HERE. NOW Orissa Pos

Straight talk Actor Rakul Preet Singh says nepotism is a fact of life, and the sooner people accept it, the better it is for them

LEISURE | P2



CM takes stock

CM Mohan Charan Majhi undertakes aerial survey of flash flood-hit Malkangiri district and asks officials to submit damage assessment report within 7 days

STATE | P5

BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2024



Doval meets Putin

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval meets Russian President Vladmir Putin amid renewed efforts to find a solution to the Ukraine conflict

INTERNATIONAL | P10



4th win in a row

Indian hockey team register their 4th successive win in the Asian Champions Trophy defeating Korea 3-1

SPORTS | P12

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 164 | www.orissapost.com

Sitaram Yechury passes away at 72



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, a pragmatic communist and one of the key architects of coalition politics since the mid-90s, died Thursday at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here after battling lung infection.

Yechury, 72, was in a critical condition for the last few days and on respiratory support while undergoing treatment for an acute respiratory tract infection at the ICU of AIIMS. He was admitted to the hospital August 19.

The CPI(M) said Yechury's body will be kept at the party headquarters here between 11 am and 3 pm Saturday for public viewing and paying homage. Subsequently, the body will be taken to AIIMS, where it will be donated for medical research,

according to his wishes. Yechury is survived by his wife Seema Chishti, an editor with 'The Wire' and three children - two sons and a daughter. One of his sons Ashish Yechury passed away due to Covid in 2021. He was earlier married to Indrani Mazumdar.

Condolences from across the political spectrum poured in, with PM Narendra Modi remembering the comrade as a 'leading light of the Left' and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi calling him 'a protector of the idea of India'. Called 'Sita' by his friends, Yechury, the fifth general secretary of the CPI(M) who took over the reins of the party in 2015 from party hardliner Prakash Karat when Left fortunes were on the decline, was also hailed as an effective parliamentarian, a pillar of the party and an 'unrepentant Marxist' with a prag-



FUN TIME: Students celebrate after winning tug of war competition during Onam celebrations, at a Government Women's college in Thiruvananthapuram, Thursday

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



He has superpower. At crime scenes, he always becomes invisible. Nobody

MARKET WATCH

sees him. He's a politician's son

VARIATION 470.45 25388.90 ₹0.06 **DOLLAR 83.92 1** ₹0.16 EURO GOLD ₹72.825 **1** ₹898 **1** ₹2,078 SILVER

WEATHER

CTC 33.4°(33.0°(**Max Temp** 26.0°(Min Temp **Humidity**

Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain

More power to women Ready to resign: Mamata Now, married daughters & stepdaughters of deceased

govt employees can also get compassionate appointment

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: In a step aimed at giving more power to women, the state Cabinet. chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Thursday approved amendment to OCS (RA) Rules, 2020, paving way for appointment of married daughters and stepdaughters of deceased government employees on compassionate grounds.

Addressing media after the Cabinet meeting here, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja said as per the existing provision of Odisha Civil Services (Rehabilitation Assistance) Rules, 2020, unmarried daughters and stepdaughters of deceased government employees were being considered for compassionate appointment.

"However, after amendment of OCS (RA) Rules, 2020, married daughters and stepdaughters of deceased government employees will also be considered for compassionate appointment subject to conditions that their 'dependency' on their parents is proved," Ahuja pointed out.

The Cabinet also approved the proposal to transfer 95 per cent of equity shares of Gopalpur Ports Limited (GPL) to Adani

- Ex-Agniveers will have 10 per cent reservation in state's uniform services
- Adani Ports & Special **Economic Zone Limited** allowed 95 per cent equity shares of Gopalpur Ports

Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) Limited from Shapoorji Pallonji Port Maintenance Private Limited and Orissa Stevedores Limited (OSL).

APSEZ had purchased a 56 per cent stake in GPL from realestate conglomerate Shapoorji Pallonji Group and a 39 per cent stake from OSL, Ahuja said, adding, "APSEZ will have 95 per cent stake in the port project, while the remaining 5 per cent will be with OSL.

"Following due procedure, the Cabinet has approved the proposal for transfer of equity shares to APSEZ from Shapoorji Pallonji

Port Maintenance Private Limited and OSL along with permission to sign the revised concession agreement thereof towards the development and expansion of GPL," an official note said.

The port, which handles bulk cargo, including iron ore, coal, limestone and alumina, after expansion will handle multi cargo, said Commerce and Transport (C&T) department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee.

The facility, initially managed by the C&T department as a fairweather lighterage port, operated only during the favourable weather conditions.

Recognising its potential for economic development and its impact on the socio-economic life of people, the state government decided in 2003 to transfer it into an all-weather deep berthing seaport through a PPP in the Build Own Operate Share Transfer (BOOST) mode and GPL won the bid through a competitive process.

GPL, a consortium of OSL, Noble Group Limited and Sara International Limited, with 34 per cent, 33 per cent and 33 per cent shares, respectively, developed the port. Shareholding changed in 2010 and 2017.

Currently handling 11.43 million metric tonne per annum of cargo, GPL shares 7.5 per cent of its gross revenue with the state government. The revenue share for the 2023-24 fiscal is approximately ₹38 crore, an official said, adding that the port employs around 4,000 people. The expansion is expected to boost revenue and employment, he said.

The state Cabinet also gave its nod to Odisha Ex-Agniveers (Recruitment to Uniform Services) Rules, 2024 that would reserve 10 per cent seats for ex-Agniveers in the uniform services.

'With this, ex-Agniveers will get 10 per cent horizontal reservation in all Group C and D posts in direct recruitment in the uniform services of the state," the Chief Secretary said.

Such reservation shall be over and above the reservation applicable for ex-servicemen provided they fulfil the required minimum qualifications prescribed for the posts in the relevant recruitment rules as on the date of award of Agniveer certificate.

'There will be a three-year age relaxation in the prescribed upper age limit for ex-Agniveers in all Group C and D posts in direct recruitment in the uniform services and exemption from physical efficiency test,"

Agitating doctors refuse to meet WB CM sans live streaming

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 12: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Thursday said she was 'ready to resign' for the 'sake of people' and expressed regret over the junior doctors' refusal to come for talks to resolve the impasse over the RG Kar rape-murder case.

In a dramatic turn of events, gitating junior doctors, who reached the gates of the state secretariat (Nabanna), refused to hold talks with the state government unless their demand for live streaming of the meeting was met. The talks were to be held at 5 pm in the presence of Baneriee as demanded by the protesters, who after reaching the secretariat around 5.25 pm, stayed put at the venue gate.

Addressing media, Banerjee, who waited for nearly two hours for the agitating doctors to come for the meeting, said she also wanted the victim to get justice, and apologised to the people of West Bengal for the continued deadlock. Banerjee assured the protesters that despite violating the Supreme Court directive by not resuming duties, she would not take action against them.

Banerjee said the meeting with the junior doctors cannot he live-streamed as demanded by them because the issue is sub-judice and before the SC. She said her government had made arrangements to record it and hand over the recording to them with the permission of



the SC if needed.

"For the sake of the people, I am ready to resign. I also want the victims to get justice, but this is not the way. We have tolerated a lot of canards and insults for the last 33 days. I thought the junior doctors would engage in talks for the sake of the patients and on humanitarian grounds," she said.

"We have been waiting for over two hours, hoping that reason would guide the junior doctors...I apologise to the people, who expected that the issue would be resolved today," she said and claimed that 'external instructions' were influencing some junior doctors not to engage in discussions.

Referring to negative comments against her government on social media, she said, "Many tried to malign our government even on social media. People came out for justice but they don't know that there is a political colour diverting it...They want the chair. I am ready to resign from my post for the sake of the people. I don't want the chair."

Ratna Bhandar inspection Sept 18

PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, Sept 12: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will inspect the inner and outer chambers of Ratna Bhandar (treasury) of Srimandir here September 18, the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) said,

The SJTA said, in a statement that the surveyor has informed the authorities that a team led by the additional DG (Conservation) and experts from CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute will conduct a preliminary inspection and technical survey of the Ratna Bhandar coming week.

Taking to X, SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee



ficials and servitors, it has been decided to have the exercise on 18th September, as per the Govt approved SOP."

Earlier, the SJTA had requested the ASI to start inspection and repair work of the treasury of Lord Jagannath. The temple authorities had

also requested the ASI to initiate scanning and geophysical investigation of the Ratna Bhandar before undertaking the repair and renovation work.

Cape Canaveral, Sept 12: A crew of civilians on board SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission unlocked the hatch of their capsule and made history as the first group of non-government astronauts to conduct a spacewalk, Thursday.

Hundreds of miles above Earth and orbiting at close to 30,000km/h (18,600mph), billionaire Jared Isaacman, 41, who chartered the Polaris Dawn mission, exited the

space capsule at 11.52am BST. "Back at home we all have a lot of work to do, but from here Earth sure looks like a perfect world," said Isaacman as he stood on a ladder looking down at Earth's surface.

Isaacman was followed by Sarah Gillis, a senior engineer at SpaceX who has spent years working on missions from the ground. Gillis, 30, conducted movement tests to assess how the new SpaceX suit – a much less bulky equivalent of the Nasa equipment-operates in the vacuum of

Gillis and Isaacman were the only two crewmembers to actually exit the spacecraft, and they did so for a combined total of

roughly 20 minutes. To prepare for the test, conducted at an altitude of 435 miles (700km), the Crew Dragon capsule



was completely depressurised, meaning the whole crew – including the two who remained inside – relied on their spacesuits for oxygen and pressure.

Only well-funded government agencies had so far managed to carry out spacewalks, known as EVAs (extravehicular activities), and they are a notoriously difficult feat. Most have been done from the International Space Station (ISS) and the Chinese

Tiangong space station.

Private companies are gradually taking the lead in spaceflight as governments, in particular the US government, seek to spend

tax revenues elsewhere. Nasa chief Bill Nelson said

Thursday's successful EVA represented 'a giant leap forward for the commercial space industry and Nasa's long-term goal to build a vibrant US space econ-

During their five-day mission, Polaris Dawn's crew will act as test subjects for future deep space travel by travelling through portions of the Van Allen radiation belt and then analysing the effects of space radiation on their bod-

The mission also includes retired US Air Force lieutenant colonel Scott Poteet, 50, and SpaceX engineer Anna Menon, 38.



leisure



TAYLOR SWIFT MAKES MTV VMAS HISTORY

Pop icon Taylor Swift continues to be on an upward curve in her career. The singer-songwriter finished the MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs) with a recordbreaking number of wins, reports Variety. Swift upped her personal collection, surpassing the previous record of 25 wins set by Beyonce (as a solo act).

HALLE WANTS TO BE CELEBRATED FOR MORE THAN JUST HER LOOKS

Hollywood actress Halle Berry is looking forward to being valued for more than her looks as she gets older and her appearance changes. "I've always known that I've been more than this face and more than this body," she told US magazine Marie Claire.



accuracy • reliability • trust

You will be torn between work and family as both try to grab your attention. You may reserve the evening for having fun. You crave to become famous and are likely to accomplish your ambition shortly. You have Ganesha's blessings to support you.

TAURUS

Ganesha sees you happily engaged in attending to day turn out to be a hectic one. Do not expect too many time outs or even small breaks. Fortunately you will not be too uncomfortable with your tight schedule and will feel as fresh and easy at cease work as you had been at the beginning of the day.

GEMINI

An auspicious day awaits you. You will pay more attention to your family than to your career or at the work-front. This will mean the resolution of some long pending issues and projects at home. An enjoyable time with your family and children awaits you, says Ganesha

Rakul

and

sult,

you

can

CANCER

Ganesha says that this is good day to buy new house or car. It is likely that you shift to a new house shortly. So be prepared for a ceremony like housewa You will achieve tranguil mind through yoga and meditation. It will radiate a new ergy, enthusiasm and optimism in you.

LEO

You will have to bear more responsibilities in the office. You need to carefully weigh your alternatives before making a decision. On the personal front, you will need to watch against minor conflicts with your partner cropping up. You will be able to take part in entertaining and fun activities, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Today you will find yourself delving deep into your inner self. You will reap a lot of monetary rewards, and will be generous in spending it on your near and dear ones. Ganesha says that you may make up for the pressures at work by entertaining vourself with material pleasures. You will seek the company of someone with whom you can have an intimate chat.

If there's a knock on your door today, there's a very strong possibility it might be a marriage proposal. Don't get startled, and grab opportunities that come knocking (lit erally!). The stars send you a partner who shall be your match in every way. Have a long and happy married life, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO

You may deviate a little from mundane chores and take up creative activities like cooking and gardening, Today, according to Ganesha, you wish to do smart work and not just hard work. Family joys and pleasures will replace work satisfaction.

SAGITTARIUS

Today is a curiously interesting day for you. While you are always wellgroomed, today, you may take that extra bit of care to look best and attract a lot of praise for that too, especially from those glam hounds around you. That immaculate charm you are carrying today will enhance your business fortunes.

CAPRICORN

If wasteful expenditure has left your bank balance a tad below what you had anticipat ed, you will have reasons to rejoice today, says Ganesha. Cash inflow - and a substantial amount of it - is likely and will make you feel nice about your finances. Work will go on as usual. The only change may be a discernible change in the work ambience; it may get a little more comfortable.

AQUARIUS

Do you wish to have a new car or any other property? Make the bookings today, as it is favourable day to make such purchases. You will prioritise your needs and consider available finances so that you can have your dream car or house. In the evening, you will find solace in temple or any other religious places, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Sometimes you are so kind and charitable that you sacrifice your own well-being and happiness for the sake of others. This streak within you may emerge as you engage in a selfless deed. You will have a strong desire to do something for your family and your home. At work or business you will achieve your goals without any opposition, blesses Ganesha.

Nepotism a fact of life: Rakul Preet

come bitter. But this is not just has shared her thoughts on nepopart of the film industry, optism, while admitting that she has portunities can be snatched away from you in any other industry, lost films because of it. In the latest episode of Ranveer like the medical field... and I Allahbadia's podcast, the actor think that's life, the sooner you admitted she too would help out understand this, the better it is for your progress.' her kids in the future, if needed. Rakul Preet said nepotism was a fact of life, and the sooner people accepted it, the better it is for

The actor, without taking any names, added, "Tomorrow, if my kids want help, of course, I will help them out and not force

When asked if she the same struggle as I had to lost out on projundergo on them. Similarly, if star kids ects because of nepoget easy access, it is because their parents have worked said, "Of hard. So nepotism course, is not something I think too much then as about. Yes this is a reality, films have been taken away from me, but I am not a person who will get bit-

Mumbai: After dazzling audiences across Canada, America, Australia, and New Zealand, Diljit Dosanjh is set to bring his *Dil-luminati* tour to India, sparking a ticketbuying frenzy. General ticket sales began Thursday, and tickets for the Delhi shows were sold out within just two minutes. In Delhi, the available ticket extensive ways Cold (Phase 2) of Mumbai: Actress

ble ticket categories were Gold (Phase 3) at Rs. 12,999 and Fan Pit starting at Rs. 19,999, both of which sold out almost immediately. In other cities, the lowest-priced tickets were for the Silver (Phase 1) section in Hyderabad at Rs. 3,299, while the highest ticket prices for the Fan Pit Nargis Fakhri, who left an exceptional mark on the audience's mind with the Ranbir Kapoor-starrer Sehgal, Business Head of Saregama India Ltd. and organiser of Diljit Dosanjh's concert, said, "We've already sold 1.5 Rockstar, has expressed her desire to work with stars like

Amitabh Bachchan, Ranveer while there is enormous demand, due to the rules, reg-ulations, and venue capacities, we're expecting around 2 lakh people across 10 venues. This level of response has never happened in India before-not even for international artists." Singh, Vicky Kaushal and Ayushmann Khurrana. The Azhar fame star said, "First of many would be Ranveer Singh. I love his

energy and the intensity he gets on set. I'd like to do something like a period drama with him." wishlist riod dram Nargis continued

"Another actor I really am impressed with is Ayushmann Khurrana. This guy made a space for himself in the industry with his quirky yet poignant choice of scripts. I also like the simplicity and effortless quality in Raikummar Rao.'

Then, she expressed her desire to work with megastar Amitabh

"Vicky Kaushal is also doing great! Of course, in stalwarts, I'd love if I can collaborate with Amitabh Bachchan. And of course, would love to team back with Ranbir in yet another Imtiaz Ali film, wouldn't that be fun?"

The actress was last seen in the 2020 action thriller Torbaaz which also featured Sanjay Dutt, Rahul Dev, Gavie Chahal, Babrak Akbari and Rahul Mittra.



The actress will reportedly essay the role of Yuvraj's love in-**Fatima** terest in the film. Earlier, Fatima has female lead portrayed real-life characin Yuvi biopic ters in

her

films like

Dangal

and Sam Bahadur. considering Fatima Sana Shaikh to play Yuvraj Singh's love interest in his biopic. Although not much has been heard from the actress or the makers about the same, the chances are strong that she might

Dosanjh's *Dil-luminati* tour sparks booking frenzy



Dosanjh's India

in various cities, including Delhi NCR Chandigarh, Guwahati, Pune, Indore

Bengaluru, Kolkata, Lucknow Hyderabad, and Ahmedabad.

be seen playing a pivotal role in The makers are yet to zero down on the

male lead for the film. The yet-to-be-titled film. directed by Ravi Bhagchandka, promises to be a grand celebration of his journey

and contributions to cricket including the unforgettable streak of 6 sixes in 2007 T20 World Cup, and his stellar performance in the 2011 World Cup owing to which India lifted the trophy after 28 years.

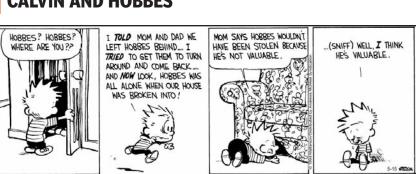
Since his international debut in 2000, Yuvraj Singh has left an indelible mark on cricket. He won fans over with his aggressive lefthanded batting and electrifying fielding. The cricketer's journey extends beyond his cricketing achievements.

In 2011, Yuvraj Singh was diagnosed with cancer but he continued to play for his nation in the World Cup, and was declared player of the tournament for his stellar performance. His courageous battle and subsequent return remarkable resilience and inspired millions globally.

