

Rare recognition

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 173 | www.orissapost.com

Indian actor Anushka Sen has been honoured by the Korean government for her efforts to strengthen relationship between two nations

LEISURE | P2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in the US on a three-day visit to attend the Quad summit and



The foreign institutional investors turn aggressive buyers this week infusing ₹14,064cr in equity market



Bangladesh were reeling on 158 for 4

12 PAGES+SUNDAY POST | ₹5.00

Amar Preet Singh to be

new Chief of Air Staff

New Delhi: Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh will take charge as the chief of the Indian Air Force after incumbent Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari retires September 30. Singh is currently serving as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff. "The government has appointed Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh, PVSM, AVSM, presently serving as Vice Chief of the Air Staff, as the next Chief of the Air Staff, in the rank of Air Chief Marshal, with effect from September 30," the Defence Ministry said. As Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Singh's priorities are expected to be the procurement of new fighter fleets and advancing the modernisation agenda of the force in view of the fast-evolving regional security landscape, including

Woman's dismembered body found in fridge

challenges along the LAC with China.

Bangalore: A 29-year-old woman's dismembered body was found in a house in Malleswaram here, police sources said Saturday. According to police, Mahalakshmi's body, cut into over 30 pieces, was stuffed in a refrigerator. Senior police officers reached the spot and barricaded the road leading to the building where the body was found in a single bedroom house, where the victim was staying alone. Police suspect it to be a case of murder.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Your state is about to vote. Make sure there's no communal tension here. It should be far away, in some other state

WEATHER

BBSR CTC 33.2°C **Max Temp Min Temp** Humidity Rainfall

Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain

FORECAST



Modi in US

address a key conclave at the UN

INTERNATIONAL | P10



FIIs infuse ₹14,064cr

amid robust economic performance

BUSINESS | P11



Mammoth lead

in their chase of 515 when bad light stopped play on day three of the opening Test Saturday

SPORTS | P12

BHUBANESWAR | SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22. 2024

Weaponising ordinary devices violates human rights: UN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

United Nations, Sept 21: Weaponising ordinary communication devices represents a new development in warfare, and targeting thousands of Lebanese people using pagers, two-way radios and electronic equipment without their knowledge is a violation of international human rights law, the United Nations human rights chief said Friday.

Volker Turk told an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council there must be an independent and transparent investigation of the two attacks in Lebanon Tuesday and Wednesday where these devices exploded, reportedly killing 37 people and injuring more than 3,400 others.

"Those who ordered and car-

'Efforts on to shift focus'

ried out these attacks must be held to account," he said.

Lebanon has blamed Israel for the attacks, which appeared to target Hezbollah militants but also saw many civilian casualties, including children. Hezbollah has fought many conflicts with Israel, including a war in 2006, and it has conducted near-daily strikes against Israel to support Hamas militants who attacked Israel October 7.

Before the council meeting, Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon was asked by reporters about speculation Israel was behind the two explosions.

'We are not commenting on the specific attacks you mentioned, but I can tell you that we will do everything we can to target those terrorists to minimise casualties for civilians,

Can't be touchy in politics: Top court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 21: You cannot be 'touchy' in politics, the Supreme Court observed while hearing Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan's plea relating to a criminal defamation proceeding initiated against him.

Murugan approached the apex court last year, challenging a September 5, 2023, Madras High Court order in which it had refused to quash the proceeding against him on a complaint filed by Chennai-based Murasoli Trust for his alleged defamatory statements during a December 2020 press conference. While agreeing to hear his petition September 27 last year, the top court stayed the proceeding against Murugan that was pending in a special court in Chennai.

The apex court had also sought the Trust's response on his plea challenging the high court order. When the matter came up for



hearing before a bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice KV Viswanathan Friday, the counsel appearing for Murugan said, 'Where is the question of defamation in this case?"

The lawver appearing for th Trust sought an adjournment in the matter.

'You cannot be touchy in pol-

itics," the bench observed. "Put up after four weeks at the request of the counsel for the respondent," the apex court said.

Murugan had earlier approached the high court, challenging the proceeding initiated against him. The high court had noted in its order that according to the Trust, Murugan made

the statements "with an ulterior $motive \ to \ degrade \ and \ tarnish \ the$ reputation of the Murasoli Trust in the eyes of the general public."

'While dealing with the quash petition, this court cannot go into the merits of the case or the disputed questions of fact. This court has to merely go by what is alleged in the complaint and prima facie find out as to whether the offence is made out," the high court had said.

"In an offence of defamation, the statements have to be tested only from the point of view of a common prudent man, who comes across the defamatory statements made," it had said.

While dismissing the petition, the high court had directed the trial court to dispose of the case within three months.

"It is left open to the petitioner (Murugan) to raise all the grounds before the trial court and the same will be considered on its own merits and in accordance with law," it had said.

Social media narrative

Bhubaneswar, Sept 21: The seven youths, who were arrested by the Chandaka police for allegedly misbehaving with Army Major Gurvansh Singh Gosal and his female friend, were granted bail by a court Saturday even as the

BHARATPUR SHOCKER

woman's father alleged that the police were trying diversionary tactics to shift attention from the atrocities of Bharatpur cops.

Brigadier (Retd) Antaryami Pradhan said, "Since the cover has already been blown that the police are solely complicit in assaulting and misbehaving my daughter, there is an insidious effort by the department to shift the focus of the case." He was ostensibly referring to the all out ef-

Bhubaneswar: While the case of alleged

sexual assault on a woman in a City police station grabbed national attention, it appears to have taken an about turn Saturday after several video clips involving the 'victim' went viral on social media. The clips show that prior to her approaching the police, the woman had a few minutes of heated exchanges with a group of youths on road and she was seen speaking in an insolent and aggressive manner. She spoke the same way with the officials at Bharatpur police station too.

forts by the police to nab the road rage accused while issuing no clarity over the status quo on the investigation into the 'errant' cops.

Rubbishing Pradhan's claims, a top cop said several videos of the incident were taken into account before booking the youths.

granting bail, noted that the police had booked the youths without substantial evidence. Besides, it said the Sections imposed under BNS were bailable in nature. The accused, identified as Rakesh

Meanwhile, the court, while

Nayak, 22, Abhilash Samanta, 21, Aman Kumar, 21, Aditya Ranjan Behera, 21, Akash Padhihary, 22, Harish Mahanta, 21, and Sameer Asis Kumar Swain, 22, were booked under Sections 126 (2), 115 (2), 117 (2) and 296 of the BNS, said ADCP Krushna Prasad Dash. While being escorted to court, the accused claimed that the police wrongly implicated them.

"The narrative presented by $\underline{\hspace{0.1in}}$ the police is entirely false as the Army Major and his friend misbehaved with us when we were returning in the wee hours of Sunday," alleged Rakesh.

Atishi sworn in as Delhi CM



New Delhi: AAP leader Atishi took oath Saturday as Delhi's third woman Chief Minister and became the youngest of all three to hold the top office in the national capital. The 43-year-old also became the 17th woman to hold the post of CM in independent India. The senior AAP leader, however, will have a brief tenure in office as Assembly elections in the national capital are due in February. A first-time

legislator, Atishi is a key face of the party and managed AAP's operations during Arvind Kejriwal's time in Tihar jail.









KIIT & KISS Proud of its Students who Participated in **Paris Olympics and Paralympics**

Felicitation Ceremony

🟥 22nd September 2024 (Sunday) 🕓 11:00 a.m. 👤 Campus 6 Auditorium, KIIT, Bhubaneswar







Olympian & Arjuna Awardee Mr. Amit Rohidas Hockey (Men Team)



Mr. Kishore Kumar Jena Athletics (Javelin Throw)



Ms. Annu Rani Athletics (Javelin Throw)



Olympian & Ariuna Awardee Mr. Tajinderpal Singh Toor Athletics (Shot Put)



Ms. Parul Choudhary Athletics (Long Distance)



Ms. Priyanka Athletics (20KM. Race Walk)



Ms. Jyothi Yarraji Athletics (100M Hurdles)



Ms. Kiran Athletics (400m)



Mr. Paramjeet Singh Bisht Athletics (20KM. Race Walk)



Mr. Suraj Panwar Marathon Race Walk



Ms. Prachi 4x400m Relay Team



Olympian Mr. Akshdeep Singh **Athletics** (20KM. Race Walk)



Mr. Vikash Singh **Athletics** (20KM. Race Walk)



Olympian & Arjuna Awardee Ms. MR Poovamma Athletics (4 x 400M Relay)



Ms. Ankita Athletics (5000m Race)



Mr. Rampal Para Athletics (High Jump)



Paralympian & Arjuna Awardee Mr. Praveen Kumar Para Athletics (High Jump)

KALINGA INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY (KIIT) Deemed to be University, (Established U/S 3 of UGC Act, 1956), Bhubaneswar-751024, Odish

KIIT is only 27 years old as an institute (1997 – 2024) and 21 years old as a university

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leisure



JANET JACKSON SHARES HER **BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT**

Janet Jackson's marriages are her biggest 'disappointment', particularly her third. Asked her biggest disappointment, Janet told The Guardian's Saturday magazine: "Every one of my marriages." But she then later corrected herself and clarified: "Just the last one."

DEMI MOORE'S PARENTS LET HER DRIVE AT 13

Demi Moore has hit out at the 'lunacy' of her parents for let her drive on the roads at the age of 13 and in return had her promise to lie to cops and say she had stolen their car if she ever got caught.





accuracy • reliability • trust

The monotony of your humdrum existence will get to you today, says Ganesha. A change of décor is what you may have in mind. Money may not be an issue, and a quick fix may result in a little partying in the evening. You want to show off your beautiful and serene ambience, don't you?

TAURUS

This is a day for going on a shopping spree, says Ganesha. There are strong chances that you will be buying something durable and lasting, may be the latest fridge on the stalls. Later in the day, you are most likely to visit an and exotic objects.

GEMINI

Ganesha advises you to remain steadfast and disciplined in any work that you take up today. You will be full of enthusiasm, and will try to complete all your pending work. However, you need to make sure that your energies are being channeled in the right direction.

CANCER

Today, you may get to spend a wonderful time with your loved ones, foresees Ganesha. Besides pleasure, the day will also fare well for business. As an entre preneur, you may be able to see impor-

You are advised against being too emotional today. You will be able to excel in all spheres of your life today owing to your desire to change your attitude towards life. There is a possibility of redecorating or renovating your house today. All in all, a progressive day awaits.

VIRGO

Your emotional outlook today will lead to many alterations in your personal behaviour. Ganesha says you are likely to focus on some options that will lead to high spending. In the afternoon, says Ganesha, you are likely to play host to some members of your extended family and friends at home

Ganesha says today a new romantic relationship may develop and you will enjoy the warmth and love of the companion ship of your beloved. This will arouse an energetic and romantic feeling in you. You will be busy the whole day through Ganesha says all your queries regarding trade and business will be solved today.

SCORPIO Though not like in an X-Files

series, expect to find yourself open to the unknown and the supernatural today, says Ganesha. Time spent at your work station will be troublesome. You may end up spending a small fortune on your health. You shall achieve your short-term targets.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha sees you holding the fort to safeguard the interests of your loved ones. Afternoon may be reserved for undertaking a business trip. But a fun-n-frolic outing may well be a good option too! Expect to shell out a few extra bucks though, when you opt for a cosmetic make-over

CAPRICORN

The day will be spent juggling work and meeting per sonal demands, says Ganesha. It may virtually be a tug-of-war, in which your friends and relatives will emerge victorious as you will end up spending more time with them. You will catch up with gossips that you missed while trying to impress your boss.

AQUARIUS

Legal issues may be resolved in your favour today and that will bring a huge sigh of relief! You may just wish to spend time with your family after all that anxiety. Ganesha says you should go for more exciting stuff to take your mind off.

PISCES

Your time today will be carved between dealing with the diverse challenges that your profession will conjure up, and in caring for your family members. However, you ought to come out of your worries at the end

KOREAN HONOUR FOR ANUSHKA

Mumbai: Actress Anushka Sen has recently been honoured with an award recognising her efforts to strengthen the relationship between Korea and India. Expressing her gratitude, she shared that this recognition will undoubtedly inspire her to continue fostering cultural connections and engaging in meaningful projects.

Taking to Instagram, Anushka, who has 39.4 million followers, shared a series of pictures from the award ceremony. In the snapshots, she exudes effortless style in a chic black crop jacket paired with matching trousers. Opting for a fresh, no-makeup look, she sported her hair in a sleek ponytail, completing her ensemble with trendy black shoes.

In the caption, she wrote: "Another moment to share with you all, honoured to receive the award from CEO Mr. Hyun Woo Kim of SBA(Seoul Business Agency) for my contribution to strengthening the relationship between Korea and India. Thank you @asialab_ceo Director Lee Jung-sub for this. My dream of working in K Drama, being appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Korea Tourism Organisation and now getting recognised for my contribution in strengthening Korea X India relationship will definitely motivate me to do more.

Earlier, Anushka also made headlines for being the only Indian to feature on billboards in Korea. Recently, she has joined forces with the South



Sharvari's 'masterclass' experience

Mumbai: Sharvari Wagh, who is currently filming for Alpha alongside Alia Bhatt, recently opened up about her experience of working with the acclaimed actress.

In an exclusive interview with Bollywood Hungama, Sharvari expressed her admiration for Alia 's talent and work ethic. When asked what she learned from working with Alia, Sharvari responded, "Everything. She's an incredible human being and an incredible artist. I just think that every day that I'm on set, it's a masterclass

Sharvari also revealed that being part of such a prestigious project gives her both validation and drive to push herself further. "It gives me

a lot of motivation and somewhere a little bit of validation that I must be doing something Sharvari further added,

'I get paid to be an actor and sit next to her and watch her perform. It's such a learning experience.

Alpha, directed by Shiv Rawail, promises to be a thrilling addition to Yash Rai Films' growing spy universe. The film will also feature Hrithik Roshan and other big names from the Hindi film industry.



released in 2021. Like many of her peers, Krystle has previously discussed the discrimination she faced as a TV actor while auditioning for films and web series. In an interview with a news portal, she revealed that the situation has not improved, even after appearing in a film with Amitabh Bachchan, a rare achievement She said, "It still happens. It has been

six-seven years since I haven't done TV, but I still get to hear it a lot. People use the words 'TV actor' in a derogatory way. TV made me who I'm today. It has given me my biggest hits. But I still hear words like, 'Oh, you're from TV, so casting you looks difficult.' But I don't mind it. I'm from TV and I'm proud of it.

When asked if her admirers still refer to her as her character from Ek Hazaaron Mein Meri Behna Hai, she said, "Tomorrow,

> if I go to any small town, they'll call me Jeevika and ask me ki Manvi kahaan hai? On the contrary, if there's a film

> > stand

right

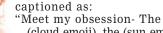
next to them, they might not even know them. That's why I feel that TV has a great reach among masses. A big shout-out to



Mumbai: Television actress Tina Datta Saturday delighted her fans by sharing nostalgic throwback glimpses from her unforgettable vacation in the Maldives. In her heartfelt post, she revealed her three greatest obsessions: the stunning clouds, the warm sun, and her beloved mother. The diva, known for her captivating role

in the show Uttaran, took to Instagram, where she has 4.7 million followers, to share a series of enchanting photos from her Maldives

The snapshots beautifully capture her enjoying the serene blue sea alongside her mother, Madhumita Datta, highlighting the special moments they shared against the stunning backdrop of their idyllic surroundings. The post is



(cloud emoji), the (sun emoji), and my mom.. Maybe the sky is meant to teach us that we are beautiful in every shade #nature #sky #sea Born in Kolkata, Tina, made her debut at

> She made her film debut as a child artist with the Bengali film Pita Maata Santan. She also featured in Rituparno Ghosh's film Chokher Bali, alongside Aishwarya

the age of five with the show Sister Nivedita.

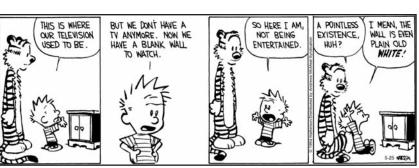
Soon after, she essayed the role of young Lalita in Vidya Balan and Saif Ali Khan's movie *Parineeta*.

The 32-year-old was also a part of the ontroversial reality show *Bigg Boss* 16, in which MC Stan emerged as the win-

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES

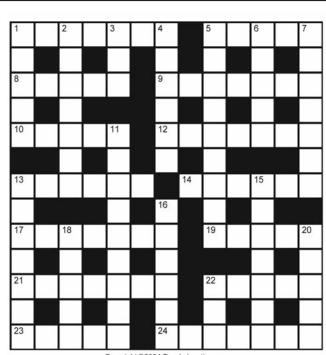


BREVITY



FUN

CROSSWORD



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Across	22	Ac	
1 Beelzebub		all	

- 5 Vestibule 8 Semitransparent
- fabric

examiner

10 Spirited horse

9 Medical

- 12 Cure-all
- 13 Pass by

- 14 Chewy candy
- 17 Seedless raisin
- 19 Rope fiber 21 Cradlesong
- 4 Formula 5 Just plain wrong
- cacia and albizia, e.g.
- 23 Alcove 24 Dereliction of
- duty
 - **Down** 1 Experiences
 - 2 Greek fire-
 - breathing female
 - monster 3 Enemy
- 20 Hungarian composer and piano virtuoso

16 Ravine

18 Fragrant

flower

6 Quinine water

7 Football stat

different

15 Type of lens

11 Fundamentally

13 5th letter of the

Greek alphabet

- 22 Label

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.

	2		6	3					9
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	Ů		4		5			2	

SOLUTIONS

DUNGAREES CROSSWORD

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

health fair in Keonjhar

Bhubaneswar: On the second day of his visit to his hometown Keonjhar, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday inaugurated a mega health fair and flagged opens off 13 medical unit vehicles. The fair featured a health camp, an eye check-up camp, and a distribution event for tricycles, Braille kits, hearing aids, and other aids for the specially abled. Specialists in neurology, cardiology, surgery, urology, nephrology, psychiatry, paediatrics, and orthopaedics from Keonihar district headquarters hospital, Dharanidhar Naik Medical College, and SCB Medical College and Hospital participated in the health camp, providing free treatment to patients. Overall, around 4,000 people in the district benefited from the health camps.

Protesting Oppn seeks justice at PS being politicised

BJD STAGES DHARNA NEAR RAJ BHAVAN; CONG TRIES TO GHERAO CM RESIDENCE

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 21: Opposition BJD and Congress Saturday staged protests demanding justice for the woman who was allegedly sexually assaulted at Bharatpur police sta-

While the women wing of the BJD staged a demonstration in front of Rai Bhavan, Congress activists attempted to gherao the official residence of the Chief Minister, demanding his resignation over the incident.

