

Naveen's ₹900 crore **KALIA gift on Nuakhai**

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik disbursed ₹900 crore for 44.56 lakh farmers under Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme on the occasion of Nuakhai. Wednesday. "₹2,000 each was transferred to the bank accounts of 43.88 lakh small and marginal farmers, and 68,750 landless farmers under KALIA scheme for **P3** Rabi crop," an official said.

7 'debt-hit' Maha farmers end life

Yavatmal: Maharashtra was rocked by seven farmer suicides in Vidarbha region in the past 72 hours allegedly over debt burden. The suicides were reported from Yavatmal and Wardha in less than three days now, said Vidarbha Jan Andolan Samiti president and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Kishore Tiwari. The farmers were Pravin Kale of Hivari, Trabank Keram of Khidki, Maroti Chavan of Shivni, Gajanand Shinde of Arjuna, Tevichand Rathos of Banegaon and Nitin Pane of Jamwadi (all in Yavatmal), and Dinesh Madavi of Rantapur in Wardha, said Tiwari.

I usually feel empowered... till I post something on social media and get

abused by the people followed by PM

RESERVATION



AIRING GRIEVANCES: Police use water cannons on nursing students who were staging a protest to press for fulfilment of their demands in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur, Wednesday

Women's Bill gets LS nod

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 20: The Lok Sabha Wednesday passed the historic Bill granting reservation to women on one-third seats in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies with near unanimity amid demands from the Opposition to extend similar benefits to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and immediate implementation of the measure before the elections next year.

After a spirited eight-hour debate in which 60 members participated, the Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, with 454 members voting in favour and two (AIMIM leaders Asaduddin Owaisi and Imtiaz Jaleel) against it.

Setting the tone of the debate, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi made a strong pitch for bringing OBC women in the ambit of the proposed law asserting that any delay in bringing the

After a spirited eight-hour debate in which 60 members participated, the Lok Sabha passed the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, with

454 for and two against votes

reservation into effect would be

Intervening in the debate,

Home Minister Amit Shah

brushed aside apprehensions of

a delay in the implementation of

the proposed law and asserted

that the next government will

conduct a census and delimita-

tion exercise soon after the elec-

tions, setting in motion the

process to make women's reser-

vation a reality. Shah indicated

that women's reservation will

AIMIM leader Asaduddin

Owaisi opposed the Bill con-

tending that the measure would

provide reservation only to

'savarna women', and exclude

become a reality after 2029.

'gross injustice' to women.

have little representation in Parliament. The AIMIM has two members in Lok Sabha. Twenty-seven women mem-

OBC and Muslim women who

bers cutting across party lines participated in the debate on the Bill. At present, there are 82 women members in Lok Sabha, out of the total strength of 543.

The Bill was passed as per the provisions of Article 368 (2) of the Constitution relating to the passage of constitutional amendment Bills which require support of the majority of the total membership of the House and a majority of not less than twothirds of the members present and voting. A few amendments moved by the government relating to the numbering of the Constitution amendment Bill were also cleared by the House. When the proposed legislation goes to Rajya Sabha for its consideration, it will be called the Constitution (106th Amendment) Bill.

Pramila BJD's Speaker pick MEA advises caution to Indians in Canada **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday named senior leader and Revenue Minister Pramila Mallik as its candidate for the Speaker post of Odisha Assembly

Mallik will file papers Thursday for the coveted post which has been lying vacant since the resignation of BK Arukha in May. The election will be held at 9.30 am September 22, officials said.

Mallik, elected from Binjharpur reserved seat (SC),

was yet to resign from her present post as a Cabinet minister.

I am indebted to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for considering me for the post of Speaker. After election, I will be Odisha's first woman Speaker,"

she said. Mallik, the six-time MLA from Binjharpur in Jajpur, has held several key posts during her political career. She also worked as the government chief whip in the Assembly. Mallik is all set to win the

election as the ruling BJD has 113 MLAs in the 147-member House.

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66 I HAD BRAIN TUMOR. BSKY SAVED MY LIFE THROUGH CASHLESS SURGERY OF RS. 4.7 LAKH 55

SAHIL, BARGARH

AGENCIES New Delhi, Sept 20: With the

> two nations in the middle of a diplomatic faceoff, the Ministrv of External Affairs (MEA) Wednesday advised Indians living in Canada and those contemplating travelling there to exercise 'utmost caution' in view of growing anti-India activities and 'politically-condoned' hate crimes in the North American country

The MEA issued the advisory amid the deteriorating diplo-

Despite diplomatic standoff, Canadian Army will take part in a defence conclave in Delhi next week

matic ties between the two nations following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of 'potential' involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June. India Tuesday rejected the al-

legations as 'absurd' and 'motivated' and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case. In the advisory, the MEA asked the Indian students in Canada to exercise extreme caution and

remain vigilant. "In view of growing anti-India activities and politically-con-

doned hate crimes and criminal violence in Canada, all Indian nationals there and those contemplating travel are urged to exercise utmost caution," the MEA said in the advisory.

"Recently, threats have particularly targeted Indian diplomats and sections of the Indian community who oppose the anti-India agenda. Indian nationals are, therefore, advised to avoid travelling to regions and potential venues in Canada that have seen such incidents," it said.

However, the latest diplomatic row between India and Canada is not going to impact the bilateral military engagement and the Canadian Army will take part at a defence conclave in Delhi next week, military officials from both the sides said, Wednesday



AGENCIES

ବିକୁ ସାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଯୋଜନା Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana

"EVERY LIFE IS PRECIOUS" r-1-in.

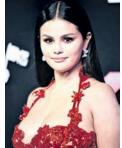


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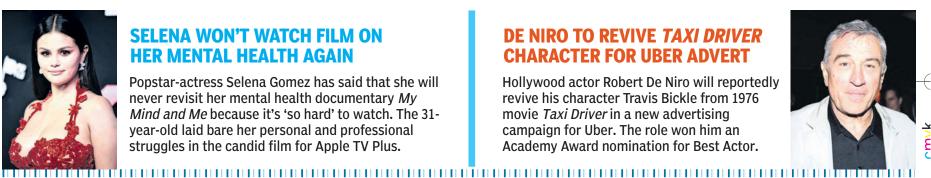


SELENA WON'T WATCH FILM ON HER MENTAL HEALTH AGAIN

Popstar-actress Selena Gomez has said that she will never revisit her mental health documentary My Mind and Me because it's 'so hard' to watch. The 31year-old laid bare her personal and professional struggles in the candid film for Apple TV Plus.

DE NIRO TO REVIVE TAXI DRIVER CHARACTER FOR UBER ADVERT

Hollywood actor Robert De Niro will reportedly revive his character Travis Bickle from 1976 movie Taxi Driver in a new advertising campaign for Uber. The role won him an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor.



FORTUNE **FORECAST** GaneshaSpeaks.co™



You are very sensitive, and some people will disturb you peace of mind today. However, getting irritated will only make matters worse. Reflect in isolation what may be at the root of the problem. Ganesha says it is closer to you than you think.

TAURUS

This day you are going to be particularly conscious of your beliefs and principles. You will be very proud and sensitive, and are not likely to brook any adverse comment or criticism. Anyone who dares to question or deride them will get a fitting response from you. Ganesha, however warns you to be more tolerant of others' views and beliefs. Intolerance, particular ly in the form of sharp and acidic retorts, could alienate some important persons

GEMINI

You will be filled with concern and sensitivity towards others. and will bestow your blessings upon many. However, being too emotional is not advisable. Your emotions could get in the way of your progress at the work-front.

CANCER

Ganesha says that it will be a day of challenge. You will be tempted to plunge into a new venture. But there is no need for haste or anxiety in this regard. Pending work will be completed. Business deals and transactions will end on happy note. Translocation due to business or domestic reasons is possible.

LEO

You will be busy on the work front today. It is a good day for those who are selfemployed. Housewives will remain extremely busy with household matters. You will be able to work according to your desire though, says Ganesha

Close members of your family and friends will take up most of your time today. Students will have to pay more attention to studies as exams are upcoming, and they will have to learn to balance study and free time. Ganesha says today is a good time to buy property. All in all, it is a day when you can afford to relax and let your mind pursue its interests.

LIBRA

Ganesha says today will be a wonderful day and bring forth a breakthrough for you. You shall get to know and learn a lot from top most officials and elderly people. The higher ups in your office will give you good support today. Ganesha warns you to stay away from judicial proceedings or pleadings, as today is not a good day for fighting court battles.

Raima hits back at nepotism debate

Mumbai: Raima Sen is all geared up for her next film The Vaccine War, helmed by director Vivek Agnihotri. In this highly-anticipated film, she portrays a journalist who questions the vaccination campaign in India. The movie claims to be a true story and is adapted from Dr. Balram Bhargava's book Going Viral: The Making of Covaxin

During her promotional interviews, Raima also touched upon the topic of nepotism. Contrary to popular opinions that often criticise the industry for its favouritism, she stated emphatically that she does not subscribe to the nepotism argument. Her perspective is that talent is the ultimate equalizer; regardless of one's lineage, only the most skilled will persevere. She argued that being the offspring

of a celebrity does not guarantee a golden ticket to stardom; talent and tenacity do. Raima Sen made her debut in Godmother and has a portfolio that includes notable films Daman, like Parineeta, Dus,

> and Chokher

> > Bali.

'surreal' experience

share this news. An excited Hina said: "I have officially sung my first ever song on record, and the entire experience was truly surreal! Hearing my own voice being recorded for the beautiful Barsaat Aa Gayi track was such an exciting experience."

Hina

shares her

"One of the most intriguing experiences of mine as a performer. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I am very excited for everybody to hear the song," added the actress.

The song will be released on Vvrl Originals. Hina is known for playing Akshara in the television show Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai and Komolika in Kasautii Zindagii Kay 2.

In 2017, she participated in the reality shows Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 8 and Bigg Boss 11 and emerged as runner up in both. Hina made her Bollywood debut in 2020 with Vikram Bhatt directorial Hacked. IANS

LEGEND COMES ALIVE ON STAGE



Big B shares secrets of his energetic life

Mumbai: Megastar Amitabh Bachchan, who is currently seen as the host of the quiz-based reality show Kaun Banega Crorepati Season 15, has revealed the secret of his wonderful energy at the

> In the new promo of the show titled AB young at 81, released by Sony TV

Wednesday, we can see a woman from the audience asking Big B: "What's the secret behind your energy at the age of 81.

Amitabh said: "I have turned 81", to this another woman fan from the audience said: "You

turned 18. not 81 Sir.' The Sholay actor then replied: 'Nothing else, I just want your wishes and prayers for me to continue. I see you, meet you and you all inspire me. These are secrets of my energy. And life is

not about walking, it's about running." The Reel was captioned as:

'Audience ka pyaar hai #AmitabhBachchan ji ke 81 ki umra mein energy ka raaz! Dekhiye

#KaunBanegaCrorepati, aaj raat 9 baje, sirf #SonyEntertainmentTelevision raat sirf par."

Kaun Banega Crorepati 15 airs on Sony.

Samantha's only plan is to 'not have one'

Chennai: Even though Samantha Ruth Prabhu primarily acts in South movies, she has gained widespread popularity in Bollywood, thanks to her role as the rakish antagonist Raji

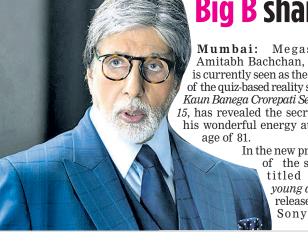
in The Family Man 2. While many directors are making a beeline to cast the actress in their movies seems like Samantha wants to take it easy. Earlier, there were reports that the actor will soon be paired

oppositeSalman Khan in a movie which will be produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. Reportedly, Samantha was in talks with director

Vishnuvardhan for this movie. However, in a recent Instagram live, Samantha quelled all rumours and said that her only plan is not have one. She said, 'My next project is to actually not have one. Not having a plan.'

She further added, "I want to be more selective about the things that I work on. The things that really push me out of my comfort zone, until I get a role like that, I think I am

okay On the other hand. Samantha has been living life to the fullest during her welldeserved break from the silver screen. Ever since she announced her sabbatical, Samantha has been treating her fans to glimpses of her extraordinary day-to-day adventures on social media. AGENCIES



Mumbai: Actress Hina Khan is set to

make her singing debut with Barsaat

Aa Gavi, and called it a 'surreal' ex-

perience.

Hina recently

took to her so-

cial media

platforms to

Members of Bidyakanak Srujanusthan, a Bhubaneswar-based theatre troupe, presented Odia play Prabada Purusa at Rabindra Mandap, Wednesday. Written by Shankar Tripathy and directed by Rakesh Kumar Satpathy, the drama was based on the life and works of former Odisha Chief Minister Biju Patnaik. Anil Satpathy scored music for the play while the stage was designed by Prangyadutt Sahoo. OP PHOTO

THAT WAS

CERTAIN THINGS WITH ANIMALS, YOU GET

INSULTED

M



SCORPIO

"It's a dream come true," you may utter these words in surprise today, feels Ganesha Your palatial home is ready or you may just get the keys of your much desired vehicle. You may have an extended celebration by receiving or giving gifts to your closed ones.

SAGITTARIUS

No wonder, if you feel like you are stuck in a rut. Your energy level and enthusiasm has gone for a toss due to mundane routine. Unfortunately, your stars too seem to be lazy today, and there's noth ing on the cards that can cheer you up. Ganesha advises to let the day pass calm ly and wait for a better tomorrow

CAPRICORN

At times you are very direct in your approach and often end up hurting your near ones badly. Today, you'll bandage some old wounds and make efforts to restore old relationships, says Ganesha. But, your struggle to improve rapport may not be as successful as you want it to be.

The cupid may strike you today! The singles may feel the energy and excitement of budding romance. Equally blissful day

for the married couples, too, as they will spend quality time with each other. Go down the memory lane, go through some photo albums and cherish those long lost moments, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Unexpected expenses are likely to crop up today. There are strong indications that you will set out upon a journey or a picnic to some nearby place, without too much prior planning. However, the journey will be comfortable and your travel plans will go off without a hitch. Even if you don't undertake any travel today, you will find yourself poring over the memories of you earlier sojourns, says Ganesha.

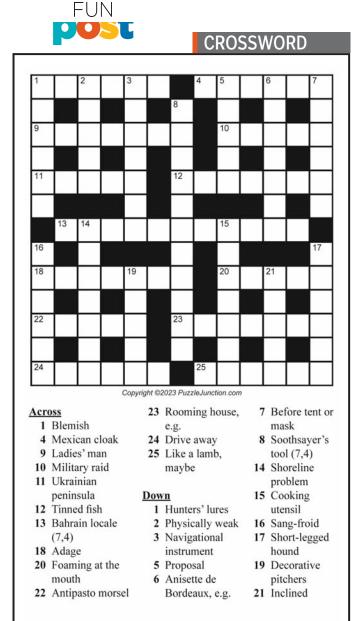


CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

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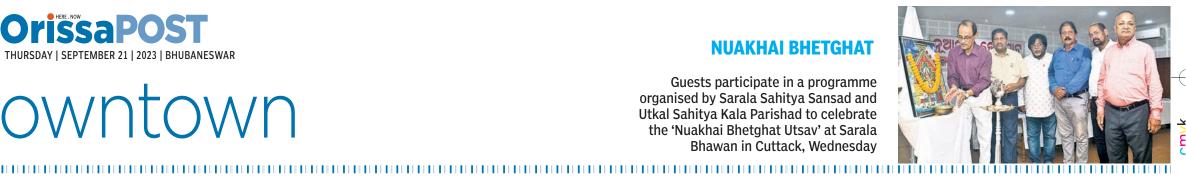
SUDOKU

9



NUAKHAI BHETGHAT

Guests participate in a programme organised by Sarala Sahitya Sansad and Utkal Sahitya Kala Parishad to celebrate the 'Nuakhai Bhetghat Utsav' at Sarala Bhawan in Cuttack, Wednesday



BJD: Introduce women's reservation in 2024 polls

IF THIS IS HISTORY, ODISHA CHIEF MINISTER NAVEEN PATNAIK IS A HISTORIAN; SAYS PARTY MP SARMISTHA SETHI ON THE WOMEN'S **RESERVATION BILL IN LOK SABHA**

OrissaPOST

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 21 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

downtown



KULDEEP SINGH,OP

New Delhi, Sept 20: Irked by the provision mandating implementation of reservation for women after a delimitation exercise is undertaken, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Wednesday demanded that the Women's Reservation Bill be implemented from upcoming 2024 general elections.

Women empowerment is not a joke, the BJD said in the Lok Sabha during discussion on the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, which seeks to provide one third reservation to women in Lok Sabha and Assemblies. The BJD requested the government to not further delay the implementation of the historic Bill brought to increase the representation of women in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.

BJD MP Sarmistha Sethi urged the Union government to not make the Bill a political gimmick.

"We have waited for 75 years and now this Bill has come just to tell us to wait for another six years. This is not done. This agenda is perhaps for 2029 elections. Let's not make it a joke. Women's empowerment is not a joke," the BJD MP said. She asked the Union government to implement the Bill by 2024 elections and stated that it will correct the historic mistake committed to women for 75 years.

The BJD also expressed displeasure over ignoring OBCs in the Constitutional amendment Bill. While the Bill has provisions for providing reservation to SCs/STs, it doesn't have provisions for reservation to OBC women.

"How can you ignore the interest of 42 per cent population," the Jajpur MP asked and demanded reservation for OBCs as well. The BJD MP credited Odisha

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the historic legislation. "If this is history, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is a historian,' Sethi said. The BJD MP highlighted the steps taken by the Odisha CM for the Women's Reservation Bill. She said a resolution for the Bill was adopted in the Odisha Assembly in 2018. The BJD supremo also sent 22 delegations across 22 parties. During 2019 elections, the BJD gave tickets to women on one third seats, Sethi said.