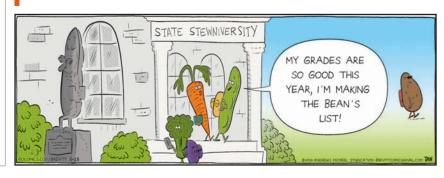
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

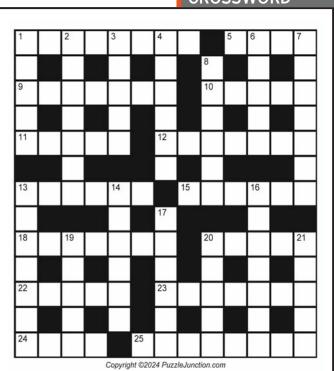


BREVITY



FUN

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Relief provider
- (3,5)
- 5 Cemetery sights 9 Rice dish
- 10 Forbidden
- 11 Vanquishes
- 12 Seaport in
- northern France
- 13 Split in two
- 15 Genuine
- 18 Bread type 20 Blind followers
- others
- <u>Down</u> 1 Less common

22 Befuddle

24 Dollar rival

25 Beach item

23 Bureau

- 2 Talk over
- 3 Marriage and
- 4 Cheap
- 6 Jewish spiritual leader
- 13 Army unit 14 Carpentry tool

7 Underwater

device

8 Cultural

- 16 Part of a place
- setting 17 Wreath for the
- head
- 19 Tree with catkins 20 Primitive
 - weapon
- 21 Winter wear

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

		5	6	8			
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SOLUTIONS



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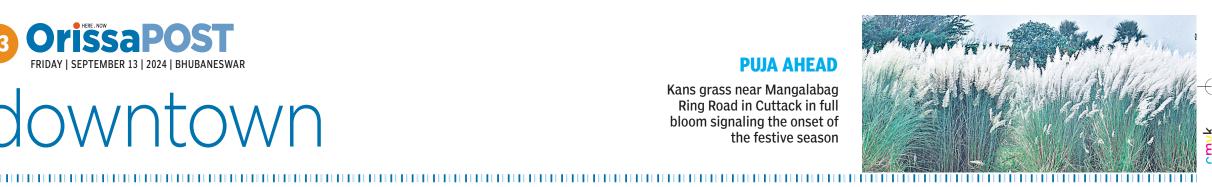
4 9 5 6 2 7 3 8 4 8 6 9 3 3 5



downtown

PUJA AHEAD

Kans grass near Mangalabag Ring Road in Cuttack in full bloom signaling the onset of the festive season



Omfed threw tender norms to winds: CAG

The state-owned dairy suffered losses to the tune of ₹3.38 crore, a report of the audit body reveals

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Flagging serious irregularities in procurement of polythene films (used in packaging milk for sale) by the Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited (Omfed), a recent report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) stated the state-owned dairy farm incurred losses to the tune of ₹3.38 crores by flouting the recommendations of its technical com-

The report by the apex audit body said July 1, 2015, the Purchase Committee of Omfed floated a tender for three-layer polythene rolls. Among the specifications in the tender, the thickness of each polythene film should be of 48-52 microns, and the materials be supplied between August 1, 2015 and July 31, 2016. "On June 30, a day before floating the tender, Omfed's marketing wing made a proposal to purchase black and white polythene films as it can store milk for longer durations. Accordingly, a corrigendum to the tender was issued July 2, 2015," the CAG report stated.

Subsequently, the Purchase Committee went ahead with the marketing wing's recommendations, and gave a nod to the proposal, July 7, 2015. The top brass then decided to form a technical committee to consider specifications for production of the polythene films in milk pack-



Surprisingly, the lowest bidder - Indu Packaging - was set aside and the order for polythene films was placed against IDMC Ltd, the highest bidder

aging machines by the suppliers. However, to everyone's surprise, the tender was altogether cancelled by Omfed's managing di-

"Instead, the Purchase Committee resorted to procurement on a pilot basis and invited suppliers in October, 2015 without specifying the required thickness for the polythene films," the report stated.

Two firms - Indu Packaging and IDMC Ltd-placed their offers for the purpose. While Indu Packaging quoted a price of ₹160.13 per kg for polythene films of 50-55 microns thickness, IDMC Ltd quoted ₹219.34 per kg for films of 60-65 microns thickness. "Following this, a high-level committee of Omfed found Indu Packaging's offer to be economical since it could yield 380 packets per kg at much lesser

price, as against IDMC's 305 packets per kg," the report said.

Surprisingly, the Omfed placed an order before IDMC Ltd to procure 42 MT of polythene rolls October 3, 2015.

Thereafter, from October 2015 to March 2016, the dairy farm procured 640.79 MT of polythene rolls. Out of that, 571.88 MT (89%) of 60-65 microns thickness were supplied by IDMC for ₹219.34 per kg. The remaining 68.91 MT polythene rolls (with thickness of 50-55 microns) was procured from Indu Packaging and two other suppliers at ₹160.13 per kg. The entire order for Omfed was billed at ₹14.38 crore.

The purchases continued further as Omfed claimed to have placed orders for procurement of 3,509.50 MT polythene rolls from July 2016 to June 2021 at a higher price of ₹230.13 per kg, against the initial price of ₹131.99 to ₹161.95 per kg.

In response to the report, the Fisheries and Animal Resources Development department which runs Omfed said bulk orders were placed with IDMC as it had white pigments and black inner lining. This secured the pouch from penetration of UV rays of sun, it added.

However, the CAG has rubbished these claims and maintained that the response of the department was not convincing as other polythene rolls (with a thickness of 50-55 microns) would have guaranteed the same protections.

Governor, CM, Patnaik condole Yechury's demise

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Governor Raghubar Das, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik Thursday condoled the death of veteran CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury.

Patnaik, who is also the BJD president, said Yechury will be missed during debates on issues of national importance.

Taking to X, the Raj Bhavan said, "Hon'ble Governor is saddened to hear about the demise of @cpimspeak General Secretary and former Sabha #Sitaram Yechury after a prolonged illness. He conveys his deep condolences to the family and friends."

Majhi extended condolences to the bereaved family members of the senior communist leader and former Rajya Sabha MP.

Yechury died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi Thursday following prolonged illness, hospital and party sources said. He was 72.

He was in a critical condition for the last few days and was on respiratory support.

Patnaik, who uploaded one of his pictures with Yechury on X, said, "Deeply saddened to learn about the passing away of veteran CPI (M) leader Sitaram Yechury after prolonged illness. The eloquent, erudite and affable leader will be sorely missed during debates on issues of national importance. My thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family, friends and followers in the hour of grief.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



Prioritise grievance hearings: CM

476 new recruits include 98 Group A officers, 130 Group B officers, and 248 Group C employees

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday urged 476 newly-recruited government officers and employees to prioritise public grievance hearings.

Speaking at the 'Nijukti Mela' programme, Majhi emphasised that the government symbolises people's faith and trust, and addressing public grievances is a fundamental duty of both the government and its employees.

"If your determination and efficiency can bring a smile on the face of the common man, then your appointment will be justified," the CM said.

The new recruits include 98 Group A officers, 130 Group B officers, and 248 Group C em-



Majhi advised them to be dedicated, punctual, truthful and honest in their work and to play a key role in the state's development.

He stressed that public servants must ensure that the benefits of government welfare schemes reach every segment

Majhi highlighted that while the previous government failed to address vacant posts and create self-employment opportunities, his administration is committed to filling 1.5 lakh government posts over the next five years and generating employment for 3.5 lakh youths in various private industries.

Excise dept dismisses ASI over corruption

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: The state Excise department Thursday dismissed from service an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) who was under suspension following his prosecution by the Vigilance in a disproportionate assets (DA) case.

The dismissal was effected on an order of Excise Commissioner Narasingha Bhol.

The Vigilance sleuths had recently conducted raids at the residence of the ASI, identified as Sudipta Kumar Das, on complaints of corruption against him when he was posted in Nayagarh district.

"Initial investigations have found that Sudipta was involved in a bribery case during his stint at Nayagarh. He had released the scooter of an accused that was used for peddling illicit liquor, and also forged the seizure quantity in the records as six litres instead of 50 litres," a release issued by the Excise department stated, adding that he was suspended after the instance for being complicit in extend-

It may be noted that the Excise department in the last one year has dismissed as many as six officials on the grounds of bribery. This apart, a total of 24 officials, including a joint commissioner, two superintendents, four inspectors, four sub-inspectors, six ASIs and seven constables, had been put under suspension last year.

ing undue favour to the accused.







GUIDELINES SET FOR POSTING OF RETIRED GOVT OFFICIALS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: The state government Thursday issued detailed guidelines for appointing retired government servants in various departments on a temporary basis.

According to a resolu sued by the General Administration and Public Grievance (GA&PG) department, the state government had in 2014 decided to re-engage retired government officials for various unavoidable reasons and work pressure.

However, it has come to the notice of the government that various departments are engaging retired government employees in a routine manner without justification and merely to deal with routine work.

Re-engagement of retired employees has become a rule rather than an exception, the GA&PG department said.

Considering the situation and with a view to ensuring a uniform principle, the government has decided to repeal the resolution issued in 2014 and issued fresh

guidelines for the engagement of retired public servants.

According to the guidelines, retired government officers, who are below the age of 65 years, have good service records and are physically fit, can be eligible to be considered for re-employment.

Officers against whom partmental proceedings or criminal cases are pending or who have been penalised for misconduct in the preceding five years shall not be considered for post-retirement appointment.

According to the guidelines, officers having "outstanding" confidential character rolls (CCRs) for continuous 60 months before retirement can only be considered for re-engagement.

Such re-engagement shall be limited to 1 per cent of the sanctioned strength of the concerned cadre for respective departments.

To choose retired employees, a selection committee will be formed under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. After approval of the panel, it will be sent to the Chief Minister for his consideration and approval.

strains, the Ministry of

Fisheries, Animal

Field trials in

and

Odisha, West Bengal,

Maharashtra demon-

Assam,

proved

Catla's abil-

ity to reach

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in a year, the

weight

of 1.8

kg,

com-

Husbandry & Dairying

said in a statement.

State's efforts lauded at eastern region meet

Bhubaneswar: A regional review meet ing on Animal Husbandry and Dairy Sector of five eastern states - Odisha. West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Meghalava and Andaman & Nicobar Islands hosted by the Animal Husbandry & Dairving department at the Centre, in collaboration with state Fisheries and Animal Resources Development department was organised here, Thursday. The meeting kicked off with Green Inauguration by Union secretary of Animal Husbandry & Dairying Alka Upadhyay, who chaired the meeting. F&ARD Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar Vashishth. while welcoming the senior officers from DAHD at the Centre and the participating states acknowledged the presence of the dignitaries. Upadhyay stressed the importance of strategic spending, where states should request and utilise funds based on need-based requirements within the given financial year. She also underlined that the main focus of discussion in the meeting will be the upcoming 21st Livestock Census and the National Livestock Mission. The secretary acknowledged and commended the efforts of the Odisha government which has achieved a good conception rate of 3% (32.87). In contrast, the country's conception rate is 18 per cent under the Artificial Breed Improvement programme by sex sorted semen.

Boost for farmers: 'Amrit Catla' fish variety launched at CIFA

FIELD TRIALS SHOW THAT THE IMPROVED 'CATLA' CAN REACH AN AVERAGE WEIGHT OF 1.8 KG IN ONE YEAR, COMPARED TO 1.2 KG FOR LOCAL STRAINS

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched 'Amrit Catla', a genetically improved variety of Catla fish, at the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA) here Thursday.

Speaking at the event, Singh emphasised the ministry's dedication to advancing research initiatives in the fisheries sector, promising substantial support for sustainable growth and productivity enhance-

The Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh also unveiled 'Rangeen Machhli' app, a digita platform for the said CIFA has been ornamental fisheries

designated as the nucleus breeding centre for freshwater fish by the sector ministry, reinforcing its role in producing high-quality fish seed in India. The National Freshwater Fish Brood Bank (NFFBB) of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) received the 'Amrit Catla' to facilitate its distribution and availability to farmers nationwide.

In 2010, the Central institute began a selective breeding pro-

gramme to improve Catla's body weight at harvest. It utilised nine strains of Catla from various states as the base population, achieving a 15 per cent genetic gain per generation and a cumulative gain of 35 per cent by the third generation.

Field trials showed that the statement added. improved Catla can reach an av-During the event, Singh also erage weight of 1.8 kg in one

launched the 'Rangeen Machhli' year, compared to 1.2 kg for local app, a digital platform for the ornamental fisheries sector, offering multilingual knowledge resources for hobbyists, shop owners, and farmers. The event was attended by

George Kurian, Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, along with senior officials and stakeholders from the fisheries sector.

strated the im-1.2 kg for

GLOBAL BIO-INDIA 2024

'Odisha set to lead in biotechnology'



Manam Foundation hosts

event on suicide prevention

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Odisha, with its rich biodiversity and vast resources, coupled with an enabling industry ecosystem is set to contribute efficiently to the Indian Bioeconomy, said Science and Technology Minister Krushna Chandra Patra at Global Bio-India (GBI) 2024

The three-day flagship event y the department of Biotechnology, under Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India commenced at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Thursday

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: Manam

Foundation, a non-profit organisation working in the field

of mental health and wellness,

recently hosted an event to mark

World Suicide Prevention Day at

Police Commissioner Sanjeeb

Panda, who was the chief guest

on the occasion, stressed on hold-

ing frequent sensitisation pro-

grammes and inculcating hob-

bies in individuals to take care

of one's mental health and well-

being. "Collective methods should be made to bring down suicide

Pro-Vice Chairperson of DPS

Kalinga, Mala Mishra was the

guest of honour. In her address,

Mala highlighted the cases of

suicide among children and told

about the steps being taken by the

institute to address the sensi-

Applauding the efforts of

rates to zero," he said.

tive issue.

Bhaja Kala Mandap here.

A special 'Odisha Pavilion' featured at the GBI, highlights the state's biotechnology potential, with focus on Indian bioeconomy at the global event.

On the occasion, Patra inaugurated the pavilion, which showcases various innovative biotechnology startups of the state.

During the event, Patra visited different stalls from the state and appreciated their products and solutions. He also invited national and international investors to consider Odisha as a prime destination for biotechnology industry and enterprise.

Patra will deliver a key note address during a technical sesSeptember 14, which will focus on India's maritime resources.

Science and Technology principal secretary Chithra Arumugam also toured the pavilion and said, "Under the Odisha Biotechnology Policy 2024, the state government is prioritising and focusing more on the biotechnology sector. We have brought innovative startups, academicians and researchers to GBI 2024 who will get an exposure to the futuristic trends in the sector.'

"Our aim is to foster innovation in Odisha biotechnology by supporting startups develop their products and solutions, connect them with investors and help in industrialising their ideas," she added.

The state delegation team included senior officials of the department, representatives from various research institutions and researchers

GBI hosted different sessions on specific policies and investment initiatives, introduced by different states to promote biotechnology industry. Arumugam will also attend 'State Roundtable' conference September 13 to discuss various initiatives by the state government.

ONLINE SUPPORT PROG LAUNCHED

Bhubaneswar: School and Mass Gond inaugurated the free Online Academic Support Programme here Thursday. The programme was launched virtually in presence of **Higher Secondary Education director** Raghuram R Iyer. Addressing the students of all the higher secondary schools in the state virtually, Gond said the programme will help the students, especially those in remote areas, to achieve success in competitive and entrance examinations. A total of 82,700 students joined the inaugural



CHARTER OF DEMANDS: Members of Odisha chapter of All India Democratic Youth Organisation stage a demonstration in front of Rail Sadan, the ECOR headquarters in Bhubaneswar, Thursday, to press for fulfillment of their demands

State preps for 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: In a major push towards cleanliness and public hygiene, a joint review meeting on the preparedness of the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' (SHS) campaign across all districts and urban local bodies (ULBs) in the state, was held under the chairmanship of Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) department principal secretary Usha Padhee, and Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW) department principal secretary SK Lohani.

District Collectors and senior officials from various departments actively participated in the review meeting. Padhee and Lohani emphasised the importance of adhering to the SHS guidelines and ensuring timely completion of campaign activities. They also underscored the necessity of coordinated efforts between district administrations, ULBs, and communities to achieve the objectives of a cleaner and healthier Odisha.

Padhee highlighted the critical role of the SHS campaign in achieving Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) targets, partic-

All RTOs to participate in SHS

Bhubaneswar/Cuttack: The State Transport Authority (STA) will actively participate in the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' (SHS) campaign which will be observed from September 17 to October 1, themed 'Swabhav Swachhata - Sanskaar Swachhata'. The campaign will see all RTOs across the state engaging in a series of cleanliness and awareness activities under various categories. During a preparatory meeting chaired by the transport commissioner Amitabh Thakur Thursday, it was decided that several activities will be carried out in alignment with the agenda of 'Swachhata Ki Bhagidari'. These activities will include plantation drives, Swachhata runs and cyclothons. Special efforts will be made for the beautification of roads, flyovers and nearby areas of RTO offices. In addition, 'Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs' will be organised at various locations, under the jurisdiction of the RTOs, including railway stations, educational institutes, petrol pumps, and airports. Awareness camps

ularly focusing on waste management, public participation, and sustainable sanitation practices. She urged district officials to engage citizens, community organisations, and local stakeholders to make the campaign a people-driven movement.

Speaking on the occasion, Lohani stressed the need for close collaboration between rural and urban authorities to ensure that both Panchayats and ULBs work in synergy. He noted that effective communication and seamless coordination at the grassroots level will play a crucial role in the success of the campaign.

The review meeting also included discussions on monitoring mechanisms, best practices for waste segregation, and innovative approaches to public engagement. Special secretary Rajesh Paravakar Patil and additional secretary Binay Dash, along with other senior officials participated in the discussions, contributing valuable insights to enhance the campaign's effectiveness

Collectively, the officials urged the District Collectors to focus on key activities such as cleanliness drives, awareness campaigns, and community-led waste management systems.

The SHS campaign, which is an integral part of the nationwide 'Swachh Bharat Mission', aims to galvanise public action and foster a sense of shared responsibility towards creating a cleaner India. Odisha's active involvement in the campaign will further strengthen its position as a leader in sanitation and hygiene management in the

Another wet spell likely from today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

techniques like peer counselling and empathy circles Manam Foundation, she underlined the need for counselling and narrated how DPS Kalinga encourages buddy counselling

techniques like peer counselling and empathy circles.

Mala Mishra applauded

the efforts of Manam

Foundation, while

narrating how DPS

buddy counselling

Kalinga encourages

The other speakers were Amrit Pattojoshi, Secretary of the Indian Psychiatric Society, and Director of the Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH), Sridhar M Kadam. Manam founding director Anuradha Mahapatra presided over the event.

Bhubaneswar, Sep 12: Odisha is likely to experience another as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast the formation of a new low-pressure area over coastal Bangladesh and nearby regions, Thursday.

In a special weather bulletin, the IMD said an upper air cyclonic circulation, positioned over southeast Bangladesh and its surrounding areas, is likely to lead to the formation of a lowpressure area within the next 24 hours.

The IMD predicted that the new system will gradually move west-northwestward and could develop into a depression over



coastal West Bengal and adjacent northwest Bay of Bengal within the next 48 hours. As a result, Odisha is likely to experience a wet spell from September 13 to September 15, it added.

The agency has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, in isolated areas of Kalahandi district.

Additionally, heavy rainfall with thunderstorms and lightning is expected in isolated areas of Nabarangpur, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mavurbhani Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Rayagada, and Gajapati districts, the IMD added.

It also warned of thunderstorms with lightning in isolated areas of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Ganjam, and Gajapati

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the North Bay of Bengal and the waters along and off the Odisha coast during this period, it said.

Social impact campaign to combat rising T1D



RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: According to the global Type 1 diabetes (T1D) index, the prevalence of T1D in the country is growing at an alarming rate of 6.7 per cent annually. In response to it, the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), in collaboration with Sanofi India Limited (SIL) launched a social impact programme here Thursday, aimed at improving diagnosis and care for T1D patients.

On the occasion, representatives from RSSDI and SIL highlighted the efforts to reduce hypoglycaemia and hyperglycaemia through enhanced care and management practices. The initiative aims to educate patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals, and help them with financial support. Out of 1,400 children enrolled in the social impact programme across the country, 76 are from the state diagnosed with T1D.

