

**INFRINGED PRIVACY**  
Actor Janhvi Kapoor shares how her transition from child to teen to adult was dissected on the internet **LEISURE P2**



**ISKCON SUES MANEKA**  
ISKCON sends a ₹100 crore defamation notice to BJP MP Maneka Gandhi for questioning the religious organisation over its upkeep of cows **NATIONAL P9**



**SHOOTERS STAND OUT**  
Indian shooting brigade secure five more medals recording their best-ever medal haul in the Asian Games **SPORTS P12**



## Bolangir man dies of scrub typhus in Bhub

**Titilagarh:** A 35-year-old man from Titilagarh in Bolangir died of scrub typhus at a private hospital in Bhubaneswar, Thursday night. The deceased was identified as Himanshu Sahu, who hailed from Bagder village under Bhalegaon panchayat of Bolangir. Sahu developed fever August 28 following which he was rushed to Titilagarh sub-divisional hospital where his blood sample was tested September 4. As his condition deteriorated, Sahu was shifted to Kesinga govt hospital and later referred to DHH in Bhawanipatna. Soon after, he was referred to Burla government hospital, before being finally shifted to a private hospital in Bhubaneswar September 17 where he died September 28.

## 58 killed in Pak suicide blasts

**Karachi/Peshawar:** A powerful suicide blast ripped through a mosque in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province Friday, killing at least 54 people and injuring over 100 others who were preparing to celebrate Prophet Muhammad's birthday, police said. Hours later, another blast at a mosque in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu city killed at least four people and injured 12 others. At Mastung, the explosion occurred near Madina Mosque on Al Falah Road in the Mastung district when people had gathered in large numbers to mark Eid Miladun Nabi. **P10**

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



This problem has no communal or electoral angle; it's purely a human concern. Avoid wasting time on it

INDEX	SENSEX	NIIFTY	DOLLAR	EURO	GOLD	SILVER
	65828.41	19638.30	83.23	87.88	₹57,265	₹70,581
<b>VARIAION</b>	↑ 320.09	↑ 114.75	↓ ₹0.01	↑ ₹0.02	↑ ₹137	↓ ₹19

WEATHER	BHUB	CTK
TEMP	MAX 33.8°C	33.6°C
	MIN 26.0°C	26.5°C
Humidity	81%	85%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
Forecast	PARTLY CLOUDY	SKY



**HERCULEAN TASK:** Firefighters douse flames at a cloth store in Choudhury Bazar area of Cuttack, Friday. Though no injury or casualty was reported, property worth crores of rupees was reduced to cinders **(P3)** PIC: RAKISHORE MOHANTY

## Back-to-back murders rock Ganjam

**Berhampur, Sept 29:** The brutal murder of a contractor at Baliguda village under Dharakote police station area, kept Ganjam district on the edge. The deceased, identified as Anil Mohanty, 35, alias Koka, who was also a well-known BJD worker, was allegedly hacked to death on the outskirts of the village by some men with sharp-edged weapons when he was returning home. It is suspected that the murder was the fallout of previous enmity, police said. One person has been arrested in connection with the case, they said. In another incident, a 42-year-old man, who is accused in over 30 criminal cases, was allegedly beaten to death by a group of people Thursday night. Sunil Kumar Nahak, a history-sheets accused in cases of murders and extortion, was attacked with iron roads and knives when he was attending a feast at Danapur in Kodala police station area. His head was smashed and he died on the spot. An investigation is underway to identify what triggered the murder, police said, adding that two persons have already been arrested. The body was sent for post-mortem to MKCG Medical College and Hospital, they said. SP Jagmohan Meena said teams have been formed to investigate the cases, and arrest those involved.

## Ailing UP girl 'thrown out' by hosp staff, dies

**Mainpuri/Lucknow, Sept 29:** A 17-year-old girl died right outside a hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Mainpuri, allegedly after the staff removed her from there after treating her for two days. A disturbing video shows the seemingly lifeless girl collapsed over the seat of a motorcycle as a woman accompanying her cries -- apparently on realising that the girl is now dead. The authorities have suspended Radha Swami Hospital's licence and sealed the premises over the incident in Mainpuri's Ghiror town Thursday. Her family has alleged that she was given "wrong treatment" at the private hospital. The clip showed a man and a woman, possibly staff members, going back up the stairs of the hospital. They had apparently brought her outside up to her relatives' motorcycle. "Tumne bahar nikal ke dal diya patient," a man is heard saying, accusing them of removing the girl from the hospital even before a vehicle was arranged for her. The girl appears lifeless. Her back is arched backwards as she is seated on the motorcycle, supported by a man, possibly a relative. Moments later, the woman relative realises that the girl, now sprawled along both seats of the bike, is dead. No hospital employee is around.

UP Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who handles the state's Health department, ordered action against the private hospital Thursday. District's Chief Medical Officer R C Gupta said according to the information with him, class 12 student Bharti was brought to the hospital Tuesday afternoon when she complained of fever. According to her family members, the girl was then admitted there. He condition deteriorated Thursday. "The family members have alleged that the girl was administered wrong treatment, after which her health deteriorated," CMO Gupta said. "Instead of making arrangements to shift her to another hospital, the staff brought the patient out and then "fled", the family complained. "The girl died outside the hospital, shortly after being removed from there," CMO Gupta said. Meanwhile, Ghiror police station in-charge Inspector Golu Singh Bhati told PTI that no complaint has been received yet from the girl's family. The FIR will be registered as soon as they file a complaint, the SHO said. Her uncle Pradeep Kumar alleged that the doctors took his niece's life by giving wrong treatment, and then "ran away" leaving her on the road. "The girl died outside the hospital, shortly after being removed from there," CMO Gupta said.

## HC for Ratna Bhandar panel

**Cuttack, Sept 29:** The Orissa High Court Friday directed the state government to constitute a high-level panel that would assist the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee (SJTMC) for 'inventorisation of valuables' in Srimandir Ratna Bhandar. While hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by BJP leader Samir Mohanty, a division bench of HC, comprising Chief Justice Subhasis Talapatra and Justice Savitri Ratho, gave the state government 60 days' time for formation of the committee following intimation by the SJTMC. The court, however, refused to interfere with the plan regarding inventorisation and repair works of the inner walls of the treasury in the 12th century shrine discussed in the meeting of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and SJTMC August 4. The HC said that the ASI in a meeting with the SJTMC in August held a detailed discussion on the Ratna Bhandar, its conservation and repair, and a fresh inventory of the valuables inside it. It was also decided in the meeting that Ratna Bhandar would be opened and repaired during the next Rath Yatra, the court said. The ASI and the SJTMC will collaborate for the conservation work of the Ratna Bhandar, it said. In the PIL, Mohanty alleged that the state government was not taking any step to reopen the Ratna Bhandar despite the ASI and Puri's titular king Gajapati Maharaj Dibyasingh Deb expressing concern over the dilapidated condition of the temple treasury. The petitioner sought the HC's intervention in directing the state government to reopen the temple treasury to carry out the necessary repair works and make a fresh inventory of ornaments of the deities stored there for decades. The previous inventory was made in 1978 even as the Shree Jagannath Temple Act, 1954 has a provision to undertake the exercise every three years. The Ratna Bhandar was last opened in April 2018. A 16-member team, including experts of the ASI, had entered the outer chamber but could not go to the inner chamber as its key was missing. They inspected the structure from a distance and reported that its condition was weak. Meanwhile, the petitioner's advocate Pitambar Acharya expressed satisfaction over Friday's judgement, terming it a victory for 4.5 crore Odias. "Today's judgment is a victory for the Jagannath Culture and 4.5 crore Odias. The court judgement has foiled the government's bid to avoid fresh inventory of Ratna Bhandar ornaments," Acharya said.

**POST NEWS NETWORK**  
Last inventory of Srimandir Ratna Bhandar was made in 1978  
The Shree Jagannath Temple Act, 1954 has a provision to undertake the exercise every 3 yrs  
The temple treasury was last opened in April 2018  
A 16-member team had entered the outer chamber but could not go to the inner chamber as its key was missing  
According to an affidavit by SJTA administrator (Niti) Jitendra Kumar Sahoo, there is 12,818 'bhari' (approximately 149.47 kg) of gold jewellery and 15,981 'bhari' (about 198.79 kg) of silver jewellery apart from utensils in the Ratna Bhandar inside the 12th century shrine



## Indian hackers rattle Canada

The Canadian Armed Forces website was among those impacted by the cyberattacks for hours

**Toronto, Sept 29:** With Canada-India relations worsening after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused New Delhi of involvement in the killing of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey in June, various Canadian government agencies have reported cyberattacks from India. Calling these attacks 'nuisance', Canada's signals-intelligence agency said various government institutions have been hit even though systems serving federal departments and agencies continued to operate normally, according to CTV network. The Canadian Armed Forces website was among those impacted by the cyberattacks for hours Wednesday. "We have no indication of broader impacts to our systems," said military spokeswoman Andree-Anne Poulin. Calling it a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack when bots stop websites by multiple visits, Canadian Defence minister Bill Blair said: "That's a very common thing that happens, unfortunately, often. But our cyber officials and security officials acted very, very quickly. "It was a minor inconvenience, and there is further work going on that we will eventually make a determination on." The House of Commons website was also impacted Thursday due to a DDoS attack. "House of Commons systems responded as planned to protect our network and IT infrastructure. However, some websites may be unresponsive for a short period," House of Commons spokeswoman Amelie Crosson said Thursday. "The House of Commons IT support team, in collaboration with our partners, have implemented mitigating measures and restored services to appropriate service levels. The IT team is still continuously monitoring for such activities," she added.



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# leisure



## HUGH JACKMAN INDULGES HIMSELF IN RETAIL THERAPY

Actor Hugh Jackman treated himself to some new books as he enjoyed a spot of retail therapy amid his split from Deborra-Lee Furness. The 54-year-old star decided to hit the shops in Manhattan Thursday, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

## COPS LAND UP AT BRITNEY'S HOUSE

Pop icon Britney Spears' latest dancing clip - which sees her twirling around in a bikini while brandishing fake kitchen knives - has reportedly resulted in a welfare check from her local police department, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

#### ARIES

Your day is packed full. There are negotiations, commitments, plans and decisions to wade through. You may feel low on energy and swamped due to lack of information and inputs from others. But clarity will return gradually as matters conclude, says Ganesh.

#### TAURUS

Armed with ingenuity and lateral thinking, you are all set to take on today with practised ease, feels Ganesh. The toughest of problems will crumble like a house of cards before your intellect. A promotion or salary hike is also likely today. Money lenders and brokers will have a profitable day, says Ganesh.

#### GEMINI

Today, you will do an amazing job in dividing your time between work and family. Despite your preoccupation with work, you will take time off for your family, and even plan out a small outing, leaving them pleasantly surprised. Also, your dreams are about to come true.

#### CANCER

You will spend your day reflecting on your past and thinking what went wrong, predicts Ganesh. But keep in mind that your mistakes won't lead to the end of the world, unless you are a nuclear scientist. So get your act together, and stop brooding over your mistakes.

#### LEO

On some days, the sun doesn't seem to have risen from the east, and neither does it seem you have gotten up on the right side of the bed. You start your day in a tensed atmosphere in the morning, caused by some annoyance on the part of one of your family members.

#### VIRGO

Razor-sharp and aesthetic to the last cell in your body, entertain and enthrall people with your guile, especially at a social do, says Ganesh. But conserve that zest and save the time to pay due attention to matters of supreme importance, warns Ganesh.

#### LIBRA

Monotonous is the word to describe the way things have been till now, but no more, says Ganesh. It might be a very good idea for you to take a break from things around you and go on a small trip. Invigorate yourself with a small picnic with family and friends. It shall go a long way in boosting your energy and enhancing your awareness and wisdom in the coming future. In any case, the stars predict satisfying results to private affairs.

#### SCORPIO

You are in a mood of introspection and analysis, says Ganesh. This is likely to give you a clear vision in the days to come. Your systematic approach towards work will provide you room to think out of the box. Your innovative ideas may bag applause from superiors and bosses.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Begin your day with a renewed zest. Consider a jump case of lucrative offer. Cracking a telephonic interview may prove to be a milestone in your career path. Your dedication and determination towards your work and goals makes you a deserving employee, says Ganesh.

#### CAPRICORN

You will find the day to be taxing, mostly because of the amount of work delegated to you, says Ganesh. But it will take trouble quite an effort to dampen your spirit. You will be in the fray in the latter part of the day, but will leave your rivals trailing behind in terms of business strategies. Success will be yours if you ensure to be mindful of your moves.

#### AQUARIUS

You may huff and puff, but today is not the day when you'll finish what you started. Don't lose heart, the future is promising. Take a break, says Ganesh, you've worked enough. The results are on the way.

#### PISCES

An important day today, you can expect to reach a much-awaited milestone either on the domestic front or at the workplace, says Ganesh. Expect your professional status and your social standing to receive a boost.

## Janhvi bares her harrowing past

**Mumbai:** Actress Janhvi Kapoor discusses the impact of growing up in the digital age, including dealing with morphed images of herself and judgment from peers.

Janhvi, daughter of producer Boney Kapoor and late actor Sridevi, told a media agency that there has been an 'influx of fake images, more so with today's advanced AI (artificial intelligence)'. She said, "People see these manipulated images and assume they're real. That deeply concerns me."

made her acting debut in 2018 with the romantic drama *Dhadak*, also opened up about how her formative years coincided with the digital boom, and her transition from child to teen to adult was dissected on the internet.

The *Mili* actress further shared, "I don't think they understood it so they started disliking me. I didn't understand what was happening. My friends looked at me differently, they poked fun at me for not getting waxed... Many insinuated that I don't have to work as I was famous anyway, weird taunts that I wouldn't understand."

So much so that she found morphed photos of herself on inappropriate, almost pornographic pages.

However, as they say there is light at the end of the tunnel. She has managed to deal with these stuff and become one of the most sought after actors in the film industry at the moment.



The actress, who

## Major Saheb's *Re Baiya Dho* releases on streaming platforms

**Bhubanewar:** City-based singer and songwriter Major Saheb released, *Re Baiya Dho*, a modern rendition of the Odia classic lullaby *Dho Re Baiya Dho* as part of the IO Originals series on all streaming platforms Friday.

While Major Saheb has composed and lent voice to the song, it has been produced, mixed and mastered by Sangeet Patnaik from Studio IO, a part of IO Verse Productions. The production house is based in Mumbai and Bhubaneswar.

The song is a special tribute to Major's mother, who has loved him infinitely. It is a ver-



Major Saheb's *Re Baiya Dho* is a special tribute to his mother, who has loved him infinitely. It is a version that he wishes to pass on to the future generations of Odisha, and encourage them to sing for their kids, said Saheb.

The singer started his musical journey at a young age, and has been influenced by various genres and artists. He has crafted his own sound out of real-life experiences and down-to-earth compositions that connect with any listener.

*Re Baiya Dho* is the second release of the IO Originals series, which aims to showcase hidden gems from the independent music scene. IO Originals is a multilingual music project from the house of Studio IO that showcases the amalgamation of multiple genres with different compositional approaches.

## Celebrate every small win: Rakul

**New Delhi:** Actress Rakul Preet Singh, known for the movies *Thank God*, *Doctor G*, and *Runaway 34*, shared her heartwarming struggles and success. Talking about the early days, she wrote, "Just a

young girl who dreamt of being on the big screen but had no knowledge about the film industry. Her journey in cinema was filled with ups and downs, acceptance and rejections, but she always took it as a beautiful learning experience."

Sharing a slew of images of herself over the years, the Cuttputli actress wrote, "Well I was just a young girl who dreamt of being on the big screen. With no knowledge about the industry, I started this journey full of hope.

Moving to Mumbai and living all by myself as a teenager was a tough call." She signed off, "The only thing I had was self-belief, confidence and the fact that I would always work extra hard and keep a solid work ethic... so yes the crux is that dreams aren't easy but when you decide to take the road less travelled make it a point to celebrate every small win and keep working towards your larger goal and make it happen! Make it real, make it count and tell yourself that #ihavecomealongway."

