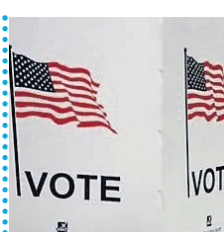




Love and heartbreak

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia opens up about her idea of romance and how she suffered two heartbreaks

LEISURE | P2



Covert move

Russia is increasingly turning to US social media stars to covertly influence voters ahead of the 2024 presidential elections

INTERNATIONAL | P10



World's 1st trillionaire

Elon Musk may become the world's first trillionaire by 2027, while Gautam Adani may attain that status the following year, a report says

BUSINESS | P11



A Sinner show

Jannik Sinner produces a brutal display of baseline power as he becomes the first Italian man to win the US Open

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

2 drown during idol immersion

BERHAMPUR: Two minor boys drowned in a pond Monday during the immersion of an idol of Lord Ganesh in Ganjam district, police said. The incident took place at Panchama near here under Golanthara police station limits. The deceased have been identified as Aditya Sethi and Soumya Pradhan. Both were classmates. Several children participated in the idol immersion in a pond near the village. While indulging in fun, the two victims slipped and drowned in the pond, locals informed. They were rushed to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital here where doctors pronounced them brought dead.

Antibody to tackle all Covid variants found

NEW DELHI: Researchers have discovered an antibody that could counter all known variants of the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 and also distantly related ones that infect other animals. The researchers, led by those at the University of Texas in Austin, US, isolated the antibody 'SC27' from the plasma donated by four patients. These patients had breakthrough infections, which occur when a vaccinated individual gets infected. The research has been published in the journal *Cell Reports Medicine*.

Accident averted

KANPUR: A major train accident was averted by an alert loco pilot as the Bhiwani-Prayagraj Kalindi Express was brought to a halt after hitting an LPG cylinder placed on tracks in Kanpur, police said Monday. They added that a bottle of petrol and matchboxes were also found at the site hinting at a sabotage bid. The incident occurred around 8.20pm Sunday when the Bhiwani-bound train was running at a high speed. An FIR has been registered and teams have been formed by multiple agencies including Uttar Pradesh's Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the NIA to probe the matter, officials said. So far police have detained six persons. P9

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



With the crime rate rising here, our party has a chance to grow its influence

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	81559.54 ↑ 375.61
NIFTY	24936.40 ↑ 84.25
DOLLAR	83.95 ↓ ₹0.03
EURO	92.71 ↓ ₹0.38
GOLD	₹71,481 ↑ ₹55
SILVER	₹ 83,300 ↑ ₹543

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	31.0°C	30.0°C
Min Temp	26.1°C	24.5°C
Humidity	94%	92%
Rainfall	14.6mm	3.8mm

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain



FUN TIMES: People belonging to tribal community perform during 'Parichaya Jatiya Adivasi Mahotsav' at Bali Yatra ground in Cuttack, Monday

PIC: RAJKISHORE MOHANTY

MALKANGIRI CUT OFF

Many villages in the district completely submerged as incessant rains continue. With most of the roads and bridges flooded, connectivity with Malkangiri has completely snapped

PNN & AGENCIES

Malkangiri, Sept 9: Malkangiri district was cut-off from the outside world Monday following heavy rainfall over the last two days triggered by a low-pressure in Bay of Bengal. The incessant rainfall snapped connectivity in major portions of the district and between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh after a portion of the culvert at Piligada in Chittrakonda block was washed away by rain and floodwater.

The Pangam river in Mathili block and Kangurukonda river in Kalimela block were found overflowing with water four feet above the danger level.

Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja chaired a meeting Monday in Bhubaneswar to review the measures to deal with the flood situation in Malkangiri and Koraput. Following the meeting, the state government deputed DG (Fire Services & Home Guards) Sundhansu Sarangi, Principal



Poteru village in Malkangiri district completely under water

OP PHOTO

Secretary Bishnupada Sethi and DIG (Southern Division) Charan Meena to supervise and assist the Malkangiri district administration in restoring normalcy in the region.

The rise in water level in various rivers has also disrupted all communication on National Highway-326. The incessant rainfall has resulted in power cuts in many areas with people living in darkness. Rainwater has inundated many houses and

business establishments in this town. All schools in the district will remain closed Tuesday, officials informed.

Meanwhile with the deep depression over the Bay of Bengal making landfall near Puri, the state government Monday geared up for relief and rescue operations in the districts likely to be affected by the weather system. "The landfall process for any system, whether a depression or a cyclone, takes time. The

current system made landfall between 10.30am and 11.30am with wind speeds between 55 km/hour and 65 km/hour," said Manorama Mohanty, director of the Regional Meteorological Centre in Bhubaneswar.

The weather office has issued a 'red alert' (take action) of heavy to very heavy rainfall (7-20 cm) till 8.30am of Tuesday for 10 districts -- Ganjam, Kandhamal, Nayagarh, Khurda, Bolangir, Boudh, Malkangiri, Koraput, Nabarangpur and Puri.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi held a discussion with Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari, and issued instructions to senior officials and collectors to take immediate measures to supervise and assist the district administration in relief measures. Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) DK Singh said 18 teams of ODRAF have been sent to this district, Koraput, Rayagada, Ganjam, Kandhamal and Boudh.

Return to work, SC tells doctors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The Supreme Court voiced concern Monday over the absence of a key document that was needed for the post-mortem of the medic raped and murdered at the RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata, and asked the CBI to investigate into it. The top court also directed the protesting resident doctors in West Bengal to resume work by 5.00pm Tuesday and said no adverse action shall be taken against them if they join work.

The court passed the direction after the West Bengal government assured it that no action, including punitive transfers, shall be taken against the protesting doctors on resumption of work. The government also said that 23 people have so far died in the state without getting treatment at hospitals because of the agitation by the doctors.

A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said there was no reference of the 'challan' (document) used, and

West Bengal govt informs SC that 23 people have died due to lack of treatment since protests began

Jr doctors to continue cease work despite SC's direction

sought an answer from the CBI and the West Bengal government. "Where is the challan of the body when it was handed over for post-mortem?" the bench also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI, informed the bench that the challan was not part of their records. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the West Bengal government, told the bench that he could not find the document immediately and would get back to the court on this question.

The court also flagged the 'at least a 14-hour delay' by Kolkata police in registering FIR in the rape and murder incident. The top court directed the CBI to submit a fresh report by September 17 on the probe in the case.

SNAKEBITE KILLS THREE SIBLINGS

POST NEWS NETWORK

Boudh, Sept 9: In a tragic incident, three minor siblings breathed their last after being bitten by a snake, late Sunday night. The father of the three girls, who was also bitten by the same snake, is stated to be critical. He is currently undergoing treatment at the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. The incident was reported from Chariyapali village under Tikarpada panchayat in this district.

Locals stated that two of the deceased girls Sudhirekha Mallik (13) and Shubharekha Mallik (12) came home Sunday from their hostel to celebrate 'Nuakhai'. While they were sleeping, a snake bit Sudhirekha, Subharekha, their younger sister Surbhi and father Sulendra.

Locals said that had the three been taken to a hospital, they could have survived. However, family members called a quack leading to waste of time. They were already dead when they were finally taken to hospital.

AGENCIES

New York, Sept 9: Have you ever dreamt of learning maths on an adult content site. You may not have, but there are others who have done so. Meet Chang Hsu, the Taiwanese math teacher who has revolutionised online education with an unorthodox approach.

In a bold move to stand out in the crowded online tutoring space, Hsu started uploading videos of math lessons on *PornHub*, a platform synonymous with adult content. With nearly three million views and over 13,000 subscribers, his strategy paid off, driving traffic to his paid courses and boosting his income to a staggering \$2,70,000 (over rupees 2 crore) annually.

As per a report in the *New York Post*, Hsu is a seasoned mathematics educator with a Master's degree and 15 years of teaching experience. He initially uploaded his math lessons on 'YouTube' but decided to diversify his platforms. In May 2020, he started uploading his calculus lessons to *PornHub* as part of an innovative marketing strategy to showcase his teaching in unexpected places. His unorthodox approach proved very effective as many students who



discovered his free lessons on the website went on to enrol in his paid courses. Hsu operates under the handle 'changshumath666' and has a verified account on the adult site. Under his channel slogan 'Play Hard, Study Hard', he re-

actively repurposes the adult website to make complex calculus concepts accessible to a wider audience. Interestingly his *PornHub* channel has now become a go-to destination for many students seeking to grasp the fundamentals of calculus.

"Since very few people teach maths on adult video platforms, and since there are so many people who watch videos on them, I thought that if I uploaded my videos there, a lot of people would see them," Hsu has been quoted as saying by the *New York Post*.

In each video, the teacher appears in his signature grey hoodie and glasses, exuding quiet confidence as he tackles complex mathematical problems on a board. His videos tend to last around 40 minutes and net around 20,000 viewers per clip on average. "People may not be interested in my videos, but they'll all know there's a teacher who teaches calculus on an adult video platform. That will certainly attract them," Hsu said.

"I didn't want to teach math on *PornHub*. I wanted to let the world know that I'm a teacher from Taiwan who can teach calculus as well," Hsu defended his action.

leisure



HEIDI KLUM SAYS HER LIFE IS NICER WITHOUT CLOTHES

German-American model Heidi Klum, opening up about her love of naturism, has said her life feels nicer without clothes. The 51-year-old, who celebrated her fifth anniversary of her third marriage, opened up about her years-long love of stripping off.

POLITE DISAGREEMENT VITAL IN MOVIE MAKING: BLANCHETT

Oscar-winning actress Cate Blanchett thinks polite disagreement is super important when making a film because sets that are like summer camp have led to awful movies. She said this while speaking at the Toronto International Film Festival's *In Conversation With...* series.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

The stars are sending out a warning today, and it will prevent you from getting cheated. Even though you manage to remain a step ahead of people, you are likely to make a few enemies along the way. Ganesha says today is not auspicious for buying a house or a vehicle.

TAURUS

Today, says Ganesha, you will be likely to encounter someone who is bent upon provoking and getting on your nerves. You are urged not to retaliate and do things unbecoming of your good nature. Keep calm and unfrustrated. Respond and behave in a manner befitting your better nature.

GEMINI

You will be in an extremely emotional and romantic mood today. You may be worried about your personal relations, health, diet, career etc. You need to guard against giving into excessive stress and worry and look after your health, says Ganesha.

CANCER

The day is very favourable, says Ganesha. You will feel a sense of joy and happiness with your valuable possessions. You may fall into love or have a strong romantic ties with someone. A great time for lovers.

LEO

You will be extremely serious about your work today and will work diligently to finish your tasks. You will be focussed and disciplined about your projects. You will feel the need to improve your style of functioning. Traders can expect good financial gains today, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Your ambitions and desire to undertake more work will be very prominent today. After working hard all day, try to get yourself some recreation and relaxation, perhaps at a private party, a social gathering or maybe even at a marriage reception, says Ganesha.

LIBRA

You will be drawn towards those of the opposite sex today says Ganesha. You will meet people who share the same wavelength that you do in the afternoon, and this will lead to a lot of interesting discussions. You will want to expand upon your knowledge of the world today and will be successful in your efforts.

SCORPIO

Expressing your feelings becomes important at some point of time. Today, you are in a mood to express emotions for your near and dear ones. And why not? After all, they need to be appreciated. Though your heart is full of emotions today, do not express in a way that you become vulnerable in eyes of general public.

SAGITTARIUS

You are like a new hope for your company and you are assigned with many challenging projects, today. And your hard work and efforts are appreciated when you handle the projects successfully. If you are fortunate enough, you may also gain incentives very soon, predicts Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

You are armed with good communication skills, it helps you convince the most adamant of those around you. But, you'll need to hone this talent once again, says Ganesha. You'll look into heart of the matter and find the answers you have been searching for. As the day progresses, your creativity will come to the fore, impressing the people around. You can ask for the support of your peers to move ahead, feels Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

Sometimes it feels like you are stuck in a quicksand, and there is none out there to pull you out. But, the independent Aquarius is capable of dealing with adversities alone. And, that tendency shall hold you in a good stead even today.

PISCES

The mundane routine of daily life will finally catch up with you, and you will feel the urge to take a break and travel somewhere. And a break is well deserved considering the number of hours you have slaved over your current projects.

Tamannaah on red flags in relationship

Mumbai: Tamannaah Bhatia is basking in the success of her last release *Stree 2*.

The actor, who is currently in a relationship with actor Vijay Varma, opened up about her idea of romance and talked about her heartbreaks in a recent podcast interview with Raj Shamani.

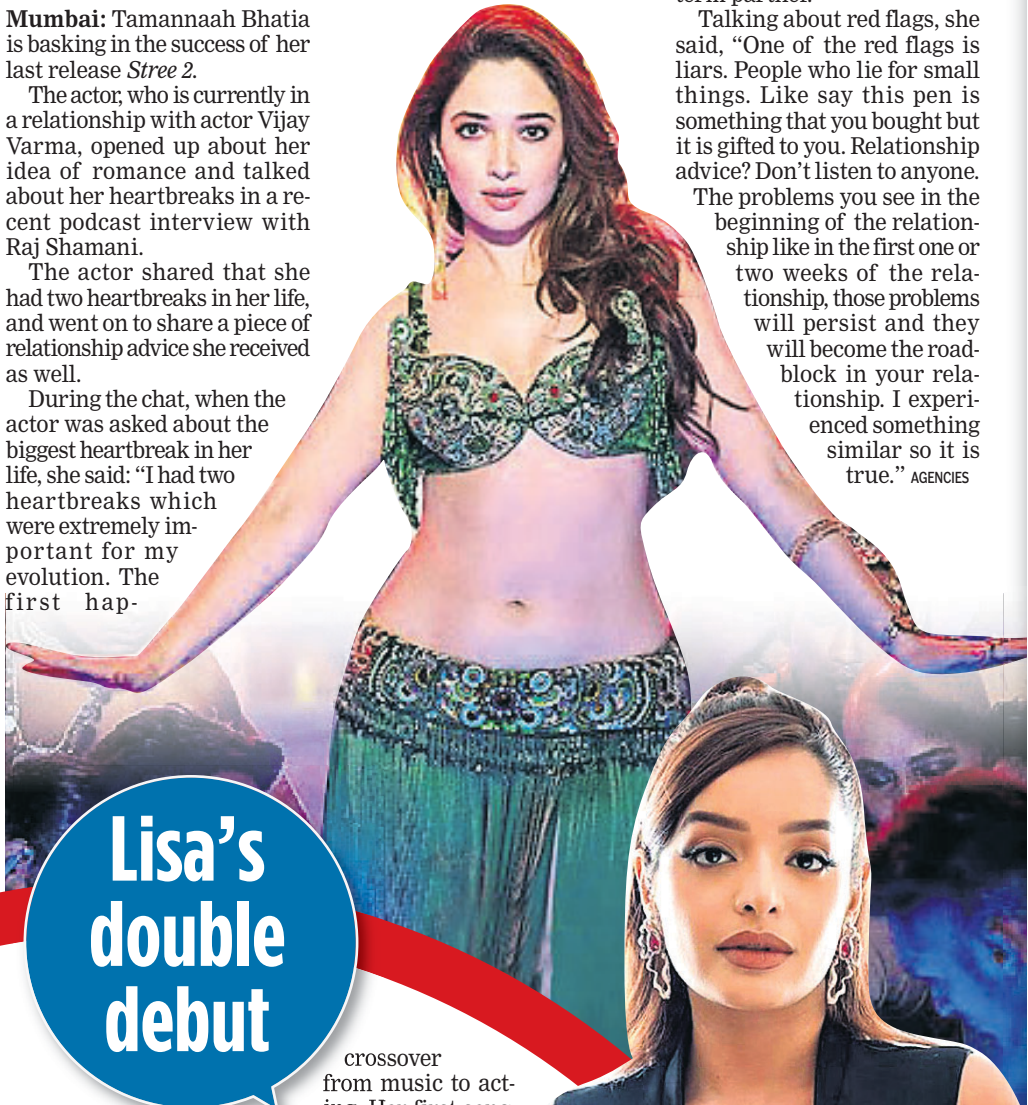
The actor shared that she had two heartbreaks in her life, and went on to share a piece of relationship advice she received as well.

During the chat, when the actor was asked about the biggest heartbreak in her life, she said: "I had two heartbreaks which were extremely important for my evolution. The first hap-

pened because I was very young. I think it came from a place where I felt like I wanted more. Another heartbreak was that I could see that the person was not good for me... as an influence in my life and as a long-term partner."

Talking about red flags, she said, "One of the red flags is liars. People who lie for small things. Like say this pen is something that you bought but it is gifted to you. Relationship advice? Don't listen to anyone.

The problems you see in the beginning of the relationship like in the first one or two weeks of the relationship, those problems will persist and they will become the roadblock in your relationship. I experienced something similar so it is true." AGENCIES



Lisa's double debut

Mumbai: In a delightful turn of events, Lisa Mishra, known for her melodious voice and chart-topping hits, is all set to make her acting debut in the upcoming series *Call Me Bae*.

Adding a special touch to this milestone, Lisa will also lend her voice to two songs and also be marking her debut as a composer in the series, making it a double celebration for the versatile artist.

The makers of *Call Me Bae* were quick to recognise Lisa's dual talents, leading them to incorporate her singing into the series. Given her established career as a musician, they felt it was only fitting to have her voice featured in the show as a tribute to her musical journey. The decision to include songs sung by Lisa not only enhances the series' appeal but also serves as a unique souvenir, marking her

crossover from music to acting. Her first song with Ruuh and Joh titled *Yaara Tere Bin* was released this week.

Lisa expressed her excitement, saying, "*Call Me Bae* is a dream project for me, not just because it marks my acting debut, but also because I got to sing for it. It's rare to find such an opportunity where you can showcase both your passions in one project. I'm grateful to the makers for believing in my talent and allowing me to be a part of this journey in such a special way." AGENCIES



Chaurasia-Adhiya jugalbandi regales music enthusiasts

GKCM AWARD FESTIVAL- DAY 5

Bhubaneswar: The 30th Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival 2024 at Rabindra Mandap organised by Srjan-Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa began the fresh week with celebrated flautist Pt. Rakesh Chaurasia and brilliant tabla player Ojas Adhiya regaling audiences with a superlative Hindustani music Jugalbandi.

Grammy winner Chaurasia rendered his melodic best in perfect tandem with the brilliant percussion play of Adhiya, an Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar and Sangeet Virasat Yuva Puraskar awardee.

As the two seasoned musicians explored harmonic nuances and rhythmic intricacies on their wind and percussion instruments respectively, they ventured into the depths of classical Hindustani music. This Jugalbandi was conducted in



A performance by Pt Rakesh Chaurasia (R) and Ojas Adhiya OP PHOTOS

perfect synergy, with each musician imbuing the aura of the other through their seamless musical repartee. For the applauding audience, the spirit of repartee between the two set the pitch for the concert as they weaved in their unique playing styles into the rich classicism of their gharanas exploring a multitude of ragas, talas, and musical intricacies, leaving the audiences delighted.

