



Changing the narrative

Actor Sara Khan believes social media prevents actors from being typecast, allows audiences to see them beyond screen roles

LEISURE | P2



Russia on N-doctrine

Russia will make changes to its nuclear doctrine in response to what it regards as Western escalation in the war in Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Dip in despatches

Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai and Tata Motors report decline in wholesales in August as the companies curtailed vehicle despatches amid drop in demand

BUSINESS | P11



3 medals ensured

Shuttlers ensure three Paralympic medals with Suhans Yathiraj and Nitesh Kumar in finals and an all-Indian clash in women's semis

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

HOOCH TRAGEDY TOLL RISES TO 4

Berhampur: The toll in the Ganjam hooch tragedy rose to four as a 60-year-old man who was under treatment at MKCG Medical College Hospital here after consuming spurious liquor died Sunday, police said. The deceased was identified as Baya Sethi of Karabalu village near Chikiti, said SP (Berhampur) Sarthak Sarangi. On Saturday, Lakshman Behera had died during treatment. Two other deceased persons were Juru Behera and Loknath Behera. At least 15 people from Jenapur and Karabalu area were admitted to the medical college and hospital August 19, after they consumed the suspected spurious liquor from a vendor, who allegedly sold the country-made liquor at Maundapur village.

2 KILLED IN FRESH MANIPUR FIRING

Imphal: Two persons, including a woman, were killed and nine others injured when suspected militants launched a gun-and-bomb attack in Manipur's Imphal West district Sunday, police said. According to police, militants fired indiscriminately from hilltop positions towards the low-lying valley areas of Koutruk and neighbouring Kadangband killing two persons and injuring nine others. Several houses were also damaged due to heavy shelling by the militants, they added. The sudden assault on the unsuspecting village caused widespread panic, forcing many residents, including women, children, and the elderly, to flee to safer areas, police added.



MEN & MACHINES: Warriors of Bald Eagle Brigade conduct Mission Oriented Training integrating mechanised forces & specialist mobility vehicles, in Rann of Kutch, Sunday

OISF jawan among 7 held with leopard body parts in Bhub

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: Seven people, including an Odisha Industrial Security Force (OISF) jawan, were arrested from the outskirts of Bhubaneswar Sunday for their alleged involvement in a wildlife body parts smuggling racket, police said.

The arrests were made from the Baliapada village in Tamando police station area during a special operation conducted by the Forest department and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, they said.

A leopard skin was seized in the raid which was conducted when a deal to sell it was underway, a senior official said.

A Forest official posing as a buyer busted the racket, he said. Interrogation of the arrested persons revealed that the leopard was killed in Boudh, he added.

They were planning to sell the leopard skin and other body parts at Rs 10 lakh, the official said.

Tiger whiskers, teeth and nails were among the items seized in the raid, he said.

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

6 hostages killed in Gaza

AGENCIES

Jerusalem, Sept 1: Israel recovered the bodies of six hostages from a tunnel in Gaza where it said they were killed shortly before its troops reached them, triggering protests by Israelis Sunday and planned labour strikes over the failure to save them.

Thousands of Israelis demonstrated in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, demanding that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu do more to bring the remaining hostages home from Gaza. Labour leaders urged workers to down tools Monday.

The Israeli military announced the recovery of the bodies from underground in the southern Gaza city of Rafah, as a polio vaccination campaign began in the war-shattered Palestinian territory and violence flared in the occupied West Bank.

The bodies of Carmel Gat, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Eden Yerushalmi, Alexander Lobanov, Almog Sarusi and Ori Danino have been returned to Israel, military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari told reporters.



A forensic examination determined that they had been murdered by Hamas terrorists in a number of shots at close range 48-72 hours previously, an Israeli health ministry spokesperson said.

Netanyahu, who faces growing calls to end nearly 11 months of war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza with a deal that includes a ceasefire and the release of remaining hostages, said Israel would not rest until it caught those responsible.

"Whoever murders hostages - does not want a deal," he said.

- Hostage bodies recovered underground in Rafah
- Thousands protest in Israel, labour strikes planned
- Gaza violence continues as polio vaccinations begin

Senior Hamas officials said that Israel, in its refusal to sign a ceasefire agreement, was to blame for the deaths.

Netanyahu is responsible for the killing of Israeli prisoners, senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said. The Israelis should choose between

Netanyahu and the deal.

Amid public anger over the fate of the hostages, the head of Israel's trades union federation, Arnon Bar-David, called for a general strike Monday to pressure the government into signing a deal, and said Ben Gurion airport, Israel's main air transport hub, would be closed from 8am.

A deal is more important than anything else, he said. Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, who has clashed frequently with Netanyahu, also called for a deal and opposition leader and former Prime Minister Yair Lapid urged people to join the demonstration in Tel Aviv.

In Jerusalem, protesters blocked roads and demonstrated outside the prime minister's residence. Some lined roads, waving Israeli flags in honour of the six hostages. Aerial footage showed Tel Aviv's main highway blocked with protesters holding flags with pictures of the slain hostages.

Municipal services in Tel Aviv and other sites across Israel planned a half-day strike Monday in solidarity with hostages and their families.

Patient molests on-duty nurse in Bengal hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bolpur, Sept 1: A nurse at a government hospital in West Bengal's Birbhum district was allegedly molested and verbally abused by a male patient, weeks after the shocking rape-murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata.

A man who came in with high fever late Saturday night tried to outrage the modesty of an on-duty nurse at Illambazar block hospital. The hospital authorities immediately informed police who arrested him and sent him to Bolpur sub-divisional hospital for treatment, Birbhum Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Himadri Ari said.

"The patient started abusing

me as soon as he arrived," the nurse said, adding, "I ignored and started treating him, but suddenly he touched me inappropriately while I was administering saline."

On Sunday, doctors and health staff of the hospital staged a rally demanding round-the-clock security for medics. A nurse who took part in the rally said, "Despite the RG Kar incident, not much has changed regarding our security."

Doctors across the country have been demanding round-the-clock strict security for doctors and healthcare professionals in the wake of the doctor's rape-murder incident in West Bengal's RG Kar hospital which has sparked widespread anger and outrage across India.

Kolkata horror: Rallies, protests continue

Kolkata: Film director Aparna Sen and numerous other prominent personalities from the Bengali film industry Sunday joined thousands of people in a massive rally demanding justice for a trainee doctor who was raped-murdered at RG Kar hospital here last month. In addition to the 'Mahamichhil', two other rallies took place elsewhere in the city. While one was organised by the alumni of Ramakrishna Mission-run educational institutions, another involved students and past pupils from a well-known convent school, both echoing the demand for justice for the medic. At the mega rally that kicked-off at College Square, Sen, accompanied by fellow artistes such as Swastika Mukherjee, Sudipta Chakraborty, Chaiti Ghosal, Sohini Sarkar, and others, marched along Central Avenue demanding justice for the postgraduate trainee doctor.

11 die during physical tests for constable recruitment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Sept 1: Eleven candidates died while undertaking physical tests during a drive to recruit excise constables in Jharkhand, police said Sunday.

Physical tests under the Jharkhand excise constable competitive examinations began August 22 in seven centres across Ranchi, Giridih, Hazaribag, Palamu, East Singhbhum and Sahebganj districts.

Four deaths happened in Palamu, two persons each died in Giridih and Hazaribag, and one person each in Ranchi's Jaguar centre, and East Singhbhum's Mosabani and

Sahebganj centres, said IG (Operations) Amol V Homkar. He said cases of unnatural death were registered and investigations were underway.

A total of 1,27,772 aspirants appeared for the physical tests till August 30, out of which 78,023 cleared it, he added.

Homkar said adequate arrangements, including medical teams, medicines, ambulance, mobile toilets and drinking water, were ensured at all centres.

Alleging that the deaths happened due to mismanagement by the authorities, the BJP youth wing demonstrated against the JMM-led government in Ranchi's Albert Ekka Chowk.

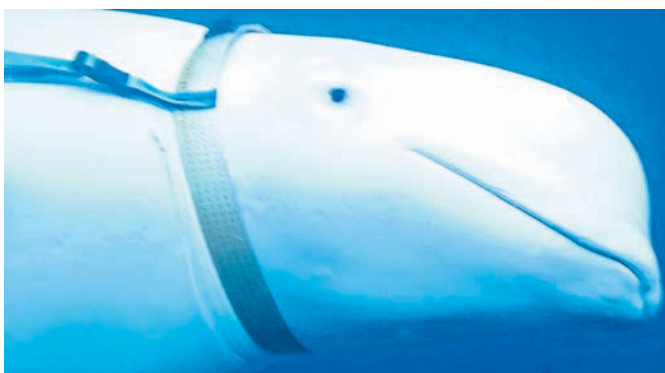
Celeb 'Russian spy' whale found dead in Norway

Hvaldimir, the beluga whale with a harness, was named by combining the Norwegian word for whale — hval — and Russian President Putin's first name Vladimir

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Helsinki, Sept 1: A white beluga whale named 'Hvaldimir', first spotted in Norway not far from Russian waters with a harness that ignited rumours he may be a Moscow spy, has been found dead.

The Norwegian public broadcaster NRK reported that the whale carcass was found floating at the Risavika Bay in southern Norway Saturday by a father



and son who were fishing.

The beluga, named by combining the Norwegian word for whale — hval — and Russian President Putin's first name Vladimir, was lifted out of the water with a crane and taken to a nearby harbour where experts will examine it.

"Unfortunately, we found

Hvaldimir floating in the sea. He has passed away but it's not immediately clear what the cause of death is," marine biologist Sebastian Strand told NRK, adding that no major external injuries were visible on the animal.

Strand, who has monitored Hvaldimir's adventures for the past three years on behalf of

Experts said the Russian navy is known to have trained whales for military purposes

the Norway-based Marine Mind non-profit organisation, said he was deeply affected by the whale's sudden death. "It's absolutely horrible," Strand said. "He was apparently in good condition as of (Friday). So we just have to figure out what might have happened here."

The 4.2-metre long and 1,225-kilogram whale was first spotted by fishermen near the northern island of Ingoya, not far from the Arctic city of Hammerfest, in April 2019 wearing a harness and what appeared to be a mount for a small camera and a buckle marked with text "Equipment St.

Petersburg". That sparked allegations that the beluga was "a spy whale". Experts said the Russian navy is known to have trained whales for military purposes.

Over the years, the beluga was seen in several Norwegian coastal towns and it quickly became clear that he was very tame and enjoyed playing with people, NRK said. NGO Marine Mind said on its site that Hvaldimir was very interested in people and responded to hand signals.

"Based on these observations, it appeared as if Hvaldimir arrived in Norway by crossing over from Russian waters, where it is presumed he was held in captivity," it said.

Norwegian media have speculated whether Hvaldimir could have been used as "a therapy whale" of some sort in Russia.

leisure



THE OFFICE SET FOR AFRICAN ADAPTATION

After African streamer Showmax secured rights to the hit comedy format, *The Office* is set for yet another adaptation. South African audiences will get a version of the sitcom created by Ricky Gervais, which also became a hit in the US, with Showmax working in partnership with BBC Studios.

ADELE ANNOUNCES BREAK FROM MUSIC

During her final Munich concert, singer Adele shared plans for a break from music, revealing she'll focus on other creative pursuits for an extended period. A fan captured the moment on video, which was shared on TikTok, reports *variety*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

You are ever eager to socialise, and today especially, you may want to mix business with pleasure. You will be welcomed to join in group activities because you can work and play with equal enthusiasm. In fact, you may learn a lot from such a healthy exchange of ideas, says Ganesh.

TAURUS

Light bulbs will flash relentlessly today, as you ideate in the fervour of a creative mood. Your business acumen will help you negotiate problems with ease. The reticent Taurus charm will ring out loud in your laughter, as you deal with your bosses and colleagues at the workplace, says Ganesh.

GEMINI

Routine work bores you, and today you will go all out to break free from the shackles of boredom. The results, however, may not be as dramatic. You will have to depend on your children, if any, to rescue you from the tyranny of routine.

CANCER

You may feel like flaunting your so-called superior social and financial status today. Chances are that all that gas about how successful you are may end up exploding in your face, and you may end up spending a lot more than you would have liked. However, if you only stick to buying a household item for your spouse, it may turn out to be a pretty satisfying day.

LEO

If it's a fresh start that you are looking for, then this day promises to give you just that, predicts Ganesh. If you have chalked out plans for your future, today you may go ahead and implement some. Remember that rushing blindly into anything is not the solution; it is always the slow and steady who wins the race.

VIRGO

Today, your power and finance will be greater than ever before, says Ganesh. You will also be inclined to make monetary provisions for any future economic instability that may arise. The people around you will stand up and take notice of the leader in you. A word of caution from Ganesh: there may be unprecedented fluctuations in financial transactions.

LIBRA

Today promises to be a busy day that will keep you occupied. You may also engage in written correspondence to re-establish some old contacts. Ganesh doesn't rule out optimum use of the phone for this purpose. When it comes to the work front, Ganesh predicts you will be asked to bring order to the workplace.

SCORPIO

You might find your spirit sagging as worries cloud your thinking. Small things might probably bother you in a big way. Do not let them bog you down as life is all about mind over matter. As the day progresses, things will begin to look up. Take a break from the rigmarole if stress begins to take a toll on you, advises Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Watch out for Cupid's arrow today, warns Ganesh. Love will strike and strike hard. Alternatively, you may also find yourself in an argument with a loved one that ought to have been avoided. An evening of romance beckons... keep the roses ready and the carpet rolled to heal any bruises you might have caused.

CAPRICORN

You may be attentive, as much as an eagle is while chasing its prey, but you still need to be careful when signing any important legal documents, advises Ganesh. Brokers and dealers, especially, are likely to incur heavy losses unless they take necessary precautions to avert misfortune.

AQUARIUS

Today, you're up against those who want to get back at you. But not for nothing are you the king! Ganesh says you needn't worry, as few can match your prowess. Amid all the hullabaloo, your spouse will be a supportive presence.

PISCES

Within adversity, lie the lessons of success; avoid having to resort to that philosophy by implementing your plans, if they are well thought out, in a phased manner. This will help you achieve your targets, says Ganesh.

Not worried about being typecast: Sara

Mumbai: Actress Sara Khan said that she doesn't think people judge actors solely based on their screen roles anymore and added that she is not worried about 'being typecast.'

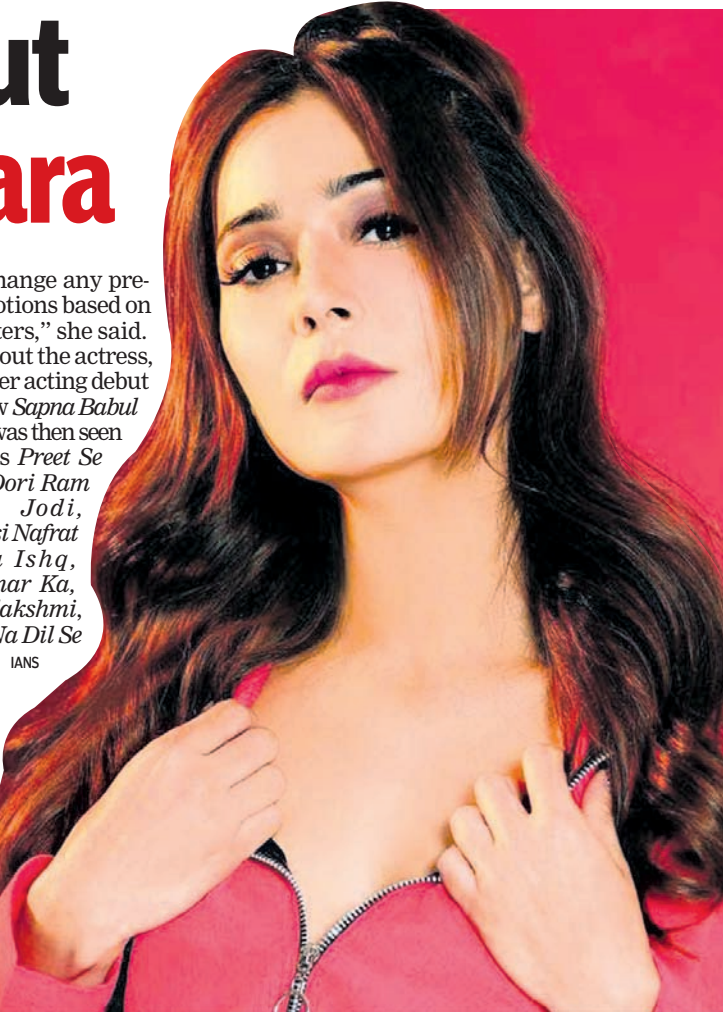
Sara, who is currently seen playing the role of Goddess Kritika in *Chhathi Maiyya Ki Bitiya*, said, "I don't think people judge actors solely based on their screen roles anymore. Social media is so prevalent now that people can learn about actors through their profiles and

see who we really are beyond our characters. So, I'm not worried about being typecast because it helps people understand us better and opens up more diverse career opportunities."

The actress said that it was years ago, when actors worried about being typecast. "But that's not as much of a concern now. Social media allows audiences and producers to see more of an actor's talents beyond their roles, letting us showcase other

skills and change any preconceived notions based on past characters," she said.

Talking about the actress, Sara made her acting debut with the show *Sapna Babul Ka... Bidaai*, was then seen in the shows *Preet Se Bandhi Ye Dori Ram Milaayi Jodi*, *Junoon—Aisi Nafrat Toh Kaisa Ishq*, *Sasural Simar Ka*, *Saubhagyalakshmi*, and *Jaana Na Dil Se Door*.



Anushka on staying true to herself

Mumbai: Actress Anushka Sharma, who made her debut with *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi* (2008), once responded to a question about not having 'stirred up the industry' like Deepika Padukone and Sonam Kapoor.

