

Trouble in paradise
Actress-dancer Malaika Arora shares a cryptic post on Instagram that netizens connect to rumours of her breakup with actor Arjun Kapoor

LEISURE | P2

Ukraine's drone attack
Ukraine strikes the Moscow region Tuesday in its biggest drone attack so far on the Russian capital, killing at least one woman

INTERNATIONAL | P10

MFs attract ₹38,239cr
Equity mutual funds continue their steady growth in August attracting ₹38,239 crore fuelled by strong contributions from thematic funds

BUSINESS | P11

Promoting hockey
Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi holds discussions with FIH president Tayyab Ikram for the promotion of hockey in the state

SPORTS | P12



UP IN ARMS: Junior doctors march towards Swasthya Bhawan during a protest over RG Kar Hospital rape and murder incident, in Kolkata, Tuesday

RG KAR HORROR

WB docs defy SC order, continue to cease work

Kolkata, Sept 10: Protesting junior doctors in West Bengal defied a Supreme Court order, asking them to resume work by 5 pm Tuesday, and said they would continue with their protest till their demands were fulfilled and the rape and murder victim of the RG Kar Hospital was given justice.

As the medicos continued to protest for the 32nd day Tuesday, demanding the removal of the Kolkata police commissioner and several top state Health department officials, the state government said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to the protesters, inviting them for a meeting at the secretariat to resolve the impasse over the incident.

However, the protesting doctors said the mail for the meeting was from the state Health secretary, whose resignation they were seeking, and termed it as "insulting". They also said that restricting the number of representatives to attend the meeting to 10 was "humiliating".

The top court Monday directed the protesting resident doctors to resume work by 5 pm Tuesday, observing that if "there is continued abstention from work, there may be a likelihood of adverse action".

Meanwhile, the RG Kar hospital authorities issued notices to 51 doctors, including to senior residents and professors, accusing them of fostering intimidation and disrupting the institution's democratic atmosphere, and summoned them to an inquiry committee September 11.

Asserting that their demands were not met, the protesting doctors defied the apex court's order and said they would continue with their 'cease work' till their demands were fulfilled and the rape and murder victim of the RG Kar Hospital was given justice.

During the day, the protesting doctors marched to "Swasthya Bhawan" - the headquarters of the health department in Salt Lake - and staged a sit-in outside the office building to press for their demand.

SHORT TAKE

YECHURY 'CRITICAL'

New Delhi: CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury's condition is "critical" and he is on respiratory support at AIIMS here, his party said Tuesday. The 72-year-old Yechury is being treated for acute respiratory tract infection at the ICU in AIIMS, it said in a statement. A multi-disciplinary team of doctors is closely monitoring the condition of Yechury, which is critical at this time, the party said. Yechury was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) August 19 for the treatment of a pneumonia-like chest infection.

Blot on uniform

One of the worst-kept secrets of the Indian Air Force (IAF) came out of the closet when the Budgam police in Jammu and Kashmir booked a Wing Commander on charges of raping his junior, a woman flying officer, after an internal committee allegedly sat over her complaint for nearly two years. Both the officers are posted in Srinagar. In her complaint, the victim alleged that she has been suffering harassment and mental torture over the period after her senior forced her into oral sex and molested her



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

Srinagar, Sept 10: An FIR has been registered against a Wing Commander following complaints of rape by a woman flying officer, officials said here Tuesday.

Both the IAF officers are currently stationed in Srinagar. After the complaint, the FIR under "relevant sections of the law" was filed at Budgam police station in central Kashmir Saturday, a senior police officer said.

The IAF said it is cooperating with the police. "We are aware of the case. The Air Force Station in Srinagar was approached by the local Budgam police station on the subject. We are fully cooperating towards this case," a senior IAF official said.

According to an NDTV report,

the flying officer has said in her complaint that she has been suffering harassment, sexual assault and mental torture over the past two years.

The officer said that at a New Year party at the officers' mess December 31, 2023, her senior asked if she had received the gift. When she said she had not, the Wing Commander said the gifts were in his room and took her there. When she asked where his family was, he said they were elsewhere.

The flying officer has alleged that her senior forced her into oral sex and molested her. She said it took her a while to register what happened to her.

The woman officer said she reached out to two other women officers and they guided her to file

a complaint.

Following her complaint, she said, a Colonel-rank officer was ordered to investigate the incident. The Wing Commander was made to sit down with her twice in January this year to record the statements, she has alleged. She then filed a fresh application to the internal committee (IC) and it met two months later.

"IC did not do its job properly as directions had come from higher formation to keep the result as neutral. Everyone was aiding the sexual offender," she said.

The flying officer has complained of "continuous mental harassment" and "social boycott".

The ongoing harassment, she said, has had a severe impact on her mental health.

₹2.65L crore Appropriation Bill for FY 2024-25 cleared

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Amid a walkout by the Opposition BJD and Congress, the state Assembly Tuesday passed the Appropriation Bill, 2024 allowing the state government to spend ₹2.65 lakh crore from its consolidated fund during the financial year (FY) 2024-25.

While speaking in favour of the Bill in the House, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who also holds the Finance portfolio, said the Budget estimation for 2024-25 is ₹2.65 lakh crore which is 15 per cent more than the Budget estimates for 2023-24.

The programme Budget is estimated at ₹1.55 lakh crore, which is 24 per cent more than the previous one and the capital outlay is ₹58,195 crore, which is 6.3 per cent of GSDP, he said.

"During the elections, we reached out to the people having problems and came to power with their love and blessings. Our government is making all-out efforts to fulfil the aspirations of the people," Majhi said.

Targeting the BJD, he said the previous chief minister had announced a bonus of ₹100 per quintal of paddy. However, he failed to implement it during his entire tenure, Majhi said.

The BJP government in its first Cabinet decided to procure



paddy at a price of ₹3,100 per quintal from the farmers, which is ₹800 more than the MSP set by the government of India. The government has made a provision of ₹5,000 crore for this purpose in the current Budget, he pointed out.

Similarly, he said, the state Cabinet has already approved the Subhadra scheme, under which ₹50,000 crore will be given to more than one crore women of the state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the scheme in the state September 17.

The chief minister said that a provision of ₹21,200 crore has been made in the Budget for the healthcare sector, which is 32 per cent more than the previous year's Budget and 8 per cent of the total Budget size for this year.

Stating that his government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards atrocities against women, Majhi said a total outlay of ₹75,822 crore has been made in this Budget for women.

40 STUDENTS HURT IN MANIPUR; INTERNET SHUT FOR FIVE DAYS

Imphal, Sept 10: Over 40 students were injured Tuesday following clashes with security forces when they attempted to march towards the Raj Bhavan in Imphal to press for their demands to remove the DGP and security advisor to the state government, police said.

Thousands of students and women demonstrators tried to march towards the Raj Bhavan on BT Road here, but were stopped by security forces near the Congress Bhavan, they said.

The agitators shouted slogans and pelted security personnel with stones and glass marble balls, forcing the men in uniform to fire tear gas shells to disperse them, a police officer said.

Manipur University students also staged a protest rally and burnt the effigy of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

They later headed for the state secretariat, but were stopped at Kakwa in Imphal West district, he said.

An indefinite curfew has been clamped in Imphal East and West districts, while prohibitory orders under Section 163 (2) of BNS were imposed in Thoubal.

Meanwhile, the Manipur government Tuesday suspended internet services in the entire state for five days amid the intensified agitation by students.



IRREGULAR by MANJUL

No justice yet, but he gave a truly inspiring speech

| MARKET WATCH | | |
|--------------|----------|----------|
| INDEX | | VIATION |
| SENSEX | 81921.29 | ↑ 361.75 |
| NIFTY | 25041.10 | ↑ 104.70 |
| DOLLAR | 84.03 | ↑ ₹0.02 |
| EURO | 92.82 | ↓ ₹0.57 |
| GOLD | ₹71,926 | ↑ ₹298 |
| SILVER | ₹83,794 | ↑ ₹149 |

| WEATHER | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| | BBSR | CTC |
| Max Temp | 33.6°C | 34.0°C |
| Min Temp | 26.5°C | 25.0°C |
| Humidity | 88% | 94% |
| Rainfall | 6.6mm | 11.8mm |
| FORECAST | | |
| Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain | | |

Rain havoc in south Odisha

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: The heavy rain induced by a deep depression created havoc in southern Odisha districts Tuesday, as about 2,000 affected people have been evacuated and brought to relief camps.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi directed officials to ensure adequate stock and supply of relief materials in the affected areas. Official reports said that roads were washed away, power supply was disrupted and several areas were inundated in heavy rains in the affected districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Gajapati, Nabarangpur, and Ganjam.

Schools were shut in Malkangiri, the worst-hit district, Koraput and Ganjam

Despite Bangladesh ban, Odisha to relish hilsa

Bhograi, Sept 10: Good news for hilsa (Ilisi) lovers. Although Bangladesh played the spoilsport by banning export of Padma river hilsa (or Ilisi) with Durga Puja round the corner, back-to-back low pressures in the Bay of Bengal have driven shoals of the prized fish towards Odisha coast.

According to reports, commercial trawlers and individual fishermen on Balasore coast are netting huge quantity of hilsa these days. In the backdrop of the Bangladesh ban, this has brought a smile on their faces as the bumper catch will help them reap maximum profit during the puja season.

Hilsa which is known as the



'king of fish' is in great demand among fish lovers for its unique taste and flavour. The Bangladesh government is stated to have imposed the restrictions to ensure sufficient availability of the fish for residents in that country. Sources said following the arrival of shoals of hilsa off Balasore coast, fishermen are risking their lives and venturing into deep sea. The low pressure-

triggered rainfall, coupled with the cyclonic situation and favourable temperature have been conducive for the migration of the fish to Odisha coast.

As a result, large numbers of hilsa from Myanmar and Bangladesh coasts on the Bay of Bengal are migrating towards the river mouth near Balasore, and also Digha coasts in West Bengal.

Sources said large quantity of hilsa are presently netted at Udayapur, Talasari, Ransinghpur, Kirtania, Choumukh, Dagra, Bahabalpur, Kashaphal on Balasore coast as well as in Digha, Shankarpur, Chandpur, Mandarmani, Junaput, Petua, Kakadweep, Sagar island, Namkhana in West Bengal and being auctioned at jetties of both the states.

The state fisheries department has banned catching of hilsa fish weighing less than 300 gm, but trawler operators and fishermen are said to be defying the ban and sending the catch to the local markets for sale. Small hilsa fish weighing around 300 gm are being sold at anything between ₹300 to 400 in Balasore, Bhograi and Baliaal markets, while the fish weighing over 500 gms are sold for ₹800-1000 a piece.

Meanwhile, Fishery Officer (in-charge) Ananta Kumar Jena at Bhograi expressed concerns that fishermen using trawlers, mechanised boats and dinghies to catch fish in deep sea are risking their lives by not installing distress alert transmitter (DAT) on their vessels, and sailing without life jackets.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
You need to be very cautious today, says Ganesh. The results of a lot of hard work over a long time may be undone by one impulsive decision. After a stressful morning, you could just wish to spend time with children, playing their childish games.

TAURUS
There is a strong likelihood of some dispute or misunderstanding cropping up between you and your parents. This, Ganesh assures, could easily be resolved through a positive, meaningful dialogue. You will be clear, coherent and persuasive in your communications. Your ideas and intentions will be easily understood and accepted by others. The day will turn out to be a bright and a pleasant one

GEMINI
You will keep your emotions aside and concentrate solely on your work today. You will have to waste a lot of time in fulfilling the demands made by those around you. However, the more demands you fulfill, the more their expectations will rise, says Ganesh.

CANCER
New positive turn in life of lovers. It may lead to marriage. You will play role in bonding all members of the joint family and will meet with success, you will respect tradition and custom. Adopt a careful approach, counsels Ganesh.

LEO
Your entire day will be spent at work. Those working in large corporations will have to fulfill heightened expectations from their superiors. Housewives will need to tackle other work, apart from their daily chores. It is an important day for you, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
You will stay away from partnership ventures. Ganesh says you have the ability to control large-scale projects on your own. You have leadership qualities, and will be able to coordinate team work and direct your colleagues to get the required amount of work from them.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you will be able to attain a huge benefit because of your nature to take chances. Higher ups in the office will take notice of your skills and ability to work well. Seniors in your office will promote and inspire you to give your best. Ganesh says this is not a good time to get into a direct fight with anyone since it will lead to more problems and issues.

SCORPIO
You are ready to take up the challenges that life has to throw at you. Thanks to the confidence within you, which gives you power to fight it out against all odds. Even if you take up a mammoth task, you are bound to succeed today, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Your business is likely to grow with leaps and bounds, foresees Ganesh. Increase in financial returns will keep you happy for the entire day. Work in progress gives out positive signals. Your expert advice will be valued at work. In short, a day full of activities.

CAPRICORN
Practical and creative, you are able to utilise your talents in the best possible manner. You will smartly solve family issues, without favouring or hurting anybody, says Ganesh. You'll like to play the role of a peace maker, as it gives you satisfaction from within. Also, you will love to help others as much as you can.

AQUARIUS
Be it about solving financial issues or concerns about income, money matters will keep your mind occupied through out the day. You will have a gala time with your friends later on the day, predicts Ganesh. Not that you don't value your friends, but today, you will realise how important you are for one another.

PISCES
You are fond of traveling and are always looking for an excuse to set off. Hence it comes as no surprise if you pack your bags and decide to embark upon a journey on a whim today. It is a much needed break too, from the daily stresses of earning a livelihood.



SELENA GOMEZ SAYS HER BOYFRIEND IS BIASED

The recently released musical crime comedy film *Emilia Perez*, which stars actress-singer Selena Gomez, has been getting great response from all quarters. In fact, Selena's boyfriend Benny Blanco too has been raving about the film. To this, Selena said, "I think he is biased but I'm glad he liked it."

ZOE SALDANA WANTS TO DIRECT AN ACTION FILM

Hollywood actress Zoe Saldana is having a terrific run at the movies with her films having earned \$15 billion. However, the actress has shared that she wants to make her foray into direction.



GKCM AWARD FESTIVAL - DAY 6

Ashimbandhu's show presents cosmic-corporal correlation

Bhubaneswar: The penultimate day of the 30th Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival 2024 here at Rabindra Mandap, organised by Srjan-Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa, saw renowned Kathak exponent Guru Ashimbandhu Bhattacharjee and his troupe, Upasana Centre for Dance, Kolkata, present *Moonstruck*, an evocative choreography in Kathak, Tuesday.

Directed and choreographed by Ashimbandhu, *Moonstruck* – the story of a man and the moon – was set to the music composition of Jayanta Banerjee and script of Amit Dasgupta. Aided by the exquisite light design of Soumen Chakraborty, the narrative conveyed a contemplative yet expressive personal conversation between a lonely man and his lifelong friend, the moon. With the rhythmic interpolations



characteristic of Kathak, the choreography was set to a haunting melody that portrayed both the ethereal beauty and dark side of the moon. The show aimed to highlight the man's enduring attraction to the moon while portraying the contrast of the cosmic and the corporal.

Other members of the show included Ranjani Bhattacharjee, Madhuka Dutta, Trisha

Chatterjee, Anwita Saha, Deboshmita Ghosh, Shubhradip Shaw, Ritapratim Chowdhury, Sandip Sarkar, Gobindo Mondal, and Avik Chaki.

Among the dignitaries, Guru Smt. Aruna Mohanty, Secretary, Orissa Dance Academy; Pt. Nityananda Misra, eminent Sanskrit scholar; Shivaram Rajagopalan, CEO, Shiva Consultants, Singapore; Kulamani Biswal, Ex Director, Finance, NTPC; and Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, Director, Srjan, graced the occasion.

The week-long Award Festival will come to a close Wednesday, commencing with the prestigious award ceremony, followed by the much-awaited finale by the Srjan ensemble led by the artistic direction and vision of Ratikant Mohapatra.

English daily Orissa POST and Odia daily Dharitri are the print media partners for the event.



Ishaan wants to be monogamous

Mumbai: Ishaan Khatter grabbed eyeballs with his turn in the new series *The Perfect Couple*. In a new interview with *The Dirty Magazine*, Ishaan candidly opened up about his take on relationships, and shared that he wants to have a family of his own and be monogamous.

During the interview, when Ishaan was asked about his love life and how he is looking at the next few years, the actor said, "I also think of having a family, kids. I'm simple like that. I hopefully want to do it once, one and done. I do believe you can have one partner, be monogamous... I've had my fair share of experiences in my 20s, but I feel the need to respect the sacredness of the thought and the institution. Not in a societal sense, but in a personal way. Also, that would be lovely, right?"

He went on to add, "Like if you find someone. So whenever I've felt real connection in my life, genuine connection that's more than just chemistry and comfort, I would like to be idealistic and think that maybe I can, you know, hold on to it. If I do it, I want to do it with that sense of abandon and that sense of belief."

MALAIKA'S CRYPTIC POST

Mumbai: Arjun Kapoor and Malaika Arora, who had been in a relationship for a long time, recently crossed paths amid circulating online rumours of their breakup. Amid the ongoing rumours surrounding their 'on-off relationship', Malaika recently shared a cryptic post on her Instagram story.

"Pay attention to those who share in your joy and feel your sorrow. They are the ones who truly deserve a special place in your heart," the post read.

Although Malaika didn't include a caption, the timing of the post is noteworthy, as she has been in the spotlight for her rumoured breakup with Arjun.

Earlier, Malaika also skipped Arjun's birthday celebration at his residence last month. This fueled the breakup rumours.

Malaika previously opened up about the toxic nature of the internet in an interview with *Hello Magazine*. She revealed, "I've developed a mechanism or rather a shield where I no longer let negativity affect me."

The actress continued, "I've insulated myself from it, whether it's people, the work environment, social media, or trolls. The moment I sense that negative energy, I withdraw instantly. It's a skill I've learned over time."

For the unversed, Malaika and Arjun began dating in 2018. The duo had, although never spoken much about their relationship, kept posting mushy pictures from their vacations as well as while wishing each other happy birthdays.



Every woman deserves to live free: Anushka

Mumbai: Actress Anushka Ranjan, who is known for *Batti Gul Meter Chalu* and *Fitrrat*, is working towards supporting women in need. The actress has set up an expert panel for providing critical assis-

tance to women in distress and victims of sexual violence. Anushka's mother, Anu Ranjan, has been at the forefront of addressing sensitive issues concerning the girl child and women's rights through her NGO Beti. With the alarming rise in cases of sexual violence, Anushka feels an urgent need to create a specialised support system that can offer immediate help and long-term solutions to victims.