RSSDI president Rakesh Sahay emphasised the importance of addressing the urgent need of the estimated 8.6 lakh T1D patients in the country. "By equipping healthcare professionals and educators with the necessary tools and knowledge, the programme enables timely diagnosis and appropriate diabetes management,' he said.

SIL senior director of corporate communications and CSR Aparna Thomas stated, "Our programme is significantly improving the quality of life for children with T1D by creating much-needed standards of care for diagnosis, education, and treatment.'

Diabetics' specialist Alok Kanungo noted the rising trend in T1D and stressed the need for comprehensive training for healthcare professionals. The programme aims to restore years of healthy life through early diagnosis and better self-management practices.

Thinkers' Club seeks renovation of historic Idgah Ground and the efforts needed to give

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Cuttack, Sept 12: A comment of the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on TE Ravenshaw made flutter across the state. The arguments for and against the issue opened the eves of the conscious citizens of the state and raised the case of another historic place in sil-The city intellectuals group

recently urged the state government to renovate the historic Idgah Ground in Cuttack which is linked to the cultural and academic history of the state.

The first general meeting of

the Utkal Sammilani, to press for a separate state, was convened at the ground December 30 and 31 in 1903 by the prides of Odisha like Madhusudan Das, Fakir Mohan Senapati and Maharaja Krushna Chandra.

Ironically, the historic site still remains in ruins even if Utkal Diwas is being observed across the state to commemorate the occasion.

None has discussed or thought over it. It is to be said here that, the Kulabrudha Madhusudan started his fight for a separate state from this historic place and it took nearly 36 years to see Odisha as an independent



state based on language. The government has issued a ROR to the Utkal Sammilani but nothing spectacular took place at the site. It was expected to construct at least a memorial structure at the spot. The ruling government in the near past and of earlier periods forgot the site and heeded no importance to it. Several patriotic organisations have issued request letters, memorandums to the government to bring the place to limelight to get its due glory. Still, no work has been carried out at the site.

The president of the Thinkers Club Barada Prasanna Das, presented a memorandum to the deputy chief minister at Cuttack recently stating the importance president urged intellectuals of the state to think deeply over the issue and suggest appropriately to the state government. The Cuttack Development Authority constructed a pedestal with a plate in the year 2003 and completed its 'responsibility'.

due importance to the site. The

Das requested the ministers, intellectuals and other conscious citizens to visit the historic place and rekindle the spirit of patriotism in their heart. "As an Odia, all of us should feel proud for the heritage site and make effort to bring due glory to it,"

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Samakoi irrigation project faces resistance 12-HOUR SHUTDOWN IN TELKOI AND NH-49 BLOCKADE DISRUPT NORMAL LIFE POST NEWS NETWORK The difference Respiration of the project is not withdrawn. The difference Respiration of the project is not with the project is

Keonjhar, Sept 12: A 12-hour shutdown in Telkoi area and blockade of National Highway 49 at Jagmohanpur in protest against construction of proposed Chakdar irrigation project on Samakoi river under Telkoi block in this district passed off peacefully.

The bandh call was issued by the 'Chakdar Prakalpa Samanwaya Samiti'. The agitators blocked the NH-49 near Jagmohanpur Chowk from around 6am Thursday. As a result, hundreds of vehicles including line trucks, trailers, and buses were stuck on both sides of the road.

While passengers along with the drivers faced many diffi culties on the road, transportation of essential goods was also disrupted. Similarly shops, schools, colleges, government and private institutions were closed in Telkoi.

It is revealed that in the first Budget of the BJP government in state, provision was made for the implementation of the Angul Samakoi Barrage project. The project construction site is located in Chakdar village under Kardangi panchayat in Telkoi block of Keonjhar dis-

This has sparked a backlash over the threat of submergence of many villages in Telkoi block after the project got approval. As a result, local people staged a bandh at Telkoi August 27 and a memorandum was given to the Chief Minister to stop the project. "As there was no response from the government regarding our demands, we have intensified the call with the blockade of National Highway-49 with Telkoi closure today, said Kailash Pradhan, president of the outfit.

Protesters including many women sat on the highway holding placards and chanted various slogans in protest of the project. The agitators said that the movement will be intensi-

In the afternoon, Keonjhar Sub-Collector Umakanta Dalei along with other senior officers went to the spot and held talks with the agitators. "The Sub-Collector has given assurance and said that the administration and the officials of the Irrigation department will be called for discussion within seven days to make a decision on the project. After getting assurance, the agitators withdrew the blockade" the outfit's advisor Babulal Pradhan said.

Keonihar Collector Vishal Singh said, "We received the memorandum and assured villagers to organise a meeting between the Irrigation department and the representatives of the outfit to make them clear about the project. As per the new plan, no village will submerge, and that will be clear after the Irrigation department gives proper explanation to the local people in the meeting.

Bhubaneswar/Malkangiri, Sept 12: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday undertook an aerial survey of the flash flood-affected Malkangiri district and asked officials to submit a damage assessment report within seven days.

He also directed the district officials to ensure that not a single affected person is deprived of assistance from the government.

Majhi was accompanied by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari and Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

Taking to X, Majhi said, "Visited Malkangari and reviewed the flood situation. Necessary steps have been taken by the government to properly deal with and control the flood.

The Chief Minister said the state government has given priority to improving road com-

munication, food and drinking water supply, housing, health services and compensation to people in flash flood-affected

"I have also asked the department concerned to expedite restoration work," Majhi said.

In a review meeting, Majhi indicated that special assistance could be provided to the tribaldominated district which has been severely hit by a flash flood.

"The affected people should be supplied with pure drinking water as the water-borne diseases may follow the flash flood.' Majhi said, adding that adequate precautions should be taken to

After the meeting, Pujari said that the flash flood had affected

crops on 8,830 hectares of land. Twenty one houses have been completely damaged and 576 others partially, while around 15 roads have also been affected

due to the flood, he said. The minister said the district administrations of Malkangiri and Koraput have worked effectively, and praised the disaster response forces, fire service and police personnel for their efforts during the deluge.

Pujari said the government will now undertake a survey to assess the damage to crops and

"As per the Odisha Relief Code, we will provide compensation to people whose houses and crops have been damaged. The district administrations have been directed to keep sufficient stocks of medicines and necessary items," he added.

Man gets 20 years RI for raping minor

Phulbani, Sept 12: A POCSO

court in Phulbani has sentenced

a man to 20 years of Rigorous

Imprisonment (RI) for raping a

The court also slapped a fine

of ₹55,000 on convict Kissan

Sanseth of Kotagarh area. He

would have to serve an addi-

tional jail term of eight months

if he fails to pay the amount,

Special Public Prosecutor Asim

The sentence was pronounced

Wednesday based on statements

of 18 witnesses, and medical

According to the public pros-

ecutor, the victim, a nine-year-

old girl, was playing in front of the house of the accused in the village May 23, 2023. The accused

dragged the girl to his house and raped her. The accused had also threatened to kill her if she

revealed the incident to anyone.

ily lodged a complaint with

Kotagarh police station over the

incident. Police arrested the ac-

cused and forwarded him to the

The next day, the victim's fam-

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

girl last year.

Praharai said.

Flight-test of VL-SRSAM successful

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasore, Sept 12: The Research & Defence Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy Thursday successfully flight tested a vertical launch short range surface-to-air missile (VL-SRSAM) from Chandipur, off Odisha coast, Defence officials said here.

The test was conducted at around 3pm from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, they said.

The flight test was carried out from a land-based vertical launcher, aiming at a highspeed aerial target flying at a low altitude. The missile system successfully tracked and engaged the target, they said.

The flight test aimed at validating multiple updated elements of the weapon system. the Defence officials said.

The performance of the system was "meticulously tracked and confirmed by various instruments" such as telemetry deployed at ITR Chandipur.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the teams from DRDO and the Indian Navy for their achievement, stating that this test reaffirms the reliability and effectiveness of the VL-SRSAM weapon system.

DRDO Chairman Samir V Kamat congratulated the teams and said that the system will significantly enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy and serve as a force multiplier.



PUBLICITY DRIVE: Umerkote Municipality chairperson Radha Bhatra and guests flagging off awareness vehicle on Subhadra Yojana at Umerkote in Nabarangpur

RSP modernisation RAGGING SLUR ON JNV HADAGARH on the cards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 12: Director in Charge (DIC) of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) Atanu Bhowmick, had an interaction with the local media here at the Indo German Club where he discussed modernisation plans and other issues related to the steel behemoth.

Bhowmik informed that SAIL chairman Amarendu Prakash had recently met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and the two had discussed ways and means to make RSP more competitive in the steel industry. "The chief minister has agreed to our modernisation proposals for RSP," stated Bhowmik.

The DIC was asked about resettlement plans for families that will be displaced due to RSP's modernisation. "All families residing in Barkani will be suitably resettled and for that the state gov-

ernment will extend us support," Bhowmik in-RSP is committed to prodays. "The new technologies that will be imcarbon footprint. Bhowmik said.

Bhowmik was quick to point out that RSP is fully committed to tackle the dengue menace that has hit the town. He also added that the number of dengue cases have reduced considerably in the past few days. He pointed out that the Ispat General Hospital (IGH) is fully geared up to tackle the disease.

Talking about the development of the captive township Bhowmik said, "This is in the planning stage and you will see results very soon. We will also repair the roads that are in bad condition.

quet and a sweet packet.

Suspecting the packet, the

Collector directed his peon

formed. The Vigilance

A case under Section

Chief

marketable.

Rajamati Chandan,

Late Laba Bemal

Nura Nag all are D/o Saintala.

Rajamati Bakul,

Name

Vig nabs executive for bid to bribe Collector

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: The anti-corruption Vigilance sleuths have arrested a cement manufacturing company executive on charge of inducing a District Collector to receive bribe, an official release said.

received, Chief Manufacturing Officer (East) of Ambuja Cement, Rambhay Gattu, was arrested by Vigilance department Wednesday night for attempting to bribe Bargarh Collector Aditya Goyal.

Odisha Vigilance Directorate sources said Gattu had gone to the office of Bargarh Collector Aditya Goyal to meet him

"During the visit, he offered him a flower bou-

formed. He added that tecting the environment and reducing the carbon footprint in the coming plemented in RSP will significantly reduce the

to open the packet, in which four bundles of ₹500 currency notes were found," the release said. Manufacturing Officer of the Chhattisgarh based cement company was de-As per the information tained, and the Vigilance authorities were in-

team reached there and seized the packet containing cash worth ₹2 8/9/10 PC Act, 1988, as amended by the PC Amendment Act, 2018 was registered against

Gattu for attempting to induce a public servant. The accused has been Wednesday.

arrested and forwarded to the court, Vigilance sources said.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Hatadihi, Sept 12: Ragging of students continues to plague educational institutions in the state as a Class IX student has allegedly been beaten up on a daily basis for years by his seniors at PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Hadagarh under this block in Keonjhar district, sources said Thursday.

According to the complaint lodged by the student's father at the Soso police station, the survivor, a male student of Class IX in the school, was beaten by his seniors on a daily basis. Police registered a case (171/2024) and launched an investigation.

According to the complaint, Mandardhar Tout of Balia village under Soso police limits had alleged that some senior students of the institute have been beating his

Class VI. Rout lodged complaint of the additional commissioner with the school authorities but the latter never addressed his pleas.

Recently, the boy was beaten up by some senior students March 29. and sustained swelling on his face and cheek.

The school authorities allegedly tried to suppress the incident again without taking any action against the accused students. The matter came to the fore when Mandardhar and his daughter Manoja went to the

PUBLIC NOTICE

approximately 4.06Acres situated in Villages Chitamara, Taluka Saintala, District

Bolangir, more particularly described in the schedule below ("Land"), from its owners

limited liability partnership, Hindu undivided family, company, corporate entity, Bank

Financial Institution, non-banking financial company, firms, association of persons,

anybody of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/ or creditors and/ or

any other entity having or claiming any right, title, claim, benefit, estate, share, demand

or interest of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Land or any part thereof by way

of sale, conveyance, transfer, allotment, exchange, assignment, muniment, charge, gift, covenant, trust, wakf, license, occupancy rights, care-take rights, tenancy,

protected tenancy, share, sub-tenancy, succession, inheritance, claim, let, lease,

sub-lease, lien, mortgage, easement, maintenance, devise, bequest, hypothecation.

encumbrance, possession, development rights, joint-development rights, sub-

development, project management, joint venture, collaboration, possession in part

performance, partnership, family arrangement/ settlement, will, testamentary

instruments, letters or administration, probate, *lis pendens*, decree or order of any

Court of Law or otherwise howsoever by operation of law or otherwise, is hereby

called upon to make the same known in writing, with notarized documentary proof, to

the undersigned within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing

which the purported right, title, benefit, estate, interest, share, claim or demand of

any nature whatsoever, as the case may be, will be considered to be waived off and/

or abandoned and/or relinquished and the Landshall be presumed to be free from

any and all sorts of encumbrance(s) of any nature and it shall be deemed that the

title and possession of the owners mentioned below to the Land is clear and

SCHEDULE

In view of the aforesaid, if any person including any individual, partnership firm

mentioned against each of the lands in the schedule below.

Location

Bolangir

Mouza- Chitamara, 31

Tahasil and P.S

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that our Client intends to acquire lands measuring

son since he joined the school in school after learning about the visit from Bhopal to the school, September 4

> He saw some students assaulting his son inside classroom when he entered the school premises to meet the additional commissioner. He immediately lodged a written complaint at the Soso police station.

Police registered a case Wednesday against three students. Soso IIC Bijav Kumar Bihari visited the school and conducted an

When contacted, principal P Manikanthan rejected the charges while additional commissioner P Munirameya from Bhopal office assured to conduct a probe and take suitable action in this regard.

The boy's sister Manoja said that the school principal misbehaved with her and asked her to leave the school premises when she visited the school with the police for an inquiry, Thursday.

On the other hand, the parents' as sociation, principal P Manikanthan, additional commissioner P Munirameya, vice-principal Pramod Barik of the JNV and principal Ramraj Singh of JNV, Cuttack conducted a meeting and proposed to the boy's father to shift his son to a separate Navodaya Vidyalaya. However, the boy's father has refused to the proposal.

court at Balliguda, Praharaj said

ENGG/2024-25. Dated. 05.09.2024

KLD CAPACITY WITH OH TANK AND PIPE LINE INCLUDING MAINTENANCE PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS AFTER COMMISSIONING AT KANTABANJI (KBJ), MUNIGUDA (MNGD), TITLAGARH (TIG) & BALANGIR (BLGR) STATIONS AND 05 YEARS AMOC ON TURNKEY BASIS IN SAMBALPUR DIVISION

Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 5,52,800.00.

(2) e-Tender No.: 30-eT-DENS-SBP-24 Name of the work: REPLACEMENT OF OLD CORRODED/DAMAGED STEEL OH TANKS WITH STAGING AND OTHER ASSOCIATED WORKS AT MAHASAMUND, KESINGA, MUNIGUDA & BISSAMCUTTACK STATIONS OF

Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 2,85,58,147.61, Bid Security: ₹ 2,92,800.00.

(3) e-Tender No. : 20-eT-DENE-SBP-24 Name of the work: UPGRADATION/ MODERNIZATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE AT HANDAPA, SAMBALPUR CITY AND RENGALI GOODS SHED (EAST SECTION) OVER SAMBALPUR DIVISION

Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 28,52,97,762.23, Bid Security: ₹ 15,76,500.00.

Completion period of the work 96 (Ninety Six) Months (for sl. no. 1), 0 (Eight) Months (for sl. no. 2) and 12 (Twelve) Months (for sl. no. 3).

Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 At 1500 hrs. on 30.09.2024 (for sl. no. 3) No manual offers sent by post/courier Fax or in person shall be accepted agains such e-tenders.

documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advise to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)

Boundary N- Basti S- Boundary of mouza Khasbaha One Khata One plot 4 Acres, 06 dec

(Advocate) HIW OLD GUEST HOUSE COLONY HIRAKUD, SAMBALPUR, ODISHA -768016 Ph- 9437158744/9337358744, email -sachikant1234@gmail.com

Sachikanta Mishra

Khata No. Plot No.

PANCHAYAT SAMITI, PATNAGARH Email Id: ori-patnagarh@nic.in E-Procurement Notice No.i-149: Bid Documents consisting of Work, Estimated Cost

Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i e www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

WWW.toriacrocricoa.gov.iii.					
Tender Reference No		: 5222-PS-PTG-06.09.2024			
Bid identification No	:	2024-PRBBT-104693-1 to 6			
Name of the work	:	as mentioned in DTCN			
No of works	:	06			
Estimated cost	:	As per DTCN			
Period of completion	:	As per DTCN			
Date & Time of Bidding	:	11.09.2024 at 10 AM to			
-		23.09.2024 up to 5.30 PM			
		through online only			
Last date & time for	:	23.09.2024 up to 5.30 PM			
receipt of bids in the		*************************************			
portal					
Opening of Price Bid	:	24.09.2024 at 11.00 AM			
Name and address of the	:	Panchayat Samiti, Patnagarh			
Officer inviting Bid		300			
Further details can be seen from the procurement portal i.e. https://www.					
tendersorissa.gov.in					
OIPR-19163/11/0001/2425 Sd./- BDO, Patnagari					
	Tender Reference No Bid identification No Name of the work No of works Estimated cost Period of completion Date & Time of Bidding Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal Opening of Price Bid Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid her details can be seen from telersorissa.gov.in	Tender Reference No : Bid identification No : Name of the work : No of works : Estimated cost : Period of completion : Date & Time of Bidding : Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal : Opening of Price Bid : Name and address of the : Officer inviting Bid her details can be seen from the dersorissa.gov.in			

PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE: PUINTALA E-mail ID: ori-puintala@nic.in

No: 2041 No.i-151: The Block development Officer, Puintala on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in Single cover system to be received in online mode only for the construction works as detailed in the table below. Class of Cost of Approximate Estimated dress of O.I.T. ost (in Rs.) Construction of Additional Class Room at C & D BDO Durgapali UGHS Months 12.53,634 C&D akhapali Govt. PS Months 6000 C&D B.D.O.,

Brahmanipali Govt. PS
Date & Time of Sale & Receipt eipt of Bids : Dt.13.09.2024, 4.00 PM to 28.09.2024 Date of Opening Bids : Dt.30.09.2024, 3.30 PM Further details can be seen from the website: http://tenderodisha.gov.ir

Amthimunda Govt. PS

OIPR-19160/11/0001/2425

Sd./- Block Development Officer, Puintala

Months

C&D



Do not give way, hold tight. It is when everything seems lost that all is saved

THE MOTHER



Soumva

Swaminathan &

a form of air

pollution often

associated with

dust and smoke,

was the leading

world's disease

contributor to the

burden in 2021, and

has been found to

cut 1.9 years from

average life

expectancy

Christa Hasenkopf

Particulate matter,

Tracking Air Quality

very year, the World Health Organization summarizes global → progress on malaria control. It details the number of cases in af-✓ fected countries, shows year-on-year changes, outlines goals, and assesses the current funding landscape. The United Nations puts out a similar annual report for HIV/AIDS. This regular tracking of serious public-health concerns is essential for addressing them effectively, because it can help channel resources to where they are most needed and identify interventions that are working.

