Taiwan.

Beijing in June declined a US request for a meeting with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin at a high-profile annual security forum in Singapore. Their encounter ended with a handshake.

At the forum, Li warned that conflict with the US would be an "unbearable disaster" but

that China sought dialogue over confrontation.

In mid-August, he met high-ranking officials in Russia and Belarus, a show of support for countries diplomatically isolated by the West in the wake of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

Li was last seen in Beijing August 29 delivering a keynote address at a security forum with African nations.

Li's history as a technocrat - he is an aerospace engineer who worked on China's satellite programme - was helpful in trying to meet Xi's goals for the People's Liberation Army (PLA), experts say.

In 2016, Li was named deputy commander of the PLA's fledgling Strategic Support Force, an elite group tasked with accelerating the development of China's space and cyber warfare capabilities.

Despite the uncertainty of Li's absence, analysts say there is probably no shortage of senior military officials who could step into the figurehead role of defence minister. A bigger question is what priority Beijing will continue to place on China's military diplomacy amid ongoing regional tensions.

UK visa fee hike for visitors, students to start from Oct 4

The hike in fees applies across most visa categories, including health and care visa; applications to register and naturalise as a British citizen; fees for up to six months, two, five and 10-year visit visas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 16: The British government has announced that a proposed hike in visa fees will become effective from October 4, when a visit visa for under six months will cost GBP 15 more and student visas will be GBP 127 more expensive for travellers from around the world, including Indians.

Following legislation tabled in Parliament Friday, the UK Home Office said the changes mean that the cost for a visit visa for less than six months will rise to GBP 115 and the fee for applying for a student visa from outside the UK will rise to GBP 490 — to equal the amount charged for in-country applications.

It comes after British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak had an-



nounced in July that the fees and health surcharge paid towards the UK's state-funded National Health Service (NHS) by visa applicants are set to rise "significantly" to meet the country's public sector wage increase.

"We are going to increase the charges that we have for migrants who are coming to this country when they apply for visas and indeed something called the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), which is the levy that they pay to access the NHS," he said at the time.

"All of those fees are going to go up and that will raise over GBP 1 billion, so across the board visa application fees are going to go up significantly and similarly for the IHS," he said.

The Home Office indicated a 15 per cent increase in the cost of most work and visit visas, and an increase of at least 20 per cent in the cost of priority visas, study visas and certificates of sponsorship.

business



Global rice imports as a share of consumption have doubled over the past two decades, and are up about four percentage points since the 2008 food crisis
FREDERIC NEUMANN | CHIEF ASIA ECONOMIST, HSBC GLOBAL RESEARCH

DUNZO HIT HARD BY FUND CRUNCH

Homegrown quick-grocery delivery provider Dunzo has further delayed salaries of its employees for the month of June and July, this time to November amid an ongoing fund crunch. The beleaguered startup may also vacate its office in Bengaluru to cut costs, according to its co-founder and CEO, Kabeer Biswas, who addressed employees in a town hall meeting



of the day quote

Many things are moving very fast. Like rules of origin and bilateral investment treaty (with UK), there is a good progress. Negotiations are happening

SUNIL BARTHWAL | COMMERCE SECRETARY

Earlier, companies used to see the cloud only approach, moving 100 per cent to cloud, but that thinking is changing drastically. People are realizing that cloud is not for all the workloads and suitable for that

RAJ BAGGA | MD, ENSONO

Major objectives of IBC are not only recovery but revival and rehabilitation as well. It was always thought of as a resolution mechanism and not a recovery mechanism

RAVI MITAL | CHAIRMAN, IBBI

SHORT TAKES

Windfall tax on crude oil hiked

New Delhi: The government has increased the windfall tax on petroleum crude to Rs 10,000 per tonne from Rs 6,700, effective September 16, according to a government notification Friday. The government also cut the windfall tax on aviation turbine fuel to Rs 3.50 per litre from Rs 4. The levy on diesel has been cut to Rs 5.50 per litre from Rs 6, the notification said. On September 1, the government cut the windfall tax on petroleum crude to Rs 6,700 per tonne from Rs 7,100. India imposed the windfall tax on crude oil producers in July last year and extended the levy on exports of gasoline, diesel and aviation fuel after private refiners wanted to make gains from robust refining margins in overseas markets, instead of selling at home.

