

DSPL-110

## WE FULFILLED OUR PROMISE



Launch of

# SUBHADRA

by

Prime Minister  
**Narendra Modi**

- The scheme will benefit over 1 crore women in Odisha
- Beneficiaries will receive ₹10,000 annually in two installments, totaling ₹50,000 over 5 years
- Financial assistance will be directly transferred to beneficiaries' Aadhaar enabled bank accounts through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer)
  - The application process for SUBHADRA is ongoing and there is no closing date

In the august presence of

**Raghubar Das**

Governor, Odisha

**Mohan Charan Majhi**

Chief Minister, Odisha

**Dharmendra Pradhan**

Minister of Education,  
Govt. of India

**Jual Oram**

Minister of Tribal Affairs,  
Govt. of India

**Annpurna Devi**

Minister of Women &  
Child Development, Govt. of India

**Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo**

Deputy Chief Minister,  
Odisha

**Pravati Parida**

Deputy Chief Minister,  
Odisha

And other distinguished guests

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 | Time: 12:00 Noon**  
Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar

You are requested to be seated by 9:30 AM

[www.subhadra.odisha.gov.in](http://www.subhadra.odisha.gov.in) | Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Odisha | Toll Free No. 14678



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Subhadra Odisha



CMO Odisha



# leisure

## FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com  
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
You may have a wide circle of casual friends, but today, these associations will prove to be beneficial. Your friends will help you chase away the blues. That way, you will also understand the deeper role of friendship, says Ganesh.

**TAURUS**  
Today, passionate and possessive are the two words that will define your relationship with the people you love, predicts Ganesh. You may choose to take pains for the sake of others, which seems to be highly fulfilling. Your good spirit will sky-rocket by evening. Make sure to change your disadvantage into your advantage, says Ganesh.

**GEMINI**  
If you are embroiled in a legal dispute, an out-of-court settlement is likely, predicts Ganesh. You are a courageous person and you'll need a lot of it today. Don't back down from your decisions. You may have to be stern with a few people. Your resilience will pay off.

**CANCER**  
Today, you will put your heart and soul into whatever task you take up. But the results may not be too forthcoming. However, that should not be a reason for you to get dejected or anxious. You will get your due sooner or later.

**LEO**  
Sometimes, it takes courage to be honest and admit to your failures. Doing so only goes a long way in establishing your credentials as a real person, feels Ganesh. So understand that, while it is only human to make mistakes, it takes more than that to accept them.

**VIRGO**  
A renewed zest for life will bring in a transformation in you. It is a good time to let people know how important and intelligent - yes, you can be both - are. Your eminence will be obvious as you show how things are meant to be done.

**LIBRA**  
Good news! You will be a people's person today. Close friends, relatives and family - you seem to want to spend your time with all of them today, says Ganesh. Better news? Your romantic brilliance will be at its peak today as your fancy takes wings and creativity flows freely in manners that seem irresistible. Best news? The opposite sex just can't seem to keep their hands off you. Need you want more, asks Ganesh?

**SCORPIO**  
A cascade of let-downs will dent your confidence and shake your determination, says Ganesh. But don't let these failures affect you as they are temporary. At work, your subordinates may force you to take drastic measures.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
A day full of cheer and joy is in store. You will probably enrol in a part-time course and sharpen your skills. But for those in police and legal professions, you will be the lions of the jungle! Roar and stamp your authority, says Ganesh.

**CAPRICORN**  
You may not get as popular as Romeo did, but your exceedingly romantic nature will earn you quite a reputation, not to forget the hypnotic effect it will have on your sweetheart, says Ganesh. On the flip side, troubles will chase you everywhere; you are likely to face problems with your business rivals and health condition, but your mind will be on guard always, giving you an edge over your opponents.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today is an important day in the larger scheme of things. You may finally decide to buy a home, change your job, or marry! Sudden and unexpected profits are on the cards too. Reputation and rewards are all yours today. This acknowledgement helps you remain committed, says Ganesh.

**PISCES**  
You are human enough to make mistakes, and humble enough to admit them, and it is this honesty that people admire in you. Your affectionate nature will see you excel at tending to the needs of your family members today, says Ganesh.



## KELLY OSBOURNE'S SENSATIONAL CLAIMS

Recovering addict Kelly Osbourne, a British singer and actress, claims a rogue sector of the rehab industry is fuelling the addiction crisis by encouraging users to relapse to get them back into expensive facilities.

## REESE WITHERPOON TEASES NEW PROJECT

Legally Blonde actress Reese Witherspoon stated that a new project is on the cards. The 48-year-old, however, didn't reveal much about it. She did tease that something coming through her own production company 'might' be on the horizon.



**MUMBAI:** Actors Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth Monday officially announced that they are now married.

Eternal Love, Light & Magic... Mrs & Mr Aditi Siddhu," the caption mentioned.

Taking to their respective Instagram handles, the couple shared a gamut of pictures from their simple but traditional wedding. In the image, the actress is dressed in gold and the actor chose to go white for their South Indian wedding. "You are my Sun, my Moon, and all my Stars..." To being Pixie Soulmates for eternity...to laughter, to never growing up... To

**Aditi, Siddharth now man & wife**

It was in 2021, Aditi and Siddharth reportedly started dating during the filming of their film *Maha Samudram*. Aditi was last seen on screen in filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*. She will next be seen in *Gandhi Talks and Lioness*.



in Kamal Haasan-starrer *Indian 2*, will next be seen in *Miss You*. After star couple announced that they are now married, a

string of film personalities including Ananya Panday, Shweta Tripathy, Nimrit Kaur and Sanjeeda Shaikh congratulated them and celebrated their reunion.



**MUMBAI:** Actress Rakul Preet Singh has talked about discipline, which she said is a priority for her and shared how it is very important not to be delusional.

Talking to Ranveer Allahbadia for his Beer Biceps podcast, Rakul Preet said: "I mean, for

Meanwhile, Siddharth, who was last seen

**MUMBAI:** Sana Makbul, who is currently in a relationship with Telugu businessman Srikanth Bureddy, recently shared her reasons for never dating actors.

Sana explained that while she has actor friends who are either married or dating, she has noticed a lack of security in those relationships. "I've actor friends who're either married or dating, but they don't have that sense of security. Understanding each other is rare and it's beautiful. Taking each other's criticisms positively is very important," she said. She also admitted that she's always been drawn to individuals outside the film industry, particularly businessmen, as she hasn't experienced dating an actor and doesn't know how those relationships work. One couple Sana looks up to is singer Neha Kakkar and her husband, Rohanpreet Singh. "If I talk about Rohanpreet and Neha, there's an understanding that they share, and that's what partnership is all about. It's all about appreciating each other. If you and your partner are compatible, half the battle is already won. As husband and wife, they understand each other's

**Sana reveals why she never dated actors**

professions too," Sana said, praising the couple's dynamic.

The actress, who won Bigg Boss OTT 3, continues to maintain her distance from dating actors, standing firm in her belief that understanding and security are key to a lasting relationship.

AGENCIES



## Rakul reflects on her work ethic

me, discipline is number one. I feel that if I am sleeping at 2 o'clock every night and I am waking up at 10 o'clock in the morning, how can I expect that the universe will give me anything that I want you to start living a life that I am in a routine."

"I am waking up at 6:00 in the morning, going to work, putting in effort. That will hap-

pen. The universe will make it happen." Rakul talked about the significance of being prepared.

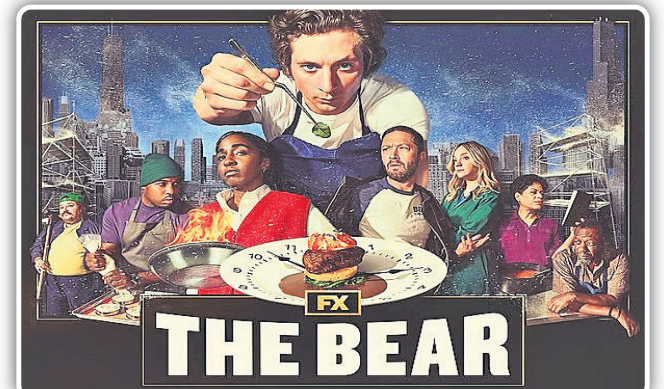
"If you are not prepared to receive the kind of work you want to do, then you will never get it. Like it is said, always live like you already got it... but I did not know all this, I got to know all this later. But thanks to my army upbringing, my lifestyle was that and then I also feel it is very important not to be delusional," shared the *Doctor G* actress.

The actress is gearing up for the release of *De De Pyaar De 2* which is slated for a summer 2025 release.

IAN5

## EMMY AWARDS

# THE BEAR, SHOGUN BAG TOP HONOURS



**Los Angeles:** The Emmy Awards took place in Los Angeles on Sunday, where historical epic *Shogun* - a tale of warring dynasties in feudal Japan - and *The Bear* - Jeremy Allen White's FX series - dominated the Drama and Comedy categories. "We haven't even given out a single award tonight, and yet *Shogun* has already made Emmy history," noted Daniel Levy, co-hosting with his father Eugene, in their opening segment.

*The Bear* won a couple of early awards of the night. Firstly, Jeremy Allen White clinched a victory yet again in the category

of Best Actor in a Comedy Series for his portrayal of head chef in FX's *The Bear*. Later, *Shogun* began to dominate the Drama categories. But it was

*Hacks* that emerged as the surprise winner in the Comedy category, beating *The Bear*. *Shogun* is the most honoured single season of any show in Emmys history, having accrued 14 gongs in minor categories at a separate gala last weekend. With 14 wins in the minor categories, *Shogun* already eclipsed the previous record for number of Emmys for a drama in a single season, set by *Game of Thrones* with 12. Its biggest rival this year was former drama winner *The Crown*.

IAN5

DRAMA		COMEDY		ANTHOLOGY	
Series	Director	Series	Director	Series	Director
Lead Actress	Lead Actress	Lead Actress	Lead Actress	Lead Actress	Lead Actress
Supporting Actress	Supporting Actress	Supporting Actress	Supporting Actress	Supporting Actress	Supporting Actress
Supporting Actor	Supporting Actor	Supporting Actor	Supporting Actor	Supporting Actor	Supporting Actor

## 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.

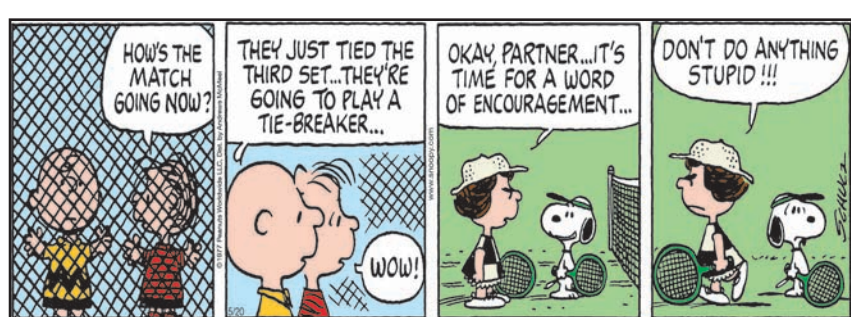
1	9					8		
8				3	5			
2			1					6
		1				6		
	6						7	9
3					4		5	8
	4							5
				7		9		1
					2			3

## SOLUTIONS

B	E	E	J	B	S						
W	O	O	F	E	R						
A	F	U	A	N	I						
T	R	E	D	I	N	G	D	O	N	G	
T	I	S	L	B							
S	T	R	E	I	S	B	E	L	O	W	
I	E	O	E	A	N						
S	T	A	G	E	C	R	E	A	M	E	R
A	R	B	D	N							
I	N	H	U	M	A	N	E	G	U	S	T
I	D	L	R	I	L	C	H				
F	U	N	G	U	S	L	I	E	L	O	W
M	E	A	Y	R	L	T					

7	6	4	2	8	3	9	5	1
5	2	3	4	9	1	6	8	7
1	8	9	7	5	6	2	4	3
8	3	1	6	7	9	4	2	5
6	9	5	3	4	2	7	1	8
4	7	2	8	1	5	3	9	6
3	1	6	5	2	4	8	7	9
2	5	8	9	3	7	1	6	4
9	4	7	1	6	8	5	3	2

## PEANUTS



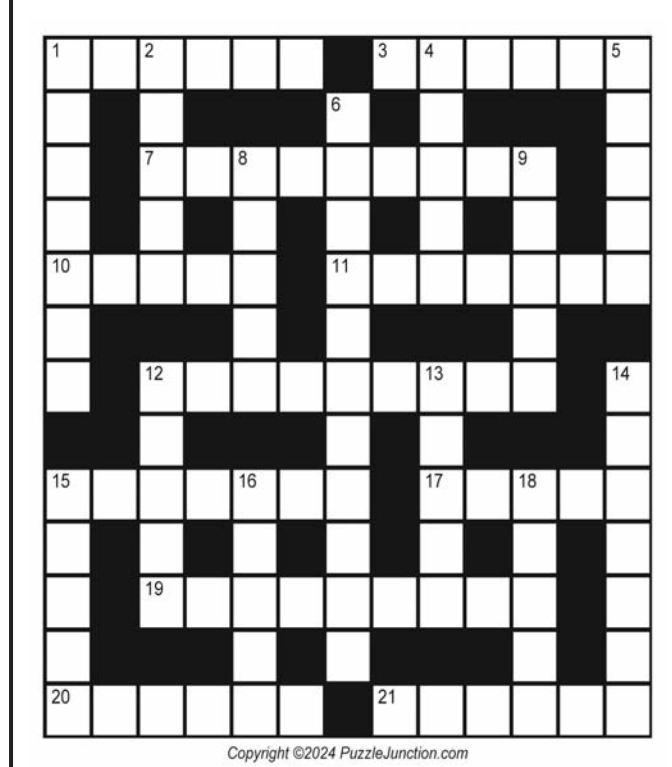
## CALVIN AND HOBBS



## BREVITY



## FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Rule
  - 3 Kind of cuisine
  - 7 Ferocity
  - 10 Early warning system
  - 11 Environmental science
  - 12 Asylum
  - 15 Coif style
  - 17 Suggest
  - 19 Analysed by a doctor
  - 20 Sleep
  - 21 Spa supplies
- Down**
- 1 Universal
  - 2 Bright
  - 4 Argentine dance
  - 5 After tea or golf
  - 6 Sassy
  - 8 Graceful bird
  - 9 Hard wood
  - 12 Snooped
  - 13 Assumed name
  - 14 Greek mountain
  - 15 Singing group
  - 16 Draws nigh
  - 18 Man with a mission

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## Subhadra launch today

## Trump survives 2nd assassination attempt

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** More than 10 lakh women will receive their first installment of ₹5,000 when the ambitious 'Subhadra Yojana' will be launched in the state by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Janata Maidan here Tuesday. It will mark the beginning of the ambitious project introduced by the newly-elected BJP government in Odisha.



said Monday that the launch of the 'Subhadra Yojana' will be momentous occasion for women in the state. It will mark the fulfillment of promises and will also herald empowerment of Nari Shakti.

It should be stated here that already over 60 lakh women have registered their names for the scheme. Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida informed Monday that those who have registered on or before September 15 will receive the first installment of ₹5,000 Tuesday.

The Odisha government will annually deposit ₹10,000, in two installments of ₹5,000 each on Rakhi Purnima and International Women's Day (March 8), in the accounts of the beneficiaries through DBT for five years - between financial years 2024-25 and 2028-29. The government has earmarked ₹55,825 crore for the implementation of the scheme. More than one crore women in the age group of 21 years to 60 years in

Odisha will benefit from the Subhadra scheme.

The state government also said that those who have not received a debit of one rupee under the 'Subhadra Yojana' in their respective registered bank accounts do not need to worry. It means that the applications are being scrutinised and once done, the money will be deposited into the account.

All schools, colleges and educational institutions will remain closed in the Odisha capital, in view of Modi's visit. Besides launching Subhadra Yojana, he will also inaugurate 26 lakh PM Awas houses at Gadakana. Modi will also unveil railway projects worth ₹2,871 crore and highway projects worth ₹1,000 crore.

AGENCIES

**Washington, Sept 16:** Former US President Donald Trump is safe after he escaped an apparent assassination attempt Sunday while he was playing golf at the Trump International Golf Club in Florida. This was the second bid on his life in two months.



Secret Service agents 'opened fire on a gunman located near the property line' of the club, Rafael Barros, the special agent in charge, said during a news conference. "The suspect fled the scene leaving behind an AK-47 rifle and other items," Barros added.

The suspect was later detained and identified as 58-year-old Ryan Wesley Routh, the owner of a construction com-

pany. He had criticised Trump and his policies many times.

In a message to his supporters, Trump said he is safe. "There were gunshots in my vicinity, but before rumours start spiraling out of control, I wanted you to hear this first: I AM SAFE AND WELL! Nothing will slow me down. I will NEVER SURRENDER!" said the former president. **P8**

## 1st round to Jr docs



AGENCIES

**Kolkata, Sept 16:** Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, after meeting with the protesting junior doctors, has announced that she had agreed to three of the five demands of the protesting doctors - the removal of two top officials of the health department and the chief of Kolkata police. Along with it, the police chief of the city's north zone - where RG Kar Medical College, the hospital where the rape-murder of a young doctor took place, is located - will also be removed. The formal orders will be issued Tuesday. "I think the meeting was positive. Am sure they think too," she said. "Or why else we will sign the minutes of the meeting and they would sign it too?" she added.