Earlier, the evening commenced with the auspicious lighting of the lamp, in the presence of guests and dignitaries, Bijay Ketan Upadhyaya, Director, Odia Language Literature & Culture Department, Sudhi Ranjan Mishra, Head, Corporate Affairs, Paradeep Phosphates Limited; and Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, Director, Srjan.

The week-long Award Festival approaches closure with a Kathak performance by Guru Ashimbandhu Bhattacharjee and the Upasana Centre for Dance on the penultimate day, and Guru Ratikant Mohapatra's very own Srjan ensemble, in addition to the prestigious award ceremony on the final day.

English daily **Orissa POST** and popular Odia daily **Dhartiri** are the print media partners for the event. PNN



Dignitaries felicitated ahead of the musical recital

Junaid returning to stage

Following the success of his recent play, he will be returning to the stage for the Prithvi Theatre Festival this November."

Meanwhile, *Maharaj* is directed by Siddharth P Malhotra and produced by YRF Entertainment. It stars Junaid in his film debut with Jaideep Ahlawat, Shalini Pandey and Sharvari. Set in 1862, the movie revolves around the Maharaja Libel Case and a religious leader, who takes legal action against a newspaper.

The movie is streaming on Netflix.

He also has a yet-to-be-titled movie alongside actress Sai Pallavi in the kitty. The movie was shot in Sapporo, Japan. IANS

Mumbai: Hindi film industry's 'perfectionist' Aamir Khan's son Junaid, who essayed the role of Karsandas Mulji in the historical drama *Maharaj*, is now preparing for another play.

Recently, Junaid took to the stage for the first time since his film debut, and the response was nothing short of ecstatic.

Now, according to an industry insider, "Junaid Khan is skillfully balancing both theater rehearsals and film shoots.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

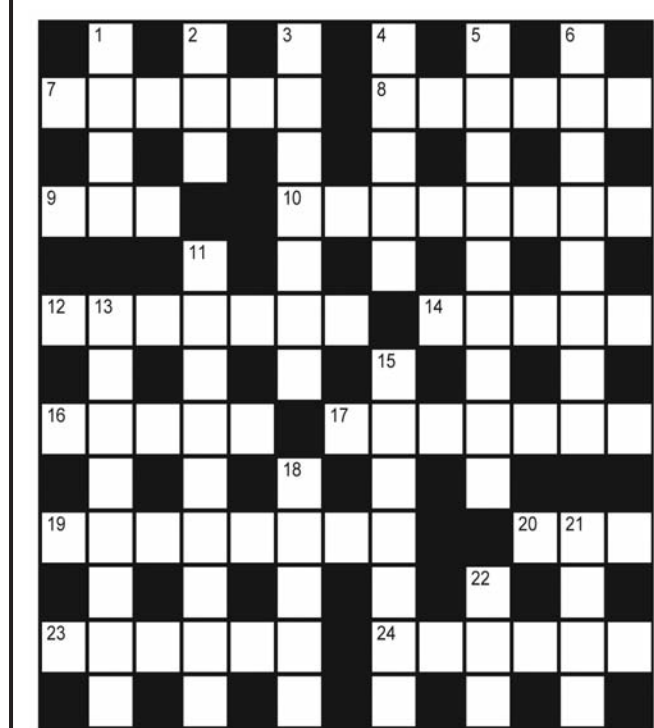


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD

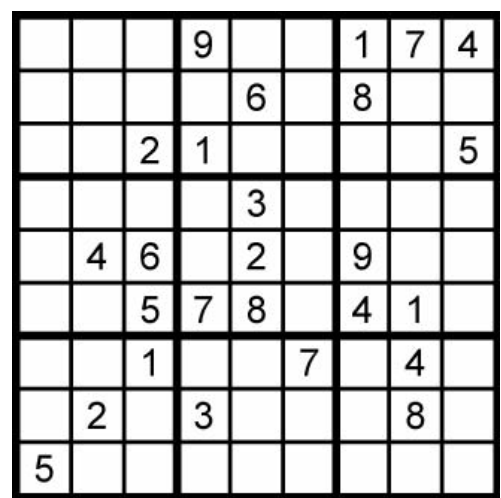


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|---------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------|-------------|-----------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--|
| Across | 7 Exaggerate | 8 Stunned | 9 Eskimo knife | 10 Flat tyre | 12 Self-love | 14 Light refreshment | 16 Express a thought | 17 Own | 19 Abstruse | 20 Meddle | 23 Allergic reaction | 24 Pie chart part | 4 Heavenly gift | 5 Asian cuisine type | 6 Cranes | 11 Veal cutlets dish | 13 Type of force | 15 To the point | 18 Packing heat | 21 Laughfest | 22 Make a move | |
| Down | 1 Elliptical | 2 Work unit | 3 Water show favourite | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

downtown

NLUO FACULTY FOUND DEAD

BHUBANESWAR: The body of a faculty member at the National Law University of Odisha (NLUO) in Cuttack was found at her rented accommodation in CDA Sector-IX area Monday, police said. Ananya Chakraborty from West Bengal, who worked as an associate professor (law) at the prestigious institution, lived alone in the house following divorce with her husband around 18 months ago, they added. Her lifeless body was found on the bed in the living room and it has been sent for post-mortem, they said.



HAL Koraput to make 240 Su-30MKI engines

POST NEWS NETWORK

₹26,000CR DEAL

- The HAL would supply 30 aero-engines annually as per the contractual delivery schedule
- The supply of all 240 engines would be completed in 8 years
- The ₹26,000-crore deal for the engines comes amid concerns over the depleting fleet of the IAF's fighter squadrons and delays in the supply of Tejas jets by HAL

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: The Koraput division of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is set to manufacture 240 aero-engines for Su-30MKI aircraft, with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) sealing a ₹26,000-crore deal with the aerospace major in this regard, Monday.

The aero-engines are expected to fulfil the need of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to sustain the operational capability of the Su-30 fleet, it was learnt.

"In a major boost to the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the MoD signed a contract with HAL for 240 AL-31FP aero-engines for Su-30MKI aircraft at a cost of over ₹26,000 crore," an official statement said.

The agreement was inked by senior officials of the ministry and the HAL in the presence of Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari.

The HAL would supply 30 aero-engines annually as per the contractual delivery schedule.

The supply of all 240 engines would be completed over the next eight years, according to the ministry.

"During manufacturing, HAL plans to take support from the country's defence manufactur-

ing ecosystem, involving MSMEs and public and private industries," it said.

"By the end of the delivery programme, HAL would enhance the indigenisation content up to 63 per cent to achieve an average of over 54 per cent," the ministry added.

It said this would also help increase the indigenous content of repair and overhaul tasks of the aero-engines.

The deal for the engines comes amid concerns over the depleting fleet of the IAF's fighter squadrons and delays in the supply of Tejas jets by HAL.

The number of the IAF's fighter squadrons has come down to around 30 as against the authorised strength of at least 42.



BIDDING ADIEU: Despite Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation making provisions of temporary ponds, people prefer immersing idols of Lord Ganesha at Kuakhai river, on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Monday
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

BJD, BJP fight over IT credit

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: The Opposition BJD and ruling BJP Monday engaged in a war of words claiming credit for establishment of new IT operation centres and a semiconductor unit in the state.

While BJD leaders ridiculed the state's BJP government accusing it of taking credit for the good work of former CM Naveen Patnaik, particularly in the IT and semiconductor sectors, the BJP alleged that the previous government was known only for 'signing MoUs'.

In separate posts on X, BJD leaders Sasmit Patra, TK Behera, Bhruagu Baxipatra and Lekhashri Samantsinghar claimed that Odisha became a thriving IT hub during the previous BJD government, while the new regime is simply busy 'cutting ribbons'.

The BJD leaders' comments came with reference to CM Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurating operation centres of four IT companies and laying foundation stone for 'India's first' silicon carbide manufacturing facility being set up by RIR Power Electronics Ltd, Friday.

Industries Minister Sampad Chandra Swain rejected the BJD leaders' allegation and claimed

that the BJP government, during the last two months, took initiatives due to which the companies established their projects.

"It is natural that whoever implements the project, gets the credit. The BJD government was all along busy signing MoUs and not implementing them which the BJP government has done in just two-month time," Swain said.

BJD Rajya Sabha MP Sasmit Patra, in a post on X, said, "Under the dynamic leadership of Shri Naveen Patnaik, Odisha transformed into a thriving IT hub. From pioneering incentives for semiconductor investments to conducting global roadshows that brought industry giants to Odisha, every step was meticulously planned. Yet, the new government is busy cutting ribbons and claiming the success of these initiatives. Odisha knows the truth—real progress comes from vision and hard work, not from taking shortcuts to fame!"

Behera, the former E and IT minister, said Odisha's IT and semiconductor sectors saw unprecedented growth with MoUs signed with global giants like IBM, Cognizant, and RIR under

Naveen Patnaik's leadership.

"Several projects were ready for inauguration, but the Model Code of Conduct halted their operation. Now, the new government is just cutting ribbons for the projects which are BJD's achievements. Time for them to come up with original plans instead of taking credit for work done by the BJD government," Behera said.

Baxipatra said Odisha became the first state to offer a 25 per cent subsidy on semiconductor investments under Patnaik's leadership, and from IBM to RIR, the IT boom in the state is a result of BJD's strategic planning and 'Make In Odisha' roadshows.

"The new government is just cutting ribbons on projects that the BJD govt worked hard to bring. The people of Odisha are not fool. They know who really worked for them!" Baxipatra said. Samantsinghar said the previous BJD government approved four major semiconductor projects for Odisha and sent them to the Centre for clearance.

"What is their status now? The people of Odisha deserve answers! Stop the ribbon-cutting politics and start delivering results," she posted on X.

Akhil Mishra takes charge as PIB Bhubaneswar ADG

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: Senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Akhil Kumar Mishra has assumed charge as Additional Director General (ADG) of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) and the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Bhubaneswar under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, official sources said, Monday.

The 1999-batch officer will also serve as the Additional Press Registrar General of



Odisha. Apart from this, Mishra will hold the additional charge of Jharkhand region.

A dynamic and efficient officer, Mishra has earlier served in several key posi-

tions in All India Radio (AIR), Doordarshan, Central Board of Film Certification, PIB and CBC under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The 1999-batch officer will also serve as the Additional Press Registrar General of Odisha. Apart from this, Mishra will hold the additional charge of Jharkhand region

It is worth mentioning that Mishra is also an eminent poet and many of his poetic works have received accolades from across the country.

City resident held for threatening neighbour

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: Laxmisagar police Monday arrested a 43-year-old man on charges of threatening a lady and her family members with a gun. The accused was identified as Ramesh Behera alias Babaji of Dolamandap Sahi in Jharpada. A pistol and five bullets were recovered from his possession, police said.

About the case details, police said Ramesh and the lady - Priyanka Behera - were neighbours and frequently found over petty issues.

"Around 6pm September 5, Ramesh hurled abuses at Priyanka and her family members. Later he also threatened them with the gun," they said, adding that the accused even physically assaulted Priyanka's grandfather.

When Priyanka's family alerted the police, the accused fled the locality.

The victim approached the Laxmisagar police which registered a case (487/24) and launched a probe.

Based on inputs, a team of Laxmisagar police nabbed Ramesh near a tea stall at Jharpada market around 8.30pm Sunday.

"A pistol and five live bullets were recovered from his possession. Ramesh has been booked under Sections 126(2), 296, 115(2), 109, 3(5), 351(2) and 351(3) of BNS rw Sec 25/27 Arms Act," they said.

10 September

7pm
Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar

"Moonstruck"
by
Ashimbandhu Bhattacharjee & Upasana Centre for Dance
Kathak

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AT LORDS' ABODE: Orissa High Court Chief Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh after paying obeisance to the sibling deities at Srimandir in Puri, Monday
PIC: YAGNESWAR MOHANTY

'State prepared to deal with monkeypox threat'

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: The Health and Family Welfare department is fully prepared to deal with possible monkeypox threat, Director of Health Services Bijay Kumar Mohapatra said.

Mohapatra's revelation came in the wake of recent detection of a monkeypox case in the country.

"The Health department in Odisha is well-prepared to deal

with any possible monkeypox threat. The Centre has taken steps for keeping people with travel history to the monkeypox-affected countries in isolation if any symptom for the viral disease is found in them," Mohapatra said.

The authorities have intensified screening at all international airports in the country. Anyone found with suspected symptoms of monkeypox will be kept in isolation, Mohapatra added.

There is no need to panic. Health authorities at the Centre and state are constantly monitoring the situation. The viral disease spreads only when we come in close contact with an infected person

BIJAY KUMAR MOHAPATRA | DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES

"There is no need to panic. Health authorities at the Centre and state

are constantly monitoring the situation. The viral disease spreads only when we come in close contact with an infected person," Mohapatra said.

Notably, monkeypox causes fevers, headaches, and muscle aches, as well as painful boils on the skin. It spreads from person to person through close, skin-to-skin contact. Around one lakh cases of monkeypox with 208 deaths in 116 countries have been reported so far.

City AIIMS saves woman's life through ECMO therapy



The 53-year-old patient was suffering from severe pneumonia and breathing difficulties leading to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and a severe drop in oxygen levels

among healthcare professionals and families," he said.

After eight critical days on ECMO therapy, the patient's condition began to improve significantly. The recovery process continued with ongoing supportive therapy and antibiotics to combat multiple infections.

Paediatric ECMO Specialist Krishna Mohan Gulla and CTVS head Satyapriya Mohanty also played pivotal roles in the successful intervention.

"The case reinforces the necessity of ECMO as a critical tool in saving lives when conventional methods fail. ECMO is an extracorporeal technique that offers prolonged cardiac and respiratory support by performing the functions of a heart and lungs outside the body, allowing for vital recovery time," Gulla said.

save her life.

ECMO Specialist and ICU Consultant Srikant Behera who led the life-saving procedure, explained, "The patient was on the brink of succumbing due to inadequate oxygenation and progressive organ failure. ECMO provided the crucial support needed for her survival."

Institute's executive director Ashutosh Biswas praised the medical team's extraordinary efforts, stating, "The success underscores institute's commitment to blending advanced technology with medical science to provide unparalleled care."

"ECMO therapy has proven to be a lifesaving intervention, highlighting the importance of its awareness and availability

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar saved the life of a critically ill woman using advanced extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) therapy, institute official said Monday.

The 53-year-old patient was admitted to AIIMS with severe pneumonia and breathing difficulties.

According to doctors, her condition deteriorated leading to acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and a severe drop in oxygen levels. Despite maximum ventilator support and other interventions, her condition continued to worsen, leaving ECMO as the only option to



OVERCAST SKY: Dark clouds hover over Srimandir sky in Puri following formation of low pressure over Bay of Bengal, Monday

OP PHOTO

Agreement signed for devt of Modular Switch Rooms

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: ECORISE Technologies Private Ltd, an energy sector startup in Odisha, and ICAFI University, Sikkim, a renowned academic institution signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on the development of Modular Switch Rooms (MSRs), the company said Monday.

The MoU, which was signed September 7, aims to merge ICAFI University's research expertise with ECORISE's industry experience to create cutting-



edge solutions for the energy sector.

The partnership will focus on developing innovative MSR designs, enhancing research capabilities, and training skilled professionals to meet the demands of the energy sector.

ICFAI University VC Jagannath Patnaik expressed

confidence that the collaboration would equip students with practical skills. "By working together, we will enhance our research capabilities and provide students with hands-on experience in MSRs development, making them job-ready and attractive to industry recruiters," he said. ECORISE Technologies

founder Dipak Ranjan Mohanty emphasised the startup's commitment to driving innovation in the energy sector, stating, "The partnership reflects our dedication to fostering industry-academia collaboration."

The event was attended by notable guests, including industrialist Choudhury Prabhakar Keshari Misra, who lauded the initiative's potential to spur innovation in the energy sector. Representatives from both ICAFI University and ECORISE Technologies were present at the event.



VOICING ANGER: Members of Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Odisha and Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India stage a demonstration in front of SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack, Monday, demanding justice for the RG Kar hospital doctor, who was allegedly raped and murdered

OP PHOTO

Hundreds assemble for '9-9-9' rally in Kolkata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 9: Rallies were taken out in different parts of the metropolis as part of an event termed '9-9-9', with people assembling for nine minutes when the clock struck 9 Monday evening, demanding justice for the RG Kar hospital doctor, who was allegedly raped and murdered.

Singing the national anthem, hundreds gathered for nine minutes at Shyamabazar, Esplanade, New Town, Jadavpur 8B terminus, apart from Bally and Mandirata in neighbouring Howrah town.

"We have symbolically named the protest '9-9-9'. The brutal attack on our sister had taken place August 9, exactly one month back. All we seek is justice for her," Ushashi Dey, a protesting

college student at Jadavpur said. The protesters also displayed mobile flash lights for nine minutes and shouted slogans, demanding punishment for the culprits. The body of the postgraduate trainee was found with injury marks in a seminar room of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. She was allegedly raped and killed while on duty.

TPCODL feted for GIS deployment

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: TP Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) was felicitated at the 'Energy Summit: Empowering Utilities with GIS' during the ESRI India User Conference in New Delhi recently.

TPCODL CEO Arvind Singh said, "We are proud to be recognised for large-scale Geographic Information System (GIS) deployment, which is truly unique in an urban-rural geography of this size. Leveraging cutting-edge technology like Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) GIS has enabled us to enhance operational efficiency and better serve consumers across 30,000 sq km area."

"Over the past four years, TPCODL has demonstrated a large-scale deployment of GIS technology, covering both urban and rural geographies," he said. The consolidation of GIS benefits began with its integration into various enterprise applications such as SAP ISU, SAP CRM, Meter Data Management (MDM) System, Network Planning Software and Energy Audit application.

TPSODL unveils Volympics

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP



133 students and 13 teachers.

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: Inspired by Olympic spirit, TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) recently inaugurated the 22nd edition of Tata Volunteering Week (TVW), themed Volympics, with a series of impactful events aimed at promoting community betterment and social responsibility.

The event was held at the Helen Keller Red Cross School for the Deaf in Berhampur, where TPSODL CEO Amit Kumar Garg, and Chief Technology Officer Biman Kumar Ghosh were joined by over 35 enthusiastic volunteers to celebrate Teacher's Day with

A key highlight of the event was the inauguration of a significant partnership between TPSODL and the school to promote vocational Saura Art training under the 'Learning for Earning Programme', focusing on employability and skill development. The initiative empowers students by providing them with the skills to create income-generating opportunities through traditional Saura Art, reinforcing TPSODL's commitment to inclusivity, education, and empowerment.

In addition to cultural performances and insightful interactions between TPSODL leadership and the school community,

the event served as a platform for shared learning and fostering deeper connections between volunteers and students.