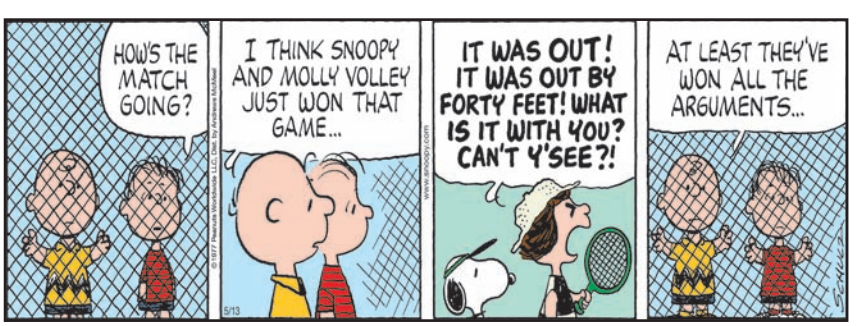
Speaking about this new initiative, Anushka shared: "Empowering women has always been at the core of my work with my NGO, but in light of the growing challenges women face today, it's crucial that we expand our efforts. The establishment of this expert panel is a step towards ensuring that women who have suffered from sexual violence receive the support they need—be it legal, psychological, or social."

The actress said that through this panel, she will collaborate with experts across various fields to offer comprehensive support to those who have been silenced by fear and trauma. "Every woman deserves to live free from the shadow of violence, and with this initiative, we aim to light the way towards a safer and more just society," she added.



DRIVE AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

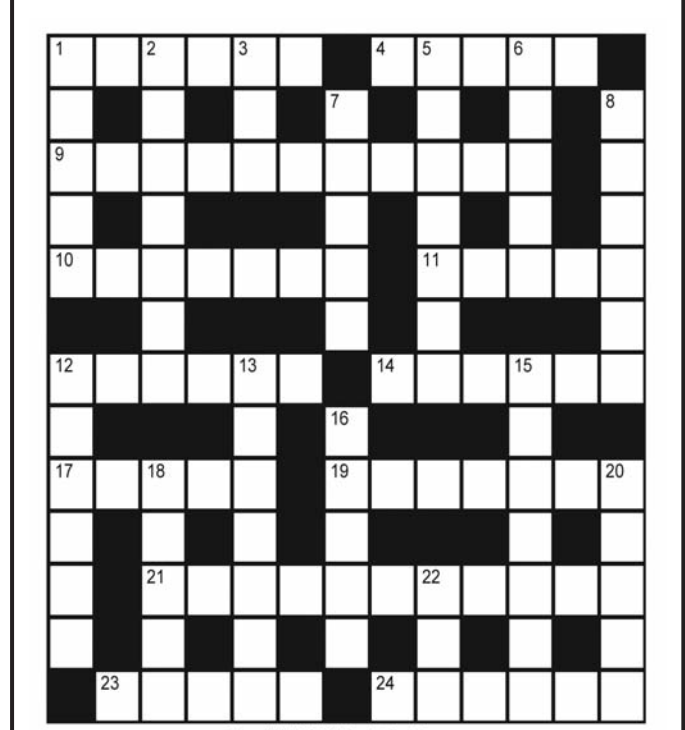


BREVITY



FUN post

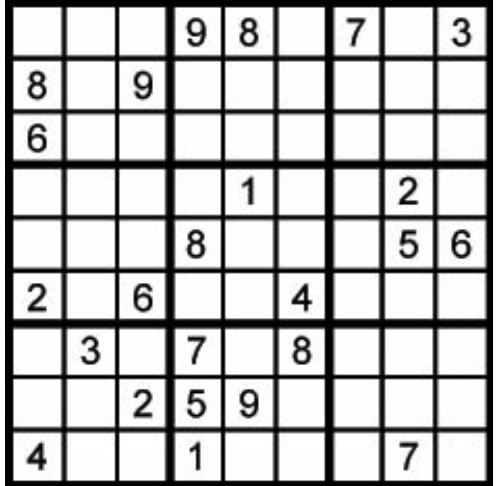
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Linger
 - 4 Kind of nerve
 - 9 "That cad was ___!" (2,9)
 - 10 High spirits
 - 11 Kitchen garb
 - 12 Rancher's charge
 - 14 Jeweller's tools
 - 17 Outspoken
 - 19 Suitcases
 - 21 Clay pigeon killer?
 - 23 Horse carts
 - 24 Punctual
- Down**
- 1 Washer cycle
 - 2 Kind of worker
 - 3 Charge carrier
 - 5 Warm-water fatty fish
 - 6 Word with ear or peace
 - 7 Carpenter's tool
 - 8 Court contest
 - 12 Tooth problem
 - 13 Song sung by mom
 - 15 Wraith
 - 16 Eruption
 - 18 Provide food
 - 20 White heron
 - 22 Shell mover

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



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Members of 'Odisha SBI Bank Sakhi Mahasangha' demonstrate at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, to press for fulfilment of their six-point charter of demands



downtown

BJP FOR CBI PROBE INTO 3 MURDERS DURING BJD RULE

The saffron party demanded CBI probe into Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati's killing in 2008, former health minister Naba Das' murder in 2023 and the alleged rape and murder of a teacher in 2021

a programme at Brajarajnagar January 29, 2023. The accused is in judicial custody and the trial is on.

The BJP MLA also demanded an investigation by the Central probe agency into the killing of VHP leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati and four of his aides at his ashram at Jaleshpatta in Kandhamal district August 23, 2008. Kandhamal witnessed large-scale communal violence following the killing of Saraswati. A local court in October 2013 sentenced eight people to life imprisonment in this case.

Mishra claimed that people do not have trust in the investigation by Odisha Police during the BJD government and the new BJP government should hand over the investigation to the CBI.

The saffron party came to power in the state defeating the BJD in June.

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Claiming that the people of Odisha were still in the dark about three murders and one alleged suicide during the BJD rule, ruling BJP MLA Jayanarayan Mishra Tuesday demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into those cases.

The lawmaker demanded a CBI probe into the killings of Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati in 2008, former health minister Naba Kishore Das in 2023 and the alleged rape and murder of a teacher in 2021.

Mishra raised the issue during Zero Hour in the Assembly and said he will continue with this demand irrespective of who is at the helm in the state.

He said the prime accused in the teacher's rape and murder case, Gobinda Sahu, died by suicide at Kantabanji sub-jail in Bolangir district in December 2022. "It is difficult to believe the circumstances under which he (Sahu) was found dead," the BJP legislator said.

The murder of the woman teacher in Kalahandi in October 2021 had sparked outrage across the state and it was alleged that a BJD minister was shielding the accused, president of a school in which she worked.

Mishra also raised the issue of BJD leader and health minister Naba Kishore Das' murder. Das was shot dead allegedly by an assistant sub-inspector ahead of

55 big cats died in 10 yrs

760 ELEPHANTS DIED WHILE 1,145 PEOPLE KILLED IN JUMBO ATTACKS BETWEEN 2013-14 AND 2023-24

As many as 55 big cats, including seven Royal Bengal Tigers (RBTs), died in the state during the last 10 years, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia told the Assembly, Tuesday.

In a written reply to a query by BJP legislator Tankadhar Tripathy, the minister said 48 leopards and seven RBTs died due to various reasons, including poaching, accidents and natural deaths between 2014-15 and 2023-24.

During the period, two RBTs died due to poaching, while three were killed in various accidents like drowning, slipping from mountains and infighting. One tiger died of natural causes. The reason behind the death of another tiger is unknown, he said. "Two RBTs died in the Similipal Tiger Reserve

(south) during 2023-24, while one died in 2017-18. Two other RBTs - one in Bargarh and the other in Satkosia - died during 2018-19. Similarly, a RBT died in the Bolangir forest division during 2016-17 fiscal and another such death was reported in 2022-23 in the Keonjhar wildlife division," he said.

During the last 10 years, 21 leopards died due to poaching, four due to electrocution, two in train accidents, three in road mishaps, five due to diseases and four naturally, the minister said in his statement. Similarly, three leopards were killed in various types of accidents like drowning, slipping from mountains and infighting among the wild animals, while six died of unknown reasons, he said.

In another written statement to the House, the Forest minister said 760 elephant deaths were reported in Odisha during 2013-14 and 2023-24, of which 41 elephants were killed by poachers. During the last 11 years, 1,145 people were also killed in elephant attacks, he added.



IN THE HOUSE

Over 26L trees felled for projects in 23 yrs; 9.64L for mining

The state government has felled more than 26.75 lakh trees between 2000 and 2023 for execution of 482 projects in various sectors, including mining, roads, irrigation and railways, Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia told the Assembly Tuesday.

In accordance with the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the state government diverted 42,190 hectare forest land

for execution of 482 projects, approved by Union Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, and cut down 25,75,191 trees from 2000 to 2023, he said.

The highest of 9.64 lakh trees were felled for undertaking 225 mining projects, while 5.99 lakh trees were cut down for the construction of 43 road projects and 4.89 lakh trees were felled for 45 irrigation projects during the period. Similarly, 3 lakh trees

were felled for the establishment of 18 industrial projects and 1.39 lakh trees for 58 power infrastructure projects, he stated.

Besides, 29 railway lines and 64 other projects were built after cutting down 82,076 and 99,741 trees, respectively.

A maximum of 28,367 hectares of forest land have been diverted for mining activities during the period, and 5,480 hectares for irrigation projects.

Polavaram will hit 236 Malkangiri villages: BJD



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) Tuesday claimed that the multi-purpose Polavaram project in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh will affect the lives and livelihood of people residing in 236 villages in Malkangiri district.

The Opposition made the claim based on a report of a fact-finding team of the party comprising senior leaders led by Debi Prasad Mishra. The team recently submitted its report to BJD president Naveen Patnaik after visiting the area.

The report pointed out that people living in Kalimela and Padia blocks along with inhabitants of Motu gram panchayat in Malkangiri district will lose their houses and agricultural land in the backwaters of the project.

"As such, Malkangiri district receives more rainfall. The backwaters of Polavaram project will further worsen the situation in Malkangiri district," Mishra said, adding they informed Patnaik, the Leader of the

Opposition (LoP), about the real situation in the project area.

He said the project will affect people residing in 236 villages.

According to a statement issued by the office of the LoP, Patnaik suggested that the BJD leaders strongly oppose the project at all the levels, from Parliament to state Assembly and also at the gram panchayat level.

"The BJD will continue its fight for the rights of tribal brothers and sisters," Patnaik said in the statement.

The report claimed that the block headquarters town of Motu will be completely submerged because of the project.

The team that had visited the area August 8 also found that no public consultation or hearings were organised in the affected villages by the authorities implementing the project.

This apart, the report claimed that no survey was conducted to assess the potential damage to livestock, agricultural produce, government institutions, public infrastructure and the environment.



AIRING GRIEVANCES

OSSSC job aspirants stage a sit-in near the commission's office in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday, claiming massive irregularities in conduct of exams

PIC: MANORANJAN MISHRA

MAN GETS 10-YEAR JAIL FOR SEXUALLY ASSAULTING MINOR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: A special court here Tuesday awarded 10-year rigorous imprisonment (RI) to a man after finding him guilty of sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl under Baliaanta police limits in 2020.

Ad hoc ADJ (FTSC), Bhubaneswar Saroj Kumar Sahoo also slapped a penalty of ₹10,000 on the convict, Deepu Behera. Failure to pay the fine would entail an additional three-month of jail term, additional public prose-

cutor (APP) Baram Deo said. According to the prosecution, the victim and Behera were neighbours. "Behera took the minor girl to a field near her house and sexually assaulted her August 16, 2020. The girl later narrated her ordeal before her parents who approached the police leading to registration of a case. Police arrested Behera and filed a chargesheet against him," the APP said. The court pronounced the judgement after examining as many as 14 witnesses, the APP pointed out.



STUDENTS HURT IN TOILET ROOF COLLAPSE

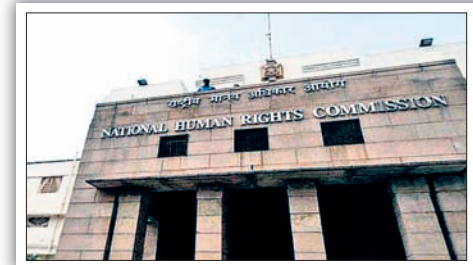
NHRC orders ₹50K compensation

DEBADURLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Taking serious cognizance of a roof collapse incident in a Keonjhar school that had left two students severely injured, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Tuesday directed the state government to pay a compensation of ₹50,000 each to the victims' families.

The apex rights body has also directed the Keonjhar District Magistrate to submit a reply within four weeks on the present condition of the school infrastructure.

The victims Raja Naik and Santosh Karua, who are studying in Class V of Government Urdu Maktab Primary School at Tainsira village of Keonjhar district, sustained grievous injuries after a roof of an abandoned toilet collapsed on them, February 19 this year, said the NHRC. The condition of both the students is stated to be stable,



The apex rights body has also directed the Keonjhar District Magistrate to submit a reply within four weeks on the present condition of the school infrastructure

but the headmistress of the school has been transferred on the charges of administrative negligence, said a source.

"In view of the above observations, the Commission directs its Registry to issue show-cause notice u/s 18(c) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, to the Government of Odisha through the Chief Secretary, as to why the Commission should not recommend payment of ₹50,000/- each (Rs Fifty Thousand only, each) as compensation to the victims (i) Raja Naik, S/o Srikantha Naik and (ii) Santosh Karua, S/o Rabindra Karua R/o

Village: Tainsira Ps: Patna Dist: Keonjhar. If no response to this show-cause notice is received in six weeks, it shall be presumed that the state government has no objection to the said recommendation," read the order.

According to reports, the Keonjhar Collector had filed a response before the Commission August 7 which mentioned that the headmistress, Naliniparava Mahanta, has borne the treatment costs of the injured children. Besides, the toilet roof was demolished soon after the incident, in a bid to prevent any future mishaps.

'Video of 2 trains standing face-to-face misleading'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: Amid incidents of train derailments and accidents, a video showing two trains coming face-to-face, seemingly on the same track, has gone viral on social media with a claim that an alert loco pilot averted a major accident in Odisha.

The PTI Fact Check Desk found the claim to be misleading. The Railways also clarified that the viral video contained nothing unusual and the section where it was recorded had automatic signalling.

It was September 8 when 'Congress Kerala' took to 'X' and shared the video with the caption, "Two local trains in Odisha caught red-handed, facing each other on the same track. They were about to create a double-engine super train, but fortunately, alert loco pilots prevented it." The video has been viewed more than 7,00,000 times, with the count still rising.

PTI found a clarification from ECoR, explaining that it was recorded September 1, 2024, in the Kendrapara Road-Nergundi section of Khurda Road Division. The Railways stated that the section where this video was recorded was equipped with automatic signalling. Following standard procedures, trains pass very close to each other and there is nothing unusual in this, it said and urged people not to spread misinformation.

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Yard restructuring work at Sambalpur railway station



TRAINS TO BE DIVERTED

Five pairs of trains will be diverted via Sambalpur City Station, bypassing Sambalpur Station, by providing stoppages for passenger boarding and detraining.

- ▶ **18126/18125 Puri-Rourkela-Puri Express:** From both sides between September 20, 2024 and February 5, 2025 from both the directions
- ▶ **12879/12880 LTT-Bhubaneswar-LTT Express:** From LTT between September 21, 2024 and February 1, 2025 and from Bhubaneswar between September 23, 2024 and February 3, 2025
- ▶ **22865/22866 LTT-Puri-LTT Express:** From LTT between September 19, 2024 and January 20, 2025 and from Puri between September 24, 2024 and February 4, 2025
- ▶ **20471/20472 Lalgarh-Puri-Lalgarh Express:** From Lalgarh between September 22, 2024 and February 2, 2025, and from Puri between September 25, 2024 and February 5, 2025
- ▶ **20813/20814 Puri-Jodhpur-Puri Express:** From Puri between September 25, 2024 and February 5, 2025 and from Jodhpur between September 21, 2024 and February 1, 2025

The diverted trains will have a five-minute stoppage at Sambalpur City Station for passenger convenience.

Cancelled train: 08169/08170 Jharsuguda-Sambalpur-Jharsuguda MEMU train will be cancelled between September 20, 2024 and February 5, 2025.

Key aspects of the restructuring work include two new platforms, extending the station's capacity to handle more passengers. Additional lines are being added to facilitate the easy movement and control of trains, reducing delays and enhancing punctuality.

Once completed, trains will be able to enter Sambalpur station smoothly, without detentions at nearby stations.

expect smoother train operations, reduced waiting times and enhanced overall service quality, an official said.

The comprehensive yard remodeling will involve shifting the Bay Line, Loco Reversal Line and Inspection Carriage Siding.

The Bay Line will also be extended to a full-length platform as part of this modernization work. The project is expected to take around 135 days.

Two new platforms will be constructed, extending the station's capacity to handle more trains and passengers. Additional lines are being added to facilitate the easy movement and control of trains, reducing delays and enhancing punctuality.

Once completed, trains will be able to enter Sambalpur station smoothly, without detentions at nearby stations.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: As part of the Railways' plan to upgrade and modernise key stations across the country, a significant yard restructuring work is being undertaken at Sambalpur railway station, a railway release said Tuesday.

The project aims to enhance operational efficiency and improve train management at this crucial station, a key hub in the railway network of the East Coast Railway (ECoR) zone. Sambalpur railway station plays a pivotal role in regional logistics and passenger transport, being one of the critical stations under the ECoR zone.

"Th modernisation project will not only increase the station's handling capacity but will also ensure a more streamlined, efficient rail service for passengers and goods traffic alike. Once completed, passengers can

Odisha to get 3 new Vande Bharat trains

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: At least three more Vande Bharat Express trains will run through Odisha from September 15, the East Coast Railway said Tuesday.

The new trains that will run through Odisha are Tata-Berhampur, Rourkela-Howrah and Durg-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express.

These three are among the 10 such trains scheduled to be flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi received an invitation from Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to join the event at Berhampur, Sunday.

ECoR General Manager Parameswar Funkwal called on the chief minister at his cham-



ber in the Assembly and handed over the Vaishnaw's message and invitation.

Vaishnaw requested Majhi to join an event at Berhampur railway station to mark the

Presently, three Vande Bharat trains run through Odisha and the number will go up to six, once the new ones are operational

occasion. Majhi has thanked the Railway Minister for the invite.

Presently, three Vande Bharat trains run through Odisha and the number will go up to six, once the new ones are operational, the ECoR said.

The CMO in a statement said that to further strengthen the railway infrastructure in the state, the Centre made budgetary provision of ₹10,586 crore in 2024-25.



ENSURING QUALITY: Officials of CMC health squad raid a hotel near Link Road area in Cuttack, Tuesday, to examine hygiene factors and other food safety norms

PIC: RAJKISHORE MOHANTY

WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: The most challenging issue is 'instilling hope' in individuals to prevent them from taking extreme steps, experts said while participating in an event organised by department of Psychiatry at Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) on World Suicide Prevention Day Tuesday.

On the occasion, a dedicated suicide prevention helpline for

'Instilling hope' key to tackle suicide

students and families was launched, and various competitions, such as poster and elocution contests, were held to engage students in spreading awareness on the issue.

