

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 Rabi crop," an official said. **P3**

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 Jarmwadi (all in Yavatmal), and Dinesh Madavi of Rantapur in Wardha, said Tiwari. **P7**



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 **PTI PHOTO**

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 for and two against votes

reservation into effect would be 'gross injustice' to women. 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 delimitation exercise soon after the elections, setting in motion the process to make women's reservation a reality. Shah indicated that women's reservation will become a reality after 2029. AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi opposed the Bill contending that the measure would provide reservation only to 'savarna women', and exclude

OBC and Muslim women who have little representation in Parliament. The AIMIM has two members in Lok Sabha. Twenty-seven women members 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 two-thirds 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. **P3**

Pramila BJD's Speaker pick

AGENCIES

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.

MEA advises caution to Indians in Canada

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 20: With the two nations in the middle of a diplomatic faceoff, the Ministry 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 allegations 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-condoned 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 diplo-

mats 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.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I usually feel empowered... till I post something on social media and get abused by the people followed by PM

DSPL-188

BIJU SWASTHYA KALYAN YOJANA

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CHIEF MINISTER, ODISHA

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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 31-year-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

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ARIES

You are very sensitive, and some people will disturb your peace of mind today. However, getting irritated will only make matters worse. Reflect in isolation what may be at the root of the problem. Ganesh 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. Ganesh, however warns you to be more tolerant of others' views and beliefs. Intolerance, particularly 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

Ganesh 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 self-employed. Housewives will remain extremely busy with household matters. You will be able to work according to your desire though, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

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. Ganesh 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

Ganesh 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. Ganesh warns you to stay away from judicial proceedings or pleadings, as today is not a good day for fighting court battles.

SCORPIO

"It's a dream come true," you may utter these words in surprise today, feels Ganesh. 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 nothing on the cards that can cheer you up. Ganesh advises to let the day pass calmly 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 Ganesh. But, your struggle to improve rapport may not be as successful as you want it to be.

AQUARIUS

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 Ganesh.

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 your earlier sojourns, says Ganesh.

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 like *Daman*, *Parineeta*, *Dus*, and *Chokher Bali*.



Hina shares her 'surreal' experience

Mumbai: Actress Hina Khan is set to make her singing debut with *Barsaat Aa Gayi*, and called it a 'surreal' experience. Hina recently took to her social media platforms to 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."

"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 Vynl 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*.



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 age of 81.

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 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

opposite Salman 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 to 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 well-deserved 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.



LEGEND COMES ALIVE ON STAGE



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.

FUN post

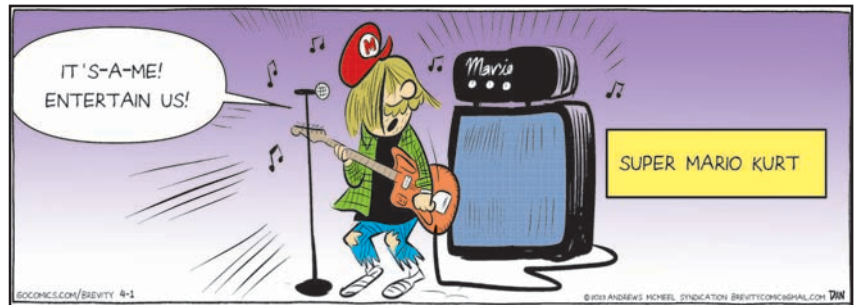
PEANUTS



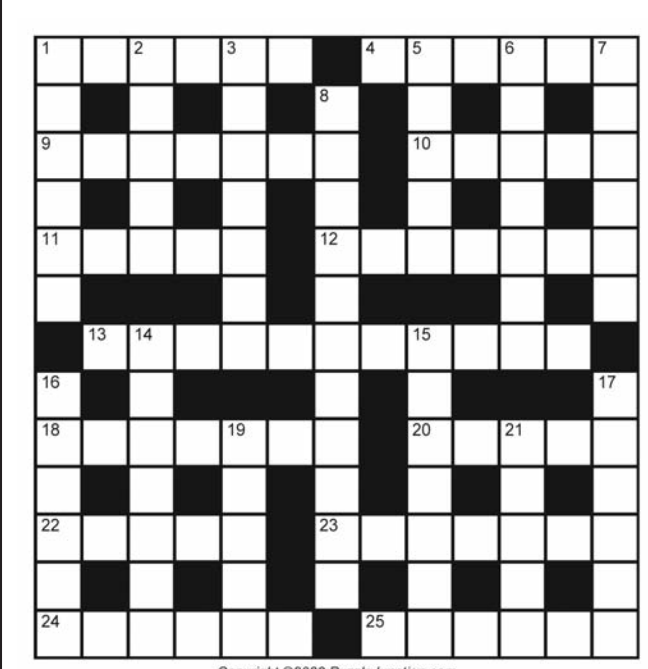
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