Indian Bank unveils 'IB SAATHI' drive

Chennai: Public sector Indian Bank Saturday announced roll out of 'IB SAATHI' initiative aimed at providing an integrated ecosystem for all stakeholders in the financial sector through the business correspondent route. The IB Sustainable Access and Aligning Technology for Holistic Inclusion (SAATHI) offers an enhanced user experience through the simplified delivery of services, encompassing both basic and value-added offerings to customers. Indian Bank, with the launch of the scheme, seeks to provide basic banking services at all centres for a minimum of four hours per day at fixed branches while the Banking Correspondents would extend their services directly at the doorsteps of the customers.

CUTTING CHINA RELIANCE Russia ups India aluminium imports

RUSSIA IS THE SECOND LARGEST BUYER OF INDIAN ALUMINA IN THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR

REUTERS

London, Sept 16: Russia has stepped up imports of the aluminium feedstock alumina from India in recent months to supply its vast Siberian plants, a move that diversifies the sanctions-hit country's supply, helps reduce dependence on China and cuts costs.

After invading Ukraine, the world's second biggest producer of aluminium lost two crucial sources of alumina, used to make aluminium metal, as a refinery in Ukraine suspended production and Australia banned supplies to Russia.

While Russia and China are on friendly terms, aluminium production in China is rising, leaving less price flexibility for Russia to buy alumina.

Russia's Rusal, the world's largest aluminium producer outside China, needs to fill the gap left by suspended supplies to sustain domestic production while aiming to protect its margins against a weaker aluminium price backdrop.

The company's own alumina assets in Russia, Ireland, Jamaica and Guinea supply 70% of its needs, or 5.5 million metric tonne.



"After deliveries from Ukraine and Australia were lost, Rusal replaced it with increased alumina imports from China and other refineries in Asia, but it came at a considerable cost," Ami Shivkar at WoodMac said.

Russia became the largest buyer of alumina from China last year. Rusal's cost of purchasing alumina jumped by \$1.1 billion to \$1.8 billion in 2022 as it had to pay more for the raw material and for delivery.

Rusal has since diversified by securing alumina supplies from India and Kazakhstan.

"We can already say that the company's total alumina costs will decrease in 2023 compared to 2022," Rusal told Reuters.

Russia was the second largest buyer of Indian alumina in the first half of this year, Indian customs data show, with India exporting 189,379 metric tonne to Russia.

There were no exports in the same period of 2022. "Russia encountered difficulties in securing alumina from developed nations and forced it to switch to India," an Indian industry official, who declined to be named, told Reuters.

Russia is expected to buy more than 350,000 tonne of alumina

from India in 2023, the official said. The estimate is broadly in line with Rusal's own calculations, it told Reuters.

China remains the largest third-party supplier of alumina to Russia with shipments of 485,160 tonne in January-June, but it has less alumina to offer this year due to rising domestic aluminium production.

Aluminium of Kazakhstan, which produces 1.3 million tonne of alumina a year, plans to reduce supplies to Russia by 5% in 2023 as it also needs more product for itself, its owner Eurasian Resources Group told Reuters.

The company did not say how much alumina it sends to Russia, however CRU consultancy estimates Kazakh deliveries to Russia at around 40,000-70,000 tons per month.

Rusal needs to buy about 2.5 million tons of alumina a year from outside its own system.

Russian alumina purchases have been too small to affect the global market, estimated at 60 million tonnes outside China and dominated by Australia.