BJD MP Rajashree Mallick also spoke on the Bill in the Lok Sabha and extended support to the crucial legislation on behalf of her party.

Significantly, the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, introduced by Union Law and Justice minister Arjun Ram Meghwal in Lok Sabha Tuesday, seeks to insert Articles 330A, Article 332A, Article 334A and clauses to Article 239AA in the Constitution which provide one third reservation to women in Lok Sabha and Assemblies. Article 330A seeks to reserve one third seats for women in Lok Sabha while Article 332A provides for reservation of one third seats in Assemblies. The insertion of clauses in 239AA reserves seats for women in Delhi Assembly. The Constitutional amendment Bill also provides reservation to SC/ST women in the seats reserved for SC/STs. However, Article 334A mandates that the reservation of seats for women will only take effect after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken for this purpose after the relevant figures for the first census taken after commencement of the Constitution Amendment Act, 2023 have been

published. This provision of the Bill has been widely criticised by the Opposition parties which termed the legislation a 'nolitical Jumla'



BACK TO ELEMENTS: A man immerses an earthen idol of Lord Viswakarma at Ganeshghat of Kathajodi river in Cuttack, Wednesday

NIA crackdown to nab 5 BKI operatives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: Stepping up its crackdown on Khalistani terrorists, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Wednesday announced cash rewards for information leading to the arrest of five Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) operatives, including Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias 'Rinda' and Lakhbir Singh Sandhu alias 'Landa'.

The federal agency announced a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh each for Rinda and Landa and Rs 5 lakh each for Parminder Singh Kaira alias 'Pattu', Satnam Singh alias 'Satbir Singh' alias 'Satta' and Yadvinder Singh alias 'Yadda'.

A spokesperson of the NIA said these five terrorists are wanted in a case registered early this year related to the BKI's terrorist activities aimed at disturbing India's peace and com-



munal harmony and spreading terror in the state of Punjab.

'The wanted terrorists are accused of commission of terror acts and activities, besides raising funds for the BKI, a banned terror outfit, through smuggling of terrorist hardware and narcotics into Punjab and also through extensive extortion from businessmen and other prominent individuals.

They are also wanted in cases relating to commissioning of targeted killings as well as targeting of law enforcement agencies in order to create an environment of terror in the state of Punjab," the spokesperson said.

The official said investigations have shown that the five terrorists have been engaged in recruiting new members of the BKI by promising them monetary benefits.

"They have also established a network of operatives in various countries to further their terror activities in different parts of India," the official said.

Rinda, originally a resident of Maharashtra, is a Pakistanbased "listed individual terrorist" and member of BKI, while

Landa, Khaira, Satnam and

Yadvinder are residents of Punjab. "Any specific information leading to the arrest of the five wanted terrorists can be shared with the NIA headquarters in New Delhi or the NIA Branch Office in Chandigarh," the

bers. Meanwhile, the NIA released two lists of 54 individuals with their photographs who are

spokesperson said, sharing the

telephone and WhatsApp num-

wanted in the investigation of two cases, registered last year, to dismantle terror-gangster networks in the country.

The lists, one naming 11 persons and the other 43 persons, were shared by the NIA on its official account on X, formerly known as Twitter.

The list included several wanted gangsters, including Goldy Brar, Lawrence Bishnoi, Anmol Bishnoi and Arshdeep Singh Gill.

'If you have any information about properties/assets/business owned by them in their name or in name of their associates, friends and relatives, please WhatsApp," the agency said, sharing the mobile number.

Kurmi stir hits train services in Odisha, J'khand



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar/Ranchi, Sept **20:** Several trains under the

taking place at various places in Jharkhand like Manoharpur near Chakradharpur, Gomoh and at other places near Muri.

tors marched to the Muri Railway Station and sat on railway tracks. the officials said. Police also lathicharged pro-

Nuakhai gift: ₹900cr KALIA aid for over 44 lakh farmers

BOURSES	SENSEX	66800.84	₽	796.08
	NIFTY	19901.40	₽	231.40
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	83.11		₹0.09
CURR	EURO	88.8750		₹0.90
ION	GOLD	₹59,424	♥	₹142
BULLION	SILVER	₹73,215		₹646

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d MAX	28.7°C	29.4°(
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Humidity	98%	92%	Cloudy
Rainfall	15.2	2.2	sky with light rain

purview of South Eastern Railway (SER) and East Coast Railway (ECoR) were cancelled or diverted Wednesday, including the premium Rajdhani Express and Vande Bharat Express, owing to the blockade by members of Kurmi community in Jharkhand and Odisha. officials said.

were the Howrah-Mumbai

Gitaniali Express and Hatia-

Kharagpur Express, among oth-

Meanwhile, the ECoR in an-A total of seven trains were other release said a number of cancelled and nine others ditrains have been cancelled and verted, the SER said in a release. diverted for the day, which include the Bhubaneswar-New The trains that were diverted "due to ongoing agitation by Delhi Duronto Express and Kurmi Samai" include the Patna-Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Ranchi Vande Bharat Express Rajdhani Express. and Howrah-Mumbai Duronto Express, while those cancelled

ers, it said

"Agitation by Kurmi Adivasi Samaj, which was cancelled yesterday as per the directions of Kolkata High Court, has taken a new turn today with agitation it said.

A division bench of the Calcutta High Court, headed by Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam. had Tuesday declared the call for indefinite rail and road blockades by the Kurmi community as illegal and unconstitutional

Several Kurmi bodies had earlier announced the stir at nine stations in Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha from Wednesday, including Muri, Gomoh, Nimdih, Khemasuli, Kustaur and Harichandanpur, seeking Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the community, and inclusion of Kurmali language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

In Jharkhand, defying prohibitory orders, several agita-

testors near Nimdih railway crossing in Seraikela-Kharswan district when they attempted to put up blockades, Sub-Divisional Officer of Chandil, Ranjit Lohra said.

Convener of Adivasi Kurmi Samaj (AKS) Harmohan Mahato claimed that over a dozen of its activists were detained at Nimdih. Members of the Totemik Kurmi Vikas Morcha (TKVM) reportedly sat on the tracks at Ghagra station in West Singhbhum district on Wednesday morning, the officials said.

The district administration has also imposed prohibitory measures under CrPC Section 144 in Silli Circle near the Muri Railway Station from 6 pm Tuesday till further orders.



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: In what could be termed as a Nuakhai gift to the farmers of the State, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik released financial assistance of Rs 900 crore under the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and **Income Augmentation scheme** (KALIA), Wednesday.

The assistance, released for the 2023-24 Rabi crop, will benefit more than 44.56 lakh farmers, including 43.88 lakh small and marginal farmers and 68,750 landless farmers, a CMO release stated adding that the eligible beneficiaries will receive Rs 2,000 each in their bank account through DBT mode.

The announcement was made by the Chief Minister during a programme organised through videoconferencing.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said farmers are the pride of the state. Patnaik said he always wanted the farming community to grow with re-

spect and dignity as well as participate in development. Till date, assistance worth Rs 12,500 crore has been given to the farmers of the state under KALIA scheme, the Chief Minister added.

Naveen said he wanted children from farming families to become doctors, engineers and join good professions, and bring fame to their family and to the state.

It is worth noting that the state government is offering KALIA scholarship to children of farmers who are eligible for KALIA assistance.

The Chief Minister further said that the state government is paying the premium of crop insurance for the benefit of farmers. More than 22 lakh farmers have already registered for insurance this year, he added.

Nuakhai, an agricultural festival, is usually celebrated one day after Ganesh Chaturthi in western Odisha.

In March last year, the KALIA scheme had been extended by three years.

PAK SPY ASSAM MAN IN ODISHA POLICE NET

Nagaon (Assam): A CID team of Odisha Police Wednesday arrested a man from Assam's Nagaon district for allegedly sharing sensitive information with a person from Pakistan, police said. The accused, identified as Iqbal Hussain, was traced by Odisha Police, with assistance from local law enforcers, to his residence in Genduwa Pothar village in Batadrava area of the district, a senior officer said. Hussain had earlier worked in Bangalore but had recently returned home, from where he was nabbed. The Odisha CID had registered a case under certain sections of the IT Act against Hussain for allegedly sharing sensitive information with a Pakistani man identified as Abdul Haleem. Nagaon SP Navaneet Mahanta said the Odisha Police had sought the Assam Police's cooperation in tracing Hussain. The arrested man will be taken to Odisha after initial interrogation and completion of the legal formalities at a court here.

WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY TODAY 'Never too early never too late'

KNOW THE FIVE EARLY SIGNS OF ALZHEIMER'S

n an attempt to sensitize people about Alzheimer's dis-Lease, the World Alzheimer's Day is observed September 21 every year. The observance of the day is also aimed at raising awareness about dementia and challenge the stigma and misinformation surrounding these conditions.

This is a degenerative brain disease that affects memory. thinking, behaviour and the ability to perform day-to-day activities

Alzheimer's is a degenerative brain disease that affects memory, thinking, behaviour, and the ability to perform everyday activities. It is the most common cause of dementia among older adults.

World Alzheimer's Day is an opportunity to inform and educate the public about the implications of Alzheimer's disease on individuals, families, and society as a whole. It also serves as a call for action to support research into its causes, prevention, treatment and cure.

The theme and focus of World Alzheimer's Day may vary from year to year. Like, this year's theme is: "Never Too Early Never Too Late"

Recognising the early signs of the disease and other forms of dementia is crucial for timely diagnosis and intervention.

These are the five important early signs to watch for Memory Loss: One of the most



common and noticeable signs of the disease is significant memorv loss that disrupts day-to-day life. This might manifest as forgetting recently learned information, such as important dates or events, or repeatedly asking for the same information. Planning and problem solv-

ing issues: People with Alzheimer's often have difficulty

with tasks that involve planning, organising and problemsolving. They may struggle to follow a familiar recipe, keep track of bills, or follow a sequence of steps, such as getting dressed. Time and place confusion: Individuals with Alzheimer's disease can become disoriented about time and place. They may lose track of dates,

seasons or the passage of time. They may also face problems in recognising familiar places, even those that should be very familiar to them.

Problems in speaking and writing: Alzheimer's can affect a person's ability to communicate effectively. They may have trouble in finding the right words, following or joining conversations, or repeating themselves. Writing may become more difficult, with sentences that don't make sense or contain errors.

Poor judgement: Individuals with Alzheimer's disease may exhibit poor judgement in various aspects of life, such as issues related to financial management, personal hygiene, or safety. They might make decisions that are uncharacteristic of their previous behaviour, putting themselves at risk.

AGENCIES







downtown

Heavy rain to lash state for next five days: IMD



dershower is very likely to occur

Thursday at most places over

The Met department has is-

sued Orange warning in one or

two places over the districts of

Kalahandi, Kandhamal,

Nabarangpur, Ganjam, Boudh,

Bolangir, Subarnapur, Bargarh,

Sambalpur, Angul, Dhenkanal

Similarly, Yellow warning has

been issued at one or two places

over the districts of Balasore,

Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada,

Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Khurda,

Nayagarh, Puri, Gajapati,

Mayurbhanj, Deogarh, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda,

Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada

Friday, light to moderate rain

is very likely to occur at most

places over the districts Odisha.

Also, Heavy to very heavy rain-

fall (7 to 20cm) is very likely to

occur at one or two places over

the districts of Nuapada,

Bargarh, Bolangir, Jharsuguda,

Sambalpur, Sundargarh and

Light to moderate rain or thun-

dershower is very likely to occur

at many places over the districts

of Odisha, Saturday.

the districts Odisha.

and Keonjhar.

and Nuapada.

Deogarh.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: The low pressure area over northwest Bay of Bengal (BoB) and adjoining West Bengal-north Odisha coasts and the associated cyclonic circulation extending up to 7.6 km above mean sea level tilting southwestwards with height persists. It is likely to move northwestwards across Jharkhand during the next 2 days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Wednesday in its mid-day bulletin.

The Monsoon Trough at mean sea level now passes through Jaisalmer, Udaipur, Ratlam, Siddhi, Ranchi, Digha, the centre of low pressure area over northwest BoB and adjoining West Bengal-north Odisha coasts and thence southeastwards to East central BoB, the IMD bulletin added.

Under the impact of the system light to moderate rain or thundershower is very likely to occur at most places over the districts of Odisha with intense spells at places during the next five days.

Light to moderate rain or thun-

Trial run for 2nd Vande Bharat Express begins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: The full trial run of the Puri-Rourkela Vande Bharat Express, which would be Odisha's second such train, was conducted Wednesday, officials said.

The train left the Puri station at 5am to reach Bhubaneswar at 6:05am, and left after five minutes for the onward journey. After brief halts at Cuttack. Dhenkanal, Angul, it reached Sambalpur at 10:15am. The train was supposed to reach its destination, Rourkela, at 12:45pm, they said.

Earlier, a trail run was held be tween Puri and Talcher Road stations, they added. On its return journey, the train will leave Rourkela at 2:10pm and reach Puri at 9:40pm, covering the distance in 7.5 hours, officials said. "This is a historic moment for Rourkela. First, we got a flight, and now, the Vande Bharat Express. Rourkela's connectivity is getting enhanced and this is good for all," said Sunil Kayal, the president of the Rourkela Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI).

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee

(OPCC) president Sarat Pattanayak Wednesday accused the BJD government of suppressing the voice of journalists and alleged dictatorship is now prevailing in the state in the name of democracy.

'Dictatorship'

prevailing in name

of democracy: Cong

At a press conference here at the Congress Bhawan, Pattanayak said, "The BJP government is running a dictatorship government in Delhi. Here in Odisha, the BJD government also follows suit."

The attempts made to choke the voices of journalists and media shows that 'dictatorship' is now prevailing in the state in the name of democracy, he said. The Congress leader made this statement in the wake of

the raid by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha police in the office of leading Odia daily Sambad.

The raids were conducted by separate teams of EOW Monday after the investigating wing registered a case under different sections of the IPC including 420 (cheating) and 120-B (conspiracy) in a 'bank loan fraud' case against the media house. "The BJD government wants

media organisations to only do their publicity and not report their wrongdoings. Whenever any journalist tries to report the truth about the government, the person concerned was either framed in a false case or shown the doors from the house allotted by the government," he alleged.

Demonstration outside Assembly September 26 Bhubaneswar, Sept 20: Odisha primary school teachers, who

have been staging protests in different parts of the state, have decided to hold a mass demonstration outside the state assembly here September 26. Over 1.30 lakh teachers, affil-

iated to 11 different associations. had launched a statewide agitation September 8. Of those, two associations have withdrawn from the cease-work strike September 18. However, the remaining nine teacher associations are continuing their protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



TEACHERS' PROTEST

across the state.

The teachers are demanding the abolition of the contractual appointment system, a hike in grade pay and restoration of the **CM hails Odia scientist** for bagging award

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister

old pension scheme.

The primary teachers, who are continuing their agitation, have decided to hold a mass demonstration here at Lower PMG Square September 26 to put pressure on the government to fulfil their three demands, said Brahmananda Maharana. president of All Odisha Primary School Teachers' Association.

"We will continue our dharnas in front of 314 block education offices until our demands are fulfilled," he said.

Due to the cease-work agitation of teachers, primary education has been affected across the state.

Naveen Patnaik Wednesday congratulated Odia scientist Swati Nayak on receiving the prestigious Norman Borlaug Field Award, 2023. Taking to his official social media account, the CM said, "Her outstanding contribution in the field of agriculture and food production will inspire young scientists from across the world. Wish her all the best in future endeavours." Nayak in her reply to CM said, "Thank you so much for your wishes! Under your leadership, we, the agriculture scientific fraternity, have got the opportunity to advance our research and technology for smallholders. I am proud to represent my state and country

at a global level.

Despite SC order, states lag in tagging green lungs as forests

TAPASYA AND NITIN SETHI

New Delhi: In April 1995, TN Godavarman, the Malayali scion of an erstwhile princely lineage, filed a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court seeking action against the indiscriminate felling of trees in the Nilgiris forestland that was once his family's fiefdom. The court expanded the case's scope and brought the entire forest governance regime in the country under its glare.

In 1996, the apex court gave an order that was at once landmark, ambitious, controversial and influential -- it reemphasised what lands would be protected as forests under the forest conservation law. Under it, whether the government recognised a forest patch as one or not on its records, if it was a forest, it would be protected regardless of who owned the forest patch. This became necessary because government records of forests have always been fuzzy, contradictory and incomplete. The court asked that state-level expert committees identify and demarcate forest patches that had so far remained outside government records so that they were brought under the ambit of the law and protected. Twenty-seven years on, many states continued to drag their feet, and the Union government never put out consolidated information on these forests. The Reporters' Collective has accessed unpublished internal documents of the Union environment ministry, which, though dated, show that even by 2014 -- eighteen years after the apex court order -- most states, including Haryana, Bihar, Gujarat and Maharashtra, hadn't even begun to properly identify and protect such forests.



the dictionary definition of a forest would invite the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Law. Now they won't. (To know more read the previous part of this series).

can be applicable to all forest types in all State/UTs". It then decided that states should frame criteria themselves and wouldn't require the approval of the Union ministry. Now with the amendment to the Forest (Conservation) Act. it has done away with the category of deemed forests. Before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the new law, it said, "All areas which are identified as 'forest' by the expert committee constituted in pursuance of the 12.12.1996 order of the Supreme Court and affidavit has been filed in the Supreme Court in 1997

Losing Delhi's lungs

Though the professed intention of the government is to increase India's forest cover and realise its climate goals through the amendment, the unofficial green lungs of the country, such as parts of the Aravalli range bordering India's capital, have become sitting ducks.

