



International debut

Actor Shraddha Kapoor has made her mark on the international stage by appearing on the cover of *Hello Indo Arabia*

LEISURE | P2



Canada refuses foreigners

Canada is closing its doors on temporary residents by approving fewer visas and turning away more people, according to government data

INTERNATIONAL | P10



World Bank suggestion

India should focus on labour-intensive exports to boost employment, World Bank says

BUSINESS | P11



Sweet 'sacrifice'

Paralympics gold medallist Sumit Antil says it was tough for him to give up his favourite sweets before the Games

SPORTS | P12



HORSE POWER: An armed forces personal exhibits his skill during the opening of the Armed Force Festival, in Lucknow, Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

WB passes Bill seeking death for rape convicts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 3: The West Bengal Assembly Tuesday unanimously passed the state anti-rape Bill that seeks capital punishment for rape convicts if their actions result in the victim's death or leave her in a vegetative state, and life sentence without parole for other perpetrators.

Other significant features of the proposed 'Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) Bill 2024' include the completion of probes into rape cases within 21 days of the initial report, a reduction from the previous two-month deadline, and a special task force where women officers will lead investigations.

The proposed law, which requires assent from the Bengal Governor and then the President, when enacted, would mark a significant development in the state's legal framework against sexual crimes. Speaking during the discussion on the Bill, CM Mamata Banerjee termed the proposed legislation as "historic" and demanded the resignation of PM Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the CMs of all states that have "not been able to implement effective legislations to safeguard women".

The Bill also proposed to amend the newly-passed Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik



Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 laws, and the POCSO Act, 2012 "in their application to the state of West Bengal to enhance punishment and to constitute the framework for... expeditious investigation and trial of the heinous act of violence against women and children."

According to the Bill, any fine imposed shall be "fair and reasonable" to meet the medical expenses and rehabilitation of the victim or their next of kin, if applicable, as may be determined by the Special Court and should be paid within the period fixed by it.

The Bill was passed after the Opposition BJP MLAs lent their support to it even as Suvendu Adhikari alleged that Banerjee moved the Bill to "divert attention from public anger and protests" over the gruesome crime.

Adhikari accused the TMC government of having "failed to prevent incidents of rape and sexual abuse of women during its tenure" but assured his party's support for the Bill.

AONO projects to continue: Min

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The projects approved for different panchayats under the Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha (AONO) programme launched by the previous BJD government will continue to be executed, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik told the Assembly, Tuesday.

While replying to a question in this regard, Naik said an outlay of ₹3,457 crore has been made under the AONO programme, of which 30 to 40 per cent of works have been completed, while some other projects are underway. **P3**

NO BAR ON BENCH: CM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: Relenting to mounting criticisms from both within the party and Opposition over his statement in the Assembly Monday that there was no justification for a bench of the High Court in the state as per a Supreme Court ruling, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday sought to make amendments to his earlier stance by informing the House that the issue of setting up of such a facility in western Odisha is under "active consideration" of the state government.

Majhi said this in a statement before the commencement of the Zero Hour.

"The issue of setting up a High Court bench in western Odisha is under consideration of the government," he said.

Stating that his government is committed to the delivery of speedy justice to the people, Majhi gave a clear message in the Assembly that his government was not averse to setting up a high court bench in the state.

Earlier Monday, while replying to a written question in the Assembly, Majhi had told the House that "as per the Supreme Court verdict, there is no justification in having a bench of high court in any part of the state."

Majhi's statement in the Assembly raised an outrage with



members from ruling BJP also protesting the idea. The Opposition BJD and the Congress have criticized the state government over Majhi's statement in the House.

Senior BJP lawmaker and veteran leader from western region, Jaynarayan Mishra said, "We (BJP) have not withdrawn the demand for a HC bench in western Odisha. The CM has referred to the Supreme Court judgment, but the state's population and HC cases are increasing. Why can't Odisha have an HC bench when Uttar Pradesh has three, and other states also have them?"

BJD MLA from Bolangir Kalikesh Singh Deo who had asked the written question, said, "Today, the CM clarified that the matter is under consideration. He should give an assurance on the floor of the House on whether a circuit bench or a permanent bench of the HC will be set up in Bolangir and also mention the

stipulated time frame."

Singh Deo said the Supreme Court observation that the circuit bench demand had become obsolete with the passage of time and with the advent of technology while asking lawyers in Sambalpur to end their agitation after it had turned violent in November 2022.

"There was no verdict from the Apex Court on HC bench. Technology is not a replacement for a second bench or circuit bench. Bolangir has first right for a permanent bench since it had a bench in the pre-independence era," Singh Deo said.

Earlier, Singh Deo had mentioned that prior to Independence, there was a high court bench in Bolangir. According to the Accession Treaty, it is binding on both the state and Central governments to provide the same facility. There would be no issue in having a high court bench if the government was willing, he said.

The lawyers of Western Odisha and members of the Central Coordination Committee for setting up the HC bench in Western Odisha, have also resented the chief minister's statement.

Responding to the CM's clarification, Central Coordination Committee convenor, Ashok Das said that wrong facts were presented before the Majhi as the SC had made no observation on setting up HC bench.

Student shot dead by cow vigilantes

PNN & AGENCIES

Faridabad, Sept 3: A Class XII student was allegedly chased in a car and shot dead here August 23 by a group of five cow vigilantes who mistook the boy for a cattle smuggler, police said Tuesday.

All the five accused - Saurabh, Anil Kaushik, Varun, Krishna and Adesh - have been arrested, the police said.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that August 23 night, they had received information that some suspected cattle smugglers driving two SUVs - a Renault Duster and a Toyota Fortuner - were receiving the city and picking up cattle.

They mistook the victims, Aryan Mishra and his friends, Shanky, Harshit and two girls who were travelling in a Duster for those cattle smugglers.

They then asked Aryan's friend Harshit who was driving to stop. However, he didn't because their friend Shanky had a feud with those cattle smugglers.

Responding to the CM's clarification, Central Coordination Committee convenor, Ashok Das said that wrong facts were presented before the Majhi as the SC had made no observation on setting up HC bench.



Aryan Mishra, a Class XII student, was shot on his neck and chest by five cow vigilantes August 23, and died at a hospital a day later, police said

Delhi-Agra National Highway, a senior police officer said.

The accused men then opened fire at the Duster, and a bullet hit Aryan - who was in the passenger seat - near the neck. He was shot again when his friend finally stopped the car. The second bullet hit Aryan in the chest. When the attackers saw two girls in the car, they realised they may have shot the wrong person, and fled. Aryan died at a hospital a day later. The accused have been sent to judicial custody, police said, adding that the weapon and the car used in the crime have been recovered.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I'll pass on NPS, UPS, or OPS. I'd rather have the retail perks our SEBI chief got from her old jobs

AI anchors 'protecting' reporters in strife-hit Venezuela

One of Venezuela's newest news anchors sits on a stool, dressed in a flannel shirt and chinos as he delivers the day's headlines.

He goes by "El Pana," Venezuelan slang for "friend." Only, he's not real.

El Pana, and his colleague "La Chama," or "The Girl," are generated using artificial intelligence, though they look, sound and move realistically.

They were created as part of an initiative dubbed "Operation Retweet" by Colombia-based organization Connectas, led by director Carlos Huertas, to publish news from a dozen independent media outlets in

Venezuela and in the process protect reporters as the government has launched a crackdown on journalists and protesters.

"We decided to use artificial intelligence to be the 'face' of the information we're publishing," Huertas said in an interview, "because our colleagues who are still out doing their jobs are facing much more risk."

At least 10 journalists have been arrested since mid-June and eight remain imprisoned on charges including terrorism, according to 'Reporters Without Borders'.

"Here, using artificial intelligence is... almost like a mix



between technology and journalism," Huertas said, explaining the project looked to "circumvent the persecution and increasing repression" from the government as there would be no one who could face arrest.

It is worth mentioning here that back home in Odisha, the Odisha Television Limited, a broadcast and digital media company, had launch the state's first multi-lingual AI anchor 'Lisa' in July 2023.

Venezuela's Opposition and human rights groups have said recent arrests of protesters, Opposition figures and journalists are part of a government crackdown meant to quiet a sometimes violent, month-long election dispute.

The country's communications ministry did not respond to a request for comment about the AI journalism initiative. No official has responded to repeated requests for comment by Reuters about the arrests of journalists in recent weeks.

Both the Opposition and President Nicolas Maduro claim victory in the July 28 election. Maduro, in power since 2013,

is backed by the supreme court and the electoral authority, which has not published full vote tallies because of what it says was a cyber-attack.

The Opposition has shared what it says are more than 80 per cent of vote tallies, showing a resounding win for its candidate Edmundo Gonzalez. Some international observers and many Western countries have said election conditions were unfair and demanded full tallies. Protests since the vote have led to at least 27 deaths and 2,400 arrests, and detentions of Opposition figures and protesters have continued as part of the government's "Operation Knock Knock."

9 Naxals killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dantewada, Sept 3: Nine Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh Tuesday, a senior police official said.

The gunfight broke out around 10.30 am in the forest along the border of Dantewada and Bijapur districts when a joint team of security forces was out on an anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range Sundarraaj P told PTI.

Personnel belonging to the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were involved in the operation. **P8**

leisure



SELENA SHARES HER HEALING EXPERIENCE

Actress Selena Gomez has admitted that she relished the challenge of singing *Mi Camino* in *Emilia Perez*. "It was actually a totally different song, really therapeutic and I thought it was so beautifully done," shared the 32-year-old.

ANYA WANTS TO PLAY ELSA IN FROZEN LIVE-ACTION MOVIE

Actress Anya Taylor-Joy says she would love to portray Princess Elsa in a live-action adaptation of hit animated musical *Frozen*. She also mentioned how thrilling it would be to sing, dance, and act simultaneously, and that her nieces and nephews would love to say, 'My auntie is Elsa.'



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

A lot of material progress will be made today. And, says Ganesh, you will want to shower your family with abundance. You anyway need to pay more attention to your family. You will also feel like meditating and will be grateful to the lord for his generosity.

TAURUS

This day you are going to be very creative, very imaginative in all that you do. Ganesh assures you that your skills and talents will be amply recognized and rewarded. Your colleagues and superiors are going to be pleasantly amazed at the way you perform today. They will rally round and offer their help and support. Later in the day you are likely to make plans for studying abroad.

GEMINI

You will face conflicting emotions today on account of burying your emotions deep in your heart. You could fly into a rage on account of this and take some hasty decisions. You will express your opinions harshly on vital matters. You need to carefully consider the pros and cons of any decision you take today, says Ganesh.

CANCER

You will plan for a good future. You mobilise all resources. Be warned, before taking a step, counsels Ganesh. Beware of middlemen and agents to save yourself from a major financial loss.

LEO

You consider yourself better than others. You will experience pride in your capabilities today. You will put yourself first before others. You should hold onto your viewpoints strongly, but do not disregard good advice especially in matters related to business. You will be able to make substantial gains this way, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Family affairs will dominate and will take up most of your time today. Your persuasive skills and your charismatic personality will help you get a lot of work accomplished, says Ganesh. Emotional matters will demand your time, but you will take care of them rather easily. At night, you will spend the time sorting out intimate affairs with your partner.

LIBRA

Ganesh says you will have to spend more time in the office because of extra responsibilities on you. This will result in you paying less attention to your family members. You will also be more careful about spending money today and will be wary of your mounting expenses.

SCORPIO

Make it a point to believe only what you see and believe to avoid confusions and confrontations, says Ganesh. Keep your eyes and ears open, so you do not miss out on important happenings around you.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesh foresees a profitable day in the calendar of all the businessmen. It's time to live your dream as the loan you were waiting for has been sanctioned now. Along with your near and dear ones, you will make your beloved feel special. Make memories and cherish the time you spent together.

CAPRICORN

Your jokes and humour will keep your loved ones in a happy mood. After all, laughter is the best medicine. Their desire to spend more time with you is a testimony to your friendly and jovial nature, feels Ganesh. Your tactics and approach towards problems will certainly get you noticed. You will enjoy being a part of a social circle.

AQUARIUS

There are times when nothing goes as per you plans and all you get at the end is sheer disappointment. Be prepared, if today is one of those unfavourable days, warns Ganesh. Problems at work place can be solved with diligence, patience, and positive approach. Keep your chin up and deal with the difficult times.

PISCES

It is in your nature to love and care for others, and hence people will be extremely fond of you in return too. You will feel like helping others and forgetting and forgiving past wrongs. Post afternoon is a good time to sit down with your family and talk about important issues that need your attention, says Ganesh.

ANITA ON EKTA'S SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE

Mumbai: Actress Anita Hassanandani has opened up on the spiritual influence of the content czarina Ekta Kapoor on herself.

Anita appeared on the podcast of the TV host and radio announcer Siddharth Kannan. The video shows Siddharth asking Anita: "Ekta is very spiritual and religious. Are you also so?" To which Anita replied, "Utni nahi hun lekin unki sangat me thodi bahut hoon. In fact I started going to Siddhivinayak temple because she goes."

"I have faith in Tirupati Balaji because she has faith in it. I have also seen the miracles that have happened in my life. I am spiritual at some level. I tried wearing stones par agar dil se nahi hona so it doesn't work," she commented. Siddharth further asked about the miracles that had

happened with Anita. Anita said: "So I did a film *Nuvvu Nenu* in the South. Wo film Hindi me banana ja rahe the. So they didn't cast me in Hindi version. And I was very upset."

"So I walked to Tirupati Balaji, and I kept saying in my heart that I should get that film. When I returned from the temple and sat in the car I got a call. 'She doesn't fit the part...we are replacing her; are you free?'," she concluded.



Mumbai: Shradha Kapoor, known for her widespread appeal, has made her mark on the international stage by appearing on the cover of Hello Indo Arabia. This edition highlights her journey in the film industry and her growing popularity, both in India and abroad.

With the recent success of *Stree 2*, Shradha has further established herself as a leading actress in the Hindi film industry. The film's positive reception has contributed to her being featured on this prominent magazine cover, which labels her as *The People's Superstar*. Shradha's fans have taken to social media to express their excitement over

Shradha's int'l magazine debut

her international magazine debut. Comments like, "She is the people's choice," and "India's top followed and most loved," reflect the strong support she continues to receive. One fan noted, "Shradha's first international magazine coverrrr!" while another simply said, "This is what we wanted."

As Shradha Kapoor continues to advance in her career, she remains a favourite among her fans. Her connection with audiences has helped her gain recognition on a global scale. This magazine cover is a reflection of her ongoing success and the appreciation she receives from her supporters.

Mumbai: Actress Karisma Kapoor recently appeared on Zakir Khan's talk show *Aapka Apna Zakir* along with her India's Best Dancer co-judges Terence Lewis and Geeta Kapoor. The actress, while speaking

about her family legacy reacted to the popular claims that women in Kapoor household are not allowed to work after marriage. Karisma, while reacting to the media reports, stated that, "All these discussions about whether

I was allowed or not are just that—discussions. When my mom and Neetu aunty got married, it was their decision to focus on starting a family and having children, as their careers were al-

ready well-established. It was their choice."

She also said, "Shammi uncle and Shashi uncle's wives, Geeta Bali ji and Jennifer aunty, continued working after marriage. So, it's not true that in the Kapoor family, you can't work after marriage or that Kapoor women aren't allowed to have careers. There was never such a restriction."

On the work front, Karisma was recently seen in mystery-thriller *Murder Mubarak* and will be next seen in the thriller series titled *Brown*.

Karisma debunks myths about Kapoor women

ALAYA prioritises acting over appearance

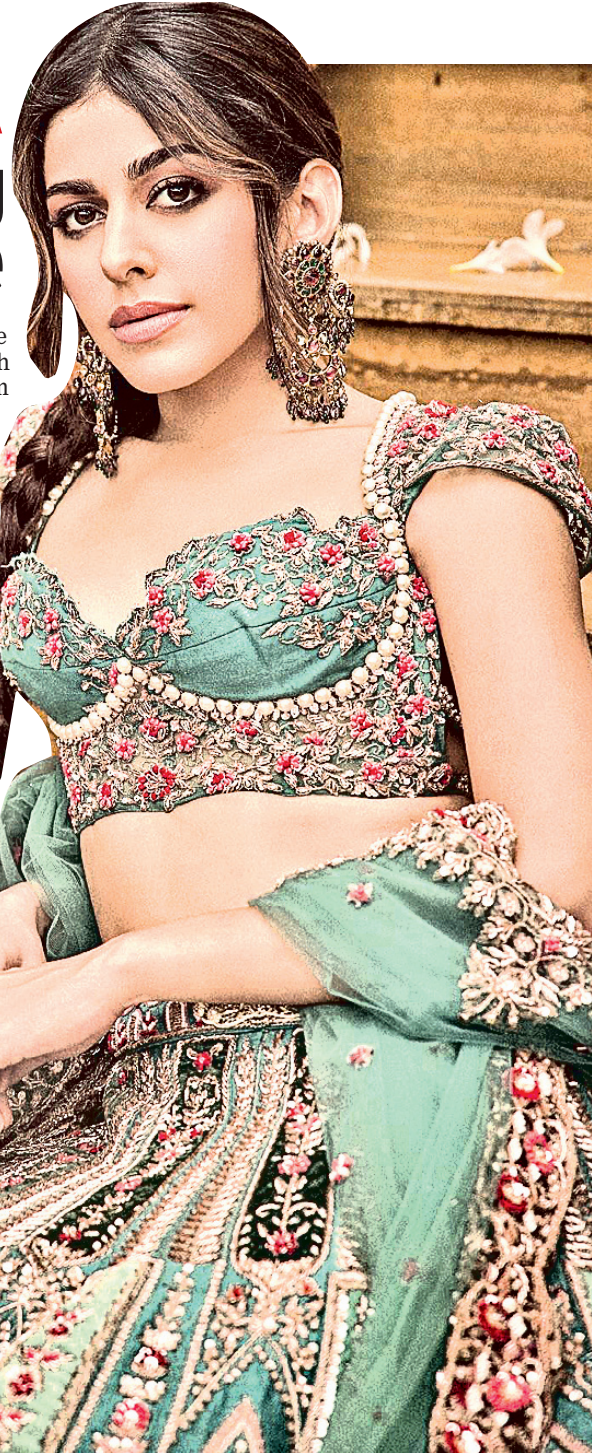
Mumbai: Alaya F has quickly made a name for herself in the Hindi film industry with her vibrant and diverse filmography. From portraying a pregnant teenager in her debut film *Jawaani Jaaneman* with Saif Ali Khan to taking on a darker role in *Freddy*, Alaya has shown her range and commitment to her craft.

In a recent conversation, Alaya shared an insight into her approach to acting, revealing that she was so focused on perfecting her roles that she often paid little attention to how she appeared on camera. "I was so absorbed in perfecting my acting that I was unbothered about how I would look in front of the camera," she said.

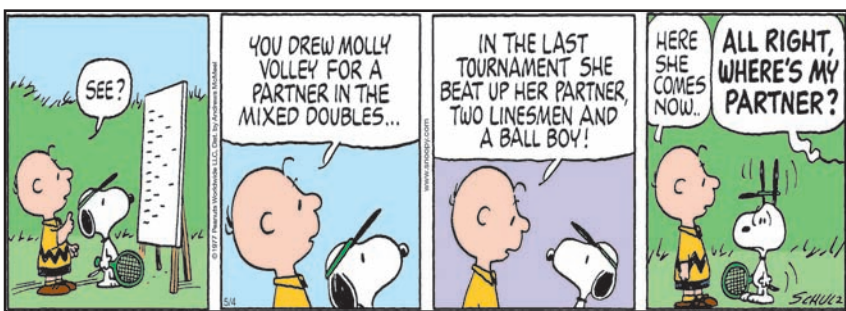
The actress explained that the usual touch-ups between takes would sometimes upset her, as they interrupted her flow. By not fixating on her appearance, she allowed herself to act naturally and fully immerse in her characters.