In an interview with an entertainment portal, the

Patiala House actress said she was glad to be known for her talent and not for my clothes or controversies. The actress had said, "I don't know. You tell me. Having given three hits back-to-back in three years, I wonder why there is not as much hype about me as them. Actually, I am glad

that I am known for my talent and not for my clothes or controversies. I don't want to sign frivolous films. I have realised things don't come easily to me. I had to work hard in *Band Baaja Baraat* to get this kind of recognition and appreciation that I received today."

On the work front, Anushka was last seen in a cameo in *Qala*, which starred Triptii Dimri, Babil Khan and will be seen next in the upcoming sports biopic film *Chakda Xpress*.



Dia recalls her RHTDM days

Mumbai: Actress Dia Mirza recently responded to the re-release of *Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein (RHTDM)*, which returned to theatres over two decades after its original debut.

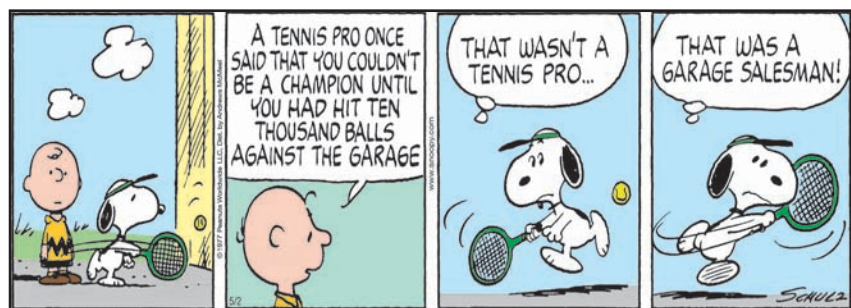
When asked if this trend reflects a lack of charm in new films, Mirza offered a thoughtful perspective. "I think there are more serious films that can also be re-released. A whole new generation is getting exposed to the beauty and magnificence of that thought process. These re-releases are also playing on nostalgia. I know of people in their 20s, 40s, and even 60s who have seen this film in different stages of their lives. Nostalgia is

a very powerful emotion, and these films tap that sensory sense. People feel like revisiting those times," said the 42-year-old.

Mirza recalled the initial reception of *RHTDM* and said, "It was cruel—the experience of dealing with it as a newcomer. It was also a time when the industry and media judged a person by their success or failure. There was so much anticipation and so much effort put into introducing me to the industry. It felt very personal. I felt I had let everybody down; I was miserable. I remember being dropped from several films I had been signed for: I was all of 19, and I had no understanding of how the industry works. There were very harsh lessons one had to learn quickly," she added.

"It has insane repeat viewing viewership. I have seen a lot of fans say it's time to show the film the love it didn't get in its first round," she concluded.

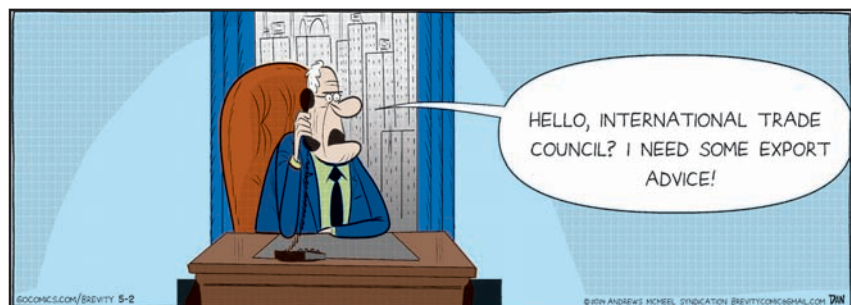
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

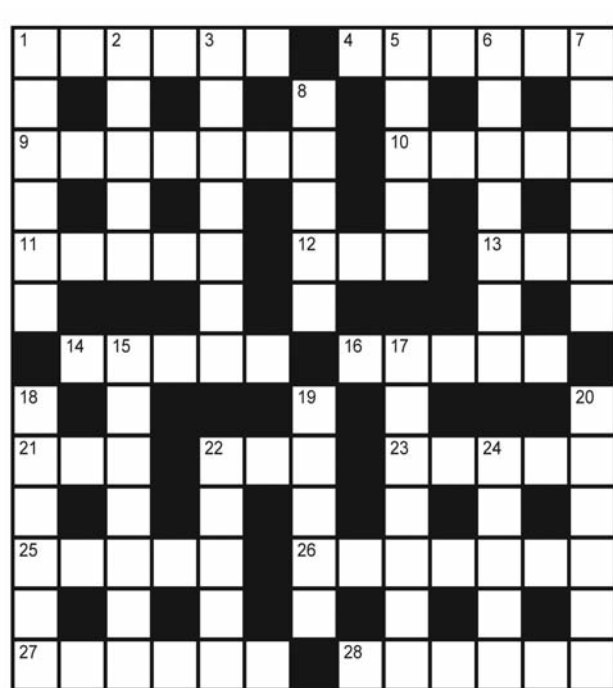


BREVITY



FUN post

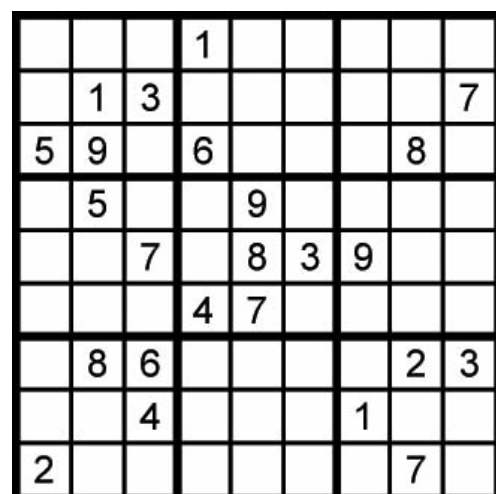
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Bowling scores
 - 4 Cheval glass
 - 9 Leftover
 - 10 Journal
 - 11 Rahl!, e.g.
 - 12 -en-Provence (Fr. city)
 - 13 -de-France
 - 14 Hangs out
 - 16 Type of bee
 - 21 Phenom
 - 22 Farm female
 - 23 Coffee shop order
 - 25 Deadly snake
 - 26 Bullfighting centre of Spain
 - 27 Fears
 - 28 Nimble-fingered
 - Down**
 - 1 Conifer
 - 2 Bridal path
 - 3 Age group
 - 5 Card type
 - 6 Understand
 - 7 Jingles
 - 8 Durable
 - 15 Palpitate
 - 17 Not taken aback
 - 18 Rotten
 - 19 Brewer's need
 - 20 Mom or pop, e.g.
 - 22 African antelope
 - 24 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Artistes from Baragada enact play 'Dhahi' as part of Natyadhara, at Bhanja Kala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

downtown

Storm over Pradhan's 'Ravenshaw' suggestion

RAIN BATTERS PARTS OF STATE

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: A political storm erupted in the state following Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's remarks suggesting renaming of Ravenshaw University, one of the oldest educational institutions in Odisha at Cuttack, with the Opposition BJP and BJD - as well as students' bodies - objecting to the senior BJP leader's proposal.

The university, established around 156 years ago in 1868, was named after Thomas Edward Ravenshaw, the then commissioner of the Odisha division.

"The people of Odisha as well as intellectuals should ponder over the fact whether we need an institute named after Ravenshaw Saheb during whose tenure the 'Na Anka Durbhikshya' (devastating famine of 1866) occurred in Odisha. What did the administrative officials do during the famine in Odisha? Is the person who was helpful in tormenting Odia people a matter of pride for us?" Pradhan said Saturday.

He, however, said it was his personal opinion and a debate should be held over the issue.

Launching a scathing attack on the Union Minister over the issue, BJD leader Lenin Mohanty said Ravenshaw University is a pride for each and every Odia.

He said that Pradhan should have read a little bit of history before linking 'Na Anka Durbhikshya' (1866 famine) to



This is Union Minister Pradhan's personal opinion and there is a need for broader discussion on this

Pradhan should have read a little bit of history before linking 'Na Anka Durbhikshya' (1866 famine) to the university

Rather than changing the university's name, the government should focus on making it a top class university which will benefit many

KV SINGHDEO | BY CM

LENIN MOHANTY | BJD

SOFIA FIRDOUS | CONGRESS

the university. The Congress, at a press conference Sunday, strongly denounced Pradhan's call for such a controversial move and said that the BJP state government is only playing "cheap politics" by changing names and colours.

Party leader Smruti Ranjan Lenka said Ravenshaw

University is associated with the sentiments of many alumni, not only of the state but also around the world. "Instead of making efforts to improve quality in the education system, the government is trying to avoid its real responsibilities and duties by raising unnecessary issues," he said.

Pradhan must respond to the people of the state over these issues," he added.

Congress MLA Sofia Firdous said rather than changing the university's name, the government should focus on making it a top class university which will benefit many.

Several students groups also objected to Pradhan's remarks. All India Students Federation (AISF) Odisha State Council president Sanghamitra Jena asked if there will be change in the level of education by changing the name. "The government should focus on improving the education level by filling the vacant professors' and teachers'

Party spokesperson Anil Biswal said the suggestion of the Union Minister on varsity's name change is "absolutely democratic". "He (Pradhan) clearly said that a debate on this issue is necessary. We do not run a draconian government like BJD. Now the BJD leaders who are coming in support of Edward Ravenshaw don't have any fondness for the varsity. The BJD, despite ruling for 24 years, did not give an inch of land to the university," he charged.

Deputy CM KV Singhdeo said, "This is Union Minister Pradhan's personal opinion and there is a need for broader discussion on this."

Notably, Ravenshaw University boasts a rich academic legacy with illustrious alums including former chief ministers Harekrushna Mahatab, Nandini Satpathy, Biju Patnaik, noted historian Ramesh Chandra Majumdar, former chief justice of Supreme Court of India, Ranganath Mishra, etc.

The university was established in 1868 as a collegiate school and later converted to a full-fledged degree college in 1876 due to the efforts of Thomas Edward Ravenshaw, the then commissioner of the Odisha division.

During Ravenshaw's tenure as the commissioner, the state witnessed a devastating famine in 1866, locally known as 'Na Anka Durbhikshya'. More than one-third of Odisha's population was wiped out due to the dreadful famine of 1865-66.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: Heavy rain lashed parts of Odisha Sunday under the impact of a depression that lay centered over the southern part of the state and north Andhra Pradesh, officials said.

Several districts of south Odisha, including Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Gajapati and Rayagada received heavy rainfall, they said.

The system moved with a speed of 15 kmph during the past six hours and lay centered over south Odisha and adjoining north Andhra Pradesh, the IMD said in a bulletin.

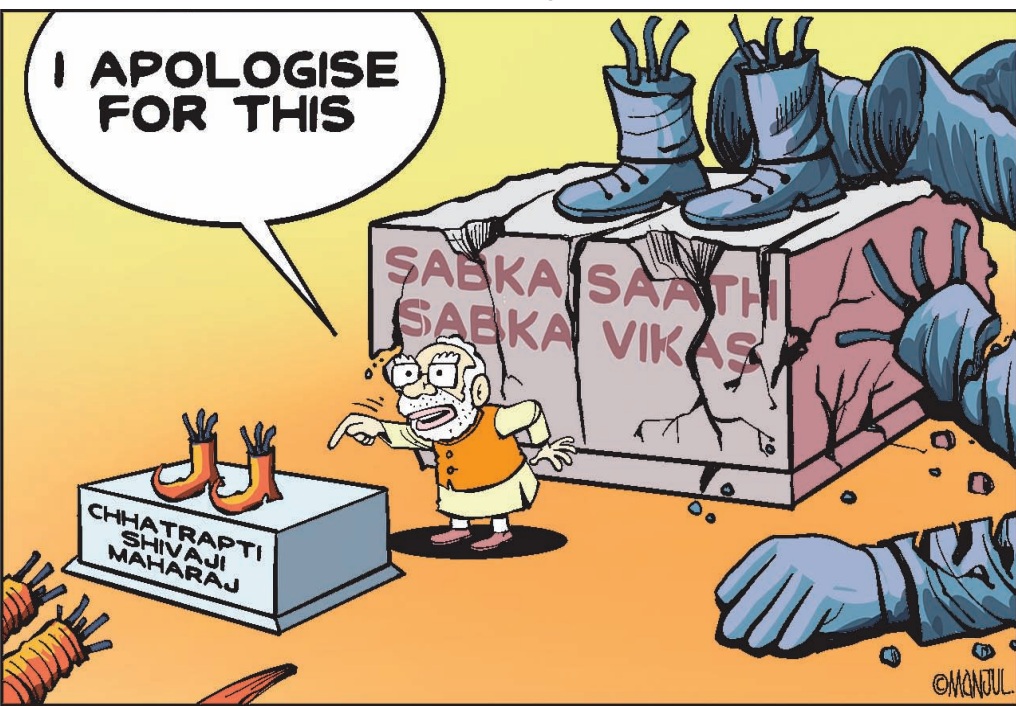


It is likely to move west-northwards across south Odisha and south Chhattisgarh and weaken into a well-marked, low-pressure area during the next 24 hours, the weather office said. The IMD forecast fairly widespread light to moderate rainfall in the state during the week. Isolated heavy rainfall might continue in the state till September 4, it said.

Squally weather with wind speeds reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is likely over westcentral and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal and along and off north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coasts during the next 12 hours, it said.

The sea condition will remain rough and fishermen are advised not to venture into west-central and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal, the bulletin said.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



RESURGENT ODISHA 2024

Parida urges industries to prioritise jobs for women

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida has called upon industries in the state to prioritise the employment of women, emphasizing the importance of gender equality in the workforce.

Speaking as the chief guest at the valedictory function of 'Resurgent Odisha 2024,' a global trade show organized by Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Limited (UCCIL) at Janata Maidan Sunday, Parida underscored the need for empowering women through recruitment in various industries



across the state. "The empowerment of women should be at the forefront of our industrial development," she

said, adding, "We must create opportunities for more women to be employed in the industry and support women entrepreneurs in expanding their businesses."

She also urged the industries to visit the Mission Shakti market, which is run by women, and contribute to their growth by purchasing their products.

The event also featured remarks from Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Minister Gokulananda Mallick who highlighted the government's ambitious goal of transforming Odisha into a \$1.5 trillion economy by 2047.

Fake cop who tricked City woman into marriage held

DEBADURLLAV HARICAHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: The Khandagiri Police Sunday arrested a man who allegedly tricked a woman into marriage and fleeced her by impersonating as a police inspector.

Investigations have revealed that Subhash Chandra Pradha, 55, who is a native of Bhadrak district, had duped three more women in the past using the same modus operandi, ACP Zone- III Tapas Chandra Pradhan said.

In the present case, Pradhan said, Subash introduced himself as 'Manoj Mishra' to the victim, claiming that he is an inspector working at Sector-17 police station in Rourkela. Subash had also faked his identity in his social media handles, which showed him as a cop (in uniform) in several pictures.

The ACP said the accused tricked the woman into a relationship after sending her 'friend request' on her Facebook account. As they became close, Subash proposed her for marriage. "Prior to the wedding, Subash had shown fake pictures of him that included him addressing subordinate cops in uniform, and doing night patrolling duty as a cop," the victim mentioned in her complaint, adding that their relationship continued for four-years.

"Following the wedding August 21, 2023, his behavior became suspicious as he refused



to take me to his home. He said that my name needed to be updated in his 'Service Records Book', so that he could introduce me to his family and colleagues. In addition, he cited that his sister-in-law is vehemently opposing his marriage, therefore, he needed few days to calm her anger," the victim said in her complaint. "The truth was laid bare after the victim, out of suspicion, checked the number plate of Subash's four-wheeler. She then found that his actual name was 'Subash', and not 'Manoj,'" said Pradhan.

Preliminary investigations have revealed that Subash had swindled the victim of several thousand of rupees under various pretexts.

The Khandagiri Police booked Subash under Sections 419, 420, 493, 323 and 313 of IPC, and produced him before a local court Sunday.

Undertrial seriously hurt in Jharpada jail attack

DEBADURLLAV HARICAHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: An undertrial prisoner at the Jharpada jail was seriously injured in a murderous attack on him by a gang of fellow inmates, allegedly led by dreaded mobster Hyder's son Munna, Sunday. The violence came a day after authorities at the high security prisons confiscated a mobile phone from the possession of an inmate.

The injured inmate, identified as undertrial prisoner Soumyakanta Mohanty, has suffered deep injuries on his head

in the vicious attack, jail sources said. Recently, in a recent letter to the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Soumyakanta had alleged that a nexus between influential inmates and jail authorities has been ensuring unabated supply of contraband items and luxurious accommodation to the former. "With the permission of jail authorities, several inmates are selling ganja inside the jail," Soumyakanta mentioned in the letter.

Giving a rate chart of the items sold inside the jail, the letter mentioned that while Bidi



is sold at ₹200 per piece, better accommodation is being offered at a monthly charge of ₹50,000.

2 new spider species found in Western Ghats

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) announced the discovery of two spider species in the Western Ghats region, a biodiversity hotspot, in south India.

A ZSI statement said the newly discovered species - *Mimetus Spinatus* and *Mimetus Parvulus* - highlight the importance of the region.

The addition of two new spiders brings the number of *Mimetus* species in India to three, all of which have been spotted from the southern part of the country, the surveyor said.

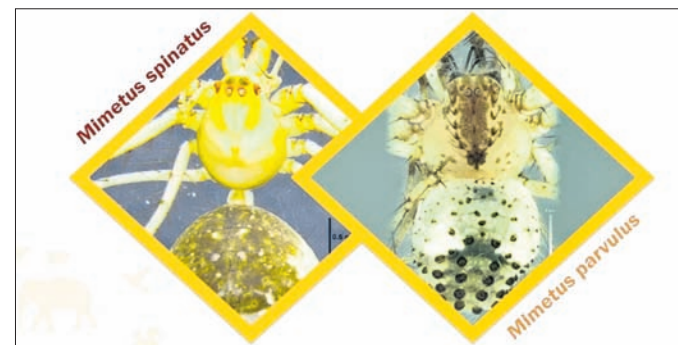
Speaking about the discovery, ZSI Director Dr Dhriti Banerjee said, "The Western Ghats plays a crucial role in the climatic conditions of the country and

continue to surprise scientists with their high levels of endemism."

