



ALIA'S DISCLOSURE

Actor Alia Bhatt reveals that her first celebrity crush was not Ranbir Kapoor but another actor whom she has previously worked with

LEISURE P2



WORLD'S LONGEST-RANGE DRONE

Iran parades its military hardware on the anniversary of its 1980s war with Iraq, including 'the longest-range drone in the world'

INTERNATIONAL P10



INDIA BEAT AUSTRALIA

Mohammed Shami bags a five-wicket haul to help India register a comfortable 5-wicket win over Australia in the first ODI

SPORTS P12

SHORT TAKES

Family court quashes Anubhav-Varsha pleas

Cuttack: A family court here Friday quashed petitions filed by actor-turned-politician Anubhav Mohanty and his spouse Varsha Priyadarshini who are locked in a protracted marital dispute. The court dismissed the divorce petition filed by Anubhav and another plea by Varsha seeking restitution of her conjugal rights. The court observed that the petitions were not maintainable in view of the slew of allegations and counters by both parties and a barrage of litigations.

Bidhuri remarks spark row

New Delhi: BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri's derogatory remarks in Lok Sabha against BSP's Danish Ali triggered a massive outrage Friday with Speaker Om Birla warning him of 'strict action' if such behaviour is repeated and Ali asserting he could consider quitting the membership of the House if no step is taken. The INDIA bloc rallied behind Ali who demanded that the matter be referred to the privileges committee of the House even as the BJP issued a show cause notice to Bidhuri for his use of objectionable words during a discussion on the Chandrayaan mission's success. Amid calls by several Opposition parties for Bidhuri's suspension from Lok Sabha, Speaker Birla took 'serious note' of Bidhuri's comments and warned the Lok Sabha member from South Delhi of 'strict action' if such behaviour was repeated in the future.



WOMAN POWER: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, BJP leader Mohan Majhi and Congress Legislature Party leader Narasingha Mishra congratulating Pramila Mallik on becoming the first woman Speaker of Odisha Assembly on the first day of the Monsoon Session, Friday

DON'T BELIEVE IN CYCLONE RUMOURS: IMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Requesting people not to believe in rumours of a possible cyclone in Odisha in the next fortnight, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Friday said a low pressure area may be created over east-central Bay of Bengal in October first week with low probability of it intensifying into a depression.

This was stated by IMD DG Mrutyunjay Mohapatra while reacting to rumours being circulated that a cyclone will hit Odisha in the first week of October.

"Though the month of October is considered as a cyclone period in Odisha, the IMD has not made any such forecast so far. The IMD has analysed at least 10 different models and two of them indicated that a low pressure area may be formed in the Bay of Bengal and the system may move in the west-northwest direction," Mohapatra said.

"But, it is too early to predict when it will reach the coast and its likely impact. So far, the IMD has made no cyclone prediction and no alert has been issued for Odisha or any other states. A clearer picture will emerge only after formation of the cyclonic circulation at the end of September and the subsequent low pressure area," he said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You will get quota in 2039... but this small delay shouldn't stop you from giving us credit & voting for us in 2024

₹28,200cr Suppl Budget

POST NEWS NETWORK/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Finance Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha tabled a supplementary budget of ₹28,200 crore for 2023-24 fiscal in the Odisha Assembly on the first day of the Monsoon Session Friday, with the highest allocation of ₹4,697.62 crore towards disaster management.

The budget, which is the last before the upcoming polls, has earmarked ₹1,302 crore towards 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha', an ambitious scheme of the state government that aims at boosting rural infrastructure, especially digital connectivity, and promote Jagannath culture across the state.

The supplementary provision of ₹28,200 crore comprises ₹20,100 crore towards programme expenditure, ₹2,864 crore towards administrative expenditure, ₹4,664 crore for disaster management, and ₹572 crore towards transfer to local bodies, Arukha said while briefing reporters outside the House.

Out of the ₹20,100 crore towards programme expenditure, ₹15,624 crore was allotted for implementation of State Sector Schemes (SSS), ₹4,441 crore for Centrally-Sponsored Scheme (CSS) and ₹35 crore for Central Sector Scheme, he said.

Arukha said provision of



₹3,417 crore was made for the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department, ₹3,336 crore allotted to education and skill development sectors, and ₹1,613 crore was provided for agriculture and allied activities.

Also, ₹1,136 crore was allotted for ST&SC development, minorities & backward classes welfare, ₹771 crore for social security, ₹1,253 crore for Mission Shakti, and ₹862 crore for public healthcare in the

Supplementary Budget, he added.

Under the administrative expenditure, he said an additional fund of ₹2,864 crore has been provided to meet expenditure on salary, dearness allowance, arrear, conduct of recruitment tests and elections including police arrangements.

The government has allocated funds for newly-launched schemes and programmes. Provision of ₹1,302 crore has been made for 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha', ₹556 crore for Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LAccMI) scheme, ₹210 crore for Metro rail project, ₹21 crore for Odisha Transport Drivers & Workers Welfare scheme, and ₹252 crore for IT connectivity to panchayats.

The Finance Minister informed that the state's revenue collection and expenditure witnessed a growth of 19 per cent and 39 per cent, respectively, till August of the financial year.

With this Supplementary Budget, it is projected to maintain revenue surplus, contain fiscal deficit within 3 per cent of GSDP and maintain the debt-to-GSDP ratio at the year-end within the mandated level of 25 per cent, he said.

Till July, 2023, the total debt burden of Odisha stood at ₹88,487 crore (the debt to GSDP ratio is

HIGHLIGHTS

- ₹3,417cr: Panchayati raj & drinking water
- ₹3,336cr: Education & skill devpt
- ₹1,613cr: Agriculture & allied activities
- ₹1,253cr: Mission Shakti
- ₹1,136cr: ST&SC devpt, minorities & backward classes welfare
- ₹862cr: Public healthcare
- ₹771cr: Social security

Revenue collection and expenditure witnessed growth of 19% and 39%, respectively, till August of the financial year

BOOST TO NEW SCHEMES

- ₹1,302cr: Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha
- ₹556cr: Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LAccMI)
- ₹210cr: Metro rail
- ₹252cr: IT connectivity

10.27 per cent) and the interest payment to revenue receipt ratio is 1.94 per cent. The per-capita loan burden stood at ₹19,171.

The capital outlay for the year 2023-24 will exceed 6 per cent of GSDP including the supplementary provision. "This will help in boosting the economic growth and, at the same time, enable the state to carry forward different development and welfare programmes," he added.

SANATAN DHARMA REMARK

SC to hear plea for FIR against Udhayanidhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Supreme Court Friday agreed to hear a plea seeking registration of an FIR against Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and others over his "eradicate Sanatan Dharma" remark, which the petitioner likened to 'hate speech'.

A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi issued notices on the petition filed by Chennai-based lawyer B Jagannath who said the apex court has passed several directions, including for registration of FIR, in similar cases.

Senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, appearing for the petitioner, alleged Udhayanidhi asked school students to say Sanatan Dharma was not good while other religions were.

"I would understand if an individual rants against a particular community or faith of a group of people. But it causes concern when the State unleashes its machinery," the lawyer said.

Udhayanidhi, also a well-known film actor, is the son of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and ruling DMK chief M K Stalin.

When the bench asked him why he did not approach the

Madras High Court with the petition, Naidu said, "This court has taken note of similar matters where individuals make such a statement against another's faith but in this case it is a minister making the statement. Here it is State which is telling the school students that so and so religion is wrong."

Naidu claimed circulars have been issued asking students to speak against a particular faith.

He said the question is can a constitutional authority make such speeches?

"These are impermissible. A batch of petitions has already been admitted and I should not be asked to go to the high court now. The court has issued interim directions earlier when it came to individuals. Here, I am concerned with the State. I was concerned to approach the court as he is a minister, and when we went to register FIR, no one registered it," the lawyer said.

Responding to a query by the bench, the senior lawyer said he is seeking a restraining order against Udhayanidhi Stalin to prevent him from making any such statement in the future and registration of an FIR. He said the petitioner also wanted students to be kept out of the controversy.

MotoGP gaffe Distorted India map broadcast live during practice

WITHIN HOURS OF THE MATTER BEING FLAGGED BY SOME SOCIAL MEDIA USERS, MOTOGP POSTED AN APOLOGY ON ITS OFFICIAL ACCOUNT ON X

AGENCIES

Greater Noida, Sept 22: A huge controversy erupted ahead of MotoGP's India debut when a distorted map of the country - with Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh missing from it - was broadcast live during the opening practice session of the premier two wheel racing event at Greater Noida, Friday.

Within hours of the matter being flagged by some social media users, MotoGP on its official account on X posted an

apology for the gaffe.

"We'd like to apologise to our fans in India for the map shown earlier a part of the MotoGP broadcast. It is never our intent to make any statement other than that of support and appreciation for our host country," MotoGP stated.

"We're excited to be able to enjoy the IndianOil Grand Prix of India with you and we're with you and we're loving our first taste of Buddh International Circuit," it added.

FMSCI (Federation of Motor



Sports Clubs of India) president Akbar Ebrahim was sitting in the race control room of BIC when the embarrassing error was brought to his notice.

"It is highly regrettable that an erroneous map of India was broadcast by MotoGP TV today during the telecast of Grand Prix of India. We are aware that MotoGP have issued a public apology

"The FMSCI advises its motorsports affiliates to be extremely careful and correct on the depiction of the India Map and

Indian Tricolor," said Ebrahim.

Practice is scheduled for Friday in all classes - Moto 2, Moto 3, and MotoGP. The qualifying will be held Saturday and the main races are scheduled for Sunday.

India are hosting a motorsport event of this magnitude for the first time since the 2013 Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix, which was dropped from the calendar due to financial, taxation and bureaucratic issues. Dorna and Fairstret have signed a seven-year MoU for the MotoGP race in India.

The success of the race is important for the organisers with India being the world's largest two-wheeler market.

The state government has thrown its weight behind the event which is critical for the long-term future of the race.

Earlier this month, the Uttar Pradesh government released a fund of ₹8 crore to its department 'Invest UP' for the MotoGP after a proposal from Fairsret Sports, according to an official statement of the local Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority

JD(S) ties up with BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: In a boost to the BJP in Karnataka ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Janata Dal (Secular) has decided to ally with the party following a meeting of its leader H D Kumaraswamy with Home Minister Amit Shah and party president J P Nadda.

After the meeting, Nadda said on X, "I am happy that JD(S) has decided to be the part of National Democratic Alliance. We wholeheartedly welcome them in the NDA. This will further strengthen NDA and vision of Hon PM Narendra Modi Ji for 'New India, Strong India'."



EUPHORIA STAR ANGUS CLOUD'S CAUSE OF DEATH REVEALED

Actor Angus Cloud, known for playing for playing Fezco in the HBO drama series *Euphoria*, passed away July 31 at 25. His cause of death has now been confirmed by the Alameda County Coroner. He died due to drug overdose, the agency revealed to *People*.

SHAKIRA BELIEVED IN 'TILL DEATH DO US PART'

Pop star Shakira (46), who recently had a break up with retired soccer star Gerard Pique (36), told *Billboard*: "My priority was my home, my family. I believed in 'till death do us part'. I believed that dream, and I had that dream for myself, for my children."



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
Today, you may want to wear your power suit, says Ganesh. If you notice people bending and bowing a bit, understand that your hard work has paid off! If not, then you need to get more organised. Either way, there's work to be done.

TAURUS
This is not a day when you should be fooling around with your health. Do not take your health and fitness for granted, warns Ganesh. You will be feeling lazy and listless all day long. Chances are that you could fall ill on account of carelessness.

GEMINI
An auspicious and progressive day awaits you. Along with your daily work you will also be able to tackle your personal issues as well. You will establish an emotional bonding with some person, or will feel the need to.

CANCER
Be ready to get into the shoes of a juggler today, says Ganesh. Multi-tasking is the need of the hour, my friend! But, no worries for you will be energetic and deft. Pending pile of work will be finished with ease. Seemingly impossible tasks will be finished in a blink of an eye.

LEO
You will be in a very good mood today. You will inspire others to achieve substantial things in life. While you have been looking to take on an extremely challenging project, you have been unable to find the right opening so far. You ought to start such projects today, says Ganesh. The obstacles in your way will fade away on their own and you will be easily able to find the path to success.

VIRGO
Your driving force will be a single-minded desire to take your destiny in your own hands. Your organisational abilities will be flawless, and a burning desire to succeed will motivate you to keep pegging at your tasks. Ganesh says your managerial abilities will be enhanced by your decision-making and reasoning abilities.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you will be able to spend more time with your friend circle. You will be attracted to someone of the opposite sex. In the evening today you will be able to take out your beloved for a romantic evening combined with a drive and dinner at a restaurant.

SCORPIO
A happening day where a lot may happen today, suggests Ganesh. Grey hairs will teach valuable lessons, so keep your ears open to bosses and elders. Seniors will extend their best possible cooperation to you.

SAGITTARIUS
A paradigm shift in your temperament and your looks is on the cards today. Your personality will get better as you do some chic attire, jewellery and a rather loud perfume today. You're a magnet today, says Ganesh, and will charm your way through a crowd of admirers who will clamour for your attention.

CAPRICORN
Your investments, inheritance, receipts, etc. will keep your pockets filled with cash. No sooner you try to put them in safe; there will be more than one reason for some expenditure. Keeping a watch on incomes and expenses both will help you avoid any monetary problems, advises Ganesh. Your maturity, practicality and experience will come to your rescue today.

AQUARIUS
You are ambitious, and quite unapologetic about the way you pursue your goals! You will work hard and push your way through if you have to. Not just that, you will see to it that you have all the skills and competency required to make it big. Success is never served on a plate, and you know it, says Ganesh.

PISCES
For those in the creative, marketing or advertising fields, today will likely bring about an important milestone on their path to progress, says Ganesh. Your creativity and ingenuity will be at their peak.

Alia's startling revelation

Mumbai: Actress Alia Bhatt, one of the most successful and popular actresses in Hindi film industry, has delivered some acclaimed performances. In a recent interview, the *Raazi* actress revealed that her first celebrity crush was not Ranbir Kapoor but another actor whom she has previously worked with. Asked specifically the name of the celeb, the *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* actress named Shah Rukh Khan. Both SRK and Alia have worked together in the past in Gauri Shinde's *Dear*

Zindagi. The former also made a special appearance in Alia and Ranbir Kapoor starrer *Brahmastra*. And, they also collaborated on *Darlings*, Bhatt's debut movie as a producer. Earlier, in an episode of *Koffee with Karan*, Alia had appeared with King Khan where she praised him. She said: "Even if I was dating anybody, it's okay to find other men attractive; especially, if the man is Shah Rukh. Since I've known him, I have always loved him." Karan added, "I know. You have been crushing over him since the beginning." AGENCIES

Lipika's *Night and Fear* draws attention

BHUBANESWAR: The 4th edition of the three-day Indian Documentary Film Festival Bhubaneswar (IDFFB), organised by the Film Society of Bhubaneswar, kicked off here at Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre, Friday. Seven films including National Award-winning filmmaker Lipika Singh Darai's acclaimed movie *Night and Fear* (Raati O Bhaya) were screened on the first day of the festival.



Lipika Singh Darai and festival director Subrat Beura during an interaction session



Screengrab from *Night and Fear*

Having a two-fold interior, *Night and Fear* is a personal essay addressed to the filmmaker's grand aunt, but also a reflection on the impact of making films on the filmmaker herself and society as a whole. Darai has put fear at the centre of the film. But here, the fears that are examined go beyond the personal. Mohd Fehmeed's Hindi docu-

mentary *Ruuposh* was the other film that struck an immediate chord with the audience. It explores the struggles of a Muslim family separated by the Partition of India as they try to reconnect despite years of pain, estrangement, and political turmoil. *The Volunteer Archivists*, which tells the story of Srujanika, a volunteer-led collective founded by

scientist couple Nikhil Mohan Pattnaik and Puspashree Pattnaik of Bhubaneswar, was also well received at the event. The Pattnaiks managed to collect, process, and archive 10,000 volumes of books, magazines, and other periodicals and dictionaries published in the Odia language since the early 1800s. These publications are hosted on their portal, Odia Bibhaha.

Festival director Subrat Beura said the documentary film festival does not have an organised distribution channel, but it is important that the movies are screened. As documentary films are very close to reality, they hit hard, added Beura.

Films on several issues, including conservation, sexual minorities and their rights, migration, gender, uneven development, geo-politics, environmental degradation, and political and ethical questions, are being screened at the event, according to the festival director. PNN



Shehnaaz draws flak as new Nirma girl

Mumbai: Actress Shehnaaz Gill faces online criticism and is being likened to actress Sonali Bendre due to her role in the beloved Nirma Soap advertisement remake. This nostalgic commercial, featuring Shehnaaz Gill as the lead, was recently unveiled to the public, but many internet users are underwhelmed by the new version instead of the original. While the Sonali one saw the 90s actress visiting different countries and experiencing their culture, the new one sees Shehnaaz also visiting distant places and butterflies following her wherever she goes.

Both ads have now been compiled

into one video and were shared to Reddit simply captioned - "Sonali Bendre in the Nirma Ad in 1997 vs Shehnaaz Gill in the Nirma Ad in 2023".

Commenting on Shehnaaz being cast in the Nirma Ad instead of Sonali, one Reddit user wrote, "They could have used Sonali again and made people think soap somehow adds to the ageless beauty."