Holding placards and banners, hundreds of women members of the BJD staged a dharna outside the Governor's house and raised slogans against the state's BJP government, which it accused of failing to protect the residents, particularly women.

The BJD demanded a courtmonitored SIT probe and judicial inquiry into the alleged torture of the Army officer and his fiancée at Bharatpur police station.

The regional party submitted a memorandum addressed to President Droupadi Murmu through Governor Raghubar Das. Apart from the Bharatpur po-

lice station incident, the party also highlighted the state government's 'inaction' over the Governor's son allegedly physically assaulting an official during Rath Yatra in July this year.

"As the highest constitutional authority in the country, and a woman who hails from our state, we humbly and earnestly appeal to you for your intervention. We seek your guidance and influence in compelling the state government to take immediate and stern action to ensure that those responsible for these heinous acts are held account-



able," the memorandum read.

"We also request you to demand an explanation from the state government regarding the actions taken, or lack thereof, on these grave incidents, particularly the one involving the Raj Bhavan assault. We look forward to your esteemed intervention in this urgent matter," it added

Agitating BJD leader Lekhashree Samantasinghar alleged, "The state government does not have control over the administration and police. This is evident from the Bharatpur police station incident where an Army officer and his fiancée were physically and sexually assaulted. This is not acceptable in a civilised society. BJD leader and Bhubaneswar

Mayor Sulochana Das, who took part in the demonstration said, "BJD president Naveen Patnaik has demanded a court-monitored SIT probe and judicial inquiry because the state police cannot properly investigate the allegations against its own personnel. Therefore, a judicial probe can only give justice to the victims.

She also accused the state government of trying to cover up the incident and protect the erring policemen involved in tempted to gherao the official residence of the CM, who also holds the Home portfolio, demanding his resignation.

The agitators were seen hurling tomatoes and eggs at the CM's residence. However, the projectiles did not hit the intended target as the protesters were stopped by the police metres away from it.

Meanwhile, two separate groups of women activists also sat on a dharna near the Police Commissioner's office here. While one group demanded the immediate arrest of the erring policemen, the other group asked the state government not to take action against any police per-



"CCTV cameras were installed at Bharatpur police station during its inauguration. However, now the police claimed there was no CCTV camera at the police station. This indicates how the government was trying to hushup the incident," she alleged.

BJD MP Sulata Deo said the President is also a woman and can understand the plight of the Army officer's fiancée, who was allegedly sexually assaulted in

police custody. Meanwhile, youth and stusonnel before completion of the

The alleged incident took place September 15 when an Army officer posted in West Bengal and his fiancée approached Bharatpur police to lodge a complaint of road rage in which they were allegedly harassed by some local youths.

However, a verbal altercation took place between the duo and some policemen following which the officer and his fiancée were allegedly assaulted at the police PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar. Sept 21: Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo Saturday said the recent 'sexual assault' incident at Bharatpur police station was being politicised and asserted that those found guilty would not be spared.

Speaking to reporters, he said the BJP government in the state has already suspended five police personnel for their alleged involvement in the incident.

"The incident is being politicised... It is due to the BJP that former CM Naveen Patnaik emerged from his house and issued a media statement after 24 years," Singh Deo said.

Any person found guilty during the probe would not be spared and stringent action would be taken against them, Singh Deo

"The BJD government has left

tion...The previous government had constituted several judicial commissions for inquiry into various cases, including the murder of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, during its 24-year tenure. But they have not made such inquiry reports public," he claimed.

Speaking at a press confer-

ence, BJP state spokesperson Anil Biswal said the state government would not tolerate violence against women.

The Bharatput police station case has been handed over to the Crime Branch for 'impartiality and transparency' in the investigation, he said.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has already clarified that strict action would be taken against the culprits, he said.

Biswal said the BJP government is committed to adopt 'zero tolerance policy' in this incident.

"During the previous BJD government, crimes against women were also reported in Odisha. However, neither then CM nor anyone from the insensitive BJD dispensation ever met such victims," the BJP leader said.

"Deputy CM Pravati Parida has already met the victim in

the hospital Friday," Singh Deo

Women not safe even in police stations: LoP

Bhubaneswar: A day after demanding a court-monitored SIT probe and a judicial inquiry into the alleged sexual assault of a woman in custody, BJD president and Leader of Opposition (LoP) Naveen Patnaik Saturday said 'women are not safe even inside police stations'. Patnaik made these remarks while addressing party leaders from Kendrapara and Gajapati districts at the BJD's state headquarters. Sankha Bhawan. He expressed concern, saying, "It's sad that women are not safe even inside police stations in Bhubaneswar and government servants are beaten up in Rai Bhavan. It seems there's no law and order in the state." This comment was in reference to the September 15 incident involving the alleged torture of an army officer and the sexual harassment of his fiancée at Bharatpur police

station and the physical assault on

an on-duty government employee

allegedly by the governor's son

REINSTATE SUSPENDED **OFFICIALS: POLICE BODY**

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 21: The Odisha Police Association Saturday called for the immediate withdrawal of the suspension orders on five policemen allegedly involved in the torture of an Army officer and 'sexual harassment' of his fiancée at Bharatpur police station Describing the incident as

'unfortunate', association's organising secretary Umesh Chandra Sahu said, "As investigation is on, there is no reason to suspend the five police personnel. They should not be suspended until proven guilty." Addressing a press conference in Cuttack, Sahu insisted

that the suspension orders be revoked immediately and the personnel be reinstated.

A group of retired police of-

ficers also met Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda to voice similar concerns.

Retired officer Suryamani Tripathy remarked, "There is no point in suspending police personnel before they are found guilty. We will approach the DGP, Home Secretary, and the Chief Minister to demand the withdrawal of the suspen-

Another former officer cautioned against undermining the morale of the police force by suspending colleagues even before they were found guilty.

The call for reinstatement of the officers came just a day after the father of the woman demanded the arrest and dismissal of police officers involved, accusing them of violating several laws by detaining an Army officer and assaulting his fiancée in custody.

Cong questions PM's silence NETIZENS SPLIT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 21: The Congress Saturday questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah over the alleged sexual assault on an Army officer's fiancee in police custody in Odisha and other incidents of crime against women in BJP-ruled states.

Congress leader Ajoy Kumar said in Odisha, some men misbehaved with the daughter of an Army brigadier, who is also the fiancee of an Army captain, and when she went to a "model police station" to get a complaint lodged, she and her fiance were brutally beaten up.

"Then a fake case is made and the victim and her companion are taken into custody. In this case, an Army officer writes a letter to a high court judge, saying 'give us justice'. But Narendra Modi and Defence Minister



Rajnath Singh are silent in this entire matter," Kumar said at a joint press conference with the chairman of the All India Congress Committee's (AICC's) ex-servicemen department, Colonel (retired) Rohit Chaudhry.

In Indore, Madhya Pradesh, Army officers and their female friends were held hostage and beaten up and one of the two women was raped, he alleged.

In Rajasthan, an Army jawan was brutally beaten up at a police station, Kumar claimed and went on to cite another incident

from Manipur, in which the wife of an Army jawan was allegedly disrobed.

"In Manipur, an Army jawan was kidnapped and then killed. In Odisha, a tribal girl was gangraped and her body was found," he said.
"Many such incidents have

happened in the country but not

a single word has come out of the mouths of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah," the Congress leader In Jharkhand, a woman leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP), Seema Patra, brutally tor-

tured a tribal girl working in her house, he alleged. Kumar said there are two sets of women in the country -- those who live in BJP-ruled states and others. And, the leaders of the saffron party only raise their voice for the latter category,

while those under their rule

must suffer all kinds of brutal-

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 21: While the case of alleged sexual assault of a woman, and assault on her friend from the Indian Army, in a City police station grabbed national attention, it appears to have taken an about turn Saturday after several video clips involving the 'victim' went viral on social media.

The clips show that prior to her approaching the police, the woman had a few minutes of heated exchanges with a group of youths on road, and she was seen speaking in an insolent and aggressive manner. She spoke the same way with the officials at Bharatpur police station and dared the on-duty cops to record the happenings, saying she too had dispatched a recorded video to police headquarters.

A few other purported viral videos suggest that she was behaving aggressively, possibly



under the influence of some intoxicant when she and her friend

were at the police station. The slurry of videos surfacing on various social media platforms after they were shared over messaging apps has triggered a debate among netizens sharing their thoughts variedly. While some have come to the rescue of the law enforcers, others decry the police action against the woman and her Army officer friend. Here are a few... Himashu Sekhar took to X to

write: "A serving Indian Army officer goes to a police station with his female friend to lodge a complaint. They were assaulted by the police inspector and slapped with a case. Absurd! Yes, this has happened in Bharatpur police station, Odisha. This is how Defence guys are respected here."

Another 'X' user, Saswat Panigrahi, said, "More skeletons are tumbling out of the closet in Odisha's Bharatpur PS case. Video footage, featuring Army Major's fiancée, are in circulation and they are being played by some select media outlets with a clear intent to assassin the lady's character."

"Army officer along with girl were drunk, people caught them and they started abusing and fighting. Both refused to give blood samples for alcohol tests," said another netizen in a post on X.

"We all can see who's loud, who's clear and who's being humble: Speaks why she refused for blood test," said another ne-

Rana Sangha said, "Under BJP rule, police has become more dangerous than street goons. This's coz dey enjoy pol patronage. In Odisha's Bharatpur police stn, what happened 2 the daughter of a retired Brigadier, is beyond imagination. This requires strictest matching punishment to d guilty!'

Meanwhile, the purported bill of a nightclub, where the woman and her Army friend were seen hanging around Saturday night, has been circulated over social media, claiming that the duo had ordered alcoholic drinks, food and beverages worth Rs 4,854. The bill was eventually paid by the Army officer. Another viral CCTV footage inside the club on the same night shows the duo was present till 2 am.

Chief engineer with

Bhubaneswar: Vigilance sleuths Saturday arrested NV Harihara Rao, a chief engineer at the Rural Works Circle of Balasore, for amassing disproportionate assets (DA) to the tune income. Following allegations of possession of huge ill-gotten assets by Rao, the anti-corruption sleuths cartiple locations linked to Rao and his family members Friday. During the searches, the sleuths claimed to have unearthed movable and immovable assets worth crores of rupees in the name of Rao and his family members. "A double-storey building on a 2,100 sqft plot in Berhampur, another buildarea of Bhubaneswar, a 3-BHK flat at Kamapalli in Berhampur, three 'benami' flats in Bhubaneswar and

177% DA arrested

of 177 per cent of his known sources of ried out simultaneous searches at muling spread over 3,000 sqft in Patrapada

Berhampur, and five homestead plots were found in the name of Rao and his family members," said a Vigilance press statement

ASI starts 2nd round survey of Ratna Bhandar PNN & AGENCIES

Puri, Sept 21: Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Saturday afternoon began the second round of technical survey of Srimandir Ratna Bhandar here, officials said.

Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) barred devotees from having a 'darshan' of the sibling deities from 1pm to 6pm during the three-day survey of the temple treasury. The main gates of the 12th century shrine will be closed for devotees during the survey, it had said.

SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee sought cooperation from devotees in this

Ratna Bhandar inventory committee chairman Justice



Biswanath Rath, who also entered the temple to take part

in the survey, said, "The ASI will also undertake the survey

September 22 and 23 during which it will be ascertained

whether there is any hidden chamber or tunnel inside the Ratna Bhandar. They have brought sophisticated radar for this purpose.'

The first round of the survey was held September 18, when a 17-member technical team of ASI led by its Additional Director General Jahnavii Sharma conducted the preliminary inspection of Ratna Bhandar and its laser scanning in the presence of Padhee and Justice Rath.

The team also comprised experts from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad.

It was September 18 when the SJTA had written to ASI requesting for completion of

the technical survey by September 24 in view of special rituals of the deities during Dussehra and 'Kartika' month. The rituals for Durga Puja will commence at the temple September 24.

The SJTA had also requested ASI to submit the survey report within the stipulated time, sources said.

The temple administration has shifted all valuables and jewellery from the outer and inner chambers of Ratna Bhandar and stored them in a temporary strongroom within the temple premises, an official said, adding all the activities are being carried out in accordance with the Standard Operation Procedure — (SOP) of the state govern-

Min Gond thanks Modi for launching PM-JUGA



Scheme to benefit around more than 10 lakh Scheduled Tribe families in 7,667 tribal villages in 27 districts

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 21: SC and ST development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare de partment Minister Nitvananda Gond Saturday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for launching 'Pradhan Mantri Janjativa Unnata Gram Abhiyan' (PM-JUGA) scheme for growth and upliftment of tribals in the

"The campaign will benefit around more than 10 lakh Scheduled Tribe (ST) families, in 7,667 tribal villages, in 27 districts of the state. Around 22.85

per cent of the total tribal population, 13 types belong to

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal

Groups (PVTG) communities,"

Gond stated that both the Central and the state governments are committed to providing uninterrupted services to the tribal communities and creating a healthy living environ-

"The campaign will bring progress in the tribal areas of Odisha and will integrate the tribal families of the suburban areas into the mainstream and empower them financially. Four objectives have been set under the campaign - rural development, economic empowerment, better education and better health for all," Minister Gond said.

Notably, aiming at improving the socio-economic condition of

Cabinet, chaired by PM approved PM-JUGA with a total outlay of ₹79,156 crore.

The programme will cover around 63,000 villages, benefitting more than five crore tribal people. PM-JUGA will cover 549 districts and 2,740 blocks, spread across all tribal dominated villages, across 30 states and Union territories

In Odisha, the initiative will cover 27 districts comprising 234 blocks, having 7,667 villages. It will benefit around 10,85,661 ST households and 48,15,670 ST population. The campaign also aims at promote innovative schemes like tribal home stay programme, support for forest rights holders and sickle cell disease management.

Tribal villages covered under PM-JUGA would be mapped on PM Gati Shakti Portal, with the gaps identified by the department concerned for its schemespecific requirements. The physical and financial progress will be monitored through the platform and the best performing districts will be rewarded.

According to sources, the scheme envisions saturation of critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education and livelihood through several Central schemes by convergence and outreach to ensure holistic and sustainable development of tribal areas and communities.

'No case of Mpox so far'

Bhubaneswar: The Health and Family Welfare department Saturday said no one was infected with Monkeypox (Mpox) in the state so far and therefore people should not be paranoid. The department further clarified that though there is no direct flight from Odisha to the 14 countries affected with Mpox, the airports and sea port authorities have been advised by the department to be on alert mode and follow the guidelines.



RHYTHMIC MOVE: Artistes perform Odissi during cultural programme Sangam organised by Art Vision at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

City AIIMS celebrates 12th Annual Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 21: AIIMS Bhubaneswar Saturday celebrated its 12th Annual Day with spirit of innovation and compassion, where Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo graced the occasion as chief guest and applauded the institution for its outstanding performance in healthcare services

Singh Deo acknowledged the institute's remarkable patient care and reassured full support from the state government in resolving land and other pressing issues. He reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring continued growth of AIIMS-Bhubaneswar.

In his speech, institute's executive director Ashutosh Biswas commended the collective efforts of AIIMS Bhubaneswar's team and emphasised its commitment to patient care and medical excellence.

"We have performed complex



Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo acknowledged the institute's remarkable patient care and reassured full support from the government

life-saving procedures and demonstrated a strong dedication to innovation in healthcare," he said. Biswas also highlighted several notable medical successes, such as the retrieval of organs from deceased donors. ECMO therapy, and intricate surgeries like the removal of a 7kg Synovial Sarcoma tumour from the scalp.

The institute has treated over

the team members, with local volunteers from different com-

munities, engage in the process

of cleaning the trash on the

beach, identifying the sources

of litter and motivating visi-

tors to bring change in their

10 lakh out-patients in the last year and conducted 17 lakh diagnostic tests and 25,000 surgeries. The institute was ranked third in the country in ABHA (Avushman Bharat Health Account) registration, generating 7,05,760 tokens. It also se-

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for 2024. The annual day event also in-

cured 15th position in the

■ Treated over 10L out-patients in the last year

Conducted 17L diagnostic tests and 25,000 surgeries

Ranked 3rd in the country in ABHA registration, generating

Secured 15th position in the

cluded a series of engaging pro grammes. On the occasion, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar's annual souvenir The Insight' was also launched.

The ceremony was attended by dignitaries including dean (Academic) PR Mohapatra, Dean (Research) Satyajit Mishra, dean (Exam) Soubhagya Kumar Jena and medical superintendent Dillip Kumar Parida.

Organising committee secretary Sweta Singh and additional secretary Somanath Padhi coordinated the event with precision, ensuring a seamless cele-

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY



POST NEWS NETWORK

behaviour and practice, one of the key factors essential for pollution free coastline. Indian Coast Guard (ICG)

deputy commandant Bharat Paliwala joined as chief guest and inaugurated the cleanliness drive. On the occasion, Puri Municipality executive officer Abhimanyu Behera assured to support the noble cause.

Officers from ICG also joined

in the event to inspire the participants and boost their spirit. From HCL Foundation Ravi Sharma and Sikha Sukla joined

Climate hackathon concludes at KIIT



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 21: The Weather and Climate Hackathon (WATCH), organised by Bronx Community College of the City University of New York (BCC/ CUNY) in collaboration with the US Consulates in Hyderabad and Mumbai, concluded at KIIT-DU, Saturday.

The event brought together students and faculty from 16 higher education institutions from states such as Goa, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat besides Odisha.

Participants utilised data from a network of 22 weather and air quality stations, installed through grants from the US State Department and a National Science Foundation (NSF) research grant to create programmes, tools, or apps aimed at improving public awareness and understanding of local climate and air quality issues.

During the event, participants were tasked with addressing five key areas including precision farming, use of Artificial

Intelligence and Machine Learning in weather, climate, and air quality applications, air quality improvement, heat waves and sustainable cities.

Milton Santiago, President, Bronx Community College, City University of New York informed various aspects of climate change and how to address it.

The KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta said the event has given better exposure to the participants about Odisha, its rich culture and heritage and advancements made in field of education.

Peter Groffman, City University of New York, in his address, shed light on climate proofing the future and how to prepare for climate extremes.

Among the speakers were Sita Raiter, Public Diplomacy Officer, US Consulate General Mumbai: Alexander McLaren, Public Affairs Officer, US Consulate General Hyderabad and Neal Phillip and Paramita Sen from Bronx Community College, City University of New York.

The event culminated in a pitch competition where the most impactful and innovative solutions were awarded.

DM Global School

ODMMUN held at



Bhubaneswar, Sept 21: The **ODM Model United Nations** (ODMMUN) 2024, organised at ODM Global School, concluded here Saturday. The two-day event was aimed

at fostering global cooperation and diplomacy among the youth. Over 400 delegates from 26

schools across India, Argentina, Kenya, and Uganda are participating in the event both online and offline along with executive board members from 11 committees.