Simultaneously, TPSODL organised a free eye check-up camp at the School for Visually Impaired in Koraput, offering essential health services to students.

Speaking on the occasion, Garg said, "We are proud to kick off the 22nd edition of Tata Volunteering Week with a series of impactful and inspiring events. The theme perfectly reflects the company's mission to unite and empower communities by promoting inclusivity, skill development, and healthcare support."

'Night owls' have greater risk of type 2 diabetes

The new study showed that a late chronotype had a 46% higher risk of developing diabetes, which suggests that the increased risk of T2D can't be explained by lifestyle alone

late and wake up late -- live an unhealthy lifestyle, and are at higher risk of obesity and metabolic disorders including type 2 diabetes.

The new study showed that a late chronotype had a 46 per cent higher risk of developing diabetes, which suggests that the increased risk of T2D can't be explained by lifestyle alone.

"We believe that other mechanisms are also at play," said lead researcher Jeroen van der Velde, from Leiden University Medical Centre, in the Netherlands.

"A likely explanation is that the circadian rhythm or body clock in late chronotypes is out of sync with the work and social schedules followed by society. This can lead to circadian misalignment, which we know can lead to metabolic disturbances and ultimately type 2 diabetes," van



der Velde added.

To explore, the team studied the association between sleep timing, diabetes, and body fat distribution in more than 5,000 individuals who were divided into three groups: early chrono-

type (20 per cent), late chronotype (20 per cent), and intermediate chronotype (60 per cent).

The team measured all participants' BMI and waist circumference, while visceral fat and liver fat were measured in

1,526 participants, using MRI scans and MR spectroscopy, respectively.

About 225 were diagnosed with diabetes after a follow-up of 6.6 years.

Late chronotypes were found to be at higher risk of developing diabetes, had a 0.7 kg/m² higher BMI, 1.9 cm larger waist circumference, 7 cm² more visceral fat, and 14 per cent higher liver fat content, compared with those with an intermediate chronotype.

More visceral fat and liver fat were responsible for making people with a late chronotype to be at greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes, van der Velde said.

The findings will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) in Madrid, Spain (September 9-13). IANS

95% spine surgeries successful: Acharya

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 9: Around 95 per cent of spine surgeries are successful these days and no one should think of it as a risky proposition," Shankar Acharya said while speaking at a training programme for spine surgeons organised at the Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here recently.

"Advanced know-how, improved treatment regimen and training have made spine surgery extremely safe, eminent spine surgeon," he said.

Acharya, a former President of Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI) and presently head of the department of spine surgery at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi, said the problem of the



spine was now being found in both the young and old people.

He said factors like lifestyle opted by people, irregular food habits and neglect in exercise are the reasons for the rise in spine problems. Diabetes was also responsible for causing infection in the spine, he said.

"Injury caused to the spinal cord in road accidents was a major cause of worry as it often led to permanent disability," he said.

Around 200 doctors attended the programme. The training programme was organised by ASSI.

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Cholera death toll climbs to 3



Jharigaon, Sept 9: With one more death reported due to cholera outbreak at Cheptiamba village under this block in Nabarangpur district, the death toll Monday reached three while the number of affected people was 29. The deceased was identified as Madhu Jani, the younger son of Dala Jani of the village. According to reports, Dala was the first to suffer from diarrhoea and was taken to Dabugaon medical and later shifted to Nabarangpur District Headquarters Hospital in a critical condition last Friday. She was accompanied by her elder son Neel and younger son

Madhu Jani to the hospital. Dala required a blood transfusion during her treatment, and Madhu came forward to donate blood Sunday. However, soon after, Madhu also fell ill, suffering from diarrhoea. He was admitted to the hospital in a critical condition and died Monday. He was administered saline Sunday, but no medical staff turned up to check his condition, which, according to his elder brother, resulted in his death. While returning from Nabarangpur, Neel also suffered from diarrhoea and collapsed under a tree. Upon receiving the news, an ambulance reached the spot and took Neel to a temporary health

camp in Cheptiamba, where he was undergoing treatment till the filing of this report. Similarly, 65-year-old Mungai Jani of the village was taken to the Jharigaon Community Health Centre for treatment Monday morning after suffering from the disease. Mungai's elder son Ramadhar and another woman, Sanamati Jani, were also taken to Cheptiamba's temporary camp for primary treatment and later shifted to Jharigaon CHC. Meanwhile, a group of health officers, including Dr. Aravind Panda, Dr. Santosh Kumar Pradhan, epidemiologist Dr. Irsad Khan, microbiologist Gayatri Sundar Ray, Dr. Aruna Gain, Dr. Jitendra Nayak, BPMO Priyanka Seal, and PHO Gopalkrushna Padhi, were present at the village and monitoring the situation. MP Balabhadra Majhi, former MP Ramesh Chandra Majhi, and Panchayat Samiti Chairman Durgaprasad Majhi Monday visited the village and discussed the condition of the cholera-affected patients with the medical team.



BEWARE: Artists from a Bhubaneswar-based troupe perform a street play depicting the spate of crocodile attacks, at riparian Balichandanpur village under Rajnagar block in Kendrapara district Monday in order to spread awareness about precautionary measures among people. OP PHOTO

MV Blackrose sinking still a mystery even after 15 yrs

Paradip, Sept 9: Though the sinking of MV Blackrose completed 15 years Monday, the event and circumstances leading to the mysterious grounding of the foreign cargo ship in the anchorage area of Paradip port still remains unsolved.



And in the absence of any clarity by investigating agencies, the mishap - in which a foreign sailor had died - continues to make waves in the state politics. On September 9, 2009, the China-bound ship ran aground about 6km away from the anchorage area of the Paradip port. The ship remained half sunk and was visible till 2014. However, it later went completely underwater. The ship's mysterious sinking became an issue during successive Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in the state, with various political parties and outfits demanding a thorough probe into the incident. However, even 15 years later, the Odisha Police Crime Branch, which took over the investigation from the local police, has neither completed the probe nor has it been able to approach the owners of the ship, Se Cook, in Mongolia. According to reports, the incident occurred when iron ore was being loaded into the ship which had anchored at the berth of Paradip port September 9, 2009. The vessel was loaded 23,847

metric tonnes of iron ore cargo when its Captain asked to stop further loading. This was because the iron ore was soaked in rainwater, and the heavy cargo made the barge of the ship tilt to one side. However, the port authorities directed the Captain to leave the port as it was a time consuming exercise to dry up the wet iron ore. It was said that the wet ore could have been dried up on the anchorage area if the port authorities desired so. Significantly, no paper work was carried out before directing the ship to leave the berth. After the ship moved from its berth, it gradually tilted to one side in the anchorage area, before finally sinking by evening. The Marine police station at

Nehru Bungalow registered a case in this connection and, later, the state Crime Branch took over the probe. In subsequent period, two petitions were filed in this connection in the Orissa High Court and Calcutta High Court. According to reports, during the Crime Branch probe, it was found that the ship was sailing without a sea-worthiness certificate and was declared unfit for operation after remaining 25-years in sea. The mercantile marine department (MMD) was supposed to conduct a verification of the ship before allowing it for further operations. Questions were also raised as to how the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) allowed the ship to sail from country to country without

proper documents for a prolonged period of five years. Moreover, fingers were also raised at the Paradip port authorities who allowed the ship, to enter into the berth, which had spent over 25-years in sea and lacked fitness and proper documents. The agent of the shipping company was then black-listed, but it is now back in operation at the port under a different name. Sources said that the iron ore loaded in this ship belonged to three export agencies, and it was headed for China. It is alleged that those export agencies had connections with some politicians of Odisha. The Paradip port authorities recommended for a CBI probe into the incident in 2018, but nothing has happened so far. Moreover, the Centre is yet to summon the owners of the ship, Se Cook, to the country for questioning. Besides, the sunken ship is yet to be retrieved from the sea despite it posing imminent threat to other ships sailing in the route travelling in the sea. Many fishing boats had close shaves after hitting the sunken ship. Meanwhile, when contacted, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Santosh Jena, said, "The matter is sub-judice. Anyway, the Crime Branch is investigating the case. I am not authorised to speak on the matter."

Census of monsoon birds begins at BNP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

years, Matha-adia has emerged as the preferred nesting and breeding site for monsoon birds, followed by Laxmiprasad-dia and Durgaprasad-dia. Besides the core area of the national park, peripheral wetland sites like Satabhaya and Barunei are also being taken up for the census programme. Lack of human interference, ideal climatic conditions, cool breeze and the river system here have emerged to the liking of these delicate chirpy-winged species. Over a dozen types of local residential birds congregate at the heronries in and around the park for nesting and breeding every year. The species are open bill stork, little cormorant, intermediary egret, large egret, little egret, purple heron, grey heron, night heron, darter, white ibis and cattle egret, the forest officials said. The avian species selectively use mangrove trees such as Guan, Bani, Choranda, Kerawan, and Oruan for nesting. The census will be overseen by Sudarshan Gopinath Jadav, Divisional Forest Officer of the Rajnagar Mangrove (forest) and Wildlife Division, and Manas Kumar Das, Assistant Conservator of Forests of Kanika.

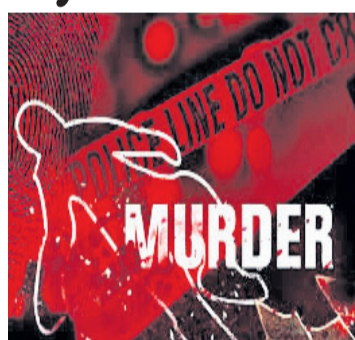
Kendrapara, Sept 9: The Bhitarkanika National Park (BNP) authorities Monday began the annual census of monsoon birds, which through the wetland sites for nesting in large numbers every year. Four teams comprising ornithologists and wildlife personnel of the park are on the job to conduct the headcount of the avian species, park officials said. As the spell of rain was not uniform, their arrival was delayed this time. Still, an impressive congregation of monsoon birds was spotted along the mangrove covers of the park, they said. The enumerators would cover all the major congregation zones inside and outside the national park such as Laxmiprasad-dia, Durgaprasad-dia, and Matha-adia within the Kanika Forest Range under BNP. In recent

Hundreds celebrate Jantal on Santhevanj hill

Keonjhar, Sept 9: People in the eastern part of Palashapanga village under Sadar block of Keonjhar district celebrated the Jantal festival in a grand fashion on the Santhevanj hill, Monday. The rituals were performed at Devisala, a place of worship for the locals. It all began when some village leaders of nearby 60 mauzas started the rituals many years ago. Now leaders of 43 villages come to offer puja at the top of the hill, sources said. They dance to the beat of the band while performing the old rituals. Hundreds of people gathered this year and enjoyed the beautiful nature in this day-long agriculture-based festival. Nityananda Behera, the 'Dala behera' of the area, along with 'Gadanayak' Pramod Kumar Mohapatra, invited the Dehury to the sacred place to follow the ritual. The Dehury performed a sacred bath of the deities, putting on new clothes, and offered a special puja. Villagers believe that after these rituals, people don't suffer from diseases like measles, dysentery, and other infectious diseases. They also believe that observation of the Jantal festival helps them have a bumper harvest, and there will be peace in the region. Jantal festival is observed on the day when people of western Odisha and other parts of the state celebrate Nuakhai and Ganesh puja.

No headway in man's murder

Rourkela, Sept 9: A day after the bloodstained body of a 29-year-old man was recovered from a cashew orchard under Dharuadihi police station limits here, the police were still to make any headway in the case Monday. On Sunday, the body of Bhimsen Kamar was found with his throat slit by some sharp weapons. The assailants had left him to bleed to death, it is suspected. Bhimsen was the third son of Krushnachandra Kamar of Ledhimanga Babupada village. On Saturday night, Bhimsen, a daily wagger, went to see an orchestra which was organised in neighbouring Amasanga village on the occasion of Ganesh Puja. Before leaving home, he had brought all the required articles for Nuakhai cel-



ebrations the next day. However, when he did not return home till midday Sunday, his family started searching for him. While the search was on, they heard the news of a wounded body lying in the cashew orchard between Babupada and Sunamunda villages. The worried family members and the deceased's friends rushed to the spot, and identified the body as that of Bhimsen. On being informed, a police team, led by SDPO Sundargarh Himanshu Behera reached the spot along with a scientific team from Jharsuguda. The police sent the body for post mortem, registered a case under Section 103 (1) of BNS, and launched an investigation. The deceased's elder brother Bhisma alleged that Friday night some unidentified youths had barged into their house and threatened his mother Hemabati with dire consequences. He said the same miscreants could have killed his brother. However, Bhisma didn't say why the miscreants threatened his mother. Meanwhile, police suspect that some past enmity could have led to the killing. A police source claimed that the assailants, who have been identified, would be arrested soon.

2 dead, 1 critical as truck runs over bike

Bhadrak, Sept 9: Two riders were killed while another sustained critical injuries after the two-wheeler on which they were traveling collided head-on with a truck near Bant Chhack, under Town police limits in Bhadrak district, late Sunday night. The deceased have been identified as Saurabh Mishra, 24, a resident of Patharaadi village under Town police limits, and Shibasundar Mahapatra, 21, a resident of Belamala village under Bhadrak Rural police limits. The injured person, whose identity is yet to be ascertained, has been admitted to the Bhadrak District Headquarters Hospital (DHH).

According to reports, the trio was travelling from Champa to Bant on a motorbike on the wrong side of the road when a truck coming from the opposite direction ran over them. Some locals rescued them in critical condition and rushed them to Bhadrak DHH where doctors declared two of them dead. The survivor is currently undergoing treatment at the hospital. Following a complaint lodged by Prashanta Mahapatra, the father of deceased Shibasundar, a case (No-542/24) of unnatural death has been registered at the Town police station. Post-mortem of the bodies has been conducted, even as the police are trying to nab the driver of the truck.

Anganwadi worker assaulted

CHANDBALI: An Anganwadi worker was allegedly beaten up after she asked an underage woman to return a 'Subhadra Yojana' form, at Khadalapokhari panchayat under this block in Bhadrak district, Monday. The victim was identified as Preetirekha Bal who is posted at the Brahmatriki Anganwadi centre in the panchayat. Bal panicked after the assault and locked herself in a room at the centre. On being informed, police reached the spot and rescued her. Later, she lodged a complaint at the Bansada police station. In her complaint, Bal alleged that the Anganwadi assistant of the centre had mistakenly given a Subhadra Yojana form to a 19-year old married woman in her absence. After she came to know about it, she asked the woman to return the form as the cut-off age for entry was 21-years. Following this, the woman picked up a fight with her and assaulted her. "We have registered a case and launched an investigation," said Debaraj Jena, IIC of the Bansada police station.

STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA No. CAD-978

[Department of Forest, Environment & Climate Change, Govt. of Odisha]
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakanthanagar, Bhubaneswar - 751012

No.: **VISC(LEM)Proj-64/24-25/12992** Date: **17.08.2024**

APPEAL TO OBSERVE POLLUTION FREE GANESH PUJA, KHUDURUKUNI PUJA, BISWAKARMA PUJA, DURGA PUJA, KALI PUJA, GAJALAXMI PUJA AND SARASWATI PUJA

Puja Committees/Organisers

- Use natural clay for making of idols instead of baked clay, plaster of paris etc.
- Use water soluble and nontoxic natural dyes for painting of idols instead of toxic non-biodegradable chemical dyes.
- Height of the super structure of the idol shall be limited to 40ft. and of the idol shall be limited to 20ft. in height.
- Immerse idols only at the identified immersion sites constructed by the district authorities or local bodies.
- Remove worship materials like flowers, decorating materials before immersion of idols and to be disposed of in municipal dump site and make sure that they are not burnt near the immersion site.
- Do not use single use plastic or thermocol materials for decoration purpose and Prasad Sevan or distribution.

District Authorities or Local Bodies

- Aware the public regarding water pollution caused by idol immersion.
- Aware the public to purchase eco-friendly idols made up of natural clay and coloured with natural dyes.
- Identify adequate number of designated immersion sites and inform the Puja Committee authorities well in advance.
- In case of immersion of idols in rivers and lakes, arrangements may be made for construction of temporary confined ponds with earthen bunds and removable synthetic liner for the purpose of immersion of idols. Identify the immersion sites at the points where the flow in stream is naturally available.
- Within 24 hours of the immersion, the left over materials from the immersion site shall be removed for disposal at designated municipal dump site and the supernatant water may be allowed to flow into the river after adding lime to clear the water.

Individual Households

- Individual households are encouraged to use only eco-friendly idols made of natural clay and biodegradable materials as decorative and puja materials.
- Immersion the idols at their homes in eco-friendly manner or immerse the idols in the designated on land temporary artificial ponds or tanks located nearby or artificial movable tanks arranged by the local bodies.
- Do not throw puja left overs tied in polythene bags into the river or any waterbody, rather dispose in designated immersion sites.

Penal Provision

- As per the Odisha Prevention and Control of Water Pollution (Procedure for Immersion of Idol after Pujas) Rules, 2021 for violation of Rule 3 by idol makers, they may be prohibited from idol making for 2 (two) years by the concerned local bodies; and deposition of the idol manufacturers towards registration fees shall be forfeited by the respective local body in addition to the prohibition of idol making for 2 (two) years.
- Further, violation of Rules 5 and 6 by the Puja Committee Organisers, the concerned local bodies may impose penalty on Puja Committee Organisers as below.
 - In case the Puja Committee is located in the area of Panchayat, Rs.3000/-.
 - In case the Puja Committee is located in the area of Municipality or Notified Area Councils, Rs.5000/-.
 - In case the Puja Committee is located in the area of Municipal Corporation, Rs.7000/-.

LET US TAKE A PLEDGE TO OBSERVE A POLLUTION FREE PUJA

Note: The Odisha Prevention and Control of Water Pollution (Procedure for Immersion of Idol after Pujas) Rules, 2021 in this regard can be downloaded from SPCB website. (Weblink: <http://ospcbboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/1741-F-E-Idol-Immersion-Rule-by-Odisha.pdf>)

Sd./- Member Secretary

OSPCB-CL-MISC-0049-2023/14/2024 OIPR-08012/11/0067/2425

FOCUS TAINABILITY

CLIMATE COMMON SENSE



For people living on small islands and grappling with rising sea levels, extreme weather, and ocean warming, climate change is already an existential threat. Despite their minimal carbon footprints, these regions are at the forefront of the problem

Whether borrowing money to recover from natural disasters or investing to strengthen their resilience to climate change, they face higher interest rates, and these additional costs come at the expense of investments in health and education.

As the world leader in humanitarian and development aid, the European Union is one of the closest partners that small island states and other vulnerable regions have in combating climate change. Under the EU's Global Gateway investment strategy, we have put our money where our mouth is, because our commitment reflects both genuine solidarity and common sense. We know that the costs of a disorderly green transition would far exceed the costs of investing in climate adaptation and mitigation right now. The gradual, credible changes that we make today are what will spare us the massive economic, social, and environmental damage caused by unchecked climate change.