However, the need to import alumina means Rusal will rely on the price and the supply-demand balance of the global alumina market for at least five years.

Rusal said in June it would build a \$4.8 billion plant to make alumina in a Russian Baltic Sea port. The first phase of production with annual capacity of up to 2.4 million tonne will be commissioned by the end of 2028.

India, Canada FTA hits a stalemate

CANADA TRADE MINISTER IS POSTPONING A PLANNED TRADE MISSION TO INDIA



REUTERS

Ottawa, Sept 16: Canadian Trade Minister Mary Ng is postponing a trade mission to India planned for October, an official said Friday, reflecting increasingly tense diplomatic relations just days after India's prime minister scolded his Canadian counterpart at a G20 summit in New Delhi.

"At this time, we are postponing the upcoming trade mission to India," said Shanti Cosentino, a spokesperson for the minister, without giving a reason.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who held formal bilateral meetings with many world leaders during the G20 summit, snubbed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, allowing only a short, informal meeting on the sidelines five days ago.

Canada has the highest population of Sikhs outside their home state of Punjab in India, and the country has been the site of many protests that have irked India.

"They are promoting seces-

TRADE TALKS

India and Canada had first launched negotiations for a trade deal 13 years ago in 2010. After a lull of almost 5 years, the talks restarted in 2022 with renegotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Over half a dozen rounds of talks have been held between the countries on the trade pact so far. In March 2022, the two countries re-launched negotiations for an interim agreement-Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA). In such agreements, two countries significantly reduce or eliminate duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them. Norms are also liberalised to promote trade in services to attract investments.

Earlier Friday, India said it had paused trade talks with Canada. Canada made a similar announcement earlier this month, saying such a pause was needed to "take stock".

Only about four months ago the two nations said they aimed to seal an initial trade agreement this year.

Zoom airlines receives DGCA nod to start ops



Indian domestic aviation is growing, and customers are looking for the most cost-effective, safe, and convenient solutions. We are confident in our ability to carve out a niche by offering a unique and innovative travel experience
ATUL GAMBHIR | CEO, ZOOM AIRLINES

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 16: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has given its nod to Zoom airlines to commence commercial passenger operations in India.

Zoom airlines or Zexus Air, initially established in April 2013, acquired its first aircraft, a Bombardier CRJ200. However, it only commenced operations in February 2017.

Despite its efforts, the airline struggled to draw significant air passenger traffic.

Due to safety concerns, the DGCA suspended its air operator certificate in July 2018 for a period exceeding a year.

"Receiving the Air Operator

Certificate is a testament to our unwavering commitment to safety and operational excellence. We are grateful to our dedicated team for helping us reach this significant milestone. With our AOC in hand, we are looking forward to providing passengers with a top-notch travel experience that combines convenience, efficiency, and comfort," said Zoom Airlines CEO Atul Gambhir.

"Our CRJ 200 aircraft will provide domestic travellers with unprecedented speed on each route. We wish to cater to the growing number of domestic travellers who take frequent flights and expect comfortable travel with reliable speed," said Gambhir.

BIZ BUZZ

Housing industry shall be made more efficient: CREDAI



Bhubaneswar: The General body meeting of CREDAI Bhubaneswar chapter, Odisha's leading housing and infrastructure development organization, was held today at Hotel Suryansh, Bhubaneswar. Sofia Firdous, President of Bhubaneswar City Chapter presided over the meeting, while Jagat Kar, Secretary CREDAI Bhubaneswar Chapter conducted the meeting. Deliberations started after the welcome address by Jagat Kar Secretary of the chapter. It is noteworthy that this was the first General body meeting after the formation of the new management body of the chapter August 2, 2023. Dr Brahma Mishra, President of Utkal Chambers of Commerce, joined the meeting