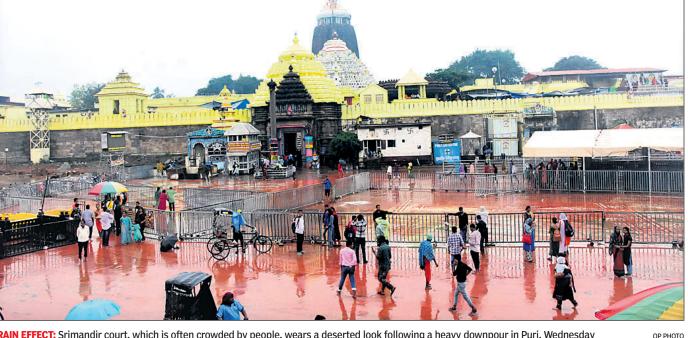
Only about two-thirds of the Aravalli hills in Haryana are protected under the Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900. However, according to experts, an estimated 40 per cent of the hills in Gurgaon and 36.8 per cent in Faridabad are not notified as forests. These pieces of land, totalling around 18,000 acres, with scrub, open and dense forest cover, could have potentially been 'deemed forests' or forests "as per dictionary meaning" before the law was amended.

The Haryana government has alavs been keen to avoid tagging the hills as forests. Documents dating from 2015 show the many bureaucratic manoeuvres the government made to avoid implementing the 1996 Godavarman judgement and subsequent orders. They show large swathes of Aravali forests had been put in a grey zone as 'status to be decided'.

Van Gujjar Tribal Yuva Sangathan, a union of nomadic pastoral tribe youths who work on claiming tenure over pastures through the Forest Rights Act, wrote, "Such a restrictive definition that seeks to reverse the logic of Godavarman case can lead to severe underestimation about the extent of forest areas... Furthermore, such a provision directly stands in contradiction with the purpose of the FRA, which applies to all types of forest land including unclassified forests, undemarcated forests, and existing or deemed forests"

Forests and Figures Keep Changing

Amid the lack of data on deemed forests across the country and the government's frigid attitude towards their conservation, chances are citizens might be skeptical about the overall forest data that the government puts out periodically. India's forest cover data has been highlighted in the past for its inconsistencies. (You can read about these inconsistencies here, here and here.) An analysis of State of Forest reports throws up contradictory conclusions. According to these reports, India, on average, has added over 2,146 sq km of forests annually between 1987 and 2021. But parsing through the two decades of these reports show, on an average, every two years, 2,594 square kilometres of very dense and moderately dense forest has turned into scrub or barren lands. That is more than the area of Bangalore and Delhi combined being chopped down every two years. Strangely, on average, 1,907 sq km of scrub or non-forest land have turned into very dense or moderately dense forest. How does a near-barren piece of land turn into a dense or extremely dense patch of forest in merely two years? Even the figures the government submitted at international platforms don't match with the forest cover figures presented in the State of Forest reports In a report submitted to the United Nations in 2018, the Centre magically increased the forest cover for 2000 by over 22,000 sq km. This is more than the area of Mizoram. The data submitted to the UN had increased forest cover figures for 2000, 2004 and 2009. These were different from the numbers it has disclosed to its citizens In absence of reliable forest cover data in general, and data on deemed forests in particular, the Centre has moved ahead with industry-friendly changes to the forest law. While the larger section of India's citizens stand in the dark.



RAIN EFFECT: Srimandir court, which is often crowded by people, wears a deserted look following a heavy downpour in Puri, Wednesday

The train will connect the coastal districts of the state to its western region.

PM Narendra Modi had flagged off Odisha's first Vande Bharat Express, which operates between Puri and Howrah, in May



The Modi government's recent amendment to the Forest Conservation Act, limiting the law's protection to officially designated forest areas, has now exposed large swathes of potentially qualifying forestland in these states to commercial interests

In the case of Haryana, large parts of Aravalli range forests bordering Delhi, which are vet to be notified as a forest, lose their legal protection under the amended Forest Conservation Act, leaving the land vulnerable to being snapped up by real estate developers. For private players, this is not the only piece of good news coming their way. The changes in the forest law exempt private plantations from conservation

laws. Earlier, a private plantation fitting

Lost in the woods

In a meeting held by the Union environment ministry in 2014, 18 years after the Supreme Court order, over 25 states and Union Territories (UT) updated the ministry on the work done to identify forests.

While 12 had decided what constituted a forest, be it privately- or publiclyowned, 15 states and 5 UTs, including Bihar, Haryana and Gujarat, had not.

This is the last consolidated data on how the states acted on the Supreme Court's directives. We accessed the documents, and they show state governments used wide-ranging discretionary definitions to identify such 'deemed forests'.

For example: Himachal Pradesh decided that "compact blocks of wooded land above 5 hectares" would be a forest. Another hill state, Sikkim said that a "contiguous patch of minimum 10 hectares area having more than 40 per cent crown density" would be considered a forest.

Uttar Pradesh instead decided. "minimum 3 hectare area with minimum 100 trees per hectare in Vindhya & Bundelkhand region and minimum 2 hectares area with minimum 50 trees per hectare in Terai and Plain areas" would be treated as forest. Except plantations on government or private lands.

The government never revealed this data to Parliament or made it public.

From September to November 2019, the Centre mulled identifying forests based on dictionary meaning and observed that "there can't be any uniform criteria to define forest which

But none is wiser about it because the government has not disclosed the specific areas identified as deemed forests on record and which have not been.

accordingly'

Environment minister Bhupender Yadav justified this exclusion in an opinion piece he wrote in a leading daily on August 7, 2023. "Fear had also crept in that FCA could be applied to private plantations. Afforestation outside forests failed to get the desired impetus. This was becoming a hindrance to enhancing the green cover,' Yaday wrote.

He was suggesting that private players were shirking from raising timber and other plantations for the "fear" that they would come under the conservation law that necessitated rigorous procedures of approval before the land was put to any other use that the owner wished.

With the amended law, that "fear" has been overcome. And the vision of the 2018 draft forest policy (you can read about this in the second part of the series here) to realise the full potential of agroforestry, especially timber plantations, with corporate help, has been brought to fruition.

It is decided now: they are not forests anymore. The Modi government's amendment to Forest Conservation laws clears the path for real estate business.

'Making the FCA non-applicable to a range of forest lands, including private forests, and deemed forests as per dictionary meaning will lead to ecological disaster. It will lead to a largescale diversion of these forest lands for non-forest use, particularly real estate in environmentally sensitive areas like the Aravallis," said Chetan Agarwal, an independent environment and forest policy analyst.

Many tribal and forest-dwelling communities across the country are against changing the definition of forests

Campaign for Survival and Dignity. a pan-India group of 18 adivasi and forest dwellers' organisations, strongly opposed the proposed changes to the Forest Conservation Act during the public consultation process. It said in its comments that the Ministry should drop the proposed changes and "must begin by exhibiting compliance with laws, particularly the Scheduled Tribes and other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and concede the authority of Gram Sabha in the decision-making on forest protection, conservation and forest diversion".

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state

PARADIP BOAT CAPSIZE

3 missing fishermen yet to be traced

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paradip, Sept 20: Three fishermen, who went missing after their boat capsized in Paradip, are yet to be traced, an official said Wednesday.

A fishing boat named 'Ma Basulei Bharasha-2' with registration number IND-OR-04-MM 160, owned by Kalandi Biswal had capsized in Paradip Neherubangla river estuary Tuesday afternoon. Out of eight fishermen on board at the time of the accident, five were successfully rescued while three remain missing, the official said.



Despite challenging conditions with strong currents in the estuary due to a low-pressure system, the Odisha Marine Fish Producers Association (OMFPA) dispatched a boat and rescued three individuals from the sea, while the Paradip port marine department managed to save two others.

Following requests by local residents and OMFPA for immediate helicopter assistance to rescue the missing fishermen, the Indian Coast Guard had deployed two helicopters and ships to find them.

With rough seas and low visibility due to fog and darkness in the evening, the search operation resumed Wednesday morning. However, despite all efforts, the three persons are yet to be traced, said an official of the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC).

Farmer killed in lightning strike

Nilagiri: A farmer was killed after lightning struck him on his farmland during a thunderstorm at Parasipal village under Chhatrapur panchavat of this block in Balasore district, Tuesday evening. The deceased was identified as Mukund Dhanik, 55, of the village. The mishap occurred when he had gone to his farmland to oversee the cultivation. He did not return home till late in the evening. His family members searched for him and traced him lving dead on his farmland at night. They informed the police which conducted a post-mortem at Nilagiri hospital and handed the body over to the family members, Wednesday, On being informed, Nilagiri resident and Dhenkanal Collector Saroj Sethy and

Greetings galore as western Odisha celebrates Nuakhai

THOUSAND OF DEVOTEES THRONGED THE SAMALESWARI TEMPLE IN SAMBALPUR TO SEEK BLESSINGS ON THE OCCASION OF NUAKHAI

PNN & AGENCIES

Odisha

Narendra Modi, Union Home

Minister Amit Shah, Chief

Minister Naveen Patnaik, Union

ministers and others Wednesday

greeted people on the occasion

of Nuakhai, an agrarian festival

mostly celebrated in western

from Odisha, said the Nuakhai

is an occasion of brotherhood and

mutual harmony. She prayed for

the happiness and prosperity of

shared his wishes on Nuakhai.

"Greetings on Nuakhai, an oc-

casion to appreciate the hard-

work of our farmers. I pray for

everyone's happiness and well-

being. Nuakhai Juhar!" he said.

heartfelt greetings to the sisters

and brothers of Odisha on the

Taking to X, Shah said, "My

Prime Minister Modi on X

the people of the country.

President Murmu, who hails

auspicious occasion of Nuakhai May the blessings of Maa Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, Samaleswari bring us peace and prosperity.² Sept 20: President Droupadi "My greetings and best wishes Murmu, Prime Minister

to all on the occasion of the agricultural fair. May your life be filled with happiness and prosperity with the blessings of Maa Samleswari," Patnaik said in a message.

Nuakhai is an agrarian festival, observed on Panchami Tithi (the fifth day) of the lunar fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada or Bhadraba (August–September), the day after Ganesh Chaturthi.

The festival is mostly celebrated in Sambalpur, Bolangir, Bargarh, Sundargarh, Kalahandi, Deogarh, Jharsuguda, Boudh and Sonepur districts. People worship their presid-

ing deities as a mark of gratitude for bumper crops, good rain and favourable weather for farming.

The first harvested crop was



offered to goddess Samaleswari at the stipulated 'Lagna' between

10.27am and 10.42am. The priests of the temple commenced the

ceremony in the morning as per the prevailing tradition and ritual. Goddess Samaleswari was adorned with a new saree and ornaments.

Thousand of devotees thronged the temple of the presiding deity of the region to seek blessings on the occasion of Nuakhai. The devotees were allowed to visit the Samaleswari temple from 12.30pm to 5.30pm, said president of Samaleswari Temple Trust Board Sanjaya Babu.

People also observed Nuakhai in their respective homes. Farmers offered the first crop of the year to the household deity on this occasion. The head of the family worships the household deity and offer rice and other food items

The head of the family then distributes the prasad among the family members. Even people, who work outside, also come back home during Nuakhai to celebrate the festival with family.

Various traditional dishes including Mug Bara, Ras Bara, Mug Mada, Suji Mada, Chaul Mada, Kakra Pitha, Kheeri are prepared during the occasion.

Apart from the rituals of offering the crop to the deity, 'Nuakhai Juhar' is a major ritual of the festival. The elders are wished 'Nuakhai Juhar' and they give blessings for long life, happiness and prosperity. However, Nuakhai Bhetghat (the social get-together to greet each other) is organised in grand way at many places.

Nuakhai in Western Odisha is not a festival of any particular group, caste or creed. It is a festival celebrated by all people of the region. The festival promotes harmony, help, co-operation and equality. Earlier, Nuakhai was observed in different days in different places. But since 1992, people have been celebrating the festival on the same day, said city-based writer Deepak Panda.

Maize growers rue lack of govt support

Scores of farmers in Ganjam district preferred maize cultivation as the crop requires less water and investment but offers better earning

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 20: Maize farming is now a popular agri-cultural practice in Ganjam district with farmers getting increasingly drawn towards it for various reasons, a report said.

According to a rough estimate there are over 30,000 families who earn their livelihood from maize cultivation. Farmers are opting for it as the crop requires less water and investment but offers better earning.

The crop collects its food and required nutrients from the soil for which maize is termed as protein based food. However, the farmers feel let down as the state does not provides them any incentives for the cultivation.

Moreover, lack of marketing facilities has hit them hard which force the farmers to sell their harvest to the traders in the district and other districts of Odisha. Moreover, lack of any financial assistance by the state government has disappointed the farmers and sparked resentment among them



mostly indigenous and hybrid variety of sweet maize which has got a high demand in the market. This kharif season, the district agriculture department had set a target of maize cultivation on 37,530 hectare of land while currently cultivation has been undertaken in 31.513 hectare of land in the district.

Among them, maize cultivation has been undertaken on 1405 hectare in Aska block, 825 hectare in Shergad, 1660 hectare in Dharakote , 1945 hectare in Sorada, 1526 hectare in Patrapur, 730 hectare in Chikiti, 345 hectare in Rangeilunda, 3185 hectare in Bhanjanagar, 2068 hectare in Belguntha, 3800 hectare in Jagannathprasad, 2841 hectare

in Ganjam block. Similarly, the cultivation has been undertaken on 265 hectare in Hinjilicut, 650 hectare in Digapahandi block, 841 hectare in Sanakhemundi, 515 hectare in Kukudakhandi, 2195 hectare in Khallikote, 1311 hectare in Beguniapada, 773 hectare in Kabisuryanagar and 1405 hectare in Polsara block.

The cultivation is mostly done in Cheramalia and Sanaramachandrapur areas under Aska, Buguda, Ganajam and in Birudigad in Rambha area. The farmers here buy maize seeds from various private agencies as the government does take any step to provide them the seeds.

The farmers spent around R

insurance if they face any loss during cultivation, the chief district agriculture officer Subrat Kumar Sahu said. However, they do not get any compensation if the wild boars or pigeons feed on their crops

Maize farmers have demanded the state government to provide them quality seeds for cultivation when the maize cultivation is increasing in the district.

Farmer Jeetendra Kumar Bisoi of Aska area said they have guarded their standing crops round the clock as there is fear that their crops might get destroy by wild boars, pigeons or jackals. However, despite all efforts they are facing crop loss but they do not get any compensation from the government. Moreover, they even have to buy seeds from private agencies at a higher price as the government does not supply them with seeds.

He demanded that the state government should make provision for supply of maize seeds like paddy seeds through primary agriculture cooperative societies (PACS)

Seemanchal Nayak, secretary of Rushikulya Rayat Mahasabha said the state government has not made any provision for assistance to the maize farmers for which many maize farmers are suffering and facing losses in their cultivation. He demanded that the state government should provide financial assistance and

2 Maoists killed; huge cache of arms seized



POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 20: Two female Maoists were killed in exchange of fire with police at Aranpur police station area in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh on Malkangiri border Wednesday. A huge cache of arms and ammunitions was also seized from the spot

during search operation. The deceased Maoists were identified as Kumari Lakhe aka Madbi of Chenal Patelpara village under Kirndol police limits in Dantewada district and Mangali Padami of Paihagelur village under Basaguda police limits in Bijapur district, the police in-

Police recovered bodies of the two female Maoists and seized huge cache of Maoist items from the spot. One INSAS rifle, a 12 bore rifle, walkietalkie, Maoist uniforms and literature, wires, medicines, two tiffin boxes and other items were seized, police said.



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Complete information including e-tende

documents of the above e-tender is available in website http://www.ireps.gov.in

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer

R-71/CG/23-24 Tele & NW/Bhubaneswa

changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender

consideration.

other villagers met the bereaved fam ly and condoled the death of Dhanik while also giving away some financial assistance.

Sources at the office of the chief district agriculture officer said farmers here cultivate

in Buguda , 155 hectare in Chhatrapur, 683 hectare in Purusottampur and 2350 hectare

74,250 for maize cultivation on one hectare of land. The farmers get compensation from the crop compensation to the farmers like paddy farmers which will boost the cultivation.

Youth swept away during immersion

Rayagada: In a tragic incident, a youth swept away in the Nagavali river while immersing a Ganesh idol on the river bank under a bridge in between Checkguda and Dhumaguda villages in Rayagada district Wednesday afternoon. The youth was identified as Srinibash Ashok Kumar, 32, son of Srinibash Dileswar Rao of Mankadajhola slum in the area. He was working at JK paper mill.As per reports, Ashok had gone to Nagabali river for Ganesh idol immersion along with his mother Wednesday around 3pm. Ashok went to the river bank for immersion when he accidentally slipped and was swept away in the river current. When Ashok's mother shouted for help, some locals immediately reached the spot. Informed, Fire personnel reached the spot and conducted a search operation in the presence of Rayagada police. However, due to constant rain the missing youth could not be traced till the time this report was written.

formed.

As per reports, acting on a tip-off about the presence of Maoist cadres of Darbha division in Nahadi forest, police conducted a search operation. However, when the Maoists came to know about the search operation. they fired at the police party leading to an exchange of fire. After one hour, finally the Maoists fled the spot.

MUTUAL FUND INVESTOR AWARENESS PROGRAM

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Date and Venue

Friday, 22nd September, 2023;7:00 pm onwards. at Hotel Harjit Residency, Dayal Towers, VSS Marg, Sambalpur, Odisha. For registration, please contact: Indranil Bose, Mobile: 91231 47315.

Registration is compulsory. The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm It is mandatory to follow the COVID safety guidelines during the event. No walk-ins will be allowed.



Visit https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know You Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds, Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.govi.in/intermediaries.html<http://www.sebi.govi.ni/intermediaries.html>Finds. puteries, compliantis & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMCs and/or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally ge complaints on https://scores.gov.in if they are u tors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and sub-

MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO MARKET RISKS,	READ ALL SCHEME RELATED DOCUMENTS CAREFULLY.
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	M/s Aircon India Incorporated				
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POST NEWS NETWORK

Kamakhyanagar, Sept 20: A rare chameleon, known for its distinct range of colours and capable of shifting to different hues and degrees of brightness, has been sighted at Bija forest here in Dhenkanal district, a report said Wednesday.