AGENCIES

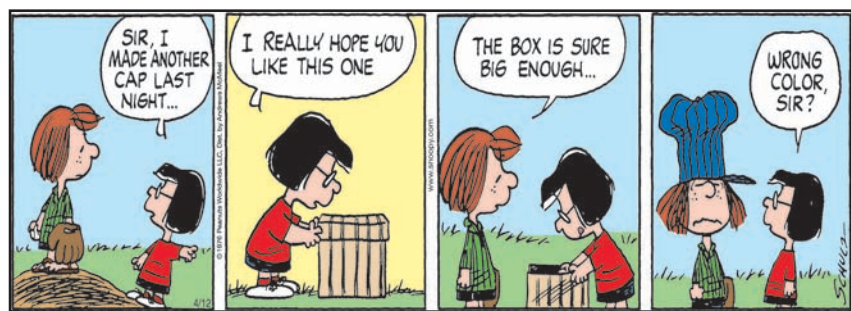


### NATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL-2023 CONCLUDES

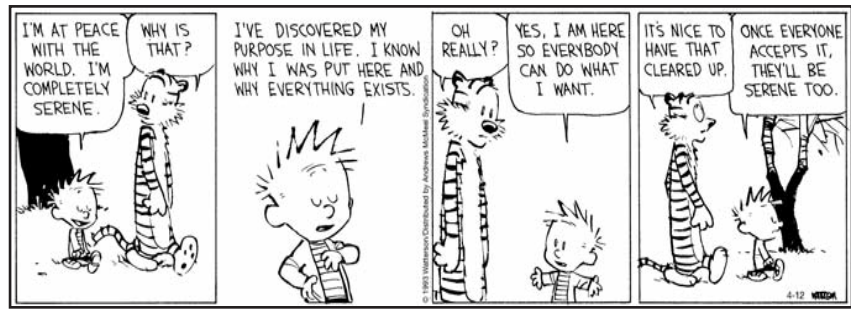


The artists of Indigenous People's Art and Cultural Society of Jamshedpur enacted Hindi play *Side Effect* on the fifth and concluding evening of Odisha Natya Sangh's end National Theatre Festival at Rabintra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Friday. Written and directed by Jitendra Hansada, the play revolved around the political differences between various states of India and its impact on common people. Bhubaneswar (Centre) MLA Ananta Narayana Jena, Mayor Sulochana Das and theatre director Bhaskar Chandra Mohapatra were among the dignitaries who graced the occasion. Dramatist Puspajali Behera was honoured with Odisha Natya Sangh Samman at the beginning.

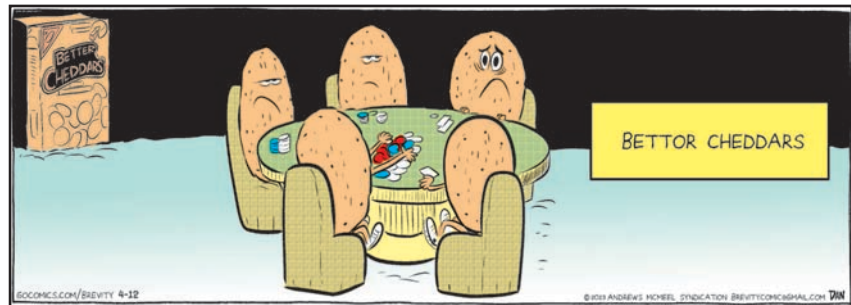
### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

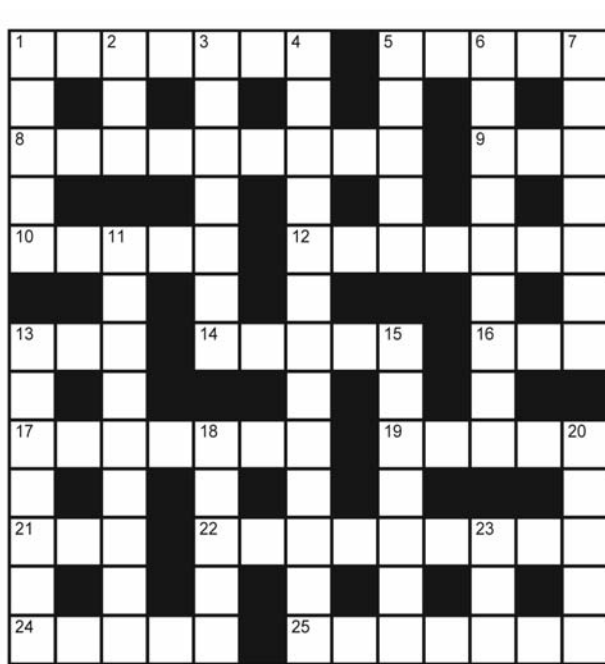


### BREVITY



### FUN post

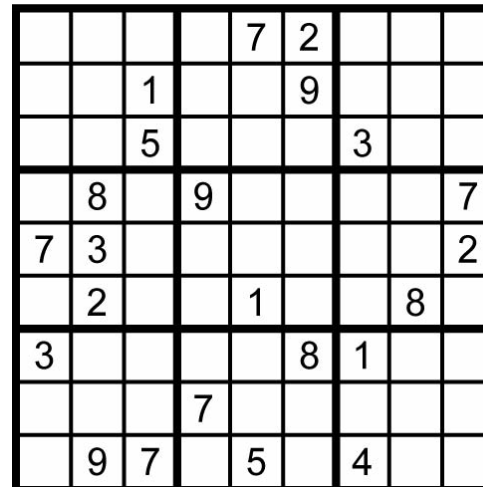
### CROSSWORD



- Across
- 1 Like some clams
  - 5 Hard to pin down
  - 8 Ship features
  - 9 North Sea diver
  - 10 Ham's need
  - 12 Spar part
  - 13 Commuting option
  - 14 Critical
  - 16 Saturn's wife
  - 17 Insignificant
  - 19 Jet fighter button
  - 21 Ostrich relative
  - 22 Pirate
  - 24 Hex
  - 25 Isis, e.g.
- Down
- 1 Before man or nova
  - 2 Bobble
  - 3 Chinese game
  - 4 Dragging one's feet (5-8)
  - 5 Eyeshade
  - 6 Mexican dip
  - 7 Far-North denizens
  - 11 Poverty-stricken
  - 13 Mansion employees
  - 15 Green transparent gem
  - 18 Motivate
  - 20 Novices
  - 23 Member of the flock

### 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.

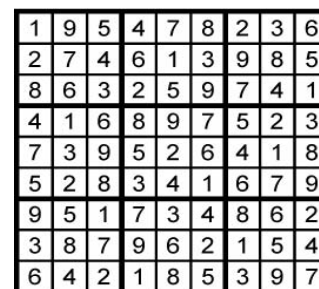


### SOLUTIONS

#### CROSSWORD



#### SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

## HEALTH FIRST

A health check-up camp was organised at the Convention Hall of Orissa High Court Bar Association in Cuttack, Friday



# State braces for heavy downpour

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 29:** With the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting heavy rainfall across the state from Saturday following the formation of a low pressure in the Bay of Bengal, the state government has braced itself to tackle any situation arising out of it.



### LOPAR OVER BAY OF BENGAL

IMD predicts heavy rainfall (7 to 11cm) at some places in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, and Bhadrak districts till 8:30am Saturday.

Special Relief Commissioner asks the district Collectors to gear up to tackle the low pressure-induced rainfall.

Stating that the intensity of rain is expected to increase during the next three days, the IMD issues both orange warning and yellow warning for the state from 8:30am of Saturday to 8:30am of Sunday.

Commissioner (SRC) asked the district Collectors to gear up to tackle the low pressure-induced rainfall.

"The heavy to very heavy rainfall may be reported immediately to the SRC office and submit report on any damage if occurred due to thunderstorm, whirlwind, hailstorm, lightning immediately for the information of the government," the SRC said in the letter to district Collectors.

Yellow warning (be prepared)

of thunderstorm and lighting was issued for Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Khurda, Puri, Nayagarh, Ganjam, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Angul, Dhenkanal, Sundargarh, Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Koraput and Rayagada.

Stating that the intensity of rain is expected to increase during the next three days, the IMD issued both orange warning (be updated) and yellow warning for the state from 8:30am of

Saturday to 8:30am of Sunday. Orange warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20 cm) was issued for Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Jajpur, Bhadrak and Balasore districts Saturday.

Yellow warning of heavy rainfall (7 to 11cm) was also issued for Sundargarh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Sambalpur, Angul, Cuttack, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Khurda districts.

Thunderstorm with lightning may occur at one or two places in North Odisha, South coastal Odisha, Subarnapur, Boudh, Kandhamal, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts, the bulletin said.

Apart from warning water logging in low-lying areas and underpass roads, the Met office predicted inundation of agricultural fields, occasional reduction of visibility causing traffic congestion in urban areas and damage to kutcha roads and houses during the intense spells of rain.

It also warned of possible landslides in hilly areas of the state during the four-day of intense rainfall from September 30 to October 3.

It advised farmers to postpone fertiliser and chemicals application in agricultural fields and keep their livestock in safe places.

Meanwhile, the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar said during the last 24 hours the state recorded an average of 3.3mm rainfall with maximum of 59mm downpour at Lamtaput in Koraput district. Gumma in Gajapati district recorded 55mm rainfall during the period and Korukunda in Malkangiri district reported 50mm rainfall.

# WOMEN'S QUOTA BILL RECEIVES PREZ ASSENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 29:** President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to the Women's Reservation Bill which seeks to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.

According to a law ministry notification issued Friday, the President gave her assent Thursday.

Now, it will be officially known as the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act.

According to its provision, "It shall come into force on such date as the Central government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint."

During a special session of Parliament earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had described the law as 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam'.

The Constitution amendment bill was passed by the Lok Sabha with near unanimity and the Rajya Sabha with unanimity.

The law will take some time before being implemented as the next census and the subsequent delimitation exercise - redrawing of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies - will ascertain the particular seats being earmarked for women. The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies will continue for 15 years and Parliament can later extend the benefit period.

While there is quota within quota for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) women, the Opposition had demanded that the benefit be extended to Other Backward Classes.

There have been several efforts to pass the Bill in Parliament since 1996.

The last such attempt was made in 2010, when the Rajya Sabha had passed a Bill for women's reservation, but the same could not be passed in the Lok Sabha.

Data shows that women MPs account for nearly 15 per cent of the Lok Sabha strength while their representation is below 10 per cent in many state Assemblies.

# Cuttack cloth store catches fire

AGENCIES

**Cuttack, Sept 29:** A fire broke out at a cloth shop at Choudhury Bazaar here Friday morning, police said.

The fire, which was first spotted on the ground floor of the three-storey building, later spread to two other floors, a fire official said. However, there were no reports of any injury or casualty in the incident, he added.

At least seven fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the flames. Dark smoke covered the area causing difficulties for fire personnel in carrying out the operation in the busy market area, officials said.

"The smoke was preventing us from entering the building," a fire services officer said.

The reason for the blaze was yet to be ascertained, an official said.

**OrissaPOST**  
English daily

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# SCU arrests 2 more in land fraud case

GYAN RANJAN MOHAPATRA, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 29:** The Special Crime Unit (SCU) of Commissionerate Police Friday arrested two more members of the racket involved in selling of plots in the Capital City using forged documents prepared in the name of unsuspecting individuals who have left their land unattended to for a prolonged period.

The accused were identified as Sushila Pattanaik of Kapaleswar village under Choudwar police limits in Cuttack and Arup Kumar Haldar of Ghatikia under Khandagiri police limits.

The SCU sleuths arrested the accused persons in connection with a case initially registered at Chandaka police station following directions of the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) court here in 2022.

Earlier, the SCU had arrested Bikash Panda of Tulasipur, Prasanna Mishra of Choudwar and Simanchal Mohanty of Jagatpur in Cuttack, Biswajit Behera of Vyanaganagar in Jajpur and Sanjaya Kumar Sarangi of Baseli Sahi in Puri in connection with the case. Accused Arup played a crucial role in luring victims and introducing them to the gang members while Sushila impersonated the original woman landowners.

In the current case, Sushila impersonated the complainant, Sanjukta Panigrahi, a native of Ganjam, and sold her plot through forged sale deed. The accused persons fraudulently sold the plot measuring 100 decimal to Puspallata Swain and Kamala Swain. Simanchal, a professional scribe, crafted the fraudulent sale deeds by replacing the landowner's photograph with that of Sushila.

Abandoning Sushila and Arup were arrested by SCU Friday morning from Chowdwar and Bhubaneswar respectively. The accused were produced before the court that sent them to judicial custody Friday.

"In addition to this case, another similar incident involving the same previously arrested accused is currently under investigation. This case, registered under IPC Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, and 471, is progressing. In this particular instance, the accused presented a fraudulent land deal in Trisulia area, extracting Rs 4 lakh from the victim," said a cop.

# Startup Yatra, Xpress gather 1,780 ideas

Altogether 273 ideas were pitched from across 14 colleges and 6 schools with participation of 1,347 students Friday



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 29:** Odisha Startup Yatra and Startup Xpress have gathered more than 1,780 ideas from the student community within 12 days, showcasing growing enthusiasm and creativity among student communities of the state, said sources.

As the Yatra expands its reach to far flung areas and educational institutes, the number of participating students has increased substantially, they added.

As Odisha aspires to recognise and nurture 5,000 startups by 2025, Odisha Startup Yatra and Startup Xpress are playing a significant role in fulfilling the vision. It becomes a launch pad for idea generation from school and college students thus setting a high benchmark with

sophisticated ideas.

So far, the Yatra has covered 21 districts of the state, visiting 120 colleges and 39 schools with participation from more than 16,129 students. On Friday, the vans visited 14 colleges and two schools, while four boot camps were organised in Khurda and Jajpur districts from where 273 ideas were received with participation of 1,347 students.

Odisha Startup Yatra & Xpress, taking its journey forward, will tour Angul district and a few more institutions in Sambalpur, Dhenkanal, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts September 30 (Saturday) to foster entrepreneurship and innovation.

The aim of Startup Odisha Yatra and Startup Xpress 2023 is to encourage grassroots innovators and promote entrepreneurship among them.



FOR A CAUSE: Cuttack Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani speaks during an event organised to mark National Nutrition Month, in Cuttack, Friday OP PHOTO

# Hindalco bags Meenakshi West coal mine in Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi, Sept 29:** The Union Coal Ministry Friday executed agreements with the successful bidders of six coal mines including the Meenakshi West coal mine located in Ib valley of Sundargarh district in Odisha for commercial mining.

The ministry has signed an agreement with Hindalco Industries Ltd for Meenakshi West coal mine in Odisha. Meenakshi West block has 950

**Once the six coal mines are fully operational, they are poised to generate employment for 9,464 persons directly and indirectly, said the Union Coal Ministry**

MT of coal reserves.

The ministry also executed agreements for North Dhadu (Eastern Part), North Dhadu

(Western Part) in Jharkhand, Pathara East, Pathara West in Madhya Pradesh and Sherband in Chhattisgarh. The agreements signed with NTPC Mining Limited, NLC India Limited, Shri Bajrang Power & Ispat Limited and Nilkanth Mining Limited.

The ministry informed that the estimated total annual revenue generation from these six coal mines stands at approximately Rs 787.59 crore, based on production at an aggregated peak rate capacity (PRC) level of ~7.00

metric tonne per annum (MTPA). "Once these mines are fully operational, they are poised to generate employment for 9,464 persons directly and indirectly. A substantial investment of Rs 1,050 crore has been earmarked for the operationalisation of these coal mines. The revenue-sharing percentages for the successful bidders in these six coal mines range from 6 per cent to 43.75 per cent, with an average revenue share of 23.71 per cent," the ministry said.

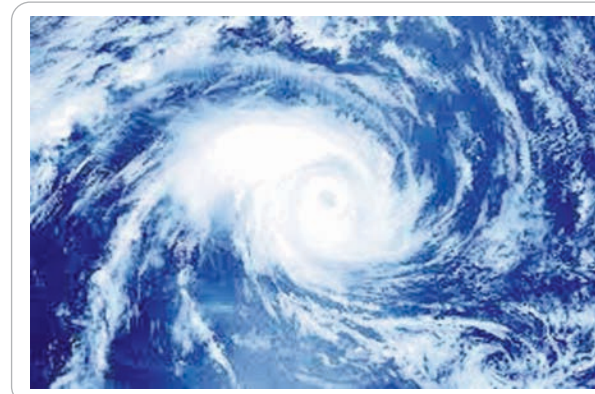
# Climate change driving early arrival of intense cyclones: Study

Climate change may be driving the early arrival of the most intense tropical cyclone season, according to a study published in the journal Nature.

Researchers from Tsinghua University in China and the University of Hawaii'i at Manoa, US, found that intense tropical cyclones have tended to occur around three days earlier per decade since the 1980s.

The study shows that this seasonal shifting may be related to ocean warming, primarily driven by greenhouse gas emissions.

Intense tropical cyclones, defined as tropical cyclones with a lifetime maximum wind speed greater than 110 knots (203.7 km



per hour), are one of the most devastating natural disasters, the researchers said.

Changes in characteristics of

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intense tropical cyclones - including the number of cyclones, their intensities and lifespans - are already well studied, but lit-

tle is known about changes in their seasonal cycle, they said.

To investigate whether there have been changes in the sea-

sonal cycle of tropical cyclones, researcher Xiping Yu and colleagues analysed satellite data from 1981 to 2017.

They found that the occurrence time of intense tropical cyclones shows a trend towards earlier onset, at a rate of 3.7 and 3.2 days per decade for the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, respectively.

However, the results showed that the seasonal advance is only notable for intense tropical cyclones, and not for less severe ones.

The earlier onset of intense tropical cyclones is shown to be associated with earlier increases of sea surface temperature and ocean heat content, which are driven mainly by greenhouse gas

emissions, the researchers said.

The team examined data from South China and the Gulf of Mexico, two regions that are heavily affected by tropical cyclones, to investigate the potential effect of earlier intense tropical cyclones on extreme rainfall.

The results showed that the earlier onset of intense tropical cyclones contributes substantially to an earlier onset of extreme rainfall, accompanied by an increasing annual amount of persistent rainfall events.

Further research is needed to develop strategies to better protect people and regions at high risk of earlier intense tropical cyclones, the researchers added.