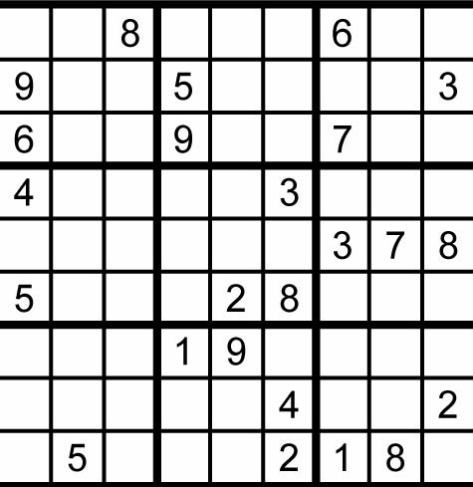
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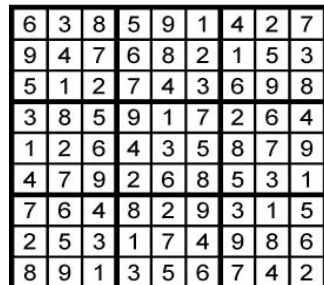
- Across**
- 1 Blemish
 - 4 Mexican cloak
 - 9 Ladies' man
 - 10 Military raid
 - 11 Ukrainian peninsula
 - 12 Tinned fish
 - 13 Bahrain locale (7,4)
 - 18 Adage
 - 20 Foaming at the mouth
 - 22 Antipasto morsel
- Down**
- 23 Rooming house, e.g. mask
 - 24 Drive away
 - 25 Like a lamb, maybe
 - 7 Before tent or mask
 - 8 Soothsayer's tool (7,4)
 - 14 Shoreline problem
 - 15 Cooking utensil
 - 16 Sang-froid
 - 17 Short-legged hound
 - 19 Decorative pitchers
 - 21 Inclined

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

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



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 'political Jumla'.

Kurmi stir hits train services in Odisha, J'khand

PNN & AGENCIES

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

A total of seven trains were cancelled and nine others diverted, the SER said in a release.

The trains that were diverted "due to ongoing agitation by Kurmi Samaj" include the Patna-Ranchi Vande Bharat Express and Howrah-Mumbai Duronto Express, while those cancelled were the Howrah-Mumbai Gitanjali Express and Hatia-Kharagpur Express, among others, it said.

Meanwhile, the ECoR in another release said a number of trains have been cancelled and diverted for the day, which include the Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Duronto Express and Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express.

"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



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"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

taking place at various places in Jharkhand like Manoharpur near Chakradharpur, Gomoh and at other places near Muri," 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 Kurmal language in the eighth schedule of the Constitution.

In Jharkhand, defying prohibitory orders, several agita-

tors marched to the Muri Railway Station and sat on railway tracks, the officials said.

Police also lathicharged protesters 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.

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



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

OP PHOTO

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 agen-

cies 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 Pakistan-based "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

spokesperson said, sharing the telephone and WhatsApp numbers.

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

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



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

In an attempt to sensitize people about Alzheimer's disease, 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.