But there is no authoritative, up-to-date global accounting of air pollution, a health risk that takes a larger toll than malaria and HIV/AIDS combined. Particulate matter, a form of air pollution often associated with dust and smoke, was the leading contributor to the world's disease burden in 2021, and has been found to cut 1.9 years from average life expectancy. Air pollution was also linked to more than 700,000 deaths in children under five years old in 2021, making it the secondhighest risk factor for death in this age group.

The world's main authority on air quality is arguably the WHO, which produces globally influential standards for pollution levels. Its most recent guidelines, published in 2021, aimed to improve air-

quality standards by lowering the recommended level of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) from ten micrograms per cubic meter to five.

The WHO also compiles data on annual particulate matter in cities worldwide through its ambient air quality database, which is primarily sourced from government measurements and updated every two to three years. But in the most recent edition (updated in January 2024), only 0.4 per cent of cities reported data from 2022 and more than half of the data are at least seven years old. Many countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia - which bear a disproportionate share of the health burden from air pollution – are missing measurements, with four of the most polluted countries reporting none at all. This lack of data makes it impossible to gauge global progress or to ensure strategic resource allocation.

Satellite-derived data could fill in the gaps. But while several groups generate and compile such information, there is no definitive database. (Anecdotally, when we asked ten air-quality experts where they go for the most recent data, we received 14 different answers, none of which meet the criteria for an authoritative global source.) Moreover, annual data often have a lag of up to two years, and there is no established mechanism to assess their quality. Contrary to its name, calculating satel lite-derived air-quality data requires ground monitoring data, which can make satellite

data less reliable in countries with little monitoring capacity. Addressing air pollution worldwide requires a clear view of the global picture. Fortunately, building a system that regularly tracks collective progress on reducing particulate matter, with built-in mechanisms to

help improve data-gathering efforts in the most polluted places, is technologically, logistically, and politically feasible

The first goal should be to create an annual, authoritative accounting of PM2.5 pollution in every country. This would require incentivising countries to contribute more recent ground-monitoring data, establishing a process to combine these data with available satellite information to determine their annual pollution levels, and identifying capacity and data gaps and directing resources accordingly

Global development and philanthropic organizations will have to provide significant financial and human resources to launch such an effort, including support for countries that currently lack the capacity to monitor or measure air quality. It will also require public-health, environmental, and finance leaders to work together, much as they have done to tackle other serious issues such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, and tuberculosis.

Several UN agencies, including the WHO, the World Meteorological Organization, and the UN Environment Programme, could house or coordinate these data-gathering and capacity-building efforts. And institutions such as the World Bank, regional development banks (the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, among others), bilateral donors, and philanthropies must help finance them.

There is a dire need for international collective action to tackle this challenge, which is local, yet has global consequences. The latest report on reporting and tracking air quality, published by Our Common Air, addresses some of the key concerns in the commission's recommendations. We have successfully confronted global health challenges in recent years and, in doing so, created a playbook that can be applied to others. The question now is whether the international community will use it to tackle the world's single greatest external risk to human health.

Soumva Swaminathan, a former chief scientist of the World Health Organization, is Co-Chair of Our Common Air. Christa Hasenkopf is a commissioner at Our Common Air.

WISDOM CORNER

you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion

The degree of freedom from unwanted thoughts and the degree of concentration on a single thought are the measures to gauge spiritual progress

Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1515:** Swiss mercenaries attacked the French position near Marignano: the next day they were defeated by French and Italian troops, giving rise to Switzerland's policy of neutrality.
- 1598: Philip III crowned king of Spain and Portugal. King Philip III of Spain (Philip II of Portugal), crowned on this day in 1598, was virtuous in his private affairs but indifferent as a ruler and extravagant in his spending, exacerbating Spain's growing economic problems.
- **1759:** The Battle of Quebec is fought between the British and the French. A key event in the Seven Years' War that involved the great European powers at the time, the battle took place on the farm of Abraham Martin. Because of this, the battle is also often called the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. British troops under the command of General James Wolfe defeated the French in the very short, 15-minute long battle and took over Quebec. The Battle resulted in the French giving up their control over areas in present-day Canada and most of North America coming under the control of the British.

FOCUS SOCIETY

MISDIRECTED MEASUREMENT



Rajiv Gupta

MEASUREMENT SHOULD PROVIDE FEEDBACK ALONG MULTIPLE ASPECTS THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO THE **FUNCTIONING**

OF THE SYSTEM

ost readers will be familiar about the disqualification of Paris Olympics where an extra 100 grams caused her to forfeit her match for the gold medal. Measurements are ubiquitous not just in sports, but in a number of other areas. Students' ability is measured by tests they need to take to decide their relative merit for admission to institutes of higher education. Employees are appraised, often on an annual basis, to determine who gets promoted and who gets a raise. Customer satisfaction is measured by companies to provide feedback for making changes to products and services. While measurements are useful, and in several cases necessary, this article will discuss problems associated with measurements and why care needs to be taken in using them.

Let us go back to the case of Phogat and the measurement of weight. Various articles have discussed how wrestlers go to tremendous lengths to try and get their weight within the prescribed limits before their bout. This could include trying to lose weight through extreme measures including training with heavy hooded jackets and wet suits in heated environments to induce more sweat and forgoing all food and water to the point of near dehydration. These methods can lead to serious problems including muscle atrophy,

and lower testosterone levels. In 1997, three experienced collegiate wrestlers in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in the US took some of these extreme steps. As a result, all became incommunicative and underwent cardiac arrest due to dehydration-related hyperthermia and died. Following this incident, the NCAA has taken steps to try and prevent such events in the future. These include restricting weight loss before a tournament to no more than 1.5% of body weight per



Measurement influences behaviour, but often only to improve the measurement and not the system. It is important that measurement provides useful feedback about the system which can lead to meaningful improvement

week and a minimum body fat of 5%. Athletes who violate these conditions are disqualified from competing in the weight category. In the Olympics, one is only concerned about meeting a strict weight limit.

Perhaps underlying these measurements is a belief in quotations such as "If you can't measure it, vou can't manage it" which is incorrectly attributed to the management guru Peter Drucker. Measurement is often necessary, but we need to make sure that the measurement is correct for us to make the right decisions. When names such as Peter Drucker get attached to a misquote, people often assume that there must be truth and wisdom behind the words. While Drucker was an advocate of measurement as a means to provide feedback so that improvement in performance could take place, he also believed that the people side of performance was equally, if not more, important as organisations need the collective functioning of people. And a lot of attributes of people, including motivation, ability and dedication cannot be adequately stated in terms of a single number as shown in the case

of Olympic wrestlers. The recent uproar over the

NEET and the alleged malpractices associated with it is another instance of measurement leading to poor, and in this case illegal, practices. There have been numerous such instances involving some form of largescale cheating associated with exams conducted for large numbers of candidates. In addition, entrance tests for admissions to a limited number of seats or for hiring in lucrative IAS and similar jobs create the demand for coaching institutes, whose only purpose is to prepare the test taker for an exam, not to educate him/her. So how do coaching institutes and the incidence of cheating reflect poorly on measurement? Let us take a look.

The focus of entrance exams is on a single measurement an applicant's score. It assumes that a single exam lasting twothree hours, or in some cases multiple such exams as in the case of the IIT entrance exams, can assess the knowledge and capability of an applicant. With the number of open positions available being a fraction of the number of aspiring applicants, the pressure to succeed is very high

In a country with limited op portunities for its youth, this is an ideal recipe for unscrupulous methods to be used. When the stakes are very high, all it may take is a few people inside the system to devise a method to cheat. In addition to cheating, what these tests measure is not creativity, or the ability to think and solve problems in real time. Since everything boils down to one exam, the entire emphasis is on the ability to take the exam. Likely test questions based on past exams take the place of knowledge and understanding of principles.

Most American universities require a variety of measures, including high school performance, essay, recommendation letters, which are considered for admission. It is more likely that a student getting admission to an American university is judged on a more holistic basis than the method of selection used in India. It would appear that India prepares exam takers, not thinkers and innovators.

While it is tempting to choose a single measurement due to the ease of implementation this should not preclude the need for a more holistic meas urement which would help provide feedback to improve the system. Measurement should provide feedback along multiple aspects that are important to the functioning of the system. Being focused on just one measurement not only misses the broader impact, but lends itself to poor practices as has been discussed in this article.

Eli Goldratt, who pioneered the Theory of Constraints, said "Tell me how you will measure me, and I will tell you how I will behave." Measurement influences behaviour, but often only to improve the measurement and not the system. It is important that measurement provides useful feedback about the system which can lead to meaningful improvement.

SPECTRUM HISTORY

Lala Lajpat Rai & political Hinduism



Anwesh Satpathy

LAJPAT RAI'S IDEAS, LIKE THOSE OF ANY THINKING PERSON, CHANGED **BASED ON THE PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES YET HE WAS NOT A CONTRARIAN**

through social media and simplistic "WhatsApp" forwards, it becomes the historian's burden to set the record straight for the general reader. Among academicians, historians particularly are notorious for being inaccessible, prone to jargon and contemptuous of all attempts at "public history." Vanya Vaidehi Bhargav, the author of Lala Lajpat Rai's intellectual biography "Being Hindu, Being Indian," is acutely aware of this problem. Lajpat Rai is a household name in India, primarily known for his contribution to the freedom movement. Yet, his conception of nationalism is barely given any critical attention apart from the usual clubbing-in as a predecessor of

Savarkarite Hindu nationalism. Lajpat Rai's ideas, like those of any thinking person, changed based on the prevailing circumstances yet he was not a contrarian. The Rai that Bhargav unearths is acutely well read with a coherent overarching philosophy guiding his politics. Influenced by the then-hip ideas of social Darwinism as conceptualised by the likes of Herbert Spencer, Rai portrays Hindu society as one

an age of postmodern spectathat emphasises on "the mutual" fied front may even help in beton the other hand, portraved tacle, where the disregard for interdependence of all parts of sofacts and rigor is ever-present ciety." Ignoring caste hierarchy in flicts do arise among the na-state of perpetual war. To be an focus on social harmony. It can be argued that Rai stands alongside his later contemporaries including the likes of Savarkar and Sri Aurobindo in attempting to reconcile modernity with post-Shankara Hinduism. Organicism of the sort Rai advocates prevailed in the political philosophy of not just Spencer but also many pre-Darwinian romanticists and more prominently among mystical fascists like Julius Evola. Traces of social Darwinism briefly feature in Savarkar's letters but never in any organised form. It is but natural given that Savarkar came under the influence of Shvamii Krishna Varma, who Bhargav notes also propounded Spencerian Social Darwinism.

Lajpat Rai was among the earliest to call for the mobilisation of Hindu society owing to their shared nationhood. India constituted of multiple nationalities based on religion. Each of these nationalities, in Rai's formulation, is not necessarily antagonistic to each other. Indian nationhood is possible and can flourish even as these nationalities maintain a distinct and united front. In fact, a strong uni-

ter negotiating as and when con- Islam and Hinduism to be in a Brahminical texts, Rai chooses to tionalities. For this reason, he praised the predecessors of both Aligarh Muslim University and Benaras Hindu University. Much like Savarkar, Rai's Hindu history was buttressed through the glory of Hindu monarchs and the "Hindu" resistance to foreign Muslim rule. While Rai acknowledged the existence of internal diversities, they mattered much less to Hindu nationality when Hindus were faced with a shared common, foreign enemy. In this, Rai's Hindu nationalism can indeed be said to be a predecessor of Savarkar's

Rai's Hindu nationalism, nevertheless, differs significantly from Savarkar's Hindutva. He considered the Muslim nation to be justified in expressing its religiosity and strengthening itself. Hinduism was not conceptualised in terms of being "native" nor was Islam or Christianity considered "foreign." As Bhargav writes "The strengthening of the 'Hindu nation' was imagined as occurring alongside efforts to similarly strengthen the Muslim nation, with both seen as essential prerequisites for forging a future 'Indian nation.

Savarkar's cynical Hindutva,

ority and larger claim of Hindus over the geographical land of India. Thus, Muslims and Christian could only exist as lesser citizens lest they accept Hinduism through "Shuddhi" or reconversion. Muslims were forever to be looked at with suspicion since they were perceived as having dual loyalties in the aftermath of Khilafat owing to their holy land being outside India. Being the ever-consummate historian. Bhargay points out the contradiction in Savarkar's own doctrine by highlighting his repeat expression of loyalty towards the Hindu monarch and kingdom of Nepal as cited in Vikram Sampath's sympathetic two-part biography.

Bhargav's book serves as a reminder that just as there are multiple imaginations of the Indian nation, there are also multiple, differing imaginations of the Hindu nation. Even as exclusionary Hindutva becomes the dominant form, it is important to highlight that Hindu nationalism can and has accommodated pluralist imagination of the nation in the past.

The writer is a columnist.

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

rissapost

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Beacon of national pride

Sir, India's outstanding performance at the 2024 Paris Summer Paralympics, with a glittering haul of 29 medals—comprising seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze—has become a beacon of national pride. Competing in a mere four out of the 23 available disciplines, Indian athletes have ascended the international podium with grace and determination, improving significantly on their tally of 19 medals at the Tokyo Paralympics. This impressive leap has elevated India from the 24th to the 18th position in the global rankings, making it one of the only three developing nations to grace the top 20, alongside Brazil and Uzbekistan. Such achievements stand as a testament to the unvielding spirit of India's para-athletes and their burgeoning presence on the world stage. Much of this triumph can be attributed to the robust patronage extended by the Indian government, which invested a handsome sum of ₹74 crore for the 2024 edition—an almost threefold increase from the ₹26 crore spent during the Tokyo Games. Furthermore, the number of coaches rose to 77 from 45, ensuring a well-equipped team of 84 para-athletes.

Amarjeet Kumar, HAZARIBAGH

Communal harmony

Sir, At a time when we often hear about unwanted communal conflicts and clashes, a beautiful ritual followed traditionally in the famous Payyanur Subramanya temple near Kannur in Kerala is worth mentioning as it beautifully portravs the bond of religious harmony. Every year at the beginning of harvest season when the temple gets ready for the harvest festival, sugar for the preparation of the nivedya (offering) is gifted by the Koloth Muslim family. This ritual, old-timers believe, began hundreds of years ago and is being followed even now with great devotion, pomp and gaiety. The members of the Muslim family offer sugar pot to the temple by way of a traditional ceremony and this is used in the preparation of the special 'payasam' or the Lord's offering which is later distributed as 'prasada' to the devotees. In turn the temple offers 'prasada,' rice and coconuts to the donors. This ritual truly showcases our rich cultural heritage and unity among the people irrespective of caste, creed, religion and race

M Pradyu, KANNUR

Dengue, cholera cases

rising at Goa jetty

Clashes break out between 2 groups in K'taka

An argument broke out between two groups, when the Ganesh idol procession by devotees from Badarikoppalu village reached a place of worship Wednesday, and some miscreants hurled stones, which escalated the situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagamangala (Karnataka), Sept 12: Clashes broke out be tween two groups during a Ganesh idol immersion procession here following which mobs went on a rampage targeting several shops and vehicles lead ing to a tense situation.

Police said 52 people have been arrested following Wednesday night's incidents and prohibitory orders preventing the Assembly of more than four people have been imposed in this town in

Mandya district till September 14 as a precautionary measure. A few people, including two policemen, sustained minor in-

Bangalore, Sept 12:

Researchers at the Indian

Institute of Science (IISc) have

developed a brain-inspired ana-

log computing platform that

could potentially bring com-

plex AI tasks to personal de-

vices like laptops and

Capable of storing and pro-

cessing data in an astonishing

16,500 conductance states within

a molecular film, the researchers

believe it could be a game-

changer, revolutionising in-

dustrial, consumer and strate-

Published September 11 in

the journal Nature, this break-

through represents a huge step forward over traditional digital

computers in which data storage

and processing are limited to

Such a platform could po-

tentially bring complex AI tasks.

like training Large Language

Models (LLMs) to personal de-

vices like laptops and smart-

These developments are cur-

rently restricted to resource-

heavy data centres, due to a lack

of energy-efficient hardware.

With silicon electronics nearing

saturation, designing brain-in-

spired accelerators that can

work alongside silicon chips to

deliver faster, more efficient AI is also becoming crucial.

has had its fair share of un-

solved challenges for over a

decade," explained Sreetosh

Goswami, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Nano Science

and Engineering (CeNSE), IISc,

who led the research team. "With

this discovery, we have almost

nailed the perfect system - a

The molecular system at the

heart of the platform was de-

"Neuromorphic computing

just two states, the IISc said.

smartphones.

gic applications.

juries in stone-pelting. The situ-

Following the clashes between

Police used mild force to disperse the crowd to control the sit-

The group of youth that carried out the procession halted and staged a protest near the police station, demanding immediate arrest of those responsible for the

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the violence is an act of miscreants which threatens the peace and tranquility of the society.

The government, he said, has taken the incident seriously and warned that ruthless action will be taken against those trying to create a divide on religious grounds, regardless of caste or

"I request the public to coop erate with us by maintaining peace and exercising restraint without succumbing to incitement," he said on 'X'

Minister Parameshwara said the clashes cannot be termed as "communal violence" as he maintained that the incident happened on the spur of the moment"

He told reporters in Bangalore that 52 people have been arrested from "both sides", and after reviewing CCTV footage about their involvement in the incidents like stone-pelting and torching of vehicles and properties. cases will be registered against

When told that a petrol bomb was allegedly hurled and and asked whether the incident was pre-planned, he said, "No, no, it the incident) has happened immediately on the spur of the moment. Police have not allowed it to escalate further and have brought things under control. According to police, 53 peo-

ple have been named in the FIR. "The situation has now returned to normalcy in Nagamangala town. People are going about their day-to-day activities. Shops are open. We have deployed additional forces from Karnataka State Reserve Police along with other police officials including those in civil clothes,' Mandya Superintendent of Police Mallikarjun Baldandi told PTI

A case has been registered for unlawful assembly, attempt to murder, obstructing public servants, destruction of public property and other sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Mandya District in-charge Minister N Cheluvaravaswamy said the situation is peaceful and under control now.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Panaji, Sept 12: Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane Thursday said there has been a rise in cases of dengue and cholera at a jetty in Cutbona vil lage, where six fish workers died of dehydration earlier this week, and asked authorities to monitor and control the situation.

Chief Minister Sawant

Wednesday announced a

compensation of ₹5 lakh

each to the kin of fish

workers, who died of

dehydration on their

return to the fishing

earlier this week

jetty at Cutbona village

The health secretary has been asked to hold review meetings with health officers to address the situation at the Cutbona jetty, located in South Goa district, Rane said in a media statement

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant Wednesday announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh each to the kin of fish workers, who died of dehydration on their return to the fishing jetty at Cutbona village earlier this Sawant paid a visit to the jetty

Environment Minister Aleixo Sequeira and local MLA Cruz Silva to take stock of the situation. Rane said there has been a "rise in cases of dengue and

Wednesday along with state

cholera reported from the Cutbona jetty.' The Directorate of Municipal Administration has been asked to cooperate with the Health department in monitoring and controlling the situation, ensuring that both the departments work together effectively, he said.

