Deepika's new life

Deepika Padukone, who is currently revelling in the joys of motherhood, shares a playful video for her actor husband Ranveer Singh

LEISURE | P2



PM, Netanyahu talk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks to his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu on the conflict in Middle East

NATIONAL | P8



China's breakthrough

Chinese scientists claim to have cured a chronic type-1 diabetes patient using cell transplants - the first such case in the world

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Dominant show

India play a sensational T20-style cricket to take a 52-run first-innings lead against Bangladesh in the second Test

SPORTS | P12

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 182 | www.orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY OCTOBER 1, 2024



SHOW OF STRENGTH: Tough Tusker INS Kochi, the second indigenous P15A class destroyer, during its 9th anniversary celebration

SHORT TAKES

Bharatpur: Judicial panel begins probe

Bhubaneswar: The judicial commission headed by retired High Court judge Chittaranjan Das Monday began its inquiry into the allegations of the torture of an Army officer and sexual assault of his fiancee by the cops at Bharatpur police station here September 15 this year. The commission held its first meeting with DGP YB Khurania, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Satyabrata Sahu, and Information & Public Relations Secretary Sanjay Singh at the special circuit house here. P3

Student pushed off hostel building, critical

Bhawanipatna: A Class XII student of a private school in Kalahandi district was critically injured after allegedly being pushed by some of his classmates from the second floor of a hostel building, police said Monday. The incident at the school. near Jagannathour on the outskirts of Bhawanipatna, took place Sunday night. An injured Ankesh Bag has been admitted to Bhawanipatna government hospital where his condition is stated to be stable.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



When the govt gave us jobs, I had no idea that the notes will have Anupam Kher's photo instead of Bapu

Dadasaheb Phalke Award for Mithun

New Delhi, Sept 30: Veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty, star of films like "Mrigayaa", "Surakshaa", "Disco Dancer" and "Dance Dance", was Monday named recipient of the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the government's highest recognition in the field of cinema.

The announcement comes months after Chakraborty - the only Indian actor to receive a national award in his debut film - was awarded Padma Bhushan.

Chakraborty's memorable role in Mrinal Sen-directed Hindi film 'Mrigayaa' (1976) which gave the actor a nationwide recognition was



based on Odia short story 'Shikar' (the Royal Hunt) by Bhagabati Charan Panigrahi.

It was in fact Sen's first film made in colour and came 10 years after the celebrated director made an Odia film based on Panigrahi's brother

Keep Gods out of politics: SC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Twelve days after Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu made a public statement that Tirupati laddus contained animal fat, the Supreme Court Monday questioned the propriety of Naidu making such statements September 18 when the matter was under investigation, and observed that at least Gods should be kept out of politics.

The apex court said the laboratory test report was "not clear at all" and it prima facie indicated that 'rejected ghee' was subjected

"It is very clear from the report that this is not the Ghee which has been used. Unless you are sure, how did you go to public with that?" a bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan said.

"It is not clear at all and it is prima facie indicating that these were rejected Ghee which were subjected to test. If you yourself have ordered investigation, where is the need to go to the press?" the bench told senior advocate Mukul



Rohatgi, who was appearing for Andhra Pradesh. The SC was hearing a batch of petitions, including those seeking a courtmonitored probe into the alleged use of animal fat in making Tirupati laddus. Observing that these pleas

pertain to an issue which affects the sentiments of crores of people living in the world, the bench noted the CM had gone in public making a statement that animal fat was being used to make Tirupati laddus under the previous

regime. It said according to the state, an FIR was registered September 25 and a special investigation team (SIT) was constituted September 26 to probe the matter.

'We are prime facie of the view that when investigation is under process, it was not appropriate on the part of a higher constitutional functionary to go in public to make a statement which can affect the sentiments of crores of people," it

The bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to assist it in deciding whether the investigation by the state-appointed SIT should continue or the probe should be conducted by an independent agency.

While posting the matter for hearing October 3, the SC asked the top law officer to ponder over the issue and assist it in this regard.



Honour killing rocks Sukinda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Jajpur/Kalinganagar, Sept 30: In a blatant case of honour killing, a youth was allegedly killed by his family members for marrying a girl of another caste in Sukinda area of Jajpur district, a report said Monday.

The deceased was identified as Sushilmaya Singh Samanta, son of Debaranjan Singh Samanta. Sushil was working as a security guard in Bangalore and had returned home a few months ago. He had married Bijayalakshmi Sahu, daughter of Nilamani Sahu in Duburi area, following an affair. They have a four-year-old son out their wedlock. Sushil was from upper Kshatriya caste, while Bijayalakshmi belongs to other backward caste (OBC) for which the deceased's family members had driven the couple out of their house after their marriage.

Left with no option, the couple was staying in a rented house in Sukinda.

According to his wife, Sushil's family members had taken several lakhs from him but didn't repay. This led to fight between him and his family members.

Meanwhile, Sushil required money to go back to Bangalore for which he visited his home and sought the money back. However, he never returned home as his body was spotted floating in a well near his house the next day. His body was recovered by Fire Services personnel September 17. Sukinda police registered a case of unnatural death and sent the body for post-mortem the next day. His wife lodged a complaint of murder with Sukinda police alleging involvement of her husband's parents, his five sisters and a maternal uncle in the case.

Investigating officer Madan Mohan Samal said a probe is underway.





DSPL - 129

ଜାତୀୟ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ରକ୍ତଦାନ ଦିବସ ୧ ଅକ୍ଟୋବର ୨୦୨୪

ରାଜ୍ୟ ରକ୍ତ ସଂଞ୍ଚାରଣ ପରିଷଦର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ଓ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ

- ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ରକ୍ତଦାନକୁ ପ୍ରୋହାହିତ କରିବା
- ନିରାପଦ ରକ୍ତ ସଂଞ୍ଚାରଣ ସୁନିଷ୍ଟିତ କରିବା
- ରକ୍ତ କେନ୍ଦ୍ରଗୁଡିକୁ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ଭିଭିଭ୍ମି, ସାମଗୀ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ସହାୟତା ଯୋଗାଇ
- ଜାତୀୟ ରକ୍ତ ନୀତିକୁ ଅନୁସରଣ କରି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କରିବା

ଆପଣ ବି ଜଣେ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ରକ୍ତଦାତା ହୋଇପାରିବେ ଯଦି ଆପଣଙ୍କର;

- ବୟସ ୧୮ ରୁ ୬୫ ବର୍ଷ ମଧ୍ୟରେ
- ଶରୀରର ଓଜନ ୪୫ କି.ଗା.ରୁ ଅଧିକ
- ନାଡିର ଗତି ପ୍ରତି ମିନିଟ ୬୦ରୁ ୧୦୦ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅଛି ଓ ନିୟମିତ ଅଛି
- ରକ୍ତଚାପ ସିଷ୍ଟୋଲିକ ୧୦୦ରୁ ୧୪୦ ମି.ମି. ଓ ଡାୟାଷ୍ଟୋଲିକ ୬୦ରୁ ୯୦ ମି.ମି. ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅଛି
- ହିମୋଗ୍ଲୋବିନ୍ର ୟର ଅତି କମରେ ୧୨.୫ ଗ୍ରା.ରୁ ଅଧିକ ଅଛି
- ପାଟିର ତାପମାତ୍ରା ୩୭ ଡିଗ୍ରି ସେଲସିୟସରୁ ଅଧିକ ନାହିଁ



ଥାଲାସିମିଆ, ସିକିଲ୍ସେଲ୍, ହେମୋଫିଲିଆ ଆଦି ରୋଗୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଚିକିତ୍ସାଳୟକୁ ଯାତାୟାତ ନିମନ୍ତେ ମାସିକ ୫୦୦ ଟଙ୍କାର ଆର୍ଥିକ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହନ ଯୋଗାଇ ଦିଆଯାଉଛି ।

ଅଧିକ ସୂଚନା ପାଇଁ ଜିଲ୍ଲା/ଉପଖଣ୍ଡ ୟରୀୟ ରକ୍ତ ଭଣ୍ଡାର କିୟା ରାଜ୍ୟ ରକ୍ତ ସଞ୍ଚାରଣ ପରିଷଦ, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ସହ ପରାମର୍ଶ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

ସାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା



ED books Siddaramaiah in MUDA case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Bangalore, Sept 30: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Monday booked Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and some others in a money-laundering case linked to Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), taking cognisance of a recent state Lokayukta FIR, official sources said.

The federal agency has filed an enforcement case information report to

book the chief minister and others, they said. Siddaramaiah, his wife BM Parvathi, brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy and Devaraju – from whom Swamy had purchased land and gifted it to Parvathi – and others have been named in the FIR registered by Mysurulocated Lokayukta police establishment September 27.

The FIR was lodged after a special court ordered a Lokayukta police probe against Siddaramaiah.

Britain's last coal-fired plant shuts down

London, Sept 30: Shutters for Britain's last coal-fired power plant Ratcliffe-on-Soar station were finally down Monday, ending 142 years of coal-generated electricity in the nation that sparked the Industrial Revolution and also making England the first G7 country to phase out coal.

The Ratcliffe-on-Soar station in central England finished its final shift at midnight after more than half a century of turning coal into power. The UK government hailed the closure as a milestone in efforts to generate all of Britain's energy from

renewable sources by 2030. Plant manager Peter O'Grady said it was "an emo-



tional day. a two-year decommission-"When I started my caing process.

Energy Minister Michael reer 36 years ago, none of Shanks said the plant's clous imaged a future without coal generation in our lifesure "marks the end of an times," he said. era and coal workers can be The shutdown makes rightly proud of their work Britain the first country powering our country for from the Group of Seven over 140 years. We owe gen-

major economies to phase

of the 170 remaining em-

ployees will stay on during

out coal — though some as a country.' other European nations, in-"The era of coal might be cluding Sweden and ending, but a new age of Belgium, got there sooner. good energy jobs for our Owner Uniper says many country is just beginning,'

he said.

erations a debt of gratitude

The world's first coal-fired

Light Station, opened in London in 1882. Ratcliffe-on-Soar, which

opened in 1967, is a landmark whose eight concrete cooling towers and 199-metre (650-foot) chimney are seen by millions of people a year as they drive past on the M1 highway or speed by on

electricity plant, Thomas Edison's Edison Electric

In 1990 coal provided about 80% of Britain's electricity. By 2012 it had fallen to 39 per cent, and by 2023 it stood at just 1%, according to figures from the National Grid. More than half of Britain's electricity now comes from renewable sources such as wind and solar power, and the rest from natural gas and nuclear energy.



eisure



SHAZAM STAR FACES BACKLASH AFTER ENDORSING TRUMP

Zachary Levi came under intense fire on Twitter after showing support for Donald Trump Saturday. Netizens reacted strongly to the Shazam actor's political stance after his Michigan rally appearance.

SINGER-SONGWRITER KRIS **KRISTOFFERSON NO MORE**

Kris Kristofferson, who became one of the most influential American singer-songwriters of his time with works such as "Me and Bobby McGee," as well as becoming a successful actor, died Saturday at the age of 88, according to a family statement.



FORTUNE **FORECAST**

iGaneshaSpeaks.co™ accuracy • reliability • trust

You are bristling with excitement about your work and relationships. In your workplace, you will impress other people to join your group. But Ganesha warns you to be cautious and think before taking any action, as things can backfire and you will have to bear the responsibility.

TAURUS

Managers and administrators are in for a very prof-Ganesha. They must, however, not expect too much from their subordinates. Doing that could be a source of great disappointment ands anxiety. Later in the day, you could be in for some cheerful and encouraging news from abroad

GEMINI

You will feel the urge to chuck your daily routine and spend time leisurely with your friends and family, entertaining and being entertained. You may also decide to embark upon a trip. The number of guests turning up at your place will increase. Family time is here to stay, says Ganesha

CANCER

Give priority to your life and prestige in stead of meddling in others' matters, says Ganesha. Your enter-prising nature will give you prestige and respect. Ganesha suggests that you take time off from your chores and indulge in enter tainment or travel.

You will be busy dealing with health-related issues. You need to watch your diet carefully. You will work with a feeling of responsibility. You will become more serious about your work. Everything will go smoothly in your personal life, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

Today will be a day full of emotions and insights into love. Despondency may trouble you all through the day. However, Ganesha advises you to remain unaffected by it in your work. At your workplace you will be in great demand as a problem solver

Wear your best suit and put on your favourite tie. because today you shall be in the limelight at work. Watch your hard work and innate talents get their share of rewards. Also, expect the best possible assistance from your colleagues. The stars align themselves in a position to give you the maximum leverage possible and boost your reputation by leaps and bounds, says Ganesha.

Like an oracle, you can feel

SCORPIO

how things might turn out today. Trust only what you say, and hear yourself to avoid any sort of confrontations. Ganesha expects your antennas to be on high alert especially with your dearest at your side today.

SAGITTARIUS

Charming as ever, your close ones will be swooned by your beauty today. Thanks to the new look your beautician suggested. Clad in the best of attires, you grab eye-balls at a social do. Your status and prestige is likely to increase.

CAPRICORN

When work starts to give nightmares, even medita tion cannot restore the peace of mind. You are likely to have a similar kind of harrowing experience at work today, says Ganesha. But the day won't be completely dulling. It's an auspicious day if you have plans to buy a house or a car. You may also move to a new house some time soon.

AQUARIUS

The rising Sun of today, brings one of the most important days of your life. You will make important decisions which will have long-term impact on your life. During the second half of the day, you may be lucky to have a windfall. It is a very favourable day for all the professionals, says Ganesha.

PISCES

In times of adversity, it is your loved ones who will stand you in good stead, and it is your patience and persistence which will get you home. Your actions today will demonstrate your dedication and sincerity

to the job at hand, says Ganesha.



Priyanka emphasises importance of 'rest'

Mumbai: Priyanka Chopra, a multifaceted star in the entertainment industry. has made significant strides as an actress, producer, and global icon.

Known for her remarkable performances in both Bollywood and Hollywood, she has garnered a massive fan following worldwide. Recently, she has been particularly busy, balancing a demanding work schedule with her personal life.

Recently, she re-shared a poignant post on her social media that stated, "REST is a radical act of self-love in a world that glorifies EXHAUSTION." This quote resonates deeply as she navigates the challenges of her professional commitments alongside her personal life.

In an interview with Vogue India, the Dostana actress revealed that she often works 12-hour shifts, waking up at 5 AM to prepare for her day. Despite the exhausting schedule, Priyanka remains focused on her work while also cherishing moments with her family.

Ananya reflects on deepfake videos

Mumbai: Actor Ananya Panday, whose upcoming film CTRL peeks into the vorld of artificial intelligence (AI), says government authorities need to come up with certain regulations to prevent misuse of technology.

Recently, top movie stars like Aamir Khan, Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, and Rashmika Mandanna fell victims to deepfake videos. The trailer of *CTRL* sees

Panday's character ask an AI app to "erase" her lover Joe (Vihaan Samat) from her life after she catches him cheating on her.

"It's very scary. As public figures, our faces and voices are out there. (So) I don't know how much we can safeguard. I think it will have to come from regulations by the government, that's probably the only solution, Panday said when asked about deepfake videos of celebrities.

Deepfake is a digital method where users can replace one person's likeness convincingly with that of another using AI technology.

Produced by Saffron and Andolan Films, CTRLwill start

stream-

ing Netflix from October 4. The cyber thriller is directed by

Deepika's lifestyle takes 360 turn

Mumbai: Actress Deepika Padukone, who is currently reveling in the joys of motherhood, Monday shared a playful video for her husband, actor Ranveer Singh.

In the lighthearted clip, Deepika humorously showcases how she patiently waits for her husband at home, capturing the warmth and fun of their relationship while offering a glimpse

into their life as a family. On September 8, Deepika and Ranveer officially announced the arrival of their first bundle of joy, a baby girl.

Deepika took to Instagram stories, where she has an impressive 80.2 million followers, to re-share a fun reel video titled, 'Me when my husband tells me he will be home at 5:00 and it's now 5:01' The playful clip features a little baby running towards the door, peering out through

glass with binoculars, perfectly capturing the anticipation of waiting for a loved one. Deepika tagged Ranveer Singh in the post and added a big smiley sticker, adding to the lighthearted charm of the moment.

On the work front, Deepika was last seen in Gehraiyaan, Pathaan, Fighter, and Kalki 2898 AD. She will be next seen along with Ranveer in the upcoming Rohit Shetty directorial

Singham Again.