'Combating stigma: changing the narrative on suicide' was this year's theme.

The experts discussed various topics including signs of suicidal tendencies, social withdrawal, feelings of hopelessness and increased use of alcohol or drugs among others.

Senior advisor at KIMS RN Samanta urged parents to play more cooperative and supportive role in their children's lives to help prevent suicides. Institute's medical superintendent RC Das highlighted the im-



portance of strengthening campus safety nets to ensure a zero-suicide environment.

The experts also discussed causes for suicide like academic pressure, mental health conditions, past trauma or abuse, lack of social support, and substance misuse.

For individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts, the experts recommended several strategies, such as talking to some-

one they trust, putting time between their thoughts and actions and avoiding the use of drugs or alcohol among others.

KIMS associate dean and vice principal Shubhransu Patro said, "Mental health is as important as physical health, and healthcare providers must ensure that no one feels alone or without hope."

Psychiatry department head Sudipta Kumar Das identified hopelessness as the single most important factor in determining whether someone may attempt suicide, further emphasising that suicide is not just a mental health issue, but also a social and cultural problem.

Professor Jayaprakash Russell Ravan added, "Once someone has firmly decided to commit suicide, it can be difficult to intervene, underscoring the complexity of the issue."

Other speakers, including assistant professor Jigyansa Ipsita Pattnaik and associate professor Pranab Mahapatra also shared their insights, reinforcing the event's message of raising awareness, promoting prevention, and ensuring that mental health support is readily available to those in need.

Odisha to showcase biotech projects at Global Bio-India

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Under the guidance of Science and Technology Minister Krushna Chandra Patra, the state is going to exhibit its biotech projects at the 'Global Bio-India 2024', scheduled to take place at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi from September 12 to 14, hosted by department of Biotechnology, under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

"With the rich natural resources, Odisha has created a huge potential for biotechnology. To accelerate investment in the field, the state government is promoting Biotechnology as a thrust sector under the progressive Industrial Policy

Resolution (IPR 2022)," said Patra. "Additionally, a dynamic Odisha Biotechnology Policy has been promulgated for startups and large scale investments. The move will create new possibilities for economic development and employment generation in the state in coming days," he added.

According to official sources, a special 'Odisha Pavilion' will be setup at Global Bio India 2024. The state's unique bio-resources will be featured at the conclave. Ten innovative biotechnology startups from the state will be showcased in the Odisha Pavilion, demonstrating the unique products and services to the policymakers, investors and other stakeholders.

Tussar rearing augmenting farmers' livelihood in Keonjhar

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Keonjhar/Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: To enhance the livelihood of farmers in the tribal dominated Keonjhar district, Tussar rearing is being promoted by the Handlooms, Textiles and Handicrafts department, through the Directorate of Textiles, Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC) is playing a vital role by providing financial support to the initiatives of the Directorate.

Tussar rearing is practiced widely across the Telkoi, Harichandanpur, Ghatagaon and Banspal blocks in Keonjhar district. Over 3,000 farmers in the district are being benefited through the initiative. By rearing Tussar cocoons through modern methodology, farmers earn ₹1-2 lakh per year.

Under the Directorate of

Textiles and Handloom, 13 Tussar Rearer Cooperative Societies (TRCS) are operational in the district to provide technical assistance to local farmers.

"Earlier I used to rear Tussar cocoons and sell it without substantial profit. Now, with the support from OMBADC, I produce better quality Tussar cocoons. During the last season, I earned ₹1.5 lakh from sale of cocoons," said Malti Tudu, a beneficiary from Harichandanpur block.

"I have been cultivating Tussar for the past seven years. We get good quality eggs for our production. We also get support during other times from releasing the worms in the jungle till harvesting the cocoons. The state government has put a robust arrangement for sale of Tussar cocoons," said another beneficiary, Iswar Chandra Marandi.



Notably, Tussar Silk larvae feed on the leaves of Asana and Arjuna trees. OMBADC provides financial support to the farmers through the Directorate of Textiles for procuring required inputs like quick lime, bleaching powder and pesticide to reduce

infections on the host trees.

Similarly a successful Tussar production requires Disease Free Laying (DFLs). Three Pilot Project Centres (PPCs) have been established in the district to provide disease-free eggs to the farmers. OMBADC also supports

the proper management of the PPCs.

Farmers place the DFLs on the branches of Asana and Arjuna trees, where the larvae feed and grow, and eventually form cocoons. After 10 to 15 days, farmers harvest the cocoons, which are then sold to TRCS. At the TRCS, OMBADC aids the stapling and grading of the cocoons.

"Tussar rearing plays a major role in ensuring a sustainable livelihood for farmers in the mining district of Keonjhar," officials said.

For this, OMBADC provides financial assistance to farmers at various stages through the Directorate of Textiles, they said.

As a result, Tussar of the highest quality is being produced in Keonjhar district. Keonjhar Tussar has also got a special

recognition in the state and outside" affirmed Sangeeta Minz, Assistant Director of Sericulture, Keonjhar.

The Tussar cocoon is taken from TRCS to the dedicated Tassar Silk Park at Bhagamunda in Harichandanpur block and across the state and outside. Then the process of converting Tussar cocoons into silk yarn takes place. Subsequently, the yarn is woven into intricate apparels to meet the growing demand.

During 2023-24 season, Keonjhar district reported an impressive production of over 3.28 crore Tussar cocoons. The Directorate of Textiles has plans to exceed the mark during the current season. The price for the sale of Tussar Silk cocoon is fixed by the Odisha Co-operative Tussar and Silk Federation Limited.

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Dengue continues to haunt Rourkela



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 10: Despite all possible efforts by the administration the dengue menace continues to ravage this city. The worst affected area remains the captive township of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP).

"Efforts are being made to control the spread of dengue. However, in the last one week there are no signs of the disease waning. The number of patients at the IGH, RGH and private hospitals is only increasing," said a doctor actively involved tackling dengue.

The doctor informed that in the last six days, 226 new cases of dengue have been identified. "However, this figure does not include those who are getting tested at private labs and hospitals. Hence one can imagine what the total number of dengue-affected cases might

be," the doctor pointed out.

The doctor informed that 35 positive dengue cases were identified August 31. The number of positive cases reported September 2 was 60, September 3 (52), September 4 (25) and September 5 (54). However, these cases were reported from the IGH and the RGH. "Data from private health centres are not available. However, one can safely say that the number of dengue-affected patients is much higher than the projected figures," the doctor added.

RSP's captive township has turned out to be hotspot for dengue. A large number of people from sectors one, three, four, 13, 17 and 20 have been hit by dengue. Despite the best efforts of RSP, the disease has been spreading with new cases being reported every day.

RSP has formed a team of 50 volunteers to tackle the dengue

crisis. The team members have been on a door to door campaign spreading awareness about the disease. However, despite their best efforts, the fever continues to hit residents of RSP's township. Water logging continues to be the major source of headache in many parts of the township.

The Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) is also carrying out awareness drives in all areas under its jurisdiction. However, here also the efforts are not helping in controlling the spread of dengue. Virtually every day fresh cases of dengue have been reported from Jhirpani, Shakti Nagar, Koel Nagar, Jagda, Bandhamunda, Basanti Colony and Madhusudan Palli localities. Sources in the RGH and RMC said Tuesday that this is the first time that the city is witnessing such a spike in dengue cases.

"We make efforts to prevent water logging at the onset of the monsoons. However, local residents do not listen to us. They allow accumulation of stagnant water in many parts of the localities.

These spots turn out to be the breeding ground for mosquitoes. And when the situation goes out of hand, they blame us," said an official of the RMC. "Unless people grow aware to the threat of dengue, we will not be able to check the spread of the disease," he added.



CULTURAL PROGRAMME: Artistes perform at a Nuakhai Bhetghat programme held at Sindurpank in Sambalpur, Tuesday

OP PHOTO

BIRD FLU IN KENDRAPARA 5 poultry farmers quarantined

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Sept 10: At least five poultry farmers were quarantined by the Health department Tuesday after avian flu-affected chickens were found in their poultry farms in this district, an official said.

The avian flu outbreak in the poultry farms was confirmed Sunday after samples collected from 10 dead chickens in Andara and Balia gram panchayats under Derabish block tested positive for the disease.

"We collected swab samples from five poultry owners Tuesday



and sent them to the Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) in Bhubaneswar for testing. They were quarantined as a precautionary measure," Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Anita

Patnaik said.

The process of culling chickens in the district continues for the fourth day.

"We have already culled around 10,000 chickens in the district. We advised people not to take chickens," said additional district veterinary officer (Disease Control), Kendrapara, Mrutyunjay Mohanty.

Meanwhile, Forest department

has stepped up surveillance of birds in Bhitarkanika, Satabhaya, Hukitola and other major habitats.

The avian species have already arrived in the water bodies and mangrove forest this monsoon season to lay eggs, said divisional forest officer of Rajnagar Wildlife (Mangrove) Forest Division, Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav.

Jumbo calf rescued in Telkoi, being treated

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 10: The forest officials here rescued a two-year old female elephant calf from Krushnapur reserve forest under Podanga forest beat of Bimala forest section in Telkoi forest range, Tuesday morning

After rescue, the calf was taken to Bandhanjhari beat house where it was provided preliminary treatment by the veterinarians.

Sources said the calf was separated from the herd Monday evening. Later, it was found wandering in the forests without any food and water. The calf became weak due to dehydration and lack of food.

The elephant squad of the forest



department tried to unite the calf with the herd but both the calf and other elephants in the herd did not show any positive signs as forest officials tried their best throughout the night. Left with no option, forest officials rescued it Tuesday morning and sent it to beat house for treatment and feeding.

A team of veterinarians including local veterinary assistant surgeon, veterinarians from the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) and a wildlife biologist administered treatment to the calf, Keonjhar Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Dhanraj HD said. Moreover, antibiotics and anti-virals are being given to the calf by the veterinarians for quick recovery, he said.

The calf is facing difficulties in food and water intake for which oral rehydration solutions (ORS) and bananas are being fed to the animal. The forest officials will again launch efforts to reunite the calf with the herd after its health condition improves, the DFO said.

Officials said the herd comprised of 21 elephants.

Collector reviews Subhadra work

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasore, Sept 10: To ensure the successful implementation of the state government's Subhadra scheme in this district, Collector Suryawanshi Mayur Vikas conducted a surprise visit Tuesday at Jana Seva Kendras and Mo Seva Kendras at various places under Sadar police limits. He reviewed the status of the application forms under the Subhadra scheme and took steps to ensure that the general public is provided with comprehensive services.

During this visit, the Collector personally interacted with the beneficiaries present at these centres, gathering direct feedback on the application process and services being provided. He emphasised the importance of the role of the centre operators in ensuring the successful execution of the Subhadra scheme.

Vikas instructed the centre operators to guide applicants clearly on the required documents, ensure timely processing, and to maintain transparency during registration and processing of the documents. He also emphasised that the operators



must focus on proper registration of beneficiaries on the Subhadra portal. It was also communicated that any negligence or irregularity in the functioning of Jana Seva Kendras or Mo Seva Kendras will lead to strict action from the administration. Regular reviews and monitoring of the progress and adherence to the Subhadra application process will be conducted on priority basis, Vikas said. He also urged all the block development officers, tehsildars, and CDPOs across the district to regularly visit the Jana Seva Kendras and Mo Seva Kendras in their respective areas to ensure proper functioning.

Additional District Collector (General) Sudhakar Nayak and District Emergency Officer Sai Krishna Jena accompanied Vikas during his visit to the various centres.

'Illegal' power line claims jumbo's life

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Sept 10: An elephant died after coming in contact with an alleged illegal power connection under Rourkela Forest Division (RFD) late Monday night - the second death in this district within a month. Last month, a female jumbo died while undergoing treatment under Bonai Forest Division.



According to sources, the elephant came in contact with the 11kv live wire and died on the spot. Reports say the power lines are illegal and are extended to a brick kiln operating near Nuagaon village under Lathikata gram panchayat.

Locals said the elephant screamed after coming in contact with the live wire but they did not go near it out of fear. "We found the carcass of the adult elephant lying in the field in the morning only," said Sukanti Ekka, a resident of Nuagaon.

On being informed, Rourkela DFO Jasobant Sethi rushed to the spot along with his team, while a scientific team reached there from Bhubaneswar. Besides, the local veterinary team also rushed to the spot.

Lightning kills 2 farmers in Mayurbhanj

AGENCIES

Baripada, Sept 10: At least two farmers died in a lightning strike Tuesday while working in a paddy field in Mayurbhanj district, police said.

The incident took place at Dumapada village in Betnoti area in the afternoon, they said.

The deceased have been identified as Siba Hansdah, 33, and Gobinda Mohanta, 52.

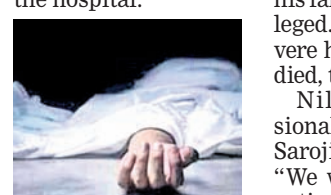
Inspector-in-charge of Betnoti police station, Sasmita Mohanta, said an unnatural death case has been registered, and the bodies were sent to PRM Medical College and Hospital, Baripada, for post-mortem.

Cable wire claims man's life at Nilagiri hospital

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nilagiri, Sept 10: A 42-year-old patient died when he fell down after getting entangled in a cable wire left haphazardly by a contractor on Nilagiri sub-divisional hospital premises, Tuesday.

The incident occurred when he was going out to a nearby washroom as the existing toilet in the ward was unclean and unfit for use. However, Singh fell down as his legs got entangled in the cable wires lying scattered on the hospital premises, his family members alleged. He sustained severe head injuries and died, they added.



Nilagiri sub-divisional medical officer Sarojini Pradhan said, "We wonder why the patient was going out to another toilet." She, however, said a probe will be conducted to find out whether he died due to his entrapment in the cable wires or due to some other reasons.

Reports said Singh was admitted to the hospital after he complained of some illness, Friday. However, he had to lie on the floor due to lack of enough beds in the hospital. He was recovering and was likely to be discharged soon.

The incident occurred when he was going out to a nearby washroom as the existing toilet in the ward was unclean and unfit for use.

However, Singh fell down as his legs got entangled in the cable wires lying scattered on the hospital premises, his family members alleged. He sustained severe head injuries and died, they added.

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| 1. | POWER HOUSE ROURKELA BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Biswanath Sahoo, S/o: Sri Chandramani Sahoo, Qtr. No.: T4/1, First Floor, Civil Township, Rourkela, Dist.: Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN-769004 | 14.08.2024 / 20.08.2024 / Addressee Left | Overdraft General : ₹24,80,000/- | 11.75% | ₹ 25,20,018.57 with further interest there on at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses from 20.08.2024 till the date of payment |
| 2. | KOIRA BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Manoj Mishra, S/o: Sri Jaleswar Mishra, At: New Garden Colony, PO/PS: Koira, Dist.: Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN-770048 | 05.08.2024 / 07.08.2024 / Can not be located | Term Loan 1) CRE Home Loan : ₹14,00,000/- 2) Top up Loan : ₹13,50,000/- | 1) 9.75% 2) 10.75% | ₹ 27,17,919.70 with further interest there on at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses from 06.08.2024 till the date of payment |
| 3. | DEBAGARH BRANCH / Borrower: Mr. Shashi Bhusan Pradhan, S/o: Mr. Khireswar Pradhan, Flat No.: A 415, 4th Floor, Kalpana River View Complex, Bankula, Near Bankula Shiv Mandir, At.: Plot No.: 174, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khordha, Odisha, PIN-751002 / Co-Borrower: Mrs. Namita Pradhan, W/o: Mr. Khireswar Pradhan, Village: Panda Sahi, PO/PS.: Deogarh, Dist.: Deogarh, Odisha, PIN-768108 | 29.07.2024 / 31.07.2024 / Door Locked | Term Loan (Housing Loan) : ₹25,00,000/- | 9.45% | ₹ 23,51,372.12 with further interest there on at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses from 31.07.2024 till the date of payment |
| Description of Mortgaged property: EM of land and building admeasuring Area: Ac.0.04dec., Kissam: Gharbari, situated at Mouza: Kuarmunda, PS: Birmiritapur, Tahasil: Panposh, Dist.: Sundargarh, having Khata No.: 378/1300, Plot No.: 1225/4705, standing in the name of Mr. Biswanath Sahoo, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 1224, West: Plot No.: 1225/P, North: Plot No.: 1227, South: Road. | | | | | |
| Description of Mortgaged property: EM of land and building admeasuring Area: Ac.0.05dec., Kissam: Gharbari, situated at Mouza: Koira, PS: Koira, PS No.: 21, Tahasil: Koira, Tahasil No.: 399, Dist.: Sundargarh, having Khata No.: 149/737, Plot No.: 948/2625, standing in the name of Mr. Manoj Mishra, Bounded by East: Plot No.: 948/2625, West: Plot No.: 948/1972, North: Plot No.: 949, South: Plot No.: 948/1972 | | | | | |
| Description of Mortgaged property: EM of land and building bearing Khata No.: 248/680, Plot No.: 320/1292, Area: Ac.0.060.58dec. i.e 2639 Sqft, Kissam: Gharbari, Duplex No.-7 & 8, Block-04 in name & style of duplex "PENGUIN CAVES" in Mouza: Gotalagram, PS/Tahasil: Balianita, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha, PIN-752101, along with G+1 storied building of GF/FF, Build Up Area: 1421Sqft. each floor, Carpet Area: 1136.8Sq.ft. each floor as per physical, standing in the name of Mrs. Namita Pradhan, Bounded by East: Govt. Road, West: Geetanjali Nayak, North: Part of Revenue Plot No.: 320, South: Vendor | | | | | |

You have committed default in repayment of loan mentioned above with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our Branch as mentioned above. The bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. The Demand Notice sent to you by registered post but it has been returned with the reason mentioned above. Again you have committed default in payment. You are called upon to pay the dues together with interest within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise Right of Enforcement of Security Interest as against the secured asset given in the schedule of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. We hereby give you a notice that in terms of sub-section (13) of section 13 of the said Act, you are barred from transferring the secured asset mentioned above by way of sale, lease or otherwise other than in the ordinary course of business without prior written consent of the Bank. We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction / inviting quotations / tender / private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank including initiation of legal action.

Place: Sambalpur, Date: 10.09.2024

Authorised Officer Bank of Baroda

National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)
NIELIT Bhawan, Plot No. 3, PSP Pocket, Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110077

PUBLIC NOTICE

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CBC-06102/12/0008/2425 Registrar

WORKS DEPARTMENT No. B-232
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, BHADRAK (R&B) DIVISION
e-mail: bhadrakrnbdivision@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. SE (R&B) BDK-18/2024-25
Dt. 05.09.24

No. 5371

- Nature of Work : Gym Instrument
- Number of Works : 1 (One) No.
- Amount put to Tender : Rs. 25,64,670/-
- Class of Contractor : "B"
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : 13.09.2024 11.00 A.M.
- Last date/time of receipt of bid in the portal : 23.09.2024 upto 05.00 P.M.
- Date of Opening of bid : Dt. 24.09.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
- Name & address of the Office Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Bhadrak (R&B) Division
- The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.
- Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in".
- All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.