This year has been particularly eventful for Alaya, with two notable performances that further solidified her status as a talented young actress. She starred alongside Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff in *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan* and was last seen in *Srikanth* opposite Rajkumar Rao.

AGENCIES



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

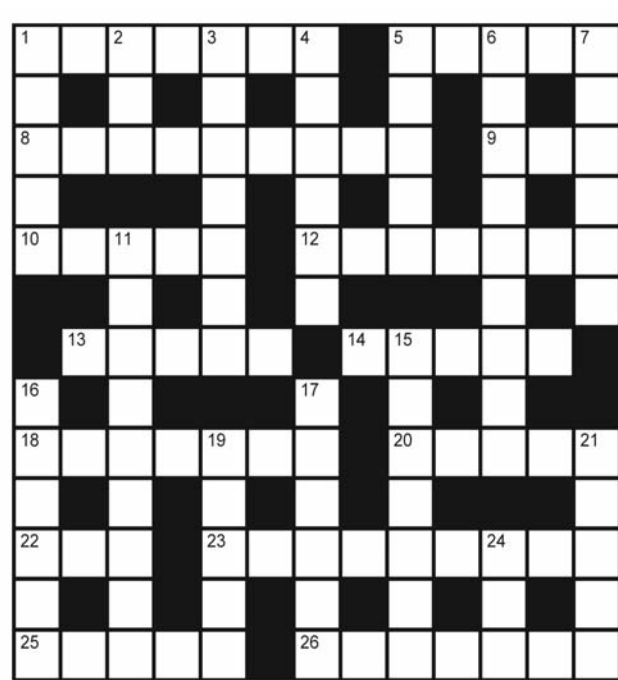


BREVITY



FUN post

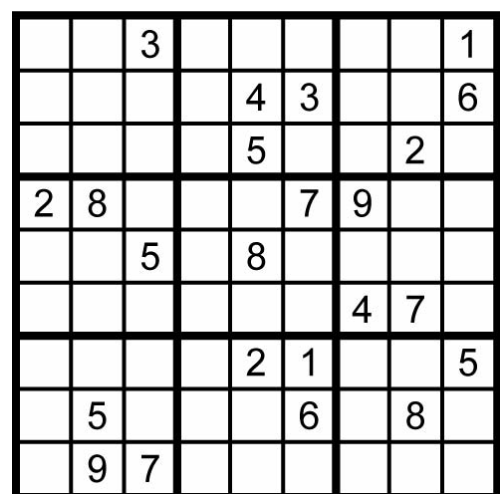
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Crisp fabric
 - 5 Redhead's dye
 - 8 A real dummy
 - 9 Card game for two
 - 10 Boundary
 - 12 Wear out completely
 - 13 Brown ermine
 - 14 Express a thought
 - 18 Dog breed
 - 20 Oyster's prize
 - 22 Chinese tea
 - 23 Counterfeit
 - 25 Concede
 - 26 Sideways, as a look
- Down**
- 1 Language of Sri Lanka
 - 2 Flipper
 - 3 Sophocles
 - 4 Lucky charm
 - 5 Suspicion
 - 6 2nd largest island in the world (3,6)
 - 7 Make bubbly
 - 11 VIP's arrival procession
 - 15 Verbal exhortation (3,4)
 - 16 Heavysvet
 - 17 Bruise ointment
 - 19 Homeric epic
 - 21 Harpoon
 - 24 Roadhouse

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.

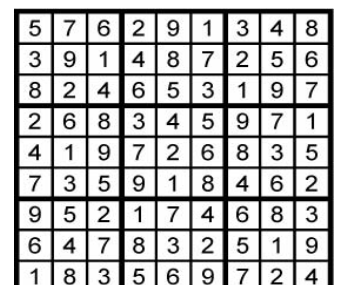


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Artistes perform during 'Nrutyanjali' at Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday

downtown

'AMA ODISHA, NABIN ODISHA' TO GO ON



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The projects approved for different panchayats under the Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha (AONO) programme launched by the previous BJD government will continue to be executed, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik told the Assembly, Tuesday.

While replying to a question

in this regard, Naik said an outlay of ₹3,457 crore has been made under the AONO programme, of which 30 to 40 per cent of works have been completed, while some other projects are underway.

The remaining projects are facing different issues like land acquisition and necessary clearances, he said, adding that the state government is yet to receive the status of some projects.

PESA Act, 1996 soon in state

The state government will soon implement the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act, 1996, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Narayan Naik told the Assembly, Tuesday.

Replying to a question of Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Ram Chandra Kadam, Naik said the BJP government in Odisha will soon implement the PESA Act, 1996 for the benefit of tribals.

He slammed the previous BJD government for withdrawing the power of Collector given to the

PESA ACT, 1996 GIVES SCHEDULED AREAS IN INDIA THE RIGHT TO SELF-GOVERNANCE THROUGH TRADITIONAL GRAM SABHAS

sarpanchs during the Covid-19 pandemic. The minister said the BJD government did not take any initiative to implement the PESA Act, 1996 which would have benefited the tribals in the state.

He, however, assured that his government will now implement the PESA Act, 1996 in scheduled areas.

PESA Act, 1996 is a law that

gives scheduled areas in India the right to self-governance through traditional gram sabhas.

The main rationale behind the Act which was enacted December 24, 1996 is to preserve the tribal population from exploitation with an active involvement of the gram sabhas.

It gives special powers to the gram sabhas in scheduled areas, especially for the management of natural resources.

It was brought as a response to the longstanding demands of the tribal communities in the country for greater autonomy and control over their affairs.

Those are available with the concerned panchayats and blocks, Naik said.

The projects underway will continue, while those, which are yet to begin, are under consideration by the government, Naik said. The minister also said that 80 per cent of the total AONO fund has been allocated to the district rural development agencies (DRDAs). "We have also noticed that a portion of the AONO fund has been diverted for some sports and cultural activities like Jagannath Rath Yatra for Sri Jagannath Parikrama Prakalpa," he said. Due to such diversion, some panchayats may face fund crunch. He, however, assured that all project executing agencies, which have completed

the projects, will get their dues. In October 2023, the previous BJD government rolled out the AONO programme to boost rural infrastructure and promote Jagannath Culture. Under the programme, the target was set to execute 90,723 projects in 6,794 panchayats with each getting an assistance of ₹50 lakh.

AP's proposed hydro project in Kotia Congress seeks CM's statement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The Congress Tuesday demanded a statement from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on neighbouring Andhra Pradesh's 'efforts' to set up a hydropower project in Kotia, a disputed area along the border between the two states.

During the Zero Hour of the Assembly proceedings, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Rama Chandra Kadam expressed concerns over alleged intrusion in the Kotia cluster of villages in Odisha's Koraput district.

He also claimed that several tribal villages in the Kotia region in Odisha could be inundated for Andhra Pradesh's proposed 1200 MW hydropower project.

"It is strange to know that the Odisha government is silent when the Andhra Pradesh administration is going all out to set up a hydropower project in the Kotia region. They will use Odisha's land and water while the people in the Kotia cluster of villages will suffer. The state government's silence has encouraged the Andhra Pradesh authorities to continue with its efforts," Kadam said in the Assembly.

The Congress leader claimed that around 1200acre of land, comprising villages and forests, would be affected due to the proposed hydropower project and wondered how Majhi being a tribal is unable to understand the hardship that tribal people may face in Kotia under Pottangi block of Koraput district.

Congress MLA Raazen Ekka echoed Kadam.

"The BJP often raised Odia Asmita (pride) during elections. But now, Andhra Pradesh has been encroaching upon Odisha's land, water and forest. We demand a statement from the Chief Minister on the

issue. Let the CM inform the House whether the proposed hydropower project by Andhra Pradesh will benefit the people of Odisha," Ekka said.

Sources in the Odisha government claimed that the Andhra Pradesh administration has signed a MoU with Adani Group for a 1200-MW hydroelectric power project in Manyam district near the disputed Kotia region in August 2023.

The neighbouring state has already started the groundwork for the project bordering Neradivala in the disputed Kotia panchayat, they added.

68 KILLED IN WILD ANIMAL ATTACKS

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: At least 68 people were killed in attacks by elephants and other wild animals in the state during the current year, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia told the Assembly, Tuesday.

While replying to a written question of BJD legislator Arun Kumar Sahoo, the minister said besides human casualties, 1,087 houses and crops over 2315.79 acre land were also damaged in incidents of the human-wildlife conflict in different forest divisions of the state during the current year.

To prevent human habitations located near forest areas from elephant and other wild animal attacks, the government has been taking steps for the roll out of an artificial intelli-

gence (AI) supported e-surveillance project at Bharatpur in Chandaka forest division, Hindol of Dhenkanal division and Bantala in Angul division on a pilot basis, he stated.

With the help of AI, Forest officials can monitor the movement of wild animals and accordingly, human habitations can be put on alert in advance, the minister said.

A maximum of 14 people were killed in wild animal attacks in the Dhenkanal forest division, while eight such deaths were reported from the Keonjhar forest division, the minister said.

Similarly, wild animal attacks claimed six human lives in each of the Bonai and Rourkela forest divisions, five people were killed in such attacks in the Angul forest division.

Among others, Athagarh and Baripada divisions reported four human deaths each.

'Subhadra' commitment, not betrayal: Parida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The state government Tuesday said its flagship scheme 'Subhadra' is a 'commitment' to the women and not a 'betrayal' as alleged by the Opposition BJD and Congress.

This was stated by Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida, in charge of the Women and Child Development department, while speaking during a discussion on the Subhadra Yojana in the Assembly.

Protesting the DCM's statement, the BJD and the Congress walked out of the Assembly.

Parida said that the Opposition has become intolerant as the state's BJP government within the first 100 days has been able to implement such a 'revolu-

tionary' scheme for the welfare of the women.

Parida said over one crore women of the state would get ₹10,000 per annum for five years under the scheme. Each beneficiary will get a total of ₹50,000 in five years, she said.

BJD member Arun Sahoo, however, criticised the state government for including women only in the age group of 21-60 years in the scheme even as the BJP in its election manifesto had announced to provide financial assistance to all women in the state.

"We do not understand why the women in the age group of 18 years to 21 years were excluded from the scheme. Women get the right to vote at 18, but are

denied benefits from the government scheme for them," Sahoo said.

Though the BJP has been claiming to be an 'infant' government of only 90 days, Sahoo alleged that it has cleverly deleted women below 21 years and above 60 years.

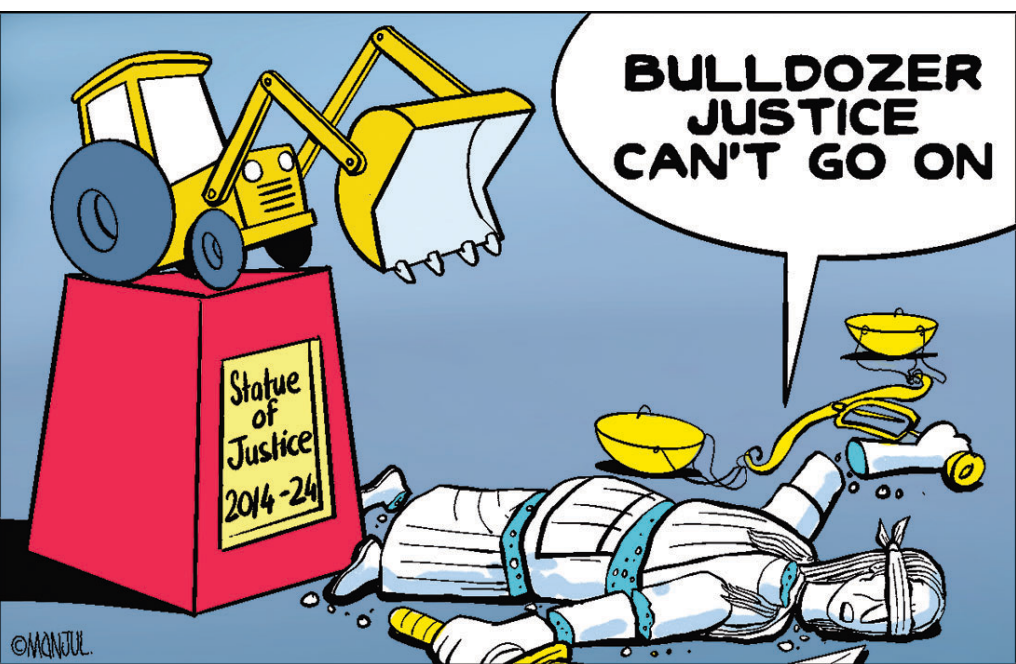
"A woman who is at the age of 59 years will get only one instalment of ₹5,000. Is it women empowerment?" he asked.

Congress member Sofia Firdous wondered how the women's economic condition would improve if she gets only ₹800 per month under the scheme.

"What can a woman do with ₹10,000 a year in two instalments?" she asked.

The state government is all set to launch the scheme on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday September 17, CM Mohan Charan Majhi said at a party function here.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



SC: No ban on Sahara Group to sell properties for depositing ₹10K-cr

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: The Supreme Court Tuesday said there is no embargo on Sahara Group to sell its properties for depositing around ₹10,000 crore in SEBI-Sahara refund account for returning investors' money.

In a series of directions August 31, 2012, the top court had directed that Sahara Group firms - SIRECL and SHICL - would refund the amount collected from individual investors or group of investors, with interest of 15 per cent per annum to SEBI from the date of receipt of the subscription amount till the date of repayment within three months.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna, M M Sundresh and Bela



M Trivedi expressed its displeasure over the Sahara Group not depositing the amount as directed by the court. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Sahara Group, said the company was not given opportunity to sell its properties and moreover no one came forward or is coming forward to purchase the properties as there was embargo on selling them.

"There is no embargo on Sahara Group in selling its properties for depositing the remaining ₹10,000 crore out of ₹25,000 crore ordered by the court. Only thing was that it should not be sold below the circle rate and if it is to be sold below the circle rate, then prior permission of the court is to be sought," the bench told Sibal.

It said more than 10 years have passed and the Sahara Group has not complied with the order of the court.

"SEBI is seeking around ₹10,000 crore. You need to deposit it. We want a distinct plan, so that the property can be sold in a transparent manner. We will rope in SEBI also in this exercise," the bench further added.

Posting for 6 IAS officers

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The state government Tuesday appointed six IAS officers of the 2022 batch as Sub-Collectors and Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) after completion of their training.

Akshay Pillay has been appointed as Sub-Collector of Bonei, while Prahlad Narayan Sharma is the new SDM of Athagarh. Arugula Sneha and Akavaram Sasya Reddy have been posted as Sub-Collectors of Padampur and Jeypore, respectively. The state government also appointed Samir Kumar Jena as SDM of Talcher and Soumyaranjan Pradhan as Rairangpur SDM.

With 519% DA, dy dir of mines held

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: Vigilance sleuths Tuesday arrested deputy director of mines, Talcher, Dharanidhar Nayak for possession of disproportionate assets (DA) which is over 519 per cent of his known sources of income.

Following searches, Nayak was found in possession of two multi-storey buildings, a 3-BHK flat worth ₹1.30 crore and a duplex over 1,800 sqft area in the Capital city, two market complexes with 19 shops, 11 plots, deposits to the tune of ₹53.53 lakh, household articles worth ₹54.70 lakh and over ₹9.85 lakh in cash, the anti-corruption wing said in a press statement. "After thorough search and inventory, the income, expenditure and assets of Nayak were calculated and he was found in possession of DA of about ₹5 crore, which is over 519 per cent of his known sources of income," it said.

"A case under Section 13(2) r/w 13(1)(b)/12 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 was registered against Nayak and he was taken into custody after he failed to give satisfactory response," it added. Nayak was posted as a mining officer at Koraput in 2014 and after seven years, he was transferred and posted at Talcher as mining officer in 2021. He was later promoted to the rank of deputy director of mines, it pointed out.

ZONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR ZONE
Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli,
Bhubaneswar-751015, Tel: 0674 - 2362251/2362246,
Email: zo.bhubaneswar@bankofindia.co.in

REQUIREMENT OF PREMISES

Detailed notification inviting offers for premises for our **Asset Recovery Branch, Cuttack** is available in our website www.bankofindia.co.in. Prescribed format for submission of offer may be obtained upto **1.00 P.M. of 11.09.2024** from our office at above address. Alternatively, the format can be downloaded from our website. Last date for submission of offer is upto **3.00 P.M. on 11.09.2024** at Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar.

Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar Zone

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ECoR takes proactive measures on KK line

Bhubaneswar: To ensure uninterrupted operations of trains during the monsoon season, East Coast Railway (ECoR) implemented a series of proactive measures on the Kothavalasa-Kirandul (KK) Line, crucial for iron ore traffic. KK line belongs to Waltair railway division of ECoR zone. It passes through three states, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Recognising the unique challenges posed by the valley and hill regions, ECoR has formed specialised hill gangs and a dedicated tunnel maintenance team. Over 20 staff members received the training at the National Institute of Mountaineering under the Ministry of Defence in Arunachal Pradesh during the summers. Building on this initiative, an additional 30 personnel from the engineering, traction, and accident relief departments are scheduled to undergo training in October.

Bhub Manipal Hospitals hosts workshop on infants



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: Manipal Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, in association with Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP), conducted a neonatology workshop Tuesday.

The event brought together over 80 participants from across the country, including 10 national faculties, to focus on the latest advancements in the management of extremely premature babies, particularly those born before 28 weeks and requiring ventilator care.

Two renowned experts—Boris Kramer from Poland and Kartik Nagesh, Chairman and Head of the Neonatology department at Manipal Hospitals, Bangalore—graced the occasion.

They showed their expertise in a live demonstration using goat lungs—a cutting-edge technique—to improve lung conditions in premature infants, providing participants with practical

insights into advanced neonatal care.

The workshop was organised by neonatology and paediatric department team led by Janaki Ballav Pradhan and Abilipsa Acharya.

Pradhan, senior consultant, paediatrics, said, “Our goal is to ensure that every premature baby receives the best possible care, and the workshop is a step towards achieving that by sharing the latest knowledge and practices in neonatal medicine.”

Hospital director Saktimaya Mohapatra said, “The workshop provided a platform for exchange of ideas and experiences, with interactive sessions, case studies, and hands-on demonstrations, ensuring that participants left with a greater understanding and confidence in managing the patients.”

The event reflected hospital’s dedication in setting new benchmarks in neonatal care, he added.

OTDC celebrates 45th Foundation Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) celebrated its 45th Foundation Day at Pathanivas here, Tuesday.

On the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Women and Child Development, Mission Shakti and Tourism, Pravat Parida joined as the chief guest.

Parida opined, “Odisha’s economic growth is closely related to its tourism sector. OTDC is a well-known brand in the state for its delicious food, cleanliness, comfortable stay and state-of-the-art facilities. It has the potential to reach an international standard as well.”



She called upon all officials and staff to work together and make the state a tourism hub across the country. Tourism department secretary Balbant Singh mentioned that the Corporation has played a major role in setting up the infrastructure of several tourist destinations. “We will continue our efforts to provide high quality services to the tourists coming to our state,” he added.

On this occasion, 14 units of OTDC were awarded for providing excellent services to tourists. Puri Panthanivas was awarded for highest annual income, Gopalpur Panthanivas for best tourist-friendly unit, and Rourkela Panthanivas for best environment.