# Govt bicycle boost to incense stick rollers



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 29:** In a bid to encourage women entrepreneurship, bicycles were Friday distributed to the members of various women self-help groups (SHGs) that are preparing incense sticks with the help of Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS).

The bicycle distribution programme was conducted on ORMAS premises at SIRD & PR Campus here, Friday.

Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Pradip Kumar Amat, who was the chief guest of the event, handed over the bicycles to 30 women agarbati rollers. Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department principal secretary Sushil Kumar Lohani, additional secretary-cum-chief executive officer-ORMAS Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar and head of operations, ITC-MAB (Matches & Agarbati Business), Chennai M

## Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Pradip Kumar Amat handed over bicycles to 30 women incense stick rollers

Muralidhar were present on the occasion.

Addressing the event, Amat said such initiatives will definitely play a key role in making rural women self-reliant and empowered. ORMAS, in association with ITC, has brought a nice initiative which in turn will increase the participation of women in small scale enterprises like agarbati-making. He added that in coming days ORMAS under Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water department will launch more such initiatives to strengthen the rural economy of Odisha.

Lohani stated that such ini-

tiatives will encourage women SHG members to step out of the four walls of their house and do something enterprising. They will not only be self-reliant but also act as role models for others.

Tapas Kumar extended gratitude to ITC for providing cycles for making the rural women SHG members self-reliant and independent. She said, "ORMAS will introduce more such initiatives and interventions with a vision to boost the income potential of the rural women producers to help them climb the ladder of empowerment and self-sufficiency."

ITC Ltd had signed a MoU with ORMAS October 14, 2009 for a partnership. In this partnership, ITC lends its support to facilitate in marketing of raw agarbati produced by rural women. ITC as a partner has collaborated with ORMAS to help incense stick rollers engaged in the project. Now ITC-MAB, Chennai has evinced interest to supply 200 ladies' cycles to persons engaged in agarbati making project in different districts of Odisha to help them commute to the workplace on daily basis.

ORMAS helps ITC to find out potential groups of rural women/SHGs and do all necessary process to tie up with agarbati making activities in coordination with ITC officials and in review/monitor the project. At present, the project is effectively going on in 12 districts - Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jajpur, Kandhamal, Kendrapara, Khurda, Nayagarh and Puri.



FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: Governor Ganeshi Lal lights the ceremonial lamp during the laying of foundation stone for Sri Sathya Sai Skill Development Centre for Women in Gandamunda area of Bhubaneswar, Friday

## Student leader remembered

**Cuttack:** Former student leader and ex-president of Christ College Students' Union, Cuttack Sripati Jena's 30th death anniversary was observed at Gadagadeshwar temple near Mahanadi river here. A memorial meeting was held where leaders cutting across party lines and people from various walks of life attended and remembered Jena, and offered 'Tilatarpan' to the departed soul. A free food distribution programme was held on the occasion for the poor.

# KIIT ranked 6th among Indian universities

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 29:** City-based KIIT deemed-to-be-university (KIIT-DU) has secured 6th rank in the prestigious Times Higher Education World University Rankings, 2024 among the 91 Indian higher education institutes featured in the list.

World University Rankings, 2024 includes 1,904 universities across 108 countries. The methodology used for ranking the universities includes teaching environment, research, citations, international outlook and industry income.

Congratulating the staff, KIIT founder Achyuta Samanta said, "The improved ranking is result of collective efforts of the faculties, students and staff."

The Times Higher Education

all score, reflecting its sustained focus on quality teaching, research and a steady rise in its global reputation. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings is widely followed by academia, including students, in deciding their institute of choice for pursuing higher education," said a KIIT official.

## GSI cleanliness drive at Khandagiri Oct 1

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 29:** On eve of Mahatma Gandhi's 154th birth anniversary October 2, a 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign has been launched by the PMO all over the country. The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has issued guidelines for the initiative while under the Mines Ministry, 30 sites have been identified by the Geological Survey of India for this campaign.

Geological Survey of India, Bhubaneswar, in collaboration with Archaeological Survey of India here is going to conduct a cleanliness drive at Khandagiri October 1, 2023. As part of the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign, the cleanliness activity will be undertaken by the officials of GSI and ASI with public participation between 10am to 11am to create awareness about the importance of sanitation and cleanliness.



LITERARY FEST: Dignitaries unveil a book during the 5th State-level Ankur Children's Literary Festival - 2023 at Gita Govinda Sadan in Bhubaneswar, Friday

# Plastic contaminant could raise risk of autism, ADHD: Study

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), that have recently seen a significant rise, may be linked to the common plastic additive, bisphenol A (BPA), according to a study.

BPA, used in everyday objects such as in medical devices, compact discs, dental sealants, water bottles, the lining of canned foods and drinks, among others, has previously been linked to several health issues, including cancer.

The study, published in the public access journal PLOS ONE, showed that children with ASD and ADHD often have a reduced ability to clear BPA from their bodies, thereby increasing their exposure to BPA.

Previous studies have found



associations between children with autism and exposure to BPA. In the new study, researchers from the Rowan University in New Jersey, US, found that the reason for the link is decreased efficiency in a key step involved in BPA detoxification.

After BPA is ingested or inhaled, it is filtered from the blood in the liver through a process called glucuronida-

tion. Glucuronidation is the process of adding a sugar molecule to a toxin. Doing so makes the toxin water soluble, allowing it to quickly pass out of the body through urine.

Humans show genetic variability in their ability to detoxify BPA. Genetically susceptible individuals have more difficulty detoxifying their blood through this process, meaning their tissues are exposed to BPA

at higher concentrations for longer time periods.

The team measured the efficiency of glucuronidation in three groups of children in the US: 66 with autism, 46 with ADHD and 37 healthy children.

The findings showed that for a significant proportion of children with autism, the ability to add the glucose molecule to BPA is about 10 per cent less than that of control

■ Bisphenol A (BPA), used in everyday objects such as in medical devices, compact discs, water bottles and the lining of canned foods and drinks has previously been linked to several health issues, including cancer

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■ Humans show genetic variability in their ability to detoxify BPA. Genetically susceptible individuals have more difficulty detoxifying their blood through this process, meaning their tissues are exposed to BPA at higher concentrations for longer time periods

children. For a significant proportion of children with ADHD, it's about 17 per cent less.

The compromised ability to clear such environmental pollutants from the body is "the first hard biochemical evidence of what the linkage is between BPA and the development of autism or ADHD," said lead author T Peter Stein, Professor of surgery at Rowan

## WORLD HEART DAY

# Healthy heart important for good health: Naveen

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 29:** A healthy heart is important for overall good health. By adopting a healthy lifestyle, eating a well-balanced diet and undergoing routine checkup, risk of heart diseases can be lowered, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on World Heart Day Friday urging people to spread awareness about cardiovascular diseases and their prevention.

On the occasion, state Health and Family Welfare department shared a message with the public asking them to "take a pledge to avoid consumption of alcohol and tobacco, stay away from junk foods, exercise regularly and consume healthy diet for a healthier heart."

Similarly, hospitals in the City organized different programmes to spread awareness about cardio-vascular health. CARE Hospitals, in association with State Bank of India, organized a series of 'health walks' to raise awareness on heart diseases and care in Bhubaneswar, Baripada and Keonjhar.

Chander Sekhar Sharma of SBI flagged off the walkathon in Bhubaneswar along with MP Tripathy, cardiologist at CARE, BB Mohanty, cardiac surgeon, Manoranjan Mishra, KC Mishra and Kislay Anand of the hospital.

Anand, chief operating officer at CARE Bhubaneswar, said, "This is a big initiative, and we at CARE have come forward to walk together for good health. I



CARE Hospital walkathon

am happy to see that our hospital is contributing to spread awareness among the people and their loved ones to stay healthy and keep fighting against lifestyle diseases." The walkathon was followed by an interactive session on the prevention and cure of heart attacks conducted by Mahendra Prasad Tripathy, Giridhari Jena and Tanmay Das.

AMRI Hospital organized a walkathon to commemorate the day. The walkathon, aimed at spreading awareness about heart health, saw the participation of doctors, healthcare workers, corporate employees, and people from different walks of life.

"World Heart Day serves as a global platform to educate individuals about the significance of maintaining a healthy heart," said twin city Police Commissioner Soumendra Priyadarshi while flagging off the walkathon as the chief guest in presence of BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, Tapan Kumar Chand, president of Vedant Group, and cardiologists of the hospital including JK Padhi,

Mahesh Agarwal, Dibya Ranjan Behera, Biswajeet Mohapatra, and Pradeep Kumar Dash.

"The focus of the walkathon was on importance of understanding and caring for the heart. Heart health is a crucial aspect of overall well-being, and the aim of AMRI Bhubaneswar is to impart knowledge and encourage everyone to make heart-healthy choices," said an AMRI cardiologist.

In another event cardiology, trauma and emergency department of AIIMS also organised a walkathon to create awareness about heart health. Executive director Ashutosh Biswas joined the walkathon with the students, faculties and employees. Biswas appealed all to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle to keep our heart strong and thriving.

Another City hospital, Apollo introduced a cardiac health package for preventive care which people will be able to avail till December 31. Under this package the hospital will provide cardiac risk analysis at affordable price to patients.

### FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

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# Ex-cop gets 4-yr term for graft



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Sept 29:** A special Vigilance court sentenced a retired police official to four years of imprisonment after convicting him for accepting bribe here, Friday.

The convicted police official was identified as former IIC of Baria police station Kalu Charan Swain, a native of Balipadar village under Bhanjanagar police limits in Ganjam district. He retired from service while working as a sub-inspector of Nandipada police station, March 31, 2017.

Apart from the punishment, Judge Rashmita Dalei also

slapped a penalty of ₹3,000 on him. In default, he has been asked to undergo an additional two-month prison term. He was remanded to jail custody after the judge pronounced the verdict.

The judge passed the order after examining the statements recorded by 15 witnesses and the probe report in the case, special public prosecutor Debadutta Biswal said.

According to the case diary, Manoranjan Nayak, a resident under Baria police limits, had a fight with his wife Saraswati over some issue. Police registered a case of torture after his wife lodged a complaint at Baria

police station. The then Baria PS IIC Swain summoned Manoranjan to the police station following the complaint, October 20, 2014.

There Swain demanded ₹15,000 from Manoranjan to loosen up and strike the name of his parents off the case. The next day he produced Manoranjan in the court and took ₹5,000 as bribe in exchange of the case diary.

Later, when Manoranjan was released from jail on bail Swain again demanded ₹6,000 as bribe to lighten up the case.

Left with no other option, Manoranjan met the Vigilance officials and lodged a complaint. The Vigilance unit in Balasore registered a case and nabbed Swain when he was accepting bribe of ₹6,000 from Manoranjan on the police station premises, December 1, 2014. Swain was produced in the court and remanded to judicial custody.



**AGHORI ACT:** Artistes dressed up in the attire of mystical 'Aghoris' perform during an Ganesh idol immersion ceremony at Talcher in Angul district, Friday OP PHOTO

# Rising sea eats into Gahirmatha

**THE 3-KM-LONG SAND BAR IN AGARNASI ISLAND AND THE CASUARINA FORESTS, WHICH ACT AS A BUFFER FOR THE SANCTUARY ARE THE WORST AFFECTED**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Mahakalapara, Sept 29:** The vast expanse of sandy beach at Gahirmatha marine sanctuary under this block in Kendrapara district is the largest rookery or mass nesting ground in the world for the rare Olive Ridley turtles followed by the coasts of Mexico and Costa Rica. However, rising tidal waves and rapid sea erosion have pushed the Gahirmatha marine sanctuary to the verge of extinction.

Gahirmatha marine sanctuary is located in close vicinity of Bhitarkanika National Park in the coastal district. The sanctuary is spread on over 1,420 sq km area from Brahmani river mouth in the south to Dhamra sea mouth in the north and 20 nautical miles into the sea. The marine sanctuary blessed with nature's bounty is now under threat from the rising sea waves.

The rising sea waves have eaten into major portions of the



**E**nvironmentalists said a new sea mouth has formed near Madali island after the Super Cyclone-1999 due to which tidal waves are striking straight against the beach

**S**ea waves are now directly hitting the beach and mangrove forests at Jambu, Tanda, and Kandarpapata eating away large chunks of land day by day

marine sanctuary. Among them, the three-km-long sand bar in Agarnasi island and the casuarina forests, which act as a buffer zone for the sanctuary, are the worst affected. As a result the sea waves are now directly hitting the mangrove forests at Jambu, Tanda, and Kandarpapata eating away large chunks of land day by day.

The large sand bar and casuarina forests in Madali, Lurchghola islands are no exception as those are also bearing the brunt of sea erosion. It is apprehended that the day is

not far when islands like Madali and Lurchghola, popular among the tourists and adventure enthusiasts, will lose their existence. Environmentalists fear that the rate at which the sea waves are rising, they will soon erode the sea beach completely.

Environmentalists Subhash Chandra Swain and Samarendra Mahali said a new sea mouth has formed near Madali island (the place where a large cargo ship had capsized) after the Super Cyclone-1999 due to which large tidal waves are striking straight

against the crucial beach. This has been washing away the coast for long and large portions of the beach have been lost to the sea.

The large sand beds of Tanda, Lurchghola, Madali, Agarnasi, Hukitola and Sholamuan provide space for safe mass nesting of the Olive Ridley turtles. A few years back, large number of turtles used to mate and lay eggs on these nesting sites of Gahirmatha.

However, with the beach getting washed away, the turtles have changed their nesting sites. Now, fewer turtles lay eggs at these locations.

On the other hand, large casuarinas and saline mangrove forests provide a safe haven for various indigenous and migratory varieties of birds and marine creatures like dolphin, horse shoe crabs, red crabs, harley crabs and others. These forests are home to animals like deer, wild boar, barking deer, hyena, water monitor lizard, wild cat, wild buffalo and wild dog while fishermen too use this place in order to fish in the sea.

When contacted, Rajnagar DFO Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav said the water level has increased in the sea while resultant high tidal waves are eroding the coast proving to be a cause of concern. However, the Forest department is keeping close watch on the development.

## SUSHMITA DEATH CASE

# George threatens 'gherao' as kin prepare to move HC



RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

**Rourkela, Sept 29:** Local political leader George Tirky Friday threatened to gherao the SP office at Rourkela October 3 in support of the family of Sushmita Minz, the assistant collector whose body was found floating in a pond in the Sensory Park September 19. Besides, Susmita's family is filing a case in the High Court of Orissa demanding a CBI inquiry and George has assured all help in this regard.

Addressing mediapersons Friday at the Panthanivas here, the tribal leader labelled charges against the top officials of the district and also produced photographs of the deceased officer's body. "These have been clicked by the family members of Sushmita at the morgue, where the body was kept for post-mortem. They have been threat-

ened time and again by the police not to follow the case and to drop all the charges against them," George alleged.

The photographs produced by George were reportedly captured by the family members and clearly showed injury marks on certain parts of her body. There were burn marks on her back and hands and marks on her wrist suggested as if a string like thing was tightly tied there. There were also marks of injury on her ankle and throat. "She has been killed using a pillow. She was made to suffocate and at that time she was trying to save herself. There were signs of resistance and injuries on her neck," said George.

George has raised 22 questions, which he described as the most vital but remained unanswered. "These questions need to be answered by the police and the investigating agencies and

then automatically the case would get solved," said George.

Meanwhile, Rourkela SP Mitrabhanu Mohapatra speaking to media said, "We are looking into all the angles. I would like to assure you that we will definitely get to the root from all the angles. Anyone found guilty would not be spared and would be brought to book."

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP- TENDER-2023-35, Dtd. 22.09.2023

Name of work : TELECOM ASSET CREATION FOR UPGRADATION OF RAILNET AND WI-FI OF DRM BUILDING/ SAMBALPUR.

Tender Value : ₹ 69,95,079.33, Bid Security: ₹ 1,39,900.00.

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1100 hrs. on 16.10.2023.

Contractors are allowed to make payments against the tender towards Bid Security only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal. Manual payments through demand draft, banker's cheque, deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against the e-tenders.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/compendium issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, PR-622/O/23-24 Sambalpur

## Man held with leopard hide

**Baripada:** A 35-year-old man was held with a leopard skin in Mayurbhanj district Friday, forest officials said. The accused identified as Bhuban Singh is a resident of Jadunathpur (Bandhasahi) under Badasahi police station in Mayurbhanj district. Acting on intelligence inputs, a team of Similipal South Wildlife Division carried out a raid at the village, seized the leopard skin and detained the man, they said. A detailed investigation is underway, said Samrat Gowda, the deputy director of Similipal South Wildlife Division.

## 2 girls drown while bathing in pond

**Balasore:** Two minor girls drowned while they were bathing in a village pond at Odangi village under Sadar police limits in Balasore district Friday, police said. The deceased were identified as Tanushree Das, 13, daughter of Santosh Das and Tapaswini Dash, 14, daughter of Biswajit Dash in the village. The mishap has spread shockwaves and mourning among the local residents. The tragedy occurred when the girls had gone to bathe in the village pond before leaving for their schools. It is suspected that one of them accidentally slipped her legs and fell into deep water. The other girl also drowned during her attempt to rescue her.