Another wrote, "It's a terrible comparison though. Sonali Bendre is a graceful, feminine, beautiful woman who appears confident and secure with herself. Shehnaaz is, or at least acts like, a little insecure girl stuck in a grown woman's body." AGENCIES



Rakul shares her 'once in a life time experience'

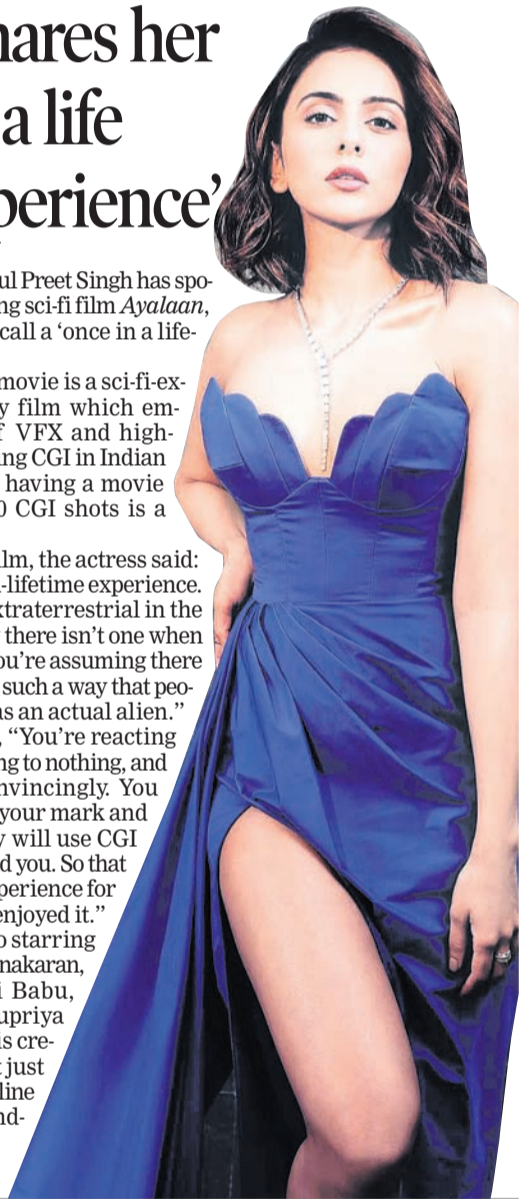
Mumbai: Actress Rakul Preet Singh has spoken about her upcoming sci-fi film *Ayalaan*, which she went on to call a 'once in a lifetime experience'.

The Ravi Kumar movie is a sci-fi-extraterrestrial-comedy film which employs a great deal of VFX and high-quality CGI. While using CGI in Indian films is nothing new, having a movie with more than 4,500 CGI shots is a new one.

Talking about the film, the actress said: "Oh, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Because there is an extraterrestrial in the picture, and you know there isn't one when you're shooting, but you're assuming there is. You must shoot it in such a way that people believe the film has an actual alien."

She went on to add, "You're reacting to a prop, you're reacting to nothing, and you have to do it convincingly. You must learn to stay on your mark and not deviate since they will use CGI to fill in the gaps around you. So that was a truly unique experience for me, and I thoroughly enjoyed it."

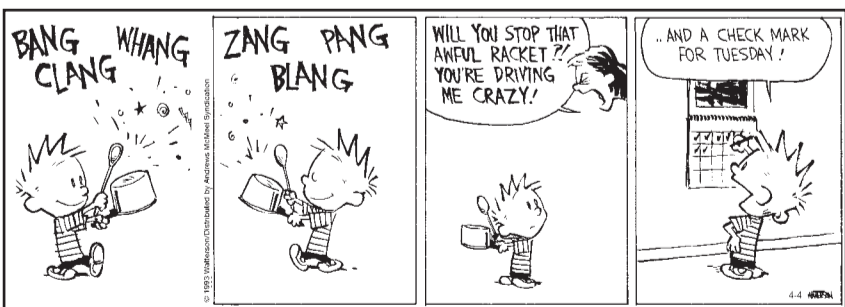
The Tamil film, also starring Sivakarthikeyan, Karunakaran, Sharad Kelkar, Yogi Babu, Isha Koppikar, Bhanupriya and Bala Saravanan, is creating quite a buzz, not just for its compelling storyline but also for the groundbreaking use of CGI. IANS



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

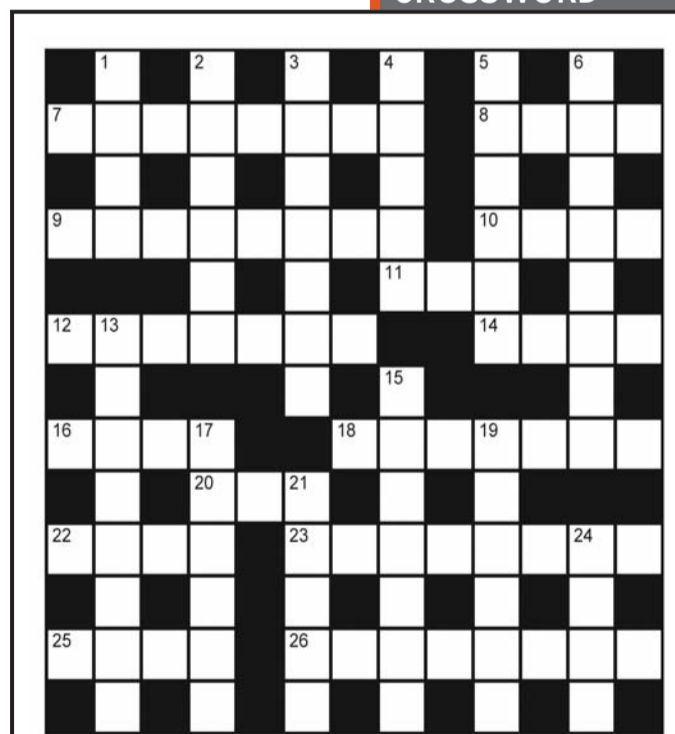


BREVITY



FUN post

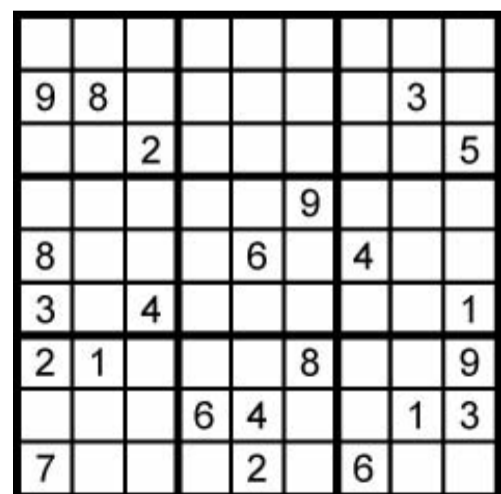
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Eels and snakes, e.g.
 - 8 Discharge
 - 9 Single-channel audio
 - 10 Building block
 - 11 Russian fighter
 - 12 Chemistry jars
 - 16 Diabolical
 - 16 Butter alternative
 - 18 Dictionary
 - 20 Zodiac animal
 - 22 Garbage hauler
 - 23 Some bachelors
 - 25 Streamlet
 - 26 Sham
- Down**
- 1 Average (2-2)
 - 2 Assault
 - 3 Safari workers
 - 4 Sacred song
 - 5 Cloudburst
 - 6 Good manners
 - 13 Discriminating
 - 15 Emblematic
 - 17 Eric Arthur Blair's AKA
 - 19 Speaks out
 - 21 Thaws
 - 24 Pear-shaped musical instrument

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

CONCH TERRACE
U O A S O R V
ROMANCE COBRA
R A D T O D
END LASSITUDE
N E E N R
TRILBY WATSON
L A H R O
POLARBEAR PIT
E N A E R A
RHEAS VIADUCT
T S U E R D
H A S B E E N S T E E D

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

BUDDING ARTISTES

Young artistes perform a stage play during the state-level science drama competition organised at Regional Science Centre in Bhubaneswar, Friday



Anganwadi workers protest for better pay

Opposition BJP and Congress throw weight behind the agitation

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Thousands of Anganwadi workers demonstrated outside the Assembly here Friday over a host of issues, including a hike in pay and retirement benefits, as the proceedings began for the Monsoon Session.

Raising slogans, they demonstrated under the banner of All Odisha Anganwadi Ladies Workers Association (AOALWA) at Lower PMG.

Among their demands were government employee status, a hike in pay and retirement benefits, including pension.

AOALWA president Sumita Mohapatra said they called off their protest in November after the state government promised that a meeting would be held with them in February over their demands, but no such step has so far been taken.

The protesters threatened to

boycott the 2024 elections if their demands were not fulfilled.

Finance Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha said the government has formed an inter-ministerial committee to look into the demands raised by teachers, Anganwadi workers and other employees.

The committee has already held two meetings, and discussions will be held with the protesters in the coming days, he said.

“The government will make all efforts to fulfil their demands,” he added. The opposition BJP and Congress extended their support to the protesting Anganwadi workers, and said that they would raise their demands in the Assembly. “Odisha is giving a very low remuneration to Anganwadi workers in comparison with other states. We are extending our support to their demands and will put pressure on the government to fulfil them,” said BJP MLA Mukesh Mahaling.

Congress MLA CS Raazen Ekka said his party would also raise the demands of the Anganwadi workers in the House during the session.



FOR A CAUSE: Members of All Odisha Anganwadi Ladies Workers' Association stage a sit-in at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Friday, to press for fulfilment of their demands, including pay hike and retirement benefits

Trouble mounts for Sambad

Former employees of the Odia daily have accused the company of manipulating their salary figures and not depositing their EPFO and ESIC amounts; Odisha Gramya Bank, Bhubaneswar starts departmental enquiry into the allegation of loan fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: More trouble is mounting for Sambad and Eastern Media Limited (EML) as many former employees of the Odia daily have accused the company of manipulating their salary figures and not depositing their dues in Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) accounts and with Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), the Economic Offence Wing (EOW) said Friday.

EOW sources stated that information has been sought from the agencies concerned to verify the allegations made by the ex-employees of Sambad and Eastern Media Limited (EML).

The EOW has been investigating into the allegations of loan fraud against the owner of

Sambad, Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, and other staffers after registering a case in this regard on the basis of a complaint lodged by Asim Mohapatra, a former district correspondent of the Odia daily.

Meanwhile, the EOW Friday claimed to have traced huge amount of cash deposits in Sambad and EML accounts during the last couple of years. The agency has been examining the accounts to ascertain as to who has made such huge cash deposits in these accounts and why.

“Further, authorities of Odisha Gramya Bank (OGB), Bhubaneswar have initiated a departmental enquiry to look into the allegation of loan fraud by Sambad/Eastern Media Limited,” the EOW stated in a press note Friday.

Significantly, more than 350



THE EOW CLAIMS TO HAVE TRACED HUGE AMOUNT OF CASH DEPOSITS IN SAMBAD AND EML ACCOUNTS DURING THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS

THE AGENCY IS EXAMINING THE ACCOUNTS TO ASCERTAIN AS TO WHO HAS MADE SUCH HUGE CASH DEPOSITS IN THESE ACCOUNTS AND WHY

Sambad/EML employees had obtained loans from the IRC Village branch of the OGB over the last few years.

Sources said most of these employees took loans to the tune of Rs 5 lakh each under various easy schemes offered by the bank for buying houses or carrying out repairs in existing houses. The sleuths reportedly found that Sambad/EML authorities secured these loans, on behalf of the employees, by

producing inflated salary slips, almost twice the actual amount drawn by the 'victims'.

Thursday, one EOW team, comprising six sleuths, resumed searches at the office of Sambad at Rasulgarh Industrial Estate and seized incriminating documents and hard disks as the staffers at the daily refused to share some suspicious files asked by the agency.

“Yesterday (Thursday) a team of EOW conducted searches in the office of Sambad. However, Sambad officials/staff did not cooperate in the investigation. Many important files/documents were found missing. Sambad officials refused to hand over a few suspicious files to EOW team. EOW team also wanted to copy some relevant computer files of accounts and HR sections but they were denied. In this situation, the EOW team was forced to seize some hard disks,” EOW sources asserted.

Notably, during the first round searches Monday, the agency had claimed to have collected ‘credible evidence’ that corroborated the allegations made by complainant Mohapatra against Patnaik and other staffers, including HR head Bajiyanti Kar.

House gets 1st woman Speaker

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Senior Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader Pramila Mallik was Friday elected unopposed as the Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly (OLA), becoming the first woman to occupy the prestigious post.

Speaker-in-charge Rajanikant Singh announced Mallik's election as the first woman Speaker of the Assembly at a special session held before the commencement of the Monsoon Session of the House.

The opposition BJP and Congress did not field any candidate for the election to the Speaker's post.

Leader of the House and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik moved a motion on Mallik's installation as the Speaker which was seconded by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Niranjan Pujari.

Later, Patnaik, Opposition BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Narasingha Mishra and other senior members accompanied Mallik to take the seat as the Speaker of the House.

In her first speech in the House, Mallik thanked all the members and sought their cooperation for the smooth functioning of the proceedings. Mallik said she would do her best to maintain the

“She (Pramila Mallik) has been a lawmaker, a minister and the government chief whip. Her vast experience would help her perform responsibilities as a Speaker”

NAVEEN PATNAIK | CHIEF MINISTER

dignity of the House.

Patnaik thanked Mallik for being the first woman Speaker of the Odisha Assembly and expressed his confidence in her ability. She has been a lawmaker, a minister and the government chief whip, Patnaik said, adding that her vast experience would help her perform responsibilities as a Speaker.

CLP leader Narasingha Mishra congratulated Mallik and hoped that she would work in an impartial manner and give protection to the opposition members in the face of ‘brute’ majority of the ruling party in the House.

“I know her since 1990 when both of us were elected to the OLA and seen her performing as a minister and also the government chief whip. I expect her to be impartial as a Speaker,” Mishra said.

BJP chief whip Mohan Majhi said that his party is proud of Mallik for being the first woman to become Speaker of the OLA.

Mallik, the six-time MLA from the reserved (SC) Binjharpur Assembly segment in Jajpur district, resigned as Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Thursday and filed her nomination as a BJD candidate for the Speaker's post. However, she was the lone candidate for the election as the Opposition BJP and Congress did not field any one against her.

The Speaker post in the Assembly fell vacant after the resignation of Bikram Keshari Arukha in May this year.

Though earlier, it was announced that the election to the Speaker's post would be conducted on September 21, later it was rescheduled to September 22 as the Opposition Congress and BJP had threatened to boycott the poll September 21 citing ‘Nuakhai’ festival.

Mallik made her debut in the Assembly as a Janata Dal MLA from Binjharpur in 1990. She later joined BJD and has been winning the Assembly elections five times in a row since 2000. She served as Women and Child Development Minister from 2004 to 2011 and was also the government chief whip for three years from May 30, 2019, to June 6, 2022.



SAFETY FIRST: An official of CMC inspects food at a stall near Gouri Shankar Park in Cuttack, Friday

IMD predicts heavy rainfall with thunderstorm today

THE STATE HAS RECORDED 1,077 MM RAINFALL AGAINST NORMAL OF 1107.2 MM TILL SEPTEMBER 22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Friday forecast some parts of Odisha will experience heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorm and lightning.

It forecast heavy rainfall (7cm to 11cm) at one or two places in Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Malkangiri, Koraput and Nabarangpur Saturday.

Yellow warning of thunderstorm with lightning has also

been sounded for one or two places in Jharsuguda, Sundargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Angul, Dhenkanal, Balasore, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Puri, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Nuapada and Bargharh districts. Light to moderate rain/thundershower may also occur at many places across the state, it said.

Though there is no heavy rain warning across Odisha Saturday,



the IMD predicted thunderstorm with lightning at one or two places in Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack,

Jagatsinghpur, Khurda, Puri, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Angul, Dhenkanal, Nayagarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh with light to moderate rain/thundershower at many places across the state.

The state has recorded 1,077 mm rainfall against normal of 1107.2 mm till September 22. While three districts have received excess rain and 25 districts are in the normal category, only two have recorded a deficit downpour, IMD sources said.

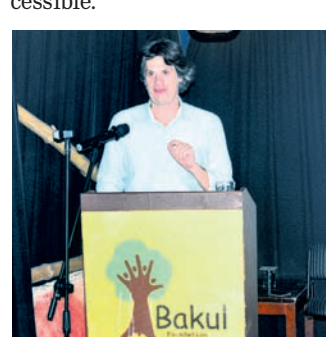
Jason speaks on climate change and disability

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The US Consulate, Hyderabad and Bakul Foundation organised a talk on ‘Climate Change and Disability: Lens on Odisha’ by Jason Strother a freelance multimedia journalist from the United States at the Bakul Library here Friday evening.

Jason has worked for National Geographic, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Wall Street Journal among others. He is also the founder of Lens15 Media, a disability focused news platform.

Jason's research looks at how climate change impacts people with disability. He presented his research on Odisha and South Asia as a Fulbright Fellow. Jason toured several districts of Odisha for several months and researched on how climate change impacts people with a disability and how disaster management systems can be made more accessible.



Global cases of heart failure to surpass 16mn in 2032: Report

The diagnosed prevalent cases of heart failure are set to register an annual growth rate of 1.68 per cent from 13.76 million in 2022 to 16.07 million in 2032, according to a report released Friday.

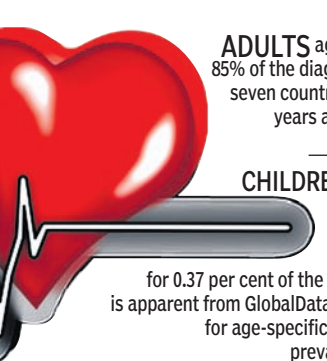
The report by GlobalData, a leading data and analytics company, showed that the rise will particularly be seen in the seven major markets – the US, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the UK and Japan.

The report reveals that in 2032, the US will have the highest number of diagnosed prevalent cases of heart failure among these countries at 7.35 million

cases, whereas Spain, with nearly 0.77 million cases, will have the lowest number.

“Both men and women can be affected, however heart failure is more prevalent among men and in the elderly population,” said Antara Bhattacharya, associate project manager from Pharma – Epidemiology team at GlobalData, in a statement.