‘Climate-resilient practices key to ensure food security’

Deputy Chief Minister Deo stresses on building sustainable agricultural food systems and efficient irrigation techniques to meet future requirements

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: To ensure food and nutrition security for all, it is imperative that we move towards climate-resilient practices, Deputy Chief Minister of Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo said while inaugurating ‘Climate Resilience Cell’ (CRC) at Krushi Bhavan here Tuesday.

“There is a critical need for adopting climate-resilient agricultural practices in the current scenario,” he said.

“International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), the knowledge partners, have been roped in to work closely with the department and support the CRC in implementing sustainable agricultural food systems, building capacity, advocating for effective policies,



Green House Gases (GHGs) emission reduction, efficient irrigation techniques and support in institutional capacity building for sustaining the climate smart practices in future,” Deo said.

“The CRC of Department of Agriculture and Farmers’ Empowerment (DAFE) has been constituted for implementation and monitoring of the state action plan on climate change (SAPCC),” he said.

“DAFE, in collaboration with international institutional partners, wishes to create a carbon sensitive policy framework for collaborative research, policy analytics, institutional capacity building and policy engagement and outreach in the backdrop of climate change in the state,” Deo added.

DAFE principal secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee said, “This is a unique opportunity for

us to meet the larger carbon goals collectively. The centre defines our collaboration and understanding of multipronged effort with policies, programmes from all domains for meeting the sustainable food system goals.”

The initiative shall be funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation without any financial implication to the state government, Padhee said.

Director for South Asia at IFPRI Shahidur Rashid said, “IFPRI is glad to support DAFE’s endeavours by bringing its globally recognised expertise in agriculture, climate, and natural resource resilience-related policy research.”

“We aim to help build capacities, introduce new innovations, and foster sustainable practices through our network of global centres of excellence,” he added.

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	82,555.44	↓ 4.40
NIFTY	25,279.85	↑ 1.15
DOLLAR	84.02	↑ ₹0.03
EURO	92.89	↓ ₹0.14
GOLD	₹70,824	↓ ₹409
SILVER	₹83,277	↓ ₹1,346

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	34.1°C	32.6°C
Min Temp	26.1°C	25.0°C
Humidity	71%	77%
Rainfall	0.0mm	0.0mm

FORECAST
PARTLY CLOUDY SKY WITH ONE OR TWO SPELLS OF RAIN OR THUNDERSHOWERS

CLASSIFIED

LOST

I, Subhadra Swain have with declare that one of the chain RSD and ROR (Patta) linked to my property Khata No.-460/170, Plot No.-1047, area A.C.0.2400dec. Belows were being lost details of the same is (1) RSD No.-11522101488, dated 22.09.21 executed by Dillip Kumar Swain in favour of Girish Chandra Jena, (2) ROR in respect of Khata No.-460/169 stands in the name of Girish Chandra Jena. If any person found this, kindly inform me the following number; Subhadra Swain, Mob-9938502709, 8382048807.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Rina Rani Das, spouse of No. 14921756A, ExHav. Tushar Das, resident of Village: Nachhipur, Post: Ikiri, Via: Mandhatapur, Dist.: Nayagarh, PIN - 752079, State: Odisha have changed my DOB from 12th July 1981 to 02nd June 1976 vide affidavit dated 08th Aug. 2024.

By virtue of an affidavit sworn before Sri Haramohan Jena, Notary Public, Bhubaneswar dated 02nd September, 2024, I, Kabita Nayak, aged about 45 years, W/o. Surendra Nayak, residing at Plot No. 01/002, Shankareswar Nagar, Khandagiri Bari, P.O./P.S.: Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar - 751030, Dist.: Khordha, Odisha I declare that I have changed my name from Gitanjali Nayak to Kabita Nayak. Henceforth, I shall be known as Kabita Nayak for all purposes.
Kabita Nayak Applicant.



UP IN ARMS: Members of Odisha Mid-day Meal Workers’ Union clash with police at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, as they march toward Assembly to press for fulfillment of their demands

Synapse organises quiz competition at Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 3: The Junction of ‘Qriosity’ held its eighth annual flagship quiz of Quizzard at Sarala Bhawan here recently.

The two-day event was presented by an interactive and functional education platform ‘Dambaruu Learning Made Fun’ and sponsored by Milk Mantra. A total of 1200 participants from 80 schools took part in the competition.

The state-level quiz was divided into two groups- Odia and English. While Odia quiz was for students of Class VII to Class X, the English quiz was held for Class VII to Class XII students.

The event featured two special awards—best participating school as well as best girls’ team in the English and Odia quiz.

The best girls’ team award in Odia quiz was won by Purnima Naik and Stiti Pragnya Swain of Bapuji Sikhshya Niketan. Similarly Kritika Narula and Shruti Kar of St. Joseph High School, Bhubaneswar won the best girls’ team in English quiz.

St Xavier’s High School was the best-participating school in the English quiz while Secondary Board High School, Cuttack was the best-participating school in the Odia quiz.



Adyant Patnaik and Sai Arush Das, DAV Unit VIII, Bhubaneswar won the English Quiz. Priyanka Samantaray and Ritesh Parida, ODM Global School came second, while Nishika Parida and Abhijvala Mohanty, Loyola School, Bhubaneswar secured third position.

Similarly, Gorekh Prasad Sarangi and Abhigyan Rout of SSVN Tulasipur, Cuttack were awarded Odia Quiz winners. Spandan Mishra and Subhrayoti Panda from Saraswati Shishu Vidya Mandir, Nuapada got the second place and Chiranjib Samal and Omm Sahoo Secondary Board High School, Cuttack came third.

Cuttack-Barabati MLA Sofia Firdous was the chief guest. Retd OAS officer Raja Parija, founder of the Zindagi Foundation AB Singh, and the bureau head of The Sakala, Cuttack Bhakti Bhushan Mohanty were present as guests of honour.

MAN HELD FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: The Airfield Police Tuesday arrested a 55-year-old man for alleged sexual assault on a minor in absence of her parents.

The accused is identified as Dhadia Behera, a resident of Behera Sahi in the City.

The complaint lodged by the nine-year-old victim’s parents alleged that Dhadia entered their house September 2 and sexually misbehaved with their daughter.

“Dhadia threatened our daughter of physical assault if she would disclose the matter to anyone. We came to know it when we found our daughter crying when we returned in the evening,” minor’s father said.

The police said that minor’s father is a painter while mother works as a help in a private college.

The police booked Dhadia under Sections 65 (2), 127 (2), 75 (1) and 351 (3) of BNS, and produced him before a local court Tuesday.



UNsung HERO OF NAYAGARH

A young carpenter’s 10-year sacrifice for a greener Odisha

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: In an era dominated by digital platforms and social media, where recognition often hinges on one’s online presence, the story of Pupun Sahu, a 29-year-old carpenter from Bhadikila village in Nayagarh’s Odgaon block, stands as a testament to silent dedication and persistent commitment to the cause of environment.

Pupun, along with his village friend Pami Nayak, with no formal association or campaign to his name, has devoted the past decade of his life in transforming barren, hilly land into lush green spaces.

Since 2014, Pupun has single-handedly planted around 600

trees, including mango, sugarcane, and bamboo, on the land so rugged that it’s difficult for a person to walk, let alone nurture plantation.

His dedication stems from a deep-seated love for Mother Earth and a desire to leave a positive legacy for future generations.

Not content with just planting trees on the hillsides, Pupun has also taken upon himself the responsibility of greening the area around the Mahima Alekha Ashram near his village.

He has planted approximately 400 medicinal and fruit-bearing trees, creating a thriving environment that is now reminiscent of a small forest.

The green sanctuary has become a place of learning, where local school children and teach-



ers visit to learn about various plant species and the impor-

Since 2014, Pupun has single-handedly planted around 600 trees, including mango, sugarcane, and bamboo, on the land so rugged that it’s difficult for a person to walk, let alone nurture plantation

tance of conservation.

Despite facing significant setbacks, such as devastating forest fires that claimed about 100 of his young trees, Pupun’s resolve remains unshaken. He continues to nurture saplings near the ashram, which has also become home to a variety of medicinal

plants like mulberry, cinnamon, cloves, amla, and saffron. The garden now supports a diverse ecosystem, attracting insects, butterflies, birds, and even wild animals.

He successfully planted around 31 varieties of fruit-bearing trees and medicinal plants using his indigenous knowledge. The species includes Cinnamomum tamala (Indian Bay Leaf), Chebulic Myrobalan, Belleric Myrobalan, Indian gooseberry, guava, custard apple, spondias, bael, sapodilla, lychee, coconut, elephant apple, Ashoka tree, lemon, pomelo, dragon fruit, bamboo, moringa, Arjuna tree, pomegranate, silk cotton tree, beechwood tree, fig, velvet apple, mango, and jackfruit.

Pupun’s work, though largely unrecognised beyond his community, speaks volumes about the power of individual action in the face of environmental challenges. His story is a reminder that true impact does not always require a large platform or widespread recognition; sometimes, it is the quiet, persistent efforts of individuals like Pupun that make the most significant difference.

Yet, despite his relentless efforts and significant impact, Pupun remains unrecognised and unknown beyond his community. His story is one of silent sacrifice, proving that true commitment to a greener planet can thrive even in the most isolated corners, without the need for accolades or digital fame.

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MINING-HIT LOCALS LEFT HIGH & DRY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 3: The Rehabilitation and Peripheral Development Advisory Committee (RPDAC) in this district has not been holding meetings regularly, thereby depriving the locals in mining affected areas of their due benefits, a report said.

Reports said that it is the responsibility of this RPDAC committee to hold regular meetings and take care of the rehabilitation of the people in the affected areas, protection of the environment and their livelihood. It is alleged that the committee is not having its regular sittings and not prioritising the problems and development of people in the concerned areas.

The matter came to the fore after a social organisation 'Vasundhara' in mining dominated Bolani area of Keonjhar district wrote a letter to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi urging him to address the issues.

Moreover, the director of Vasundhara has also submitted a memorandum to the state government through Barbil additional tehsildar Biswajit Dalei. According to the memoran-



REPRESENTATIONAL PIC

dum, Bolani iron ore mine under Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) is located under Joda block. A public hearing was held October 24, 2011 for expansion of the mine. The mining authorities made various promises to the local people for the development of the area while attending the public hearing.

After the support of the locals, mining expansion work had started. While the company has reaped huge profits from the mining and has been exporting large quantities of iron ore to other countries, there is growing discontentment among the locals as the promises made to them are yet to be fulfilled.

It is the duty of RPDAC to monitor and comply with these promises. However, as the committee is not having its regular meetings nor is it reviewing the activities, the company officials have taken the rules for a ride.

"If no action is taken and the promises are not fulfilled, people of the affected areas will protest against any expansion of mining in the gram sabha and public hearing in coming days," a social activist said.

As per the memorandum, the company had promised to set up an ITI in the area to train the local youths. However, it is alleged that the ITI, which was opened in 2014, was closed before

it could become fully operational.

Similarly, they promised to upgrade a school in Bolani slum, but to no avail.

Similarly, they promised infrastructure revamp at DAV School located in Bolani township but nothing concrete has been done. As a result of this, education of the local children has taken a back seat.

Similarly, it has been alleged that the company has not kept its promise to provide employment opportunities to the project affected people.

The company has also promised to set up a beneficiation plant here, which has remained a distant dream for the last eight years. Had the beneficiation plant been established, it could have provided employment opportunities to many local youths, said Vivekananda Nanda, director and member of RPDAC.

District Collector had frequently apprised the RDC as well as the Union and state governments of the issues, but step was taken address the same.

However, locals have become optimistic after a new government was formed in the state, he added.

Captive elephant 'Kharsel' dies in Debrigarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 3: A captive elephant named 'Kharsel' died of old age related ailments in Debrigarh sanctuary under Hirakud wildlife division in this district. Forest department officials informed that the 65-year-old jumbo being treated by a veterinarian from Burla breathed his last at 4pm, Monday afternoon.

Kharsel, which was in captivity for many years, died due to old age, informed Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Anshu Prayagn Das.

The elephant's last rites were conducted in the presence of mahout Hemachandra Bhue, staff, veterinarian, caretakers and local villagers. 'Kharsel' was buried under a tree at the spot where he used to reside within the Debrigarh sanctuary. A memorial plaque is set to be installed on the burial ground.

It is pertinent to mention that the elephant was tranquillised



and brought to Debrigarh from Bolangir's Kharsel jungle in 1998 after it attacked and killed several people.

Kharsel had been wreaking havoc in Bolangir area attacking numerous people, damaging crops, and destroying hundreds of houses. The Forest depart-

ment faced significant challenges in taming the unruly pachyderm.

After capture, he was kept under quarantine for a few days by the Forest department. Later, after he calmed down, he was released in the forest under the supervision of mahout Bhue.

The jumbo had made several unsuccessful attempts to escape from here between 2005 and 2009. After 2018-19, he used to freely roam within the sanctuary.

However, in the past 5-6 months, his vision had faded and movements slowed due to old age. His food intake also decreased.

Owing to the serious health condition of 'Kharsel', medication for age related issues were started August 24 by veterinarians under consultation of Dr Indramani Nath from Centre of Wildlife Studies, Bhubaneswar.

Youth strangles girlfriend to death

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Sept 3: A 20-year-old youth of Khatangotoli village under Bisra police station allegedly strangled his girlfriend during a bitter argument over his suspected affair with another girl.

According to sources, accused Bandhan Kumar, who works at a prawn firm in Gujarat, was in love with the girl. Bandhan is stated to be the maternal uncle of the girl of a distant relation. He was on leave for a few days.

Like earlier, he took the girl to a nearby jungle Saturday. The girl, however, was suspecting Bandhan of having an affair with another girl. This led to a fierce quarrel between them in the jungle that day.

Sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) of Zone 1 Nirmal Chandra Mishra said, "Bandhan tried to convince the girl, who was in no mood to listen to him. He told us that he tried to pacify his girlfriend saying there is not an iota of truth in it but the girl was in no mood to listen to him."

Bandhan finally also lost his cool and flew into rage following repeated accusation by the girl. "He strangled her with her stole till her last breath," the SDPO said adding that he fled the scene immediately after committing the crime.

People found the body the next day and informed the police who started an investigation. Later, police traced Bandhan to a place which is a little away from his home.

Acting on a complaint lodged by the victim's father, Bandhan was arrested and forwarded to court Monday evening, the officer added.

Man arrested for raping girl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Phulbani, Sept 3: Police have arrested a 26-year-old man for allegedly raping a minor girl in Kandhamal district, an official said Tuesday.

The accused is a distant relative of the victim and an autorickshaw driver by profession, the Inspector in-Charge (IC) of Daringbadi police station, Romesh Pradhan, said. The incident happened Sunday when the girl was returning home from a market in Daringbadi in the accused's autorickshaw.

According to police, the girl, a student of Class VIII, had gone to the market to purchase materials for her dress.

The accused, a distant relative of the victim, stopped his auto-rickshaw in a solitary place, dragged her to a nearby bush and allegedly raped her.

When the victim raised alarm and opposed the act, the accused threatened to kill her, the police officer said.

The victim's father later lodged a complaint with the Daringbadi police and the accused was arrested Monday, Pradhan said.

Homeguard killed, 4 injured as ambulance hits police van

POST NEWS NETWORK

Udala, Sept 3: In a tragic incident, a homeguard was crushed to death while four others, including a police officer, sustained grievous injuries after a speeding 108 ambulance crashed into a police van on the state highway under this police limits in Mayurbhanj district, late Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Lakshmidhar Mohanta and the critically injured were identified as Udala police station IIC Banamali Barik, van driver Sadananda Singh, ambulance helper Hemanta Nayak and pharmacist Satyajit Panda.

According to sources, Barik along with other police personnel was patrolling and conducting checks, Monday night when a 108 ambulance heading from Baripada towards Kaptipada suddenly came at high speed and hit the police vehicle.

The impact was so severe that the police van flipped over three times and the ambulance drag the vehicle upto several metres.

Barik and driver Singh who were inside the vehicle sustained



OP PHOTO

critical injuries. On the other hand, homeguard Lakshmidhar Mahanta, who was also inside the van, was crushed under the police vehicle and died on the spot.

Informed, police personnel rushed to the spot and admitted the injured to Udala hospital. Singh and Barik were immediately transferred to PRM Medical College and Hospital at Baripada as their condition worsened.

Upon hearing the news, SDPO Sarthak Ray also reached Udala police station and monitored the rescue operation. All the homeguards assembled near Udala

hospital, Monday morning and staged a protest demanding compensation and job to kin of the deceased.

On being informed, homeguard DSP Dolamani Bhoi reached hospital and pacified the protesting homeguards by assuring them compensation of ₹10 lakh as per the new rules. An assistance of ₹10,000 was also provided to the deceased's family from Red Cross. The post-mortem of the body was conducted in the presence of magistrate Pratik Panda before the body was handed over to the family members.



MAKING HAY: Youths catch fish using fishing rods after the sluice gate at Balibandha was opened following closure of all sluice gates at Hirakud dam, in Sambalpur, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

MAGTICS-2024 kicks off at NIT Rourkela

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 3: A five-day interdisciplinary workshop titled "Molecular and Genomic Techniques in Cellular Studies (MAGTICS-2024)", organized by RNAi Laboratory and Human Molecular Genetics Laboratory of the department of Life Science at NIT Rourkela, was kicked off September 2.

The workshop was sponsored by Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS), Government of India, along with several leading biological companies. It has brought together top researchers and professionals, prominent scientists, industry and medical experts who would provide lectures

and hands-on exposure to participants on modern-day molecular research and their implications on human health. Bibekanand Mallick and M Srinivasan are the conveners of the workshop.

Welcoming the participants, Mallick said, "The workshop is designed to integrate cutting-edge tools and techniques from various disciplines, including molecular cell biology, molecular genetics, and genomics."

K Umamaheshwar Rao, Director of NIT, chief guest Bisnu Prasad Dash, Adjunct Professor of FM University, Rohan Dhiman, Registrar of NIT Rourkela and Bismita Nayak, Head of the department of Life Science were also present.



OP PHOTO

Emphasising the significance of biology & life sciences in improving human lives, Rao said, "I never imagined that a tiny virus like Covid-19 could cause such disruption in our lives for nearly two years. Studies related to life sciences such as cellular studies can combat life-threatening viruses by identifying viral genes or by enabling targeted drug development etc. Promoting more

research in life sciences or biology and integrating modern-age technologies with it, is therefore essential."

Das said, "The interactions within cells are the essence of life, and understanding them has been enhanced by advances in high-end microscopy and molecular techniques. These technologies have improved our ability to explore cellular processes with unprecedented detail, opening new avenues for research and innovation in biology."

Dhiman talked about the department's state-of-the-art facilities, including confocal microscopy, flow cytometry, and RT-PCR, which contribute to high-impact research publications.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/24-25/
E-Tender/50 Dt: 27.08.2024

(1) Tender No. e-Tender-BRIDGEKUR-150-24 Dt: 20.08.2024

Description: SUPPLY AND FABRICATION OF RDSO RH GRIDERS FIT FOR 50 KMPH SPEED FOR USE DURING EXECUTION OF LIMITED HEIGHT SUBWAY/SUBWAY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 1739.49 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 10.19,800/-

(2) Tender No. etenderstakekur-170-2024 Dt: 20.08.2024

Description: MISCELLANEOUS REPAIR TO CUPBOARDS OF VARIOUS TY-V, TY-V SPL & TY-VI QUARTERS AT RAIL KUNJ COLONY & RAIL KUTIR COLONY AT CHANDRASEKHARPUR, BHUBANESWAR.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 235.04 Lakhs, EMD: ₹ 2,67,500/-

Completion period: 12 months (for Sl. No. 1) & 08 months (for Sl. No. 2).

Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 11.09.2024 (for both tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.reps.gov.in

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

Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), Khurda Road
PR-486/P/24-25

HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION

TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

National Olympiad Programme 2024-2025

in Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Junior Science

All students wishing to participate in the programme must appear in corresponding National Standard Examinations (NSEs) (for science subjects) on November 23 and 24, 2024 conducted by the Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT). Qualification in NSE is the first step towards participation in the corresponding International Olympiads of 2025.

To enroll:
NSEs: <https://www.iapt.org.in> (Aug 21 - Sep 14, 2024)
For more details: <https://olympiads.hbcse.tifr.res.in>
<https://www.iapt.org.in>
CBC 48143/12/0005/2425

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, BASUDEVPUR

At/PO: Basudevpur, Dist: Bhadrak,
Email: ori-basudevpur@nic.in
Letter No.3571/ Date: 31.08.2024

No.I-113 **Tender Call Notice-01/2024-25**

1. Name of the Project : Construction of Additional Class Room
2. Total No. of Project : 07 Nos.
3. Class of Contractor : 'C & D' Class
4. Period of Completion : 6 Calendar Months
5. Other details: As per DTCN.

Sl. No.	Procurement Officer	Available Tender Online for bidding	Last date of receipt of Bids	Date & Time of Opening of Bid
1	2	3	4	5
1	Block Development Officer, Basudevpur	03.09.2024	17.09.2024 12.00 PM	17.09.2024 4.00 PM

6. Further details can be seen from the website portal "https://www.bhadrak.nic.in"
7. Any other changes/ Corrigendum/ Addendum may be seen only in website www.bhadrak.nic.in.

Sd./- Block Development Officer
Basudevpur
OIPR-19306/11/0001/2425

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER KHORDHA (R&B) DIVISION, KHORDHA

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

E-mail: pwdoff_khd@yahoo.com
Letter No.4165, Dt.30.08.2024

Tender Call Notice No.05/2024-25

No.B-218: The Executive Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Division, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Single Cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible class of contractors having valid registration certificate for execution of the Civil Works as detailed below.

1. Nature of Work : Civil Works
2. No. of Work : 03 Nos.
3. Tender Cost : Rs.6000.00 (Online)
4. Class of Contractor : 'C' & 'B' Class Contractor
5. Available of Bid documents in the website : From Dt.10.09.2024 at 12.00 Noon to Dt.19.09.2024 at 5.00 PM
6. Date of Opening of Bids : Dt.20.09.2024 at 11.30 AM
7. Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any information regarding Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can be available in the said website.

Sd./- Executive Engineer
Khordha (R&B) Division, Khordha
OIPR-34095/11/0006/2425

FOCUS WORLD TRADE

LOOMING UNCERTAINTY



The trade policies of the next administration – whether led by US Vice President Kamala Harris or former President Donald Trump – will undoubtedly have significant spillover effects

The CPTPP evolved from the Trans-Pacific Partnership – an agreement that Obama spearheaded, but was never ratified, owing to Trump's 2017 decision to withdraw from it. It was thanks to the Japanese leadership that the CPTPP was ratified the following year.

Beyond expanding market access among member countries, the CPTPP imposes institutional requirements affecting the conduct of state-owned enterprises (SOEs), government procurement, and subsidy rules. Given this capacity to induce institutional reform within member countries, the CPTPP can be considered a kind of "WTO plus."

The CPTPP might even drive reform among prospective members. Though China does not currently meet the agreement's requirements, it has applied to join, signaling its willingness to reform SOEs and market access. A CPTPP that includes China but not the US is hardly in America's interest.

A Harris administration might also reverse previous administrations' tariffs on Chinese imports, which amount to a tax on US consumers, especially middle-class and low-income households. Harris must be able to explain to the American public that tariffs are self-defeating, as they raise the cost of living without creating new jobs for American workers.

There is no guarantee that Harris will pick the right trade advisers or overcome protectionist pressures within her party. But if she does – if she combines a relatively open trade policy with domestic redistribution – she may usher in a global trade revival that boosts the US economy and enhances US global leadership. With Trump, by contrast, there is little reason to expect anything more than another negative shock to global trade, resulting in far more losers than winners.

The writer is Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School. PROJECT SYNDICATE

A major uncertainty looming over the global economy is who will be the next US president. While the United States is home to only 5% of the world's population, and contributes just 15% of global value added, its role in shaping the world economy is unmatched. Given this, the trade policies of the next administration – whether led by US Vice President Kamala Harris or former President Donald Trump – will undoubtedly have significant spillover effects.

We know what Trump is likely to do: raise US tariffs on imports from China to 60%, and impose a 10% tariff on imports from all other countries. These policies would hurt Chinese exports to the US most, but many other countries' US exports would also decline, though a few – those providing substitutes for Chinese goods – might benefit.

Economies that depend on supply chains that include China would also suffer. Many South Korean and Japanese firms export parts and components to China, where they are combined with China-made parts and components, and possibly assembled into final products, for export to the US and elsewhere. This implies that any reduction in Chinese exports to the US would translate into a reduction in exports from Japan, South Korea, and others like them. Efforts to bypass the problem by shifting supply chains to India, Vietnam, and elsewhere might partly offset this effect, but such solutions are likely to be both costly and incomplete.

The effects of the "Trump trade shock" would not end there. If the tariffs hamper growth in China, Chinese demand for imports could fall, dealing yet another blow to economies for which China is a leading trading partner, such as Japan, South Korea, and Southeast Asian countries.

Trump's proposed tariffs would also have two less obvious effects – neither of which is

desirable for the US. First, they would act as a drag on US exports to many countries, because the overall US trade deficit is determined less by America's own trade policy than by a shortage of US national savings relative to investment. Given that Trump's proposed tariffs would be unlikely to raise US savings significantly, a reduction in US imports would be matched by a reduction in US exports. With that, America's relative importance as a trading partner for many countries would decline.

Second, Trump's tariffs would undermine the world economic order that the US led the way in creating. The Trump measures would violate America's legal obligations under the World Trade Organization. But, with the US having spent years weakening the WTO's dispute-settlement mechanism, the body is unlikely to be able to check Trump's protectionism. This would reinforce the sense that the US does not play by the rules and would encourage other countries – particularly those grappling

with high levels of inequality – to implement retaliatory tariffs or other protectionist policies. (Populist politicians often tout trade barriers as a solution to inequality.)

The contours of Harris' likely trade policy are less clear. One can imagine her upholding US President Joe Biden's approach to trade, which is slightly less erratic than Trump's, but remains a blight on Biden's economic-policy legacy. In fact, a continuation of Biden's policies would still advance America's relative decline as a trading country, just not as quickly as Trump's tariffs would.

But there is another possibility. Taking inspiration from two other recent Democratic presidents, Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, Harris might seek to revive US leadership in global trade, not least by rejoining the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), with Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.



Shang-Jin Wei

A CONTINUATION OF BIDEN'S POLICIES WOULD STILL ADVANCE AMERICA'S RELATIVE DECLINE AS A TRADING COUNTRY, JUST NOT AS QUICKLY AS TRUMP'S TARIFFS WOULD

Putin & ICC

Yoga is the union of that which has become separated in the play of the universe with its own true self, origin and universality.

SRI AUROBINDO



Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit on 2 September to Mongolia, a member state of the International Criminal Court (ICC) that has issued an arrest warrant against him since 2023, is yet another example of the waning influence of international institutions that were set up with the objective of keeping the world in order. Mongolia was bound to arrest Putin as mandated by the court's founding treaty, the Rome Statute. The ICC has accused Putin of being responsible for the abduction of children from Ukraine, where a war of Russian aggression has raged for two and a half years. Instead, the Central Asian country rolled out a red carpet to welcome the Russian president, much to the chagrin of Ukraine and its Western allies.

Ukraine's foreign ministry stated that Mongolia's decision not to arrest Putin under an ICC warrant represents a "significant setback" for the international criminal law system. Heorhiy Tykhyi, a spokesperson for the Ukrainian foreign ministry, remarked: "Mongolia has permitted a wanted criminal to escape justice, thus sharing in the responsibility for the war crimes."

Mongolia, home to only 3.3 million residents yet vast in land area, has historically managed its foreign policy under the influence of Russia and China, with which it shares deep historical and economic connections. Of late, to enhance its autonomy from these dominant neighbours, Mongolia has sought to cultivate friendly relations with various "third neighbour" countries, such as the United States, Germany, Japan, and South Korea. This strategy aims to establish Mongolia as a unique player on the global stage, positioning it as a neutral venue for diplomatic discussions. However, Putin's visit presented a challenge for the country as it navigates its commitments and alliances within the Western-led international order, which includes the ICC, while also striving to maintain amicable relations with its influential neighbours.

The Russian leader received a rousing reception in Ulaanbaatar's main square, greeted by a guard of honour clad in striking red and blue uniforms inspired by the personal guards of Genghis Khan, the 13th-century founder of the Mongol Empire. Putin and Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa ascended the red-carpeted steps of the Government Palace and paid their respects at a statue of Genghis Khan before proceeding inside for their discussions. A small group of protesters attempted to display a Ukrainian flag prior to the ceremony but were escorted away by the police, while a few demonstrators held posters that read: "Get war criminal Putin out of here."

Prior to his visit, Ukraine had urged Mongolia to surrender Putin to the court in The Hague, even as the European Union voiced concerns that the Central Asian country might not carry out the warrant. Anyways, the ICC does not possess a robust enforcement mechanism, and member states may be exempt from making arrests if it conflicts with specific treaty obligations or diplomatic immunity granted to another party.

Putin's undeterred visit highlights the limited ability that global bodies have to hold Moscow, or for that matter any violators of international laws, accountable for crimes against humanity. Similar has been the impact of the hordes of sanctions imposed on Russia. Following its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the US, UK and the EU, along with nations such as Australia, Canada, and Japan, have imposed over 16,500 sanctions against Russia. Yet, the Russian war machine continues ravaging innocent lives. This once again demonstrates the toothless tiger status that international laws and sanctions have gained for themselves. Such events will make their implementation even more difficult in future.

WISDOM CORNER

What spirit is so empty and blind, that it cannot recognize the fact that the foot is more noble than the shoe, and skin more beautiful than the garment with which it is clothed?

MICHELANGELO

It is a pleasant thing to reflect upon, and furnishes a complete answer to those who contend for the gradual degeneration of the human species, that every baby born into the world is a finer one than the last.

CHARLES DICKENS

Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for.

ZIG ZIGLAR

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1781: Los Angeles founded. On this day in 1781, Spanish settlers laid claim to what became Los Angeles, now the second most populous U.S. city and the home to Hollywood, whose name is synonymous with the American motion-picture industry.

1870: Napoleon III, who ruled France first as president (1850–52) and then as emperor (1852–70), was deposed and the Third Republic proclaimed. The first elected president of France, Napoleon took over the title of Emperor in 1852. The ouster came in response to Napoleon's capitulation during the Franco-Prussian War. After being removed from power, he was exiled to England, where he died on January 9, 1873.

1888: Printing and imaging company Kodak, also known as Eastman Kodak Company, was founded by inventor George Eastman. On the same day, Eastman received the patent for the roll-film camera. The cameras which were preloaded with rolls that were good for up to 100 photographs changed the world of photography by making it easier for amateurs to take it up as a hobby.

1957: The Ford Motor Company introduced the Edsel automobile, which was perhaps its most notable failure.

1989: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the U.S. Air Force launched the last Titan III rocket.

IN JEST THIS

Where Afghan women pursue their dreams



Melvin Durai

YES, GENDER SHOULD NOT BE A BARRIER TO ACCESSING EDUCATION, BUT TRY TELLING THAT TO THE MAN STANDING AT THE ENTRANCE OF KABUL UNIVERSITY IN AFGHANISTAN

Every now and then, I hear someone using the phrase "greatest country in the world." It's often an American politician, but I've heard it from leaders of other countries as well. I prefer the phrase "one of the great countries in the world," because there are a number of great countries in the world—and one of them, I've concluded, is Scotland.

I am basing my conclusion on irrefutable scientific evidence: I conducted a random survey of people attending the World Pipe Band Championship.

No, what actually convinced me that Scotland is a great country was a BBC article about 19 female medical students who were banned from attending university in Afghanistan. These students recently arrived in Scotland, where they will complete their medical studies.

The Scottish government amended their student funding laws to treat the Afghan students as domestic students, giving them free tuition and cost of living support.

Since the Taliban returned

to power in 2021, "a generation of Afghan women who had been studying at universities to become doctors, lawyers, teachers and engineers have been stuck at home," according to the Linda Norgrove Foundation, which was instrumental in getting the medical students to Scotland.

"Gender should not be a barrier to accessing education," said Scotland's Education Secretary Jenny Gilruth, who met the students at Edinburgh Airport to welcome them to Scotland.

Yes, gender should not be a barrier to accessing education, but try telling that to the man standing at the entrance of Kabul University in Afghanistan.

"Is gender a barrier here?"

"No, I am the only barrier here. My name is not Gender."

"Do you allow females to enter?"

"Yes, when it is time for cleaning."

"Can they take classes?"

"No, they are not supposed to take anything. We check their bags when they leave."

The Taliban, which re-

turned to power in Afghanistan following the US withdrawal in 2021, does not allow girls to attend school past sixth grade. Afghanistan is the only country in the world that restricts female education. This has forced some activists to create secret schools for girls, taking the risk that the Taliban – which loves to use the 'ban' in its name – will hear about it.

Abdul: "There is a home on my street where the curtains are always drawn during the day, the lights are on, and I've seen girls entering and leaving at different times."

Hamza: "Do you see any men entering? Is it a house of prostitution? Maybe they're getting together to do drugs."

Abdul: "Prostitution and drugs? No, it's worse than that – they're getting educated!"

Hamza: "Educated? Oh no, you need to report this immediately. Call the emergency number."

Abdul (dialing): "Good idea. ... Hello."

Emergency Dispatcher: "Hello. What is your emergency please?"

Abdul: "There is a secret school near my home. Girls are getting educated!"

Dispatcher: "Girls are getting educated? Oh no, how horrible. How many girls have contracted knowledge there?"

Abdul: "I don't know. Maybe 9 or 10. Do you think you can cure them of this knowledge?"

Dispatcher: "We'll do our best. What is the address?"

Abdul: "It's the green house, three doors down from Naaz Boutique, just past the large pot-hole."

Dispatcher: "Okay, we will send the Banbulance over right away. We will save those girls! Thank you for reporting this. It's only because of concerned citizens like you that our country is able to keep moving backwards."

The Afghan students in Scotland are thankful for the opportunity to pursue goals far beyond what the Taliban envisions for women. It took a few years for the Linda Norgrove Foundation to get visas and medical school seats for them, but a dream delayed is better than a dream denied.

LOL

Pulling the car

An out-of-towner drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big strong horse named Buddy.

He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellye, pull." Buddy didn't move.

Then the farmer hollered, "Pull, Buster, pull." Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Jennie, pull." Nothing.

Then the farmer nonchalantly said,



"Pull, Buddy, pull." And the horse easily dragged the car out of the ditch.

The motorist was most appreciative and very curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times.

The farmer said, "Oh, Buddy is blind, and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try!"

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

OrissaPOST
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Controversial proposal

Sir, The recent suggestion by Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan to rename Ravenshaw University has ignited widespread debate, reflecting a clash between tradition and modernity. Ravenshaw University, with its storied history, has long been a symbol of educational excellence in Odisha. Any move to alter its name should be approached with caution and respect for its legacy. Renaming institutions with such historical significance can sometimes overlook the deep cultural and emotional ties that communities have with them. Ravenshaw is more than just a name; it is a beacon of heritage, carrying the memories and achievements of countless students and faculty over the decades. While the intent to honour other figures or ideologies is understood, it is crucial to consider whether such changes might erode the identity that Ravenshaw has cultivated over the years. Dialogue and consultation with all stakeholders, including alumni, students, and local communities, are essential before making such a decision. Public sentiment should be carefully weighed before proceeding with such a significant change.

Priya Gupta, KUSHINAGAR

Deep-rooted patriarchy

Sir, The Justice K Hema Committee report has unveiled a shocking reality within the Malayalam film industry, exposing a deep-rooted culture of patriarchy and sexual harassment. This revelation is particularly distressing given the industry's often idealised portrayal of women. The report's findings highlight the systemic challenges faced by women in the industry, including career setbacks, discrimination, and a toxic work environment. One of the most concerning aspects of the report is the revelation that many women in the industry have been forced to compromise their dreams and aspirations to succeed. This highlights the pervasive power dynamics at play, where women are often subjected to the whims of powerful men. The report's findings serve as a stark reminder that the glamorous facade of the film industry often masks a darker reality. The committee's recommendations are a crucial step towards addressing the systemic issues within the Malayalam film industry. A zero-tolerance policy towards sexual harassment must be adopted, and perpetrators must be held accountable regardless of their position or influence. This requires a fundamental shift in the industry's culture, where women are no longer treated as objects of desire or as expendable commodities.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Outrage after an unmet promise to keep docs safe

RAJYA SABHA POLLS
Cong abstains from voting in Tripura

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, Sept 3: The Congress Tuesday abstained from voting in the election to Tripura's lone Rajya Sabha seat in which the ruling BJP and Opposition CPI(M) fielded candidates.

The Congress and CPI(M) had fought the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections together.

"We have not boycotted the Rajya Sabha elections. The party decided to abstain from voting in protest against the recent farcical Panchayat elections which is a threat to democracy," senior Congress MLA Sudip Roy Barman told the reporters.

The BJP secured victory unopposed in 71 per cent of the seats in the three-tier Panchayat polls in Tripura. The Opposition parties alleged that they could not field candidates in those 71 per cent of seats because of the terror tactics of the ruling party.

In the Rajya Sabha election, the CPI(M) fielded former MLA Sudhan Das against the BJP's Rajib Bhattacharjee, who is the party's state unit president.

"The CPI(M) has not consulted us before selecting or fielding a candidate for the Rajya Sabha elections. They could have boycotted the elections to protest the large-scale terror during the three-tier Panchayat elections. One candidate of the CPI(M) was murdered in Belonia during the polls," Roy Barman said.

He said the Congress can join the CPI(M) in protests against the atrocities of the BJP but it is not necessary to fight all elections together.

West Bengal pledged hospital security improvements in 2019, memo shows

RG Kar Hospital had few guards, missing locks on some doors, witnesses say

State government promises reforms, says pandemic delayed some works

Violence against women remains major problem over a decade after 2012 Delhi bus rape

Medics meet police commissioner

Agitating junior doctors Tuesday evening called on Kolkata's Commissioner of Police (CP) Vineet Goyal and handed over to him a deputation demanding that he resign from his post, because of the "lapses" of the force in handling the rape and murder case of a medic last month. They met Goyal after staying put for over 24 hours on a road close to the Kolkata Police headquarters Lalbazar, after their rally was stopped by the force Monday afternoon. After holding a two-hour-long meeting with Goyal, the junior doctors left the road. "The CP sir admitted that there was lapse on the part of the police which led to the heinous incident August 9," one of the 22 junior doctors, who met Goyal, told reporters after the meeting.

CCTV coverage and engaging private security in hospitals.

We are committed to do the remaining work and fill the gaps that emerged after the RG Kar incident, he said.

Banerjee August 28 also announced that \$12 million would be spent to begin work on improvements such as better lighting in health facilities, resting spaces and female security staff.