A few recent examples illustrate our commitment. In Kiribati, a small island state in the central Pacific, rising sea

levels may render many islands uninhabitable within a few decades. So, the EU and its financial arm, the European Investment Bank, are working with the World Bank and other international financial institutions to study the possibility of building a new seaport, which will help relocate people from smaller islands to safer ground. Such projects can be a beacon of hope for vulnerable populations everywhere.

In the Caribbean, where violent storms and rising temperatures are straining water infrastructure and the surrounding seas and marine ecosystems, an EU-backed water management and clean oceans programme will provide expert support to launch water projects in 15 Caribbean countries. This work will improve water security, sanitation, solid-waste management, and flood protection, as well as helping to preserve our oceans.

The EU and EIB are also pooling resources to transform the way Cabo Verde (an island country off the coast of West Africa) uses and produces energy. This ambitious project will assist the government's plan to phase

out fossil fuels by 2040. By focusing on renewable energy and storage, it will cut pollution and significantly benefit Cabo Verde's water sector, which relies heavily on desalination – a highly energy-intensive process. With far-reaching environmental and economic benefits, such investments will make Cabo Verde a model for sustainable development across the region.

Finally, in Barbados, we are supporting investments to help deal with floods and hurricanes. One project, in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank, will improve sewage treatment and groundwater management, and we are also supporting a system to recycle wastewater for agricultural use. To enable these investments, we are funding a "debt for climate conversion" programme that responds to Barbados' particular financial needs in the bond market.

These projects demonstrate what meaningful support for small island states looks like. The Global Gateway programme is helping not only with adaptation and water security, but also with renewable energy, digital innovation, education, health care, and green transportation.

In each case, we need to think differently, because we are confronting challenges that none of us has seen before. Tackling climate change is the most important mission of our time, and innovation and new ideas are essential. By working together to implement them, we will provide a better world for the world's most vulnerable populations – and for us all.

Nadia Calviño is President of the European Investment Bank. Jutta Urpilainen is European Commissioner for International Partnerships.
©PROJECT SYNDICATE

While efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change will remain a top international priority for decades to come, the most urgent risks from global warming require immediate action and new ideas. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres said at the Pacific Islands Forum in Tonga last month, "If we save the Pacific, we save the world."

Since the Paris climate agreement was signed eight years ago, much progress has been made to create a more sustainable economy, with new technological solutions allowing countries to maintain strong growth while also reducing carbon-dioxide emissions. Governments, businesses, and households are increasingly determined to support climate investments. Renewable energy is becoming businesses' first choice for electricity generation. Innovation is boosting the competitiveness of green alternatives. And financial institutions are allocating more than \$1 trillion each year to green projects.

In this context, sustained and concerted action at a global level will be the key to success. Yet the progress has been too slow for the world's most vulnerable regions. For people living on small islands and grappling with rising sea levels, extreme weather, and ocean warming, climate change is already an existential threat. Despite their minimal carbon footprints, these regions are at the forefront of the problem. Their challenges today will become the global crises of tomorrow.

For small islands, adaptation is critical. Caribbean and Pacific Island states, along with parts of Latin America, Africa, and Asia, face many more severe climate-related problems than other parts of the world. They also are more vulnerable financially



Nadia Calviño and Jutta Urpilainen

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MISSION OF OUR TIME, AND INNOVATION AND NEW IDEAS ARE ESSENTIAL

Hottest Summer

This world is a vast unbroken totality, a deep solidarity joins its contrary powers.

SRI AUROBINDO



The latest announcement by the European observatory Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) is disturbing and alarming. It has revealed that mankind has just experienced the hottest summer ever measured. The three summer months from June to August 2024 saw the highest average global temperature since records began. Thus beating the record already set in 2023. This terrifying rise in the temperature is also accompanied by a series of climatic catastrophes – heatwaves, floods, hurricanes, forest fires and droughts. These will be followed by the human tragedies they provoke and the concomitant crisis of the collapse of biodiversity.

Data from the C3S followed a season of heatwaves around the world that scientists said were intensified by human-driven climate change. "During the past three months of 2024, the globe has experienced the hottest June and August, the hottest period and the hottest boreal summer on record," said Samantha Burgess, deputy director of C3S.

Heat was exacerbated in 2023 and early 2024 by the cyclical weather phenomenon El Nino, which warms the surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The contrary cyclical cooling phenomenon, known as La Nina, has not yet started. Conversely, moving against the global trend, regions such as Alaska, the eastern United States, parts of South America, Pakistan and the Sahel desert zone in northern Africa had lower-than-average temperatures in August, said the report.

The planet's changing climate continued to drive disasters this summer. In Sudan, flooding from heavy rains last month affected more than 300,000 people and brought cholera to the war-torn country. Elsewhere, scientists confirmed climate change intensified Typhoon Gaemi, which tore through the Philippines, Taiwan and China in July, killing more than 100 people.

The silver lining is that this dynamic is not irreversible. Solutions do exist and they are being undertaken with tangible results. A series of surveys published since 1 September under the title "Repairing the Earth" have been carried out in Romania, Italy, Benin, the Mediterranean Sea, India and Denmark in fields as diverse as household waste treatment, marine biodiversity and carbon neutrality in urban areas. The positive signs that emanate reflect a common desire to combine a move away from fossil fuels with an end to the over-exploitation of natural environments, without sacrificing the democratic framework in the negotiation of such a complex turn of events.

Governments have targets to reduce their countries' emissions to try to keep the rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius under the 2015 Paris climate agreement. But the United Nations has said the world is not on track to meet the long-term goals of that deal.

Global temperatures in June to August broke through the level of 1.5 C above the pre-industrial average – a key threshold for limiting the worst effects of climate change. Scientists will not consider that threshold to be definitively passed until it has been observed being breached over several decades. The average level of warming is currently about 1.2 C, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). But C3S said the 1.5 C level has been passed during 13 of the past 14 months.

In August, the average global temperature at Earth's surface was 16.82 C, according to the European monitor, which draws on billions of measurements from satellites, ships, aircraft and weather stations. Summer temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere were the highest ever recorded, reinforcing that this year could emerge as Earth's hottest ever, according to the European Union's climate change monitor.

Different world bodies working to contain global warming have been warning governments of developed countries, in particular, not to delay the fight for bringing the temperature within the permissible limit. But, the warnings are not taken with the seriousness they deserve. Now, the disclosure of the figures of the hottest summer is one more graphic way to bring home the alarming truth. However, many important politicians across the globe, like Donald Trump, do not agree with this view that the Earth deserves a soothing touch now. Such people in or out of power in different countries may make or mar the future of humankind.

WISDOM CORNER

There are basically two types of people. People who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded.

MARK TWAIN

If you are the kind of person who is waiting for the 'right' thing to happen, you might wait for a long time. It's like waiting for all the traffic lights to be green for five miles before starting the trip.

ROBERT KIYOSAKI

It is by going down into the abyss that we recover the treasures of life. Where you stumble, there lies your treasure.

JOSEPH CAMPBELL

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1813: U.S. naval forces under the command of Oliver Hazard Perry defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

1846: American inventor Elias Howe was granted a patent for his sewing machine, which revolutionized garment manufacture in the factory and in the home. The United States' Patent Office awarded a patent for the first sewing machine with a lockstitch design to Howe from Spencer, Massachusetts. While he had little success marketing his machine in the US, machines similar to his design became very successful, especially among women. The similarity of the machine sold by Isaac Singer, founder of the Singer Sewing Machine Company to Howe's machine prompted Howe to take Singer to court. He won the case.

1960: Baghdad Conference begins. The 5-day long conference in Iraq's capital city ended with the creation of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), an intergovernmental organization of oil-producing countries. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela were the original members of the group. Today, there are 13 members of the organization. OPEC is responsible for coordinating and unifying oil and gas policies in member states and for creating an efficient and fair system of production, sale, and investment in the petroleum industry.

1977: Last person to be executed in France. Hamida Djandoubi was also the last person to be executed by a guillotine. Djandoubi was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of 21-year old Elisabeth Holsquet.

1988: By winning the U.S. Open, Steffi Graf completed the Grand Slam of tennis; she was the first woman to accomplish the feat since Margaret Court in 1970.

LOL

Hiking trip

Sherlock Holmes and Matthew Watson were on a camping and hiking trip. They had gone to bed and were lying there looking up at the sky. Holmes said, "Watson, look up. What do you see?"



"Well, I see thousands of stars."
"And what does that mean to you?"
"Well, I guess it means we will have another nice day tomorrow. What does it mean to you, Holmes?"
"To me, it means someone has stolen our tent."

SPECTRUM WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

Open heart has no place for anti-life thoughts

It is so intriguing that the emergent world guru, a country that attracts the largest numbers of seekers of peace and spiritual fulfilment should also be witness to the largest number of suicides in the world. According to a National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report released in April, 1.71 lakh people died by suicide in 2022 in India. Admittedly, it is numbers that disturb us, and several with higher suicide rates than India are South Korea, Lithuania (34.9 and 33.1 cases per 100,000 population, respectively, as against 12.4 for India) followed by Hungary, Estonia, United States, Russia, Japan, Australia, et al. However, that does not warrant complacency because the year over year suicide rate is on the rise, particularly among students.

In India although student annual suicides increased by 4%, for the overall population it increased by 2%, as highlighted during the recent Annual IC3 Conference and Expo 2024 in a report, "Student Suicides: An Epidemic Sweeping India." Most of the student suicides are result of inability to cope up with failure in competitive examination especially in National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) and Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), the common dream of most school pass-outs.

Kota in Rajasthan presents a singular example of the drift students are headed to. Not long ago a non-descript city, Kota has emerged as India's gateway to crack coveted medical and engineering examinations with an estimated annual business worth ₹10,000 crore. Flourishing coaching business in the city prompted emergence of several residential schools as well, so the aspirants can join competition coaching directly without change of city. Due to limited seats in NEET and JEE, bulk of the aspirants are left out; it is this lot that turns out to be quite susceptible to anxiety, depression and eventually the heinous step of actual and attempted suicides. A UNICEF report "The State of the World's Children" outlines that in India one in seven in 15-24 age group shows symptoms of depression and disinterest. Sadly, just 41% of respondents felt the need for support services to address mental health issues rendering its management difficult. As of five days ago (5 September), the number of suicides across Rajasthan has touched 18 in 2024 including 16 in Kota and one each in Sikar and Jaipur. If guardians and students explore and understand that there are avenues not less promising than via NEET and JEE, suicides shall be substantially reduced.

Current suicide prevention modalities like formal counselling, removing lethal devices from at risk persons are unable to make desired impact as these hardly address the root of the problem. Poor mental health begins in early upbringing of the child. Rather than aspiring to be a seeker of scholastic, intellectual, spiritual, skills or such pursuits, a child is groomed as a hero to be served by parents, markets, school boards and society at large; all as if tend to pamper him. Initially parents offer him, irrespective of propriety, whatever he demands, and later a critical stage arrives when they are unable to say 'No'. There is market targeting the immature minds looking at its own interests atop. The gap between what is available versus the imagined wants sets in loneliness in the child.

Engagement with social media has become threat to the health of nations. Loneliness, an 'emerging epidemic' as US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has termed it, is natural corollary of this malaise. We direly need a workable de-addiction strategy. He has suggested creation of phone-free zones at homes and in schools. He adds that making social media safer for our children is a daunting challenge. Sharing of intimate concerns,

and ethos & pathos is pre-requisite for healthy growth of individuals. Emphasis on consolidating personal assets & possessions inhibits free interplay of psychological and emotional needs rendering one lonelier by the day, and prone to anti-life thoughts. A generous heart, grateful attitude, spirit of cooperation and philanthropy, all inter-related, strengthen intimate bonds. It is so because harmony, love and kindness are the basic attributes of Nature, and it warrants same from the underlings. Many studies have demonstrated that those maintaining close relationship are less likely to develop stress, anxiety, addiction depression and ultimately break down. They also lead a happier, more peaceful life.

After all, it is perception that decides what next turn one's life course takes. Never forget, your position, whatever it is, is dream of many others. Two persons in apparently odd condition, both from identical socio-economic and demographic context, may react in diametrically opposite ways. To one life becomes a blessing, to another a curse.

The writer is a freelancer & blogger (www.bluntspeaker.com), and writes on health, society, and human-interest issues.



Harish Barthwal

SHARING OF INTIMATE CONCERNS, AND ETHOS AND PATHOS IS PRE-REQUISITE FOR HEALTHY GROWTH OF INDIVIDUALS

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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Advantage Congress

Sir, With wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joining the Congress, the party's fortunes in the upcoming Haryana Assembly elections have brightened. The Congress can present itself as the party for the aspirational and successful youth. Importantly, the party aims to capitalise on the popularity of these two wrestlers, especially Vinesh Phogat, who really caught the nation's attention after she missed her Olympics medal by a whisker. Apart from all these factors, the Congress banks on consolidating the decisive Jat vote bank in the state through these wrestlers as they come from the same community. Lastly, that there is a revolt within the BJP, with senior leaders having resigned over the denial of tickets, stacks are loaded in favour of the Congress to wrest the power back in Haryana.

Ranganathan Sivakumar;
CHENNAI

Acknowledging reality

Sir, After 25 years, the Pakistan Army Chief has recognised India's repeated claim that Pakistani soldiers played an active role in the Kargil war. This statement from Pakistan comes as India marks the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas. Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir's admission on Pakistan's Defence and Martyrs' Day has significant ramifications. Munir, on the other hand, spoke vaguely about the loss of thousands of soldiers in Kargil and in India-Pakistan wars. The current statement by the Pakistani Army Chief can be viewed as the latest chapter in two decades of efforts to acknowledge the reality. However, now that the Pakistani Army has accepted the truth of the Kargil battle at the highest level, the question remains if this would have a good influence on bilateral relations. The basic response is that no such option is visible right now. The problem is that this admission lacks honesty and candour. Although Pakistan has recently made indirect pledges to repair relations, and an invitation has been sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Pakistan in preparation for the SCO conference, no meaningful effort is discernible even today to disassociate itself from terrorist forces.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

NE gateway for wildlife crimes

ANIMAL TRAFFICKING LEADS TO OTHER ILLICIT ACTIVITIES SUCH AS DRUG TRAFFICKING, ARMS DEALING, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AND MONEY LAUNDERING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 9: Northeast India is highly vulnerable to wildlife crimes and serves as a major gateway for trafficking animals and their body parts, Wildlife Crime Control Board (WCCB) deputy director Arvind Kumar Chaurasia said here Monday.

Speaking at the 35th Foundation Day of the biodiversity group 'Aaranyak', Chaurasia emphasised that wildlife crimes should not be viewed in isolation but rather in connection with other illicit activities such as drug trafficking, arms dealing, human trafficking, and money laundering. "Wildlife crimes are a threat to national security as sales and proceeds of wildlife trafficking is often used to fund terror, militancy and other related activities," he said.

He noted that such connections have been observed in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as some northeastern states.

"The Northeast is a mega biodiversity hotspot and with porous land borders with neighbouring countries, the region is both a source and a transit route for illegal wildlife trade," he said.

Wildlife from other parts of the country is often trafficked through the Northeast to neighbouring countries such as China, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, while



“The Northeast is a mega biodiversity hotspot and with porous land borders with neighbouring countries, the region is both a source and a transit route for illegal wildlife trade”

ARVIND KUMAR CHAURASIA | DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WILDLIFE CRIME CONTROL BOARD

exotic animals from these countries are smuggled into various Indian states, Chaurasia said.

Chaurasia explained that the illegal wildlife trade involves a complex supply chain, where the value of wildlife or body parts increases significantly at each stage, with the highest level seeing up to a 600 per cent increase compared to the initial poacher. "The region is very sensitive for both inward and outward supply of wildlife specimens illegally. The entire supply chain is very well-oiled with the ground-level poacher being just one of the many players which include handlers, dealers and retailers," he said.

He stressed the need for collaboration among stakeholders, including law enforcement, in-

telligence agencies, and local communities, to combat wildlife crimes.

He also pointed out the low conviction rate for such crimes in India, ranging from 3 to 5 per cent, and called for empowering investigation officers with scientific tools and artificial intelligence to ensure convictions and deter illegal activities.

Director of Assam State Space Application Centre (ASSAC) PLN Raju pointed out how space technology, geospatial technology and even drone technology can aid conservation of wildlife

and nature effectively and prevent wildlife crime.

Aaranyak founder secretary-general and CEO Bibhab Kumar Talukdar reviewed the organisation's journey in biodiversity and wildlife conservation.

The event concluded with the presentation of Aaranyak's Lifetime Achievement Award to eminent wildlife conservationist Anwaruddin Choudhury, known as the 'Birdman of Assam'. The organisation also outlined a year-long roadmap to celebrate its 35 years of conservation work.



TRADING SCAM

Assam film fraternity under govt scanner

The multi-crore online trading fraud has sent shockwaves across the entertainment industry



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati, Sept 9: Following the alleged involvement of controversial actress and choreographer Sumi Borah in the multi-crore online trading fraud, more people from the Assamese movie industry are set to come under the scanner of the investigating team, an official said Monday.

The Assam government has formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the case while the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Income Tax (IT) Department will look after the overall probe.

Borah, who is on the run, hails from Dibrugarh and started her career as a dancer. She acted in a few Assamese movies and also did choreography.

She was well connected with many people in the Assamese movie industry and the actress allegedly used her connections to get clients for investment in the prime accused Bishal Phukan's company for promised higher returns through online trading.

According to police, Phukan used to throw lavish parties in Guwahati for people from the Assamese movie industry in top hotels in the city.

The invitees were lured through expensive gifts by the fraudster.

Later, Borah convinced artists in the Assamese movie industry to invest in Phukan's company, police said, adding that the scam-

ster got a lot of investment through her network.

Sumi Borah married photographer Tarkik Borah in the previous year at a destination wedding in Rajasthan's Udaipur city. People from the Assamese movie industry were flown to Udaipur and the expenses were taken care of by Bishal Phukan.

He reportedly spent at least Rs 5 crore for Sumi Borah's extravagant wedding.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that actors, actresses and other people from the Assamese movie industry would face action if police found their involvement in the online trading scam.

"Nobody will be spared if found guilty in this trading scam. Actress Sumi Borah will also have to surrender because nobody can hide from police for a long time," he added.

To recall, after the arrest of Bishal Phukan, Sumi Borah immediately came under the scanner of the police.

Police went to her apartment in Pathar Quarry area in Guwahati; however, the actress and her husband were not at home.

Police searched every apartment in the society complex but there was no trace of the duo.

"We found Sumi Borah's luxury car in the basement of the apartment; however, the couple fled before the investigation team reached there," a police official had said.

YUDH ABHYAS 2024

India, US joint military drill in Rajasthan

FOCUS ON COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jaipur, Sept 9: The 20th edition of the 'Yudh Abhyas 2024', the joint military exercise between India and the US, started at Mahajan Fields in Rajasthan's Bikaner Monday and will continue till September 22, said officials here.