The discovery was made by a research team comprising Souvik Sen along with Sudhin PP and Pradeep M Sankaran.

Mimetus Spinatus and *Mimetus Parvulus* were collected from the Mookambika Wildlife

A Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) statement said the newly discovered species - *Mimetus Spinatus* and *Mimetus Parvulus* - highlight the importance of the region



Sanctuary, Karnataka and Ernakulam district of Kerala, respectively. This discovery highlights the need for continued exploration and conservation efforts in the region, which is one of the world's hottest biodiversity hotspots, she said Saturday.

Banerjee emphasised the importance of the Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage site, in preserving India's rich biodiversity.

She said this discovery assumes significance as it comes 118 years after the last *Mimetus*

The discovery assumes significance as it comes 118 years after the last *Mimetus* species was found in India

species was found in India. "This long gap emphasises the need for more extensive surveys and research into the taxonomy and biogeography of spiders in India.

"The current findings suggest that the true diversity of *Mimetus* in the country remains largely unexplored, with the potential for more undiscovered species in India's least explored areas," she said.

'Juvenile justice care a must for children with disabilities'

Orissa High Court Chief Justice urges for effective implementation of legal acts with comprehensive approach



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Cuttack, September 1: The Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, Chakradhari Sharan Singh urged stakeholders to commit to greater inclusivity for children with disabilities within the juvenile justice system, Sunday.

Speaking virtually at the ninth Annual Stakeholders Consultation on the Protection of Children with Disabilities at the Odisha Judicial Academy in Cuttack, Sunday, the Chief Justice emphasised the importance of addressing the unique needs and challenges faced by these children.

"We must recognise that children with disabilities often face unique challenges and vulnerabilities that require special attention and care. Effective implementation of legal acts requires a comprehensive approach that takes into consideration the specific needs of the children with disabilities," Singh

said.

"As we work towards a more just and equitable society, let us commit to upholding the rights of all children, especially those with disabilities," he added.

Participants at the event were urged to focus on the steps taken by the state to protect children with disabilities across legal categories defined by the Juvenile Justice Acts such as Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) and Children in Conflict with the Law (CCL).

"It is not individuals with disabilities who are necessarily deficient. Our current system has also some deficiencies in providing equal treatment and opportunities to the disabled. The purpose of today's consultation is to find out these loopholes and fill the gaps, so that we have a better future," said Justice Debabrata Dash, chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Committee.

A Unicef study of August 2022 on Children with Disabilities estimated that one in three chil-

dren in institutions have a disability. Additionally, children with disabilities are disproportionately represented in childcare institutions, with some estimates suggesting that up to 25 per cent of all young people in such facilities have intellectual disabilities or mental health conditions.

According to the study, the mortality rate for children with disabilities in institutional care is 100 times higher than compared to other children.

"The cost of excluding children with disabilities would defeat our global commitment to 'Leaving No One Behind.' We must reaffirm our commitment to creating an enabling ecosystem where children with disabilities are included, protected, and empowered to reach their full potential," said William Hanlon Jr, Chief of Field Office, Unicef.

Speaking on the occasion, Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary, Social Security and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) said, "The focus is now on the needs, issues and contributions of about 60 to 70 lakh people with disabilities in Odisha. If we want our state to become a developed state and aim to achieve a \$500 million economy by 2036, and a \$1.5 trillion economy by 2047, then we have to reaffirm our commitment towards people with disabilities."



FOR A CAUSE: Members of Vandemataram group perform a street-play to create awareness about atrocities on women at Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, Sunday

'WSC providing platform to youth for skill devt'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: World Skill Center (WSC) is making a significant impact towards the development of the state by providing a platform for our talented youth to enhance their skills and prepare them for industry demands, said Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja during his visit to WSC here, Sunday.

Ahuja explored various modern laboratories and interacted with students regarding the advanced skill courses offered at the premier skill destination. Skill Development and Technical Education department Principal Secretary NBS Rajput accompanied him during the visit.

He also toured Kaushal



Bhawan and appreciated the infrastructure and the wide range of courses available to the youth of the state.

Impressed by the successful placements and international opportunities available to the youth of the state, he remarked,

"This initiative is a testament to the government's commitment to empowering the 'Skilled In Odisha' youth and maximising their potential, ultimately making significant strides in the skill ecosystem of the state and enhancing the prowess of its

workforce."

He visited the laboratories of various departments under the School of Engineering including Vertical Transportation, Electrical Technology, Mechatronics, Mechanical and Electrical Services and Air Conditioning and Refrigeration. He was pleased to see the array of advanced, ultramodern equipment available at the centre.

Odisha Skill Development Authority and WSC CEO Rashmita Panda, SD&TE Additional Secretary Pinaki Patnaik, WSC principal T Thambirajah, director School of Engineering, Pitchian Anthonysamy and director School of Services Lim Lai were present on the occasion.

WATERLOGGING ON TRACKS ECoR cancels, diverts trains

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: The East Coast Railway (ECoR) Sunday cancelled and diverted several trains in the Vijayawada Division following heavy rains that flooded the railway tracks at various places.

The trains which were cancelled are 20809 Sambalpur - Nanded Express, 20810 Nanded-Sambalpur Express, 18520 LTT-Visakhapatnam Express, 20833 Visakhapatnam - Secunderabad Express from Visakhapatnam, 20834 Secunderabad - Visakhapatnam Express and 20707/20708 Secunderabad - Visakhapatnam - Secunderabad Express.

Similarly, 20819 Puri-Okha Express was diverted from Puri Sunday and will run via Khurda Road, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Rayagada, Titilagarh, Raipur, Nagpur and Wardha.

11020 Bhubaneswar - Mumbai Konark Express was diverted from Bhubaneswar Sunday and will run via Bijayawada, Guntur, and Secunderabad.

12803 Visakhapatnam - Nizamuddin Express from Visakhapatnam will run via Vizianagaram, Rayagada, Titilagarh and Raipur-Nagpur.

18520 LTT-Visakhapatnam Express from LTT will run via Secunderabad, Pagidipalli and Guntur.

12804 Nizamuddin - Visakhapatnam Express from Nizamuddin will run via Nagpur, Raipur, Titilagarh, Rayagada and Vizianagaram.

11019 Mumbai - Bhubaneswar Konark Express from Mumbai will run via Secunderabad, Pagidipalli, Guntur and Vijayawada.

The South Central Railway authorities have also requested passengers to check the status of their trains before planning their journeys and have expressed regret for the inconvenience caused by these cancellations.

BDA observes 42nd Foundation Day



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) observed its 42nd Foundation Day at Sookhana Bhawan here, Sunday. Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Public Enterprises, and Chairman of BDA Krushna Chandra Mohapatra graced the event as chief guest.

The event was also attended by Mayor Sulochana Das, Bhubaneswar Ekamra MLA Babu Singh, BDA vice chairman N Thirumala Naik, Secretary Snigdharani Dhal, and BDA Karmachari United

Forum President Samir Mohanty

Mohapatra, in his address emphasised the need for strategic urban planning to accommodate the growing population in the Capital city. He highlighted the importance of collaboration between authorities and the public to develop the City, maintain its greenery, and improve its sewerage and drainage systems, to make it a world-class City.

Das underscored BDA's critical role in making Bhubaneswar an inclusive City, and addressing the challenges of climate change.

Singh urged the BDA authorities to prioritise projects that provide shelter for the urban homeless, noting the City's rapid population increase and less number of urban shelters homes.

Naik reaffirmed the authority's commitment to comprehensive development and enhancing the living standards of the residents.

Mosquito-mating cues could lead to improved malaria control

THE FINDINGS COULD HELP IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MOSQUITO TRAPS, NOT ONLY FOR MONITORING SPECIFIC MOSQUITO SPECIES BUT ALSO FOR POPULATION CONTROL

An international team led by researchers at the University of Washington has uncovered surprising details about mosquito mating, which could lead to improved malaria control techniques and even help develop precision drone flight. In a paper published in the journal Current Biology, the team revealed that when a male Anopheles coluzzii mosquito hears the sound of female-specific wingbeats, his vision becomes active.

Many mosquito species have relatively poor vision, and Anopheles coluzzii - a major spreader of malaria in Africa is no exception. But the team found that when a male hears the telltale buzz of female flight, his eyes 'activate' and he visually scans the immediate vicinity for a potential mate.

Even in a busy, crowded swarm of amorous mosquitoes, which is how A. coluzzii mates, the researchers found that the male can visually lock on to his target. He then speeds up and zooms deftly through the swarm and avoids colliding with others.

Saumya Gupta of the University of Washington, Seattle, said it was previously thought mosquitoes had such poor vision they could not see each other. What is more, male mosquitoes are known to tune out the sound of other males - meaning they could not rely on their acute hearing to avoid collisions. Now Gupta and colleagues



have shed fresh light on how the insects manage the feat.

"We have discovered this incredibly strong association in male mosquitoes when they are seeking out a mate. They hear the sound of wingbeats at a specific frequency - the kind that females make - and that stimulus engages the visual system," said Gupta. "Not only have we found mosquitoes can see visual cues of other individuals flying around," said Gupta, "but we found that for males they actually can integrate acoustic cues with vi-

sual cues to find a female."

Writing in the journal Current Biology, Gupta and colleagues report how they tethered anopheles mosquitoes within an arena whose walls were covered with an LED panel showing a static pattern of bright pixels. This, they say, mimics aspects of what a mosquito would see in a swarm. The team then put a large moving blob of light on the LED display to represent another mosquito very nearby.

The researchers found the tethered mosquitoes showed no inclination to steer towards or away from the large blob, although they did change the frequency and amplitude of their wingbeats.

However, when the high-pitched whine of a female was played, males strongly steered in the direction of the blob's movement. "As soon as they hear female sounds, they try to intercept the object," said Gupta. In other words, the sound of a female

mosquito appears to trigger a shift in the visual processing of males.

The team also looked at free-flying male mosquitoes, finding they did indeed try to avoid collisions when close to each other in a swarm.

However, rather than steering away to dodge collisions, the insects made other changes in their acceleration - chiming with the results of the earlier experiments.

Francesco Baldini from the University of Glasgow, who was not involved in the work, said the results were exciting. "They reveal that mosquitoes respond to visual cues not just based on what they see but also on what they hear."

Baldini added that the work could help improve the effectiveness of mosquito traps, not only for monitoring specific mosquito species but also, if highly effective, for population control.

CUO holds workshop on natural farming practices

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 1: The Central University of Odisha (CUO) Koraput hosted a four-day national seminar-cum-workshop on 'Sustainable and Regenerative Approaches with Desi Chasa'.

The seminar, jointly organised by the School of Agriculture and the School of Animal Husbandry, focused on integrating traditional knowledge into modern agricultural practices.

CUO VC Chakradhar Tripathi presided over the inaugural session. In his address, Tripathi underscored the critical role of natural farming in preserving Indian knowledge, culture, and tradition.

He highlighted the significant advantages of natural farming over conventional chemical methods, emphasising its positive impacts on environmental sustainability, soil health, biodiversity, water conservation, and health benefits.

He encouraged students to pursue careers as job creators rather than job seekers by embracing natural farming and fostering a deeper connection with nature.

Chairman of Loka Samabaya Pratishthan Natabara Sarangi, the chief guest of the occasion, highlighted the evolution of Indian agriculture from ancient practices to contemporary challenges and the potential of natural farming to address issues like climate change and sustainability.

Chairman of BPCL Biofuel and professor of Renewable Energy at OUAT, Bhubaneswar, MK Mohanty emphasised the transformative role of renewable energy in agriculture and waste management, including solar-powered irrigation and bio-energy from agricultural residues. He detailed how renewable energy can enhance efficiency, reduce environmental impact, and promote a circular economy.

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KSK benefits elude farmers

LACK OF PROPER PUBLICITY ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF KRUSHI SEVA KENDRAS BY THE GOVERNMENT HAS RENDERED THE SCHEME INEFFECTIVE



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 1: Although the state government has reportedly established krushi seva kendras (KSKs) to rent agricultural equipment to farmers at a nominal price, lack of awareness among the peasants and apathy of the KSKs have rendered the scheme defunct while the resultant surge in agricultural input costs have denuded the profit margin of farmers.

Official sources said the state government, in a bid to reduce the production cost of the crops, has established 2,795 KSKs during the period from FY 2013-14 to January 2024. KSKs provide tractors, power tillers, paddy harvesters & cutters, seedling planters, seeding machines, disc ploughs, sprinklers, motor pumps and pesticide sprayers to farmers on a fair price basis. Though 10 years have elapsed to the rollout of the scheme, many farmers in rural areas are unaware of it. As a result, farmers in rural areas are shelling out more from their pockets to hire these farm equipment from private players.

Observers have maintained

that lack of proper publicity of this scheme by the concerned department and the state government has left the KSKs to run only in pen and papers.

As a result, paddy farmers' cost of production has increased and profit reduced. Sources said paddy farmers have reportedly spent around ₹1,455 per quintal but sold it at a meagre ₹2,183 in 2023-24 FY. Moreover, farmers in many areas have reportedly resorted to distress sale. They have sold their paddy to the middlemen and agents at a throw away price of ₹1,800 per quintal.

Sources said expenditure per quintal of paddy has increased from ₹1,208 in 2019-20 FY to ₹1,245 in 2020-21 FY and further from ₹1,293 in 2021-22 FY to ₹1,360 in 2022-23 FY. The cost of production per quintal of paddy is only increasing over the years. The cost of production per quintal of jowar stood at ₹2,120, ₹1,371 for bajra, ₹1,394 for maize, ₹2,564 for raggi, ₹5,705 for green gram, ₹3,029 for soyabean and ₹4,411 for cotton.

Moreover, allegations of large-scale irregularities in various agricultural schemes are not-

ing new. Farmers are being demanded bribe anything between ₹8,000 to ₹10,000 for sanction of a loan or enlistment of their names in agricultural schemes.

The state government has ruled that secretary or managing director of a primary agricultural credit society (PACS) or the large area multipurpose society (LAMPS) can neither withheld nor use the loan passbook or cheque book of farmers. However, this order is yet to be executed in letter and spirit as the officials of these societies continue to dictate terms over the farmers.

Farmers have failed to bring any change in their financial condition as the cost of production has been rising.

Farmers Damodar Das, Sudam Charan Sahu, Jogendra Sahu, Anurodh Swain and Jyotiranjan Mohanty said that they do not have any knowledge as to what a KSK does. They admitted that they came to know from this correspondent about renting of farm equipment at subsidised prices by the KSKs.

Currently, they are hiring a tractor at ₹1,200 per hour and a paddy cutter at ₹2,200 per hour from private vendors.

When contacted, assistant registrar of cooperative societies, Jajpur, Benudhar Mallick said KSKs are yet to become functional in Jajpur district while the state government claims to have established 22 KSKs in the district. Locals and farmers have alleged that this is nothing but eyewash and the state government is just hoodwinking the people.



TRADITIONAL FEST: A woman vendor selling terracotta Hanuman idol awaits customers on the eve of Saptapuri Amavasya which is locally known as Pura Uansa festival at Biju Patnaik Square in Sonepur, Sunday

OP PHOTO

Girl's nude body recovered from jungle

POST NEWS NETWORK

Naktideula, Sept 1: Tension ran high at Sahebi village under this police limits in Sambalpur district after the disrobed decomposed body of a 19-year girl who was missing for the last three days was recovered from the Kaunsikhaja jungle near the Jharbeda Panduripasi Sahi village, Sunday.

The girl was missing for the last three days after she left home to take bath in the village stream, Friday. Family members filed a complaint with the police after they failed to trace her. On Sunday, some women spotted the girl's naked body inside the forest.

On being informed, police reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem. The girl's family members, meanwhile, alleged that she was raped before being murdered by a village youth Hari Behera. After reports surfaced, hundreds of locals along with the family members staged a road blockade on Naktideula-Batagaon road demanding the arrest of the miscreants and compensation to the bereaved family.

Jumbo herd stuck in Baitarani islet

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 1: Torrential rain and a swollen Baitarani river have left a herd of about 17 elephants stranded in the river islet for the last three days.

A Forest department team has kept a close watch on the jumbo herd and is trying for their safe crossing of the river. There are two tuskers, 10 female elephants and five elephant calves in the herd.

The jumbo herd is now facing acute food shortage in the islet and trying hard to escape

According to sources, the elephant herd was heading towards Mayurbhanj district by crossing Baitarani Thursday morning when it got stuck in the islet spread over 5 acres in between Dalapaka and Tanda village.

Locals said since there are five calves in the herd they could not cross the river after water level went up due to heavy rain-



fall in upper catchment area of Baitarani. The jumbo herd is now facing acute food shortage in the islet and trying hard to escape, sources said.

Forest officer Bhupati Sethy said, "After more than two days of getting stuck, 12 of the elephants have crossed the river Friday night. Other five are still stranded on the islet. As there is forest cover, food shortage may not be a problem for them. An elephant rescue team is camped near the area and watching their movement."

However, Keonjhar DFO Dhanraj HD said, "There is no problem with elephants. Now, some elephants land in the middle of the river." There are hundreds of elephant herd camps in Keonjhar forest division. Every day they are moving from one place to another in search of food. Sometimes they have to change places frequently as people intimidate them.

Union Steel secretary concludes RSP visit

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Sept 1: Union Steel secretary Sandeep Poundrik completed his two-day visit to the steel city, Saturday. He was accompanied by Union joint secretary Amarendu Prakash and SAIL chairman Sanjay Roy.