The chief minister's office, as well as RG Kar hospital, did not respond to calls seeking comment.

Authorities continue to investigate the August 9 incident, for which no charges have yet been filed.

The assault on the doctor in Kolkata, who cannot be named under local laws, recalled memories of the 2012 gang rape of a physiotherapist in a Delhi bus,

which convulsed India in anger and triggered protests.

Reuters interviewed 14 female doctors at government hospitals in West Bengal and elsewhere in India about their challenges in a country where women's safety is a long-standing concern.

They described poor working conditions, including aggressive treatment from the families of patients and having to sleep on benches in dimly-lit corridors due to a lack of rest facilities.

Some doctors spoke of napping in break rooms with no locks during lengthy shifts, only to have people barging in. Others described confronting male patients who photographed them without permission, claiming that they were documenting evidence of their treatment.



KOLKATA DOCTOR RAPE

13-km human chain formed, Left workers scuffle with police

Demanding justice for the deceased woman medic of RG Kar Hospital, thousands of people, including doctors and paramedics of private facilities, formed a 13-km human chain along an arterial city road Tuesday, an unprecedented event in the city's history in recent years. Participants of the human chain standing on the median divider of Eastern Metropolitan Bypass between Ultadanga and Patuli - linking the northern and southern parts of the city. Since the protesters did not obstruct crossings during their one-hour stay on the road from 5 pm, this mode of agitation did not affect vehicular traffic moving along the busy road as hundreds of vehicles plied uninterrupted, a police officer said. The participants waved the tricolour and held placards which read 'For how long we have to wait for justice', 'Hang the rapists' and 'Justice for our sister'. People from all walks of life, office goers and commuters, besides people from neighbourhood pockets along the route, took part in the protest.

exit to hospital premises and create a compensation policy for assaulted staff, according to the state Health department memo dated June 17, 2019.

The two-page document, which is reported by Reuters for the first time, was prepared after chief minister Mamata Banerjee met that day with trainee doctors protesting the at-

tack on their colleagues as a record note of the interaction. The memo did not state to whom it was addressed.

Banerjee had directed officials to take effective and prompt action within a specified timeframe, according to the document. It did not detail the preparation period.

If those measures had been

taken, this incident may never have happened, said Dr Riya Bera, a postgraduate trainee at RG Kar, of her colleague's death.

Asked by Reuters about the 2019 assurances, West Bengal Health Secretary NS Nigam said the COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted improvements for two years but a lot had been done since 2021, including strengthening

CAG detects lapses in PM-KISAN in Assam

CAG AUDIT REVEALS LACK OF MONITORING, FAKE REGISTRATIONS, AND MULTIPLE ENTRIES, LEADING TO INEFFECTIVE SCHEME EXECUTION

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 3: Implementation of the Centre's flagship 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi' (PM-KISAN) scheme in Assam has been plagued by problems, ranging from 35 per cent of the applicants being found ineligible to the recovery of a mere 0.24 per cent of funds released to these non-entitled beneficiaries, as detected by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

A performance audit of the scheme from December 2018 to March 2021 found that out of the 41,87,023 applications from the state, 10,66,593 (25 per cent) were rejected by PM-KISAN portal and Public Financial Management System.

Subsequently, the state government declared that 11,72,685 (37 per cent) out of the 31,20,430 beneficiaries were received back till October 2021, which was not refunded to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the CAG report, tabled in the state Assembly recently, said.

A mere 0.24 per cent of the funds released to these ineligible beneficiaries were received back till October 2021, which was not refunded to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the CAG report, tabled in the state Assembly recently, said.



The state government declared that 11,72,685 (37 per cent) out of the 31,20,430 beneficiaries were ineligible through an inquiry conducted from May-July 2020 across the state

A mere 0.24 per cent of the funds released to these ineligible beneficiaries were received back till October 2021, which was not refunded to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the CAG report

The CAG report also pointed out that the inquiry initiated in May 2020 on order of the chief minister, following complaints from different quarters regarding anomalies in the beneficiaries list, had found 15,59,286 ineligible names during verification across the state from May to July 2020.

Among the different categories of ineligible beneficiaries were non-farmer beneficiaries, government employees and pensioners, and multiple entries.

As per the verification report, 11,31,152 (72.54 per cent) of over 15 lakh ineligible beneficiaries were found to be untraceable.

When the auditors pointed to the difference in the figure of ineligible beneficiaries furnished by the state nodal officer (SNO) (11,72,685) and the one mentioned in the report of verification (15,59,286), the state government

said that "another verification was being conducted and as such, the figure was dynamic".

The audit, carried out in 10 districts selected based on saturation level of beneficiaries, found lack of monitoring and non-adherence to guidelines for the implementation of the scheme at various stages.

In addition to the 10 districts, Barpeta was also selected considering the largest number of ineligible beneficiaries in the state.

Twenty-two blocks from the selected 11 districts, with three villages in each block, were taken for the audit, covering 15 beneficiaries' records (totalling 990) each from the selected villages.

The performance audit revealed that the state government did not maintain a database of landholding farmer families to identify potential beneficiaries.

Emphasis was given to up-loading a large number of beneficiaries' data within a short period of time instead of ensuring the eligibility of the beneficiaries as per provisions of the scheme.

Lack of monitoring by supervisory officers also adversely affected implementation of the scheme, the audit report said. It also maintained that the audit exercise was "adversely affected due to lack of cooperation towards furnishing records/information by the Director of Agriculture".

Analysis of SNO database by the audit detected that fake registration numbers were created by zeros at the beginning of the bank account numbers, as a result of which multiple benefits were credited to the same bank account against multiple registrations.

Arunachal CM reviews status of 13 hydropower projects

THE STATE GOVERNMENT, LAST YEAR, INKED MEMORANDUMS OF AGREEMENT WITH FOUR CENTRAL PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF 13 STALLED HYDRO PROJECTS IN THE NORTHEASTERN STATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Itanagar, Sept 3: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu Tuesday reviewed the status of 13 hydropower projects, memorandums of agreement (MoAs) for which were signed August 12 last year.

These projects were allotted to various central public sector undertakings (CPSUs).

Khandu chaired the sixth steering committee meeting to review and monitor the progress of the 13 projects allotted to National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO), Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) and THDC India Ltd.

The chief minister focused on issues such as early land acquisition, forest, techno-economic and environmental clearances, an official said.

"Assessed the progress of 13 power projects with key PSUs - NHPC Ltd, SJVN Ltd, NEEPCO, and THDC India Ltd, whose combined investment in our state exceeds ₹1 lakh crore," Khandu posted in X after the meeting.

During the meeting he assured all possible support and cooperation of the government for fast-tracking the projects, the official said.

He directed all departments concerned and deputy commissioners of various districts to ensure that there is no delay in expediting the necessary tasks required for clearances.

"Hydropower is vital for our state's revenue, employment, and economic opportunities.

Hydropower is vital for our state's revenue, employment, and economic opportunities. We must ensure that all projects move forward swiftly and efficiently

PEMA KHANDU | CM, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

We must ensure that all projects move forward swiftly and efficiently," Khandu said on the micro-blogging site.

The meeting, which was held to resolve the critical issues faced by the 13 projects in the state, was attended by NHPC Chairman and Managing Director Raj Kumar Chaudhary, SJVN Ltd CMD Sushil Sharma and union joint secretary (Hydropower) Mohammad Afzal among others.

The state government, last year, inked memorandums of agreement (MoAs) with four central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) for the development of 13 stalled hydro projects in the northeastern state.

Of them, five projects with an installed capacity of 2,626 MW have been allocated to NEEPCO, five others with 5,097 MW capacity awarded to (SJVN) and two plants of 3,800 MW to NHPC and one of 1,200 MW to THDC.

An estimated investment of ₹1,42,000 crore will be made in executing the projects in the state, the official said.

The projects with a total installed capacity of 11,517 MW were initially allotted to independent power developers but remained stalled due to various reasons.



28 foreigners shifted to transit camp after tribunal's verdict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Barpeta (Assam), Sept 3: A total of 28 people, including nine women, from Barpeta district of Assam were shifted to a transit camp in Goalpara after they were declared foreigners by a tribunal, police said Tuesday.

It was a heart-wrenching scene for the family members when their dear ones were packed in a bus at the office of the Superintendent of Police Monday and taken to the dedicated detention centre, now called a transit camp.

Barpeta Superintendent of Police Sushanta Biswa Sarma said, "These people were declared foreigners by the Foreigners Tribunal after proper hearings. As per its order, we carried out the transfer of these foreign nationals to the camp."

The Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies that decide the citizenship status of persons living in Assam who are suspected to be foreigners.

Around 100 Foreigners Tribunals functioning in Assam. According to the protocol, these people will be sent back to their country of origin after due process by the Ministry of External Affairs, provided they do not move to the Gauhati High Court.

Film personalities of WB return state honours

THE THREE ARE ACTOR SUDIPTA CHAKRABORTY, KNOWN FOR NATIONAL AWARD WINNER FILMS LIKE 'BARIWALI', THEATRE PERSONALITY BIPLAB BANDYOPADHYAY AND THESPIAN CHANDAN SEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 3: Amid protests by civil society organisations over the rape-murder of a trainee doctor, three prominent stage and film personalities of West Bengal Tuesday announced returning the honours conferred on them by the state government over the RG Kar Hospital issue.

The three are actor Sudipta Chakraborty, known for national award winner films like 'Bariwali', theatre personality Biplab Bandyopadhyay and thespian Chandan Sen.

Chakraborty decided to return the Special Film Award conferred on her by the Mamata Banerjee government in July 2013.

In a letter to the Secretary of Information and Cultural Affairs department, she said, "In the wake of the current status of our state and the related com-



ments made September 1 by one of our respected MLAs Kanchan Mullick, I hereby wish to return my certificate and the honour bestowed upon me and continue my demand for justice, both legal and social, standing on the road."

Chakraborty referred to a statement by Mullick September 1 when the actor-turned-TMC MLA asked the state award recipients to return their honours if they join protests against the rape and murder of the doctor of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. "I have been paid an amount

of ₹25,000 too with the certificate, if I remember correctly. Kindly provide me the means by which I can return the amount. Looking forward to your positive response," she said in the letter.

"Had never compromised, will never do it. I had thought the award had been given in recognition of my merit... But I will keep standing on the road, demanding justice, legal and social, both," she said.

Earlier, Bengali theatre personality Biplab Bandyopadhyay

said in a statement that he is returning the award conferred on him earlier this year by the Paschimanga Natya Akademi and the ₹30,000 monetary grant.

The state government and the "partisan" police force want to "hide facts" following the rape and murder of a woman doctor in RG Kar Hospital August 9, he alleged.

"I think the main criteria behind such awards is not one's talent and merit but sycophancy, unconditional support to the state. I did not realise this while

accepting this honour in February," he said.

Bandyopadhyay said, "I felt ashamed and aggrieved as a human being and disturbed by the shameless hyper activism of the state after the RG Kar incident."

Raising his voice over the state's handling of the RG Kar issue, thespian Chandan Sen also declared that he is returning the 'Dinabandhu Mitra Purashkar', an award instituted by the Natya Akademi.

One week back, a well-known theatre group in Malda district 'Samabeta Prayas' said it will return a ₹50,000 state grant to protest the government's handling of the RG Kar issue.

Saradindu Chakraborty, the head of the theatre group Samabeta Prayas, had said the grant was originally awarded to support a two-day theatre festival by his group in the district.

national

of the day quote

I don't want to discuss the Mekedatu dam issue now. Rain god has helped both the states. Let good sense prevail upon Tamil Nadu people...Mekedatu dam will benefit Tamil Nadu more than Karnataka

D K SHIVAKUMAR | K'TAKA DEPUTY CM

If we want to build an excellent auditorium, we seek more funds from the state government. But at the same time, as public representatives, we should also start contributing

SHARAD PAWAR | NCP (SP) CHIEF

Among the 12.5 lakh voters in the state, the party wants to enrol five lakh people as its members

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

SHORT TAKES

3 shot dead by assailants

Ferozpur: Three people, including a woman, were killed and their relatives injured after bike-borne assailants shot at them here Tuesday, police said. The incident took place near a gurdwara here when the woman, identified as Jaspreet Kaur (26), accompanied by her brother and other relatives, were leaving in a car to invite some people for her wedding next month, they said. As soon as they sat in the car, six unidentified persons riding two motorcycles, reached there and allegedly opened indiscriminate fire at the vehicle.

Bibhav steps out of Tihar jail

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar stepped out of Tihar Jail Tuesday after being granted bail by the Supreme Court in the Swati Maliwal assault case. Earlier in the day, the Tis Hazari Court issued an order for Kumar's release after accepting the bail bond furnished on his behalf. On Monday, the top court directed Kejriwal's aide to be released on bail, noting that he has spent last 100 days in custody and if released on bail, no prejudice will be caused to the investigation of the case since the Delhi Police had already filed its charge sheet before the trial court post completion of the probe.

Gujjar tries to flee from police custody

Chandigarh: In a major action by the Jalandhar Commissionerate Police against organised crime, notorious gangster Jaskaran Gujjar, alias Kannu, sustained bullet injuries on his leg Tuesday while attempting to escape from police custody in Jalandhar. A huge cache of arms and ammunition were also recovered from his possession, said Director General of Police (DGP), Gaurav Yadav. Kannu Gujjar, who is a key associate of Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, was arrested from Rampur Billran in Garhshankar.

3 held for robbing jewellery shop

Sultanpur (UP): Three men, allegedly involved in looting a jewellery shop here, were arrested early Tuesday following an exchange of fire with the police in which a constable was injured, officials said. The three accused -- Sachin Singh, Pushpendra and Tribhuvan -- also suffered injuries. According to police, they were allegedly involved in looting over ₹1.5 crore from a jewellery shop August 28.



I am confident that the young generation is working hard towards the development of the country. People of the country possess a lot of talent and skill

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

COURT TAKES COGNISANCE OF CHARGESHEET AGAINST KEJRIWAL

A Delhi court Tuesday took cognisance of a chargesheet filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, AAP MLA Durgesh Pathak and others in a corruption case related to the alleged excise scam. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja said there was sufficient evidence against Kejriwal and the other accused to proceed against them



23rd Law Commission constituted

The panel advises the government on complex legal issues. Once it is constituted, the government initiates the process of appointing its chief and members

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: The government has constituted the 23rd Law Commission which has issues including a uniform civil code, laws which affect the poor and examining existing statutes to promote gender equality as part of its terms of reference.

According to a law ministry order issued late Monday, one of the terms of reference of the law panel is to "Examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy and to suggest ways of improvement and reform and also to suggest such legislations as might be necessary to implement the Directive Principles and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble of the Constitution".

Article 44 under the Directive Principles of State Policy states that it is the duty of the State to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) throughout the territory of India. The term of the 22nd Law Commission,



The report prepared by the law panel on simultaneous elections is ready and pending submission to the law ministry

People aware of the procedure noted that the report cannot be submitted in the absence of a chairperson

which was without a chairperson for the past few months, ended with its key report on the UCC still in the works August 31.

Justice (ret'd) Ritu Raj Awasthi, who headed the 22nd law panel, was appointed a member of the anti-corruption watchdog Lokpal a few months ago. Last year, the 22nd commission had initiated fresh consultations on the UCC.

After obtaining suggestions from a cross-section of society, it was in the process of preparing a draft report when Justice Awasthi was appointed to the Lokpal. Before that, the 21st Law Commission, which was in

operation till August 2018, had examined the issue and solicited the views of all stakeholders on the two occasions.

Subsequently, a consultation paper on 'Reforms of Family Law' was issued in 2018. In its consultation paper, the 21st Law Commission had said the diversity of Indian culture can and should be celebrated and specific groups or weaker sections of society must not be "disprivileged" in the process.

It said the Commission dealt with laws that are discriminatory rather than providing a UCC "which is neither necessary nor

desirable at this stage". A UCC in India has been a key agenda of successive BJP manifestos.

In short, a UCC means having a common law for all citizens of the country that is not based on religion. Personal laws and laws related to inheritance, adoption and succession are likely to be covered by a common code.

The 23rd law panel has also been tasked with identifying laws which are not in harmony with the economic needs and requirements of the times and require amendments.

Examining the laws which affect the poor and carrying out post-enactment audit for socio-economic legislation is the other term of reference of the new panel. It has also been asked to take all such measures as may be necessary to harness law and the legal process in the service of the poor. The new law panel has been constituted for a period of three years, with a provision to appoint serving Supreme Court and high court judges as its chairperson and members.

9 Naxals gunned down in Bastar



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dantewada, Sept 3: Nine Naxalites, including six women, were killed in a fierce encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region Tuesday, a top police official said, in the latest offensive against Maoists which has gathered pace after a change of government last year.

The gunfight broke out at around 10:30 am in forests along the border of Dantewada and Bijapur districts when a joint team of security forces was out on anti-Naxal operation, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range, Sundarraj P told PTI.

Personnel belonging to the state police's District Reserve Guard (DRG), Bastar Fighters and 111th and 230th battalions of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were involved in the operation.

The operation was launched Monday night based on inputs about the presence of cadres belonging to Maoists' PLGA (People's Liberation Guerrilla Army) Company No. 2, west Bastar and Darbha division on the hills of inter-district border, he said.

The exchange of fire between Naxalites and security personnel took place multiple times in forests near Lohagaon, Purangel and Andri villages under the Kirandul Police Station area (Dantewada district). After the guns fell silent, bodies of nine Naxalites, including six women -- all clad in 'uniform' -- were recovered from the spot, informed the senior IPS officer.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hailed security forces for

their latest success against Maoists and asserted his government has resolved to end the Left-wing extremism by March 2026.

A cache of weapons, including one SLR (Self-Loading Rifle), one 303 rifle, 12 bore rifle, 315 bore rifle, BGLs (barrel grenade launchers) and explosives, items of daily use and other Maoist-related materials were recovered from the spot, IPS officer Sundarraj said.

After the latest offensive, 153 Naxalites have been gunned down in separate encounters in the Bastar division, comprising seven districts -- Kanker, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Bastar, Bijapur, Dantewada and Sukma -- so far this year, he said.

During the same period, 669 Naxalites have been arrested, while 656 others have surrendered before police in the division, the officer added.

Preliminary investigation suggests the slain cadres belonged to the west Bastar division committee and PLGA Company No. 2 of Maoists, but their identity was yet to be ascertained, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai said.

Blood stains found at the encounter site indicate several other Naxalites may have been injured or killed in the gunfight, Rai said, adding reinforcement was sent to the spot for conducting further search operation.

Hailing security forces involved in anti-Naxal operations, Chief Minister Sai said after the BJP government assumed office in Chhattisgarh (in December last year), it has been fighting resolutely against Left-wing extremism in the state.

Soren meets top Cong brass

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren Tuesday met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi who asserted that the INDIA bloc will win the upcoming Assembly polls in the state with a "massive majority".

The meeting comes days after former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren joined the BJP after resigning from the JMM citing dissatisfaction with the party's current style of functioning and "bitter humiliation".

Soren met Kharge and Gandhi at the Congress president's residence here. Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal and Soren's wife Kalpana Soren were also present during the meeting. Though Soren termed the meeting as a courtesy call, preparations for the Assembly polls later this year were learnt to have been discussed.



"Courtesy meeting with Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Hemant Soren and Mrs. Kalpana Soren in the presence of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. INDIA is united for the upliftment and rights of the people of Jharkhand, the poor and the tribals. We will win this election with a massive majority," Gandhi said in a Facebook post. After the meeting, Kharge also asserted that INDIA bloc will win in Jharkhand.