CM. She added that changes will also be made in the Health department which the junior doctors had been demanding.

"I have requested the agitating doctors to return to work. Dengue and the flood situation in the state is not good at all. In this situation we need the services of the doctors. I will not talk anything about the ongoing case in the Supreme Court. All I will say that the government has accepted 99% of their demands," Banerjee added.

The meeting between the West Bengal government and the agitating junior doctors got over after nearly two hours. Then more than two hours were taken to prepare the minutes of the meeting which was attended by a delegation of 42 doctors. Banerjee had a free-wheeling discussion with the doctors in the meeting which was also attended by Pant and Home Secretary Nandini Chakrabarty.

"There have been agreements on few points and disagreements over some others," the agitating junior doctors said after meeting. However, they did not state whether they will call off the cease work. The doctors said that they have five demands and they have handed over the same in writing.

## 5 held for rash driving



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Odisha capital Tuesday, a special squad and Laxmisagar police seized two vehicles and arrested five persons Monday for reckless and rash driving. The incident took place on the route that the PM will use.

ans and also blocked the road at many places. At times they even drove on the pavements sending people scurrying for cover.

Once videos of the incident went viral on social media, Commissionerate Police swung into action and registered a suo moto case. A manhunt was launched to nab the accused and also to locate their vehicles. Later in the day, police arrested the five and also seized two of the vehicles seen in the videos. Police said that the accused were flouting the rules on Janpath.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**

He is the best politician ever. His dramas get us the best TRPs

## Croc kills man

**Aul:** A man was attacked and dragged by a crocodile Monday in front of his sibling while trying to cross a rivulet near Ichhapur village in Kolidiha panchayat under this police limits in Kendrapara district. He has been identified as Ajambar Nayak of the same village. The 15-foot long crocodile attacked Ajambar when he tried to cross the rivulet with his herd of buffaloes. Till night, the body of Ajambar has not been found.

### Heralding a New Era in Rail Development in ODISHA

#### DEDICATION AND FOUNDATION STONE LAYING OF PROJECTS WORTH MORE THAN ₹2800 CRORE

**FOUNDATION STONE LAYING OF**

- Paradeep - Badabandha 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Line
- MCRL Inner Corridor (Phase - I) Doubling
- Jeypore - Nabarangpur New Line
- Flyover Between Siju and Paradeep Coaching Yard

**DEDICATION TO THE NATION OF**

- Lanjigarh Road - Ambodala - Doikalu 3<sup>rd</sup> Line
- Lakshmpur Road - Singaram - Tikri Doubling
- Bangurkela-Nawagaon Doubling
- Dhenkanal-Sadashivpur-Hindol Road 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Line

**Benefits**

- Socio-economic growth of the region
- Better connectivity to the people of tribal area
- Quick movement of goods traffic to & fro from Ports
- Smooth evacuation of coal traffic from Talcher coalfields
- Cater to the traffic need of industries of Western Odisha
- Alternate route for over saturated Howrah - Mumbai and Howrah - Chennai main line
- Will ease coal and iron ore traffic to industries located in Jajpur - Keonjhar district
- Propel economic activities in the area

by **Shri Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

In the august presence of

**Shri Raghubar Das**  
Governor, Odisha

**Shri Mohan Charan Majhi**  
Chief Minister, Odisha

**Shri Jual Oram**  
Union Minister of Tribal Affairs

**Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**  
Union Minister of Education

**Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw**  
Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 | Venue: Bhubaneswar

All are cordially invited

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PROUD MOMENT

# State to become skill devpt leader soon: CM



PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Monday said the state is on track to become a leader in skill development.

He made the announcement while congratulating two local youths for their outstanding achievements at the 47th World Skills Competition held in Lyon, France, from September 10 to 15.

The two youths are - Amaresh Kumar Sahu and Gedela Akhil. Sahu earned a bronze medal in renewable energy, while Akhil received a medallion for excellence in water technology, bringing pride to Odisha on the global stage.

Praising the achievements, Majhi in a statement said, "The accomplishments of our skilled youth at the World Skills Competition are a source of immense pride for Odisha. Their success exemplifies the state's commitment to nurturing young

talent and developing skills that meet global standards."

He also noted that these victories would inspire many others to aim for excellence on a global platform.

The Chief Minister also acknowledged the contributions of the institutions that supported their training, including the World Skill Centre, Central Tool Room and Training Centre (CTTC) in Bhubaneswar, and CV Raman Global University.

Amaresh, a native of Deogarh district, is currently pursuing a diploma in Mechatronics at CTTC, Bhubaneswar. Akhil is pursuing a B Tech in civil engineering at CV Raman Global University, Bhubaneswar. Sahu received expert training from Vietnam, while Akhil benefited from mentorship provided by a specialist from South Africa.

The World Skills Competition is an international event that gathers participants from over 80 countries to compete across

The CM congratulated two local youths - Amaresh Kumar Sahu and Gedela Akhil - for their outstanding achievements at the 47th World Skills Competition held in Lyon, France, from September 10 to 15

Amaresh earned a bronze medal in renewable energy, while Akhil received a medallion for excellence in water technology, bringing pride to Odisha on the global stage

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various sectors, including manufacturing, technology and services.

The 47th edition in Lyon saw 15 of India's 60 participants hailing from Odisha, underscoring the state's leadership in the skills ecosystem.

Officials noted that the selection process for World Skills is rigorous, involving a three-tiered evaluation before participants represent India on the international stage.

The state's World Skill Centre has played a crucial role in mentoring and preparing these participants, they said.



ART EXPO: Women admire a sculpture during the First Art and Crafts Exhibition organised at Cuttack Town Hall Monday

OP PHOTO

## CUO hosts workshop on Vedic Mathematics

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** The department of Mathematics at Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput organised a two-day workshop on Vedic Mathematics at the university campus Monday.

Inaugurating the event, CUO VC Chakradhar Tripathi highlighted the relevance of Vedas in modern life while stating India's rich cultural heritage, mythology and ancient texts. He also illustrated a mathematical concept drawn from a stanza of the Hanuman Chalisa, connecting it to the broader theme of Vedic wisdom.

Advisor to the University, VC Jha shed light on the importance of integrating Vedic knowledge into the education system, aligning with the goals of the National Education Policy 2020. He remarked that the Vedas are not merely religious scriptures but serve as guiding principles for the universe.

Dean of the School of Language and Literature and Registrar (in-charge) NC Charan Panda spoke about the significance of the sound "OM" and its profound effects on the human mind. He also noted that the art of temple architecture has its roots in Vedic Mathematics, citing a Sanskrit verse to explain the concept of infinity.

The workshop featured a series of lectures from renowned scholars, including Mukut Mani Tripathi from Banaras Hindu University, Uttar Pradesh, Avanih Kumar from the Institute of Basic Science at Bundelkhand University, Uttar Pradesh and Sudyumna Acharya from the Ved Vani Vitan Oriental Research Institute, Madhya Pradesh.

Department of Mathematics head Ashok Kumar Sahoo and Jyotiska Datta were present on the occasion. The workshop was convened by Sarbeswar Barik.

## Cong slams BJP over Subhadra



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** A day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the state for launching of Subhadra Yojana, Odisha Congress Monday raised questions about the meager amount (Rs 833) the women beneficiaries would get per month under the flagship scheme.

At a presser held at Congress Bhawan here Tuesday, Odisha congress leader Biswaranjan Mohanty said the state government is spending huge amount of money on propagation of Subhadra Yojana. "The drawback of every BJP government is that it creates confusion and controversy

whenever it launches any scheme," he said.

"Before the elections, the saffron party leaders said that all women will be given ₹50,000 immediately. But after coming to power, the government said that they will pay this money in five years. This comes to around ₹833 per month and ₹27 per day. In this sense, what kind of enterprise will a woman set up and be empowered," Mohanty said.

Similarly, the party, which made 'Odia Asmita' its major poll plank during campaign, has conveniently made Gujarat a model for Odisha.

They have planned to suppress Odia Asmita by appointing non-Odia officers in some

crucial posts. The Mohan Majhi government has identified itself as a true 'Modi government' by handing over Gopalpur port to Adani group.

He said the BJP government had initially announced that it would launch Subhadra Yojana on Rath Yatra. Later, it was announced that the amount will be credited to beneficiaries' accounts August 15. This never happened. Again, they announced to disburse the amount on the PM's birthday September 17.

He said that crores of rupees are being spent from the state exchequer for the launch of Subhadra Yojana but more than 30 per cent women population of the state are barred from this scheme. Moreover, 13 per cent of the beneficiaries are under the age of 18 while 17 per cent are above 60 years, he added.

Senior Congress leader and former MP Ananta Prasad Sethi expressed his concern over splurging money from the state exchequer on the preparations for celebrating the PM's birthday Tuesday.

## Withdraw review plea on mining cess: Jena to PM

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Odisha Tuesday, senior Congress leader Srikanth Jena Sunday appealed to the PM to withdraw a review petition filed by the Union government in the Supreme Court in regard to the state's authority on levying cess and taxes on mineral-bearing land and minerals.

The Union government has filed a petition before the apex court to review its landmark judgement of July 25, 2024 and August 14, 2024 that allowed states to levy taxes and cess on mineral-bearing lands and minerals.

Stating that the review petition was against Odisha's interest, Jena said the state is the leading mineral producer in the country, accounting for nearly half of India's total mineral production. "After the SC judgement, Odisha stands to reclaim approximately ₹1.5 lakh crore in retrospective dues since 2005 which the state can start collecting from April 1, 2026 over a period



of 12 years. Additionally, the state can generate approximately ₹50,000 crore annually by putting cess and taxes on future mining operations. This would be an economic boost for a state struggling with poverty and backwardness," he said.

The Congress leader said despite its abundant mineral wealth contributing significantly to the nation, Odisha remains one of the poorest states accounting for the maximum migration of labourers.

"This review petition filed by the Centre undermines the rights of the states. Withdrawing the review petition would allow Odisha to fully utilise its resources for its own development and the welfare of its people," he said.

MARKET WATCH		
INDEX		VARIATION
SENSEX	82,988.78	↑ 97.84
NIFTY	25,383.75	↑ 27.25
DOLLAR	86.21	↑ ₹3.23
EURO	93.25	↑ ₹0.61
GOLD	₹73,460	↓ ₹55
SILVER	₹ 89,369	↑ ₹189

WEATHER		
	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.0°C	32.0°C
Min Temp	25.9°C	24.5°C
Humidity	82%	83%
Rainfall	0.2mm	12.2mm

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

## CLASSIFIED

**AFFIDAVIT**  
I, KANHU CHARANA MAHANKUDA, S/o Late ANANTA MAHANKUDA, resident of At/P.O.-JUNAPANI, Dist.-NABARANGPUR, Pin-764072, Odisha declared by this affidavit No. 791 dated 13/09/24, that now onwards as KANHU CHARAN MAHANKUDA for all future purposes.

I, Mr. Pradeep Kumar Sarangi, aged about 52 Yrs., S/o- Late Krushna Ch. Sarangi, residing at Flat No.- A/201, Infocity Green Apartment, Sailashreevihar, Bhubaneswar- 751021 do hereby solemnly affirms declare that PRADEEP KUMAR SARANGI and PRADEEP SARANGI is one and same person.

## Miscreants open fire at jewellery shop owner

**Astaranga:** A jewellery shop owner was injured when he was fired at by some unidentified miscreants at Kundheihata Tinichhaka market on Kakatpur-Konark main road Monday evening. According to sources, two masked miscreants came on a numberless bike from Konark side and entered the jewellery shop of Niranjan Sahu who was sitting inside the shop. When Sahu enquired about their intention, the miscreants took out a pistol and fired two rounds at the shop owner, injuring him seriously. While one bullet pierced into Sahu's waist, another brushed his body. Applying presence of mind, Sahu threw nitric acid on the miscreants following which the latter fled in a car which was kept ready by some other gang members near the shop. The shopkeepers at Tinichhaka market took a profusely bleeding Sahu to Kakatpur health centre where he received preliminary treatment before being referred to Capital Hospital.

## 'More medical colleges needed in country'

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** "To strengthen the healthcare delivery mechanism in both the rural and urban pockets of the country, more medical colleges should come up to tackle the shortage of doctors," said Vijendra Kumar, Professor, Paediatric surgery and Member of UG Curriculum Board, National Medical Commission (NMC) while addressing the 15th NMC Teachers' Meet recently organised at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar.

A total of 175 medical teachers from all 17 medical colleges of the state including their Deans attended the meeting.

Aruna Vanekar, President UG Curriculum Board NMC highlighted the different changes in MBBS curriculum such as cri-



teria for MBBS attendance, maximum numbers and years of attempts to complete the MBBS course and internship.

The provision of mandatory thesis submission before post-graduate final examination has been removed and included as part of final practical examination, she added.

BN Gangadhar, chairman of the NMC emphasised on the role of doctors as social reformers.

Gangadhar along with Vanikar also interacted with Deans and clarified their queries pertaining to family

## Green Vishwakarma idol at Dhauli Art & Crafts College

RESHMI YADAV, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** In a unique display of craftsmanship, students of Dhauli College of Art and Crafts near the Peace Pagoda have created an eco-friendly idol of Lord Vishwakarma using sago and mustard.

The 9-foot-tall idol made using 10kg sago and 3kg mustard took 15 days for as many students of the college to complete it. They used clay, sago and mustard, emphasising the eco-conscious approach of the institution.

Working president of the college Hrushikesh Mishra, ex-



utive board members of the college Sushant Kumar Sahu,

Kamalini Rath, and senior artist Vijay Kumar Parida, college principal Panchan Samal, faculty members Ramshankar Sahu and Subash Chandra Muduli supported and encouraged the team led by Laxmidhar Swain.

About the initiative, Samal said, "For over two decades, Dhauli College of Art and Crafts has been creating eco-friendly sculptures each year. Through these efforts, our students continue to set a benchmark by crafting eco-friendly idols, thereby sending a strong message to society about environment consciousness."

## Odisha to emerge as Tata Steel's largest investment destination

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** Steel production at Tata Steel's Kalinganagar plant in Jajpur district is set to increase from 3 million tonnes per annum to 8 mtpa with the phase-II expansion of the plant nearing completion. With this, Odisha would emerge as Tata Steel's single-largest investment destination and also help the company to achieve its target of 40 mtpa capacity in India by 2030, the company said in a release Monday.

The expansion will also enhance company's capability to manufacture high-end value-added steel products. It will also catapult the eastern state to an enviable position of becoming the single largest investment desti-

nation for the country's oldest steel maker," it said.

The steel major said that it has invested ₹27,000 crore in phase-II of the Kalinganagar plant expansion. Even as the company is on the verge of commissioning its expanded capacity in Kalinganagar (to 8 mtpa), it believes that the plant has a further scope to double this to 16 mtpa in the coming years, which will further strengthen Odisha's role in Tata Steel's growth journey," it further stated.

The company completed the first phase in 2015 with an investment of ₹25,000 crore and further ramped up its capacity in Odisha through the acquisition of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) in 2022 with an additional investment of ₹12,100 crore.

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# downtown

## 'PALESTINE-LIKE' FLAG SPARKS ROW

**Cuttack:** A procession held in Dargah Bazar here on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi Monday was briefly stopped after a man was found waving a flag resembling that of Palestine, police said. Additional DCP Anil Mishra said the flag was seized "to avoid any issues".



# PM to unveil slew of projects today

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation railway projects worth ₹2,871 crore during his visit to Odisha Tuesday, official sources said Monday.

The PM will also lay the foundation stone of national highway projects worth over ₹1,000 crore, they said.

Modi will land at Biju Patnaik International Airport at 10:50am and then travel to Gadkana village where he will interact with the beneficiaries of PM Awas Yojana, officials said.

Around 12pm, Modi will reach Janata Maidan where he will launch the Subhadra Yojana under which 10,000 will be provided to over one crore women every year in two equal instalments for a period of five years.

After unveiling railway projects worth ₹2,871 crore and highway projects worth over ₹1,000 crore, he would leave for Delhi around 1:15pm, they added.

"Modi will lay the foundation stone of Paradeep-Badabandha 3rd and 4th Line, MRCL Inner Corridor (Phase-I) doubling, Jeypore-Nabarangpur New Line and flyover between Siju and Paradeep Coaching Yard," they said.

"The PM will dedicate to the nation Lanjigarh Road-Ambodala-Doikalu 3rd Line, Lakshimpur Road-Singaram-Tikri doubling, Bangurkela-Nawagaon doubling and Dhenkanal-Sadashivpur-Hindol Road 3rd and 4th Line," they added.