The trio along with director in-charge of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) Atanu Bhowmick visited different departments of the steel plant. The visit is viewed as a precursor to massive modernisation programme at RSP. Poundrik held discussions with Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in his chamber. Sources said the focus of the discussion was regarding modernisation of RSP.

The modernisation, sources said, aims at making RSP capable of producing 9 million tonne steel annually. Presently the capacity stands at 4.5 million tonne.

People with knowledge about steel manufacturing and the steel market believe that RSP needs to go for a massive modernization, if it has to thrive in a competitive market.

Speaking about the discussion and possible modernisation coming in RSP's way, former secretary of Steel Executive Federation of India Bimal Bisi

said, "This is a much needed measure which will make RSP one of the market leaders with the best quality steel." Prasant Behera, secretary of Rourkela Shramik Sangh (RSS), said, "This is our prime demand. As a responsible organization, we feel the necessity of it. If this modernisation doesn't come RSP's way, it will remain a small plant at 4.5 million tonne pa."

The previous modernisation process could not progress as land acquisition remained a big issue. In fact, all the unions are in favour of modernisation and they believe that survival and competitiveness of this steel major require this upgradation.

Soon after his arrival Friday, Poundrik chaired a high-level meeting at Manthan Conference hall of RSP. The meeting was attended by SAIL chairman, joint secretary (Steel), director in-charge, all the executive directors, CGMs, HODs and senior officials of the plant. Poundrik reviewed the performance of the steel plant on various fronts. A comprehensive presentation on the overview of the plant was presented during the meeting. It was followed by an interaction session.

Poundrik and others left for New Delhi in the afternoon.

Man held for rape, murder of minor girl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore, Sept 1: A 46-year-old man has been arrested on charges of raping and murdering a nine-year-old tribal girl in Balasore, police said Sunday.

According to Remuna police in-charge Hasina Kulu, the girl went missing from her home August 27, and her decomposed body was discovered in an abandoned house August 30.

Accused Rabi Singh was arrested Saturday and has been charged under various Sections related to rape and murder, including sections 103, 165, 4(2) of the BNS Act, and POCSO Act, Kulu said, adding that he has been remanded to judicial custody for 14 days.

"Investigation revealed that the accused is a friend of victim's father and slept at their home before the day of the crime. The next morning, the accused took the girl for snacks and brought her to an abandoned house where he committed the crime. He later used a piece of concrete slab to smash her head," the officer said.

BJD president and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik raised the issue in the Assembly Saturday, criticising the current government's handling of crimes.

"All major crimes, including this latest case, should be informed to the Chief Minister, who is also the Home Minister. This is a serious matter which never occurred during my government's tenure," Patnaik said.

2-year-old dies as wall caves in; parents critical



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Sept 1: A two-year-old boy was killed while his parents sustained severe injuries after a rain soaked wall of their house collapsed on them while they were asleep at Baibali Totasahi village under this tehsil of Ganjam district Saturday night.

The deceased was identified as Rushi Pradhan, son of Basant Pradhan. Basant and his wife have been admitted to Bhanjanagar hospital. Bhanjanagar police, revenue and forest personnel rushed to the village and launched a probe into the incident.

The incident occurred two months after an elephant herd strayed into the village and partially pulled down the wall of their house. Basant had applied for assistance informing both the Forest and Revenue departments, but to no avail.

The officials of both the departments only conducted a probe and left the village without providing any help to the poor villager.

Basant also failed to repair his house due to his abject poverty. However, as ill fate could have it, the damaged wall which had got soaked in rain, collapsed on the family members when they were asleep Saturday night.

Hearing their screams, neighbours rushed to the spot and rescued the trio before admitting them to Bhanjanagar hospital. The boy succumbed to his injuries during treatment Sunday morning. His parents are still undergoing treatment.

Bhanjanagar MLA Pradyumna Kumar Nayak expressed his grief over the child's death and directed the hospital authorities to provide proper treatment to the injured parents. He also directed the Forest and Revenue department officials to take necessary steps in this regard. Sub-Collector Anil Kumar Sethy visited the village and took stock of the situation.

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ବାଲିଗୁଡ଼ା

୧. ସହରର ସମସ୍ତ ସାହି ଓ ରାସ୍ତା ସଫା ରଖିବା ସହ ପରିବେଶ ପରିଷ୍କାର ରଖନ୍ତୁ । ୨. ଘରର ସମସ୍ତ ଡେଇଁ ଓ ଶୁଖିଲା ଅତିଆଳୁ ପୃଥକ ଭାବେ ପରିଷ୍କରଣ ସହ ବାହନ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ । ୩. ବାହ୍ୟ ମଳତ୍ୟାଗ କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ । ୪. ପ୍ଲାଷ୍ଟିକ ଓ ପଲିଥିନ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ । ୫. ଗଛଟିଏ ଲଗାନ୍ତୁ ଓ ପରିବେଶକୁ ସୁନ୍ଦର ରଖନ୍ତୁ । ୬. ଆପଣମାନଙ୍କଠାରୁ ସଂଗୃହୀତ ହେଉଥିବା ଅତିଆଳୁ ଉତ୍ତୁଷ୍ଟମାନଙ୍କ ଚୈଦିକ ଖଟ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ହେଉଥିବା ସହର ଉପଯୋଗ କରନ୍ତୁ । ୭. ନୂତନ ଘର ନିର୍ମାଣ କରିବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ନିୟମ ପରିଷଦ ଠାରୁ ମଞ୍ଜୁର କରାଇ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ସମାପ୍ତ ପରେ ବାହାର ପତ୍ତାକରଣ କରାଇ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ । ୮. ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛତାପାଳି ପଞ୍ଜୀକରଣ ଅନୁଧାରଣ ଭାବେ ରାସ୍ତା ଉପରେ ଘାତୁଣି ନାହିଁ । ୯. ବର୍ଷା ଋତୁ ସମୟରେ ପାଣି ନିକୃତ ସ୍ତର ଓ ପାଣିପାଗରେ ସୁନ୍ଦରଭାବେ କରନ୍ତୁ । ୧୦. ବ୍ୟବସାୟମାନଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ପାଇଁ ଚିତ୍ତେ ରାଜସ୍ୱେତ୍ କରାଇ ନିଅନ୍ତୁ । ୧୧. ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଚିକିତ୍ସା ସହାୟକ - Holding Tax, User Fee, Trade License ଠିକ୍ ସମୟରେ ପୈଠ କରନ୍ତୁ । ୧୨. ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ବାଲିଗୁଡ଼ା ଓ ପୁସ୍ତକ ବାଲିଗୁଡ଼ା ଗଠନରେ ସହାୟକ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।

ସ୍ୱା./- ବିଦେଶୀୟ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ, (ଓ.ଡା.ଭେ.) ସ୍ୱା./- ଶାନ୍ତି ନଗର, ସ୍ୱା./- ଗୋବିନ୍ଦ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ର ପ୍ରଧାନ (ଓ.ଡା.ଭେ.) ରାଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷା ରାଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷା ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ବାଲିଗୁଡ଼ା ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ବାଲିଗୁଡ଼ା

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ସୋରଡ଼ା, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ

ବାବା

- ସହରର ସମସ୍ତ ସାହି ଓ ରାସ୍ତା ସଫା ରଖିବା ସହ ପରିବେଶ ପରିଷ୍କାର ରଖନ୍ତୁ ।
- ଘରର ସମସ୍ତ ଡେଇଁ ଓ ଶୁଖିଲା ଅତିଆଳୁ ପୃଥକ ଭାବେ ପରିଷ୍କରଣ ସହ ବାହନ ଗାଡ଼ିରେ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ ।
- ବାହ୍ୟ ମଳତ୍ୟାଗ କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
- ପ୍ଲାଷ୍ଟିକ ଓ ପଲିଥିନ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ ।
- ଗଛଟିଏ ଲଗାନ୍ତୁ ଓ ପରିବେଶକୁ ସୁନ୍ଦର ରଖନ୍ତୁ ।
- ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ସୋରଡ଼ା ଓ ପୁସ୍ତକ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗଠନରେ ସହାୟକ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ ।

ଶ୍ରୀମୁଖ ପ୍ରଫୁଲ୍ଲ କୁମାର ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟନିର୍ବାହୀ ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷା ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ସୋରଡ଼ା ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଭାଗ୍ୟଲତା ଚାକ୍ରାଣୀ ରାଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷା ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ସୋରଡ଼ା ଶ୍ରୀମୁଖ ଶିବ ଶଙ୍କର ପଣ୍ଡା ଅଧ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ସୋରଡ଼ା

IIM Sambalpur organises buyer-seller meet for weavers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 1: To empower the traditional handloom sector of India, particularly in Odisha, IIM Sambalpur, one of the premier management institutions, recently organised a 'buyer-seller' meet at its campus. The event aimed to facilitate networking between master weavers and distinguished buyers from various regions of India, including prominent brands such as 'Fabindia', 'Nykaa Fashions', 'Reliance Swadesh' and 'Aditya Birla Liva'.

The initiative provided master weavers in the state with direct access to the markets, thereby significantly enhancing their global business opportunities and promoting the rich heritage of Odisha's handloom industry. On the occasion, a booklet entitled 'Natural Dyeing' was also

unveiled by the dignitaries. The event marked the successful conclusion of the second edition of the 12-weekend 'Small Business Management Training Programme', specifically designed for weavers from Western Odisha being conducted at the IIM Sambalpur campus.

The programme was organised in collaboration with several key stakeholders, including the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Aditya Birla Grasim, Imperial College, the ORMAS and Mission Shakti Department of Odisha.

Prof Mahadeo Jaiswal, director, IIM Sambalpur, delivered a thought-provoking address that underscored the significant role of the handloom sector in preserving India's rich cultural heritage. "Our focus on reviving India's handloom industry is part



of sustainable approach. Through the creation of Project: 'Bunkarvalley.com', we aspire to create a hub similar to Silicon Valley, dedicated to revitalising and promoting handloom crafts

in national and international markets. This initiative nurtures both human and environmental well-being," Prof Jaiswal stated. "By emphasising the five Ps of marketing such as Product,

Price, Place, Promotion and People, we tried to equip weavers alike our MBA students with the tools to elevate the traditional handloom products to the global market. This initiative is not just a local effort but a movement with the potential to transform India's economy," the director added.

The keynote address was delivered by Arup Kumar, CGM and Eastern Zonal In-charge, SIDBI. He highlighted the cluster intervention programme being conducted by SIDBI in collaboration with IIMs and IITs to enhance the capabilities of small and medium enterprises, particularly within the handloom sector. "We believe that transformation is the result of a collective vision and resolute action," Kumar stated.

Others who attended the programme included Keshav Rao, director (Personnel), MCL.

NOTICE

Before the Central Government Registrar of LLP Cuttack, Orissa

In the matter of sub-section (3) of Section 13 of Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 and rule 17 of the Limited Liability Partnership Rules, 2009 AND in the matter of RATHO LEGAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLP having its registered office at Plot No N2/14B IRC Village, Khordha, Bhubaneswar-751015, Orissa, Petitioner.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the LLP proposes to make a petition to Registrar of LLP Cuttack, Orissa under section 13 (3) of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 seeking permission to change its Registered office from the "State of Orissa" to the "State of Maharashtra."

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the LLP may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by Registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature his/her interest and grounds of opposition supported by an affidavit to the Registrar of LLP Cuttack, Orissa within 21 (twenty one) days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the petitioner LLP at its registered office at the address mentioned above.

For and on behalf of the RATHO LEGAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLP
Sd./- Subrat Ratho
Designated Partner
Place: Bhubaneswar
Date: 02.09.2024

FOCUS STOCK MARKET

SENSEX SURGE AN ILLUSION



The booming stock market may be a bubble. The middle class transferred their savings to mutual funds and stock market creating problems for banks

Sensex closing above 82,000 may grab headlines, but it doesn't reflect the true market buoyancy. SEBI has raised alarms over unscrupulous practices in the SME and real estate investment trusts (REITs), underlining the need for tighter regulations. While Sensex touched 82,135 and Nifty peaked at 25,152, this surge tells only part of the story. Despite these highs, most individual stocks remain stagnant, with demand concentrated only in select large cap stocks. The recent rallies are largely driven by IT and FMCG sectors, influenced by cues from the US market, rather than a broad-based market recovery.



Shivaji Sarkar

IF THE BUBBLE BURSTS, IT COULD BECOME A MAJOR CRISIS HITTING INDIVIDUALS AND THE ECONOMY

Mid and small cap stocks have been witnessing selling pressure. The REITs have many problems, including compliance of regulations, SEBI chairman Madhavi Puri Buch told Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai. She hinted at considering the possibility of changing the complexion of indices for benefiting investors in their long-term interest. It is a revealing statement on the health of the market and warning to investors. Buch says that compliances should be like natural breathing. The SEBI would not tolerate any innovation for short-changing investor interest. "That is opacity and lack of concern for investor money."

The SEBI earlier specified that SMEs after listing their companies, resort to illegal means to paint a rosy picture about their businesses, pump up stock prices and exit. This way they have amassed ₹14,000 crore over a decade since SME stocks were launched in 2012. Of this, ₹6,000 crore were raised in 2024 alone. These firms project unrealistic pictures. The announcements are followed up with various actions like bonus issues, stock splits and preferential allotment to induce buyers to purchase at elevated prices.

The SEBI mentioned about some companies listed at NSE's SME platform in 2022 wherein after listing, promoters resorted to rampant related transactions to show a sharp jump in business and revenues. Then it migrated to the main board, launched a preferential allotment to entities related to the promoters. Soon after the shares from this allotment were transferred to the promoters and sold in the market. The promoters made ₹89.2 crore illegal gains while shareholders were left with worthless shares.

While financial sector risks in larger and higher per capita income countries are moderate, half of lower-income countries face significant risks. World Bank Financial and Prosperity Report 2024 denotes. Nearly 70% of countries facing high financial sector risks are currently not adequately prepared to handle financial stress. The report also identifies a particular risk facing financial sectors in several countries: a large and growing exposure to sovereign debt. This exposure surged to its highest level in the past decade. It signifies that the regulators have tougher

job to do than mere facilitating companies dishing out a glorious picture ignoring the risks for increasing profits.

Buch says that a consultation paper proposing changes to the rules for trading index-based derivatives received 6,000 comments. This is an indicator of investors' concern. The SEBI would use technology to scan the comments and may revise the index compositions and regulatory mechanism.

The Sensex is India's oldest index. It is an economy-weighted, free-float index with 30 financially sound, well-established companies listed on the BSE. These 30 firms, among the most successful and highest traded, represent various industries in India. The Indian stock market has been dominated for decades by narrow large cap benchmarks. One of them is the S&P BSE Sensex. The competing indices are similar in size and representation. These indices capture 40-60 per cent of the Indian market capitalisation. Critics say that Indian market participants have a narrow range of choices to make a true selection for benchmarks. It should capture 80-90 percent of the market cap-

italisation to reflect the actual market movements. The S&P 500 is also designed for exposure of large cap stocks and represents about 70% of the US equity market. However, liquidity in the Indian stock market sits in the top 100 stocks and tapers off sharply at just the halfway point.

The foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) are the major players in Indian equity market. Foreign investors have been net sellers since the Union Budget 2024. The FPIs have withdrawn ₹16,305 crore from Indian equities in August, driven by a mix of global economic concerns, including the unwinding of the yen carry trade, recession fears in the US, and ongoing geopolitical conflicts in the Middle East. This pullout from equities highlights the cautious stance of overseas investors who are rebalancing their portfolios in favour of more stable and secure investment avenues.

The FPI preferences are making a shift to debt market amid global turbulence. According to data from the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), FPIs have poured in ₹1,02,354 crore into the Indian debt market so far in 2024. Stock operators say that the FPI strategy is to sell India which is expensive and buy China which is inexpensive mainly through Hong Kong. The price to earnings or PE ratio in India is more than double the PE ratio in Hong Kong. This incongruity of the Indian scrip leads to 'Sell India, Buy China' trade by foreign investors.

The booming stock market may be a bubble. The middle class transferred their savings to mutual funds and stock market creating problems for banks. The Reserve Bank of India has flagged this. Many also borrowed heavily. If the bubble bursts, it could become a major crisis hitting individuals and the economy.

INFA

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Rethinking emissions targets

Despite committing to nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the 2015 Paris climate agreement to limit global warming, countries have struggled to meet their emissions-reduction targets. This is particularly true for developing countries, where pressing economic and political challenges tend to overshadow long-term climate objectives.

Implementing effective climate policy requires a shift in thinking. Climate change is both a negative externality and an inequality problem, raising the question of who should bear the costs of climate action within and between countries. Policymakers should focus more on the complicated tradeoff between economic efficiency and equity to ensure that developing countries do not shoulder the burden of the rich world's historical carbon dioxide emissions, and that measures are in place to safeguard future generations. Of course, the Paris agreement set clear goals while adhering to the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities," which means that all countries are responsible for addressing climate change, but not equally so. But there is still a tendency to focus on uniform targets. Consider the global push for net-zero greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 – a complimentary long-

term goal outlined in the Paris agreement, and one with respect to which many developing countries remain far off track.

To achieve this ambitious goal, countries must be able to devise climate policy based on their capabilities and historical responsibilities, rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all strategy. Recent research suggests that this would require net-negative emissions targets for high-income countries, while allowing low-income countries to generate net-positive emissions. Of course, such differentiation is not a free pass: developing countries would still have to reduce GHG emissions. But this approach, embodying the spirit of "common but differentiated responsibilities," better reflects their economic conditions and development needs.

Moreover, financial assistance from developed to developing countries to support climate action has been ineffective, owing mainly to transparency and accountability problems. In this context, the same study finds that carbon sequestration and capture, whether through technological innovations or natural solutions, could be a politically feasible alternative to direct monetary transfers. Enabling each country to monitor its own efforts to absorb carbon could bring the world closer to net-

zero emissions while respecting diverse national circumstances.