## Elderly couple, son-in-law killed in road accident

**Ghasipura:** An elderly couple and their son-in-law died in a tragic road accident at Anandapur in Keonjhar district Friday. The deceased were identified as Sahadev Behera, Chandini Behera of Ghasipura area in Keonjhar district and Abhiram Behera of Karanjia in Mayurbhanj district. Sources said that the elderly couple, along with their son-in-law, was going to Chandini's paternal house on a motorcycle when a speeding ATM cash van coming from the opposite direction hit the bike at Padmapur under Anandapur police limits. The driver of the van fled the accident spot leaving the seriously injured victims there. Police reached the spot and rushed the victims to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared them 'brought dead'. Police are examining the CCTV footage to identify the absconding driver.

# RSP launches 'Project Samarth'

*A bus carrying 57 underprivileged students of Rourkela and nearby areas was flagged off to KIIT-ITI, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, for a special coaching course*



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Sept 29:** As a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, Rourkela Steel Plant, a unit of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL), has launched 'Project Samarth' to provide social coaching to underprivileged students residing in the direct impact zones of the plant in its periphery.

Under the project, Atanu Bhowmik, director-in-charge, P Wednesday flagged off a bus carrying 57 underprivileged

students of Rourkela and nearby areas to KIIT-ITI, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, for a special coaching course. PK Satpathy, ED (P&A), PK Swain, CGM (TA and CSR) and other senior officials of RSP were also present on the occasion.

This is a unique initiative aimed at training those students who acquire technical education but are not able to get jobs of their choice. Through this programme, we intend to provide a platform for the youths to learn how to showcase their talents and secure

meaningful employment, and contribute positively to society, said Bhowmik.

The group of students included 30 ITI certificate holders and 27 diploma holders in diverse fields like fitter, electrician, machinist, civil, mechanical and electrical. They reside in Rourkela as well as peripheral areas including model steel villages and resettlement colonies.

The students will get six months of training, followed by a comprehensive one-year handholding period. The Project Samarth is being undertaken at a total cost of ₹57.64 lakh.

The primary objective of the programme is to equip candidates with skills and knowledge necessary to excel in various recruitment tests conducted by Centre, state governments, and public sector undertakings, he said. The launch of this programme is a significant step towards fostering economic growth, inclusivity, and skill development within the Rourkela Steel Plant's impact zones.

**Bank of India**

Zone Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Ph: 0674-2362249

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties for realization of the debts due to the Bank.

Sl. No.	BRANCH/ Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/ Mortgagees/ Total Dues	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
1.	<b>CHAKEISIANI BRANCH, PH: 0674-2584878 / Borrower: M/s. Shivshakti Traders, Prop: Mr. Kabiraj Behera, S/o: Mr. Dhruva Charan Behera, Address- 1: At Plot No.: 409, Sameigadia, PO: Rasulgarnh, Bhubaneswar-751010, Address- 2: At Plot No.: 89/257, Mouza: Kalyanpur, Near Anukulachandrapatna, Bhubaneswar / Total Dues: ₹44,75,637.02 as on 17.05.2023 + interest, costs and expenses from 18.05.2023, less any part amount repaid.</b>	<b>Property-1:</b> All that part and parcel of the Property situated over Khata No.: 216/89, Plot No.: 89/1201, Area: Ac.0.040 Dec. i.e. 1742.4 Sqft., KISSAM: Homestead at Mouza: Kalyanpur, P.S.: New Capital, Thana No.: 09, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Registration SRO: Bhubaneswar & Dist: Khurda, Standing in the name of <b>Mr. Kabiraj Behera, S/o: Mr. Dhruva Charan Behera</b> , Bounded (as per Sale Deed) by North: Rest Part of this Plot, South: Road, East: Rest Part of this Plot, West: Plot No.: 83, Bounded (as per Physical) by North: Plot No.: 88, South: Road, East: Plot No.: 89, West: Plot No.: 82 & 83 <b>Property-2:</b> All that part and parcel of the Property situated over Khata No.: 216/144, Plot No.: 89/257, Area: Ac.0.080 Dec. i.e. 3484.8 Sqft., KISSAM: Homestead at Mouza: Kalyanpur, P.S.: New Capital, Thana No.: 09, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, Registration SRO: Bhubaneswar & Dist: Khurda, alongwith single storied RCC Building of G.F Built up Area: 904 Sqft., Standing in the name of <b>Mr. Kabiraj Behera, S/o: Mr. Dhruva Charan Behera</b> , Bounded (as per Physical) by North: Plot No.: 89, South: Road, East: Plot No.: 93 & 94, West: Vendee, Bounded (as per Physical) by North: Plot No.: 89 (P), South: Road, East: Road, West: own Plot	<b>Property-1: ₹13,67,000/- (excluding GST &amp; other statutory dues) / ₹1,36,700/- / ₹50,000/-</b> <b>Property-2: ₹34,83,000/- (excluding GST &amp; other statutory dues) / ₹3,48,300/- / ₹50,000/-</b>
2.	<b>BHUBANESWAR SME BRANCH, PH: 0674-2571625/ Borrower: M/s. Parbati Ghanashyam Rice Mills Private Limited, Managing Director: Mr. Dhiren Kumar Patra, S/o: Mr. Ghanashyam Patra, Director: Mrs. Rojalini Patra, W/o: Mr. Dhiren Kumar Patra, All are Vill: Madhyapara, P.O.: Madanpur, P.S.: Rajnagar, Dist: Kendrapara, Odisha-754246 / Total Dues: ₹1,82,82,423.43 as on 21.05.2023 + interest, costs and expenses from 22.05.2023, less any part amount repaid.</b>	<b>Property-1:</b> All that piece & parcel of the Land & Building situated at Mouza: Athabatia, Tahasil: Marshaghai, SRO: Marshaghai, P.S.: Patakura, Dist: Kendrapara, (1) Khata No.: 428/264, Plot No.: 593, Area: Ac.0.090Dec., (2) Khata No.: 428/490, Plot No.: 592/1500, Area: Ac.0.024Dec., (3) Khata No.: 429/491, Plot No.: 570, Area: Ac.0.120Dec., (4) Khata No.: 428/258, Plot No.: 571, Area: Ac.0.130Dec., Plot No.: 572, Area: Ac.0.160Dec., (5) Khata No.: 428/489, Plot No.: 594/1499, Area: Ac.0.020Dec., (6) Khata No.: 428/301, Plot No.: 581, Area: Ac.0.130Dec., Plot No.: 582, Area: Ac.0.060Dec., Plot No.: 574/1356, Area: Ac.0.520Dec., Plot No.: 574, Area: Ac.0.260Dec., (7) Khata No.: 428/193, Plot No.: 582/1334, Area: Ac.0.060Dec., Plot No.: 573, Area: Ac.0.140Dec., (8) Khata No.: 428/307, Plot No.: 576, Area: Ac.0.120Dec., (9) Khata No.: 428/492, Plot No.: 567/1501, Area: Ac.0.166 Dec., <b>Total 14 Plots, Total Area: Ac.2.000 Dec. i.e. 87,120 Sqft.</b> , KISSAM: Gharabari, standing in the name of <b>M/s. Parbati Ghanashyam Rice Mills Private Limited</b> , Bounded by North: Vacant Land, South: Mr. Baikuntha Ch. Bastia, East: Vacant Land, West: NH-5A <b>Property-2:</b> All that piece & parcel of Vacant Land (Industrial Plot) situated at Mouza: Athabatia, Tahasil: Marshaghai, SRO: Marshaghai, P.S.: Patakura, Khata No.: 428/521, Plot No.: 583, Area: Ac.0.430 Dec. i.e. 18,730.80 sq.ft., KISSAM: Gharabari standing in the name of <b>Mr. Dhiren Kumar Patra, S/o: Mr. Ghanashyam Patra</b> , Bounded by North: Plot No.: 582, South: Plot No.: 591, East: Plot No.: 580 & 584, West: Plot No.: 592	<b>Property-1: ₹2,99,32,000/- (excluding GST &amp; other statutory dues) / ₹29,93,200/- / ₹50,000/-</b> <b>Property-2: ₹20,60,000/- (excluding GST &amp; other statutory dues) / ₹2,06,000/- / ₹50,000/-</b>

**Date & Time of E-Auction : 08.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each**

**Last date & time for submission of EMD & Documents: 07.11.2023 upto 4.00 P.M.**

**Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 07.11.2023 with prior appointment of the authorised officer**

**The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.**

**This is also a 30 days sale notice to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of their outstanding dues with the Bank and to participate in the public auction on the above mentioned date. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in (1) <https://www.ibapi.in> (2) <https://www.mssteccommerce.com> (3) [www.bankofindia.co.in](http://www.bankofindia.co.in)**

**Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 30.09.2023** Authorised Officer, Bank of India

FOCUS WOMEN'S RESERVATION BILL

A LONG WAY TO GO



The process of women's empowerment won't be complete in a true sense till women occupy a minimum of 33% of seats in both the Executive and the higher Judiciary - the Supreme Court and High Courts

pulsions. The self-styled OBC parties like the SP, RJD and JD(U) opposed it vehemently and obstructed its passage. Then, in 2008, the Congress-led UPA introduced the Bill in the Rajya Sabha and passed it in 2010, but could not pass the same in the Lok Sabha.

Our constituent Assembly had 15 women members out of a total of 389. The members cherished hope that the situation and statistics would improve for women in the near future, but all in vain. In the 1st Lok Sabha (1952) there were 24 women members (4.4%). After 71 years this number has increased to only 82 (15%) in the present 17th Lok Sabha. None of the state Assemblies have also more than 15% of seats occupied by women till now. At this speed it will take another seven decades to make it 30%! So a law to accelerate the empowerment of women has certainly become inevitable.

The ice is certainly broken after the passage of the Bill in Parliament. However, we have only surmounted the first major hurdle. Everything is not rosy afterwards, as we have miles to go before reaching our destination where this law is successfully implemented and women are really empowered. We see how very often male relatives of women members of the local bodies enjoy the real power. The women in power become just puppets in the hands of their husbands, sons and brothers. The fact that we are enacting such a quota-law itself is an admission of the unpalatable fact that we have not made women capable enough after 75 years of independence to fight and win elections on their own merit.

The process of women's empowerment won't be complete in a true sense till women occupy a minimum of 33% of seats in both the Executive and in the higher Judiciary - the Supreme Court and High Courts.

The writer is an advocate and columnist

questioned the alacrity in calling a special session when it has no urgency or emergency. Some others have called it as a political gimmick for inducing female voters during the coming 2024 general election.

The opposition has demanded reservation of OBCs and minorities within the reserved 33%. Countering this, the treasury bench members have argued that the Constitution does not allow such reservations for OBCs or any religious section. They have rightly pointed out that the Bill tabled in the House in 2010 by the UPA-2 Government also did not provide reservations for OBCs and minorities. Curiously, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has admitted in public that not including OBC within the quota in their Bill was a big blunder!

It is worth-mentioning that the history of reservation of seats for women is as old as our independence. The issue was even discussed in the Constituent Assembly. The proposal was rejected on the ground that in a democracy all were equal and there should not be any such reservation on gender. Curiously,

Dakshayani Velayudhan, the only Dalit woman in the Assembly, asserted, "Personally, I am not in favour of any kind of reservation in any place whatsoever." Another member Renuka Ray also was opposed to such reservation, and hoped that in course of time women's representation would expand.

Geeta Mukharjee of the CPI was perhaps one of the pioneers and architects of the present form of Women's Reservation Bill. The 81st Constitution Amendment Bill was placed in the Lok Sabha September 9, 1994 during Sri Deve Gowda's Prime Ministership, and the same was sent to a Parliamentary Select Committee headed by CPI MP Geeta Mukharjee. Within three months the Committee recommended 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies, but without any quota within quota provision.

Subsequently efforts were made in 1998 and 1999 and early 2000s during the NDA regime headed by PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee to enact such a law, but they failed due to political differences and coalition com-

The passing of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 in the new parliament house with the provision of 33% reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and Bidhan Sabhas for 15 years has abruptly ended the three decades of tense and impatient pursuit of the ever-elusive law. It is surely a historic moment in the annals of Indian Constitutional history. What is more interesting and stunning is the enigmatic unanimity shown by all political parties despite having diverse ideologies and adverse relationships, in supporting the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, 2023 meant for empowering the women in the legislature with specific quotas for Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe candidates.



Jayakrishna Sahu

THE ICE IS CERTAINLY BROKEN AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL IN PARLIAMENT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE ONLY SURMOUNTED THE FIRST MAJOR HURDLE

Inspirational Tale

Transfers are an essential tool for the government to maintain control. However, frequent transfers of babus, especially those who perform exceptionally well, is a recurring issue. The recent transfer of the District Magistrate of Mirzapur, Divya Mittal, in Uttar Pradesh may be one such example. In the heartland of UP, where the political landscape is often turbulent and governance challenging, Divya's tale is inspiring.

In an attempt to transform the lives of residents of a village which had never received regular water supply, she successfully facilitated the provision of piped water to their homes. The happy villagers celebrated the arrival of piped water with a ceremony. However, Divya was transferred to Basti district, and later put on a waitlist by the state government, leaving her work unfinished. Curiously the precious pipeline was vandalized by "anti-social elements" and the villagers are back to their dependence on expensive private tankers.

Those in the know say that the local political leaders did not appreciate Divya's hard work and feared that she was stealing their thunder. Many people suspect political motivation behind the sudden transfer of their popular DM. It has not only disrupted the implementation of long-term projects underway in the district but also demotivated the residents as well as other district officials. Hopefully, the young DM will continue to do good work wherever she is posted.



THE MOTHER

Unexpected Conclusion

Ambassador Venu Rajamony's two-year tenure as Officer on Special Duty (External Cooperation) for the Kerala government ended unexpectedly when he declined a two-week extension offered by the state government. The extension was slated to run until September 30, 2023.

According to sources, Rajamony wrote to the Kerala Governor requesting permission to terminate his services as of Sept 17, 2023. His decision appears to have stemmed from a belief that the extension might have been intended to complete an official task that was no longer relevant, rendering his continued role for another two weeks unnecessary. But speculation still persists about the circumstances surrounding this unexpected conclusion to his tenure.

Rajamony played a pivotal role in promoting external cooperation for the state government during his tenure, notably facilitating the repatriation of students from Ukraine, establishing direct flight connections between Kochi and Ho Chi Minh city in Vietnam, and arranging meetings between Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and foreign diplomats, besides the chief minister's official visits to countries like Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States and Cuba.

Before serving the Kerala government, Rajamony held several prominent positions in a career spanning 34 years. He was India's Consul General in Dubai, Joint Secretary overseeing World Bank and Asian Development Bank assistance to Kerala and, Press Secretary to then President Pranab Mukherjee at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. He was also the Ambassador of India to the Netherlands.



BABUDOM BYTES

Dilip Cherian

Warring Karnataka officers resume work

In a significant development in Karnataka, IAS officer Rohini Sindhuri and IPS officer D Roopa Moudgil have resumed their official duties after a highly publicised dispute that unfolded on social media earlier this year. The move to reassign both senior officers to new roles is aimed at restoring administrative harmony.

Six months after the heated exchange on social media, Rohini Sindhuri has taken up the position of Chief Editor at the Karnataka Gazetteer Department. Meanwhile, IPS officer D Roopa Moudgil has been transferred to the post of Inspector General of Police (IGP) within the Internal Security Division (ISD).

The public spat between the two officers erupted in February when Roopa, serving as the Managing Director of the Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation at the time, made serious allegations against Rohini Sindhuri, who was then holding the position of Muzrai Department Commissioner. Sindhuri denied these allegations, dismissing them as baseless and suggesting that personal animosity motivated Roopa.

While it remains to be seen how these two officers navigate their new roles, the dispute has escalated to the legal realm, with Rohini Sindhuri initiating a criminal defamation case against Roopa. Recently, the Karnataka High Court refused to quash the case, emphasising the need for a fair and thorough examination of the matter. Watch this space for updates!

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

WISDOM CORNER

- When I write an original story I write about people I know first-hand and situations I'm familiar with. SATYAJIT RAY
I follow the geography of the screen. ALFRED HITCHCOCK
Good cinema is what we can believe, and bad cinema is what we can't believe. ABBAS KIAROSTAMI

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1895: French troops occupied Antananarivo, Madagascar, after the refusal of Rainilaiarivony, the prime minister, to submit to French suzerainty.
1938: The notorious Munich Agreement, in which Britain's Neville Chamberlain encouraged Britain and France to appease Adolf Hitler's demands in the hope of preventing World War II, was reached on this day in 1938.
1955: American actor James Dean, who became a symbol of the confused, restless, and idealistic youth of the 1950s, died in an automobile crash as he drove to a car rally in Salinas, California.
1965: In Indonesia a group of army conspirators known as the September 30th Movement began an abortive coup, and by the following morning they had kidnapped and murdered six army generals; the movement claimed that it had seized power to forestall a coup against President Sukarno by a council of generals.

LOL

SOMEONE STOLE THINGS FROM ME

A drunk phoned police to report that thieves had been in his car. "They've stolen the dashboard, the steering wheel, the brake pedal, the radio, and even the accelerator," he cried out. However, before the police



investigation could start, the phone rang a second time and the same voice came over the line. "Never mind," he said with a hiccup, "I got in the back seat by mistake."