## TRAFFIC ADVISORY FOR MODI'S VISIT



Ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit, Odisha Police conducts a carcade rehearsal in Bhubaneswar, Monday

The Commissionerate Police Monday issued a detailed traffic advisory in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the City Tuesday.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive at the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) at 10.30 am and head straight to

the Janata Maidan where he is supposed to launch the state government's ambitious 'Subhadra Yojana' and distribute the first installment to beneficiaries.

According to the traffic advisory for the day, no vehicle will be allowed to ply on the road from Jaydev Vihar to

NALCO Square, and from NALCO Square to Jaydev Vihar; and its connecting lane/by lane.

Vehicles coming from Nandankanan and intending to go towards Jaydev Vihar side will avail the road: Damana Square-Guru Kelu Charan Park-Sainik School and Acharya Vihar; or take the route via

Sikharchandi Pathargadia School-Kalinga Studio Chhak and Fire Station.

Similarly, vehicles intending to go from Jaydev Vihar towards Nandankanan will avail the road via Acharya Vihar-Sainik School-Guru Kelu Charan Park- Damana Square, or: Fire Station-DN School-Pathargadia and Sikharchandi.

Those travelling from Cuttack to Bhubaneswar have been advised to take NH 316, or use Nandankanan Road.

Motorists are advised to take diversion from Behera Sahi Chhak for going towards Acharya Vihar or CRPF Chhak, and avoid going to Jaydev Vihar.

During this period vehicles coming from Cuttack are not allowed to avail the service road from Acharya Vihar overbridge end towards Jaydev Vihar square.

Similarly, vehicles coming from Baramunda are not allowed to avail the service road from Crown Hotel towards Jaydev Vihar square.

The restrictions will not apply for the emergency vehicles (Fire and Ambulance).

Meanwhile, elaborate arrangements have been made by the state government and the BJP to make the visit a grand success, a party leader said.

Security has been heightened in the state capital with

the deployment of 3,000 police personnel, including 500 officers. The routes to be used by the PM's carcade have been barricaded, said Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda.

A total of 11 DCP-rank officers, 22 additional DCPs, 66 ACP-rank officers, 100 inspectors, and 300 officers, along with 81 platoons of forces (each comprising 30 personnel) and 500 home guards would be de-

ployed, he said.

Additionally, three special tactical units along with two companies of CRPF and the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODARF) would also be on standby, he added.

## Majhi should raise coal royalty revision demand with PM: BJD

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** Opposition BJD Monday said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi should take up the demand for revision of coal royalty with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Odisha Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference, BJD MP Sasmit Patra said the Centre did not revise the coal royalty for the last 12 years, and because of this, the state has been incurring losses of ₹10,000 crore every year.

"Instead of succumbing to the pressure of the BJP, the Chief Minister should muster courage and take up state's important issues, including the revision of coal royalty, with the PM," he said.

The CM should write to the Centre, demanding immediate revision of the coal royalty and also directly take up the issue with the PM Tuesday, he said.

PM Modi will visit Odisha to launch the state's women's welfare scheme Subhadra Yojana, and unveil a host of infrastructure projects.

Ahead of the visit, senior Congress leader Srikant Jena



wrote to the PM, urging him to withdraw the review petition filed by the Centre before the Supreme Court regarding the state's authority on levying cess and taxes on mineral-bearing lands and minerals.

"The review petition filed by the Centre is as good as backstabbing the interest of Odisha and benefits a few industrial houses and mine operators. In the larger interest of Odisha, the review petition should be withdrawn," Jena said in the letter.

"The rulings of the Supreme Court allow states to levy taxes and cess on mineral-bearing lands and minerals. Odisha is the leading mineral producer in the country, accounting for nearly half of India's total mineral production," he said.

The BJD also raised the issue of the establishment of a bench of the High Court in the state's western region.

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

**REQUIREMENT OF PREMISES**  
Detailed notification inviting offers for premises for our STPI Branch is available in our website [www.bankofindia.co.in](http://www.bankofindia.co.in). Prescribed format for submission of offer may be obtained up to **1.00 P.M. of 24.09.2024** from our office at above address. Alternatively, the format can be downloaded from our website. Last date for submission of offer is up to **3.00 P.M. on 24.09.2024** at Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar.  
Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar Zone

## POLICE BRUTALITY

# Victim's father demands suspension of IIC

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** A day after a serving officer of the Indian Army and his female friend were allegedly assaulted at the Bharatpur police station where they had gone to report a road rage instance, the Odisha State Ex-Servicemen Association Monday demanded the suspension of IIC Dinakrushna Mishra and other policemen involved in the brutality.

At a press meet, president of the association Brigadier Antaryami Pradhan, who is also father of City-based restaurateur Ankita Pradhan who had allegedly been subjected to the police excess along with her friend Gurvansh Singh, a Major attached to the 22 Sikh Regiment at Kolkata, alleged that the police had arranged a 'false report' from the Capital Hospital before producing his daughter in the court. "They had submitted that report to the magistrate," he alleged.

Accusing the police of 'hiding' the original report, he demanded the immediate release of actual medical examination report which would prove how brutally Ankita was assaulted by



Brigadier Antaryami Pradhan

the police.

Pradhan wondered why the police preferred to rough up and arrest a decorated Army officer when the latter approached them to file a complaint. "Why did the police not install CCTV cameras on its premises which is a mandatory practice as per the Supreme Court ruling," he asked.

"They have not only violated the Supreme Court directive, but also breaking rules and regulation at will. They are damaging the name of police and the uniform," he added.

He said if an Army personnel is facing such situation what about common man. "Such incident will discourage youngsters from joining the Army," he said adding, "Surprisingly the Army top brass is silent even when such heinous incidents are happening to officers who are dedicating their lives for the country."

According to reports, Major Singh and Ankita were subjected to brutal assault by on-duty cops at Bharatpur police station who they approached them to register a complaint of road rage in the wee hours of Sunday.

The duo was travelling in a car late Saturday night when they had a close shave from a rashly-driven vehicle. Upon intercepting the rouge vehicle, 8-10 miscreants came out of it and misbehaved with them before speeding off. Gurvansh said when the cops misbehaved with them and asked him to lodge a written complaint when he asked them to nab the culprits without wasting time.

He also alleged that three female cops dragged his friend inside a cell and disrobed her. He too was beaten up by a cop when he protested.

# Baramunda IMFL shop sealed for selling water-mixed liquor



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 16:** Six persons were detained by the Excise department on charges of adulteration following a raid conducted at an authorised (licensed) Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) shop in Baramunda area here, Monday.

Sources in the Excise department said that the suspects, working as salesmen at the shop, would add water to liquor in bottles by removing seals, before repacking, and sell those to unsuspecting customers.

"They were doing it for extra profit," sources said, adding that the accused persons procured counterfeit bottle caps and Excise department stickers to carry out the adulteration and con act.

A senior Excise official said that earlier the department sleuths had come across samples of liquor bottle caps, hologram and other features which were different from those used in original brands.

Acting on the information, an Excise department team Monday first conducted a raid at the place where the staff of the shop were staying and

found several caps and Excise stickers (adhesives). Thereafter, they raided the shop and detected the same cap and labels on several liquor bottles, the official added.

Following the findings, the Excise department collected samples from remaining bottles and sent those to a laboratory for tests. Moreover, the stock inside the shop, said to be of around ₹40 lakh, was destroyed using an earthmover, while the shop has been sealed. Sources said the licensee, Mukul Kumar, a resident of Jharkhand, has been summoned for questioning. The senior Excise official said that further action against the shop would be decided following questioning of the licensee, and outcome of the lab tests.

He said a customer (or anyone) can check the authenticity of the liquor sold at liquor shops by scanning the QR code which will then show the serial number of the bottle, brand and quantity. "We are also carrying out surprise checks at all licensed shops," the official said.

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We must watch over our thoughts. A bad thought is the most dangerous of thieves

THE MOTHER

## Trump Faces Gun

Gun culture in the US has cast a dark shadow on the crucial presidential elections barely two months away. Former President and Republican candidate Donald Trump faced an attempt on his life for the second time 15 September during the run-up to the election. In the first attempt earlier, a bullet had just missed him but torn off a part of his ear. This time it seems the assailant fled after a security personnel located him and fired at him.

The incident has been condemned by one and all. More so, when the contest is getting close as the new Democrat candidate Kamala Harris has changed the election campaign game quite a bit.

The second attempt on Trump's life came after a scintillating debate between the two presidential candidates. Rarely does a presidential candidate in the US or anywhere else have to go through the motions of a nationally televised debate with two different rivals of the same party twice during the run-up to the same election. This could be a blessing in disguise or a curse. For Trump, the debate with his new Democratic Party rival Kamala Harris recently has proved to be a disaster even though he had hugely outperformed his rival Joe Biden in the first debate. This has infused new life into the contest which appeared to be one-sided when it was billed to be between Trump and Biden.

The whole country had been eagerly waiting to see how the Vice President would fare after Biden's shocking failure to match the arguments of Trump earlier. Harris took Trump by surprise from the very beginning by forcing him into a handshake he had not anticipated. She then went on skillfully playing on Trump's ego. She drew him into the pitfalls in which he has invariably become entangled referring to the quality of his campaign rallies and his fascination with dictators.

Harris seemed to have the upper hand in the debate. Trump cut a sorry figure by going back to his oft repeated charge that the whole show of the second debate had been rigged. The charge itself was an admission that he had not exactly shone in the face of the performance given by the Democratic presidential candidate. Having said that, it also seemed strange that the issue of attempt on Trump's life did not come up once during the debate and that while Trump was 'fact-checked' more than once by the hosts, Harris's various claims went left unchallenged.

Biden's decision to withdraw from the presidential race on 21 July, after a disastrous debate with Trump, has in less than eight weeks changed a somewhat weak Vice President of mediocre popularity into a candidate happily backed by the Democratic camp and capable of rallying big crowds.

However, Harris still does not seem to be at the peak of her game. It could be that the haste and the highly unusual conditions of her nomination did not allow Harris to draw up a carefully considered political plan, traditionally polished during primaries that would give her candidacy its full weight. That she was not prepared for such an eventuality seems evident from the fact that she has been shying away from directly meeting the Press, granting only one interview since the President stepped down from the race.

Her responses to the issues voters are most concerned about - the economy and immigration - appear to be inadequate. The Western governments expect a clear-cut policy from her on the question of immigration. Harris has not tackled another challenge with required deftness - that is the linkage of her candidacy to the administration she has been part of for more than three and a half years. The performance of the Biden presidency from which she is inseparable is being harshly judged by American voters.

After a successful start to the campaign, a unifying nomination convention and a successful first debate, Harris has an uphill task in maintaining the momentum behind her. Her successful debate with Trump two months before the battle of ballot is no guarantee of success in November.

Until now, the Democrat candidate has played her cards well enough to inspire new hope in her camp after the withdrawal of Biden, who was heading for an inevitable defeat due to his age and physical limitations.

However, Harris has to convince the undecided voters in a country nearly vertically split into two camps that she is the person best equipped to respond to their concerns. She has not yet been able to show the voters what a Harris presidency might look like. The second attempt on Trump's life and failure of the Biden administration and Democrats, including Harris, to address it directly may spoil the chances for her and steer sympathy toward Donald Trump.

### WISDOM CORNER

Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word happy would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness. It is far better take things as they come along with patience and equanimity

CARL JUNG

Choice of attention - to pay attention to this and ignore that - is to the inner life what choice of action is to the outer. In both cases, a man is responsible for his choice and must accept the consequences, whatever they may be

WH AUDEN

You must take personal responsibility. You cannot change the circumstances, the seasons, or the wind, but you can change yourself. That is something you have charge of

JIM ROHN

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**1631:** The Swedish-Saxon army under King Gustav II Adolf of Sweden destroyed the army of the Roman Catholic Habsburg emperor Ferdinand II and the Catholic League, under Johann Tserclaes, Graf (count) von Tilly, in the Battle of Breitenfeld.

**1849:** American Harriet Tubman escaped from the Southern plantation where she was enslaved and later led other enslaved people to freedom in the North along the route of the Underground Railroad.

**1862:** Bloodiest single day of the American Civil War takes place. The Battle of Antietam was fought near the Antietam Creek in Sharpsburg, Maryland. Thought to be the deadliest single day of the American Civil War - at least 4000 soldiers on both sides died - the battle ended Confederate General Robert E. Lee's incursion into the North. While there were no clear victors, many believed that the withdrawal of Confederate soldiers from the battlefield before the Union Army did meant that the Union had won the battle.

**1926:** Mexican artist Frida Kahlo was severely injured in a bus accident, and during her recovery she began painting and soon abandoned her plans for a career in medicine.

**1939:** During World War II the Soviet army invaded Poland from the east - joining Germany, which had launched its attack several weeks earlier - and the Polish government fled to Romania.

**1978:** Camp David Accords concluded. The Camp David Accords, negotiated by U.S. President Jimmy Carter, were completed this day in 1978, leading to a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel and a broader framework for pursuing peace in the Middle East.

**FOCUS ASIA**

# CONSUMER TIPPING POINT

**GLOBAL CONSUMER GOODS COMPANIES SHOULD BET ON ASIA. IF YOU BET AGAINST DEMOGRAPHICS, YOU TYPICALLY LOSE**

**For the first time ever, over half of Asia's 4.8 billion people are part of the global consumer class. The importance of this milestone can hardly be overstated, because it marks the transition from poverty to a more typical middle-class lifestyle**

**strong growth in consumer spending will continue. In our latest World Consumer Outlook, we project that Asia will continue to lead global consumer class growth, contributing 110 million of the 134 million new consumers expected next year. Additionally, one-third of every additional dollar spent globally will come from Asia.**

**World Data Lab projects that India will surpass China in adding people to the consumer class next year, with India contributing 47 million new consumers compared to China's 33 million. Following them are five often overlooked Asian economies: Indonesia (+6 million), Bangladesh (+4 million), Vietnam (+4 million), the Philippines (+3 million), and Pakistan (+2.5 million). In Olympic terms, Asia will dominate the top seven positions among the global consumer class leaders for 2024, followed by the United States, Brazil, and Egypt, respectively.**

**There are still 2.4 billion people in Asia who have yet to enter the consumer class, along with an additional 330 million newborns by 2034. This represents more than half of the world's future consumers. World Data Lab projects that Asia will add one billion new consumers and \$15 trillion in additional consumer spending by 2034. Most countries in emerging Asia, however, have yet to reach the tipping point. China and Vietnam did in the last decade, and World Data Lab projects that India, Indonesia, and the Philippines will soon (in 2027, 2028, and 2029, respectively). Bangladesh, Pakistan, and**

**While the growth momentum of Asia's consumer class is strong, the current economic environment is volatile. Recent market turbulence in Asia has raised concerns about investor confidence and the stability of financial markets in the region. But these risks are likely only to delay, rather than derail, the expansion of Asia's consumer base. Like the COVID-19 pandemic, which similarly interrupted the growth of Asia's consumer class, these challenges will not stop Asia's long-term rise in consumer power. The underlying factors driving this growth - longer life expectancy, better education, urbanisation - have been put in place over the last decades, and these long-term shifts will influence Asia's trajectory more than any short-term shock could undo.**

**Trendlines will prevail over headlines. It is safe to say that China will remain the world's largest consumer market for seniors, currently at 122 million and growing to 178 million by 2030. By contrast, India will be the largest market for young Gen Z consumers, growing from 150 million today, about as large as in China, to 215 million in 2030. Global consumer goods companies should bet on Asia. If you bet against demographics, you typically lose.**

**Juan Caballero is a senior data scientist at World Data Lab, where he leads the Insights and Analytics team. Wolfgang Fengler, a former lead economist at the World Bank, is CEO of World Data Lab.**

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### SPECTRUM NATION

## Ailing healthcare system

The ongoing agitation of junior doctors in West Bengal demanding justice for the murdered doctor of RG Kar in Kolkata has raised issues which need to be addressed. Questions arise as to why interns and post-graduate students have to perform emergency and outdoor duties. Where have such directives, if at all, been written? Why senior doctors, who are full-time employees of the government, spend on an average no more than 16-18 hours per week at the hospital.

In fact, senior doctors are known to be engaged in private practice too or are attached with private nursing homes, where they charge exorbitant fees, especially for operations. Can the government or the Court direct the so-called junior doctors, who are merely paid stipends, to attend to hospital duty? Moreover, it has been seen that these junior doctors spend not less than eight hours per day to attend to the increasing number of patients.

Unfortunately, the state governments are not genuinely concerned with the problem and feel that the alternative for patients should be to go to nursing homes. But can those from lower-income groups access treatment at nursing

homes? In such a scenario, reports indicate government clinics and hospitals across rural and urban India grapple with shortages of doctors and specialists with over 23,000 sanctioned medical posts vacant despite the doubling of undergraduate and postgraduate seats over the past decade. It is disturbing that given the population density little efforts have been made to increase the number of doctors.

The lack of government funding to the health sector is a challenge which needs to be met to aid government hospitals to cater to the ever-increasing patient load. Moreso, as corruption appears to be thriving in most hospitals of the country, marginalised patients find it difficult to get admission without having to pay a bribe to get a bed or admission. There are reports of medicines worth crores being siphoned off and sold in the open market; sophisticated machines lying unutilised and specialists in a hurry to wrap up hospital duty by mid-day to facilitate their private practice.