Sd./ Superintending Engineer
Bhadrak (R&B) Division
OIPR-34079/11/0005/2425

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

THE KURSK GAMBIT



Whatever his illusions were when he began this brutal invasion, after two and a half years of limited battlefield gains at exceptionally high cost, even Putin must now understand that negotiations are a question of when, not if

international border, such as Russia's invasion of the Kharkiv region last spring and Ukraine's more recent Kursk operation. These measures could lay the groundwork for negotiating a durable peace.

To be sure, Russia's own willingness to take initial steps toward de-escalation, let alone a ceasefire, is highly uncertain; Putin responded to the Kursk incursion by declaring that negotiations are now impossible. But it is worth testing the waters. With the Kursk operation having demonstrated Ukraine's ability to impose further costs on Russia, Putin has a greater incentive to engage. And whatever his illusions were when he began this brutal invasion, after two and a half years of limited battlefield gains at exceptionally high cost, even Putin must now understand that negotiations are a question of when, not if.

Should the Kremlin reject offers to de-escalate, at least then the next US president will know that Russia has no interest in peace. Such clarity would not only help maintain the current international coalition in support of Ukraine; it could also pull in more countries from the Global South, most of which have so far refused to take sides despite Russia's unambiguous aggression against its neighbour. Russian intransigence might even convince China to distance itself from Putin's war, and to lean on him to seek a diplomatic off-ramp.

Given the high intensity of the current fighting, finalising a ceasefire before a new US president takes office is unlikely. But the US can still pursue incremental steps that would appreciably mitigate the death and destruction. Such steps would be valuable in themselves, and they would set the stage for the next US president to work toward bringing this devastating conflict to an end.

Samuel Charap is Distinguished Chair in Russia and Eurasia Policy and Senior Political Scientist at RAND. Charles A. Kupchan is Professor of International Affairs at Georgetown University.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

Ukraine's bold incursion into Russia's Kursk region gives the country a much-needed breakthrough on the battlefield, and represents yet another setback for the Kremlin. Yet the operation is not a military game-changer. Even as Ukrainian forces have occupied more than 400 square miles of Russia, the Russian military has been making significant advances along the front line in Ukraine's Donbas region and pummeling the country from the air. Neither Russia nor Ukraine is in a position to achieve an absolute military victory; this war will be concluded at the negotiating table, not on the battlefield.

It is at the negotiating table that Ukraine's push into Kursk may well end up working to its advantage. By successfully demonstrating that it can take the fight to Russian territory, Ukraine has strengthened its hand in future negotiations. The United States and its allies should now work with Ukraine to put this newfound leverage to good use by charting a course toward a ceasefire and diplomatic endgame.

Even before Ukraine's incursion into Kursk, a window of opportunity for diplomacy had already opened. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had long insisted that talks could come only after the full restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity. But this past summer he warmed to the prospect of a diplomatic push, emphasising the need to negotiate an end to the war "as soon as possible." Just after a peace summit in Switzerland in June, he said that he wanted to invite Russia to the next gathering. And despite his own decree banning direct talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, he stated that he was open to engaging with the Russian leader.

This shift in Zelenskyy's stance cleared the way for quiet diplomacy between Ukraine and Russia. A few months ago, the two countries almost reached a deal to secure civilian shipping lanes in the Black Sea. Moreover, before the Kursk operation disrupted the effort, talks had been planned in Qatar to negotiate a ban on strikes against civilian infrastructure.

Ukraine's tentative pivot to diplomacy is entirely understandable. It has steadily lost territory to Russian forces over the past 20 months, and its people are tiring, with opinion surveys now showing that close to 50% of Ukrainians favour negotiations. Despite passing legislation in June that broadens the country's military mobilisation, securing manpower remains a challenge. The economy continues to suffer from regular Russian strikes against its infrastructure, with around 50% of Ukraine's electricity-generating capacity knocked out. And Ukrainian leaders are justifiably worried that political support for further aid packages could wane in the US and Europe alike.

The Kursk operation could be interpreted as a sign that the window for diplomacy has closed in Kyiv, or that Zelenskyy's talk of negotiations was only a cover for the surprise strike. But the opposite appears to be the case. Top Ukrainian officials, including Zelenskyy, have explicitly linked the Kursk operation to efforts to increase Ukraine's leverage at the negotiating table. Wars often escalate soon before talks to end them begin, which may well be what is now unfolding.

A window of opportunity for diplomacy has also opened in Washington. Now that President Joe Biden is not running for re-election, he could burnish his legacy by helping Ukraine move toward a diplomatic endgame. Securing a deal that allows the

80% of Ukraine still under the control of the government in Kyiv to thrive - despite nearly three years of relentless aggression from a much larger neighbour - would qualify as a success by any reasonable measure. Whenever the fighting ends, the US can and should continue working to restore Ukraine's territorial integrity using diplomatic, political, and economic tools, including by making the Kremlin pay a price for its occupation, for however long it lasts.

For its part, Ukraine would do well to embark on negotiations sooner rather than later, capitalising on the increased leverage afforded by its military advances in Kursk. Undue delays are likely to weaken, not strengthen, Ukraine's hand, because its forces in Kursk could be forced to retreat, Russian forces could make additional gains in Donbas, or both.

The US should help Ukraine map out effective steps to de-escalate the conflict, building on the aborted talks to open Black Sea shipping routes and limit strikes on civilian infrastructure. Further measures could involve designating rear areas - such as Crimea and all Ukrainian urban centers - as off-limits for deep strikes. Eventually, Ukraine and Russia could forge disengagement zones along the 600-mile front line, which would effectively serve as trial areas for a broader ceasefire.

The Ukrainian and Russian governments could also agree to end future incursions across the undisputed sections of the



Samuel Charap & Charles A. Kupchan

WARS OFTEN ESCALATE SOON BEFORE TALKS TO END THEM BEGIN, WHICH MAY WELL BE WHAT IS NOW UNFOLDING

Trudeau In Trouble

We must march on with the quiet certitude that what has to be done will be done.

THE MOTHER



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has suffered a jolt after the Left-of-the-Centre New Democratic Party (NDP), that had helped him remain in power, withdrew support on a crucial trade union issue. The real reason is, of course, an assessment by the NDP that Trudeau's popularity is on the wane and he is unlikely to return to power. The NDP's leader Jagmeet Singh said elections are likely to be held much earlier than scheduled, but his party is prepared to face the electorate.

Political pressure, a lack of traction for the agreement struck between the NDP and the liberal government and Trudeau's abrupt intervention in a railway union dispute sealed an early end to the arrangement. Singh has accused Trudeau of buckling under the pressure of private capital and jettisoning the labour force. This has left the minority government of Trudeau with no other option but to seek new alliances to stay in office until a federal vote is scheduled to be held by end-October 2025.

However, polls show the Liberals would lose badly to the official opposition right-of-centre Conservatives amid increasing voter fatigue with Trudeau, unhappiness over high prices and a housing shortage. To make matters worse for Trudeau his close aide Jeremy Broadhurst, who was set to run the Liberals' election campaign, announced he was quitting. Political analysts say Broadhurst distanced himself from Trudeau because he did not think Trudeau could win.

The crisis had its origin last month when the Liberal government stepped in to quickly resolve a labour dispute that had ground national rail transport to a halt and stopped a chunk of international trade along with it. The decision to intervene left a sour taste in the mouth of Trudeau's socialist partner in Parliament. Singh blasted the government for sending the union and two rail companies into binding arbitration that eventually led to his break with the Liberals.

NDP believes Trudeau and the Liberals are "too weak, too selfish and too beholden to corporate interests to stop big corporations from ripping off everyday Canadians." Singh's party occupied the fourth position and it had first inked the deal in spring 2022 that granted automatic support to the Liberals in Parliament. The deal was to expire in June 2025 which gave Trudeau a timeline for how long he would govern before having to go to the polls. In return, Singh extracted progressive policy gains on social programming such as prescription drug coverage for diabetes medication and contraceptives, labour protections and dental insurance for routine procedures for some groups, including seniors and children. These programmes have so far failed to help either leader politically.

Recent polling has shown Trudeau is 20 points behind his main rival Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre, for the past year, on the back of problems plaguing incumbent governments around the world: high housing costs, battered health care systems and unmanageable gas and grocery bills.

Some of the rationale for leaving the deal is practical. Singh's party had to make big compromises on some of the policies - it originally wanted expansive drug coverage, not a small, limited programme to start - and felt the government was moving too slowly.

In the meantime, Poilievre has campaigned aggressively against Trudeau championing concerns about the cost of living crisis and blaming the Prime Minister and "sellout Singh" for life becoming unaffordable to Canadians.

Trudeau's government is safe for the time being, since it can only be defeated if the opposition parties unite and back a no-confidence vote. This is unlikely since NDP is too cash-strapped to go for elections immediately. It has also stated that though the deal has been scrapped to "protect the interests of the labour," it is in no mood to facilitate the return of the Conservatives.

WISDOM CORNER

There are three kinds of intelligence: one kind understands things for itself, the other appreciates what others can understand, the third understands neither for itself nor through others. This first kind is excellent, the second good, and the third kind useless. **NICCOLO MACHIAVELLI**

A spirit of innovation is generally the result of a selfish temper and confined views. People will not look forward to posterity, who never look backward to their ancestors. **EDMUND BURKE**

All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players: they have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages. **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1697: Austrian forces won a decisive victory over an Ottoman army at the Battle of Zenta.
- 1709: The duke of Marlborough led a British army of 100,000 men against a French army of 90,000 at the Battle of Malplaquet in the War of the Spanish Succession.
- 1855: The 11-month Siege of Sevastopol ended after British and French troops finally captured the main naval base of the Russian Black Sea fleet during the Crimean War.
- 1941: Construction began on the Pentagon, in Arlington county, Virginia; one of the largest office buildings in the world, it is the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense, including the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- 1973: General Augusto Pinochet led a coup d'état, overthrowing the government of President Salvador Allende of Chile.
- 1998: Commonwealth Games open in Kuala Lumpur. The 16th Commonwealth Games were held for the first time in an Asian country that did not have the British monarchy as the head of the state, 69 countries participated in the games that are held every 4 years.

IN JEST THIS

Delivery speed matters, but not always



Melvin Durai

I DON'T NEED A LAPTOP IN MINUTES. IT WOULD BE NICE, HOWEVER, TO HAVE A LAPTOP THAT STARTS IN UNDER A MINUTE

A few years ago, I was lucky enough to get a hand-me-down laptop. My older daughter bought a new laptop and gave her old one to me. That laptop is still my primary laptop, even though it's often quite slow.

If I open a browser after restarting my laptop, it takes more than five minutes for images and text to appear. I've learned to be patient and adapt to the quirks of my laptop. It helps, of course, that I'm old enough to remember the slow computers of the 1990s. Compared to them, my current laptop is Usain Bolt on steroids.

But my laptop is a sloth compared to the newest laptops on the market. Not only do these laptops have lightning-fast processing power, they also arrive at your door faster.

An X user named Sunny Gupta recently shared his experience buying a laptop through Flipkart Minutes, a quick commerce serv-

ice that Flipkart recently introduced to a few neighbourhoods in Bangalore.

When he placed the order on 22 August, Gupta was told he would get his new Acer Predator laptop in seven minutes. But after completing the purchase, he checked the tracking page and learned that his delivery order would be "slightly delayed" and arrive in 12 minutes.

The laptop actually arrived in 13 minutes, taking 86 per cent longer than the initial estimate, but Gupta seemed quite pleased. So did some other social media users, taking pride in the speedy delivery. "This is my new India," wrote one person. "A service like this can only be dreamed in Western countries."

This is true. In the United States, for example, if you want a new laptop in 13 minutes, you have to steal it. I wouldn't recommend that, of course, because I've heard that you get very poor

Wi-Fi reception in prison.

If you're seeking traditional delivery in America, you might be able to get overnight delivery, but only if you live near an Amazon warehouse.

Flipkart Minutes, created to provide competition to platforms such as Blinkit, Swiggy Instamart and Zepto, has also been launched in Gurugram and other parts of the NCR. Consumers can receive groceries, electronics and other products in as little as eight minutes. These platforms achieve amazing delivery times by opening dark stores in various neighbourhoods - small warehouses that carry numerous items. (If you're lucky enough to live next door to one of these dark stores, you may be able to sign up for Flipkart Seconds.)

Gupta's laptop purchase drew many comments online, including one from a person who wrote, "No one asked for a 7-minute laptop delivery, but I am

happy to see the growth of Indian e-commerce and its increasing competitiveness."

If everyone operated under the "no one asked" policy, there would be very little progress in the world. Did anyone ask to be able to heat up food in seconds? Did anyone ask to be able to "follow" people all over the world? Did anyone ask to be able to watch the World Cup on a phone?

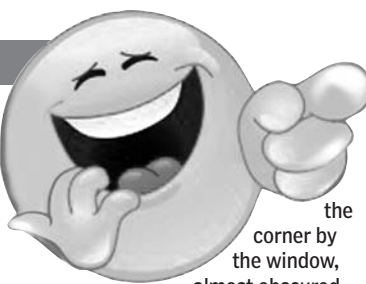
Whether these delivery platforms thrive depends largely on whether people find their speedy service useful. As for me, I tend to agree with the person who wrote, "Bro you missed that luxury of going to the showroom and comparing other laptops and chilling around."

I enjoy "chilling around" in actual stores, comparing one product with another and posing questions to salespeople. I don't need a laptop in minutes. It would be nice, however, to have a laptop that starts in under a minute.

LOL

Burglar in big trouble

A burglar has just made it into the house he's intending ransacking, and he's looking around for stuff to steal. All of a sudden, a little voice pipes up, "I can see you, and so can Jesus!"



Startled, the burglar looks around the room. No one there at all, so he goes back to his business. "I can see you, and so can Jesus!" The burglar jumps again, and takes a longer look around the room. Over in the corner by the window, almost obscured by curtains, is a cage in which sits a parrot, who pipes up again, "I can see you, and so can Jesus!" "So what," says the burglar, "you're only a parrot!" To which the parrot replies, "Maybe, but Jesus is a Rottweiler!"

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Endangered vultures

Sir, Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has initiated a novel project "Jatayu Gram Mitra" under which villagers surrounding the Reserve have been asked to dump animal carcasses at designated places for 10 Indian vultures to feed on. The endangered vultures are extremely important for a healthy ecosystem because they feast on the flesh of certain dead animals that could cause serious diseases in human beings if left to rot. Moreover, pests like rats and pack of dogs would have taken over the area. The "Vulture Action Plan 2020-25" aims at preventing vulture deaths by eliminating the illegal proliferation of the banned drug, diclofenac sodium, in market for veterinary use after there was a sharp decline in the vulture numbers over a period. Diclofenac sodium was believed to have been passed on to vultures, after they consumed the flesh of dead cattle that were loaded with the drug during their last days, causing them kidney diseases.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Criminal negligence

Sir, This refers to "Return to work, SC tells doctors" (Orissa Post, September 10). I think all sensible persons will have a union of mind with the Supreme Court when it directs doctors to resume their work and start attending patients suffering from different ailments. This direction is imperative for the healthcare system should not be allowed to go topsy-turvy for any longer. The need of the hour in my opinion is to sit with the Chief Minister who has expressed her honest intention to meet a 5-10 member delegation. The agitating doctors are to appreciate the fact that the state government has not so far taken any coercive measure in spite of the fact that so many persons have died for lack of medical attention. This is criminal negligence on the part of a section of doctors who are adamant. The apex court has made it amply clear that in the event the agitating doctors fail to honour the direction of the court, it will not stand in the way if the state government takes penal actions against doctors.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

KALINDI EXPRESS DERAILMENT

NIA JOINS PROBE

Bottles of petrol and matchboxes were found at the site hinting at a sabotage bid, the reason why a high-level team from the National Investigation Agency has been rushed in to join the investigations



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanpur/Lucknow, Sept 10: An NIA team has joined the ongoing probe in Kanpur where a major train accident was averted by a loco pilot who brought the Bhiwani-Prayagraj Express to a screeching halt after it hit an LPG cylinder on the tracks Sunday night, police said.

According to the police, bottles of petrol and matchboxes were also found at the site hinting at a sabotage bid, the reason why a high-level team from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has been rushed in to join the investigations.

"A team from the NIA, led by a woman IPS officer of the 2012 batch has started investigating the site where the LPG cylinder was found placed on the railway tracks," a senior police officer told PTI from Kanpur.

"The NIA officials have started gathering details about the incident. They are also undertaking a survey of the entire area around the railway tracks (where the LPG cylinder was found),"

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Rajesh Kumar Singh said. ADG Railways has also arrived, a police official confirmed.

"The NIA officials... asked the police to make a survey of railway tracks in the large areas believing it might be helpful in getting break-through into the case," he added.

"A detailed press note will be issued from Delhi," an officer at the NIA control room said, when he was approached to share details of the ongoing investigations into the incident that occurred around 8.20 pm Sunday.

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.

The Kanpur Police has detained six people, including two local history-sheetsers, in con-

12 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN KALINDI EXPRESS DERAILMENT BID PROBE. KANPUR POLICE QUESTION GAS AGENCIES TO TRACE CYLINDER BUYER. KALINDI EXPRESS HIT LPG CYLINDER ON TRACKS IN KANPUR SUNDAY

nection 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. Efforts were being made to identify the culprits and they will be dealt with sternly, he said.

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

IIT Indore develops AI-driven drone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Sept 10: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore has developed a drone equipped with artificial intelligence (AI) application for close monitoring of structures located in inaccessible areas, an official said Tuesday.

According to the IIT official, the AI-driven remotely operated vehicle can detect cracks and other defects in structures ranging from high-tension power lines and gas pipelines to buildings and roads within merely 25 milliseconds.



"The IIT Indore has developed a cutting-edge drone system that integrates Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) with AI and machine learning (ML) to inspect and detect anomalies in structures, especially in difficult-to-reach areas," the institute's professor, Abhirup Datta, said.

This innovative system uses AI-ML technology to identify and classify cracks and other anomalies in structures such as high-tension wires, gas pipelines, buildings, and roads in real-time, he informed. Datta said "The system has shown remarkable accuracy, achieving a 98.7% success rate in detecting and classifying cracks and processing data in just 25 milliseconds using advanced AI edge devices like Nvidia Jetson. This innovation is expected to transform the way inspections are conducted, making the process faster, safer, and more reliable."

The IIT professor maintained that if specific research is undertaken, AI-powered drones can also be used to detect cracks and other defects in railway tracks.

Security enhanced ahead of Radha Asthami celebrations

RADHARANI'S BIRTH CELEBRATION TO BE HELD WITH GRANDEUR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mathura/Lucknow (UP), Sept 10: The Radhashtami festival began in Mathura Monday, with the main celebration for Radharani's birth set to take place at the Ladli Ji Temple in Barsana early Wednesday morning, according to the temple management.