"This is the biggest joint military exercise which started between India and America on Monday at Mahajan Firing Range in Bikaner. Also, this is the biggest military exercise ever held at Mahajan Field Firing Range. A total of 1,200 soldiers from India and America are participating. The military exercise started with a parade ceremony at around 10.30 a.m. on Monday. Flags of both the countries were hoisted on the occasion," the officials added.

"This edition marks a significant increase in the scope and complexity of the joint exercise in terms of troop strength and equipment," said Col Amitabh Sharma, PRO Defence, Rajasthan.

The Indian Army contingent, comprising 600 personnel, is represented by a Battalion of the Rajput Regiment and personnel from other arms and services.

The US contingent comprising similar strength will be represented by the troops of 1-24 Battalion of the Alaska-based 11th



Airborne Division of the US Army. "The aim of the Joint Exercise is to enhance the joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter-terrorism operations in a sub-conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. The exercise will focus on operations in the semi-desert environment," Col Amitabh Sharma added.

Tactical drills to be rehearsed during the exercise include joint response to a Terrorist Action, joint planning and combined field training exercises that simulate real-world counter-terrorism missions.

Exercise Yudh Abhyas will enable both sides to share best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for conducting joint operations. It will facilitate the development of inter-operability, bonhomie and camaraderie between the two armies.

ASF outbreak continues unabated in Mizoram

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Aizawl, Sept 9: Over 33,000 pigs were culled as the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) continued in Mizoram for over past seven months, officials said Monday.

Mizoram Animal Husbandry and Veterinary (AHV) Department officials said due to the outbreak of ASF, a large number of farmers across the state incurred huge losses.

AHV Department officials said that though the ratio of pig deaths due to ASF and culling has reduced in the past few weeks, the outbreak of the infectious disease continues unabated in many districts.

As per unofficial estimates, pig farmers and rearers in six of the 11 districts in the mountainous bordering state have suffered huge losses of over Rs 23-25 crore due to the outbreak of this communicable disease since



February this year. The ASF, which, however, does not affect humans, is a highly infectious disease among pigs and poses a severe threat with a very high mortality rate.

Since 2021, the ASF outbreak caused huge losses to the farmers and government farms, the AHV officials said, adding that this year's first ASF case was reported February 9 in Leithum village in Champhai district, which shares unfenced borders with Myanmar.

EXTINCTION FEARS LOOM

20 vultures, including white-rumped, sighted in Aravali

VULTURES CONTRIBUTE TO KEEPING AN ECOLOGICAL BALANCE BY SCAVENGING PESTS LIKE RATS, MICE, AND SNAKES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bharatpur, Sept 9: About 20 vultures have been sighted by the World Wide Fund in Bayana Aravali Pahad, known for its Egyptian and Indian vultures, in a head-count exercise undertaken for the bird which is facing extinction despite being the nature's own clean-up crew.

The Bengalensis vulture, more commonly known as white-rumped vulture, was among the varieties spotted by the project members.

On August 31, the WWF for Nature launched Vulture Count 2024, a nationwide citizen-science initiative designed to monitor and conserve the country's rapidly declining vulture populations. The programme is being led in association with Bird Count India.

The Indian vulture, characterised by its sandy brown body, black wings, and yellowish bill, has be-



come a rare sight due to reduced food availability, loss of nesting sites, and disturbances near cliffs.

According to a local conservationist who has been studying these birds in Bayana Aravali Pahad for the last three years, the region is notable for its Egyptian and Indian vultures, with sightings of Himalayan vul-

tures also reported in winters. Vultures in the area begin their breeding season in October, with pairing activities happen-

“The vulture population is seeing a noticeable decline caused by several factors. Predominantly nesting in high-stress areas, these vultures face threats from agricultural pesticide use, habitat degradation, and other environmental pressures”

HEMENDRA KUMAR | PROJECT OFFICER, WWF-INDIA

ing in November, he said. "Each pair typically produces only one egg during this period," said Hemendra Kumar, Project Officer, WWF-India.

The conservationist said vultures are being sighted here for years, mostly around sunrise

and sunset. Vulture counting takes place during sunrise, as some may travel to nearby areas for feeding, not returning for several days, he said.

"By feeding on carrion, vultures prevent the spread of diseases affecting wildlife, livestock, and humans. Their role in decomposing animal carcasses aids in nutrient cycling and maintaining ecological balance," he said. Kumar said that public health is now being viewed beyond human concerns, since animals and humans often share the same diseases.

"If animals are affected, it will soon impact us, since we are all interconnected. So we must pay attention," he said.

WWF-India has identified 20 locations across the country, including two in the national capital — Ghazipur Landfill and Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary — as key spots for public participation.

FROM DRY TO DRENCHED

Rain surplus Rajasthan

The desert state witnesses 60% excess rainfall, no district records rain deficit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaipur, Sept 9: Rajasthan has received 60 per cent more than the average rainfall this monsoon and none of its districts recorded deficit or scant rain, according to data by the state's water resources department.

So far, 28 out of 50 districts in the state recorded 60 per cent or more rainfall that come under the abnormal category, the data said.

The districts that recorded abnormal rainfall are Ajmer, Alwar, Anupgarh, Beawar, Bikaner, Dausa, Deeg, Dholpur, Deedwana-Kuchaman, Dudu, Ganganagar, Gangapur city, Jaipur, Jaipur Rural, Karauli, Kekri, Khairthal-Tijara, Nagaur, Sawaimadhopur, Tonk, Kotputli-Behror, Balotra, Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur rural, Phalodi, Bundi and Churu.

This is followed by 14 districts recording 20 to 59 per cent rainfall that comes under excess category, while minus 19 to 19 per cent rainfall has been recorded in the remaining eight districts which fall under the normal category.

The districts that received excess rainfall are Baran, Bharatpur, Bhilwara, Hanumangarh, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Kota, Neem ka Thana, Pali, Rajsamand, Sanchore, Shahpura, Sikar and Udaipur. Meanwhile the eight districts with normal rainfall are Banswara, Chittorgarh, Dungarpur, Jalore, Jhalawar, Pratapgarh, Salumbar and Sirohi.

Additionally, out of 691 dams, 335 are completely filled while 247 are partially filled. There are still 109 dams which are empty, as per data.

According to the water re-



sources department, this year the state recorded 621.92 mm of rainfall from June 1 to September 8, which is 61.26 per cent more than its average of 385.66 mm.

During the same period last year, 401.60 mm rain was recorded in Rajasthan.

This year, western Rajasthan witnessed high rainfall against the average of 208.04 mm rain, with Jodhpur division receiving 453.27 mm of rain that is 117.88 per cent above its average. This was followed by Ajmer division recording 85.49 per cent more rainfall and Bikaner division witnessing 77.38 percent high rains.

Jodhpur division comprises Jodhpur, Barmer, Balotra, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur rural and Phalodi districts.

Due to incessant rainfall in the western parts of the state, desert areas have witnessed water logging.

Phalodi district has recorded 526.40 mm of rain which is almost double the average of 179.59 mm. The district has received 193.11 per cent more than the normal rainfall.

Heavy rain battered many places in Rajasthan with Kathumar in Alwar logging the highest rainfall of 11 cm, mete-

orological department said.

According to the Meteorological Centre, Jaipur, heavy rainfall was recorded in Alwar, Baran, Bharatpur, Bundi, Jhalawar, Karauli, Sirohi and Tonk districts, in the last 24 hours that ended at 8.30 am Sunday.

During this period, Deoli in Tonk and Behror logged 9 cm of rain each, followed by 8 cm of rain each in Roopbas of Bharatpur and Mandawar of Alwar, the centre said.

Additionally, 7 cm of rain each was recorded in Kaman of Bharatpur, Mount Abu of Sirohi, Patan of Bundi, Malakheda of Alwar and Baran, while several other places received rain below 7 cm, it said.

Light to moderate rain would continue in the state till September 10, the Met centre said.

The weather office has also predicted heavy rainfall at some places in Jaipur, Kota, Ajmer and Udaipur divisions till September 9.

In western Rajasthan heavy rain is likely to reduce from September 9 and from September 10 in eastern Rajasthan, a weather office spokesperson said.

national

of the day quote

The cabinet reshuffle will take little time and will happen after the midterm performance review is completed

PRAMOD SAWANT | CM, GOA

Ajit Pawar engineered a split in the NCP and within the Pawar family. He even took away his (Sharad Pawar's) party and symbol. He backstabbed his uncle, who used to be a father-like figure for him

SANJAY RAUT | SHIV SENA (UBT) MP

Flood inflows to Budameru have reduced to some extent. By today (Monday) evening, almost all places (Vijayawada) will be free from waterlogging

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | CM, ANDHRA PRADESH

SHORT TAKES

Sri Lanka arrests 14 TN fishermen

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Monday apprised External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar that 14 fishermen have been arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy and sought measures for the immediate release of all fishermen, their boats and urged steps to get waived hefty penalties imposed on them by the island nation. There is an alarming rise in the incidents of apprehension of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan authorities, the Chief Minister said and drew the Centre's attention to the arrest of 14 fishermen from Pudukkottai district on September 7 and seizure of their three mechanised fishing boats.

BJP member shot dead

Patna: A BJP member was allegedly shot dead in Patna's Chowk area Monday morning, police said. The incident happened around 6.15 am outside a restaurant, they said. The deceased was identified as Munna Sharma who was associated with the BJP for years. In a statement, police said the armed men fled the spot after the shooting. Sharma was taken to the nearest government hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries, it said.

500 sniper rifle bullets seized

New Delhi: A routine traffic check in west Delhi's Moti Nagar area has led to the seizure of 500 sniper rifle bullets while being transported on a motorcycle, police said Monday. The traffic police were checking vehicles Saturday night when they signalled a motorcycle rider to stop. Instead, the rider picked up speed and tried to flee, leading to a chase, said a senior police officer privy to the probe into the matter. The police searched the motorcycle and saw a bag in which they found 10 boxes containing 500 live cartridges of 7.62 calibre.

MP Cong to begin Kisan Nyay Yatra

Bhopal: The Madhya Pradesh Congress Monday announced that it would hold a Kisan Nyay Yatra in the state from September 10 and stage demonstrations September 20 to protest against the BJP-led state government for not fulfilling promises it made to farmers. Talking to reporters, state Congress president Jitu Patwari claimed the BJP had failed to deliver on promises about the minimum support price (MSP) for crops.



Denying funds to the best-performing states for refusing to bow to the #NEP, while generously rewarding those who are not delivering on the objectives - Is this how the Union BJP Government plans to promote quality education and equity? I leave it to the wisdom of our nation and our people to decide!

MK STALIN | TAMIL NADU

INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST MEDIA CONCLAVE TO BE HELD IN DELHI

An international Buddhist conclave that aims to foster ethical journalism, promote mindful communication, and establish a network of Buddhist media professionals across Asia, is set to be held September 11, the Ministry of Culture said Monday



HARYANA ASSEMBLY POLLS

AAP unveils first list of candidates

THE AAP HAS FIELDED ITS HARYANA UNIT VICE-PRESIDENT ANURAG DHANDA FROM KALAYAT AND INDU SHARMA FROM BHIWANI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Ending the suspense over an alliance with the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) decided Monday to go solo in the Haryana Assembly polls as it released its first list of 20 candidates.

The decision came amid alliance talks between the AAP and the Congress that dragged on and in view of the nomination window for the polls closing September 12.

The 90-member Haryana Assembly is scheduled to go to polls October 5.

The AAP has fielded candidates from Naraingarh, Assandh, Samalkha, Uchana Kalan, Dabwali, Meham, Rohtak, Bahadurgarh, Badli, Beri, Mahendragarh and Badshahpur. The Congress has already announced its candidates from these seats.

On the issue of an alliance with the Congress, AAP's Haryana president Sushil Gupta said, "I want to say it very clearly that we have been preparing for all the 90 seats since day one. There is not much time left for



the polls, the last date for filing nominations is September 12. So the wait is over."

He asserted that the AAP is in a position to provide a strong alternative in Haryana, adding that the party's second list of candidates will also be released soon.

Another AAP leader, Sanjay Singh, said the party will fight the Haryana polls with full strength.

Earlier in the day, Gupta had said the AAP would release the names of its candidates from all 90 seats if the Congress failed to seal the deal by the evening.

The talks between the two parties were stuck up over the number of seats to be contested by the AAP. According to sources, the Arvind Kejriwal-led party was demanding 10 seats, while the Congress had offered it only five.

According to the list of candidates shared by the AAP, its Haryana unit senior vice-president Anurag Dhanda will contest the election from Kalayat,

The last date for filing nominations for the 90-member Assembly is September 12

considered to be a stronghold of former chief minister and veteran Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and Indu Sharma from Bhiwani. Vikas Nehra has been fielded from Meham, while Bijender Hooda is in the poll fray from Rohtak.

The failures of the AAP and the Congress to agree on a seat-sharing arrangement in Haryana also puts a question mark on the possibility of a tie-up between the two parties in Delhi, which is scheduled to go to polls early next year.

The AAP has fielded Kuldeep Gadrana from Dabwali, a bastion of the Chautala clan. Other party contestants include Kuldeep Chikara from Bahadurgarh, Randir Guliyra from Badli, Sonu Ahlawat Sheria from Beri, Ravinder Faujdar from Ballabhgarh, Dharmender Khatana from Sohna and Bir Singh Sarpanch from Badshahpur.

PM Modi's 'abject failure' in Manipur unforgivable: Cong

The Congress' assertions come amid fresh violence in which at least five people were killed in the state's Jiribam district Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Amid the recent escalation of violence in Manipur, the Congress Monday demanded that Chief Minister N Biren Singh be immediately dismissed and the Union government take full responsibility of the sensitive security situation.

The Opposition party also said the Supreme Court-mandated Manipur Commission of Inquiry must expedite its probe.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "abject failure" in Manipur is "unforgivable".

The Congress' assertions come amid fresh violence in which at least five people were killed in the state's Jiribam district Saturday.

According to police, militants entered the house of a person and shot him dead in his sleep. Following the murder, there was a heavy exchange of fire between members of the warring communities, leading to the deaths of four armed men.

Ethnically diverse Jiribam,



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

which was earlier largely untouched by the ethnic clashes in Imphal Valley and adjoining hills, erupted in violence after a 59-year-old man belonging to one community was killed allegedly by militants of another community in June.

In a post on X, Kharge said, "PM Modi's abject failure in Manipur is unforgivable. Former Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey ji has echoed the voice of the people of Manipur. She said that people of the strife-torn state are upset and sad, for they wanted PM Modi to visit them."

In the past 16 months, Prime Minister Modi has not spent a single second in Manipur, even as violence continues unabated in the state and people suffer the consequences of "Modi-Shah's complicity", the Congress president said.

Kharge said the unified command oversees security operations in Manipur and is currently handled by a team of Union Home Ministry officials, the state security adviser and the Indian Army.

J&K POLLS

Cong releases third list of 19 candidates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The Congress Monday released its third list for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, fielding JKPC working president Raman Bhalla from RS Pura-Jammu South, Chaudhary Lal Singh from Basohli, and former NSUI chief Neeraj Kundan from Bishnah (SC).

With this list, the Congress has declared a total of 34 candidates for the Assembly polls.

The National Conference and the Congress have finalised the seat-sharing formula and will contest 51 and 32 seats, respectively. There will be a friendly contest on a few seats. Besides Bhalla, Singh and Kundan, the Congress fielded Irshad Ab Gani from Langate, Haji Abdul Rashid Dar from Sopore, Adv. Irfan Hafeez Lone from Wagoora-Kreeri, Summit Mangotra from Udhampur West, among the 19 candidates announced Monday.

SNIPPETS

Jailed accused can seek anticipatory bail in another criminal case: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday held that an accused, who is in custody in a case, is entitled to seek anticipatory bail in another matter if not arrested. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra was dealing with a legal question as to whether a jailed accused is entitled to apply for the pre-arrest bail in another criminal case. "An accused is entitled to seek anticipatory bail so long as he is not arrested in relation to that offence and if he is arrested in that case also then only remedy is to apply for regular bail," Justice Pardiwala said while pronouncing the verdict for the bench. The judgement came on a plea filed by one Dhanraj Aswani in 2023 raising the question.

SC rejects PIL seeking direction to halt export of arms to Israel

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday dismissed a PIL seeking a direction to the Centre to stop the export of arms and military equipment to Israel which is fighting a war in Gaza, saying the court cannot enter into the domain of the nation's foreign policy. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said the Indian firms, involved in the export of arms and equipment to Israel, may be sued for breach of contractual obligations and hence they cannot be stopped from supplying. "We cannot enter into the nation's foreign policy domain," the bench said. A PIL was filed by Ashok Kumar Sharma and others through lawyer Prashant Bhusan seeking a direction to the Centre to cancel licences and not to grant new ones to Indian firms exporting arms and other military equipment to Israel.

Bangalore Rameshwaram Cafe blast: NIA files chargesheet against four

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Monday filed a charge sheet against four accused -- Mussavir Hussain Shazib, Abdul Matheen Ahmed Taaha, Maaz Muneer Ahmed and Muzammil Shareef -- were earlier arrested and are currently in judicial custody, the NIA said in a statement. Taaha and Shazib were funded by their handler through crypto currencies, it said. The funds were used by the accused to perpetrate various acts of violence in Bengaluru, NIA investigations have revealed. "These included a failed IED attack at the State BJP Office, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru, on the day of Pran Pratishtha ceremony at Ayodhya January 22, after which the two key accused had planned the Rameshwaram Cafe blast," the statement said. The charge sheet was filed in a special NIA court in Bangalore.

MPOX SCARE

NEW MPOX CASE CONFIRMED; ADMITTED AT DELHI'S LNJP HOSPITAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: A man who recently travelled from a country experiencing mpox transmission has tested positive for the disease, the Union Health Ministry said Monday, stressing that it is an "isolated case" and there is no immediate risk to public.

The 26-year-old patient, a resident of Haryana's Hisar, was admitted at Delhi government-run LNJP Hospital Saturday and his condition is stable, a source at the health facility said.

The Union Health Ministry said that the previously suspected case of mpox has been verified as a travel-related infection. Laboratory testing has confirmed the presence of mpox virus of the West African clade-2 in the patient.

The ministry said that it is an isolated case, similar to the earlier 30 cases reported in India from July 2022 onwards. It is not a part of the current public health emergency reported by WHO which is regarding clade 1 of mpox, it underlined.

"The individual, a young male who recently travelled from a country experiencing ongoing mpox transmission, is currently isolated at a designated tertiary care isolation facility. The patient remains clinically stable and is without any systemic illness or comorbidities," the ministry said.

"There is no indication of any widespread risk to the public at this time," the health ministry stated.

In a post on X, the ministry said the patient is stable and there is no immediate risk to public.