The junior doctors' agitation has put the spotlight not just on the safety of doctors but on rampant corruption in the healthcare system in West

Bengal, with allegations of the ruling party being part and parcel of it. Junior doctors view the government's handling of the case a travesty of justice. It has engaged a battery of 21 lawyers in the Supreme Court to ensure the key persons at the top remain unaffected and the cost is borne by the public exchequer. And it comes as a rude shock that while the Chief Justice of India had some time back given a lecture on dissent being healthy to the functioning of democracy, chose to allow the government counsel to insist that these protesters are not taking permission? Do the doctors leading a non-violent agitation need permission to show dissent in what we call a democratic, pluralistic society?

The entire healthcare system, not just in West Bengal, but in the country needs an overhaul. The political dispensation is busy quarrelling for or against caste census, but fails to prioritise a survey on health care in the country - such as what percentage of poor and EWS get treatment in districts hospitals or health centres, how many have expressed satisfaction, what factors ail the system, etc.

Not huge buildings but it's the

doctors, specialists, non-medical staff, equipment, free medicines, and tests which symbolise good hospitals. Patients need care and treatment and thus governments must plug the loopholes in hospitals. If they want to depend on private hospitals, rational rates need to be fixed with special rates for poor and impoverished sections. Moreover, insurance should be made mandatory for all employees, not just in the organised sector but in unorganised too. In the latter category, the government should bear around 30 to 40 per cent of the expenses to facilitate treatment.

There can be no two opinions that critical and urgent steps need to be taken by governments, both states and Centre to improve health care. Adequate doctors and specialists must be available across the country, for how can the rising quantum of diseases be tackled without healthcare being extended to all? There is need for serious introspection, not just by West Bengal government, but all states and New Delhi. They must remember that "a stitch in time saves nine!"



Dr Oishee Mukherjee

**THE ENTIRE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, NOT JUST IN WEST BENGAL, BUT IN THE COUNTRY NEEDS AN OVERHAUL**

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

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

### Semiconductor hub

Sir, India aims to become a major player in the global semiconductor industry, projected to reach a \$789.56 billion market by 2024. With plans to grow its semiconductor sector to \$100 billion by 2030, India is leveraging its expanding talent pool and domestic market to enhance its semiconductor ecosystem. At the Semicon India 2024 event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the country's commitment, announcing a ₹1.5 lakh crore investment and on-going support from the government. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also expressed confidence in India's potential. Since 2021, India has attracted significant investments through the ISM programme, positioning itself as a key player amid geopolitical tensions and global competition dominated by South Korea, the Netherlands, Japan, Taiwan, China, and the US. With projected investments of up to \$30 billion in the next few years, India is set to become a major market for electronics and electric vehicles while developing technical expertise. The Indian government aims to create a robust environment for semiconductor growth. By enhancing chip manufacturing incentives and fostering infrastructure development, India seeks to become one of the top five global semiconductor manufacturing destinations by 2030. With strong governmental support and growing international interest, India is poised to achieve this ambitious goal.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

### Ford to return

Sir, That Ford is considering resumption of its vehicle manufacturing in Chennai, though initially only for export markets, is really encouraging. Thanks to TN Chief Minister MK Stalin, whose meeting with Ford officials during his recent visit to the US in an effort to bring the renowned automaker back to its operations in Chennai has bore fruits, and it indicates a positive step towards revitalising the company's presence in India. The state's established infrastructure and skilled workforce make it an attractive destination for global automakers like Ford. Ford's renewed interest in manufacturing in Tamil Nadu could significantly impact the state's economy. It may create job opportunities and boost related industries such as auto components and logistics. If successful, this move could strengthen India's position as a key player in global automotive manufacturing.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



# Black stone quarries turn bane for 2 MIPs in Jajpur



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Jajpur, Sept 16:** Rampant mining of black stones under Dharmasala tehsil of Jajpur district has led to burying of two minor irrigation projects (MIPs) crucial for irrigation in the nearby farmlands apart from destruction of forest cover in the area.

People have alleged that black stones are extracted from the mines in violation of norms, which is indicative of a conspiracy by some influential persons to bury the MIPs.

The destruction of Ranibandha and Paikarapur MIPs adjoining the Rahadpur black stone quarry under Dharmasala tehsil is a case in this point. The issue assumes significance as a case has been filed in this connection before the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

In the Case-6/2024/EZ filed by Babuli Jena and others, the apex green body has directed the state Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary of state Water Resources department, Jajpur Collector, Jajpur SP, Jajpur deputy director (mines), Dharmasala tehsildar, execu-

tive engineer, R&B division and assistant executive engineer of MIP division at Barchana.

The NGT has been frequently sending them reminders to file their responses in affidavits but they are yet to do so.

Expressing displeasure over the delay, NGT has given them a last chance to file their reply by September 27. The advocate general has also sent letters to the respondents directing them to file their counter affidavits by September 19 failing which the green body may consider taking some serious steps.

According to the complaint, a black stone quarry spread on six acre land on khata no-S-235 and plot no 1(P) on Rahadpur hill under Dharmasala tehsil had been leased to Satya Multiplex Private Ltd, June 2, 2022.

This apart, 12 more quarries are operational on 104.77 acre land in this area. It is alleged that the quarry owners are extracting black stones exceeding far beyond the permissible limits through uncontrolled blasting of explosives, thereby affecting human habitats.

The uncontrolled blasting of

explosives has led to cracks appearing on the houses in the nearby villages. Furthermore, frequent transportation of black stones has resulted in severe air pollution due to spread of dust.

This has affected farmlands in the area and seriously damaged the Paikarapur and Ranibandha MIPs. With the two MIPs gradually getting buried with the dust from the quarries, farmers are facing difficulties in cultivation sans irrigation.

The assistant executive engineer of the MIPs had written a letter (dated-August 31, 2018) to the Dharmasala tehsildar urging him to take necessary steps in this regard. It is apprehended that the day is not far off when the two MIPs will be completely buried by the dust. Things have come to such a pass that the dense forest surrounding the quarry is on the verge of extinction, the petitioners alleged.

When contacted, Dharmasala tehsildar Subhankar Mohanty said that the deputy director of Minor Minerals department has filed his affidavit, and added that there is no need for his office to file a separate affidavit.

Jayprakash Nayak, deputy director, Minor Minerals department also confirmed that the affidavit has been filed.

According to a report by the Irrigation department, the two MIPs are located at a distance of 500 metres from the black stone quarries. However, rain-water from the black stone quarries flows down and falls in these two quarries during rain, he added.



**RUBBLE TROUBLE:** Train services through Keutguda railway station in Rayagada district were disrupted after huge boulders and large chunks of soil came rolling down the hill and fell on the railway tracks following a landslide, Monday evening. The Vishakhapatnam-Koraput Intercity Express was stranded at the station and other trains along the rail route got delayed

OP PHOTO

# Youth killed, brother critical in group clash

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Sorada, Sept 16:** A group clash during Ganesh idol immersion Friday at Amrutulu village under this police limits in Ganjam district took a violent turn as a youth was killed and his younger sibling critically injured in the attack by the rival family members, Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Babu Swain and his injured younger brother as Jitu Swain. Jitu has been admitted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur.

Police have detained two accused siblings Likun Bisoi and



his younger brother Niku Bisoi, and launched an investigation. Sources said the Ganesh idol immersion procession was held at Amrutulu village, Friday. The deceased Babu and Likun brushed each other's bikes while passing by the procession.

Enraged, Babu went to Likun's house Sunday and hurled abuses holding him responsible for the incident. Later, a scuffle broke out between the two when Likun and his younger brother Niku suddenly attacked Babu with sharp-edged weapons.

Meanwhile, Babu's younger brother Jitu tried to intervene and stop them from assaulting his brother. However, they did not spare Jitu either and assaulted the brothers. Family members rescued them from a pool of blood and first admitted them at Sorada community health centre. As their health condition deteriorated, they were later shifted to the MKCG Medical College and Hospital where Babu was pronounced dead.

Sorada police IIC Anil Kumar Parida reached the spot and detained the two accused brothers. An investigation is underway into the matter, police said.

# Dy CM Parida meets tribal student who cracked NEET



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Daringbadi, Sept 16:** Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida has congratulated a tribal girl from Kandhamal district who cracked the NEET examination and is all set to study medical science at a State-run medical college, a report said Monday.

The girl identified as Linsa Pradhan is a native of Garjedi village under this block in Kandhamal district. She successfully cleared the NEET examination and was selected to study medical science at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. She met Parida and interacted with her when she visited the Capital city with her brother Ashis Pradhan.

Parida expressed her happiness on meeting Linsa who suc-

cessfully cleared the NEET examination despite facing a barrage of problems in her life. "Linsa has proved that hard work never goes unrewarded, the Deputy Chief Minister said as she prayed Lord Jagannath to ensure a bright future for the girl.

During the interaction, Parida enquired about the condition in her village and whether villagers are reaping the benefits of government schemes. Linsa explained that Garjedi village lacks a pucca road and narrated her gruelling hard work in order to clear the NEET examination.

The Deputy Chief Minister asked Linsa to inform her over phone about any necessity at any point of time and handed over a memento as well as ₹3,000 to buy a good dress for her.

# Bird population increases in Bhitarkanika National Park

AGENCIES

**Kendrapara, Sept 16:** The population of nesting birds has registered a marginal increase in Bhitarkanika National Park located in Kendrapara district in this monsoon season, a senior Forest official said Monday.

The official statistics of the annual residential bird census pegged their population at 1,30,123 belonging to ten species. With this, the population of the monsoon birds has increased by 6,265 compared to the last census as Forest officials had sighted 1,23,867 birds in 2023.

As many as 27,282 nests atop 1,300 mangrove trees were counted this season, compared to 26,118 nests in the 2023 census. The census report reflects the results only from the direct count method. The Asian openbill stork had the highest number of nests among all the residential bird species.

The increase in the number of birds visiting Bhitarkanika is a good sign for bird conservation programmes in the state, said Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of the Rajnagar Mangrove Forest and Wildlife Division.

The census teams monitored all the water bodies and mangrove forest areas of Matha Dia, Laxmi Prasad Dia, Durgaprasad



Dia and Bali Dia heronries in and around the Bhitarkanika National Park, the official said.

While Matha Dia is located inside Bhitarkanika National Park, Durgaprasad Dia, Laxmi Prasad Dia, and Bali Dia are outside the park, according to the DFO.

The highest number of nests were spotted in Laxmiprasad Dia at 12,702, followed by 12,502 in Matha Dia, 1,548 in Durgaprasad Dia, and 520 in Bali Dia.

A total of 10 out of 11 local bird species flock to Bhitarkanika National Park for nesting and breeding during the monsoon. These species include the openbill stork, little cormorant, intermediate egret, large egret, purple heron, grey heron, night heron, darter, white ibis, and cat-

tle egret.

The birds selectively use specific mangrove species such as guan, bani, choranda, kerawan, and oruan trees for constructing their nests.

Abundant fish in the river and creeks and distance from human habitation has made it a suitable and congenial breeding place for thousands of birds. Watching these birds make and mend nests, collect green branches for building and repairing nests, lay, incubate, hatch eggs, feed fledglings, guard them from predators, cover them with outspread wings to protect them from scorching rays of sun and heavy downpour is a sight to behold," said the Forest officer.

Forest officials noted that Matha Dia, Laxmiprasad Dia, and Durgaprasad Dia have been the preferred nesting and breeding sites for these monsoon birds for several years. However, this year, the birds skipped Bagagahan heronry, which was once a paradise for these residential birds.

The monsoon bird census was conducted under the supervision of the DFO of Rajnagar Mangrove Forest and Wildlife Division, along with ACF of Kanika, Manas Kumar Das.

Three teams, each consisting of four enumerators, were engaged to carry out the census drive.

# Jumbos break house, eat up paddy, cash

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Sept 16:** Panic grips people in Telkoi forest range area of Keonjhar division after a rise in elephant attacks as they stray into the human habitations in search of food. The herds are destroying people's houses to eat stored paddy. Locals here are spending sleepless nights to protect their lives and property.

In one such incident, a 5-member elephant herd raided the forest surrounding Mundasahi of Bena village under Telkoi forest beat at about 11pm Sunday night in search of food. They destroyed two houses in the village and allegedly ate up cash worth ₹10,000 which was kept in gunny bags along with stored paddy. This has become a topic of discussion in the locality.

First the herd trampled and destroyed the banana farm of one Rabindra Patra of the said village. Then the herd destroyed the mud wall of the kutch house and took the sack containing paddy outside and ate it. The elephant herd allegedly ate up the entire paddy stock along with the



cash, which Rabindra had kept in that paddy sack.

"We belong to a poor family. The herd has eaten the entire paddy along with ₹10,000 that my husband kept in the sack for future use. We want compensation for the loss," Rabindra's wife Kansala said.

After that, the elephant herd broke Baburam Munda's house, ate the paddy stock and damaged the kitchen utensils in the process.

Both the families escaped to another place and saved their lives. Local people have demanded compensation and shelter for the victims.

Telkoi forest range officer Shivaji Mohan Rao said, "We have already visited the place and paid compensation to the victims. We are verifying more details about the money allegedly eaten up by jumbos. We are keeping eyes on the movement of the elephant herd and trying to drive them into the forest area."

Wild elephants frequently come out of the forest to the human habitations on rainy days, destroy houses and eat the rice. Former sarpanch Ban Bihari Nayak demanded compensation and protection for the people.

**पावरग्रिड POWERGRID**

**NOTICE**

- Approval under Regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations 1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2019 i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2024-29 tariff block for assets under 1. Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme - X (ERSS-X) and 2. Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme - XXIV (ERSS-XXIV) in Eastern Region.
- The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (i) Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd, (ii) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd, (iii) Grid Corporation Of Orissa Ltd., (iv) Damodar Valley Corporation, (v) Power Department, Govt Of Sikkim, Gangtok and (vi) Jharkhand Biji Vitran Nigam Ltd.
- Tariff details:
 

				Rs. In lakhs				
Asset / Project detail	DOCO	Completion Cost as on 31.03.2024	Tariff	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	26.12.2014	13317.54	Revised AFC based on truing up	2176.65	2114.73	2059.14	2008.21	1960.97
2	20.11.2022	337.37		-	-	-	16.14	52.16
- A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at [www.powergridindia.in](http://www.powergridindia.in).
- The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurugram Sd/-  
Date: 15.09.2024 General Manager (Commercial)

**POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
Reg. Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110016  
Corp. Office: "Saudamin" Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram-122001, (Haryana)  
[www.powergrid.in](http://www.powergrid.in), CIN: L40101DL1989GOI038121

**A Maharashtra PSU**

**Bank of India**  
Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015

**DEMAND NOTICE**

**Notice under Section 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 for Enforcement of Security Interest**

The Bank has granted following various credit facilities to the under mentioned Borrower & the amount outstanding dues mentioned below has not been paid in time. Therefore Demand Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 was issued by the Authorized Officer against the following Borrower of the **Bank of India, Puri Branch** but the same could not be served to the below mentioned party. Therefore, the contents of the same including the amount outstanding, Loan amount and details of the secured assets are herein furnished below.

PURI BRANCH / Name and Address of Borrower	Nature / Limit	Date of NPA / Date of Demand Notice	Amount as per Notice under SARFAESI Act	Details of the mortgaged property
Borrower: Mr. Ranjit Nayak, S/o: Mr. Radhanath Nayak, At: Mukunda Mishra Nagar, Puri	STAR HOME LOAN-1 / ₹10,24,424/-	28.08.2024	₹14,46,566/- as on 05.09.2024 + Interest & expenses thereon	Equitable Mortgage of all the part and parcel of Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 165/1588, Plot No.: 29/2443, Area: Ac. 0.015 Dec., Kissam: Gharabari, at Mouza: Gopinathpur@ Routarapur, P.S.: Puri Sadar, Mr. Nakula Dash & Road, South: Mr. Narahari Parida & Vacant Land, East: Road & Mrs. Sonali Patra, West: Mrs. Bijaylaxmi Nayak & Mr. Ullash Chandra Sahoo.
	STAR HOME LOAN-2 / ₹2,00,000/-	05.09.2024		
	<b>Total : ₹12,24,424/-</b>			

SRO: Puri, Tahasil: Puri, Dist.: Puri, Standing in the name of **Mr. Ranjit Nayak**, Bounded by North: Mr. Nakula Dash & Road, South: Mr. Narahari Parida & Vacant Land, East: Road & Mrs. Sonali Patra, West: Mrs. Bijaylaxmi Nayak & Mr. Ullash Chandra Sahoo.