as a special guest and expressed his willingness to support activities of CREDAI's Bhubaneswar Chapter in every possible way. Kar said that Bhubaneswar chapter will focus on the application of latest technology in the field of housing construction and infrastructure development in the capital city. Expressing pleasure that five new members have joined the Chapter, president Firdous said that it is very encouraging and hoped many more developers shall join the Chapter in the coming days. Highlighting the crisis in the housing sector, Firdous said that the problem will be resolved by having a substantive discussion with ORERA and various departments of the Government. She said that the housing industry will be made more efficient in the coming days. In the general body meeting, the president announced that the five programmes will be taken up very shortly and sought active cooperation from all members. Among others, Binay Krishna Das, Founder Member CREDAI Odisha, Sangram Keshari Sahoo, Chairman, CREDAI Bhubaneswar, Soumyajeet Mohanty and Bobbili Satyanarana, Vice President, CREDAI Bhubaneswar, Manmohan Agarwalla and Jyoti Ranjan Behuria, Joint Secretary, CREDAI Bhubaneswar, Ashok Kumar Patro, Treasurer, CREDAI Bhubaneswar chapter, Executive Members of CREDAI Bhubaneswar Ronak Dugar, Kamal Lochan Patra and Sheikh Mairajul Haque participated in the deliberations. Binay Krishna Das proposed vote of thanks.

Honda unveils all new SP160

Bhubaneswar: Taking forward the legacy of brand SP, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI) launched the all new SP160 in Bhubaneswar Saturday. The bold, sporty and stylish SP160 has been designed to deliver power with great performance suitable for daily commuting. Tsutsumu Otani, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India, said, "Since its debut in 2015, brand SP has revolutionized the 125cc motorcycle segment, setting unprecedented standards in technology, style and performance. Now, as we confidently progress into the future, we are delighted to extend the legacy of brand SP a notch higher and introduce the all new SP160. This sporty motorcycle is a representation of cutting-edge engineering and advanced innovation that is sure to fulfill the customer expectations." The SP160 is available in 2 variants - Single Disc & Dual Disc and the starting price is at Rs 1,18,500 (ex-showroom Delhi). HMSI is also offering a special 10-year warranty package (3 years standard + 7 years optional extended warranty) on the all-new SP160.



'INVISIBLE TEAMMATE' Gen X, Millennials, Gen Z eager to leverage AI at work

Majority of the Millennials, Gen X, Gen Z feel that AI will take boring tasks off their plate giving them the time to focus on tasks that excite them, said a LinkedIn report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 16: With companies adopting new technologies to enhance productivity, a majority of the Millennials and Gen X professionals are curious and eager to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) at work, according to a report.

Over 75 per cent of Millennials and 74 per cent of Gen X professionals surveyed feel that AI will take boring tasks off their plate giving them the time to focus on tasks that excite them, said a report by LinkedIn India. Meanwhile, 70 per cent of Gen Z are also eager and curious to adapt to the world of AI, the report added.

It's promising to note that professionals of all age groups value soft skills and technical skills equally as they prepare for the future of work

NIRAJITA BANERJEE | EDITORIAL LEAD AND CAREER EXPERT, LINKEDIN INDIA

People born between 1965 and 1980 are referred as Gen X, while Millennials are those born between 1981 and 1996 and Gen Z includes those born between 1996 and 2010.

"While Gen Z and Millennials have always demonstrated greater tech fluency, it's refreshing to see Gen X profes-



sionals embrace AI with similar enthusiasm. Professionals from these three generations are tapping into AI's potential to en-

hance productivity, navigate work challenges, and achieve a meaningful work-life balance," LinkedIn India Editorial Lead

and Career Expert Nirajita Banerjee said.

The LinkedIn report is based on a research conducted by Censuswide among 2,045 workers in India aged over 18 years during August 23-29.

According to the report, Millennials (79 per cent) and Gen X (76 per cent) professionals also said that adoption of AI will reduce their workload and will help them achieve greater work-life balance - the highest amongst all generations.