The arrangements for patient care have been made at both the district hospitals in the coastal state and the Goa Medical College and Hospital, he said.

Awareness campaigns have also been organised for the fish workers community, the minister said.

The state Food and Drugs Administration department will conduct inspection of hotels, restaurants and roadside vendors in the state to ensure hygiene standards are maintained,

To create awareness, the Directorate of Health Services has distributed pamphlets on dos and don'ts as well as ORS kits and antibiotics to those working

on fishing trawlers, Rane said. Open wells were being chlorinated by the respective health centers, and multiple meetings have been held with boat owners

Separate wards have been allocated for the patients at the district hospital, and teams of the primary health centres teams were also closely monitoring the situation daily, he said.

'The health services have re ceived full coordination from other departments, including the South Goa district collector, panchayat, water resources department, municipalities, and PWD," Rane said.

"Following the instructions of CM Sawant, we are committed to doing everything possible to keep the situation under control," he added



GANESH IDOL PROCESSION

ation has been brought under control and additional security forces have been deployed, they said. According to police, an argu-

ment broke out between two groups, when the Ganesh idol procession by devotees from Badarikoppalu village reached

IISc scientists develop

Published September 11 in the journal Nature, this

breakthrough represents a huge step forward over

traditional digital computers in which data storage

and processing are limited to just two states

'brain on a chip'

a place of worship Wednesday, and some miscreants hurled stones, which escalated the situation.

the two groups, a few shops were vandalised and goods torched and vehicles set on fire Wednesday night, they added.



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with ministers during launch of the 1st phase of 100 BMTC BS VI buses in front of Vidhana Soudha, in Bangalore, Thursday

Researchers at the Indian developed a 'brain on a chip' technology capable of storing and processing data in 16,500

states within a molecular film

■ This breakthrough in neuromorphic computing could revolutionize AI hardware, making complex tasks more efficient and potentially positioning India as a leader in global technology innovation

have been inaccessible so far. Most digital devices can access only two states--high and low conductance, without being able to tap into the infinite number of intermediate states possible.

By using precisely timed voltage pulses, the IISc team found a way to effectively trace a much larger number of molecular movements, and map each of these to a distinct electrical signal, thus forming an extensive "molecular diary" of different

According to IISc, the fundamental operation underlying most AI algorithms is quite basic- matrix multiplication, a concept taught in high school maths. But in digital computers, these calculations hog a lot of energy. The platform developed by the IISc team drastically cuts down both the time and energy involved, making these calculations a lot faster and easier.

Using their AI accelerator, the team recreated NASA's iconic "Pillars of Creation" image from the James Webb Space Telescope data on a tabletop computer. This was achieved in a fraction of the time and energy required by traditional systems, IISc said.

The researchers believe that this breakthrough could be one of India's biggest leaps in AI hardware, putting the country on the map of global technology innovation. Navakanta Bhat, Professor at CeNSE and an expert in silicon electronics led the circuit and system design in this project.

Panaji, Sept 12: The 20th meet ing of the Maritime Development Council, which began in Goa Thursday, will discuss key programmes initiated by the Narendra Modi government and take stock of the progress of various projects, including the flagship Sagarmala, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said.

Initiatives like the 'Maritime India Vision 2030' and 'Maritime Amrit Kal Vision 2047' will be discussed with authorities from the coastal states and Union territories to find solutions and to set the future course of action in the sector, the Union Minister for

Maritime Devpt Council meet begins in Goa said at a press conference.

> leadership of PM Narendra Modi will be discussed during the meeting. The maritime sector has grown significantly in the last 10 years. The standard of our port operations is increasing, resulting in growth in cargo handling capacity. Our vision is to make India one of the leading maritime nations," Sonowal said.

The World Bank, in its Logistics Performance Index report, has said India, in the last ten years, has grown and created benchmarks in all the sectors, the Union minister added. Speaking about cruise tourism

initiatives in Goa, he said latest facilities are being developed

to enhance the capacity of receiving domestic and international cruise passengers.

cruise terminals in Mumbai, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Kochi. Chennai. Vishakhapatnam. We plan to develop such facilities in Kolkata,

Ganpatipule (Maharashtra), Somnath (Gujarat) and Konark ecosystem in which global tourists feel at home while visiting India," he informed.

"Under the Sagarmala programme, the ministry has identified 805 projects worth ₹5.6 lakh crore in consultation with stakeholders. Out of these, 250 have been completed at a cost of ₹1.6 lakh crore. Some 200-odd projects are under implementation, while 160 projects are at different stages of development. All this has been possible due to active participation of state governments and private players,"

Dancing ban not the end of woes for sloth bears: Experts

MILLIE, WHO CELEBRATED HER THIRD 'RESCUE ANNIVERSARY' AT THE ENCLOSURE SEPTEMBER 7, WAS ONE AMONG THE 60 RESCUED SLOTH BEARS AT THE BANNERGHATTA CENTRE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 12: She may not be as 'cute' as a Panda, but fiveyear-old sloth bear Millie's antics are no less cute. She tumbles and bumbles in her enclosure at the Wildlife SOS-Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre and Rehabilitation Centre in Bangalore, endearing herself to everyone who comes across her antics.

Millie, who celebrated her third 'rescue anniversary' at the enclosure September 7, was one among the 60 rescued sloth bears at the Bannerghatta centre.

"Millie was lucky, she managed to escape the snare set for her and was spotted on time by Forest department officials in a rocky terrain in Kora Hubai of Tumakuru district, as she was limping around," Neel Banerjee of Wildlife SOS told PTI.

Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre and Rehabilitation Centre (BBRC) is a joint venture with Wildlife SOS. mostly taking care of the dancing bears rescued



from Kalandars when the practice was banned almost 15 years ago, added Banerjee

Dr Arun A Sha, Director, Research & Veterinary Operations at BBRC, said when the team finally managed to capture Millie, they figured out she was probably caught in a snare

left by villagers to prevent animals from destroying crops and killing farm animals.

According to him, the snare was tightly wrapped around Mille's right forelimb leading to a gangrenous wound with bacterial infections.

"And thus, Millie became the

Bannerghatta Bear Rescue Centre and Rehabilitation Centre (BBRC) is a joint venture with Wildlife SOS, mostly taking care of the dancing bears rescued from Kalandars when the practice was banned almost 15 years ago

first bear in India to have undergone skin grafting. We used fresh tilapia fish skin xenograft to heal the wound," said Dr Sha.

The other 60 bears at the centre were mostly rescued from tribal communities - most prominent among them are called Kalandars - from across India. including Karnataka. These communities have been capturing bears and making them perform dancing tricks for generations. said Dr Sha.

According to him, Wildlife SOS managed to set free nearly 700 animals, post 2009.

Banerjee said Wildlife SOS was one of the organisations that had canvassed for the abolition of this tradition, which eventually resulted in a ban of

'dancing bears' around 2009. "The last officially recorded rescue happened in 2009," added Baneriee.

But as Millie's case proved, the ban was not the end of woes for the bears, said Sha. The use of inhumane do-it-

yourself tools is now proving fatal for wild animals, including bears. Banerjee said snares can be fashioned even from bike chains in less than three minutes.

"Just as all stakeholders worked together to free bears from the cruel "dancing" practice, we need to save wild animals from snare trapping and bait bombs. I have had cases where an elephant lost a limb becauseit unwittingly walked over a bait bomb," said Dr Sha.

signed by Sreebrata Goswami, Visiting Professor at CeNSE. In a material film, molecules and ions create countless unique memory states, many of which

rare feat," he said.

national



If the states want more funds, then they should make a representation before the **Finance Commission or be free to** approach the court. We can explain. The question is, had there been a rupee less in the allocation sum than what the **Finance Commission had recommended** or any delay in the disbursement? NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | UNION FINANCE MINISTER

DGCA ORDERS AUDIT OF FLYING TRAINING SCHOOLS

Aviation watchdog DGCA has ordered a special audit of flying training organisations in the country amid recent accidents involving training aircraft. The audit of flying training organisations (FTOs) will be conducted in three phases from September to November 2024. It will cover 33 FTOs



uote

using the office states where they did not have the majority. They split parties, buy MLAs, use agencies such as CBI and ED. They form governments by hook or crook

SYED NASEER HUSSAIN | CONGRESS MP

The SP-BSP pact in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls checking the BJP from coming to power at the Centre MAYAWATI BSP CHIEF



I will perform a 'havan' and then go to file my nomination today as a Congress candidate. But some of our enemies conspired and attempted to commit my

I had invited

you all thinking

political murder LALIT NAGAR FORMER CONGR MLA, HARYANA

SHORT **TAKES**

2 get 20 yrs in jail for raping minor

Bareilly (UP): A special POCSO court here has sentenced two men to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment each in connection with the rape of a 16-year-old girl in 2019. Special Judge POCSO Act Court Umashankar Kahar found Sagar alias Shankarlal (34) and Chhotelal alias Bhajanlal (37), guilty of raping the girl. "The court sentenced the two accused to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment Wednesday and imposed a fine of ₹12,500 each on them. ₹15,000 from the fine will be given to the victim as compensation," Special Public Prosecutor Rajiv Tiwari said. Tiwari said the girl's father had given a written complaint at the Nawabganj police station that December 23, 2019 saying his daughter was gagged and taken to a sugarcane field by the two men.

Man arrested for raping daughter

Gangtok: A man has been arrested for allegedly raping his 15-year-old daughter in Sikkim's Namchi district, police said Thursday. The incident came to light after the girl lodged a police complaint September 10, accusing her father of raping her in August this year. Police launched a search for the accused and nabbed him Wednesday while he was trying to flee, a police officer said. A case under POCSO Act has been registered and further investigation is underway, he added.

PM Modi to visit Gujarat Sep 15-16

Ahmedabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Gujarat from September 15, during which he will inaugurate a metro train service as well as the 4th edition of Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST 2024), state minister Rushikesh Patel said Thursday. This will be his first visit to Gujarat after being sworn in as PM for a third straight term, said Patel, who is health minister as well as the spokesperson of the Gujarat government.

Delhi: 26 child labourers rescued

New Delhi: The district administration and police teams in east Delhi's Mayur Vihar area conducted raids at eight locations, including workshops and factories, and rescued 26 child labourers Thursday, officials said. The children were found employed under highly exploitative circumstances. They will be presented before the child welfare committee Friday for recording statements and further action will be taken after that, they said.



The girders bridge connecting Mumbai Coastal Road Project with Bandra-Worli Sea Link, in Mumbai. The bridge is set to open for public use from September 13 (today)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 12: West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose Thursday said he will not share any public platform with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in view of people's outcry over the RG Kar hospital impasse.

In a video message, Bose also said he will also socially boycott the Chief Minister. "I will not be sharing any public platform with the Chief Minister. I will take proactive steps against her for violating Constitutional provisions. My role as the Governor will be confined to the Constitutional obligations,"Bose said. The Governor's message came

after the proposed meeting between the Chief Minister and the agitating junior doctors did not take place earlier in the day. The medics, even after reaching the gates of the state secretariat Nabanna, refused to hold talks with the state government unless their demand for live streaming of the meeting to resolve the RG Kar hospital impasse was met. The Mamata Banerjee government did not allow live-streaming but said the proceedings could be video-recorded, an option rejected by the medics.

"I have been flooded with questions and representations from various sections of the public of what action the Governor is proposing to end the present crisis in Bengal. I stand committed to the people of Bengal," the governor said. Bose reiterated his commitment to the parents of the RG Kar hospital doctor who was raped and murdered and also to those who are demonstrating for justice. "In my assessment, the government has failed in its duties. The Home

Bihar: Woman injures private parts of doc for attempting to rape her

oyee of a private hospital in

Minister has failed in her responsibility to maintain law and order," he added. The Chief Minister is in charge of the home and health departments. "The health minister has miserably failed in containing the liquidation in the medical system in the state. It is an irony that the health minister is the home minister who is also the CM who is protesting instead of protecting. There is violence in the streets, in homes, in campus, in hospitals, in villages, in the cities. Violence is everywhere and people are silent," Bose said. The governor said he has been issuing instructions under Article 167 of the Constitution to the Chief Minister for compliance. He said he had asked Banerjee to hold an emergency Cabinet meeting in the wake of the RG Kar Hospital impasse

The governor has also asked for a white paper on the government's alleged financial mismanagement.



WB Guv to 'socially boycott' Mamata HP mosque issue: Muslim panel offers to demolish it

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 12: Amid prevailing tension here over the Sanjauli mosque issue, a Muslim welfare committee Thursday offered to demolish the unauthorised part while members of the community themselves pulled down a wall of a mosque in government land in Mandi. The panel comprises the Imam

of the mosque and members of the Waqf board and the mosque management committee. The Imam of the mosque said, "There is no pressure on us, we have been living here for decades and this decision has been taken as a Himachali. We want to stay in peace and brotherhood should prevail." Confirming the receipt of the representation, Attri said "We have received a representation requesting the unauthorised portion of the mosque be sealed till the case is decided. They have said that they would themselves demolish the structure if the decision of the case is against them."

In Mandi, members of the Muslim community themselves demolished an unauthorised portion of the mosque at Jail road in the town. The construction was on the land which belonged to the Public Works Department. Both the PWD and the Municipal Corporation had served notice to the mosque



management in this regard. Meanwhile, Shimla police registered eight FIRs against more than 50 people involved in the protest held September 5 and 11 at Sanjauli demanding demolition of the unauthorised porof the mosque. "Investigations are underway and the police is identifying the violators," SP Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi told PTI.

He also confirmed that cases have been registered.

He said there are about 14 mosques in Shimla and security has been beefed up. The protestors have been booked under sections 196 (1) - promoting enmity on basics of religion, 196(2) - offence at place of worship, 189 - unlawful Assembly, 126(2) wrongful restraint, 61(2) - criminal conspiracy, and assault (132), spreading false information on

religion - 353 (2), disobeying orders of public servants (223), and assaulting public servant (132) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the police said

At least 10 people including six police personnel and four protestors were injured after the police baton charged and used water cannot when the agitators broke the barricades and reached the vicinity of the mosque. Members of the Dev Bhoomi Sangarsh Committee, which had given the protest call against the unauthorised construction in the mosque, welcomed the move of the Muslim welfare committee.

"We welcome the move of the Muslim community and would be the first to hug them for taking this initiative in the larger interest," member of the samiti Vijay Sharma said.

Assam: Two killed as police open fire during eviction drive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 12: Two protestors were killed when police personnel opened fire to disperse a mob that attacked them during a drive to evict alleged encroachers in Kamrup (Metropolitan) district of Assam Thursday, an official said.

Several officials and security personnel were also injured in the mob attack, which led to the policemen opening fire, he

A team from Sonapur circle office and the police went to Kochutoli village in the district to evict Bengali-speaking Muslim villagers who had previously been removed from the encroached land but had again returned, he said.

The villagers, including women, attacked the officials and policemen with sharp weapons, sticks and stones, resulting in injuries to a magistrate and over 20 police personnel, the official said, adding that a police vehicle was also damaged in the incident.

The police had to open fire to disperse the mob. Two encroachers were injured in the firing and taken to Sonapur district hospital where they succumbed to their injuries, he said. The deceased have been identified as Jubahir Ali and Haider Ali, he said. Among the injured are Sonapur Circle Officer Nitul Khataniar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Mrinal Deka and Sonapur police station officerin-charge, Hirak Jyoti Saikia.

7 dead as wall of 400-year-old fort collapses on house

Datia (MP): Seven persons were killed after a wall of a medieval-era fort adjacent to a house collapsed Thursday due to heavy rains in Madhya Pradesh's Datia town. The incident took place around 4 am in Khalkapura area, said an official. As the wall collapsed, nine persons in the adjacent house were trapped under the debris. While two were rescued. seven died, said Datia district collector Sandeep Makin. The fort, called 'Raigarh', is believed to be 400 years old. and once housed a museum which was later shifted elsewhere, said a local resident. The State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) team took part in the rescue operation that lasted more than six hours, the collector said. The two injured persons are undergoing treatment at a local hospital, he added. Expressing grief over the incident in a post on X. Chief Minister Mohan Yaday announced financial assistance of ₹4 lakh each for the kin of the victims.

EASTERN LADAKH ROW

India, China to work with 'urgency'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: India and China Thursday agreed to work with "urgency" and "redouble" their efforts to achieve complete disengagement in remaining friction points in eastern Ladakh as NSA Aiit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks in the Russian city of St Petersburg with a focus on finding an early resolution to the dragging border standoff.

In the meeting, Doval conveyed to Wang that peace and tranquillity in border areas and respect for the Line of Actual Control (LAC) are essential for return of normalcy in bilateral ties, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

The Doval-Wang meeting took place in the Russian city on the sidelines of a conclave of national security advisors of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) nations.

The MEA said the meeting between Doval and Wang provided an opportunity to review the recent efforts towards finding an early resolution of the outstanding issues.

"The meeting gave the two sides an opportunity to review



the recent efforts towards finding an early resolution of the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control, which will create conditions to stabilise and rebuild bilateral relations. the MEA said.

"Both sides agreed to work with urgency and redouble their efforts to realise complete disengagement in the remaining areas," it said in a statement.

"The NSA conveyed that peace and tranquillity in border areas and respect for LAC are essential for normalcy in bilateral relations," the MEA said. "Both sides must fully abide by relevant bilateral agreements, protocols, and understandings reached in the past by the two governments," it said. The MEA said the two sides agreed that the India-China bilateral relationship is significant not just for the two countries but also for the region and the world.

NMC revises CBME guidelines for MBBS curriculum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The National Medical Commission Thursday issued revised guidelines for its Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) curriculum, removing sodomy and lesbianism as "un-

natural sexual offences' It has also scrapped topics such as hymen and its types, its medico-legal importance, besides defining virginity and defloration. The amended curriculum states that describing and discussing "signs" of virginity (so called 'virginity test', including finger tests on female genitalia) are unscientific,

inhuman and discriminatory. It talks about teaching stu-

dents to discuss how to appraise the courts about the unscientific basis of these tests, if one is ordered. Topics for discussion such as sexual perversions, fetishism, transvestism, voyeurism, sadism, necrophagia, masochism, exhibitionism, frotteurism and necrophilia have also been removed.

Facing backlash from activists, National Medical Commission (NMC) September 5 withdrew the guidelines in which it had reintroduced sodomy and lesbianism as "unnatural sexual offences" under the category of forensic medicine and toxicology curriculum for undergraduate medical students after removing it in 2022. It had also reintroduced topics such



as hymen and its types and its medico-legal importance in the guidelines issued August 31.

These subjects had been removed in accordance with a Madras High Court directive in 2022. The revised curriculum under forensic medicine and toxicology has now scrapped all

these topics. The guidelines issued Thursday also mention teaching the difference between paraphilia and paraphilic disorder.

It has also scrapped topics such as hymen and its types, its medico-legal importance, besides defining virginity and

The amended curriculum states that describing and discussing "signs" of virginity (so called 'virginity test', including finger tests on female genitalia) are unscientific, inhuman and discriminatory

Under the forensic medicine and toxicology category, the revised guidelines also talk about teaching students about describing legal competencies, including the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya

Adhiniyam, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, civil and criminal cases, inquest (police and magistraterial), cognisable and non-cognisable offences.