Public Affairs Officer at the US Consulate General in Hyderabad Alexander McLaren spoke on international diplomacy and the significance of global understanding and collaboration among youth.

Director of the Direct Hand Foundation in Kampala, Uganda, Catherine Nakabugo shared her insights on promoting education and empowerment for girls.

ODM Educational Group chairman Satyabrata Minaketan, in his speech, articulated his vision for

The highlight of the event was the participation of 50 students from Starehe Boys' Centre and School in Kenya. Their contributions brought valuable perspectives to the discussions and enriched the overall experience for all delegates.

Additionally, under cultural exchange programme, students from Lubiri Secondary School in Kampala, Uganda, traveled to ioin the event in person, bringing a diverse cultural dimension to the proceedings and fostering international camaraderie.

Following the inaugural cere mony, delegates participated in a plenary session and podcast featuring discussions with Specialist in Advocacy, Social and Behaviour Change at Unicef Sugata Roy, and Influencer, Podcaster, and Founder of Olive Ridley Media Samar Pratap Nayak.

ODM Global School principal Shalendra Kumari expressed gratitude to all attendees on the concluding day.

Volunteers take up cleanup drive in Puri



Puri, Sept 21: On the occasion of International Coastal Cleanup Day Saturday, Spandan in collaboration with HCL Foundation, Puri Municipality and Puri District Administration, carried out a beach cleanliness drive with participation of 300 women from local communities.

chairperson Spandan

Barsharani Mishra said that it is a regular process in which

Paediatricians emphasise on nutritious food intake

AFFIDAVIT

CLASSIFIED

I, Kuladeep Burma, S/o-Bedamati Barma (Mother) and Kandarparaj Burma (Father), R/o. At-Nuapada, Maneswar, Gulunda, P.S.- Dhama, Dist.- Sambalpur- 768005 (Odisha) declare by this affidavit No.-228 dated 20.09.2024, that now onwards I shall be known as Kuldeep Burma, S/o-Kandarpa Burma (Father) and Bedamati Burma (Mother) for all future purposes.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 21: Paediatricians and nutritionists stressed the importance of providing nutritious food for children and reducing junk food intake during an event held at Madhuramavee Aadarsha Siksha Niketan on the occasion of National Nutrition Month (NNM) Saturday.

The event, organised by Odisha Patita Udhar Samiti, in collaboration with Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP) and Mankind. aimed at raising awareness about the critical role of nutrition in overall development of a child.



IAP president Ashutosh Mohapatra joined the event as

chief guest and stressed the im-

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in maintaining a healthy diet for children. "Nutritious food is vital for a child's physical and mental growth. Parents must ensure that junk food is minimised and healthier alternatives are provided," he stated.

Other notable speakers, including paediatricians Shushrut Dash, JB Parwari, and Debashmita Rath discussed the long-term benefits of a balanced diet and the health risks associated with poor eating habits. They emphasised the adverse effects of junk food on children's health and development, urging parents to introduce nutritious foods at an early age.

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488 Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823. Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714. Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Privadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion-Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.





JNIQUE ARTIFACTS: A crowd of customers at a bamboo products stall in the Bikash Mela organised by the district administration at Mandalia field in Sambalpur, Saturday

30-ft breach in Coast Canal embankment

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kalipada, Sept 21: Panic spread among locals as a 30-foot breach occurred in the embankment of the Coast Canal between Mahabala and Madhupura under this block in Balasore district Friday night.

Due to floods in the Subarnarekha river and continuous heavy rains, the water levels have risen throughout the Baliapal region. It is pertinent to mention that the road construction work from Haldipada



to Bhograi is going on. The breach occurred as the blocked water flow in the Coast Canal put pressure on the embankment where the construction work was underway.

The local administration has been using sandbags to fill the breach. However, locals feared that if a permanent solution is not implemented, about 20 villages, including Naighati, Goshanibindha, Mundananji, Surudiha, and Rautuda, in Pratappur and Jagatipur panchayats will be submerged. Additionally, hundreds of hectares of agricultural land in areas like Solasa Pantha could be destroyed.

Locals say that the lack of a guard wall along the canal's embankment is causing the breach, as it is not able to withstand the pressure of the water. Local residents Jagannath Jena. Gunanidhi Patra, Ramanath Pradhan, Kartik Raut, Chakradhar Pila, and Sameer Panigrahi have urged departmental authorities to take notice of the situation.

Mining on forest land: **CAG report raps OMC**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur, Sept 21: The state-owned Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) has been allegedly caught on the wrong foot due to mining on forest land without permission. As a result, OMC has to pay a fine of

The state government has even directed the OMC authorities to identify the officials involved in the wrongdoing and take necessary action against them. Reports however, said that no step has yet been taken after the state government's directive. This has also found mention in the 2024 report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

According to the CAG report, the OMC had received the record of rights (RoR) on 345.189 hectare of forest land for the Khandabandh iron ore mines in Keonjahr district for a period of 30 years from November, 1963 to November, 1993 from the state government. Later. the RoR of the mines was extended till November, 2033 on the application of OMC in June 2018.

However, OMC is alleged to have violated Section 2(2) of Forest Rights Act, 1980. The OMC had applied for the conversion of the forest land for Khandabandha mines before the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Keonjhar in October 1995.

The matter was taken up for a decision when OMC violated the Forest Rights Act and took up



mineral extraction. On being informed, the Forest department sought a clarification from OMC in 1997. Moreover, the Forest department asked OMC not to use any new jungle area for mining. However, violating this order,

OMC further took up mining on an additional 113.746 hectare of forest land. Later, the Keonjhar DFO issued a notice for closure of all mines on used and non-used forest land without the prior permission of the Union government on the basis of Forest Conservation Act in December, 2009.

As a result, all mining works had come to a halt since January 2010. Later, the Union government, while giving in-principle sanction for conversion of 345.189 hectare of forest land, also directed the state government to collect penalty from OMC for the violation in

Accordingly, the state govern-

ment demanded ₹47.12 crore from OMC on charge of illegal mining on 129.095 hectare of forest land in between 1994 to 2009. Subsequently, OMC deposited the penalty in September, 2019. Although the OMC authorities were fully aware of the illegal mining, they never realised that the penalty will be so

As per the CAG report, the illegal mining by OMC was deliberate and it never complied with the Union government's order. Moreover, no official has been held accountable for the violation in norms. The CAG has warned the OMC authorities to ensure that the illegal mining will not take place in future.

The state government has informed that all the mines managers and the regional managers working during the period have retired from their services and has asked the OMC to conduct a detailed probe.

Man gets life sentence for minor's rape

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baripada, Sept 21: The Additional District and Sessions Court-cum-Special Fast Track Court here in Mayurbhanj district convicted a 35-vear old man for raping a minor girl in 2019 and sentenced him to life imprisonment Saturday.

Judge Santosh Kumar Nayak also slapped a fine of ₹5,000 on the convict Kamal Lochan Singh alias Chhota. On default, Singh has to undergo imprisonment for one more

year, the court ruled in its order. The court has ordered the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) to pay a compensation of ₹6 lakh to the victim.

According to the case diary, the convict, a resident of Nua Sahi in Deulia village under Badasahi police limits had committed the crime January 15 in 2019. Finding the victim alone he asked her to come with him under the pretext of buying her a packet of biscuits.

Singh raped the minor girl in a

forest near her home and fled the spot leaving her in a critical condition. However, the victim some how managed to return home and narrated her ordeal to her family Acting on a complaint by victim's mother, Badasahi police lodged a case (10/19), arrested the accused and forwarded him to court.

The judge pronounced the verdict after hearing from all witnesses and going through the police and medical reports, informed Public Prosecutor Manoranjan Pattnayak

RSP commissions innovative vacuum cleaning system

Rourkela, Sept 21: Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has commissioned an innovative Industrial Vacuum Dust Cleaning System at the Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) Shop of Steel Melting Shop-II (SMS-II).

The vacuum dust cleaning system was launched to reaffirm RSP's commitment to sustainability and take a significant step towards a cleaner and healthier work environment.

The system was launched by RSP Director In-Charge (DIC) Atanu Bhowmick September 20 as part of the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign, attended by senior of-

ficials of the plant RSP sources said the newly com-



missioned system is designed to ef ficiently remove dust from the shop floor, structures, and roof platforms using advanced vacuum suction technology.

This innovative solution not only improves cleanliness but also enhances the overall quality of life for both employees and visitors.

Equipped with powerful suction capabilities, the system can extract even the finest dust particles and larger debris, significantly reducing the need for manual

The vacuum units operate on energy-efficient 3-phase electric power and are integrated with a network of pipes strategically installed throughout the shop, from ground level to the roof.

By effectively removing dust, the system contributes to a healthier work environment, helping prevent the spread of airborne diseases and reducing the risks associated with dust and pollution, thereby promoting safety and well-being.

The system is scalable and designed to handle even the most heavily polluted areas, including the shop roof.

RSP sources said after its successful commissioning in the BOF Shop, the system is expected to be extended to other areas of SMS-II as needed.

Developed under the leadership of TP Sivasankar, CGM (SMS-II), the project addresses the growing need for improving workplace ambience and implementing sustainable, efficient waste management systems.

Unlike traditional cleaning methods, which are time-consuming and labour-intensive, this vacuum suction technology provides a more effective and eco-friendly solution.

It ensures swift removal of dust and debris across the BOF Complex at SMS-II.

Food, drinking water crisis as Subarnarekha flood subsides

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhograi, Sept 21: As floodwater from the Subarnarekha river recedes, suffering of the flood-affected people under various blocks in Balasore district has worsened. Presently, the water level is 9.4 metre below the alert level at the Rajghat gauge station. After seven days of flooding, the marooned people are facing severe hardships in getting food and drinking water.

In northern blocks of Balasore such as Bhograi, Baliapal, Jaleswar, and Basta, more than a lakh people have been cut off from the outside world. Country boats and banana rafts have become their only means of transport to move from one village to another.

Owing to the floodwater, which has risen to a height of 2-10 feet in some houses, people have been deprived of cooked food for last seven days and forced to survive by eating flattened rice or puffed rice.

According to the Agriculture department, 9,568 hectares of paddy fields in Bhograi block, along with 2,900 hectares in Baliapal block and 8,000 hectares in Jaleswar block, have been affected by the floods. Roads remain submerged under 4-6 feet of water bringing daily life

documents in the website

date of opening of bid



to a halt. All tube wells and the drinking water pipe laid by L&T have been submerged giving way to a severe drinking water crisis. Over a thousand people, including children. who left their flooded homes in fear, have taken shelter on the Bhograi-Bhua embankment enduring dire conditions.

Although the administra tion claims to be providing dry food like flattened rice, jaggery, biscuits, and cooked meals to the affected people, many in various panchayats have complained that this is not the reality. Many claimed that despite being rescued and taken to shelters, they are not receiving enough food.

There have also been reports of mismanagement in the distribution of relief materials in several panchayats. It has been alleged that panchayat leaders and officials are mismanaging the process in Bhograi. Some flood-affected individuals even surrounded Supply de-

Civil (Roads) & Electrical Work
'C' & 'B' for Civil (Roads), MV & HT

28.48 Lakhs for Civil (Roads) Rs.4000.00 (Sl. No.4) & Rs.6000.00

11.30 hours of 03.10.2024 Dt.03.10.2024 at 12.00 Noon

for Electrical Works

(SI. No.1, 2 & 3)

Sd./- P.P. Swain

Executive Engineer, Balasore (R&B) Division-II

Notice is hereby given that one Mr./Mrs/M/s. Prasun Navak S/o. Mrigank

Nayak {here in after referred to as the said Mortgagors/Borrowers} have

created mortgage in respect of the Property more particularly described

in the Schedule here under in favour of my/our clients IDFC FIRST Bank

Limited (the Bank) (Branch Address: Ground Floor, Plot No. 475/2120

According to the said Mortgagors/Borrowers, original documents namel

ROR No. 148/1045 & RSD bearing Registration No. 11261900002 and

ROR No. 148/826 & bearing Registration No. 11261701002 of Mouza

If the aforesaid Original Agreements/Deeds/Documents, found by an

person, the same shall be handed over at the address mentioned herei

below. Further, if any person, body, individual, institution having any

claim and/or objection in respect of or against or relating to or touching

upon said property by way of sale, lease, lien, mortgage, charge

encumbrance, gift, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentar

deposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title, document

pertaining the said Flat shall communicate the same to the undersigned

at my address within 14 days from the publication of this notice with

documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim

of such person shall be considered to have been waived and or

abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 14 days

THE SCHDEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

(Detail description of the property)

Dist. Mayurbhani, Tahasil : Baripada, Mouza : Khetrapatna, ROR No.

148/1045 & RSD bearing Registration No. 11261900002 and ROR No

148/826 & RSD bearing Registration No. 11261701002

shall not be binding upon the said property or my Client

Place: Baripada dated this 21st day of September 2024.

Name and Address of the Panel Advocate

At : Tulasichoura, Baripada, Mayurbhanj

Panel Advocate, IDFC FIRST BANK LTD.

Pradyumna Jena, Mob: 7978923001

Ward No. 7, Deulasahi, Baripada, Mayurbhanj, Odisha-757001)

Khetrapatna have been lost / misplaced and not traceable

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

SHORT TENDER CALL NOTICE

BID INVITATION NO. EE (R and B) BLS-II-06/2024-25

behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids to

be received in ONLINE MODE only for Roads & Buildings works.

BALASORE (ROADS & BUILDINGS) DIVISION-II

AT/P.O.- BHASKARGANJ, BALASORE

partment workers and hurled verbal abuse at them due to

the disorganised distribution. During a press conference, local leaders such as Bhograi MLA Gautam Buddha Das. district BJD president and former minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi, BJD district MP candidate Lekhashree Samantsinghar, block chairman Prabir Kumar Giri, former block chairman Ganapati Giri, and BJD president Ramakant Karan criticised the state government's failure in managing the flood situation. They also demanded that the government provide seven days' worth of relief materi-

als to those affected by floods.

(1) Name of Work: MAINTENANCE 8 REPAIRING OF SIGNAL & TELECOM. (S&T) ASSETS BY OUTSOURCING AGENCY UNDER ASTE/BRAHMAPUR BRAHMAPUR, SSES/BALUGAON

(2) Name of Work: MAINTENANCE 8 REPAIRING OF SIGNAL & TELECOM. (S&T ASSETS BY OUTSOURCING AGENCY ROAD (KUR), SSES/SOUTH/KHURDA ROAD (KUR) & SSET/CNL/KHURDA ROAD (KUR)).

(KUR) (UNDER SUPERVISION OF SSES SSET/STORE/KHURDA ROAD (KUR)) Tender Value: ₹ 1,35,40,105.70, EMD (4) Name of Work: MAINTENANCE & REPAIRING OF SIGNAL & TELECOM. (S&T) ASSETS BY OUTSOURCING AGENCY

UNDER DSTE/CUTTACK (CTC) (UNDER

ASSETS BY OUTSOURCING AGENCY

SUPERVISION OF SSES/CUTTACK (CTC) SSES/CUTTACK (CTC)-II, SSES/PARADEER (PRDP) & SSET/CUTTACK (CTC)). Tender Value: ₹ 1,84,63,780.50, EMD

REPAIRING OF SIGNAL & TELECOM. (S&T) ASSETS BY OUTSOURCING AGENCY UNDER ASTE/TALCHER (TLHR) (UNDER SUPERVISION OF SSES/DHENKANAL (DNKL), SSES/TALCHER (TLHR) & SSET

Tender Value: ₹ 1,35,40,105.70, EMD

REPAIRING OF SIGNAL & TELECOM (S&T) UNDER ASTE/JAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD IAJPUR KEONJHAR ROAD (JJKR), SSES HARIDASPUR (HDS) & SSET/JAJPUF KEONJHAR ROAD (JJKR))

Tender Value: ₹ 1,35,40,105.70, EMD

(7) Name of Work: MAINTENANCE & REPAIRING OF SIGNAL & TELECOM. (S&T) ASSETS BY OUTSOURCING AGENCY UNDER ASTE/KENDUJHARGARH (KDJR) UNDER SUPERVISION OF SSES KENDUJHARGARH (KDJR), SSES BAGHUAPAL (BGPL) & SSET/ KENDUJHARGARH (KDJR)).

Tender Value: ₹ 1,35,40,105.70, EMD ₹ 2.17,700.00 Tender Document Cost : ₹ 5.900.00 (fo

all tenders), Bidding Start Date: 23.09.202 (for all tenders), Tender closing Date & Time: At 110

hrs. of 07.10.2024 (for all tenders) No manual offers sent by Post/Courie

Fax or in person shall be accepted again Complete information including e-tende documents are available in website

www.ireps.gov.in Note: The prospective tenderers are advise to revisit the website 15 days before the dat

Corrigenda issued for this tender Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engine

PR-544/P/24-25



Centre for Cultural Resources and Training 15-A, Sector-07, Dwarka, New Delhi–110075



Advt. No.: CCRT/11011/07/2024/04

Mission Mode Recruitment: Group - "B & C" posts in CCRT Applications are invited for the following Group "B & C" posts on Direct Recruitment basis in Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi. The vacancy details are as under

SI. No.	Name of the Post	Group	No. of Post	Post Reserved	Level
1.	Accounts Officer	В	04	UR-03, OBC-01	Pay Level - 7
2.	Administrative Officer	В	01	UR-01	Pay Level - 7
3.	Copy Editor (English-1, Hindi-1)	В	02	UR-01, OBC-01	Pay Level - 7
4.	Video Editor	В	01	UR-01	Pay Level - 7
5.	Documentation Assistant	В	01	UR-01	Pay Level - 6
6.	*Craft Instructor & Co-ordinator	В	02	UR-01, OBC-01	Pay Level - 6
7.	Hindi Translator	В	01	UR-01	Pay Level - 6
8.	Accounts Clerk	С	02	UR-02	Pay Level - 4
9.	Lower Division Clerk	С	06	UR-03, OBC-01, SC-01, EWS-01	Pay Level - 2
10.	Data Entry Operator	С	02	UR-01, OBC-01	Pay Level - 2

The detailed advertisement, prescribed Application Format and General Instructions are available in the CCRT website https://ccrtindia.gov.in/.

The closing date for receipt of the application is 28.10.2024 and late received application will not be entertained after the closing date.

Dy. Director (Administration)

CBC-09127/12/0007/2425

CCRT. New Delhi



SRI AUROBINDO



Discrediting Dissent

ere are two headlines from this month. One is 'FATF's Thumbs-Up To India's Efforts To Tackle Terror Financing, Money Laundering: Why It Matters'. Another was 'FATF Flags Terror Financing Lacunae In Indian NGO Sector'.