Manch in Sambalpur, Wednesday

The reptile which is on the verge of extinction was found while it was crossing a road in Bija forest. According to available details, these are found in large numbers mainly in the in dense forests of East African country Madagascar. The rep-



TRADITIONAL CHARM: Girls performed Sambalpuri dance at a Nuakhai Bhetghat programme organised by Odisha Sanskrutik Samaja at Aranyak

tile growing 14-22 inches in length The male reptile is bigger in and weighing around 60-180 gram size than its female counterpart. is known as 'Bahurupi Endua' The males have all the seven in local parlance in Odisha and colours while females are found 'Girgit' in Hindi in brown and grey shades. They

use their colours as means of communication with the females and protection from enemies.

OP PHOTO

Its yellow colour signifies anger and offensive mood while the green colour signifies its cool and calm posture. They use the blue colour to attract females of the species and can effectively change its colour according to environment, surrounding conditions and its necessity.

These animals, non-venomous in nature, prefer to live alone in bushes. They prey on small insects with their tongues which they can extend as long as three times the length of their body. They can move their round eyes to 360 degrees and can focus on two different objects at the same time with both their eyes

Poaching and smuggling owing to superstitions and myths apart from wildfires are the major factors leading to decline in their population. Environmentalists said the survival of these reptiles is highly essential to maintain equilibrium in environment.

Kamakhyanagar West ranger Kailash Chandra Sahu said that wildfires during summer and unavailability of water are the chief causes behind sharp decline in their population.

Endangered chameleon seen in Dhenkanal forest



power post

ISRO's

of

the subsequent launch of Aditya

Chandrayaan-3 space-

craft on the Moon and

ing

FOCUS SCIENCE

SPACE SUCCESS

Only the soul that is naked and inashamed can be pure and innocent, even as Adam was in the primal garden of humanity. SRI AUROBINDO



Carla Norrlöf

If governments

before another

losing a

abandon the dollar

currency becomes

dominant, they risk

liquidity lifeline in

times of crisis

Dollar Dominance

any experts believe that the US dollar's global hegemony, which has endured for nearly 80 years, is finally coming to an end. This outcome is not impossible: economic crises, increased domestic polarisation, and strong geopolitical headwinds could indeed culminate in the currency's meltdown. But it is not likely.

Debates about the future of the international monetary system often fail to appreciate the greenback's full-spectrum dominance, which requires understanding its role in public and private markets, as well as the various incentives to hold dollars. So long as self-reinforcing synergies and forms of opportunism continue to prevail, narrowing the yawning chasm between the dollar and other currencies will remain difficult.

To be sure, there are threats to dollar supremacy. The greenback's primacy and pervasiveness in the global financial system has become a major bone of contention in the great-power struggle between the United States, China, and Russia. These geopolitical challenges are happening against a backdrop of high interest rates and America's polarised politics, which prompted the drawn-out negotiations over the US debt ceiling earlier this year; taken together, they risk undermining the per-

ceived safety of dollar assets. But for the greenback to be unseated, multiple actors must support a substantial currency shift.

Moreover, the US - and potentially other countries - have a vested interest in preserving the dollar's status as the world's only truly global currency. Americans benefit from the ease and convenience of transacting in dollars, seigniorage, monetary flexibility, and being the world's safe haven in times of crisis. For the US government, it serves as a non-military instrument of coercion with which to police the world, as well as a source of prestige.

Measuring dollar dominance requires a closer look at the many functions – from medium of exchange to unit of account and store of value – the greenback serves outside the US. Governments and monetary authorities use the dollar to intervene in foreign-exchange markets, to hold official reserves, and as a pegging currency. Private actors, meanwhile, rely on it as a vehicle currency, for invoicing and settlement of trade, and for investment purposes. The interplay between these different actors and roles has propelled the currency to its hegemonic position, as shown in the figure below.

The dollar outperforms its main rival - the euro - by the largest margin in the role of reserve currency, which foreign governments and monetary authorities use as an exchange-rate peg or for interventions. Government decisions thus matter for the dollar's continued primacy. Official entities could coordinate foreign-exchange interventions to prop up or hold down the dollar. But that would require collective action, as would the successful implementation of alternative payment systems and liquidity arrangements, such as China's Cross-Border Interbank Payment System, a renminbi-based rival to the US Clearing House Interbank Payments System, or the proposed joint reserve currency issued by the BRICS group of major emerging economies. The question is whether such coordination is possible.

In the post-Cold War era, governments have been motivated primarily by economic factors when deciding whether to bulk up on a foreign currency. The liquidity, depth, and breadth of the dollar market has made the greenback widely accessible and cheaper to use than alternatives. Feedback loops between official institutions and private actors have also encouraged governments and monetary authorities to accumulate dollar-denominated reserves

Private actors' willingness to use and hold dollars is also a choice based on economic considerations: these actors are likely to settle payments – and thus store value – in the invoicing currency. But they coexist within a decentralized system in which each typically accounts for a small slice of the pie. Even the considerable dollar assets held within large financial institutions comprise deposits by separate entities without the means or incentives to act collectively. Thus, while independent decisions could chip away at the dollar's global standing, a deliberate and coordinated private effort to subvert the current system is highly unlikely. To bring about a dollar collapse and forge a new world order in which the greenback plays a diminished role would require all users to break these network effects and suffer the consequences. Governments would need to sever economic and political ties to the US. To fulfill the BRICS' pledge to create an alternative reserve currency and payment system, for example, many of its members would have to stop relying on US liquidity and consumer demand. Such initiatives depend on the participation of major economic actors or a preponderance of minor ones. It is unlikely that the major economies would come on board, because, with the exception of China, they all enjoy access to dollar-swap lines. Moreover, if governments abandon the dollar before another currency becomes dominant, they risk losing a liquidity lifeline in times of crisis. Many small actors would likewise be loath to jump ship, given that opportunism largely precludes collective action. Apart from any direct economic costs, governments that conspire to thwart the dollar system risk losing America's security guarantee. Even countries that do not benefit directly from US defense commitments will probably be reluctant to land on the wrong side of such a formidable military power. Positive feedback across the greenback's official and private functions, the network effects associated with its incumbency advantage, and opportunism discourage collective action against the status quo. For governments, unplugging from the dollar system also means disconnecting from all that the US has to offer, including liquidity provision, consumer demand, dollar-swap lines, and a security umbrella. Currency dominance is sticky. Absent major economic upheaval or a geopolitical realignment, the dollar's global hegemony will continue to create the conditions for its own persistence.

Nikunja Bihari Sahu

IN RECENT YEARS, SPACE HAS NO LONGER REMAINED A SECLUDED DOMAIN ALOOF FROM THE HUMAN **ACTIVITIES, BUT HAS EMERGED AS A FRONTIER TO FURTHER** MAN'S

AMBITIONS

L1 probe on a mission to the Sun can be viewed as not simply India's demonstration of crucial technologies for the exploration of outer space, but also the realisation of the country's far-reaching goal of unravelling the mysteries of the universe that would eventually usher in progress and prosperity for the whole of humanity in line with our great ancient philosophy. In recent years, space has no longer remained a secluded domain aloof from the human activities, but has emerged as a frontier to further man's ambitions. One of the direct applications of space is the vast number of communication satellites stationed in space that constantly relay radio signals to our television and smart phone sets transcending the limits of time and space. Space applications have also helped us immensely in the field of remote-sensing of earth based resources, weather forecasting, forest cover mapping, assessment of wildfires, crop production, disaster management, navigation, remote education and many others of which we are the direct beneficiaries.

However, exploring the Moon, our immediate celestial neighbour, has remained as a prime goal for humanity ever since the beginning of the space race in the Cold War period between the USA and the erstwhile Soviet Union. While the Soviet Union's Luna series of missions was able to first visit the Moon achieving many astonishing feats like soft landing, rover manoeuvres and sample collections of lunar soil, the USA, on the other hand, had an even bigger accomplishment by landing its men for the first time on the Moon through its



It is imperative that we study the Sun in all its details for protecting life on Earth and, in this context, India's Aditya mission is a step forward

Apollo11 mission in 1969. After the end of the Cold War and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union, the space race has been joined by several other developed and developing nations -- European Union, China, India, Japan, UAE and Israel.

India's latest achievements in space exploration were a feat long due for a country of 1.4 billion and having the advantage of inheriting some of the greatest space legacies of the world founded by outstanding scientists like Vikram Sarabhai, Satish Dhawn and UR Rao. India became the first country in the world to soft-land its Vikram Lander near the Moon's South Pole and to explore its treasure trove of resources through the Rover Pragyan. As it can be remembered, Russia's Luna 25 mission which was launched with a much powerful Soyuz rocket compared to our own LMV III vehicle was poised to create history by landing near the Moon's South Pole a few days ahead of Chandrayaan-3. However, in a sudden turn of events, it crashed due to anomalies in its orbit correction manoeuvres allowing India's Chandrayaan-3 to score a decisive first. In contrast, all the orbit correction manoeuvres

of ISRO throughout the Chandravaan-3 mission, be it around the Earth or the Moon. have come out in flying colours with precise accuracy and flawless performance which has been the hallmark and the major contributing factor for the success of the mission. Secondly, ISRO has demonstrated how a lofty and grand space mission could be accomplished with a minimal and affordable investment cost compatible for a developing nation like India with the Chandrayaan-3 project serving as a burning example costing only Rs 615 crore, which is less than the production cost of a Hollywood movie. Thirdly, the performance of ISRO in all its departments, launching to separation to orbit raising to injection to landing to rover and many more, had been immaculate and flawless which is a testimony to its professional approach and enormous capability. Fourthly, the fact that a number of women scientists of ISRO were involved in key decision making of both the missions testifies the strength of India's women power and the country's diverse intellectual resource. While the Chandrayaan-3 project soared high under the able-leadership

of Dr Kalpana Kalahasti as the Assistant Director of the mission, Dr. Nigar Shaji, another outstanding lady scientist of ISRO, was the brain behind India's landmark journey to the Sun in her capacity as the Project Director of Aditya mission. Lastly, having delved too much on our Chandrayaan programme, it will be unfair if we miss the success story of our Aditya mission. The mission has seven scientific payloads, contributed by different scientific organisations of the country, that will carry out detailed investigation of the solar physics and its impact on the space weather of which we are an integral part and that is again an effort to further our knowledge about the mysteries of the cosmos. It is worthwhile to mention that although the Sun itself has created the solar system and sustains life on our planet, it also causes large scale devastations on the Earth when it is angry in the form of bursting high energy radiations and charged particles to our biosphere. Hence, it is imperative that we study the Sun in all its details for protecting life on Earth and, in this context, India's Aditya mission is a step forward. If the mission is accomplished, India will become the sixth country after the USA, Russia, the EU, China and Japan to have accomplished the feat with again a feather in its already illustrious cap. With ISRO's next big pro-

gramme, the Gaganyaan manned spaceflight mission knocking on the door, we hope that the recent successes in space will inspire our young generations substantially to embrace careers in science to take our country to new heights of glory.

> The writer is Education **Officer**. Regional Science Centre. Bhopal.

SPECTRUM RELIGION

Core values disappearing

Court has made some noteworthy observations, which need serious attention by those debating to score political brownie points. It said, Sanatana Dharma is a set of "eternal duties" which can be gathered from multiple sources relating to Hinduism or those practising the Hindu way of life, and includes "the duty to the nation, duty to the King, King's duty to his people, duty to one's parents and Gurus, care for the poor, and whole lot of other duties. Its observations came while hearing a petition, wherein the court said it is conscious of the "very vociferous, and at time noisy debates on pro and anti Sanatana Dharma" and it couldn't help pondering over with genuine concern for what is going around. Untouchability in a country of equal citizens "can't be tolerated." the court said and added even if it's seen as permitted somewhere within the principles of Sanatana Dharma, "it still can't have a space to stay, since Article 17 of the Constitution has declared that untouchability has been abolished. It's part of the fun-

mid the ongoing contro-versy over Sanatana damental right...Therefore, un-touchability, either within or steadily disappearing from so-gion being misinterpreted and ma, the Madras High outside Sanatana Dharma can no

ciety as a section deals with the

used for political and/or personal gains. There is need to spread religious education to develop understanding and its role in social transformation. Like modernity in society, there is an imperative need to inculcate core values of religion and spiritualism, which form the basis of what is being called Sanatana Dharma, to the young generation and doing away with all forms of superstition. While pravers to the Supreme is no doubt necessary, a senior monk of the Ramakrishna Mission of Bhubaneswar told this writer that service to the community, in whatever form, is also a way to reach God. And this was the core of Swami Vivekananda's teachings with the addition that everyone should sacrifice something for fellow brothers and sisters. Perhaps the present controversy could have been avoided from both sides had young Stalin not decried religion per se but those who misinterpret and misguide people about Hindu faith and the opponents not hammered it as a political agenda. India's message of "vasudhaiva ku-tumbakam" ironically gets tarnished.

The writer is Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1840:** While experimenting with gallic acid, a chemical he was informed would increase the sensitivity of his prepared paper, William Henry Fox Talbot discovered that the acid can be used to develop a latent image on paper, leading to a revolution in photography.
- **1931:** The Bank of England dropped the gold standard, and the pound sterling promptly lost 28 percent of its value, undermining the solvency of countries in eastern Europe and South America.
- **1937:** JRR Tolkien's The Hobbit is published for the first time. The Hobbit, or There and Back Again is a young adult fantasy novel that follows the adventures of the hobbit Bilbo Baggins as he traverses through Middle Earth to find treasure guarded by a dragon named Smaug.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

IF RELIGION IS TO SERVE AS THE BASIS OF THE NEW WORLD, IT MUST **BECOME MORE INWARD AND MORE UNIVERSAL**

etters

are most welcome to contribute letters

postal address/email ID. They may also

and suggestions, preferably by email,

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

send in their valuable comments, opinion

TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST

(200 words), articles and

requested to send their contact numbers and full

to: edit@orissapost.com

columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are

longer be Constitutional, though sadly it still exits.'

Perhaps DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin should take a cue and consider weighing the words he chooses, to avoid a backlash and an unsavoury row. Expectedly political parties, such as the Congress, have either distanced themselves from Stalin's remarks or upped the ante like the BJP to reach out to their vote banks. Prime Minister Modi instantly used the opportunity to hit out at the Opposition bloc and portray the BJP as the sole saviour of the country's majority Hindus. Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused the INDIA bloc of "insulting" Sanatana Dharma for vote bank and appeasement politics. Besides, 260 eminent citizens, including former judges and bureaucrats, have written to CJI DY Chandrachud urging him to take cognisance of the DMK leader's comment calling it "hate speech" against a large population of India.

Be that as it may, over the years there's been much debate on religion, its values and efficacy in modern life and daily living. And what appears is the fact

theoretical aspects which are seldom practised. It is pertinent to refer to eminent philosopher and former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who believed that Sanatana Dharma was capable of embracing humanity. The narrow sectarian walls in society along with superstitions that have been created in the name of religion do not really reflect the spiritual and moral aspect of faith that Hinduism stands for. At a UNESCO conference in 1948 he had said: "A good world cannot be built on pride or selfishness, hatred or injustice...A spiritual renewal is necessary if the world is to be saved."

If religion is to serve as the basis of the new world, it must become more inward and more universal. Moreover, the hostility among and within religions needs to go and spiritualism should only be the guiding spirit. Recall, Radhakrishnan visualised bringing different religions of the world under one umbrella, weaving them into a thread of unity in carrying forward Swami Vivekananda's message at the famous Chicago conference.

Iconic ride

Sir, It is sad to note that Mumbai's iconic double-decker buses have been withdrawn from the services as part of modernisation and due to operational cost-cutting measures. The red double-decker buses, operated by Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) have been key to the Maximum City's public transport system ever-since it made its debut even before India's Independence. Since 1937, the doubledecker buses have not only been part of several Bollywood and Hollywood movies, but also became synonymous with the city's identity and integral childhood memories of millions. For Mumbaikars, these buses weren't just a mode of transport, but were a trip down memory lane. As Mumbai continues to evolve, these iconic buses will remain a cherished chapter in its history, reminding everyone of the times when a ride on the upper deck provided a unique perspective of the Maximum City.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Efficient judiciary

Sir, The Supreme Court has taken a momentous step towards enhancing transparency and addressing the persistent issue of case backlog. The integration of real-time case data from the Supreme Court with the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal holds the promise of being a game-changer. The NJDG is an extensive database that encompasses information regarding orders, judgements and case details from numerous district, subordinate courts and high courts throughout the nation. It was established as part of the e-Courts Project. This integration ensures that the NJDG portal will consistently provide up-to-date information on cases pending before the Supreme Court. Currently, the NJDG holds a vast repository of 23 crore orders and judgements, spanning both civil and criminal cases. This development is crucial in addressing India's persistent issue of case backlogs, with approximately five crore cases pending nationwide. It is imperative for both central and state governments, who are significant litigants, to actively participate in reducing this backlog. This can be accomplished through investments in judicial infrastructure, filling judicial vacancies and curbing frivolous litigation. Recently, the Union Cabinet approved Phase III of the e-Courts Project. This integration in making judiciary more efficient and transparent.

Bishal Kumar Saha, MURSHIDABAD

01





PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 20: Senior leaders from both Sharad Pawarand Ajit Pawar-led factions of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) have said that there is no split in the party.

The Election Commission has called the rival factions of the NCP for a personal hearing October 6 following a petition filed by the Ajit group claiming that he has been elected as the party's national president.