NDRF personnel evacuate people from a flood-affected area following heavy rainfall, in Vijayawada

'IC814 WEB SERIES' ROW

Netflix adds real names of hijackers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Mumbai, Sept 3: Under pressure from the government, Netflix India Tuesday said it has included the real and code names of the hijackers of the Indian Airlines aircraft depicted in the web series 'IC814: The Kandahar Hijack'.

"For the benefit of audiences unfamiliar with the 1999 hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight 814, the opening disclaimer has been updated to include the real and code names of the hijackers," Shergill, Vice President, Content at Netflix India, said in a statement after meeting Jaju. She said the code names in the series reflect those used during the actual event. The real names of



the hijackers were Ibrahim Athar, Shahid Akhtar Sayed, Sunny, Ahmad Qazi, Zahoor Mistry and Shakir. However, the series referred to the code names used by terrorists -- Bhola, Shankar, Doctor, Burger and Chief. "India has a rich culture of storytelling and we are committed to showcasing these stories and their authentic representation," Shergill said. A senior govern-

ment functionary said there was a need for the OTT platform to understand the impact certain things may have on society.

Directed by Anubhav Sinha

and featuring a stellar cast of Vijay Varma, Patralekhaa, Pankaj Kapur, Naseeruddin Shah, Arvind Swamy, Dia Mirza, the web series chronicles the true story of the December 1999 hijack by Pakistan-based terror outfit Harkat-ul Mujahideen.

The series has courted controversy on social media and elsewhere with many claiming that the film-maker changed the names of the hijackers to "Shankar" and "Bhola" to allegedly protect the terrorists who belonged to a certain community.

The government has taken a strong stand against the web series, with a senior representative contending that "nobody has the right to play with the sentiments of the people of this nation".

'Road mishaps behind 43% of unintentional injury deaths'

The report noted that despite efforts to improve road safety, India continues to grapple with a high number of fatalities due to road traffic injuries (RTIs)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: Road crashes are the biggest cause of deaths due to unintentional injuries in India, accounting for more than 43 per cent of such fatalities, with over-speeding being the leading reason, according to a new report.

The other contributors to deaths due to unintentional injuries are drowning, falls, poi-

soning and burns. The report titled "National Strategy for prevention of unintentional injury", compiled by the Ministry of Health, was launched during "Safety 2024", the 15th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, 2024.

"There were 4,30,504 deaths from unintentional injuries and 1,70,924 deaths due to intentional injuries in India in 2022. From 2016 to 2022, there has been a marginal increase in deaths due to unintentional and intentional injuries. Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) are the highest cause of unintentional injuries (43.7 per cent)," the report said.

While drowning accounts for 7.3 to 9.1 per cent of such fatalities, falls contribute 4.2 to 5.5 per cent, poisoning 5.6 per cent and



burns 6.8 per cent, it added. The report noted that despite efforts to improve road safety, India continues to grapple with a high number of fatalities due to road

traffic injuries (RTIs). The mortality ratio remains constant at approximately 86 per cent for males and 14 per cent for females. "Over-speed-

ing is the leading cause of these deaths, accounting for a staggering 75.2 per cent of fatalities. Other major contributing factors include driving on the wrong side of the road (5.8 per cent) and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (2.5 per cent)."

"Analysis of RTIs reveals a significant disparity in mortality rates based on location. Rural areas bear the brunt of RTI fatalities, with a staggering 67.8 per cent of deaths occurring there compared to 32.2 per cent in urban areas. Furthermore, the data suggests that open areas and residential zones might be particularly dangerous, with potentially higher fatality rates compared to other locations," the report said. National highways, which have a share of only

2.1 per cent of the total road length in the country, account for the maximum number of road fatalities and were responsible for 45 lives per 100 km in 2022.

The three-day conference is being hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, George Institute for Global Health in collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) and is co-sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Etienne Krug, Chair, International Organising Committee for World Conferences on Injury Prevention (IOC), WHO, highlighted the need for continued action to prevent road traffic deaths, falls and violence.

national



The Indore-Manmad rail line will benefit not only Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra but the entire country. Areas of Uttar Pradesh and other Indian states adjoining Nepal will also be connected to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai through this line

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION RAILWAY MINISTER

DENGUE 'EPIDEMIC DISEASE'

The Karnataka government has notified dengue as an 'epidemic disease' and introduced regulations, which allow authorities to penalise those who disobey its orders or fail to take measures to stop breeding of mosquitoes



of the day quote

Instead of spending thousands of crores of rupees on dams, we should focus on recharging ground water. A large amount of water can be stored through this technique and the cost of fetching water back is also negligible

CR PAATIL | UNION JAL SHAKTI MINISTER, GUJARAT

In total, with an army of 10 people, LG Sahab is spending ₹1.5 crore of Delhiites' money to polish his face. This is a matter of great shame, and is a conspiracy to influence the elections in Delhi

SAURABH BHARADWAJ | DELHI MINISTER

We are moving ahead with the commitment of 'Country First'. The BJP is the only party which is expanding by following democratic traditions in letter and spirit and has attained the present status with sheer hard work

RAJIV BINDAL | BJP CHIEF, HIMACHAL

XPOST OF THE DAY

BIG BREAKING Congress party is likely to field Vinesh Phogat & Bajrang Punia in Haryana elections. This will be a real gamechanger & much deserved respect for our National Heroes. Final announcement to be made soon

@mr_mayank

SHORT TAKES

NCP leader murder case: Police nab 13

Pune: In a big breakthrough, the Pune Police have arrested 13 accused absconders in the sensational killing of Vanraj Andekar, a former Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) corporator, allegedly masterminded by his sisters over a raging property dispute, officials said here on Tuesday. Andekar, 32, was attacked in a Bollywood style 'operation' with around 14-15 people vrooming up to him on six motorcycles, attacking him with a chopper and firing five rounds, as he was chatting with his cousin outside his home in Inamdar Chowk, around 9.30 pm Sunday night.

Ex-president of Atlas Cycles dies by suicide

New Delhi: Former president of Atlas Cycles Salil Kapoor allegedly died by suicide at his home in Lutyens' Delhi Tuesday. In a purported suicide note recovered from the spot, he mentioned "financial burden" on him and harassment by four people, police said, adding said they were investigating the matter from all possible angles. Kapoor was found in a pool of blood, with a bullet wound in his head, near the puja room of his house on the Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Road at around 1 pm by his manager, they said, adding that he was immediately rushed to a hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Deadlock in HP Assembly ends

Shimla: The deadlock between the ruling Congress and opposition BJP in the Himachal Pradesh assembly ended Tuesday with Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu assuring the house that his government was ready to discuss all issues raised by the BJP including financial position under rule 67 (adjournment motion).

Centre moves SC over CISF at RG Kar hospital



AGENCIES



New Delhi, Sept 3: The Centre Tuesday moved the Supreme Court alleging "unpardonable" non-cooperation by the West Bengal government in providing logistical support to the CISF, tasked with providing security at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, where a trainee doctor was raped and murdered.

In case of their failure to do so, the Centre urged the apex court to initiate contempt proceedings against the state government officials concerned for "wilful non-compliance" of the court orders. The apex court August 20 had termed the rape and murder case of a medic at the hospital as "horrific" and issued a slew of directions including setting up of a 10-member National Task Force to formulate a protocol for ensuring the safety and security of doctors and other health care professionals.

Besides, the top court had taken a serious note of mob violence in the hospital and the allegation that the Kolkata police fled the scene, and ordered deployment of CISF at the hospital to enable doctors to resume work. In an application filed in the case the apex court has initiated on its own, the MHA said the plea "concerns the deployment of CISF personnel at the R G Kar Medical College, including the hostels where the resident doctors are staying to ensure their safety".

"The CISF personnel deployed at R G Kar Hospital are facing

severe difficulties due to lack of accommodation and lack of basic security infrastructure. The troops are presently staying at CISF Unit SMP, Kolkata despite the constraints being faced by the accommodating unit," it said. The application said the travel time from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP), Kolkata to the hospital was an hour from one side and it was difficult to discharge duties effectively and to mobilise CISF troops to duty and promptly respond during contingencies.

It said the MHA had taken up the matter with the chief secretary of West Bengal through a September 2 letter requesting for adequate logistical arrangement and security gadgets required by the force.

"It is submitted that thereafter, there has been no response from the state government to ensure adequate support to the CISF personnels which are deployed to ensure security of the

residents/workers in the RG Kar Medical Hospital under the orders of this court," the application said. It said such non-cooperation was not expected from a state government in a tense situation as the present one. The safety of doctors, women doctors in particular, must be the top priority for the state, the application said. It said a state government, duly elected by the people, is supposed to be fair in its conduct, especially when it concerns the security of its residents.

The application claimed that such a course of action has been adopted by the state to "willingly create hurdles" and to jeopardise the larger solution-oriented approach adopted by the apex court. It alleged the state was willingly not making efforts towards finding a solution to the problem and was causing injustice to its residents.

The application referred to non-availability of adequate accommodation, security gadgets, and paucity of transportation facilities, and said CISF personnel were facing a lot of difficulties in performing their duties, especially the lady contingent.

While hearing the matter August 22, the top court had torn into the Kolkata police over the delay in registering the unnatural death of the woman doctor, who was raped and killed at the hospital, calling it "extremely disturbing", and questioned the sequence of events and the timing of the procedural formalities.

WB Health Dept finally suspends Sandip Ghosh

Kolkata: The Health Department of the West Bengal government on Tuesday finally suspended Sandip Ghosh. The Health Department announced Ghosh's suspension though an official order issued late on Tuesday evening. However, instead of Health Secretary NS Nigam, the order was signed by an officer on special duty in the Health Department. "In view of the ongoing criminal investigation against Sandip Ghosh, Ex-Principal, RG Kar Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata, Ghosh is placed under suspension under Rule 7(1c) of West Bengal Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1971, with immediate effect," the order read. However, representatives of the medical fraternity have questioned the late action by the state government which is already under fire for reportedly shielding Ghosh in the aftermath of the rape-murder case.

HARYANA ASSEMBLY POLLS

AAP, Congress in seat sharing talks



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: Efforts to forge an AAP-Congress alliance for Haryana Assembly polls have gained momentum with the two parties already in talks over a seat-sharing arrangement, according to AAP insiders.

Sources in AAP said Tuesday that senior party leader and Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha and Congress' KC Venugopal have already held two rounds of talks and are likely to meet again in a day or two. "The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is demanding 10 seats. However, Congress is ready to give only seven out of a total of 90 seats. AAP has claimed one seat from each of the 10 Lok Sabha constituencies," said a source in the Arvind Kejriwal-led party.

Earlier in the day, AAP's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh welcomed reports claiming Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has shown interest in the possibility of an alliance with AAP in Haryana, where polls will be held October 5, asserted that defeating the BJP is a priority of all the opposition parties.

He added any decision regarding an alliance will be taken with the approval of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal, who is currently in jail in excise policy-related cases. There were several reports

claiming that Gandhi, in a meeting of Congress' Central Election Committee (CEC) Monday, expressed interest in the possibility of an alliance with AAP for assembly polls in Haryana.

Singh, however, said any official stand on the issue will be made by AAP's in-charge of Haryana affairs Sandeep Pathak and state president Sushil Gupta. Delhi minister Atishi said the decision will only be taken after Kejriwal is released.

Congress leaders in Haryana, however, have rejected the possibility of any alliance with AAP in the state.

Recently, senior Congress leader in Haryana Kumari Selja said her party is strong in the state and will fight the elections on its own.

Earlier, the Congress and AAP, partners in the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), had a seat adjustment for Lok Sabha polls in Delhi, Haryana and Gujarat. In Haryana, AAP state president Gupta was the lone party candidate in the Lok Sabha polls in the state. He lost to BJP's Naveen Jindal. Gupta recently asserted that AAP is ready to strongly contest on all the 90 assembly seats in Haryana on its own "with an alliance with the people of the state". The Congress and AAP contested the Lok Sabha polls independently in Punjab.

While the Aam Aadmi Party is demanding 10 seats to contest out of 90, the Congress is ready to give only seven seats

Six-year-old girl abducted, gangraped, murdered; two held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gaya (Bihar), Sept 3: A six-year-old girl was allegedly abducted, gangraped and murdered by two youths in Bihar's Gaya district, police said Tuesday.

After murdering the girl, the accused dumped her body on the banks of Morhar River in Uchirvan village under the jurisdiction of Sherghati police station. Both the accused have been arrested.

According to an FIR lodged by the family members of the victim, the two accused had allegedly kidnapped the girl from her house while she was sleeping and gangraped her before killing her Monday night.

"After sexually assaulting the girl child, the accused murdered the victim and threw the body near the river," a statement issued by the district police said.

"Police received a call that the body of a girl child was lying on the banks of Morhar River in Uchirvan village. A police team immediately reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem examination," it said. One of the accused was first arrested and later his accomplice was also nabbed, the statement said. "During interrogation, the duo confessed to having committed the crime. Police are also trying to nab other accused, if any, involved in the case," it said.

Malayalam film actor Nivin Pauly booked for rape



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Sept 3: Actor Nivin Pauly was Tuesday booked for the offence of rape on a complaint by a 40-year-old woman that he sexually assaulted her over a year ago in Dubai, police said.

An officer of Oonnukal police station, where the FIR under section 376 of the IPC was registered, said that there are six accused, including a woman, in the case. The first accused is a woman and Pauly is the sixth accused, the officer said.

According to the woman, the incident occurred over a year ago in Dubai, the officer said, and declined to give further details. Pauly is among the many actors and directors who are facing allegations of sexual harassment or rape by female actors following the publication of the Justice K Hema Committee report.

The committee was constituted by the Kerala government after the 2017 actress assault case and its report revealing instances of harassment and exploitation of women in the Malayalam cinema industry.

Following the allegations of sexual harassment and exploitation cropping up against several actors and directors, the state government August 25 announced the establishment of a seven-member special investigation team to probe them.

SNIPPETS

8 devotees killed in road accident

Chandigarh: Eight people were killed and 10 others injured after a truck hit a stationary vehicle carrying devotees in Haryana's Jind district, police said Tuesday. The accident occurred past midnight in Bidharana village on the Hisar-Chandigarh national highway when the devotees were travelling from Kurukshetra district to a temple at Gogamedi in Rajasthan. The truck, bearing a Rajasthan registration number, was loaded with wooden logs when it hit the stationary vehicle. SHO of Sadar Narwana police station Kuldeep said, "The truck rammed into the light commercial vehicle in which the group of devotees was headed to Gogamedi. At the time of the incident, the devotees had taken a brief halt and their vehicle was stationary."

Suspected water contamination sickens over 300

Noida: More than 300 residents, mostly children and women, of a Noida Extension group housing society fell ill with an infection caused by suspected water contamination, officials said Tuesday. Alarmed by the complaints of diarrhoea, vomiting, fever and stomach ache en masse, the local health department team swung into action and set up a temporary camp at the society for check-up and treatment. The local Greater Noida Authority also checked the water supply in the society in which it found no fault but took samples of water for test as a precautionary measure, according to an official statement. Raj Kumar, a media professional and resident of Supertech Ecovillage 2, said the issue came to light when residents were discussing water shortage on a WhatsApp group Monday evening.



A woman and her child drink water on a hot day during their visit at the Taj Mahal in Agra, Uttar Pradesh

PTI/PHOTO

Wearable devices could help detect early signs of Cov: Study

THE RESEARCHERS SAID THAT MAJORITY OF PREVIOUS STUDIES HAVE LOOKED AT DETECTING COVID-19, WITH A SMALLER NUMBER OF STUDIES FOCUSED ON CARDIAC CONDITIONS AND FALLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

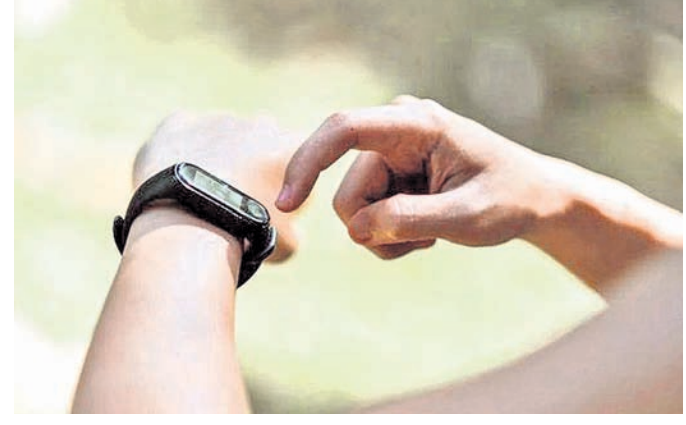
New Delhi, Sept 3: Wearable devices that track one's physical ac-

tivity, such as smartwatches, could help detect early signs of disease, including COVID-19, heart conditions and falls, a new study has suggested.

Researchers from the University of South Australia reviewed 28 studies, including 12 lakh participants, and found that smartwatches and activity trackers could correctly identify COVID-19 status in 88 out of 100 people, similar to results from rapid screening tests.

They also found that data from wearable devices could be used to identify atrial fibrillation in 87 out of 100 people, in which the heart beats irregularly and faster than normal.

Falls were detected in 82 of 100 people using these activity-



tracking devices. The findings are published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research mHealth and uHealth. While originally designed for tracking

fitness and physical activity, including exercise, wearable technology now also displays blood pressure, heart rate, along with sleep quality, skin temperature,

stress levels and more.

"Our systematic review shows that wearable activity trackers have significant promise in detecting COVID-19 and heart conditions in real-world settings, which has the potential to improve personal health monitoring," lead researcher Ben Singh from the University of South Australia said.

The researchers said that majority of previous studies have looked at detecting COVID-19, with a smaller number of studies focused on cardiac conditions and falls.

Even as the wearable devices largely showed good sensitivity and specificity, the most promising results were found for the detection of atrial fibrillation, for

which the wearables showed high sensitivity and specificity, the authors said.

Sensitivity and specificity are measures indicating how often a device shows true or false positives or negatives.

"The most promising results were observed for the detection of atrial fibrillation, with figures that compare favourably to other clinical tests," the authors wrote.

"Wearable trackers not only empower people to proactively manage their health, but they enable them to detect health issues in real-time. This means that they can respond to any concern quickly, and hopefully avoid any serious health issues," Singh said.

international



Hamas is still holding over 100 hostages, including 5 British citizens. Instead of standing with Israel, a fellow democracy defending itself against barbarism, Britain's misguided decision will only embolden Hamas
BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PM, ISRAEL

POPE FRANCIS REACHES INDONESIA

Pope Francis arrived in Muslim-majority Indonesia Tuesday to kick off a four-nation tour of the Asia-Pacific that will be the longest and farthest of the 87-year-old's papacy



of the day quote

Long-range strikes that can protect us from Russian terror are needed now, not some time later. Unfortunately, every day of delay means loss of life
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

Venezuela denounces to the international community that once again, the authorities of the United States of America have illegally confiscated an aircraft that has been used by the President of the Republic
YVAN GIL | FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER, VENEZUELA

Japan and South Korea are the two important neighbours that should cooperate as partners in tackling various issues of the international community
YOSHIMASA HAYASHI | CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY, JAPAN

Mongolia welcomes Putin

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT GETS LAVISH WELCOME IN MONGOLIA DESPITE ICC WARRANT

Ulaanbaatar, Sept 3: Russian President Vladimir Putin received a red carpet welcome Tuesday on a state visit to Mongolia, whose failure to arrest him under a warrant from the International Criminal Court was criticised by Ukraine as a blow against justice.