ROCKS 2024 Ponniyin Selvan Part – 2, Jawan, Animal win top honours

Yas Island (Abu Dhabi): Filmmaker Mani Ratnam's period drama Ponniyin Selvan Part -2, superstar Shah Rukh Khanstarrer Jawan and Ranbir Kapoor's Animal bagged three awards each in technical categories at the 2024 IIFA Rocks

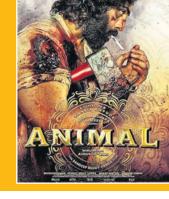
The awards ceremony, held on the third and final day of the 24th edition of IIFA Festival Sunday, celebrated the best of technicians across languages.

Music maestro AR Rahman received the best background score award for Ponniyin Selvan Part - 2, with Ravi Varman winning the award for best cinematography (Tamil) and Thota Tharani earning recognition



for best production design (Tamil) award for Ratnam's ambitious film. Jawan registered wins in cat-

egories of best cinematography (GK Vishnu), sound mixing (Sampath Alwar, Chris Jacobson, Rob Marshall, Marti



Humphrey), and special effects (Shah Rukh's company Red Chillies VFX).

Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga

won the best editing award for Animal. Sachin Sudhakaran and Hariharan M were awarded best sound design honour and Harshavardhan Rameshwar received award for background score for Vanga's movie.

The best screenplay award was given to filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Jaskunwar Kohli, Anurag Pathak, Aayush Saxena, Vikas Divyakirti for their critically-acclaimed and hit film 12th Fail.

Ishita Moitra won best dialogues film award for Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani and the trophy of best choreography went to Bosco-Caesar for Pathaan, also starring Shah Rukh

IIFA Rocks ended on an electrifying note with the grand fi-nale of the IIFA Festival 2024, which kick started September 27.

Hosted by Siddhant Chaturvedi and Abhishek Baneriee, IIFA Rocks featured enthralling performances by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, Shilpa Rao, Honey Singh, and Iulia Vantur.

IIFA Rocks paid homage to the trailblazers of Indian cinema, spotlighting the technical brilliance behind the scenes. The event recognised excellence in cinematography screenplay di alogues, editing, choreography, sound design, sound mixing, background score, and special effects (visual).

PEANUTS



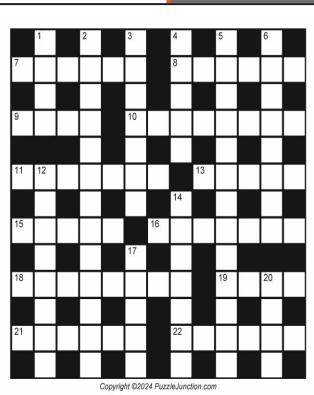
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



FUN **CROSSWORD**



		100	
Across		19	Toothpaste
7	Ravel classic		holder
8	Treatise	21	Amati, e.g.
9	Host's request	22	Leased
10	Bloodline		

11 Unfortunate **Down** 13 Fidgety

15 Key material 16 Critiques 18 Scottish lake

(4,4)

1 Kind of cheese 2 Good and

evil, as told by Stevenson (6,3,4)

4 Opus 5 Olympic event (6-7)

3 Write

6 Circus attraction 12 Food and drink

of the gods 14 Reprimand

embankment

20 Casket

17 Flood

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.

4		6						
	9		25				2	6
				6	9	8		
		5			7			
3	7		1		8		4	
				7	2	1		
		4			1			8
2			6				6	1
6				2		5		

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWOR

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Mumbai fraud in EOW net for duping Umrah travellers

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police Monday claimed to have arrested a man from Mumbai on charges of duping around 189 people in Odisha to the tune of ₹1.20 crore on the pretext of facilitating them cheap, secured and safe Umrah pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia.

The accused, identified as Nabeel Abdul Mubin Shaikh, was arrested by a team of Odisha Police September 27.

local court in Andheri, Mumbai and brought to Odisha on a transit remand.

The arrest was made on the basis of a complaint filed by Mir Khursid, a resident of Kazimahala in Bhadrak. The EOW registered a case against the proprietors of Al-Adam Tour & Travels and Al-Izma Tours & Travels of Vikhroli Kurla in West Mumbai September 12.

During the probe, the EOW allegedly found that the tour operators collected a total of ₹1.20 crore from 189 people between



2019 and 2023 to arrange their pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. However, they neither took the prospective pilgrims on the tour, nor did they refund the amount collected from them.

"As found in the investigation, during the period between 2019 and 23, the proprietors of M/s Alfloated advertisements on social media apart from distributing leaflets containing the lucrative packages, contact details etc," said EOW sources.

The accused induced the Muslim devotees to avail the opportunity under two of their tour packages of ₹45,786 and ₹50,786 per individual pilgrim to go on Umrah pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia.

Being induced, several unsuspecting devotees of Bhadrak. Balasore, Baripada and other parts in accounts mentioned in the advertisements through bank transfers, in UPI and even by cash.

"The arrested accused Nabeel and his mother are the authorised signatories of the accounts in which the pilgrims' money had been deposited. The collection of money from devotees by the accused persons continued till the first half of 2023 after which the proprietors switched off their mobile phones and remained disconnected from the depositors," informed EOW sources.

Govt nod to ₹4,671cr projects ₹

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: The Single Window Committee (SWC) of the Energy department accorded in-principle approval for investment proposals worth ₹4,671.81 crore in the renewable energy (RE) sector,

Chaired by Energy department Principal Secretary Hemant Sharma, the SWC approved 749.5MW of RE proposals consisting of a 600MW Pumped Storage Plant (PSP) project by OHPC in Kalahandi, three wind power projects of 148.5 MW by ONGC Tripura Power Company

Khurda and Jagatsinghpur districts and a 1.4MW rooftop solar project at Patia in Capital city. "These investments will facilitate the development of transformative green energy projects, reinforcing Odisha's commitment to meet its RE target of 10 GW by 2030," an official

statement said. These ongoing efforts also reflect Odisha's dedication in fostering green energy, reducing carbon emissions, and creating a sustainable future for the State in alignment with its long-term environmental goals, the statement added.

'Will make force more gentle towards people'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: Senior IPS officer Suresh Dev Datta Singh who took charge as the twin city police commissioner Monday, replacing Sanjeeb Panda, said his first priority as the unit commander will be to make the force more compassionate and gentle towards complainants, especially at police stations.

"If people approach the City police to register their grievances, we will strive to give them justice. Though, it might not be judicial justice, but the police

would be amicable to their immediate issues," he said. Singh's assertions assume special significance in the backdrop of the alleged assault of an Army officer and sexual assault of his female friend at the Bharatpur police station September 15 when the duo approached the cops to lodge a complaint of road rage. The incident not only invited criticisms from several quarters, including the judiciary, but also prompted CM Mohan Charan Majhi to issue a veiled warning to the law enforcers to 'mend their ways'.

LoP: Communal unrests tainted state's image

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: Leader of Opposition (LoP) Naveen Patnaik Monday said four incidents of communal unrest during the initial three months of the new BJP government have tainted the state's image.

Reacting strongly, the ruling BJP alleged Patnaik's statement was intended to 'provoke more violence and create havoc'.

Patnaik, the former Chief Minister, made the comment while meeting BJD leaders of Bhadrak from where communal flare-up was reported.

"Four incidents of communal unrest in a span of three months under the BJP government has adversely impacted Odisha's image as a peaceful state. First, in Balasore, then in Khurda, Dhamnagar and Bhadrak, the communal unrests have raised questions about the efficiency of the state government," he said. Peace and harmony is the identity of Odisha and all should work together to maintain this, he added.

In a statement, the BJP said Odisha had seen many incidents communal violence when Patnaik was in power.

'Odisha recorded the third highest communal riots in the country in 2017, revealed NCRB report. The state with 91 communal/religious riots stood third after Bihar and Karnataka. Who was in government at that

"The people of Odisha have not forgotten the large scale violence in Kandhamal in 2008, Sambalpur riot in 2023 and Bhadrak Ram Navmi riot in 2017," it added.



ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାକ୍ତ ରକ୍ତଦାନ ଦିବସ ଭାବରେ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଉଛି । ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ସମସ୍ତ ରକ୍ତଦାତା ଏବଂ ଏହି ମହତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ସହ କଡ଼ିତ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ କଣାଉଛି ।

ରକ୍ତଦାନ ଏକ ମହତ ଦାନ । ରକ୍ତ ଅଭାବରୁ ଅକାଳରେ ଝରି ପଡ଼ଥିବା ବହୁମୂଲ୍ୟ ଜୀବନକୁ ରକ୍ତଦାନ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ବଞ୍ଚାଯାଇ ପାରୁଛି । ରକ୍ତର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତାକୁ ପରଣ କରିବାପାଇଁ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ସ୍ପେଚ୍ଛାକ୍ତ ରକ୍ତଦାନକୁ ବ୍ୟାପକ କରାଯିବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକ । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ସବୁ ସ୍ତରରେ ଜନ ସଚେତନତା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବାର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ରହିଛି ।

ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଆଜିର ଏହି ପୁଣ୍ୟ ଦିବସରେ ନିୟମିତ ଭାବେ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାକ୍ତ ରକ୍ତଦାନ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ସଂକଳ୍ପ ନେବା ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କୁ ରକ୍ତଦାନ ପାଇଁ ଉସାହିତ କରିବା ।

> SHARAMO (ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ) ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା



ଅକ୍ଟୋବର ୧ ତାରିଖରେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହେଉଥିବା ଜାତୀୟ ରକ୍ତଦାନ ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ରକ୍ତଦାତା ଏବଂ ଏହିଭଳି ଏକ ମହତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ସାମିଲ୍ ହୋଇ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ସୁପରିଚାଳନା କରୁଥିବା ସମସ୍ତ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଆନ୍ତରିକ ଶ୍ରଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ।

ରକ୍ତଦାନ ଏକ ମହାପୁଣ୍ୟ । ରକ୍ତର ଚାହିଦା ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ସ୍ପାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନରେ ବଢ଼ି ବଢ଼ି ଯାଉଛି । ରକ୍ତର କୌଣସି ବିକଳ୍ପ ଆଧୁନିକ ଚିକିସାରେ ବାହାରିନାହିଁ । ଆମ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଆବଶ୍ୟକ ପଡ଼ଥିବା ତିନି ଚତୁର୍ଥାଂଶରୁ ଅଧିକ ରକ୍ତ ସେଛାକ୍ତ ରକ୍ତଦାନ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରାଯାଇଥାଏ । ୧୮ ରୁ ୬୫ ବର୍ଷର ଯେ କୌଣସି ସ୍ୱସ୍ଥ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାକ୍ତ ଭାବେ ରକ୍ତଦାନ କରିପାରିବେ । ରକ୍ତଦାନ କରି ନିଜେ ସୁପ୍ଥ ରହିବା ସହିତ ଅନ୍ୟର ଜୀବନ ବଞ୍ଚାଇବାରେ ସହାୟକ ହେବେ । ଆଜିର ଦିନରେ ମୁଁ ସମସ୍ତ ରକ୍ତଦାତାଙ୍କୁ କୃତଜ୍ଞତା ଜଣାଉଛି ।

ଆସନ୍ତୁ, ଆଜି ଆମେ ଶପଥ ନେବା ଯେ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ଭାବରେ ରକ୍ତଦାନ କରିବା ସହିତ, ରକ୍ତର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତାକୁ ପୂରଣ କରିବାପାଇଁ ନିଜର ପରିବାର, ବନ୍ଧୁବାନ୍ଧବ ଏବଂ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାକୃତ ଭାବରେ ରକ୍ତଦାନ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରବର୍ତ୍ତାଇବା ଓ ଅନ୍ୟର ଜୀବନ ବଞ୍ଚାଇବା ପାଇଁ ଉଦ୍ୟମ କରିବା ।

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ, ସଂସଦୀୟ ବ୍ୟାପାର ବୈଦ୍ୟୁତିକ ଅଣୁ ବିଜ୍ଞାନ ତଥା ସୂଚନା ଏବଂ ପ୍ରଯୁକ୍ତି ବିଦ୍ୟା







"Our Government is fully committed towards ensuring a happy and hassle free life for our senior citizens **

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



Empowerment through Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

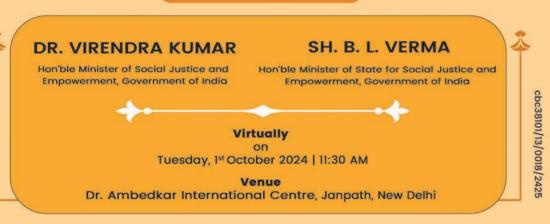
Distribution of Assistive Devices to Senior Citizens Under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

Holding 51 Distribution Camps across India for Senior Citizens

Free distribution of assistive devices at the camp to 21000 identified beneficiaries

Distribution of 110550 devices under Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

In the August presence of





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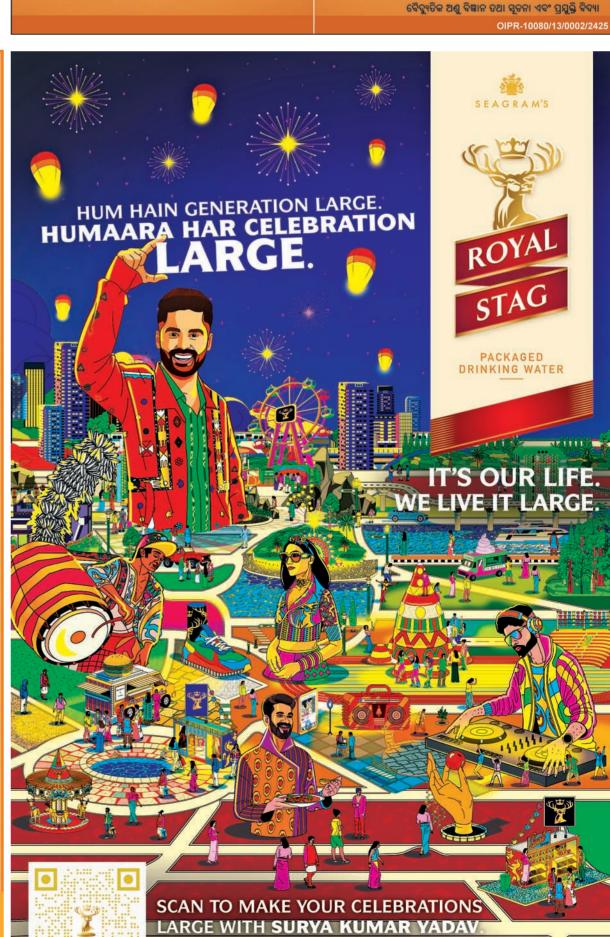
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Min unveils VOTI conference hall



Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: Fisheries and Animal Resources Development and MSME Minister Gokulananda Mallik inaugurated the conference hall of Veterinary Officers' Training Institute (VOTI) at Laxmisagar here Monday

Speaking on the occasion, Mallik said that the conference hall would solve the purpose of organising simultaneous training programmes on multiple topics with different participants. It will bring in substantial changes in capacity building of

ministerial staff and entrepreneurs of Animal Resources Development sector.

Underlining the commitment of state government for the welfare of livestock farmers through introduction of new schemes Minister Mallik said that Mukhyamantri Kamdhenu Yojana has recently been approved by the Cabinet which will boost dairy development and economic upliftment of about 15 lakh livestock farmers in the state.

The conference hall will add to the infrastructure for better The conference hall will add to the infrastructure for better training, skill development and capacity building of the stakeholders

training, skill development and capacity building of the stakeholders in the sector, he said.

Fisheries & Animal Resources Development principal secretary Suresh Kumar Vashishth said that hall will facilitate more number of training programmes.

The conference hall is well equipped with modern gadgets like LED screens, digital podium and comfortable seating arrangement for 60 participants. The conference hall will also cater to the need of the department for conducting review meetings and other programmes. Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services director Ramashis Hazra proposed vote of thanks.



RAISING VOICE: CITU workers stage a demonstration in front of Labour Commissioner's office in Bhubaneswar, Monday, to press for fulfillment of their

HelpAge India observes Int'l Day for Older Persons

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: To mark the International Day for Older Persons, HelpAge India organised an event at Red Cross Bhawan here Monday with active participation from students, senior citizen groups, and social development organisations.

The event launched national level campaign 'Generations Together' highlighting the importance of intergenerational solidarity and the well-being of senior citizens.

The programme began on a touching note, as students warmly welcomed the senior citizens with roses

HelpAge India senior programme manager Ranjay Kumar Das chaired the event, which featured notable guests including state head of HelpAge India Bhakti Chakra, HOD of Community Medicine at SOA

MARKET WATCH

DOLLAR **83.90**

SILVER

WEATHER

Max Temp

Min Temp

Humidity

Rainfall **FORECAST**

PARTLY **CLOUDY SKY**

SENSEX **84,299.78** 1,272.0

₹74,784

₹90,714

36.2°C

₹74

CTC

35.0°C

84%

Nil

University R Venkata Rao, Tata Steel's CSR division head Ambika Prasad Nanda and UNFPA's Noor Malik among others.