Emissions in Latin America, for example, are split almost equally between energy, agriculture and livestock, and land use, whereas they are largely energy-related in the United States and Europe. Promoting sustainable agricultural and livestock practices – as opposed to focusing solely on decarbonizing the energy system – could therefore help reduce emissions in the region, as well-managed pastures and soil can increase carbon sequestration. This approach would also align private incentives with social returns by revaluing land and allowing farmers to remain internationally competitive.

The case of Argentina illustrates how improving the sustainability of agriculture and livestock could play a pivotal role in the transition to a green global economy. A series of economic crises, coupled with increasing political volatility, have led the Argentinian government to focus more on immediate problems than climate policy. But given the country's position as a leading food producer, re-vamping these industries could help it enhance climate mitigation and adaptation – and contribute meaningfully to international goals – while recognising its economic conditions and de-

velopment needs.

Addressing domestic inequality is equally crucial in shaping effective climate policies in Argentina and other developing countries. Ongoing research demonstrates that conventional approaches, including uniform carbon taxes, fail to account for nuanced socioeconomic disparities. Implementing progressive taxation based on income levels or consumption patterns, such as higher taxes for frequent flyers, may yield better outcomes. Regardless, this problem demands innovative policy solutions that mirror the complexity of global climate governance.

Framing climate change as an inequality problem does not require compromising on global goals; rather, it underscores the importance of differentiated targets. Many developing countries remain a long way away from a fully decarbonized energy system. While taking steps toward that end, these countries should be encouraged to implement climate policies that harness innovations and alternative strategies for reducing emissions.

Elisa Belfiori is a professor at Universidad Torcuato Di Tella. Yanel Llohis is a consultant at the World Bank's Human Capital Project. @PROJECTSYNDICATE

The practice of Yoga brings us face to face with the extraordinary complexity of our own being.



SRI AUROBINDO

Students, Jobs, Suicides

A disconcerting new report has revealed that student suicides in India have now surpassed the country's population growth rate. The report titled "Student suicides: An epidemic sweeping India" has been compiled by the IC3 Institute, a volunteer-based organisation that provides support to high schools around the world, based on data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Over the last decade, while the population of the 0-24 age group has reduced from 582 million to 581 million, the number of student suicides has increased from 6,654 to 13,044, the report pointed out. Notwithstanding a likely under-reporting of student suicides, such cases have grown by four per cent annually as against a two per cent increase in the overall suicide numbers.

While Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Madhya Pradesh account for the highest number of student suicides in that order, Rajasthan, home to the infamous Kota coaching hub, comes at the tenth position. Kota saw 15 student suicides in 2022, while the number increased to 27 in 2023, as reported by Rajasthan police. It is pertinent to note here that the actual numbers could be higher as not all suicides are reported to the police, especially due to the social stigma associated with it. Even if reported, the causes of death are altered so that the figures may not add up correctly.

This alarming trend has been noticed over the last decade when both parental and societal pressure, coupled with a sagging economy, has taken a toll on the younger population. Academic pressure has always been higher in this country with seats in reputed educational institutions being scarce compared to the huge number of aspirants. This has been true even in the case of jobs as we frequently come across news reports of thousands applying for a handful of positions. The economy, in spite of all the loud talk about the country having the fastest growing GDP, has simply not been able to absorb the hordes of job seekers. This is also a major reason for the terrible antipathy faced by those who benefit from 'Reservation' which is, till now, limited to government jobs only. Admittedly jobs offered by all governments at state and Union level are considered plum picks by only those who are not brilliant in any field and wish to enjoy the fruits of everything at the cost of the tax payer.

This problem is better understood when it is accepted that the idea is ingrained in the average Indian psyche that the search for a "dream job" often ends up in three professions, namely medical, engineering and civil services. The last one being the most sought after. It is interesting to note here that most of the students die by suicide while pursuing studies for these professions. Parents rarely support their wards to take up any other profession, while entrepreneurship is often looked at with disdain as none wants to take the risks associated with such an endeavour. Ironically, it is the entrepreneurs, especially the small and medium sized ones, who employ the bulk of the workforce in this country and contribute the most to the economy.

To tide over this situation, an environment should be created wherein the youth see hope rather than gloom in their future. This should begin right from home where parents need to stop having unusually high expectations from their children. Secondly, our institutions of education should shift their focus from being factories for only producing job-ready individuals. They should rather become platforms inculcating necessary skills in students – skills that would make them independent in their lives, not just land them a job. Unfortunately, the concept of 'Campus recruitment' has long been the yard stick to discover excellence in educational institutions. By offering education that makes students self dependent, these institutions could help the country to reap the demographic dividend accruing from a growing young population. Otherwise, this same growing population could lead to a demographic disaster instead.

WISDOM CORNER

People sacrifice the present for the future. But life is available only in the present. That is why we should walk in such a way that every step can bring us to the here and the now. **THICH NHAT HANH**

What we call happiness in the strictest sense comes from the (preferably sudden) satisfaction of needs which have been dammed up to a high degree. **SIGMUND FREUD**

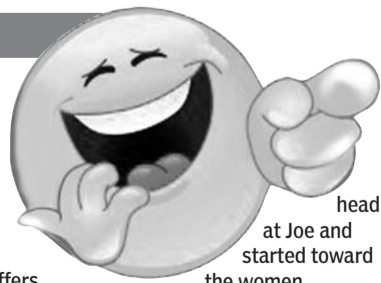
Your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life; not so much by what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens. **KAHLIL GIBRAN**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1666:** Great Fire of London. On this day in 1666 the Great Fire of London began accidentally in the house of the king's baker; it burned for four days and destroyed a large part of the city, including Old St. Paul's Cathedral and about 13,000 houses.
- 1752:** UK adopts the Gregorian calendar. The calendar, also sometimes known as the Western Calendar, is one of the most widely used calendars today. Prior to the switch, Britain and its territories followed the Julian Calendar. Due to the change, the British lost 11 days when September 2 was followed by September 14.
- 1901:** American politician Theodore Roosevelt, who was then the Republican vice presidential candidate, gave the first public speech in which he said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far." The Big Stick policy later became a central feature of his presidency.
- 1945:** World War II came to an end as Japanese Foreign Minister Shigemitsu Mamoru and General Umezu Yoshijiro signed Japan's formal surrender aboard the USS Missouri.
- 1960:** The first election of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile is held. The parliamentary body of the Central Tibetan Administration was elected and formed by Tibetan exiles in India. The day is celebrated as Democracy Day among Tibetan exiles.

LOL SLOW GOLFERS

Joe decides to take his boss Phil to play 9 holes on their lunch. While both men are playing excellent they are often held up by two women in front of them moving at a very slow pace. Joe offers to talk to the women and see if they can speed it up a bit. He gets about half of the way there stops and jogs back. His boss asks what the problem is. "Well one of those women is my wife and the other my mistress," complained Joe. Phil just shook his



head at Joe and started toward the women determined to finish his round of golf. Preparing to ask the ladies to speed up their game, he too stopped short and turned around. Joe asked "what's wrong?" It's a small, small world Joe, and you're fired"

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Growth catalyst

Sir, The Indian government's ambitious plan to develop 12 industrial smart cities across 10 states, with an investment of ₹28,600 crore, is a significant step towards modernising the country's industrial landscape. These smart cities aim to integrate sustainability and IT-driven utilities, ensuring that industrial growth is both environmentally friendly and technologically advanced. The focus on smart infrastructure, efficient resource management, and advanced communication systems is expected to attract both domestic and international investments, boosting India's economic growth. However, to ensure the success of these smart cities, it is crucial to learn from past experiences, particularly the challenges faced by Special Economic Zones (SEZs). SEZs, despite their initial promise, often struggled due to issues such as inadequate infrastructure, regulatory hurdles, and lack of proper planning. By analysing these shortcomings, the government can develop more robust strategies for the new industrial smart cities, avoiding the pitfalls that hindered SEZs. One of the primary challenges in developing these smart cities is land acquisition. Acquiring land for industrial purposes has historically been a contentious issue in India, often leading to delays and conflicts. To address this, the government needs to implement fair and transparent land acquisition policies that ensure adequate compensation and rehabilitation for affected communities. This will not only expedite the development process but also build trust among stakeholders. Institutional arrangements are another critical factor.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Miscarriage of justice

Sir, This refers to the news report "PM bats for speedy justice," Orissa POST, September 1. I wish to question that how can justice be hurried up when judges are lopsided with cases and the continued poor infrastructure still prevailing in lower courts. In spite of earning good revenue from lower courts, the apathy of the government continues unabated. Besides, for ensuring quick justice for any crime the law enforcement agencies must be given a freehand. But we seldom find police investigating a crime impartially. We have to also bear in mind that hurrying up judicial decisions may also run the risk of miscarriage of justice.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

UNEVEN RAINS, WATER-INTENSIVE CROPS

Concerns over Kharif yield mount for farmers



Erratic weather has led to stunted crop growth and increased reliance on costly groundwater irrigation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 1: The monsoon season in Uttar Pradesh officially ends this month but the uneven distribution of rainfall it brought has made the state's farmers apprehensive about the yield of Kharif crops this time. Over half of its districts have received below-normal rainfall since June. Of the 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh, 37 have received deficient rainfall so far and seven witnessed excess, while 31 districts mostly in the central and eastern parts received normal rains, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data.

The state's western, Rohilkhand, and central regions have been particularly impacted by this erratic monsoon pattern. Shamlī, in western Uttar Pradesh, is the hardest hit, recording only 20.2 per cent of its normal rainfall. Farmers in the district are struggling with stunted crop growth due to insufficient rains, according to marginal paddy farmer Mueqem Khan.

"We cannot grow paddy without sufficient rain. I have paddy sown in over two acres of land but the growth of the crop is not good because of less rainfall," Khan said.

Known for its superior paddy crops, Shamlī has received just 90.8 mm of rainfall of the normal 448.4 mm so far this year. According to the IMD calendar, the southwest monsoon season begins June 1 and ends September 30.

Not just less rainfall but even rainfall on fewer days also affects Kharif farmers. These changes particularly harm water-intensive crops like paddy.

Gautam Buddh Nagar, Amroha, Fatehpur and Jaunpur have also faced significant deficits.

"I planted paddy in the first week of July. Due to the lack of

rain, we were forced to use tube wells. But there has been no rainfall and I cannot afford to pay to cultivate my farm using groundwater only," laments paddy farmer Nakul Pal in Amroha.

Pal (65), who takes farmland on lease for cultivation, said, "I have been cultivating paddy since I was a teenager, but the monsoon season has become erratic over the last few years."

IMD data shows Gautam Buddh Nagar district has received just 20.9 per cent of its normal rainfall so far, followed by Amroha at 40.6 per cent, Kushinagar at 41.3 per cent, Chandauli at 43.1 per cent, Fatehpur at 43.6 per cent, Saharanpur at 43.7 per cent, Jaunpur at 46 per cent and Amethi at 48.4 per cent.

Climate scientists attribute this imbalance to a weaker south-eastern monsoon, influenced by western disturbances.

Sumit Singh Vyas, a climate scientist and former adviser to the Union agriculture ministry, said a belt of low-pressure zone caused partially by western disturbances has affected the progression of the normal monsoon. "This leads to unequal and sudden changes in the monsoon pattern," he added.

Vyas said these changes cause both delays in monsoon and a decrease in the frequency of the monsoon. "This leads to the delayed start of the monsoon season and rainfall on fewer days during the season," he explained.

As per IMD data of the last 12 weeks of the monsoon season, western Uttar Pradesh saw only two weeks of normal rainfall.

Even in the districts that saw relatively normal rainfall, the irregular patterns of downpours have made it difficult for farmers to plan their agricultural activities.

BJP MLA and Minister of State for Agriculture Education and Research Baldev Singh Aulakh said farmers have already approached him with the issue.

The state as a whole has so far recorded 88.5 per cent of its normal rainfall.

HEAVY RAINS LASH PARTS OF T'GANA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Sept 1: Nine persons died in separate rain-related incidents in Telangana as heavy downpour continued to lash many parts of the state including Hyderabad Sunday.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy held an emergency review in view of the incessant rains in the state and spoke to ministers over phone and relief measures in submerged areas, an official release said.

The chief minister, who held a teleconference with senior officials, asked officials of Municipal Administration, Energy, Panchayati Raj and other departments, to be alert for the next 24 hours.

He directed district Collectors, SPs, Revenue, Irrigation and Municipal officials to conduct field visits in flood-hit habitations. The authorities have been instructed to take immediate relief measures in flood-hit areas.

Following heavy rains, rivulets were in spate and low-lying areas were inundated at several places in the state and flood water disrupted road links between villages. Trees were uprooted under the impact of the heavy rain and winds, while branches of trees have fallen on roads.

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said precautionary measures taken in time resulted in saving of lives and property.

Despite the measures, nine persons lost their lives in various parts of the state in separate rain-related incidents, he said.

Three persons were also feared washed away in Mahabubabad and Khammam districts.

In other districts like Suryapet,



CM HOLDS EMERGENCY REVIEW

Bhadradri Kothagudem, Mahabubabad and Khammam authorities evacuated residents of several flood-hit villages to safety, the Minister said.

He said some people have been shifted to relief camps in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits as a precautionary measure as there is a possibility of rain-soaked old houses collapsing.

He said the District Collectors have been asked to declare a holiday for educational institutions as per local conditions September 2. Due to the forecast of heavy rains in Hyderabad district, a holiday has been declared for all Primary and Secondary Schools, under all managements (Government, Aided, and Private) September 2, as a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of the children, officials said.

Residents of a locality in Khammam district were stranded on the rooftop of their houses as the locality was sur-

PM promises required assistance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday spoke to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over phone and enquired about the flood situation in the rain-hit areas and the damages caused due to flood fury in the state. The Telangana Chief Minister briefed PM Modi on the losses incurred due to heavy rains in the state and about the immediate relief measures taken by the state government to prevent loss of lives and damages to properties, a CMO release said Sunday night. The Chief Minister explained to PM Modi that Khammam district bore the brunt of heavy rains and suffered huge rain related damages. PM Modi assured Revanth Reddy that helicopters that could fly even in adverse weather conditions would be sent to the state for rescue and relief operations, it said. The Prime Minister also promised all required assistance to the state, it added.

rounded by flood waters. TV channels showed the residents pleading for help.

Srinivas Reddy said district Collectors and police officials should be alert in view of the forecast of heavy rains till tomorrow to prevent any loss of life and property.

Due to heavy rains and waterlogging over the tracks at several locations on South Central Railway network, as many as 99 trains were cancelled and four trains were partially cancelled

while 54 trains were diverted, an SCR official said.

Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar in a post on 'X' said, "Informed Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri @AmitShah ji about the severe situation in Telangana's Khammam & that 110 villages in the district have been submerged, 9 people are stranded on Prakash Nagar hillock, 68 people on Azmeera Thanda hillock in Palair constituency, and 42 others are trapped on buildings."

Following the Home Minister's orders, nine NDRF teams, three each from Chennai, Visakhapatnam, and Assam, have been dispatched to Telangana, Sanjay Kumar said.

He said he spoke with senior NDRF officials to coordinate rescue efforts and also discussed the situation and the ongoing rescue operations with Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy.

A portion of gravel under the railway track near Kesamudram in Mahabubabad district was washed away due to floodwaters, resulting in passengers on a train being stranded at Kesamudram railway station.

The SCR official said due to incessant rains in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana over the past 24 hours there has been flooding and breaches in Kazipet to Vijayawada section and five trains in that section were stranded even as officials moved 15 trains via a diverted path.

Due to heavy rains, water is flowing on NH 65 at Chillakallu and Nandigama in Andhra Pradesh and the Paleru river is overflowing on the road at Nayakinigudem on the way from Suryapet to Khammam in Telangana, police said.

Therefore, vehicles have been stopped on this route and those going to Vijayawada via Suryapet and those going to Khammam should put off their journey, Suryapet District Superintendent of Police Sunpreet Singh said in a release.

Hyderabad also witnessed heavy rains and the continued overnight downpour led to waterlogging in many parts of the city. Malyal in Mahabubabad district received the highest rainfall of 40 cm followed by Mahabubabad 37 cm and Kodada in Suryapet district 35 cm (till 8.30 am Sunday).

NMCG approves 5 projects for UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 1: The National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved five projects worth ₹73 crore for Uttar Pradesh in its 56th executive committee meeting held in New Delhi, an official statement here said Saturday.

Rajeev Kumar Mital, Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) chaired the meeting.

"The approved projects are pivotal to the improvement of the river's ecosystem as these ensure minimised level of pollution in Ganga, thereby maintaining its cleanliness and ensuring its conservation," the statement said. The committee approved the project 'Establishment of Secretariat for Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR) at Varanasi' presented and controlled by IIT (BHU)



under the supervision of the NMCG it said.

This project intends to deploy global expertise and adopt sustainable practices to rejuvenate and give a facelift to all the small rivers spread across the country. It does this by creating the right balance between the environment, economy and the society

as a whole, it said.

Another project on 'Faecal Sludge Management for Abatement of Pollution of River Ganga at Dalmau, Raebareilly, Uttar Pradesh' was approved as part of the Namami Ganga Mission to reduce the river's pollution, according to the statement.

Under this project, an eight

KLD Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant will be established, along with a 15 KW Solar Power Plant and one Solar Inverter.

The sewerage project focusing on cleaning the river Ganga has been officially approved for implementation in Gulaothi, located in the Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh, the statement said.

Additionally, 'Restoration Plan of Lower Order Streams and Tributaries in the Upper Gomti River Basin through Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)' is another initiative approved by the Executive Committee.