The festival will be celebrated with grandeur, including a flower shower from a helicopter under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership, an official statement said.

Preparations are underway for the grand celebration of Radharani's birth, following the recent festivities for Lord Krishna. During Brahma Muhurta September 11, a special 'Mahabhishek' (ritual bathing) of Radharani will be performed. In the evening, she will be placed on a gold palanquin for devotees to view from beneath a white canopy.

The Radhashtami festival commenced Monday with the 'abhishek' of Lalita Ji at the Lalita Temple atop a hill in Ucha Gaon. Devotees flocked to the temple as priests performed the 'abhishek' with 'panchamrit', including ghee, milk, curd, and honey.

District Magistrate (DM) Shailendra Kumar Singh said that Radharani's birth 'abhishek' will occur at 4 am Wednesday. "Without compromising on security every effort would be made to provide easy 'darshan' to several lakh pilgrims, who will pay their obeisance to deity in Ladli temple on this occasion. Barsana has been divided into seven zones and 16 sectors with senior level officers as incharge of zones and SDM-level officers as incharge



52 CCTVS WITH DRONE CAMERAS WILL KEEP A WATCH ON ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS. TO PREVENT DROWNING INCIDENTS, BARBED FENCING HAS BEEN INSTALLED AROUND THREE MAJOR 'KUNDS' (PONDS) IN BARSANA. ADDITIONALLY, 48 PARKING POINTS HAVE BEEN SET UP AT VARIOUS ENTRY POINTS LEADING TO BARSANA

of sectors," Singh said.

A total of seven additional SPs, 34 circle officers, 78 inspectors, 290 sub-inspectors, 1,400 constables, 375 home guards, and two companies of PAC have been deployed to ensure security at the fair, Singh said.

According to the officials, 52 CCTVs with drone cameras will keep a watch on anti-social elements. To prevent drowning incidents, barbed fencing has been installed around three major 'kunds' (ponds) in Barsana. Additionally, 48 parking points have been set up at various entry points leading to Barsana, they said.

To manage the crowd, entry

will be in groups of 50, and Gahwarvan Parikrama will be restricted, the officials said, adding that the elderly devotees will use a separate route.

Transport arrangements include 140 buses from Mathura, Govardhan, Chhata, and Kosi Kalan to Barsana. A ropeway facility will assist the elderly, disabled, women, and children in reaching the 600-foot-high temple, they added.

Officials advised devotees to bring minimal belongings, avoid bringing disabled or elderly individuals, and avoid pushing and shoving. Sevayat Deepak Goswami said, "Mangala Badhai singing will start at 2 am September 11. The ceremony will begin with Shanti Puja, followed by 'mahabhishek' with water from 27 wells, soil from 27 Braj sites, leaves from 27 trees, and 108 herbs. The 'mahabhishek' will use 11 quintals of 'panchamrit' in 11 vessels, one with 27 holes."

The Uttar Pradesh Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad is enhancing Barsana Dharma with lights and 51 gates showcasing various pastimes of Radharani.

MP approves proposal to hike MSP for soybean

Centre has already cleared proposals of three states, including Maharashtra, and will take up Madhya Pradesh's proposal on priority, says Chouhan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Sept 10: With the Congress kicking off its Kisan Nyay Yatra in Madhya Pradesh, the state cabinet Tuesday cleared a proposal to increase the minimum support price for soybean to ₹4,892 per quintal and sent the same to the Centre for approval.

Earlier in the day, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the Centre has already cleared proposals of three states, including Maharashtra, and will take up Madhya Pradesh's proposal on priority.

Talking to reporters after the cabinet meeting, State Urban Development Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya said Chief Minister



Mohan Yadav proposed an increase in the MSP for soybean to ₹4,892 per quintal, and the cabinet approved the proposal.

There is good soybean produce in the state, but farmers have not been getting the right price, he said, adding that the current price was at ₹4,000 per quintal.

The proposal would be sent to the Centre for approval, the minister said.

Chouhan, speaking to reporters earlier in the day, said the Centre is committed to purchasing soybean at the MSP.

He said three states, including Maharashtra and Karnataka, had demanded the purchase of soybean, and they were granted

Meanwhile, state Congress president Jitu Patwari kicked off the Kisan Nyay Yatra from Mandsaur and other districts to protest against the BJP-led state government for not fulfilling the promises it made to farmers.

permission under the Centre's price support scheme (PSS). "We are in contact with the state government. There are two schemes under which the state

government can purchase soybean. We will grant the permission immediately," Chouhan said.

It is the Narendra Modi government's priority to provide a right price to farmers, he said.

"I want to assure farmers of Madhya Pradesh and other states that the Centre will give immediate permission as per proposals of the state government," Chouhan said.

Meanwhile, state Congress president Jitu Patwari kicked off the Kisan Nyay Yatra from Mandsaur and other districts to protest against the BJP-led state government for not fulfilling the promises it made to farmers.

Talking to reporters at Mandsaur, Patwari said Prime Minister Modi had promised to bring a law to ensuring MSP, but it was not introduced.

"Shivraj ji earlier lied to the people of Madhya Pradesh, and he is now doing same with people of the country," the Congress leader alleged.

He further questioned if MSP on soybean was given for Maharashtra, why not in Madhya Pradesh?

Rewa Airport gets DGCA nod

With this, Madhya Pradesh will have six airports, including Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior and Khajuraho

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhopal, Sept 10: With the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) granting operating licence to the airport at Rewa, Madhya Pradesh's Vindhya region will get a much-needed boost to expand economic and regional connectivity, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said.

With this, Madhya Pradesh will have six airports, including Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior and Khajuraho, an official said.

"The Rewa Airport in the Vindhya region has received the DGCA licence. It will boost economic activity and expand regional connectivity in the state," Yadav said in a release Monday night.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the airport will prove to be a mile-



stone for the development of the Vindhya region under the motto of 'Developed India-Developed Madhya Pradesh', he said.

"The DGCA has granted the licence to commence operations of both passenger and cargo

flights," the chief minister said.

The airport will improve connectivity to various cultural and historical places and boost trade, employment and tourism in the area.

In a statement Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla, who hails from the Vindhya region, said the dream of air travel for citizens there will become a reality soon.

He emphasized that the operation of Rewa Airport will give a new direction to the economic, social, and cultural development of the Vindhya region.

Man-animal conflict due to reduction in forest area: Yogi

THE FIFTH WOLF WAS CAPTURED AS PART OF THE 'OPERATION BHEDIYA' CAMPAIGN THAT HAS BEEN ONGOING IN BAHRACH'S MAHASI TEHSIL TO CATCH A PACK OF SIX WOLVES THAT HAVE KILLED EIGHT PEOPLE AND INJURED MORE THAN 20 SINCE MID-JULY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 10: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Tuesday said here that man-animal conflict occurs due to reduction in forest area.

Adityanath was addressing a function in the Lok Bhavan here where he distributed appointment letters to 647 forest guards/wildlife guards and 41 junior engineers selected through the UP Subordinate Services Selection Commission.

"If the forests burn, the environment will be damaged and landslides will occur. Not only wildlife, but humans will also have to face the ill-effects of untimely climate change. Human-wildlife conflict occurs due to reduction in forest area," Adityanath said.

Adityanath's statement assumes significance as it comes on a day when the fifth wolf was captured



as part of the 'Operation Bhediya' campaign that has been ongoing in Bahraich's Mahasi tehsil to catch a pack of six wolves that have killed eight people and injured more than 20 since mid-July.

"The loss of life is happening due to wildlife and human conflict. This loss of life is a loss to family and the society. Due to this, many families become orphan.

When there is waterlogging, encroachment in the command area of wildlife, it will migrate to another area."

"Due to this, human settlements will be seen coming under threat, therefore forest-wildlife protectors will have to train themselves as well as local people," Adityanath said.

The UP chief minister also said

the Terai districts, where these incidents have happened, are the areas where forests and agricultural lands are adjacent to each other. "If there is water in the forest, the animals come towards farms. If a person suddenly goes to the farm, the wild animals become violent. Electric and solar fencing should be done in the border areas," he said.

Claiming that Uttar Pradesh is the first state to include human-wildlife conflict in the 'disaster' category, the UP chief minister said, "Uttar Pradesh is the first state to include human-wildlife conflict in the 'disaster' category and make a provision of ₹5 lakh (compensation) for the loss of life."

Apparently hitting off at the Samajwadi Party (SP) without taking its name, Adityanath said, "Those who have never done good, will definitely feel bad if (something) good happens. They are getting exposed, so they resort to

false propaganda. They should be asked what they were doing when their government was in power. Why was the recruitment process not being done in a transparent manner? Why the judiciary had to repeatedly halt recruitment processes?"

"Before 2017, honest recruitment was not possible. Questions were being raised on all the commissions and boards of that time. Their work and selection were under suspicion. Even today investigations by the CBI are going on," he said.

On this occasion, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr Arun Kumar Saxena, Minister of State KP Malik, Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary Forest, Environment & Climate Change Manoj Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Department Sudhir Kumar Sharma were present, the statement said.

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI BHUBAN, DHENKANAL PR & DW DEPARTMENT Tender Call Notice

Bid Identification No. BDO, Bhuban-01/2024-25
Bhuban, Dhenkanal-759017, E-mail: ori-bhuban@nic.in

No.1-144: The Block Development Officer, Bhuban on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate from eligible contractors for construction of building work detail in the table below.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Nature of Work | : Building Works |
| 2. Number of Work | : 04 (Four) Nos. |
| 3. Tender Cost & EMD | : As mentioned in DTCN |
| 4. Class of Contractor | : As mentioned in DTCN |
| 5. Available Bid document in the District Website | : From 11.09.2024 10.00 AM to 20.09.2024 upto 5.00 PM |
| 6. Last date/Time of receipt of the original bid documents | : 20.09.2024 5.00 PM (only Regd.Post/Speed Post) |
| 7. Date of Seeking Clarification | : 13.09.2024 within office hours. |
| 8. Date of Opening of Bid | : 21.09.2024 11.30 AM |
| 9. Name & Address of the Office | : Office of the Block Development Officer, Bhuban. |
| 10. Further details can be seen from the Dhenkanal Portal www.dhenkanal.nic.in. Any Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. | |

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Bhuban
OIPR-19323/11/0001/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA No. B-234 INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) 'e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No. S.E. JSPR (R&B) - 04/2024-25

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Name of Work | : Roads work for the year 2024-25 |
| 2. No. of Works | : Total - 01 (One) No. Work |
| 3. Estimated Cost | : Above Rs.05.00 lakhs upto Rs.40.00 lakhs (Approx.) |
| 4. Period of Completion | : As per Column No. 8 of this NIT |
| 5. Class of Contractors | : As per Column No. 7 of this NIT |

Other details as follows:

| | |
|---|--|
| 6. Date & time of availability of bid documents in Portal | : 12.09.2024 at 11.30 A.M. |
| 7. Last date/time for receipt of bids in Portal | : 20.09.2024 upto 05.00 P.M. |
| 8. Opening of Bid documents | : 21.09.2024 at 11.30 A.M. |
| 9. Procurement Officer | : Superintending Engineer, Jagatsinghpur (R&B) Division, Jagatsinghpur |

With : eerbjspr@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website: tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Jagatsinghpur (R&B) Division
OIPR-34093/11/0005/2425

national



Karnataka is open for business. We welcome you to explore the great opportunities our state has to offer

'MPOX PATIENT AT LNJP HOSPITAL STABLE'

The mpox patient admitted to the LNJP Hospital here is in stable condition, Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said Tuesday. Bharadwaj conducted a surprise inspection at the hospital earlier in the day to assess its preparations for dealing with cases of mpox and dengue



of the day quote

Atal ji had represented the country abroad. But, Rahul Gandhi is not doing anything else but to defame the country

If the BJP topples the Kejriwal government, the people of Delhi will give it a befitting reply. The BJP will lose even the eight seats it holds now and will be reduced to zero in the upcoming Assembly polls and the AAP will win all the 70 seats

At a time when such circumstances prevail at the national level, Kerala is going ahead with precise policies to ensure the safety and security of women

Cong ups ante over SEBI row

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the institutional integrity of SEBI as a robust market regulator has been "tarnished by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to save his crony friends"



The group categorically stated that it had not at any point requested the SEBI for any preferential treatment. The Mahindra and Mahindra Group dismissed the allegations as "false and misleading in nature"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: The Congress Tuesday claimed that SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch had a 99 per cent stake in a firm when it provided consultancy services to the Mahindra and Mahindra Group and her husband received ₹4.78 crore as income from the conglomerate while she was adjudicating cases of the same group.

"We maintain the highest standards of corporate governance," a spokesperson of the Mahindra and Mahindra Group said.

In a post on X, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said, "The Mega Modi-Adani Scam is being investigated by SEBI. SEBI Chairperson has multiple issues of conflict of interest. Congress party has now revealed numerous such instances."

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh asked whether

Prime Minister Modi was aware that Buch owns 99 per cent of Agora Advisory Private Limited and is receiving significant fees from listed entities, including Mahindra and Mahindra.

Putting out a fresh set of "relations" on the issue of conflict of interest involving the SEBI chairperson, Ramesh said on X, "Our questions are directed pointedly at the non-biological PM who appointed her in the first place -- Is the Prime Minister aware that Madhabi Buch owns 99 per cent of Agora Advisory Private Limited and is receiving significant fees from listed entities, including Mahindra & Mahindra?"

What kind of consultancy services does Agora Advisory Private Limited provide and are

they financial in nature and is the Prime Minister aware of Buch's ties to a conflicted entity, he asked.

"Is the Prime Minister aware that Ms Madhabi Puri Buch's spouse is receiving a substantial income from M&M Limited after his retirement?" he asked.

Earlier, at a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khara said the recent Hindenburg report had alleged that SEBI Chairperson Buch held 99 per cent shares in a company called 'Agora Advisory Private Limited'.

Agora Advisory is a private entity incorporated May 7, 2013 and it claims to provide various types of advisory or consultancy services, Khara said.

HARYANA POLL BATTLE

BJP, AAP release candidate lists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh/New Delhi, Sept 10: Haryana poll battle intensified Tuesday with prominent leaders including Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and state Congress president Uday Bhan filing their nominations for the October 5 Assembly elections, even as the ruling BJP released its second list of 21 candidates.

The AAP which could not forge an alliance with the main Opposition Congress in the state, also released its second list of nine candidates for the polls, fielding former minister Chhatar Pal Singh from Barwala a day after he switched over from the BJP. Chief Minister Saini filed his nomination papers from the Ladwa constituency. He was accompanied by Union minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal.

A total of 127 candidates filed their papers Tuesday, taking the number of nominations submitted so far to 277, officials said.

Congress' Bhan and Jannayak Janta Party's Digvijay Singh Chautala filed their nominations from Hodal (SC) and Dabwali seats, respectively. Former finance minister Capt



Abhimanyu filed his nomination from the Narnaul seat.

Meanwhile, the BJP released a second list of candidates for the Assembly polls, denying tickets to two ministers and replacing its nominee for the Pehowa seat.

The list, notified by BJP national general secretary Arun Singh, has names of 21 candidates, including that of the new nominee for Pehowa. The ruling party is yet to announce candidates for Mahendragarh, NIT Faridabad, and Sirsa seats.

In its first list announced September 4, the BJP nominated Kamaljeet Singh Ajrana for the Pehowa seat but replaced him with Jai Bhagwan Sharma in the second list. Incumbent MLA of Pehowa and former minister Sandeep Singh has been denied re-nomination. Ajrana is learnt to have faced stiff Opposition to his candidature from some aspirants.

SHORT TAKES

U'khand landslide: Toll climbs to five

Rudraprayag (U'khand): Bodies of four more pilgrims, including three women, were recovered Tuesday from the debris of a landslide that occurred on the Kedarnath highway, taking the toll in the incident to five, officials said Tuesday. The rescue operation, which was resumed at 5 am, concluded at 7.30 am, Ryudraprayag Superintendent of Police Akshay Konde told PTI. The landslide occurred at Mankutiya along the five-km stretch between Sonprayag and Gaurikund at around 7.20 pm Monday while a group of pilgrims was returning on foot from Kedarnath.

Kerala HC slams Vijayan govt

Kochi: The Kerala High Court Tuesday gave a dressing down to the Pinarayi Vijayan government for its inaction on the Justice K Hema Committee report on working conditions of women in the Malayalam film industry which highlighted the sexual abuse suffered by actresses. It was Thursday that the Division Bench, headed by Acting Chief Justice, A Muhamed Mustaque set up the Special Bench comprising of Justices AK Jayasankaran Nambiar and CS Sudha, to hear the petitions pertaining to the Malayalam film industry.

Jarange to launch indefinite fast

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Activist Manoj Jarange Tuesday announced the launch of an indefinite fast from September 16 midnight to press for the Maratha reservation demand. In February, the Maharashtra legislature passed a bill providing 10 per cent reservation for the Maratha community in education and government jobs, but Jarange has insisted on the inclusion of Marathas in the Other Backward Class (OBC) category. Jarange has been leading protests demanding OBC certificates for recognising all Kunbis (agriculturists) and their "sage soyre" (blood relatives) as Marathas.

Three dead in lightning strike

Banda (UP): Three people died in a lightning strike while harvesting crops in a field in the Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh's Bundelkhand region Tuesday evening, officials said. The deceased include two women and a man, according to the police. Additional Superintendent of Police of Lalitpur Anil Kumar said the incident occurred around 4 pm in the vicinity of Chaighra village. Bodies have been sent for post-mortem.

REMARKS AGAINST PM

SC stays proceedings against Shashi Tharoor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: In a relief for Shashi Tharoor, the Supreme Court Tuesday stayed proceedings before a trial court in a defamation case lodged against the Congress MP for his alleged "scorpion on Shivling" remarks targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A bench of Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice R Mahadevan issued notice to the Delhi Police and BJP leader Rajiv Babbar who is the complainant in the case.

Tharoor was supposed to appear before a trial court here Tuesday in pursuance to a Delhi high court order.

"Issue notice returnable in four weeks. In the meantime, further proceedings in pursuance to the impugned

judgement are stayed," the bench said.

Tharoor has moved the top court against the Delhi High Court order which refused to quash defamation proceedings against him August 29.

During the hearing, advocate Mohammed Ali Khan, appearing for Tharoor, submitted that the complainant cannot be said to be an aggrieved party in the case and members of political party also cannot be said to be an aggrieved party.

Khan added that Tharoor's comment was protected under the immunity clause of the defamation law, which stipulates that any statement made in good faith was not criminal.

The top court expressed surprise that in 2012, the statement was not defamatory when the article was originally published.



Labourers sort onions at a field near Chikmagalur, Karnataka

PTI PHOTO

'Siddha drugs combination can reduce anaemia in girls'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: A combination of 'Siddha' drugs can reduce anaemia among adolescent girls, according to a recent study.