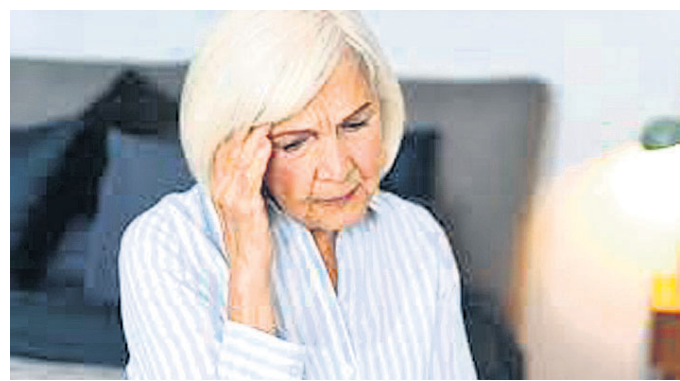
World Alzheimer's Day is an opportunity to inform and educate the public about the implications of Alzheimer's disease on individuals, families, and society as a whole. It also serves as a call for action to support research into its causes, prevention, treatment and cure.

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 memory 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 solving issues: People with Alzheimer's often have difficulty

with tasks that involve planning, organising and problem-solving. 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

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

SRI AUROBINDO



Dollar Dominance

Many 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 perceived 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 co-exist 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.

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.

FOCUS SCIENCE

SPACE SUCCESS



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

The successful soft-landing of ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft on the Moon and the subsequent launch of Aditya 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

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 Dhawan 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 Chandrayaan-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 programme, 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

Amid the ongoing controversy over Sanatana Dharma, the Madras High 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-

damental right... Therefore, untouchability, either within or outside Sanatana Dharma can no longer be Constitutional, though sadly it still exists."

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

that core religious values are steadily disappearing from society as a section deals with the 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.

Tragically, today we find religion being misinterpreted and 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 prayers 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 decreed 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 kutumbakam" ironically gets tarnished.

INFA



Dhurjati Mukherjee

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

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 double-decker 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, judgments 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

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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2 NCP factions say 'no split, no dispute' in party



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 20: Senior leaders from both Sharad Pawar and 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)



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.

2 tigers perish in MP's Bandhavgarh in a week

Umria (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.



Maha furore as 7 debt-hit farmers end life in 72 hrs

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 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 crisis that has been claiming lives without break since 1997.

"Every day we are getting reports of one or two tillers' suicides 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

and the state government, the core issues of costs, crops and credit are not addressed, thus driving the farmers to end their lives, and it has virtually assumed 'genocidal' proportions now. Relief packages are announced with great fanfare but they fail to penetrate fully or provide relief to the rural economy that has crashed, declared Tiwari.

Coupled with the climate 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.

Despite claims by the Centre

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.

STATUE OF ONENESS

MP CM to unveil 108-foot 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 Jyotirlingas 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



'Bharmasutrabhasya' (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.

'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.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has come up with a set of guidelines asking citizens to be careful given the fish-bite incidents 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 BMC has kept medical rooms ready at every Chowpatty in the city, along with a 108 ambulance.

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 jellyfish 'sparsak' (the sting) and apply ice on the injury spot, the BMC said.

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

Fisheries Department, Mumbai's coastline remains full of blue button jellyfish and sting ray species between August and October, which means incidents of biting may occur during immersion of Ganesh idols.

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 to BMC.

36,000 women chant in unison at Pune pandal

Devotees from Russia and 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.

Puja politics, cops' curbs

THANE: The police in Maharashtra's Thane district have served a notice on a Ganesh pandal, which faced action last year 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

fight between "two groups, communities, and religions and result in law and order problems" will prompt the police to act.

Kalyan 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.



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



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

BARCA, MAN CITY START CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CAMPAIGN WITH VICTORIES

GOALIE SAVES LAZIO'S DAY



Joao Felix, Barcelona



Julian Alvarez, Man City



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-year-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 yellow 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

Rodrigo sealed the win in the 73rd. 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 Vitorinha 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 Donnyell Malen have a shot comfortably saved by goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and Vitorinha 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 Sule'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

Antim shocks Parrish 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 Kaladzinskaya - 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 two-time U-20 champion won the first three bouts of the day to enter the semifinal even as other Indian contenders bid 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

Men's volleyball team stun South Korea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Sept 20: Indian men's volleyball team Wednesday stunned last edition silver winner 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 nations 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 respective 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 medalist 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.

Siraj regains top position in ODI bowling ranking

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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," 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

The 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 34,000-seat 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 stadium 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.