As the above mentioned Borrower of **Puri Branch** have defaulted in repayment of the principal loan/ facility in installments/interest/ both, the account has been classified as **NPA**, in accordance with the directions or guidelines issued by the RBI. In spite of our repeated demands you (borrower) have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your account, you have not discharged your liabilities. Hence, we are now constrained to make this publication of Demand Notice, required u/s 13(2) of the said Act and Rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. You are hereby called upon to pay the aforesaid amount alongwith further interest, cost, Incidental Expenses, Charges etc. within a period of **60 days** from the date of Notice, failing which we will take necessary action under the provisions of sec 13(4) of the said Act. against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of your secured assets and sale them. If the dues are not fully recovered in the course of these actions against secured assets, then the Bank reserves the right to take action by filing recovery action against you before DRT/Court for recovery of the same. It may be noted that under the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, right of redemption is available to you, by paying the dues of the Bank together with all cost, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank at any time, till the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets. Please take note that as per sub section (13) of the aforesaid Act, after receipt of this notice, you are restrained from transferring or creating any encumbrances on the aforesaid secured assets whether by way of sale, lease, license, gift, mortgage or otherwise. **This notice is issued without prejudice to the rights of the Bank available under any other law.**

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date: 17.09.2024 Chief Manager & Authorized Officer, Bank of India



# national

## of the day quote

For me, the dignity and respect of our mothers and sisters are of utmost importance and non-negotiable. We owe this to the entire younger generation of ours, and it cannot be compromised under any circumstances

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CM, ASSAM

The junior doctors should now stop this drama. It has been going on for quite some time and has clearly crossed its limits. It is apparent that vested political interests are now dictating the agitation

SIDDIQUELLAH CHOWDHURY | SENIOR MINISTER, WEST BENGAL

Can democracy be preserved through the human chain? Is the misuse of taxpayers money an embellishment for democracy?

HD KUMARASWAMY | JD(S) LEADER

## SHORT TAKES

### Incessant rain lashes Jharkhand

Ranchi: Incessant rain lashed Jharkhand with the Weather department issuing an orange alert of heavy to very heavy rainfall for parts of the state Monday. The local MeT office predicted respite from the incessant rainfall, which has been lashing Jharkhand for the past two days, during the next 48 hours. Due to the downpour, mainly in Garhwa and Latehar districts, several culverts and diversions were washed away Sunday. Besides, the rainfall coupled with strong wind also damaged standing paddy crops in many areas, farmers said.

### Nine of family hit by pickup truck

Sambhal (UP): Five members of a family sitting on a road here were killed and four injured when a speeding pickup truck ran over them early Monday, officials said. The injured were sent to Aligarh for treatment, while the driver of the vehicle was detained, they said. The driver of the pickup truck also received injuries in the accident. Superintendent of Police Krishan Kumar said around 6 am, some people from Bhopatpur village were sitting on the side of the road when an oncoming vehicle from Gawa hit them at high speed.

### 6 cops suspended for gambling

Tikamgarh (MP): Six policemen were suspended after a video of them gambling surfaced on social media in Madhya Pradesh's Tikamgarh district, an official said Monday. Superintendent of Police (SP) Rohit Kashwani said six constables posted in different police stations were suspended after the purported video surfaced Sunday evening. The action has been taken against constables Manoj Ahirwar, Ritesh Mishra, and Suraj Rajput of Kotwali police station, Bhuvaneshwar Agnihotri and Anil Pachouri of Dehat police station and Salman Khan posted in Digora police station of the district, he said.

### 1 labourer killed in soil collapse

Ratlam (MP): A labourer was killed and another was injured when a heap of soil collapsed on them while working on a sewer line in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district, officials said Monday. The incident occurred in the Dilip Nagar area Sunday, and employees of a firm for which the labourers worked on contract staged a protest Monday.



The government's eviction drives were interpreted as actions against one community. We never worked against any community and neither will we do it

N BIREN SINGH | CM, MANIPUR

## DENGUE SURGE IN DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Monday said it has conducted over 2.59 crore household visits, identifying and destroying mosquito breeding sites in 1,56,932 homes, amid a rise in vector-borne diseases in the national capital



## KOLKATA DOC RAPE-MURDER

# Doctors allege tampering of evidence

ADDRESSING A PRESS CONFERENCE, THEY REITERATED THEIR DEMAND FOR A LIVE STREAMING OF THE MEETING BETWEEN THEM AND THE WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 16: Senior doctors of RG Kar Medical College Monday alleged tampering of evidence in the Kolkata doctor rape and murder case.

Addressing a press conference here, they reiterated their demand for a live streaming of the meeting between them and the West Bengal government.

"We condemn all such heinous crimes. This crime is a fallout of the nexus between the West Bengal government and Health department officials," said one of the doctors.

The doctors alleged there was "tampering of evidence".

In a statement, the doctors have demanded that they want



concerned authorities, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Supreme Court to expedite the investigation process and punish the culprits without any delay.

Remove the director medical education (DME), director health services (DHS) and health secretary as their signatures are present in the order for construction work in the immediate auspices of the crime scene, when it should have been completely cordoned off, they demanded in the statement.

The doctors have also demanded the removal of Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goel for his administrative failure and evidence tampering,

disciplinary action against deputy commissioner (north) for his incompetence and offering money to the victim's parents, and deputy commissioner (central) for trying to hide the identity of a suspected person present inside the crime scene.

They demanded proper security and functional basic amenities in all hospitals and government healthcare centres.

Their fifth demand was to end threat culture prevalent in all facets of government healthcare facilities.

In the statement, the doctors have stated that numerous attempts have been made to politically exploit their movement but have been successfully defied

## Ex-principal gave 'deceptive' answers during polygraph, claims CBI

RG Kar Medical College's former principal Sandip Ghosh was found to be "deceptive" while answering important questions on the rape and murder of a trainee woman postgraduate doctor during his polygraph test and layered voice analysis, officials said. The CBI, probing the case, arrested Ghosh September 2 in connection with financial irregularities at the hospital. The federal probe agency later added charges of evidence tampering against him. During the investigation, Ghosh was subjected to layered voice analysis and polygraph test. According to a report from Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), New Delhi, his version has been found to be "deceptive on certain important issues" relating to this case, officials in the know of the developments said. Information revealed during the polygraph test may not be used as evidence during the trial but the agency may gather corroborative evidence which could be used in court, they said.

## SC to hear plea Tuesday

The Supreme Court is likely to hear Tuesday a case it has initiated on its own following the rape and murder of a resident doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata amid the ongoing protests by doctors in West Bengal. The hearing assumes significance as resident doctors continue their strike despite the apex court's directive to them to resume work by 5 pm September 10 to avoid punitive action by the state government which had claimed that their absence from work had led to the death of 23 patients till September 9, the day the case was last heard.

from their side.

They said many false narratives and rumours have been spread regarding their movement but could never dampen their spirit. They stand firm, rooted to their cause in finding

justice despite all threats posed at them and their movement, they added. The doctors are presently sitting in front of Swasthoyo Bhavan for the last six days to make the state government fulfil their demands, it said.

## J&K ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

# Will bury terrorism so deep, nobody can dare revive it: Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Sept 16: Asserting that the BJP-led central government will "bury terrorism" so deep that it can never rise again, Union Home Minister Amit Shah Monday alleged that the National Conference, PDP and the Congress wanted to release terrorists and stone-pelters to plunge Jammu and Kashmir into a terror inferno again.

Addressing three election rallies on the last day of campaigning for the first phase of Assembly elections September 18, the BJP leader said no talks or cross-LoC trade with Pakistan which was suspended in April 2019 will take place unless terrorism is completely eliminated.

Shah urged voters to "defeat the dynasties" of the Abdullas, Gandhis and the Muftis, alleging that terrorism thrived under their rule.

"For once, defeat these three families, and I promise you terrorism will be buried so deep, it won't return for seven generations," he said.

Shah said the Narendra Modi-led government would provide jobs to youths holding laptops and tricolour in their hands and would not allow these parties to revive terrorism.

Jails are ready for those holding guns, said the minister, who addressed rallies in Padder-Nagseni, Kishtwar and Ramban



Today, I promise to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including this region which has a history of sacrifices following the eruption of terrorism in 1990, that we will bury terrorism to such a deep level that it will never surface again

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

in support of BJP candidates.

He launched a scathing attack on National Conference (NC) president Parooq Abdullah, saying he had stooped so low in his desperation that he had made unfounded allegations of the Indian Army having links with terrorists.

Referring to former home minister Sushil Shinde's recent remarks at the launch of his memoir that he was scared while visiting Lal Chowk, the nerve centre of Srinagar, during his ministerial stint, Shah invited the Congress leader to visit the valley along with his family.

"You might have heard a tall Congress leader Shinde from Maharashtra who said that he was afraid of visiting Lal Chowk. I want to tell him that he should come with his children and

grandchildren now."

Referring to the 'Ekta Yatra' led by the then BJP president Murlu Manohar Joshi in December 1991, Shah said he along with Modi were part of the yatra which was supposed to unfurl the tricolour at Lal Chowk but was stopped at Ramban.

Addressing his first election rally of the day in Gulabgarh in the Padder-Nagseni Assembly segment in support of former minister Sunil Sharma, Shah said the National Conference-Congress alliance will not be able to form the J&K government.

"Today, I promise to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, including this region which has a history of sacrifices following the eruption of terrorism in 1990, that we will bury terrorism to such a deep level that it will never surface again," the home minister said, adding attempts are being made to revive and strengthen terrorism like the 1990s.



Union Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu, Agra MP and Union Minister of State SP Singh Baghel and other BJP leaders during flag-off of the Agra-Varanasi Vande Bharat train by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, through video conference, in Agra

PTI PHOTO

## ADRE GROUP III 2024

# Assam CM orders probe into 'inappropriate' frisking incident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 16: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Monday directed the DGP to investigate the allegation of a job aspirant that a woman constable searched her private parts before she entered an examination hall in Nalbari during the test for filling up Group-III posts.

The state unit of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) later sent a



letter to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), alleging violation of the candidate's basic rights.

Sarma added that the director general of police informed him of

another incident in North Lakhimpur, where "cheating material" was recovered from a woman candidate during the exam.

"My instruction to the police on the Nalbari incident - I spoke with the DGP Assam, @gpsinghps and instructed him to investigate the incident where a girl student has alleged that a lady constable searched her private parts before she entered the examination hall," Sarma posted on 'X'.

# 'One nation, one election not possible under present Constitution'

The Congress leader said Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not have the numbers to place the required Constitutional amendments either in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 16: Congress leader P Chidambaram Monday lashed out at the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre over the 'one nation, one election' issue, saying it is not possible under the present Constitution and requires at least five constitutional amendments.

Replying to a question on reports that the BJP-led NDA government would implement 'one nation, one election' within its current tenure, he said Prime

Minister Narendra Modi does not have the numbers to place those constitutional amendments either in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha.

In his Independence Day address last month, the prime minister made a strong pitch for 'one nation, one election', contending that frequent polls were creating hurdles in the country's progress.

Addressing reporters here, Chidambaram said, "One nation, one election" is not possible under the present Constitution. It requires at least five constitutional amendments."

"Mr Modi does not have the majority to put those constitutional amendments in either in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha," the former Union minister said.

He asserted that there were greater constitutional obstacles to 'one nation, one election'. "It is not possible. The INDIA bloc



is totally opposed to 'one nation, one election'."

Chidambaram rejected Modi's allegation that the Congress wanted to end reservation. "Why should we abolish reservation?" he asked rhetorically.

"We are the ones who are saying that the reservation ceiling of 50 per cent must be removed. We are the ones who are asking for a caste census. We are saying reservation must be according

to the population. Do not believe everything the prime minister says," he told the reporters.

At a rally in Kurukshetra September 15, Modi lashed out at the Congress, alleging its "royal family" intended to end reservation for Dalits and asserted that as long as he was there, he would not let even a fraction of reservation given by BR Ambedkar be looted or removed.

We are the ones who are saying that the reservation ceiling of 50 per cent must be removed. We are the ones who are asking for a caste census. We are saying reservation must be according to the population. Do not believe everything the prime minister says

P CHIDAMBARAM | CONGRESS LEADER

On the possibility of the Congress announcing its chief ministerial candidate for the October 5 Haryana Assembly polls, he said, "The practice is that elections take place, MLAs gather and their preferences are asked. Then the high command announces who will be the chief minister. I think the same practice will be followed in Haryana".

On Modi's accusation of financial mismanagement by Congress governments in

Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka, Chidambaram said, "Everything that the PM says is not necessarily true. I do not agree."

Himachal Pradesh finances are being managed and I do not think that they have a management crisis of finances, he said.

All that was "rubbish electoral rhetoric", Chidambaram said, adding, "It was said a few months ago but the people of India did not believe it".

The senior Congress leader hit out at the BJP government in the state over several issues, including unemployment, agriculture and state debt.

He appealed to the people to vote for the Congress in the Assembly elections and promised that his party would bring back growth in Haryana, give a fillip to development, agriculture, and industry, and tackle issues of unemployment and inflation.

## AAP MLAs to pick Kejriwal's successor



Kejriwal will meet the lieutenant governor at 4:30 pm Tuesday and is likely to tender his resignation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 16: AAP leaders Monday held a series of meetings to discuss probabilities for the chief minister's post, a day before party MLAs meet to finalise a successor for Arvind Kejriwal, who is likely to tender his resignation to Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena.

Days after being released from Tihar jail on bail in the excise policy case, the AAP national convenor said Sunday that he would resign within 48 hours and sought early polls in Delhi. He vowed not to sit in the chief minister's chair till people gave him a "certificate of honesty".

AAP held a series of meetings Monday as Kejriwal sought feedback from members of the political affairs committee, the party's highest decision-making body, on his successor in one-on-one meetings at his official residence. Earlier in the day, the AAP supremo met senior leaders, including former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha, about the party's choice for chief minister.

Names of Delhi ministers Atishi, Gopal Rai, Kailash Gahlot and Saurabh Bharadwaj are making the rounds as contenders, party insiders said and added that Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal and Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel were also probable. Kejriwal will meet the lieutenant governor at 4:30 pm Tuesday and is likely to tender his resignation.

Before this meeting, AAP will hold a legislative party meeting at 11:30 am to zero in on its pick for chief minister. Talking to reporters after the political affairs committee meeting, Bharadwaj said Kejriwal held "one-on-one talks" with party leaders to get their feedback on his successor.



## of the day quote

The crude oil prices have come down by around 24 per cent in last ten years, but petrol price in India has gone up by 30 per cent. Why are petrol prices in India not decreasing despite a decline in global crude oil prices?

DEREK O'BRIEN | TRINAMOL CONGRESS LEADER

How difficult is it to gather 30,000 people by using money? The PM has addressed a rally earlier as well by gathering government employees

OMAR ABDULLAH | NC LEADER

This year, the theme is 'Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management', which underscores a fundamental truth that achieving sustainable water management cannot be done by governments alone. Water needs to be everybody's business

DEBASHREE MUKHERJEE | SECRETARY OF WATER RESOURCES

## X POST OF THE DAY

In the Badlapur school sexual assault case the two accused under POCSO, Tushar Apte and Uday Kotwal are still on the run. No effort being made to bring them to book. After all BJP office bearers come with impunity so allow crime with impunity.

@PRIYANKAC19

## SHORT TAKES

### 5 Bangladeshis held in Assam

**Guwahati:** Five Bangladeshis were arrested in Assam's South Salmara district for allegedly entering India illegally, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. In a joint operation, the state police and the BSF intercepted an auto-rickshaw at Mankachar near the international border and apprehended the Bangladeshis, he said. During questioning, those apprehended revealed that they crossed over from Sherpur in Bangladesh, and an Indian, identified as Pappan of Mankachar, was involved in the infiltration nexus, he added.

### 3 Naxalites held in Jharkhand

**Latehar:** Three Naxalites were arrested in Jharkhand's Latehar district, police said Monday. All three were associated with the proscribed People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI), they said. They were identified as PLFI's 'sub-zonal commander' Ramvijay Singh and members Rupesh Ram and Dharmendra Lohra, police said. DSP Ashutosh Kumar Satyam said acting on a tip-off that some PLFI members were heading to Herhanj on a motorcycle to collect a levy, a raid was conducted and the arrests were made Sunday night.

### INDIA bloc to observe bandh Sept 18

**Puducherry:** The INDIA bloc has called for a dawn to dusk bandh in Puducherry Sept 18 to condemn the current hike in power tariff and also to protest the move of the territorial government to introduce pre-paid metres for power supply and to privatise distribution of power.



The law and order situation has completely collapsed in the state. They (NDA leaders) are patronising criminals in the state. The CM has become deaf and mute. He is simply maintaining a stoic silence over the issue

TEJASHWI YADAV | RJD LEADER

### BHUJ-AHMEDABAD VANDE METRO RENAMED

The Railway Ministry has renamed the Bhuj-Ahmedabad Vande Metro to Namu Bharat Rapid Rail hours before its inaugural run Monday, according to a spokesperson. The service flagged off from the Bhuj railway station at 4:15 pm virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said. The Rapid Rail will cover 359 km distance from Bhuj to Ahmedabad in 5:45 hours



## 100 DAYS OF MODI 3.0

# Congress slams PM as 'weak', says running 'U-turn' govt

CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON SUPRIYA SHRINATE SAID THE PAST 100 DAYS HAD WEIGHED HEAVILY ON THE NATION'S FARMERS, YOUTH, WOMEN, INFRASTRUCTURE, RAILWAYS, AND OVERALL PEACE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** With Modi 3.0 completing 100 days, the Congress Monday claimed that Narendra Modi in his third term had proven to be a "weak" prime minister who was dependent on crutches and setting new records for U-turns.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said the past 100 days had weighed heavily on the nation's farmers, youth, women, infrastructure, Railways, and overall peace.