At the end of teaching-learning in forensic medicine and toxicology, students should be able to understand the medicolegal framework of medical practice, codes of conduct, medical ethics, professional misconduct and medical negligence, conducting medico-legal examination and documentation of various medico-legal cases and understand the latest Acts and laws related to medical professional, including relatedcourt judgements, the NMC said in its document.

national



TRAVEL ON DELHI METRO WITH DIGITAL SMART CARD

The Delhi Metro passengers can travel with a digital smart card for their daily journey from Friday as the DMRC has introduced the 'Multiple Journey QR Ticket' (MJQRT) facility in its existing mobile application. Like a metro smart card, the passengers can also recharge MJORT with a maximum amount of up to ₹3,000 as per their travel requirements





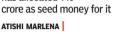
represents the sentiments of the people of J-K talks about them. The PDP is the only party which can fight the BJP's onslaught on our identity, lands and jobs

MEHBOOBA MUFTI FORMER J&K CM

and disturbed that some people in position have just no idea of Bharat. They have no idea of our Constitution,

they have no idea of our national interest... I am sure your heart must be bleeding at what you see JAGDEEP DHANKHAR VICE PRESIDENT

The Business Blasters programme for the 2024-24 session will be started soon and the government has allocated ₹40







Executive and Judiciary are supposed to maintain distance. But we don't have a functioning democracy so it's Okay.

SHORT TAKES

Illegal wildlife trade uncovered, 5 held

Kota: Five people have been arrested here for allegedly being involved in the illegal trade of animal organs and a substantial quantity of monitor lizard genitalia, deer antlers and jackal skin seized from them, forest officials said Thursday. They said the action was taken during a raid carried out on four establishments in the city's Ghantaghar and Gumanpura areas based on inputs from the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), New Delhi.

CISF diffuses IED planted by Maoists

New Delhi: Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) diffused an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), planted by Maoists, at the Bailadila Iron Ore Mine, Kirandul Complex in Chhattisgarh Thursday, CISF Chief Public Relations Officer (PRO) Dy Inspector General Shrikant Kishore said that a National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (NMDC) explosive van movement was scheduled at BIOM Kirandul.

3 workers killed in factory blast

Mumbai: Three workers were killed and as many injured after a storage tank containing methanol exploded at a factory in Maharashtra's Raigad district Thursday, police said. A case of 'culpable homicide not amounting to murder' was registered in connection with the blast late in the evening, said an official. The incident took place at 11.15 am at Sadhana Nitro Chem Limited in Dhatav MIDC in Roha town, around 110 km from Mumbai, Raigad Superintendent of Police Somnath Gharge said. Three persons, who had come from Uttar Pradesh for fabrication at the chemical plant, died in the blast, another official said. They were doing welding work when the storage tank, containing highly flammable methanol, blew up due to a spark.

CPI-M chief, convivial face of pragmatic Left politics

New Delhi, Sept 12: Polyglot, amiable and an eclectic conversationalist who could hold forth on film songs as much as politics, CPI-

M's fifth gen-**SITARAM YECHURY** eral secretary Sitaram Yechury was the pragmatic

leader with friends across the political spectrum. Quite unlike his predecessor

Prakash Karat, from whom he took over in April 2015 and who was known for hardline positions, Yechury thrived on the challenges of coalition politics. In this way, he was more akin to his mentor, the late party leader Harkishan Singh Surjeet.

While Surjeet was a key player in the coalition era during the National Front government of VP Singh - formed in 1989 - and the United Front government of 1996-97, both supported from

outside by the CPI-M, Yechury was the go to man in the UPA years from 2004-2014.

Yechury, who was born in Chennai and studied at Delhi's St Stephen's College and Jawaharlal Nehru University, was a

trusted ally of United Progressive Alliance chair-

first

person Sonia Gandhi in Manmohan Singh's 10 years as Prime Minister.

He was the

non-Congress leader Gandhi called after she met then president APJ Abdul Kalam in 2004 when she turned down the post of Prime Minister and rallied for Singh. Earlier, Yechury, one of the Left's most recognised faces. worked with

the common minimum programme for the United Front government.

It was an equation that survived the shock withdrawal of support by the Left to the UPA

in 2008 over the Indo-US nuclear deal Yechury played an important role in the discussions

UPA government on the issue. Yechury became general secretary of the CPI-M at the 21st

Congress Visakhapatnam April 19, 2015, taking over from Karat at a time the party was down from 43 MPs in 2004 to nine in 2014. He was subsequently re-elected to the post in 2018, and 2022. Yechury remained one of the most vocal critics of the Narendra Modi government and its liberal economic policies.

His alliance-building skills came to use again for the Left in the run-up to the 2024 general elections.

In 2018, ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the Central Committee of the CPI-M had rejected the proposal of having any understanding

liance with Congress. Yechury had then offered to resign as the general secretary

However, in the run-up to the 2024 elections, as talks for a united Opposition grouping started and Opposition parties got together to form the INDIA bloc. CPI-M was part of it. Yechury remained among the key faces of the alliance.

Though CPI-M was part of the INDIA bloc in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the Congress and communist parties fought separately in Kerala, t he last remaining Left bastion where CPI-M won only one seat. However, being a part of the bloc helped the CPI-M and it won a seat in Rajasthan and two seats in Tamil Nadu, taking its total tally up to four, three 17th Lok Sabha.

His journey in politics started with the Students' Federation of India (SFI), which he joined in 1974 and became a member of the party the very next year. He was arrested a few months later during the Emergency.

After his release, Yechury was elected president of the JNU Students' Union thrice. In the SFI, he became the all-India ioint secretary in 1978 and its president soon thereafter.

When he became SFI president in 1978, he was the first person who did not belong to either West Bengal or Kerala to occupy the post.

His rise in the party was swift. In 1985, he was elected to the Central Committee of the CPI-M and to the Politburo in 1992 at the age of 40 and then party chief in 2015. Born in a Telugu-speaking family in Chennai August 12, 1952, Yechury's father Sarveswara Somayajula Yechury was an engineer in the Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation. His mother Kalpakam Yechury was a government officer.

Cong, AAP scramble to release candidate lists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh/New Delhi, Sept 12: Political parties scrambled to release names of their remaining candidates for the Haryana Assembly polls Thursday, the last day of filing nominations, even as several nominees including Congress leader Randeep Surjewala's son Aditya filed their papers for the October 5 elections.

Former Haryana Deputy Chief Minister and Congress candidate Chander Mohan and former CM Bansi Lal's granddaughter and BJP candidate Shruti Choudhry filed their nomination papers from Panchkula and Tosham, respectively. BJP's Kurukshetra MP Naveen

Jindal's mother Savitri Jindal. who was denied ticket by the party, also filed her nomination from the Hisar seat as an independent.

Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) leader Abhay Chautala filed his nomination from Ellenabad while BJP nominee and minister Mahipal Dhanda filed his pa-

pers from **Panipat** Rural. Aditva Surjewala, accompa nied by his father, filed



his papers from the Kaithal seat. Several other candidates from various parties and alliances including the BJP, Congress, AAP. JJP-ASP and INLD-BSP, and some independents also filed their nominations

INLD, which is contesting the polls in alliance with the BSP, announced support to Haryana Lokhit Party led by Gopal Kanda in Sirsa. Meanwhile, Haryana Janchetna Party chief and former Union Minister Venod Sharma, whose wife and Ambala mayor Shakti Rani Sharma recently joined the BJP and is contesting the polls, Thursday announced support to the saffron party in the

Earlier, major political parties, including the Congress and the AAP, released the lists of their remaining candidates. The ruling BJP has already announced its candidates for all 90 Assembly seats in the state.

IMD: Southwest monsoon set to withdraw between Sept 19-25

PRESS TRUST OF IDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The southwest monsoon may start withdrawing from the country between September 19 and 25, the India Meteorological Department said Thursday.

Typically, the southwest monsoon makes its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from northwest India around September 17, withdrawing entirely by October 15.

"Conditions are likely to become favourable for withdrawal of southwest monsoon from some parts of northwest India during the second half of the week (September 19-25)," the IMD said. Since June 1, when the four-month monsoon sea-

ceived 836.7 mm rainfall, eight per cent higher than the normal of 772.5 mm. East and northeast India recorded 16 per cent belownormal rainfall while the other three zones -- northwest, central and south India -- recorded four per cent, 19 per cent and 25 per cent excess rainfall, respectively

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had earlier predicted above-normal rainfall this monsoon season, with cumulative precipitation estimated at 106 per cent of the longperiod average of 870 mm.

Punjab, apart from the northeastern states, Himachal Pradesh, the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and a significant part of Bihar have recorded deficient rainfall so far this season, according to the



Indian Air Force aircraft during the 2nd phase of multinational air exercise Tarang Shakti, in Jodhpur, Rajasthan

One of those arrested

The crime spot is located in a

Badgonda police station

in-charge Lokendra Singh

Hirore said the accused held one

of the couples captive while beat-

reportedly has a case of loot

registered against him in 2016.

hilly region surrounded by

forests, said SP Vasal

Army officers' friend gangraped, 3 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore. Sept 12: Police Thursday said they have arrested three of the six persons who allegedly assaulted two army officers and raped their woman friend near Mhow in Madhya Pradesh.

The announcement of arrests came on a day Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress general secretary Privanka Gandhi slammed the BJP over the incident, alleging "non-existent" law and order in the states ruled by the saffron party.

Anil Baror (27) and Pawan Bansunia (23) were produced before a local court which remanded them in police custody for five days, said a police official. Another accused, Ritesh Bhabhar (25), was arrested Thursday night.

Superintendent of Police (Rural) Hitika Vasal told PTI that Bhabhar was accused of threatening the two army officers and their two women friends with a pistol during the incident, while the other accused

were carrying sticks. A total of six accused have been identified in connection with the incident that took place in the wee hours of Wednesday near the popular tourist spot Jam Gate, about 30 km from Mhow military cantonment,

police said. "Several teams are on the lookout for the three absconding accused, and a reward of ₹10,000 has been announced for (information

about) each of them," the SP said. The army officers, aged 23 and 24, under-

going the Young Officers course at the Infantry School in Mhow cantonment town, had gone out for a picnic with their two female friends. The accused arrived at the picnic spot around 2 am, and started assaulting one

of the officers and his female friend who were sitting in the car,

incident took place near **Mhow-Mandleshwar** road Wednesday. Six men assaulted two young army officers and raped one of

the spot, the their two female army officers and their female friends friends were brought to Mhow civil hospital, where a medical examination confirmed

> an official said A case has been registered under sections 70 (gang rape), 310 2 (dacoity), 308-2 (extortion) and

that one of the women was raped,

ing them up, and told the other police said. Upon hearcouple that the hostages ing the commotion, would be released only when the other officer

they give them ₹10 lakh. 'The complainant has told us and his woman that the accused took his woman friend, who were on a hillfriend away to a place and he top, reached suspected that she was raped. the spot. The woman's statement is yet Later, after to be recorded," the official said. police reached

Rahul Gandhi slammed the BJP over the attack, saying the negative attitude of the BJP government towards rising crimes against women is "extremely worrying"

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the Prime Minister talks big about women's safety, but women across the country are still waiting for a serious effort for their safety.

to 'middleman' 115-2 (voluntarily causing hurt) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita **Vinod Chauhan** and under sections of the Arms Act based on the complaint filed by the officer.

New Delhi, Sept 12: A Delhi court Thursday granted bail to "middleman" Vinod Chauhan in a money-laundering case linked to the alleged excise scam.

Court grants bail

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja granted the relief to Chauhan, who was accused of transferring cash sourced through alleged kickbacks given by the "South Group" to the AAP, for the party's poll campaign in Goa. Chauhan was given bail on a personal bond of ₹10 lakh. He was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in May. The ED filed a supplementary chargesheet against Chauhan

June 28 in the case. He was the 18th person to be arrested by the ED in the case, in which the federal agency had also taken into custody Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal, his party colleague and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, AAP MP Sanjay Singh, BRS leader and former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao's politician daughter K Kavitha, several liquor businessmen and others.

The ED had mentioned Chauhan's alleged role in the case in an official document submitted before a court in relation to Kavitha's arrest.

The agency had earlier alleged that of the ₹100-crore bribe money given to the AAP in connection with the Delhi excise policy by the "South Group" -- consisting of Kavitha and some others -an amount of ₹45 crore was used for the party's Goa Assembly poll campaign. The excise case pertains to alleged corruption and money laundering in formulating and executing the Delhi government's excise policy for 2021-22, which was scrapped subsequently. Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena had recommended a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities.

SC restricts number of people in 'dhol-tasha' groups 'Dhol-tasha' groups have

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The Supreme Court Thursday stayed a National Green Tribunal direction restricting the number of people to 30 in 'dhol-tasha' groups involved in the Ganapati festival, including idol

Having decided earlier in the tice to state authorities on it.



Amit Pai said that 'dhol-tasha'

been an integral part of traditional festivals in some parts of Maharashtra

started by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. He added that the August 30 direction of the NGT will affect such groups.

"Issue notice... pending next day of listing, there shall be a stay of operation of direction number 4 (on the number of persons in dhol-tasha groups). Let them do their 'dhol tasha'. It is the heart of Pune," the bench said. The NGT had directed the Pune Police to

ensure that the total number of 'dhol-tasha-zanj' members in each group did not exceed 30. Seeking an early hearing, the lawyer had told the top court that there was an urgency as the Ganapati festival was going on.

In a bid to control noise pollution, the NGT had restricted the number of people in the 'dhol-tasha' groups for the Ganapati festival to 30. The festival of 'Ganesh Chaturthi began September 7.

It is celebrated for 10-11 days. 'Dhol-tasha' groups have been an integral part of traditional festivals in some parts of Maharashtra.

immersion rituals, in Pune.

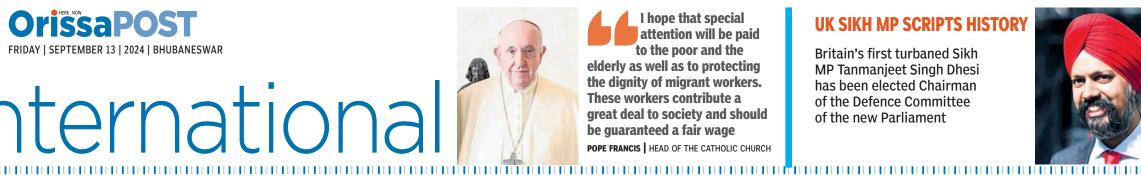
day to take up a Pune-based 'dhol-tasha' group's plea against the NGT order for hearing at 2 pm, a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also issued a no-

In a brief hearing, lawyer

has had a very "deep cultural

significance" in Pune for over a hundred years and it was

international



I hope that special attention will be paid to the poor and the elderly as well as to protecting the dignity of migrant workers. These workers contribute a great deal to society and should be guaranteed a fair wage POPE FRANCIS | HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

UK SIKH MP SCRIPTS HISTORY

Britain's first turbaned Sikh MP Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi has been elected Chairman of the Defence Committee of the new Parliament



proposal (an conference) is destructive, it's just a How can you offer 'here is our initiative' without asking anything

The Chinese-

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

We need private investment to economy. Our policies and perfectly aligned to welcoming

KP SHARMA OLI PM. NEPA

The Ouad Leaders Summit will focus on bolstering the strategic convergence among our countries. advancing our shared vision of a free

and open Indo-Pacific region KADINE IEAN-DIEDDE WHITE HOUSE

SPOKESPERSON, US

SHORT TAKES

Typhoon Yagi: Toll rises to 226

Hanoi: The death toll in Vietnam from typhoon Yagi and the landslides and flash floods it triggered rose to 226 Thursday, the government's disaster agency said, as flood pressure eased in the capital Hanoi. The Southeast Asian country is reeling from the impact of Typhoon Yagi, the strongest storm to hit Asia this year, which made landfall in Vietnam's northeastern coast Saturday. More than 100 people remain missing, while some 800 people have been injured, the agency said in a

North Korea fires short-range missiles

Seoul: North Korea fired several short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast Thursday, South Korea's military said, the first such launch in more than two months. The missiles lifted off from Pyongyang at around 7:10 am (2210 GMT Wednesday) and travelled about 360 km before plunging into the sea, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said, without specifying how many were fired. "We strongly condemn North Korea's missile launch, which is a clear provocation that seriously threatens peace and stability on the Korean peninsula," they said in a

Pak policeman kills blasphemy suspect

Quetta: A policeman opened fire inside a police station in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta Thursday, killing a suspect held on accusations of blasphemy, a local official said. The slain man was identified as Syed Khan. Police said he had been arrested the day before, after officers snatched him from an enraged mob that claimed he had insulted Islam's Prophet Muhammad. According to police official Mohammad Khurram, the officer involved in the fatal shooting has been arrested.

Peru's ex-President Alberto dies at 86

Lima: Peru's former President Alberto Fujimori, who ruled his country with an iron fist and then spent 16 years in prison for crimes against humanity, died Wednesday at age 86 in the capital Lima. Fujimori, who led Peru from 1990 to 2000, was released from prison on humanitarian grounds in December, two-thirds of the way through a 25-year sentence for crimes against humanity during his rule.

Doval meets Putin

We are waiting for our

good friend Modi and

best regards to him

Shoigu and discussed important

It is understood that Modi's

talks with Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv

August 23 figured in the talks

in bilateral cooperation and dis-

cussed important issues of mu-

tual interest", the Indian em-

bassy in Russia said on the talks

Doval's visit to Russia comes

two-and-a-half weeks after Modi

paid a high-profile trip to

In his talks with Zelenskyy,

Modi said both Ukraine and

Russia should sit together with-

out wasting time to end the on-

going war and that India was

ready to play an "active role" to

The Prime Minister said India

was on the side of peace since the

beginning of the conflict and

restore peace in the region.

between Doval and Shoigu.

Ukrainian capital Kyiv.

"Both sides reviewed progress

issues of mutual interests.

between the two NSAs.

VLADMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

The meeting took place on the margins of a conclave of national security advisors of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) nations in St Petersburg



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval Thursday met Russian President Vladmir Putin amid renewed efforts to find a solution to the Ukraine conflict.

The meeting took place on the margins of a conclave of national security advisors of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) nations in St Petersburg.

In the talks, Putin hoped that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Russia's Kazan next month to attend the annual BRICS summit.

The Russian President also proposed a bilateral meeting with Modi October 22 on the sidelines of the BRICS summit to analyse bilateral engagement and to discuss "future-oriented" actions.

"We are waiting for our good friend Modi and best regards to him", the Russian media quoted Putin as saying in the meeting with Doval.

On Wednesday, the NSA held wide-ranging talks with his Russian counterpart Sergei

Russia discharges 45 Indians

Moscow: Forty five Indians who were illegally made to join the Russian army and fight for them on the battle fronts against Ukraine have been rescued from the war zone and discharged from the Russian military, the Ministry of External Affairs said today. There are fifty more Indian nationals still on battlefields in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, and efforts are underway to rescue them and get them released too, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs added, During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Moscow, Russian President Vladimir had assured Modi that Russia will discharge any and all Indians who had been misled and falsely inducted in the Russian Army and subsequently forced to go the battlefields in Ukraine.

he would even like to contribute personally for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Modi's nearly nine-hour visit to Ukraine, the first by an Indian Prime Minister since its independence in 1991, came six weeks after he held summit talks with Putin in Moscow.