Bharti Chakra officially launched the national campaign '#Generations Together' stressing the need for collective efforts to support senior citizens. "It is essential for district-level senior citizen committees to actively engage in addressing the issues faced by the elderly," she said.

Rao emphasised the significance of healthcare for the elderly, particularly mental health, stating, "Mental well-being should be a crucial element of senior citizen care policies.'

Nanda highlighted the vital role of grandparents in families and suggested, "Popular stories about the elderly should be included in educational policies to reinforce their significance.'

46th AGM of Odisha State Seeds Corporation held

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: The 46th annual general meeting (AGM) of Odisha State Seeds Corporation (OSSC) was held here Monday.

The shareholders from various districts participated in the meeting. Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment (A&FE) principal secretary Arabinda Kumar Padhee, who has recently joined as chairman of the Corporation, highlighted the various initiatives taken by the state government for the farmers.

Padhee assured shareholders that the Corporation will strive to meet their demands using available resources and relevant government schemes.

In his speech, Padhee emphasised the production of nonpaddy seeds in the state and also



for doubling the farmers' income. He also pointed out the importance of growing bio-fortified seeds for marketability.

Padhee underscored the need for transparency, accountability, and zero tolerance for misconduct among officials, ensuring efficient service delivery to the farming community.

He also encouraged shareholders engaged in seed production to explore opportunities in seed entrepreneurship, calling it a vital avenue for empowering farmers.

Managing director Bhabesh Kumar Nayak elaborated on the Corporation's activities and shared his vision for making OSSC a dynamic organisation.

The AGM was attended by Grower Shareholder Director Ashok Kumar Baral, who emphasized the importance of maintaining the ORISEED brand's quality to ensure its success.

'More interventions in transport sector'

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: Odisha will have more innovative and important interventions to strengthen the Transport Sector, said Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena Monday.

Jena was on a visit to Chennai to overview some of the best practices adopted and other transport related measures.

Jena visited Chennai Metropolitan Transport Corporation and State Express Transport Corporation where he discussed with officials on various models implemented,

new schemes, challenges faced along with future programmes on Inter-State Transport Services.

Minister made a trip in a city bus and exchanged the views with passengers on different amenities. He also visited the Central Workshop of the Corporation.

Odisha State Road Transport Corporation CMD Diptesh Kumar Pattanayak accompanied the Minister. Alby John Varghese, managing director and C Natarajan, joint managing director of Metro Transport Corporation along with senior officers had meaningful discussion with the minister

OSEFD holds seminar on children with spl needs



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: The Odisha Special Educator Federation for Divyang (OSEFD), an organisation that advocates for quality education for children with special needs (CwSN), organised a seminar on 'Differently abled students and Special Educator' here Monday. Around 500 members including the parents were present on the occasion.

Joint secretary of OSEF Ayusman Choudhury coordinated the event which was attended by Assembly Speaker

Surama Padhy as the chief guest. Sakhyam Foundation secretary Manasmita Jena and vice president Binay Bhushan Mahapatra were the keynote speakers.

Discussing the topic in detail, the speakers raised the issue of appointment of special teachers for differently abled students in all the general schools of Odisha as per the Supreme Court order. The issue of decreasing number of CwSN students in general schools was also discussed. Speaker Padhy promised to take appropriate steps regarding the appointment of special teachers. OSEFD district president Suryakant Behera gave a welcome speech while secretary Jeevan Kumar Behera

gave a vote of thanks. Navagarh district president Truptimayee Pradhan, secretary Sibhasmita Mishra, vice president Arshi Upasana Kar and joint secretary Shiba Prasad Mishra were present at the event.

Artists paint walls with messages of cleanliness

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: Around 60 artists participated in the wall painting competition inaugurated by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Mayor Sulochana Das to mark Swachhata Hi Seva campaign here Monday. Prior to the start of the com-

petition, the artists were given orientation on Swachha Bharat Mission including hygiene and sanitation. Twelve teams were formed to reflect their creativity on the walls and they were provided free colour, brush and other required things by the BMC.

Participants from Dhauli Art



college, BK Art college and wall painting artists of the City painted different images of Swachhata on the walls near St Joseph's High School

The winners would be fe-

licitated in the special programme of Swachhata Hi Seva October 2.

"The street near the school has a good number of food stalls attracting customers on regu-

lar basis. Therefore, the surrounding should appeal citizens to keep their city clean and green." Mayor Das said.

"Although the City has got recognition for its cleanliness in the country, still it is needed to make people aware about their responsibility to make it more attractive. This is Swachha Bharat Mission's 10th year and citizens should come out to celebrate this through their active participation in city sanitation," she added.

As RRR initiative, BMC is going to transform 140 vulnerable garbage points into beauty spots. Creatives made out of waste materials will be used for aesthetic purpose of the places.

Workshop Vartalap on 'Bio-E3 Policy' in collaboration with ILS

AFFIDAVI

I, Mrs. SANJUKTA KUMARI SAHU, D/o. Sri Upendra Nath Sahu, Wife of Sri Pradipta Kumar Sahu, resident of House No.588, Saraswati Nagar, Semiliguda, in the Dist. of Koraput, Odisha, Pin-764036 by this affidavit No.- 1544 dated:29.09.2024 That now onwards I shall be known as SANJUKTA SAHU for all purposes.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 30: Press Information Bureau (PIB) organised a media workshop Vartalap' on 'Bio-E3 Policy' in collaboration with Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) here Monday.

The event started with a welcome address by ILS director Debasis Dash, who spoke on the importance of marine research and the blue economy to achieve the objective of Vikshit Bharat by 2047. He said that the successful implementation of the BioE3 policy is dependent on the collaboration of various ministries, and this is an example of how Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)

are working together towards achieving the vision outlined in the Bio-E3 policy.

Speaking on the proposal to establish a bio manufacturing hub in collaboration with the Science and Technology department, he said, "These efforts and existing research and development activities of ILS in the fields of infectious and chronic diseases, regenerative medicine, crop improvement, crop protection and microbial biotechnology will contribute to making a Viksit Bharat.

PIB ADG Akhil Kumar Mishra said that media plays a vital role in the development of nation and Vartalap provides an interactive platform for exchange of knowledge and insights into gov-



dependent on the collaboration of various ministries. Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) are working together towards achieving the objective of Vikshit Bharat by 2047

DEBASIS DASH | DIRECTOR, ILS

ernment plans, policies and pro-

Advisor and Scientist-G, DBT, Nitin Jain outlined how BioE3 policy will help in making the country self-reliant in the bulk drug sector where we have import dependence for several fermentation-based active pharmaceutical ingredients intermediates, and key starting materials.

Scientist-D, DBT, Sumita Kumari outlined DBT and interministerial programmess that can be initiated to make an impact in the agriculture sector to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change

"The pace with which the climate is changing can reduce agricultural income in the coming decade. Adopting and implementing climate-resilient agriculture rigorously has become the need of the hour," she said.

With the upcoming BioE3 policy, there will be improved access and utilisation of technology, transparent trade regimes, and increased use of resource conservation technologies, which will increase crop and livestock adaptation to climatic stress,' she added. Notably, climate-resilient agriculture is a set of agricultural practices and technologies that simultaneously boost productivity, enhance resilience and reduce Green House Gas emissions. Further, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy for Fostering High-Performance Biomanufacturing' of the department of Biotechnology August 24, 2024.

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Admin apathy endangers students' lives

STUDENTS FORCED TO WALK HALF KILOMETRE THROUGH FOREST IN DARK FOR DINNER

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Sept 30: Believe it or not, students of an Ashram School have to walk more than half a kilometre through a forested road every night to have their dinner, as food is not cooked in the hostel but on the school premises at Kamkeda village under Nuagaon panchayat of Komna block in Nuapada district.

The school owned by the state government and managed by the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste (ST & SC) Development department is plagued by a host of problems.

The residential school has over 300 students on its rolls from Class I to Class VIII. All the students reside in the hostel established separately from the school at a distance of at least half a kilometre.

The students have their midday meals in the school and leave for their hostel after class hours. However, they have to risk their lives and pass through the forested area in pitch darkness every night to reach their school for dinner.

After finishing dinner, they again cover the same distance to reach their hostel which is lo-



cated close to Chandel hill. Locals said the hill is inhabited by wild animals including leopards, bears and poisonous reptiles, and there is every possibility that they might stray near the hostel and endanger the students' lives. Walking on the forested road at night is an open invitation danger; the locals said.

Rules mandate that both lunch and dinner should be prepared in the respective hostels. However, the authorities are cooking the food on the school premises instead of the hostels. Furthermore, instead of transporting the food to the hostel, they make the students walk to the school for dinner.

Meanwhile, incessant rainfall triggered by low pressure is lashing the area for past few days. However, in the absence of any alternative, the students walk to their school in rain and pitch darkness for dinner.

Guardians alleged that the teachers and concerned education officials are playing with the students' lives and pushing them into grave danger. They said that the authorities are bound by rules to cook the midday meal at school and the dinner on the hostel premises at night. However, the concerned officials have thrown the norms to winds, they alleged.

Parents further alleged that the

hostel authorities are yet to give essentials like tooth brush, and tooth paste to the hostel inmates while oil, soaps and detergent powder are not given to them on regular intervals. As per rule, they need to deliver the essentials to the students every week but

two months to get the supplies.

Moreover, the students are not served food as per the menu but are given rice, dal, dalma and curry prepared with potato and soybean chunks.

students have to wait for one or

Earlier, District Welfare Officer Deeptimanta Bhoi had assured to resolve the problems within a week. Since then a month has passed but the problems remain unresolved, they alleged.

When contacted, Welfare Extension Officer Shyamsundar Majhi of Komna block acknowledged the problem. The school and hostels are separate and hostels are surrounded by private lands making it difficult to dump the wastes, he said, adding that they are arranging two trolleys which will ferry the dinner to the hostel inmates at night. Moreover, dustbins are also being arranged for dumping of garbage and disposing the soiled plates of students, he added

Jumbo rescued from well after 6-hour rescue ops

In recent days, a herd of 30 elephants has been roaming in the area, causing widespread damage in Parlasinga, Podhakhamba, Shirol, and Dumeramunda villages

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Sept 30: A wild elephant, which was found trapped in an abandoned well near a cashew plantation close to Saurapadar village under the Kesinga Forest Division in Kalahandi district, was finally rescued after a 6-hour rescue operation by the Forest department

Upon discovering the elephant, which was struggling to get out of the well, locals informed the Forest department.

On being informed, Ranger Prabhabati Seth and Forest department personnel reached the spot and initiated efforts to rescue the elephant.

After six hours of continuous effort, the elephant was rescued from the well using a JCB machine. Once freed, the elephant ran

towards the Bajragarh forest.

In recent days, a herd of 30 elephants has been roaming in the area, causing widespread damage by consuming crops like paddy and cotton in Parlasinga, Podhakhamba, Shirol, and Dumeramunda villages.

Farmers have lodged written complaints with the Forest department regarding the destruction of their crops. Despite efforts, the Forest department has been unable to drive the elephants away, leading to discontent among the local population.

Meanwhile, due to the presence of the elephant herd in the area, electricity is being cut off at night in nearby villages such as Balsi, Rengali, Masanibandh, Parlasinga, and Shirol. As a result, villagers are suffering owing to the darkness and extreme heat during the night.

Man burnt alive as two bikes collide head-on, catch fire

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 30: In a gruesome road accident, one person was burnt alive and two others were seriously injured Monday morning near Kurupani village of Kuranrmunda panchayat in Sundargarh district, police said.

The incident occurred under Biramitrapur police limits when two motorcycles collided head-on at high speed and caught fire, they said, adding, that both the vehicles were completely damaged in the fire.

Rajesh Tigga, the pillion rider on one bike which was coming from Biramitrpaur side, died on the spot, and the rider identified as Belend Bading also received burn injuries on his back, hand and other body parts.

Rider of the other bike coming from Raibaga side, Ashok Agarwal, was injured in the accident but had no burn injuries. The injured have been admitted to a hospital in Rourkela for treatment.



13-km snarl: NH gridlocked for four days at Dwarasuni ghat

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bangiriposhi, Sept 30: A massive traffic jam on the National Highway-49 passing through the Dwarasuni ghat in Mayurbhanj district has left many truckers and passenger vehicles stranded for the last four days and kept the highway out of bounds for pedestrians.

Sources said that the ghat road under this block has remained gridlocked for the last four days with containers, trucks, pas-

senger vehicles and two-wheelers seen stranded in a 13-km long traffic snarl on the highway in the middle of a forest.

The traffic jam occurred after three vehicles broke down on the ghat road. The situation worsened due to the delay in arrival of cranes to tow away the vehicles. Such is the situation that a vehicle takes around four hours to cross the stretch of the highway, commuters alleged.

An ambulance was also seen stuck on the route for over four



hours. Office goers could not attend their offices and several youths travelling for the OSSC examination could not appear the test after remaining stranded on the route. The traffic jam, around 13 km

in length, led to a harrowing experience for commuters. They alleged that the traffic jam has oc-

curred due to the apathetic attitude and negligence of police and administrative officials. Left with no option, commuters were seen hurriedly searching for drinking water.

They alleged that the police personnel are making no effort for smooth plying of the vehicles while the officials of the regional transport department are also not properly verifying the cargo laden vehicles.

Helpless truckers are reportedly surviving by cooking and

consuming food inside their vehicles. Some of the trucks were carrying essential commodities, sources said.

Earlier, several political leaders and ministers had assured to take up renovation of the highway and make it safer for travelling. However, as no construction works were taken up, the stretch of the highway at Dwarasuni ghat is witnessing frequent traffic jams and severe accidents leading to loss of lives and properties.

By the time the fire brigade personnel arrived the bikes were charred completely. Ashok was thrown out of his bike and fortunately received no burn injuries. However, Belen and Rajesh were trapped under the burning motorcycle. Belen somehow managed to escape but Rajesh was burnt alive on the spot.

Biramitrapur IIC Bandita Patra said the actual cause of the death could only be established after proper enquiry. "Both the bikes have been totally gutted. It is suspected that the petrol tanks of both the bikes burst under the impact, causing the fire. We will wait for the enquiry report," Patra said.





We find in others what is in us. If we always find mud around us, it proves that there is mud somewhere in us.

THE MOTHER



People's Leader

apan's crisis-hit ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has elected its new leader, Shigeru Ishiba, who is all set to be appointed Prime Minister on Tuesday, replacing Fumio Kishida who had announced last month that he would not stand for re-election. Nine candidates contested for the top post. Despite being fairly popular among the public, Ishiba, a former defence minister, has made four unsuccessful attempts in the past to lead the LDP, including a 2012 contest against his arch rival, the late PM Shinzo Abe who was assassinated in 2022.

Ishiba's honesty and criticism of the PM, an uncommon occurrence in Japanese politics, have unsettled some party colleagues while they have resonated with the public. Well-informed about the intricacies of party dynamics and security policies, Ishiba, who had earlier called for an Asian version of the NATO, emphasizes the need for Japan to bolster its security in light of recent territorial incursions by Russia and China, as well as a rogue North Korea's relentless missile tests.

Seen as a votary of sustainable development, Ishiba has advocated for a transition from nuclear power to renewable energy in the aftermath of the Fukushima disaster.

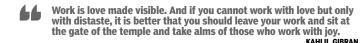
Among the public, Ishiba is known for his progressive stand on several gender-related issues. He has called for an update to a 19th-century civil code that mandates married couples to select one of their surnames, which has led to the majority of women taking their husband's surname. Efforts to amend the code have been hindered for decades due to opposition from the LDP. In a recent speech, Ishiba noted that Japanese women are among the shortest sleepers globally due to their significant responsibilities at both work and home. He also stated that most Japanese husbands, himself included, provide little assistance to their wives in child-care and household chores. Moreover, Ishiba backs legislation that would enable women to ascend as reigning empresses, a proposal that faces stiff opposition from numerous conservative lawmakers from within the LDP.

The leadership transition has taken place during a tumultuous period for the party, which has been shaken by scandals and internal strife. It also represents an effort to restore the public's trust that the party has lost in recent months due to a stagnant economy and a cost of living crisis. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Japanese families are experiencing financial strain due to a weak yen, a stagnant economy, and rapidly rising food prices, which are increasing at the fastest rate in nearly 50 years. Additionally, wages in Japan have seen little change over the past three decades. This prolonged economic stagnation is putting significant pressure on Japanese households and leading to demands for stimulus package. As a result, the LDP, which has ruled Japan for most of its post-war period, is gradually losing public support.