These hundred days have proven that Modi has neither a solution nor a vision for the country's problems, she said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters.

Modi's "habit" of turning a blind eye to issues and running away from challenges continues to persist, she claimed.

"Each moment of the government in these 100 days has been marked by instability, indecision and immaturity. There have been multiple attempts to inflate a punctured balloon but the thorn pricked by the public in the Lok Sabha elections has not given Narendra Modi any chance to rise again," she said.



These hundred days have proven that Modi has neither a solution nor a vision for the country's problems, she said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters

"Do you remember the tall claims made during the election campaign that Narendra Modi was planning for the first 100 days? Where is that plan now? Because from day one, Modi has proven to be a weak prime minister, dependent on crutches, setting new records for U-turns," Shrinate said and cited alleged U-turns on issues of lateral entry in civil services, broadcast bill, Waqf bill, indexation and NPS.

Posing questions to the prime minister, Shrinate asked if he had any plan or vision for the next five years. "Do you have a plan to improve relations with our neighbouring countries? Do you have a plan to address the economy, income inequality, unemployment, inflation, or women's safety?" Shrinate asked.

"You have nothing left. Your relationship with the RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) has turned bitter, there's intense infighting within your party, and your government lacks direction. The flattery of a few yes-men may bring you comfort but you are disconnected from the reality of the country,"

Shrinate said. She said during the last 100 days, there had been 38 train accidents with 21 deaths and more than 112 injuries. Alleging that the 100 days of the government witnessed "crumbling infrastructure" and corruption exposed, she said 56 major infrastructure projects, including airports, bridges, roads, and statues inaugurated recently, had collapsed.

"The Jabalpur airport, Delhi, and Rajkot airports couldn't withstand a single rain. Shivaji's statue broke within eight months. The leaking roof of the new Parliament building, with water falling into buckets below, is evidence of failure. Water is leaking inside the sanctum sanctorum of the (Ayodhya) Ram mandir. The ₹18,000-crore Atal Setu has developed cracks. The Sudarshan Setu in Gujarat, inaugurated in February, now has cracks and potholes," she alleged.

Shrinate also raised the issue of terror attacks, saying 26 such attacks had taken place, with 21 soldiers martyred in the 100-day period.

## Samajwadi Party alleges land grab in Ayodhya

The verified X handle of the Samajwadi Party Media Cell posted two clips, and a news report about an alleged scuffle between employees of the the business group and farmers in Ayodhya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, Sept 16:** The Samajwadi Party has claimed that a business group was "grabbing land" of the most backward Manjhi caste in Ayodhya and alleged that its goons "indulged in hooliganism with farmers", a charge the business conglomerate has denied.

After Samajwadi Party (SP) Chief Akhilesh Yadav and his party posted videos of a clash between two groups and claimed that it was related to land grabbing, the local police said it was taking legal action in the matter and added that the allegations were "not true".

The verified X handle of the Samajwadi Party Media Cell posted two clips, and a news report about an alleged scuffle between employees of the the business group and farmers in Ayodhya.

In the post accompanying the clips, it alleged, "In Ayodhya, under the instructions/partnership/protection/direction of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, big industrialists are forcibly occupying lands of Dalit/backward class farmers."

"After the Ram Mandir verdict, Ayodhya has become a hotspot for property and all the BJP/Chief Minister Adityanath/big industrialists want to wash their hands/take a bath/occupy land in the Saryu,"



it said in Hindi. The handle also shared an X post by party chief Yadav in which he shared a clip of the scuffle.

He said in the post accompanying the clip, "Detention of farmers in Ayodhya and relief to billionaires. Is the government still in power in UP or has it retired?"

The Samajwadi Party Media Cell further alleged in its post, "Abhinandan Lodha Group is occupying lands of the people of the Manjhi community of the extremely backward class and its goons are forcibly beating, coercing and involved in hooliganism with the farmers in Ayodhya. The police administration is sold out at the behest/direction of Chief Minister Adityanath and is unethically supporting the Lodha Group and has sent the farmers to jail."

The Ayodhya Police also replied to the Samajwadi Party Media Cell's post and said legal action was being taken. It also posted a video of Senior Superintendent of Police (Ayodhya) Raj Karan Nayyar clarifying the details of the said incident.

"Based on the application received in connection with the referenced case, a case has been registered by the Ayodhya police station inspector in-charge and necessary legal action is being taken. The facts written in the tweet are incorrect," the police said in its post.

## India deplores Iranian supreme leader's comments on minorities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** India Monday strongly deplored comments made by Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on the condition of minorities in India, calling the remarks "misinformed and unacceptable".

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said countries commenting on minorities in India should look at their "own record" before making any observations about others.

"We strongly deplore the comments made regarding minorities in India by the Supreme Leader of Iran. These are misinformed and unacceptable," he said.



"Countries commenting on minorities are advised to look at their own record before making any observations about others," Jaiswal said.

The Iranian leader, addressing a gathering of clerics in Tehran Monday, talked about what he described as "suffering" of Muslims in Gaza, Myanmar and India.

"The enemies of Islam have always tried to make us indifferent with regard to our shared identity as an Islamic Ummah. We cannot consider ourselves to be Muslims if we are oblivious to the suffering that a Muslim is enduring in #Myanmar, #Gaza, #India, or any other place," he posted on 'X' as part of series of posts on the event.

## ATTACK ON ARMY OFFICERS

# MP court remands six accused in judicial custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Indore, Sept 16:** A court in Madhya Pradesh's Indore Monday remanded in judicial custody six men arrested for the alleged attack on two Army officers and rape of their woman friend, police said.

The accused, Anil Baror (27), Pawan Bansoonia (23), Ritesh Bhabhar (25), Rohit Girwal (23), Sandeep Wariya (18) and Sachin Makwana (25), were produced before the court after their police custody ended. Additional Superintendent of Police Rupesh Kumar Dwivedi said.

The court ordered that all six accused be sent to judicial custody, he said.



The attack occurred near Jam Gate, a popular tourist spot some 30 kilometres from the Mhow military cantonment, on the intervening night of September 10 and 11, as per police.

Dwivedi claimed that during police interrogation, the accused confessed to their role in the crime.

Asked about the rape allegation in the FIR, the ASP said, "The woman is in a state of shock, and she does not want to give any statement as of now."

## Report flags 'lack of coordination'

20 cheetahs were reintroduced in India 2022. However, since then the project has been plagued by various problems including deaths of the big cats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** A report by the Accountant General of Madhya Pradesh has flagged concerns over the management of 'Project Cheetah' in Kuno National Park. The report has highlighted a 'lack of coordination' between central and state government departments. Incidentally both the Centre and Madhya Pradesh have BJP governments.

## PROJECT CHEETAH



The report also revealed that despite the arrival of cheetahs from Africa, the park's management plan for 2020-2030 has no mention of cheetah reintroduction.

When asked about these concerns, the chief conservator of forests and director of the Lion Project in Madhya Pradesh, Uttam Sharma, said they had provided responses to the auditors but de-

clined to share specific details. "It's a routine exercise which is conducted in several phases. Any action, if required, will be taken after the completion of the entire process," Sharma stated.

As part of the first-ever inter-continental translocation of the big cats, 20 cheetahs have been brought to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh so far - eight from Namibia in September 2022

and 12 from South Africa in February 2023. Since their arrival in India, eight adult cheetahs - three females and five males - have died.

Seventeen cubs have been born in India, with 12 surviving, bringing the total number of cheetahs, including cubs, in Kuno to 24. Currently, all are in enclosures. The grand initiative completes two years Tuesday.

The audit, covering the period from August 2019 to November 2023, found that ground staff and the Kuno Wildlife Division were not involved in either 'site selection' or 'cheetah reintroduction study'.

The audit report said: "It is evident from the statements of the Forest Division of that there was a lack of coordination between the departments of Government of India and the Government of Madhya Pradesh."

## Top Navy commanders to review maritime security challenges

THE NAVAL COMMANDERS CONFERENCE IS THE APEX LEVEL BIENNIAL EVENT THAT FACILITATES DELIBERATIONS ON SIGNIFICANT STRATEGIC, OPERATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** Top commanders of the Indian Navy will carry out a comprehensive review of India's maritime security challenges, including China's growing forays into the Indian Ocean, at a four-day conclave beginning Tuesday.

The commanders are also likely to deliberate on the overall situation in the Red Sea and adjoining areas that witnessed a series of attacks by Houthis militants on cargo vessels till a few weeks back.

The conference would witness comprehensive review of the operational preparedness, discussions on the Navy's capabil-

ity enhancement plan, promoting national vision of indigenisation and realising combat effectiveness of Naval forces, officials said.

The ambitious theatisation plan of the government is also set to figure prominently during the deliberations.

The naval commanders conference is the apex level biennial event that facilitates deliberations on significant strategic, operational and administrative issues.

Being held against the backdrop of evolving geo-political and geo-strategic dynamics, regional challenges and complexity in maritime security situations in West Asia, the conference



is set to play a crucial role in shaping the future course of the Indian Navy, the officials said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address the commanders on matters pertaining to national security and national expectations, Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said.

The Chief of Defence Staff along with the Chiefs of Indian Army and Indian Air Force will

engage with naval commanders to foster collaborations amongst the three services across the spectrum of conflict and convergence towards theatisation, he said.

The conference will commence with the inaugural address by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.

Admiral Tripathi will review major operational, materiel, logistic, human resources devel-

Being held against the backdrop of evolving geo-political and geo-strategic dynamics, regional challenges and complexity in maritime security situations in West Asia, the conference is set to play a crucial role in shaping the future course of the Indian Navy

The commanders will review the ongoing naval projects to enhance indigenisation through 'Make in India' initiative in consonance with the vision of 'Aatmanirbharta' (self-reliance) by 2047

opment, training and administrative activities pursued by the Indian Navy over the last six months and deliberate upon key milestones to be crossed to safeguard maritime interests, Madhwal said.

"The Indian Navy has responded with strength and resolve against emerging threats of drones and missiles affecting safety of trade, demonstrating its capability as preferred se-

curity responder in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)," he said.

The commanders will also review the ongoing naval projects to enhance indigenisation through 'Make in India' initiative in consonance with the vision of 'Aatmanirbharta' (self-reliance) by 2047, the officials said. "Towards Navy's commitment to protect India's maritime interests in the region, the conference would witness comprehensive review of the operational preparedness, inter alia discussions on the Navy's capability enhancement plan, promoting national vision of indigenisation, self-reliance and realising combat effectiveness of Naval forces," Madhwal said.

"The commanders' conference as a pivotal platform upholds Navy's commitment to safeguard India's maritime interests and Navy's status as a 'combat ready, credible, cohesive and future ready force'," he added.



# international



**Sri Lanka continues to maintain its official embassy in Tel Aviv, which has been the sole diplomatic mission in Israel since 2000. The embassy remains fully operational, serving as the primary diplomatic channel between the two countries**  
ALI SABRY | MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SRI LANKA

## BEBINCA MAKES LANDFALL

The strongest storm to hit Shanghai in over 70 years made landfall Monday, with flights cancelled and highways closed as Typhoon Bebinca lashed the city with strong winds and torrential rains



## of the day quote

It takes a person a week to travel to Yemen (from Iran), how could this missile have gotten there? We don't have such missiles to provide to Yemen  
MASOUD PEZESHKIAN | PRESIDENT, IRAN

During the UN General Assembly, I will clearly put my views on Nepal's constitution, democratic values, identity as a sovereign independent nation, justifiable national interest, and international commitment  
KP SHARMA OLI | PM, NEPAL

It is clear that Russia is invincible militarily. If the war escalates further, the consequences will be very serious for all mankind, first of all, for the states directly involved in the Russia-Ukraine conflict  
KASSYM-JOMART TOKAYEV | PRESIDENT, KAZAKHSTAN

# Ukraine denies links to 'delusional' suspect

*The Secret Service foils a second assassination attempt on the Republican candidate for President, Donald Trump*

REUTERS

**Kyiv, Sept 16:** Kyiv Monday denied links to a man accused of trying to assassinate former US President Donald Trump, after it emerged that the suspect was a supporter of Ukraine who had said he wanted to recruit foreign volunteers to fight there. Trump was safe Sunday after the Secret Service foiled what the FBI called the second apparent assassination attempt on the Republican candidate for President in two months, capturing a gunman who had brought a rifle to Trump's golf course.

Media interviews and social media posts showed that the reported suspect, Ryan Routh, 58,

## TRUMP MURDER ATTEMPT



was a staunch supporter of Ukraine who had traveled there after Russia's 2022 invasion. Ukrainian officials said they had nothing to do with him, and accused Moscow of seizing on the link for propaganda purposes. The Kremlin, for its part, implied there was a link between the assassination attempt and US support for Kyiv, saying "playing with fire has its consequences".

The apparent attempt on Trump's life came just two months after he was grazed in the right ear when a gunman fired on him at a campaign rally. That shooter was killed in return fire

- Reported suspect visited Ukraine after Russian invasion
- Ukrainian officials say they had no link to him

by security agents.

Both incidents highlight the challenge of keeping presidential candidates safe in a febrile campaign, with just over seven weeks to go before the November 5 election.

"I would like to thank everyone for your concern and well wishes. It was certainly an interesting day!" Trump said on social media late Sunday, thanking Secret Service and police

It is not us who should be thinking, it is the US intelligence services who should be thinking. In any case, playing with fire has its consequences  
DMITRY PESKOV | KREMLIN SPOKESMAN, RUSSIA

for keeping him safe.

Trump's election Opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, said on X "Violence has no place in America."

President Joe Biden directed his team to ensure the Secret Service has the resources it needs to ensure Trump's safety. Supporter of Ukraine

Routh, of Hawaii, was widely identified in US media as the suspect although he was not immediately named by law enforcement. Late Sunday, Secret Service and Homeland Security agents searched a home in Greensboro, North Carolina, which a neighbor told Reuters had belonged to Routh.

Evidence of Routh's support for Ukraine quickly emerged after Sunday's incident, including footage of him in 2022 speak-

ing to Newsweek Romania in Kyiv, where he had set up a tent with flags of countries representing volunteers who died in Ukraine.

He said he had aimed to help recruit foreign fighters, having been rejected as too old to volunteer himself.

"A lot of the other conflicts are grey but this conflict is definitely black and white. This is about good versus evil," Routh said, showing emotion as he pleaded to the camera in a shirt with American flag symbols.

"If the governments will not send their official military, then we, civilians, have to pick up the torch." The New York Times reported that it had also interviewed Routh, in 2023, when Routh said he was trying to recruit former fighters from Afghanistan to bring them to Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials said they had nothing to do with him.

Routh had "never been part of, associated with, or linked to the International Legion in any capacity," the unit which includes foreign volunteers for Ukrainian forces told Reuters.

## US PASTOR DETAINED IN CHINA FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS RELEASED

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Washington, Sept 16:** A Christian pastor from California has been freed from China after nearly 20 years behind bars and is back home in the US, the State Department said Monday.

David Lin, 68, was detained after he entered China in 2006, later convicted of contract fraud and sentenced to life in prison, according to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom and advocacy groups.



"We welcome David Lin's release from prison in the People's Republic of China. He has returned to the United States and now gets to see his family for the first time in nearly 20 years," the State Department said.

Lin frequently travelled to China in the 1990s to spread the gospel, according to China Aid, an US-based advocacy group for persecuted activists in China. The group said Lin sought a license from the Chinese government to carry out Christian ministry. It's unlikely he was granted permission, and he was detained in 2006 when assisting an underground church, China Aid said.

Lin was formally arrested in 2009 on suspicion of contract fraud and, after a court review, was sentenced to life in prison, China Aid said.

In China, all Christian churches must pledge loyalty to the ruling Communist Party and register with the government. Any unregistered church is considered an underground church, and its activities are considered unlawful in China. Beijing has always cracked down on "unlawful preaching," and efforts have only intensified in the past decade.

## China calls for crackdown against Tibet separatists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Beijing, Sept 16:** China's top security official visited Tibet last week and instructed the local authorities to step up a crackdown against separatists in the backdrop of the US stepping up its support for the region by passing a new law pressing Beijing to hold talks with the Dalai Lama.

Chen Wenqing, the head of the Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission, the ruling Communist Party's top security body, visited the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and some of the 10 Tibetan autonomous prefectures across Yunnan, Sichuan, Gansu and Qinghai last week and reviewed security. He called for a resolute crackdown against separatists. He also asked the local officials to maintain stability and guard against independence activities, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported Monday.

His visit took place as China is tightening security in Tibet ahead of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic to be celebrated October 1.

China's top judges and prosecutors have also made their rounds of Tibet.

Zhang Jun, President of the Supreme People's Court, visited Tibetan courts last week and said it was necessary to hand down tough punishment to keep up the pressure on violent terrorism, ethnic separatism and other serious criminal crimes, the Post reported.