SPECTRUM EAM'S UNGA SPEECH

Resetting the world order



DK Giri

JAISHANKAR'S BOLD CALL FOR REGISTERING THE VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH IN THE WORLD POLITICS FOR EXPANSION AND DEMOCRATISATION OF WORLD BODIES IS SPOT ON

The External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressed the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). As the speech was made against the backdrop of a mighty successful G-20 summit in Delhi, it has received much attention across the country in the media and perhaps the world over. It is perhaps in order as the speech mainly called for a reset of the existing world order. I would like to look at his speech in terms of principles as well as pragmatism.

The said speech reflects the old pattern of the mismatch. Take for example, One family, One World, One Future. It is good as a slogan. It evokes emotions. But is it practical to maintain as a policy? Can you conceive one family, one future with Pakistan or China?

The Minister said, "We too arm-twist Pakistan whenever we can, but we don't say it". If this is the art of diplomacy and for-

ign policy, so be it. Also, if the EAM is making such statements as matters of ideals and even principles, so be it. No policy sans principle, be it national or international would work.

EAM talked about dialogue and diplomacy. This has been the leitmotif in his approach to settling differences and even disputes between the countries. It sounds almost esoteric. The UN was set to promote dialogue and diplomacy and avoid wars. Does it work? Dialogues will work in peace time or before or after the war, not during.

Moreover, can one have dialogue when one's head is in the mouth of a dragon? We are having sporadic as well as interne-cine military skirmishes with China on our borders. The Chinese strategy, now well known is to do what they want including grabbing territories, note salami slicing, while they are open to dialogue. Why are we not having dialogue with Pakistan?

Last week, in this column, I had quoted, "All wars are failures of diplomacy". Having said that diplomacy needs a win-win or even lose-lose mutual understanding for two countries to be ready to engage. There is also an axiom to be drawn from Ramayana, our revered epic. Lord Rama took out his arrow to chastise the ocean that was not forthcoming to let him build the 'setu' (bridge) to Lanka. Lord Rama advised, "Vinoy na manat jaladhi jal, gaye tini din beet, bole Rama sokop tab, bhai bina ni hoi preeti" (three days have passed, but the ocean is not responding to our humility, our polite request. It is true that there is no love or understanding without fear). Such fear in international politics is called 'deterrence'. We have been arguing to determine that deterrence vis-a-vis China. We are taking time and perhaps lacking clarity in building that deterrent. And if we have it, why is China continuing to needle us and nibble

away our territory.

EAM's bold call for registering the voice of Global South in the world politics for expansion and democratisation of world bodies is spot on. Only rider is the voice and grouping of Global South need to be continually redefined and restructure. Do China and Russia belong to Global South? Will India remain in the Global South as it jumps to third or second or even to first largest economy in the world? Is it GDP of the country or per capita GDP that should define a country of South or North? India's per capita GDP among the G-20 countries is the lowest. At any rate, these are questions that need to be progressively addressed and resolved. For now, we continue to debate our foreign policy strategy in order to become the Viswa Guru and Vishwamitra?

The writer is Secretary General, Assn for Democratic Socialism

Ashwin obvious choice

Sir, At a time when cricket pandits were looking for a balanced side for the Indian team going in for the world cup, Ashwin came to the composition of the side and it is a welcome move. Spinners generally mature with age and the veteran spinner has gained lots of respect as a number one bowler in test match cricket and a seasoned bowler for all formats and all seasons. With the World Cup going to be played in India, he will be a handy bowler to bowl 10 overs in a planned manner. Again, Ashwin can operate with the new ball as a clever move against left hand openers for getting an early wicket and thereby the veteran bowler can go tail up in a matter of few overs early in the innings. He can also be handy with the bat. For his age and experience he can be a force to reckon with for the Indian team. His economical spell of bowling is a boon to the side. We saw him performing well against Pakistan when two vital runs were needed in a crunch game and scored 13 runs against Bangladesh, which ultimately helped India win by 5 runs in a rain curtailed game. In all, he is a match winner of his own.

CK Subramaniam, NAVI MUMBAI

Bandh a matter of concern

Sir, The recent closure of schools and colleges in Bangalore due to the Karnataka Bandh in protest of the Cauvery water issue is a cause of worry. While I acknowledge the importance of peaceful protests to voice grievances, the repeated disruption of education in the city is a matter of serious concern. Education is the cornerstone of our society, and its uninterrupted continuity is vital for the development of our youth. Repeated closures not only disrupt the academic calendar but also pose significant challenges to students and parents. Such closures affect not only the syllabus but also the mental and emotional well-being of our children. I urge the concerned authorities and protest organizers to consider alternative means of expressing their concerns without disrupting the education of our future generations. Dialogue and peaceful negotiations should be prioritised to find a long-term solution to the Cauvery water issue, rather than resorting to frequent bandhs and shutdowns.

Md Maimul Safui, HOWRAH

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

BENGAL DENGUE OUTBREAK

Situation 'alarming', not critical: Experts



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Sept 29:** Terming the dengue situation in West Bengal as "quite alarming", leading doctors of the state said the vector-borne disease this year is not that severe compared to previous years.

The experts said they hope the situation will improve soon as the disease had already peaked.

"The situation is definitely alarming. But its severity is not like previous years. Cases are high because people are testing. Most of the cases are getting cured at home," child specialist Dr Apurba Ghosh told PTI.

He said he was receiving reports of at least six to seven positive cases daily at the city-based Institute of Child Health (ICH).

Echoing Ghosh's claims, Peerless Medical superintendent Dr Sudipta Mitra also said cases will dip with the monsoon receding.

"We are having fluctuating dengue numbers this year. But the severity is unlike previous years. The death rate is low as people are going for early tests helping us to treat patients before it is too late. I will not call this an alarming situation," Dr Mitra said.

Peerless Hospital, he said, is getting an average of 50 patients a week. Dr Arjun Dasgupta described the dengue situation in Bengal as "seriously alarming" and accused the administration of "suppressing" the real numbers making it difficult for doctors to carry out treatment.

"It is seriously alarming. This has become an annual event. However, I am surprised with the attempts of the administration to suppress the figures. This is not helping the doctors in fighting the disease," Dr

Dasgupta told PTI. Dr Anirban Chattopadhyay of CK Birla Hospitals termed the situation as "alarming", but said it is not that severe this year.

"Dengue cases are quite alarming this year. We are getting several patients every day and there are many in the ICU. But this time the severity is less. The big difference is that people are going for tests on time," Dr Chattopadhyay said.

AMRI's Dr Sayan Chakraborty, however, differed in his opinion about the disease not being very severe this year. He believes that cases might increase in the coming weeks with the MeT department forecasting more rain.

"I do not think that the severity is less. In fact, it has gone up. We have over 90 patients in three units," Dr Chakraborty said. A senior official of the state health department said that the dengue situation in Bengal is "absolutely under control" and the government has taken all precautionary measures to combat it.

"The situation in Bengal is under control. There is nothing to worry about. We have taken all sorts of measures to combat it. We are hopeful that with monsoon receding in the coming days, the situation will improve," the official said.

The districts were also asked to carry out special drives in the peri-urban areas for improvement of sanitation and waste management.

The district magistrates were also directed by Dwivedi to distribute mosquito nets in slums and hotspot areas, a statement issued from the state secretariat said.

A decision was also taken to conduct an orientation programme of the newly-elected members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions.

THE EXPERTS SAID THEY HOPE THE SITUATION WILL IMPROVE SOON AS THE DISEASE HAD ALREADY PEAKED

Drone to deliver medicines, groceries in Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Sept 29:** People of Kolkata, especially the ones living in the New Town area, are likely to get various commodities such as medicines, groceries and food delivered to their doorsteps with the help of drones soon, as a Delhi-based logistics solution provider is planning such a move with the help of local authorities.

Capt Eshaan Khullar, the associate vice president of Skye Air Mobility Pvt Ltd, said the company has already made agreements with 10-12 housing societies in New Town for the service

as drones will help reduce the time taken in conventional ways of delivering goods.

"We want to start with New Town and then move to Salt Lake and other parts of Kolkata, besides going to the rural parts where connectivity is an issue, where going from point A to point B is a problem," Khullar told PTI on the sidelines of a presentation programme.

He also said that the company is looking forward to partnering with various authorities such as the New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) to enable drone deliveries in housing societies across Kolkata



and West Bengal.

"The drone service can be very useful for carrying samples of pathological tests, for delivering life-saving drugs. This will be very useful when every minute counts," NKDA chairman Debasish Sen said after at-

tending the presentation programme. Khullar said the company hopes to start delivery in New Town within two to three months and full-fledged operations are likely to begin within six months. However, orders for delivery

drone have to be made through food aggregators and e-commerce sites with which the company has a tie-up.

Drones are used with permission from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and its associated agencies, he said.

The company said its drones are designed to deliver packages with weights ranging from 500 gms to 5 kg.

The company is focused on streamlining drone deliveries as a mainstream logistics solution for healthcare, e-commerce, quick commerce, agri-commodity and other industries, Khullar said.

Abhishek to skip ED summons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Sept 29:** Senior TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee Friday said he will participate in the party's protest programme in New Delhi October 3, a day after he was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in connection with the school jobs scam in Kolkata on the same day.

Without naming anyone, the TMC national general secretary challenged the ED to "stop" him if they could. "The fight against the deprivation of WB and its rightful dues shall persist regardless of the obstacles. No force on Earth can hinder my dedication to fight for the people of WB and their fundamental rights. I'll be in Delhi joining the protest Oct 2nd & 3rd. STOP ME IF U CAN!" he wrote on 'X'.

The Enforcement Directorate Thursday had summoned Banerjee October 3 for questioning in connection with the school jobs scam in Kolkata, which the party described as an attempt by the BJP to disrupt its planned rally in New Delhi on the same day.

Banerjee, along with other party MPs, MLAs and leaders, will pay their respects to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat in the national capital October 2 on his birth anniversary. A TMC delegation will meet the Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh on October 3 and place before him the issue of "non-release of dues" under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).



RAISING VOICE: Congress workers shout slogans during a protest against the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) demanding speedy investigation in various recruitment scams in the state, at Nizam Palace, in Kolkata, West Bengal



RAISING VOICE: Congress workers shout slogans during a protest against the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) demanding speedy investigation in various recruitment scams in the state, at Nizam Palace, in Kolkata, West Bengal

First space lab in J&K govt school

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, Sept 29:** A space lab, first-of-its-kind in Jammu and Kashmir, was inaugurated in a government school in Kishtwar district, an official spokesperson said, describing it as a "historic moment" for the Union Territory.

The pioneering space lab, developed under the ISRO space tutor programme by Vyomika Space Academy and funded by the Directorate of Education Jammu, represents a significant leap in educational technology, the spokesman said.

He said the lab is equipped with high-tech telescopes, ISRO rocket and satellite demonstration models, drones and aircrafts. "This

will enable students to explore the wonders of the cosmos and notable space missions from ISRO," the spokesman said in a statement here. He said the unveiling ceremony took place at Government Higher Secondary School Boys, Kishtwar in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Devansh Yadav and Chief Education Officer, Kishtwar Prehlad Bhagat. Students and staff of the school were also in attendance to witness this landmark cosmic event, the spokesman said.

He said Vyomika Space Academy Chief Executive Officer Govind Yadav briefed the gathering about detailed insights into the lab's functionality and its potential to inspire and enhance students' knowledge of space, science and technology.

Dal, Nigeen lakes will soon have floating sewage treatment plants

THE LAKE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (LCMA), SAID THE PROJECT WILL COLLECT SEWAGE FROM THE HOUSEBOATS AND KEEP THE LAKES CLEAN. BOTH LAKES HAVE OVER THE YEARS SUFFERED A GREAT DEAL OF POLLUTION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



ing into the lake has persisted, the government has decided to connect the houseboats through a proper sewage system. Last year, the LCMA started a programme under which they planned to connect all the houseboats in the Dal and Nigeen lakes to the sewerage line, Bhat said.

"The western shore houseboats of Nigeen Lake were connected last year. Then the Dal Lake project got started and currently, we have completed 60 to 70 per cent of the work. We are hopeful that by the end of October, all the houseboats of both lakes will be connected to the sewerage line," he said in a statement.

The houseboats in the lakes are being connected with a sewage treatment plant through a floating sewage system. "Basically, it is to arrest all the refuse that gets into the lake so as to improve the water quality. The goal (of LCMA) is to restore Dal

Lake to its pristine glory," Bhat said, adding that it was a challenging project as many experiments on collecting sewage have failed in the past. He added that there are 950 houseboats in both lakes.

Tanveer Ahmad, Assistant Executive Engineer, LCMA, said the project was designed to scientifically dispose of sewage from houseboats.

For the Dal Lake part of the project, the water body has been divided into 11 clusters. Each cluster has about 70 houseboats. The work on the project is taken cluster after cluster, he said.

"These clusters will have an individual sump in which the sewage is collected. After the collection, it will be pumped out and will be carried to the shores where it will get treated in a nearby sewage treatment plant," Ahmad said.

Government of Odisha No. B-982  
"E" Procurement Tender Notice  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
RAYAGADA (R&B) DIVISION NO. II  
E-mail: eepwd765017@gmail.com, Phone: (06856) 233066  
Bid Identification No. RC (RANDB) RGD No. II 08/2023-24 (Online Tender)  
No. 5003, Dated: 21.09.2023

- Total No. of the Works: 02 Nos. of Road Works
- Approximate estimated Cost: Rs. 63.68 Lakh & 76.20 Lakhs
- Period of Completion: 02 (Two) Calendar Months of Road Work.
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: 11.00 hrs. of Dtd. 05.10.2023 to 17.00 hrs. of Dtd. 17.10.2023 for online bidding.
- Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal: Upto 17.00 hrs. of Dt. 17.10.2023.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid: Executive Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Division No-II.
- Date of Opening of Bid at 11.00 hours on dt. 18.10.2023.
- Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
- Further addendum/Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the above website only.

Sd./ Executive Engineer  
Rayagada (R&B) Division No. II

OIPR-34139/11/0005/2324

Government of Odisha No. O-1139:  
Office of the Superintending Engineer  
Rural Works Division, Jharsuguda  
Email: eerw\_jharsuguda@yahoo.co.in, Tel: 06645-271643  
Bid Identification No. Online-SEJSG-10 of 2023-24  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORK IN ODISHA  
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

- Name of the Work: Road Work works as per DTCN available in the www.tendersorissa.gov.in.
- Total No. of Work : 05 (Five) Nos.
- Estimated Cost: Rs. 5.87 Lakh to Rs. 16.78 Lakhs
- Period of Completion : 01 (One) to 03 (Three) Calendar Months.
- Period and Time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding: Dt. 30.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 09.10.2023 upto 05.00 P.M.
- Date and Time of bid opening: Dt. 10.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid: S.E., R.W. Division, Jharsuguda.

(1) Other details can be seen from Detailed notice inviting Tenders, available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.  
(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website.

Sd./ Superintending Engineer  
R.W. Division, Jharsuguda  
OIPR-25104/11/0011/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-1143  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
RURAL WORKS ELECTRICAL DIVISION, BERRHAMPUR  
E-Mail: eerwelect.bam@yahoo.com  
e-Procurement Notice No. - EERWELBAM - 05/2023-24

1	Name of the work	(i) Shifting of H.T./L.T. line due to Road widening on MRL - 12 - PWD Road to R.D. Road via Belabadi - Tantipadarati Tilisingi (ii) Prov. of 3 Ph. Power supply to Bhairabi Degreee College at Puruna Cuttack
2	Estimated Cost	(i) Rs. 10.148 lakhs (Excluding GST) (ii) Rs. 12.621 lakhs
3	Period of Completion	90 days
4	Bid Identification No.	EERWELBAM - 05/2023-24
5	Date and time of availability of Bid documents in the portal	From Dt. 05.10.2023 at 12.00 A.M. to Dt. 11.10.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.
6	Date & time of opening of tender	Dt. 12.10.2023 at 1.00 P.M.
7	Procurement Officer/Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bids	Executive Engineer, R.W. EL. Divn., BAM, At: Near I.T. Office, Ambapua, Dist.: Ganjam, Berhampur, Odisha - 760011

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website: www.tenderorissa.gov.in.  
Sd./ Executive Engineer  
OIPR-25190/11/0001/2324 Rural Work Electrical Division, Berhampur

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. O-1125:  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER  
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SUNDARGARH  
E-mail: rw\_sundargarh@yahoo.co.in  
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE  
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE-SESNG-14 OF 2023-24

1	Name of the Work	: Road Works
2	Total No. of Works	: 01 No. Road
3	Estimated Cost	: Rs. 98.82 Lakhs
4	Class of Contractor	: Only 'B'
5	Period of Completion	: 04 Calendar Months
6	Type of Tender	: Double Cover
7	Other details	:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sundargarh	Online-SESNG-14 of 2023-24	30.09.2023 10.00 AM	09.10.2023 05.30 PM

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.  
Sd./ Executive Engineer  
Rural Works Division, Sundargarh  
OIPR-25046/11/0020/2324

GOVT. OF ODISHA  
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER  
ANGUL DIVISION, ANGUL  
e-Procurement Notice, ANGUL FOREST DIVISION  
Bid Identification No. 02 of 2023-24  
e-mail id: dfoangul@gmail.com

No. MM-190: In suppression of e-Procurement Notice No. DFO-ANGL-01 of 2023-24 due to modification Bid Identification Notice could not be uploaded as per scheduled date i.e. on 26.09.2023. The revised e-Procurement Notice Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Division, Angul on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage bids in Single Cover System for the works details furnished below.