Meanwhile, around 93 per cent Millennials and 89 per cent Gen X professionals also believed that AI will become their invisible teammate in the next five years, said the report.

Even as there is some hesitation among all age groups interviewed, there is also excitement as Indians are optimistic that AI will positively transform their careers, noted the report.

The report further revealed that 84 per cent Millennials, 82 per cent Gen X and 72 per cent Gen Z professionals interviewed agreed that AI will help them solve problems or overcome an obstacle at work even with a job-related task which is beyond help.

As AI can take away some of the drudgery of their daily jobs, professionals are hoping to have more job satisfaction and lead an improved quality of life, the report added.

It further said the first quarter EPFO payroll data of 2023-24 reveals the trend is quite encouraging.

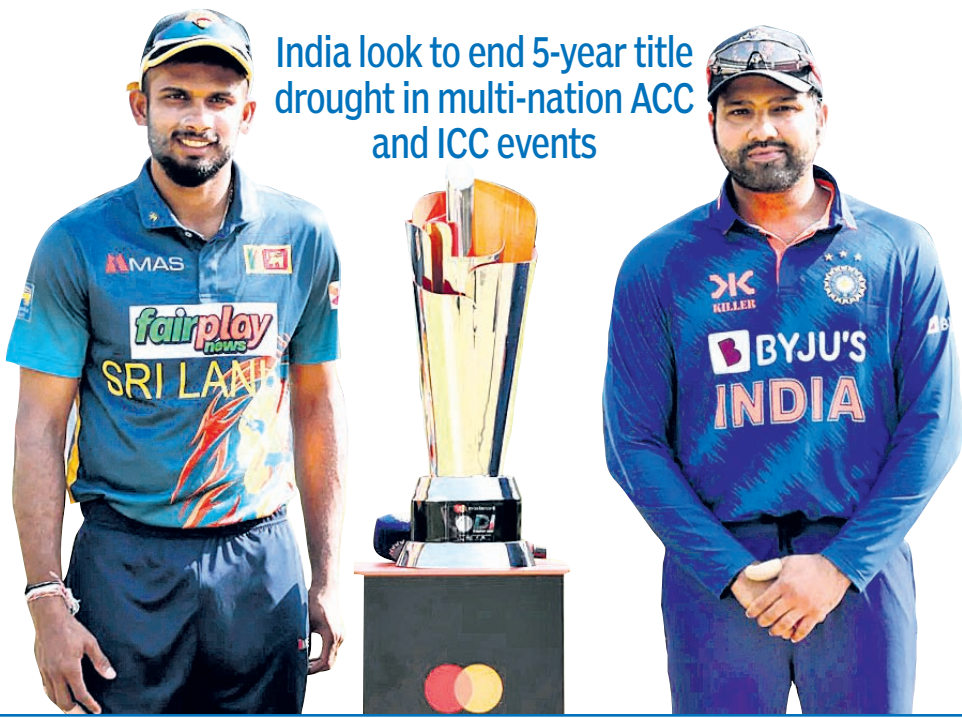
Already 44 lakh net new EPF subscribers joined, of which first payroll were 19.2 lakh.

"If this trend continues for the whole fiscal then in FY24, the net new payroll cross the 160 lakh mark (highest-ever) with first payroll in the range of 70-80 lakh," it said.

The research report further said NPS data indicates that 8.24 lakh new subscribers added in 2022-23, of which state government payrolls of 4.64 lakh, followed by non-government of 2.30 lakh and 1.29 in central government.

LOT TO PLAY FOR

India look to end 5-year title drought in multi-nation ACC and ICC events



STAT FACTS

Total Matches	166	India won 97	Sri Lanka 57	NR 11	Tie 1
Home matches won	India 39	Sri Lanka 28			
Away matches won	India 31	Sri Lanka 12			
Neutral venues	India 27	Sri Lanka 17			
Asia Cup titles	India 7	Sri Lanka 6			

out of the final due to a hamstring injury.