Adults ages 60 years and above accounted for almost 85 per cent of the diagnosed prevalent cases



ADULTS ages 60 years and above accounted for almost 85% of the diagnosed prevalent cases of heart failure in the seven countries while those in younger adults ages 19-59 years accounted for almost 14 per cent of the cases

CHILDREN aged 18 years and younger accounted for 0.37 per cent of the cases. This is apparent from GlobalData estimates for age-specific diagnosed prevalent cases

HEART failure with preserved ejection fraction - a form of heart failure - accounted for approximately 47 per cent of the diagnosed prevalent cases of heart failure in the seven countries in 2022.

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mates for age-specific diagnosed prevalent cases.

Heart failure with preserved ejection fraction - a form of heart failure - accounted for approximately 47 per cent of the diagnosed prevalent cases of heart failure in the seven countries in 2022.

“There is an increased need for individualisation of in-hospital management, including treatments targeting the causative factors, and continuation of treatment after hospital discharge to improve long-term outcomes especially for acute heart failure,” Bhattacharya said.

“The case mix of heart failure

is evolving. More epidemiological data on acute heart failure can improve the treatment outcomes. With early diagnosis and lifestyle modifications, more people with heart failure can perform well.

“With respect to heart failure treatment, awareness among physicians, and obtaining the optimal management of heart failure patients while preventing underutilisation, or suboptimal dosing of guideline-directed medical therapy is necessary for improving functional status, quality of life, and survival in patients with heart failure,” she added.

IAN

SC miffed over state's remission plea rejection

CRUX OF THE MATTER



The apex court was dealing with a plea by Rajan Mishra, who was held guilty by a trial court of the charge of kidnapping for ransom in September 2007 and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mishra challenged the 'non-speaking' remission rejection order of May 24 which was passed by the state authorities.

A non-speaking order is an order which does not mention the reason for arriving a particular decision.

The top court was dealing with a plea by convict Rajan Mishra, who was held guilty by a trial court of the charge of kidnapping for ransom in September 2007 and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The convict, in his plea filed through advocate Anilendra Pandey, challenged the "non-speaking" remission rejection order of May 24 which was passed by the state authorities. A non-speaking order is an order which does not mention the reason for arriving a particular decision.

The plea said the state authorities ignored the recommendation of the sentence review board which had in January this year recommended Mishra's premature release on the ground that he has spent more than 20 years of incarceration including remission.

In November last year, the apex court had directed the state government to consider his case in accordance with the norms within three months.

Mishra had contended he was under detention for 20 years, and in case the detention period was more than 20 years including remission, a person is entitled for the relief unless he falls within the exceptions. He said his case did not fall within any category of exceptions.

On the other hand, the state's counsel had submitted his case lay within the exception clause of the guidelines as he was an alleged gangster. However, nothing was placed before the court to substantiate the contention.



HITTING STREETS: Members of 'Bharatiya Adivasi Bhumiya Sama' protest near PMG Square demanding fulfillment of their eight-point charter of demands in Bhubaneswar, Friday

'Time has come for women-led logistics'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Women achieve excellent performances in many roles compared to their male counterparts. Therefore, we should not see logistics as being exclusively for men. Time has come for focus to be on women-led logistics, said Commerce and Transport principal secretary Usha Padhee batting for inclusivity at the Logistic Summit organised by Confederation of India Industry (CII), Odisha chapter, here Friday. Padhee shed light on the high logistics cost for big as well as small and medium companies which is affecting the competitiveness of market and overall growth. "For logistics to be one



of our growth engines, it should be efficient. National Logistics Policy envisages placing India among top 25 countries of the world. Similarly, PM Gati Shakti focuses on convergence of different mode of transportation. Multi modal logistics is also another area of focus. As far as regulation is concerned, air and port sector have come to a certain maturity level. But for railway and road sector, we need to

improve the regulation," she said. On this occasion, Paradip Port Trust deputy chairman Nilabhra Dasgupta spoke about the beneficial effects of PM Gati Shakti and Sagaramala projects on the port sector. "These two projects are breathing life into the ports of our country and the results are already visible. Paradip Port is the largest, efficient and most affordable port of India," said

Dasgupta, adding that in the last fiscal, the port has clocked 136.36MT cargo handling record. "In last six years we have consecutively achieved more than 100MT cargos per year. Coastal cargo handling by Paradip Port is highest among all the coastal ports," he said. CII Odisha state council chairman Sashi Sekhar Mohanty said that the industry needs to prioritise how digitisation and smart logistics can redefine efficiency, accuracy and transparency in Odisha. "We have identified logistic bottlenecks. We need regulatory frameworks to create conducive environment for stakeholders and to up-skill our workforce to fulfil demand of the sector," he added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Supreme Court Friday termed as 'extremely undesirable state of affairs' the Odisha government's action of rejecting the remission plea of a convict, serving life term in a case of kidnapping for ransom, despite the sentence review board (SRB) recommending his premature release.

The apex court noted the state government rejected the remission plea without recording any reasons. "We have impressed upon the Solicitor General (Tushar Mehta), who appears for the state government, that this is an extremely undesirable state of affairs. It is not an appreciation of the law laid down on the issue. There must be some special reasons why despite the recommendation of the state sentence review board, recommendation was not accepted. It cannot be ipse dixit (an assertion made by an individual based solely on their own

IIT Bhub, TECC explore research collaboration

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: To explore opportunities for collaboration in academics and research, a two-member delegation from Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India (TECC) recently visited Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar. The visit was conducted as part of the international relations programme of IIT Bhubaneswar. Chin-Tsan Wang, counsellor and director, science and technology division, TECC and Ellie Chiang, assistant director, Science and Technology Division, TECC visited the institute and had an elaborate discussion on the possible collaborative research between TECC and IIT,



Bhubaneswar: Shreepad Karmalkar, director of IIT, Bhubaneswar had an interaction with the visiting delegation during their visit. Karmalkar gave an overview of the institute, the academic facilities for students and the initiatives being taken towards research and innovation. He discussed possibilities of collaboration between the IIT and TECC in detail.

Wang and Chiang explored possibilities for exchanges of faculty, researchers, and students, along with research collaboration. They appreciated the facilities and provisions of the institute. During this visit, the delegates of TECC envisaged research collaborations between IIT Bhubaneswar and different universities of Taiwan through MoUs, especially in the areas of internal chip (IC) design and micro biofuels.

Ashis Biswas, associate dean of alumni affairs and international relations of IIT Bhubaneswar coordinated visit of the delegates.

Twin city police effects reshuffle

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: The Commissionerate Police Friday effected a reshuffle in the ranks of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) and inspector in the twin city. The Police Establishment Board (PEB) of twin city police Friday issued a notice in this regard.

Ashok Kumar Giri, presently posted at the CP, Headquarters has been transferred as the new ACP of Investigative Units for Crime against Women (UCAW), Bhubaneswar UPD. Khandagiri IIC Dayanidhi Nayak has been transferred and posted as the inspector in-charge (IIC) of Lalbag police station in Cuttack. He will be replaced by Abhimanyu Das who is currently

posted at the headquarters of twin city police.

Likewise, Satyaranjan Pradhan will replace the IIC of Nayapalli, Biswaranjan Sahu who has been posted as IIC of Choudwar police station. Dinakrushna Mishra, Purnachandra Pradhan, Mrutyunjaya Swain, Beauty Mohanty and Manas Kumar Swain have been posted as the IICs of Bharatpur, Shree Lingaraj, Maitri Vihar, Pahala and Mancheswar police stations respectively.

Similarly, Subrat Kumar Meher will replace Subhrant Kumar Jena, the incumbent IIC of Tamando police station, who has been transferred to Market Nagar police station in Cuttack.

'Mahanadi' opening film at Nadi Utsav

Bhubaneswar: The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), an institution dedicated to promotion of art and culture, under the Union Culture Ministry has been organising Nadi Utsav to spread awareness about the importance of rivers for the last few years. 'Mahanadi - the River in the Eye of a Poet' from Odisha was selected as the opening film in this three-day river festival. A discussion session was also organised, where film's director Jubanashwa Mishra, producer Ashok Kumar Panda and literary researcher featured in the film Aswini Kumar Mishra answered queries of the audience.



Nat'l Tourism Fair kicks off in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: In a bid to boost tourism and attract travel enthusiasts, a three-day 'National Tourism Fair 2023' began here, Friday.

The fair which would continue till September 24 is being hosted by Blue Eye India Pvt. Ltd., an established name in the field of tourism promotion in India. The fair exhibits the travel industry and offers lucrative packages to the travelers. This three-day travel trade show is duly supported by Madhya Pradesh Tourism, Gujarat Tourism, Rajasthan Tourism, Himachal Pradesh Tourism and also the Union Ministry of Tourism.

Sabir Hussain, director of Indian Institute of Tourism



Management (IITM), Bhubaneswar graced the inaugural ceremony of the fair as the chief guest.

Putting light on future of tourism Hussain said, "Odisha as well as India has rich heritage and flora fauna. The government has also come up with ample infrastructure development to encourage tourism. But that is not enough. We as responsible citizens

should take charge of the places we visit. I specially urge the young mass to realise the potential of tourism and create as much awareness as possible."

Intended to boost tourism among travel enthusiasts and travel trade community of the region, the tourism fair brings travel, tourism, hospitality, leisure and other related industries under one roof.

Invasive alien species a serious threat to planet: Experts

Climate change has negatively – and irreversibly, in some cases – affected ecosystems around the globe. Sadly, though, it is not the only phenomenon that's altering our natural world.

In 2019, the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment Report confirmed invasive alien species as one of the five most important direct drivers of biodiversity loss. The others were climate change, land and sea use, direct exploitation of species, and pollution.

IPBES, an independent inter-governmental body, was established in 2012. It now has 144 member countries; Somalia, the newest member, joined in mid-September. Its major objective is to strengthen the interface between science and policy to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.

The 2019 assessment found that more than 37,000 alien

species had been introduced by many human activities to regions and biomes around the world, most in the past 100 years.

A new report by the organisation, focused on alien invasive species, suggests this number is rising fast, with new alien species being recorded at an unprecedented rate of approximately 200 annually. It also reveals that the global economic cost of invasive alien species exceeded USD 423 billion annually. Costs have at least quadrupled every decade since 1970.

But the new report doesn't just concentrate on problems. It also offers solutions. It outlines key responses and policy options that governments may take for prevention, early detection and effective control of invasive alien species. Doing so will help to safeguard nature and its contributions to people. This will ensure a better quality of life for all.

Invasive alien species are a major threat to nature, its contributions to people, and good



quality of life.

In Africa, invasive species threaten food security by negatively affecting fish production, agricultural productivity, grazing and water supplies.

The introduction of the Nile perch, *Lates niloticus*, into East Africa's Lake Victoria in 1954 is one of the most extreme examples. Predation by this species caused the extinction of ap-

proximately 200 species of cichlids from the lake. It is considered to represent the largest extinction event among vertebrates during the 20th century.

The invasion also resulted in the shallow lake becoming enriched with nutrients as people came to fish for Nile perch. This resulted in the widespread invasion of the lake by water hyacinth. The plant restricted ac-

cess to the lake, which prevented transport and fishing.

A 2021 research study highlighted that the reported economic costs of invasive aquatic species were unevenly distributed across geographic regions. Africa, the Oceania-Pacific Islands and the Antarctic-Subantarctic, combined, accounted for only 0.6% of the USD 345 billion global estimate. That's not because the costs are really that low. The data simply isn't being recorded, so we're not getting the full picture.

Constrained financial resources and the lack of legal frameworks and related operational systems are largely to blame for the lack of progress. For example, there is a huge lack of capacity, mainly at ports of entry – which are the most crucial step in preventing invasions.

Many regions still have to enhance their management plans for effective control of invasive species, starting with identification of common invasive

species.

In South Africa, the management of alien plant invasions has been actively supported by the government's Working for Water programme since 1995.

A study in 2022 estimated that an average of R310 million (adjusted to 2020 values) had been spent every year on work that covered 2.7 million hectares across more than 76,000 sites. This doesn't mean plant invasions are totally under control. But it is clear that, without this kind of programme, the situation would be far worse.

The study recommended that the programme's future efforts must focus on clearly defined priority sites, improving planning and monitoring, and increasing operational efficiency. These are all valuable lessons for other African countries.

Different countries and regions will have different needs. That's where the value of regional coordination and knowledge-sharing becomes clear. □

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Scrub typhus cases rising

Tally of infected people goes up to 221 with 10 new cases reported Friday from Sundargarh



about the scrub typhus bacteria. "Look there is nothing to be worried about. However, people should immediately take medical advice if they feel they have been infected by the disease or they develop external insect bite marks," the doctor stated.

The CDMO informed that the disease can be controlled if people take precautionary measures. Scrub typhus affects people working on paddy fields and is caused by larval mites bites. "So people who work on farmlands should take proper preventive measures. Also people in urban areas should get rid of unnecessary foliage and plants," stated Naik.

Balishankara block of Sundargarh district remains the worst affected with a large number of scrub typhus cases being reported on a daily basis. This is because of the presence of natural forests in the area. Quite a few cases have also been reported from Sabdega block, informed officials.

ing the tally of infected patients to 221," informed Sundargarh CDMO, Kanhu Charana Naik. "Since mid-September we have been monitoring the spread of the disease. At that time the number of patients stood at 164. Since then, 57 new cases have been identified," added Naik.

Till now one person has succumbed to the scrub typhus disease. The CDMO however, pointed out that the patient was suffering from comorbidities including liver and kidney ailments.

Meanwhile a doctor on condition of anonymity said that there shouldn't be any panic

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 22: The number of scrub typhus cases in Sundargarh district is increasing on a daily basis. Even though the rate of new infections is slow, district officials are monitoring the situation closely, sources said Friday. Doctors said that implementation of proper preventive measures will certainly keep in control the spread of the disease.

"Tests are being carried out on all symptomatic persons regularly. Today (Friday) 10 fresh cases have been reported tak-



CULTURAL BONANZA: Artistes performed a dance routine at a Nuakhai Bhetghat programme organised by Sindurapanka Sanskrutik Sangathan at the Kalyan Mandap at Sindurapanka locality in Sambalpur, Friday

Potatoes blossoming in Koraput

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput, Sept 22: The Odisha government had launched the 'Potato Mission' programme in 2015. This was done with the aim of removing dependency upon tuber from other states and also to achieve self-sufficiency. However, despite close to a decade elapsing after the launch of the programme, Odisha still has to depend on other states for potatoes.

The only probable exception to the rule is the farmers of Koraput district. They are producing enough potatoes, not only for people in the district, but also for other parts of Odisha.

District agriculture officer Sudam Charan Biswal said Friday that the department had set a target of cultivating potatoes on 4,000 hectares of land this year. He added that potato cultivation has been successful on 3,790 hectares which is approximately 93% of the land allotted.

Earlier, farmers used to cultivate only paddy, millets and ginger on farmlands. However,



now they have found potato cultivation productive and profitable, informed Biswal. He added that with the assistance provided by the Odisha government and voluntary outfit, Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD), farmers are earning enough by cultivating potatoes.

This year potato cultivation has been undertaken in Dasmantpur, Nandapur, Semiliguda and Pottangi blocks in Koraput district. While cultivation of tuber has been luke-

warm in other parts of Odisha, more and more farmers are veering towards it in Koraput district, local officials said.

Principal Secretary, Agriculture department Dr Arabinda Kumar Padhee recently visited the district. He expressed happiness over the increasing potato production.

Accompanied by Agriculture and Horticulture department officials, Padhee visited Podagad, Pattamaliguda and other areas in Dasmantpur block and ex-

pressed happiness at the way potato is being cultivated.

CYSD in assistance with the Horticulture department has cultivated potato on 410 acres of land in six panchayats involving 320 farmers, officials stated Friday.

This year there were apprehensions that potato cultivation may not be profitable because of scanty rainfall. However, now farmers are happy as in the last couple of weeks there has been sufficient rainfall for the crop to blossom.

Currently flowers are appearing on the tuber plants and farmer Lambodar Khara of Purimunda village in Podagad panchayat said that they are expecting substantial profits. He said that he cultivated potato on two acres and added that farmers are expecting 25-30 quintals from each acre of land.

CYSD coordinator Ananda Mallick said this year tuber cultivation will be quite successful and will attract more and more farmers in the coming seasons.

MAN DIES DUE TO SNAKEBITE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Khallikote, Sept 22: A man breathed his last Friday due to snakebite in Sanaghati Bahutipalli village under this block of Ganjam district. The deceased was identified as Maheswar Jena, son of late Ganesh Jena.

As per information available, Maheswar was bitten by a poisonous snake while he was sleeping alone in a room Thursday night. Friday morning his family found him unconscious with froth accumulating in his mouth. They rushed Maheswar to the Khallikote community health centre in an ambulance. However, doctors declared him dead on arrival. Doctors also said that had Maheswar been treated promptly, his life could have been saved.

Informed by the family members of Maheswar, personnel from Khallikote police station reached the hospital and sent the body for post-mortem. They also registered a case of unnatural death.

It should be stated here that Maheswar is survived by his wife and three children (two daughters and a son). He was the sole earning member of his family. His neighbours have appealed to the district administration to provide financial aid to the bereaved family.