As he stepped out of his limousine in the capital Ulaanbaatar, Putin was greeted by his Mongolian counterpart Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh in front of a row of ceremonial guardsmen on horseback wearing helmets with pointed tops.

The Kremlin leader stooped to kiss a young girl who stepped forward to welcome him in Russian and present him with flowers. An International Criminal Court arrest warrant issued last year against Putin obliges the court's 124 member states, including Mongolia, to arrest the Russian President and transfer him to The Hague for trial if he sets foot on their territory.



US nears deal on long-range missiles for Ukraine

Washington: The US is close to an agreement to give Ukraine long-range cruise missiles that could reach deep into Russia, but Kyiv would need to wait several months as the US works through technical issues ahead of any shipment, US officials said. The inclusion of Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles (JASSM) in a weapons package is expected to be announced this autumn, three sources said, though a final decision has not been made.

International Criminal Court and the system of criminal law", Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Heorhiy Tykhyi said. "Mongolia has allowed an accused criminal to evade justice, thereby sharing responsibility for the war crimes," he wrote on the Telegram messaging app. Ukraine, he said, would work with its allies to ensure Mongolia felt the consequences.

Mongolia has allowed an accused criminal to evade justice, thereby sharing responsibility for the war crimes
HEORHIY TYKHYI | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, UKRAINE

any action in connection with the warrant, as Russia had a "great dialogue" with Mongolia and all aspects of the visit had been discussed in advance.

"Relations with Mongolia are among the priorities of our foreign policy in Asia. They have been brought to a high level of comprehensive strategic partnership," Putin told Khurelsukh.

The Mongolian leader said he hoped the visit would boost trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Mongolia is on the planned route of a major pipeline that Russia wants to construct in order to carry 50 billion cubic metres of natural gas a year from its Yamal region to China. The project, Power of Siberia 2, is part of Russia's strategy to compensate for the loss of most of its gas sales in Europe since the start of the Ukraine war.

Modi lands in Brunei



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bandar Seri Begawan, Sept 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday said he was looking forward to strong ties with Brunei, especially in boosting commercial and cultural linkages, as he arrived here on the first leg of his two-nation trip during which he will hold talks with the country's top leadership.

Modi, who is the first Indian Prime Minister to travel to Brunei on a bilateral visit, said he was looking forward to his meetings with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and other members of the royal family to advance the historical relationship to new heights.

"Landed in Brunei Darussalam. Looking forward to strong ties between our nations, especially in boosting commercial and cultural linkages. I thank Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah for welcoming me at the airport," Modi said in a post on X.

As a special gesture, Prime Minister Modi was received by Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah at the airport. Modi was accorded a warm welcome and given a guard of honour at the airport. "PM @narendramodi alights in Brunei to a ceremonial welcome. Warmly received by Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.

first ever bilateral visit by an Indian PM and is taking place as the two countries are celebrating 40 years of the establishment of diplomatic ties this year," Jaiswal added.

Brunei is an important partner in India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Vision. India and Brunei enjoy a friendly relationship which is marked by mutual respect and understanding on bilateral and multilateral issues. The two countries are linked by history, culture and tradition spanning a millennium, the MEA said in a release.

Modi was welcomed by the vibrant Indian community members when he arrived at the hotel where he would be staying during his visit. He interacted with the community members. A little girl presented Modi with his sketch and he gave her his autograph.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new chancery premises of the Indian High Commission in Brunei, terming it as indicative of stronger ties between the two countries.

"Delighted to inaugurate the new Chancery of the High Commission of India, indicative of our stronger ties with Brunei Darussalam. This will also be serving our diaspora," Prime Minister Modi said in a post on X.

He also visited an iconic mosque built by the father of the present Sultan.

On Wednesday, Modi will hold bilateral talks with Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah.

SHORT TAKES

B'desh court acquits ex-PM

Dhaka: Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has been acquitted in five separate cases, including one filed over allegations of celebrating a "fake birthday" and another for supporting war criminals, a media report said Tuesday. Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mahbulul Haque's court issued acquittal orders in four cases whereas Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Tofazzal Hossain's court acquitted her in one case Tuesday. The Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. The defendant, 79-year-old Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson Zia, was acquitted after the plaintiff did not appear in court.

PIO jailed for molestation

Singapore: A 52-year-old Indian national has been sentenced to 14 months of jail for molesting a teenage girl from a known family. For molesting a child below 14 years old, an offender can be jailed for up to five years, fined, caned, or receive any combination of such punishments. The man cannot be caned as he is over 50. The man, who cannot be named due to a gag order to protect the girl's identity, pleaded guilty to a molestation charge. The Straits Times newspaper said.

Khan approaches high court

Islamabad: Jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday approached a high court to prevent his possible transfer to the military for trial in the cases concerning the violence May 9 last year, two days after Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said a military trial of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party founder was possible. Khan filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) through his lawyer, Uzair Karamat Bhandari, to ensure that he remains under civilian jurisdiction.

Lanka approves burial rights bill

Colombo: A draft bill that would grant the right to every individual in Sri Lanka to decide whether that person's body should be disposed of by burial or cremation has been approved, a cabinet note said Tuesday. Forced cremations during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic had caused much heartburn among the island nation's 9 per cent Muslim minority residents. The 'Burial and Cremation Rights Bill' seeks to pacify the aggrieved minority.

Polio vaccination targets surpass for Gaza children

REUTERS

Geneva, Sept 3: The World Health Organization said that it was ahead of its targets for polio vaccinations in Gaza Tuesday, day three of a mass campaign, and had inoculated about a quarter of children under 10.

The campaign, which was hastened after the discovery of the first polio case in a Gazan baby last month, relies on daily eight-hour pauses in fighting between Israel and Hamas militants in specific areas of the besieged enclave.

Rik Peepker, WHO representative for the Occupied Palestinian territories, told reporters that it had vaccinated more than 161,000 children under 10 in the central area in the first two days of its campaign, compared with a projection of around 150,000.

That amounts to about a quarter of the total population targeted in the campaign to stop the spread of the disease, which can cause paralysis and even death in young children.

"Up until now things are going well," he said. "These humanitarian pauses, up until now they work. We still have 10 days to go."

Health teams will move on to southern Gaza later this week, where they are aiming to reach some 340,000 children, he said, followed by northern Gaza. He said that some children in southern Gaza were thought to be outside the agreed zone for the pauses and that negotiations continued in order to reach them.

Pakistan witnesses 59 terror attacks in August

SNIPPETS

Islamabad: In continued increase in terror attacks, a total of 59 terrorist attacks occurred across Pakistan in August 2024 killing 84 people compared to 38 such attacks in the previous month, a media report said Tuesday. The August attacks take the total number of attacks in 2024 to 325, according to the digital database of security incidents managed by the Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), an Islamabad-based think-tank. These incidents include 29 attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 28 in Balochistan and two in Punjab, the PIPS data said, adding, as many as 84 people were killed and 166 others were injured, newspaper The Dawn said. Also, since 2006, there have been 17,846 terrorist incidents in which 24,373 people have been killed and 48,085 others injured, according to the PIPS database.



129 killed in attempted prison break in Congo

SNIPPETS

Kinshasa: At least 129 people were killed during a weekend prison break attempt at the largest jail in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the interior minister said Tuesday. "The provisional human toll is 129 dead, including 24 who were shot after warnings," minister Jacquemain Shabani said in a video message, adding that at least 59 others had been wounded at the Makala prison in the capital, Kinshasa. His ministry said several people had been crushed or suffocated and a number of women had been raped. Witnesses told AFP gunfire had started at the prison at around 2:00 am Monday morning and lasted for several hours. Daddi Soso, an electrician in his 40s living in the capital, reported seeing security force vehicles taking bodies away in the early hours.

US voters targeted by Chinese influence online

REUTERS

Washington, Sept 3: A Chinese social media influence operation is impersonating US voters, denigrating US politicians and pushing divisive messages ahead of the November 5 presidential election in the United States, new research by intelligence company Graphika showed.

The campaign is part of a known Chinese state-linked effort analysts have dubbed "Spamouflage" or "Dragonbridge," which pushes a mixture of spam and targeted propaganda onto the internet. Spamouflage has been active since at least 2017 but has stepped

up its activities as the election approaches, according to experts. It has leveraged thousands of accounts across more than 50 websites, forums and social media platforms.

"The key takeaway from this report," said Jack Stubbs, who manages Graphika's research team, is that Spamouflage has "become more aggressive in its efforts to infiltrate and sway US political conversations."

"This matters because it shows Chinese influence operations targeting the US are evolving, engaging in more advanced deceptive behaviors, and directly targeting these organic but hyper-sensitive rifts



in society," Stubbs added.

In one example highlighted by Graphika, the Chinese operation impersonated American anti-war activists. Using multiple accounts on X, the operatives created memes that labeled Trump a "fraud," showing him in an orange prison uniform, and called Biden a "coward."

In halting English, a different account asked "the present American still our America?"

Canada turning away more foreigners

THE SPIKE IN REJECTIONS OF FOREIGN TRAVELLERS COMES AS PRIME MINISTER JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S LIBERAL GOVERNMENT TRIES TO LOWER THE NUMBERS OF TEMPORARY RESIDENTS AND POSSIBLY PERMANENT IMMIGRANTS

REUTERS

Toronto, Sept 3: Canada is closing its doors to more visitors and temporary residents by approving fewer visas and turning away more people who reach its borders with official documents, according to government data obtained by Reuters.

The spike in rejections of foreign travellers comes as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government, trailing in polls ahead of an election expected next year, tries to lower the numbers of temporary residents and possibly permanent immigrants. Migrants

have been blamed for the shortage and high prices of housing. Canadians have prided themselves on embracing newcomers but polls show a growing number say Canada is admitting too many immigrants. That stance is filtering down to border and immigration officers, observers say.

In July, Canada refused entry to 5,853 foreign travellers, who were "allowed to leave," as Canada puts it, and who include students, workers and tourists, the most since at least January



2019, according to border agency data that has not been previously reported.

Border officers turned away 3,727 foreign travellers per month on average through the first seven months of 2024, an increase of 633 people or 20% from

a year earlier. Separately, officers deemed 285 visa-holders inadmissible in July, also the most in any month since at least January 2019, the data showed.

A Canada Border Services Agency spokesperson said

changes in findings of inadmissibility can be caused by migration patterns or policy changes and are decided case by case. CBSA did not identify any specific policy changes.

"The CBSA's role, policy, and practice has always been to assess the admissibility of persons coming to Canada. This has not changed," the spokesperson said.

At the same time, Canada's immigration department is approving fewer visas. The ratio of refused visitor visa applications to approved ones was higher in June than at any point since the height of the pandemic. In January, February, May and June 2024, more applications were refused than approved, according to immigration department data.

B'desh floods leave 71 dead

REUTERS

Dhaka, Sept 3: The death toll from floods in Bangladesh rose to 71 Tuesday with millions of people still stranded in devastated areas and increasing concern about outbreaks of waterborne disease as the inundation recedes.

The floods, triggered by relentless monsoon rains and runoff from upstream waterways, have wreaked havoc over the past two weeks, causing widespread destruction and affecting around five million people.

More than 580,000 families are still marooned in 11 flood-hit districts, and in urgent need of food, clean water, medicine and dry clothing. Nearly 500 medical teams were helping provide treatment, with the army, air force, navy, and the border guard assisting in relief efforts.

Authorities are now focusing on preventing the spread of waterborne diseases, a common aftermath of such disasters, and ensuring the availability of clean drinking water.

The Directorate General of Health Services said nearly 5,000 people had been hospitalised over the past 24 hours for cases of diarrhoea, skin infections and snake bites.

Heavy rain in the capital Dhaka Tuesday swamped many districts, submerging roads in knee-deep to waist-high water, causing massive traffic jams as vehicles struggled through waterlogged streets.

Crops worth 33.5 billion taka (\$282 million) have been damaged, affecting more than 1.4 million farmers, according to a preliminary assessment by the agriculture ministry.

business

of the day quote

I seriously feel that foreign partners must have 51 per cent stake, leaving 49 per cent for the Indian companies in JV for building DPR and construction of tunnels, to ensure that work is done properly

NITIN GADKARI | ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MINISTER

There is a need for investment in agriculture, not only from the government side but also private investments

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | AGRICULTURE MINISTER

We have some of the best new products that we are bringing to the market. As a global company operating in over 100 countries, we prioritize bringing our innovations to India early

JEFF ROWE | SYNGENTA CEO

SHORT TAKES

Bajaj Housing Fin IPO to open Sept 9

New Delhi: Bajaj Housing Finance on Tuesday said it has fixed a price band of ₹66-70 per share for its ₹6,560-crore initial share sale. The initial public offering (IPO) will open for public subscription September 9 and conclude September 11 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on September 6, the company announced. The proposed IPO comprises a fresh issue of equity shares of up to ₹3,560 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of equity shares to the tune of ₹3,000 crore by parent Bajaj Finance. The share sale is being conducted to comply with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) regulations, which require upper-layer non-banking finance companies to be listed on stock exchanges by September 2025.

AU Small Finance Bank seeks RBI nod

New Delhi: AU Small Finance Bank (AUSFB) Tuesday submitted an application to the RBI seeking approval for universal bank licence. The RBI in April invited applications from small finance banks meeting specified criteria, including a minimum net worth of ₹1,000 crore, for becoming regular or universal banks. AUSFB submitted an application to the central bank seeking approval for voluntary transition from a small finance bank to universal bank September 3, 2024, the lender said in a BSE filing. In November 2014, the RBI issued guidelines for licensing of small finance banks (SFBs) in the private sector.

IEX trade volume rises 36% in Aug

New Delhi: Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) total trade volume rose 35.8 per cent year-on-year to 12,040 million units (MU) in August this year. The electricity volume increased 17.1 per cent year-on-year to 9,914 MU in August, an IEX statement said. According to the statement, IEX achieved total (trade) volume (including certificates) of 12,040 MU in August 2024, marking a 35.8 per cent year-over-year increase. The renewable energy certificates (REC) at 2,116 MU, increased 737.4 per cent year-on-year. At ₹115 per certificate, the REC market recorded an all-time low price in the trading session held August 28, 2024. These prices provide an opportunity to obligated entities (DISCOMS and Captive Power Producers) to meet their renewable purchase obligations, and voluntary customers to meet their sustainability aspirations.



Our policy is that we push for more and more electrification in mobility through all the policy levers available including CAFE norms. So we will relentlessly push for India becoming a green mobility destination

AMITABH KANT | G20 SHERPA

FDI INFLOWS JUMP 47.8% TO \$16.17BN

Foreign direct investment in India jumped 47.8 per cent to USD 16.17 billion in April-June this fiscal on healthy inflows in services, computer, telecom and pharma sectors, according to government data. FDI inflows were at USD 10.94 billion in April-June 2023-24.



WB urges India to boost labour-intensive exports

The World Bank also raised its economic growth forecast for India to 7% for the current fiscal year, from an earlier estimate of 6.6%, helped by government spending on infrastructure

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 3: India should focus on labour-intensive exports to boost employment, The World Bank said Tuesday, noting that the country's manufacturing industry has not fully seized opportunities from China's exit from these sectors.

"India should also try to conquer less advanced markets," said Auguste Tano Kouame, World Bank country director, during the release of the "India Development Update" report.

He said there was a lot of untapped demand for Indian goods, such as textiles and footwear in Africa and Latin America.

India's high-tech exports, including mobiles and services, have grown significantly over the past decade but the country has lost ground in low-skilled sectors like apparel, leather, and textiles to Bangladesh and



Vietnam, which benefited from China's withdrawal from labour-intensive manufacturing, the report said.

"With rising costs of production and declining productivity, India's share in global apparel exports has declined from 4% in 2018 to 3% in 2022," the report said.

India has emerged as the world's fastest-growing major economy, expanding 6.7% year-on-year in the April-June quarter but faces a challenge in job creation and more inclusive growth.

The World Bank said the urban unemployment rate remains high at an average of 17%.

Kouame suggested that India could attract investors by offering concessions under its

Production Linked Incentive policy, to boost low-skilled manufacturing exports, which have higher job potential for young workers.

The report also recommended that India reduce import tariffs and integrate into global value chains to help increase its exports.

India's total goods and services exports for the fiscal year 2023/24, which ended in March, surpassed \$776 billion, government data showed. Imports for the same period were nearly \$855 billion.

The World Bank also raised its economic growth forecast for India to 7% for the current fiscal year, from an earlier estimate of 6.6%, helped by government spending on infrastructure.

Sensex, Nifty take breather after record-breaking rally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 3: Snapping its record-breaking rally, benchmark BSE Sensex closed marginally down Tuesday due to profit-taking in metal, oil and IT shares amid weak global trends.

Halting its 10-day winning run, the 30-share BSE Sensex slipped 4.40 points or 0.01 per cent to settle at 82,555.44 in a range-bound trade. During the day, it dropped 159.08 points or 0.19 per cent to 82,400.76.

Broader 50-issue Nifty of NSE eked out gains of 1.15 points to close at a fresh peak of 25,279.85, taking its gaining streak to a record 14 days.

In the 10-day rally, Sensex spurred 2,135 points or 2.61 per cent. Nifty has surged nearly 1,141 points or 4.59 per cent in 14 straight days.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Adani Ports, JSW Steel, HCL Tech, Bharti Airtel, IndusInd Bank and Tata Motors were the biggest laggards.

ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Titan, Nestle and HDFC Bank were among the gainers.

"Amid mixed global signals and the absence of significant new catalysts, aside from the anticipated Fed rate cut, which is already factored in, the domestic market took a breather. Mild caution emerged due to a recent slowdown in manufacturing activities,



which indicates a slowdown in demand," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower.

European markets were quoting in the negative territory. The US markets were closed Monday for the Labour Day holiday.

"Markets ended flat in a lacklustre trading session as investors exercised caution on the back of weak Asian and European cues. Also the markets have been hitting new highs in the recent upsurge and hence investors are a bit sceptical about taking further bullish bets," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research),

Mehta Equities Ltd, said. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.54 per cent and midcap index went up by 0.19 per cent.

Among the indices, utilities declined 0.77 per cent, oil & gas (0.69 per cent), realty (0.53 per cent), teck (0.51 per cent) and IT (0.31 per cent).

Financial Services, healthcare, industrials, bankex, consumer durables and services were the winners.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹1,735.46 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.79 per cent to USD 76.13 a barrel.

TVS launches Jupiter 110



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 3: TVS Motor Company launched the all-new TVS Jupiter 110 at a city hotel Tuesday, marking a significant milestone in the commuter scooter segment.

The TVS Jupiter 110 is equipped with a Next-Gen Engine featuring iGO Assist technology. Powered by a 113.3 cc engine, it delivers 5.9 kW of power at 6500 rpm and 9.8 Nm of torque at 5000 rpm. The company claims that this advanced technology improves fuel efficiency by 10%, offering torque on demand, which positions the scooter as a standout in its category.

Designed to enhance the commuter experience, the TVS Jupiter 110 offers more in terms of style, mileage, and technology. Key features include dual-helm under-seat storage, front fuel filling, and a spacious floorboard. Safety is prioritised with superior braking systems, emer-

gency brake warnings, and a robust MetaMaxx body. Additionally, the scooter is equipped with the TVS SMARTX-CONNECT™ Bluetooth-enabled cluster, providing functionalities such as call and SMS alerts, navigation, and voice assist.