Let us see what these mean when put together. If one were to follow the news conscientiously nowadays, they'd find Indian authorities outlawing at least one non-governmental organisation every month. And the closure of these organisations at least finds a mention in the newspapers. There are many others, in fact the majority, that shut down in the darkness with no news of their demise. This is because under this government data on the closure of NGOs has been pulled down from the official websites where these things were previously made public. Outrage and protest against the relentless shrinking of civic space by the Indian government has also been criminalised. Deliberate attempts are made to force the civil society

But that is exactly what we need to be questioning right now clearly and loudly. What makes it an especially opportune moment is that the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has published India's mu-

tual evaluation report (MER) after a gap of 14 years calling out India for non-compliance with its standards in regulating the non-profit sector.

Now one may ask - what is Financial Action Task Force and why is it important? The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body with 40 members mandated to tackle global money laundering, terrorist financing and countering the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It functions by setting international standards for countries and then regularly evaluating and ranking countries' anti-money laundering and countering of financing of terrorism regime against those stan dards. India is one of the member states

FATF is important because in 2023, civil society groups in India documented that Indian government had consistently exploited FATF's recommendations to either enact or tighten the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

(UAPA) and the Prevention of Money non-governmental Laundering $\operatorname{Act}\left(\operatorname{PMLA}\right)$ – three laws that have become convenient tools of oppression at the hands of the Indian authorities against those who dare to speak up against the government. Specifically, FATF operates through a peer-review system to mutually assess the full and effective implementation of its 40 recommendations on money laundering and nine

special recommendations on terrorist funding by its member states. In line with the mutual evaluation process, a country's compliance is examined by other FATF member states, resulting in the production of an in-depth assessment report with targeted recommendations to address shortcomings called a mutual evaluation report. The countries who fail to comply with the standards, are put under increased monitoring and termed as "high risk jurisdiction," externally referred to as a "grey or blacklist." In the past, countries such as Turkey and Pakistan have been put on these lists. After a series of delays, India's mutual evaluation process started

in November 2023 and concluded in June 2024. On the conclusion of the evaluation process, FATF published its summary findings. On the one hand, FATF lauded India for its "high level of technical compliance" with FATF's other standards. This is what the first headline we began with refers to. On the other hand, and this is about the second headline, it called on the country to ensure that the measures it has put in place to prevent the non-profit sector from being abused for terrorist financing are implemented in line with a risk-based approach mentioned in FATF's Recommendation 8.

So what does this mean?

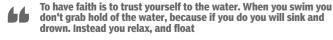
FATF Recommendation 8 requires that laws and regulations to combat money laundering and terrorism financing target only those Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) that a country has identified through a careful, targeted "risk-based" analysis - as vulnerable to terrorism financing abuse, and that fall under the FATF definition of NPO. It also recommends that corrective measures must be focused and proportionate to avoid disrupting the legitimate activities of NPOs. However, in complete defiance of Recommendation 8, the Indian authorities have not only passed laws that are severely overbroad in nature but continue to exploit them against civil society organisations and human rights defenders for carrying on their legitimate human rights work.

With a mere 2.2 per cent cases registered under India's anti-terror law resulting in conviction between 2016 and 2019 and at least 83 per cent of the cases pending before the court by the end of 2022, FATF also called on India to address the delays in concluding prosecutions under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. It recommended the same for prosecutions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act that has seen only 31 cases completing trial in the past nine year, indicating a clear lack of efficiency.

These recommendations, however, did not find a mention in the press release issued by India's Ministry of Finance that self-congratulated the country for an "outstanding outcome" in FATF's review. The convenient cherry-picking of recommendations by the Indian government is also evident from its continuous cancellation of the FCRA licenses of NGOs even after the review and misuse of UAPA and PMLA to shut down critical voices.

India will again be reviewed after three years. In this time, the government needs to ensure that it is reaching out to the non-profit sector and conducting an adequate risk assessment to put in place measures that are focused and proportionate and not overbroad and vague like the FCRA. It also needs to put an end to politically motivated prosecutions under India's anti-terror and money laundering laws. True governance does not lie in discrediting dissent.

WISDOM CORNER



We need enlightenment, not just individually but collectively, to save

the planet. We need to awaken ourselves. We need to practice mindfulness if we want to have a future, if we want to save



ECKHART TOLLE



Akaar Patel

the news

find Indian

authorities

organisation

every month

If one were to follow

conscientiously

nowadays, they'd

outlawing at least

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

IMBALANCE OF POWER



Malay Mishra

THOUGH THERE IS AN ABJECT SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER AMONG RUSSIA'S FORCES, PUTIN HAS MADE HIS POSITION CLEAR. THAT EVACUATING THE EASTERN **UKRAINIAN TERRITORIES IS** NON-**NEGOTIABLE**

kraine-born Marxist revolutionary Leon Trotsky, comrade-in arms of Lenin and Stalin, had famously questioned, "If the end justifies the means, what justifies the end?" and he had answered it himself, "The end is itself a means to another end. This could have been the vindication for the long-drawn Bolshevik revolution at the beginning of 20thcentury, but a century and two decades later, it has found expression in yet an other Russian upheaval in the continuing Russian aggression against Ukraine.

In this context, President Putin's recent comments made at the Russian Economic Forum at Vladivostok on pursuing peace negotiations in pursuance of the Istanbul talks held soon after the 22 February invasion, has come as a surprise, a cold comfort of sorts for Western powers backing Ukraine in its counter-offensive against Moscow. Putin's remarks, aimed in the context of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy's forthcoming visit to USA to ask for more US arms to hit Russia directly in its territory, added to the surprise invasion and occupation of Kursk and taking a large number of Russian soldiers as captives could also amount to a wake-up call against the background of Putin's earlier provocative statement of the possibility of using tactical nuclear weapons if Ukraine continued to use foreign arms and

munitions on Russian soil. Putin's statement needs to be juxtaposed against the indiscriminate missile and drone attacks of Russia against Ukraine civilians and power infrastructure in Poltava, Lyiv and other regions. Though there is an abject shortage of manpower among Russia's forces, Putin has made his position clear, that evacuating the eastern Ukrainian territories is non-negotiable. As such, Putin deems Ukraine as part of Russian territory. Ukrainians being a Slavic people of Orthodox Christian belief



India is the only country to be part of both Quad and BRICS though how it juggles both groups having come to represent two opposing world orders remains to be seen

similar to Russians. If this be the leitmotif for the prolonged Russian war, its endgame is very much a part of global anxiety

and diplomatic conjecture. Already, there are several prescriptive suggestions on the table; Ukraine's 10-point peace plan incorporated in the Burgenstock Communique (India had not signed the Communique), China and Brazil's 6-point plan at de-escalation not agreed to by Kyiv and India's proposal made during PM Modi's meeting with Zelenskyy on 23 Aug for a faceto-face meeting between the two parties, a proposal which had been made light of by Zelenskyy. Yet the West's insistence in pushing back Russia's aggression. getting its annexed territories in the Donbas back and getting Kyiv into the European fold (read membership in EU and NATO) would not only negate the spirit of negotiations but seriously jeopardize the European balance of power which is what Putin ultimately desires, to create rift within the European bloc by weaning away certain countries on to its side. Putin's assertion that use of foreign arms and missiles on Russian territory would amount to a war with NATO seems to have alarmed the Biden administration to the point that the recent visit of British PM Stramer to Washington and meeting with Biden to discuss the possibility of sending long range missiles to Ukraine met with a cold response from the Biden administration except for an additional financial assistance of \$250 million. In an election year with Biden's lame-duck tenure, the administration cannot risk taking up a direct affront with Moscow, particularly when US intelligence has reported that Russia could be engaged in influencing the US Presidential elections. In fact, the influential social media Telegram's founder of part-Russian ancestry Pavel Durov's arrest at the Paris Bourget airport soon after his arrival from Baku and sustained interrogation for 4 days after which he was directed not to leave French territory, is believed to be linked to messages being passed on to USA on the Telegram platform, besides child pornography and other abuses. In this context, Trump's assertion that he would put an end to the war soon after getting elected has further fuelled speculations though the manner in which he would end the war is not quite clear.

Under the circumstances Putin's naming of China, Brazil and India as possible mediators

to resolve the crisis amounts to an exercise in superfluity except to create the ground for the forthcoming BRICS Summit hosted by Russia in Kazan (Oct 21-22) where all these countries would be present besides the five new members inducted last year after the G20 Summit. It is interesting to note that Türkiye, a NATO member, has shown interest in joining BRICS and applied for membership supported by Moscow. Meanwhile, NSA Doval's attendance at the BRICS NSAs meeting at St Petersburg and subsequent meeting with Putin to brief him "personally" on Modi's meeting with Zelenskyy and the latter's asking for a bilateral meeting with the Indian PM on the sidelines of the BRICS summit brings India and Russian further close on the Ukraine issue though that may not necessarily translate to a peaceful solution as advocated by New Delhi. That Doval also met his Chinese counter part Wang Yi at the same forum. ostensibly to find a quicker so lution to the 4-year long border impasse on the eve of a possible Modi-Xi meeting in Kazan, could be yet another attempt of the Modi government at revisiting its China policy.

In this context Modi's visit to the US to attend the Quad Summit in Wilmington, Delaware on 21 Sept followed by his address at the UN Summit of the Future on 23 Sept gives an opportunity to expand India's mediatory efforts in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. India is the only country to be part of both Quad and BRICS though how it juggles both groups having come to represent two opposing world orders remains to be seen. As an emerging pole of the Global South, India's efforts at mediation on the Russia-Ukraine conflict would be watched with keen interest both at the UN and be-

The writer is a retired diplomat. Views expressed are personal.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Helping women adapt to extreme heat



Jess Ayers & Helen Mountford

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO EXTREME HEAT IS NO EASY FEAT, **ESPECIALLY FOR** THE MORE THAN **500 MILLION WOMEN IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY**

✓ to wildfires – often hit women the hardest. New research published this May in The Lancet found that even in wealthy European countries, women died at nearly twice the rate as men from extreme heat over the last two decades. According to Marcos Quijal, one of the report's authors, the findings "reflect a global trend."

In July, as heat records accumulated, causing even more deaths and economic damage, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called for international action to address what he described as our "global boiling." But protecting vulnerable communities from extreme heat requires deep commitment and significant funding, both of

which seem to be in short supply. The flow of climate finance has traditionally been skewed toward emissions-reduction efforts and clean-energy projects, because adaptation measures are viewed as being too locationspecific and hard to scale, as well as generating low returns. The UN Environment Programme's 2023 Adaptation Gap Report found that climate-

limate shocks – from heat-finance flows in 2021 amounted faster, and pay for treatment of these solutions can be deployed waves to droughts, floods to only about one-tenth of the estimated \$215-387 billion per year that developing countries need to meet their adaptation needs.

> Philanthropic foundations, however, are catalyzing investment by showing that adaptation is more scalable than previously thought. This summer. Climate Resilience for All, a global NGO focused on helping climate-vulnerable women build resilience, partnered with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), a trade union for informal workers in India, and local insurance companies Swiss Re and ICICI Lombard. These public- and private-sector groups teamed up with philanthropies to buy lowcost heatwave insurance for 50,000 members across 22 districts. As temperatures soared above 46° Celsius, every woman received a pay-out, averaging \$12.38 per person.

For women with strenuous and precarious jobs, the money was crucial for weathering the extreme heat. It helped them feed their families and pay their children's school fees when they couldn't work, restock their shelves as perishables spoiled Such an intervention may seem trivial, but it is enough to protect vulnerable individuals from being driven into poverty by climate shocks.

"I enrolled 350 members. When they got ₹400 [just under \$5], they said it was like ₹4000, as it came at a critical time of life. Some women repaid debts, others paid for their children's education and bought fresh goods," reported Sarojben, a grassroots leader of SEWA, adding, "It brings dignity to us. This pioneering insurance

scheme is adaptation at its best: directly reaching those most in need when they need support the most. Moreover, the programme is scalable and delivers significant social and economic benefits, enabling women to move up the development ladder and put themselves and their families on firmer financial footing.

Globally, women – including the leaders of SEWA, Climate Resilience for All, and many other organisations - have some of the best ideas for minimising the effects of climate change, often based on their practical experience. Moreover, many of

more women protect their livelihoods and their health in the face of unrelenting heat requires more funding.

Philanthropy is a start. All stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil-society organizations, and local communities, have a role to play in reducing the risks of extreme heat, protecting human health, and offering economic opportunities for everyone.

Building resilience to extreme heat is no easy feat, especially for the more than 500 million women in the informal economy. Innovative solutions such as heat insurance do exist, but philanthropies, governments, and private investors must work together to scale them up faster to counter the effects of rapidly rising temperatures. The payoff will be worth it, because boosting women's climate resilience benefits us all.

Jess Ayers is CEO of **Quadrature Climate** Foundation. Helen Mountford is President and CEO of ClimateWorks Foundation.

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, opinior and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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

Cautious treading

Sir, This refers to "India is a leader within Quad, says US," Orissa Post, Sept 21. This remark by Mira Rapp Hooper, White House official, came in the backdrop of PM Narendra Modi's US visit to participate in the annual Quad meeting. PM Modi's visit comes at a critical juncture, marked by electoral junctions in the US and diplomatic challenges. India is cautiously treading the line between engaging with both Republicans and Democrats as the US election looms, ensuring it does not appear to favour either side. At the heart of the current diplomatic equation is India's need to maintain a balanced relationship with both political factions in the US. Modi's rapport with Trump may have served India well during the latter's presidency, but it would be risky to appear partisan in the evolving geopolitical landscape. With Vice-President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee, India must ensure that its strategic ties with the US are not jeopardised, regardless of who wins the White House. Also, this visit focuses on multilateral engagements like the Quad summit and the UN Summit for the Future, marking a shift from Modi's earlier high-profile, personality-driven diplomacy to a more nuanced approach. The agenda includes strengthening ties on regional security, technology and climate change, along with solidifying India's position as a global peacemaker.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Reckless activities

Sir, This refers to "SC pulls up CBI" (Orissa Post, September 21). It may be a conspiracy of the CBI to get all the cases relating to post-poll violence in West Bengal in 2021 transferred by levelling scandalous allegations against the entire judiciary in the state. Kudos to the apex court for foiling the attempt of the CBI by cautioning the additional solicitorgeneral SV Raju who may have indirectly pampered the advocate concerned for reckless drafting of the petition. In my opinion, the Union Law minister should take cognisance of the matter and convey the message that such reckless activities of the CBI shall never be tolerated.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

RG KAR CASE

42-day long hiatus ends as junior docs join duty



Normalcy restored in emergency departments L in Bengal hospitals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 21: Junior doctors Saturday rejoined their duties partially at various government-run hospitals in West Bengal after a hiatus of 42 days.

They were on 'cease work' in protest against the rape and murder of an on-duty woman doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

The junior doctors rejoined their duties in essential and emergency services at all staterun hospitals but not in the outpatient departments (OPDs).

"We have started rejoining duties today. Our colleagues have started returning to their respective departments since this morning only in essential and emergency services, but not at the OPDs. Please do not forget that this is only a partial resumption of duties," Aniket

Mahato, one of the agitating

doctors, told PTI. He said his other colleagues have already left for flood-hit districts of the state where they would start 'Abhaya clinics' (medical camps), to demonstrate their commitment to public health even amid ongoing protests.

Emergency services returned to normalcy at various staterun hospitals, with the doctors rejoining work.

'It is a great relief for us. We support their cause but it had become very difficult for regular patients like us to get treatment for the last one month or so because of the 'cease work' Dipankar Jana, a patient at Bankura Medical College and Hospital, said.

Several patients were seen pouring in at an 'Abhaya clinic' in flood-hit Panskura in Purba Medinipur district.

'We have received very good response in these clinics. Several people have visited the clinics and our colleagues have attended to them. We are ready to provide 247 service... it is our commitment," Aheli Chowdhury, a junior doctor manning one such clinic, said.

The agitating doctors said that they would wait for another seven days for the administration to fulfil their demands for justice for the deceased doctor and the removal of state health secretary or else they would start another round of 'cease work'.

The doctors have been protesting since August 9 when the body of a woman medic was found at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, demanding justice for the deceased doctor as well as removing key officials from their posts alleging their involvement in the case.

The CBI, which is investigating the case, has arrested several people, including former principal of the RG Kar Hospital Sandip Ghosh, in connection with its probe.

Meanwhile, a crucial hearing in the rape and murder case is scheduled at a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court September 27.

Noted lawyer Indira Jaising is representing the junior doctors in the apex court. While Karuna Nundy is representing the senior doctors, Vrinda Grover is representing the vic-



Boys play on a waterlogged street after the water level of river Hooghly rises near Kalighat's Kali temple area, in Kolkata, Saturday

PTI PHOTO

Militants' infiltration: High alert in Manipur

Imphal, Sept 21: Northeastern state of Manipur has been placed on high alert after intelligence reports of a potential influx of 900 suspected Kuki militants from Myanmar, according to a senior security official.

An organisation that represents the Kuki community, however, denied the security official's allegations and called for his resignation.

Kuldiep Singh, Manipur's security adviser, told reporters the information regarding the militants had been shared with various intelligence agencies.

Since May 2023, Manipur has been embroiled in violence between the majority Meitei and minority Kuki communities, driven by disputes over economic benefits and quotas.

The border police have been alerted, and combing operations

are underway, he said, adding

that hill districts, home to Kuki

tribes, were put under heightened

Denying there had been an in-

flux of Kuki militants from

Myanmar, the Kuki Students'

Organisation (KSO), the main

body representing the community

in the state, accused the security

adviser of spreading false infor-

mation about the community

while failing to ensure their safety.

under his leadership...we would

"We no longer feel secure

vigilance.

the militants had been shared with various intelligence agencies

like to call for his resignation,"

Kuldiep Singh,

Manipur's security

adviser, told reporters

the information regarding

a KSO statement said. The Kuki people, residing in southern Manipur, share ethnic ties with the Chin tribe in Myanmar.

The latest intelligence follows reports of attacks involving explosives delivered by drones that officials allege were carried out by Kuki militants. Kuki representatives have denied the attacks were carried out by people in their community.

In response to the attacks,

No. of work **Bid Cost**

Meitei protesters have held large gatherings in Imphal, demanding action against Kuki militants.

Despite efforts to quell the unrest, sporadic clashes persist, with the latest violence resulting in 11 deaths earlier this month. Since May of last year, the conflict has resulted in at least 237 deaths and displaced over 60,000 people in Manipur, which is home to 3.2 million people.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has repeatedly attributed the violence to an influx of refugees following Myanmar's 2021 military coup.

Last year, the government revoked a long-standing policy permitting visa-free movement along the 1,650-km porous border, and announced plans to construct a border fence at a projected cost of 310 billion rupees.

These measures have drawn criticism from Kuki groups due to their ties across the border.

No.B-31

Jharkhand-Bengal border reopened

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata/Ranchi, Sept 21: After remaining closed for around 24 hours, the West Bengal-Jharkhand border has been reopened for the movement of trucks for inter-state trade, officials said Saturday.