The results of the study - conducted under the Public Health Initiative and undertaken to mainstream the use of 'Siddha' drugs to combat anaemia - was published in the reputable Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge. According to a statement from the Union Ayush ministry, the researchers were from Siddha institutions, including the National Institute of Siddha, Xavier Research Foundation (Tamil Nadu), and Velumailu Siddha Medical College and Hospital (Tamil Nadu).

The researchers found that ABMN (Annapapicenturam, Bavana katukkay, Matulai manappaku and Nellikay lekiyam) - a combination of 'Siddha' drug treatment - can improve haemoglobin levels as well as packed cell volume, mean corpuscular hemoglobin in anaemic adolescent girls, it said. The study observed 2,648 girls, of whom 2,300 completed the standard 45-day programme. Reportedly, before the programme started, the researchers drew the participants with untreated curanam, and then a 45-day ABMN treatment was given, the statement said. The study noted that the pres-



Following World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, the cut-off point for anaemia was set at 11.9 mg/dl and haemoglobin level below 8.0 mg/dl considered as 'severe', between 8.0 and 10.9 mg/dl as 'moderate' and between 11.0 and 11.9 mg/dl as 'mild'

The study reported that a laboratory investigation was done for haemoglobin, packed cell volume, mean corpuscular volume, mean corpuscular haemoglobin, red blood corpuscles, platelets, total white blood cells, neutrophils, lymphocytes and eosinophils in a randomly selected subset of 283 girls

ence of clinical features such as breathlessness, fatigue, giddiness, headache, anorexia and pallor was also among the senior authors of the study, said, "Siddha' medicine plays a notable role in public health initiatives of the Ministry of Ayush." "The awareness created among adolescent girls, dietary advice and preventive care provided to them and the treatment through 'Siddha' drugs provided therapeutic benefits to the anaemic patients. Hence, 'Siddha' drugs for anaemia can contribute to public health by providing cost-effective and accessible treatment in various settings."

anaemic girls. National Institute of Siddha Director Dr R Meenakumari, who was also among the senior authors of the study, said, "Siddha' medicine plays a notable role in public health initiatives of the Ministry of Ayush." "The awareness created among adolescent girls, dietary advice and preventive care provided to them and the treatment through 'Siddha' drugs provided therapeutic benefits to the anaemic patients. Hence, 'Siddha' drugs for anaemia can contribute to public health by providing cost-effective and accessible treatment in various settings."

SNIPPETS

India, Philippines to review defence ties

New Delhi: India and the Philippines will carry out a comprehensive review of their defence and strategic partnership with a focus on ramping up military ties against the backdrop of mutual concern over China's aggressive posturing in the South China Sea. The two sides will deliberate on various issues relating to bilateral defence ties and regional security situation at the fifth meeting of India-Philippines joint defence cooperation committee to be held in Manila, officials said. The defence ties between the two countries have been on a significant upswing in the last few years.

Eng Rashid, LS MP from Baramulla, gets bail

New Delhi: A Delhi court Tuesday granted interim bail till October 2 to Lok Sabha MP from Kashmir Engineer Rashid in a terror funding case to enable him to campaign in the upcoming state assembly elections. Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, defeated former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Baramulla. Elections are scheduled to be held for the 90-member legislative assembly of the union territory in three phases from September 18 to October 1. The results will be declared October 8. Additional Sessions Judge Chander Jit Singh granted the relief to Rashid on a personal bond of ₹2 lakh and one surety of the like amount.

Molestation of girl: 50 detained in Dehradun

Dehradun: Police Tuesday detained 50 dubious people from Paltan Bazar area here during a verification drive launched after tension arose between traders of two communities over the alleged molestation of a girl by an employee of a footwear shop recently. Senior Superintendent of Police Ajai Singh said the drive is being run to verify the identity of those who come from outside the state to work in shops or put up stalls on pushcarts to sell different items in Paltan Bazar area. After the drive, 50 people were detained and brought to the police lines, the SSP said, and asked the traders to extend their full cooperation to the police in the campaign.

Conversion case: UP court convicts 16

Lucknow: A special Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) court in Uttar Pradesh Tuesday convicted 16 people, including Islamic preacher Maulana Kalim Siddiqui and Islamic Da'wah Centre founder Mohammed Umar Gautam, in a 2021 case of an illegal religious conversion racket. Special Judge Vivekanand Sharan Tripathi, while sending all the convicts to jail, fixed September 11 for hearing arguments on the quantum of the sentence. A detailed order is expected Wednesday.

India's Vice Chiefs soar in LCA Tejas fighter jet

SAYAN CHATTERJEE

New Delhi, Sept 10: In a significant development for India's Defence sector, the Vice Chiefs of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force made history September 9th by flying the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.



Air Marshal AP Singh, Vice Chief of Air Staff, piloted the lead fighter, while Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani, Vice Chief of the Army Staff, and Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, took part in the Tejas twin-seater. This unprecedented joint flight, the first time all three services' Vice Chiefs have flown together, underscores the enhanced focus on cross-domain cooperation among India's land, sea, and air forces. The flight occurred over Jodhpur, where the Indian Air Force hosts Tarang Shakti 2024, a landmark multi-national exercise to boost interoperability and coordination with friendly foreign countries (FFCs). The inclusion of the Tejas highlights the pivotal role of Indigenous platforms in modernising India's defence infrastructure, reflecting the nation's commitment to self-reliance and the 'Make in India' initiative.

national



The BJP is destined to be wiped out in the 2027 state assembly elections because it is going to lose all the seats in the by-elections
AKHILESH YADAV | SP PRESIDENT

FLASH FLOODS WARNING IN HP

The local Met office Tuesday warned of low to moderate flash floods in parts of six out of 12 districts -- Kinnaur, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Solan and Sirmour -- till Wednesday as moderate rains continued to lash parts of Himachal Pradesh



of the day quote

As electronic appliances in people's houses were damaged due to the floods, companies should come forward to repair them as a social responsibility
N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | AP CM

Deeply concerned to hear about Comrade @SitaramYechury's health. Wishing him a speedy recovery and hoping the dedicated efforts of the medical team will help him regain strength soon
M K STALIN | TAMIL NADU CM

Out of two crore visitors, 90 lakh visits showcased the broad accessibility of the clinics while 1.10 crore visits were re-visits, indicating the trust and satisfaction of the patients
BALBIR SINGH | PUNJAB HEALTH MINISTER

X POST OF THE DAY

Situation right now in Imphal, Manipur. @narendramodi is inviting a Bangladesh like revolution in Manipur by dividing India.
@Lecyprykc

SHORT TAKES

16-yr-old girl shot by minor boy

Muzaffarpur (Bihar): A 16-year-old girl was shot at by a minor boy inside the classroom of a private coaching centre in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district Tuesday, police said. The injured girl was hospitalised, while the boy fled. The incident occurred in the Rampur Krishna area, under the jurisdiction of Sakra police station of the district. The police said that both the victim and the accused are students of class 11 and they take tuition in that coaching centre.

Stray dogs found dead

Alappuzha (Kerala): Several stray dogs were found dead in large numbers on a temple ground in Ambalapuzha in this coastal district. According to locals, the carcasses of many dogs were found on the temple ground since Monday morning. Dogs were suspected to be poisoned, they said. Police said a preliminary investigation was carried out, but no case was registered as there was no formal complaint. "Some animal rights activists said they have sent a complaint to the station...but we are yet to receive it," a police officer said. Stray dogs menace has been a perplexing issue in Kerala for some years.

Man gets 20-yr jail for raping minor

Gurugram: A court here sentenced a man to 20 years in jail for raping a minor girl in Haryana's Sohna, police said Tuesday. The court of Additional Session Judge Ashwani Kumar imposed a fine of ₹40,000 on the 24-year-old accused in connection to the three-year-old rape case, they added. According to police, a Sohna-resident approached the police in 2021, alleging that Vinod, a native of Mathura district, had raped his 16-year-old daughter after luring her. Following the complaint, an FIR was registered under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act at Sohna Sadar police station.

MANIPUR UNREST

Tails of sophisticated rockets recovered

MANIPUR POLICE DISMISSED THE CLAIMS OF LT GEN P C NAIR, A RETIRED DG OF ASSAM RIFLES, IN A RECENT MEDIA INTERVIEW THAT NO DRONES OR ROCKETS WERE USED IN THE ATTACKS
AGENCIES



At least eight persons have died and over 12 injured in a fresh wave of violence, which included drone and missile attacks

Imphal, Sept 10: Tails of sophisticated rockets have been recovered after recent drone and hi-tech missile attacks in Manipur, a top police officer said Tuesday.

The Manipur Police also dismissed the claims of Lt Gen P C Nair, a retired DG of Assam Rifles, in a recent media interview that no drones or rockets were used in the attacks. He had also labelled Manipur Police as a 'Meitei Police', indicating their alleged partisan role in the ethnic strife.

Speaking to reporters, IGP (Administration) K Jayanta Singh said, "The statement is an immature one and seems to be his personal view and not of the force (Assam Rifles). We

strongly dismiss it. There is evidence of drone and hi-tech missile attacks. Drones have been recovered. Tails of sophisticated rockets fired on civilian areas have been recovered. Despite such evidence, it is very unfortunate that a distinguished commander would make such statements."

He, however, did not elaborate from where these sophisticated rockets and drones were procured by the assailants. IGP (Operations) I K Muivah added: "We want to clarify on the state-

ment that there is no Manipur Police but Meitei Police or Kuki Police. We want to dismiss that. Manipur Police are composed of different communities including the Nagas, Meiteis, Manipuri Muslims and non-Manipuris. There are Christians, Muslims and Hindus in this force."

The statement that Manipur Police are a 'Meitei Police' shows a "myopic kind of mindset", Muivah, who hails from the Tangkhul Naga community, added.

without a valid, functional Global Navigation Satellite System On-Board Unit, shall pay a fee equivalent to two times of the user fee applicable at that fee plaza," it added.

The highway ministry in July had said it decided to initially implement a GNSS-based toll collection system at select national highways on a pilot basis as an added facility along with FASTag.

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari had said that a pilot study with regard to a GNSS-based user fee collection system has been done on the Bengaluru-Mysore section of NH-275 in Karnataka and Panipat-Hisar section of NH-709 in Haryana. NHAI plans to implement the GNSS-based electronic toll collection (ETC) system within the existing FASTag ecosystem, initially using a hybrid model wherein both RFID-based ETC and GNSS-based ETC will operate simultaneously.

Implementation of GNSS-based electronic toll collection in India will facilitate smooth movement of vehicles along the National Highways and is envisaged to provide several benefits to highway users such as barrier-less free-flow tolling leading to hassle-free riding experience and distance-based tolling where users will pay only for the stretch they have travelled on a national highway, the ministry said.

Free highway travel up to 20km with GNSS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: Motorists using vehicles with a functional global navigation satellite system (GNSS) will be allowed to travel toll-free on highways and expressways up to 20 kilometres daily with effect from Tuesday, according to a government notification.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways amended the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, which has come to effect from Tuesday. Under the new regulations, known as the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Amendment Rules, 2024, fees will now be charged on the actual distance travelled if the distance exceeds 20 kilometres.

"A driver, owner or person in charge of a mechanical vehicle other than a National Permit vehicle who makes use of the same section of the national highway, permanent bridge, bypass or tunnel, as the case may be, shall be levied a zero user fee up to 20 kilometres of a journey in each direction in a day under Global Navigation Satellite System based user fee collection system," the notification said.

"Provided also that exclusive lane can be earmarked for Global Navigation Satellite System On-Board Unit fitted vehicle and in case vehicle enters such lane,



An attempt to derail a loaded goods train was made in Rajasthan's Ajmer district by putting two cement blocks on tracks of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, railway officials said Tuesday. The goods train did hit the blocks between Saradha and Bangad stations Sunday night but nothing untoward occurred, they said

India, UAE ink pact on operating nuclear plants in Gulf nation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: India and the UAE have inked a pact that provides a framework for giving services for operation and maintenance of nuclear plants in the emirate.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Bhuwan Chandra Pathak, Chairman and Managing Director of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited

(NPCIL), and Mohamed Al Hammadi, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) of the UAE.

The MoU was inked during the ongoing visit of Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to India.

Al Nahyan held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday. "The MoU provides a

general framework for the possible collaboration between the NPCIL & ENEC in the relevant fields, which inter alia include developing supply chains, sharing experience and providing services for Operation & Maintenance of Nuclear Energy Plants, providing nuclear consulting services, human resources development & training, research and development etc," a statement by the NPCIL said.

Govt sends more CRPF personnel to Manipur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: The Centre has directed deployment of two fresh CRPF battalions comprising about 2,000 personnel for security duties in ethnic strife-torn Manipur, official sources said Tuesday.

The battalion number 58 is being moved from Warangal in Telangana while the one numbered 112 is being sent from Latehar in Jharkhand.

The first unit will have its headquarter in Kangvai (Churachandpur) in Manipur while the second will be stationed around Imphal, the sources told PTI.

They said the move has been ordered following the withdrawal of two Assam Rifles battalions from Manipur for operational duties in Jammu and Kashmir and some other parts of the Northeast.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has directed that all the companies (about 6 each) of these new two units to be based in various parts of the strife-torn state that has been witnessing ethnic conflict since May last year claiming more than 200 lives. A CRPF battalion has an operational strength of about 1,000 personnel.

Additionally, 16 battalions of the force already present in the state following the violence last year, completed the establishment of their operational bases in Imphal West, Imphal East, Churachandpur, Noney, Jiribam, Kangpokpi, Bishnupur last week, the sources said.

Shah urges agencies to use AI for checking cybercrimes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Tuesday urged cybersecurity agencies to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify the modus operandi of criminals duping people of their hard-earned money, spreading fake news and abusing women and children online.

India hosts around 46 per cent or almost half of global digital transactions, making the job of these agencies "challenging", he said while delivering a keynote speech during the first foundation day celebrations of the I4C or Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre here.

The I4C, established in 2018, is a department under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It is tasked with establishing a national-level coordination centre to address all cybercrime-related issues in the country.



During the event, Shah launched four platforms of the I4C - cyber fraud mitigation centre (CFMC), the 'Samanvaya' platform, a cyber commandos programme and a suspect registry.

He urged the cyber security agencies to shun the age-old protocol of "need to know" and adopt the "duty to share" approach to take forward this fight. He cited some figures to show how Internet and cyber penetration has increased in the coun-

try. "We have 95 crore Internet users in the country as of March 31 as compared to 25 crore during the same time period in 2014," Shah said, adding that in 2014, as many as 600 panchayats were linked to the Internet but he has reached 2.13 lakh now.

Seven-lakh km of optical fibre cable has been laid, data download speed has increased, the cost has decreased and the Internet consumption has risen 78 per cent over a pe-

The Home Minister said that in 2024, India saw UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions worth about ₹20,64,000 crore which is 46 per cent of the global digital transactions

riod of time, he said.

The minister said the '1930' national cyber helpline telephone number needs to be popularised during a special campaign being launched by the I4C from Wednesday to spread awareness about cybercrimes. At the event, the home minister spoke at length about the importance of preparing effective countermeasures against cybercrimes while asserting that the country's development was "impossible in current times" without keep-

ing cybersecurity in mind.

Shah urged for "greater co-ordination" between the agencies of the centre and the states as this combat cannot be undertaken by one organisation alone. It is essential that "everyone comes together", he said.

Cybercrimes see "no boundary" and common people should be made aware of these offences, the Union Home Minister said. "I appeal to all state governments to join this movement and ensure that cyber awareness percolates to the grassroots level." Stressing the importance of vigorously running awareness campaigns, Shah said newer cyber frauds were being witnessed each day and even children are getting involved in these.

The government has planned to train and prepare 5,000 cyber commandos over the next five years to deal with such crimes, he added.



The United States has invested significantly in expanding our strategic partnership with India, and we are pursuing a robust agenda to deepen cooperation for the rest of the year, not only diplomatically, but also through ICET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology)

KURT M CAMPBELL | DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, US

HISTORIC MASS IN EAST TIMOR

The Vatican says some 600,000 people have attended Pope Francis' Mass in East Timor, or nearly half the country's population



CM/UK

of the day quote

Israel should achieve an agreement that will bring about a pause for six weeks and bring back hostages. We maintain the right to operate and achieve our goals, including the destruction of Hamas

YOAV GALLANT | DEFENCE MINISTER, ISRAEL

We (UK-US) are seeing a disturbing pattern of greater Iranian support for the Kremlin's illegal group, and we discussed today our shared commitment to holding Tehran to account for their undermining of global stability

DAVID LAMMY | FOREIGN SECRETARY, UK

The projects they (India) have with us are big projects, and we'll continue those, as those are not small and we'll take another big project for the benefits of ours

SALEHUDDIN AHMED | FINANCE ADVISER, BANGLADESH

Ukraine's massive drone attack

Russia says it has destroyed at least 20 drones swarming over the Moscow region

AGENCIES

Moscow, Sept 10: Ukraine struck the Moscow region Tuesday in its biggest drone attack so far on the Russian capital, killing at least one woman, wrecking dozens of homes and forcing around 50 flights to be diverted from airports around Moscow.

Russia, the world's biggest nuclear power, said it had destroyed at least 20 Ukrainian attack drones as they swarmed over the Moscow region, which has a population of more than 21 million, and 124 more over eight other regions.

At least one person was killed near Moscow, Russian authorities said. Three of Moscow's four airports were closed for more than six hours and almost 50 flights were diverted.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the drone attack was another reminder of the real nature of Ukraine's political leadership, which he said was made up of Russia's enemies.

"There is no way that night time strikes on residential neighbourhoods can be associated with military action," said Peskov.

"The Kyiv regime continues to demonstrate its nature. They are our enemies and we must continue the special military operation to protect ourselves from such actions," he said, using the expression Moscow uses to describe its war in Ukraine. Kyiv said Russia, which sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine in February 2022, had attacked it overnight with 46 drones, of which 38 were destroyed.

The drone attacks on Russia damaged at high-rise apartment buildings in the Ramenskoye district of the Moscow region, setting flats on fire, residents told Reuters. A 46-year-old woman was killed and three people were wounded in Ramenskoye, Moscow regional governor Andrei Vorobyov said.



● UKRAINE ATTACKS RUSSIA WITH 144 DRONES

● ONE PERSON KILLED, THREE WOUNDED

● MULTI-STORY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS NEAR MOSCOW ON FIRE

● FLIGHTS WERE SUSPENDED AT MOSCOW'S KEY AIRPORTS

Residents said they awoke to blasts and fire.

"I looked at the window and saw a ball of fire," Alexander Li, a resident of the district told Reuters. "The window got blown out by the shockwave."

Georgy, a resident who declined to give his surname, said he heard a drone buzzing outside his building in the early hours.

"I drew back the curtain and it hit the building right before my eyes, I saw it all," he said. "I took my family and we ran outside." More than 70 drones were also downed over Russia's Bryansk region and tens more over other regions, Russia's defence ministry said. There was no damage or casualties reported there.