In the last few days, there have been calls for India's potential role in pushing peace talks between Russia and Ukraine as New Delhi has good relations with both the nations.

On Saturday, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni following her talks with Zelenskyy said India and China can play a role in finding a solution to the dragging conflict.

Putin, speaking at a panel discussion at the Eastern Economic Forum in Russian city of Vladivostok last Thursday named India, Brazil and China as possible intermediaries that could play a role in resolving the con-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar pays tribute to a statue of Mahatma Gandhi, in Geneva, Switzerland PTI PHOTO

SNIPPETS

WHO evacuates 97 patients from Gaza

said Thursday it had carried out a rare evacuation of 97 people, around half of them children, from Gaza to the United Arab Emirates for medical treatment, and urged the resumption of regular such



and only 17 out of 36 hospitals are currently partially functioning, the WHO estimates. The main Rafah crossing for medical transfers out of Gaza to Egypt has been shut since May when Israel ramped up its military campaign in southern Gaza. The patients included people suffering from cancer, blood and kidney diseases and trauma, he said.

California declares state of emergency

Los Angeles: California Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency as three massive wildfires continue to rage across four counties in Southern California. Newsom travelled to Highland Wednesday and proclaimed a state of emergency in Los Angeles and

Russia hits civilian grain vessel



San Bernardino counties in response to the Bridge Fire and in Orange and Riverside counties in response to the Airport Fire announced. The governor's office said it had secured federal assistance to support the response to the fast-moving Bridge, Airport and Line fires, reports Xinhua news agency. The fires, which broke out last week, escalated over the weekend due to soaring temperatures and critically dry vegetation.

US to sell anti-sub warfare sonobuoys to India: Pentagon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 12: The US has decided to sell High Altitude Anti-Submarine Warfare (HAASW) sonobuoys worth \$52.8 million to India, a move that would enhance New Delhi's capacity to conduct anti-submarine warfare operations.

Sonobuoys are air-launched, expendable, electro-mechanical sensors designed to relay underwater sounds to remote processors. These are effective and affordable antisubmarine warfare (ASW) that are capable of being used by airborne ASW warfighters.

"The proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing its capacity to conduct anti-submarine warfare operations from its MH-60R helicopters. India will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces,' the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said in a notification to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this week.

As per the Arms Export Control Act, Congress has 30 calendar days to review the sale.

According to Congressional notification, India had requested to buy ANSSQ-530 High Altitude Anti-Submarine Warfare (HAASW) sonobuoys; AN SSQ-62F HAASW sonobuovs: and AN sonobuoys. The estimated total cost is \$52.8 million.

"This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to strengthen the United States-India strategic relationship and improving the security of a major defence partner which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions," the notification said.



Indian-origin Israeli soldier killed in Gaza

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jerusalem, Sept 12: A 24-yearfrom the Bnei Menashe community was killed in a vehicleramming attack close to the West Bank's Beit El settlement, community members said Thursday. Staff Sergeant Geri Gideon

Hanghal was a resident of Nof HaGalil and a soldier in the Kfir Brigade's Nahshon Battalion, the Israeli Army said. Community members told PTI

that they were "in shock at the news of the loss of a young life" Wednesday near Asaf Junction. His funeral will be held

Thursday, they said. Hanghal immigrated to Israel from northeast India in 2020.

Some 300 Bnei Menashe youngsters are said to be doing Army duty during the current war, most of them serving in com-

The Bnei Menashe, hailing from India's north-eastern



states of Manipur and Mizoram, are believed to have descended from the Israelite tribe of Menasseh, one of the "lost tribes" of ancient times.

Shlomo Amar, Sephardic Chief Rabbi, declared them descendants of Menasseh in 2005 paving the path for their immigration to Israel as members of a "lost tribe".

Some 5,000 members of the Bnei Menashe community are said to have immigrated to Israel, including almost 1,500 in the past five years. Another 5,500 still live in India and are waiting to immigrate.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says the vessel carrying

Ukrainian grain to Egypt has been hit by a Russian missile just after it exited Ukrainian territorial waters

Kyiv, Sept 12: Ukraine accused Russia Thursday of using strategic bombers to hit a civilian grain vessel with a missile in the Black Sea in NATO member Romania's maritime economic zone, in what it described as a "brazen attack" on freedom of navigation.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the vessel carrying Ukrainian grain to Egypt had been hit by a Russian missile just after it exited Ukrainian territorial waters, and that there were no casualties according to a preliminary assessment.

There was no immediate comment from Russia.

If confirmed, the incident

would mark a sharp increase in tensions between Moscow and the NATO military alliance, which has tried to tack a course between fears of escalation and supporting Ukraine in its war with Russia since Moscow's in-

British maritime security company Ambrey said in a note that a Saint Kitts and Nevis-flagged bulk carrier had been struck by a Russian-launched missile after departing from the Ukrainian port of Chornomorsk in Ūkraine's Odesa region.

vasion in February 2022

The vessel sustained damage to its port side, including a cargo hold and a crane, it said.

Traders said the incident had contributed to stronger wheat prices by adding to concern over tightening supply in the Black Sea export zone. US futures rose as much as 2% to hit a two-month peak.

Zelenskyy posted images showing the twisted metal of a damaged crane and other damage.

An industry source told Reuters the strike had taken place overnight not far from the mouth of the Danube river. Dmytro Pletenchuk, spokesman for Ukraine's navy, told Reuters, the vessel was in Romania's maritime economic zone.

Gaza economy shrinks to less than a sixth of its pre-war size

THE UN TRADE BODY SAYS THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY, WHICH **EXERCISES LIMITED SELF-RULE UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION IN THE WEST BANK, IS UNDER** 'IMMENSE PRESSURE' THAT IS JEOPARDISING ITS ABILITY TO FUNCTION

REUTERS

Geneva, Sept 12: Gaza's economy has shrunk to less than a sixth of its size when the Israel-Hamas war began nearly a year ago, while unemployment in the occupied West Bank has nearly tripled, a UN report said Thursday, underscoring the chal-

lenges of reconstruction. The report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) described Gaza's economy as "in ruins" more than 11 months

after Israel launched a military campaign there that has reduced much of the Strip to rubble in response to the deadly October 7 attacks on southern Israel by Hamas militants.

The UN trade body said the Palestinian Authority (PA), which exercises limited self-rule under Israeli occupation in the West Bank, is under "immense pressure" that is jeopardising its ability to function.

In addition to the economic slowdown caused by the conflict, falling international aid



and revenue deductions and withholdings by Israel, which UNCTAD estimated at more than \$1.4 billion since 2019 - are adding

to the strain, it said. Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who ordered the funds to be withheld, accuses the PA of supporting the October 7 attack on Israel. The PA denies promoting violence. Israel also routinely deducts socalled "martyr payments" paid by the PA to families of militants and civilians killed by Israeli forces.

UNCTAD called for "immediate and substantial intervention by the international community to halt the economic freefall, address the humanitarian crisis, and lay the groundwork for lasting peace and development". It also said there was a need for a comprehensive recovery plan.

The document described "a rapid and alarming economic decline" in the occupied West Bank, which has suffered a surge in violence since the Gaza war.

JOB LOSSES

A total of more than 300,000 jobs have been lost in the West Bank since the war began, UNC-TAD said, driving up the unemployment rate there from

UNCTAD blamed the decline on the unrest, which the UN says has resulted in the deaths of more than 650 Palestinians since October 7 as well as new Israeli trade restrictions such as checkpoints.

Israel, which does not give Palestinian death tolls, says around 40 Israelis have been killed in attacks by Palestinians outside Gaza since October 7. It says its actions in the West Bank have been necessary to counter Iranianbacked militant groups and prevent harm to Israeli civilians.

The war was triggered when Hamas attacked Israel October 7, killing 1,200 people and taking about 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. Israel's subsequent assault on Gaza has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians, according to the enclave's health ministry.

business



In the next three years, we will overtake Japan and Germany to be the third largest economy in the world. In a world which is starved for growth, India is an outlier and has emerged as a very resilient powerhouse driving growth AMITABH KANT | SHERPA, G20

WHATSAPP BUSINESS MESSAGING

With more businesses embracing messaging to engage with their customers, Meta Thursday announced a slew of new features and programmes including full availability of verified badge - a trust marker- for small businesses to establish credibility and credentials with consumers. At the WhatsApp Business Summit, Meta also spotlighted Artificial Intelligence tools for enhancing the messaging experience





We want OPEC as there are countries such as ours where fuel demand is rising

PANKAJ JAIN OIL SECRETARY

We are excited to add our largest solar project to date into our growing renewable energy (RE) portfolio



RAJIV RANJAN MISHRA MD, APRAAVA ENERGY

This fiscal we are targeting to sell around 6 lakh CNG units. We ended last year with sales of around 4.77



PARTHO BANERJEE | SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER (MARKETING AND SALES),

SHORT **TAKES**

Palm oil imports dip

New Delhi: India's palm oil imports in August fell more than a quarter from a month ago, primarily driven by sufficient domestic stocks and negative margins that discouraged refiners from purchasing more of the tropical oil, a leading trade body said Thursday. Lower purchases by the world's biggest importer of vegetable oils could lead to higher stocks of palm oil in key producers Indonesia and Malaysia weighing on benchmark futures. India's palm oil imports fell 26% in August from July to 797,482 metric tonne, the Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) said in a statement. Imports of sovoil rose 16 per cent to 454,639 tons, while sunflower oil imports fell 22.5 per cent to 284,108 tonne, it said. The drop in imports of palm and sunflower oils brought down the country's total edible oil imports by 17 per cent to 1.53 million tonne.

LIC hikes stake in IRCTC to 9.3%

New Delhi: Life Insurance Cort (LIC) Thursday said it has hiked its stake in Indian Railway **Catering and Tourism** Corporation (IRCTC) to about 9.3 per cent. LIC said its holding in railway sector 'miniratna' PSU has increased 2.02 per cent in the period December 16, 2022, to September 11, 2024, via open market purchases. "Life Insurance Corporation of India has increased its shareholding in equity shares of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd from 5,82,22,948 to 7,43,79,924 i.e. 7.278% to 9.298% of the paidup capital of the said company (IRCTC)," LIC said. Shares of LIC closed at ₹1031.45, up 1.81 per cent over the previous close on the BSE.

Inflation remains below RBI's aim for 2nd month

SENSEX SCALES MOUNT 83K. NIFTY CLOSES AT RECORD HIGH IN LATE BLUE-CHIPS RALLY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 12: Benchmark Sensex hit the historic 83,000 level for the first time Thursday and the Nifty settled at a lifetime high in a late rally in bluechip shares, surge in global markets and foreign fund inflows.

A sharp fag-end rally drove points or 1.77 per cent.

The NSE Nifty surged 470.45points or 1.89 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 25,388.90. The benchmark hit its fresh all-time intra-day high of 25,433.35, a jump of 514.9 points or 2 per cent. Nifty and Sensex opened higher and traded in a range till late af-

The rupee traded in a narrow range to settle 3 paise higher Thursday.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, JSW Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Ports, Tech Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, State Bank of India and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the biggest gainers.

Nestle emerged as the only

the 30-share BSE Sensex to the 83,000 level for the first time. The barometer surged 1.593.03 points or 1.95 per cent to hit its lifetime intra-day peak of 83,116.19 in the last hour of trade. The index closed at a record high of 82,962.71, up by 1,439.55

ternoon trade.

at 83.96 against the US dollar



The bulls took charge towards the end of the day and lifted the indices to a new high, mirroring the bullish global trend. The rate-cut optimism across the globe (ECB & US Fed) has provided a positive impetus to the global market

+2.94%

•

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, **GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES**

laggard from the blue-chip pack.

subdued for the most part, strong

buying in heavyweight stocks

across sectors propelled the in-

dices sharply upward in the

final hours, Ajit Mishra - SVP.

Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.32

per cent and the smallcap index

All indices ended in the posi-

tive territory. Metal surged 3.05

per cent, telecommunication

(2.61 per cent), power (2.02 per

cent), auto (1.99 per cent), utili-

climbed 0.79 per cent.

In the broader market, the

While the session remained

JSW STEEL

ADANI PORTS

ties (1.93 per cent) and commodities (1.85 per cent).

Investors' wealth

soared ₹6.59 lakh

crore Thursday

surged to record

as markets

high levels

A total of 2,335 stocks advanced while 1,612 declined and 122 remained unchanged on the BSE. Also, 278 stocks hit their 52week highs while 36 declined to

their 52-week lows. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹1,755 crore Wednesday.

The BSE benchmark dropped 398.13 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at 81.523.16 Wednesday. The NSE Nifty declined 122.65 points or 0.49 per cent to

New Delhi, Sept 12: India's August retail inflation remained below the central bank's target of 4% for the second consecutive month, but vegetable prices continued to soar, dampening hopes of a dovish stance in the next monetary policy meeting.

Annual retail inflation was at 3.65% in August, higher than the revised 3.60% in July and economists' forecast of 3.5%.

India's key inflation gauge slipped below the Reserve Bank of India's 4% target in July after a gap of nearly five years, largely due to the high-base effect.

The chart shows India inflation was 3.65% in August 2024. It was below 4% for the second consecutive month.

The chart shows India inflation was 3.65% in August 2024.It was below 4% for the second consecutive month.

Prices of food, which account for nearly half of the retail inflation, rose 5.66% in August, compared to a 5.42% rise in the previous month. Vegetable prices rose 10.71%

year-on-year in August against a 6.83% rise in the previous month. The inflation rate for cereals was 7.31% in August compared to 8.14% in the previous month, while that for pulses was 13.6% against 14.77% in July.

"The slight uptick in August inflation was largely led by surprise on food prices," Upasna Bhardwaj, an economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank said.

Risks from spiking food inflation remain but the sudden plunge of global oil prices to a near a 3-year low could partly offset them.

Above-normal rainfall due to the delayed withdrawal of the an-

- Retail inflation at 3.65% vs 3.60% MoM
- Food inflation at 5.66% vs 5.42% MoM
- Vegetable prices at 10.71% vs 6.83% MoM
- August core inflation at 3.3%-3.4%: Economists

nual monsoon could damage India's summer-sown crops like rice, cotton, soybean, corn and pulses, which are harvested from mid-September.

This could boost food prices, but the rains may also result in higher soil moisture, benefiting the planting of winter-sown crops such as wheat, rapeseed and chickpea.

The RBI, which kept its key interest rate unchanged for a ninth straight meeting in August, is widely expected to proceed cautiously with monetary policy easing.

"We expect the RBI to maintain its current policy rate for now," said Sujan Hajra, an economist at Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers. The next monetary policy meeting is scheduled for October 7-9.

Core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, continued to hover around 3% and was estimated between 3.3% and 3.4% in August against 3.35% and 3.40% in July, according to three economists.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hindenburg questions

SEBI chief's silence

IIP growth slows to 4.8% in July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: India's industrial production output decelerated to 4.8 per cent year-onyear in July 2024, mainly due to poor performance of the manufacturing and mining sectors, as per official data released Thursday.

The factory output growth, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), was revised to 4.7 per cent in June from provisional estimates of 4.2 per cent released last month.

The IIP for July 2024 was 4.8 per cent, as per the data. During the April-July period this fiscal, the IIP growth was 5.2 per cent against 5.1 per cent in the same

period of the preceding fiscal. The IIP grew by 6.2 per cent in July 2023, according to a statement by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

As per the data, the mining output growth decelerated to 3.7 per cent in July from 10.7 per cent expansion in the year-ago month.

The manufacturing sector's growth declined to 4.6 per cent in July from 5.3 per cent a year ago. The power generation increased by 7.9 per cent in July against a growth of 8 per cent in the same month of the last year. As per use-based classifica-

tion, the capital goods segment growth accelerated to 12 per cent in July 2024 from 5.1 per cent in the year-ago period.

In July this year, consumer non-durables output declined by 4.4 per cent compared to a growth of 8.3 per cent in July 2023. Consumer durable goods production grew by 8.2 per cent during the reporting month against a contraction of 3.6 per cent in July 2023. Infrastructure/construction goods reported a growth of 4.9 per cent in July 2024, down from a 12.6 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.

THREE-YEAR LOW

Oil below \$70: Fuel cut if dip sustained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: Price of international crude oil - the raw material for making petrol and diesel - dropped to a three-year low before marginally recovering but a revision in domestic petrol and diesel rates is likely only if lower rates are sustained, industry sources and officials said.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell below \$70 per barrel Tuesday - the first time since December 2021 - but gained thereafter after Hurricane Francine hit crude supply in the Gulf of Mexico. Brent rose above \$71 a barrel Thursday

Petrol and diesel prices - which have been on a freeze for over two years now barring a pre-election reduction earlier this year will be revised if the declining trend sustains, they said.

Industry sources said the three state-owned fuel retailers are making good profits on petrol and diesel but want the trend to continue before deciding on a revision.

'E2Ws to get cheaper by up to ₹10K' PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: Electric two-wheeler (E2W) buyers can avail a maximum subsidy of up to ₹10,000 in the first year of the PM E-DRIVE Scheme to be rolled out soon, Union Heavy Industries Minister HD Kumaraswamy said

Addressing a media briefng. Kumaraswamv said the subsidy under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme for electric two-wheelers has been fixed based on battery power at ₹5,000 per kilowatt hour but the overall incentive will not exceed ₹10,000 in the first year.

In the second year, it will be halved by ₹2,500 per kilowatt hour, and the overall benefit will not exceed ₹5,000.

Addressing the media, Kumaraswamy said e-rickshaw buyers can avail of subsidy benefits of ₹25,000 in the first year and ₹12,500 in the second year of the PM E-DRIVE scheme.

"The per kilowatt subsidy for electric two-wheelers is ₹5,000 for the first year, and in the second year ₹2,500, for two years, this



benefit will be continued," the minister said

He clarified that the maximum benefit per two-wheeler will be capped at ₹10,000 per vehicle in the first year and reduced to ₹5,000 in the second year.

Currently, popular electric scooters from makers like Ola, TVS, Ather Energy, Hero Vida (Hero Motocorp) and Chetak Bajaj have battery capacities ranging from 2.88 kWh to 4kWh in a price range of ₹90.000 to ₹1.5 lakh.

For three-wheelers, including e-rickshaws, Kumaraswamy said, "In the first year, they will get (benefit of ₹25,000), and in the second year, it will come down to ₹12,500 per vehicle".

For the L5 category (cargo

three-wheelers), they will get a benefit of ₹50,000 in the first year, and for the second year, it is ₹25,000, the minister further

informed.

Under the scheme, an Aadhaar authenticated evoucher will be issued by the PM E-DRIVE portal, and it has to be duly signed by the buyer and dealer and uploaded on the portal. The buyer would also need to upload a selfie to avail of demand incentives.

To avoid the misuse of government subsidy in the scheme. MHI Secretary Kamran Rizvi said, "We learnt many things from FAME-II. So, every six months there will be a conformity test of production, which will ensure that twice a year everything is tested"

Kumaraswamy informed that subsidies/demand incentives worth ₹3.679 crore have been provided to incentivise e-2Ws. e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks and other emerging EVs under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme. The scheme will support 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, and 14.028 e-buses.

public financial institution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: The government has notified the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) as a public financial institution under the Companies Act. This will help the government fortify the nation's in-

September 10, the Corporate Affairs Ministry said that in exercise of the powers, Section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Central Government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, hereby notifies National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development as a "public financial institution".

bank's capacity to finance largescale infrastructure projects, thereby bolstering the country's infrastructure development.