The West Bengal government had closed the border Thursday evening after the release of water by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) from its dams located along the inter-state boundary with Jharkhand, causing flooding in districts of south Bengal.

The inter-state border has opened and thousands of goodsladen trucks stranded on NH 2 and NH6 have left for West Bengal, a Jharkhand government official said. Truck operators in West Bengal said that the border has opened but it will take some time to clear the 20-25-km-long queue of trucks stranded along the border.

The closure, which was scheduled to continue for three days, led to the stranding of thousands of trucks, including those carrying perishable goods from northern states and even emergency services were affected.

Manipur bans hunting Amur falcons

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Imphal, Sept 21: In a bid to protect and provide support to migratory Amur falcon birds, Manipur's Tamenglong district authorities have imposed a total ban on hunting, catching, killing and selling of the seasonal winged guests by anyone in the district and nearby surrounding areas.

These majestic birds (Falco Amurensis), locally known as 'Kahuaipuina', embark on an incredible long-distance journey, travelling up to 22,000 km in a single year, all the way from eastern Asia to South Africa and back during early autumn.

Tamenglong's District Magistrate L Angshim Dangshawa in an order said that the migratory bird usually arrives in many parts of Tamenglong district and bordering areas from the first to the second week of October and is likely to roost till the end of

November. Dangshawa in his order also asked the 45 village authorities of the district to keep the air guns deposited in their custody



until the last flock leave their roosting place or till November

Earlier, the 'Amur falcon dance festival' was organised by the forest authorities in collaboration with the local clubs to raise awareness of the protection of the birds.

Forest and wildlife experts said that this unique long-distance migratory bird usually arrives in Manipur, Nagaland, Assam and adjoining northeastern states in mid-October from their breeding grounds in South Eastern Siberia and

Northern China. After a few weeks stay in Manipur, Nagaland, Assam and a few other northeastern states, the Amur falcons fly towards Southern and Eastern parts of Africa and roost a short time before moving towards their

breeding grounds. Manipur's Tamenglong and nearby Senapati districts share inter-state borders with Nagaland, where also people, wildlife and forest officials every year take measures to protect the Amur falcons

The Amur falcons are locally known in Nagaland as 'Molulem'. The Amur falcon has been granted legal protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of

A Nagaland forest official said that the state serves as a crucial stopover for these birds -which at times number up to 100,000 -- for rest and refuelling for a duration of three to four weeks during winter.

Nagas and other tribals, known for their love for meat, had for decades considered these birds as 'god-sent' when they had first arrived in 2012.

Thousands of birds were caught and consumed every year before 2012, but massive efforts involving villagers to protect the migratory birds in Nagaland have resulted in near-zero ca-

sualties since 2013.

The conservation of Amur falcons and other migratory birds helped promote tourism in Nagaland as hundreds of tourists assembled along the lakes and water bodies in Wokha and adjoining districts adjacent

CBI questions Ghosh's close aides Kolkata: CBI officers Saturday questioned two doctors allegedly close to the

arrested former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Sandip Ghosh, as part of their investigation into the rape-murder of a woman medic at the facility, an agency official said. The doctors — Birupaksha Biswas and Avik Dev — are being interrogated at the CBI's CGO Complex office in Salt Lake. The questioning began early Saturday, with each doctor being interviewed separately regarding the RG Kar hospital case. Both were questioned about their presence at the hospital August 9, despite having no official engagement, among other enquiries, the officer told PTI. The two doctors are reportedly part of the so-called 'North Bengal lobby', a term used by medics in West Bengal to describe a group of doctors and officials at state-run medical establishments who allegedly threaten students. leak question papers and engage in other illegal activities.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **DHENKANAL (R&B) DIVISION, DHENKANAL** Email- eedklpwd@gmail.com INVITATION FOR BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No. SE DKL (R&B) 12/2024-25 **Invitation for Bids** Superintending Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Division, Dhenkanal, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in Single Cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Building work as detailed below

Class of Contractor Availability of Bid : From 10.00 AM of 27.09.2024 to Documents in the website Date of Opening of Bid : Dt.15.10.2024 at 11.00 A.M. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Furthe details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov

₹6,000/

in. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only Sd./- Superintending Engineer Dhenkanal (R&B) Division

OIPR-34016/11/0009/2425 [GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA] No. MM-167

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, **BARGARH FOREST DIVISION, BARGARH**

E-mail – dfo.bargarh@odisha.gov.in; Mob. No.- 9439494810 INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (I.F.B.)

e-Procurement Notice IDENTIFICATION NO. FORDFO BGH No.01 OF 2024-25 No. 3619, Dated.20.09.2024

1) The Divisional Forest Officer, Bargarh Forest Division, Bargarh or behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid in Single Cove System in ONLINE MODE for the Civil work as detailed in the Detailed

ender Call Notice (D.T.C.N) from the eligible class of contractors 1. Construction of Forest Guard Quarter at Name of the work: – Talgaon of Bargarh Range

2. Construction of Forest Guard Quarter at

Dwari of Bhatli Range.

3) Estimated Cost: - Rs.1188975/- each

4) Cost of Tender Paper: - Rs.6,000/-Class of contractor:- "C" & "D" Contractor

Date & Time of available in website & receipt of Bids: – 15:00 Hrs. of 23/09/2024 to 17:00Hrs. of 03/10/2024.

Date of opening of Technical Bid: - 04/10/2024 at 11:30 Hrs. 8) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the State Govt. Portal website https://tendersodisha.gov.in

Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the websit https://tendersodisha.gov.in only.

Sd./- Bikram Dev Pattanaik, OFS-I (SB) **Divisional Forest Officer**,

OIPR-08057/11/0005/2425 **Bargarh Forest Division**

Irish group to help artists to create Durga Puja pandal

THE INITIATIVE IS AIMED AT CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN IRELAND AND INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 21: In a unique artistic fusion, a celebrated Irish cultural group has joined hands with artists in Kolkata to create a Durga puja pandal to celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Ireland.

Irish group 'Macnas' from Galway and 'Behala Nutan Dal' from Kolkata is creating a pandal that would honour both the Hindu goddess Durga and the Celtic goddess Danu, according to the Irish embassy in India.

The pandal is being created for the iconic Durga Puja celebrations next month.

The initiative is aimed at celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations between Ireland and India, the embassy said announcing the initiative.

"Durga Puja in Kolkata is one of the most awe-inspiring festi-



vals I have ever witnessed. The energy, creativity, and community spirit of the festival are unparalleled." Ireland's ambassador to India Kevin Kelly said.

"This year, we are thrilled to see Irish artists collaborating with their Indian counterparts to celebrate shared cultural values. It will undoubtedly be a highlight of our 75th anniversary celebrations," the envoy Kelly said Ireland and India

share a strong and growing partnership that transcends diplomatic relations.

"Our peoples are connected through education, culture, and shared values. As we mark 75 years of friendship, we are committed to strengthening these ties further, especially as both nations explore new opportunities in trade, technology, and culture," he said.

This fusion of Irish and Indian creativity will offer a visual spectacle that reflects the power of cross-cultural collaboration and celebrates the power of women and the feminine spirit, the embassy added.

It said the partnership marks a significant cultural exchange and symbolises the growing global recognition of Durga Puja as a platform for cross-cultural India and Ireland have been

strengthening their ties across multiple sectors, including trade. education, and culture Ireland has emerged as a significant destination for Indian stu-

dents seeking higher education,

particularly post-graduate, doc-

toral and post-doctoral students in the areas of engineering, technology, medicine, and manage-There are around 45,000 Indian origin people living in Ireland, of whom approximately 29,198 are persons of Indian origin (PIOs)

matic ties between the two countries were established in 1947. India opened its embassy in Dublin in 1951. The Irish embassy in New Delhi was opened

and 18,500 are NRIs. The diplo-

national

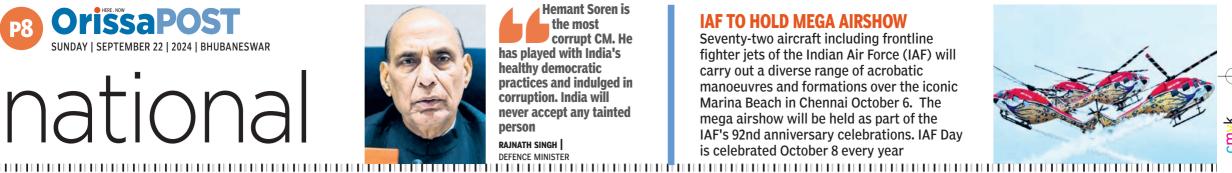


Hemant Soren is the most corrupt CM. He has played with India's healthy democratic practices and indulged in corruption. India will never accept any tainted

RAJNATH SINGH I DEFENCE MINISTER

IAF TO HOLD MEGA AIRSHOW

Seventy-two aircraft including frontline fighter jets of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will carry out a diverse range of acrobatic manoeuvres and formations over the iconic Marina Beach in Chennai October 6. The mega airshow will be held as part of the IAF's 92nd anniversary celebrations. IAF Day is celebrated October 8 every year





government is dethroned from

power. The JMM, Congress and the RJD have indulged in corruption and looted Jharkhand

SAMRAT CHOUDHARY | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

The country is a union of states. The attempt of the BJP to prove its dominance

under the veil of 'one nation one election by hurting the spirit of union of states should be repelled

A REVANTH REDDY | TELANGANA CM





DEVENDRA FADNAVIS MAHA DY CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Soldier killed in road accident

Jammu: An Army jawan was killed and six others injured when their vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said Saturday. The accident took place near Sukrala Devi temple on Machedi-Billawar road Friday when the troops were on patrol in the remote area, they said.

Bihar: Panchayat head shot dead

Samastipur (Bihar): The head of a panchayat in Bihar's Samastipur district was shot dead in Halai area, police said Saturday. The assailant has been arrested and an investigation is underway. they said. The deceased has been identified as Naravan Sharma, the 'mukhiya' of Banviro panchayat in

Student jumps off fifth floor, dies

Indore: A Class XI student allegedly committed suicide by jumping off a building in Madhya Pradesh's Indore Saturday, police said. Vinayak Mishra, a student of Barfani Academy living in Nilgiri hostel at Swadesh Bhawan. jumped from the fifth floor of the building in the morning, MIG police station in-charge Manish Lodha said.

Ex-MP's nephew shot dead in Guj

Chhota Udepur: Kuldeep Rathwa, the nephew of former MP Ramsinh Rathwa, was shot and killed during a scuffle related to the Gram Panchayat elections in Pipladi village in Gujarat Saturday. The incident occurred when two individuals allegedly opened fire, resulting in Kuldeep's death. Reports said that Kuldeep Rathwa had previously defeated one of the accused, Shankar Rathwa, twice in the Panchayat elections, leading to threats against his life.

9 from one family attempt suicide

Rajkot: Nine members of the Soni family from the Keydayadi area of Raikot attempted mass suicide by consuming poison Saturday. The family members have been rushed to Civil Hospital for emergency treatment. Reports said that the Soni family - jewellers by profession - took the extreme step after traders from Mumbai withheld ₹2.75 crore for 22-carat gold iewellery

Atishi urges Delhiites to The 'Parivartan Yatra' will continue in the state until the JMM-led alliance government is

Atishi hailed Kejriwal for setting an example in morality by stepping down as the chief minister despite getting bail from Supreme Court in the excise policy case

New Delhi, Sept 21: In her first remarks after taking oath, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi hit out at the BJP Saturday for hatching a "conspiracy" against her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal and urged the people of the capital to ensure that the AAP national convenor returns to the top post again after the Assembly polls due early next year.

Addressing a press conference here, Atishi said it is an "emotional day" for her as Kejriwal wil not continue to be the Chief Minister.

"It is an emotional moment for me as he will not be the chief minister. He understood the pain of every person. He ensured free treatment for people, worked to improve the lives of the students of government schools, brought the provision of free bus rides for women.



"The BJP implicated him in a false case and did everything to break him," the Chief Minister said, as she referred to Kejriwal as her "guru" and thanked him

for giving her this opportunity. With the Assembly polls due early next year, Atishi said the people of the national capital must ensure that Kejriwal becomes the Chief Minister again so that the free services like free electricity and water continue.

She accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of trying to stop the facilities being enjoyed by people under the Kejriwal government.

'I assure you that since Kejriwal has come out of jail now, we will not let any conspiracy of the BJP succeed,' she said. Atishi hailed Kejriwal for setting an example in morality by stepping down as the chief

13 portfolios for CM

New Delhi Chief Minister Atishi will retain all the 13 portfolios, including education, revenue, finance, power and PWD, that she held in the previous government in the national capital headed by Arvind Kejriwal. A proposal from the Chief Minister for allocation of work among the ministers of her cabinet has been approved by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, officials said Saturday. Atishi's predecessor Kejriwal did not hold any portfolio. Atishi, the eighth Chief Minister of Delhi, has retained four ministers from the previous government -- Saurabh Bharadwai, Gopal Rai, Kailash Gahlot and Imran Hussain. First-time MLA from Sultanpur Majra Mukesh Ahlawat is a new member in her Cabinet.

minister despite getting bail from Supreme Court in the excise policy case.

Rahul defends his remarks on Sikhs

THE FORMER CONGRESS **CHIEF SAID BJP WAS DESPERATE TO SILENCE HIM BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT STAND THE TRUTH**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 21: Accusing the BJP of spreading lies about his recent remarks in the US, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Saturday asked Sikhs whether there was anything wrong in what he had said and if India shouldn't be a country where every Indian could practise their religion without fear.

"The BJP has been spreading lies about my remarks in America. I want to ask every Sikh brother and sister in India and abroad -- is there anything wrong in what I have said? Shouldn't India be a country where every Sikh -- and every Indian -- can freely practise their religion without fear?" Rahul said in a post on X. "As usual, the BJP is resorting to lies. They are desperate to silence me because they cannot stand the truth. But I will always speak up for the values that define India: our unity in diversity, equality, and love," he said.

Rahul also shared a short clip of his remarks in the US that shows him referring to a Sikh man. His remarks came after



the BJP Saturday cited a joint statement of several Sikh groups to ask him to withdraw his statement, which it alleged had created an atmosphere of fear in the country.

BJP leader Manjinder Singh

Sirsa told reporters several Sikh and gurdwara management bodies had met Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai over the issue and that he asserted the sacrifices of the Sikhs had made the country strong. Addressing a gathering of Indian-Americans in Herndon, a Virginia suburb of Washington DC, Rahul had said, "First of all, you have to understand what the fight is about. The fight is not about politics. That is superficial.'

Rahul asked one of the Sikh attendees in the front rows to give his name. "What is your name, brother with the turban?" he had asked. "The fight is about whether he, as a Sikh, is going to be allowed to wear his turban in India or he, as a Sikh, is going to be allowed to wear a 'kada' in India. Or he, as a Sikh, is going to be able to go to a gurdwara. the Congress leader had said.

Services on SC's YouTube channel resume

New Delhi, Sept 21: The services on the Supreme Court's YouTube channel, which was hacked Friday, has resumed.

"This is to inform all concerned that the YouTube channel of Supreme Court of India is live and up. The services on YouTube channel of Supreme Court of India has been resumed," said a notice uploaded on the apex court's website Friday. The top court's YouTube channel was hacked Friday and showed videos promoting a cryptocurrency developed by US-based company Ripple Labs.



"Brad Garlinghouse: Ripple Responds To The SEC's \$2 Billion Fine! XRP PRICE PREDICTION' was live on the hacked channel

Later in the day a notice posted on the apex court's website informed that the court's YouTube channel was taken down. "This is to inform all concerned that the YouTube channel of Supreme Court of India has been taken down. The services on YouTube channel of Supreme Court of India will be resumed shortly," said the notice posted on the top court's website earlier Friday.

BANGALORE HORROR

30 pieces of woman's body found in fridge



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 21: A 29-yearold woman's dismembered body was found in a house in Malleswaram here, police sources said Saturday. According to police,

Mahalakshmi's body, cut into over 30 pieces, was stuffed in a refrigerator. Senior police officers reached the spot and barricaded the road leading to the building where

the body was found in a single bedroom house, where the victim was staving alone. Police suspect it to be a case

of murder, which took place about a week ago. An investigation has been launched into the case.

Additional Commissioner of Police (West Zone) N Satheesh Kumar said, "A woman's body was found chopped into pieces and stored in a fridge at a house within the Vyalikaval police staolice suspect it to be a case of murder, which took place

n investigation has been launched into the case

been done 4-5 days ago.'

forensic experts too visited the spot and started the investigation. "The body has been identi-

from her husband.

While Mahalakshmi lived in Malleswaram and was working in a mall, her husband worked in a hermitage away from the city. After learning about the incident, he too came to the spot.

The incident was a stark reminder of the brutal murder of Shraddha Walker by her live-in partner Aftab Poonawalla May 18, 2022 at Mehrauli in Delhi.

Twenty-eight-year-old dumping them across the city.

tion limits. It appeared to have

He said the dog squad and the

ed. The probe is going on. We will give more information after the investigation. She was settled in Karnataka but is originally from another state," Kumar told reporters. It is learnt that the woman was living separately



People visit a painting exhibition organised in protest against the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, West Bengal Chief justices appointed in 7 high courts

Poonawala allegedly strangled Walkar and sawed her body into 35 pieces which he kept in a 300litre fridge for almost three weeks at his residence before PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, Sept 21: New chief

justices were appointed in seven high courts, including in Delhi, Saturday. Separately, Justice M S Ramachandra Rao, who heads the Himachal Pradesh High Court, has been transferred as

the chief justice of the

Jharkhand High Court. His trans-

fer came days after the

Jharkhand government moved

BJP-led Centre for not implementing the apex court collegium's recommendation to send Justice Rao to head the

state high court. The appointments came after the Supreme Court Collegium amended some of its July 11 recommendations Tuesday. While Justice Manmohan, the acting chief justice of the Delhi High Court, has been appointed as the court's chief justice, Justice

Rajiv Shakdher, a Delhi High Court judge, has been elevated as the chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

Justice Shakdher is due to retire October 18. The collegium had recommended that upon his retirement on attaining the age of 62, Justice G S Sandhawalia be appointed as the chief justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh. This recommendation is pending with the government and may come

through ahead of Justice Shakdher's retirement. Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar, a Bombay High Court judge, has been appointed as the chief

justice of the Kerala High Court. Justice K R Shriram of the Bombay High Court has been made the chief justice of the Madras High Court, Justice Indra Prasanna Mukerji of the Calcutta High Court has been appointed as the chief justice of the High Court of Meghalaya.

AI could be capable of learning by thinking: Researchers

ALBERT EINSTEIN AND GALILEO GALILEI ARE KNOWN TO HAVE USED THOUGHT EXPERIMENTS FOR COMING UP WITH THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY AND INSIGHTS ABOUT

umented how people learn from observation, in which one acquires knowledge by observing the external world.