The war has largely been a grinding artillery and drone war along the 1,000 km heavily fortified front line in southern and eastern Ukraine involving hundreds of thousands of soldiers.

Moscow and Kyiv have both

JAISHANKAR OFFERS ADVICE



Berlin: Underlining that the Ukraine conflict cannot be resolved on the battlefield, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Tuesday that Russia and Ukraine have to negotiate, and if they want advice, India is always willing to give. Jaishankar made the comments while responding to questions at the Annual Ambassadors' Conference of the German Foreign Office in Berlin, a day after he held a "useful conversation" with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov on the margins of the India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers' meeting in the Saudi capital. "We don't think this conflict is going to be resolved on the battlefield. At some stage, there's going to be some negotiation. When there is a negotiation, the main parties, Russia and Ukraine, have to be at that negotiation," he said.

sought to buy and develop new drones, deploy them in innovative ways, and seek new ways to destroy them, from using shotguns to advanced electronic jamming systems.

Both sides have turned cheap commercial drones into deadly weapons while ramping up their own production and assembly to attack targets including tanks

and energy infrastructure such as refineries and airfields.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has sought to insulate Moscow from the grinding rigours of the war, has called Ukrainian drone attacks that target civilian infrastructure such as nuclear power plants "terrorism" and has vowed a response.

Israel strikes Gaza camp; dozens killed



REUTERS

Gaza Strip, Sept 10: Israeli strikes blasted a huge crater in a designated safe zone in southern Gaza before dawn Tuesday, setting tents ablaze and burying Palestinian families under sand. Palestinian officials said scores of people had been killed or injured in the strikes, with at least 19 dead bodies brought to hospital and other victims feared lost or buried.

The Israeli military said it had struck a command centre for Hamas fighters it said had infiltrated the designated "humanitarian" area in al-Mawasi, a vast camp on sandy soil where the military has told hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to shelter since ordering them out of their homes.

Hamas denied any fighters were present.

Rescuers dug with shovels through the night, searching for bodies and survivors buried where the strike had blasted a crater the size of a small football pitch. Tents in the surrounding area had been incinerated, leaving only metal frames dusted with ghostly ash in a wasteland littered with debris. A car had been completely buried, only its top visible beneath the sand.

In the morning, mourners at a nearby hospital wailed over bodies heaped in white plastic bags or wrapped in bloodstained shrouds.

One of Raed Abu Muammar's daughters had been killed. His wife and his other daughter had been buried but were pulled out

alive. He carried the surviving baby girl.

"I was under the sand as well. I got out and started looking for my daughters and my wife. I saw body parts of the neighbours in my tent, I did not know those were our neighbours' parts until I saw my family in one piece."

"These are the Israeli targets. Look at them," he said, gesturing to the baby girl in his arms. "We were in humanitarian areas that were supposed to be safe."

The Gaza health ministry, which compiles casualty figures, said hospitals had so far received 19 bodies. Other victims were still under sand or on roads that rescuers could not reach, it said.

The Hamas-run Gaza government media office put the number of fatalities at more than 40. It said that at least 60 others were wounded in the strikes and many remained missing.

Residents and medics said the camp was struck by five or six missiles or bombs.

"We saw women cut in pieces, children cut in pieces and martyrs. There are still people missing. People are looking for them and they still have not found them yet," survivor Ola al-Shaer told Reuters at the site.

The Gaza Civil Emergency Service said at least 20 tents caught fire. It estimated 65 dead or wounded including women and children.

"Our teams are still moving out martyrs and wounded from the targeted area. It looks like a new Israeli massacre," a Gaza civil emergency official said.

SHORT TAKES

Typhoon Yagi: Toll rises to 82

Hanoi: Thousands of people were stranded on rooftops and posted desperate pleas for help on social media Tuesday after severe flooding in parts of typhoon-hit Vietnam, as the death count climbed to 82. Some communities in Hanoi along the swollen and fast-moving Red River were inundated, with people forced to evacuate in boats and authorities warning more flooding was expected to hit the capital later Tuesday. The storm downed bridges, tore roofs off buildings, damaged factories and triggered widespread flooding and landslides, leaving 64 people still missing. Hanoi authorities said more than 25,000 trees in the city had been uprooted in the storm. Huge trunks blocked key roads in the city centre, creating large traffic jams.

Pak police arrest PTI members

Islamabad: Pakistani police arrested several lawmakers and leaders of ex-Prime Minister Imran Khan's party in midnight raids a day after it held a major rally in the capital to demand his release, the party and police said Tuesday. A police spokesman confirmed the detention of four individuals but gave no details of charges. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said nearly a dozen of its parliamentarians had been picked up in Islamabad. Others had sought refuge in Parliament to evade law enforcers, it said. Its lawmakers protested in a session of the National Assembly Tuesday, calling for action against what they alleged was the illegal entry of law enforcement personnel into the premises of Parliament.



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket with a crew of four lifts off from pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida

SNIPPETS

PIO wins 'life-saver' unpaid wage relief

London: An Indian nurse taking legal action against a UK healthcare firm for unfair dismissal has won a "life-saver" interim relief pay-out after an employment tribunal ruled that he deserves to receive unpaid wages until a final decision is made in his case. According to the case being presented before the tribunal, Kirankumar Rathod had paid GBP 22,000 to an immigration agent in India for a Skilled Worker Visa and certificate of sponsorship. He was given the certificate from Clinica for a full-time healthcare assistant role, working 39 hours a week for just over GBP 23,000 a year. However, after completing an induction course and training he was not given any work.

Bangladesh plans to relocate 20k Rohingya

Dhaka: Bangladesh is planning to send 20,000 Rohingya refugees annually to the US, aiming to move a total of 200,000 over the next decade, according to Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain. Speaking Monday, Hossain acknowledged that while the number may seem small, it offers hope for a substantial long-term solution. The resettlement initiative is currently in a pilot phase, with a few hundred refugees being relocated at a time. To date, around 2,500 Rohingyas have been selected, and the process is being expedited. The Rohingya crisis began August 25, 2017, when Myanmar's military launched a violent crackdown on the Rohingya population in Rakhine State, forcing them to flee to Bangladesh and other neighbouring nations like India.

Khan shuts doors on negotiations with establishment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Sept 10: Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday announced to shut the doors on negotiations with the establishment.

Speaking with journalists at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi after hearing of a case, Khan, 71, accused the establishment of deceiving him (PTI) and said that he instructed his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party not to engage in any discussions.

"The establishment has deceived us, and from today I am closing the doors to negotiations with the establishment and any other party," the PTI founder said.

Khan said that he had allowed six party leaders to negotiate with the establishment but had not stopped anyone from engaging in talks.

He once again said permission for the September 8 rally was given by the establishment, and also announced the next rally in Lahore.

"Whether we get permission or not, we will hold the rally in Lahore September 21," he said.

The former premier also defended the controversial speech made by party leader Ali Amin Gandapur, the Chief Minister of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, by saying that Gandapur had merely expressed the "nation's sentiments" and castigated those who were apologetic on his remarks.

"Party members who had apologised for Gandapur's remarks are weak cowards, they should not remain in the PTI," Khan said.

Gandapur had not only criticised the army but also threatened to release Khan by force if he was not set free within two weeks.

When asked about the allegation by his former confidante and party leader Faisal Vawda regarding involvement in the murder of journalist Arshad Sharif, Khan denied any wrongdoing and called for an open trial to reveal the truth.

Teen completes solo English Channel swim for charity

THE UK-BORN TEENAGER, WHOSE PARENTS HAIL FROM MAHARASHTRA, RAISED GBP 3,700 FOR HER CHOSEN CHARITY, AKSHAYA PATRA UK, THE BRITISH CHAPTER OF THE INDIA-HEADQUARTERED NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION WITH A MISSION TO PROVIDE HOT MEALS TO CHILDREN IN NEED

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Sept 10: A British Indian schoolgirl who recently turned 16 has made history as one of the youngest to cross the notoriously choppy English Channel to raise funds for a charity fighting against childhood hunger across India and the UK.

Prisha Tapre, a pupil at Bushey Meads School in north London, was motivated by a family discussion about the English Channel to take on the challenge when she was just 12.

After four years of training, she went on to complete the 34-kilometre swim from the coast of Dover in England to Cap Gris Nez in France last week in 11 hours and 48 minutes.

"It was quite choppy at the start, but when the sun started to rise, I knew that the worst bit was done

with," said Tapre, reliving her mission in an interview from her home at Watford in Hertfordshire. "It's always the first two hours that are the hardest part of the swim because it's about getting your mind around the fact that this is where you're going to be for the next few hours. I was actually beginning to get quite sleepy and my eyes were about to shut, but then the sun started to come up and the sleep went away. The weather conditions were amazing, really still, the best I could have asked for," she said.

The swimming enthusiast, who describes the lake near her home as her "calm place", used lots of meditative techniques and even felt a strange bond with the jellyfish that stung her along the way. "The jellyfish stings were probably my favourite bit because it's just an extra feeling. After swimming for like nine hours, you're in a sort of trance. But

then the jellyfish stings kind of reminded me that I'm actually alive. I know it sounds odd, but it was something to tick off my bucket list," she shared.

As for thoughts of giving up during the course of such a gruelling solo swim or any rough patches, she overcame them with a single-minded focus on her goal as she did not want to let down her family, her support crew and herself.

"I just kept thinking, four years you've dedicated to this one day of your life. It can't be that bad. And, for those four years, my coach has been saying that swimming is 60 per cent mental and 40 per cent physical. So, I kept reminding myself that this is where I am meant to be, giving up would be selfish," she said.

The UK-born teenager, whose parents hail from Maharashtra, raised GBP 3,700 for her chosen charity, Akshaya Patra UK, the

Part of the reason I chose my charity Akshaya Patra is because I wanted a charity that I could relate to. When I found out Akshaya Patra helps kids both in England and India, it really connected with me. I wanted a charity that has both sides of me.

PRISHA TAPRE | BRITISH INDIAN CITIZEN

British chapter of the India-headquartered non-profit organisation with a mission to provide hot meals to children in need. "Part of the reason I chose my charity Akshaya Patra is because I wanted a charity that I could relate to. When I found out Akshaya Patra helps kids both in England and India, it really connected with me. I wanted a charity that has both sides of me. My heart goes out to all those kids who live in poverty, both in England and India, where there's no promise of a meal at the end of the day," said the young fundraiser.



CM/UK

business



There is no reason why India should not target a big pie of global trade

HISASHI TAKEUCHI | MARUTI SUZUKI INDIA MD & CEO

DECARBONISATION OF STEEL SECTOR

The Centre is working on developing a policy framework for formulating strategy, roadmap and action plan for decarbonisation of the steel sector, a top official said Tuesday. Speaking at an event here steel secretary Sandeep Pundrik said, "The ministry of steel is working on developing a policy framework...while covering solutions ranging from minimisation to carbon avoidance to carbon utilisation."



Maruti looks to set up holistic ecosystem for EVs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India is looking to establish a holistic ecosystem for electric vehicle buyers as it gears up to introduce its first battery-powered model early next year. The company will look at setting up charging infrastructure for EVs and also other critical elements like having resale avenues for such models.

"We are not only going to launch the product, we are going to basically provide a complete ecosystem for the customers who are going to be part of the electric vehicle family," Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Partho Banerjee told reporters on the sidelines of the 64th SIAM annual session here.

He noted that the biggest concern for EV users is regarding the range.

"Secondly, it is the EV infrastructure and thirdly it is about the residual value of the vehicle after five years," Banerjee said.

He stated that the company's first EV model, a mid-sized SUV, would be unveiled at the Bharat Mobility show in January next year.

The model would come with a driving range of over 500 kms, he added.

On sales expectations from this year's festive season, Banerjee said: "In festive time we are going to see some positivity...we are very optimistic about it."

He further said: "The expectation is it will be much, much better than the current situation. We will be seeing upside from here."

When asked about rising inventory levels, Banerjee said the company has taken a conscious call to calibrate dispatches to the dealers.

of the day quote

The TV set advertisement says 'owner's pride, neighbour's envy'. That summarises the UAE-India partnership. It is our pride and will be the envy of the rest of the world

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

While developing the charging infrastructure, we are conscious that integrating this infrastructure with renewable energy sources is essential for maximising the environmental benefits of electric mobility

HD KUMARASWAMY | UNION HEAVY INDUSTRIES MINISTER

We look forward to our participation in SEMICON India- especially at a time when India is poised to become a leading player in the semiconductor space. We're happy to contribute our skills, knowledge and engineering prowess gained over four decades

AMEER SAITHU | EVP, SEMICONDUCTOR, HCLTECH

SHORT TAKES

HMSI to enter EV space this fiscal

New Delhi: Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India is looking to enter the electric vehicle segment this fiscal and eyes one-third of its overall sales to accrue from the segment by 2030. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of 64th SIAM annual session here, HMSI Director (Sales and Marketing) Yogesh Mathur said the company will be entering the EV segment this fiscal. He noted that the contribution of electric two-wheelers in overall two-wheeler sales was continuing to grow. "And what we understand is that by 2030 there will be a major shift towards EVs and we have announced that by 2030 in our lineup also...one-third at least will be coming only from EV models," Mathur said. The EV model is being developed jointly by HMSI and Honda teams, he added.

Tata Motors cuts prices of EV range

New Delhi: Tata Motors Tuesday said it has reduced prices of its electric vehicle model range by up to ₹3 lakh. The Mumbai-based automaker said it has reduced the price of Nexon EV by up to ₹3 lakh, Punch EV by 1.2 lakh, and Tiago EV by ₹40,000. "With these special, limited period prices, we are breaking the high acquisition cost barrier for EVs, and bringing EV prices closer to similar petrol and/or diesel-powered vehicles," Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Chief Commercial Officer Vivek Srivatsa said. The company's singular purpose is to mainstream EVs, by breaking barriers and making EVs more accessible to regular car buyers, he added.

Coal supply to power sector falls

New Delhi: Coal supply to the power sector in August dropped 5.4 per cent to 58.07 million tonnes (MT) as compared to the year-ago period, according to an official statement Tuesday. The supply of coal to the power sector was 61.43 MT in August of the previous fiscal year. "In August 2024, the supply to the power sector was 58.07 MT, slightly lower than the 61.43 MT recorded in August 2023," the coal ministry said in a statement. Coal supply to the power sector remains a key priority, the ministry said. Between April and August this fiscal year, supply to the power sector reached 338.75 MT, registering a growth of 4.13 per cent over the 325.33 MT supplied during the year-ago period.

Equity mutual funds attract ₹38,239cr in Aug



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: Equity mutual funds continued their steady growth in August attracting ₹38,239 crore fuelled by strong contributions from thematic funds, which was primarily owing to New Fund Offerings (NFOs).

This was around 3.3 per cent higher than the net inflows of ₹37,113 crore logged in July. Interestingly, the quantum of net inflows witnessed in August was the second highest flow ever received in a month. Also, this was second only to the net inflows of ₹40,608 crore received in June.

The latest flow also marks the 42nd consecutive month of net inflows in equity funds, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed Tuesday.

Moreover, monthly contributions from Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) rose to an all-time high of ₹23,547 in August as against ₹23,332 crore in the preceding month. This highlights the shifting investor sentiment towards disciplined and long-term wealth accumulation, Venkat Chalasanani, Chief Executive,

AMFI, said.

Madhu Nair, Chief Executive Officer at Union Mutual Fund, said that equity flows for the month of August 2024 has been a mix of SIP flows, NFOs and existing schemes.

"Net flows continue to remain encouraging with SIP and NFO (New Fund Offering) inflows. Sectoral/thematic category of schemes witnessed strong inflows due to NFO. NFOs seem to be the preferred route for investors to take a lump sum allocation to mutual funds since schemes have the flexibility to invest over a stipulated time period," Manish Mehta, National Head - Sales, Marketing & Digital Business, Kotak Mahindra AMC, said.

Overall, the mutual fund industry has witnessed an inflow of ₹1.08 lakh crore in the month under review as compared to ₹1.9 lakh crore in July.

With these inflows, the industry's net assets under management rose to an all-time high of ₹66.7 lakh crore in August-end from ₹65 lakh crore in July-end.

According to the data, equity inflows have shown remarkable strength, with the last four

months consistently exceeding ₹34,000 crore inflow. Further, except for the focused and equity-linked saving schemes (ELSS) categories, all the other categories such as Flexi Cap, Large & Mid Cap, Mid Cap and Small Cap witnessed good net inflows.

The correction in the markets in the initial part of August provided investors a good buying opportunity. This is reflected in the strong net inflow numbers for August across the equity categories, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

Of the 6 new funds launched during the month, 5 were sector/thematic funds which cumulatively garnered ₹10,202 crore. This helped the category to accumulate net inflow of ₹18,117 crores in August.

"The robust net inflows into NFOs points towards their continued appeal among investors. However, investors should be cautious while selecting funds specially from the sector/thematic category. Such funds offer a very high-risk high return investment proposition and may not fit in the portfolio of every investor," Morningstar's Srivastava said.

Thematic funds through NFOs are garnering high inflows, new themes trying to benefit from government reforms also offer opportunity to participate through tactical allocation, Akhil Chaturvedi Chief Business Officer of Motilal Oswal AMC, said.

Sensex climbs 362 pts on gains in IT, telecom



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 10: Benchmark Sensex climbed nearly 362 points while Nifty ended above 25,000 level higher Tuesday, marking their second straight day of gains following a rebound in the US markets and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 361.75 points or 0.44 per cent to settle at 81,921.29 driven by gains in IT, telecom and select banking shares. During the day, it jumped 637.01 points or 0.78 per cent to 82,196.55.

The NSE Nifty surged 104.70 points or 0.42 per cent to 25,041.10.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Power Grid, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and Adani Ports were the biggest gainers. Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors and State Bank of India were among the laggards.

"The domestic market showcased a gradual rebound driven by the shift in focus towards upcoming US inflation and potential FED policy stance. The US political risk and recession fears may set near-term cautious sentiments in the global market. On the domestic front, a strong monsoon, and an expectation of an uptick in demand during festival season will drive investor

sentiment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 1.53 per cent and midcap index went up 0.53 per cent.

Among the indices, telecommunication jumped 2 per cent, utilities (1.76 per cent), power (1.74 per cent), teck (1.62 per cent), IT (1.52 per cent), industrials (1.25 per cent), services (1.20 per cent) and healthcare (1.10 per cent).

Financial Services, oil & gas were the laggards.

A total of 2,587 stocks advanced while 1,352 declined and 103 remained unchanged on the BSE.

In Asian markets, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled higher while Seoul and Tokyo ended lower. European markets were trading on a mixed note.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹1,176.55 crore Monday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also bought equities worth ₹1,757.02 crore. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.39 per cent to USD 70.84 a barrel.