Ying Yong, head of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, also inspected public prosecutors' offices in Tibet earlier this month.

He stressed the need for pro-



secutors to "harshly crack down on all kinds of separatist infiltration, sabotage activities and crimes endangering national security in accordance with the law".

In July, the US passed the Resolve Tibet Act, which enhances its support for Tibet and promotes dialogue between China and the Dalai Lama toward a peaceful resolution of the dispute over the status and governance of the remote Himalayan region.

Signing the legislation passed by the US Senate and the Congress in July, President Joe Biden said it showed the bipartisan commitment in America to advancing the human rights of Tibetans and supporting efforts to preserve their distinct linguistic, cultural, and religious heritage.

He also called on Beijing to resume direct dialogue, without preconditions, with the Dalai Lama, or his representatives, to seek a settlement that resolves differences and leads to a negotiated agreement on Tibet.

China opposed the Resolve Tibet Act, terming it as a destabilising Act.

## SNIPPETS

### Saudi Arabia to allow tougher nuclear oversight

VIENNA: Saudi Arabia plans to scrap light-touch oversight of its nuclear facilities by the UN atomic watchdog and switch to regular safeguards by the end of this year, the kingdom said Monday, a step the watchdog has long been calling for.

Saudi Arabia has a nascent nuclear programme that it wants to expand to eventually include activities like proliferation-sensitive uranium enrichment. Riyadh has yet to fire up its first nuclear reactor, which allows its programme to still be monitored under the Small Quantities Protocol (SQP), an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency that exempts less advanced states from many reporting obligations and inspections. "The kingdom has submitted a request to the agency in July 2024 to rescind the Small Quantities Protocol and implement to the full Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement," Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman told.



### 3 journalists attempting to flee to India held in B'desh

DHAKA: Three journalists and another person were taken into custody while allegedly attempting to flee Bangladesh through the northern Mymensingh border with India, the police said Monday.

Prominent journalists Mozammel Babu, the chief editor of the private Ekator TV, and Bhorer Kagoj editor Shyamol Dutta, who were among the four detained while attempting to flee in a car early Monday, were considered close to ousted premier Sheikh Hasina's regime and face "several cases" in Dhaka. Others taken into custody included Ekator TV reporter Mahbabur Rahman and driver Selim, the police said. They were initially detained by the neighbourhood police near the zero line of the Dhubaura border of Mymensingh district at 6 am, the police said. The villagers later handed them over to Mymensingh police, it said.



## Italy tests AI-assisted teaching

*AI-assisted software would be tested in 15 classrooms across four regions, with a view to expand the scheme later if the experiment is successful*

REUTERS

**Rome, Sept 16:** Italy is introducing artificial intelligence in its schools as Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government explores new ways to close the country's digital skills gap with other European Union members.

Education Minister Giuseppe Valditara said this week, when schools reopened across Italy, that AI-assisted software would be tested in 15 classrooms across



four regions, with a view to expand the scheme later if the experiment is successful.

AI tools on classroom tablets and computers will act as "virtual assistants that can make learning easier for students and help teachers identify methods for an increasingly bespoke education," the minister told the TGcom24 news channel.

Italy has one of the worst basic digital skills scores in the 27-member EU, according to the bloc's statistical agency Eurostat,

Italy has one of the worst basic digital skills scores in the 27-member EU, according to the bloc's statistical agency Eurostat

faring better only than Latvia, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania. Few details were given about the initiative, however. Valditara's office was not able to confirm the names of the schools that would test the new technology and expand on its workings.

However, the planned evaluation of the trial starting with this school year is "promising", Francesca Bastagli, head of research at the Fondazione Agnelli educational think tank, told

ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Dubai, Sept 16: The Taliban have suspended polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, the UN said Monday.

It's a devastating setback for polio eradication, since the virus is one of the world's most infectious and any unvaccinated groups of children where the virus is spreading could undo years of progress.

Afghanistan is one of two countries in which the spread of the potentially fatal, paralyzing disease has never been stopped. The other is Pakistan. It's likely that the Taliban's decision will have major repercussions for other countries in the region and beyond.

News of the suspension was relayed to UN agencies right before the September immunisation



campaign was due to start. No reason was given for the suspension, and no one from the Taliban-controlled government was immediately available for comment.

A top official from the World Health Organisation said it was

aware of discussions to move away from house-to-house vaccinations and instead have immunisations in places like mosques.

The WHO has confirmed 18 polio cases in Afghanistan this year, all but two in the south of

## Putin extends army count to 2nd largest after China

REUTERS

**Moscow, Sept 16:** President Vladimir Putin Monday ordered the regular size of the Russian army to increase by 180,000 troops to 1.5 million soldiers, the third time he has expanded its ranks since sending the military into Ukraine in February 2022.

In a decree published on the Kremlin's website, Putin ordered the overall size of the armed forces to be increased to 2.38 million people, of which he said 1.5 million should be active servicemen.

Putin since 2022 had previously ordered two official increases in the number of combat troops, by 137,000 and 170,000 respectively.

In addition, Russia mobilised over 300,000 soldiers in



September and October 2022 in an exercise which prompted tens of thousands of draft-age men to flee the country.

The Kremlin has said that no new mobilisation is planned for now, however, and that the idea is to continue to rely on volunteers signing up to fight in Ukraine on lucrative contracts.



# business

## of the day quote

I think there is a good opportunity available to bring in an era of freshness, an era of disruption, a new way of bringing in exclusive experiences curation for the customer




**GAURAV GUPTA**  
CHIEF GROWTH OFFICER, JSW MG MOTOR INDIA

Today, Startup India is housed in Invest India. I think, now startup India has become such a powerful ecosystem by itself that it should have a house of its own.



**PIYUSH GOYAL**  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

As one of India's largest private sector power utilities, Torrent Power stands committed to contributing to the nation's RE journey



**SAMIR MEHTA**  
CHAIRMAN OF TORRENT GROUP

## SHORT TAKES

### Blockbuster debut

**New Delhi:** Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd became the most valued housing finance company in the country, following a blockbuster market debut Monday where the stock more than doubled. Shares of Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd made a solid market debut and ended with a huge premium of nearly 136 per cent against the issue price of ₹70. The stock listed at ₹150 on the BSE and NSE, reflecting a jump of 114.28 per cent from the issue price, in a much-awaited listing. It zoomed 135.7 per cent to settle at ₹164.99 -- its upper circuit limit -- on the BSE. At the NSE, shares of the firm surged 135.71 per cent to settle at the upper circuit limit of ₹165. At the close of trade, the market capitalisation (mcap) of Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd stood at ₹1,37,406.09 crore.

### HMSI recalls bikes

**New Delhi:** Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Monday said it is recalling certain units of its bike models like CB350 and H'ness CB350 due to issues with wheel speed sensor and camshaft. The company is recalling CB300F, CB300R, CB350, H'ness CB350 and CB350RS, manufactured between October 2020 and April 2024, for issues with wheel speed sensor, the two wheeler major said in a statement. "It has been observed that due to an improper molding procedure being followed, water may seep into the wheel speed sensor. This may lead to a speed sensor malfunction causing error in the speedometer, traction control or ABS intervention," it said. In the worst case scenario, it may result in ineffective braking, it added. Units manufactured from October 2020 to April 2024 are affected under this potential issue, the company said. For issues with camshaft component, HMSI is recalling units of CB350, H'ness CB350 and CB350RS.

### Oil leak plugged

**New Delhi:** A minor oil leak happened on a pipeline in offshore Mumbai Monday morning, which was promptly arrested, state-owned ONGC said. "On the morning of September 16, 2024, at around 0600 hrs, ONGC team of Uran Plant (in Mumbai) swung into action to arrest a minor leak in the flow line originating from offshore. The leak was arrested, and the team ensured no spillage of oil into the beach," the firm said in a statement. ONGC said it has robust safety infrastructure and adheres to laid down HSE guidelines. "It has trained manpower to address such incidents promptly."



I think that India is potentially well-poised to take advantage of new jobs that could come up with AI

**SANDHYA DEVANATHAN**  
META INDIA VICE PRESIDENT

# Sebi to address staff complaints internally

Capital markets regulator withdraws statement on unprofessional work culture

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** Seeking to defuse tensions with employees protesting against alleged "unprofessional work culture," Sebi Monday retracted its earlier statement blaming "external elements" for the unrest and committed to address the concerns "amicably through internal channels".

The withdrawal comes nearly two weeks after a protest September 5, where hundreds of Sebi employees gathered outside the regulator's headquarters demanding the withdrawal of the contentious September 4 press release and the resignation of Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch.

The initial statement had suggested that the protesting employees were being influenced by external forces to target Sebi's credibility and leadership.

This was not the first instance of a protest at the Sebi, which witnessed a similar protest over a month-ago by some employees. At that time, officials had said that the protests were by a few elements and did not have the backing of the recognised unions or associations.

In its fresh statement Monday, the Sebi emphasised that it handles employee-related matters through proper internal mechanisms and that it had constructive discussions with officers from various grades.

"Sebi addresses employee-related matters through appropriate internal mechanisms. Following constructive discussions with representatives of all grades of officers, Sebi and its employees have reaffirmed that



such issues are strictly internal and will be managed in accordance with the organization's high standards of governance and within a time-bound framework," the regulator said.

Accordingly, the press release issued September 4 has been withdrawn, the regulator said.

Further, Sebi said its employees have reiterated their commitment to resolving concerns amicably through established internal channels, ensuring that such matters remain internal and managed within a time-bound framework.

"Employees have strongly condemned the unauthorized release of internal communication and have confirmed that all concerns shall be addressed amicably through established internal channels," the statement noted.

Also, Sebi has acknowledged the critical role its employees have played over the past 36 years in shaping the Indian securities market into one of the most dynamic and well-regulated markets globally.

The withdrawal of the

September 4 press release marks a significant shift in Sebi's approach. The initial statement, which dismissed employee complaints as 'misplaced' and suggested they were 'misguided by external elements,' only added to the growing dissatisfaction among staff.

The initial statement was issued following a letter from around 500 Sebi employees to the Finance Ministry August 6, against the Sebi's top management, they raised concerns about a 'toxic' work environment, which includes instances of public humiliation and shouting down.

It was an unprecedented move for any financial regulator in India and escalated the internal crisis at Sebi.

For Sebi chairperson Buch, protests and internal issues come at a time when she is probably facing the most challenging times in her stint. The career banker-turned-regulator is battling speculations on whether a conflict of interest made her go slow on the probe against Adani Group and a raft of other allegations around it.

## Monsoon dents state retailers' diesel sales



REUTERS

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** Indian state retailers' diesel sales fell in the first half of September from the previous month, preliminary sales data showed Monday, as monsoon rains hit industrial activity and mobility.

Fuel demand in India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, typically falls during the four-month monsoon season beginning in June as parts of the country are affected by heavy floods.

State retailers sold 2.4 million metric tons of diesel in the first half of September, down 4% from the same period in August and by 12.3% from a year earlier, the data showed. Diesel is mostly used by trucks and commercial vehicles.

Sales of gasoline, primarily used in passenger vehicles, remained flat at 1.23 million tons. However gasoline sale was down 5.1% from the first of September last year, the data showed.

Apart from restricting mobility, monsoon rains also hit demand from the agriculture sector as farmers use gasoil-fired generators for irrigation.

Gasol consumption is directly linked to industrial activity in Asia's third-largest economy.

State retailers Indian Oil Corp, Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd and Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd own about 90% of the country's retail fuel outlets.

The four state fuel retailers sold 1.32 million tons of liquefied petroleum gas in the first half of September, up 3.3% from the previous month and down 2.9% from last year.

Aviation fuel sales at 303,600 tons were down 1.1% from the last month, the data showed.

# Rate cut to be based on long-term inflation trajectory: RBI Gov

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has said the decision on interest rate moderation will be based on long-term inflation trajectory and not monthly data.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by the RBI Governor is scheduled to meet between October 7 and 9 and take call on interest rate.

The RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the ninth time in a row amid risks from higher food inflation. In the August meeting, four of six MPC members voted in favour of the status quo.

In an interview to CNBC International, Das said the focus will be on the month-on-month momentum - whether inflation is building up or moderating and the upcoming inflation trajectory will be carefully monitored with a forward-looking approach, and decisions will be made based on that assessment.

"It is not a question that in the current context, like in July, the inflation came to about 3.6 per cent, that is the revised number, and August has come at 3.7 per cent. So, it is not so much how the inflation is now; we have to look at, for the next six months, for the next one year, what is the outlook on inflation."

"So, therefore, I would like to sort of step back and look more carefully at what is the future trajectory of inflation and growth, and based on that, we will take a decision," he said.

On whether the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be actively considering a rate cut in early October, Das replied, "No, I can't say that."



"We will discuss and decide in the MPC but so far as growth and inflation dynamics are concerned, two things I would like to say. One, the growth momentum continues to be good, India's growth story is intact and, so far as inflation outlook is concerned, we have to look at the month-on-month momentum," he said, adding that based on that a decision will be taken.

Das further said the rupee has been one of the least volatile currencies globally, especially since the beginning of 2023.

"The rupee has been very stable vis-a-vis the US dollar and the volatility index," he said.

Asked why the RBI had not allowed more volatility in the rupee, the governor said, "If you allow volatility, whom does it benefit? It does not benefit the economy. So why would we allow volatility?"

He further clarified that while fluctuations in exchange rates are natural, excessive volatility would be damaging. "Our stated policy is to prevent excessive volatility of the rupee," he said, adding that maintaining a stable rupee instils confidence in the market, investors, and the broader economy.

Das further remarked that the RBI is committed to maintaining financial stability and the bank will take steps to ensure this.

## FM to launch NPS Vatsalya tomorrow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will launch the NPS Vatsalya scheme Wednesday in line with the announcement made in the Union Budget 2024-25.

The finance minister will also launch an online platform for subscribing to NPS Vatsalya, release a scheme brochure, and distribute Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) cards to minor subscribers.

As part of the launch here, NPS Vatsalya events will be organised simultaneously at nearly 75 locations throughout the country, the finance ministry said in a statement Monday.

Other locations will join the launch through a video conference and also distribute PRAN membership to new minor subscribers in that location.

NPS Vatsalya will allow parents to save for their children's future by investing in a pension account and ensuring long-term wealth with the power of compounding.

The scheme offers flexible contributions and investment options, allowing parents to make



a minimum investment of ₹1,000 annually in the name of the child, thus making it accessible to families from all economic backgrounds.

This new initiative is designed to start early in securing the financial future of children, marking an important step in India's pension system.

The scheme will be run under the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

The launch of NPS Vatsalya highlights the government's commitment to promote long-term financial planning and security for all, the statement said.

It is a big step toward making India's future generations more financially secure and independent, it added.

# SENSEX CLOSES AT LIFETIME HIGH

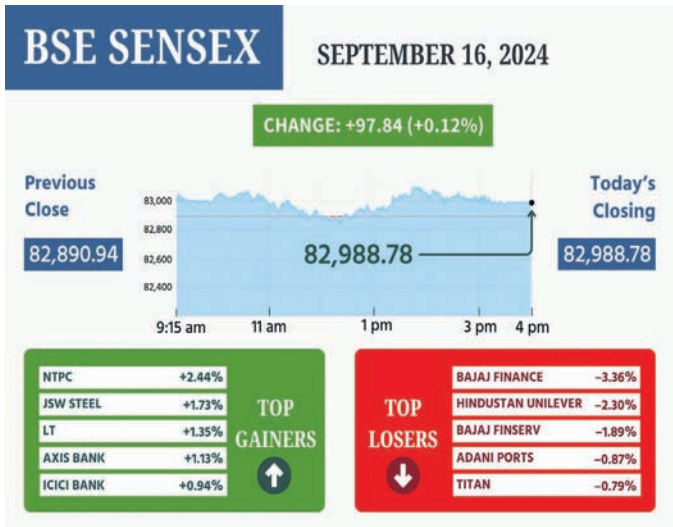
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 16:** Equity benchmark index Sensex rebounded nearly 100 points to hit a lifetime closing high Monday, while the broader Nifty ended just shy of its record peak, propelled by bargain hunting in energy, utility and banking stocks amid sustained foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 97.84 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at a new record peak of 82,988.78. During the day, it jumped 293.4 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a fresh lifetime intra-day high of 83,184.34.

The NSE Nifty rose 27.25 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 25,383.75, over 5 points lower than its previous record. During the day, the benchmark gained 89.2 points or 0.35 per cent to hit a new intra-day high of 25,445.70.

"The domestic market traded in a narrow range with a positive bias as the participants are keenly awaiting the Fed's decision this week. The weakness in the US job market and benign inflation are pointing at a slew of rate cuts on the table. The inflow of foreign money and an



expectation of stability in domestic growth may keep sentiment optimistic," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

NTPC was the biggest gainer on the Sensex chart, rising 2.44 per cent, followed by JSW Steel, Larsen & Toubro, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Nestle, Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Steel. Bajaj Finance declined over 3

per cent. Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserv, Adani Port and Asian Paints were the other laggards.