- Number of Works: 09 (Nine) number of Building Works.
- Approximate estimated cost: Varies from Rs. 14.01 lakh to 17.53 lakh.
- Period of Completion: 03 (Three) Calendar Months.
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: Dt. 26.09.2023 at 10.00 A.M.
- Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal: Dt. 13.10.2023 upto 5.00 PM
- Date of Opening Bid : Dt. 16.10.2023 at 11.00 AM
- Name and address of the Office Inviting Bid: Divisional Forest Officer, Angul Division, Angul.
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in.  
Sd./ Divisional Forest Officer  
Angul Division, Angul  
OIPR-08027/11/0009/2324



President Droupadi Murmu and Union Minister Anurag Thakur with other officials and awardees of the National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for the year 2021-2022 during a group photo session at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi



Hindu devotees perform 'Tarpan' for their ancestors in Bhopal



INS Tir during a visit to Phuket as part of a long range training deployment in Thailand



Young cadets and school girls attend a swear-in ceremony at a monument to legendary Prince Volodymyr, one of the symbols of the Ukrainian capital in Kyiv, Ukraine



Tribals participate in a protest rally in Kolkata



Trains are parked at Jammu Railway Station as several of them got cancelled due to a 'Rail Roko' agitation by farmers in different parts of Punjab



MGNREGA job card holders and those affected by the alleged blocking of funds by the Central Government halt at Netaji Indoor Stadium, a day before leaving for Delhi to take part in a protest by TMC, in Kolkata



Remains of puja-related items stay afloat at Lower Lake after the Ganesh Chaturthi festivities in Bhopal



national

of the day quote

After strengthening primary healthcare by making 664 mohalla clinics in less than 1.5 years, the Bhagwant Mann government in Punjab now starts improvement of secondary and tertiary hospitals. All government hospitals at the district-level will be renovated  
**ARVIND KEJRIWAL | AAP NATIONAL CONVENOR**

The state is contemplating imposing a ban on the adoption of dogs from certain aggressive breeds. Such aggressive dogs are adopted as pets and are not even vaccinated by their owners  
**PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM**

China has no claim over Arunachal Pradesh. Never in history Arunachal Pradesh has been part of China. It has always been integral part of India  
**PEMA KHANDU | ARUNACHAL CM**

ISKCON sues Maneka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 29: ISKCON Friday said it has sent a ₹100-crore defamation notice to BJP MP Maneka Gandhi for questioning the religious organisation over its upkeep of cows in its gaushalas (cowsheds).

An undated video of the former central minister has gone viral in which she could be heard making accusations against the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON).

"Today, we have sent a ₹100-crore defamation notice to Maneka Gandhi for levelling completely unfounded allegations against ISKCON," its vice-president Radharam Das said in a statement. Stating that the worldwide community of ISKCON devotees, supporters and well-wishers are deeply pained by the allegations, he termed these as "malicious accusations".

Pannun booked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ahmedabad, Sept 29: The Gujarat police have registered an FIR against Gurbatwan Singh Pannun, the chief of banned outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), for threatening to turn the Cricket World Cup, starting on October 5 at Narendra Modi stadium here, into "World Terror Cup", an official said Friday.

In the first information report (FIR), the Cyber Crime Branch of the Ahmedabad police said people from across the country have received Pannun's threat via a pre-recorded voice message sent from a foreign number.

The complaint filed by sub-inspector H N Prajapati of the Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Branch said it has come to their notice that many people received a pre-recorded threat voice message from the phone number +447418343648. Many recipients of the threat message reported it to the police through various mediums, the FIR said.

"The pre-recorded message, which plays after the mobile phone user picks up the call, said October 5 would not be the start of the Cricket World Cup



but the beginning of "World Terror Cup". Sikhs for Justice is going to storm Ahmedabad with Khalistani flags," informed Assistant Commissioner of Police Jitu Yadav of the Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Branch quoting the FIR. "We are going to take revenge for Shaheed Nijjar's assassination. We are going to use balloons against your bullets. We are going to use vote against your violence. Remember 5th October, it will not be the World Cricket Cup, it will be beginning of World Terror Cup... Message from Gurbatwan Singh Pannun," said the FIR quoting the transcribed message.



The truth is that Dalits and tribals in Madhya Pradesh are no longer considered as human beings. Maximum atrocities on people from these communities have taken place under the BJP rule  
**RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA | CONGRESS LEADER**

DELHI SHOP BURGLARY: 2 HELD

The Chhattisgarh Police has arrested two people in connection with a ₹20-crore burglary from a jewellery store in New Delhi earlier this week and recovered around 18.5 kg of gold and diamond ornaments from them, a senior official said Friday



Cauvery row intensifies



Bengaluru-Mysuru national highway during the 'Karnataka bandh' called over the Cauvery water issue, in Bengaluru, Friday  
**PTI PHOTO**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 29: The Karnataka bandh called by 'Kannada Okkoota' to oppose the release of Cauvery river water to Tamil Nadu disrupted normal life in Bengaluru and other southern parts of the state Friday.

Authorities had clamped prohibitory orders under section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code in Bengaluru Urban, Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagara, Ramanagara and Hassan districts, and declared holiday for

schools and colleges there. 'Kannada Okkoota' is an umbrella organisation of Kannada and farmers' outfits. A Bengaluru bandh was observed over the same reason on Tuesday.

As many as 44 flights to and from the Kempegowda International Airport here were cancelled owing to the Karnataka bandh.

Similarly, the state transport corporations too cancelled many of their bus services, especially in the Cauvery basin districts of Mysuru, Mandya and

The state transport corporations cancelled many of their bus services, especially in the Cauvery basin districts of Mysuru, Mandya and Chamarajanagar, where the bandh had the most impact

Protestors set fire to a portrait of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin in the district headquarters town of Chitradurga

Chamarajanagar, where the bandh had the most impact. Most of the shops, business establishments and eateries in Cauvery basin districts such as Mandya in southern parts of the State downed their shutters. Private vehicles were off the roads in those areas.

The state owned transport corporations operated very few buses in the southern districts fearing backlash. The bandh evoked a mixed response in other regions of the state.

Protestors set fire to a portrait of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin in the district headquarters town of Chitradurga. The Kannada film industry joined the bandh with actors, producers, directors and technicians staging a sit-in demonstration here.



Muslim devotees pray while having a glimpse of holy relic on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi at Hazratbal shrine, in Srinagar, Friday  
**PTI PHOTO**

Don't tinker with consent age: Law Commission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: The Law Commission has advised the government not to tinker with the existing age of consent under the POCSO Act and suggested introducing guided judicial discretion in the matter of sentencing in cases involving tacit approval of children in the 16-18 age bracket.

The current age of consent in India is 18 years. The Law Commission has submitted its report on the age of consent under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act to the law ministry in which it has suggested that amendments are needed in the legislation to find remedy to the situation in cases involving tacit approval, though

not consent in law, on the part of children aged between 16 and 18.

Over the years, the POCSO Act, which seeks to protect children from sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography, has often come in conflict with the role of consent in determining the nature of relationships between adolescents.

According to Section 6 of the POCSO Act, "Whoever commits aggravated penetrative sexual assault shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 20 years, but which may extend to imprisonment for life, which shall mean imprisonment for the remainder of the natural life of that person and shall also be liable to fine, or with death."

However, the law panel has

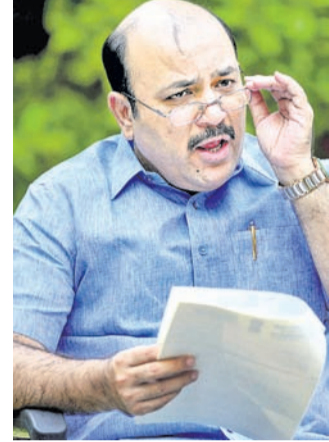


suggested that certain amendments need to be brought in the POCSO Act to remedy the situation in cases wherein there is tacit approval, though not consent in law, on part of the child aged between 16 and 18 years.

The proposed changes aim to provide greater discretion to special courts in cases where the child involved in the offence is

BIDHURI REMARKS

Danish Ali writes to PM, seeks action



In a letter to the Prime Minister, Ali also demanded that he be provided enhanced security in view of an "escalation of threats" against him

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: Amid a row over Ramesh Bidhuri's derogatory remarks in the Lok Sabha against him, BSP MP Danish Ali on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make a public statement condemning Bidhuri's behaviour and ensure "suitable punishment" to the BJP MP.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Ali also demanded that he be provided enhanced security in view of an "escalation of threats" against him. Bidhuri's remarks targeting Ali during a discussion on the success of the Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission last week sparked a furore, with opposition leaders calling for stringent action against the BJP MP.

Addressing a press conference at his residence here after writing the letter to the prime minister, Ali said eight days have passed since the incident in the Lok Sabha but there is no sign of any action in the matter.

"He (PM Modi's) has not bro-

ken his silence in the matter, which is unfortunate...He also held 'Mann Ki Baat' and the country was expecting that he would take cognizance of the incident. If the BJP member who has indulged in such an act is allowed to go scot-free, then nothing would be more insulting for the country, democracy and for the decorum of Parliament in future," Ali said.

He said that it is the right time for Prime Minister Modi to come out and speak against this "hate" being spread in India. "He is the PM and Leader of the House that is why we are appealing to him that such an example be set so that no MP in future can make such a hate speech in Parliament," Ali said.

According to sources, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has referred the complaints lodged by several MPs on the issue involving BJP member Bidhuri's use of objectionable words against BSP's Ali to the Privileges Committee.

Asked if he has received any official communication regarding the matter being sent to the privileges committee, Ali said, "I have no information or communication on it. Even you (media) have no information. The media ran the news on the basis of sources. There is a new trend in the country that everything is as per sources and the media also does not ask what is the authenticity of the news."

"A ruling party MP tweeted. He himself is making baseless allegations and on the basis of his tweet, the media has run the news. That news may be correct but I have no information. Why was this information given only to Nishikant Dubey, why aren't others told, why isn't the media informed. This also raises questions about secrecy in the office of the Speaker," the BSP MP said. In his letter to the prime minister, Ali said the recent incident during the special session of Parliament was not just an attack on him as an individual but an attack on the "very essence of democracy".

Actor Vishal alleges corruption in CBFC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Friday ordered an immediate inquiry into Tamil actor Vishal's allegations that he had to pay ₹6.5 lakh to the CBFC's Mumbai office for the screening and certification of the Hindi version of his film "Mark Antony".

Vishal levelled the allegations of corruption against the Mumbai office of CBFC in a post on microblogging site X Thursday. In a post on Friday, the ministry said the government had zero tolerance for corruption.

"The issue of corruption in CBFC brought forth by actor @VishalKOfficial is extremely unfortunate. The government has zero tolerance for corruption and strictest action will be taken against anyone found involved." A senior officer from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has been deputed to Mumbai to conduct an inquiry today itself," the I&B ministry tweeted Friday.

The ministry also urged people to cooperate and share information about "any other instance of harassment by CBFC". Official sources said Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur has directed maximising use of technology to ensure transparency in slotting and implementation of faceless systems wherever possible.

Vishal's sci-fi film "Mark Antony", directed by Adhik Ravichandran, was released in Hindi on Thursday. The movie also features S J Suryah, Ritu Varma, Sunil, Selvaraghavan and Abhinaya. In his post on X, Vishal made an appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to investigate the "scam" that transpired at the CBFC's Mumbai office.

FOCUS ON DUST, VEHICULAR, INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

Delhi launches action plan to check winter pollution

THIRTEEN TEAMS HAVE BEEN FORMED TO IMPLEMENT THESE ACTION PLANS AT THE IDENTIFIED AIR POLLUTION HOTSPOTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: The Delhi government Friday launched a 15-point action plan to mitigate air pollution in the national capital during the winter, with a strong emphasis on addressing dust pollution, vehicular emissions and the open burning of garbage.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced at a press conference that separate and specific action plans have been designed for each of the 13 air pollution hotspots of Delhi based on real-time air quality data collected from 40 monitoring stations in the national capital.

The winter action plan primarily focuses on preventing crop residue burning, dust pollution, vehicular and industrial emissions, open burning of garbage, regulating firecrackers, tree planting, ensuring effective implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), managing e-waste and fostering collaboration with neighbouring states, Kejriwal said.

Thirteen teams have been

formed to implement these action plans at the identified air pollution hotspots. "To combat crop residue burning, the Delhi government successfully implemented a free bio-decomposer technique in the past three years, which has yielded positive results. Last year, we treated 4,400 acres of farmland with the bio-decomposer method. This year, we will use it on 5,000 acres of both Basmati and non-Basmati rice fields, all free of cost," Kejriwal said.

The chief minister also announced an anti-dust campaign from October 9. It includes measures such as the installation of dust control equipment at all sites exceeding 500 square metres, with real-time monitoring available through a web portal.



Kejriwal shared that 591 teams have been set up to ensure strict compliance with dust control norms, with 530 water sprinklers and 258 mobile anti-smog guns deployed to combat dust pollution. To tackle vehicular pollution, 385 teams have been formed to check Pollution Under

Control (PUC) certificates and enforce the ban on 10-year-old diesel and 15-year-old petrol vehicles.

The city government has identified 90 congested roads where teams will be deployed to manage traffic and inform commuters of alternative routes.

The government will also deploy 611 teams to prevent the open burning of waste. An additional 66 teams will ensure that industrial units do not use unauthorised or non-compliant fuels.

Starting from October 3, a "Green War Room" will be operational 24x7 to monitor environmental indicators. A nine-member expert team has been assigned to analyse reports and plan future actions based on the gathered data.

Kejriwal encouraged people to download and use the Green Delhi mobile application, which has played a crucial role in facilitating communication between the public and the authorities on environmental violations.

# international



There's something dangerous happening in America now  
 JOE BIDEN | US PRESIDENT

## US ACKNOWLEDGES IRANIAN SATELLITE HAS SUCCESSFULLY REACHED ORBIT

The United States has quietly acknowledged that Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard successfully put an imaging satellite into orbit this week in a launch that resembled others previously criticised by Washington as helping Tehran's ballistic missile program



### of the day quote

Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of its motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever commits it

CSABA KOROSI | UNGA EX-PRESIDENT

Afghan women and girls, like men, have inalienable rights -- human rights that must be upheld and honored

DENNIS FRANCIS | UNGA PRESIDENT

India is a growing economic power and important geopolitical player. And as we presented with our Indo-Pacific strategy, just last year, we're very serious about building closer ties with India

JUSTIN TRUDEAU | CANADIAN PM

### SHORT TAKES

#### Sweden to build special prison wards

**Stockholm:** Sweden is set to build special prison wards for young offenders in a bid to curb organised crime, the government said. The wards will be in place by 2026 and tailored to offenders aged 15 to 17, Minister for Justice Gunnar Strömmer told Swedish newspaper Dagens Industri (DI). Currently, offenders who are too young to be imprisoned are sent to residential homes run by the Swedish National Board of Institutional Care (SiS), alongside children with other psychosocial problems such as drug abuse, reports Xinhua news agency.

#### Six killed in plane crash

**Harare:** A small plane owned by a mining company crashed in Zimbabwe Friday and aviation authorities said preliminary reports indicated that all six people on board were killed. The plane belonged to Zimbabwe's RioZim Limited, Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe director Elijah Chingosho said. It crashed near the Murwira Diamonds mine, in southwestern Zimbabwe, which is partly owned by RioZim.

#### Kosovo welcomes NATO decision

**Pristina:** Kosovo's Prime Minister Friday welcomed a NATO decision to bolster its troops in the volatile Balkan region, saying last weekend's shootout that left four people dead illustrates Serbia's attempts to destabilise its former province with the help of ally Russia. "These people want to turn back time," Prime Minister Albin Kurti said. Kosovo police Friday raided several locations.

#### Russia to increase defence spending

**Moscow:** It is necessary for Russia to increase defence spending in 2024 due to the "hybrid war that is being waged against the country", the Kremlin has said. "It is clear that such an increase is ... absolutely necessary," local media reported, citing Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

#### Storm pounds New York City area

**New York:** A potent rush-hour rainstorm swamped the New York metropolitan area Friday, shutting down parts of the city's subway system, flooding streets and highways, and delaying flights into LaGuardia Airport. Up to 5 inches (13 centimeters) of rain fell in some areas overnight, and as much as 7 inches (18 centimeters) more was expected throughout the day, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said.

## Twin Pak blasts kill dozens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Karachi/Peshawar, Sept 29:** A powerful suicide blast ripped through a mosque in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province Friday, killing at least 54 people and injuring over 100 others who were preparing to celebrate Prophet Muhammad's birthday, police said.

Hours later, another blast at a mosque in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Hangu city killed at least four people and injured 12 others.

At Mastung, the explosion occurred near Madina Mosque on Al Falah Road in the Mastung district when people had gathered in large numbers to mark Eid Miladun Nabi, City Station House Officer Mohammad Javed Lehari said.