"It is unfair on the part of the Election Commission of India to treat our case as a dispute within a political party when we have consistently maintained that there is no split," said Jayant Patil, the Maharashtra unit chief of the Sharad Pawar-led NCP, Tuesday

'Sharad Pawar in his letter to the ECI stressed the fact that he never faced any opposition within the party. There is no dispute. There has been no opposition to my (Sharad Pawar's)

2 NCP factions Maha furore as 7 debt-hit say 'no split, no dispute' in party 6 SUICIDES REPORTED IN PAST 48 HOURS, ONE A DAY BEFORE ON SUNDAY

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Yavatmal, Sept 20: As the Ganeshotsav festival commenced, Maharashtra was rocked by seven farmers' suicides in the past 72 hours from the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, a top farm activist said here Wednesday. The suicides were reported

from Yavatmal (six) and Wardha (one) in the past less than three days, said Vidarbha Jan Andolan Samiti President and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Kishore Tiwari.

They are Pravin Kale of Hivari, Trabank Keram of Khidki, Maroti Chavan of Shivni, Gajanand Shinde of Arjuna, Tevichand Rathos of Banegaon, Nitin Pane of Jamwadi (all in Yavatmal), and Dinesh Madavi

of Rantapur in Wardha district, said Tiwari. Of these, six suicides were reported in the past 48 hours and one a day before on Sunday. Most of them are from the deprived sections of society and they took the extreme due to the burden of huge debts, crop failures and little or no help coming from the state government, said Tiwari grimly.

With the latest deaths, the of national president....Ajit farmers' suicide toll in the state has shot up to 1,586 from January 2023, said the VJAS leader who has been tracking the agrarian his uncle and NCP founder crisis that has been claiming Sharad Pawar's leadership in lives without break since 1997. July this year and joined the "Every day we are getting re-Shiv Sena-BJP government in ports of one or two tillers' sui-Maharashtra as deputy chief

cides cases from a small region like Vidarbha... The situation



■ 15 FARMERS HAVE ENDED THEIR LIVES IN YAVATMAL DISTRICT OF MAHARASHTRA SO FAR THIS MONTH: SOURCES

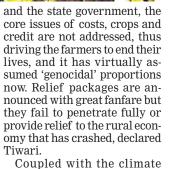
■ YAVATMAL DISTRICT IS LOCATED IN THE DRY AND ARID VIDARBHA REGION OF EASTERN MAHARASHTRA

■ WITH THE LATEST DEATHS, THE FARMERS' SUICIDE TOLL IN THE STATE HAS SHOT UP TO 1.586 FROM JANUARY 2023

in other states is hardly known. Yet, the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre is harping tall claims of making India a USD 5 trillion economy in the near future...how is it possible," said Tiwari.

He said that if the government is indeed serious about the agrarian crisis gripping large parts of the country owing to the truant monsoon, then Prime Minister Narendra Modi should discuss the issue along with Vidarbha in the ongoing special session of Parliament.

Despite claims by the Centre



change complications, the uneven monsoon this year with a drought-like situation confronts at least 10 districts around Maharashtra, the main cash crop cotton facing very low demand, input costs have shot up phenomenally and low credit is provided by the public sector banks.

All these have combined to put brakes on the rural economy besides the government's failure to promote sustainable food pulses and oilseeds crops in the region, leaving farmers with no option but suicide, he added

STATUE OF ONENESS

MP CM to unveil 108-feet Adi Shankaracharya statue today

The towering structure is perched atop the picturesque Mandhata hill on the banks of the Narmada river at Omkareshwar in Khandwa district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Sept 20: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will unveil Thursday a grand statue of Hindu saint Adi Shankaracharya in Omkareshwar, a temple town which houses one of the 12 Jyotirlings dedicated to Lord Shiva.

The 108 feet tall statue dedicated to the 8th century philosopher, an influential and revered figure in Hinduism, has been named "Ekatmata Ki Pratima' (Statue of Oneness).

The towering structure is perched atop the picturesque Mandhata hill on the banks of the Narmada river in Omkareshwar in Khandwa district

Chouhan was supposed to unveil the grand statue September 18, but because of heavy rains in the region, the programme was rescheduled for September 21, the official said.

A monumental tribute designed under the guidance of Acharya Shankar Sanskritik Ekta Nyas and the Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (MP-STDC), the multi-metal Statue of Oneness celebrates the legacy of Adi Shankaracharya and his profound teachings, he said.

"This extraordinary structure, conceptualised to honour the life and philosophy of Adi Shankaracharya, is a tribute to the great saint's masterpiece of commentary on



'Bharmasutrabhasva' (comment on Brahma Sutra), a fundamental text of the Vedanta school of Hinduism and the concept of Oneness that he preached," CP Kukreja Architects' managing principal Dikshu Kukreja, who is the brain behind the project, said.

This cultural project will fulfil the much-treasured vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi - 'Vasudaiva Kutumbakam' (The world is one family).

"With this 108 feet tall statue. Madhya Pradesh will consolidate its position as a cultural and spiritual hub of all religions," the official said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Madhya Pradesh had earlier given its approval for a Rs 2,141.85-crore project under which the statue of Adi Shankaracharya was to be built along with a museum in Omkareshwar.



public platform," Patil told re-

the ECI to explain his side be-

cause there was no dispute but

there has been some exchange

of emails (with Ajit Pawar's

side). The ECI, without giving

time to (Sharad) Pawar, con-

cluded that there is a dispute,"

Asked about Patil's comments,

Chhagan Bhujbal, Maharashtra

cabinet minister and senior

leader from the Ajit Pawar group,

said, "It is good as there is no dis-

pute in the party. Some changes

have taken place, such as change

Pawar is now the party's presi-

dent and we have already com-

Ajit Pawar rebelled against

municated this to the ECI."

"Pawar also sought time from

porters

he added.

minister.

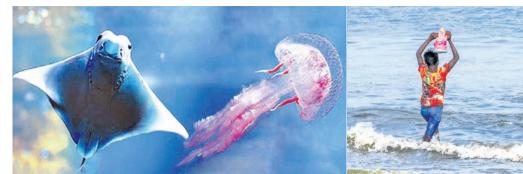
'Beware of stingray, jellyfish bites during immersion'

Mumbai's coastline remains full of blue button jellyfish and stingray species between August and October

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 20: The Mumbai civic body Wednesday appealed to people to guard themselves against the bites by sting ray and jellyfish during immersion of Lord Ganesh's idols in the sea.

Brihanmumbai The Municipal Corporation (BMC) has come up with a set of guidelines asking citizens to be careful given the fish-bite incidents



DONATION TO DEITY: Currency notes received as donation for Lalbaugcha Raja on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, being counted, in Mumbai, Wednesday

Nashik onion traders go on indefinite strike

Nashik: Onion traders Wednesday said they suspended auctions in all agriculture produce market committees in Nashik district of Maharashtra and the protest will continue indefinitely, a development raising the fear of shortage of the kitchen staple in retail markets and hike in prices. An office-bearer of the Nashik District Onion Traders Association (NDOTA) said they are protesting against the Union government's recent move to increase export duty on onions up to 40 per cent, which will remain in force till December 31. In protest against the export duty hike decision, we have decided to shut the auction of onions in all APMCs in the district indefinitely. This (export duty hike) decision of the Centre will not only make export of onions difficult but it will also affect the onions in transit, causing huge loss to farmers, the office-bearer said. Speaking on the issue, Maharashtra marketing minister Abdul Sattar said that observing a bandh (shutting auctions of onions) is not right. Notably, auctions of onions remained closed at most of the APMCs in Nashik district, including at Lasalgaon, the largest wholesale onion market in India, August 20.

reported at seafronts in the recent past.

"Be careful of stingrays, and jellyfish during Ganesh festival," the BMC said in a release. Citizens should preferably carry out immersion of idols through lifeguards and other civic machinery deployed at Chowpatties or beaches, it said.

The immersion of idols takes place on different days during the ten-day Ganesh festival, which began a day before.

A maximum number of idols are immersed in the sea and other water bodies on the last day

of the festival the 'Anant Chaturdashi', which falls September 28 this time.

The civic body has urged citizens to ensure they wear proper clothes, use gumboots to avoid fish bites, strictly follow the instructions given by the administration through public announcement systems at sea-fronts, and not let children enter the water.

Sting ray bite can cause a burning sensation on the skin whereas the jellyfish bite causes itching, the BMC said, adding citizens should immediately visit

the nearest primary medical centre or hospital for first aid without panicking. For treating fish bites, the

It has asked citizens not to

rub the fish bite injury as it

might aggravate it. Citizens

should first wash the spot with

clean water and remove the jel-

lyfish 'sparshak' (the sting) and

apply ice on the injury spot, the

BMC said.

coastline remains full of blue button jellyfish and sting ray species between August and October, BMC has kept medical rooms which means incidents of biting ready at every Chowpatty in the may occur during immersion city, along with a 108 ambulance. of Ganesh idols.

Fisheries Department, Mumbai's

Since Mumbai's coastline is among the protected ones and it doesn't have rapid currents, abundant plankton-like food is produced here for aquatic animals like jellyfish. As a result, stingrays and Blue Button jellyfish are found in sandy areas of the coastline, according

The civic body said as per the information given by the state

2 tigers perish in MP's 36,000 women chant in unison at Pune pandal Bandhavgarh in a week Devotees from Russia and

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Umaria (MP), Sept 20: The carcass of a male tiger was found in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) Wednesday, the second death of a big cat in the protected forest in the past week, an official said Wednesday.

A patrolling team spotted the dead tiger in Tala beat of BTR, said Lakhan Lal Uike, chief conservator of forest (CCF) and in-charge field director of the reserve

The carcass of the tiger, aged around 5-7 years, had teeth marks on the body, he said. Prima facie it seems that the death was caused by a fight with another tiger, the official said



On September 15, the decomposed and headless carcass of a tiger was found in BTR's Patehra beat, an official said earlier. It was disposed of as per the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) guidelines. The viscera would be sent to a laboratory for examination, a release had said then.

In the recent census, the number of tigers in Madhva Pradesh rose to 785 in 2022 from 526 in 2018. As per the report 'Status of Tigers Co-predators & Prey in India-2022', released by the NTCA and Wildlife Institute of India in July this year, MP has the highest number of tigers in the coun-

try, followed by Karnataka (563)

Thailand also took part in the collective recitation of the Sanskrit text 'Atharvashirsha' dedicated to Lord Ganesha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pune, Sept 20: As many as 36,000 women chanted 'Atharvashirsha' at the famous Dagdusheth Ganapati pandal in Maharashtra's Pune Wednesday morning, on the second day of the 10-day Ganeshotsav.

Atharvashirsha, a Sanskrit text, is dedicated to Lord Ganesha, the deity of knowledge, wisdom, and good fortune.

The Shreemant Dagdusheth Halwai Sarvajanik Ganapati Trust said this is the 36th year of the annual recital of Atharvashirsha at their Ganesh festival celebrations.

Clad in traditional attire, 36,000 women filled the space in front of the popular Dagdusheth Ganapati pandal. They then chanted the hymn. The trust



said this was the highest participation of women in its hymn recital event at their pandal.

According to a release by the trust, devotees from Russia and Thailand also took part in Wednesday's collective recitation of the Sanskrit text.

The theme of this year's decoration at the pandal is the replica of the under-construction Ram Mandir of Ayodhya.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat Tuesday performed a special puja at the famous pandal on the first day of the 10-day festival.

The public celebration of the festival in the state dates back to the 1890s when the nationalist leader Bal Gangadhar Tilak and others decided to use it to mobilise the masses

Ganesh mandals in Mumbai and other major cities took large idols in processions accompanied by dhol-tasha beats to their pandals in the last few days.

Household Ganesh idols were brought mostly Monday night or in the morning Tuesday with chants of 'Ganpati Bappa Morya'. Many of them were also immersed Wednesday after being worshipped for one-and-a-half days.

Puja politics, cops' curbs

to BMC.

THANE: The police in fight between "two groups, com-Maharashtra's Thane district have served a notice on a Ganesh pandal, which faced action last vear over its decoration related to the split in the Shiv Sena, to desist from using any display material or audio clips that could trigger law and order problems, the organisers said Wednesday.

According to a functionary of the Shiv Sena (UBT)-controlled Vijay Tarun Mandal at Kalyan, their theme for this year is "democracy is at peril". The Mahatma Phule Chowk police sent them a notice Monday, he said.

Last year, the police seized their decoration material about the division in the Shiv Sena and filed a case against the mandal. The matter was resolved after the mandal challenged the police action in the Bombay High Court.

Referring to last year's action against the mandal, the notice said any attempts to "provoke" or have decoration materials that can potentially lead to a munities, and religions and result in law and order problems" will prompt the police to act.

Kalvan chief of Sena (UBT) Vijay Salvi, who heads the mandal, told the media Wednesday that this is their 60th year of Ganesh festival celebrations and this year's decoration integrated with audio clips sends out the message "democracy is at peril"

Salvi said they depict topical events through decorations and other installations at their Ganesh pandal every year. "This year, we feel democracy is at peril due to the prevailing situation and the government control. We have tried to convey that through our decorations and the message is based on the V-dem Democracy report," he said.

The Sena (UBT) leader said they had shared the details about their decoration plans with the police two weeks ago. "The police have only served a notice this time," he said.





PHOTO POST



OrissaPOST

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 21 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

A devotee immerses Lord Ganesh idol in a water tank during Ganesh Chaturthi in Nagpur, Maharashtra



An IAF C-17 air dropped a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat of the Indian navy on high seas during an exercise



United States Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti poses for photos in New Delhi after traveling in an e-bus during the launch of a mechanism to facilitate deployment of 10,000 electric buses in cities across India as part of a US-India partnership



Nine hundred and ninety-five people take part in a Guinness World Record attempt at the most people throwing wellies organised by Youth farming group Macra on day 2 of the National Ploughing Championships at Ratheniska, Co Laois, Ireland





P8

Visitors at the Parliament House to watch the proceedings during the special session in New Delhi

Japanese Crown Prince Akishino receives flowers from a Vietnamese official after landing in Hanoi, Vietnam. Akishino and Crown Princess Kiko are on a visit to Vietnam to mark the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic relation between the two countries



BJP supporters celebrate after the introduction of the Women's Reservation Bill in the Parliament in Surat, Gujarat



Devotees offer 'namaz' during the annual Urs of Naqshband Sahab known as 'Khawaja Digar' outside his shrine in Srinagar

AP/PTI PHOTOS



national



Human beings are as good a creator as a destroyer. According to scientific studies, this planet has entered the phase of sixth extinction where man-made destruction, if not stopped, will be the undoing of not only the human race but also the other lives on the earth DROUPADI MURMU PRESIDENT OF INDIA

KERALA CM UNVEILS VIZHINJAM PORT LOGO

As the initial phase of the ambitious international seaport coming up at Vizhinjam is nearing completion, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan unveiled its logo and identity at a function held Wednesday. The port will be known as Vizhinjam International Seaport, Thiruvananthapuram





There are several aspects that the Kerala lotteries lead the rest of the country and it includes the maximum number of

prizes in a single draw. For this Onam bumper draw, more than 75 lakhs tickets were sold and 5.5 lakhs ticket holders will definitely win a prize

KN BALAGOPAL FINANCE MINISTER OF KERALA

I will not like to speak for any third front. I will speak for the INDIA alliance... Owasi can have his single-party alliance also

OMAR ABDULLAH NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEADER

Delimitation is like a Sword of Damocles hanging over the head of Tamil Nadu and south India. The political conspiracy to lower the political representation of south India must be outmanoeuvred

M K STALIN TN CHIEF MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Kejriwal launches

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched a WhatsApp channel to connect with Delhiites. "The citizens of Delhi can now directly reach the Chief Minister through his WhatsApp channel. Delhiites will now be able get updates on the achievements of the Delhi government, new programs, initiatives, and an exclusive peak into the behind-the-scenes action of the Delhi government. Within just a few hours of starting his WhatsApp channel, CM Arvind Kejriwal has got 23,000 plus followers,' Kejriwal's office said.

WB: Alarming rise in dengue cases

Kolkata: The dengue situation in West Bengal is taking an alarming shape with the total number of affected people in the state crossing the 26,000 mark, an official said Wednesday. The total number of affected people has been reported at 26,600, according to sources from the state health department. "As September 10, the total number of affected people in the current season so far has been reported at 15,272 and within just 10 days the figure has risen to over 26,600," said a state health department official.

CAUVERY DISPUTE Will seek apex court injunction against CWMA order: K'taka CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah met Union Ministers and Parliament members from the state in the national capital over the Cauvery dispute, and sought the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 20: Citing the "drought-like situation" in Karnataka, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Wednesday said the state government will appeal in the Supreme Court for an injunction against the CWMA order that stipulates the release of about 5,000 cusecs of water per day to Tamil Nadu till September 28.

The order by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) came September 18.

Senior BJP leader and Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi urged the Congress government in Karnataka not to "politicise" the matter as the state has agreed to release 2,500 cusecs out of 5,000 cusecs of water to TN

The issue was discussed at a high-level meeting with members of Parliament and Union ministers from Karnataka in the national capital. Out of 40 MPs from the state, five members including Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, JDS chief H D Deve Gowda and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge did not attend the meet-"The state is in distress as ing. we have not received enough rainfall. There is a drought-like

The order by the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) came September 18

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar said that when it comes to the interests of the state, politics should not be done All Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha members should stand unitedly and place the demand before the

Union minister and Central aovernment Kannada organisations staged a protest against Kannada

The month of August saw a rainfall shortage for the first time in 123 years. In times of distress, there is no formula to decide how much water to be released for Tamil Nadu, he said.

tress formula to address this suffering... We cannot release water. We will appeal to the Supreme Court for an injunction against the CWMA order ...,' he said. The chief minister also shared that the Supreme Court. in the modified order, had asked Karnataka to release 177.25 TMC of Cauvery water in a normal year. However, it did not specify the quantum of water to be re-

leased during any distress year. "Till now, we were to release 108 TMC of water had it been a normal year. So far, only 39.6 TMC water has been given because there is no water and no rain," he added. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said there is very little inflow of water in the state. The CWMA has not come out with a formula on the quantum of water to be released in times

of distress situation, he said. 'We are facing a distress situation as we have only 1/3rd of the water. For the first time in the last 120 years, such a situation has risen. CWMA has asked us to release 5,000 cusecs of water, but we have no water even for drinking. We discussed this with all MPs. They have assured us they will support in our fight,"

Shivakumar said. Joshi has assured he will fix a meeting on behalf of Karnataka with the Union jalshakti minister to present the case, Shivakumar said and added he has also sought time from the PM to discuss the matter.