Ishiba's party now expects him to leverage his experience and expertise to counter the main Opposition, the Constitutional Democratic Party, which has recently appointed former Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, a seasoned politician renowned for his inspiring speeches, as its new leader

Despite being viewed as an outsider within his own party, Ishiba's no-nonsense personality and clear respect for voters contribute to his public appeal. His ascendancy to the top post indicates the acceptance of a leader who speaks the truth and is pro people while not resorting to any theatrics to get into the seat of power.

WISDOM CORNER



There are two kinds of teachers: the kind that fill you with so much quail shot that you can't move, and the kind that just gives you a

little prod behind and you jump to the skies.

One of the great cosmic laws, I think, is that whatever we hold in our thought will come true in our experience. When we hold something, anything, in our thought, then somehow coincidence leads us in the direction that we've been wishing to lead ourselves.

RICHARD BAC

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1553: With her coronation, Mary I became the first queen to rule England in her own right; she was later nicknamed "Bloody Mary" because of her persecution of Protestants in a vain attempt to restore Roman Catholicism in the country.
- 1800: Napoleon induced a reluctant King Charles IV of Spain to cede Louisiana back to France.
- 1946: The verdict was handed down on 22 of the original 24 defendants in the Nürnberg trials, a series of trials held after World War II in which the International Military Tribunal indicted and tried former Nazi leaders as war criminals.
- 1949: People's Republic of China established. In Beijing, with most of the Chinese mainland held by the communist People's Liberation Army, its dynamic leader, Mao Zedong, proclaimed the establishment of the People's Republic of China on this day in 1949.
- 1975: In what is regarded by many as the greatest prizefight of all time (the "Thrilla in Manila"), Muhammad Ali defeated Joe Frazier after the latter's corner called a halt to the bout after 14 brutal rounds.

LOL

AN OLD RANCHER

Abig-city lawyer was representing the railroad in a lawsuit filed by an old rancher. The rancher's prize bull was missing from the section through which the railroad passed. The rancher only wanted to be paid the fair value of the bull. The case was scheduled to be tried before the justice of the peace in the back room of the general store. The attorney for the railroad immediately cornered the rancher and tried to get him to settle out of court. The lawyer did his best selling job, and finally the rancher agreed to take half of what he was asking. After the rancher had signed the release and took the check, the young lawyer couldn't resist gloating a little



rancher, "You know, I hate to tell you this, old man, but I put one over on you in there. I couldn't have won the case. The engineer was asleep and the fireman was in the caboose when the train went through your ranch that morning. I didn't have one witness to put on the stand. I bluffed

The old rancher replied, "Well, I'll tell you, young feller, I was a little worried about winning that case myself, because that durned bull came home this morning."

FOCUS PUBLIC HEALTH

ANOTHER WAKE-UP CALL



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

DECENTRALIZING
VACCINE AND
DIAGNOSTICS
PRODUCTION
TO MORE
DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES
WOULD HELP TO
SHOCK-PROOF
SUPPLIES

It feels like a movie we have already seen. A new viral strain is killing people in some of the world's poorest countries, and although vaccines against the pathogen exist, production shortages and regulatory barriers are preventing them from reaching those in need.

The response to the mpox outbreak in Central Africa suggests that we have not learned the lessons of COVID-19, when inequitable access to vaccines prolonged the pandemic and worsened its economic consequences. Even more alarmingly, it demonstrates how unprepared we are for a new global crisis.

There are two silver linings, however. The first is a matter of luck. While the coronavirus was transmitted very easily because it was airborne, mpox spreads much more slowly via close contact, which has limited its toll. The World Health Organization counts around 100,000 confirmed mpox cases since January 2022, and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

reports 724 mpox deaths in 2024. Second, this crisis presents an opportunity. By working together to clear the roadblocks to the mpox response, governments, international organizations, and the biopharmaceutical sector can better prepare for future pathogens. The easiest roadblocks to dismantle are regulations that make it harder for vaccines to be manufactured and distributed across borders.

Mpox vaccines received regulatory approval in the European Union, Japan, the United States, and Canada after an outbreak in 2022. Yet in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the country hit hardest by the outbreak that started last year, regulatory authorities didn't approve mpox vaccines until June, placing an additional hurdle in the way of incoming donated shots. Many low-income countries rely on the WHO to assess vaccine safety and efficacy, and WHO approval is also necessary for Gavi and UNICEF to start large-scale vaccine orders and distribution. Despite the WHO's hard work, its rules pre-



The response to the mpox outbreak in Central Africa suggests that we have not learned the lessons of COVID-19, when inequitable access to vaccines prolonged the pandemic and worsened its economic consequences

vented it from declaring mpox to be an emergency and authorizing emergency use of mpox vaccines until mid-August, when the disease's spread had made it a public-health problem of international concern.

The WHO's declaration paved the way for UNICEF to launch a tender for up to 12 million doses through 2025. In parallel, the WHO worked with manufacturers and regulators to gather the data necessary for full "prequalification" of mpox vaccines (which also covers non-emergency use). The first of these was granted on 13 September, and a few days later, Gavi reached an agreement with the manufacturer, Denmark's Bavarian Nordic, to purchase 500,000 doses for delivery this year.

To avoid such delays in future emergencies, countries must be better prepared to receive vaccines. Governments could start recognizing regulatory approvals by other countries, and they can use the negotiations on a proposed WHO Pandemic Agreement to give national and regional regulators and the WHO new tools to speed up approvals.

Smooth cross-border trade is vital in health emergencies. During the COVID-19 pandemic, multi-country supply chains helped ramp up production and distribution of desperately needed personal protective equip-

ment, test kits, and billions of vaccine doses. By 2021, global trade in medical products was worth \$1.5 trillion, up 29% from 2019, according to World Trade Organization data. But there were disruptions along the way, with several governments restricting exports and cutting off vaccine access for many import-dependent countries.

dependent countries.

Another issue is evident in the fact that, until US President Joe Biden's recent donation of one million mpox vaccine doses, the DRC had received only a few hundred thousand, even though its population is above 100 million. Here, we see a problem that goes beyond trade barriers: there has been far too little headway toward diversifying vaccine manufacturing and building extra production capacity.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic,

80% of world vaccine exports came from only ten countries, which meant that export restrictions in just a few of them were sufficient to disrupt global supplies. Decentralizing vaccine and diagnostics production to more developing countries would help to shock-proof supplies. But doing so requires action across multiple fronts by governments, international organizations, and the private sector.

Intellectual property is one front. During the pandemic, WTO members reached a hardfought decision on COVID-19 vaccine IP that provides tools to diversify production capacity. For mpox and future health threats, pharmaceutical companies have a responsibility to be proactive. By preparing to reach voluntary agreements with potential partners, they can rapidly scale up production around the world as needed. Given that the Medicines Patent Pool has a proven track record of facilitating such agreements, we should focus on making this approach work even better.

Developing countries, for their part, should ensure that their legislative and regulatory frameworks are ready to support local or regional manufacturing, whether through voluntary licenses from patent holders or by taking advantage of flexibilities in WTO IP rules. The WTO, the WHO, and World Intellectual Property Organization can help governments in this area.

But IP is not the only issue. Governments also must agree on where to locate regional production hubs to enable economies of scale. Here, the Regionalized Vaccine Manufacturing Collaborative's efforts to organize and scale vaccine manufacturing on a regional basis can help governments. New production facilities in Africa and elsewhere will need sustained demand to continue operating. The pooled procurement approach put in place by the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust during COVID-19 represents a step in the right direction. Looking ahead, the World Bank's Pandemic Fund could help finance long-term purchasing commitments, as this would be an investment in a global public good.

We stand ready to do our part for mpox and whatever other threats lie in the future. Governments, civil society, and the private sector should stop talking past each other on these issues and start working together.

The writer, Director-General of the World Trade Organization, is a former board chair of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

SPECTRUM INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

Elders are an asset, not liability



Gopabandhu Mohapatra

A GROWING
NUMBER OF OLDER
PEOPLE ARE
FACING
SIGNIFICANT
CHALLENGES
RELATED TO
SOCIAL WELFARE,
ECONOMIC AND
HEALTH POLICIES
IN INDIA

opulation ageing is a universal phenomenon. Virtually every country in the world is experiencing growth in both the size and the proportion of older persons in the population. 1 October is observed every year as the "International Day of Older Persons." Being the nodal ministry for the welfare of senior citizens, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been celebrating the occasion every year by organising a series of programmes and felicitating distinguished senior citizens with "Vayoshrestha Samman." The main idea behind these celebrations is to reiterate the government's commitment towards welfare of the elderly and to ensure that the services rendered by the elderly get due recognition in society. A growing number of older

A growing number of older people are facing significant challenges related to social welfare, economic and health policies in India. Mobility associated with disabilities is almost inevitable after attaining certain age. Complete immobility in older ages necessitates round-the-clock assistance to carry out activi-

ties of daily living. It is reported that in India, around 44% of people aged 80 years have some kind of activity limitation either in bathing, dressing, eating, using the toilet, getting out of bed or walking across the room.

India is experiencing one of the fastest ageing populations and share of older people in total population is expected to rise (8.6% in 2011 to 21% in 2050). By 2031, elderly count will be 194 million, compared to 138 million in 2021. The share of elderly aged 80 years and above of total population was 0.4% in 1950; which doubled (0.8%) in 2011 and is expected to increase up to 3.3% by 2050. According to Census 2011, India had 104 million older people (60+years), constituting 8.6% of total population. Amongst the elderly (60+), females outnumber males.

A sample survey suggests that around 44 lakh among those above 70 are completely bed-ridden. The number is much higher (19% for 80 years above), if we count those who may not be completely bed-ridden but are confined to homes. These numbers can increase to an alarming level in

coming years owing to the rate of population ageing in the country. The most prevalent disabilities among elderly persons are hearing and visual disabilities.

Majority of support for elderly comes from children. Only 6% of individuals aged 60 years and above live alone, while 20% live only with their spouse without the presence of their children. But this number can increase significantly in coming days and might pose a big challenge for household-based informal care-giving.

With declining birth rate, migration of young children for education and jobs, splitting of families with growing individuality, the consequent rise in left-behind elders is a great threat to informal care support for the older population. More importantly, a rise in longer life span for females and growing number of widows pose a serious challenge for later age support for them. Thus, in future, absence of adequate informal care givers would significantly hamper elders' access to essential services, particularly for those with poor health conditions.

Elderly are an asset to society and not a liability. The best way

of taking advantage of this asset is by assimilating them into the mainstream population rather than isolating them in old age homes. By providing opportunities for education, employment, volunteering, health and wellness, and social inclusion, policy initiatives should empower the elderly and integrate them into productive societal roles.

In order to address the increasing needs of the elderly persons, India needs to come up with innovative solutions to combat the social welfare, economic and health challenges they face.

There is a need for the elders to remain active, to know that they still have a part to play in the family or community to which they belong and can make a useful contribution to society as a whole. On this International Day of Older Persons, let us commit to strengthen care and support systems that honour the dignity of older persons and caregivers. Let elders be given respect and love, a chance to smile, a reason to live and a life they all deserve.

The writer is a retired banker.

Fears Sir, Th

TO THE EDITOR

etters

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

OrissaPOST

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Fears of escalation

Sir, This refers to "Deepening crisis," Orissa POST, Sept 30. Israel's pinpoint strike on a southern Beirut suburb killing the Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in his underground command post has sparked fears of a far wider escalation of the Middle East war. A tectonic shift may not come about in Iran's influence on its proxies in the region because of this strategically precise operation with powerful bunker buster bombs to hit a major figure like Nasrallah. What Iran does now in the face of this pointed attack on Hezbollah and one of its own revolutionary force commanders is what will define events in the war. An indication of an immediate reaction out of Iran is that the supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei has said that Hezbollah would continue to be at the helm of the resistance forces and that its military capabilities had not been destroyed. The world is aghast at the cost of war but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose political stake in continuing to keep his country on the offensive is heavy, illustrated his defiance with a speech at the United Nations. Where this will end and whether any major powers will be sucked into this cauldron is open to question.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, WASHINGTON

End of an era

Sir, In the passing of 108-year-old Pappammal from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, the nation has lost a pioneer in the field of agriculture, whose unflinching passion for organic farming, even in her advanced age, won her the prestigious Padma Shri award. The centenarian farmer's life was a testament to the power of passion in agriculture, and it is unimaginable that a woman could toil in this tough and unpredictable field daily even at that ripe age! Pappammal worked closely with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University as a member of the farmers' consultation committee for 45 years since 1970. Her mantra was simple, being close to nature always. Whether eating from banana leaves or brushing her teeth with neem twigs, her life was inspirational in more ways than one. Pappammal's passing marks the end of an era in the farming community of Tamil Nadu.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI



Search operations in

HIMACHAL MOSQUE ROW

Hindu outfits scuffle with police in Kullu

MUSLIM BODY SAYS NO MASJID ILLEGAL

PRADESH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 30: As protests demanding the demolition of illegally constructed mosques rage on in Himachal Pradesh, a Muslim organisation said that there were no illegal mosques in the state but delay in approval of maps in government records was causing a problem

Hindu outfits that took out a yatra in Kullu demanding the demolition of the mosque were involved in a scuffle with police

Amid tight security, protesters of the 'Hindu Dharam Jagaran Yatra' marched from Hanuman temple to Akhara Mosque chanting the Hanuman Chalisa.

Protesters gathered in large numbers, women included, carrying placards and saffron flags with 'Jai Shri Ram' written on it as they called for the demolition of the mosque in Kullu. Musicians playing local instruments and women in traditional dress dancing to Kullu folk music



led the yatra

Besides calling for the demolition of the mosque, the protesters also demanded scrapping of the Waqf Board. They said that if the Kullu mosque is authorised then the administration should show its papers to

the leaders of the Hindu outfits. The demand for the demolition of "illegally" constructed mosques began after a scuffle between a Muslim barber and a Hindu businessman in Malyana area in the suburbs of Shimla

munal issue. Hindu groups have been de-

manding the demolition of mosques they say are unauthorised, and are calling for the identification of "outsiders' coming into the state.

Meanwhile. Muslim Welfare calling for the Committee, demolition of the Mandi president mosque, the protesters also Naheem demanded scrapping of the Ahmed told Waqf Board PTI Monday, "No mosque in Himachal

Pradesh is illegal but there has been a delay in getof the Hindu outfits ting the maps approved and other related processes. We would ourselves remove the structures

if found illegal." He said that a meeting of representatives of the Muslim community was held in the Balh area of Mandi Sunday.

It was decided that a state level committee of the minority community would be constituted and they would meet the chief minister to apprise him of the prevailing situation, Ahmed said.

He said that Muslim leaders were of the view that some people are spreading hatred and such practices should be curbed. Every person coming from outside irrespec-

tive of his religion should checked, he added. Earlier,

district authorities said They said that if the Kullu mosque that is authorised then the mosque at administration should show Akhara Bazaar its papers to the leaders was not illegal.

Besides

There was a some difference between the area of the mosque in government records and the actual area covered by it, district authorities said, adding that the case for its regularisation was pending with the town

and country planning depart-The total area of the mosque is 980 square metres, and a deviation of around 150 square

metres was found, they said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Jammu, Sept 30: Security forces Monday extended the ongoing search operations to new Sunday, Kullu areas in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua and Rajouri districts to

A massive search operation is going on for the third day in Kathua

with cordon extending to

near the scene of

Saturday's encounter

hunt down terrorists following

recent encounters in the region,

officials said. While a policeman and a terrorist were killed and two police officers injured in a fierce gunbattle in remote Kog-Mandli forest village in Billawar tehsil of Kathua district Saturday evening, a

brief exchange of fire took place between terrorists and security forces in Manial Gali in Thanamandi area of Rajouri district Sunday

is going on for the third day in Kathua with cordon extending to over a dozen other villages near the scene of Saturday's encounter, the officials said.

A massive search operation

They said at least three more foreign terrorists of Pakistanbased Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) are believed to be hiding in the



forest belt. In Rajouri, the officials said the terrorists fled after a brief encounter with security forces at Manial Gali in Thanamandi area Sunday evening.

The operation was called off late Sunday and resumed and extended to new areas early this morning, the officials said.

They said there was no fresh contact with the terrorists so far Meanwhile, slain **Assembly election** head constable Bashir Ahmed in Jammu and Kashmir was laid to rest since the abrogation of with full honours Article 370 of the at a gravevard near **Constitution in** his Jammu residence after a wreath laying ceremony late

Sunday evening. J&K Director General of Police, Operations and Security, Nalin Prabhat, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, and all personnel paid homage to the fallen cop.

Family members of the policeman -- his wife, two sons and a daughter -- were present at the wreath laying ceremony at the police headquarters and were seen being consoled personally

by the DGP.