Talking about the patient admitted at the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital, a hospital source said that three Delhi government hospitals -- LNJP, GTB and Baba Saheb Ambedkar



-- have set up isolation rooms for suspected and confirmed cases of the disease.

While LNJP has been designated as the nodal facility, two other hospitals are on standby.

The LNJP Hospital has a total of 20 isolation rooms for the patients, including 10 for confirmed cases.

The Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital and Baba Saheb Ambedkar will have 10 rooms each for such patients, with five rooms each for suspected cases.

The Centre Monday advised states and Union territories to screen and test all suspect mpox

cases in the community, and identify isolation facilities in hospitals for both suspect and confirmed patients.

Chandra underlined that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare continues to closely monitor the evolving situation.

He asked the states and Union Territories to review public health preparedness, particularly at the health facility level, identify isolation facilities in hospitals, and ensure the availability of required logistics and trained human resources at such facilities.

The Union health secretary



Devotees immerse a Lord Ganesha idol after Ganesh Chaturthi festival, at Marina beach in Chennai

Centre advises states to screen, test all suspects

Among modes of transmission reported globally, sexual contact is the most commonly reported, followed by person-to-person non-sexual contact

Among cases where at least one symptom is reported, the most common symptom is rash, followed by fever

also called for the orientation of all key stakeholders with a focus on surveillance units under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) at state and district levels to re-orient them on definitions of suspect, probable, confirmed cases, contact tracing and other surveillance activities.

In the letter, Chandra asked all states to make people aware of the mpox disease, its mode of spread, the need for timely reporting and taking preventive measures, besides reviewing the public health preparedness and isolation facilities for both suspect and confirmed cases.

In the letter, Chandra said the

World Health Organization (WHO) August 14 declared the current outbreak of mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

In its latest situational update, WHO has highlighted that the clinical picture of the cases has largely remained the same, Chandra said listing key characteristics according to which most cases are young males with a median age of 34 years (range 18-44 years).

Among modes of transmission reported globally, sexual contact is the most commonly reported, followed by person-to-person non-sexual contact and among cases where at least one symptom is reported, the most common symptom is rash, followed by fever, Chandra said in the letter.

Around half of the cases with available information on their HIV status are reported to be in persons living with HIV, he said.

He said the disease surveillance network under the IDSP continues to monitor for any clustering of cases.

national

of the day quote

Those who have no say in their own party, who will now pay heed to their words. Anyway, why should one feel bad by things said by someone on his way out

AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

After the encounter in Sultanpur district of UP, BJP and SP are attacking each other on the issue of law and order and are doing unnecessary politics in the name of crime, criminals and caste, whereas in this case both of them are alike

MAYAWATI | BSP CHIEF

I spoke to a senior priest. I told him that the percentage of Catholic community members has come down to 25 per cent while the Islamic community members have gone up to 12 per cent from the earlier three per cent

PS SREEDHARAN PILLAI | GUV, GOA

XPOST OF THE DAY

India @UN & the world who believe in democracy, rule of law and universal declaration of human rights must now take concrete steps to bring peace to #Manipur as well as other conflict zones. People especially #Indigenous Peoples have suffered immensely & violence must stop now

@BINANEPRAM

SHORT TAKES

Regional party MCC merges with CPI(ML)

Dhanbad (Jharkhand): The Marxists Coordination Committee (MCC), a regional Left party, Monday formally merged with the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation during a programme in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district. CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya announced the merger at a public meeting organised at Dhanbad's Golf Ground. Addressing the workers of both organisations, Bhattacharya said that the merger was made to fight against the BJP.

Ambekar statue vandalised

Jaipur: A statue of BR Ambedkar was vandalised in Deeg district of Rajasthan, triggering protests in the area as additional police force was deployed to keep the situation under control, officials said Monday. People took to the streets, demanding that the person behind the act -- who is yet to be unidentified -- be arrested, they said. A police officer said the protests happened Monday morning after locals found out about the Ambedkar statue's vandalism. The protests resulted in damage to a fire brigade vehicle, the officer said.

CAQM gets new chairperson

New Delhi: IAS Rajesh Verma Monday took charge as the new full-time chairperson of the Centre's Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), tasked with preparing strategies for air pollution reduction in Delhi-NCR. Verma, a 1987-batch IAS officer, has been appointed for a period of three years. He succeeds MM Kutty who led the commission for three years.



We have great respect for late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah, who is one of the most senior and respected political leaders of J&K. The Congress and NC are fighting the upcoming elections in alliance against the BJP and will continue to fight for the dignity and rights of the people of J&K

TARIQ HAMEED KARRA | JKPC PRESIDENT

CDS GEN CHAUHAN UNVEILS JOINT DOCTRINE FOR AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan Monday unveiled a joint doctrine for amphibious operations in a key move in the national security domain. The doctrine, released at a meeting of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), came as the government is looking at implementing the ambitious theaterisation project



Wangchuk urges Modi to act on Ladakh's demands

Wangchuk says the creation of five additional districts in Ladakh could be 'indirectly linked' to their protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday to include Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, granting law-making powers to local people to protect their land and cultural identity.

Wangchuk and around 75 volunteers embarked on a foot march September 1 from Leh to New Delhi to request the Centre to resume dialogue with Ladakh's leadership regarding their de-



mands. At a virtual press conference, Wangchuk said he has not received a response to the memorandum of demands submitted to the prime minister during the latter's visit to Dras for the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas in July.

Wangchuk also said the creation of five additional districts in Ladakh could be "indirectly linked" to their protest.

Wangchuk and around 75 volunteers embarked on a foot march September 1 from Leh to New Delhi to request the Centre to resume dialogue with Ladakh's leadership regarding their demands

Constitution, which gives autonomy to the local indigenous people to manage this fragile area," Wangchuk said.

"These are the people who have been stewards of this place for thousands of years. Right now, they are facing all kinds of environmental challenges. Industries and corporations are worsening the cli-

mate impacts," he said.

Wangchuk said through the march, he aimed at drawing the attention of world leaders and the global community to the severe impacts of climate change in the region.

"If the glaciers in the higher Himalayas melt fast, we will suffer first but soon, all of north India, south China and Tibet will face massive floods and droughts. Therefore, this (march) draws urgent attention from people and the government to act in time," he said.

Responding to a question from PTI, Wangchuk said the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) of Leh and Kargil have only been granted authority to spend development funds. "The people of Ladakh want law-making powers too," he added.

Two terrorists killed in gunfight



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajouri/Jammu, Sept 9: Days ahead of the first phase of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, two heavily armed terrorists were killed in a gunfight with the security forces along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district, officials Monday. The gunfight broke out in the Laam area of the Nowshera sector late Sunday night after alert Army troops noticed terrorists trying to sneak into this side from across the border, they said.

Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are scheduled to take place in three phases -- September 18, September 25 and October 1.

"In a joint operation with Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Army successfully foiled an infiltration bid by terrorists in the Nowshera sector. Intelligence inputs received since August 30 indicated the presence of terrorists opposite the Nowshera Sector. All likely infiltration routes were kept under surveillance," Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said.

He said ground-based and aerial surveillance assets were employed to monitor the area.

"Area domination patrols were also conducted with greater frequency, deploying troops at key terrain locations to prevent terrorist infiltration," the defence spokesperson said.

RSS, BJP want women to stay at home: Rahul

Gandhi was addressing the Indian American community in Texas Sunday in Dallas during his first interaction with the Indian diaspora after becoming Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha this summer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 9: Love, respect and humility are missing in Indian politics, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said while addressing the Indian American community in Texas, where he also accused the RSS and the BJP of believing that women should stay at home.

Gandhi was addressing the Indian American community in Texas Sunday in Dallas during his first interaction with the Indian diaspora after becoming Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha this summer.

During an interaction at another event, Gandhi said that the attitude of Indian men towards women needs to change. The 54-year-old said he is a supporter of women's participation in politics starting with the women's reservation bill. Gandhi said women should be supported financially if they want to start a business and they should be treated equally to men.

"The BJP and the RSS believe that women should be restricted to a particular role. They should stay at home, they should cook the food, they should not talk too much and we believe that women should aspire to whatever they want to do," the Congress leader said.

"The RSS believes that India is one idea. We believe that India is a multiplicity of ideas," he



Respect to everybody who is trying to build an India, not just the most powerful, but the weakest and humility, not in others, but in oneself. I think that is how I see my own

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

said during his address to the Indian American community.

"Very much like the United States, we believe everybody should be allowed to participate. We believe that everybody should be allowed to dream, (and) everybody should be given space, regardless of their caste, language, religion, tradition, history," he said.

"This is the fight. The fight crystallised in the election when millions of people in India clearly understood that the Prime Minister of India was attacking the Constitution of India. Because what I am saying to you is the union of states, respect to languages, respect to religions, respect to traditions, respect to caste. This is all in the Constitution," Gandhi added.

Gandhi said his role was to inject values of love, respect and humility into Indian politics.

"I think what is missing in our political systems and across parties is love, respect and humility. Love to all human beings, not necessarily only people of one religion, one community, one caste, one State, or to those who speak one language," he said.

"Respect to everybody who is trying to build an India, not just the most powerful, but the weakest and humility, not in others, but in oneself. I think that is how I see my own," he added.

Making an indirect reference to the Lok Sabha results in which the BJP failed to get a majority on its own, Gandhi said, "The people were saying the BJP is attacking our tradition, attacking our language, etc. What they understood was that anybody who is attacking the Constitution of India is also attacking our religious tradition."

Asserting that the US needs India and vice versa, Gandhi said the Indian diaspora is a "bridge" between the two nations.

Kalindi Express hits LPG cylinder placed on track

Six detained as multiple agencies probe suspected sabotage bid

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 9: A major train accident was averted by an alert loco pilot as the Bhiwani-Prayagraj Kalindi Express was brought to a screeching halt after hitting an LPG cylinder placed on tracks in Kanpur, police said Monday, adding a bottle of petrol and matchboxes were also found at the site hinting at a sabotage bid.

The incident occurred around 8.20 pm Sunday when the Bhiwani-bound train was running at a high speed. An FIR has been registered and teams have been formed by multiple agencies including Uttar Pradesh's Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the NIA to probe the matter, officials said. Kanpur police detained six persons, including two local history sheeters, in connection with the case and decided to form a Special Investigation Team, they said, adding it will also study if there are any similarities with the recent Sabarmati Express derailment in Kanpur.

"An attempt was made to derail the Kalindi Express by placing the LPG cylinder on the tracks," the police said.

Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Harish Chander said 4.5 grams of explosive powder apart from a bottle filled with petrol and a wick,

matchboxes and an LPG cylinder which was placed on the tracks to derail the train have been recovered.

He said the loco pilot saw that the LPG cylinder was placed on the tracks and applied emergency brakes.

However, before it came to a halt, the train hit the cylinder, knocking it off the tracks, Chander said, adding the loco pilot informed the guard and the gateman about it.

The train remained at the incident site for about 20 minutes and was again stopped at the Bilhaur station for a check, the Additional CP said.

The Railways lodged an FIR at Shivrajpur against unidentified persons, saying that placing of an LPG cylinder on the tracks along with a bottle filled with petrol with a wick suggests a possible sabotage bid.

A senior officer said the FIR has been lodged against "unidentified" accused under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections 287 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others), and under provisions of the Explosives Act, 1884, and Railways Act. Top officials formed five teams to investigate the matter.

"As many as six persons, including two local history-sheeters, were detained Monday for questioning in connection with incident," Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Rajesh Kumar Singh.



Pixxel bags NASA contract to support earth science research

Under this contract, these companies will provide the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) with Earth-observation data from commercial sources to support the US agency's research-and-application activities that help improve life on the planet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: NASA has selected Indian private spacecraft company Pixxel for a new contract to provide Earth-observation data and services.

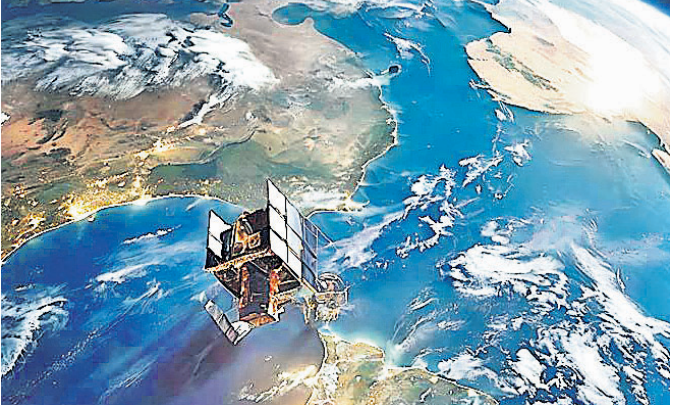
Pixxel, which specialises in hyperspectral imaging and Earth observation, is one of the eight companies selected for NASA's USD 476 million "Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition Programme On-Ramp Multiple Award" contract.

Under this contract, these companies will provide the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) with

Earth-observation data from commercial sources to support the US agency's research-and-application activities that help improve life on the planet.

"The goal of the awards is to give NASA a cost-effective way to augment or complement the Earth observations acquired by the agency and other US government and international agencies for the benefit of all," NASA said in a statement.

Pixxel's technology captures data across hundreds of narrow wavelengths and provides granular insights on issues like climate change, agriculture, biodiversity and resource



management, the company said in a statement.

Awais Ahmed, co-founder and CEO of Pixxel, said, "Being selected for this NASA contract is a monumental achievement for Pixxel and further validates that hyperspectral imaging will be integral to the future of space-based Earth observation and enable us to truly build a health

monitor for the planet."

"We are deeply honoured to support NASA's Earth-observation initiatives and demonstrate the transformative potential of Pixxel's hyperspectral technology in addressing critical environmental challenges," he said.

Hyperspectral imaging captures data from more than 250 spectral bands, offering a more comprehensive coverage with a 40-km swath width and a 24-hour revisit frequency anywhere on the planet

Pixxel announced plans to launch its Fireflies satellites, which will offer the highest-resolution hyperspectral imaging ever with a five-metre resolution

These satellites will capture data from more than 250 spectral bands, offering a more comprehensive coverage with a 40-km swath width and a 24-hour revisit frequency anywhere on the planet

what the human eye (which detects only three colours -- red, green and blue) can see. By capturing hundreds of narrow bands of light, it helps identify and analyse materials, chemicals or objects in great detail. Pixxel also announced plans to launch its Fireflies satellites, which will offer the highest-resolution hyperspectral imaging ever with a five-metre resolution.

These satellites will capture data from more than 250 spectral bands, offering a more comprehensive coverage with a 40-km swath width and a 24-hour revisit frequency anywhere on the planet. Pixxel's chief commercial officer Aakash Parekh said, "This contract represents a major step forward in leveraging commercial hyperspectral data to bolster Earth-science research and environmental monitoring. We are proud to foster further collaboration on hyperspectral data applications within the scientific community and we look forward to working with NASA to further its mission with this cutting-edge earth-monitoring modality."

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Pixxel plans to expand its constellation to 24 satellites, making hyperspectral data more widely available to industries and governments.

This will provide real-time actionable insights to inform decision making, improve natural resource management and enhance environmental resilience, the company said.

international



Ending that war (Israel-Hamas) and averting a full-blown regional conflict is an absolute and urgent priority
VOLKER TURK | HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, UN

KATE TO RETURN TO DUTIES

Kate, the princess of Wales, says she has completed chemotherapy and will return to some public duties in the coming months. The 42-year-old wife of Prince William is expected to undertake a light programme of engagements until the end of the year



of the day quote

It's about increasing the production of weapons for Russia's aggression in Ukraine, it's also strengthening Russia by making it possible for them to keep their stocks like they are

CARSTEN BREUER | CHIEF OF DEFENCE GENERAL, GERMANY

China is willing to work with Norway to promote friendly cooperation including on green energy

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

Europe is wasting its common resources. We have large collective spending power, but we dilute it across multiple different national and EU instruments

MARIO DRAGHI | CHIEF, EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

SHORT TAKES

Poland neutralises sabotage group

Warsaw: Polish security services have neutralised a sabotage operation orchestrated by Russia and Belarus that aimed to destabilise Poland, Deputy Prime Minister Krzysztof Gawkowski said Monday. Warsaw has repeatedly accused Moscow of attempting to destabilise Poland because of its role in supplying military aid to its neighbour Ukraine, allegations Russia has dismissed. Saboteurs, operating from Belarus in cooperation with Russia, penetrated local and central government institutions, including state-owned companies implementing military contracts, he said. "The Belarusian and Russian foreign services... had a specific goal - to extort information, to blackmail individuals and institutions and to wage a de facto cyberwar," said Gawkowski, who is also minister for digital affairs.

RSF paramilitaries kill 31 in Sudan

Dubai: At least 31 people have been killed and 100 wounded since the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces renewed an assault on the city of Sennar in southeastern Sudan Sunday, a legal activist group said. Several parts of the city including the main market have been targeted by RSF artillery fire, said Emergency Lawyers, which has monitored civilian deaths and other humanitarian violations. The progress of the RSF, which already controls most of Sennar and at least half of the country, has slowed in the southeast as heavy rains have made movement difficult. Its war with Sudan's army has created the world's largest hunger and internal displacement crises, killing tens of thousands of civilians and destroying most of Sudan's infrastructure and economy.

China, Russia to hold naval, air drills

Beijing: China's Defence Ministry Monday announced joint naval and air drills with Russia starting this month, underscoring the closeness between their militaries as Russia presses its grinding invasion of Ukraine. The ministry said the "Northern United-2024" exercises would take place in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk farther north, but gave no details. It said the naval and air drills aimed to improve strategic cooperation between the two countries and "strengthen their ability to jointly deal with security threats." The notice also said the two navies would cruise together in the Pacific, the fifth time they have done so, and together take part in Russia's "Great Ocean-24" exercise.

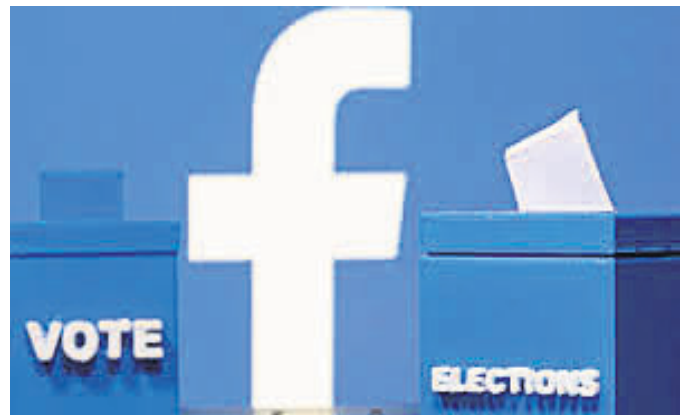
Russia 'influencing' US polls

Moscow firms are actively monitoring a total of 2,800 influencers, 600 of whom are based in the US, including radio hosts, bloggers and comedians

REUTERS

Washington, Sept 9: Russia is increasingly turning to American social media stars to covertly influence voters ahead of the 2024 presidential election, according to US officials and recently unveiled criminal charges. "What we see them doing is relying on witting and unwitting Americans to seed, promote and add credibility to narratives that serve these foreign actors' interest," a senior intelligence official said in a briefing Friday. "These foreign countries typically calculate that Americans are more likely to believe other Americans' views."