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT TO SHOW CAUSE [SCR. Order XXI] IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
PETITION FOR SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL No. 7445 OF 2021 WITH I.A.No. 125066/2021 - APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/O OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGEMENT
PAWAN KUMAR MUNDHRA ... VERSUS Petitioner(s)
THE STATE OF ODISHA AND ANOTHER ... Respondent(s)
To, 1 SHREE MINERALSTHROUGH ITS PARTNER DASHARATHA BARIK OFFICE AT STATION ROAD, AT/PO/PS BARBIL DISTRICT KEONJHAR, ODISHA-758035
1A SHREE MINERALSTHROUGH ITS PARTNER DASHARATHA BARIK OFFICE AT STATION ROAD, AT/PO/PS BARBIL DISTRICT KEONJHAR, ODISHA-758035
Issue notice returnable within one week.
List again on 10.10.2023.
NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above matter(s) will be posted for hearing before the Court in due course when you may appear before this Court either in person through an advocate-on-record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within thirty days from the date of service of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why special leave and interim relief, as prayed for, be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

Superstitious family delays dead youth's cremation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 22: Members of the family of a deceased youth kept his body at their home for around 23 hours performing rituals with the hope that he will come back to life. The incident took place at Nuasahi village under Redhakhole police limits in Sambalpur district, officials said Friday. The deceased was identified as Biren Kanhar, 22, son of Bahadur Kanhar. Biren had breathed his last Thursday evening. The incident once again proves that despite India landing on the moon, superstition still continues to grip many parts of the country.

Biren was undergoing treatment at Redhakhole hospital where the doctors declared him dead Thursday. However, instead of taking his body for cremation, his family members brought

it home. Sources said that Biren's family had a tiff with one of their neighbours a few days back. The latter then had threatened Biren's family that he will use witchcraft and black magic to take revenge.

As luck would have been, Biren fell sick a few days back. When doctors failed to cure him, Biren's family suspected witchcraft. So even after doctors pronounced him dead at the hospital, his family observed certain rituals with the hope that he will come back to life.

On being informed, police reached Biren's house. They placated Biren's family and finally persuaded them to take his body for cremation. However, the entire incident once again demonstrated how people still cling to superstitious beliefs and rituals in the state.

LPG-run iron, a boon for Santosh

PNN & AGENCIES

Berhampur, Sept 22: Two years ago, Santosh Sethi decided to quit ironing clothes. The 38-year-old ironer in Basudev Nagar here felt it was very difficult to stand near the hot coal-based iron all through the day and press clothes. Santosh, however, changed his mind after one of the customers advised him to go for an LPG-run iron, which will be easy for him to operate.

Since then, times have changed for Santosh. He has been ironing more dresses and his income has also increased by ₹250 to ₹300 per day. "It's smokeless and more effective. Now, I can iron more than 100 dresses as against 50 to 60 pieces using the coal-based iron," Santosh, a school dropout, informed here Friday.

Santosh runs his laundry outlet from his residence. He said earlier he faced difficulties in getting coal on time, more so during the monsoons. Also, dresses got dirty



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

due to the dust and smoke emitted by coal. After using the LPG iron, all these problems have been solved, he added.

The LPG-based iron functions like a gas stove. It is connected to a cylinder through a pipe, which channels the gas into the iron. The flame can be controlled using both the knob of the cylinder as well as the buttons on the iron, informed Santosh. He claims he is the first person in the district to adopt such a machine. He added that getting LPG cylinders is not a problem.

Now with the LPG-run iron, I can press 100 dresses a day in comparison to the 50-60, I used to do earlier and my earnings have also increased

SANTOSH SETHI

As the government has reduced the price of domestic LPG cylinders by ₹200 recently, Santosh hopes to earn more in the days to come.

Even though several ironers in southern states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala have switched over to LPG-based iron, in Odisha it is yet to become popular. "It's time the government provides LPG cylinders to ironers at subsidised rates," said Sudhir Rout, an environmental activist. Laxmidhar Rout, associate professor of Chemistry at Berhampur University, said burning coal poses health risks for ironers, as it releases sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and other toxic substances.

ROURKELA TO GET 'TRANSPORT NAGAR' SOON

WORK ON AT FULL SWING TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT BY NEXT YEAR

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Sept 22: Construction work for completion of the Rourkela Transport Nagar at Beldihi, a little ahead of Vedyas, is going on in full swing. The project is being developed in PPP mode. The Odisha government has approved the construction of 14 'transport nagars' across the state.

The 'transport nagar' here is being constructed by private entrepreneur Anup Gupta. He informed that the project cost will vary between ₹80-100 crore. "The 'transport nagar' is coming up on 12 acres of land near Beldihi. We have finished the construction of the boundary wall. We are now seeking permission from the National Highway Authorities of India (NHAI) to develop the approach road to the terminal,"



REPRESENTATIVE PICTURE

said Gupta. "We will soon start construction of the dormitory for drivers and also parking bays for vehicles. Vehicles with four to 16 or more wheels can be parked at the 'transport nagar'," Gupta added.

The terminal would have facilities like offices for transporters, shops for spare parts including lubricants and tyres.

There will be other benefits like medicine and barber shops. There will also be a number of storage places and accommodation for tired truck drivers, officials informed.

Gupta informed that to recover the investments, spaces will 'either be sold or leased out' to people willing to set up business establishments. The charges

per square feet would be fixed after discussion with the administration, he said. "Vehicles would also be charged for parking," Gupta added.

Gupta however, could not offer a tentative date by which the project will be fully operational. However, he is hopeful that the 'transport nagar' will be functional by the second half of 2024.

This project was initially conceptualised in 2005. In 2007 the then ADM Dr Kishan Kumar took interest and prepared a detailed project report. However, with Kumar's transfer in 2008, the project got shelved. Since then there had been occasions when efforts have been made to revive the project.

Last year a team from Rourkela Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI) led by former president Subrat Pattnaik had met Collector Nikhil Pawan Kalyan and that led to the revival of the project. "We have been assured that the work will be completed as soon as possible," Pattnaik said.

SAMALESWARI REGIONAL CO-OP. MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD.
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Phone: (0663) 2950426, Mob. No. 9437122477

TENDER NOTICE

Samaleswari Regional Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Ltd., Goshala (Boudiapara), Sambalpur on behalf of District Administration, Sambalpur invites Tender Notice with certain terms & conditions from reputed & registered Company/Event Management Agencies/Firms for "National level Dairy Summit" to be organized at PHD Ground, Sambalpur on Dt. 4th & 5th November 2023.

The details of tender document can be downloaded from the website www.samul.in & www.sambalpur.nic.in from Dt.21.09.2023 to 05.10.2023. The tender document should be duly filled & submitted on due date alongwith the cost of tender paper of Rs.5,000.00 + 18% GST (or Rs.5,900/-) and the tenderer has to deposit an earnest money deposit (EMD) of 1% and an Initial Security Deposit (ISD) 1% of the bidding amount in the shape of a Demand Draft in favour of Samaleswari Regional Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Ltd., Sambalpur drawn on any Nationalized Bank payable at Sambalpur. The sealed tenders will be received latest upto 05.00 P.M. on Dt.05.10.2023 in the tender box and opened on Dt.06.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M. (Technical Bid) with Presentation and (Price Bid) opened at 3.00 P.M. in the presence of the tenderers or their authorized representatives. If it will found that the quoted amount of L1 party will be exceed the budget limit of the particular head then the party may be called for negotiation.

General Manager

FOCUS DIPLOMACY

TROUBLED TIES



Trudeau's track record in dealing with Khalistan supporters in Canada is dismal. On the contrary, he has overlooked open incitement to violence against Indians

growing Sikh activism, not only in Canada but also in the UK, the US, and Australia, including widespread protests held in March over the manhunt for another Sikh separatist leader, Amritpal Singh.

To be sure, Trudeau's track record in dealing with Khalistan supporters in Canada is dismal. On the contrary, he has overlooked open incitement to violence against Indians. Sikh extremists have celebrated the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, they have put up "Kill India" posters calling for violence against Indian diplomats and vandalised Hindu temples. Trudeau has even attended and participated in events that have glorified militants.

That said, New Delhi should see Indo-Canadian relations without and beyond Trudeau and encourage and facilitate multiple contacts in Canada to deal with the any support for Khalistan emerging from that country. Remember, Canada is home to the world's largest Sikh population outside India, numbering nearly 770,000 people, or 2.1% of the country's population.

At the same time, Canada hosts one of the largest Indian diasporas in the world counting to 16 lakh people of Indian origin, accounting for over 3% of the total Canadian population. Canada remains the most attractive destination for Indian youths to study and work. Trade and commerce are bound to grow between the two countries.

It is therefore prudent and pragmatic to deal with the current tensions with care. Canada should not become China or Pakistan for India with ongoing conflicts spiralling out of hand.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism.

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DK Giri

CANADA SHOULD NOT BECOME CHINA OR PAKISTAN FOR INDIA WITH ONGOING CONFLICTS SPIRALLING OUT OF HAND

India-Canada relations seem to have hit a new low following the allegations by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that Indian "agents" may have a hand in the murder of Canadian Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar last June. He further asserts that the evidence had been shared with India and the issue had been raised in the bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the fringe of G20 Summit. This has set off a chain of actions and retaliations by both countries.

Canada has expelled a senior Indian diplomat. In retaliation, New Delhi has expelled the Canadian station chief on charges of spying. A business delegation from Canada planned in October has been called off. Discussion on the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and India is put on hold. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs has issued an advisory, which is strongly worded. It reads, "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."

On the wider ramification, the current spat between the countries portends unwanted consequences for bilateralism. Both countries are political democracies and plural societies irrespective of their domestic political problems and compulsions. Canada is a NATO member and is closely associated with the Western bloc. In face of common threat from China, which ironically works as a catalyst for many countries to come together, New Delhi and Ottawa were coming close. Seeking to diversify the Canadian economy, Trudeau saw India as a critical partner under its Indo-Pacific strategy, given the country's growing economic and demographic im-

portance in the region. As recently as May, both sides appeared optimistic about the Free Trade Agreement.

The startling allegation made by Trudeau has upset the applecart. Clearly, Trudeau is a political hostage to a party of Sikhs in his country who have active sympathy for a separatist movement (read Khalistani) in Indian state of Punjab. The Khalistani support in Canada is not new. It goes back some over 40 years. But it was handled somewhat with goodwill and understanding between the leadership of both countries. What has changed under Trudeau is his tacit support for Khalistani forces.

What is the issue at hand now? Trudeau has said the Canadian agencies have investigated the murder and have apparently found the involvement of Indian agents. The government of India has dismissed the charge as "absurd and motivated." It is perhaps silly to argue over it. As suggested by a few commentators, Indian Home Minister should sit down with his Canadian counterpart and thrash this out. Anybody found guilty should be brought to book. It is another matter that Nijjar was a "wanted crim-

inal" accused of various offences. But murder of any person bypassing the judicial system is not allowed in either of the countries.

Let us dig a bit deeper lest one should be accused of simplifying the present impasse. In early June, EAM S. Jaishankar expressed deep concerns that Canada giving space to Sikh separatists "was not good for the relationship" between the two countries. The comments were made in response to a question over a social media clip of a parade held by Khalistan separatists in Brampton, Ontario, on June 4. He added "For us, how Canada has dealt with the Khalistani issue has been a long-standing concern because, very frankly, they seem to be driven by vote-bank politics." This was a reference to the sizeable Canadian Sikh voters who could sway the electoral verdict either way. Ten days after Jaishankar's warnings, Nijjar was shot dead at a Sikh temple in Vancouver.

However, the link between Jaishankar's remarks and the murder of Nijjar could not be automatic and is in fact, ridiculous to suggest so. On the other hand, the deterioration in the relationship could be attributed to

SPECTRUM FINANCE

The great debt conundrum

The exponential growth of international capital flows, predominantly in the form of debt, has been one of the great development successes of the past 50 years. But while foreign lending has played a pivotal role for developing economies, loans are a two-edged sword. When used judiciously, they can generate high returns, boost GDP growth, and improve the well-being of borrower countries. But if debts accumulate and the debt-servicing burden increases without a commensurate increase in repayment capacity, the consequences can be severe and even disastrous.

During COVID-19, many countries grappled with a dramatic increase in fiscal demands, driven by rising public-health expenditures and a drop in revenues due to reduced economic activity. Highly indebted countries edged closer to the brink of default, and even those with previously sustainable public finances experienced a dangerous surge in their debt burdens. When debt levels are high and rising, crises can emerge suddenly and worsen quickly. While several governments have taken steps to reduce their elevated debt levels and introduced reforms to avert potential crises, some countries' debt-servicing costs are so high that meaningful adjustments are politically

or economically unfeasible. Under such conditions, skeptical private creditors sell these countries' sovereign bonds at reduced prices and refuse to extend further credit. Once this happens and governments default on their obligations, they find themselves shut out of capital markets. The subsequent economic crisis typically persists until these countries can restructure their existing debts, implement policy reforms, and restore confidence in their creditworthiness.

Over the past few years, as dozens of low- and middle-income economies found themselves heading toward default, there have been growing calls for debt forgiveness. Kenyan President William Ruto, for example, recently proposed granting African countries a ten-year "grace period" on interest payments. Speaking at the inaugural Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, Ruto suggested that developing countries redirect funds earmarked for debt service toward investments in renewable energy.

But this and other proposals for blanket debt forgiveness or payment moratoria are deeply flawed. Notably, some countries' debts are inherently unsustainable. Even if their debts were suddenly forgiven, these governments would lack the resources necessary to finance major en-

vironmental initiatives. Moreover, without an agreed-upon restructuring plan and access to additional resources, essential imports required for production and consumption would be severely restricted, resulting in underutilised capacity and potential economic stagnation.

Historically, debt-restructuring negotiations have been a protracted, ad hoc process. The IMF would collaborate with debtor countries to assess the necessary domestic policy changes and debt adjustments. Meanwhile, sovereign creditors, cooperating through the Paris Club, would consult with private lenders and decide on an appropriate restructuring strategy.

But today's debt landscape presents even greater challenges. To reach a restructuring agreement, all creditors must be subject to the same haircut. Otherwise, some lenders would receive full repayment while others would endure significant write-downs, and they would surely not agree to that. But China, which has emerged as a major creditor over the past two decades, has refused to join the Paris Club. Instead of taking the same haircut as other creditors, the Chinese government insists on being repaid in full, which would result in preferential treatment for China and

exacerbating developing countries' debt-servicing difficulties.

Consequently, countries like Sri Lanka and Zambia have endured unnecessary delays in resolving their debt crises, even after reaching agreements with IMF on essential policy reforms. To prevent significant and avoidable suffering, the international community must establish procedures to ensure timely and fair burden-sharing among creditors.

The World Bank recently estimated that 60% or more of low-income countries are heavily indebted and "at high risk of debt distress." Moreover, many middle-income countries, such as Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan and Tunisia, also face significant fiscal and debt challenges.

If multiple countries fail to meet their debt-servicing obligations, international creditors will become reluctant to finance other heavily indebted countries. Such a scenario would have devastating consequences for low- and middle-income economies and the world economy as a whole. By streamlining and expediting the restructuring process, we can avoid making a bad situation even worse.

The writer is a former World Bank Chief Economist.

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Anne O. Krueger

WHILE FOREIGN LENDING HAS PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE FOR DEVELOPING ECONOMIES, LOANS ARE A TWO-EDGED SWORD

Indifferent attitude

Sir, This refers to "Fresh violence erupts in Manipur, several injured," **Orissa POST**, September 22. I am sorry to comment that for the first time an elected government at the Centre has miserably failed to control the continued unrest in a state where the same party is ruling. Surprisingly, the Chief Minister N Biren Singh remains unperturbed and is neither resigning from the post nor is capable of handling the situation effectively. In spite of the situation having worsened, the Prime Minister did not pay a single visit to Manipur to assure the warring communities that their problems will be addressed by the government with all sincerity. The indifferent attitude of the government is pushing the cultured state of Manipur backward.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Canada crisis

Sir, Amid the worsening diplomatic relations between India and Canada, New Delhi has decided to expel a senior Canadian diplomat currently stationed in India. The diplomat has been given a five-day notice to depart, as conveyed through a summons received by Canada's High Commissioner to India, Cameron Mackay, on September 19. India's decision to expel the diplomat is a response to its growing concerns about Canadian diplomats interfering in internal Indian matters and being involved in activities that go against India's interests. These developments unfolded after Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, made an emergency statement in Parliament on September 18. Trudeau accused the Indian government of being involved in the fatal shooting of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar and claimed that Canadian security agencies were actively investigating credible allegations of a potential link between Indian government agents and the murder. India strongly denies these allegations, dismissing them as baseless and driven by ulterior motives. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement refuting any involvement in acts of violence in Canada. The possibility of India severing ties with Canada is now a real concern, and this could have serious implications, especially for Indian citizens residing in Canada. They might fear becoming targets of the Khalistani group, which is supported by the Canadian government.

Bishal Kumar Saha, MURSHIDABAD

The cup has to be left clean and empty for the divine liquor to be poured into it.

SRI AUROBINDO



TRAI's Future

The Centre is reportedly mulling over a crucial amendment to the TRAI Act, aiming to reshape the telecom sector. This change would allow senior corporate executives to become TRAI's chairperson, a significant shift towards greater private participation in key regulatory positions.

The proposed Telecommunications Bill could specify that the TRAI chairperson can come from the private sector, provided they possess a minimum of 30 years' experience in senior executive positions, such as board members or CEOs.

Currently, TRAI requires its members to have held government posts equivalent to secretary or additional secretary for at least three years, without specific criteria for the chairperson's appointment. The current TRAI chairperson PD Vaghela and his predecessor RS Sharma, both had government roles before their appointments.

This proposed amendment opens doors for private sector leaders with extensive experience, irrespective of government service, to lead TRAI. It would amend Section 4 of the TRAI Act, 1997, granting the Centre the authority to appoint individuals with specialised knowledge in telecom, industry, finance, accountancy, law, management, or consumer affairs to head the regulatory body.

The move is a pivotal moment in India's telecom history, acknowledging the private sector's role in innovation and competition. Moreover, the move aligns with India's broader vision of fostering a pro-business environment, attracting investment and bolstering digital infrastructure. While some may express concern about potential conflicts of interest, stringent eligibility criteria and safeguards should ensure impartiality and transparency.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

HC quashes proceedings against retired babus

A recent pronouncement by the Karnataka High Court has focused attention on the complexities of accountability and the rule of law. The court has quashed criminal proceedings and an ongoing probe against three retired IAS officers, marking a significant turn of events in a case that revolves around alleged financial irregularities within the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department, dating back to 2009-15.