VHP urges govt to repeal Waqf Act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 30: The Himachal Pradesh unit of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) Monday urged the Modi government to repeal the Waqf Act, claiming it was enacted just to appease Muslim voters.

Himachal VHP state secretary Tushar Dogra alleged the Waqf Act enacted and then amended to appease Muslim vot ers, and to hand over properties of Hindus and the government to Muslims.

He was speaking at a webinar organised by NGO Umang

The demand comes even as the issue is being discussed at the government level. The government introduced the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in Lok Sabha last month and it was referred to a joint parliamentary panel.

In a statement issued here, Dogra said, "In 1995, only 4 lakh acres of land was in possession of Waqf Boards in the country. But now, they have more than 9 lakh acres of land in their possession due to this draconian law." He said the Waqf Act empowers waqf boards to claim any public and private property without showing any documents and onus to prove the ownership goes to the real owner.

Any dispute arising out of these matters are not tried by judiciary but only the Waqf Tribunal, he said.

20k polling staff mobilised for final phase **OVER 39.18 LAKH**

The demand for the

demolition of 'illegally'

constructed mosques

began after a scuffle

between a Muslim

barber and a Hindu

businessman in Malvana

Shimla August 30 turned

area in the suburbs of

into a communal issue



Jammu, Sept 30: Over 20,000 polling staff have been mobilised Monday across seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of third and final phase of Assembly elections which will decide the electoral fate of 415 candidates including two former deputy chief ministers Tara Chand and Muzaffar Beig, officials said.

The highlight of the voting will be participation of west Pakistani refugees, Valmiki Samaj and Gorkha community who got the voting rights in Assembly, urban local bodies and panchayat elections only after the abrogation of Article 370. They have earlier voted in block development council and district development council polls in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

Over 39.18 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their franchise at 5,060 polling stations in this crucial phase, covering 40 Assembly segments in Jammu, Udhampur, Samba and Kathua in the Jammu region and Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara in north Kashmir,

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, Anand Jain, said adequate security arrangements have been put in place in the poll-bound areas to ensure "terror-free and peaceful" polling.

Amid tight security arrangements, thousands of election staff along with poll material left their respective district headquarters this morning to take positions at their designated polling stations by this evening.

The voter turnout was robust in the earlier phases, with 61.38 per cent participation recorded in the first phase September 18 and 57.31 per cent in the second phase September 26.

This is the first Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019, with the results set to be announced October 8. According to J&K chief electoral officer Pandurang K Pole, more than 39.18 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their electoral franchise in the final phase across the 40 Assembly constituencies – 24 in Jammu region and 16 in Kashmir valley. In Jammu division, Jammu district accounts for the highest number of 11 segments (Bishnah-SC, Suchetgarh-SC, RSPura, Jammu South, Bahu, Jammu East, Nagrota, Jammu West, Jammu North, Akhnoor-SC and Chhamb), followed by six seats in Kathua district (Bani, Billawar, Basohli,

Jasrota, Kathua-SC and

Hiranagar), four in Udhampur district (Udhampur West, Udhampur East, Chenni and Ramnagar-SC) and three in Samba (Ramgarh-SC, Samba and Vijaypur). Similarly in Kashmir division, 16 Assembly constituencies including Karnah, Tregham, Kupwara, Lolab, Handwara and Langate fall in Kupwara district, Sopore, Rafiabad, Uri, Baramulla, Gulmarg, Wagoora-Kreeri and Pattan in Baramulla district and Sonawari, Bandipora, Gurez (ST) in Bandipora district.

Pole said a total of 5,060 polling stations have been set up across the poll-bound districts.

He said there will be 50 polling booths managed by women, known as Pink Polling Stations. 43 polling stations manned by specially-abled persons and 40

polling stations manned by youths. Also, there will be 45 green polling stations in order to spread the message about environmental concern and 33 unique polling stations, he said, adding 29 polling stations are established near the Line of Control or International Border for border residents.

Drainage, WATCO, Cuttack Invitation for Bids (IFB) No.: GM-WATCO-Drainage-02/2024-25 dtd.: 26.09.2024 The General Manager, Drainage, WATCO, Cuttack on behalf o Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in single cover system in online mode from eligible contractors for the works mentioned below Class of Contractor

Office of the General Manager

is the first

August 2019

Rs. 6000.00 + GST @18% 11:00 hours of dt. 03.10.2024 to 17:00 hours of dt. 18.10.2024 Dt. 19.10.2024 at 11:00 hours 4 Paper Cost Date & Time of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal Date and time of opening Name and address of the The General Manager, Drainage Officer Inviting Bid WATCO, Cuttack, Odisha, At: Mahanadi Vihar, PO: Navabazar, Cuttack - 753004 email: pedrainagectc@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov in. All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to Sd./- General Manager

OIPR-13248/11/0002/2425

Drainage, WATCO, Cuttack

AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY POLLS

Srinagar sees surge in garland sales

Political supporters are purchasing garlands in bulk, with traders from neighbouring districts flocking to Srinagar to meet the rising demand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

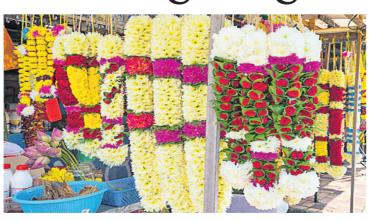
Srinagar, Sept 30: As Kashmir prepares for the third and final phase of Assembly elections October 1, garland sellers in Srinagar are experiencing a remarkable boom in business

With political parties ramping up their campaign activities, garlands have become a hot commodity, flying off the shelves in key markets such as Maharaja Bazar, Bohri Kadal, and Koker Bazar.

Local vendors said that the demand for garlands has surged significantly since the election process began, marking a notable shift after a decade of political silence in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prices for garlands vary widely, ranging from ₹100 to ₹1,000, with extravagant 'money garlands' priced as high as ₹1 lakh.

Feroz Sofi, a local dealer, said, "Since the election season kicked off, our garland business has seen



a substantial uptick. We offer various patterns and prices for leaders and candidates. While garlands were primarily sold for weddings in the past, elections have dramatically increased our demand."

Garlands, considered symbols of good fortune, are sourced from states like Rajasthan, Surat, and

Among the most popular varieties are the 'Moti Haar' and 'Mantri Haar,' which are currently in high demand.

Sellers express their joy at the renewed political activity, which has revitalised their business.

Tariq Ahmed, a shop owner in the bustling Maharaja Bazar, welcomed the change and said, "It's a positive step for us. Our livelihood is improving, and there's a sense

of optimism in the market.' 'We provide a range of garlands, including Moti Haar and Mantri Haar, as well as bouquets. Mantri Haar is particularly popular right now, along with money garlands, which vary in price based on customer demand," Ahmed said.

Political supporters are purchasing garlands in bulk, with traders from neighbouring districts flocking to Srinagar to meet the rising demand. The humble garland has become an essential element in this high-stakes election season.

Aijaz Ahmed, another local garland seller, said, "During elections,

Garlands, considered symbols of good fortune, are sourced from states like Rajasthan, Surat, and

Drices for garlands vary widely. ranging from ₹100 to ₹1.000. with extravagant 'money garlands' priced as high as ₹1 lakh

Among the most popular varieties are the 'Moti Haar' and 'Mantri Haar,' which are currently in high demand

business typically increases as supporters buy garlands and dry fruits for candidates.

"The workload certainly increases, and we stock up as we do for festivals like Eid. While garlands are also sold during wedding seasons, elections provide a significant boost to our trade, especially since this is the first (Assembly) election in 10 years.

Out of the 40 Assembly seats going to the polls in the third phase, 24 are located in Jammu region and 16 in north Kashmir.

As the election day approaches, garland sellers in Srinagar are not only celebrating the revival of their business but also embracing the renewed political engagement in the region.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRIL.), PURI DIVISION, PURI E-mail ID: eeag-puri@gov.in Govt. of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice

BID IDENTIFICATION NO.E.E. (AGRIL.), PURI DIVISION- 04/2024-25 No.L-75:The Executive Engineer (Agril.), Puri Division, Puri, Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invite

percentage rate bids in single cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for following 01 No. work as detailed below. 1. Name of the Work: Cost of EMD in Estimated cost put to Tender (Excluding

		G.S.T.) (Rs.)	(111110.)	(11110.)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of RCC Pre-Cast Boundary wall At Govt. Agril. Farm, Sakhigopal, Dist-Puri	25,33,950.00/-	6,000/-	25,500/-	B&C	05 (Five Calendar Months)
Cost	stimated Cost:- Mentioned in - Mentioned in Column-05. 5	. Period of Completio	n:- Mentione	d in Column-07	. 6. No. of V	Vork (Tender):

01 No. 7. Class of Contractor:- Mentioned in Column-06. 8. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal:- 30.09.2024 at 11.00 A.M. 9. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal:- 14.10.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. 10. Date of submission of original documents: Dt.30.09.2024 at 11.00 A.M. to 15.10.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. (working days) only. 11. Date & time of opening of online bids: 17.10.2024 at 11.00 A.M. & onwards. 12. Name and address of the officer inviting bid: Executive Engineer (Agril.), Puri Division, Puri, Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://tendersodisha.gov.in.

OIPR-01479/11/0007/2425

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ansari Nagar. New Delhi - 110029 Adv.No.ICMR/Sc-C & D (Non-Med)/IPR/3/2024-Pers.

RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR SCIENTIFIC POSITIONS Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an Autonomous Organization

under Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare invites online application(s) to fill up one (01) vacancy of Scientist-C(Non-Medical) in Level 11 of Pay Matrix (Rs.67,700-2,08,700) & one (01) vacancy of Scientist-D (Non-Medical), in Level 12 of Pay Matrix (Rs. 78,800-Rs. 2,09,200) (7th CPC Scale) and usual allowances as admissible to ICMR employees for appointment on regular basis under Direct Recruitment for posting at Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Unit, ICMR Hqrs., New Delhi with all India transfer liability under the Council.

Earlier the last date of receiving online applications for the said vacancies was 16.09.2024 which was extended upto 30.09.2024 with modification in essential qualifications which can be seen in the Corrigendum dated 5th September, 2024 available on ICMR website. The competent authority has now decided to further extend the last date for receiving online applications as 15th October, 2024 till 5.30 P.M.

For detailed advertisement & corrigendum, please visit ICMR website at www.icmr.gov.in or https://recruit.icmr.org.in.

CBC-17152/11/0024/2425

national



Many a time, when something untoward happens, in a fit of rage the attendants of patients misbehave with the healthcare professionals. This is wrong and condemnable

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT OF INDIA

ATISHI, MINISTERS INSPECT ROADS

Delhi cabinet ministers led by Chief Minister Atishi hit the ground running Monday morning, inspecting and identifying damaged roads across the city to ensure a pothole-free national capital by Diwali





INDIA bloc further and prepare a





any party tries to divide you and if you fall for their tricks then you will not get your honour back PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA

CONGRESS LEADER

You all have been trained in government training centres of the labour department, and you got jobs as per your skills. But,



HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

SHORT TAKES

BEST bus gutted in Ghatkopar

Mumbai: A BEST bus on wet lease from a private operator was gutted in a fire in Ghatkopar in Mumbai Monday, officials said. The conductor of the bus suffered minor injuries to the hand while all the passengers were safe, Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking public relations officer Sudas Samant said. "The bus, which belongs to Dharavi depot, was plying on route 303 from Bandra station east to Mulund east. The fire took place when the passengers had alighted at the end of the trip and the bus was making a U-turn to depart for Bandra east," Samant said.

Three killed in road mishap

Chandigarh: Three people were killed while over 15 passengers suffered injuries after a private bus rammed into a roadside waiting shed in Punjab's Batala area Monday, police said. The accident took place near Shahbad village on Batala-Oadian road when the driver of the bus took a sharp turn in order to prevent collision with a two-wheeler, said police.

5 naxals surrender

Sukma/Bijapur: Five Naxalites, including a woman, surrendered before police in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region even as two Maoists were arrested from the forest, an official said. The Naxalites turned themselves in before senior police and CRPF officers citing disappointment over atrocities committed by senior cadres and "inhuman" and "hollow" Naxal ideology in Sukma on Monday afternoon, the police official said.

Quake hits Amravati

Nagpur: An earthquake of 4.2 magnitude struck Maharashtra's Amravati district Monday afternoon, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said. There was no report of any casualty or loss of property, Amravati's resident deputy collector Anil Bhatkar said. The quake struck near Amzhari and Tetu villages in Chikhaldhara taluka of the district at 1.37 pm, the NCS said. According to preliminary data, the shallow quake was located at a depth of 13 km.

BJP corporator thrashed

Bhopal: Police have registered a case against three women and a man for allegedly thrashing a BJP corporator at a public place in Bhopal while accusing him of extorting money from them, an official said. A video of the three women assaulting corporator Arvind Verma, who represents ward no. 48, has surfaced on social media.

PM speaks to Netanyahu

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Monday that he had spoken to his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu about recent developments in West Asia and highlighted the need for de-escalation

New Delhi, Sept 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu about the recent developments in West Asia and asserted that terrorism has no place in our world.

It is crucial to prevent regional escalation and ensure the safe release of all hostages, Modi said.

Spoke to Prime Minister @netanyahu about recent developments in West Asia. Terrorism has no place in our world. It is crucial to prevent regional escalation and ensure the safe release of all hostages," Modi said

India is committed to supporting efforts for an early restoration of peace and stability, PM Modi said.

While PM Modi did not mention any specific incident, Israeli strikes in Lebanon last week killed seven high-ranking commanders and officials from the Hezbollah militant group, including the group's leader Hassan Nasrallah.

Hezbollah had been firing rockets and missiles into northern Israel after Hamas' October 7 attack from Gaza into Israel sparked a war there.

More than 60 people have been killed in Israeli attacks across Lebanon since last night, including three members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine group.

Lebanon's acting PM Mikati says the government is ready to fully implement the 2006 UNSC Resolution 1701 that aimed to



Spoke to Prime Minister @netanyahu about recent developments in West Asia. Terrorism has no place in our world. It is crucial to prevent regional escalation and ensure the safe release of all hostages NARENDRA MODI

end Hezbollah's armed presence south of the Litani River as part of an agreement to stop war with Israel.

Further, Hezbollah Monday said that they are prepared for Israel's ground incursion and a long war, Hezbollah deputy chief Naim Qassem says in the Lebanese group's first address since Nasrallah's assassination.

"We will face any possibility and we are ready if the Israelis decide to enter by land and the resistance forces are ready for a ground engagement," Reuters quoted Qassem as saying.

Hassan Nasrallah's killing, along with the series of blows against the organization's communications devices and as-

sassination of other senior commanders, constitute the biggest blow to Hezbollah since Iran created it in 1982 to fight

Israel's planned campaign is expected to be more limited in scope compared to the 2006 Lebanon War, which was a 34-day conflict triggered by a Hezbollah cross-border raid July 12, 2006. In the 2006 war, Hezbollah fighters attacked an Israeli convoy, killing three IDF soldiers and capturing two, prompting a significant Israeli military response that included extensive air, sea, and land operations against Hezbollah targets in Lebanon.

This time, the focus will be on clearing out militant infrastructure along the border to mitigate the threat to Israeli border communities, the Washington Post reported.

On Monday, Israeli forces conducted limited raids in Lebanon, according to an Israeli official fa miliar with the operation, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensi-

RAPE CASE

SC grants interim protection from arrest to Siddique

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: The Supreme Court Monday granted interim protection from arrest to Malayalam film actor Siddique in a rape case and directed him to cooperate in the investigation.

A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma issued notices to the Kerala government and the victim in the case and sought their replies within two weeks. The court was hearing a plea moved by Siddique challenging a Kerala High Court order that denied him anticipatory bail.

"In the meantime, it is directed that in the event of arrest of the petitioner in connection with Crime No.1192 of 2024 of the Museum police station, Thiruvananthapuram, he shall be released on bail, subject to the conditions that may be imposed by the trial court and subject to his joining the investigation and remaining present before the investigating officer as and when called upon to do so, till the next date of hearing, the bench said.

The bench asked advocate Vrinda Grover, who appeared in the court on behalf of the victim, about the reason for the delay in registering the complaint against Siddique. The lawyer told the bench that the Justice Hema Committee report, which exposed the shocking harassment and sexual exploitation faced by women in the Malayalam film industry, has to be understood in the larger context.

Representing Siddique in the matter, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said a complaint was lodged in 2024, after a lapse of eight years.

ELECTORAL BONDS CASE

K'taka HC halts probe against Sitharaman

The relief came just days after an FIR was registered against the Finance Minister in Bangalore



AGENCIES

Bangalore, Sept 30: The Karnataka High Court Monday stayed the investigation into an FIR registered against Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others in the extortion case linked to the nowscrapped electoral bonds scheme.

Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on a petition by BJP leader Nalin Kumar Kateel, who is named as the fourth accused in the FIR.

The case registered by Bengaluru city police on September 28, followed a magistrate court's directive in response to a private complaint submitted by Adarsh R Iyer, copresident of the Janaadhikaara Sangharsha Parishath (JSP) relating to the now-scrapped electoral bonds scheme.

According to police, an FIR

was registered under IPC sections 384 (punishment for extortion), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) against Sitharaman, ED officials, office-

bearers of the BJP at state and

national level, based on the order

of a special court. The complaint was filed by Adarsh R Iyer, co-president of the Janaadhikaara Sangharsha Parishath (JSP). He alleged that the accused "committed extortion under the guise and garb of electoral bonds," claiming they benefitted by more than 8,000 crore.

Iyer further accused Nirmala Sitharaman of facilitating extensive financial extortion through the covert assistance of Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials. Iyer also alleged that the BJP MP facilitated the extortion of thousands of crores of rupees for the benefit of others both at the state and national levels.

The Supreme Court declared the electoral bonds scheme unconstitutional in February, stating it infringes on the right to information and the freedom of speech and expression as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Electoral Bonds operated similarly to promissory notes and interest-free banking instruments. Any Indian citizen or organization registered in India could purchase these bonds by complying with the Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations established by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: The Delhi

High Court has refused to recall

its order directing the Centre to

release ₹10 crore to the AIIMS

here to continue the treatment

of 18 patients suffering from

DMD, Gaucher disease and MPS.

ment of the 18 patients has al-

ready begun and discontinua-

The court noted that the treat-

RARE DISEASE

PATIENTS

Monsoon rains hit four-yr high Delhi HC asks Centre to release ₹10cr to AIIMS istered 14 per cent less rainfall



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: The 2024 southwest monsoon season officially ended Monday, with India recording 934.8 mm rainfall, 108 per cent of the long-period average and the highest since 2020, according to India Meteorological Department data.

Čentral India received 19 per cent more rainfall than the longperiod average for the region, the southern peninsula recorded 14 per cent more than normal. and northwest India saw 7 per cent more than usual.

East and northeast India reg-

than normal, the data showed. The country experienced a rainfall deficit of 11 per cent in June, followed by an excess of 9 per cent in July, 15.7 per cent in August, and 10.6 per cent in September.

In the 2023 monsoon season, India had recorded 820 mm rainfall, which was 94.4 per cent of the long-period average of 868.6 mm.

The country logged 925 mm of rainfall, 106 per cent of the longperiod average, in 2022; 870 mm in 2021; and 958 mm in 2020. The IMD had predicted above-normal rainfall (106 per cent of the long-period average) for the monsoon season this year.

It also accurately forecast below-normal monsoon rainfall for northeast India, normal rainfall for the northwest, and abovenormal rainfall for central and southern peninsular regions.

The monsoon is critical for India's agricultural sector, with 52 per cent of the net cultivated area dependent on it. This primary rain-bearing system is also essential for replenishing reservoirs that provide drinking water and support power generation across the country.



A worker carries vegetable at the Okhla wholesale vegetable market in New Delhi

would have a negative repercussion on their health.

treatment

tion of the

The court said the amount should be released within three working days, failing which the joint secretary of the Union health ministry has to be present in the court on the next date of hearing.

The court dismissed an application filed by the Centre seeking a recall of the September 13 order by which the government was directed to release a sum of ₹10 crore to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi to continue the treatment of the 18 patients.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS COTTON FARMERS: REPORT

HOWEVER, CLIMATE CHANGE, SPECIFICALLY MORE FREQUENT PERIODS OF EXTREME HEAT, POSES A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO THE LIVELIHOODS OF SMALLHOLDER FARMERS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN, WHO DEPEND ON THIS CROP AND IS A CRITICAL RISK TO THE GLOBAL TEXTILE SUPPLY CHAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Over 50 per cent of the cotton farmers surveyed in Gujarat and Maharashtra have suffered either "major or complete" crop loss due to floods and droughts in the past five years, according to a new

The survey, conducted by a UK-based think tank International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the All-India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), revealed that about two-thirds of the 360 farmers surveyed were experiencing longer dry spells, higher average temperatures and more days of extreme heat. The survey, conducted in September 2023, involved cotton farmers equally split between Surendranagar district

in Gujarat and Sambhaji Nagar district in Maharashtra. Most farmers were landowners. with the majority of landholdings smaller than 10 acres

Research shows that the western and central zones of India are more vulnerable to drought-like conditions, while the northern and northeastern zones are more susceptible to extreme flood events. Smallholder cotton farmers are particularly vulnerable in this ongoing climate crisis, putting millions of livelihoods at stake.

Laura Kelly, director of IIED's Shaping Sustainable Markets team, said, "Climate change is turning into a nightmare for farmers everywhere, and India's cotton growers are no exception.

"There are some government programmes and insurance



schemes to help them, but our research shows they are not well known and may not provide comprehensive support in any case. While farmers are already doing what they can to protect their livelihoods, the government and

investors also need to pitch in. The IIED director said big fashion chains need to recognise they have a role to play in helping their suppliers deal with climate shocks. Supporting the families producing a key comPRODUCER OF COTTON GLOBALLY

IN 2023, IT PRODUCED AROUND 5.84 MILLION METRIC TONNES -- ALMOST A QUARTER OF THE WORLD'S COTTON -- ACROSS 13 MILLION HECTARES, **ENGAGING NEARLY SIX** MILLION FARMERS

modity for their industry is not only a moral imperative but also a smart commercial choice.

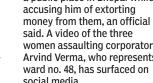
The survey found that farmers are combating the climate threat by diversifying and rotating their crops or taking loans to invest in resources like irrigation to mitigate future problems.

Dipping into savings is another common coping strategy, but not all respondents have this option available.

Others reported that in response to climate shocks, they have been forced to sell land or livestock, while a small number have avoided using healthcare or even cut back on the amount of food they consume.

About two-thirds of respondents said they had crop insurance (81 per cent in Maharashtra and 42 per cent in Gujarat), onethird had life insurance, 36 per cent had health insurance and only 8 per cent had livestock insurance.

Much of the farmers' access to insurance comes through government schemes. However, uptake was found to be very uneven. One-third of the people surveyed said they had no access to any such government programmes, which may be due in part to a lack of awareness.





national



If you press the wrong button then Haryana which is going upward will go into the basement RAJNATH SINGH DEFENCE MINISTER

PAK NATIONAL HELD

A Pakistani national was arrested along with his wife and two others who were allegedly living illegally with fake identities for the past six years, police said Monday





creating 50,000 to one lakh jobs in the state rather than doing politics



Women's safety is the first test of good governance. If the '1090' and 'Dial 100' initiatives

launched during the Samajwadi Party's tenure had been properly continued and expanded under the BJP government, responsible officers would not need to make apprehensive calls about women's safety today

AKHILESH YADAV SP PRESIDENT

The youths during the Congress rule could not believe that they would get without paying a bribe. Even for low-paying jobs, they were required to pay ₹1 crore of

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER





Supreme Court gives belt treatment to BJP alliance partners including Andhra Pradesh CM CB Naidu

that there was an adulterated Ghee used in Tirupati Laddu' SC slammed leaders for making public statements which hurt the people's sentiment. Will Pawan Kalyan and Chandrababu Naidu apologise?

@Amockx2022

SHORT **TAKES**

Snehamayi Krishna booked

Mysuru (Karnataka): Social activist Snehamayi Krishna, a complainant in the alleged land allocation scam against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has been booked over a woman's complaint that he threatened her in a property dispute, police said Monday. According to police sources, the 30-year-old woman, a resident of Nanjangud in Mysuru district, alleged Krishna had threatened her and her mother July 18 with dire consequences, asking her to stay away from a dispute with her in-laws regarding a property over which her late husband has a share.

Delhi HC grants last opportunity to Hina

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Monday granted a last opportunity to television actress Hina Khan to advance the submissions in a defamation suit filed by her against a public relations consultancy that has accused her of stealing jewellery. The court was informed by Khan's counsel that the "Bigg Boss 11" star has been diagnosed with cancer and the lawyer has not received any further instructions in the matter.

3 of family killed in road accident

Nagpur: Three members of a family were killed when an unidentified vehicle hit their motorcycle on a highway in Maharashtra's Nagpur district Monday, police said. The accident occurred in the morning on Pandhurna Highway in the Kelwad police station area, around 60 km from the district headquarters, an official said.

SC PULLS UP BENGAL GOVT

CONSTRUCTION OF TOILETS AND SEPARATE RESTING ROOMS. THE APEX COURT SAID IT WAS "TARDY"

New Delhi, Sept 30: The Supreme Court Monday expressed dissatisfaction over "tardy" progress by West Bengal government in installation of CCTVs and construction of toilets and separate resting rooms at medical facilities, and directed the state government to complete ongoing work by October 15.

The apex court was hearing a suo motu case related to the rape and murder of a postgraduate medic at the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in

The top court also reiterated its earlier order that no intermediary is allowed to publish the name and photo of the victim in the case. As the hearing commenced, advocate Vrinda Grover told a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoi Misra that the parents of the deceased victim are disconcerted by repeated clips in social media disclosing her name and photos. The top court said it had already passed an order on this issue and it was for the law enforcement agencies to implement the order. It clarified its earlier order and said it applies to all intermediaries.

The bench noted that substantial leads have come up in the CBI investigation and it has

given statements on both **KOLKATA** aspects -- alleged rape and murder and the financial irregularities. During the hearing, the apex court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for CBI, who are the people under probe still employed in R G Kar Hospital against whom financial irregularities are alleged and

appropriate action. On the issue of doctors' protest, the West Bengal government told the bench that resident doctors are not performing inpatient department and outpatient department work. The submission was opposed by senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for resident doctors, who said they are per-

asked it to share the information

with the state government for

forming all essential emergency services.

HORROR The top court directed Mehta to subreport on progress of National Task Force and posted the hearing in the rape-murder case to October 14.

> The court September 17 had said it was disturbed by the findings given in a status report filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the rape-murder case but refused to divulge the details, saying any disclosure may jeopardise the ongoing investigation. The apex court September had voiced concern over the absence of the "challan", a key document forwarding the body of the junior doctor who was raped and murdered at the

Kolkata hospital for postmortem, from the records presented before it and sought a report from the West Bengal

The court August 22 had tore into the Kolkata Police over the delay in registering the unnatural death of the woman doctor, who was raped and killed at the hospital, calling it "extremely disturbing", and questioned the sequence of events and the timing of its procedural formalities.

The top court had earlier constituted a 10-member National Task Force (NTF) to formulate a protocol for ensuring the safety and security of doctors and other health care professionals.

Terming the incident as "horrific", the apex court had excoriated the state government over the delay in filing the FIR and allowing thousands of people to vandalise the state-run facility.

Meanwhile, a Kolkata court Monday extended the judicial custody of the former principal of RG Kar hospital and a suspended police officer till October 4.

The court also asked the CBI which is investigating the case, to interrogate Sandip Ghosh and Abhijit Mondal, the suspended officer-in-charge of Tala Police Station, in jail

order. Article 142 of the Constitution empowers the top court to pass any order in the

The parents of Atul Kumar, 18, failed to deposit ₹17,500 as the acceptance fee by June 24, the deadline for depositing the req-

The parents of the youth also approached the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Jharkhand Legal Services Authority and the Madras High Court to save the

Congress criticises govt's 'half-truths' *Amidst the poor economic* **JOB SCAMS**

climate, the share of salaried, formal employment in the labour market has decreased, Jairam Ramesh said and pointed out that workers are moving to low-productivity informal and agricultural jobs, which KLEMS is capturing as jobs created

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: The Congress Monday dismissed as "half-truths" the government's assertions of creating eight crore employment opportunities between 2021 and 2024 and 6.2 crore net subscribers joining the EPFO database, and said no "spin-doctoring" can take away from the fact that 2014-24 has seen "jobloss growth"

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that amidst the "U-turns and scandals" that have marked the last few months of this "tottering" government, 'the non-biological PM and his drum beaters have tried to find some solace in their economic record, claiming to have created eight crore employment opportunities between 2021 and 2024'

"This claim initially emerged from the RBI KLEMS data, which we had earlier countered July 15th, 2024. Government's spin doctors have now mustered another statistic - that of 6.2 crore net subscribers joining the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) database between September 2017 and March 2024. Both claims are based on halftruths," he said in a statement.

To justify its claim of eight crore new jobs, the government adopts an expansive definition of employment, without registering the quality and circumstances of employment, Ramesh argued. A large part of the claimed "employment growth"

is recording unpaid household work done by women as "employment" he said, adding that it is not new job creation.

The '80 million new jobs' headline also elides discussion on the quality of jobs, Ramesh

Amidst the poor economic climate, the share of salaried, formal employment in the labour market has decreased, he said and pointed out that workers are moving to low-productivity informal and agricultural jobs, which KLEMS is capturing as jobs created.

Thus, factory workers, teachers, miners, etc. who returned home during COVID-19 and had to return to farming and agricultural labour are registered as a "job created" in agriculture, Ramesh argued. This shift to low-productiv-

ity, poorly paid jobs is an economic travesty, which the government is touting as an achievement, the Congress leader said. He further said the govern-

ment cites the addition of 6.2 crore net subscribers in the EPFO database to show record employment growth, without revealing the full picture. EPFO only tracks the or-

ganised sector which is less than 10 per cent of total employment, he said. Establishments with 20

or more employees come under the purview of the EPF act, Ramesh said and pointed out that firms which move from 19 to 20 employees in one year will suddenly appear in the EPFO data as 20 new "jobs" even though net job creation is a single job.

Maharashtra govt declares desi cows **'Rajyamata Gomata'**



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 30: Maharashtra Government Monday declared desi (indigenous) cows as 'Rajyamata-Gomata', citing the importance of cows in Indian culture, agriculture, and healthcare

The decision was taken to ensure the conservation of desi cows, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis told reporters after the state cabinet meeting in Mumbai

Fadnavis said the state government would also provide farmers feed for these cows. The state Cabinet, while highlighting the significance of desi cows since Vedic period, also approved the animal husbandry department's proposal to provide ₹50 daily subsidy per animal to cow shelter operators. The Maharashtra Cow Shelter Commissionerate will oversee the functioning of such shelters, an official release said.

There are 46,13,632 desi cows in the state, according to the 2019 census, a drop of 20.69 per cent compared to the earlier census figures. A government resolution (GR) issued Monday said, "Since Vedic times, the significance of cows in human life is religious, scientific, and economical and hence it is called as

SC uses special power, asks IIT to admit Dalit youth dinary powers under Article 142

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: The Supreme Court Monday came to the rescue of a Dalit youth, who had lost his seat in IIT Dhanbad after missing the deadline to deposit a fee, by asking the institute to admit him to the BTech course.

"We cannot allow such a young talented boy to go away. He cannot be left in lurch," a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said. The top court used its extraorof the Constitution in asking the IIT Dhanbad to admit Atul Kumar into its Electrical Engineering BTech course.

'We are of the view that a talented student like the petitioner who belongs to a marginalised group who did all to secure admission should not be left out... we direct that candidate is granted admission to IIT Dhanbad and let him be in the same batch to which he would have been granted admission if the fees would have been paid," the bench said in the interest of justice.

uisite fees for blocking the seat

hard-earned seat.



Flood situation worsens in Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Sept 30: Flood situation in several parts of Bihar worsened Monday as embankments of Kosi river in Darbhanga district and Bagmati river in Sitamarhi were breached. officials said

The Kosi river was in spate and breached its embankment near Kartarpur block, inundating Kirtarpur and Ghanshyampur villages in Darbhanga late Sunday, while seepage was reported in the embankment of Bagmati river in Runni Saidpur block in Sitamarhi district, they said. 'The flood situation has worsened with fresh embankment breaches but it is under control. There is nothing to panic," an official said.

The state water resources and disaster management departments have been working on a war footing, he said.

"Altogether six incidents of embankment breach have so far been reported from vari-

ous parts of the state. Some of them have already been repaired and work is going on for others," Bihar Water Resources Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary told PTI Monday. The embankment of the Bagmati River at Madhkaul village in Sitamarhi and the Gandak river's embankment in West Champaran were damaged due to excessive water pressure, resulting in inundation in the Valmiki Tiger Reserve, another official said

'Water flowing above the embankments was reported from Valmikinagar and Kiratpur in Darbhanga. But now the water level in several rivers started receding. No casualty has been reported so far in Bihar due to the flood", the minister said.

Considering the gravity of the flood situation in north Bihar, six more teams of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDRF) from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Ranchi in Jharkhand are being deployed, he said.