Bordering Afghanistan and Iran, Balochistan is Pakistan's largest province and has frequently been hit by terror groups including the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the Islamic State group.

Balochistan Inspector General (IG) Abdul Khaliq Sheikh said the suicide bomber blew himself up close to groups of people who were gathering near the mosque to take out the Rabiul Awwal procession to celebrate the Prophet's birthday.

The TTP has denied involvement in Friday's blast, saying in a statement that such an attack was against its policies. The group also condemned the attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,



Pakistan has been gripped by a spate of terror attacks, with Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa particularly being under the radar of militants targeting security forces and civilians

Last year, a similar attack inside a Shia mosque in the Kocha Risaldar area in the city killed 63 people

stating that "mosques, schools, and public gatherings are not part of our targets".

The Naqab Ghous Bakhsh Raisani Memorial Hospital CEO Dr Saad Mirwani has confirmed that his hospital received 32 bodies, while four bodies were sent to the Civil Hospital in Quetta.

Mirwani said over 100 wounded persons were brought to the hospital of which those in critical condition were referred to Quetta. Balochistan has in

the last two years been the hotbed of terror attacks by separatist groups with militants belonging to banned religious outfits with the Shia-Sunni Muslim factor also playing a role in these attacks.

Balochistan interim Information Minister Jan Achakzai said rescue teams have been dispatched to Mastung. Caretaker Chief Minister Ali Mardan Domki has directed authorities to arrest those responsible for the blast.

Meanwhile, in the unruly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province few hours later, at least four people died and 12 others were injured in the suicide blast that ripped through a mosque during the Juma prayers close to the Doaba police station in Hangu district.

There were 30 to 40 worshippers in the mosque at the time of the blast. According to police, five terrorists had entered the Daoba police station but were immediately engaged by the law enforcement forces in a firing. While one terrorist was killed in the firing, the other blew himself near the mosque building causing its roof to collapse.

Three terrorists fled the scene, police said. Both Deputy Commissioner Fazle Akbar and IGP Akhtar Hayat Gandapur have confirmed in separate statements the number of casualties and those injured and added that the Hangu mosque rescue operation was complete.

Administrative and political leadership expressed outrage in response to the blasts. In Balochistan, caretaker Chief Minister Domki has directed authorities to arrest those responsible for the blast. He also announced three days of mourning throughout the province over the tragic incident.

Interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti also strongly condemned the blast. Meanwhile, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President and former premier Shehbaz Sharif said that carrying out such a despicable act on an occasion marking the birth of the Holy Prophet is detestable now and in the hereafter.

Soon after the explosion in Balochistan, the Punjab police also said that its officers were performing security duties for Friday prayers at mosques across the province.

## Canada issue discussed with Blinken: Jaishankar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, Sept 29:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Friday said that the Canadian allegations with regard to the death of a Khalistani separatist was discussed during his meeting with the Secretary of State Tony Blinken a day earlier and noted that the two delegations came out "better informed" after the meeting.

"Yes, I did," Jaishankar said in response to a question during his appearance at the prestigious Hudson Institute think-tank when asked if the issue of Canadian allegations came up during his meeting with Blinken at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department.

The US side shared its assessments on this whole situation and he explained to the Americans a summary of India's concerns. "I think hopefully we both came out better informed," Jaishankar said.

He said that for India, Canada has become a country where organised crime from India mixed with trafficking in people, mixed with secessionism and violence which is a very toxic combination of issues that people who have found operating space.

He acknowledged that there has been a lot between India and Canada on this issue preceding the remarks of the Canadian prime minister.

In the last few years, the issue of Khalistan has come back very much into play, because of what "we consider to be a very permissive Canadian attitude towards terrorists, extremists, people who openly advocate violence and they have been given operating space in Canada because of the compulsions of Canadian politics." On September 21, India suspended visa services for Canadian citizens in view of "security threats" faced by the Indian High Commission and consulates in Canada. Jaishankar noted that Indian diplomats in Canada were publicly intimidated.



- ▶ Tensions flared between India and Canada following Trudeau's explosive allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar
- ▶ India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020
- ▶ India angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move

## Hardline Republican holdouts push US govt closer to shutdown



REUTERS

**Washington, Sept 29:** The US government was two days from a partial shutdown Friday, as a handful of hardline House Republicans refused to support a bipartisan stopgap spending bill meant to give lawmakers more time to negotiate a full-year deal.

The National Park Service will close, the Securities and Exchange Commission will suspend most of its regulatory activities, and hundreds of thousands of federal workers will be furloughed beginning at 12:01 a.m. ET Sunday (0401 GMT Sunday) if Congress does not pass a spending package that

can be signed into law by President Joe Biden before then.

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives was due to hold an afternoon vote on a partisan 30-day funding measure known as a continuing resolution, or CR, that is expected to fail on strong opposition from Democrats and a handful of hardline conservatives. The measure would cut spending to a 2022 level of \$1.47 trillion on an annualised basis, impose immigration and border security restrictions, and establish a bipartisan commission to study the U.S. debt.

On Friday morning, Democrats warned that the Republican CR would mean a 30% spending cut in benefits for poor women and children and a 57% cut in resources for battling wildfires. It would increase spending for defense and homeland security.

Hardliners who oppose the measure want Congress to press on instead with full-scale spending legislation for fiscal 2024.



MATTER OF FAITH: Devotees during the celebration of Indrajaatra festival, in Kathmandu, Nepal

## Migrants are being raped at Mexico border

REUTERS

**Reynosa, Mexico, Sept 29:** When Carolina's captors arrived at dawn to pull her out of the stash house in the Mexican border city of Reynosa in late May, she thought they were going to force her to call her family in Venezuela again to beg them to pay \$2,000 ransom.

Instead, one of the men shoved her onto a broken-down bus parked outside and raped her, she told Reuters. "It's the saddest, most horrible thing that can happen to a person," Carolina said.

A migrant advocate who assisted Carolina after the kidnapping, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity due to security concerns, confirmed all the details of her account.

The attack came amid an increase in sexual violence against migrants in the border cities of Reynosa and Matamoros, both major transit routes for immigrants seeking to enter the US,

according to data from the Mexican government and humanitarian groups, as well as interviews with eight sexual assault survivors and more than a dozen local aid workers.

Criminal investigations into the rape of foreign nationals, excluding Americans, were the highest on record in the two cities this year, according to state data from 2014 to 2023 obtained by Reuters through freedom of information requests.

The US State Department considers Tamaulipas, where the two cities are located, to be the most dangerous state along the US-Mexico border.

### "TORTURE PROCESS"

Facing record illegal border crossings, US President Joe Biden's administration in May moved to a new system that required migrants to secure an appointment - via an app known as CBP One - to present themselves at a legal border crossing to enter the United States.

Nine experts, including lawyers, medical professionals,



The inhumane way smugglers abuse, extort, and perpetrate violence against migrants for profit is criminal and morally reprehensible

LUIS MIRANDA | US DHS SPOKESPERSON

and aid workers, told Reuters the new system has had unintended consequences in the two cities, contributing to a spike in violence.

The high risk of kidnapping and sexual assault in Reynosa and Matamoros is one of the factors pushing migrants to cross illegally, four advocates said. Crossings border-wide surged in September.

Biden officials say the new CBP policy is more humane because it reduces the need for migrants to pay smugglers and criminal groups to ferry them across the border illegally.

The experts said many asylum seekers are no longer pay-

ing smugglers to get them across the border - instead traveling towards the frontier on their own, hoping to make an appointment on the app.

But criminal groups are still demanding these migrants pay to enter their territory, the experts said.

Some migrants are also spending more time in the dangerous region, waiting to secure an appointment on the app.

Tens of thousands of people a day are competing for 1,450 slots, according to US Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

A senior CBP official based in Washington said CBP was troubled by reports of migrants sexually assaulted in the two cities.

More than 250,000 migrants have scheduled appointments on the CBP One app, and over 200,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans have entered the United States by air under a separate Biden humanitarian program, according to CBP statistics.

## UAW strikes spread to Chicago, Lansing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Detroit, Sept 29:** The United Auto Workers union says its two-week strike against Detroit automakers will spread to 7,000 more workers at a Ford plant in Chicago and a General Motors assembly factory near Lansing, Michigan.

Union President Shawn Fain told workers on a video appearance Friday that negotiations haven't broken down but Ford and GM have refused to make meaningful progress. Jeep maker Stellantis was spared from the third round of strikes.

The GM plant in Delta Township, near Lansing, makes large crossover SUVs such as the Chevrolet Traverse. A nearby metal parts stamping plant will remain open, Fain said. The Chicago Ford plant makes the Ford Explorer and Explorer police interceptors, as well as the Lincoln Aviator SUV. The Explorer interceptor is the nation's top selling police vehicle.

## of the day quote

Held a fruitful discussion with 5 of our 13 task forces. Defined a roadmap to tackle inevitable challenges through a multi-pronged approach, including renewable energy uptake, skill development, incentives, and potential pathways for decarbonisation

JYOTIRADITYA M SCINDIA | UNION STEEL MINISTER

Overall, the global macroeconomic situation has started to stabilize although uncertainty remains. Through these turbulent times, we deliver stable and reliable services to all our customers globally

RS SUBRAMANIAN | SENIOR VP (SOUTH ASIA), DHL EXPRESS

The festive period is expected to enable sellers especially the smaller ones to come out of the challenging sales environment seen through this and sellers are optimistic of strong sales growth

MIRGANG GUTUTIA | PARTNER, REDSEER STRATEGY CONSULTANTS



India is in talks with more jurisdictions to make a material impact on cross-border payments  
T RABI SANKAR | DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

### JET AIRWAYS EYES 2024 TAKEOFF

Jet Airways may finally start flying in 2024 as the Jalan-Kalrock consortium (JKC) said it has completed investing Rs 350 crore to revive the now-defunct airline. The new promoters recently deposited Rs 100 crore into the airline, taking the total investment to Rs 350 crore



# VEDANTA SHAKES UP BIZ STRATEGY

### THE CONGLOMERATE IS SET TO DEMERGE FIVE BUSINESSES OF VEDANTA LTD, RESTRUCTURE ZINC UNIT AS DEBT BILL LOOMS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: Mining magnate Anil Agarwal's conglomerate Friday announced a major business shake-up, with flagship Vedanta Ltd approving a spin-off of its metals, power, aluminium and oil and gas businesses into separate listed entities and an overhaul of lucrative zinc unit planned as part of value creation and reducing debt load. Vedanta will issue one share of the five demerged businesses for every share held in the company, the firm said in a statement.

The entire exercise, which would require shareholder and lender approval as well as a nod from the stock exchanges and courts, is expected to be completed in 12-15 months, its president for finance Ajay Agarwal said.

Separately, Hindustan Zinc Ltd in a statement said it could create separate legal entities for its zinc and lead, silver, and recycling businesses to help capitalise on "distinct market positions" and attract investors. A committee of directors will evaluate the options and advise the board, along with external advisers.

Last month, chairman Anil Agarwal stated that demerger and separate listing of some businesses was being considered to unlock shareholder value. On Friday, the board of Vedanta Ltd approved the "demerger of business units into



The board approved six separate listed companies - Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Power, Vedanta Steel and Ferrous Materials, Vedanta Base Metals and Vedanta Limited

structure with sector-focused independent businesses as well as provide opportunities to global investors, including sovereign wealth funds, retail investors and strategic investors, with direct investment opportunities in dedicated pure-play companies linked to India's growth story.

"Demand for commodities is expected to rise exponentially as the country continues to build a world-class infrastructure and strives to achieve aggressive targets for the energy transition, which is highly mineral intensive," the statement said. Vedanta, it said, has a unique portfolio of assets among Indian and global companies with met-

This is an exciting announcement for Vedanta and India. The demand for minerals, metals, oil and gas, and power is going to grow very rapidly and Vedanta's businesses are uniquely positioned to service this rising demand and reduce reliance on imports

ANIL AGARWAL | CHAIRMAN, VEDANTA LTD

als and minerals - zinc, silver, lead, aluminium, chromium, copper, nickel, oil and gas; a traditional ferrous vertical, including iron ore and steel; and power, including coal and renewable energy; and is now foraying into manufacturing of semiconductors and display glass.

"Once demerged, each independent entity will have greater freedom to grow to its potential and true value via independent management, capital allocation and niche strategies for growth. It will also give global and Indian investors the potential to invest in their preferred vertical, broadening the investor base for Vedanta assets," it said.

"The de-merger is planned to be a simple vertical split, for every 1 share of Vedanta Limited, the shareholders will additionally receive 1 share of each of the 5 newly listed companies," the statement.

Agarwal had in November 2021 first spoken about a rejig of the corporate structure through demergers, spin-offs, and strategic partnerships. The move was aimed at simplifying and streamlining the corporate structure, unlocking value for all stakeholders, and creating businesses that are positioned better to capitalise on their distinct market positions, deliver long-term growth and enable strategic partnerships. But that plan never took off.

Now, the plan is again being set in motion. The plan is the same as what port-to-energy conglomerate Adani Group did in 2015 when the ports, power and electricity transmission businesses were carved out of Adani Enterprises and listed separately. Subsequently, a renewable energy firm and a gas utility too were created, and Adani got TotalEnergies of France as a strategic partner.

The group first merged Cairn India - the oil and gas company it had acquired from Cairn Energy PLC of the UK - into Vedanta Ltd. It then attempted to delist Vedanta through share buyback but the offer failed to garner the requisite numbers.

In recent times, Vedanta is said to have faced challenges in financing projects. Parent Vedanta Resources raised around \$450 million from two of its rivals earlier this year, triggering concerns that the company is unable to raise money from regular debt channels and banks.

## Govt hikes interest rate to 6.7% on 5-yr recurring deposit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: The government Friday raised the interest rate on five-year recurring deposit scheme to 6.7 per cent from 6.5 per cent for the December quarter and retained the rates for all other small savings schemes.

According to a finance ministry circular, the interest rate on savings deposit has been retained at 4 per cent and on the one-year term deposit at 6.9 per cent.

The rates were the same during the September quarter.

The interest rate on both the two-year and three-year term deposits is 7 per cent while on the five-year term deposit, the rate is 7.5 per cent.

Senior citizens savings scheme will fetch an interest rate of 8.2 per cent.

On the monthly income account scheme, the interest rate is 7.4 per cent while it is 7.7 per cent on the National Savings Certificate and 7.1 per cent on the Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme.

The interest rate on the Kisan Vikas Patra is 7.5 per cent and the investments will mature in 115 months.

As per the circular, the interest rate on the popular girl child scheme Sukanya Samridhi Account has been retained at 8 per cent.

The government notifies the interest rate on small savings schemes, majorly operated by post offices, every quarter.

## Govt's fiscal deficit at 36% of full-yr aim



In absolute terms, central govt's total expenditure in the first five months stood at ₹16.71 lakh-crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: The Centre's fiscal deficit in the first five months of 2023-24 touched 36 per cent of the full-year target, government data showed Friday.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit -- the gap between expenditure and revenue -- was Rs 6.42 lakh crore as of August-end, according to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The deficit stood at 32.6 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the corresponding period

of the financial year 2022-23. In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current 2023-24 financial year.

The fiscal deficit was 6.4 per cent of the GDP in 2022-23 against the earlier estimate of 6.71 per cent.

Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the central government for the April-August period of 2023-24, CGA said the net tax revenue was Rs 8.03 lakh crore, or 34.5 per cent, of the BE for the current fiscal. The net tax revenue collection was 36.2 per cent at August-end 2022.

The central government's total expenditure in the first five months stood at Rs 16.71 lakh crore, or 37.1 per cent, of the BE. The expenditure was 35.2 per cent of the BE a year ago.

Of the total expenditure, Rs 12.97 lakh crore was on the revenue account and Rs 3.73 lakh crore towards the capital account.

Fiscal deficit is the difference between the total expenditure and revenue of the government. It is an indication of the total borrowings that are needed by the government.

## Equities rebound on positive trends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 29: Benchmark Sensex rose by 320 points while Nifty closed above the 19,600 mark Friday after value-buoying in metal, financial and energy stocks aided by positive trends in the US and European markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 320.09 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at 65,828.41. During the day, it jumped 643.33 points or 0.98 per cent to 66,151.65. The Nifty advanced 114.75 points or 0.59 per cent to end at 19,638.30.

Among the Sensex firms, NTPC climbed over 3 per cent emerging as the biggest gainer. Tata Motors, Sun Pharma, Tata Steel, State Bank of India, UltraTech Cement, JSW Steel, Bajaj Finance, Reliance, ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank were the other major gainers. Power Grid, HCL Technologies, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys and Titan were among the laggard.

The rupee appreciated 13 paise to settle at 83.06 against the US dollar, boosted by a firm trend in equity markets and a sharp correction in the greenback against major rivals overseas.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital market Friday as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,685.70 crore, according to exchange data.