The crux of the matter is the accusation that six officers of the RDPR Department, including the three retired IAS officers, were responsible for causing a loss of Rs 269 crore to the state exchequer due to the alleged misappropriation of funds during the specified period. In a system where the wheels of justice are known to grind slowly, the High Court's intervention has thrust this case into the public eye, as also the fact that the officers are former principal secretaries Amita Prasad and TM Vijay Bhaskar (the latter also being a former chief secretary) and EV Ramana Reddy, who recently retired after serving as Additional Chief Secretary. These officers had all worked in the RDPR Department during the years 2011-15.

The High Court, responding to a petition filed by the officers challenging the proceedings against them, said the special court could not have taken cognisance in the absence of the competent authority for proceeding against the officers, based on a private complaint. The petitioning officers had claimed that as public servants at the time, it was mandatory to obtain sanctions to prosecute them.

Interestingly, the High Court ruling does not exonerate the retired IAS officers or absolve them of the charges against them. Instead, it raises a crucial question about the procedural integrity of the case. It highlights the significance of adhering to the rule of law, even when pursuing those in positions of authority.

IAS versus IPS officers in UP turf war

In the intricate corridors of Uttar Pradesh's political landscape, the enduring tug-of-war between IAS and IPS officers has a long history. Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership, this persistent power struggle has once again taken the spotlight, with recent events shining a glaring light on this unending tussle.

A fresh set of guidelines, aimed at reviewing development and law and order in UP, triggered unease within the IPS ranks. Last month, UP's Chief Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra issued an order decreeing that district magistrates (DMs) would assume the responsibility of overseeing law and order in 68 out of 75 districts. This meant that the DMs would preside over monthly law and order meetings, with attendance from senior police officers, additional district magistrates, prosecutors and station house officers (SHOs).

In the remaining seven districts, including Agra, Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Noida, Prayagraj and Varanasi, the police commissioners would be responsible under the police commissionerate system. The order quickly sparked uproar among the senior UP Police officers, prompting them to take up the matter with the Chief Minister. Within hours, Yogi Adityanath intervened and revoked the controversial order.

Sources have informed DKB that this is not the first instance of such a power play. In 2017, a similar order was issued and then swiftly withdrawn after vociferous protests from the top brass of the IPS. Then the following year, a government order mandated that district police chiefs consult with DMs when appointing SHOs. This directive too resulted in friction in several districts, further intensifying the simmering tensions between these two elite services.

This latest episode has deepened the conviction among senior police officers that it was just another attempt of the IAS lobby to nibble away at the powers of the state police. Such a situation does not auger well for the two services or the public morale in Uttar Pradesh.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- The best revenge is massive success. **FRANK SINATRA**
- Victory is sweetest when you've known defeat. **MALCOLM S. FORBES**
- That which does not kill us makes us stronger. **FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1846:** Astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle became the first person ever to observe the planet Neptune, the existence of which had been mathematically predicted by Urbain-Jean-Joseph Le Verrier and John Couch Adams.
- 1932:** The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded. The Middle Eastern country was created by merging the kingdoms of Hejaz and Nejd by Ibn Saud, the king of the House of Saud. The day is celebrated as Saudi National Day in the Kingdom.
- 1965:** The Indo-Pakistani War comes to an end after a UN-mandated ceasefire. Also known as the Second India-Pakistan War, the war was fought over Kashmir.
- 1980:** Jamaican music legend Bob Marley, who was especially known for popularising reggae, performed his last concert, a sold-out show in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; he died of cancer the following year.

Letters

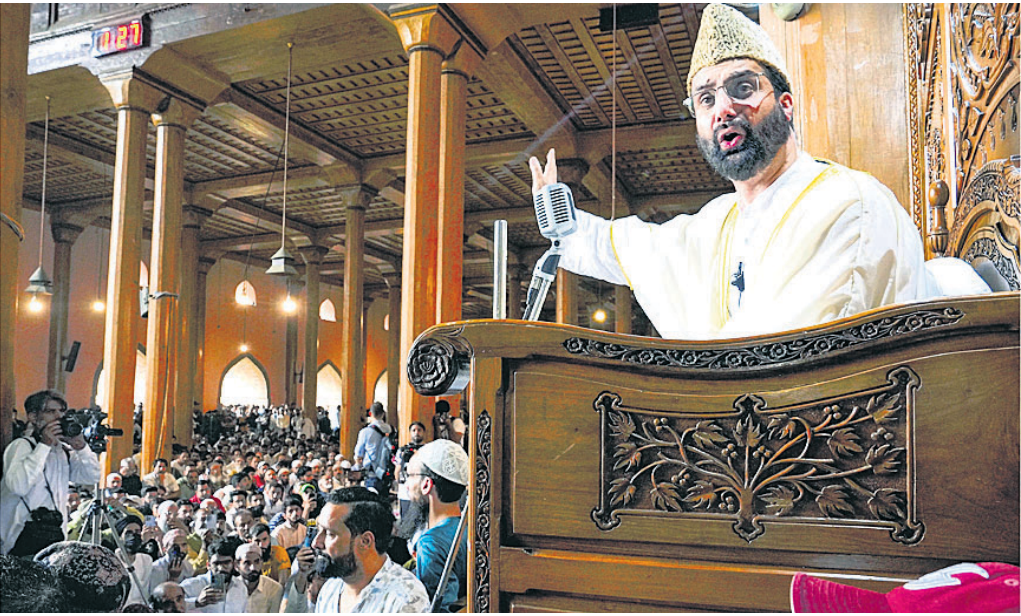
TO THE EDITOR

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Hurriyat chief released from house arrest

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was put under house arrest August 5, 2019, the day the Centre abrogated provisions of Article 370 and bifurcated the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into Union territories



Hurriyat Conference Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq delivers sermon during Friday prayers at the Jama Masjid, in Srinagar. Farooq was released from house arrest Friday, four years after he was taken into detention in the wake of abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019, according to officials. PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 22: Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was released from house arrest Friday, four years after he was taken into detention in the wake of abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019, officials said here.

“Senior police officials visited the residence of the Mirwaiz

Thursday to inform him that the authorities have decided to release him from house arrest and allow him to go to Jamia Masjid for Friday prayers,” the Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid said in a statement.

The release of the Mirwaiz, who heads various religious organisations and is the chairman of the separatist Hurriyat Conference, comes days after he moved the Jammu and Kashmir

High Court.

The court, September 15, gave four weeks’ time to the Jammu and Kashmir administration to file its response to the Mirwaiz’s petition.

The Hurriyat leader was put under house arrest at his Nigen residence August 5, 2019 – the day the BJP-led Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370 and bifurcated the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into Union

territories.

In his first public appearance following his release from four-year house arrest Friday, the Hurriyat chairman reiterated the stand of his separatist amalgam that the issue of Jammu and Kashmir has to be resolved through dialogue and peaceful means.

The Mirwaiz also said the people of Kashmir believe in peaceful coexistence between communities and nations, and have always advocated for the return of Kashmiri Pandits.

“We have always invited our Pandit brothers to return to the valley. We have always disapproved of making it as a political issue. It is a human issue,” he said.

“Our stand is that a part of J-K is in India, another in Pakistan and the third in China. All these make Jammu and Kashmir as it existed in August 1947. The people have been divided and it is a reality that the issue needs to be resolved which the international community also endorses,” the Mirwaiz said during the Friday congregational sermon at the historic Jamia Masjid here.

Many families have been separated because of the dividing line between India and Pakistan, and they are craving to see and meet each other to celebrate their joys and share their pains, the Mirwaiz said.

Omar slams duty cut on American apples

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 22: The import duty on American apples and walnuts was relaxed as Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted US President Joe Biden to be the chief guest at the 2024 Republic Day parade, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said Thursday.

“It is now known what compelled the central government to remove the tax on American apples and walnuts. The prime minister (Narendra Modi) wanted to invite the American President (Biden) as a special guest for the January 26 ceremony,” he said.

“They made sure that apples, walnuts and dry fruits will come from America while our own apples, walnuts and dry fruits will rot in the markets,” said the NC leader while addressing a one-day party workers’ convention at Handwara in north Kashmir’s Kupwara district.

Ahead of the G20 Summit, the Centre announced the removal of additional duties on about half a dozen US products, including apples, walnuts, almonds and lentils.

These duties were imposed in 2019 in a retaliatory move after America hiked tariffs on certain steel and aluminium products from India.

Criticising the policies of the government, Abdullah said, “The situation in Jammu and Kashmir is different now, people are unhappy and disappointed in every region.”

“Youth are angry, chaos is everywhere, inflation is touch-



ing new heights. On the other hand, LG (Manoj Sinha) claims that 80 per cent of people are happy with him and they do not

want assembly elections to be held,” he said.

The NC vice president said the colour of the party flag was red because of the sacrifices made by its dedicated leaders and workers.

“We are not among those who, seeing the situation, hoisted the flag of another country and encouraged the youth to pick up guns and are sitting in the Raj Bhavan today,” he said.

Indore observes World Car-Free Day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Sept 22: Many prominent citizens and bureaucrats in Indore were seen riding two-wheelers or using public transport, as the city observed World Car-Free Day, Friday.

Judges of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, the city’s mayor and bureaucrats ditched their cars and opted to use smaller vehicles for their commute during the day.

Mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava had appealed to residents of Indore, ranked the cleanest city in the country, to observe World Car-Free Day.

Setting an example, Bhargava was seen riding an electric bike and using public transport — a gesture that turned heads.

“We had appealed to common people and prominent citizens to celebrate World Car-Free Day to protect the environment and reduce the pressure of heavy traffic on the city roads,” the mayor told reporters here.

Considering the rapid urbanisation, the need of the hour is for citizens to use public transport for their commute, he said.

The mayor’s appeal evoked a mixed response, as some people were seen driving cars amidst rains in the city.

Cong eyes tribal votes in MP

Madhya Pradesh has a sizeable population of tribals with 47 out of the 230 Assembly seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Sept 22: The Congress is set to come out with a specific proposal for the tribal communities ahead of the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh.

The proposal named -- ‘Scheduled Tribe Charter’ -- would be a blueprint consisting of rights of the tribals and to monitor the various government schemes for the community. It would also offer various services, including providing legal aid for the tribal people in Madhya Pradesh.

An indication about the ‘Scheduled Tribe Charter’ was made by AICC general secretary and the Madhya Pradesh in-charge Randeep Surjewala during a press conference at party headquarters recently.

It would be a specific proposal for empowering all sections of tribal community, which has more than 21 per cent population in the state and it would be beyond the election manifesto of the Congress.

The team Congress that has been tasked to prepare a detailed chart has almost completed it and would be presented before



Kamal Nath for his final approval, sources said.

A Congress leader claimed it would offer specific schemes and services for all sections of the tribals such as -- women, youth, senior citizens, working class and farmers, etc.

The Congress leader said the ‘charter’ will be offering services like effective implementation of ST/SC Act. The idea is to provide legal advice on a regular basis to those facing charges in different cases.

He further claimed that a nu-

trition scheme for women and subsidised loan schemes would also be part of the charter. The Congress leader said the team tasked to prepare the plan is also reviewing the schemes implemented in some other states.

“Although, the state government has various schemes for the tribals, but is lacking a specific mechanism which can ensure effective implementation of all these schemes. Therefore, the plan will be to ensure that all schemes are monitored regularly and implemented on the ground,” Congress leader told IANS requesting not to be named.

Madhya Pradesh has a sizeable population of tribals who enjoy the consequent electoral clout. Out of 230 Assembly seats, as many as 47 are recognised as Scheduled Tribes across the state’s 52 districts, of these, the Congress bagged 32 in 2018 elections.

Recently, addressing a gathering of tribals in Bhopal, Kamal Nath has stated, “Adivasis have Congress DNA” and he trusted the Adivasi community the most and was sure that it would help the party come back to power in Madhya Pradesh.

Wildlife wing clueless on clearance for non-forestry activities

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhopal, Sept 22: The Wildlife wing of Madhya Pradesh’s forest department has no record of compliance certificates pertaining to wildlife clearance regarding the non-forestry activities sanctioned within the forest for the past more than 10 years, an RTI revealed.

Notably, non-forestry activities like -- construction of roads, railway track, mining, pond, electricity lines etc. in the forest areas are carried only after getting clearance from the state Wildlife board. The proper implementation of mitigation measures can save lives of wildlife, including endangered species like tiger leopard sloth bear reptiles.

Wildlife clearance consists of certain guidelines imposed by the National Wildlife Board under the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change. The clearance issued to ensure that non-forestry the proposed project will not be harmful for the animals and protect the flora and fauna of that particular forest zone from getting destroyed. Upon receiving the proposal for development works, the state wildlife board seeks the approval from the national board. Notably, the state wildlife board is headed by the chief minister.

High risk, low reward for Kashmir’s seasonal teachers

OVER 33,000 CHILDREN BELONGING TO GUJJAR AND BAKARWAL COMMUNITIES STUDY IN SEASONAL SCHOOLS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Anantnag, Sept 22: “My children study in fourth and sixth grades. They are the first in our whole family to attend a school,” Mohammad Yousuf, a member of the Bakarwal community, beams with pride as he sees off his two children to their seasonal school at Chindermarg in Anantnag district of Kashmir.

This school is no brick-and-mortar institution where children sit on benches in well-equipped classrooms. It is in the lap of nature, among the towering pine trees, with little to no infrastructure.

There is a white board that Bilal Ahmad Kumar (27), the teacher, uses to introduce his students to their subjects of study, besides picture books from which children read. Sitting on the grass patch, children learn Mathematics, English, Science, Kashmiri and much more.

Kumar runs the seasonal school from March to September as the semi-nomadic communities of Gujjars and Bakarwals move from Jammu region to Kashmir during this period, in search of



better pastures for their animals. Like several others, Yousuf’s family lives in a makeshift kotha (mud hut) and sells cattle, ghee and milk to make a living in Chindermarg. As the winter approaches in September, they return to Rajouri, their hometown located in Jammu division.

Gujjars and Bakarwals constitute nearly 12 per cent of the population of Jammu and

Kashmir. Together, they form the third largest ethnic community in the Union Territory. However, education had been a distant dream for them until the Jammu and Kashmir government set up seasonal education centres under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan in 2003.

To run the school, the Union Ministry of Education sanctions Rs 6,000 per migratory child and

provides Rs 2,500 per seasonal centre for purchase of teaching and learning equipment, including a whiteboard, easel, markers, dusters and interactive charts. As these schools function in open meadows, they do not even have a toilet. The only other facility that the government has provided here is a tent, which is installed as and when required.

“According to our education department, more than 33,000 children study in seasonal schools. Every year, nearly 1,500 teachers are hired for a six-month period to instruct them,” Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, adviser to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, said.

Despite their dedication, volunteer teachers do not get major benefits. They are temporary workers who are paid Rs 10,000 per month, which means Rs 60,000 for six months. Like other seasonal teachers, Kumar wants the government to provide him with a full time job in the same field.

Kumar has been running the seasonal school for the last three years. “When families migrate after six months, we are left unemployed for the rest of the year.

We do not get any money from the government when the school remains closed. So, we have no option but to work as labourers then,” he said.

While he applauded the government’s initiative for the children’s betterment, he wished that the volunteers be given some additional benefits -- a salary hike and full time jobs -- considering the risks they take to impart education.

Kumar resides at Chittergul, located 15 km from Chindermarg. Six days a week, he navigates through the deep forest, with no roads or connectivity, to reach the seasonal school. In recent years, bear attacks have been on the rise here, resulting in fatalities and severe injuries.

Seasonal teachers try to get back home before sunset, but sometimes they are stranded due to inclement weather. In such circumstances, the families of their students arrange a separate hut and food for them. Most often, the community head makes these arrangements. However, other families volunteer to help if the stay exceeds a few days.

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, ANANDAPUR
e-mail: executiveofficer_andp@rediffmail.com
No.C-1477: No.2433, Dt.21.09.23

Bid Identification No.SAN/01-2023-24, Date:

- Name of the work for which tender invited- Privatization of Sanitation work of MUNICIPALITY, ANANDAPUR.
- Eligible Class of Bidder- Intending firms/Service Providers/ Contractor those are experienced in similar nature of as per criteria given in DTCN.
- The Bid documents will be available in the Office of the undersigned from dt.14.09.2023 at 10.00 A.M. to dt.03.10.2023 upto 3.00 P.M. Last date & time of receipt- dt.03.10.2023 upto 3.00 P.M.
- Opening of Bid documents: Date 3.10.2023 at 04.00 P.M.
- The DTCN can availed from office 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM as prescribed date.

Any other details can be found in the DTCN.

Sd./- Executive Officer Anandapur Municipality OIPR-13049/11/0004/2324

WORKS DEPARTMENT No.B-932: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ROURKELA (R&B) DIVISION, UDITNAGAR, ROURKELA
E-Mail Id - eepwdrk@gmail.com
Government of Orissa “e” Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.:54/ 2023-24 Dated:12.09.2023

- Number of works : 06 (Six) number of Work
- Estimated cost : Rs.8.07 lakh to 27.07 Lakh
- Period of completion : 3 (Three) to 4 (Four) calendar months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : Dt.25.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Last date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal : Dt 09.10.2023 up to 05.00 P.M.
- Date of opening of Bid : Dt 10.10.2023 at 11.00A.M.
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, (R & B) Division, Rourkela, Uditnagar.