Lockdown on earth led to dip in Moon's temperature: Study

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES ON THE EARTH'S **NATURAL SATELLITE** FELL IN THIS PERIOD. WHILE NIGHTS WERE **FOUND TO BE COOLER BY NEARLY 8-10 DEGREES CELSIUS**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Effects of COVID-19 lockdowns on Earth may have reached the Moon, as lunar temperatures were found to have abnormally dipped during April-May 2020, according to a study. Maximum temperatures

on the Earth's natural satellite fell in this period, while nights were found to be cooler by nearly 8-10 degrees Celsius.

The Moon could therefore possibly serve as a "stable platform" to study climate change on Earth, K Durga Prasad and G Ambily, researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, said in a study published in the journal, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society: Letters.

Brought in to arrest the spread of the COVID-19 disease, lockdowns were first introduced in



China and Italy in March 2020. The measures were quickly adopted by other countries and

by the following month, about half the world's population were reported to have been under some form of lockdown, including quarantine and stayat-home orders.

Lockdowns have been shown to have starkly impacted human activities such as industrial pollution, transportation and fossil fuel burning. The reduced human activity translated into lower greenhouse gas emissions and pollutant levels, and therefore, less heat being released from the Earth's surface during night-time, the researchers said.

Part of this heat is known to reach the Earth-facing side of the Moon at its night-time and warm the lunar surface.

Therefore, to look for lockdown-induced effects, the researchers analysed night-time at six sites on the Earth-facing side of the Moon from 2017-2023. During April-May 2020, the heat reaching the Moon was found to have significantly reduced, and was, therefore, attributed to the COVID-19 lockdowns.

surface temperatures recorded

"A decrease in the maximum temperature is observed at all sites during the global lockdown period of April 2020 and May 2020. We observed a night-time temperature change of nearly 8-10 Kelvin," the authors wrote.

Observations of the Moon, such as night-time temperatures, could possibly support ongoing efforts to study climate change, along with informing Earth's radiation budget, they said.



international



The truth is on our side. All goals set will be achieved. We are fighting for a secure, prosperous future for our children and grandchildren VLADIMIR PUTIN | PRESIDENT, RUSSIA

MARBURG VIRUS OUTBREAK

Rwanda says eight people have died so far from the Ebola-like and highly contagious Marburg virus, just days after the country declared an outbreak has no authorized vaccine or treatment





Every time we have stepped with new types of weapons, battle

JENS STOLTENBERG SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO

We have given a whole generation opportunities that they would not have otherwise had, and our country will reap the benefit of those reforms for generations to come, and that is a legacy we Conservatives should be proud of

RISHI SUNAK LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, UK

Hindi is not just a language for communication but also a bridge to a deeper cultural understanding. It allows us to tap into the Indian market, which offers excellent potential for corporations and small and medium-sized enterprises

NEIL PAREKH | CHAIRMAN OF THE SINGAPORE INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

SHORT **TAKES**

Nepal landslides: Toll rises to 200

Kathmandu: Search and rescue operations continued in Nepal for the third consecutive day Monday after monsoon-induced floods and landslides killed more than 200 people in one of the worst rain-related disasters in the Himalayan nation in recent years. Incessant rainfall over the weekend triggered floods and landslides, wreaking havoc in Kathmandu and most of the districts of Nepal. At least 204 people have been killed in the continuous rainfall, floods, landslides and inundation. It added that 89 others have also been injured nationwide in the disaster, while 33 others remain missing. Hundreds of people are facing a shortage of food, safe drinking water and sanitation in Kathmandu following the natural disaster, according to eyewitnesses.

UN authorises Haiti SF for another year

Washington: The United **Nations Security Council** unanimously agreed Monday to extend for another year its authorization of a Kenyan-led international Security Force (SF) helping fight armed gangs in Haiti. Haitian leaders last week warned of worsening insecurity in the Caribbean country. Powerful gangs, armed with weapons largely trafficked from the United States, have united in the capital under a common alliance and now control most of the city and are expanding to nearby areas. The security assistance mission, while approved by the UN Security Council, is not a United Nations operation.

No relief for Pak's Khan, wife Bushra

Islamabad: A Pakistani court Monday rejected the bail pleas of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the new Toshakhana case, where they face allegations of misusing power to acquire state gifts. Special Judge Central Shahrukh Arjumand announced the verdict on the bail pleas filed by the couple during a hearing inside the Adiala jail, where the former first couple also appeared, Geo News reported. The new Toshakhana case against the couple came to the fore after NAB arrested them shortly after a district and sessions court in Islamabad acquitted Khan and Bushra in the iddat case, also known as the un-Islamic nikah case.

Chinese scientists reveal potential diabetes cure

WORLD'S FIRST CASE OF USING CELL TRANSPLANTS TO TREAT TYPE 1 DIABETES HAS BEEN REPORTED IN CHINA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 30: Chinese scientists claimed to have cured a chronic type-1 diabetes patient using cell transplants in what was stated to be the first such case in

The patient, a 25-year-old woman who had the chronic condition for over a decade, was able to naturally regulate her blood sugar some two and half months after undergoing the

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Colombo, Sept 30: Cash-strapped

Sri Lanka's economy recorded

falling consumer prices for the

first time in 29 years, official

data showed Monday, with the

September inflation figure dip-

Department data showed price

drops in both food and non-food

goods contributing to deflation

in September, compared to in-

flation of 0.5 per cent in August.

Sri Lanka last recorded defla-

tion in March 1995 with a figure

of negative 0.9 per cent. The pre-

vious price fall to that was in 1985

when inflation was negative 2.1 per

cent. Inflation peaked at 69.8 per

cent two years ago at the height

of an unprecedented economic

Acute shortages of food, fuel

crisis in the island nation.

Census and Statistics

ping to negative 0.5 per cent.

ECONOMIC CRISIS

Lanka records first

deflation since '95

minimally invasive surgery, the Shanghai-based Chinese news outlet, The Paper reported.

According to the report carried by the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post, the surgery took just half an hour.

The team behind the breakthrough published their findings in the peer-reviewed journal Cell last week.

Researchers from Tianjin First Central Hospital and Peking University were among those who took part in the study, the report said.

So far, islet transplant, which involves removing islet cells from the pancreas of a deceased donor and implanting them in the liver of someone with type 1 diabetes, is regarded as an effective clinical treatment but is hindered by donor shortages.

Sri Lanka last recorded

deflation in March 1995

with a figure of negative

and medicines led to months of

protests that eventually forced

then-President Gotabaya

Rajapaksa to temporarily flee the

country and resign in July 2022.

Wickremesinghe secured a \$2.9

billion International Monetary

Fund bailout and raised taxes

and prices to stabilise the

economy. He lost office after a

presidential election this month.

President Anura Kumara

Dissanavake, has vowed to main-

tain the IMF programme but

relax some of the austerity meas-

ures it imposed.

The winner of that contest,

His successor Ranil

0.9 per cent



Islet cells in the pancreas are responsible for producing hormones like insulin and glucagon which are then released into the bloodstream and help to control glucose levels.

opened up new possibilities for diabetes treatment, the report

The treatment involved utilising "chemically induced pluripotent stem-cell-derived islets" or CiPSC islets, according to the article published in the Cell

To do this, the researchers first collected adipose tissue cells from the patient and used small molecule chemicals to reprogramme these cells into pluripotent stem cells.

These cells were then transformed into islet cells and transplanted back into the patient's

The young woman from Tianjin was diagnosed with type

already undergone two liver transplants and one unsuccessful pancreatic islet cell transplant.

Following the CiPSC islet transplant, the patient's fasting blood glucose levels gradually normalised, and her need for external insulin steadily decreased. She completely stopped needing insulin injections 75 days after the transplant, and the improvement has lasted for over a year, the report said.

She used to experience significant swings in blood sugar levels and also suffered multiple episodes of severe hypoglycaemia.

After five months post-transplant, her sugar levels stayed within the target range more than 98 per cent of the time, and this stability has been main-

Sri Lanka nabs 17 Indian fishermen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 30: The Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 17 Indian fishermen and seized their trawlers for allegedly poaching in its territorial waters, taking the number of Indian nationals apprehended this year by the island nation in such incidents to 413, an official statement said.



Sri Lankan Navy has held 55 Indian fishing boats and 413 Indian fishermen in island waters in 2024

The fishermen were arrested, and their two trawlers were seized north of Mannar Sunday. the Sri Lanka Navy said in a press release. The navy conducted the "spe-

cial operation" leading to the apprehension of the Indian fishermen, it said. The 17 apprehended fisher-

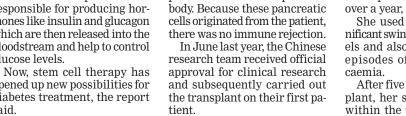
men were escorted to the Talaimannar Pier and will be handed over to the Mannar Fisheries Inspector for further action, it said.

The Sri Lankan Navy has "held 55 Indian fishing boats and 413 Indian fishermen in island waters thus far in 2024 and handed them over to authorities for legal action," the statement said.

The fishermen issue is a contentious one in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with Lankan Navy personnel even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats in several alleged incidents of illegally entering Sri Lankan territorial waters.

The Palk Strait, a narrow strip of water separating Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka, is a rich fishing ground for fishermen from both countries.

Fishermen from both tries are arrested frequently for inadvertently trespassing into each other's waters.



Hezbollah ready for Israel The Iran-backed group is ready to Lebanon PM calls for LAND INVASION

face any possible Israeli ground incursion, says the group's deputy leader

Beirut, Sept 30: Hezbollah fighters are primed to confront any Israeli ground invasion of Lebanon, the group's deputy leader Naim Qassem said Monday in his first public speech since Israeli airstrikes killed its veteran chief Hassan Nasrallah last week.

Israel will not achieve its goals, he said.

"We will face any possibility and we are ready if the Israelis decide to enter by land and the resistance forces are ready for a ground engagement," he said in an address from an undisclosed location.

He was speaking as Israeli airstrikes on targets in Beirut and elsewhere in Lebanon continued, extending a two-week long wave of attacks that has eliminated several Hezbollah commanders but also killed about 1,000 Lebanese and forced one million to flee their homes, according to the Lebanese government.

Now Hezbollah faces the challenge of replacing a charismatic. towering leader who was a hero to millions of supporters because he stood up to Israel even though the West branded him a terrorist mastermind.

"We will choose a secretary-gen-



we won in the liberation of ■Israeli strikes

■ Kremlin

2006 in the face of the Israeli NAIM QASSEM | DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF HEZBOLLAH

eral for the party at the earliest opportunity and we will fill the leadership and positions on a

permanent basis," Qassem said. Qassem said Hezbollah's fighters had continued to fire rockets as deep as 150 km into Israeli territory and were ready

to face any possible Israeli

ceasefire with Israel Beirut: Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati Monday called for a

ceasefire in the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah during a meeting with French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot in Beirut. "The key to the solution is to put an end to the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and to revive the appeal launched by the United States and France in favour of a ceasefire," Mikati said, according to a statement from his office. Barrot arrived in Beirut Sunday, the first foreign diplomat to visit Lebanon since Israel escalated its strikes against Hezbollah strongholds. Mikati added that the "priority is applying resolution 1701" of the United Nations Security Council, which ended the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah. The French envoy's visit came as a deadly strike hit a building in the centre of the Lebanese capital.

ground incursion.

"What we are doing is the bare minimum. We know that the battle may be long," he said. 'We will win as we won in the liberation of 2006 in the face of the Israeli enemy," he added, referring to the last big conflict between the two foes

Iran said it will not deploy forces to Lebanon or the Gaza Strip to fight Israel amid intensified attacks against the Hezbollah in Lebanon that have seen the militant group's leader.

SNIPPETS

Bring \$ not ₹: Pakistan gives advisory to Indian Sikh visitors

Lahore: The government of Pakistan's Punjab province Monday advised Indian Sikhs intending to visit the country to carry US dollars



"We have received a number of complaints that Indian Sikhs visiting Pakistan for their holy places are exploited in terms of giving them way less (amount) than the current exchange rate," Punjab's first Sikh minister Ramesh Singh Arora said here. Arora, who is also the Pradhan (President) of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, issued the advisory after receiving several complaints about the exploitation of Sikhs from India. The minister also said visiting Indian Sikhs should not pay any extra amount to group leaders for facilities here.

Austria's President takes charge as far-right isolated

Vienna: The far-right Freedom Party's historic victory in an Austrian parliamentary election has left it isolated and partly at the mercy of a powerful critic: the President, who must oversee efforts towards forming a viable



coalition government. The Eurosceptic, Russia-friendly Freedom Party (FPO) won for the first time, but its 29% vote share fell well short of a parliamentary majority. It needs a coalition partner to govern, and other parties' leaders say they are not interested. President Alexander Van der Bellen, 80, hinted he might not allow the FPO's 55-year-old leader Herbert Kickl to become chancellor. Kickl has urged Van der Bellen to follow established practice and ask the firstplaced party to try to form a government.

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE GATHERED FOR A BANQUET ON THE EVE OF NATIONAL **HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 30: President Xi Jinping Monday asked the Chinese people to be ready to overcome all uncertainties as he asserted that Taiwan is China's sacred territory and Beijing opposes Taiwanese independence, sending a strong warning to "separatists" in his address on the eve of National Day.

Chinese people will score more remarkable achievements and make greater contributions to the noble cause of peace and devel-

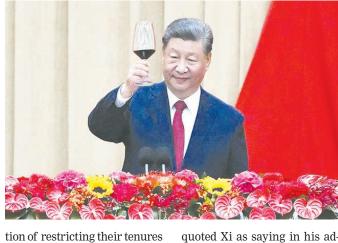
opment of humanity, Xi said while addressing a reception held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

A wildfire approaches the village of Kallithea as fanned by strong winds, it raged uncontrolled despite the attempts

of hundreds of firefighters to stop it, some 149 kilometers west of Athens, Greece

China's National Day falls October 1. On the new journey in the new era, the central task of the ruling Communist Party and the country is building China into a strong country and achieving national rejuvenation on all fronts by pursuing Chinese modernisation, Xi was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency.

Heading the Party, the military and the Presidency, 71-yearold Xi is currently in his unprecedented third five-year term in power, unlike his predecessors who relinquished their posts adhering to the Party's conven-



Xi calls for Taiwan 'reunification' in national day speech

tion of restricting their tenures to two five-year terms.

"Be prepared for the future and resolutely overcome all un-certainties," the Hong Kongbased South China Morning Post

dress, in an apparent reference

to the growing strategic rivalry

with the US. He also said Taiwan

and "the people on both sides

was "China's sacred territory

compatriots on both sides of the strait, and resolutely oppose Taiwan independence separatist activities XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

We must promote the

spiritual harmony of

of the [Taiwan] Strait are connected by blood"

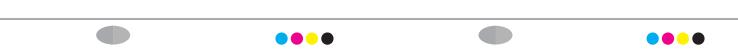
"We must promote the spiritual harmony of compatriots on both sides of the strait, and resolutely oppose Taiwan independence separatist activities,' Xi said, the Post reported.

China regards Taiwan as part of the mainland and Xi in recent years has been aggressively highlighting reunification of the self-ruled island with massive military build-up though he says through peaceful means. China has intensified its cam-

paign against Taiwan "separatists" after pro-independence William Lai Ching-te was elected President of Taiwan this year. On the economic front, Xi

pledged to press ahead with reform and opening up for the second largest economy which currently faced continued slowdown weighed down by a host of internal issues, especially the stagnant domestic consumption and the bankrupt property market resulting in huge financial losses besides high-tar $iffs\ imposed\ on\ Chinese\ Electric$ Vehicles and batteries imposed

by the US and EU. "There will definitely be difficulties and obstacles but no difficulties can stop the pace ofthe Chinese people's progress,' Xi said.



business



across egregious practices by some small finance banks, such as charging excessive interest rates, collecting instalments in advance as well as not adjusting such advance collections against loan outstanding, levying of usurious fees SWAMINATHAN J | RESERVE BANK DEPUTY GOVERNOR

It is disheartening to come

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT UP

The number of persons employed in manufacturing industries rose 7.5 per cent in 2022-23 to 1.85 crore from 1.72 crore in the previous year, says Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The estimated number of persons engaged in this sector in 2022-23 exceeded the pre-pandemic level (2018-19) by more than 22.14 lakh, a MoSPI statement said adding that at the same time, average emolument also registered an increase over the previous year.