However, another way of learning -- a relatively neglected one -- is 'learning by thinking', in which one gains knowledge without input from the external world, such as through thought experiments or self-ex-Sciences'.



model to draw analogies can lead it to answer questions more accurately than it would with simple questions, Lambrozo said. A form of AI, a large language model is trained on massive amounts of textual data and can, therefore, respond to users' requests in the natural language.

Prompting AI to engage in step-by-step reasoning can explained that in humans, examples of 'learning by thinking' can include explaining how a microwave works to a child, during which we might come across gaps in our understanding.

Another example stated was that of rearranging furniture, which often involves picturing different layouts in one's mind



national



For over a decade, the BJP has made hollow promises and failed to deliver on its commitments to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Unemployment is soaring, developmental projects have been delayed and basic services remain out of reach for many

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

DHARAVI TENSE

Tension prevailed in Dharavi slum colony Saturday morning after hundreds of residents blocked a road to oppose the Mumbai civic body's plan to demolish an alleged illegal portion of a mosque, an official said



government will not compromise on law and order and strict action will be taken against negligent police personnel



You should understand



KAMAL HAASAN MNM FOUNDER



PINARAYI VIJAYAN KERALA CM



on the charges of He was still given

bail. He came out and this time shot her dead in front of her mother and bother. Welcome to Yogi's Ram Rajya

SHORT **TAKES**

BJP worker accused

of assaulting minor

Tikamgarh (MP): Police has

registered a case against a BJP worker, recently appointed

as a local representative by

Kumar, for allegedly sexually

assaulting a 7-year-old girl in

Madhya Pradesh's Tikamgarh

district. The minister Saturday

Tiwari from his post after the

alleged crime came to light.

Tiwari was absconding after

the First Information Report

was registered, said a police

official here. Union Minister

had September 10 named

Tiwari as his 'sansad pratinidhi' (local MP's

representative) for a

government school.

and local MP Virendra Kumar

Woman gets stuck

Noida: A woman got stuck

above the road -- where she

control on a flyover here and

on the pier -- some 35 ft

fell after her scooter lost

officials said. Two people

who went down to help the

They were later rescued as

the local police and the fire

bridge personnel rushed to

incident happened at 12.45

pm when the woman along

their home in Ghaziabad on a two-wheeler, they said.

the spot, they said. The

with her friend was travelling from Sector 18 to

woman also got stuck there.

hit a divider Saturday,

in flyover pillar

removed accused Ashish

Union minister Virendra

Flood-like situation in Bihar: CM inspects affected areas

THE RISING TREND IS NOT LIMITED TO THE GANGA, ALMOST ALL RIVERS IN THE STATE ARE AFFECTING LOW-LYING LOCALITIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Sept 21: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inspected the rising water levels of the Ganga at key locations in Patna and Hajipur Saturday and urged officials "remain alert and be prepared to tackle any situation" in light of the developments.

Officials said the river is flowing above the danger mark at Digha Ghat, Gandhi Ghat, Hathidah, and Maner in Patna district and consequently several low-lying areas in Patna and Hajipur (Vaishali district) have been inundated.

The rising trend is not limited to the Ganga, almost all rivers in the state are affecting low-lying localities. So far, around



five people —four in Saran and one in Bhojpur — have lost their lives after their areas were inundated, they added.

Accompanied by senior officials, the Chief Minister inspected Ganga's water levels near J P Setu, Kangan Ghat, Gandhi Ghat, and Krishna Ghat. A statement from the Chief

TIRUPATI LADDU ADULTERATION

Minister's Office (CMO) said, "the CM directed the district administration and other officials concerned to remain alert and be prepared if the water level rises further.'

According to the state Disaster Management Department (DMD), approximately 12 districts along the Ganga are experiencing flood-like situation and around 9.78 lakh people living in low-lying areas have been affected by rising water levels. A total of 327 village panchayats in these districts have been impacted, with Bhojpur and Patna each reporting a maximum of 43 affected panchayats, officials added. Around 1,280 boats are being used in rescue and relief operations, officials said.

The 12 affected districts are Buxar, Bhojpur, Saran, Vaishali, Patna, Samastipur, Begusarai, Lakhisarai, Munger, Khagaria, Bhagalpur and Katihar.

Kumar also visited a relief camp for flood-hit people in Hajipur, instructing officials to "take all-out efforts to provide assistance and relief." The statement added that a large number of people from low-lying areas have been evacuated and brought to the camp.

Additionally, the Chief Minister emphasised the need for the agriculture department and Vaishali district administration to ensure that farmers involved in banana plantations receive adequate compensation for crop damage due to flooding.

'The agriculture department has been directed by the CM to conduct an immediate survey to assess the damage to crops...so that compensation is distributed among the affected farmers at the earliest," the statement added. Officials noted that flash floods have destroyed several acres of banana plantations in Vaishali district.

Veteran CPI (M) leader M M Lawrence no more

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Sept 21: Veteran CPI(M) leader MM Lawrence, who was among the leaders involved in the attack on a police station at Edappally here during the Communist uprising in Kerala in 1950, died Saturday, party sources said.

He was 95. His death occurred at a private hospital where he had been receiving treatment for age-related ailments for about a month.



Lawrence's body, which was shifted to the mortuary of the hospital, will be kept at his residence, the CPI(M) Ernakulam district committee office, and the town hall Monday for the public to pay their last respects.

The body will later be handed over to the Government Medical College Hospital, Ernakulam, at 4 PM Monday, the CPI(M) said in a statement.

According to CPI(M) leader and State Industries Minister P Rajeeve, the body will be donated to the medical college, fulfilling his last wish, which he had previously discussed with his family.

A former Lok Sabha member representing the Idukki seat, Lawrence served in various capacities, including as a member of the CPI(M) Central Committee, a member of the state secretariat, state general secretary of CITU, and convener of the Left Democratic Front (LDF).

ANTI-TOBACCO DISCLAIMER

Will consult priests: AP CM Govt wants 30 secs unskippable OTT ads



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Sept 21: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu Saturday said the government will consult pontiffs, sages, priests and other top Hinduism experts on the future course of action to be taken following allegations of animal fat adulteration in Tirupati laddus

During a recent NDA legislative party meeting, Naidu claimed that the previous YSRCP government did not even spare Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple and used substandard ingredients and animal fat for making the popular Tirupati laddus, known for their unique taste. The Chief Minister said after consultation, the government will take its decision with respect to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), the official custodian of world-renowned Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Tirupati. "We are discussing what to do next and how

to go forward with respect to TTD. After deliberating with pontiffs, priests and Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism) experts, we will decide on how the samprokshana (ritualistic sanitisation) should be done,' said Naidu in an official release. Highlighting the unique glory

of the Tirupati laddu, the CM noted that many people tried to make better prasadams (consecrated food) but failed at it. "In Ayodhya also they tried

to replicate Tirumala laddu and workers were also taken from here but it was not possible. This matter was told to me by people from there (Ayodhya)," said Naidu, adding that Tirupati laddu is centuries old. Further, the CM vowed that

the government will accord utmost primacy to the holiness of temples and protect devotees' sentiments. "Every religion will have some customs and traditions and the government needs to protect them," he said, adding that several alleged desecrations 'KMF using GPS to track ghee supplied to TTD

Bangalore: Karnataka Milk Federation has installed geopositioning system on its vehicles that supply ghee to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), which manages the Tirupati temple, following a row over substandard 'ghee' used in Tirupati laddus, a top official said Saturday. KMF managing director M K Jagadish said the Nandini Ghee supply was restored after the TTD awarded a tender to KMF a month ago. Nandini is the popular brand of the Karnataka Milk Federation.

occurred in temples during erstwhile YSRCP government.

Castigating YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for his rebuttal to the a nimal fat allegations and the NDDB lab report on the ghee used in laddus, the TDP supremo questioned as to how cow ghee could be procured as low as ₹320 per kg. He also questioned the previous YSRCP government policies such as reverse tender ing employed for making laddus offered to the deity and the manner in which Reddy defended himself, alleging that Naidu was indulging in diversion politics.

According to the CM, immediately after the new government formed, he directed TTD executive officer to completely sanitise Tirumala, who took several measures to improve the quality of laddus, which also included blacklisting some suppliers.

It also proposed displaying anti-tobacco health warnings as prominent static messages at the bottom of the screen during the scenes that show use of tobacco

products in all content PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 21: The Union health ministry has proposed mandatory display of "non-skippable" anti-tobacco health spots of at least 30 seconds and audio-visual disclaimer on illeffects of tobacco use for 20 seconds on OTT platforms as soon as one starts streaming them.

The ministry recently released draft amendments for anti-tobacco rules for over-the-top (OTT) platforms. According to the draft norms, all films of Indian and foreign origin irrespective of their CBFC certification status published and released on or after September 1, 2023 will have to display anti-tobacco health spots of minimum 30 seconds duration each at the beginning and middle of the movie.

"The Cigarette and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Rules 2024" amend the anti-tobacco rules that the ministry had issued in May last year. The 2023 rules also mentioned that every publisher of online curated content displaying tobacco products will have to display anti-tobacco health spots of minimum 30 seconds duration each

at the beginning and middle of the film and display anti-tobacco health warning as a prominent static message at the bottom of the screen during the period of the display of tobacco products or their use. But the 2023 rules did not ex-

plicitly use the term "films" and separately detailing the rules for them. The draft rules issued September 13 state, "All content published in the online curated content platforms, shall display non-skippable and anti-tobacco health spots of minimum 30 seconds duration and non-skippable audio-visual disclaimer on the ill effects of tobacco use, of minimum 20 seconds upon opening the platforms of the publishers of the online curated content.

"So basically streaming platforms now will have to show these health spots and audiovisual disclaimers not just in the beginning and in the middle of the programmes but as soon as someone opens up the streaming platform In the existing current rules, the health spots and audio-visual disclaimers are not displayed immediately after opening the platforms, explained an official source.

The draft rules have been published in the Gazette of India for information of all stakeholders who can send their suggestions and objections till October 13.

Considering public health as a priority issue, India in May last year became the first country to make it mandatory for OTT platforms to display anti-tobacco warnings and disclaimers as seen in movies screened in theatres and television

EY DEATH CASE

Rahul speaks to victim's family

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 21: Leader of_ Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Saturday spoke with the parents of Anna Sebastian Perayil, who died due to alleged extreme work pressure at Ernst & Young, and assured them that he will fight for the cause of improving working conditions for the mil-

lions of professionals in India. Rahul spoke Anna Sebastian's parents via a video call arranged by the Chairman of All India Professionals' Congress (AIPC) Praveen Chakravarty who visited their home in Kochi.

"I spoke with the heartbroken parents of Anna Sebastian, a bright and ambitious young professional whose life was tragically cut short by toxic and unforgiving work conditions,' Rahul said in a post on X.

In the face of unimaginable grief, Anna's mother has shown remarkable courage and selflessness, turning her personal loss into a powerful plea for safer and fairer workplaces for all, he said.

"I have promised Anna's family my personal commitment, along with the full support of the Congress party, to ensure that this tragedy becomes a catalyst for change," Rahul said in a statement.

urged Bangladesh Foreign

Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain

to allow the export of hilsa to

India during Durga Puja, amid

uncertainty over the shipments

of the fish this year following

unrest and change of govern-

The Association secretary



Students perform during the 7th North East Students' Festival in New Delhi

8 Naxalites surrender

Bijapur: Fight Naxalites. three of them carrying a cumulative cash reward of ₹11 lakh on their heads, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Saturday, a senior police official said. The ultras, including a woman. were active in various wings of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) in Gangaloor, National Park and Usoor Pamed areas, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra

Kumar Yadav said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Sept 21: Bangladesh's interim government Saturday said it would export 3,000 tonnes of hilsa fish to India, coinciding with the upcoming Durga Puja, revising its earlier decision.

Durga puja will be celebrated from October 9 to 13. The development comes days after the interim government, led by Professor Muhammad Yunus, earlier this month imposed a ban on hilsa export to India to meet domestic demand, discontinuing a long-standing tradition of Bangladesh as a "goodwill gesture" to its neighbour.

"Against the backdrop of appeals by the exporters, approval has been given to export 3,000 tonnes of hilsa fish (to India), fulfilling the specific conditions on the occasion of the upcoming Durga Puja," the commerce ministry said in a statement.

The ministry asked applicants to contact its relevant wing to obtain export permission.

The previous Awami League government led by deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina had allowed hilsa exports to India between September and October every year as a goodwill gesture, a tradition that had been nurtured for years. Officials said Bangladesh



B'desh reinstates hilsa export to India for Durga Puja

in 2023 had allowed 79 companies to export a total of 4,000 tonnes to India, coinciding with the Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of Hindu Bengalis.

Bangladesh is the world's largest hilsa producer but it restricts the export of the fish due to high local demand. However, during the Durga Puja festival,

WORLD'S LARGEST HILSA PRODUCER BUT IT RESTRICTS THE EXPORT OF THE FISH DUE TO HIGH LOCAL DEMAND

■ HOWEVER, DURING THE DURGA PUJA FESTIVAL, IT **USUALLY RELAXES THE** BAN ON THE EXPORT OF THE FISH, WHICH IS A MUCH SOUGHT-AFTER DELICACY OF BENGALIS

export of the fish, which is a much

sought-after delicacy of Bengalis.

Association earlier this month

India's Fish Importers

it usually relaxes the ban on the

Syed Anwar Magsood, in a

ment in the country.

letter dated September 9, pointed out that while Bangladesh imposed a ban on hilsa export in 2012, it has been allowing its export in a limited quantity from the first week of September until the end of the Durga Puja festival as a goodwill gesture for the last five years.

international convenience store clerk during a robbery



I see no long-term differences in our attitude to the current or previous elections in the **United States, because it is** ruled by the notorious 'deep state' SERGEI LAVROV

SOUTH CAROLINA'S FIRST EXECUTION IN 13 YEARS

South Carolina put inmate Freddie Owens to death as the state restarted executions after an unintended 13-year pause because prison officials couldn't get the drugs needed for lethal injections. Owens was convicted of the 1997 killing of a Greenville





Donald Trump when I travel to the Ukraine's victory plan in the war against Russia

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY PRESIDENT, UKRAINE





TAYYIP ERDOGAN PRESIDENT, TURKEY

There may also be cases when Bangladesh does not like many comments from India. This is not a major issue. We cannot change our neighbours but can only coexist and with a good relationship

TOUHID HOSSAIN FOREIGN ADVISER, BANGLADESH

SHORT TAKES

China guv jailed over 58 affairs

Beijing: A female official in China has been sentenced to 13 years in prison and fined one million yuan (approximately ₹1.18 crore) for misconduct. According to the South China Morning Post (SCMP), Zhong Yang, nicknamed "the beautiful governor" for her looks, served as the governor and deputy secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Qiannan prefecture, Guizhou province. She has been accused of having sexual relations with 58 male subordinates and accepting nearly 60 million yuan in bribes. The 52-year-old joined the Communist Party at 22, eventually rising to the rank of deputy in the National People's Congress (NPC).

Cartel war kills 53

Mexico City: Some 53 people have been killed and 51 others are missing in Mexico's western Sinaloa state since Cartel began clashing September 9, local authorities said Friday, with gruesome violence showing no signs of abating. The trigger for the conflict between the two most powerful factions of the Sinaloa Cartel, a drug gang, dates back to July, when legendary trafficker and leader of one of those groupings, Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, was arrested in the United States. Since fighting broke out Sept 9, shootouts have disrupted daily life in the capital, Culiacan, where schools have had to close on some days while restaurants and shops shuttered early.

ISRAELI STRIKE ON BEIRUT FRIDAY KILLED 37 INCLUDING 16 HEZBOLLAH MEMBERS, TWO SENIOR LEADERS

Beirut, Sept 21: At least 37 people died in an Israeli airstrike on a Beirut suburb Friday, the Lebanese health ministry said Saturday, including three children and seven women, in the deadliest strike in a year of conflict between Hezbollah and Israel as they continue to trade fire.

Hezbollah said overnight that the dead included 16 of its members, including senior leader Ibrahim Aqil and another top commander, Ahmed Wahbi.

The strike sharply escalated the conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed group and inflicted another blow on Hezbollah after two days of attacks this week in which pagers and walkie-talkies used by its members exploded. The total death toll in those attacks has risen to 39, and more than 3,000 were injured.

The attacks on communications devices were widely believed to have been carried out by Israel. which has neither confirmed nor denied its involvement.

Hezbollah-aligned transport minister Ali Hamieh told reporters at the scene of Friday's strike that at least 23 people were still missing

"The Israeli enemy is taking the region to war," he said. The ministry had dispatched vehicles and equipment to help rescuers dig through the collapsed buildings. "We've been taking out women and children from under the rubble," he said.

Hezbollah confirmed Aqil's

Big blow to Hezbollah

FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA



death in a statement just after midnight that called him "one of its top leaders"

It said overnight that 15 other members were also killed, including senior commander Wahbi.

who oversaw the military operations of the Radwan special forces during the Gaza war until early

The Friday afternoon strike targeted a building next door to a nursery, which suffered impact from the strike, a security source said on Friday.

A second security source said multiple missiles slammed into the opening of a building's garage. The explosion tore into the building's lower levels as Aqil met other commanders inside.

In a brief statement Friday evening carried by Israeli media, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel's goals were clear and its actions spoke for themselves

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant,

who said this week that Israel is launching a new phase of war on the northern border, posted on X: "The sequence of actions in

the new phase will continue until our goal is The achieved: the safe strike in a return of the res densely populated area dents of the of Beirut's southern north to their suburbs was part of an homes." extremely dangerous cycle of Tens violence with devastating thousands of

consequences. people have This must stop now been evacuated from homes on JEANINE-HENNIS PLASSCHAERT | UN both sides of the LEBANON Israel-

> Lebanon border since Hezbollah began firing rockets at Israel in October in sympathy with Palestinians in the nearly year-old Israeli war against Hamas in Gaza.

> Israel's military said Saturday that airspace in northern Israel from the city of Hadera north was closed to private flights, but said the measure did not affect international flights.

> 'These restrictions were set in place to maintain the security of flights and in accordance with operational activity," the military

COMMS BLASTS

Hungary interviews CEO linked to exploding Hezbollah pagers

ungarian intelligence services have conducted several interviews with the CEO of BAC Consulting, a Budapest-based company linked to deadly explosions of pagers used by Hezbollah members this week, the Hungarian government said Saturday. Taiwanese pager firm Gold Apollo said Wednesday that the model of pagers used in

detonations in Lebanon were made by BAC Consulting, adding it had only licensed out its brand to the company and was not involved in the production of the devices. Cristiana Barsony-Arcidiacono, 49, the Italian-Hungarian CEO and owner of BAC Consulting, told NBC News earlier this week that she did not make the pagers and said she was "just the intermediate." Hungarian intelligence agencies have been conducting their investigation since Wednesday and have interviewed Barsony-Arcidiacono several times, the Hungarian government's international press office said in a statement.