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

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Rourkela (R&B) Division OIPR-34068/11/0019/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No.B-929: E-Procurement Notice OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SONEPUR (R&B) DIVISION, SONEPUR
E-mail:eepwdsnp@gmail.com, Phone:06654-221081
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. SE/R&B/SNPR/14/2023-24 No.5129/ Dt.18.09.23

- The Superintending Engineer, Sonepur (R&B) Division, Sonepur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Single & Double cover system in Online Mode for Building works detailed in the DTCN from the eligible Class of Contractors.
- No. of work : 08 (Eight)
- Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/-for Serial No.1 to 3 Rs.6,000/- for Serial No.4 to 8
- Class of Contractor : ‘B’ Class Contractor for Serial No.1 to 4 ‘C’ & ‘B’ Class Contractor for Serial No.5 to 7 ‘D’ & ‘C’ Class Contractor for Serial No.8
- Date and time Available in Website & receipt of Bids: From 10.00 A.M. of 26.09.2023 to 5.00 P.M. of 05.10.2023.
- Date of Opening of Tender: 06.10.2023 at 11.30 A.M.
- The Bidders have to participate in Online bidding only further details can be seen from the Web Site.
- Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Sonepur (R&B) Division, Sonepur OIPR-34081/11/0012/2324

“e” PROCUREMENT NOTICE REFERENCE NO. E.E (a), MAYURBHANJ DIVISION, BARIPADA-03/2023-24 No. 1580 Date: 16.09.2023

No. L-98:- Bid documents consisting of work, estimate cost, cost of Tender Papers, EMD/BID Security Declaration, Time of completion, Class of Contractors and the set of term and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen/downloaded from Govt. website i.e. <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>

1. No. of work	- 59 Nos.
2. Estimate Cost	- Rs.141112.00 to Rs.2869319.00
3. Period of completion	- 2 Calendar months to 9 calendar months
4. Date & time of availability of bid documents	- Dt.25.09.2023 at 11 AM to Dt.06.10.2023 at 5.30 PM
5. Last date & time of receipt of bids in the portal	- Dt.26.09.2023 at 11 AM to Dt.07.10.2023 at 5.30 PM
6. Bids received online shall be opened on	- Dt.09.10.2023 at 12.00 PM
7. Name and address of the officer inviting Bids	- Executive Engineer (Agril.) Mayurbhanj Division, Baripada

Further details can be seen/downloaded from the procurement portal i.e. <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>

Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.), Mayurbhanj Division, Baripada OIPR-01474/11/0007/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Office of the Superintending Engineer Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar (Phone/Fax: (06821) 241133 / E-mail: eernbngr@yahoo.in) No.B-939: Ltr. No. 9435/Dtd.15.09.2023 INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) E-Procurement Bid Identification No. S.E-BNJ-R&B-19/2023-24

- Name of work : Construction of Compound wall and inside & outside painting for OAV Girls Hostel at OAV, Bada Agula of Kabisuryanagar Block in Ganjam District.
- No. of works : 01 No. Building Works
- No. of Covers : Single Cover
- Estimated cost : Rs.20.45 Lakh
- Period of Completion : Six Calendar Months
- Date of time of availability of bid document in the portal : From 12.00 Noon of dated 26.09.2023 to 5.00 PM of dated 05.10.2023
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : Upto 5.00 P.M. of dated 05.10.2023
- Date of opening of bid documents : At 11.00 AM of 06.10.2023
- Class of Contractor : ‘C’ & ‘B’ Class Contractor
- Name and address of Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The addendum/corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division OIPR-34015/11/0015/2324



Punjab Police constables show their skills during their passing out parade in Jalandhar, Punjab



Sikh devotees at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur on the death anniversary or 'Joti Jot' of Guru Nanak Dev in Narowal district, Pakistan



A mountaineering team of eight Indian Army "Gunners", under the aegis of Army Mountaineering Institute, accomplished a phenomenal feat by scaling Mt Kang Yatse -II (6223m) 19-20 September 2023



A traffic policeman dressed up like lord Ganesha, offers helmet to a motorcyclist during Ganesh Utsav celebrations in Gandhinagar, Gujarat



Students show their identification cards as they arrive to cast their votes for the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) polls 2023, at Miranda House college in New Delhi



People participate in the 'Run for Rhino' marathon organised by Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve on World Rhino Day in Assam



Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel perform during an air show celebrating the diamond jubilee of Jammu Air Force Station in Jammu



Fishermen row a boat as they enter the sea to catch fish off the Pattinappakkam beach in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

of the day quote

Arunachal Pradesh is not a disputed territory but an inalienable part of India. Entire people of Arunachal Pradesh resolutely oppose any illegal claim of China on its land and people

KIREN RIJU | UNION MINISTER

We delved into a range of exciting possibilities, foremost among them being the prospect of a world-class mall in Newtown. We discussed the global promotion of Biswa Bengal products in LuLu Group's retail outlets

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

We welcome the passage of the women's reservation Bill by both Houses of Parliament, but the country would have greeted it wholeheartedly if it had been implemented immediately as per their expectations. After a long wait of almost 27 years, how justified is it to wait even longer with uncertainty?

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

AP CID to interrogate Chandrababu Naidu

Vijayawada: A local court here Friday granted custody of TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu to the CID for two days, during which he will be interrogated on the premises of the Rajamahendravaram Central Prison about the Skill Development Corporation scam in which he is accused. Special Public Prosecutor Y N Vivekananda, representing the CID, told PTI that the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) court has granted custody of Naidu to the police for two days -- September 23 and 24 (Saturday and Sunday).

Mumbai mall fire doused; 14 rescued

Mumbai: A major fire broke out at Heera Panna Mall in suburban Oshiwara here Friday afternoon, resulting in smoke inhalation problems to seven persons, including three firemen, while 14 others were rescued, officials said. The "Level 3" blaze, which started in the mall located close to the Oshiwara police station at 3:10pm, was doused at 7:40pm after 25 fire brigade vehicles, including 12 fire engines, were deployed, they added. At least 14 persons including a woman were safely rescued from the four-storey building, while three firemen were hospitalised after suffering suffocation due to smoke inhalation, they said.

HC grants relief to Abhishek Banerjee

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court Friday granted relief to TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee, directing the ED not to take coercive steps against him in connection with its probe into the school jobs scam in West Bengal. The court, however, did not quash the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR), equivalent to an FIR, filed by the Enforcement Directorate against Banerjee. The single bench of Justice directed the ED that no coercive steps can be taken against the Trinamool Congress MP based on the ECIR.

4 dead, 1 hurt in road mishap

Jabalpur: Four persons were killed and one injured Friday after a truck rammed into a stationary lorry in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, a police official said. The incident took place in the early hours of the day near a toll plaza in Mohtra area under Gosalpur police station limits, some 32 kilometres from the district headquarters, the official said.



Share on basis of population - this is the right of our OBC brothers and sisters! Release the caste census data now, do the new census on the basis of caste. Implement women's reservation now, not after 10 years

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

MONSOON WITHDRAWAL BY SEPT 25

The southwest monsoon is likely to begin its retreat from northwest India around September 25, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Friday. It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17, withdrawing entirely by October 15



Bidhuri remarks row: Ali calls it 'hate speech'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: The outrage over BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri's derogatory remarks in Lok Sabha against BSP's Danish Ali mounted Friday with INDIA bloc parties rallying behind Ali who demanded that the matter be referred to the privileges committee and asserted that if action is not taken, he could consider quitting the membership of the House.

With the BJP MP facing flak from various quarters, the BJP issued a show cause notice to Bidhuri for his use of objectionable words against Ali in Lok Sabha during a discussion on the Chandrayaan mission's success Thursday.

Several opposition parties rallied behind Ali with Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary K C Venugopal visiting the BSP leader and expressing solidarity with him. Later in a tweet, Gandhi posted pictures with Ali and said, "Nafrat ke bazaar mein mohabat ki dukaan (shop for spreading love in market of hate)." Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, TMC's Aparupa Poddar, DMK's Kanimozhi and NCP leader Supriya Sule wrote to Birla over the issue and demand that the matter be sent to the privileges committee.

A day after Bidhuri's remarks, Ali described these as "hate speech" and demanded the suspension of the ruling party's lawmaker from the House.



A combo of file images shows BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri (L) and BSP MP Kunwar Danish Ali during a session in the Lok Sabha

Amid calls by several Opposition parties for Bidhuri's suspension from Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla took "serious note" of Bidhuri's comments and warned him of "strict action" if such behavior is repeated in the future

Asked what would he do if action was not taken against Bidhuri, Ali said, "I expect that the speaker will take action on this. But if action is not taken, then with a heavy heart, I can consider quitting the membership of this House because people have not sent me to Parliament to listen to hate speeches."

Meanwhile, officials said taking "serious note" of Bidhuri's remarks, Birla warned the Lok Sabha member from South Delhi

of "strict action" if such behaviour was repeated in the future. Ali wrote to Birla, demanding that the matter be referred to the privileges committee.

"I write to you with deep anguish regarding the speech given in Lok Sabha by an MP of the BJP Mr Ramesh Bidhuri during the discussion on 'Chandrayaan success'. During the course of his speech, he directed the most foul, abusive invectives against me which are part of the record of the Lok Sabha," Ali said in his letter.

The BSP MP listed the objectionable words used by Bidhuri against him in the letter. Several opposition parties and leaders slammed expressed support for Ali and also sought Bidhuri's suspension from House. BSP supremo Mayawati said it was "unfortunate" that the BJP has not yet taken "appropriate" action against Bidhuri.

The Congress strongly condemned Bidhuri's remarks and demanded his immediate sus-

pension from the House.

Termining the remarks an "insult to all MPs and the country", Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the apology offered by Union minister Rajnath Singh was a "mere eyewash" and not acceptable.

The CPI(M) demanded the arrest of Bidhuri.

In a post on X, Trinamool Congress member Mahua Moitra said, "Abusing Muslims, OBCs an integral part of BJP culture - most now see nothing wrong with it. Narendra Modi has reduced Indian Muslims to living in such a state of fear in their own land that they grin & bear everything. Sorry but I'm calling this out. Ma Kali holds my spine." She demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Lok Sabha Speaker take strict action against Bidhuri.

Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh wondered whether Bidhuri's language was a result of the values taught by the RSS. RJD president Lalu Prasad accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of giving rise to a "depraved social and political culture" which was manifest in the behaviour of BJP parliamentarians.

BJP Lok Sabha members Harsh Vardhan and Ravi Shankar Prasad were also criticised by several leaders, including Ali, for "laughing" when Bidhuri was making the abusive remarks.

The Nationalist Congress Party demanded that Birla take action against Bidhuri.

JD(S) joins NDA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Bangalore, Sept 22: The Janata Dal (Secular) Friday joined the BJP-led NDA and forged an alliance with the saffron party ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to fight the Congress in Karnataka, with the two parties expected to announce the seat sharing formula after Dussehra festival next month.

The BJP said the alliance will come as a boost to its prospects in the Lok Sabha polls and strengthen the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) after it was sealed just months after the party was ousted by the Congress from its lone southern citadel in the May Assembly polls.

As the BJP attempts to recalibrate its electoral strategy in different states in the run-up to both the upcoming Assembly polls in five States and the next general election, the JD(S) that is headed by former prime minister HD Deve Gowda said it has officially joined the NDA and asserted it has partnered with the saffron party to take on the Congress in Karnataka in the Lok Sabha polls.

The BJP believes an alliance with the JD(S) will ensure its domination in Karnataka in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as the regional party enjoys considerable influence in the southern parts of the state where the saffron party has traditionally been weak. BJP leader and former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said the new alliance



will be a "political game changer" in Karnataka.

The alliance was formalised after JD(S) leader and former Karnataka chief minister H D Kumaraswamy's 45-minute meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda at Shah's residence in the national capital.

"I am happy that JD(S) has decided to be the part of National Democratic Alliance. We wholeheartedly welcome them in the NDA. This will further strengthen NDA and vision of Hon PM Narendra Modi Ji for 'New India, Strong India'," Nadda posted on X after the meeting. Shah said the JD(S) has expressed its trust in Modi's vision of a developed India.

"I warmly welcome JD(S) to the NDA family. Their association will lead Karnataka on the path of development and pave the way for a stronger NDA and a stronger India," he posted on X. Talking to reporters at Shah's residence, Kumaraswamy said: "Today we have officially joined the NDA. We have formed the alliance against Congress. Congress is indulging in corruption in the state. It is working against the interest of farmers. We have joined the NDA alliance against the Congress."

Manipur files status report in SC on arms' recovery in clashes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Manipur government Friday told the Supreme Court it has filed a status report on recovery of arms from "all sources" in the ethnic violence-hit state.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre and Manipur government, told a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud the status report is for the "consumption" of judges only.

On the issue raised before it that the CBI should be asked to give updates of the probe being conducted by the agency in 11 FIRs transferred to it in cases involving sexual violence against women and children in the state, the bench said it has already appointed "seasoned" IPS officer Dattatray Padsalgikar to supervise the investigation of criminal cases. "Allow a little bit of time to the officer to take charge, monitor the situation and then we may ask for a status report," said the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.



Pro-Kannada activists in Bangalore during a protest against Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) over its decision to ensure a flow of 5,000 cusecs of river water to Tamil Nadu till September 29

CAN'T RUN AFFAIRS OF ARMY: SC

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud was hearing three matters - two pertaining to the women officers of the Army and one of the Navy - in which several grievances have been raised including about promotions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: Courts cannot run the affairs of the Army, the Supreme Court observed Friday while hearing a petition filed by a woman colonel who was given the charge of a company of soldiers which is ordinarily commanded by a major, two ranks her junior.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud was hearing three matters - two pertaining to the women officers of the Army and one of the Navy - in which several grievances have been raised including about promotions.

"We now can't run the affairs of the Army," the bench, also



comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, told senior advocate Meenakshi Arora, appearing for the petitioners, when she raised the issue of the woman colonel having been given the charge of a company which is ordinarily led by a major rank officer.

"We interfere in those cases on issues of principles," it observed, adding, "Surely, we can't start running the command structure of the Army". She said it was a case where the woman officer has been given permanent commission and she is a colonel in the Army Arora said it amounts to "gross humiliation" of the woman officer who is now a

colonel. "Ordinarily, a colonel has to be put in a command post which will have a certain number of JCOs (junior commissioned officers), officers and others under them. Now people who are junior to me have been given units in those commands," she said. "You have heard the grievance now," the bench told Attorney General R Venkataramani.

The apex court, which posted the matter for further hearing September 27, said there are issues which can surely be sorted out by the authorities themselves. The bench asked the petitioners to circulate a note, not exceeding two pages, setting out

the grievances raised by them. It said the respondent authorities will be at liberty to file their responses on the issues raised.

The bench clarified the pendency of these proceedings will not preclude the Army and Navy authorities from looking into the grievances raised by the petitioners and resolve them.

In a landmark verdict February 17, 2020, the top court had directed that women officers in the Army be granted permanent commission, rejecting the Centre's stand on their "physiological limitations" as being based on "sex stereotypes" and "gender discrimination against women". The apex court had directed that within three months all serving Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers have to be considered for permanent commission irrespective of them having completed 14 years or, as the case may be, 20 years of service.

Later, in another major verdict March 17, 2020, the top court had paved the way for granting permanent commission to women officers in Indian Navy, saying a level playing field ensures that women have the opportunity to overcome "histories of discrimination."

SC refuses to entertain PIL for audit of EVMs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain a PIL seeking an independent audit of source code of the electronic voting machines (EVMs) used by the Election Commission, saying no "actionable material" was placed to indicate that the poll panel was in breach of its "constitutional mandate".

"The Election Commission of India (ECI) is entrusted constitutionally with superintendence and control over the conduct of elections. Presently, the petitioner has placed no actionable material on the record in this court to indicate that the ECI is actually in breach of its constitutional mandate," a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said in its order.

The bench said the manner in which the source code should be audited and whether the audit report should be placed in public domain falls within the domain of the poll panel. "On such a policy issue, we are not inclined to issue a direction of this

ISRO confirms 'no signals' from Chandrayaan-3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 22: ISRO Friday said it has made efforts to establish communication with its lunar mission Chandrayaan-3's lander Vikram and rover Pragyan to ascertain their 'wake-up condition' after they had been put into sleep mode early this month - but no signals have been received from them as of now.

Attempts to make contact with the lander and rover will continue, the national space agency said on social media platform X. With dawn breaking on the Moon, ISRO attempted to reestablish communication with the lander and rover, to revive them so that they can continue with scientific experiments.

Both the lander and the rover were put into sleep mode earlier this month September 4 and 2 respectively, ahead of the lunar night setting in on Earth's only natural satellite. However, their receivers were kept on.



sort which has been sought by the petitioner. There is no material before this court at this stage to indicate that the Election Commission is not taking suitable steps to fulfil its mandate," the bench said while dismissing the PIL filed by an individual named Sunil Ahya.

The source code is a set of instructions and statements of a programmer using a computer programming language.

The 'Hash functions' are used to digest or condense a message down to a fixed size which can then be signed in a way that makes finding other messages with the same hash extremely difficult. During the brief hearing, the bench referred to certain things related to the functioning of the top court and said it recently allowed electronic passes for entering into the Supreme Court.

international



As the largest developing country, China is a natural member of the Global South. It breathes the same breath with other developing countries and shares the same future with them
HAN ZHENG | VICE PRESIDENT, CHINA

POPE VISITS MARSEILLE

Pope Francis is visiting the French port city of Marseille, for centuries a multi-ethnic and multi-faith melting pot, to amplify his call for the Mediterranean to be a place of welcome for migrants



of the day quote

Why is it that the UN system, and particularly its principal organ, this very UN Security Council, mandated to primarily maintain international peace and security, rendered completely ineffective to the resolution of the ongoing conflict

SANJAY VERMA | SECRETARY (WEST) IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, INDIA

What we are laying out here is a clear and pragmatic vision for how we will actually, finally at long last declare economic independence from China while actually advancing American prosperity at home

VIVEK RAMASWAMY | REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, US

Those who think that peace can prevail in the Middle East without the Palestinian people enjoying their full and legitimate national rights are mistaken

MAHMOUD ABBAS | PRESIDENT, PALESTINE

SHORT TAKES

Pak to investigate corruption cases

Islamabad: At least 80 high-profile corruption cases, including those against former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif and ex-president Asif Ali Zardari, would be revived following a recent landmark ruling by the Supreme Court, according to a media report Friday. These are among the hundreds of cases closed as a result of amendments made to the anti-corruption laws by the previous government led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led by Nawaz Sharif. The hearing for these cases would begin soon, officials sources said. According to official sources, about 2,000 cases, which were earlier closed, are being reopened against officials and businessmen after the intervention by the apex court.