NaBFID, a specialised Development Finance Institution (DFI), was set up in 2021, by an Act (The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021).



companies while serving as a

member of the market regulator.

January 2023 accused Adani

Group of using tax havens to

sidestep local market regulations,

had last month alleged that

Securities and Exchange Board

Hindenburg, which had in

including holding 99 per cent shares in a company "actively providing advisory/consultancy services till date" and her husband Dhaval Buch earning income from companies that were being adjudicated by her. Buch, who has so far not re-

sponded to the allegations, Thursday cancelled her appearance at the NaBFID Infrastructure Conclave in Mumbai. She was listed as a keynote speaker at the conclave.

"New allegations have emerged that the private consulting entity, 99 per cent owned by SEBI Chair Madhabi Buch, accepted payments from multiple listed companies regulated by SEBI during her time as SEBI Whole-Time Member: The companies include: Mahindra & Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Dr Reddy's and Pidilite,' Hindenburg said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

These allegations, it said, "apply to Buch's Indian consulting entity with no details thus far on Buch's Singapore-based consulting entity." "Buch has maintained her complete silence for weeks on all of the emerging issues," it added.

Hindenburg had August 11 alleged that Buch had previous investments in an offshore fund. also used by the Adani Group. Buch and her husband had de-



nied those allegations Since then, Congress and Zee

group chairman Subhash Chandra have levelled charges against them but they have not responded so far. Congress has alleged that

Dhaval Buch earned ₹4.78 crore from Mahindra Group at a time when the regulator was investigating it for market infrac-

Responding to the allegation, Mahindra & Mahindra has stated that the "Group hired Dhaval Buch in 2019 specifically for his expertise in supply

retired as Unilever's Global Chief Procurement Officer. It said he joined Mahindra Group almost 3 years before Madhabi Puri Buch was appointed as SEBI chairperson. "Compensation has been specif

chain expertise and management acumen, based on his global experience at Unilever.' Prior to becoming chairperson, she was a Whole-Time Member

ically and only for Buch's supply

of SEBI from April 2017. Separately, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Pidilite Industries also stated that they had engaged the services of Dhaval Buch when his wife held second

allegations of any conflict. While Dr Reddy's said it paid ₹6.58 lakh to Buch in exchange for his services, Pidilite said that it has never been under any SEBI

highest office at SEBI but denied

enquiries or orders Last month, Hindenburg had alleged that the Buchs opened an account in 2015 with a wealth management firm in Singapore to invest undisclosed sum of money in a Mauritius-registered offshoot of a Bermuda-based fund. The Mauritian fund was run by an Adani director and its ultimate parent was the vehicle used by two Adani associates to round-trip funds and inflate stock prices.

India once again leads in crypto adoption

New Delhi, Sept 12: India led the way in global adoption of cryptocurrencies for the second straight year as investors braved the country's tough regulatory stance and steep trading taxes, a report from blockchain analytics company Chainalysis showed Wednesday

The report, which tracks adoption across four sub-categories in 151 countries, showed India ranked high on usage of centralized exchange and decentralized finance assets from June 2023 to July 2024. India has taken a tough stance against cryptocurrencies since

2018, with the Financial

Intelligence Unit (FIU) issuing

show-cause notices to nine off-

shore cryptocurrency exchanges

in December 2023 for non-compliance with local rules. "India has also got a fairly wide spread level of adoption across different assets of crypto despite restrictions, implying new participants to crypto would



have been participating via services that were not banned," said Eric Jardine, research lead at Chainalysis

'Now we've started to see some of those restrictions get rolled back, for example with Binance, which is probably just going to am-

plify adoption in the country. Binance, the world's biggest crypto exchange, was hit with a fine of ₹188.2 million (\$2.25 million) in June a month after it registered with the FIU in an effort to resume operations in the country. Crypto exchange KuCoin had registered with the watchdog in March but faced a smaller penalty amount of ₹3.45 million.

Seven of the top 20 countries in Chainalysis' global adoption index were central and South

India has also got a fairly wide spread level of adoption across different assets of crypto despite restrictions, implying new participants to crypto would have been participating via services that were not banned

Asian countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam and Philippines.

RESEARCH LEAD, CHAINALYSIS

Overall decentralized transaction volume carried out in retail-sized transfers, under \$10,000 worth of crypto were recorded in countries with lower purchasing power per capita, the report said.

Trading was robust in Indonesia, which has banned the use of cryptocurrencies as a means of payment, but allows investment in the assets. The country recorded \$157.1 billion inflows in trading of digital assets in the 12 months to July, the report said.

Govt notifies NaBFID as

frastructure finance structures. In a notification issued

The move will enhance the

OrissaPOST

Easy victories for chess teams India maintain winning run

BOTH THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SQUADS WERE IN THEIR ELEMENTS ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE CHESS OLYMPIAD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Budapest (Hungary), Sept 12: R Praggnanandhaa set the tone on the top board as the Indian men's team blanked Morocco 4-0. while the women romped home against Jamaica, conceding just a draw in the process, in the first round of the 45th Chess Olympiad here Wednesday evening.

With World Championship challenger D Gukesh taking a break in the opening round, Praggnanandhaa delivered the goods against Tissir Mohamed out of a Sicilian defense game while Vidit Gujrathi, Arjun Erigaisi and P Harikrishna also pulled off comfortable wins to start off confidently.

In the women's section, R Vaishali and Tania Sachdev scored fine victories in the first time control itself. However, on the other two boards there was stiff resistance as Divya Deshmukh had to sweat hard for a much-needed victory while Vantika Agarwal was forced to concede a draw in the endgame against her rival.

Praggna was up against a Sicilian ploy by top Moroccan Mohamed who had only himself to blame after the opening got over. The Indian teen had a stronghold on the king side that he utilised to the fullest to take the first point home for the team.

Not very far behind was Gujrathi who was clearly in his

SHORT TAKES

Rhythm to take

part in 2 events

New Delhi: Rhythm Sangwan will be the only Indian shooter to

compete in two events in the

season-ending ISSF World Cup

final here after double Olympic-

medallist Manu Bhaker opted for

a three-month rest following her

exploits in the Paris Games. The

National Rifle Association of

Thursday a 23-member Indian

squad for the tournament that

will be held across rifle, pistol

and shotgun categories from

Singh Shooting Range. The

medals. A total of 11 Indian

Arsenal extend

Arteta contract

Arteta has agreed on a new

London: Arsenal manager Mikel

contract which will tie him to the

Premier League club until 2027, a

deal stated here Thursday. Arteta has been at Arsenal since

December 2019 and transformed

the team into Manchester City's

main title rival by finishing

runners-up in the last two

seasons. "We are really happy

that Mikel has signed a new long-

term contract. It's a very positive

and proud moment for everyone

at the club," Arsenal sporting

previous deal was due to expire

Treesa, Gayatri lose

Hong Kong: Commonwealth Games bronze medal-winning

duo of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri

Gopichand fought hard before

going down to Liu Sheng and Tan Ning 11-21, 20-22 in the women's

doubles pre-quarterfinals of the Hong Kong Open badminton

here Thursday. For the Indians,

world, this was their second loss

Bopanna joins TPL

doubles player Rohan Bopanna

Tennis Premier League (TPL)

this season, which will be held

here in December. The 44-year-

old Indian is currently the world

No.6 in doubles, "I'm thrilled to

Premier League, especially with

Olympics, had also clinched the

its innovative 25-point format.

It's a perfect way to wrap up the year." said the tennis

legend. Bopanna, who

represented India in three

mixed doubles crown in the

2017 French Open along with

Gabriela Dabrowski of Canada.

become a part of the Tennis

Mumbai: Australian Open

champion and decorated

will make his debut in the

who are ranked 26th in the

in a row to the Chinese.

director Edu said. Arteta's

at the end of this season.

person with knowledge of the

Olympians will vie for the

honour of 'Best Shooter'

October 13 to 18 at the Dr Karni

squad features nine members

from the Paris Olympics team

that returned with three bronze

India (NRAI) announced

The Indian chess players in action during their Chess Olympiad match against Morocco

elements. He also got an opening advantage out of a king pawn game against Jacques Elbilia as he knocked down a pawn and never looked back.

Erigaise may have had to work harder but the Indian youngster, who is currently ranked No. 4 in the world, was never far from winning his game. Harikrishna faced some initial resistance from Anas Mosyad in a closed Sicilian defence but his superior understanding of the structure gave him the vital point. The second round will see the Indian men clash with a spirited Iceland.

In the women's competition, Vaishali had no trouble in converting her position with black pieces as D Harika was rested on the top board. Sachdev was in spite a little mess-up, she did not let the advantage slip through her hands playing on board four.

On the second board, there were some serious issues for Deshmukh but the recentlycrowned World Junior Girls' Champion proved her mettle out of an equal position. The same, however, was not the case with Vantika as she was forced in a drawn queen and pawns endgame.

Harmanpreet hits double century of goals for Men in Blue

ndian and Korean players fight

for the ball during the game played

Karkera was impressive under

the bar, denying Korea on a few oc-

casions in the second quarter.

After an impressive first quarter,

the Indians seemed to have gone

into a shell in the next 15 minutes

as Korea dominated the proceed-

ings with continuous forays on

The Indian defence stood tall

until Korea pulled a goal just at the

stroke of half time through Yang

whose effort went into the net

after being deflected by Manpreet

Singh. The Koreans secured back-

to-back penalty corners in the

a powerful dragflick.

the rival citadel

Hulunbuir (China), Sept 12: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh scored a brace as defending champions India beat Korea 3-1 to register their fourth consecutive win at the Hero Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) here Thursday. Paris Olympics bronze medallist India had defeated China 3-0, Japan 5-0 before thrashing last year's runner-up Malaysia 8-1 in their earlier matches. In the process Harmanpreet took his tally of goals for India to 201.

Already assured of a semifinal berth, India will play Saturday arch rivals Pakistan in their last league match in the six-team competition. The top four teams from the league stages will qualify for the semifinals scheduled for Monday, while the final will be played Tuesday.

India continued their fine form and struck twice early in the first quarter to take a 2-0 lead. Araijeet Singh Hundal, who scored a brace against Malaysia, scored the first goal in the eighth minute before Harmanpreet, converted two penalty corners in the ninth and 43rd minutes. Korea's lone goal was scored by Jihun Yang.

The Indians started on an aggressive note with Araijeet handing his side the lead with a brilliant strike after being fed by Sukhjeet Singh. A minute later, Raj Kumar Pal, earned a penalty corner for India and Harmanpreet converted it with

35th minute but India defended India's reserve goalkeeper Suraj bravely. India secured their second penalty corner two minutes later

but wasted the chance. The holders managed to restore their two-goal lead in the 43rd minute when Harmanpreet scored with a powerful low flick to the left of the Korean goal-

keeper Jaehan Kim. At the start of the fourth quarter, Jarmanpreet Singh conceded a penalty corner but the Indian defence was up to the task. Thereafter, the Indians controlled the proceedings and did not let Korea create any scoring opportunities.

Para medal-winners

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met India's trailblazing Paralympians at his residence on Thursday to congratulate them for their record-smashing haul of 29 medals at the recently-concluded Paris Games. In a 43-second video shared by the Sports Ministry, the PM can be seen congratulating the medal-winners before interacting with them. Modi also lauded their efforts to brave all odds and win

medals for the country. Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) head Devendra Jhajharia were also present during this interaction.

Wheelchair-bound shooter

Avani Lekhara, who won a second successive Paralympic gold in women's 10m air rifle (SH1) and visually-impaired judoka Kapil Parmar, India's first Paralympic medal-winner in the sport, were among those who were seen posing with the PM. Parmar even got his medal signed by Modi.

India gave their best-ever performance in the Paralympic Games. They won seven gold, nine silver and 13 bronze medals. The 84-strong contingent surpassed the previous best of 19 medals that was achieved in the Tokyo Games three years ago.

Jhajharia meanwhile exuded confidence and said that the athletes will bring at least 40-50 medals from the Los Angeles Paralympic Games.



Modi all praise for Exciting contest on cards



ISL kicks off today with last edition's finalists Mohun Bagan and MCFC playing the opener

Kolkata, Sept 12: Last season's finalists Mohun Bagan and Mumbai City FC will renew their rivalry as they kick off the 11th edition of the ISL here Friday. It will be a new chapter in the history of the ISL with all the 'top three' Kolkata clubs participating in the competition. This year, Mohammedan Sporting will also play in the ISL alongside Mohun Bagan and East Bengal and the league will have three clubs that

are more than 100 years old. Mohun Bagan, who were the first to join the ISL in 2020, following their merger with ATK, have been consistent and have always been title contenders. The ISL opener between them and Mumbai City FC (MCFC) will certainly set the tone for an exhilarating season. The two clubs have shared the ISL top honours between them in the last cou-

ple of seasons. Mohun Bagan have strengthened their attack with the signing of Australian all-time A-League top scorer Jamie Maclaren. However, the player is unsure for Friday's game due to an injury. However, their defence has been struggling since defender Anwar Ali's acrimonious transfer to East Bengal. It was quite evident during the Durand Cup.

The challenge for head coach Jose Molina will be to develop new dynamics. "Yes, the first match is always crucial," Molina said Thursday. "There are new players, but I am hoping they will gel as we have prepared meticulously for this event.'

MCFC have won the ISL League Shield and ISL Cup twice with all of these triumphs coming in the last four seasons. Captain Rahul Bheke, midfielder Apuia, midfielder Alberto Noguera and striker Jorge Perevra Diaz have been the biggest stars to leave the team. However, they have brought in Brandon Fernandes, Jeremy Manzorro, Jon Toral, TP Rehenesh, Nikolaos Karelis, Hitesh Sharma and Sahil Panwar and the key for coach Petr Kratky would be to com-

bine them well. Match on Sports 18, Jio Cinema

Kishan returns with a big bang

AGENCIES

Anantapur, Sept 12: Ishan Kishan (111, 126b, 14x4, 3x6) announced his return to red ball and first class cricket with a wonderful hundred here Thursday. Riding on his knock, India C scored 357 for five against India B in their Duleep Trophy match here.

In the other Duleep game Shams Mulani (88 batting, 174b, 8x4, 3x6) held the India A innings together as they reached 288 for eight against India D. At one stage India A were reduced to 93 for five and 144 for six but recovered as Mulani and Tanush Khaitan (53) put on 91 runs for the seventh wicket.

Pacer Harshit Rana (2/49) was_ the most impressive bowler for India D. Arshdeep Singh also picked up two wickets but went for quite a few runs.

However, it was Kishan's knock that hogged the limelight. The innings also underlined the fitness of the 26-year-old, who missed the first round of Duleep Trophy with a groin injury. Kishan and Baba Indrajith (78, 136b, 9x4) put on 189 runs for the third wicket to put their side

in a commanding position. Others who contributed to the innings were Ruturaj Gaiwkad (46 batting), Sai Sudarshan (43) and Rajat Patidar (40). Gaikwad had to retire hurt early, but came back later in the day and played some fine shots to clear doubts about his ankle injury.

Mukesh Kumar with two wickets was the standout bowler for India B with movement.

All eyes on Chopra, Sable in DL finale

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Brussels, Sept 12: Javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra will have lofty expectations to live up to, while for steeplechaser Avinash Sable, it would be an opportunity to make up for a disappointing Olympics, when the star-studded Diamond League (DL) season finale begins here Friday, featuring the best of world athletics.

Each DL season finale champion is awarded a 'Diamond Trophy', USD 30,000 prize money and a wild card for the World Athletics Championships. The runner-up gets USD 12,000.

Chopra will be aiming to end his season on a high Saturday. National record-holding 3000m steeplechaser Sable, after finishing 11th in the Olympic Games, will be in action Friday in his maiden appearance in the DL season finale. It is for the first time that a DL fi-

nale features two Indians. Chopra made the DL final after finishing fourth in the overall standings with 14 points from his two second-place finishes in Doha and Lausanne.

Jaker replaces Shoriful in Bangla team for India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Sept 12: Bangladesh named Thursday uncapped wicketkeeper-batter Jaker Ali in place of injured pacer Shoriful Islam in the squad for the two-Test series in India beginning later this month. The first of the two Tests will begin September 19 in Chennai.

Left arm-pacer Shoriful, has been nursing a groin injury since the opening Test in Pakistan last month. He is the only player missing from the squad that won a historic away series in Pakistan 2-0. However, at home India will definitely

start favourites. Instead of going for a like-forlike replacement for Shoriful, the selectors have handed a maiden Test call up to Jaker, who has represented Bangladesh in 17 T20 Internationals, debuting during the Asian Games last year. He has played 49 first class games, scoring 2,862 runs at an

THE SQUAD

Najmul Hossain Shanto (captain), Shadman Islam, Zakir Hasan (wk), Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim (wk), Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Das (wk), Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Jaker Ali (wk), Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Nahid Rana, Taijul Islam, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Nayeem Hasan and Khaled

average of 41.47, including four centuries and 19 half centuries.

However, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, who also suffered a groin niggle during the Pakistan tour, has retained his spot.

The second Test of the series will begin September 27 in Kanpur. The two match-series is a part of the ongoing World Test Championship cycle.

India and Australia occupy the top two spots in the WTC table currently, while Bangladesh is lurking in fourth place.

Sports ministry seeks Leander's suggestions

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 12: Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya met Indian tennis great and International Tennis Hall of Famer Leander Paes here Thursday to discuss the future of sports in the country. Strategies to further enhance the country's performance in the Olympics and Paralympics were also discussed.

"It was a pleasure to meet legendary Olympic medallist @Leander today! Also Congratulated him on being inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame! He continues to inspire vouth and athletes to chase their dreams," the sports minister posted on 'X'.

The discussions centered around building strong sports foundations in India, with an emphasis on identifying and nurturing grassroots talent. Mandaviya expressed his commitment to creating more conducible environment where aspiring athletes have access to world-class facilities.

Roll ball teams leave for nationals in Pune



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 12: A 10-members girls' team and a 12-member boys' squad from Odisha will take part in the 17th National Roll Ball Championships which will be held at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Balewadi, Pune. Before their departure, the teams were given a warm send-off and felicitated by members of the Odisha Roll Ball Association and other dignitaries at the Kalinga Stadium here Wednesday. Present on the occasion were Deepankar Mohapatra, director, Sports & Youth Services de-

partment and Partha Sarathi Jena,

secretary, Odisha Roll Ball Association. The tournament will begin September 12 and end September 15.

THE SQUADS: (Girls): Gitika Giitimaya, Ashlesha Panda, Vanshika Guru, Divyanshree Behera, Shimon Shreya, Madhuksara Mishra, Gunjan Rout, Ichini Divyanjali and Swetaparna Priyadarshini.

(Boys): Subham Kumar Dora, Pratik Arnav Jena, Vivan Tikmani, Anish Pattnaik, Biren Das, Arush Das, Satwik Ray Samanta, Arnav Rout, Harshit Goel, Arnav Mohanta, Swayam P Swain and Souryanshu Mohapatra.

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