Keralite linked with explosions

Dinson Jose, a Kerala-born emigrant to Norway, Thas been linked to the Hezbollah pager blasts in Lebanon, which killed 12 people. Reports have suggested that Norta Global, a Bulgaria-based company owned by him, had a role in supplying the pagers. The relatives of Rinson Jose, a Malayalee, said that they trust him and he will be not involved in the Lebanon pager blasts. "We speak daily over the phone. However, for the last three days, we have

had no contact with Jose. He is a straightforward person and we trust him fully. He will not be part of any wrongdoing. He may have been trapped in these blasts," said Thankachen, a relative of Jose. Jose hails from Wayanad who holds a Norwegian passport and is settled with his wife in Norway's Oslo. Media reports said that Jose owns Norta Global, a company registered in Bulgaria and is believed to have supplied the pager explosives to Lebanon.

said. With at least 70 people killed in Lebanon this week, the death toll in the country since October has surpassed 740. The current conflict between Israel and Hezbollah is the worst since they fought an all-out war in 2006.

Friday's strike marked the second time in less than two months that Israel has targeted a leading Hezbollah military commander in Beirut. While the current conflict has largely been contained to areas at or near the frontier, this week's escalation has heightened concerns that it could widen and further

Israeli strike on school kills 22 people in Gaza

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Deir al-Balah (Gaza Strip), Sept 21: An Israeli strike on a school in northern Gaza Saturday killed at least 22 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, while the Israeli army said it targeted a Hamas' command centre in what used to be a school.

Another 30 were wounded in the strike on the school in the Zeitoun area of Gaza City, the ministry said in a statement. Most of the casualties were women and children, it said.

The Israeli army said earlier Saturday it struck Hamas' "command and control centre, which was embedded inside a compound that previously served" as a school. It said steps were taken to limit harming civilians, including the use of precise munitions and aerial surveillance.

"The Hamas terrorist organisation systematically violates international law by operating from inside civilian infrastructure," the army said, an accusation it has repeatedly made.

Since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war, the Israeli army has struck a number of schools, packed with tens of thousands of Palestinians driven from their homes by Israeli offensives and evacuation orders. The conflict has left 90% of Palestinians in Gaza displaced, according to figures from the United Nations.

The military has continually accused Hamas of operating from within civilian infrastructure in Gaza, including schools, UN facilities and hospitals.

Earlier this month, an Israeli strike hit a school in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing 14, according to Palestinian medical officials. The Israeli military said it was targeting Hamas militants planning attacks from inside the school.

Iran boasts new missile,

drone amid ME unrest

Modi meets Biden ahead of Quad summit

The annual Quad summit at President Joe Biden's hometown Wilmington is expected to roll out a series of new initiatives to boost cooperation in the *Indo-Pacific and explore* ways to find peaceful solutions to the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wilmington, Sept 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday met US President Joe Biden on the margins of the Quad summit here and the two leaders were expected to discuss a range of issues, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

During the meeting at Biden's home in Wilmington, Delaware, the two leaders were set to review and identify new pathways to further deepen India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic



The war and Modi's recent visit to Ukraine is expected to figure prominently in the bilateral meeting, according to US National Security Adviser Jake

Modi was welcomed by Biden at his residence and the two leaders hugged each other. Biden held Modi's hand as he led him into the house.

Modi, who is here as part of his three-day visit to the United States, will also hold separate bilateral meetings with

The Summit of the **Future is an** opportunity for the global community to chart the road ahead for the betterment of humanity NARENDRA MODI | PM, INDIA

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida who are here for the Quad Summit.

"My meeting with President

Biden will allow us to review and identify new pathways to further deepen India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership for the benefit of our people and the global good,' Modi had said in his departure statement in New Delhi.

Modi was accompanied by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Ambassador of India to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra. The US team included Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs TH Jake Sullivan and Ambassador of the US to India Eric Garcetti.

The four-member Quad, or the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, advocates upholding a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific. Beijing sees it as an anti-China grouping.

From Wilmington, Modi will travel to New York where he will attend an Indian community event at Long Island September 22 and address the Summit of the Future at the UN General Assembly the next day.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tehran, Sept 21: Iran unveiled a new ballistic missile and an upgraded one-way attack drone at a military parade Saturday, state media said, amid soaring regional tensions and allegations of arming Russia. Iran stands accused by Western governments of supplying both drones and missiles to Russia for use in its war with Ukraine, a charge it has repeatedly denied.

The solid-fuel Jihad missile was designed and manufactured by the aerospace arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and has an operational range of 1,000 kilometres (more than 600 miles), state news agency IRNA said.

The Shahed-136B drone is an upgraded version of the Shahed 136, with new features and an operational range of more than 4,000 kilometres (2,500 miles), it added.

New President Masoud Pezeshkian attended the annual parade in Tehran, commemorating the 1980-88 war with Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

"Today, our defensive and deterrent capabilities have grown so much that no demon even thinks about any aggression towards our dear Iran," he said.

"With unity and cohesion among Islamic countries... we can put in its place the bloodthirsty, genocidal usurper Israel, which shows no mercy to anyone, women or children, old or

Unable to hurt the real fighters in Palestine, they are venting their malicious anger on small children, on hospital patients, and on schools filled with young children AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI

young."

Also Saturday, in a show of strength, Iran unveiled its "Jihad" single-stage liquid-fuel ballistic missile with a high-explosive detachable warhead and a range of 1,000 km, according to state TV.

The missiles were displayed, along with other military hardware, during a parade marking the anniversary of the start of the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

The Middle East has been in turmoil since Iran-backed Palestinian group Hamas attacked Israel October 7 sparking war in Gaza and drawing in Iranian allies around the region.

The tensions have intensified in recent days as the focus of Israel's firepower has shifted north to the Lebanon border where its troops have been battling the Iran-backed group ঽ Hezbollah.

Britain, France, Germany, and the United States slapped new sanctions on Iran earlier this month, alleging that it had been providing ballistic \(-\) missiles for Russia's war effort in Ukraine.

Heavily indebted Lanka votes to decide economic future

Buttressed by a \$2.9bn bailout programme from the IMF, Sri Lanka's economy has posted a tentative recovery but the high cost of living remains a core issue for many voters

REUTERS

Colombo, Sept 21: Millions of Sri Lankans were casting their votes Saturday to elect a president who will face the task of bolstering the South Asian country's fragile economic recovery following its worst financial crisis in decades.

More than 17 million of Sri Lanka's 22 million people are eligible to vote in an election that has shaped up to be a close contest between President Ranil Wickremesinghe, main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and Marxist-leaning challenger Anura Kumara Dissanayake,



PREMADASA DISSANAYAKE ARE FRONTRUNNERS

VOTE IN PREZ ELECTION FIRST ELECTION SINCE SRI LANKA'S 2022 **ECONOMIC MELTDOWN**

who led in one recent opinion

Well-organised polling booths manned by public officials and police guided Sri Lankans on how to cast their vote as citizens in Colombo, the country's biggest city, lined up after voting

began at 7 am.

'I think we desperately need a change and I think a lot of people feel the same way. For us to have a future the entire country must have a future, first," said Niroshan Perera, 36, a supporter of Dissanayake.

Voting was proceeding peacefully across the island nation and queues outside booths lengthened as the day progressed, local TV channels showed. Polls close at 4 pm, with counting scheduled to start shortly afterward. The Election Commission is expected to announce the winner

were set up across the country and 250,000 public officials deployed to manage the election, RML Rathnayake, the head of Sri Lanka's election commission, told Reuters.

This is the first election since Sri Lanka's economy buckled in 2022 under a severe foreign exchange shortage, leaving the Indian Ocean island nation unable to pay for imports of essentials including fuel, medicine and cooking gas.

Thousands of protesters marched in Colombo in 2022 and occupied the president's office and residence, forcing then-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

to flee and later resign. Although inflation cooled to 0.5% last month from a crisis high of 70%, and the economy is forecast to grow in 2024 for the first time in three years, millions remain mired in poverty and debt, with many pinning hopes of a better future on their next leader.

'This is an election that will outskirts of Colombo.

programme until 2027 to get its economy on a stable growth path. reassure markets, attract investors and help a quarter of its people climb out of crisis-induced poverty.

"The people have to decide the future of this country. I ask everyone to vote peacefully, Wickremesinghe, accompanied by his wife, said after voting at the University of Colombo. "We happy I've been able to make a

change the history of Sri Lanka. Over 13,000 polling stations People are voting enthusiastically," Dissanayake said after casting his vote at a temple in the The winner will have to ensure Sri Lanka sticks with the IMF

have stabilised the government and the democratic system. I'm major contribution to that.'

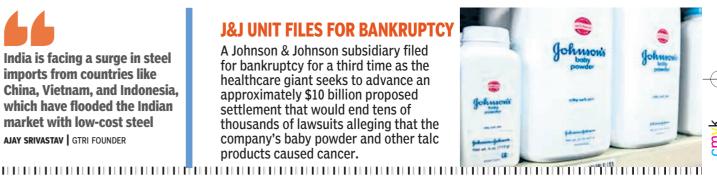
business



India is facing a surge in steel imports from countries like China, Vietnam, and Indonesia, which have flooded the Indian market with low-cost steel AJAY SRIVASTAV | GTRI FOUNDER

J&J UNIT FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY

A Johnson & Johnson subsidiary filed for bankruptcy for a third time as the healthcare giant seeks to advance an approximately \$10 billion proposed settlement that would end tens of thousands of lawsuits alleging that the company's baby powder and other talc products caused cancer.





or speaking, customers can intuitive shopping experience, further enhanced by AIpowered tools like personalised recommendations and Alexa for seamless shopping assistance

SAURABH SRIVASTAVA VICE PRESIDENT, CATEGORIES, AMAZON INDIA

When we consider that the FY in question covered only the early part of our transformation program, before most of the initiatives we have been working on were implemented, these early results should encourage us that the effort is bearing fruit. Work has of course continued apace in the six months since the FY ended, and the strong momentum has continued...

CAMPBELL WILSON | AIR INDIA CHIEF



will forge deeper trade and economic ties besides creating new opportunities for

businesses on both sides PIYUSH GOYAL UNION MINISTER

SHORT **TAKES**

OYO to acquire Motel 6 brand

New Delhi: IPO-bound travel tech platform OYO Saturday announced it has agreed to acquire iconic American budget hotel chain Motel 6 and Studio 6 brands from Blackstone Real Estate for USD 525 million in an all-cash transaction, as the Indian unicorn eyes expansion in the US. Oravel Stays, the parent company of OYO stated that it has agreed to acquire G6 Hospitality, the leading economy lodging franchisor and parent company of Motel 6 and the chain's offshoot hotel brand, Studio 6. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2024, subject to customary closing conditions. Motel 6's franchise network produces gross room revenues of USD 1.7 billion, which generates a strong fee base and cash flow for G6. OYO will leverage its comprehensive technology suite as well as its global distribution network and marketing expertise to further strengthen the Motel 6 and Studio 6 brands and drive continued financial growth, it stated.

India, Korea talk trade

New Delhi: India and Korea Saturday held discussions on upgrading the existing free trade agreement, balancing two-way commerce and promoting investments between the two countries. The issues were discussed during a meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and his Korean counterpart Inkyo Cheong at Vientiane, Laos. "Deliberations were held on achieving more balanced trade, upgrading the India-Korea Comprehensive **Economic Partnership** Agreement (CEPA), promoting investments linked to job creation and addressing nontariff barriers to further strengthen our economic ties,' Goyal said in a post on social media platform X. The two countries are holding review meetings to upgrade the CEPA which was operationalised in January 2010. So far, over 10 rounds of review talks have been held. The two countries have sought greater market access for certain products that are under the negative list of the agreement. No customs duty concessions are granted for the goods under this list. Department of Commerce had earlier engaged with different ministries, including heavy industries, steel, and chemicals, to prepare the offer list.

equity market this week



THE FLOOD OF FII **MONEY HAS** APPRECIATED THE **RUPEE BY 0.4% WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 20**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 21: The foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turned aggressive buyers this week infusing ₹14,064 crore in the cash market as Indian markets remained resilient amid robust economy performance, data showed Saturday.

FII investment till September 20 stood at ₹33,699 crore, taking the total FII investment in the country to ₹76,585 crore this year to date, as per NSDL data.

Market watchers said that the trend of FII buying is likely to continue in the coming days.

Manoj Purohit from BDO India said the US Federal Reserve made the first interest rate cut in the last four years, by a larger than anticipated margin of 50 bps and the foreign portfolio investors (FPI) fraternity has been conscious about this move and reacted passively.

"The Indian markets reflected their resilience on a positive note basis the strong fundamentals and robust economy performance at the expected GDP growth," said Purohit.

September witnessed the second highest inflows in 2024 so far, the last one being in March.

The flood of FII money has appreciated the rupee by 0.4 per cent for the week ended September 20. This can boost further FII buying, said ana-

Despite global uncertainties, the primary factors, to make emerging markets like India a sweet spot, are balanced fiscal deficits, rate cut impacts on the Indian currency, strong valuations, and RBI's approach to keep inflation under control without a rate cut.

To add, the IPOs announced this year attracted a large chunk of foreign funds making the Indian capital market buoyant and a lucrative place to shift their positions from other riskier countries, said analysts.

All eyes on the RBI now whether it follows the suit by making a cut in the reporate in October or wait till December.

There is a strong case to marginally cut rates to manage food inflation, diluted interest from household savings which impact the retail lending business

India's monetary policy has been more conservative despite the Fed's action so far, said

Flls infuse ₹14,064cr in Nifty's bullish momentum to continue

Mumbai, Sept 21: After a sideways start the Indian benchmark indices gained momentum this week after a surprise 50 bps rate cut by the US Fed Reserve, as Sensex crossed 84,000 for the first time and Nifty hit a new all-time high.

As per market watchers, the apprehension of a slowdown in growth was eased slightly after the lower-than-expected US jobless claim and data pointed to a soft landing of the US economy at the start of the rate cut cycle

The ongoing bullish momentum is like to take Nifty towards 25,900-26,000 levels. On the upside, 26,000 will act as an immediate hurdle for Niftv.

"On the downside, 25,500 will serve as an immediate support for Nifty followed by 15-DEMA support, which is placed near 25,300 levels. As long as Nifty ularly in sectors that had prestays above 25,600, a 'Buy on viously experienced selling pressure. Dips' strategy is advisable for traders," said Hrishikesh Yedve

Intermediates. Following the Fed's rate cut, Indian markets have seen renewed buying interest, partic-

from Asit C Mehta Investment

Securities.

The rupee traded positively with gains of 0.10 at 83.53, supported by continued weakness in the dollar index, which is trading at 52-week lows.

said Jateen Trivedi from LKF

Analysts saw a sectoral rotation among investors to large caps, especially in consumption, staples, auto, finance, and realty

In the short term, investors are being cautious on export-oriented sectors like pharma and IT due to depreciation in the dollar, they added

Gold traded very positively, reaching an all-time high in Comex above \$2,610, driven by strong liquidity inflows from the US Fed following a significant rate cut.

Analysts said that the outlook for gold continues to favour upward momentum, with further rate cuts likely boosting prices.

MF investments move beyond top cities

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 21: Investors from smaller cities in India are embracing mutual funds like never before and the share of such investors in cities beyond the top 15 have risen significantly in the last four years, a new report showed Saturday.

While Mumbai and Delhi continue to hold their place with most number of investors, accounting for 39 per cent investors as of June 2024, other cities have steadily contributed over 30 per cent of investors since March 2021, according to a Franklin Templeton report.

Mumbai and Delhi also contributed over 40 per cent investors till December 2023 but the contribution of these metros slipped to 39 per cent in March this year, the report mentioned.

Also, the assets under management (AUM) of investors in below 30 cities outpaced the top growth in the AUM of the top 30 cities in the country.

The top 30 cities saw AUM growth from ₹20 lakh crore in



December 2018 to ₹54 lakh crore in August 2024 – a CAGR of 19 per

On the other hand, the below 30 cities saw a CAGR of 24 per cent, from ₹4 lakh crore AUM in December 2018 to ₹12 lakh crore by August 2024

Telangana accounts for 63.89 per cent of investors in India with the highest average AUM growth. It is followed by Rajasthan with 51.19 per cent growth. Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Gujarat also make it to the list with more than 40 per cent growth.

New Delhi and Maharashtra saw the least growth over the year with a little over 30 per cent growth in average AUM.

As per latest data from the Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI), the net AUM of the Indian mutual fund industry surged to cross ₹65 lakh crore mark in August. Equity funds saw ₹38,239 crore inflows in August, a 3.03 per cent growth from ₹37.113 crore witnessed in

"The resilience of the Indian

markets is providing additional

strength to the rupee. Key sup-

port levels for the rupee are seen

at 83.60-83.65, while resistance

lies in the range of 83.40-83.30."

Equity inflows have shown remarkable strength, with the last four months consistently exceeding ₹34,000 crore.

The systematic investment plans (SIPs) reached fresh highs as monthly contributions via SIPs hit ₹23,547 crore in August, against ₹23,332 crore in the previous month.

₹3L-crore needed each year to achieve 440 GW RE capacity by 2030

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 21: An investment of over ₹3 lakh crore is needed every year in the renewable energy sector to take India's installed green capacity to 440 gigawatt, Icra experts said.

"We expect India to have 440 gigawatt installed capacity of renewable energy by 2030." Vikram V, Vice President & Co-Group Head - Corporate Ratings, ICRA Ltd said at a media roundtable. The estimated capacity would require incremental investment of at least ₹3 lakh crore every year over the next five to six years, Girish Kumar Kadam, Group Head Corporate Sector Ratings at ICRA Ltd.

He further said to meet the renewable purchase obligation (RPO) target of 43 per cent by 2030, the renewable energy capacity should more than double to 440 GW from the current level of 200 GW. The government's target is to have 500 gigawatt of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Sharing his outlook for the RE sector, Kadam said India has made significant progress in renewable energy capacity addition with a strong policy focus, but factors such as energy storage, grid integration, and fully-integrated renewable energy equipment manufacturing pose challenges, given the increasing share of renewables in the energy mix.

The evolving landscape presents both risks and significant investment opportunities, especially as the demand for cleaner energy sources intensifies. The sector's growth potential is immense, provided the government addresses these pressing issues expeditiously, he said.

In a presentation, ICRA experts said that by FY2030, electric twowheelers will account for 25 per cent of new vehicle sales, while electric three-wheelers and buses will constitute 40 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively.