Proposed by the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Central University, Lucknow, the project lays emphasis on the rejuvenation of lower-order streams and tributaries in the upper Gomti River Basin through NBS.

T'gana to formulate new tourism policy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Hyderabad, Sept 1: The Telangana government Friday decided to formulate a new tourism policy to attract more domestic and international tourists.

As part of SPEED (Smart, Proactive, Efficient, and Effective Delivery) review, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy held a meeting with the top officials on tourism projects and asked them to formulate a new policy for the development of more tourist destinations.



He also urged the concerned officials to study the tourism policies of other states which are ranked best in the country in attracting tourists, and adopt suitable policies from them for Telangana.

The meeting decided to formulate separate policies for the development of temple tourism, eco-tourism, and health tourism.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to promote all the ancient temples, historical places, forest areas, and medical facilities in Telangana as the most attractive destinations for tourism.

It was decided to use 200 acres of government land to develop health tourism in the natural forest area of the Ananthagiri region. The meeting also discussed setting up a nature wellness centre on the lines of the Jindal Nature Cure Institute in Bangalore.

The officials have been asked to consult the representatives of Jindal Company to develop a wellness centre and also invite noted organisations in the field of naturopathy to open their centres in the state. The Chief Minister also asked the officials to prepare plans for the development of a Health City in 1,000 acres of land in the proposed Fourth City of Hyderabad. The government will formulate a new policy so that the companies that come forward to set up their centres here get adequate incentives.

The Health City will provide one-stop solution packages for medical services to those coming from different countries.

'LARGEST POLICE EXAM'

32 lakh compete for 60,000 posts in UP

CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH CONGRATULATES THE CANDIDATES, THE UPPRPB, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIONS AND THE STATE POLICE FOR ENSURING 'SMOOTH AND FAIR' CONDUCT OF THE EXAM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 1: Around 32 lakh candidates took the test for more than 60,000 vacant posts in Uttar Pradesh Police over five days concluding Saturday amid tight security, with the state government describing it as the "largest police recruitment exam" in its history.

The exam, conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board (UPPRPB), was held at 1,174 centres in 67 districts of the state on the fifth and last day of the exercise, which began last week. The exams were held in two shifts for



five days -- August 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath congratulated the candidates, the UPPRPB, district administrations and the state police for ensuring "smooth and fair" conduct of the exam.

The fresh recruitment exercise to fill over 60,000 posts was necessitated after the exams scheduled for February 17 and 18 were cancelled following allegations of a paper leak.

The Uttar Pradesh State Transport Corporation is providing free bus services to candidates, including complimentary travel on electric buses in several districts. Previously mired with

allegations of paper leaks, the exam centres of UPPRPB and its nearby areas witnessed high-levels of security this time and Aadhaar verification was done for all candidates, according to an official statement issued Saturday evening.

Also, 16,440 exam rooms across 1,174 centres in the state were equipped with CCTV and monitored by artificial intelligence, while over 2,300 magistrates and more than one lakh police personnel were deployed for duty, it added.

"Hearty congratulations to all the candidates for the fair, transparent and peaceful completion of the written exami-

nation-2023 conducted for the selection of more than 60,200 posts of constable civil police," Adityanath posted on X in Hindi.

"May all the energetic and disciplined youth taking part in the exam get the desired results and may everyone have a bright future; infinite good wishes for this!" he said.

"Heartfelt thanks to all the people who helped in conducting the world's largest civil police recruitment examination successfully and safely, to the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board and the district administration of all the districts," he added.

The chief minister said more

than 15,000 women will be recruited in the selection process of over 60,000 police constables.

"The examination was conducted in a fair and smooth manner; this will further enrich the model of security and good governance in Uttar Pradesh," he added.

According to the official statement, over 32 lakh candidates participated in this exam, which was conducted over five days in two phases.

"The Uttar Pradesh government upheld transparency and integrity through unprecedented measures, including holding the exam exclusively in government schools to further ensure fairness," the statement said.

Every necessary measure was taken to prevent any inconvenience to the candidates. To achieve this, 2,300 magistrates and 1,97,859 police personnel were deployed, while CCTVs equipped with artificial intelligence were installed to monitor

the proceedings, it said.

The security arrangements, both inside and outside the exam centres, kept cheaters and solver gangs at bay, it added.

Additionally, Uttar Pradesh Police maintained vigilant monitoring across various platforms, including WhatsApp and social media, with intelligence agencies on 24-hour alert to preempt any potential issues.

The extensive security apparatus put in place to ensure the safety and integrity of the police recruitment

examination involved the deployment of 1,97,859 policemen, including 25 companies of Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) and 8 companies of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), the statement said.

Additionally, 137 additional superintendents of police, 522 deputy superintendents of police, 47,587 head constables, 86,844 constables, and 26,582 women constables, were also deployed, it said.

16,440 exam rooms across 1,174 centres in the state were equipped with CCTV and monitored by artificial intelligence, while over 2,300 magistrates and more than one lakh police personnel were deployed for duty

national



All my works are focused on making Himachal Pradesh economically self-reliant by 2027 and the most prosperous state in the country by 2032
SUKHINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CHIEF MINISTER

KAVACH WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN MISSION MODE: VAISHNAW

Modern technology like Kavach that was developed in the country will now be implemented in a mission mode, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said. The minister stated this in his welcome address before the flagging-off of three Vande Bharat trains by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday



of the day quote

When humanity has been shamed, there are some stray voices, voices that cause concern. They only aggravate our excruciating pain. To put it mildly, they are adding salt to our injured conscience and what do they say it is a symptomatic malaise, a frequent incident

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

It is the collective responsibility of all those present at the programme to break the common perception that the justice delivery system has a taarikh pe taarikh culture

ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL | LAW MINISTER

Another successful day in San Francisco. We have secured a ₹400 crore investment from Ohmium in Chengalpattu district, creating 500 jobs

M K STALIN | TAMIL NADU CM

SHORT TAKES

24 per cent rain deficit in HP

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh has recorded a 24 per cent deficit in rainfall between June 1 and September 1 despite spells of heavy rain during the ongoing monsoon that caused extensive damage and claimed over 150 lives in the state. Of the 12 districts in the state, 11 recorded a rainfall deficit. Only the Shimla district received 10 per cent excess rains, according to the meteorological department. The state received 471.1 mm of rainfall in the current monsoon season. According to data from the weather department, Lahaul and Spiti district recorded the highest 73 per cent rain deficit.

Prez to visit Maha from Sept 2 to 4

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu will visit Maharashtra for three days beginning Monday to attend a host of programs, according to an official statement. She will grace the golden jubilee celebration of Shri Warana Women Co-operative Group at Warananagar, Kolhapur, Monday, it said. On September 3, the President will grace and address the 21st convocation of Symbiosis International (Deemed University) at Pune, said the statement issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan Sunday.

Leopard creates panic

Bangalore: Residents of BRS Layout in Kyalasanahalli in Jigani on the outskirts of Bengaluru were in panic after they spotted a leopard straying into their locality Sunday. The CCTV footage has shown a leopard taking a stroll in their area. According to the residents, they woke up in the wee hours of Sunday after dogs started barking repeatedly. They demanded that the Forest department catch the big cat.

9 criminals held with illegal liquor

Gurugram: Gurugram Police arrested nine persons for selling Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) and seized 34 boxes and 485 bottles from them, an official said Sunday. Gurugram Police Spokesperson Sandeep Kumar identified the accused as Inderdev, Rahul, Rajkumar, Aakash, Alok, Arun, Maharam, Mahender and Rajbeer. "Police continues its efforts to crack down on such activities which are aimed to curb the illegal liquor trade in the region," Kumar said.

President Murmu flags delay in rape case verdicts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: President Droupadi Murmu Sunday said delay in court decisions in heinous crimes, like rape, forces the common man to think that the judicial process lacks sensitivity, even as she called for a change in 'culture of adjournments' in the judiciary. She said longstanding pendency and backlog of cases is a big challenge before the judiciary.

"When court decisions in a heinous crime like rape come after a generation has passed, the common man feels that the judicial process lacks sensitivity," Murmu said addressing the valedictory session of the two-day National Conference

Speaking at the 'National Conference of the District Judiciary', CJI Chandrachud said it should be ensured that courts provide safe and accommodating environment for all members of the society

of District Judiciary. The President said programmes such as special Lok Adalat week should be organised more frequently to clear the backlog. "All stakeholders have to find a solution by giving priority to this problem," she said. Murmu lamented that "in



some cases, people with resources continue to roam around fearlessly and freely even after committing crimes."

Those who suffer from their crimes live in fear as if they have committed some crime,

she said. She also pointed out that the poor from villages are afraid to go to court.

"They become a participant in the justice process of the court only under great compulsion. Often they tolerate in-

justice silently because they feel that fighting for justice can make their lives more miserable," she said at the event held by the Supreme Court at Bharat Mandapam here.

For them, going away from the village to the court even once becomes a cause of great mental and financial pressure, she said. The President said that many are aware about "White Coat Hypertension" due to which people's blood pressure increases in a hospital environment. She unveiled the flag and insignia of the Supreme Court during the event attended by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Union Minister of State for Law and Justice (Independent charge) Arjun Ram Meghwal.

ANDHRA COLLEGE ROW

No hidden cameras found: Edu Minister

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati, Sept 1: Andhra Pradesh's Education Minister Nara Lokesh Sunday denied that there were any hidden cameras at Gudlavalleru Engineering College in Krishna district and dismissed the recent controversy as a dispute among four students.

He told media persons that there were no hidden cameras anywhere in the college and alleged that the issue was sensationalised by a section of the media.

The minister clarified that no videos or evidence had emerged to support the allegations of hidden cameras. "There was no hidden camera anywhere. Not a single video has surfaced," he said and remarked that the 'blue media' tried to sensationalise it. He was referring to media outlets considered close to the opposition YSR Congress Party.

Lokesh alleged that this media was working only to sensationalise any small issue happening anywhere. "Ever since I became Education Minister, there has been a focus on me. I am ready for that focus. I have no problem," he said.

Stating that the media "knows" what happened at the college, Lokesh said those involved were arrested. "It was a dispute among three to four students. We arrested them. Who spoke to whom and where, it was all being reviewed from the office of the Director General, Intelligence but there was no hidden camera anywhere," he said.

Replying to a query from a reporter, Lokesh asked him to show the hidden camera. He said police searched the campus and students could not show any hidden cameras.

The alleged fixing of a hidden camera in the girls' washroom in the college hostel sparked huge protests by students August 29 and 30. Protesters had alleged that cameras were installed in the women's toilet a few days ago and that the warden and the college management failed to take any action despite complaints. Police seized the laptops, mobile phones and other electronic gadgets of the suspects August 30.

GUJARAT RAINS

MHA forms team to assess damage

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 1: The Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted an inter-ministerial team to assess the damage caused by rainfall and floods in Gujarat.

The team will shortly visit the flood-affected districts of Gujarat, which was hit by heavy to extremely heavy rainfall between August 25 and 30 caused by a deep depression formed over Rajasthan and Gujarat, according to an official statement.

At least 25 people have died in rain-related incidents across the state August 26 and 27. The statement said the MHA has constituted an inter-ministerial central team (IMCT) led by the executive director, the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), to assess the damage caused by rainfall and floods in Gujarat, the statement said.

Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were also affected by heavy to very heavy rainfall. Multiple spells of heavy rains, cloudbursts and landslides have caused extensive damage in Himachal Pradesh this year. The MHA is in touch with senior of-



ficers of these states, and will deputise IMCT there as well, if the severe damages are reported by them, the statement said.

During this monsoon, some other states have been affected by heavy rainfall, floods, cloudbursts and landslides.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the

Depression crosses AP coast: IMD

AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha Sunday said 13,227 people were evacuated from 294 villages in five districts due to torrential downpours in the past two days. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the weather situation with senior officials and asked them to incorporate technologies such as drones to assess the deluge and accordingly plan the relief works. Meanwhile, the depression over north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coasts, which has been causing heavy rainfall over the past two days, moved northwards to cross the southern state's coast near Kalingapatnam in the wee hours of Sunday, said a India Meteorological Department official. Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha noted that 100 rehabilitation centres were set up in NTR, Krishna, Bapatla, Guntur and Palnadu districts to accommodate the evacuees, along with the arrangement of 61 medical camps.



central government is fully committed to providing all possible help to affected states, the statement said.

As per the decision taken by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in August 2019, the MHA, this year, constituted IMCTs which have visited flood and landslides-affected states of Assam, Kerala, Mizoram, and Tripura in advance for on-spot

assessment of the damage without waiting for their memorandum.

The IMCT for Nagaland has also been constituted, which will visit the affected areas of the state shortly.

In the past, the IMCT used to visit the disaster-affected states only after the receipt of a memorandum from the state government, the statement said.

SNIPPETS

Assam TMC president Ripun Bora quits party

GUWAHATI: Assam Trinamool Congress president Ripun Bora Sunday resigned from the party, claiming that the people of the northeastern state consider it as a "regional party" of West Bengal and are "not willing to accept" it as their own. In a letter to All India Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, Bora, a former Rajya Sabha member, said he had offered many suggestions to party supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to make TMC acceptable in Assam, but those were "not implemented".

Top court to hear Vijay Nair's bail plea today

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court (SC) will hear a plea filed by former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) communications incharge Vijay Nair, seeking bail, in the money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam Monday. As per the caustic, a bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti will resume hearing the case September 2. In the previous hearing, the top court "reluctantly" deferred the proceedings after the counsel appearing for the Enforcement Directorate (ED) sought week's time to file a reply to Nair's bail plea.

Sikkim CM Tamang meets Assam's Himanta

GUWAHATI/ GANGTOK: Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang met Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Sunday and pitched for a helicopter service between Gangtok and Guwahati. Tamang said that during the meeting in Dispur, Sarma told him about the hospitals in Assam specialising in cancer treatment and offered to extend support to patients from Sikkim who seek treatment at these facilities. "Our discussions were focused on the development and progress of the northeastern region," he said in a Facebook post.



Ramkrishna Mission alumni wearing black dresses blow conches during a protest rally demanding justice for the victim of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital incident in Kolkata, West Bengal

HOW ROBOTS ARE REVOLUTIONISING HEALTHCARE

NEVERTHELESS, DOCTORS THEMSELVES NOW SAY THAT ROBOTS ARE CAPABLE OF GIVING A HEALING TOUCH, ESPECIALLY IN THE ORTHOPAEDIC SECTOR, WHERE THEY CAN PERFORM JOINT REPLACEMENT

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 1: Robots have long been demonised in science fiction and the public imagination, by the very public that created them.

Out of the several stages the surgeon performs, the robot completes two crucial ones in robotic-assisted joint replacement, the precise cutting of the bone, as well as the implant's size and positioning.

The lifespan of the knee replacement is determined by these two steps. These procedures are nearly always exact when performed by a skilled surgeon, but mistakes can happen occasionally.

The robot, therefore, gets rid of this mistake. Although this requires further study. "To date, so far, all research on robotically assisted operations has demonstrated improved implant alignment and placement outcomes. It remains to be seen if this translates into improved



clinical results and longevity. Studies that span one to three years have produced positive findings. Whether this translates to better clinical outcomes and longevity is yet to be proved.

Short-term studies (1-3 years) have shown good results," Anant Kumar Tiwari, Professor and Head, Joint Replacement Centre, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, told IANS.

Robotic technology has brought precision and better results to joint replacement surgery revolutionising the procedure.

A 3D model of the patient's joint is produced using sophisticated imaging and computer algorithms, enabling customised surgical planning.

This accuracy lowers the possibility of human error; enhances joint function, and lessens pain following surgery. Because robotic technologies enable real-time alterations, every surgery may be tailored to meet the specific demands of the patient.

Robotic systems will continue to improve joint replacement care as long as breakthroughs in technology are made.

"Robotic technology has revolutionised joint replacement

surgery by providing precision and improved outcomes. Advanced imaging and computer algorithms create a 3D model of the patient's joint, allowing personalised surgical planning. This precision reduces human error, improves joint function, and reduces post-operative pain. Robotic systems also allow real-time adjustments, ensuring each surgery is tailored to the patient's unique needs. As advancements continue, robotic systems will continue to elevate joint replacement care," Atul Mishra, Senior Director - Orthopaedics, Fortis Hospital, Noida, told IANS.

Overall, this is the age of technology where anything can happen but it is good as long as anything involves things like these.

of the day quote

Over the past 78 years, the problems being faced by the people have only increased under different governments

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

The Mahagathbandhan administration in Bihar last year urged the Centre to incorporate the hike in reservation from 50 to 65 per cent in state government jobs and educational institutions in the Ninth Schedule. But they did not do it. The NDA governments at the Centre as well as in the state are against reservation for the deprived section of the society and also against caste census

TEJASHWI YADAV | RJL LEADER

Due to the heavy rain, Vijayawada and Guntur cities have been completely marooned. Vijayawada-Guntur national highway at Kaza and Vijayawada-Hyderabad national highway at Jaggaiahpet were totally marooned

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | AP CHIEF MINISTER

POST OF THE DAY

#AndhraPradesh: 'No Hidden cameras were found in #Gudlavaluru Engineering college. In the entire episode, fake news was peddled, it was a conspiracy to disturb law and order. It was a personal dispute among 4 students, confirms IT Minister @naralokesh

@CoreenaSuarez2

SHORT TAKES

Three killed as car crashes into tanker

Mumbai: At least three persons were killed and as many others injured when a car carrying them overturned and hit a stationary water tanker in Chembur area of Mumbai Sunday, police said. The incident occurred in the afternoon when the driver of the four-wheeler lost his control over the vehicle, causing it to overturn, an official said, adding that the deceased and injured persons were friends. A case has been registered against the driver, Javed Saifula Khan (30), who also sustained injuries, and the investigation is underway, the police official added.