Cricket, at the top level, is not just about runs, wickets and catches. It is much more than that... it is mental game more so when it is a final. And it is here that Sri Lanka have an edge over India. They have won in tight situations unlike the Indians who have had an easy passage into the final. Yes, India did lose Friday to Bangladesh, but then they rested five of their key play-

ers. However, the ability of the already depleted Sri Lankan side to handle pressure may stand them in good stead in the final. Stats wise India are far ahead of the sub-continent rivals. Of the 166 ODIs played between the two sides, India have won 97 matches while Sri Lanka have emerged victorious in 57. India have also won the last six ODIs between the two sides and most of those have been achieved with emphatic margins. However, as said earlier the final will be a fresh game with history taking a back seat. Speaking about the final, former India coach Ravi Shastri said Saturday that if any one of the top four batters in Rohit, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul fire, India will put up on board a score of over 300 and that will be

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 16: Indian opener Shubman Gill said a victory in the Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka is important because it will give the team a lot of momentum ahead of the World Cup beginning next month. The 24-year-old said a victory here Sunday will instill in the team a winning habit, and fill them with confidence.

“Winning the (Asia Cup) final is very important for us because we need to create a winning habit. Peaking and gaining momentum at the right time is important,” Gill was quoted as saying by the BCCI. “It is also important to maintain that momentum because losing in one or two matches can add pressure. Winning here will give us a lot of momentum and confidence going into the World Cup,” the opener added. India lost their Super Four match against Bangladesh by six runs Friday night. Gill got a century in the game and asserted that they have not lost any momentum ahead of the summit clash due to the defeat.

“I don't think we have lost any momentum. I think we gave away extra 10-15 runs to their (Bangladesh) lower-order batters, but that apart we played some good cricket. Also remember we rested five key players,” Gill pointed out. “But these things happen on such kinds of wickets. Hopefully, we can execute these lessons in the final (of Asia Cup) and in the World Cup,” Gill pointed out. Gill said Sri Lanka have been playing good cricket, and India needed to be at their best to beat



LOSING 1 OR 2 MATCHES AND SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE WINNING A HABIT
SHUBMAN GILL

them in the final. “I think they (SL) have great momentum with them. The way they won the last match (against Pakistan) was great to see. We will have to pull up our socks, and we have to be at our 100 per cent to beat them,” Gill added.

Gill informed playing on slow-turning pitches in the Asia Cup will stand India in good stead in the World Cup. “It is a great practice for batsmen and bowlers because these are the kind of pitches that we generally play in India,” Gill said.

TODAY'S GAMES

ASIA CUP (FINAL)
India vs Sri Lanka
Star Sports channels (2.30pm)
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
Star Sports HD (6.30pm)

AGENCIES

Colombo, Sept 16: Ask experts in any discipline of sports and they will always say that the final of any tournament is a different ball game altogether irrespective of the results in the past. Sunday's Asia Cup final between India and Sri Lanka will not be an exception to this rule.

Despite India's win in the Super Four stage, Sri Lanka will definitely start on an even keel in the final. They are coming off an exhilarating last-ball victory

against Pakistan in the 'semifinal' and it will certainly give them oodles of confidence. When there are players like Kusal Mendis and Charith Asalanka, no team should be taken lightly and India should keep that in mind when they field their XI against Sri Lanka. Yes, India do possess a huge firepower of batters than their Sri Lankan counterparts, but then all will again have to start afresh.

SHORT TAKES

Pakistan pacer Shah may miss World Cup

Dubai: Pakistan pacer Naseem Shah's recent shoulder injury has cast doubts over his participation in the forthcoming World Cup in India next month. The 20-year-old pacer suffered the injury during Pakistan's Super Four clash against India in Colombo. Shah walked off during the 46th over of the Indian innings after injuring his right shoulder muscle. Sources in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said Saturday that the scans show that Shah could be ruled out for the year due to the injury which means he will miss the World Cup.