The approach is widely viewed by American security agencies as one of Russia's preferred tactics this cycle in order to make their foreign psychological operations appear more authentic. Broadly, these missions typically seek to anger Americans, highlight societal divisions and emphasize partisan talking points while questioning the US government's effectiveness and role in global security, experts say. "We're focusing on these tactics because the American public should know that content that they read online, especially on social media, could be foreign propaganda, even if it appears to be coming from fellow Americans," another senior US intelligence official said in a July briefing with reporters on election security. "In short, foreign influence



actors are getting better at hiding their hand and using Americans to do it."

TENET On Wednesday, the Justice Department revealed criminal charges against two former employees of Russian media outlet Russia Today, or RT, who they say were covertly funding an American political media company.

The indictment outlines an alleged scheme where the Russians sent about \$10 million to two media business owners, Lauren Chen and Liam Donovan, who then paid American conservative influencers to create videos and social media posts. Some of the commentators had at different times shared anti-Ukraine content, which aligned with the effort's priorities.

While the indictment does not name the accused media outlet, Reuters found it is a Tennessee-based firm named Tenet Media,

which publicly describes itself as the home for "fearless voices." Tenet did not respond to repeated requests for comment. Historically, it has employed several prominent social media figures, including podcaster Tim Pool and former journalist Benny Johnson, among others.

The indictment notes that Chen and Donovan knew they were accepting money from the Russian operatives, but that the commentators they paid appeared unaware of the arrangement.

Tenet manages a YouTube channel and various other social media profiles, where it publishes videos and audio recordings from its contributors. According to court documents, Tenet's founders directed one unnamed commentator to make false claims online to their viewers that it was Ukraine and not ISIS who was responsible for a deadly terrorist attack in Moscow

Paying journalists or front media outlets was a very established process for laundering propaganda during the Cold War for example, this is sort of a digital update to that. They using influencers rather than journalists is interesting - a recognition of where the influential voices in the community are

RENEE DIRESTA | DIGITAL DISINFORMATION ANALYST

in April.

Pool and Johnson released statements late Wednesday acknowledging the indictment against Tenet. Pool said "never at any point did anyone other than I have full editorial control of the show" and that "I as well as the other personalities and commentators were deceived and are victims." Johnson similarly wrote in a statement that he was "disturbed by the allegations in today's indictment, which make clear that myself and other influencers were victims in this alleged scheme."

Experts say the scheme fits a historical trend.

DOPPELGANGER

In a related but separate filing made Wednesday, the Justice Department also exposed a different Russian operation, known as Doppelganger, that impersonated actual Western news outlets and shared false information about US political candidates and the war in Ukraine.

LARGEST DEATH TOLL

Israeli airstrikes on Syria kill at least 18

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Masyaf, Sept 9: The number of people killed in overnight Israeli strikes in Syria has risen to 18 with dozens more wounded, Syria's health minister said Monday - the largest death toll in such an attack since the beginning of the war in Gaza.

One of the sites targeted was a research centre used in the development of weapons, a war monitor said. Syrian officials said civilian sites were targeted.

Israel regularly targets military sites in Syria linked to Iran and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. Those strikes have become more frequent as Hezbollah has exchanged fire with Israeli forces for the past 11 months against the backdrop of Israel's war against Hamas - a Hezbollah ally - in Gaza.

However, the intensity and death toll of Sunday night's strikes were unusual.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets inside government-controlled parts of war-torn Syria in recent years, but it rarely acknowledges or discusses the operations. The strikes often target Syrian forces or Iranian-backed groups.

Israel has vowed to stop Iranian entrenchment in Syria, particularly since Syria is a key route for Iran to send weapons to Hezbollah.

Speaking to reporters, Syrian Health Minister Hassan al-Ghabash described the strikes as a "brutal and barbaric aggression". He said the death toll had risen to 18 with nearly 40 wounded.

Germany shuts land borders to stem irregular migration, extremism risks



security and continuing our hard line against irregular migration," Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said.

Germany has hardened its stance on migration in recent years, as the government scrambles to retake the initiative after support for the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) has surged over the issue.

Recent deadly knife attacks in which the suspects were asylum seekers have stoked concerns over immigration. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for a knife attack in the western city of Solingen that killed three people in August.

The AfD earlier this month became the first far-right party since World War Two to win a state election, in Thuringia.

The announcement comes just two weeks ahead of an election in Brandenburg where Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Faeser's centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) are fighting to retain control of the government.

Germany shares its more than 3,700-km-long (2,300 miles) land border with Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland.

The imposition of temporary border controls could be another test of European unity

REUTERS

Berlin, Sept 9: Germany's government announced temporary border controls at all of the country's land borders Monday in what it called an attempt to tackle irregular migration and protect the public from threats such as Islamist extremism.

The controls will start September 16 and initially last for six months, the interior ministry said in a statement.

"We are strengthening internal

FLOODS, LANDSLIDES

Typhoon Yagi hammers Vietnam

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST TYPHOON IN DECADES HAS KILLED 59 PEOPLE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hanoi, Sept 9: A bridge collapsed and a bus was swept away by flooding Monday as more rain fell following a typhoon in Vietnam that has caused at least 59 deaths in the Southeast Asian country and disrupted businesses and factories in the export-focused northern industrial hubs, state media reported.

Nine people died when Typhoon Yagi made landfall in Vietnam Saturday before weakening to a tropical depression, and at least 50 others have died in the consequent floods and landslides, state media VN Express reported. The water levels of several rivers in northern Vietnam were dangerously high.

A passenger bus carrying 20 people was swept into a flooded stream by a landslide in mountainous Cao Bang province Monday morning. Rescuers were deployed but landslides blocked their path.

In Phu Tho province, rescue operations were continuing after a steel bridge over the engorged Red River collapsed Monday morning. Reports said 10 cars and



trucks along with two motorbikes fell into the river. Three people were pulled out of the river and taken to the hospital, but 13 others were missing.

Pham Truong Son, 50, told VNEExpress that he was driving on the bridge on his motorcycle when he heard a loud noise. Before he knew what was happening, he was falling into the river. "I felt like I was drowned to the bottom of the river," Son told the newspaper, adding that

he managed to swim and hold on to a drifting banana tree to stay afloat before he was rescued.

Dozens of businesses in Haiphong province hadn't resumed production by Monday because of the extensive damage to their factories, reported state media Lao Dong newspaper. The report said that the roofs of several factories were blown apart while water had seeped into industrial units, damaging finished goods and expensive equip-

LOST GENERATION

GAZA SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS WITH ALL CLASSES SHUT

REUTERS

Cairo, Sept 9: The new school year in the Palestinian territories officially began Monday, with all schools in Gaza shut after 11 months of war and no sign of a ceasefire.

In its ongoing assault on the Palestinian territory, Israel announced new orders to residents of the north Gaza Strip to leave their homes, in response to rockets fired into Israel.

Umm Zaki's son Moataz, 15, was supposed to begin tenth grade. Instead he woke up in their tent in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza and was sent to fetch a container of water from more than a kilometre away.

"Usually, such a day would be a day of celebration, seeing the children in the new uniform, going to school, and dreaming of becoming doctors and engineers. Today all we hope is that the

war ends before we lose any of them," the mother of five told Reuters by text message.

The Palestinian Education Ministry said all Gaza schools were shut and 90% of them had been destroyed or damaged in Israel's assault on the territory, launched after Hamas gunmen attacked Israeli towns in October last year.

The UN Palestinian aid agency UNRWA, which runs around half of Gaza's schools, has turned as many of them as it can into emergency shelters housing thousands of displaced families.

In addition to the 6,25,000 Gazans already registered for



Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3mn people have been forced from their homes at least once, and some have had to flee as many as 10 times

school who would be missing classes, another 58,000 six-year-olds should have registered to start first grade this year, the education ministry said.

Last month, UNRWA launched a back-to-learning programme in 45 of its shelters, with teachers setting up games, drama, arts, music and sports activi-

The longer the children stay out of school the more difficult it is for them to catch up on their lost learning and the more prone they are to becoming a lost generation, falling prey to exploitation including child marriage, child labour, and recruitment into armed groups

JULIETTE TOUMA | DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, UNRWA

ties to help with children's mental health.

"THE SPECIFIED AREA HAS BEEN WARNED"

Nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been forced from their homes at least once, and some have had to flee as many as 10 times.

In the latest evacuation order, Israel told residents of an area

in the northern Gaza Strip they must leave their homes, following the firing of rockets into southern Israel the previous day.

"To all those in the specified area. Terrorist organisations are once again firing rockets at the State of Israel and carrying out terrorist acts from this area. The specified area has been warned many times in the past. The specified area is considered a dangerous combat zone," an Israeli military spokesperson said in Arabic on X.

The United Nations urged Palestinians in the northern Gaza Strip to attend medical facilities to get children under the age of 10 years old vaccinated against polio. Limited pauses in fighting have been held to allow the vaccination campaign, which aims to reach 6,40,000 children in Gaza after the territory's first polio case in around 25 years.

business

of the day quote

Many of our component manufacturers still import, I do not know whether (due to) any compulsion or voluntarily, their needs of inputs from Korea, Japan, Taiwan and one of the neighbours. I do not understand why even two or three levels down, we cannot plan to become indigenous suppliers and manufacturers so that we can then start supplying those components to other countries

PYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

We have five and a half lakh active distributors on our base right now. We have more than 2 million customers. Our goal is that 2 million moves up to 5 million over the course of the next five years

RAJNEESH CHOPRA | AMWAY INDIA MANAGING DIRECTOR

The small home appliance market in India is enormous, with room for everyone. Consumers have gradually shifted towards high-quality products that come with reliable after-sales services and warranties

HS BHATIA | MANAGING DIRECTOR OF DAEWOOD INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Union Bank signs PCAF

New Delhi: Union Bank of India Monday announced its decision to become a signatory to the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF). This step aligns with the growing global emphasis on climate risk management and the recent draft guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on climate risk disclosures. PCAF is a global partnership of financial institutions working to develop and implement a harmonized approach to assess and disclose greenhouse gas emissions associated with loans and investments, Union Bank said in a statement. By joining PCAF, Union Bank of India demonstrates its commitment to measuring and managing its financed emissions, a crucial aspect of climate risk management for banks, it said.

BoB raises ₹5K-cr from bond issue

Mumbai: State-owned Bank of Baroda Monday announced that it has raised ₹5,000 crore through a 10-year infrastructure bond issuance subscribed by domestic investors. This is the second issuance from the lender in a fortnight after the ₹5,000 crore sale August 26 and comes amid a raft of such issuances. Banks have become more aggressive at tapping into such avenues given the slower deposit growth in the system. The bank was able to squeeze the pricing of the newest offering to 7.26 per cent, 0.04 per cent lower than its last one, officials said, adding this is the tightest pricing for an issuance in recent times.

Adani Green redeems bonds

New Delhi: Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), the renewable energy arm of the ports-to-power conglomerate run by billionaire Gautam Adani, Monday said it has redeemed USD 750 million worth of bonds as it deleverages business. In a statement, the firm said it has completed "redemption of all outstanding USD 750 million 4.375 per cent Holdco Notes due on September 8, 2024." The move is in step with its January announcement of a plan to redeem the USD 750 million worth of notes, eight months ahead of the redemption date.



As India's love for SUVs grows, our SUV penetration continues to grow

UNSOO KIM | HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA MD

NEW BIZ PREMIUM OF LIFE INSURERS GROWS 22%

Life insurers have recorded a 22 per cent rise in underwriting new business with a premium collection of ₹32,644 crore in August. The new business premium collection for the first five months of FY25 rose 21 per cent to ₹1,54,194 crore from ₹1,27,661 crore in the same period last year, as per the monthly data released by the industry body Life Insurance Council.



India plans to use LNG for third of truck fleet

SWITCHING TRUCKS TO LNG WOULD CURTAIL INDIA'S DIESEL CONSUMPTION, FREEING UP PRODUCTS FOR GLOBAL MARKETS



REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 9: India plans to have a third of its heavy duty long-haul trucking fleet fuelled by liquefied natural gas (LNG) instead of diesel in five to seven years to cut pollution, according to a draft policy from the federal oil ministry.

India, one of the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases, has set a 2070 net zero goal and wants to raise the share of natural gas in its energy mix to 15% by 2030 from about 6% now.

India is slow to adopt LNG-fuelled trucks compared to China, where use of electric vehicles and LNG-powered trucks is weighing on its oil demand.

Diesel consumption accounts for the bulk of refined fuel use in India, the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer. Switching trucks to LNG would curtail India's diesel consumption, freeing up products for global markets.

While some cars and buses in India already use compressed natural gas, the government

says LNG, which gives better range, would be a better option for long-haul trucks.

Indian oil and gas retailers are setting up 49 LNG dispensing stations in the initial phase and the government plans to work towards a consistent LNG price across the country, according to the draft policy, which was published last week.

At present, due to state tax variations, the cost of LNG is not uniform in India.

Diesel consumption accounts for the bulk of refined fuel use in India, the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer

The government plans to allocate 0.5 million cubic metres of gas per day of local gas to meet the needs of about 50,000 trucks for two-to-three years, the draft said. Heavy duty vehicles account for a majority of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions by India's transport sector.

The country had 5.8 million trucks and lorries and 1.6 million multi axle articulated vehicles registered as of March 31, 2020, the draft said.

"In order to reduce vehicular pollution in the transport sector, there is a need to promote LNG in heavy duty vehicles.... LNG has 24 per cent lower emission factor than diesel," it said.

Sensex rebounds 376 points on gains in FMCG, banking



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 9: Benchmark Sensex bounced back from early lows to close higher by nearly 376 points Monday, snapping its four-day losing run following a rally in blue-chips ICICI Bank, HUL and HDFC Bank.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rebounded 375.61 points or 0.46 per cent to settle at 81,559.54. The index opened lower and hit a low of 80,895.05 points in early trade due to weak global trends. Later, it recovered from lows and jumped 469.43 points or 0.57 per cent to hit the day's high of 81,653.36 as European markets opened with gains.

The NSE Nifty went up by 84.25 points or 0.34 per cent to finish at 24,936.40 after three days of fall.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Hindustan Unilever, ICICI Bank, ITC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, UltraTech Cement and HDFC Bank were the biggest gainers.

Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, NTPC, Tata Motors, Power Grid and Titan were among the biggest laggards.

"Despite a negative opening

amidst weak global cues, the domestic market exhibited some recovery from last week's steep fall. The market is currently attempting to gain stability between potential rate cuts and recession fears in the US," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

"Nifty snapped a three-day losing streak Monday and ended in the positive. Global stocks staged a partial recovery Monday after a selloff triggered by cooling US jobs data Friday. Asian stock markets on Monday dived early as selling pressure mounted after concerns over lower-than-expected US payroll growth were compounded by a slowdown in China and Germany," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.65 per cent and midcap index dipped 0.28 per cent.

Among the indices, FMCG surged 1.65 per cent, bankex jumped 1.15 per cent, consumer durables (0.73 per cent), financial services (0.64 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.04 per cent).

BIZ-BUZZ

SBI organises Property Expo

Bhubaneswar: SBI being the market leader in home loans, organised Property EXPO 2024 at the Main branch, Unit-1, Bhubaneswar, September 8, where 30 reputed builders showcased their new as well as upcoming housing projects. The Expo was aimed at fulfilling the aspirations of individuals to select and own their dream homes from around 166 existing SBI approved projects arranged under one roof. The Expo was ceremoniously inaugurated by Dinesh Pruthi, CGM, SBI, Local Head Office, Bhubaneswar along with Ponnambalam M, GM, NW1, in presence of esteemed builders.



BoI Sailashree Vihar branch's new premises inaugurated

Bhubaneswar: On the occasion of 119th Foundation Day of Bank of India and auspicious Ganesh Chaturthi September 7, the new premises of Sailashree Vihar branch of Bhubaneswar Zone was inaugurated by Vikash Krishna, General Manager, FGM O Bhubaneswar. Zonal Manager Bhubaneswar Zone Bijoy Kumar Malik, Dy Zonal Manager Ashok Kumar Jena & AGM FGM O Bhubaneswar Nabdwp Mohanty were present on this occasion. Many customers and retired staff of the bank were also present. The new premises was prepared under the direct supervision of senior branch manager of Bank of India, Sailashree Vihar branch Monalisha Madhumita. Bank of India is a leading public sector bank in India with more than 5150 branches.



UAE's Adnoc to supply LNG to IOC for 15 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc) will supply one million tonne per annum of liquefied natural gas to Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) - the third LNG supply deal signed with the UAE firm, the company said Monday.

Adnoc will supply 1 million tonne of LNG from its Ruwais NG project for 15 years, the Abu Dhabi media office said. This is the third LNG supply deal between Adnoc and Indian state-owned firms in just over a year. In July last year, Adnoc Gas signed an agreement with IOC for export of up to 1.2 million tonne per annum of LNG "valued in the range of USD 7 billion to USD 9 billion over its 14-year term."

Separately, state-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd signed a deal with Adnoc Gas to buy 0.5 million tonne of LNG annually for 10 years starting 2026.

The latest LNG supply deal was signed during the visit of Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India.

Long-term LNG contracts play an important role in balancing out inherent volatility of spot LNG market and thus make it an affordable and reliable LNG supply.

Govt notifies deal threshold value under competition law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The government Monday notified the provisions related to the deal value threshold under the competition law, wherein companies will be compulsorily required to seek the Competition Commission's approval for mergers and acquisitions beyond a certain limit.

Besides, the clearance of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) will be needed if the target company has substantial business operations in India, according to notifications issued by the Corporate Affairs Ministry.

The latest move will help the fair trade regulator to keep a closer tab on mergers and acquisitions in the digital space.

Vaibhav Choukse, Partner - Competition Law at JSA - said among several provisions that have been notified, one of the most significant is the introduction of an additional deal value criterion for assessing whether an M&A deal requires mandatory approval from CCI.

"Under the criterion, a transaction will require approval of the CCI if the deal value exceeds Rs 2,000 crore and if the target has substantial business operations in India. The decision stems from CCI's inability to review several transactions within the digital and other sectors, which



were not subject to reporting requirements due to asset or turnover values falling below the jurisdictional thresholds/target exemption," Choukse added.

Nisha Kaur Uberoi, Partner & Chair of Competition Law, at law firm JSA, said the amendments herald the single largest overhaul of the Indian merger control regime.

"The introduction of the deal value threshold of ₹2,000 crore for companies with substantial business operations in India brings the CCI on par with global regulators like the US, Germany, and Austria," Uberoi said.

CCI, which comes under the Corporate Affairs Ministry, has the mandate to ensure fair business practices in the marketplace.