UP: Car runs over labourer; 2 killed

Ghaziabad: A daily wager sleeping on the roadside was killed after being run over by a speeding car that lost control, police said Sunday. One of the passengers in the car also succumbed to the injuries, police said. "A speeding car which was en route to Meerut from Ghaziabad collided with a tree trunk, lost control and ran over a labourer, Ved Prakash (50) who was sleeping on the footpath," Additional deputy commissioner of traffic police Piyush Kumar Singh said.

Murder accused dies by suicide in PS

Morena: Three cops were suspended after a murder accused was found hanging in the lock-up of a police station in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district Sunday morning, officials said. Seniors were alerted after the body of Balkrishna Jatav, alias Sunny, was found hanging from a cloth tied to a window inside the lock-up of the Civil Lines police station around 5.30 am, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Bhupendra Singh Kushwaha told PTI.



The hateful elements hiding in the form of the mob are openly spreading violence, challenging the rule of law. These miscreants have got a free hand from the BJP government, that is why they have developed the courage to do so

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

SATISH KUMAR NAMED NEW CHAIRMAN, CEO OF RLY BOARD

Satish Kumar took the charge of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board Sunday, a press statement from the Railway ministry said. Kumar replaced Jaya Varma Sinha who superannuated August 31, 2024



MVA holds protest over Shivaji statue collapse

The protest march is to give voice to the anger of the people of Maharashtra over the statue collapsing just eight months after it was unveiled by the PM, said NCP (SP) leader Rajesh Tope and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sunil Prabhu

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 1: The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi Sunday took out a march in Mumbai to protest the collapse of Shivaji Maharaj's statue and rejected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's apology over the incident, stepping up the political confrontation with the ruling Mahayuti ahead of the Assembly polls.

Claiming that the statue incident was being "politicized" by the Opposition, the ruling BJP also demonstrated in various parts of the state. The 'jode maro andolan' (hitting with slippers) protest reflected the unity among the Maha Vikas Aghadi partners-Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (SP), and Congress, pitted against the ruling troika of Shiv Sena, BJP, and NCP. Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray, and state Congress chief Nana Patole laid wreaths at a memorial dedicated to the martyrs of the joint Maharashtra agitation in south Mumbai, before leading the march from Hutatma Chowk to the Gateway of India. They slammed the Union and state governments over the statue crash, with Thackeray dismissing Modi's apology as one "smacking of arrogance".

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde hit back at Thackeray and accused him of playing politics in the name of Shivaji but emulating the deeds of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb and Bijapur general Afzal Khan—both highly



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polarising figures in Maharashtra and the Maratha history. The statue of the 17th century Maratha warrior king at Rajkot fort in Malvan tehsil fell August 26, over eight months after it was unveiled by PM Modi on the occasion of Navy Day. "Did you notice the arrogance in the (Prime Minister Narendra Modi's) apology? It smacked of arrogance. One deputy chief minister was smiling," Thackeray told a gathering after the culmination of the march at Gateway of India. Asserting that the people of Maharashtra will never forgive the insult to the revered king, Thackeray cited the statue crash, leakages in Ram Temple and the new Parliament complex to mock Modi's "guarantees".

"The PM apologised for what? For the statue, he inaugurated eight months ago? For the corruption involved? The MVA cadre must work together to defeat the forces that have insulted Shivaji Maharaj. The collapse of the statue is an insult to the soul of Maharashtra," the former chief minister said. Patole said, much before the PM, the opposition had sought forgiveness from the

Maratha emperor for allowing such "Shivdrohi" (betrayers of Chhatrapati Shivaji's principles) government to come to power. He alleged the Prime Minister apologised with an eye on the upcoming elections in Maharashtra. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara said the collapse of Shivaji Maharaj's statue has broken the hearts of people in the country who draw inspiration from the legendary warrior king. "The Mughals didn't succeed in breaking Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. But this corrupt government has done what Mughals could never do," he alleged. Several leaders from Opposition parties, including Congress MP Shahu Chhatrapati, a descendant of the Maratha emperor, NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule and MLA Anil Deshmukh, joined the protest march, which commenced after 11 am and concluded at noon.

Thackeray joined Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress leaders to hit a poster of CM Shinde and deputy CMs Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar with footwear. Shahu Chhatrapati said Shivaji Maharaj's must be maintained at all costs.

K C Tyagi resigns as JD(U) spokesperson

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 1: Janata Dal (United) spokesperson K C Tyagi, whose stand on various issues often ran contradictory to that of his party's ally BJP, has resigned.

The JD(U) said in a statement on Sunday that its president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has appointed Rajiv Ranjan Prasad as its national spokesperson. It attributed Tyagi's resignation to "personal reasons".

In his letter to Kumar, the former MP and socialist leader said he has been unable to do justice as a spokesperson due to his involvement in other works. He said he had made the request earlier as well. Tyagi, party leaders said, will continue in his another role as "political advisor". Prasad, Tyagi's replacement, noted that the senior leader resigned due to personal reasons and made no comments that reflected any hurt, as he rejected suggestions of his difference with the party.

It is believed that frequent comments of Tyagi, who is based



in Delhi and enjoys an unlikely high profile in the national media for a regional party leader due to his experience and articulation, on central government's policies were seen by many within his party as unhelpful to the BJP-JD(U) ties. Be it on the Uniform Civil Code, the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, lateral entry to high-level Central government jobs or even the Palestine issue among a number of other matters, his articulation of the JD(U)'s stand different from the BJP created ripples and left the saffron party less than amused. He was the only member of the ruling National Democratic Alliance in the August 25 meeting, which included several opposition party members, with Mohammad Makram Balawi, Secretary General of the League of Parliamentarians.

2 dead, 9 hurt in firing by militants in Manipur



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Sept 1: Two persons, including a woman, were killed and nine others injured when suspected militants launched a gun-and-bomb attack in Manipur's Imphal West district Sunday, police said.

According to police, militants fired indiscriminately from hilltop positions towards the low-lying valley areas of Koutruk and neighbouring Kadangband killing two persons and injuring nine others.

Several houses were also damaged due to heavy shelling by the militants, they added. Of the nine injured, five sustained bullet wounds, while the others suffered splinter injuries from bomb explosions, hospital officials said. The sudden assault on the unsuspecting village caused widespread panic, forcing many residents, including women, children, and the elderly, to flee to safer areas, police added.

The body of the deceased woman, identified as 31-year-old Nangbam Surbala Devi, has been taken to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) for post-mortem examination. The identity of the other victim is yet to be ascertained, police said. Security forces, including state and central units, have been deployed in the area to stabilise the situation.

The state government has strongly condemned the attack

According to police, militants fired indiscriminately from hilltop positions towards the low-lying valley areas of Koutruk and neighbouring

Several houses were also damaged due to heavy shelling by the militants, they added

on unarmed villagers of Koutruk. "The state government has learnt about the unfortunate incident of attack on unarmed Koutruk villagers using drone, bombs and sophisticated weapons reportedly by Kuki militants causing death of two persons including one woman. Such act of terrorising upon unarmed villagers is viewed very seriously by the state government, when it is putting all possible efforts towards bringing normalcy and peace in the state," a statement by the Home Department said.

It added that such act of creating havoc among unarmed villagers is seen as an attempt to derail the efforts taken by state government to establish peace in the state.

"The state government has already taken up immediate action to control the situation and to punish those who were involved in the attack on Koutruk Village, Imphal West," the statement added. Meanwhile, the DGP has instructed all SPs to remain on maximum alert in all fringe areas.

DOCTOR RAPE-MURDER

Rallies, protests in Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 1: Film director Aparna Sen and numerous other prominent personalities from the Bengali film industry Sunday joined thousands of people in a massive rally demanding justice for a trainee doctor who was raped-murdered at RG Kar hospital here last month.

In addition to the 'Mahamichhil', two other rallies took place elsewhere in the city. While one was organised by the alumni of Ramakrishna Mission-run educational institutions, another involved students and past pupils from a well-known convent school, both echoing the demand for justice for the medic.

At the mega rally that kicked-off at College Square, Sen, ac-

Key witness in RG Kar irregularities critical

Debasish Som, a demonstrator in the Forensic Medicine Department of the state-run R.G Kar Medical College & Hospital in Kolkata and a key witness in the financial irregularities case in the same hospital has been hospitalised in critical condition at a private hospital in Kolkata Sunday. Sources said that he had been admitted to the hospital following severe fluctuation in his blood sugar level. Som, a diabetic patient, is currently being treated in the Intensive Critical Care Unit of the private hospital.

accompanied by fellow artistes such as Swastika Mukherjee, Sudipta Chakraborty, Chaiti Ghosal, Sohini Sarkar, and others, marched along Central Avenue demanding justice for the postgraduate trainee doctor.



PAC personnel take part in an obstacle race during the 27th PAC Shooting and Alarm Efficiency Race competition, at Matlabpur shooting range in Moradabad

Soil health crucial for crop yields: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 1: Farmers and experts expressed concern over degradation of soil due to excessive use of chemicals and burning of crop residue and said preserving soil health is key to improve yields and produce quality crops.

A meeting-cum-interactive session was held here Saturday to deliberate on 'soil biological health and cultivation of quality food as per international standards'.

During the session experts and other stakeholders flagged that methane is the second biggest greenhouse gas emission, which is 20 times more harmful than carbon dioxide (CO2).

Citing a report on soil health condition by Punjab Agriculture University they said that with the use of NPK, efficiency has re-



duced to 20 per cent. On an average, they said, use of every kilogram of NPK led to production of 80 kg grains in 1966-67, but the yields have declined to 16 kg by 2023.

NPK is referred to fertilisers made of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, the key nutrients that boost plant growth.

Sanjeev Nagpal, an expert in

sustainable agricultural practices, and Director, Sampurn Agriventures, said, "Under the Green Revolution programme to grow more food, it was decided to introduce chemicals along with high yielding seeds with mechanized farming, but soil biology was ignored.

Stakeholders also discussed the role of compressed biogas (CBG)

According to experts, major source of methane is biomass left untreated or used as manure

They said that the soil condition in Punjab has deteriorated, and yields are declining, leading to excessive use of chemical fertilizers

projects in improving soil health. Under CBG projects clean energy is produced from bio waste.

Arvind Ahlawat of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, who is head at KVK Abohar, said, under the Union government's 'Viksit Bharat' mission, an ambitious plan has been initiated to take India's agricultural exports to ₹1 lakh crore.

Ahlawat further said that soil biological health is essential for producing quality food while maintaining yields acceptable in international markets.

Navindu Gupta, Executive Director, SPS Biotech, said that soil organisms play a crucial role in maintaining soil health by breaking down organic matter, recycling nutrients, and enhancing soil structure, but the use of NPK was posing a threat to soil organisms too.

According to Ashish Kumar, MD, Verbio, "Even when we do not manage waste and let it decay in the open, it leads to release of gases and multiplication of pests and fungus.

Harinder Singh Dhillon, a farmer, said that Punjab contributes nearly 60 per cent food grains to the central pool but in the process, "we have damaged our soil, water and air. Punjab farmers are under heavy debt due to rising cost of cultivation".

Dhillon suggested the need to adopt an integrated agri business model to shift to high value and quality crops.

Punjab farmers start protest for agriculture policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 1: Farmers under the banner of the Bharti Kisan Union (Ugrahan) and the Punjab Khet Mazdoor Union began a five-day protest on Sunday to press for their demands, including the implementation of an agriculture policy by the Punjab government.

Farmers from various parts of Punjab arrived in buses, tractor-trolleys and their personal vehicles and converged on the Dussehra ground in Chandigarh's Sector 34 to take part in the sit-in. The administration allotted the ground for the protest.

The farmers are protesting against alleged delays in the implementation of an agriculture policy

The farmers are protesting against alleged delays in the implementation of an agriculture policy, claiming that the Punjab government had not taken any meaningful step on it.

The AAP government assumed power two-and-a-half-years ago but the promised agriculture policy is yet to be implemented, they alleged. The farmers' other demands include the promotion of chemical-free crops, compensation to the families of farmers who committed suicide, and curbing the drugs problem in the state, Punjab Khet Mazdoor Union general secretary Lachman Singh Sewewala said. Bharti Kisan Union (Ugrahan) general secretary Sukhdev Singh Kokrikalan said the farmers would march towards the Punjab Vidhan Sabha Monday and hand over a memorandum of their demands to the chief minister and opposition leaders.

international

of the day quote

We have no candidate. But, of course, the Democrats are more predictable. And what Putin said about Biden's predictability applies to almost all Democrats, including Ms Harris

The situation is difficult in the direction of the enemy's main attack. But all the necessary decisions at all levels are being made without delay

All political parties, governments, and institutions should join hands in decision-making. They need to sit together to steer the country out of crises

SHORT TAKES

Doctors on strike in Bangladesh

Dhaka: Doctors in Bangladesh Sunday announced a nationwide strike at public and private hospitals to protest the assault on medical professionals for their alleged negligence resulting in the death of a student at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) last night. The demonstrating doctors called for immediate legal and punitive action against the perpetrators of the assault while also demanding safety at workplaces as a precondition to return to work. Doctors across the country announced a complete shutdown of all public and private hospitals starting September 1 with a four-point demand.

Houthi attack ship off Yemen

Dubai: Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels said Saturday they had attacked a merchant ship in the Gulf of Aden, as a multinational naval force said two missiles exploded near a Liberia-flagged vessel. "The Yemeni Armed Forces carried out a military operation targeting the ship (GROTON) in the Gulf of Aden," Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree said in a televised statement. He said the ship had been hit and that it was the second time it had been attacked after a similar incident August 3.

Thousands in Oz without power

Sydney: Tens of thousands of people in Australia's southern island state of Tasmania were without power Sunday after a cold front brought damaging winds and heavy rains, sparking flood warnings. "Around 30,000 customers are without power across the state this morning," Tasnetworks, a state-owned power company, said on Facebook Sunday. Properties, power lines and infrastructure had been damaged, Tasmania's emergency management minister Felix Ellis said.

Truck crash kills ten, injures 17

San Juan: At least 10 people were killed and a further 17 injured when a truck plowed into a bar in the Dominican Republic, authorities said. The crash occurred early Sunday in the southern community of Azua, located west of the capital, Santo Domingo, according to local media reports citing government officials. It wasn't immediately clear what caused the crash. Most of the injured were taken to a nearby hospital.



It (Arlington National Cemetery) is a solemn place; a place where we come together to honor American heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service of this nation. It is not a place for politics

KAMALA HARRIS | DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, US

RETURN OF LOOTED AMMUNITION

Bangladesh police Sunday ordered citizens to return by September 3 all arms and ammunition looted from police stations during the recent violence



RUSSIA TO REVISE N-DOCTRINE

The existing nuclear doctrine, set out in a decree by President Vladimir Putin in 2020, says Russia may use nuclear weapons in the event of a nuclear attack by an enemy or a conventional attack that threatens the existence of the state



Minister says work is at 'advanced stage' Moscow says West using Ukraine as proxy to harm Russia

REUTERS

London, Sept 1: Russia will make changes to its doctrine on the use of nuclear weapons in response to what it regards as Western escalation in the war in Ukraine, state media quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying Sunday. The existing nuclear doctrine, set out in a decree by President Vladimir Putin in 2020, says Russia may use nuclear weapons in the event of a nuclear attack by an enemy or a conventional attack that threatens the existence of

the state. Some hawks among Russia's military analysts have urged Putin to lower the threshold for nuclear use in order to "sober up" Russia's enemies in the West. Putin said in June that the nuclear doctrine was a "living instrument" that could change, depending on world events. Ryabkov's comments Sunday were the clearest statement yet that changes would indeed be made. "The work is at an advanced stage, and there is a clear intent to make corrections," state news

agency TASS cited Ryabkov as saying. He said the decision is "connected with the escalation course of our Western adversaries" in connection with the Ukraine conflict. Moscow accuses the West of using Ukraine as a proxy to wage war against it, with the aim of inflicting a "strategic defeat" on Russia and breaking it apart. The United States and its allies deny that, saying they are helping Ukraine defend itself against a colonial-style war of aggression by Russia.

Ukraine's mass drone attack on Russia

KYIV: Kyiv launched one of the biggest drone attacks on Russia since the full-scale war began, targeting power plants and an oil refinery overnight, while Moscow's forces made further advances towards a key town in eastern Ukraine, officials said Sunday. Ukraine also reported Russian shelling of areas near their shared border. A missile attack on a grain convoy killed a truck driver while another, on Ukraine's second largest city of Kharkiv in the northeast, injured at least 28, it said. The fighting comes at a critical juncture in the two-and-a-half year conflict, with Russia pressing an offensive in eastern Ukraine while trying to expel Ukrainian forces that broke through its western border in a surprise incursion August 6. Russia last week pounded Ukraine with its heaviest air strikes of the war, hitting energy facilities, part of a campaign of drone and missile barrages that have killed thousands of civilians and troops since the conflict began in February 2022. Ukraine, with a rapidly expanding domestic drone industry, has stepped up its own attacks on Russian energy, military and transport infrastructure.

Adetshina wins Miss Universe Nigeria after rejection in SA



REUTERS

Abuja, Sept 1: Chidimma Adetshina has been crowned Miss Universe Nigeria after a contentious attempt to compete in Miss South Africa last month. Adetshina, 23, born to a Nigerian father and South African mother in South Africa and of South African citizenship found herself the subject of a national row after some South Africans, including a government minister, opposed her participation because of her roots. She later withdrew. "I just want everyone to know that this crown is not just a crown of beauty, it is going to unite us as one. I am really proud and grateful that I am going to represent Nigeria at the Miss Universe, and I know we are going to win," an elated Adetshina told the audience. The row over Adetshina brought into view the xenophobia experienced by Nigerians in South Africa which has sometimes descended into violence and attacks against Nigerian businesses in the country. Adetshina will represent Nigeria at the global Miss Universe pageant in Mexico in November.