Hangzhou Asian Games village inaugurated

Hangzhou (China): The Hangzhou Asian Games Village was inaugurated here Saturday with acting director general of the Olympic Council of Asia, Vinod Kumar Tiwari, describing it as 'beautiful and outstanding' during the opening ceremony. In front of government leaders and officials of the Hangzhou Asian Games organising committee, Tiwari said he had been visiting here for eight years and had always been impressed with the plans and preparations for the 19th edition of the mega event. The Asian Games village will accommodate 20,000 people. Officials stated that all the residents of the Asiad village will get five-star facilities.

Replacements named

New Delhi: Bengal pacer Akash Deep was named Saturday as a replacement for injured Shivam Mavi in the Indian men's squad for the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou. Mavi is suffering from a back injury and has been ruled out of the tournament, the BCCI said in a statement. The men's cricket event will take place September 28-October 8 in T20 format. Meanwhile, the women's selection committee named Pooja Vastrakar as replacement for Anjali Sarvani who has been ruled out with a knee injury.

INDIAN WRESTLERS SHINE AT WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Belgrade, Sept 16: All four Indian freestyle wrestlers on show on day one of the World Championships won their opening-round bouts with 70kg grappler Abhimanyu upsetting World No. 7 Ukraine's Ihor Nykyforuk here Saturday.

Abhimanyu, the bronze-medal winner at the U-23 World Championships in June and ranked 26th in the world defeated the Ukrainian 19-9, achieving victory by a fall. The referee stopped the contest 2.41 minutes into the second three-minute session, after Abhimanyu had also dominated the first three-minute session, taking a 5-0 lead. The Indian will take on Nicolai Grahmez of Moldova in the in the pre-quarterfinal.

Akash Dahiya too began on a winning note defeating his Moldovan opponent Leomid Colesnic, scoring an overwhelming 10-5 verdict from the referees. The No.21 wrestler will take on Uzbekistan's Jahongir mirza Turobov, who is seeded sixth here and a gold medalist at the 2021 Asian Championships. In other opening-round bouts,

Trouble brews for former WFI chief

New Delhi: Former WFI chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, accused of sexual harassment of several women wrestlers, was not exonerated by the oversight committee constituted by the government to investigate the allegations against him, Delhi police told a city court here Saturday. “Singh was not exonerated by the oversight committee. The committee had given the recommendations, not the decision... Nowhere has it stated that these allegations are not substantiated or are false,” special public prosecutor Atul Srivastava told the court. He urged the court to frame the charges against Singh.

Sandeep Mann (86kg) got the better of Dejan Mitrov of North Macedonia with a win by technical superiority (10-0), and will take on Lin Zushen of China in the second round. Sumit (125kg) too had an easy outing against Japanese Taiki Yamamoto, ranked 30th in the world, winning the contest 3-1, to set up a pre-quarterfinal clash with Poland's Robert Baran. Incidentally Bran is a former European champion. So it will be a tough battle for Sumit.

Nagal keeps India's hopes alive

ROHAN BOPANNA HAS THE CHANCE TO SIGN OFF IN STYLE WITH DOUBLES VICTORY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 16: Sumit Nagal saved home team the blushes with a commanding win after Sasikumar Mukund limped out of the opening singles in testing humid conditions as India and Morocco shared honours on the opening day of the Davis Cup World Group II tie here Saturday. After being on court for three hours and five minutes, the 26-year-old Mukund conceded the

battle between the debutants, soon after taking a medical timeout at 1-2 of the third set. Cramping badly and grimacing in pain, he retired when the score was 7-6 (7-4) 5-7 1-4. The huge difference in the rankings notwithstanding - Mukund is 192 places above Dlimi at 365 - it was far from an easy game for the Indian. Placed No. 156 on the ATP singles chart, Nagal then expectedly brought the team back with a comfortable 6-3, 6-3 win over

Setback for Max at Singapore GP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Singapore, Sept 16: Max Verstappen's historic run of 10 Formula One (F1) wins in a row looks set to end after he qualified way behind in 11th place Saturday for the Singapore Grand Prix. The main event will take place Sunday.