"The Indian markets continued their bullish trend, with Nifty reaching a new record high, driven primarily by foreign institutional investor (FII) buying and a strong market breadth. Investors remain cautiously optimistic ahead of the

US Federal Reserve's meeting later this week, which could influence short-term trends. Investors are advised to stay aligned with the current trend, but watch for potential market reactions to the US Fed's policy announcements," Vikram Kasat, Head - Advisory, PL Capital - Prabhudas Lilladhar, said.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.28 per cent while the midcap index ended marginally up by 0.01 per cent.

Among the indices, utilities jumped 1.97 per cent, power (1.93 per cent), metal (0.65 per cent), capital goods (0.56 per cent), consumer durables (0.49 per cent) and industrials (0.33 per cent).

IT, telecommunication, tech, services and FMCG were the laggards. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.35 per cent to USD 71.90 a barrel.

"Globally equity markets will be focused on the Fed rate action on Wednesday, which is likely to influence the stock market trend in the near-term," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

## India gets \$386bn funding for renewables target

REUTERS

**Gandhi Nagar, Sept 16:** Reliance and Adani, India's two biggest conglomerates, and other firms committed to help the country reach its goal of 500 gigawatts (GW) of clean energy by 2030, while financial companies vowed \$386 billion in funding, the renewable energy minister said Monday.

"We received overwhelming commitments from states and Union Territories as well as from the developers, manufacturers and financial institutes to support our goal of 500 GW by 2030," Pralhad Joshi said during the annual Renewable Energy Investor's Meet and Expo.

India added slightly more than 18 GW of renewable energy capacity in fiscal 2024, compared



with 15.3 GW a year earlier, taking its total to 153 GW.

The government also received an additional 570 GW of power

generation commitments, while manufacturers committed additional capacities of 340 GW in solar modules and 240 GW in

solar cells, the minister said.

Indian conglomerate Reliance Industries committed 100 GW of additional renewable capacity, while Adani Green Energy committed 38.8 GW of capacity.

Analysts expect India's renewable energy capacity addition to likely scale up to 25 GW in 2024-25 from more than 18 GW for the prior period.

Heatwaves and rising economic activity increased India's electricity generation, on average, by about 8% annually following the pandemic.

Due to increasing power demand, India expects coal-fired power output to rise 8.9% over 2024-25, outpacing a growth of 8.2% projected for renewable energy output, which includes solar, wind, small hydro plants and power from biomass.

## Lady officers' convention



BIZ BUZZ

**BHUBANESWAR:** The All-India National Convention of Lady Officers' of All India UCO Bank Officers' Federation (AIUCBOF) has been held at Hotel Excellency, Bhubaneswar. The All India Convention was inaugurated by Honorable Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly, Surama Padhy as Chief Guest. Padhy addressed the lady officers present from different parts of our country and expressed her concerns regarding the work life balance of lady officers working in banks and also expressed her views on more participation of women in the banking sector as well as in the growth of the country's GDP. Dr Sashmi Nayak, the Key Note-speaker & Director General & Ambedkar Chair Professor of Social Studies of NISWAS, Bhubaneswar expressed her views on the challenges faced by the women in their professional as well as in their personal lives. Among other dignitaries present in the meeting were Dipankar Mitra, Chairman, Ashok Kumar Handa, Chairman Advisory Counsel, Raj Kumar Arora, President (o), Aija Kumar Routray, Senior Vice Chairman & Sandeep Chowbey, General Secretary of AIUCBOF addressed the lady officers.



# India enter ACT final

## Skipper Harmanpreet's twin strike in 4-1 victory over Korea



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hulunbuir (China), Sept 16:** Skipper Harmanpreet Singh's sublime form resulted in twin strikes as defending champions India entered the final of the Asian Champions Trophy with a clinical 4-1 win against South Korea in the semi-final here Monday.

India scored through Uttam Singh (13th minute), skipper Harmanpreet Singh (19th, 45th) and Jarmanpreet Singh (32nd), while Korea's lone goal came from through Yang Jihun (33rd)'s penalty corner conversion.

Earlier in the day, China defeated Pakistan 2-0 via shoot-out in the first semifinal after the two teams finished 1-1 at the end of regulation 60 minutes.

In the previous league stage

encounter between the two finalists, India prevailed 3-0. Pakistan and Korea will face off in the third place classification match which will also be played Tuesday.

Meanwhile in the fifth-sixth place classification match, Japan beat Malaysia 4-2 in shoot-out following a 4-4 stalemate in normal time.

In the second semifinal as expected, the Indians started on the offensive and tested the Korean defence with persistent attacks from the world go.

The Koreans, on the other hand, were content to sit back and defend and rely on sporadic counter attacks.

Abhishek came tantalisingly close to handing India the lead in the fourth minute but his reverse hit was brilliantly saved

by Korean goalkeeper Kim Jaehan. The Indian made prom-



ising build ups and penetrated the Korean circle on consistent basis in the first quarter.

India's attacking intent finally paid off in the 13th minute when Uttam positioned himself at the right place at the right time to tap in Arajjeet Singh Hundal's supply from the right.

A minute from the first break, Korea secured back-to-back penalty corners but failed to utilise the chances.

Four minutes into the second quarter, India secured their first penalty corner and Harmanpreet scored his sixth goal of the tournament to hand his side a 2-0 lead.

At the stroke of half-time, custodian Suraj Karkera came out of his line to save an effort from the opposition player.

India continued in the same vein after the change of ends and

India will take on hosts China in Tuesday's final. In a mega upset, hosts China stun Pakistan to enter maiden final

extended their lead two minutes into the third quarter.

A brilliant scoop from Sumit from the right finds Jarmanpreet just outside the circle on the left flank and the latter neatly collected the ball and took a step or two to get inside the circle and slap the ball into the Korean goal to extend India's lead.

But Korea pulled one back a minute later from a penalty corner through the tournament's top-scorer Yang Jihun.

The goal hardly bothered the Indians as they continued their attacking game and dominated the share of exchanges.

With a second left for the third quarter, India secured another penalty corner when Korean goalkeeper Jaehan was shown the yellow card for handling the ball outside the circle, and Harmanpreet made no mistake to extend the lead.

Eight minutes from the final hooter, India's second goalkeeper Karkera made a fine double save to deny Park Cheoleon, but the Koreans secured a penalty corner which went in vain.

Thereafter, it was controlled show from the Indians as they defended their lead with consummate ease to march into their fifth final appearance in the tournament.

# Chess teams on winning streak



Indian men crush Azerbaijan, women beat Kazakhstan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Budapest, Sept 16:** Backed by the two in-form stars in World Championship challenger D Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi, the Indian men scored a 3-1 victory over Azerbaijan in the fifth round of the 45th Chess Olympiad here.

It seems like Gukesh and Arjun can do nothing wrong in this Olympiad as they overpowered Aydin Sulemanli and Rauf Mamedov respectively with their white pieces in quick time.

Praggnanandhaa played another draw on board two to only ensure an Indian victory while Vidit Gujrathi played out a draw with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov in a marathon game to complete the triumph.

After scoring the fifth victory on the trot, the Indian men maintained a clean slate on ten points and they were joined by Vietnam who continued with their impressive show and downed Poland 2.5-1.5. The other two teams that joined the leaders' pack were China and Hungary who scored

identical 2.5-1.5 victories over Spain and Ukraine respectively.

With six rounds still to come in the biggest chess event, Magnus Carlsen's Norway and Iran are the only two teams sharing the fifth spot on 9 points apiece.

Norway defeated a talented Turkey team by a 3-1 margin while Iran made most of the opportunities to down Canada 3.5-0.5.

In the women's section, Grandmaster D Harika suffered a shock defeat to give Kazakhstan an early lead. Better for most of the game, Harika misplayed after many pundits believed her position to be winning against Bibisara Assaubayeva.

On the fourth board Vantika Agarwal yet again played the anchor and won a clean game with white pieces against Alua Nurman while Xeniya Balabayeva split the point with Divya Deshmukh.

With the scores tied at 2-2 it was Vaishali's turn to come up triumphs for the team and she outwitted Meruert Kamalidenova.

Team India joined Armenia and Mongolia in the lead on ten points. Armenia halted the Chinese party for now handing them a 2.5-1.5 defeat while Mongolia proved superior to United States with a similar score.

## SHORT TAKES

### Kashyap new coach

**New Delhi:** All India Football Federation (AIFF) Monday appointed Santosh Kashyap as the new head coach of the national senior women's team, replacing former international player Chaoba Devi at the helm of affairs. Kashyap's first assignment will be the SAFF Women's Championships to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from October 17 to 30. A 29-member squad will camp in Goa from September 20 in preparation for the championships. A former India international, Kashyap has almost a decade of coaching experience in the I-League, managing clubs like Mohun Bagan, Aizawl FC and Mumbai FC among others. The 58-year-old has also been the assistant coach of NorthEast United FC, and most recently of Odisha FC, in the Indian Super League. Kashyap will have Priya PV as his assistant coach and Raghuvir Pravin Khanolkar as the goalkeeper coach.

### SL players on top

**Dubai:** Sri Lanka players Dunith Wellalage and Harshitha Samarawickrama were Monday named as the ICC Players of the Month for August 2024. The rare double for Sri Lanka comes after Wellalage excelled in a home ODI series against India and Samarawickrama hit a purple patch on a tour of Ireland. The only previous instance of players from the same country winning the awards in the same month was when Jasprit Bumrah and Smriti Mandhana were named the Players of the Month in June this year. Wellalage won the coveted monthly award ahead of South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj and West Indies fast bowler Jayden Seales, who were the others shortlisted.

### Virus hits Ronaldo

**Riyadh:** Cristiano Ronaldo has a virus and did not travel to Iraq with Al-Nassr for Monday's AFC Champions League Elite debut match at Al-Shorta. Al-Nassr, Ronaldo's Saudi Arabian club, said that the Portugal forward "wasn't feeling well" and "was diagnosed with a viral infection," adding that the team physician confirmed he needs to rest. Playing for Portugal in the Nations League, Ronaldo recently scored against both Croatia and Scotland to take his men's-record tally of international goals to 132. Ronaldo won five UEFA Champions Leagues but has yet to win a major trophy with Al-Nassr.

# Rohit, Co sweat it out Frech wears first WTA crown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Sept 16:** Rohit Sharma and Co had another extensive training session in the build up to the first Test against Bangladesh with all 16 squad members turning for practice at the Chepauk here Monday.

After a day off, the India squad members took part in their third training session since their arrival here last week. The first Test begins Thursday.

As it is often the case, Virat Kohli was among the first set of batters to hit the nets. In the adjacent net was southpaw Yashasvi Jaiswal as both he and Kohli faced Jasprit Bumrah and home hero R Ashwin.

The next set of batters included skipper Rohit, Shubman Gill and Sarfaraz Khan, the last named player arriving here after taking part in the second round Duleep Trophy match in Anantapur. The captain focussed on playing spinners, keeping Bangladesh's slow bowling attack in mind.

Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant and pacer Mohammed Siraj too faced local bowlers and a significant amount of throwdowns.

The practice pitch at the main square offered a decent amount of bounce.



India will have two more practice sessions scheduled before the series opener against Bangladesh, who are riding on the confidence of their series sweep in Pakistan.

Most players in the playing eleven select themselves. The Chennai surface usually favour the spinners and there is likelihood of India going into the game with three spinners and two pacers. The spinners expected to feature are Ashwin, Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav while Bumrah and Siraj will share workload in the pace department. Axar Patel, despite his impressive all-round returns across formats, may have to sit out.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Guadalajara (Mexico), Sept 16:** Magdalena Frech clinched the first WTA Tour singles title of her career with a 7-6(5), 6-4 win over Australian qualifier Olivia Gadecki in the WTA 500 Guadalajara Open summit clash.

On Sunday evening, Frech needed just under two hours to seal victory over 152nd-ranked Gadecki in the final. With the win, she made her Top-40 debut in the WTA Singles rankings, occupying 37th place in the list.

"Dreams come true, it's my first title and it's amazing. It's an incredible feeling, thank you for all the support, I just want to say, long live Guadalajara, long live Mexico!" Frech said after her title triumph.

In her first WTA 500 final on hard court, Frech did not miss the opportunity to confirm 2024 as the best season of her career, by winning 23 matches. She had previously reached championship contention in Prague on clay.

The 26-year-old Pole made her first hard-court quarterfinal last month, also in Mexico, in Monterrey. This week, she stormed into her first hard-court semifinal and final, and now she



Dreams come true, it's my first title and it's amazing. It's an incredible feeling, thank you for all the support, I just want to say, long live Guadalajara, long live Mexico!

is a champion on tour for the first time, according to WTA stats. Frech is only the fourth Pole to win a singles title this century, joining Magda Linette, Agnieszka Radwanska and Iga Swiatek.

"Australian Open fourth round, the final in Prague, and the title

## 7 IOC members in race to replace Bach as president

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Geneva, Sept 16:** Two former Olympic champions are in the race to be the next IOC president. So is a prince of a Middle East kingdom and the son of a former president. The global leaders of cycling, gymnastics and skiing also are in play.

The International Olympic Committee published a list Monday of seven would-be candidates who are set to run for election in March to succeed outgoing president Thomas Bach for the next eight years.

Just one woman, IOC executive board member Kirsty Coventry from Zimbabwe, entered the contest to lead an organization that has had only male presidents in its 130-year history. Eight of those presidents were from Europe and one from the United States.

Coventry and Sebastian Coe are two-time gold medalists in swimming and running, respectively. Prince Feisal al Hussein of Jordan is also on the IOC board.

Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr of Spain is one of the four IOC vice presidents, whose father was president for 21 years until 2001.

David Lappartient is the president of cycling's governing body, Morinari Watanabe leads gymnastics, and Johan Eliasch is president of the International Ski and Snowboard Federation. Coe is the president of track's World Athletics.

All seven met a deadline of Sunday to send a letter of intent to Bach, who must leave the post next year after reaching the maximum 12 years in office. Bach declined at the Paris Olympics last month to seek to change IOC rules in order to stay in office longer.

A formal candidate list should be confirmed in January, three months before the March 18-21 election meeting in Greece, near the site of Ancient Olympia.

Only IOC members are eligible to stand as candidates, with votes cast by the rest of the 111-strong membership of the Olympic body.

The IOC is one of the most exclusive clubs in world sports. Its members are drawn from European and Middle East royalty, leaders of international sports bodies, former and current Olympic athletes, politicians and diplomats plus industrialists, including some billionaires like Eliasch.

# Wrestlers announce Wrestling Champions Super League

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 16:** Olympic medallists Sakshi Malik and Aman Sehrawat, along with former world championship bronze-winner Geeta Phogat, Monday announced that they would soon launch a Wrestling Champions Super League (WCSL) for the country's budding grapplers but the national federation has refused to sanction the initiative.

Sakshi, along with Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat, had spearheaded the wrestlers' protest against ousted Wrestling Federation of India President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexual harassment.

She has, however, distanced herself from the latter two after they took the political plunge by joining Congress ahead of next month's Haryana assembly elections.

She won the 58kg bronze in 2016 Rio Olympics, and announced the project with Phogat, a 55kg bronze winner in 2012 World Championships through their social media handles. The two, while announcing that they



had Paris Games bronze-winner Aman on board, did not provide any details.

Phogat told PTI that she is hopeful of support from the federation and the government.

"Sakshi and I have been planning this League for long. Soon it will take a final shape. We have not yet spoken to the WFI but it would be great if WFI and government support us. It will be the first league that will be operated only by the players,"

Phogat said.

"We are doing it for the players, for their benefit. That is the idea and vision, so no one should have any problem with it. It's a proud moment for us. We won't stop anyone from getting involved in it, if WFI or government comes on board, even better. We have not yet spoken to them. There will be international wrestlers, and coaches involved, so it should help our junior wrestlers. They will get good

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Geeta Phogat | World Championship Bronze-winner

“We won't approve it. We are reviving our pro wrestling league and hopefully we will have it soon. The wrestlers are free to do their own league, they can promote the game, but we won't be linked with that.”

Sanjay Singh | WFI President

exposure.”

The WFI said it would not give its sanction to the league.

Asked if there will be prize money involved, and about the format and venue for the event, Phogat said, “You will have to

wait a bit to know all this. We will share the details very soon.”

Sakshi, who retired from wrestling after Sharan Singh's close aide Sanjay Singh became WFI head, said she hopes to give back to the sport through this initiative.

“The only way to repay your trust is to dedicate our sporting talent, experience, grit & success to the service of the sport. The 2 of us have therefore come together to create the Wrestling Champions Super League (WCSL),” she posted on X.

“The WCSL, a world class international league, will skill & strengthen our wrestlers to dominate the sport globally by taking on the world's best in a hyper competitive, expertly supervised environment with best-in-class support systems in place.”

She also said that Sehrawat, who won bronze in 57kg in Paris Olympics, also “shares our vision and is joining us on this journey.”

“This league is a very commendable initiative which will help Indian wrestling greatly and therefore I want to be a part of it and support it fully,” Aman was quoted as saying by Sakshi.