Pakistan confirms fourth mpox case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Sept 1: Authorities in Pakistan Sunday reported another case of monkeypox (mpox) virus amid the confusion about the total number of cases confirmed so far in the country. The fourth case was detected in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province where authorities confirmed three previous infections of the virus. "The medical team at Peshawar airport transferred the patient (fourth case) to the Police and Services Hospital (PSH) after detecting symptoms of the virus during the screening," KP Health Director Dr Irshad Ali Roghani said. Roghani said the rapid response team took samples from the patient's wound in the hospital and sent it to the laboratory which confirmed mpox in the patient, who was reported in a stable condition. According to officials, all patients returned from abroad and so far there was no local case reported. Apart from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, health officials August 19 reported that a 47-

year-old resident of Pakistan occupied Kashmir, who recently returned from Saudi Arabia, was admitted in the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) here due to mpox symptoms. Dr Nasim Akhtar, the hospital's focal person, had told the media that the patient showed symptoms consistent with mpox and was placed in a special ward designated for such cases at PIMS. However, it was not clarified if his mpox infection was confirmed. Another patient, who was isolated in Karachi Saturday due to symptoms of the virus, was later cleared as no infection of mpox was detected. There is still confusion over the total number of confirmed cases in Pakistan but the latest confirmation by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa official suggested there were four confirmed cases in the country. Pakistan has taken precautions to tackle the disease by putting in place a strict screening system at its airports after it emerged that all the patients confirmed with the virus had returned from abroad.



In this photo provided by Portland Fire & Rescue, firefighters use handlines to extinguish the fire adjacent to the primary structure involved after a small plane crashed

PTI PHOTO

UAE AMNESTY PROGRAMME

Indian mission announces measures for citizens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 1: The Consulate General of India here has rolled out several measures to help Indians avail the benefits of the two-month amnesty scheme beginning Sunday in the UAE that will allow foreigners residing illegally in the country to either regularise their residency status or leave without incurring penalties. The amnesty programme applies to numerous visa categories, including expired residencies and tourist visas, as well as for those without documents. However, those who illegally entered the country will be excluded from the programme. Those adjusting their status can waive fines and fees, with an option to leave without a travel ban.



be functional from September 2," the Indian Consulate in Dubai said in a statement Saturday. Applicants can collect the ECs from the Consulate General of India, Dubai on the next day after their submission of the application, it said, adding that applicants can approach any of the BLS centres in Dubai and Northern Emirates as walk-ins to apply for short-validity passports. No prior appointment is required. "BLS centres in Dubai and the Northern Emirates will remain operational on all Sundays from 0900-1700 hours during the amnesty period to service the requirement of applicants who wish to avail the benefit of the Amnesty scheme," the consulate statement said.

Tragic tale of Gaza's orphaned children

Amid displacement orders and frequent bombing, children are becoming orphans at an alarming rate, as well as being separated from their families

AGENCIES

Khan Yunis, Sept 1: In the rubble of a Gaza home partially destroyed by Israeli shelling, the cry of a baby rings out. One-year-old Farah knows the word "mummy" but to no avail, her tears won't be soothed by her parents. She is one of an estimated 19,000 children who have been separated from their parents or are unaccompanied in the Gaza Strip, according to UNICEF figures. Many parents like Farah's have been killed in the Israeli onslaught on the Gaza Strip, which has killed more than 40,500 people since October. Some are left to fend for themselves, others are taken in by family members young and old. Farah and her two siblings, Suhail, 9, and Warda, 4, were

the only members of their immediate family left after a bombing on their home in Gaza's northern Beit Lahia. Their parents and two of their siblings were killed in the attack in November. The children's young paternal uncle now looks after them after they were seriously injured in the attack. "Since then, the kids have been struggling a lot, crying and constantly asking about their mother and father," Hashim Masoud, 22, told The National. "It's often hard to console them, especially Farah, who always cries and calls for her mum." Amid displacement orders given by the Israeli army with only hours' notice, frequent bombing campaigns and long journeys to find food and water, children are becoming orphans



at an alarming rate, as well as being separated from their families. "No matter how hard I try, I can never provide him with what his mother would have given him," says Maha Hamad, aunt of 10-month-old Mahmoud. Many children who survive

Many children who survive attacks go unclaimed in hospitals and camps, health workers have told The National

who may struggle to remember parents' names or phone numbers, will be given hospital-style bracelets to wear in case of separation. Many young people who have not started their own families have now become responsible for the children of deceased loved ones. Maha Hamad, 25, is now the main carer for her 10-month-old nephew Mahmoud, after her sister died when he was only three months old.

Mahmoud was born to his mother Tarnim in northern Gaza October 29 in the infancy of the war, with his father striving to keep the mother nourished so she could breastfeed their son. In January, days after fleeing their home in the Jabalia refugee camp amid Israeli shelling, the nearby house they were staying in was bombed. Mahmoud was in a different room to his parents and miraculously survived the strike. Since their death, Ms Hamad has taken it upon herself to care for Mahmoud, trying to make up for the loss of his parents. "When he wakes up crying at night, sometimes we just can't calm him down, even though my mother tries to help me. But children sense their mother's presence and calm down with her, it's a well-known fact."

Para shuttlers ensure 3 medals

4 Indians clash in semis of Paralympics guaranteeing that 2 of them will play in the final



Manisha Ramdass acknowledges the applause of the crowd after defeating her Japanese rival Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Sept 1: India were assured of a third medal in badminton here Sunday. Top-seeded Indian para shuttler Nitesh Kumar secured a maiden medal in men's singles SL3 category after reaching the final with a commanding 21-16, 21-12 win over Japan's Daisuke Fujihara in their last four clash here

Sunday. The match lasted 48 minutes. "I have been performing consistently, so I had the self belief that I will make the finals and it feels amazing to actually do that because there is pressure and I had lost my mixed doubles but I didn't let it affect me," Nitesh said after the match. In another late evening match Suhas Yathiraj, a silver medal-

ist from Tokyo Games, became the first Indian shuttler to win back-to-back medals at the Paralympics after outplaying compatriot Sukant Kadam in straight games to reach the men's singles SLA final. The 41-year-old Suhas, beat Sukant 21-17, 21-12 to make yet another final at the global showpiece. Suhas, who served as the District Magistrate of Gautam

Buddh Nagar during the Covid-19 pandemic and was also the DM of Prayagraj, delivered a commanding performance to book his place in the final. He will now face France's Lucas Mazur, aiming to settle the score after losing to him in the Tokyo Paralympics final three years ago. "Definitely the endeavour will be to win the fold for India," Suhas said after the match. Earlier Manisha Ramdass setting up a women's singles SU5 semifinals duel with compatriot Thulasimathi Murugesan at the Paris Paralympics here Sunday. The 19-year-old Manisha, who was born with Erb's palsy which affected her right arm, had no trouble in dispatching Japan's Mamiko Toyoda 21-13, 21-16 in the quarterfinals. The semifinal clash between two Indian shuttlers ensured that India is guaranteed of at least a silver medal. Also the losing semifinalist will get the chance to participate in the bronze medal play-off. The second seeded Indian left-hander needed 30 minutes to down her unseeded Japanese rival. Top seed Thulasimathi, had defeated Portugal's Beatriz Monteiro in their Group A encounter Saturday. The same day, Sukant Kadam earned the right to take on compatriot Suhas Yathiraj in SLA semifinals to assure the country their first medal in badminton from this edition of the Games. However, Mandeep Kaur and Palak Kohli were eliminated following defeats in their respective quarterfinals here Sunday. Competing in SL3 category, Mandeep hardly posed a challenge to Nigeria's third seed Bolaji Mariam Eniola, losing the contest 8-21, 9-21 in 23 minutes. It was the second consecutive defeat for Mandeep against Eniola, having lost to the Nigerian in the group stage as well. In SL4 category, Para World Championships bronze medalist Palak went down fighting 19-21, 15-21 to Indonesia's Khalimatus Sadiyah in 28 minutes.

SHORT TAKES

6 Indians signed by WBBL clubs

Melbourne: Six Indian cricketers, including vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, will be part of the upcoming Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), starting October 27, after being picked by different teams. While Mandana was pre-signed by Adelaide Strikers, Dayalan Hemalatha will play for Perth Scorchers. Wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia has been recruited by Melbourne Stars, where she'll join national teammate Deepti Sharma. All-rounder Shikha Pandey and Jemimah Rodrigues have been recruited by Brisbane Heat.

Concerns over Seine water surface again

Paris: Paralympic triathlon competitions here Sunday were postponed because of concerns about water quality in the Seine River after heavy rainfall, organisers said. The 11 para triathlon events are now scheduled for Monday, if upcoming water testing allows, the Paris 2024 organising committee and World Triathlon said in a joint statement. Rainstorms hit the French capital Friday and Saturday. Heavy rains caused wastewater and runoff to flow into the river, leading to a rise in bacteria levels including 'E Coli' officials informed. This is the second scheduled change for the para triathlon events. They had initially been scheduled to take place over two days, Sunday and Monday, but were moved to Sunday because of rain forecasts.

Ferrari's Leclerc wins Italian GP

Monza: Charles Leclerc secured Ferrari a rare win at the Formula 1 Italian Grand Prix, much to the home fans' delight, as the team's bold one-stop strategy paid off here Sunday. Ferrari were one of the teams to choose to pit once. And that proved right for Leclerc, who despite heavily degrading tires, managed to hold off Oscar Piastri and his McLaren teammate Lando Norris. As it became obvious what was on the cards, the passionate, red-clad tifosi got on their feet, stamping and roaring Leclerc's every lap till he crossed the finish line.

Para athletes fail to impress

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Sept 1: Ravi Rongali finished a creditable fifth in the men's F40 shot put final while Rakshita Raju bowed out in the opening round heats of women's 1,500m T11 race on the third day of athletics competitions at the Paris Paralympics here Sunday. F40 class is for para athletes with short stature. Rongali, who had won a silver in the Asian Para Games last year in China, produced a personal best of 10.63m but that was enough for a fifth-place finish in a top-class field. World record holder Miguel Montero of Portugal won the gold with a throw of 11.21m while Mongolia's Battulga Tsegmid (11.09m) took the silver. Reigning Asian Para Games champion Garrah Thiaiah of Iraq took the bronze with a throw of 11.03m while Russian Tokyo Paralympics gold medalist and reigning world para athletics champion Denis Gnezdilov, who was competing as neutral paralympic athlete, was fourth with 10.80m.

Earlier in the day, Rakshita, 23, finished last out of four runners in Heat 3 after clocking a timing of 5:29.92s. The two top runners from the three heats qualified for the final. China's Shanshan He topped empty-handed, finishing eighth overall in the PR3 mixed double sculls rowing of the Paris Paralympics here Sunday. Making their Paralympics debut, the Indians secured a timing of 8:16.96 seconds to finish second in Final B of their repechage event which was meant to determine their standings. Saige Happer and Todd Vogt of the USA topped the Final B race with a timing of 7:48.38s, while Mexico's Miguel Angel Nieto Carpio and Angeles Britani Gutierrez Vieyra came behind the Indians (8:28.23s). The Indians had to compete in the Final B classification race for seventh to 12th spot following a third-place finish Saturday.



Ravi Rongali in action during the men's shot put event Sunday

Rakshita's heat with a timing of 4:44.66s ahead of Louzanne Coetzee of South Africa, who clocked season best timing of 4:45.25s. The T11 category is for athletes with visual impairment, which may be entire loss of vision or he or she may be able to perceive light, but have no ability to see the shape of a hand at any distance. Preethi Pal had won India's first athletics medal in a Paralympics track event Friday, clinching a bronze in the women's T35 100m event with a personal best time of 14.21 seconds. **Rowers return empty-handed** Asian Para Games silver medal winning duo of Narayana Konganapalle and Anita returned

Title for Sundargarh eves

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Sept 1: Sundargarh eves emerged champions in the Senior Women's Inter-District football tournament for the PC Behera Trophy defeating Cuttack by a slender 1-0 margin in the final played here Sunday. After a hard-fought first half which failed to break the deadlock, the all-important goal was scored by Sundargarh's Suhasini Sha in the 62nd minute of the game. The goal came off a nicely-built combined move that caught the opposition defenders napping. After conceding the goal, the Cuttack eves made a gallant effort to restore parity in the game. However, the Sundargarh defenders remained resolute. Despite



that, Cuttack had a couple of chances to score, but lack of opportunism in front of the goal, prevented them from doing so. Champions Sundargarh were presented with the trophy and a cheque of ₹25,000. Runners-up Cuttack also got a trophy and went home richer by ₹15,000.

SINNER, SWIATEK SUBDUE RIVALS

AGENCIES

New York, Sept 1: Jannik Sinner never gave his third-round opponent at the US Open here Saturday, Chris O'Connell, even a moment to contemplate pulling off the sort of monumental upset that eliminated Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz. Sinner won the first five games and 21 of the first 29 points to make quite clear how things would go at Arthur Ashe Stadium and wrapped up a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 victory over O'Connell in under two hours. "It shows that this sport is unpredictable. Whenever you drop a little bit of your level - if it's mental, if it's tennis-wise or

OFC eves create history in AFC Champions League



The Odisha FC eves pose with the Tricolour after their win over Etihad Club of Jordan, late Saturday night

1ST INDIAN WOMEN'S TEAM TO QUALIFY FOR THE MAIN GROUP STAGE OF THE LEAGUE

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 1: Odisha FC secured their AFC Women's Champions League group stage berth, by topping their preliminary round in Zarqa, Jordan. Making their international debut, the Indian Women's League (IWL) champions first defeated Lion City Sailors FC (Singapore) 4-1 before notching a hard-fought 2-1 win over hosts Etihad Club late Saturday night to qualify for the group stage of Asia's elite women's club competition. With both Etihad Club and Odisha FC eves (OWFC) winning their earlier games, the Indian team required nothing

less than three points against the Jordanian champions to qualify from the group. Expectedly, it started as a close contest but OWFC managed to take a 1-0 lead at half time thanks to Jennifer Kankam Yeboah's 27th-minute goal after she was released in space by Neha. However, Etihad found the equaliser in the 57th minute via Jordan's all-time top-scorer Maysa Jbarah, who scored with a left-footed strike into the bottom corner. However, OWFC were not to be denied. They got the all-important winning goal in the 70th minute with Lynda Kom picking out Yeboah, who took advantage of an error in judgement by the Etihad goalkeeper, before slotting it into the back of an empty net. The Juggernauts defended in numbers for the remaining 20 minutes. Custodian Shreya Hooda also made a couple of remarkable saves in the dying min-

utes to ensure the win and cap off a historic night in Indian women's football. The Odisha FC eves displayed tremendous nerves during the game. There were stages they dominated proceedings even though it was an away game for them. They definitely created more chances than their Jordanian opponents. In the group stage of the AFC Women's Champions League, OWFC will travel to Vietnam to face Urawa Red Diamonds Ladies (Japan), Taichung Blue Whale Women's Football Team (Chinese Taipei) and hosts Ho Chi Minh City Women's FC (Vietnam). The group stage comprises three groups of four teams each and will also be contested in a centralised league format October 6-12. The top two finishers of each group and the two best third-placed sides will progress to the quarterfinals to be played March 22 and 23, 2025.

Avani falls short of medal-winning bid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chateauroux, Sept 1: Indian shooters Avani Lekhara finished 11th while Sidhartha Babu ended 28th and were unable to make the final of the mixed 10m air rifle prone (SH1) event at the Paralympic Games here Sunday. In the mixed 10m air rifle prone (SH2) qualification, Sriharsha Devaraddi Ramakrishna ended in 26th place with a total score of 630.2.

In the Paralympics mixed event, both men and women compete on the line against each other. Coming off her historic gold medal in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event, Avani could not replicate that form despite a strong start in what is not her pet event, and ended the competition with a total score of 632.8. Sidhartha aggregated 628.3 across six series of shots. Avani's sequence of scores read 105.7, 106.0, 104.1, 106.0, 104.8, 106.2, while Sidhartha had scores of 104.6, 103.8, 105.7, 104.9, 103.6 and 105.7. Avani, became Friday the first Indian woman to win two Paralympic gold medals with her victory in the women's 10m air rifle (SH1) event. She had de-

Modi praises medal winners

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke Sunday to some of the medal winners for India in the Paralympic Games over phone and lauded their efforts in the ongoing competition. The athletes he spoke to included Mona Agarwal, Preethi Pal, Manish Narwal and Rubina Francis, officials said. He congratulated each medal winner and said they had made the country proud with their performances.

fended her title with a world record score. In SH1, athletes are able to hold their gun without difficulty and shoot from a standing or sitting position (in a wheelchair or chair). Shooters classified in SH2 category are unable to hold their rifle independently, so they use a stand, but can aim by themselves and control the weapon when they shoot. Certain athletes may have an assistant to reload their gun. Only the top eight from qualification rounds progress to the final of the event.

Liverpool humble Man United 3-0

AGENCIES

Manchester, Sept 1: Liverpool reasserted their dominance over Manchester United by beating their arch rivals 3-0 here Sunday as Mohamed Salah enjoyed another dreamy visit to Old Trafford. Salah scored for the seventh straight game at Old Trafford and also provided two first half assists for Luis Diaz (35th and 42nd) in United's latest humiliation at the hands of their fiercest opponent in what is historically the biggest match in English soccer. Make that 15 goals in all competitions for Salah against United since he joined Liverpool in 2017. By that time, Casemiro was off the field - and maybe wondering what his future holds at United. The 32-year-old Brazil midfielder was at fault for both of Diaz's goals - first because of a sloppy pass, and then after being dispossessed - and he was substituted at half time for a 20-year-old rookie in Toby Collyer. Casemiro's performance came two days after United spent \$55 million on Manuel Ugarte, the Uruguay defensive midfielder who arrived from Paris Saint-Germain as likely the long-term replacement for the Brazilian.