### Suta expands footprint in City

Bhubaneswar: Home-grown artisanal brand Suta is further expanding its retail footprint with a new store in Bhubaneswar. Located in Samanta Vihar, Chandrasekharpur, this store is Suta's seventh brick-and-mortar store and further cements the brand's lasting relationship with the City. Spread over 1,600 sqft, the store is located in the bustling and easily accessible centre of Bhubaneswar. With its earthy tones, elegant arches and touches of stained glass, it is a rejuvenating oasis for lovers of India's rich artisanal heritage. Paying homage to the City's rich cultural roots, the interiors feature a variety of indigenous crafts including pattachitra, chhitta and metal craft, all made by local artisans. This is a conscious extension of Suta's commitment to empowering local artisans as well as preserving native crafts. "We've used swathes of traditional fabrics to reignite memories of our customers' first experiences with a saree. The store space showcases a unique mix of textures and colours, and efforts have been made to retain the inherent qualities and character of the materials we've used. The store is centred around a 'chappal', which serves as a resting place for our customers while also being the interactive heart of the store," says Sujata Biswas, co-founder of Suta, of the store's design ethos. But there's also another, more personal reason why this store holds a special place for Suta. "Su and I moved to Bhubaneswar in 1991 - our father's transferrable job saw us moving all over the country. But we've lived in Bhubaneswar for nearly a decade, off and on, and have so many special memories of growing up here. In fact, this is where the seeds of what eventually became Suta were sown. In many ways, opening a Suta store in Bhubaneswar feels like coming home," adds Taniya Biswas, co-founder of Suta.



BIZ BUZZ

### Canara Bank organises Hindi Day celebration



Bhubaneswar: Canara Bank has organised Hindi Day celebration at Circle Office, Bhubaneswar. The function was presided over by Jagdish Chander, Circle Head, Bhubaneswar. The program started with Ish Vandana and lighting of the lamp. Ish Vandana was sung by Suman Jha, Senior Manager, Prakash Chander Behera, Officer and Pushpita Behera. Ashok Kumar Meher, Divisional Manager welcomed all the executives/officers and employees present including General Manager Jagdish Chander. In his presidential address, Canara Bank General Manager Jagdish Chander said, "Friends, wherever you go in today's world, you will definitely find Hindi speaking people. Today, the banking industry is moving towards achieving 100% goal of connecting the common people of villages and cities who were deprived of banking services through financial inclusion." The message issued by the Honorable Home Minister on Hindi Diwas 2023 was read out by Megha Bagaria, Manager and the message issued by the General Manager of Canara Bank on Hindi Diwas 2023 was read out by Ritu Rani Behera, Senior Manager. In the function, winners of various competitions organised on the occasion of Hindi fortnight, Canara Bank Akshay Yojana and Canara Bank Puraskar Yojana were awarded.

## MILESTONE MOMENT Air India acquires first-ever A350 jet

Tata Group-owned Air India, which has embarked on an ambitious transformation plan, expects the first A350-900 aircraft to arrive in India by the end of this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: Air India Friday said it has completed the acquisition of its first A350-900 aircraft by way of a finance lease transaction with HSBC through the GIFT City.

This is also the first wide body aircraft to be leased through the GIFT City, the country's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

In a release, the airline said the transaction was facilitated by its wholly-owned subsidiary AI Fleet Services Ltd (AIFS) and is also the first financing trans-



This landmark transaction marks the beginning of our aircraft leasing business from GIFT IFSC, as AIFS will be the primary Air India Group entity for wide body aircraft financing, playing a pivotal role in the future aircraft financing strategy for us and our subsidiaries

NIPUN AGGARWAL | CHIEF COMMERCIAL & TRANSFORMATION OFFICER, AIR INDIA

action from the orders for 470 aircraft that were made earlier this year. The airline has successfully acquired India's first Airbus A350-900 aircraft through a finance lease transaction with HSBC, it said.

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) Executive Director Dipesh Shah said it has been working with the stakeholders to develop regulatory enablers for aircraft leasing and

financing. The airline has ordered six A350-900 planes and five of them are scheduled for delivery through March 2024. Apart from these, the airline's firm orders for 470 new aircraft include 34 A350-1000s, 20 Boeing 787 Dreamliners, 10 Boeing 777Xs, 140 A320 neos, 70 A321 neos and 190 Boeing 737MAXs.

Air India signed purchase agreements to acquire these aircraft with Airbus and Boeing

in June this year. Currently, Air India has a fleet of 116 planes, including 49 wide body aircraft. The total includes 27 B787-8s, 14 B777-300s, 8 B777-200LRs, 14 A319s, 36 A320 neos, 13 A321 ceos and 4 A321 neos. Meanwhile, Tata Group is in the process of consolidating its airline business as part of which AIX Connect is getting merged with Air India Express and Vistara will be merged with Air India.

## Key infra sector growth rises

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 29: The growth of eight key infrastructure sectors rose to a 14-month high of 12.1 per cent in August 2023 against 4.2 per cent a year ago, mainly due to expansion in production of coal, crude oil, and natural gas, according to the official data released Friday.

The expansion in August is the highest since June 2022, when it was 13.2 per cent. The production of refinery products, steel, cement and electricity also grew in August, the data showed. The core sector growth in July was 8.4 per cent, the Commerce and Industry Ministry data showed.

The output growth of the eight sectors was also lower at 7.7 per cent in April-August 2023-24 against 10 per cent in the year-ago period. These industries account for 40.27 per cent

### 14-MONTH HIGH



of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

In August, steel output jumped 10.9 per cent against 5.8 per cent in the same month last year. Natural gas production increased by 10 per cent during the month under review compared to a contraction of 0.9 per cent in August 2022.

Coal output surged 17.9 per cent in August 2023 from 7.7 per

cent in August 2022. The growth rate in the production of refinery products rose to 9.5 per cent against 7 per cent in August 2022. Similarly, crude oil production rose to 2.1 per cent in the month under review.

Cement and electricity output jumped 18.9 per cent and 14.9 per cent in August, respectively. However, the growth rate in the production of fertilisers slowed down to 1.8 per cent in August against 11.9 per cent in the same month last year.

Icra Ltd Chief Economist Aditi Nayyar said a truant monsoon helped to push up core sector growth in August.

"Given the uptick in the core sector growth, as well as the healthy performance of high-frequency indicators, such as auto output, GST e-way bills, rail freight etc, we forecast the IIP to expand by 9-11 per cent in August 2023," she added.

# Indian shooters sizzle

# PROTEAS ONCE AGAIN THE 'DARK HORSES'

South Africa have always been a team to watch out for in every tournament they feature. Despite having quality squads for past 20-25 years, they failed to reach the final in the World Cup.



The 2011 edition in India saw South Africa being knocked out from quarterfinals after topping the group over hosts India. Four years later, they went a step further and featured in the semifinals. Despite putting up a great fight, they lost to New Zealand – the opposition who knocked them out of 2011 edition – in the final over.

The hopes were high in 2019. However, the Faf du Plessis-led side finished a poor seventh in the league stage and couldn't reach the knockouts as the privilege was there for only the top four teams in the league stage.

After 12 years, the team return to India for their long-standing dream of winning a world title. However, whether it's their bad luck or the player's, they were dealt with a huge blow when one of their leading pacers Anrich Nortje was ruled out of the tournament with an injury. Nortje had also missed the 2019 edition due to an injury.

But it's cricket and you can't predict such things. Despite that, the Proteas don't lack fire-

**66** It's great having a mix of experienced players and players who will be competing in their first 50-over WC – you get that sort of exuberance of excitement to be doing something for the first time. We have endeavoured to curate a well-balanced group of players and skill that will allow us to effectively adapt to the conditions in India

ROB WALTER | HEAD COACH

power in their pace attack, having a world-class Kagiso Rabada, a young left-arm pacer Marco Jansen and Lungi Ngidi.

The Rob Walter-coached side also have players who know the Indian conditions well because of their IPL outings. Players like Quinton de Kock, who has decided to hang up his gloves after the tournament, David Miller, Rabada, Jansen, Ngidi, Aiden Markram as well as Heinrich Klaasen, would be crucial if the team want to qualify for the knockouts or further.



HOLDING THE KEYS TO SUCCESS Quinton de Kock, David Miller, Kagiso Rabada, Heinrich Klaasen & Tabraiz Shamsi



an international competition after she gave notice of her precocious talent just last year. She shot 242.1 in the finals for a Games record.

Esha, who had won the individual silver in 25m pistol Wednesday and was part of the trio that won the 10m air pistol team silver along with Palak and Divya TS earlier Friday, settled for silver, scoring 239.7. It marked the first time that two Indian shooters have finished one-two on the podium at the Asian Games.

The unprecedented success of Indian marksmen continued in the 50m rifle arena as well with the men's 3-positions team, comprising the young trio of Aishwary (591), Swapnil (591) and Sheoran (587), overcoming the Chinese challenge with a world record score of 1769 to grab

the top podium finish. The men's trio smashed the world record by a whopping eight points. Hosts China were a clear six points adrift with 1763 points, while South Korea were a distant third with 1748 points.

Aishwary and Swapnil shot superbly to make the individual finals as well. They were placed first and second after the qualification round, something never seen before in a sport dominated by the Chinese at the Asian level.

The third Indian in the competition, Akhil, despite finishing fifth with 587 in qualification, missed out on the eight-team finals as only two shooters per country are allowed in the individual medal round.

Swapnil was firing on all cylinders, shooting down the qualification Asian and Asian Games record on way to a superb 591. Not to be left behind, Aishwary too shot an identical score to be tied with Swapnil but entered the finals, and was placed second because of fewer shots closer to the bull's eye (inner 10s). Swapnil had 33 inner 10s, while Aishwary had 27.

The two Chinese who made it to the finals – Du Linshu and Tian Jiaming – were placed third and fourth respectively behind the two young Indians.

The men's individual finals were a bit of an anti-climax, with both Swapnil and Aishwary missing the gold medal. Aishwary signed off with a silver after China's Du Linshu created an Asian Games record score of 460.6 to deny the 22-year-old Indian the top podium spot.

Aishwary had a final score of 459.7, while home team marksman Tian Jiaming took the third place behind the Indian with a score of 448.3.

Teenager Esha led from the front as she guided the Indian women's 10m air pistol team to a silver medal. The trio of 18-year-old Esha (579), Palak (577) and Divya TS (575) aggregated 1731 points for their silver medal, while China took the gold with a total of 1736, which is an Asian Games record. Chinese Taipei finished with a bronze, totalling 1723.



Nikhat Zareen punches her opponent during her bout, Friday

## Nikhat bags Olympic quota, medal

## Ramkumar-Myneni pair settles for doubles silver



Nikhat Zareen punches her opponent during her bout, Friday

Hangzhou, Sept 29: Ramkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni settled for the men's doubles silver medal at the Asian Games after being edged by Chinese Taipei's Hsu Yu-Hsiou and Jason Jung but India's hopes of winning a gold from the tennis courts is still alive with the mixed team reaching the title clash, here Friday.

The Taipei team was unseeded but both Hsu (182) and Jung (231) were better-ranked singles players and it showed in their ground strokes and the way they went about their business in a 6-4, 6-4 victory against the second-seeded Indians in the title clash. It is Ramkumar's first Asian Games medal and third for Myneni, who had won a men's



Ramkumar Ramanathan takes a groupie with his teammates and Indian fans after their medal distribution ceremony, Friday

doubles silver with Sanam Singh and a gold with Sania Mirza in the mixed doubles in the 2014

Incheon edition. "It is my first Asian Games medal, I always wanted to win a

medal for India. It was one of my goals and that too coming with Saki (Saketh), very happy about it," Ramanathan said.

"We tried our best every match, every single point and extremely happy that we could finish with a silver. Asian Games is huge and obviously, it's a huge thing to win a medal. But every tournament for us is as huge as the Asian Games. This is a profession, we do this for a living, and we enjoy what we do. Hopefully, we can get more medals for the country the next time," added Ramkumar, who has endured a tough 2023 season.

The duo of Rohan Bopanna and Rutuja Bhosale outplayed the Chinese Taipei combine of Chan Hao-ching and Yu-Hsiou Hsu 6-1, 3-6, 10-4 in the mixed double semifinal.

Hangzhou, Sept 29: Without breaking a sweat, Nikhat Zareen secured a Paris Olympic quota place by reaching the semifinal of the Asian Games here Friday, a just reward for the indomitable boxer who missed out on the Tokyo Games.

The 27-year-old has come a long way since pleading for a "fair trial" for a shot at competing at the Tokyo Olympic qualifiers four years ago. The Telangana boxer is now a two-time World Champion, Commonwealth Games champion and an Asian Games medal winner.

Earning an Olympic quota was Nikhat's top priority at Hangzhou. Friday, she achieved that by cantering to the (60kg) semifinals with a first round RSC (referee stops contest) win over Jordan's Nassar Hanan.

She is the only Indian boxer after Mary Kom to win two world titles and win one outside India. Nikhat will take on two-time World Championship bronze medallist Chuthamat Raksat of Thailand in the semifinals, Sunday.

World Championship bronze medallist Parveen started her campaign with a win as she managed to outplay local favourite Zichun Xu 5-0 to move to the quarters.

**Contrasting fortunes** The Indian team humbled defending champions Malaysia 2-0 to reach the final of the men's squash event after the seasoned Saurav Ghosal and Abhay Singh registered identical wins. India thus set up a marquee gold medal clash with Pakistan, against whom they lost in the pool stage and will seek revenge heading into the final.

Earlier, the Indian women's

squash team, comprising Joshna Chinappa, Anahat Singh and Tanvi Khanna, signed off with a bronze medal after going down fighting to Hong Kong in the semifinals of the continental showpiece.

**Winning start** Indian men and women opened their campaign in the chess team event with easy wins over Mongolia and Philippines respectively. Both the teams won by identical 3.5-0.5 margins in the first round.

While the top-seeded Indian men's team comprised of Grandmasters Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi, R Praggnanandhaa and D Gukesh. In the women's team comprised of R Vaishali, B Savitha Shri, Vantika Agrawal and D Harika.

**Maintaining position** The Indian men's team continued their excellent show by maintaining their second position but the women and mixed sides could not make much headway in the bridge competition. The men's outfit is firmly entrenched in the second position with 155.09 points after playing 140 boards. Japan are leading the table with 155.49 points after playing 140 boards.

**Dominating victory** A dominant India defeated Malaysia 6-0 to register their second consecutive win in the women's hockey competition. Monika (7th minute) opened the scoring for India before vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka (8th), Navneet Kaur (11th), Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke (15th), Sangita Kumari (24th) and Lalremsiami (50th) also found the back of the net. India will next play Korea in their next pool match, Sunday.

**Manika in quarters** Manika Batra progressed to

the women's singles quarterfinals but veterans Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyana crashed out in the pre-quarterfinals of the table tennis competition. Manika defeated Suthasini Sawettabut of Thailand. She will face World No.3 Yidi Wang of China, Saturday.

In the men's singles, Sharath fought bravely against Chinese Taipei's Chih-Yuan Chuang but eventually the latter prevailed 4-3. G Sathiyana lost to China's Chiquin Wang 4-0.

In the women's doubles, Sutirtha Mukherjee and Ayhika Mukherjee reached the quarterfinals beating Thailand's Jinnipa and Wanwisa. In the men's round of 16, the Indian duo of Manav Vikash Thakkar and Manush Utpalbhai Shah beat Isaac Quek Yong and Yew En Koen Pang. However, the other Indian pair of Sharath and Sathiyana lost against the Chinese pair of Chuqin Wang and Fan Zhendong.

**Medal assured** India thrashed lowly Nepal 3-0 in the quarterfinals to secure a historic medal after 37 years in the men's team badminton event. Taking the court first, Lakshya Sen defeated Prince Dahal 21-5, 21-8 before Kidambi Srikanth beat Sunil Joshi 21-4, 21-13 in the second match. In the third match, Mithun Manjunath edged past Bishnu Katuwal 21-2, 21-17 to clinch the tie.

However, it was disappointment for the Indian women's team. The women's team, led by PV Sindhu, failed to put up a fight against Thailand, going down 0-3 in the quarterfinals. The pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also lost their match before Ashmita Chaliha was humbled.

## Warm-up: India face England



Guwahati, Sept 29: The Indian team management will try to keep cards close and assess defending champions England's batting depth and how the home team takes field for its first World Cup warm-up match game, here Saturday.

The warm-up games don't have an official status. Both teams can use as many players as they want and check out how some of the players respond in

**MATCH SCHEDULE**  
India vs England  
ICC World Cup Warm-up match  
Time: 2 pm  
Telecast: Star Sports Network  
Stream: Disney+Hotstar

a chance to test themselves. It will be a good opportunity for Kuldeep Yadav, Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja to test themselves and it is expected that all bowlers will be taking turns to bowl a few overs.

Similarly, one might find that a top player like skipper Buttler or the talismanic Stokes cooling his heels in order to not give a chance to the Indian bowlers have a go at them.

The best part about England's team is its batting depth. Sam Curran at No.8 and Chris Woakes, who hammered India to hit a Test hundred at the Lord's coming in at No.9, surely speaks volumes about the team's balance.

**INDIA SQUAD:** Rohit Sharma (C), Hardik Pandya (vc), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ravichandran Ashwin, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav.

**ENGLAND SQUAD:** Jos Buttler (C), Moeen Ali, Gus Atkinson, Jonny Bairstow, Sam Curran, Liam Livingstone, David Malan, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, David Willey, Mark Wood, Chris Woakes.