Meanwhile, Joshi said the Congress government in Karnataka should talk to the DMK government in Tamil Nadu on the issue as the two parties are allies. "They should have told CWMA that it will not be possible to release water... It is your mistake," he said and added MPs and ministers will help whenever possible, but they "should not politicise" the issue.

He said DMK is an ally of the Congress party and asked how many times the state government spoke to the DMK-ruled Tamil Nadu government and its chief minister on this issue.

"The negotiation between two states should happen," the parliamentary affairs minister suggested.



A team of scuba divers of Kerala fire and rescue services department during an advanced training at Kochi Backwaters,

8 killed as SUV falls into gorge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kohima, Sept 20: Eight people were killed as an SUV fell into a gorge after being hit by a goods vehicle in Nagaland's Tseminyu district Wednesday, police said.

The accident happened near K Station village, about 65 km from state capital Kohima, in the early hours, a senior police officer said. The impact of the crash was such that the truck also slipped off the road and fell into the gorge on the SUV, he added.

The SUV was heading towards Mokokchung from Kohima while the sand-laden truck was moving towards Kohima from Merapani when the accident happened, Tseminyu Additional SP and PRO Lanu Aier said.

Seven people died on the spot while one died on the way to the hospital, he said. "The impact of the collision caused the SUV to be dragged along the highway for some distance before it fell off the highway, plummeting several feet below. The truck, laden with sand, had completely crushed the SUV, trapping all the passengers inside," he said.



SC to reconsider verdict on granting immunity from prosecution to MPs/MLAs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: Nearly 25 years after the JMM bribery scandal rocked the country, the Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to reconsider its 1998 judgment granting MPs and MLAs immunity from prosecution for taking bribe to make a speech or vote in Parliament and state legislatures, saying it is an important issue having a significant bearing on "morality

bribery scandal, had referred to a 5-judge bench the crucial question, noting it had "wide ramification" and was of "substantial public importance".

Sita Soren was accused of tak ing bribe to vote for a particular candidate in the Rajya Sabha election in 2012. She had contended that the constitutional provision granting lawmakers immunity from prosecution be

applied to her. The three-judge bench had





WhatsApp channel

situation in the state. Out of 230 taluks, 195 taluks have been declared as drought-hit. In a meet-

NEET PG 2023 cut-off

superstars for not supporting the farmers' agitation ing to be held soon, another 20odd taluks will be declared drought-hit," Siddaramaiah told

reporters after the meeting.

"Unfortunately, there is no dis-

PM invites Biden to **R-Day celebrations**

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited US President Joe Biden to be the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations January 26 next year, US Ambassador to India Fric Garcetti said Wednesday. Modi extended the invitation to the US President during their bilateral meeting September 8 on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Delhi, the ambassador said. The US ambassador was asked at an event about the reports that India is considering inviting leaders of the Ouad nations to grace the Republic Day celebrations.

Youth stabs girl near bus shelter

Chennai: A 16-year-old girl was grievously injured after a youth known to her stabbed her at a bus shelter in Medavakkam on the southern suburb of Chennai. The police said the youth, identified as Vasanth, managed to escape from the spot and a hunt is on to nab him. The victim, who received grievous injuries, has been shifted to the Stanley Medical College in Chennai after preliminary treatment at the government hospital in Chrompet.

reduced to zero for all categories

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) Wednesday reduced the qualifying percentile for NEET PG 2023 to be eligible for counselling to zero across all categories.

Candidates who appeared for the National Eligibility Entrance Test cum Postgraduate (NEET PG) 2023 exam will now be eligible to participate in the counselling process

"It is for the information to candidates that the qualifying percentile for PG Courses (Medical/ Dental) for NEET PG counselling 2023 has been reduced to 'zero' across all categories by MoHFW," said a notice issued by Medical Counselling Committee (MCC), Directorate of Health Services, Government of India.

Rlvs increases ex gratia relief in train accidents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: The Railway Board has increased by 10 times the ex gratia payments made in case of death or injury to anyone in train accidents.

The ex-gratia relief was last revised in 2012 and 2013. "It has now been decided to revise the amount of ex-gratia relief to be paid to the dependents of dead and injured passengers involved in train accidents and untoward incidents...," according to a circular dated September 18, which was accessed by PTI.

It added that ex-gratia relief has also been enhanced "to the road users who met with an accident due to railway's prima facie liability at manned level crossing gate accident" and it will be applicable from September 18, i.E., from the date of the release of the circular. According to the circular, relatives of dead passengers of train

as well as manned level crossing accidents will now get Rs 5 lakh whereas those who are grievously injured will be awarded Rs 2.5 lakh. Passengers with simple injuries will get Rs 50,000.

Previously, these amounts were Rs 50,000, Rs 25,000 and Rs 5,000 respectively. The circular further stated that the dependents of dead, grievously injured and simply injured passengers of untoward incident will get Rs 1.5 lakh, Rs 50,000 and Rs 5,000 respectively. In the previous ex-gratia scheme, this amount was Rs 50,000, Rs 25,000 and Rs 5,000 respectively. Untoward incidents are offenses such as terrorist attack, violent attack and robbery in a train. Announcing the additional ex-gratia relief for hospitalization of grievously injured passengers beyond 30 days in case of train accidents, the circular says, "Rs 3,000 per day to be released at the end of every 10-day period or date of discharge, whichever is earlier.

An investigation has been started to ascertain the cause of the accident. Among the victims were three women who recently cleared the Nagaland Staff Selection Board (NSSB) examination and got appointment letters to join government service as grade-3 personnel. The deceased include six women and two men including the driver.

The additional SP said that three people, including the truck driver and his assistants, were arrested and were being questioned

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, while condoling the deaths, announced an ex-gratia amount of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased. He also extended deepest condolences to the bereaved families.

The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) also expressed deep pain over the incident.

SC asks if convicts have fundamental right to seek remission

of polity".

A five-judge bench of the apex court referred the issue to a larger seven-judge bench.

The top court had in its 1998 five-judge constitution bench verdict delivered in the PV Narasimha Rao versus CBI case held that parliamentarians have immunity under the Constitution against criminal prosecution for any speech made and vote cast inside the House as per Article 105(2) and Article 194(2) of the Constitution.

Article 105(2) of the Constitution stipulates that no member of Parliament shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote cast in Parliament or any committee thereof. A similar provision exists for MLAs under Article 194(2).

In 2019, a bench headed by then chief justice Ranjan Gogoi, which was hearing an appeal filed by Sita Soren, JMM MLA from Jama and daughter-in-law of party chief Shibu Soren, who was an accused in the JMM

then said it will revisit its verdict in the sensational Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) bribery case involving Shibu Soren, a former Jharkhand chief minister and ex-union minister, and four other party MPs who had accepted bribes to vote against the no-confidence motion against the then P V Narasimha Rao government in 1993. The Narasimha Rao government, which was in a minority, survived the no-confidence vote with their support.

The CBI registered a case against Soren and four other JMM Lok Sabha MPs but the Supreme Court quashed it citing the immunity from prosecution they enjoyed under Article 105(2) of the Constitution.

Today, a five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said it will set up a seven-judge bench to examine the matter afresh and "straighten" the law even as Attorney General R Venkataramani opposed reconsideration of the 1998 iudgement.

BILKIS **BANO CASE**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: The Supreme Court Wednesday asked whether convicts have a fundamental right to seek remission. as it heard petitions challenging the premature release of 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gan-

grape case and murder of seven of her family members during the 2002 Guiarat riots. "Is the right to seek remission

a fundamental right (of the con-

victs). Will a petition lie under

Article 32 (that deals with citi-

zens' right to move SC directly

if their fundamental rights are

infringed) of the Constitution,

a bench of justices BV

Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan asked a lawyer appearing for one of the 11 convicts. "No, it is not a fundamental

right of the convicts," the lawyer responded.

The victim and others also do not have the right to move the apex court directly by filing a petition under Article 32 as no fundamental right of theirs has been infringed either, he said. The lawyer said the victims have other statutory rights to challenge the grant of remission. Another senior lawyer rep-

resenting a convict said the grant of remission by the competent authority is open to judicial review before high courts under



Article 226 of the Constitution. Article 226 of the Constitution says the high court "shall have

powers to issue orders or writs including habeas corpus..., to any person or any government for the enforcement of fundamental rights and for other purposes.'

Who is to say that remission has been granted after following the rules?" the bench wondered. court had earlier The lawyer responded, saying if at all this is a question, then remission has to be privileged" and secure challenged in the the benefit of high court and not remission directly in the top

court under Article 32. During the hearing, the bench objected to a lawyer's submission that after an accused has been convicted, "right or wrong", by a court including the Supreme Court, and served the sentence before being granted remission, it was not open to challenge. "What is this - right or wrong? You

have been rightly convicted," the bench told the lawyer sternly. The lawyer said he only wanted to drive home the point that the convicts have already

served the sentence for over 15 years. The arguments on behalf of the convicts concluded

Wednesday and now the court will hear rejoinder submissionsof Bilkis Bano's counsel and others October 4 at 2 pm.













observed some convicts are "more

The



international



The United States of America has fanned the flames of violence in Ukraine in order to weaken the European countries. This is a longterm plan. unfortunately EBRAHIM RAISI PRESIDENT, IRAN

CHARLES III VISITS FRANCE

King Charles III of the United Kingdom starts a three-day state visit to France Wednesday meant to highlight the friendship between the two nations with great pomp, after the trip was postponed in March amid widespread demonstrations against President Emmanuel Macron's pension changes



When it comes to China, I want to be clear and consistent: We seek to responsibly manage the competition between

our countries so it does not tip into conflict

JOE BIDEN PRESIDENT, US

Amid the campaign unleashed by the collective West that is aimed at the double containment of Russia and China.

it's particularly important to further deepen Russian-Chinese coordination and interaction on the international arena NIKOLAI PATRUSHEV

SECRETARY, RUSSIA'S SECURITY COUNCIL

The abducted children were told that they are no longer Ukrainian children that they are Russian children

OLENA ZELENSKA | FIRST LADY, UKRAINE

SHORT TAKES

China slams Britain

Hong Kong: China's foreign ministry in Hong Kong slammed a six month report on the financial hub by Britain, saying it ignored "good" societal conditions, a more stable business environment and instead supported "anti China" chaos. The comments came after Britain published its six monthly report on the Chinese controlled hub, from Jan 1 to June 30, which stated that authorities have extended the application of a Beijing imposed national security law "beyond genuine national security concerns". Beijing imposed the sweeping law in 2020 after sometimes violent anti-government protests rocked the city in 2019. While some Western governments have criticised the laws as curbing social and political freedoms in the city, both Chinese and Hong Kong officials have said they were vital to restore stability.

Two Indians jailed

RIFT FIVE EYES SPLIT OVER SUPPORT

Toronto, Sept 20: A day after

Trudeau alleged India's in-

volvement in the killing of a

prominent Sikh separatist leader,

the Canadian media reported

that Ottawa's Five Eye allies were

not keen on taking sides though

they have said that the claims

Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, the

chief of the banned Khalistan

Tiger Force (KTF) and one of

India's most-wanted terrorists

who carried a cash reward of

Rs 10 lakh on his head, was shot

dead by two unidentified gun-

men outside a gurdwara in

Surrey in the western Canadian

province of British Columbia

Canadian Prime Minister

Trudeau told the House of

Commons Monday that he waited

until he was able to raise the

issue with allies and with India's

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

on the sidelines of the G20 sum-

mit in New Delhi earlier this

month before telling the public

Trudeau's allegation as "ab-

dismissed

about the possible link.

India has

surd and baseless.

should be thoroughly probed.

AGENCIES

June 18.

OVER SUPPORT FOR CANADA'S ALLEGATIONS AGAINST INDIA OVER KILLING OF SIKH SEPARATIST LEADER The government of India needs to take this matter with the utmost seriousness. We are doing Canadian Prime Minister Justin

that; we are not looking to provoke or escalate JUSTIN TRUDEAU | PM, CANADA

allies, to share what we knew," the Canadian Press news agency quoted Trudeau Tuesday. Canada is part of a 'Five Eyes' network which is an intelligence alliance consisting of the United

States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Trudeau has also said he does

not want to make things worse for relations with India. "We are not looking to provoke or escalate. We are simply laying out the facts as we understand them, and we want to work with the government of India to lay everything clear."

According to a report by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), Canada's other Five Eyes allies "showed little inclination Tuesday to wade into an escalating row between Ottawa and New Delhi over allegations.

Most opted to treat the alle-"We wanted to make sure that gation as a matter still to be inwe had a solid grounding in unvestigated — in spite of the fact derstanding what was going on that the Trudeau government in analysis and indeed in facts. feels it has enough information We wanted to make sure we were to make an accusation in taking the time to talk with our Parliament and expel a diplo-



FIVE EYES ALLIES WHICH IS AN INTELLIGENCE ALLIANCE CONSISTING OF US, UK, AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND NZ ARE DIVIDED

India, which urged Ottawa to act against anti-Indian elements, has long been unhappy over Sikh separatist activity in Canada. The slain leader supported creating a Sikh homeland in the form of an independent. so-called state of Khalistan in India's northern state of Punjab, the birthplace of the Sikh religion, which borders Pakistan. India designated him as a "terrorist" in 2020

> as "perhaps the most supportive of Canada," the CBC report said that Kirby "urged India to participate and cooperate in that investigation" as "it is important to find out exactly what happened.

ordinator for Strategic Communications, said in an interview with CNN: "I'm going to protect diplomatic conversations and I'll leave it at that. Certainly, the President (Trudeau) is mindful of these serious allegations, and they are very serious. And we support Canada's efforts to investigate this.³

"We believe a fully transparent comprehensive investigation is the right approach so that we can all know exactly what happened and of course, we encourage India to cooperate with that," Kirby said.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese refused to comment on the matter at all even as Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong told a press conference in the UN Headquarters Tuesday that "these are concerning reports, and I note that investigations are still underway" and that "We are monitoring these developments closely with our partners, and we'll continue to do so."

Another of the allies. UK made no official announcement but its Foreign Secretary James Cleverly put out a tweet on platform X without any mention of India, the CBC report said.

"All countries should respect sovereignty and the rule of law. We are in regular contact with our Canadian partners about serious allegations raised in the Canadian Parliament. Important that Canada's investigation runs its course and the perpetrators brought to justice," read Cleverly's tweet.

On September 18, Trudeau alleged in the Parliament that Canada's national security apparatus has reason to believe that "agents of the Indian government" had carried out the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil.

Meanwhile, within Canada, Liberal Party members also say they hope to maintain normal ties with a country Ottawa has selected as a key partner in the Indo-Pacific, The Canadian Press reported.

Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre said Trudeau must share more information about what led him to make the statement in Parliament. He said the prime minister did not share more details with him than what he had said in the House of Commons.

"We need to see more facts. The prime minister hasn't provided any facts," he told reporters Tuesday.

Canada has the largest population of Sikhs outside Punjab, with about 770,000 people reporting Sikhism as their religion in the 2021 census.

India has been particularly sensitive to Sikh protesters in Canada, with some Indian analysts saying Ottawa does not stop them because Sikhs are a politically influential group.

and others will face nine others

offences regarding giving provo-

cation with intent to cause riot.

abetting mutiny and attempt-

ing to wage a war against

Pakistan. A challan of the case

has been prepared by the police

investigators and prosecutors

and will be submitted to the

Anti-Terrorism Court Lahore,'

Masood said.

Azerbaijan calls off Karabakh offensive

Separatists agree to ceasefire with Baku's forces; Say they will disband and disarm

it has been run by separatist Armenian authorities who call the area their ancestral homeland.

Fearful of what the future might hold, thousands of Armenians massed at the airport in Stepanakert, the capital of Karabakh which is known as Khankendi by Azerbaijan. Others took shelter with Russian peacekeepers.

Azerbaijan, which sent troops acked by artillery strikes into

Punjab Police official said Wednesday.

Pakistan saw massive nationwide anti-government protests following the arrest of Khan, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman, by paramilitary Rangers in a corruption case May 9. Khan, 70, was later released on bail

Dozens of military installations and government buildings, including the military headquarters in Rawalpindi, were damaged or torched during the riots. Over 100 vehicles of police and other security agencies were set on fire.



PTI leaders and workers have been charged with "criminal conspiracy" for inciting supporters to attack military and state installations May 9.

Police carried out a thorough

investigation into the May 9

events in Lahore and found the

PTI chief "masterminding" the

attacks on military installations

and inciting people to violence,

"Besides section 120-B, Khan

she said.

- III a Sellia

MAHSA

AMINI

PROTEST

ANNIV

Khan has been in Attock Jail in Punjab province since August 5, 2023. He was arrested in the Toshakhana (gifts) case and subsequently handed down a threeyear imprisonment. He was later granted bail in the case after the higher court suspended the verdict. However, he was re-arrested in the cipher case under the Official Secrets Act

Security Council (NSC) Kirby, who is also the NSC cospokesperson Adm John Kirby Khan charged with 'criminal conspiracy' MASTERMIND OF MAY 9 VIOLENCE

Washington: Two Indian nationals have been sentenced to 41 months in prison for their role in a conspiracy to commit wire fraud by accepting illegally obtained \$1.2 million in wire transfers from victims across the United States, a US attorney said. Arushobike Mitra (29) and Garbita Mitra (25) had previously pleaded guilty before US District Judge Esther Salas to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, Attorney Philip R Sellinger announced Tuesday. "These defendants and their conspirators preved upon some of our most vulnerable citizens, using trickery and threats to coerce them into sending money.' Sellinger said.