1st big grain ship leaves Ukraine

Kyiv: The first big ship carrying grain from a Ukrainian Black Sea port has set sail since Moscow quit a deal in July to allow exports, a Ukrainian deputy prime minister said Friday, part of Kyiv's campaign to break Russia's de facto blockade. The Aroyat "left the port Chornomorsk after loading 17,600 (metric tons of) Ukrainian wheat for Egypt," Oleksandr Kubrakov said on the X social media app, formerly Twitter. He posted a photo of the ship at sea. After invading Ukraine last year, Moscow closed off the Black Sea ports from one of the world's biggest suppliers of grain, in what Kyiv and its Western backers called an attempt to use global food supplies as blackmail. Moscow said the ports could bring in weapons.

IRAQ WAR ANNIVERSARY

REUTERS

Tehran, Sept 22: Iran Friday paraded its military hardware on the anniversary of its 1980s war with Iraq, including "the longest-range drone in the world" along with ballistic and hypersonic missiles, Iranian state media said.

They said the drone "was unveiled" in the parade, which was broadcast live, and that drones displayed in the event were named Mohajer, Shahed and Arash.

The Islamic Republic said last month that it had built an advanced drone named Mohajer-10

with an enhanced flight range and duration as well as a larger payload.

It has an operational range of 2,000 km (1,240 miles) and can fly for up to 24 hours, state media reported then, adding that its payload could reach 300 kg (661 pounds), double the capacity of the Mohajer-6 drone.

The United States has accused Iran of providing Mohajer-6 drones, among other unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), to Russia for its war against Ukraine.

On Tuesday, Washington expanded Iran-related sanctions, citing Tehran's "continued, deliberate proliferation of UAVs"



enabling Russia, its proxies in the Middle East and other destabilising actors". Iran denies providing drones to Russia for the conflict in Ukraine.

"Our forces ensure security in the region and the Persian Gulf," President Ebrahim Raisi said at Friday's parade in the

capital Tehran. "We can teach the people of the region that resistance is today's way. What forces the enemy to retreat is not submission and wavering, but resistance."

A video released last month by Iranian media showed the Mohajer-6 among other military

hardware, with a text reading "prepare your shelters" in both Persian and Hebrew, the latter an allusion to Iran's arch-regional enemy, Israel.

The United States issued fresh Iran-related sanctions Tuesday, targeting multiple people and entities in Iran, Russia, China and Turkey over Tehran's drone and military aircraft development.

The Iran-Iraq war erupted September 22, 1980 when the forces of then-Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invaded Iran. The conflict, which was economically devastating and left at least half a million dead, ended in stalemate in August 1988.

NEW EDUCATION BILL

Teachers protest in Nepal; schools shut

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kathmandu, Sept 22: Schools for millions of students in Nepal were closed Friday as tens of thousands of teachers protested in the capital against an education reform bill in parliament.

Teachers have been demonstrating in Kathmandu since Wednesday against the School Education Bill while teachers' groups negotiate with government leaders over changes to the legislation.



The teachers oppose provisions that would shift government-run schools to local control, saying it would lower their status, and that would scrap many temporary teacher positions.

The teachers blocked the main street leading from the parliament building to key government ministries, disrupting traffic in the heart of the capital. Hundreds of police in riot gear blocked the road leading to parliament with barbed-wire barricades.

The teachers have threatened to bring more protesters to Kathmandu if their demands are not addressed.

"Our key demand is we teachers should be kept under the central government like any other government professionals and not in the control of local authorities which are all controlled by politics," said Badri Dhungel, a high school teacher who was participating in the protest.

"We should get equal pay, status and other facilities and benefits like civil servants," he said.

The protest had led to the closure of about 29,000 public schools attended by millions of students across the country. Private schools remained open.

The protesters briefly scuffled with riot police Thursday, but no major violence was reported.

SIKH LEADER MURDER PROBE

Trudeau seeks India's help

WITHOUT RELEASING ANY EVIDENCE, CANADA CLAIMS THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST INDIA ARE BASED ON INDIAN OFFICIALS' COMMUNICATIONS, INPUTS FROM ALLY IN FIVE EYE NETWORK

REUTERS

New York, Sept 22: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Thursday called on India to cooperate with an investigation into the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia and said Canada would not release its evidence.

Trudeau said Monday that Ottawa had credible allegations linking Indian government agents to the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June, prompting an angry reaction from New Delhi. Nijjar, 45, was a Canadian citizen.

The Canadian government has amassed both human and signals intelligence in a months-long investigation into the Sikh separatist leader's murder, CBC News separately reported Thursday citing sources.

Traditional Canadian allies have so far taken a relatively cautious approach to the matter. Political analysts said this was partly because the United States and other major players see India as a counterweight to the growing influence of China.

"There is no question that India is a country of growing importance and a country that we need to continue to work with ... and we're not looking to provoke or cause problems," Trudeau said in a press conference in New York on the sidelines



We call upon the government of India to work with us to establish processes to discover and to uncover the truth of the matter
JUSTIN TRUDEAU | PM, CANADA

of the annual high-level United Nations General Assembly. "But we are unequivocal around the importance of the rule of law and unequivocal about the importance of protecting Canadians."

The CBC report said, citing Canadian sources, that no Indian official, when pressed behind closed doors had denied the allegation that there is evidence suggesting Indian government involvement in Nijjar's death.

The report said the intelligence included communications involving Indian officials, among them Indian diplomats present in Canada, adding that some of the intelligence was provided by an unidentified ally in the Five Eyes alliance.

Five Eyes is an intelligence-sharing network that includes the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The United States is in touch with both Canada and India over

Ottawa's allegations, US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Thursday, confirming for the first time that Washington was talking to New Delhi about the matter.

"There's not some special exemption you get for actions like this," Sullivan told reporters when asked about Trudeau's statement about possible Indian involvement. "It is a matter of concern for us, it is something we take seriously."

US President Joe Biden and several members of the Five Eyes raised the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi when they met at the G20 this month, the Financial Times reported Thursday.

The Indian foreign ministry said Canada had not shared any specific information about the murder. Nijjar supported a Sikh homeland in the form of an in-

Online threats to Hindus

Canada Friday said that acts of aggression, hate, intimidation or incitement of fear have no place in the country amid the circulation of an online video in which Hindu Canadians are told to leave the country. Public Safety Canada, the department responsible for matters of public safety, emergency management, national security, and emergency preparedness, said the circulation of the video is offensive and hateful and is an affront to all Canadians and "the values we hold dearly". "There is no place in Canada for hate," it said in a post on X.

dependent Khalistani state and was designated by India as a "terrorist" in July 2020.

"As a country with a strong and independent justice system, we allow those justice processes to unfold themselves with the utmost integrity," Trudeau replied when asked when Canada would release the evidence it had.

India Thursday suspended new visas for Canadians and asked Ottawa to reduce its diplomatic presence in the country. Trudeau did not respond when asked about these measures. Speaking separately, an Indian trade official said there was no reason for Canadian pension funds to back out of investing in the country.

19 MONTHS OF WAR

REUTERS

Kyiv, Sept 22: Ukraine and the United States have agreed to launch joint weapons production in a step that will enable Kyiv to start producing air defence systems, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday as he wrapped up a visit to the US.

In his daily address to Ukrainians, Zelenskyy said the long-term agreement would create jobs and a new industrial base in Ukraine, whose economy has been devastated by Russia's invasion and war.

"It was a very important visit to Washington, very important

Now, Ukraine to make weapons with US

results," Zelenskyy said in a video posted on the presidential website Friday morning.

"A long-term agreement - we will work together so that

Ukraine produces the necessary weapons together with the United States. Co-production in the defence (sector) with the US is a historic thing."

Kyiv has stepped up efforts to boost domestic weapons production as much as possible because 19 months of war has created a huge demand for arms and ammunition to fend off Russian attacks along a 1,000 km (620 mile) front line. Russian air strikes across Ukraine have caused widespread damage and



killed many people.

Zelenskyy said the Ministry for Strategic Industries, which oversees weapons production in Ukraine, had signed cooperation agreements with three associations, uniting over 2,000 defence US companies, on future possible work in Ukraine.

Ukraine depends heavily on Western military support. To reduce its dependence, Zelenskyy and his team have been pushing for reforms in the domestic defence industry to modernise

local producers and increase supplies to the front.

Zelenskyy has said previously that Kyiv will soon host an international arms production forum, inviting companies from over 20 countries.

The government is also implementing reforms at its main weapons production company - Ukroboronprom - to improve transparency, boost production capacity and enable it to cooperate more actively with Western producers.

'Colours promoting UN goals or LGBTQ rights?'

REUTERS

United Nations, Sept 22: Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan complained Thursday that he was uncomfortable with the use of what he described as "LGBT colours" at the United Nations, which is decorated this week with bright colours promoting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Erdogan said he would have liked to discuss it with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Turkish media reported Thursday. Turkey's government - led by Erdogan and his Islamist-rooted AK Party - has toughened its stance on LGBTQ freedoms.



"One of the issues that bothers me the most ... is that when entering the United Nations General Assembly, you see the LGBT colours on steps and other places," Erdogan was quoted as saying by broadcaster Haberturk and others.

"How many LGBT are there in the world right now? However much right they have on these steps, those against LGBT have as much right as well," said Erdogan, who has frequently labeled members of the LGBTQ community as "deviants" and

colours associated with LGBTQ rights. While Guterres has been a vocal supporter of LGBTQ rights and spoken out about discrimination, there are no rainbow Pride colours at UN headquarters promoting LGBTQ rights.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by world leaders in 2015 with a deadline of 2030, are a global "to do" list that includes wiping out hunger, extreme poverty, battling climate change and inequality, and promoting gender equality.

Homosexuality is not a crime in Turkey, but hostility to it is widespread, and police crackdowns on Pride parades have become tougher over the years.

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business

of the day quote

The government aims to meet up to 70 per cent of the country's IT hardware requirement through local production in the next three years and reduce dependency on imports from non-trusted sources

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR | MINISTER OF STATE FOR ELECTRONICS AND IT

We firmly believe in the power of leadership and innovation, and with this dynamic team, we are energised to achieve our ambitious goals, making sustainable mobility a reality

YATIN GUPTA | CHAIRMAN AND MD, WARDWARD INNOVATIONS & MOBILITY LTD

We're not only constructing the largest EV charging network in India, but we're also implementing advanced hardware and software solutions to ensure dependable EV charging stations in all our operational areas

AKSHIT BANSAL | FOUNDER AND CEO, STATIQ

SHORT TAKES

18.09LT of wheat sold under OMSS

New Delhi: The government Friday said it has sold 18.09 lakh tonne of wheat from the central pool to bulk users in 13 e-auctions under the open market sale scheme (OMSS), helping cool down the prices of wheat and wheat flour. The government on August 9 announced it would sell an additional 50 lakh tonne of wheat and 25 lakh tonne of rice under the OMSS to bulk users. Wheat is being sold through weekly e-auction at a reserve price of ₹2,125 per quintal, which is at par with the current minimum support price.

OYO adds 2,800 corporate clients

New Delhi: Hospitality tech platform OYO has added nearly 2,800 corporate clients during the January-July 2023 period, up 11.75 per cent year-on-year, according to a report. The company in its report titled 'OYO Business Travel Trends Report 2023' revealed that it recorded 20 per cent revenue growth from business travel in January-July 2023 against the year-ago period. "OYO had added 2,471 corporate clients in the same period last year recording nearly 12 per cent YOY (year-on-year) growth," the report said Friday.



It is unrealistic to completely phase out fossil fuel energy
XIE ZHENHUA | SPECIAL CLIMATE ENVOY, CHINA

ROADZEN LISTS ON NASDAQ

Indian startup Roadzen, which has emerged as a major global auto insurance technology company powered by artificial intelligence (AI), has been listed on Nasdaq. The company made its debut on Nasdaq Thursday, with its ordinary shares trading on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol "RDZN" and its warrants trading on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol "RDZNW"



MILESTONE MOMENT

India enters JPMorgan EM index

THE DECISION MARKS A KEY MOMENT FOR INDIA, ONE OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING MAJOR ECONOMIES, WHICH HAS EMBARKED ON A BIG PUSH TO RAISE ITS STANDING IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MARKETS

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 22: JPMorgan will include India in its widely tracked emerging market debt index, setting the stage for billions of dollars of inflows into the world's fifth-largest economy and helping it finance its current account and fiscal deficits.

India's local bonds will be included in the Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets (GBI-EM) index and the index suite, benchmarked by about \$236 billion in global funds, JPMorgan said Friday.

JPMorgan said 23 Indian Government Bonds (IGBs) with a combined notional value of \$330 billion, all of which fall under the "fully accessible route" for non-residents are eligible.

"India's weight is expected to reach the maximum weight threshold of 10% in the GBI-EM Global Diversified, and approximately 8.7% in the GBI-EM Global index," said JPMorgan.

India's benchmark 10-year bond yield dropped 7 basis points to a two-month low of 7.0788% in opening trade but retreated to 7.12% by 0700 GMT, while the rupee gained 0.3% early to 82.25

per dollar before giving up some gains to trade at 82.93.

Inclusion will start June 28, 2024, and extend over 10 months with 1% increments on its index weighting, as India is expected to reach the maximum weighting of 10%, JPMorgan said.

"Beyond the near-term euphoria, this should structurally augur well for rates and FX markets, leading to lower cost of borrowings for the economy at large and more accountable fiscal policy-making," said Madhavi Arora, lead economist at Emkay Global Financial Services.

However, India's inclusion will trigger outflows elsewhere, with weightings for domestic government bonds issued by other countries set to shrink. Thailand will see the biggest losses at 1.65 percentage points, while South Africa, Poland, Czech Republic and Brazil will see their cut by 1-1.36 percentage points, according to JPMorgan.

TALKS BEGAN IN 2019

India began talks on including its debt in global indexes in 2019, while also talking to Euroclear about clearing and settlement.

It removed foreign investment restrictions on some govern-



- INDIAN BOND YIELDS AT 2-MONTH LOW, RS GAINS ON INCLUSION NEWS
- INFLOWS OF \$20-30 BILLION LIKELY, SAY ANALYSTS
- EGYPT'S ELIGIBILITY IN INDEX SERIES UNDER NEGATIVE REVIEW
- FTSE RUSSELL TO DECIDE ON INDIA INDEX INCLUSION SEPTEMBER 28

ment securities in 2020 as part of an effort to enter global bond indexes with several bonds now part of the "Fully Accessible Route" without any foreign in-

vestment restrictions.

But the government's stance on other issues including capital gains taxes and local settlement delayed its inclusion, though it did not actually budge on its stand.

"It would be reasonable to expect inflows to start from now, which in the interim helps even the demand-supply gap in balance of payments," said Rahul Bajoria, managing director and head of EM Asia (ex China) Economics at Barclays.

"We believe a total of \$20-25 billion should come in over the index inclusion horizon, but some front loading

FinMin confident of 6.5% growth in FY24

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: The finance ministry Friday exuded confidence that the country will achieve 6.5 per cent growth in FY24 on the back of improved corporate profitability, private capital formation and bank credit growth, notwithstanding the risks of rising crude oil prices and monsoon deficit.

The ministry's August edition of Monthly Economic Review said the 7.8 per cent growth recorded in the first quarter (April-June) was on account of strong domestic demand, consumption and investment. The growth was also witnessed in various high-frequency indicators.

Flagging certain risks like steadily climbing crude oil prices in the global market, impact of monsoon deficit in August on Kharif and Rabi crops, the review said, "that needs to be assessed." At the same time, it observed, the rains in September have erased a portion of the rainfall deficit at the end of August.

Furthermore, the review said, a stock market correction, in the wake of an overdue global



stock market correction, is an ever present risk, and offsetting these risks are the bright spots of corporate profitability, private sector capital formation, bank credit growth and activity in the construction sector.

"In sum, we remain comfortable with our 6.5 per cent real GDP growth estimate for FY24 with symmetric risks," it said.

Observing that the strength of domestic investment is the result of the government's continued emphasis on capital expenditure, the report said, measures implemented by the central government have also incentivised states to increase their capex spending.

MARKET MAYHEM

Equities in bear grip

SENSEX, NIFTY EXTEND LOSSES INTO 4TH STRAIGHT SESSION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 22: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty stayed on the back foot for the fourth straight session Friday as investors offloaded healthcare, consumer durable and commodity stocks amid a weak trend in global markets.

Foreign fund outflows and heavy selling in HDFC Bank shares also hit investor sentiments, traders said.

After oscillating nearly 500 points between gains and losses during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 221.09 points or 0.33 per cent to settle at 66,009.15. During the day, it hit a high of 66,445.47 and a low of 65,952.83.

The Nifty fell 68.10 points or 0.34 per cent to end at 19,674.25.

"Domestic markets closed on a sombre note as mixed cues from US and Asian markets weakened domestic investors' confidence. Nevertheless, PSU bank stocks outperformed as India's inclusion in JP Morgan's government bond index led to a decline in bond yields. Risk-averse sentiment prevailed due to the ongoing ascent of US bond yields and concern over higher rates for a prolonged period," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit



On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark fell 2.69%, and the Nifty declined 2.56%

Financial Services.

Wipro was the biggest loser among Sensex firms, sliding 2.32 per cent, followed by HDFC Bank, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, ITC, ICICI Bank and Tata Motors. IndusInd Bank, Maruti, State Bank of India, Mahindra & Mahindra, Asian Paints and Bajaj Finserv were among the gainers.