Aniruddha Halder, Senior Vice President and Head of Commuter Business at TVS Motor, highlighted the significance of the new model, stating, "The new TVS Jupiter 110 is designed with a focus on enhanced performance, comfort, and convenience, coupled with a reimagined design and cutting-edge technology. It has been the anchor of the TVS Motor scooter portfolio for the last decade, exemplifying the very essence of 'Zyada' - more style, mileage, performance, comfort, and convenience, safety, and technology. This superior proposition will continue to delight customers and build brand love for TVS Jupiter."

Household savings building up: RBI Dy Guv

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 3: Household savings have again started building up, which sharply declined from the level in 2020-21, and will remain top net lenders to the economy in coming decades, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra said Tuesday.

In India, the household sector typically generates surplus savings relative to its investment, which it lends to other sectors.

Recently, the net financial savings of households have almost halved from their level in 2020-21 due to behavioural changes underway in the form of unwinding of prudential savings accumulated during the pandemic and shifts from financial assets to physical assets like housing, Patra said.

"Going forward, boosted by rising incomes, households will likely build back their financial assets... This process has already begun - households' financial assets have increased from 10.6 per cent of GDP during 2011-17 to 11.5 per cent during 2017-23 (excluding the pandemic year)," he noted.

Their physical savings have also risen in the post-pandemic years to over 12 per cent of GDP and could rise further. They had reached 16 per cent of GDP in 2010-11, he said in a keynote address at the Financing 3.0



Summit: Preparing for Viksit Bharat organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

"Accordingly, households will remain the top net lenders to the rest of the economy in the coming decades," the senior RBI official said.

He further said the private corporate sector has drastically reduced its net borrowings from the rest of the economy, reflecting a combination of rising internal accruals and subdued capacity creation.

Looking ahead, its net borrowing requirement is likely to rise on the back of a revival in the capex cycle, he added.

"These financing require-

ments will largely be met by households and external resources. Net dissaving of the public sector has been moderating albeit unevenly; this sector will remain a net borrower in the economy in view of the critical role envisaged for fiscal policy in shaping India's future," the deputy governor said.

Patra stressed that India will need a transformation in its institutional architecture for intermediating the needs of finance of its aspirational trajectory. The emphasis, he said, would be on financing physical, social and digital infrastructure, skilling, green energy, innovative manufacturing and MSMEs.

At its core, there has to be a robust corporate bond market with adequate secondary market trading liquidity and breadth, he said.

Govt to sell up to 6.78% in GIC Re

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 3: The government will dilute up to 6.78 per cent stake in General Insurance Corporation (GIC Re) at a floor price of ₹395 per share. The offer for sale (OFS) for over 11.90 crore shares or 6.78 per cent stake will open Wednesday for institutional investors. Retail investors will get to bid in the share sale offer Thursday.

At the floor price of ₹395 a share, the share sale would fetch about ₹4,700 crore to the exchequer. Shares of GIC Re closed at ₹421.25, down 0.13 per cent over previous close on the BSE. The floor price is at a discount of 6.23 per cent over Tuesday's closing price on BSE. "Offer for sale in General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) opens tomorrow for Non-Retail investors. Retail investors and Employees of GIC can bid on Thursday. Government will divest 3.39% equity with an additional 3.39% as green shoe option," DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said in a post on X.

As per the OFS, the government proposes to sell up to 5,95,12,000 equity shares (representing 3.39% Sept 4 for non-retail investors only and Sept 5 for retail investors. The government could decide to exercise the green-shoe option and sell an additional 3.39% stake taking the total share sale to 11.90 crore shares or 6.78%.

Luxury property frenzy set to drive up home prices

REUTERS

Bangalore, Sept 3: Home prices in India are set to rise steadily over the next few years, driven by demand for luxury properties from cash-rich individuals, according to a Reuters poll of housing experts who forecast rent increases will outpace consumer inflation.

While economic growth in Asia's third-largest economy is likely to outpace its major peers, policy experts warn the benefits are increasingly being funnelled to a select few, leaving millions of job-seekers, especially young people, out of the growth story.

With a supply of affordable homes dwindling and those with cash cornering the property market, many aspiring first-time buyers are being forced to keep renting.

After growing 4.3% last year,

national home prices in India were expected to rise 7.75% this year, an upgrade from the 6.0% predicted in May, according to the median forecast from the Aug. 20-Sept. 2 survey of 16 property market experts.

Home prices are then expected to increase 6.0%-6.25% in the next two years. Average home prices in India broadly refer to housing in major cities.

"Housing demand is heavily tilted towards the luxury housing segment. This maintains a seemingly unstoppable growth curve while affordable housing continues to bleed," said Anuj Puri, chairman at ANAROCK Property Consultants.

"Tellingly, there was no new affordable supply. It is little wonder that developers are aligning supply with the prevailing demand and are launching more luxury housing projects now."

In a country of over 1.4 bil-



lion people, demand for housing is driven by a few, yet the sheer scale of the market is staggering, offering developers incentives to focus on the ultrarich as profit margins tighten in the affordable segment.

Ultra-high-net-worth individuals in India typically own more than two properties, with

nearly 12% of them planning to buy another home this year, according to Knight Frank's wealth data.

Even after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised interest rates by 250 basis points from May 2022 to Feb. 2023, India's housing market trends barely moved. A post-pandemic frenzy

among high-income earners fueled rising prices, further stretching affordability.

When asked what will happen to affordability for first time home buyers over the coming year, property market experts were nearly split, with 10 saying it would improve and eight saying worsen.

"First we have to agree this market is not for everyone. There's a bare minimum income for entry, and with income expected to grow faster than house prices in tier-one cities, affordability will improve only for those who are wealthy and generate enough income," said Pankaj Kapoor, managing director at Liases Foras.

"If your income is 5-10 lakh rupees (\$5,961-\$11,922), which is average, and the house price is over 50 lakh, you cannot afford in the cities where the jobs are. Even if you find something

within your budget, it will be in a far-off location, making it impractical to live there and commute to work."

Ajay Sharma of Colliers International said housing affordability will worsen as housing value increases outstrip salary growth and added "key residential hubs in Bangalore, Mumbai, Pune and Gurgaon will continue to see rental increases due to focused demand."

A lack of well-paying jobs in smaller towns is driving people to flock to larger cities in search of better opportunities, which has pushed rents much higher in the last few years.

When asked how much will average urban home rents change in India over the coming year, 16 housing experts gave a median forecast of 6.5%-10%, outpacing a consumer price inflation forecast of around 4.5% for the next two fiscal years.

Antil revels in glory

JAVELIN THROWER SAYS NEERAJ CHOPRA'S ADVICE AHEAD OF THE PARALYMPICS HELPED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Sept 3: Carrying a back injury for more than a year, history-making Indian javelin thrower Sumit Antil's path to Paralympic glory was paved with a 'sweet sacrifice' and several sleepless nights.

The 26-year-old faced a tough choice in the build-up to the Paralympics here - give up his favourite sweets or put his career at risk due to rapid weight gain and a back injury that troubled him before the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou last year where he won a gold.

Antil grudgingly gave up sweets on the advice of his physio Vipin, followed a strict training regimen and shed around 12 kilograms in just two months.

Antil's sacrifice paid off Monday when he became the first Indian man and only the second Indian overall to defend a Paralympic title, clinching gold in the F64 category with a record throw of 70.59m.

This new mark bettered his previous Paralympic best of 68.55m set in Tokyo Paralympics three years ago.

"I've reduced around 10-12 kilos. My physio, Vipin bhai, told me that the weight was putting pressure on my spine. So, I cut out sweets, which are my favourite, and focused on eating right," Antil revealed while talking to the media Tuesday here.

Fixing his back by taking adequate rest is the first thing Antil will do after his return to India. "Rest is crucial for the type of injury I have," Antil stated.

Antil also thanked his coach (Arun Kumar) for always knowing what he needed, staying up nights to plan his schedule, and putting in a tremendous effort. "It's been two years with my coach, and he's like an elder



SMILE OF SUCCESS: Sumit Antil is all smiles as he holds aloft the Tricolor after winning gold in the men's javelin Monday

“I could not create a new world record as the synthetic turf was different in Paris and I was slipping on it”
SUMIT ANTIL

brother to me. He knows exactly what I need and when I need it," Antil pointed out.

Antil dreamed of becoming a wrestler and was inspired by Olympic bronze-medallist Yogeshwar Dutt. However, in 2015, his life changed when a tractor accident led to the amputation of his left leg below the knee. He then moved on to para-javelin and has already entered the annals of Indian sports.

Antil said he and Olympic silver-medallist Neeraj Chopra talk regularly. "I did not speak personally with Neeraj bhai before the Paris Games. I got a message from him through somebody (athlete manager of Antil). He said 'it's very good atmosphere (in Paris), but don't try anything new'. 'I just took it and it was a really good experience for me,'" Antil stated.

Bronze for Deepthi in 400m

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Sept 3: India's Deepthi Jeevanji won a bronze medal in the women's 400m T20 category race, clocking 55.82 seconds at the Paralympics here Tuesday. Deepthi, who turns 21 later this month, finished behind Yuliia Shuliar (55.16 seconds) of Ukraine and world record holder Aysel Onder (55.23) of Turkey T20 category is meant for athletes with intellectual impairment.

India's medals tally reached 16 with Deepthi's bronze. India have so far won three gold, five silver and eight bronze medals at the Paralympics. In Tokyo, three years ago, India had bagged 19 medals.

Avani misses out on 2nd medal

Earlier at the shooting range in Chateauroux, ace shooter Avani Lekhara missed out on a second medal at the ongoing Paralympic Games and finished fifth after putting up a strong fight in the final of the women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1 competition here Tuesday.

The 22-year-old Avani, paralysed waist-down owing to a car accident she suffered as an 11-year-old, shot a total of 420.6 across the three stages of kneeling, prone and standing in a world class eight-woman field. She led the final briefly but slipped to sixth place at the end of the prone stage, which is not her strong area as it causes her problems owing to positioning.

The SH1 class is designated for athletes with lower-limb impairment for competition in rifle shooting events. Here shooters are able to hold their gun without difficulty and shoot from a standing or sitting position (in a wheelchair or chair).

Heartbreak for Pooja

Indian archer Pooja Jatyan slipped from a two-set lead to go down to heavyweight Wu Chunyan of China 4-6 in the women's recurve open quarter-



Deepthi Jeevanji brought smiles to faces of Indian supporters with her bronze-winning feat Tuesday

finals here Tuesday. Pooja, a former World Para Championships silver medallist, had a superb start as she dropped just two points to take the first set with a five-point margin. The 27-year-old archer raced to a 4-0 lead, winning a tight second set 25-24 by nailing a perfect 10 in her final arrow. However, then she nerves deserted her and she lost the next three frames to lose the match 6-4.

Bhagyashri finishes 5th

India's Bhagyashri Jadhav finished fifth in the women's shot put (F34) here Tuesday. Jadhav, making her second appearance at the Paralympics, produced a throw of 7.28m but it was not enough for a podium finish. China's Lijuan Zou won the gold with a season's best of 9.14m while Poland's Lucyna Kornobys secured the silver with an effort of 8.33m.

SHORT TAKES

Ratra appointed BCCI Sr selector

New Delhi: The BCCI appointed Tuesday former India wicket-keeper Ajay Ratra as a selector of the men's cricket team, replacing Salil Ankola in the five-man panel. As per convention, all five selectors represent different zones and Ratra will represent North Zone in the committee headed by Ajit Agarkar. The development comes ahead of the two-Test series against Bangladesh beginning September 19. "It is a huge honour and a challenge. I look forward to contributing to Indian cricket positively," Ratra said.

Shuttlers bow out

Taipei: India's Saneeth Dayanand and Tarun Reddy failed to make the men's singles main draw of the Yonex Taipei Open badminton event here Tuesday. Malaysia's Jia Jie Tan defeated Saneeth in the qualification quarterfinal 21-16, 20-22, 21-14, while host shuttler Yen-Chen Ting eliminated Tarun in the pre-quarters 23-21, 21-16. In another match, Kai Cheng of Taipei defeated Aryaman Tandon 21-18, 22-20.

Oltmans quits

Karachi: Head coach Roelant Oltmans ended his association with the Pakistan hockey team after he refused to join the side in China for the upcoming Asian Champions Trophy, citing the lack of a long-term contract. Oltmans was scheduled to join the team directly in Huhunbair but pulled out at the last moment. "Oltmans has notified the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) that he is not available for coaching as he wants a long-term proper contract with the association," an official source in the PHF said.

WTC final at Lord's

Dubai: The third World Test Championship (WTC) final will be played at the iconic Lord's between June 11 and 15 next year, the ICC announced here Tuesday. The ICC has marked June 16 as the reserve day, if required. Lord's is hosting the WTC final for the first time as Southampton (2021) and the Oval (2023) were the venues for the two previous title matches. India featured in those two finals, but lost to New Zealand in the inaugural match and last year they were defeated by Australia. Currently, Rohit Sharma's India are sitting in pole position ahead of reigning champions Australia.

Suarez hangs up his boots

STRIKER TO PLAY LAST MATCH FOR THE NATIONAL SIDE FRIDAY

AGENCIES

Montevideo (Uruguay), Sept 3: Uruguay icon Luis Suarez announced his retirement from international football Monday, confirming that he will hang up his boots following Friday's 2026 World Cup qualifier against Paraguay here. "Friday will be my last match for my country," an emotional Suarez, 37, told a press conference. "It was not an easy decision to make, but I do it with the peace of mind that I will give my maximum until the very last game of my (Uruguay) career," the forward stated.

"I am 37 years old, there are a lot of talented players, and I know it would be difficult to get to the next World Cup," Suarez added.

The former Barcelona and Liverpool striker is widely regarded as one of the greatest players of his generation and will retire from international football as Uruguay's top scorer with 69 goals from 142 appearances.

Suarez, who was infamously



Teams	Games	Goals
Uruguay	142	69
Liverpool	133	82
Barcelona	284	198

kicked out of the 2014 World Cup after being handed a four-month ban for biting Italy's Giorgio Chiellini made his debut for Uruguay in 2007. He helped Uruguay win the 2011 Copa America, where he was named player of the tournament, and would eventually represent the South American country in nine major tournaments.

Suarez said Monday that inspiring Uruguay to that Copa crown had been the highlight of his career. "I wouldn't trade the Copa America title for anything," he said. "It was the best moment

of my career and something I will always cherish."

A dynamic, skillful attacker with a lethal eye for goal, Suarez was also never far from controversy. He was also one of the villains of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, when his cynical handball on the goal-line denied Ghana what would have been a late winner in the quarterfinals. Suarez was sent off for that offence and Ghana subsequently missed the ensuing penalty, allowing Uruguay to sneak into the semi-finals after a penalty shootout.

Suarez also featured in this summer's Copa America where he was used largely as a substitute by coach Marcelo Bielsa. He scored his 69th international goal in a third place play-off victory over Canada.

India determined to defend ACT title



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 3: Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh said Tuesday that it's time to move on from the euphoria of a second successive Olympic bronze medal if the side desire to retain their Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) title in Huhunbair, China this month. The skipper asserted that it is important to start afresh after a deserving break for the Asian showpiece to be played September 8 to 17.

"With a brief break after the Paris Olympics, we are ready to take on the best hockey playing nations in Asia and prove our mettle," Harmanpreet stated. "We had a good outing in Paris but hockey is a very close game. We just cannot afford to rest on our laurels," the skipper added before leaving for China in the early hours Tuesday. "The aim will be to play high-octane hockey and retain our title," he further said.

Besides India, the Asian

“Hockey matches are always close games and hence we have to forget the past glory and start afresh”
HARMANPREET SINGH

Champions Trophy will feature Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan and hosts China.

India will begin their campaign against China September 8, followed by a match against Japan (Sept 9). They will next play Malaysia (Sept 11), Korea (Sept 12) and finish their group campaign against Pakistan (Sept 14).

The top four teams will advance to the semifinals slated for September 16, with final scheduled for September 17. India are the most successful team in the tournament with four titles, followed by Pakistan (3). India won the last edition in Chennai, beating Malaysia.

SUHAS SAD ON MISSING GOLD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Sept 3: Indian para-shuttler Suhas Yathiraj is in an emotional mess after his second successive Paralympics silver. A part of him is proud of the achievement but then he is also grappling with feelings of 'sadness and disappointment' at missing out on gold.

"Winning the silver is a mixed feeling. There is sadness and disappointment of missing the gold. But when the feeling sinks in then you will realise qualifying for Paralympics and representing your country is a big thing. And winning the silver is a proud moment and I feel extremely humbled and grateful," Suhas, a 2007 batch IAS officer, said Tuesday.

The 41-year-old went into the ongoing Games as World No.1 and was expected to fetch gold in men's singles SL4 category. However, he lost in straight games to Lucas Mazur of France.

"...coming here as World No.1 and as World Champion, there was pressure and expectations on me. I too expected that I will do well here. Ideally I would have liked to win gold medal which is every player's dream," stated Suhas who had gone down to the same player in the final of the Tokyo Paralympics.

BANGLA SCRIPT HISTORICAL SERIES SWEEP AGAINST PAK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rawalpindi, Sept 3: Bangladesh completed a six-wicket victory over here Tuesday and achieved an historic sweep of their two-Test series against Pakistan. Needing 143 runs on the final day with 10 wickets in hand, Bangladesh knocked them off for the loss of four wickets with Shakib Al Hasan hitting the winning boundary.

Bangladesh recorded only their second bilateral series win of two or more Tests away from home; the last was against the West Indies in 2009. The tourists won the opening Test by 10 wickets. The visitors' second innings finished on 185-4, and Shakib was unbeaten on 21 and Mushfiqur Rahim on 22 not out. The Bangladesh top-order



showed plenty of resilience to flatten Pakistan plans of a dramatic comeback, with meaningful contributions from opener Zakir Hasan (40), captain Najmul Hossain Shanto (38) and Mominul Haque (34).

The loss extended Pakistan's miserable home record in Tests to 10 matches without a win.

Brief scores: Pakistan 274 and 172 lost to Bangladesh 262 and 184 for 4 (Zakir Hasan 40, Najmul Hossain Shanto 38) by six wickets.

Medvedev threat awaits Sinner

AGENCIES

New York, Sept 3: World No. 1 Jannik Sinner and former champion Daniil Medvedev set up a US Open quarterfinal showdown here Monday as both men look to exploit the hole left by the shock exits of Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz.

Australian Open champion Sinner made the last eight for the second time by seeing off US 14th seed Tommy Paul 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-5), 6-1. Medvedev, the 2021 champion and runner-up to Djokovic last year, outclassed Portugal's Nuno Borges 6-0, 6-1, 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals for the fifth time in six years.

Women's World No. 1 Iga Swiatek, meanwhile, stayed on course for a sixth Grand Slam title with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Russia's Liudmila Samsonova. Italian Sinner recovered from



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Jannik Sinner chases down a ball during his match against Tommy Paul, Monday

1-4 down in the first set to see off Paul, who had been hoping to join compatriots Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe in the last eight stage.

"It will be another tough match with Daniil. There will be a lot of rallies so I have to be ready physically," said Sinner.

Bopanna in semis

New York: Veteran Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna and his Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi entered the semifinals of the US Open mixed doubles with a hard-fought 7-6(4) 2-6 10-7 win over Australian Matthew Ebden and Barbora Krejickova of the Czech Republic here. Ebden incidentally played the men's doubles with Bopanna. The Indian and Sutjiadi had earlier defeated the Australian duo of John Pears and Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic 6-4, 6-2 to seal a spot in a second round match.

Meanwhile Swiatek, the 2022 champion in New York, celebrated her 100th Grand Slam match by cantering to an easy win. The Pole will take on American sixth seed Jessica Pegula who beat Russia's Diana Shnaider 6-4, 6-2 to seal a spot in the last eight.