"With an overnight rebound on Wall Street, strong net buying from both FIIs and DIIs, and sluggish oil prices, bullish traders are expected to pursue bargains," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

PM Modi asks automakers to focus on clean mobility

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday asked the automotive industry to bring global best practices to India, while also working on green and clean mobility.

In a written address to the annual convention of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Modi said the automotive industry will drive even higher economic growth and in turn, thrive on demand growth.

"As we shift gears towards our collective goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, I am confident that organisations like SIAM will continue to bring together all stakeholders and become a force multiplier in this mission," he said.

The prime minister said the road ahead demands that the country's progress is rapid, while also being sustainable.

"Working (on) greener and cleaner mobility is a vital step in this direction. It is important that this climate-conscious and

sustainable vision resonates with domestic and international partners," he asserted.

"Further, at this critical juncture for India and the world, it is essential that our automobile sector set not only an example for others to follow, but also work towards bringing global best practices to India. I am confident that the discussions and deliberations during the Annual Convention will serve as a catalyst for this," he added.

He further said, "Through innovation and enterprise, I am sure that the automotive industry will drive even higher economic growth and in turn, thrive on the demand growth that inevitably creates."

He said over the last decade, India's automotive sector has witnessed tremendous and unprecedented growth. "This is as much a testament to our nation's expanding economic growth, as it is to the pivotal role played by the automotive industry," Modi said.

Credit growth outpacing deposit growth: Report

Raising deposits to keep pace with loan growth and keeping the credit cost low remains on the top of banks' agenda, as per FICCI-IBA report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: Credit growth is outpacing deposit growth, which could lead to liquidity challenges for the banking system, a report said Tuesday.

Raising deposits to keep pace with loan growth and keeping the credit cost low remains on the top of banks' agenda, a FICCI-IBA report said.

More than two-third of respondent banks (67 per cent) reported a decrease in the share of Current Account Savings Account (CASA) deposits in total deposits in the current round of the survey, it said.

"Term deposits have picked up pace as reported by the respondent banks due to higher/at-



tractive rates. 80 per cent of the participating Public Sector Banks reported a decrease in share of CASA deposits during the first half of 2024 while over half the private sector bank respondents reported a decrease in CASA deposits," it said.

The 19th round of the FICCI-IBA survey was carried out for the period January to June 2024. A total of 22 banks, including public sector, private sector and foreign banks, participated in the survey. These banks together represent about 67 per cent of the

banking industry, as classified by asset size.

A majority (71 per cent) of the respondent banks reported a decrease in the NPA levels in the last six months, it said.

A significant 90 per cent of responding PSBs have cited a reduction in NPA levels while amongst participating private sector banks, 67 per cent have cited a decrease, it said.

The survey findings show that long-term credit demand has seen continued growth for sectors such as infrastructure, met-

als, iron and steel.

Infrastructure is witnessing an increase in credit flow with 77 per cent of the respondents indicating an increase in long-term loans, it said, adding that this could be attributable to the government's capital expenditure push for the infrastructure sector.

According to the report, the partnership between banks and fintech companies holds immense potential for driving innovation, improving service delivery, and enhancing financial inclusion.

Respondent banks were asked to share the measures taken by them in the realm of cyber-risk management.

Banks were also asked to provide inputs for making the ATM channel cost-effective, it said, adding that key suggestions offered include various measures to reduce operational expenditure, selecting strategic locations, increasing the interchange fees for ATM transactions, analysing costs and benefits for each ATM site, upgrading technology in ATMs, etc.

Apple faces growing challenges with AI delay

REUTERS

Beijing, Sept 10: Apple's new iPhone 16 failed to excite investors with long-expected AI features still in test mode even as an industry-first tri-fold phone from Huawei raised the stakes in a battle to dominate the global smartphone market.

Apple's shares fell 1% in pre-market trading Tuesday, a day after the US tech giant unveiled its new iPhones that sport hardware-level integration for applications based on artificial intelligence but with limited changes to the external design.

The phones will use AI features dubbed Apple Intelligence to improve the company's voice assistant Siri as well as enhance the camera.

These AI features will arrive on iPhones in beta next month.

The company did not say when it would move beyond test.

"With lots of words like 'later this year' and 'early next year', the core Apple message for iPhone 16 was: Next year will be better," Needham analyst Laura Martin said in a note.

Tuesday, Huawei showed off its new Mate XT, which users can fold three ways. The device has already received more than 4 million pre-orders, for which no deposit is required, according to the company's website.

It boasts an AI assistant with text summary, translation and editing functions, as well as AI-boosted image editing functions such as trimming unwanted parts of photos.

But with a price tag that starts at \$2,800 - more than twice the starting price of the comparable iPhone 16 Pro Max - and limited



production, the tri-fold phone is likely to become more of a symbol of Huawei's tech prowess than a major sales driver, analysts said.

"Production constraints and the high price point mean the

new phone will likely not have a huge impact in terms of shipments," said Will Wong, senior researcher at consultancy IDC.

"But it's telling the consumers that it's still the tech leader and the potential challenge it brings

to Apple may be far beyond just market share."

Both the Mate XT and iPhone 16 go on sale on Sept. 20.

Huawei's launch, which follows a series of successful smartphone debuts, underscores the company's ability to navigate U.S. sanctions and solidifies its position against Apple in China, where some consumers criticized the new iPhone 16 for its lack of AI features in the country.

Apple has yet to announce an AI partner in China to power the 16s and Apple Intelligence, the company's AI software, will only be available in Chinese languages next year.

"What's the point of buying it if you can't use AI?" wrote one user on Weibo, China's X-like platform. Another commented: "Without AI as the biggest selling point, it should be half price."

While Apple for years enjoyed strong demand in China, where new iPhone launches once sparked a frenzy, its sales have dwindled and the company's ranking in the world's second-largest economy has now dropped from third to sixth place.

Huawei made a comeback to the high-end smartphone segment last year with the release of a device powered by a domestically made chip, defying U.S. sanctions that have cut off its access to the global chipset supply chain. The launch of the Mate 60 Pro surprised analysts and U.S. officials.

Huawei already has two-way foldable phones in its lineup, and its strong sales in China helped it overtake Samsung Electronics this year as the biggest vendor of such phones globally.

MB awarded ₹12.90cr compensation

NEW TWIST TO TRANSFER CASE AS PLAYER BANNED FOR 4 MONTHS FROM CLUB MATCHES



ment signed by Savio Messias deputy chairperson, AIFF Players Status Committee. "This suspension is applicable for his club matches and he will be eligible to play for India," the statement said.

"Under Article 20.3, and subject to any provisions to the contrary in contract, the committee holds all three parties i.e. Anwar Ali, East Bengal FC and Delhi FC jointly and severally liable for the above amount (Rs 12.90 crore). In accordance with Article 20.4, the player is restricted from playing in official matches for a period of 4 (four) months, a period that shall commence from the date of notification of this decision," the judgement further said.

It further said if the compensation is not paid within 45 days, the club will face a ban on registering new players for up to three registration periods, and the player will be restricted from playing in official matches for up to six months.

Appeals against the AIFF Players Status Committee decisions can be made to the AIFF Appeals Committee within the time limits specified in the AIFF Disciplinary Code. Much before the Players Status Committee delivered its judgement, Delhi FC co-owner Ranjit Bajaj had stated that they "would appeal and this would go on for a while".

"...the decision has no final bearing on the final outcome or verdict - so no one should either be too happy or too sad (both sides) as PSC is a preliminary body and all its orders can be appealed. This will go on for a while... patience is the name of the game," Bajaj had posted on his 'X' account September 1.

Mbappé-less France overpower Belgium



DEADLY STRIKE: Ousmane Dembélé shoots to score France's second goal against Belgium, Monday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, Sept 10: Even after leaving star forward Kylian Mbappé on the bench, France handed Belgium yet another loss in the Nations League. Two of Mbappé's former teammates at Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), Randal Kolo Muani and Ousmane Dembélé, struck with powerful shots either side of half time in a 2-0 win Monday night in Lyon.

The latest win helped France make up ground in the top-tier Nations League group after losing to Italy 1-3 in Paris Friday. Italy beat Israel 2-1 Monday and lead the four-team group.

Also, Erling Haaland scored a decisive 80th-minute goal in Norway's 2-1 win over Austria and Slovenia star Benjamin Šeško scored a hat trick in a 3-0 win over Kazakhstan.

Mbappé was rested from the start despite France seeking to avoid a third straight loss, two months after a European Championships semifinals exit.

Real Madrid's new star had little pre-season preparation after Euro 2024 and played a full

game against Italy. He was eased in against Belgium by coach Didier Deschamps, who sent on his captain in the 67th minute to replace Kolo Muani.

In the process, France extended their winning run over Belgium to four games in the Mbappé era. Starting in the 2018 World Cup semifinals, Les Bleus also eliminated Belgium in the 2021 Nations League semifinals and in the Euro 2024 round of 16.

Belgium started with fierce intent and France survived a wave of early attacks in an increasingly testy atmosphere. Belgium forward Loïs Openda was at the heart of most of the action and confrontations.

France took the lead in the 30th minute when Kolo Muani lashed in a shot from close range after goalkeeper Koen Casteels pushed out a weak bouncing effort from Dembélé.

Dembélé was more purposeful in the 57th, cutting in from the right side of the penalty area to score with a rising left-foot shot. A smiling Mbappé was among the substitutes who went on to celebrate with Dembélé and lifted him to his feet.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 10: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) imposed Tuesday a four-month suspension on India international Anwar Ali (in pix) after finding the defender 'guilty' of illegally terminating his four-year contract with Mohun Bagan who are also eligible for a huge compensation of ₹12.90 crore.

The Players Status Committee (PSC) of the AIFF also ruled that Anwar's parent club Delhi

FC and East Bengal, with whom the defender had entered into a lucrative five-year deal, have been banned from registering players for two transfer windows - 2024-25 winter and 2025-26 summer.

"Anwar Ali, East Bengal and Delhi FC are all jointly liable for the compensation amount which includes ₹8.40 crore for the residual value of the contract, ₹2 crore already paid to Delhi FC under loan agreement, and ₹2.50 crore for other damages

suffered by the club," the AIFF Players Status Committee said in a release. This incidentally is the highest compensation allotted to any club in the transfer market in India.

The transfer of India centre-back Ali to East Bengal from Mohun Bagan following a unilateral termination of his loan had sparked a huge controversy. The 23-year-old, who played a key role in Mohun Bagan's Indian Super League Shield-winning campaign, scoring three

goals and one assist in 26 games last season, terminated his contract and joined arch rivals East Bengal in a five-year deal. Mohun Bagan then challenged the decision by filing a complaint with the AIFF's Player Status Committee.

"In accordance with Article 20.4, the player is restricted from playing in official matches for a period of 4 (four) months, a period that shall commence from the date of notification of this decision," read the six-page judg-

SHORT TAKES

Shubhi shines in Commonwealth chess

New Delhi: India's Shubhi Gupta underlined her prowess as she clinched the girls' U-16 gold and girls' U-20 bronze medals in the just-concluded Commonwealth Chess Championships in Kalutara, Sri Lanka. A women FIDE Master and the reigning U-19 girls' national champion, Shubhi left a lasting impression with her performance in the U-16 category, securing seven wins and two draws. Compatriots Mrittika Mallick (7 points) and Yashvi Jain (6.5 points), finished second and third respectively. Shubhi scored 4.5 points to finish in third place in the U-20 girls' division, securing her a bronze medal.

Mixed fortunes for Indian shuttlers

Hong Kong: India's Chirag Sen and Manav Choudhary bowed out in the quarterfinals of the men's singles qualifications while the duo of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand progressed to the pre-quarterfinals of the women's doubles in the Hong Kong badminton tournament here Tuesday. Jolly and Gayatri beat Ukraine's Polina Buhrova and Yevheniia Kantemyr 21-14, 21-13 to advance. Panda sisters Rutaparna and Swetaparna, however, suffered a 11-21, 8-21 loss to Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Pei Shan and Hung En-Tzu in their women's double round of 32 match. Chirag won his round of 16 qualification match against Canada's Lai Yin Chung 21-12 21-10 but failed to clear the next hurdle, losing his tie against another Canadian Sheng Xiaodong 12-21, 21-13, 14-21. Manav lost his men's singles qualification quarterfinal to Hong Kong's Chan Yin Chak 6-21 10-21, after beating Ukraine's Oleksii Titov 21-14, 21-19.

38 players banned for match-fixing

Dalian (China): China's Football Association (CFA) has banned 43 people for life over allegations of match-fixing and other forms of corruption in the latest effort to weed out graft in the country's notoriously underperforming team sport. Official 'Xinhua News Agency' reported Tuesday that Zhang Xiaopeng, a top police official, attended a news conference here to release details of a 'two-year investigation that uncovered a series of online gambling, match-fixing and bribery cases'. 'Xinhua' said 120 matches in domestic leagues, 128 criminal suspects, and 41 clubs were implicated in the investigation.

Plans to promote hockey discussed

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi met Tuesday here the president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH), Tayyab Ikram. They discussed strategies to further elevate Odisha's position as a global hub for hockey and explored opportunities to host more international tournaments in the future.

In his official 'X' account Majhi said, "Glad to meet Tayyab Ikram, president of FIH. We had a productive discussion on advancing the development of hockey in Odisha. We explored various strategies to enhance the sport's infrastructure, improve talent development, and introduce new initiatives to provide more opportunities for players."

Earlier, Ikram received a rousing welcome upon his arrival here. Senior officials from Hockey Odisha and representatives from Hockey India (HI) were present to greet him at the airport.

Tayyab also met Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo. Also present at the meeting were HI president Dilip Tirkey and secretary general Bhola Nath Singh.

"Thrilled to have had a productive meeting with esteemed Tayyab Ikram, president of FIH along with legendary Padma



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi with FIH president Tayyab Ikram

Shri Dr Dilip Kumar Tirkey, president of HI and Bhola Nath Singh, secretary general of HI. We discussed strategies to further elevate Odisha's position as a global hub for hockey and explored opportunities to host more international tournaments in the future. Let's continue to nurture and promote this beloved sport!" said Singh Deo.

Recently, the Odisha government decided to extend its sponsorship of the Indian hockey teams (both men and women) till 2036, which marks the centenary of Odisha's formation as a state in 1936.

The Indian men's hockey team that won a bronze medal at the Paris Olympics, were felicitated by the state government a couple of weeks back.

Rousing welcome for para-athletes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: Swarmed by hundreds of supporters, garlanded and fed sweets, India's Paralympic medal-winners returned home to a jubilant welcome Tuesday after securing an unprecedented haul of 29 medals at the just-concluded Games in Paris.

There was the customary dhol and euphoric chants hailing them as the athletes made their way out of the Indira Gandhi International Airport here Tuesday morning. Supporters, sports administrators and families of the athletes lined up to show their appreciation for the contingent.

"Thank you so much for this grand welcome," javelin thrower Sumit Antil said. He clinched a second successive gold in the F64 category by breaking his own Games record with a throw of 70.59m. The reigning World Champion became the second Indian after shooter Avani Lekhara to defend the Paralympics title. Antil lost his left leg below the knee after he was involved in a motorbike accident in 2015. He was an able-bodied wrestler before his accident which led to the amputation of his leg below the knee.

"When you prepare well, you automatically feel confident. I will try to breach the 75m-mark soon. I have not had tea for a few days, I would like to have tea with my family. That is my first priority now," Antil said



Sumit Antil, who bagged the javelin gold was accorded a rousing welcome upon his arrival Tuesday in New Delhi PTI PHOTO

with a smile.

Archer Harvinder Singh, who is also pursuing a Ph.D in economics from Punjab University, was overwhelmed by the appreciation. He has impaired legs owing to the side effects of a dengue treatment he received as a toddler. He became the first Indian archer to win gold in Paralympics after becoming the country's first medalist in the sport three years ago in Tokyo with a bronze.

"I like to keep myself busy. It helps my focus, the mind wanders less. Any person who is distressed or defeated can take inspiration from para-athletes," Harvinder said even as supporters show-

Cash incentives for medal-winners

New Delhi: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced Tuesday cash awards of ₹75 lakh to the gold medalists, ₹50 lakh for silver medal winners and ₹30 lakh for the athletes who won bronze in the just-concluded Paralympic Games in Paris. Those excelling in mixed teams events, like archer Sheetal Devi, will get richer by ₹22.5 lakh. The minister announced this during an event organised to felicitate the medalists. "We will provide all the facilities to all of our para-athletes so that we can win more medals and gold medals in 2028 Los Angeles Paralympics," Mandaviya said.

ered flower petals on him and fellow archer Sheetal Devi.

Sheetal, who was born without arms, won the mixed team bronze with Rakesh Kumar after missing an individual medal by a whisker. "I have had a great experience. I am very happy

that India won two medals in archery. We have got good support and that's why we have won so many medals," Sheetal said referring to India's record overall haul because of which the country ended 18th in the medal standings.

ANAND ALL PRAISE FOR YOUNGSTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 10: Slowly transitioning from a World Champion competitor to a mentor-cum-sports administrator, chess icon Viswanathan Anand said the current crop of Indian players, that he has had a role in shaping, has turned out to be 'great' in grabbing crucial opportunities.

Anand shared his thoughts on India's chances at the Chess Olympiad starting Wednesday. Widely credited for shaping the likes of youngest ever world championship challenger D Gukesh, and R Praggnanandhaa among others, Anand said he played a small part and shared the credit for their growth with their personal coaches and parents.



"I am trying my best, certainly being able to start the Westbridge Anand Academy four years back was a nice project. It was inspired by schools I had seen in Soviet Union more than 30-40 years ago," Anand stated.

"I tried to borrow some ideas

from multiple places. (At that time) Indians were consistently getting into top 200 but not quite breaking into top 100. The idea was to support the talent and help them get past that stretch. I think we have been successful. For us, it is very exciting

that Gukesh is already playing the world championships. (But) lots and lots of people are involved, not just WACA but also their parents, their coaches, we try to make sure that we can fit in nicely," added the five-time former World Champion.

Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa and another young star R Vaishali will be competing at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest. Anand is hopeful that the result would be better than the bronze that both the men's and women's team bagged in the 2022 edition.

"...let's not forget that last year, they were smelling the gold, they had it in their hands, slipped away in the penultimate round and for the women, it slipped away in the last round. I certainly hope they will rectify it," Anand said.

Odisha swimmers create history



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 10: Women swimmers from Odisha scripted history Tuesday by winning the state's first-ever medal at the Senior Nationals in Mangalore. They won a bronze in the 4x200m freestyle relay on the opening day of the 77th Senior National Aquatic Championships.

Pratyasa Ray made it a double delight for Odisha as she also

became the state's first-ever individual medal winner, bagging a silver in 100m backstroke later in the day. Pratyasa was also part of the relay team. The three other swimmers in the team were Shristi Upadhyaya, Divyanka Divyajyoti Pradhan and Sonia Patel. They finished the race in 9:03.53 seconds. Swimmers from Karnataka and Maharashtra bagged the gold and silver medals respectively.