According to her, the enabling regulations and the need for CCI to enhance capacity to keep up their efficient track record of clearing M&A deals will be key to ensuring ease of doing business remains unimpacted.

Musk may be world's first trillionaire by 2027, Adani in 2028: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Elon Musk, the charismatic CEO of electric car maker Tesla and rocket manufacturer SpaceX, may become the world's first trillionaire by 2027, while Indian tycoon Gautam Adani may attain that status in the following year, and Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani may do so in 2033, according to an Informa Connect Academy report.

For Musk, the richest in the world with USD 237 billion net worth, to become the world's first trillionaire needs to grow at an average annual growth rate of 110 per cent, the report said. Adani, who is ranked 13th on

the world billionaire index with a wealth of just under USD 100 billion, maybe the second trillionaire (net worth equal to at least one trillion US dollars) if his ports-to-power conglomerate was to continue growing at the current 123 per cent average annual rate, it added.

Rival Ambani, now ranked Asia's richest with a network of USD 111 billion, may achieve the same status in 2033, according to the report.

His oil-to-telecom-and-retail conglomerate is slated to hit trillion-dollar market cap status in 2035. Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd is the only Indian company projected to hit that mark. The companies that will hit



the trillion-dollar market cap mark include Taiwan's semiconductor maker TSMC, which has a market cap of USD 893.7 billion now and is expected to achieve that status in 2025.

It will be closely followed by Berkshire Hathaway, pharmaceutical Eli Lilly, technology company Broadcom and electric automobile firm Tesla.

The report said, "No one in the world has claimed trillionaire status - at least not yet. However, there are some likely candidates. The following are multi-billionaires who will probably become trillionaires sooner or later."

After Elon Musk and Gautam Adani, NVIDIA founder Jensen

GST Council decision on insurance premium taxation in November

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: The GST Council will take a call on reducing tax rate on premiums of health and life insurance policies at its next meeting in November, an issue which was raised by Opposition parties in the last Parliament session.

Briefing reporters on decisions taken in the 54th meeting of the GST Council held Monday Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said a Group of Ministers will be constituted to look into the GST on premiums of life and health insurance policies.

While there appears to be a wide consensus among the states on reducing 18 per cent tax levied on health and life insurance policies, the Group of Ministers to be headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has been asked to submit its report by the end of next month on issues such as levy of GST on policies bought by resident welfare associations.



The all-powerful GST Council will take a decision on the issue post-submission of the GoM report, Sitharaman said.

The minister said a separate GoM will look into treatment of collections from a cess levied on luxury and sin goods post its sunset date of March 31, 2026.

She said the Council in its meeting decided to cut GST on certain cancer drugs, helicopter rides for pilgrimage to Kedarnath and namkeens.

The Council decided to bring down GST to 5 per cent on the transport of passengers by helicopters on seat share basis and to regularize the GST for past period on 'as is where is' basis.

It also clarified that the charter of helicopters will continue to attract 18 per cent GST.

The GST rate on cancer drugs will be reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent while on some namkeens to 12 per cent from 18 per cent.

During the meeting, the Council decided to cut the tax rate on cancer drugs to 5 per cent from 12 per cent and namkeen from 18 per cent to 12 per cent.

The Council also deliberated on the GoM's status report on rate rationalisation and online gaming. From October 1, 2023, entry-level bets placed on online gaming platforms and casinos were subject to 28 per cent GST. Prior to that, many online gaming companies were not paying 28 per cent GST arguing that there were differential tax rates for games of skill and games of chance.

The GST Council in its meeting in August 2023 had clarified that online gaming platforms were required to pay 28 per cent tax and subsequently Central GST law was amended to make the taxation provision clear. Offshore gaming platforms were also mandated to register with GST authorities and pay taxes, failing which the government would block those sites.

Huang, Indonesian mogul Prajogo Pangestu, French businessman Bernard Arnault, and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg come next as prospective trillionaires.

Currently, there are only a handful of companies that have crossed the USD 1 trillion in valuation. This includes Microsoft, Nvidia, Apple, Alphabet, Amazon, Saudi Aramco, and Meta. The most recent case is that of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway in late August.

Nvidia also joined the USD 1 trillion club in May 2023 and reached USD 3 trillion in June, becoming the second most valuable company in the world, with Microsoft ahead and Apple behind.

SINNER IN HISTORY BOOKS

The world no. 1 becomes first Italian man to win US Open

REUTERS

New York, Sept 9: Jannik Sinner produced a brutal display of baseline power as he became the first Italian man to win the US Open with a 6-3 6-4 7-5 win over American Taylor Fritz in the final Sunday.

Sinner held aloft his arms in celebration after breaking Fritz to clinch the title and cheers rang around Arthur Ashe Stadium, even though home fans had hoped to see Fritz end a 21-year US men's Grand Slam drought.

Sinner was under a cloud of controversy at the start of the tournament after revelations that he tested positive twice for an anabolic agent in March but avoided a ban. An independent tribunal accepted his claim that the positive tests were the result of an unintentional contamination.

The top seed blocked out the furor in New York and with the win claimed his second Grand Slam title after winning the Australian Open earlier this year.

"We just went day-by-day, trying to practice well, even on the days off, believing in ourselves which is the most important. I understood, especially in this tournament, how important the mental part is in this sport," said Sinner.

"I would like to thank everyone for being so fair in this amazing arena. It was a huge pleasure."

Fritz got off to a dreadful start when he handed Sinner the break with an unforced error in the first game but settled his nerves, breaking back in the fourth game and surviving a 23-shot rally - the longest of the match - to save break point in the fifth.

But it was only a matter of time before the Italian would hit his stride and he broke the 12th seeded American with a perfectly placed drop shot in the seventh game.

Fritz dropped his serve again on set point when he sent a backhand beyond the baseline, one of 34 unforced errors that cost him dearly across the match.

The fired up home crowd that included pop megastar Taylor Swift tried to lift Fritz with



chants of "USA!" in the second set, as he worked to get some traction in his first major final. **PILED ON THE MISERY**

However, the momentum swung in Sinner's direction as he broke Fritz on set point from the baseline, sending a sublime backhand down the line that the American was unable to return.

He piled further misery on Fritz when he clawed back from triple break point down in the opening game of the third set, holding his serve with an overhead smash, a fine effort that even the US fans applauded.

Fritz clung on and even went up a break but was left smacking his racket onto the court in frustration when he hit a volley into the net to let Sinner break back in the 10th.

I felt like that I have grown, you know, match by match and that my confidence level went higher and higher

JANNIK SINNER

Sinner broke for a sixth time in the contest to wrap up the win, with Fritz swiping a forehand into the net on match point.

"Here was difficult because also the pretournament circumstances weren't easy," said Sinner, who climbed the stands to celebrate with his team as fans shouted "Bravo!" around him.

With US great Andre Agassi on court for the presentation ceremony, Fritz told the crowd: "I know we've been waiting for

a champion for a long time so I'm sorry I couldn't get it done this time. But I'm gonna keep working and hopefully I'll get it the next time."

It was a fresh disappointment for US fans, after home hope Jessica Pegula lost to Aryna Sabalenka in the women's final.

The win capped a blockbuster year for Sinner, who came back from two sets down to triumph at Melbourne Park and won in Miami and Cincinnati.

The world number one leaves New York with an impressive 55-5 win-loss record for the year, leaving rivals in his wake as Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz crashed out early.

It was not all good news for Sinner, however, as it became clear the doping controversy

could linger well after he leaves, as he continued to answer questions about the saga as he sat at a post-match press conference with the trophy.

Some members of the media and his own fellow players have alleged a double standard in how he was treated and Sinner said he had difficulty enjoying the tournament at times.

"What I can say is that the general reaction of the players was quite positive, even when things came out. Then there have been, of course, some different voices, but this is in everything," he said.

"That's why you have, as I said before, the people close to you, these are the people who know what was going on and what I and my team went through."

ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Dominant India thrash Japan 5-1

Four-time champions register second consecutive win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hulunbuir (China), Sept 9: Sukhjeet Singh struck a brace as defending champions India thrashed Japan 5-1 in a league match to notch up their second consecutive win in the men's Hero Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here Monday.

Sukhjeet scored in the second and 60th minutes while Abhishek (3rd), Sanjay (17th) and Uttam Singh (54th) were the other Indian goal getters.

Matsumoto Kazumasa pulled one back for Japan in the 41st minute. Four-time champions India, who had beaten China 3-0 in their opening round-robin league match Sunday, got two penalty corners as against five of Japan.

India were quick to get the lead with Sukhjeet scoring a brilliant field goal in the second minute of the match itself. It was Sanjay, hovering on the right side of the circle, lobbed in a cross that was swiftly deflected by Sukhjeet. India extended the lead to 2-0 in the next minute with Abhishek dribbling past several Japanese defenders before rounding off the goalkeeper to score.

The onslaught continued in the second quarter with Sanjay converting a splendid penalty corner in the 17th minute. With 3-0 lead at half-time, India were in a comfortable position while Japan tried to shake off the early nerves and bounce back.

Japan, who finished third in the 2023 edition of the tourna-

ment, made amends in their attack to fetch a PC in the 21st minute. But Japan's drag-flick was finely blocked by the Indian rushers, enabling their team to launch a quick counter attack.

Attacking from the right, Jugraj Singh got a nice turn and won a free hit. After a flurry of swift short passes, Indian forwards missed the goal-mouth by inches.

With one goal coming in the second quarter, India completely dominated with 67 per cent ball possession that led to 11 circle entries and three shots on goal.

Returning from the 10-minute half-time break, India looked to keep up the momentum. They played patiently, with discipline, to launch their first attack in the third quarter but Japan won the ball back.

Japan did well to build on a structured attack that eventually led to a field goal in the 41st minute by Kazumasa. India goalie Krishan Pathak could do little to stop Kazumasa from scoring.

Only minutes earlier, there was a brilliant opportunity for India but Vivek Sagar fell inches short of a fourth goal.

A fourth goal eventually came for India, thanks to good stick work by Jarmanpreet Singh who assisted Uttam Singh in converting a fine field goal.

Sukhjeet added another goal to his name in the 60th minute after a fine assist by Abhishek to end the match on a high.

Harmanpreet Singh-led India will meet last-edition's runners-up Malaysia Wednesday, as Tuesday is a rest day.



SHORT TAKES

Pak athletes get visas, leave for Chennai

Lahore: A 12-member Pakistan contingent Monday left for Chennai to take part in the South Asian Athletics Federation Junior Championships after getting visas from the Indian High Commission. An official confirmed that the athletes and officials had left for Chennai after visas were approved Saturday. "The contingent has left via the Wagah border from where they will go to Amritsar and fly to Chennai where the South Asian Junior Athletics Championship is being held," the official said. Later in the day, Athletics Federation of India (AFI), the organisers of the event, said the Pakistan contingent has arrived at Wagah border. "Pakistan junior athletics team and officials arrived today at wagah border in Amritsar. The athletes will compete at SAAF junior championship in Chennai starting September 11," the AFI tweeted, along with a picture of the team. The SAAF Junior Championships will be held in Chennai from September 11 to 13.

Kane honoured for 100 appearances

London: England captain Harry Kane will be presented with a gold cap to mark his 100th appearance for his country ahead of the Nations League match against Finland at Wembley Tuesday. The Bayern Munich striker will become the 10th Englishman to reach a century of international caps - the first since Wayne Rooney in 2014 - and will look to improve on his record 66 goals for the team. England confirmed Monday that Kane, who was wearing golden boots during a training session in the morning, will start the match against Finland, where he will be captain for the 73rd time. The 31-year-old Kane has played in more games at major finals (28) than any other English male player and has played in more competitive matches (83) than any other senior men's international.

'Pant can become all-time great'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 9: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly believes Rishabh Pant is on course to become an all-time great in Test cricket but at the same time, the southpaw needs to raise his game in the shorter formats.

Pant Sunday returned to the Test side for the first time since his life-threatening car accident in December 2022. He is expected to start the first Test against Bangladesh beginning in Chennai September 19.

Since his return earlier this year following the accident, Pant has played T20s and ODIs and has done well.

"I consider Rishabh Pant one of India's best Test batsmen. I'm not surprised that he's back in the side, and he will continue to play for India in Tests," Ganguly said at a promotional event here. "He will be an all-time great in Tests if he keeps performing like this. For me, he needs to get better in the shorter formats. With the talent he has, I'm sure with time, he will become one of the best."



He will be an all-time great in Tests if he keeps performing like this. For me, he needs to get better in the shorter formats. With the talent he has, I'm sure with time, he will become one of the best

SOURAV GANGULY | FORMER INDIA CAPTAIN

Indian selectors have opted to give Mohammed Shami more time to recover from an ankle surgery and have named uncapped left-arm pacer Yash Dayal and Akash Deep in the squad. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj are the two frontline pacers.

"I know Mohammed Shami is missing because of injury, but he will be back very soon since

India is going to Australia. It's still a very good attack," Ganguly said.

"In India, you will see a lot more spin. In Chennai, you will see a lot more bounce. Ashwin, Jadeja, Axar, and Kuldeep are the four best spinners in the world at the moment - it won't be easy. When you play in India, spinners have a lot more say in the game. But India are a very good team."

"I am looking forward to their tour to Australia; that, for me, will be the real test for the squad. Then, when they tour England in July, these are the two most important tours, to be honest. I think the pace bowling department, with Bumrah and Siraj, and once Shami comes back, will be strong."

He also hailed pacer Akash Deep and said he's one to watch out for. "Akash Deep is an outstanding young fast bowler. He runs in, bowls quick, and will bowl for long periods. I've seen him play for Bengal, taking wickets. He will be as quick as Siraj and Shami, hitting high 140s. He is one to watch out for," he added.

Syria win Intercontinental Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 9: Indian football team's hopes of winning the Intercontinental Cup title for the third time were dashed as it lost to Syria 0-3 in the last league match of the three-nation tournament here Monday.

Mahmoud Al Aswad and Daleho Mohsen Irandust scored for Syria in the seventh and 77th minutes to break the hearts of the home crowd at the GMC Balayogi Athletics Stadium. While Pablo Sabbag's strike in the injury time was a mere underlining of Syria's dominance.

The result meant that Manolo Marquez began his stint as India head coach, after succeeding Igor Stimac, on a disappointing note. He was appointed at the helm of affairs in July.

Syria had beaten Mauritius 2-0 in their opening match and they thus ended the round-robin league with six points. India and Mauritius finished the tournament on one point each after playing out a goalless draw September 3.

The highest-ranked team after



the round-robin league wins the tournament and there is no final.

India had won the title in 2018 and 2023, while it was the first trophy for Syria who had finished third in 2019.

In fact, this was the first time Syria won a title on Indian soil. The West Asian country has a long history of playing tournaments in India, but a title has eluded them before Monday.

Syria lost back-to-back Nehru Cup finals to India in 2007 and 2009 before finishing fourth in 2012.

In their last trip to India in the 2019 Intercontinental Cup, Syria ended in third place. In that tournament, the two teams played out a 1-1 draw.

DAY 1 OF TEST WASHED OFF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Greater Noida, Sept 9: Deplorable conditions at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex, subpar drainage, a sodden outfield and woeful facilities played spoilsport as the opening day of the historic one-off Test between Afghanistan and New Zealand was called off Monday without a ball being bowled.

Rain had affected the buildup to the Test, the first between the two nations, with New Zealand not being able to complete a single practice session properly.

Apart from overnight showers, rain did not affect the venue throughout Monday. But the absence of modern facilities left the inexperienced ground staff struggling to prepare the field as the sack of saw dust saw more action than the players on the opening day.

The umpires conducted as many as six inspections throughout the day. Several New Zealand players too came out to assess the field, including skipper Tim Southee, all-rounders Mitchell Santner and Rachin Ravindra also ventured onto the pitch to evaluate the conditions.

But the mid-on and mid wicket area seemed cause of concern while there were also several patches inside the 30-yard circle.

At one point with the sun shining nice and bright, it looked like the match could get underway but the hopes of that were dashed when Kane Williamson tread wearily towards the pitch around 2pm IST.

Even Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott looked unimpressed as the groundsmen struggled. The Super sopppers inexplicably came into action only after 1pm.

The day's play was eventually called off at 4pm. The toss has been scheduled for 9am tomorrow and the remaining four days will have 98 overs each starting at 9.30am, instead of 10am.

Paris bids adieu to summer of unforgettable Games

PARIS RAISED THE GAME FOR THE PARALYMPICS, WITH MORE THAN 4,000 ATHLETES AS WELL AS 2.4MN TICKETS SOLD, WHICH WAS SECOND ONLY TO THE LONDON GAMES OF 2012

REUTERS

Paris, Sept 9: The Paris 2024 Games came to a close like they started, in the rain, but amidst a festive atmosphere with an electro-party at the Stade de France to conclude the Paralympics Sunday. Some 24 French DJs, includ-

ing electronic music pioneer Jean-Michel Jarre as well as Cassius, played in the final part of the event.

Earlier, the 169 delegations paraded to the tunes of French classics which got the spectators singing along.

Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo handed the Paralympic flag to International Paralympic Committee president Andrew Parsons, who then presented it to the mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass - the first Black woman mayor to receive the Paralympic flag during the closing ceremony.

The American national anthem was performed by Ali Stroker.

"Nobody wants these Games to come to an end," Paris 2024 president Tony Estanguet said as Paris passes the baton to Los

Record ticket sales

Paris 2024 sold a record 12 million tickets for the Olympics and Paralympics, beating the Games record previously set by London 2012, organisers said Sunday. Some 9.5 million tickets were sold for the Olympics and 2.5 million for the Paralympics, which end Sunday. In 2012, London organisers set the record for the Paralympics with 2.7 million tickets sold but only 8.2 million were sold for the Olympics.

CHINA DOMINATES

China claimed almost twice as many gold medals - 94 to Britain's 49 - as any other country during the Paralympics in Paris. Altogether, China finished with 220 medals (94 gold, 76 silver, 50 bronze), compared to 124 for next-best Britain, followed by 105 for the US. Britain's total included 44 silver and 31 bronze, while the US finished with 36 gold, 42 silver and 27 bronze medals. Brazilian athletes won 89 medals, but Dutch athletes won more gold - 27 compared to Brazil's 25. Host nation France finished eighth in the medal table with 19 gold medals among its total of 75.



Angeles for the next Summer Games.

"We beat a lot of records so tonight let's beat another one. I'm asking you to give the para athletes the longest, loudest, craziest ovation they ever received," he added to deafening cheers from the 64,000 spectators, in sharp contrast to boos from the crowd when French President Emmanuel Macron appeared.

Estanguet also urged the spectators and viewers not to forget "this summer when France was happy."

The Olympic cauldron, which was supposed to be lifted up in the sky in a hot-air balloon one last time from the Jardin des Tuileries near the Louvre Museum, was grounded due to the rain, before the flame was put out, the only sad note of the night.