Among the indices, consumer durables fell by 0.84 per cent, realty declined by 0.73 per cent, commodities (0.62 per cent) and oil &

gas (0.45 per cent), Capital Goods, bankex, consumer discretionary and industrials were the gainers.

The rupee appreciated 19 paise to 82.94 against the US dollar Friday. On Thursday, it settled at 83.13 against the US dollar.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market Friday as they offloaded shares worth ₹1,326.74 crore.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.59 per cent to \$93.85 a barrel.

Forex kitty dips to \$593.037bn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 22: India's foreign exchange reserves declined \$867 million to \$593.037 billion in the week ended September 15, the Reserve Bank said Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves dropped \$4.99 billion to \$593.90 billion. In October 2021, the country's reserves had touched an all-time high of \$645 billion.

The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year.

For the week ended September 15, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased \$511 million to \$525.915 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were down \$384 million to \$44 billion, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up \$32 million to \$18.092 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was down \$4 million to \$5.03 billion in the reporting week.

FREAK TRADES BSE to discontinue stop loss mkt orders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 22: Leading stock exchange BSE has decided to discontinue Stop Loss Market (SL-M) orders from October 9 to prevent erroneous order placement arising out of manual or algo trades.

This came after a recent freak trade incident caused a lot of angst among the trading community earlier this month due to an SL-M order.

SL-M is a type of order that automatically sells or buys a security at the market price when the trigger price is reached.

"As a measure to prevent erroneous order placement, stop loss orders with market condition in equity segment, equity derivatives segment, currency derivatives segment, and commodity derivatives segment shall be discontinued by the exchange with effect from October 9," BSE said in a notice.

This measure will protect traders from such incidents and align its operations with the NSE, which discontinued SL-M orders in September 2021.

An SL-L order is another type of stop-loss order that only sells or buys a security at the specified price in a range.

China, India lead Asia's biggest hydropower crunch

Intense and prolonged heatwaves across both the countries have resulted in low reservoir levels and the need for alternative sources of power to help meet demand

REUTERS

Singapore, Sept 22: Hydropower generation in Asia has plunged at the fastest rate in decades amid sharp declines in China and India, data shows, forcing power regulators battling volatile electricity demand and erratic weather to rely more on fossil fuels.

The two countries, which account for about 3/4 of Asia's power generation and most of its emissions, are also to a lesser extent using renewables to make up for the hydropower shortfall and address rising electricity use.

Major Asian economies have faced power shortages in recent years due to extreme weather conditions, including intense heat and lower rainfall over large swathes of northern China and Vietnam, as well as in India's



ASIA'S HYDROPOWER OUTPUT DECREASED 17.9%
INDIA'S OUTPUT FELL 6.2%; HIGHEST SINCE 2016
CHINA'S OUTPUT DROPPED 15.9%; HIGHEST SINCE 1989

east and the north.

Higher use of polluting fuels such as coal to meet electricity demand spikes and supply shortages underscore the challenges of lowering emissions. Asia's hydropower output fell 17.9% during the seven months through July, data from energy think tank Ember showed, while fossil fuel-fired power rose 4.5%

China's hydroelectricity generation during the eight months ended August declined at the sharpest rate since at least 1989, falling 15.9%, an analysis of National Bureau of Statistics data showed.

In India, hydropower generation fell 6.2% during the eight months ended August in the sharpest decline since 2016. Its share of power output plunged to 9.2%, the lowest in at least 19 years, according to an analysis of government data.

China made up for the hydro shortfall and higher power demand mainly by increasing electricity generation from fossil

fuels by 6.1% in the eight months through August, while India boosted fossil fuel-fired power output by 12.4%, data showed.

Renewable output grew by 22% in China and 18% in India during the same period, data showed, but from a far smaller base.

Despite a strong growth in solar and wind power generation in Asia, supply from fossil-fuel thermal power plants has also increased this year as a result of a large decline in hydropower generation
CARLOS TORRES DIAZ | DIRECTOR OF POWER AND GAS MARKETS, RYSTAD ENERGY

WIND AND SOLAR

Hydropower output also plunged in other major Asian economies including India and Vietnam, as well as the Philippines and Malaysia, data from Ember and the International Energy Agency showed, mainly due to drier weather.

In Vietnam, hydropower's share of power output fell by

more than 10 percentage points through July, while coal's share grew by about the same amount, Ember data showed.

In some cases, the hydropower output plunge was a result of efforts to conserve water and alter supply patterns.

Asian power generation from wind and solar increased 21% in the seven months to July, Ember data showed, rising to 13.5% of overall output from 11.5% a year earlier.

However, unlike hydro, wind power is harder to forecast and control, as it varies by local weather conditions. And the unavailability of solar at night exacerbates shortfalls in countries including India.

India has cut daytime power outages to nearly zero this year despite record demand, mainly because of its renewables build-up over the years. Still, it was forced to seek imports of more expensive natural gas in a bid to reduce pressure on its coal power fleet. "The main utility of hydro is to support wind and solar. If hydro itself becomes unreliable, India may have to think of alternatives including addition of more coal-fired power," said Victor Vanya, director at power analytics firm EMA Solutions.

EMBATTLED AIRLINE

Revival could be derailed by lessors' demands: Go First

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 22: Grounded Indian airline Go First's revival could be derailed if a court agrees to demands of aircraft lessors, who are seeking certain records after jet parts went missing or faced deterioration, according to legal filings from the carrier.

Foreign lessors have been locked in a legal tussle to repossess their aircraft after Go First was granted bankruptcy protection in May, which, as per Indian law, imposed a block on the recovery of 50-plus grounded Airbus (AIR.PA) planes.

Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE) Capital and ACG Aircraft Leasing recently sought a Delhi court's intervention by complaining some parts had been allegedly "robbed" or the jets were corroding.

The lessors, which are only allowed an occasional inspection of the grounded leased planes, asked the court to force Go First to supply maintenance and aircraft preservation records for their jets.



Go First opposes lessors' plea for aircraft records

Obtaining records will be time-consuming process

Go First flags delay concerns to oppose lessors' plea

Go First has contested lessors demands in its first response in court in the matter, saying it would be a time-consuming process that would hit its revival, legal filings by its bankruptcy officer, Shailendra Ajmera, showed.

Such requests "have far reaching implications on the day-to-day affairs of Go Air and will have a direct bearing on the going concern status of Go Air," Ajmera said in court filings, asking for the lessors' pleas to be rejected.

Chance for Chopra-led India to showcase their sporting prowess reaching the 100-medal mark as Asian Games officially kicks off today in Hangzhou

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Sept 22: Led by Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, India will seek to showcase its ascendancy as a sporting power at the Asian Games, which opens formally Saturday after an unprecedented one-year delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

India will hope to surpass the 70 medals (16 gold, 23 silver and 31 bronze) won in 2018 in Indonesia with largest contingent of 655 athletes competing in 39 sports in Hangzhou to show the world the rapid strides the country has made in sports since the historic performance in Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

For a country that aspires to host the Olympics in near future, an eighth-place finish in 2018 Asian Games is far from satisfactory, and it will seek to rise higher in the medal tally in Hangzhou, which will host the world's biggest multi-sport event after the COVID-19 pandemic.

India has not finished in the top 5 in medal tally standings since the 1986 edition in Seoul. The catchline is 'Iss baar, sau

paar' (this time crossing 100 medals).

Though 100 medals may not be possible, India is expected to surpass the last edition's count with athletics once again set to contribute the lion's share. Last time, track and field athletes had won 20 medals and this time at least 25 podium finishes are expected.

For the first time in the Asian Games history, India will be having five Olympic medallists in their ranks led by javelin superstar Chopra, who will be defending his title, raising hopes of the country grabbing more gold medals than the 16 won in 2018.

The other Olympic medallists are weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, shuttler PV Sindhu, wrestler Bajrang Punia and boxer Lovlina Borgohain.

Still, it is difficult to predict the gold medal count for India. Sindhu has been struggling for some time, Chanu has had fitness issues recently while Bajrang started training only a few months ago after taking part in

the wrestlers' protest.

Borgohain and Chopra have, though, become World Champions recently. Borgohain will also shoulder the responsibility of being the Indian sporting flag-bearer during the opening ceremony on Saturday along with the men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh.

The eight-gold show in athletics in 2018 will be hard to repeat but hockey (men and women), kabaddi (men and women), chess and archery can swell India's yellow metal tally.

Going by current form, India can win gold in both men's and women's hockey competitions.

EYEING 3-FIGURE MARK

Forty-five nations and territories in Asia will compete for 481 gold medals from 40 sports and 61 disciplines, including Esports which is making its debut in the Asian Games

Competitions in football, volleyball, cricket, rowing, sailing and modern pentathlon began before the grand opening ceremony

Organisers have already spent about 10.2 billion yuan (USD 1.4 billion) on venues for competitions and training, according to reports

Hangzhou is the third Chinese city to hold the Asian Games, after Guangzhou in 2010 and Beijing in 1990

All the venues will use green electricity as the goal is to host a carbon-neutral and green Asian Games

participated in the Tokyo Olympics two years ago and about 10,500 will do so in the next year's Paris Games.

China are not only fielding the most number of athletes in this edition of the Games but they are also set to continue their domination by bagging the top spot in the medal tally, which they have been doing at every edition since 1982 with several Olympic champions participating.

South Korea are sending their largest ever athletes' contingent of 867 with an aim to finish second in the medal tally.

Men's volleyball team in quarters



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hangzhou, Sept 22: The Indian men's volleyball team continued its impressive run, advancing to the quarterfinals with a clinical 3-0 win over Chinese Taipei at the Asian Games, here Friday.

Following their stunning win over South Korea, India notched up a 25-22, 25-22, 25-21 win over Chinese Taipei in an hour and 25 minutes to progress to the 1-6th place playoffs. India will face either Japan or Kazakhstan on Sunday.

India trailed 6-10 early on but Erin Varghese helped the side to reduce the gap to 11-13. After lagging for the most part, India finally drew parity at 21-21 before Varghese and Ashwal Rai won the final two points to give India the lead.

India led 3-0 initially in the second set but Chinese Taipei managed to level the scores at 17-17. However, India moved ahead in the final moments with consecutive points to close the issue 25-22.

India made a positive start in the decider, leading 10-4 at one stage. Chinese Taipei managed to narrow it down to 10-12 before drawing level at 14-14. India, however, moved ahead to 21-18 before sealing it comfortably 25-21.

BALRAJ ADVANCES

Indian rower Balraj Panwar

qualified for Final A of the men's single sculls Friday. The 24-year-old Panwar finished third with a timing of 7:22:22 in the semi-final F A/B2 to make the cut for the medal race.

There are multiple finals in rowing. However, top three rowers in the Final A will win medals. The Indian men's quadruple sculls team, men's lightweight double sculls category, men's double sculls, coxed eight, coxless pair, coxless four in men's section, and coxless four, coxed eight in women's team have all made the finals in the rowing events.

WINNING START

The men's team, comprising veteran Sharath Kamal, G Sathiyar and Harmeet Desai, started off with a facile 3-0 victory over Yemen and then got the better of Singapore 3-1 in their second Group F tie. Sharath, who is playing his last Asian Games, lost his match against his opponent from Singapore.

The Indian women paddlers too had a good day in office as they defeated Singapore 3-2 in their opening Pool F fixture. The team is comprised of Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula and Ayhika Mukherjee.

While the Indian men will take on Tajikistan in their next group match, the women will be up against Nepal in their second tie.

Thakur cancels Hangzhou visit over visa denial issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Hangzhou, Sept 22: Sports Minister Anurag Thakur Friday cancelled his upcoming visit to Hangzhou for the Asian Games as a mark of protest against China's decision to deny visas to three Indian wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh while the Olympic Council of Asia's (OCA) is actively pursuing the matter with the Chinese authorities.

The three female wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh – Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega and Mepung Lamgu – have been denied accreditation, which also works as visa, for the Asian Games that officially gets underway Saturday.

The three players were scheduled to fly out of India Thursday night with eight other members of the wushu contingent but were forced to stay back without proper clearance as their accreditation could not be downloaded. Wushu is a form of martial art, believed to have originated in China.

"Union Minister for I&B and Youth Affairs & Sports @ianuragthakur cancels visit to China for the Asian Games as India strongly protests China's targeted and pre-meditated discrimination against Indian sports persons from Arunachal Pradesh by denying them accreditation and entry to the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China," a Sports Ministry statement said.

The northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh is viewed by China in its entirety as Chinese territory. "Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, issues statement underscoring the fact that in keeping with our long-standing and consistent position, India firmly rejects differential treatment of Indian citizens on the basis of domicile or ethnicity. Arunachal Pradesh was, is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India," the statement added.

Meanwhile, the OCA's acting president Randhir Singh Friday said they are actively pursuing the matter with the relevant Chinese authorities. "We had a meeting yesterday with the working group as



well and this has been taken up in the working group meeting. They are taking it up with the government and we are also taking it up with the government," veteran administrator Randhir said in a press conference.

Describing the Chinese action as targeting of the sports persons in a "pre-meditated" manner, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the move violates both the spirit of the Asian Games and the rules governing their conduct as they "explicitly prohibits discrimination" against competitors from member states.

It is not the first time that an issue with regards to Arunachal Pradesh athletes has surfaced. In July, India had cancelled its wushu team's trip to Chengdu for the World University Games when China issued stapled visas to players, triggering angry reactions from the government.

However, Wei Jizhong, chairman of OCA's ethics committee, claimed the "Indian athletes have been granted the visa to enter China." "These Indian athletes have already got the visa to enter China. China didn't refuse any visa. The problem is according to Chinese govt regulations, we have the right to give them different kind of visas. We have an arrival visa, we have a paper visa, and we have a passport as visa," Jizhong said.

"Unfortunately, these athletes didn't accept this visa. I don't think this is OCA problem because China has an agreement to let all the athletes who have certified eligibility to come to compete in China. This is clear. The visa has already been granted," Jizhong added.

Shami, batters fashion India victory

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mohali, Sept 22: Mohammed Shami displayed his artistry with impressive figures (5/51), reminding all and sundry of his skills before Shubman Gill (74, 63b, 6x4, 2x6) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (71, 77b, 10x4) let their bats talk guiding India to a 5-wicket win in the first ODI against Australia here, Friday.

Thanks to Shami's spell, India restricted Australia to 276. In response, the hosts, who were without regular skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, comfortably completed the chase with eight balls to spare. Stand-in skipper KL Rahul (58 n o, 63b, 4x4, 1x6) continued his superb form sealing the win with a four and a six respectively. Suryakumar Yadav too played well for his 50 (49b, 5x4, 1x6).

Chasing 277, Gill chose to attack from the word go, while Gaikwad played second fiddle. Once Gaikwad got set, he too raised his tempo. The duo added 142 runs for the open-

ing wicket in just 21.3 overs before Gaikwad was trapped in front by Adam Zampa (2/57) while going for a slog sweep.

That somehow disturbed the rhythm as India lost Shreyas Iyer following a mix-up before Gill too departed off Zampa leaving India on 151/3. Ishan Kishan (18) too got out as India were reduced to 185/4 in the 33rd over. However, Rahul and Surya stitched together 80 runs for the fifth wicket to give India a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Earlier, Shami literally made a statement with his second five-wicket haul in ODIs. His performance also put tremendous pressure on the weak link among pacers Shardul Thakur (0/78).

In conditions conducive for batting, India skipper Rahul opted to bowl and Shami was literally unplayable in his opening spell, and then came back to remove a set Steve Smith (41, 60b, 3x4, 1x6) in a short second stint, to disturb the visiting team's momentum. Wicket-keeper Josh Inglis (45, 45b, 3x4, 2x6) and



The win helped India move past Pakistan to become the No.1 ranked team in ODIs. As a result, they now occupy the top spot across formats, having already been No.1 in Tests and T20s. India are only the second team in men's cricket history to achieve this feat after South Africa did it in August 2012.

Marcus Stoinis (29) added 62 runs for the sixth wicket to take Australia past 250-run mark but Shami got Stoinis in the nick of time to put the brakes on their scoring. David Warner (52, 53b, 6x4, 2x6), Smith and Marnus Labuschagne

(39) all got starts but the lack of conversion did hurt the Aussies on a day when the Indian bowling unit was supremely effective without being exceptional.

All eyes were trained on Ravichandran Ashwin (1/47 in 10 overs) and he did find his rhythm in the second spell after looking rusty during the first spell. He went for 36 in his first six overs but Rahul changed his end during the second spell and it read 4-0-11-1.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia 276 (David Warner 52, Josh Inglis 45, Steve Smith 41; Mohammed Shami 5/51) lost to India 281/5 (Shubman Gill 74, Ruturaj Gaikwad 71, KL Rahul 58 n o, Suryakumar Yadav 50) by 5 wickets.

Odisha FC gear up for ISL opener against CFC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 22: Odisha FC will host Chennaiyin FC (CFC) for their electrifying home opener of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 season at the Kalinga Stadium here Saturday.

Odisha FC finished sixth in the league table last season and secured a playoff spot, while Chennaiyin FC ended in eighth place. After 303 days, they are set to meet at Kalinga Stadium once again. The last face-off saw the

Kalinga Warriors secure a thrilling 3-2 victory over the Marina Machans.

In the head-to-head, Odisha FC hold the edge with two victories and four draws in their eight previous meetings against Chennaiyin FC.

New faces, fresh energy

This season, Odisha FC welcome some exciting new additions to the squad, including Ahmed Jahouh, Mourtaada Fall, Roy Krishna, and promising young talents like Givson Singh



MATCH SCHEDULE

Odisha FC vs Chennaiyin FC
Time: 5:30 pm
Telecast: Sports 18 channels
Stream: JioCinema

and Lalliansanga. Their presence adds a fresh dynamic to the team, and fans eagerly await their contributions to the ISL 2023-24.