REUTERS

Yerevan, Sept 20: Azerbaijan said Wednesday it had halted military action in its breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh after Armenian separatist forces there agreed to a ceasefire whose terms signalled the area would return to Baku's control. Under the agreement, con-

firmed by both sides and effective from 1 pm Wednesday, separatist forces will disband and disarm and talks on the future of the region and the ethnic Armenians who live there will start Thursday.

Karabakh, a mountainous area in the volatile wider South Caucasus region, is internationally recognised as Azerbaijani territory, but part of Karabakh Tuesday to bring the breakaway region to heel, says it plans to integrate the area's 120,000 ethnic Armenians and that their rights will be protected under the constitution.

But some Armenians - given the region has been at the centre of two wars since the 1991 Soviet fall - are sceptical and neighbouring Armenia has accused Azerbaijan of trying to ethnically cleanse the territory, something Baku denies.

The outcome, a military victory for Turkey-backed Azerbaijan whose forces far outnumbered the separatists, could cause political turmoil in neighbouring Armenia, where some political forces are angry that Yerevan was unable to do more to protect the Karabakh Armenians.

tence of the death penalty, for "masterminding" the attack on army installations and inciting the people to mutiny, a senior

mat, it noted.

The United States, United

Kingdom and Australia have all

issued statements calling for the

allegations to be thoroughly

probed. Terming the US National

Pakistan's former PM and

hundreds of PTI leaders

and workers are accused

of vandalizing Lahore

Corps Commander House

and Askari Tower in

the city May 9

Lahore. Sept 20: Pakistan's

ousted prime minister Pakistan

Imran Khan has been charged

with "criminal conspiracy",

which carries a maximum sen-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Addressing a press conference here, Lahore police senior investigation officer Anoosh Masood said Khan and other

Iran passes stricter headscarf law

Dubai: Iran's parliament Wednesday approved a bill to impose heavier penalties on women who refuse to wear the mandatory Islamic headscarf in public and those who support them. The move came just days after the anniversary of the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22year-old woman who had been detained by the morality police for violating the country's dress code. Her death in custody ignited months of protests in which many called for the overthrow of Iran's theocracy. The 70-item bill extends punishments to business owners who

serve women not wearing the mandatory headscarf, known as hijab, and activists who organise against it. Violators could face up to 10 years in prison if the offense occurs in an organised way. The bill, which was approved by 152 lawmakers in Iran's 290-seat parliament, requires ratification by the Guardian Council, a clerical body that serves as constitutional watchdog. It would take effect for a preliminary period of three years. The demonstrations sparked by Amini's death Sept 16, 2022 died down early this year following a heavy crackdown on dissent in which more than 500 protesters were killed and over 22,000 detained. But many women continued to flaunt the rules on wearing hijab, prompting a new campaign to enforce them over the summer. Iran's clerical rulers view the hijab law as a key pillar of the Islamic Republic and blamed the protests on Western nations, without providing evidence.

'PLAYING WITH FIRE'

Islamic leaders slam West over **Quran burnings**

AGENCIES

United Nations, Sept 20: Muslim leaders addressing the United Nations Tuesday berated the West over burnings of the Quran, denouncing the acts protected as free speech as discriminatory.

Sweden has seen a series of burnings of the Islamic holv book, with the government voicing condemnation but saying it cannot stop acts protected under laws on free expression.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan -- who has put pressure for months on Sweden over its welcome to Kurdish activists Turkey sees as terrorists -- said that Western countries were seeing "a plague" of racism including Islamophobia

"It has reached intolerable levels," he told the UN General Assembly.

"Unfortunately, populist politicians in many countries continue to play with fire by encouraging such dangerous trends," he said.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, a cleric representing the 🛓 Shiite theocratic state, held up a Quran at the UN rostrum.

"The fires of disrespect will not overcome the divine truth,' Raisi said, accusing the West of seeking to "divert attentionwith the tool of freedom of speech.

UN CLIMATE SUMMIT

UN sounds climate alarm as key emitters China, US, UK and Japan skipped the summit

AGENCIES

Washington, Sept 20: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told a climate summit of leaders at the UN General Assembly Wednesday that time was running out to tackle climate change, thanks in part to the "naked greed" of fossil fuel interests.

With the annual UN climate summit, COP28, due to take place in November and December in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, Guterres implored national policymakers to step up efforts to phase out the use of climate-warming fossil fuels.

"The move from fossil fuels to renewables is happening -

but we are decades behind," Guterres said at the start of the one-day summit. "We must make up time lost to foot-dragging, arm-twisting and the naked greed of entrenched interests raking in billions from fossil fuels."

Thirty-four countries recognized for taking strong action on climate change were due to speak, including Canada, the European Union, Pakistan, South Africa and the island nation of Tuvalu

Brazilian President Luis Inacio 'Lula' da Silva was due to speak first at the summit but pulled out because he fell ill. His environment minister will address the gathering later in the day.

While the UAE was not among the countries selected by Guterres to talk about their climate plans, the UAE's COP28 President Sultan Ahmed al-Jaber

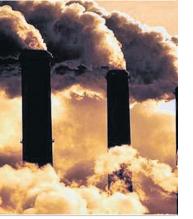
was scheduled to speak at the end about the country's priori-2050.

Many of the poorest nations have every right to

be angry - angry that they are suffering most from a climate crisis they did nothing to create, angry that promised finance has not materialized, and angry that their borrowing costs are sky-high

ANTONIO GUTERRES SECRETARY-GENERAL, UN

ties for that two-week summit. Guterres said he hoped the one-day UN mini-summit would inspire more investment and action by countries and companies to bring their climate plans in line with a global target of reaching net-zero emissions by



'Don't yield to naked greed of fossil fuel interests'

Kenyan President William Ruto urged creation of a universal tax on fossil fuel trade, levies on aviation and maritime emissions and financial transactions to raise trillions of dollars. "Neither Africa nor the developing world stands in need of charity from developed countries." Ruto said.

The climate summit was also set to hear from several international financial institutions, including the global travel insurer Allianz, multilat-

eral lending agencies including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well

as London and the US state of California. The UN's Green Climate

Fund for disbursing climate finance to de-

veloping countries also said it planned to launch a new initiative during the event.

The summit's purpose is not to "embarrass" countries who are lagging in action, but rather to showcase those moving forward,

Hart told Reuters this week. Only countries planning to update their emissions-cutting targets toward achieving netzero emissions, includ-The ing some committing to phase out fossil clarion call for fuel use without urgent climate action relying on car-

Guterres' climate adviser Selwin

bon offsets, was sounded as the world

sufficient for keeping the global average temperature going 1.5 de-



climate change and probably the hottest

year on record

grees Celsius beyond the preindustrial average. More than 20 gigatonne of further CO2 reductions were needed this decade - and global net zero by 2050 - in order to meet the goals.

is reeling under the devastating impacts of

were invited to speak. A UN report this month said current

emissions pledges were in-



business



We have never set a deadline. I think this is a very optimistic briefing for newspapers. We are very close. It is possible, but I wouldn't be setting that sort of deadline. We will finish when we finish KEMI BADENOCH | BUSINESS AND TRADE SECRETARY, UK

BOOKMYSHOW CANCELS SHUBH'S SHOW

BookMyShow cancelled Punjabi- Canadian singer Shubhneet Singh's India tour after the ticket booking app faced a boycott call on social media for hosting a singer who is allegedly a Khalistani sympathiser. In a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, BookMyShow said it will do a complete refund of the tickets within 7-10 days



uote

India can easily adjust product lists and tariff levels to mirror the actions of the EU or any other partner country precisely.

Use a calibrated retaliation mechanism (CRM) to retaliate in equal measure. We have done it before

AJAY SRIVASTAVA CO-FOUNDER, GTRI

The integration of geocoding functionality assumes a pivotal role in detecting instances of tax evasion by furnishing tax authorities with precise geographical location data

RAJAT MOHAN SENIOR PARTNER, AMRG & ASSOCIATES

The year-onyea improvements underscore the indispensable value of this annual study in identifying critical issues to fortify the auto OEM-dealer partnership

MANISH RAJ SINGHANIA PRESIDENT, FADA

SHORT TAKES

EPFO shines in July

New Delhi: Retirement fund body EPFO has recorded the highest net member addition of 18.75 lakh in July 2023, according to the payroll data released Wednesday. The labour ministry in a statement said that the addition of 18.75 lakh during the month is the highest since the first publishing of EPFO payroll data from April 2018 covering the period of September 2017 onwards. A growing trend has continued for the last three months with an increase of around 85,932 net members over the previous month of June 2023. The data indicates that around 10.27 lakh new members have enrolled during July 2023 which is the highest since July 2022.

Ola eyes IPO by Oct

Mumbai: Ola Electric plans to file regulatory papers for its up to \$700 million IPO before

D-St tanks over 1% BEARISH TREND

SENSEX TANKS 796 PTS, NIFTY CLOSES BELOW 20K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 20: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled more than 1 per cent Wednesday due to selling in index heavyweights in tandem with weak global trends ahead of the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision.

Falling for the second day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 796 points or 1.18 per cent to settle at 66,800.84. During the day, it tanked 868.7 points or 1.28 per cent to 66.728.14.

The NSE Nifty declined 231.90 points or 1.15 per cent to end below the 20,000 mark at 19,901.40. US bond yields surging to 16year high levels and fears of high crude oil prices fueling commodity inflation also hit the investor sentiment, according to analysts

Fresh foreign fund outflows and caution ahead of a host of interest rate decisions from global central banks also added to the overall bearish trend. Besides the US Fed meeting, the BoE (Bank of England) and the BoJ (Bank of Japan)



are also scheduled to meet this week

Among the Sensex firms, HDFC Bank emerged as the biggest loser, falling 4 per cent. JSW Steel, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement, Maruti, Tata Steel, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Bharti Airtel and Larsen & Toubro were the other major

laggards. Power Grid, Asian Paints, Sun Pharma, Axis Bank, NTPC, ITC and Infosys were among the gainers.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge fell by 0.51 per cent and midcap index declined 0.33 per cent.

67,596.84 Monday. The broader Nifty declined 59.05 points or 0.29 per cent to end at 20,133.30. Equity markets were closed Tuesday on account of Ganesh Chaturthi The domestic markets remained under pressure

Snapping its 11-day rally, the

or 0.36 per cent to settle at

BSE benchmark fell 241.79 points

due to rising US bond yields and a stronger greenback. Concerns reigned over upcoming FED policy, interest rate trajectory and rising oil prices VINOD NAIR I HEAD OF RESEARCH AT GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES.

Among the indices, financial surged by 21 paise to close at services fell by 1.39 per cent, 83.11 against the US dollar. Global oil benchmark Brent commodities dropped 1.39 per cent, metal (1.25 per cent), re-

crude fell 1.23 per cent to \$93.18 a barrel even as supply concerns remain due to production cuts announced by Saudi Arabia and Russia

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets Wednesday as they sold shares worth Rs

Investors lose ₹2.89L-cr

Investors' wealth fell by ₹2.89 lakh crore in two days of market fall, with the BSE Sensex tumbling 796 points Wednesday. Following the bearish trend in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies fell by ₹2,89,121.56 crore to ₹3,20,51,859.15 crore in two days.

M&M mcap crosses ₹2L-cr

The market capitalisation of Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd crossed ₹2 lakh crore mark, helped by a strong order book in the SUV segment and leadership position in tractor segment. M&M shares closed at ₹1,636.85 on the BSE, giv ing the firm a market value of ₹2.03 lakh crore, according to stock exchange data. The automaker's market cap has doubled in less than one-and-a-half years - from ₹1 lakh crore in April 2022 to over ₹2 lakh crore this week. M&M market cap hit ₹2 lakh crore mark Monday.

3,110.69 crore, according to exchange data

Akasa Air flags shutdown risk

LOCAL MFG BY **END OF 2023** PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, Sept 20: Leading

CASIO TO START

Japanese consumer electronics maker Casio would start local manufacturing of watches by the end of this year in India, which is a priority market for the company, a top company official said on Wednesday.

The company is working with a local partner here, where quality evaluation is going on and expects to launch its first Madein-India range of watches by the end of this year, said Casio India, Managing Director Hideki Imai. 'We expect this to happen before the end of this year," Imai said.

Casio is encouraged by its sales in India in the last financial year that ended on March 31, 2023, recording a high double-digit growth in revenue numbers and the highest operating profit.

We are prioritising the Indian market, which has the highest growth potential. India has the highest number of youth, below 35 years and we have recognised that fact. We are optimistic about growing the business here in India. said Imai.

INVESTORS ADOPT CAUTIOUS STANCE

DEBT MUTUAL FUNDS LOG ₹25,872 CRORE **OUTFLOW IN AUGUST**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: After witnessing staggering inflow in July, debt-oriented mutual fund schemes saw a withdrawal of Rs 25,872 crore last month as investors continue to adopt a cautious stance amid the current interest rate scenario in the US.

Out of 16 debt categories, nine of them witnessed net outflows during the month under review, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed. The major quantum of net

outflows was witnessed by the cat-985 crore.) egories having less than one year duration profile such as liquid. ultra short and low duration. chose to take some risk. Additionally, the banking and Anticipating a change in the in-PSU category also witnessed sigterest rate cycle, a section of investors invested in categories nificant net outflows. According to the data, debt mulike Gilt Funds, Dynamic Bond Funds, and Long Duration Funds, tual funds witnessed an outflow of Rs 25,872 crore in August as comwhich stands to benefit if the inpared to a net inflow of Rs 61.440 terest rate cycle reverses, he said. crore in the preceding month. Overnight fund attracted Rs "Given the current interest

REUTERS

tinue to adopt a cautious stance and wait for further indication on interest rates to make investment decisions. Also, a rally in the equity markets could have also prompted investors to shift their focus from debt to equity," Melvyn Santarita, Analyst -Manager Research at Morningstar India, said.

The huge outflow has pulled down the assets under management (AUM) of fixed income funds or debt funds to Rs 14 lakh crore at the end of August from Rs 14.17 lakh crore in the preceding month-end

In terms of categories, liquid funds saw an outflow of Rs 26,824 crore, followed by ultra short duration funds (Rs 4.123 crore) and banking and PSU funds (Rs

On the other hand, there was another section of investors who

New Delhi, Sept 20: Indian

budget carrier Akasa Air has been forced to cut flights in the short-term after many of its pilots quit abruptly, sparking a legal dispute in court where the company has warned that further resignations may even force it to shut down.

A small set of pilots "abandoned their duties" and left without serving their mandatory contractual notice period, causing a disruption of flights, but the airline is on course to invest in growing its operations and ordering more planes, CEO Vinay Dube told employees in an email Tuesday.

Dube's email came on a day when the airline's counsel told a Delhi court that Akasa was in "crisis" and may shut down after the abrupt resignations, said a person with direct knowledge Govt to sell 4.92% in SJVN at ₹69/share;

OFS begins Thursday

New Delhi: The government will

a floor price of Rs 69 per share

through a two-day offer for sale,

an official said. "Offer for sale in

SJVN opens tomorrow for non-

retail investors. Retail investors

divest 4.92% equity including a

Green Shoe option of 2.46%,

DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta

Pandey posted on X. At the floor

price of Rs 69 a share, the sale of

4.92 per cent stake -- or over 9.66

crore shares -- will fetch over Rs 650 crore. SJVN shares Wednesday

jumped 9.31 per cent to hit its 52-

week high of Rs 83.69. The stock

later closed at Rs 81.75 apiece on

the BSE, up by 6.78 per cent.

can bid on Friday. Government will

sell 4.92 per cent stake in SJVN at



THE BUDGET CARRIER HAS BEEN FORCED TO CUT FLIGHTS

of the hearing.

Akasa told the court it cancelled 600 flights in August and would be forced to cancel up to 700 more in September if the resignations continue, the person added.

"We have chosen to flv less and give up market share ... these are only short-term constraints,' he said, adding that the airline had "strong finances" and was confident of its future.

Akasa has dragged the pilots. many of whom have joined rival Air India Express, to court and initiated legal proceedings against



Little over a year after commencing operations, Akasa Air has received approval from the civil aviation ministry for starting international flights and is looking to fly to destinations in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. The airline, which is currently grappling with pilot shortage issues, has a fleet of 20 aircraft and plans to start flying to overseas destinations by year-end. Akasa Air Founder and CEO Vinay Dube Wednesday said the ministry has designated the airline as an international scheduled operator. Akasa, which has 72 Boeing planes on order, ordered four more 737 MAX jets in June to further boost its international flying plans. It is on track to announce a new three-digit aircraft order before the

in 2022, Akasa saw its market share dip to 4.2% in August from 5.2% a month earlier, government data showed.

end of the year.

alty (1.20 per cent), bankex (1.05 per cent), telecommunication (0.95 per cent) and oil & gas (0.68 per cent). Utilities and power were the gainers.

Staging a sharp rebound from its lifetime low levels, the rupee

> PILOTS OUIT

the end of October as the escooter maker fast-tracks its listing move, three people with direct knowledge said. Backed by investors including Singapore's Temasek and Japan's SoftBank, Ola Electric was valued at \$5.4 billion in a recent fund raising. In an email to its bankers and lawyers Sunday, an Ola Electric executive asked external advisers on the IPO including the investment banking units of India's Kotak and ICICI, as well as foreign banks including Bank of America and Goldman Sachs to give "utmost priority" to meet a five-week deadline, said the sources.