The EV sector is expected to attract substantial investments, with nearly ₹25.000 crore anticipated to be poured into charging infrastructure and localisation of EV components over the next three to four years, they said.

BIZ BUZZ

Malabar launches artistry show



Bhubaneswar: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest gold and diamond retail chains in the country, launched 'Artistry Show', from Sept 21 to 29 at its Chandrasekharpur showroom. This show has been launched by Preetinanda Routray, BMC Corporator. This exclusive exhibition will showcase the artistic finesse of handcrafted jewellery with an extensive range of traditional and contemporary designs. Each piece of jewellery on display at the show is unique and a testament to the art and skilled craft of Indian design. The collection features designs crafted with utmost perfection and a wide variety of pieces from the exclusive brands of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, such as Mine diamond jewellery, Era uncut diamonds, Precia gemstone jewellery, Ethnix handcrafted jewellery, Viraz Royal Polki jewellery, and more. "We are delighted to launch the Artistry Show in

Chandrasekhar showroom and introduce exquisite designs that celebrate the excellence of our jewellery craftsmanship. Jewellery buyers in the city can enjoy our products with the assurance of the highest quality, purity, and fair prices," said MP Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group.

Swosti Group presents Lake Side Glamour

Bhubaneswar: Swosti Group is offering Lake Side Glamour, is an initiative to promote the art & culture of Odisha. Lake Side Glamour offers a platform for traditional handloom weavers of Odisha into the local as well as national market. Participating in Lake Side Glamour will serve the brands an awareness and media coverage. Handloom of Odisha always represents a rich cultural heritage. Each handloom from Odisha, whether it's the vibrant Sambalpuri Ikat, the intricate Bomkai, or earthly Kotpad, tells a story of tradition, craftsmanship, and artistic excellence. This initiative will also offer an opportunity to exchange the thoughts between the social media influencers and well known brands from Odisha to look for further prospects. The event will be held October 27, 2024 at Swosti Chilika Resort.



Bank of Maharashtra celebrates 90th Foundation Day



Bhubaneswar: Bank of Maharashtra marked its 90th Foundation Day with a grand celebration at a city hotel Saturday. The event, organised under the leadership of Zonal Manager Alok Kumar Mishra, was attended by around 50 esteemed customers along with key bank officials, including Zonal Manager Sanjib Kumar Dash and Chief Manager (Credit), Ravi Shankar Kumar. Former Executive Director of the bank, A.C. Rout, graced the occasion and interacted with the bank's valued clients. The event also featured a live-streaming session with bank's Board of Director Nidhu Saxena, who lauded the collective efforts of all stakeholders. The gathering provided an opportunity for the bank to receive valuable feedback from its customers, further strengthening its service commitment During the event, Mishra highlighted the bank's vision for growth, stating, "Bank of Maharashtra has a strong presence in every district of Odisha, with 54 branches. We are committed to delivering the best services to our customers." He also expressed gratitude towards A.C. Rout for his contributions and emphasized Odisha's potential in contributing to the bank's success.

Qualcomm's bid to acquire troubled chipmaker Intel

San Francisco, Sept 21: Qualcomm has in recent days approached Intel to explore a potential acquisition of the troubled chipmaker, a source familiar with the situation said Friday, in what could be a transformational deal in the sector but faces many hurdles.

Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon is personally involved in the negotiations to acquire fivedecade-old Intel, according to the source who was briefed on the matter. Another person familiar with the situation said Amon has been actively examining various options for a deal for the company.

Earlier this month, Reuters reported that Qualcomm explored the possibility of acquiring portions of Intel's design business and that its PC design unit was of particular

interest. Qualcomm executives were examining Intel's entire portfolio of businesses

The conversations with Intel are at an early stage. The San Diego-based company has not made a formal offer for Intel, according to third person familiar with the matter.

The sources requested anonymity as the discussions are confidential. Intel declined to comment.

Qualcomm did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for Intel's shares closed up 3.3%,

while Qualcomm fell 2.9%. The approach by Qualcomm comes at a moment of weakness for Intel, which was once the most valuable chipmaker in the world, but whose shares have

since the start of the year. A deal, should it go ahead, would likely invite scrutiny from

lost nearly 60% of their value

DUALCOMM

antitrust regulators in the United States, China and Europe. Qualcomm may be required to divest parts of Intel in order to gain regulatory approvals.

A bid would mark the biggest takeover attempt in the technology industry since Broadcom sought to buy Qualcomm for

\$142 billion in 2018, before President Donald Trump nixed the tie-up, citing national security risks

Reuters could not determine how Qualcomm, which has a market value of \$188 billion. would finance a bid for Intel. which is valued at \$122 billion,

Qualcomm has roughly \$13 billion in cash, according to recent company filings.

It is also unclear how Qualcomm would handle the takeover of Intel's contract manufacturing business. To build chips with an atomic level of precision, Intel has invested hundreds of billions of dollars over decades on its fabrication process and amassed tens of thousands of engineers to do it.

Qualcomm has never operated a chip factory, or fab, and currently contracts the likes of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co and uses designs and other technology supplied by Arm Holdings

Once the dominant force in chipmaking, Intel ceded its manufacturing edge to Taiwanese rival TSMC and failed to produce a widely desired chip for the generative AI boom capitalized on by Nvidia and AMD.

Intel has been attempting to turn its business around by focusing on AI processors and creating a chip contract manufacturing business, known

as a foundry As part of a memo from CEO Pat Gelsinger, Intel released a series of announcements that stemmed from a board meeting last week. Gelsinger and other executives presented a plan to shave off businesses and restructure the company, Reuters

has previously reported. The company plans to pause construction on factories in Poland and Germany, and reduce its real estate holdings. Intel also said it had reached a deal to make a custom networking chip for Amazon. com's AWS.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Qualcomm's talks with Intel earlier Friday.

Pant, Gill put India in command Women team lose tempor men draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 21: Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill cleansed months of hurt, anxiety and disappointments of varying nature with emotional hundreds on the

OrissaPOST SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 22 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

third day to place prime position to win the first

Bangladesh here Saturday

Gill (119 not out) and Pant (109) led the hosts' run glut with an alliance of 167 for the fourth wicket that helped India, overnight 81/3, declare their second innings at 287 for 4 for an overall lead of 514.

Bangladesh showed some spunk in their second innings to reach 158 for four when play was called off at 4.25 pm due to bad light. They still need a whopping 357 runs for the result to be in their favour.

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto (51) and Shakib Al-Hasan (5) were manning the crease for the visitors, and the day could have ended on a better note for them have they been a slightly more judicious in shot selection against star off-spinner R Ashwin (3/63). But let's forget the match situation and those dreary numbers for a while to cast a deeper look into the story of the day.

The hundreds by Pant and Gill stood as a testimony of these two fine young men's will to rise above towering personal obstacles that would have strangled the ordinary. Pant's turmoil has been widely-documented after that horrifying car crash in December 2022, and the way he reacted after reaching his sixth Test hundred with a two off Shakib Al-Hasan underscored the value he attached to the knock.

Pant stood near the middle of the pitch with closed eyes, an

upward tilted head and a raised bat – offering a silent prayer, perhaps, to the Lord above for returning life and cricket to him.

DRERM11

INDIA SET BANGLADESH MAMMOTH 515-RUN TARGE

Gill watched the whole scene from a fair distance, as he did not want to invade into an intensely private moment of his partner.

Soon, the two brave-hearts melted into a warm embrace as Chepauk erupted.

Perhaps, the moment stood

also as a tribute to

Pant equalling

Chennai's very own

'Thala' MS Dhoni's

record for the most

Test hundreds by

an Indian wick-

etkeeper-batsman

Compared to

Pant's, the strug-

gles of Gill have

been less pro

nounced as they were

than physical in nature, stemming primarily from the lack of confidence in himself in the traditional time to enjoy the sight of them

taking down Bangladesh bowlers

The left-hander started rather

sedately, looking to get his eye in before opening up. The break-

away moment came when Pant

pulled off-spinner Miraz for a

four around the first drinks break

of the day. Since that point, Pant's

dismantling of Miraz became a

feature of the innings as he

brought up his fifty off 88 balls.

26-year-old unfurled some of

like a trapeze artist, and his

scooped six over fine leg off

Hasan Mahmud enthralled a

He was dropped on 72 by

Shanto off Shakib but that was

not even a deterrent. He duly

completed his ton before offer-

ing a return catch to the hard-

Minimalism is quintessential

to Gill's batting as he plays shots

The short-arm pull from in

front of the face or that zero fol-

low-through punch through the

covers, which he often executed

off pacers Nahid Rana and

Hasan, might not be out of the batting manual but were pro-

Gill milked a further 53 runs

off 51 balls with KL Rahul for

However.

the fifth wicket to take

India's lead past 500.

Bangladesh, tasked

with a tall chase,

showed better

application than

in their first in-

nings. Shanto took

it upon himself to lead

working Mehidy.

with little flourish.

ductive nonetheless.

sizeable weekend crowd here.

those typical Pant shots. Pant moved around the crease

Once the fifty was achieved, the

in their contrasting methods.

format. However. since making that hundred against England at

Visakhapatnam earlier this year, Gill seemed to have turned a corner and he further validated that journey upwards with his fifth Test

hundred, through a

But while Gill, beginning from overnight 33, and Pant, starting from 12, were in

the office, all these feelings were hidden as it

> their fightback. But his colleagues, particularly the set Zakir Hasan (33) and Shadman Islam (35), threw their wickets away with callous shots. Shanto, though, was not fluttered and creamed Ashwin for three sixes, and the swept one among them earned him fifty off 56 balls as the final passage was played under floodlights because of poor light.

CHESS OLYMPIAD

tempo; men draw

Vantika helps Indian draw with US; men split points with Uzbekistan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Budapest, Sept 21: International Master Vantika Agrawal delivered the goods when it was badly needed, defeating Grandmaster Irina Krush to force a 2-2 draw against the United States while the Indian men staved in sole lead after splitting points with Uzbekistan in the ninth round of the of the 45th Chess Olympiad currently underway here.

The Indian think-tank rested an out-of-form Grandmaster D Harika but it did not change the fortunes on the top board as R Vaishali went down to Gulrukhbegim Tokhirjonova. On the second board, Divya Deshmukh settled for the peace result in an uneventful game with black against Carissa Yip.

On the fourth board, Tania Sachdev had almost everything going in her favour but could not find the knock-out blow when the opportunity came to share the point with Alice Lee.

It was left to Vantika to equalise the score and the young girl played with a lot of heart and commitment to beat her higherrated opponent. For the record, Krush blundered in mutual time pressure and Vantika was remorseless in her attack.

The draw took India to 15 points, and they will now probably need two victories in the

last two rounds to keep the gold medal chances alive

Kazakhstan emerged as the new sole leader in this section on 16 points, defeating Poland 2.5-1.5. Alua Nurman played the star performer for Kazakh women as she won on the fourth board against Alicja Sliwicka after the top three boards had ended in draws.

With Kazakhstan in front, India is in sole second position and they are trailed by as many as nine teams on 14 points each. In the penultimate round, Kazakhstan will face another stiff test against second seed Georgia, while the Indian women will take on a depleted China.

In the Open section, the Indian men conceded the first point with four draws against defending champions Uzbekistan. After eight straight victories, the ninth win, which would have almost sealed the gold medal, was pretty much on the cards when Arjun Erigaisi's opponent Shamsiddin Vokhidov blundered. It was a mutual oversight by both players as Ariun failed to spot a tactic which he would have normally found in a few seconds.

Once Arjun slipped, Shamsiddin did not give another chance and drew rather comfortably.

At the top of the tables, D Gukesh played out an easy draw with white pieces against Nodirbek Abdusattorov.

SHORT TAKES

Harmanpreet nominated

New Delhi: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh, who powered India to a second successive bronze medal in hockey at the Olympics in Paris, was Saturday nominated for the FIH Player of the Year Award. The 28-year-old ace drag-flicker, who was the top scorer at the Paris Olympics with 10 goals from eight matches, had previously won the award twice in a row from 2020-22. "It is a great honour to be nominated for the FIH Player of the Year Award again," the Indian defender stated in a Hockey India release. "While I am elated to be named among some of the best players in the world, I would like to acknowledge that it would not have been possible without the support of my team. All the goals I have scored in the FIH Hockey Pro League, and the Paris 2024 Olympic Games are because the team created those goal-scoring chances for me," he added. Harmanpreet has been nominated along with the Dutch duo of Thierry Brinkman and Joep de Mol, Hannes Müller of Germany and Zach Wallace of England.

Swiatek withdraws

Beijing: World top-ranked and defending champion Iga Swiatek has withdrawn from next week's China Open in Beijing, citing personal reasons. Swiatek and the WTA Tour announced her withdrawal Friday. "Due to personal matters, I'm forced to withdraw from the China Open in Beijing. I'm very sorry as I had an amazing time playing and winning this tournament last year and was really looking forward to being back there," Swiatek said. "I'm sorry I won't be a part of it this time.'

Sharma misses cut

Wentworth: Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma ended a disappointing week early, missing the the cut at the BMW PGA Championship here. Sharma had two birdies and three bogeys in a row in the middle of the round. He then birdied on the 12th followed by a bogey on the 15th for a second round of 74.

F1's Singapore **Grand Prix**

Norris beats Max for pole position

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Sept 21: Lando Norris edged ahead of his title rival Max Verstappen on Saturday to start on pole position for the Singapore Grand Prix.

Qualifying turned into a onelap shootout for the top positions when a crash for Carlos Sainz Jr interrupted the final

"I was finding it a little difficult to progress much and to get a lot of lap time and more of the guys around seemed to get quicker and quicker," Norris

"So it put me under a little bit more pressure, especially with just one lap at the end, but it was good enough for pole and I'm happy with that."

The McLaren driver was .203 of a second ahead of Verstappen to start on pole, with Lewis Hamilton third for Mercedes, .316 off Norris' time.

Verstappen, who said he was happy with second after struggling for grip in practice in his Red Bull, leads Norris in the standings by 59 points. There are seven rounds of the championship remaining, including Sunday's race.

Norris' teammate Oscar Piastri, the winner in Azerbaijan last week, was only fifth after going slower in the top-10 session than he had earlier in qualifying.

After Hamilton, Mercedes also had George Russell fourth in one of its better qualifying sessions this year, but it was a day to forget for Ferrari as Charles Leclerc had his lap time deleted in the final session for going off track and Sainz crashed.

Sainz spun into the wall in what he called a "big snap" of the steering, possibly caused by cold tires. The car was left with damage to the rear end and Sainz, who seemed unhurt, qualified 10th.

Verstappen's teammate Sergio Perez was only 13th in another disappointing result this season.

Daniel Ricciardo qualified 16th, eight places behind teammate Yuki Tsunoda, as the Australian's place with RB comes under threat. Red Bull's second team could replace Ricciardo with reserve driver Liam Lawson for the last six rounds of the championship, starting from the United States Grand Prix next month.



Kalikesh Singh Deo elected NRAI prez

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 21: Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo was elected president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) after he beat his rival VK Dhall 36-21 in the polls held at the Constitution Club of India here Saturday.

Kalikesh, a former MP from Odisha, was taking care of the day-to-day functioning of the NRAI after the position fell vacant last year following the resignation of Raninder Singh as per the government's National Sports Code (NSC)

Last year, the Sports Ministry had issued a directive that heads of national sports federations (NSFs) cannot hold office for more than 12 years as per the NSC. The ministry had pointed out in March 2023 that Raninder had completed 12 years as president - from Dec 29, 2010 to Dec 29,2022 — and as per the code, he cannot continue any further.

After Raninder stepped down in April last year, the NRAI has been headed by its senior vicepresident Kalikesh.

India Capitals start campaign with nail-biting win

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jodhpur, Sept 21: India Capitals began their Legends League Cricket (LLC) Season 3 campaign with a thrilling one-run victory over Toyam Hyderabad at the Barkatullah Khan Stadium here Saturday. After setting a challenging

target of 186, thanks to a 60-run knock by Ben Dunk and late hitting by Ashley Nurse and Colin de Grandhomme, the Capitals successfully defended their total with a disciplined bowling performance. Ben Dunk was named Man of

the Match for his outstanding contribution. The Capitals will next face the Southern Superstars September 25 at the same venue. In his debut as captain of India Capitals, Ian Bell won the toss and elected to bat first. However, the team got off to a challenging start, losing opener Dwayne Smith for 14 runs off 9 balls early in the second over.

Chasing 186 for victory, Toyam Hyderabad got off to a good start, with opener Chadwick Walton (18

nament's history, clubs

from Africa, Asia, and

Oceania will have the

chance to host FIFA

matches, with the

higher-ranked of the

two competing teams

staging the opening two

matches in their home

The action kicks off on

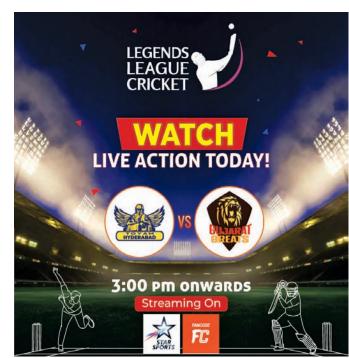
Sunday with the FIFA

African-Asian-Pacific Cup

countries.

winners of

the AFC



off 14) and George Worker contributing 41 runs. Walton was dismissed in the fifth over. At the other end, George Worker looked composed, anchoring the innings with a solid 52 off 43 deliveries, including four fours and three sixes.

New format for 2024 Intercontinental Cup

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Zurich, Sept 21: The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) announced the Intercontinental Cup 2024, an exciting new format that will feature stand-alone intercontinental competitions and give more fans the chance to watch their favourite clubs in action on home soil.

The revamped tournament will bring together champions from the six confederations for five thrilling matches between September and December 2024, with the final set to take place in

Qatar. The tournament, which was announced in December 2023, replaces the annual Club World Cup which will now be played every four years with 32 teams

from 2025 For the first time in the tourChampions League 2023-2024, will face Auckland City, the 2024Champions League winners. This match will take place in Al Ain, UAE.

The winner of this playoff will then travel to Cairo, Egypt, to face CAF Champions League winners Al Ahly on October 29, 2024, in the FIFA African-Asian-Pacific Cup final. The FIFA Derby of the Americas, an eagerly



tween the CONMEBOL Libertadores 2024 champions and the Concacaf Champions Cup 2024 winners, Pachuca, will take place in Doha, Qatar, on December 11, 2024.

Winners of the FIFA African-Asian-Pacific Cup and the FIFA Derby of the Americas will meet in the FIFA Challenger Cup December 14, 2024, in Doha. The winner of this match will earn a spot in the ultimate showdown.

On December 18, the FIFA Challenger Cup champions will face UEFA Champions League winners Real Madrid in the grand finale, the FIFA Intercontinental Cup, also in

This decisive match will coincide with Qatar's National Day and marks the two-year anniversary of the unforgettable FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 final.

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