Carlos Sainz (Jr) took pole for the race Sunday ahead of George Russell and Charles Leclerc as Verstappen's Red Bull team had their worst qualifying results of the season.

Verstappen, the runaway championship leader, was eliminated by .007 seconds in the second session by rookie Liam Lawson of sister team AlphaTauri. Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez was 13th after a spin. The two drivers have won every race this season between them, but this time they may not do so. Verstappen told his team over the radio that it was an 'absolutely shocking experience'.

There could be worse to come for him. The Dutch driver is under investigation for two incidents in which he appeared to impede others. Verstappen stopped at the exit of the pit lane and held up AlphaTauri's Yuki Tsunoda.

Liverpool, Man City triumph

AGENCIES

London, Sept 16: Liverpool overcame first half jitters and scored two late goals Saturday to secure a come from behind 3-1 win at Wolverhampton in the Premier League which resumed after a two-week gap due to international commitments.

Liverpool were trailing 0-1 at half time to a Hwang Hee-Chan goal at the Molineux Arena. However, the Merseyside team fired back through Cody Gakpo and Andy Robertson before an own goal by Hugo Bueno in time added on ensured victory.

It has been an impressive start for Jurgen Klopp's team this season, who missed out on qualification to the Champions League last season for the first time since 2016. It was Liverpool's fourth win in a row after drawing with Chelsea in their opening game of the Premier League campaign.

The game didn't go to plan from the start for Liverpool as their defence appeared very shaky. Hwang opened the scoring in the seventh minute to give the Wolves a lead they kept until the break. In fact, in the first half, Wolves had a couple of more chances to double the lead. However, poor marksmanship in front of the Liverpool goal



Cody Gakpo wheels away in celebration after scoring the first goal for Liverpool against Wolverhampton, Saturday

cost them dearly and they had to pay for it in the second half.

Gakpo evened the score 10 minutes into the second half from an assist by Mo Salah for his first Liverpool goal of the season. Robertson fired Liverpool in front in the 85th again off a Salah assist. Bueno's own goal ended all hope of a Wolverhampton comeback in the 91st.

In another game played on the day, Manchester City defeated West Ham also by a 3-1 margin.

Like Liverpool, they also conceded first, but then came back strongly. James Ward-Prowse gave West Ham the lead in the 36th minute. However, goals from Jeremy Doku (46th), Bernardo Silva (76th) and Erling Haaland (80th) ensured all three points for Manchester City.

However, the day did not turn out good for Manchester United as they lost 1-3 to Brighton. Tottenham Hotspur meanwhile beat Sheffield United 2-1.



Sumit Nagal

gripping tennis. Nagal's experience helped him through the tough periods.

Rohan Bopanna will play the last match of his Davis Cup career Sunday with Yuki Bhambri. They will take on Elliot Benchetrit and Younes Lalami Laaroussi.

“We know that fitness will play a huge role in this tie. The conditions are tough but it's same for both the players. Mukund had his chances and he did not take them. Once you start cramping and movement is restricted, psychologically, it becomes tough to come back,” India coach Zeeshan Ali said.



7 IN LEAD AFTER 3 ROUNDS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Puri, Sept 16: The Odisha State (U-11) Girls' and Open chess championships started here Saturday at the Brundavati Bhawan. A total of 93 participants are taking part in the com-

petition including 60 in the Open category. Seven players are leading the Open segment. They are Aryan Behera, Manish Mishra Swastik Suvam Pattnaik, Jayaditya Padhy, Satwik Swain, Sarthak Mohanty and Debapriya Biswal.