..... Total, Adani form JV

New Delhi: TotalEnergies SE will invest \$300 million in a new clean energy joint venture with the Adani Group, marking the French energy giant's first public deal since a US shortseller levelled fraud allegations against Gautam Adani's business empire. Total will hold a 50 per cent stake in the new joint venture firm. with Adani Green Energy Ltd holding the rest, the two firms said in a statement. The joint venture will hold a portfolio of 1,050 MW, including 300 MW of already operational capacity. 500 MW under construction and 250 MW underdevelopment assets with a blend of solar and wind power.

Big hit to Byju's

New Delhi: Edtech firm Byju's Founding Partner and India operations CEO Mrinal Mohit has resigned "for personal reasons", the company said Wednesday. Byju's International Business CEO Arjun Mohan will take the additional charge of heading the country's operations, it said.

rate scenario and uncertainty over the direction of interest rates in the country, it appears that many investors

con

3,158 crore, floater fund saw an inflow Out to the tune of Rs of 16 debt categories, nine of

porate bond fund logged them witnessec in Rs 1,755 crore and gilt net outflows fund (Rs 255 crore).

2,325 crore, cor-

Dividen

the aviation regulator to enforce IndiGo president Aditya Ghosh

Founded by Dube and former

The notice period ranges be-

tween 6-12 months, depending

on the pilot's rank, according to

The distress call by Akasa

comes at a time of deep polari-

sation in India's aviation in-

dustry with IndiGo, the coun-

try's biggest carrier, and

Tata-owned Air India control-

ling nearly two-thirds of the mar-

ket, while Go Air struggles to

come out of bankruptcy and

SpiceJet faces a funding crunch.

the aviation regulator.

ADB marginally lowers India's growth hope

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 20: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Wednesday marginally lowered India's growth forecast to 6.3 per cent for the current financial vear from its earlier projection of 6.4 per cent on account of slowing exports and the likely impact of erratic rainfall on agriculture output.

Indian growth in the rest of this fiscal year and next will be propelled by robust domestic consumption as consumer confidence improves, and by investment, including large increases in government capital expenditure, according to the Asian Development Outlook September 2023.

"As slowing exports could foment headwinds for the economy, and erratic rainfall patterns are likely to undermine agricultural output, the growth forecast for FY2023 is revised down marginally to 6.3 per cent," ADB said.

The April Asian Development Outlook had projected a GDP growth of 6.4 per cent for India for FY2023. The forecast is re-

tained at 6.7 per cent for FY2024. when rising private investment and industrial output are expected to drive growth.

India's economy grew by 7.8 per cent year on year in the first quarter of fiscal year 2023 (ending 31 March 2024), reflecting strong growth in services and rising investment fueled by public investment and bank credit to the private sector.

The downside risks arise from global geopolitical tensions, which may further create economic uncertainty and/or lead to a rapid rise in global food prices, ADB said.

As per the RBI's latest forecast, the Indian economy is likely to grow at 6.5 per cent in the financial year 2023-24.

SCRUTINY ON STREAMING FIRMS

Govt to find 'pragmatic solutions' on tobacco rules

STREAMING SITES ARE CONCERNED THAT THE NEW RULES WILL FORCE EDITING OF MILLIONS OF HOURS OF EXISTING CONTENT, DIMINISH CUSTOMERS' EXPERIENCE AND IMPINGE ON CREATORS' FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 20: India's health ministry has agreed to find "pragmatic solutions" for stricter tobacco warnings on content appearing on likes of Netflix and Amazon Prime after the streaming industry raised objections, a government meeting record showed.

To curb tobacco use. India in May ordered streaming platforms to insert static health warnings during smoking scenes and at least 50 seconds of antitobacco disclaimers at the start and in the middle of each pro-

expression.

gramme. The move sparked concerns at Netflix, Amazon, Walt Disney and billionaire Mukesh Ambani's JioCinema platform, with executives fearing the rules will force editing of millions of hours of existing content, diminish customers' experience and impinge on creators' freedom of



In a closed-door meeting August 28, streaming executives met officials of India's Health Ministry and Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry and sought relaxations of the rules, and more time to comply beyond a three-month deadline. minutes of the confidential meetWANTS AUDIO-VISUAL TOBACCO WARNINGS IN STREAMING CONTENT

INDUSTRY WORRIED THIS WOULD REQUIRE

EDITING OF OLD CONTENT ing, reviewed by Reuters, showed.

They found support from secretary Apurva Chandra of the I&B ministry, which regulates streaming platforms, who "pointed out concerns regarding implementation in respect of existing library of content, foreign content, and inclusion of health spots in the middle of the

content". He suggested platforms can consider an appropriate health warning to be displayed when users log in.

Following the discussions, India's Health Secretary Sudhansh Pant "noted the harmful effects of tobacco use and concerns represented by the stakeholders and said that pragmatic solutions for operationalization and compliance ... would be looked into in the larger interest of public health," the minutes added.

The discussions - being reported by Reuters for the first time - signal India could change the rules or relax them in some way. It is not clear if, and when, the health ministry will change the rules.

The Health and I&B ministries did not respond to Reuters queries. Netflix, Amazon and Ambani's Viacom18 did not respond, while Disney declined comment. The four were among many companies that attended the meeting.

Health activists have welcomed the new rules, saying tobacco kills 1.3 million people each year in India and the growing popularity of streaming platforms means they must be treated at par with cinemas and TV, where all smoking and alcohol drinking scenes require health warnings.

During the meeting, streaming firms supported the rules in spirit, but highlighted implementation challenges. They committed to "displaying a disclaimer at the beginning" of content and no promotion of -(tobacco products on their platforms, the minutes stated.





GOALIE SAVES LAZIO'S DAY





OUT OF THE BLUE: Lazio goalkeeper Ivan Provedel is airborne while guiding his header into Atletico Madrid nets for the equalizing goal, Tuesday; (inset) Provedel celebrates after the match

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlin, Sept 20: Barcelona's Joao Felix and Manchester City's Julian Alvarez scored braces as their teams made winning starts in the Champions League.

But the wildest celebrations of the night came in Rome, where Lazio goalkeeper Ivan Provedel headed in the team's equalizer in the fifth minute of injury time to earn a 1-1 draw with Atletico Madrid. It was the last action of the game.

As the group stage began without either Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo for the first time since 2002-03, a 16-vear-old almost scored on his competition debut for Barcelona.

Lamine Yamal struck the side netting, then saw an effort saved by Antwerp goalkeeper Jean Butez after coming on as a substitute in Barcelona's 5-0 win over the Belgian team.

Celtic finished with nine players in a 0-2 loss at Feyenoord that stretched the Scottish champion's winless streak in the group stages to 11 games.

GOALIE HAS LAST WORD Atletico coach Diego Simeone was booked for protesting on his return to the Stadio Olimpico and Lazio, the club he won four trophies with as a player.

Young Atletico midfielder Pablo Barrios put the visitors ahead in what was a heated game, but the biggest drama came at the end, when Provedel left his area to add support in attack and managed to score with a header to Luis Alberto's cross. Provedel didn't know where to run as the stadium erupted around him.

Also in Group E, Feyenoord had two goals ruled out by VAR for offside and saw a penalty saved in its 2-0 win over Celtic. Calvin Stengs broke the deadlock in first half injury time but the home team had to wait till the 76th minute for Iran midfielder

Alireza Jahanbakhsh to get the second goal. Celtic defender Gustaf Lagerbielke was sent off with his

second vellow card as he conceded the penalty, and substitute Odin Thiago Holm followed him off with a straight red for a dangerous lunge at Mats Wieffer.

CITY FIGHT BACK

Manchester City started their title defense by coming from behind to beat Red Star Belgrade 3-1 at home. City had 22 shots on goal in the first half yet found itself 1-0 down at the break after Mirko Ivanic played Ghana winger Osman Bukari through to score in first-half injury time.

The linesman raised his flag, but a VAR check confirmed Bukari was onside, setting off celebrations among the 3,000 traveling supporters.

Alvarez equalized right after the break, finishing from a narrow angle after going past the goalkeeper, and it seemed only a matter of time before the second goal arrived as the home team pushed for more.

The otherwise outstanding goalkeeper Omri Glazer was at fault when it came on the hour mark, missing the ball as he went to punch away a free-kick from Alvarez that sailed inside the far post. Spanish midfielder

Leipzig defeated Swiss team Young Boys 3-1 away in the other Group G game.

BARCELONA FLYING

Antwerp endured a chastening evening in Barcelona where Jelle Bataille's own goal in the 22nd minute came after Felix had already scored and set up Robert Lewandowski for another. There was no respite for the visitors, with Gavi adding another in the second half before Felix grabbed his second.

Porto defeated Ukrainian champion Shakhtar Donetsk 3-1 away in the other Group H game. Shakhtar is playing its home games in Hamburg, Germany because of the Russian invasion of its country.

Mbappe on target as PSG script win

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Sept 20: Striker Kylian Mbappe continued his scoring spree and right-back Achraf Hakimi also found the net as Paris Saint-Germain opened their Champions League campaign with a 2-0 home win against Borussia Dortmund Tuesday.

Mbappe's penalty put PSG ahead in the 49th minute following a video review. Referee Jesus Gil Manzano stuck to his decision and ruled that defender Niklas Sule handled the ball from Mbappe's shot.

The France striker stroked the ball into the bottom left corner and just out of the reach of goalkeeper Gregor Kobel for his eighth goal in five games this season. It extended his club-record tally to 220 goals in 265 games.

Nine minutes later, Kobel was beaten from close range when Hakimi swapped passes with midfielder Vitinha and cut inside a defender before curling the ball into the bottom left corner with the outside of his right foot.

In the other Group F game, seven-time European champion AC Milan wasted chances in a 0-0 draw with Newcastle.

PSG, who have never won the competition, played last season with superstar Lionel Messi and Neymar in attack, yet went out in the last 16 for the second straight season. That led to coach Christophe Galtier's dismissal and the hiring of former

Barcelona coach Luis Enrique. When Luis Enrique took charge, he was thrust into a difficult situation. Messi and Neymar left PSG, leaving only Mbappe from that attack.

He has been joined by forward Randal Kolo Muani, who started his first game since signing from Eintracht Frankfurt for 95 million euros (USD 103 million). Kolo Muani played at center forward and was flanked by former Barcelona winger Ousmane Dembele and Mbappe at Parc

des Princes A tight opening saw Dutch forward Donyell Malen have a shot comfortably saved by goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and Vitinha hit the post in the 19th. Kolo Muani's low strike was saved near the end of a drab first half.

PSG stepped things up after the break. Dembele's cross from the right found Mbappe, whose snapshot clipped Süle's arm as he was falling down and the spot kick was awarded despite Dortmund's protests.

Both clubs have made a shaky start to their league campaigns. PSG is fifth after losing at home to Nice last Friday and Dortmund is seventh. PSG's vulnerability to quick counterattacks was ruthlessly exposed by Nice.

This was a more composed performance, although coach Edin Terzic's Dortmund side offered very little in attack. PSG plays at Newcastle and Dortmund hosts Milan October 4



RIGHT ON THE MONEY: Kylian Mbappe reacts after scoring against Borussia Dortmund, Tuesday

Siraj regains top position in ODI bowling ranking PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Antim shocks Parrish Men's volleyball team stun South Korea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Sept 20: Indian men's volleyball team Wednesday stunned last edition silver win-



19th Asian Gam

Rodrigo sealed the win in the 73rd.



before losing in semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Belgrade (Serbia), Sept 20: Antim Panghal shocked reigning champion Olivia Dominique Parrish en route to the World Championship semifinals, but the young grappler's giant-killing run was halted in the last-four stage, leaving her fighting for a bronze medal and a Paris Olympic quota place here Wednesday.

Panghal, the 53kg grappler, lost the semifinal bout to World No.23 Vanesa Kaladzinskava – a Belarusian competing as a neutral athlete - on technical points 5-4. But the Indian can still earn an Olympic quota if she wins the bronze-medal match or emerges triumphant in the bout between the losers of the bronze-medal contest

Underlining her growth and a smooth transition from the junior to senior circuit, the twotime U-20 champion won the first three bouts of the day to enter the semifinal even as other Indian contenders bit the dust in their respective categories.

The two-time U-20 champion Panghal slipped to a 0-2 deficit at the start of the bout against USA's Parrish but edged her rival 3-2 in the opening round. She later outplayed Poland's Roksana Marta Zasina by technical superiority and followed it

up with a 9-6 win over Russian Natalia Malysheva, who is competing as a neutral athlete.

Earlier. American Parrish swung into action with a quick take-down move from a rightleg attack. Unperturbed, the 19year-old Indian began to defend well and foiled two similar attempts, not conceding any more points till the end of first period

With her strong defense continuing, Panghal did not let Parrish make any attacking move and as a result the American was put on clock.

Panghal got hold of the American's left leg and converted that into a successful take-down move to draw parity. She tried to get a leg lace but could not pull off the move

The American lost a point on passivity. Standing wrestling followed and Panghal defended her slender lead to walk out a winner. She needed only one minute and 38 seconds to outplay Zasina in her next bout, beating the Poland wrestler by technical superiority to move into the quarterfinals. After two take-down moves, Panghal pulled off leg-lace move with perfection to finish the

bout in a jiffy. However, Manisha (62kg), Priyanka (68kg) and Jyoti Berwal (72kg) have lost their bouts and exited the tournament.

ner South Korea in a five-set thriller to top the group and reach the knock-out stage of the Asian Games here.

Indian won 3-2 (25-27, 29-27, 25-22, 20-25, 17-15) in their final Group C match that lasted two hours and 38 minutes. India. who had beaten Cambodia 3-0 Tuesday, collected five points to top their group.

Amit Gulia and Ashwal Rai emerged as the star performers for India, helping their side to score several crucial points. India will either play Chinese Taipei or Mongolia in the next round.

India had won their last medal in the 1986 edition (bronze). In the last edition in Indonesia, the country had finished at the 12th spot. **ROWERS IMPRESS**

India got off to a wondrous start in their Asian Games campaign as the men's four's rowing team finished at the top position with a time of 6:20.47. India beat the likes of other na-

tions such as Indonesia, South Korea, and Hong Kong with ease



as they held at least a 10 second advantage over every other team in Heat 1, with the closest competitor being Indonesia, who finished with a time of 6:31.62. With this commanding win. the Indian team secured direct qualification for the final that is scheduled to happen September 25.

The Indian women's rowing team also had a promising start to their campaign, as the lightweight women's double sculls pair of Kiran and Anshika Bharti secured their spot in the respec-

tive heat as well. The duo recorded a time of 7:27.57, securing themselves the chance to compete in the repechage round for a shot at advancing to the final.

In the men's doubles coxless event, the duo of Babu Lal Yadav and Lekh Ram also had a commendable start as they finished third in their heat with a time of 6:42.59. And similarly, the team of Parminder Singh, Satnam Singh, Jakhar Khan and Sukhmeet Singh of the men's quadruple sculls also clinched

themselves a chance to compete in the repechage round in their respective event as well. **FLAG-BEARERS NAMED**

Hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh and Olympic medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain will be the flag-bearers of the Indian contingent during the opening ceremony of the Asian Games, September 23. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) took the decision Wednesday to have joint flag-bearers for the continental showpiece.

Dubai, Sept 20: Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj has regained his No.1 spot in the men's ICC ODI bowling rankings after his six-wicket haul in the final of the recently-concluded Asia Cup.

Siraj, who first grabbed the top position in January before being displaced by Josh Hazlewood in March, has surged eight spots after his memorable performance that helped dismiss Sri Lanka for just 50 runs and enabled India to complete a 10-wicket victory in the summit clash.

Left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav has moved down three places to ninth. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah climbed up two places to 27th while Hardik Pandya rose eight spots to 50th.

Among batters, openers Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma have retained their second and 10th spots respectively while star batter Virat Kohli moved up a rung to eighth. Pandya is the only all-rounder in the top 20, climbing up a spot to the sixth place.

NEW YORK, DALLAS, FLORIDA NAMED US VENUES FOR T20 WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 20: The ICC Wednesday confirmed New York. Dallas and Florida as the three venues for the USA-leg of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. Broward County (Florida),

Grand Prairie (Dallas) and Eisenhower Park (New York) will be the three stadiums hosting the matches in the US. This is the first time the tournament will be played in the USA, and they will co-host it with the West Indies. The ICC had awarded the event

to the USA in 2021. Geoff Allardice, the Chief Executive of the governing body, said, these venues have been zeroed in after an extensive evaluation process. 'We're delighted to announce

the three USA venues that will host part of the biggest ICC Men's T20 World Cup ever staged, with 20 teams competing for the trophy.

"We explored a number of potential venue options in the country, and we were hugely encouraged by the enthusiasm the event generated amongst prospective hosts,² said Allardice in an ICC release. Allardice said the existing venues at Florida and Dallas will be expanded to accommodate more fans, media and premium hospitality areas using the modular stadium solutions.

World Cup anthem released, ICC criticised

he ICC, Wednesday, launched the official anthem of upcoming World Cup, kicking off October 5. The anthem is called 'Dil Jashn Bole' and it stars Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh in the lead role. The music has been created by Pritam, one of Bollywood's most coveted composers. The anthem also features choreographer Dhanashree Verma, who is the wife of India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal. The three-minute 22-second long anthem shows a journey through India on board the 'One Day Express'. However, the song failed to receive a warm welcome from fans. ICC was criticised heavily for not being able to capture the pulse of cricket fans like the anthems of previous editions.

He said the same technology will be used to build a 34,000seat modular stadium at Nassau County, New York, and he hoped to acquire the required permit from local officials by next month. "We are very excited about the opportunity to use modular sta-

dium technology. This technology

has been used at previous ICC events to increase venue capacity and it's routinely used in other major sports around the world.

"It will give us the opportunity to increase the size of the venues in both Dallas and Florida and create what is going to be a stunning -(venue in New York," said Allardice.

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