From finished

ecosystem, with the right focus on domestic scale, India's prospects of becoming a global

B THIAGARAJAN | CMD, BLUE STAR LTD

We have to have protection or some barriers for the vendors to really get confidence to invest. So tariff barrier is something very critical



KAMAL NANDI GODREJ APPLIANCES BUSINESS HEAD & EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

We should continue this businesses momentum, and televisions (sales) are growing, that's very nice for us. This

is also a growing market for us in the audio segment, where we are brimming with confidence, not only with soundbars but with party speakers also

SUNIL NAYYAR SONY INDIA MD

SHORT TAKES

Sebi nod for 3 more IPOs

New Delhi: Three companies -supermart major Vishal Mega Mart, renewable energy firm ACME Solar Holdings and packaging equipment manufacturer Mamata Machinery -- have received Sebi's clearance to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPOs), an update with the regulator showed Monday. On the other hand, the regulator has returned the draft offer document of manpower services company Innovision, whose proposed IPO was a mix of fresh issuance of shares worth ₹315 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of up to 11.81 lakh shares. Before that, Hyundai MotorIndia Ltd, the Indian arm of South Korean automaker Hyundai, and food and grocery delivery Sebi's nod on September 24

CRED reports 66% revenue growth

New Delhi: Credit card bill

payments app CRED Monday

to float IPOs.

reported 66 per cent year-onyear increase in revenue to ₹2,473 crore in FY24, on the back of growth in monetised members and a drop in user acquisition costs. Operating losses were reduced by 41 per cent from ₹1,024 crore in FY23 to ₹609 crore in FY24, a company statement said. "This came on the back of some very exciting sort of pieces of execution that we always had as a thesis, but it's always good to see that play out in action. The number of members that we monetised grew 58 per cent year-on- year. Our CAC (customer acquisition costs) came down significantly by 40 per cent," CRED founder Kunal Shah said during a press briefing.

Govt extends export benefits

New Delhi: The government Monday extended benefits under the RoDTEP scheme for exports made from domestic tariff area (DTA) units for one year till September 30. 2025. The scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) provides for refund of taxes, duties and levies that are incurred by exporters in the process of manufacturing and distribution of goods and are not being reimbursed under any other mechanism at the centre, state, or local level. It was launched in January September 30.

Key infra sectors' growth enters negative zone

Coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, cement and electricity recorded a contraction of 8.1 per cent, 3.4 per cent, 3.6 per cent, 1 per cent, 3 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, in August

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: The growth in production of eight key infrastructure sectors entered a negative zone after three-anda-half years, contracting 1.8 per cent in August 2024 due to decline in output of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, cement and electricity, according to official data released Monday.

The growth rate was 6.1 per cent in July. The growth of core sectors -- coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity - was 13.4 per cent in August 2023.

During April-August this fiscal, the output of core sectors rose 4.6 per cent against 8 per cent in the same period last fiscal.

The eight core sectors contribute 40.27 per cent to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) which measures overall industrial growth

The previous low was recorded at (-) 3.3 per cent in February

Coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, cement and electricity recorded a contraction of 8.1 per cent, 3.4 per cent, 3.6 per cent, 1 per cent, 3 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, in August. However, fertiliser output rose

by 3.2 per cent during the month under review as against 1.8 per



cent in August 2023. The growth rate of steel production slowed to 4.5 per cent in August 2024 against 16.4 per cent in the same month last year.

Commenting on the data, ratings agency Icra said the output of core industries posted a 'sombre' contraction in August, "the first instance of a decline in as many as 42 months.'

"Excess rainfall impacted mining activity, with the output of coal, crude oil, and natural gas declining, while also leading to a contraction in electricity generation in the month. The decline in these sectors was accentuated by an elevated base. with a deficient rainfall in August 2023 supporting the output of these sectors in that month,' Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Icra Ltd said

Excess rainfall and an adverse base are also likely to have weighed upon the output of the cement and the steel sectors. with the former reporting a YoY contraction and the latter witnessing the slowest growth in 26 months, she said.

"Given these trends, Icra expects IIP growth to slow down sharply to about 1 per cent in August from 4.8 per cent in July 2024. Core sector output may remain lacklustre in September given the late withdrawal of the monsoon, before normalising in the third quarter of this fis-

Bank loans moderate amid slowdown in credit card debt

Mumbai, Sept 30: Indian banks' loan growth moderated in August amid a slowdown in credit card debt and personal loans, central bank data showed Monday.

Banks' credit grew at 13.6% year-on-year last month, compared with 19.7% in August 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement.

Loan growth was roughly unchanged at 14.9%, excluding the impact of private lender HDFC Bank merging with parent Housing Development Finance Corp (HDFC) effective July 2023, the RBI said.

Indian banks have consistently clocked double-digit loan growth over the past few months as strong economic growth helped drive consumer loans.

But the RBI, worried about the risk of bad loans, has warned lenders against "all forms of exuberance" and tightened its norms on consumer loans and credit to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) in November.

Banks' personal loan growth moderated to nearly 17% in August from 18.3% a year ago, largely as the growth in credit card debt dropped to nearly 20% from 31.4%, the RBI data

The loan growth to non-bank ing financial companies (NBFCs) slowed to about 12% from 21.3% while credit growth to the services sector slowed to nearly 14% from 25% a year ago.

On the flip side, loans to industry grew by 9.7% year-onyear in August, quicker than the 5.9% growth last year.

Current account deficit widens to 1.1% of GDP



Mumbai, Sept 30: The country's current account deficit widened marginally to USD 9.7 billion or 1.1 per cent of GDP in April-June 2024, as against USD 8.9 billion or 1 per cent in the year-ago period, Reserve Bank of India said Monday.

The crucial number representing the country's external sector strength has come on the heels of a surplus of USD 4.6 billion or 0.5 per cent of GDP recorded in the preceding January-March quarter.

The Reserve Bank attributed the year-on-year widening in current account deficit to a rise in merchandise trade gap which was recorded at USD 65.1 billion in Q1 FY25 as compared to USD 56.7 billion in the year-ago period.

Net services receipts increased to USD 39.7 billion during the quarter under review from USD 35.1 billion a year ago, the RBI said, adding that computer services, business services, travel services and transportation services have seen a rise.

However, there was a sharp moderation in the net foreign portfolio investment to USD 0.9 billion from USD 15.7 billion in

Net inflows under external commercial borrowings (ECBs) came down to USD 1.8 billion during the first quarter, and was lower than USD 5.6 billion registered in the corresponding period a year ago.

In what can be seen as a jump in remittances by the diaspora. the private transfer receipts increased to USD 29.5 billion in Q1 FY25, from USD 27.1 billion witnessed in the same period of last fiscal.

Net foreign direct investment inflows increased to USD 6.3 billion from USD 4.7 billion on year, the RBI said.

Payments of investment income, captured under the net outgo on the primary income account, rose to USD 10.7 billion from the last year's USD 10.2 billion.

Non-resident deposits (NRI deposits) recorded net inflows of USD 4 billion, and was higher than USD 2.2 billion a year ago, the RBI said. There was an accretion of

USD 5.2 billion to the foreign exchange reserves on a BoP (balance of payments) basis in Q1 FY25 as compared to USD 24.4 billion in Q1 FY24, the RBI said.

Fiscal deficit in Apr-Aug at 27% of full-year target

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: The Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of the first five months of the current fiscal touched 27 per cent of the full-year target, government data showed Monday.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit -- the gap between expenditure and revenue -- was at ₹4.35.176 crore as of August-end. according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The deficit stood at 36 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the corresponding period of 2023-24.

In the Union Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 4.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current 2024-25 financial year. The deficit was 5.6 per cent of the GDP in 2023-24.

In absolute terms, the government aims to contain the fiscal deficit at ₹16,13,312 crore during the current fiscal.

Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for the first five months of 2024-25. CGA said the net tax revenue was ₹8.7 lakh crore or



rent fiscal.

The net tax revenue collection was 34.5 per cent at July-end 2023. The central government's total expenditure in the four months through August stood at ₹16.5 lakh crore or 34.3 per cent of BE. The expenditure was 37.1 per cent of the BE in the year-ago period.

Of the total expenditure, ₹13,51,367 crore was in the revenue account and ₹3,00,987 crore was in the capital account.

Out of the total revenue expenditure, ₹4,00,160 crore was towards interest payments.

Fiscal deficit is the difference between the total expenditure and revenue of the government. It is an indication of the total borrowing that is needed by the government. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 30: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled nearly 1.5 per cent Monday due to heavy selling in banking, finance and auto stocks amid rising geopolitical risks in the Middle East and weakness in Japanese markets.

Besides, profit-taking in frontline stocks like Reliance Industries after a record-breaking rally and foreign fund outflows added to the gloom, analysts

Declining for the second straight session, the BSE Sensex tumbled 1,272.07 points or 1.49 per cent to settle at 84,299.78. During the day, it plunged 1,314.71 points or 1.53 per cent to 84,257.14.

A total of 2,223 stocks declined, 1,819 advanced and 151 remained unchanged on the BSE. The NSE Nifty tanked 368.10

points or 1.41 per cent to 25,810.85.

"Nifty-50 had its worst day in nearly two months Monday fuelled by weak Asian markets (led by Japan), rising tensions in the Middle East and fear of funds moving to China based on recent measures taken by its government," Deepak Jasani, Head

BSE SENSEX

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024



Sensex, Nifty tumble nearly 1.5%

of Retail Research, HDFC

Securities, said.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Reliance Industries and Axis Bank declined over 3 per cent each. ICICI Bank, Nestle, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv, State Bank of India and Tata Motors were the other major laggards.

In contrast, JSW Steel, NTPC, Tata Steel, Titan and Asian Paints were the gainers.

'This sharp decline was primarily driven by profit booking after recent highs and heightened geopolitical tensions that have unsettled investor sentiment. The biggest drag on the index was Reliance Industries, which fell by 3 per cent, signifall market decline," Vikram Kasat, Head - Advisory, PL Capital - Prabhudas Lilladher, said. The BSE midcap gauge de-

icantly contributing to the over-

clined 0.28 per cent, while smallcap index climbed 0.07 per cent.

Among the indices, auto tumbled 1.91 per cent, bankex (1.82 per cent), realty (1.80 per cent), financial services (1.40 per cent). services (1.22 per cent) and telecommunication (1.19 per cent). Metal and commodities were the winners.

'Global markets turned topsy-

turvy under the threat of rising geopolitical risk in the Middle-East and plausible increase in Yen interest rate which can reduce cross country investments in equity. On the contrary, the Chinese market had a resurgence due to a large stimulus package and cheap valuation. India also weakened under the global pressure and premium valuation while metals are expected to outperform in the nearterm," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.19 per cent to USD 71.84 a barrel.

GROWING DIGITAL PAYMENTS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 30: Driven by rising disposable incomes, especially in the small cities and towns amid growing digital payments, the India festive season has kicked off to a roaring start, ecommerce platforms said Monday.

Amazon said it witnessed a record 11 crore customer visits in the first 48 hours, with 80 per cent coming from tier 2 and smaller towns, during the "The Amazon Great Indian Festival

According to the company, more than three lakh unique products including apparel, smartphones, beauty, everyday essentials and more were delivered within the same day or next

UPI usage on the platform grew 16 per cent compared to

Small cities lead festive season sales across e-comm platforms



last year.

According to Saurabh Srivastava,

President-Categories, Amazon India, they are witnessing an overwhelming participation of sellers across India, including small and medium businesses. Flipkart said it saw more than

33 crore user visits on its platform

during Early Access and Day 1

combined during the 'Big Billion

Days 2024', reflecting festive en-

thusiasm from shoppers from

"Some of the early trends indicate an increase in demand for categories that enable a lifestyle upgrade, and tier 2+ cities have been showing growth in the run up to this year's festive season," said Harsh Chaudhary, Vice President-Growth, Flipkart.

Myntra said it witnessed 15 times new users over business

as usual (BAU) joining the platform, and a two times growth in OPM (orders per minute) at peak over last year, in the opening hour of its Big Fashion Festival, including 120 million visitors during Early Access and Day 1 sales

Unicommerce said it saw ecommerce order volumes growing by 20 per cent during the first four days of the festive season sale (September 26-September 29), compared to the first four days of the festive season sales last year.

In the same period, the gross merchandise value (GMV) also increased by 24 per cent over last year.

Kapil Makhija, MD and CEO of Unicommerce, said they see an increasing number of brands participating in the sale season, affirming India's status as a digitally forward country.

Insurance premiums may rise as revised surrender value kicks in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Insurance premiums may increase or the commission of agents could see a reduction as the revised surrender value proposed by the sector regulator IRDAI comes into force from Tuesday.

Earlier this year, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) introduced revised surrender value guidelines to offer better returns to policyholders exiting early from their life insurance policies.

A surrender value in insurance refers to the amount paid by the insurers to the policyholder upon terminating the policy before its maturity date. If the policyholder surrenders during the policy tenure, the earnings and savings portion will be paid to him or her.

The regulator has emphasised the need for insurers to ensure 'reasonableness and

value for money' for both exiting and continuing policyholders when determining sur-

render values. According to a senior official of the private sector insurance company, to meet the revised surrender charges, life insurers would either raise premium or cut the commis-

sion of their agents. "The product and commission structure could likely witness significant changes, leading to volatile premium movement in the second half of the current fiscal," Gaurav Dixit, Director at CareEdge Ratings, said.

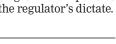
Most of the insurance players have readied changes in their policies to meet deadlines. Most of these players have a limited number of policies compared to life insurance behemoth LIC.

LIC has a huge task ahead to bring changes in their policies to meet the regulator's dictate.

2021 and was there till



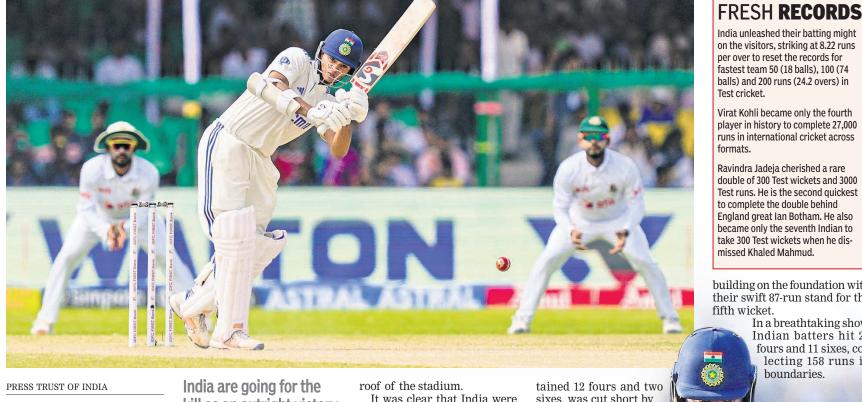






TEST TURNS TYPE Batting blitz by India Govt to decide on India travel to Pak, says BCCI

Jaiswal, Rahul make fifties to give India command; Bangladesh 26/2 at close on Day 4



Kanpur, Sept 30: Trying to force a result in the limited time available, India played a sensational T20-style cricket to take a 52-run first-innings lead against Bangladesh in the second Test, infusing life into the rain-hit contest here Monday.

The sun shone bright in the Kanpur sky after two gloomy days and the on-field action finally began after losing eight

India had six sessions to force a win, and the hosts did everything they could on the fourth day of the match.

The pitch hardly offered assistance to India bowlers but the hosts still bundled out Bangladesh for 233 in their first innings, built around Mominul Haque's patient unbeaten 107.

India declared their second innings at 285 for nine to have another go at the visiting batters. At stumps, Bangladesh were

kill as an outright victory will consolidate their top position in the World **Test Championship table**

26 for two with Zakir Hasan and Hasan Mahmud becoming offspinner Ravichandran Ashwin's victims. They were trailing India by 26 runs.

Considering the tougher assignments ahead, especially the Australia Tour, India need to log as many wins as possible against comparatively easier rivals to get some cushion before the tough overseas rubbers.

Young opener Yashsvi Jaiswal (72 off 51 balls) set the tone with three boundaries in the opening over bowled by Hasan Mahmud and skipper Rohit Sharma (23 off 11) bludgeoned Khaled Ahmed for two consecutive sixes - one landing on the

It was clear that India were showing an urgency to surpass the Bangladesh total quickly after more than two days' play was lost to bad weather.

The onslaught surprised the rival attack but the home fans were rewarded for visiting the stadium Adopting a see-the-ball and

hit-the-ball approach, India completed the fastest team fifty in three overs. Realising the ineffectiveness

of his pacers, Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto introduced spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz and he responded to the call by castling Rohit. Jaiswal completed his fifty

with a single off left-arm spinner Taijul Islam and continued in his aggressive fashion. His innings, which con-

building on the foundation with their swift 87-run stand for the In a breathtaking show, Indian batters hit 28 fours and 11 sixes, collecting 158 runs in boundaries. sixes, was cut short by Mahmud. The young opener added 72 runs for the second wicket with Shubhman Gill Rishabh Pant did not last long but there was no change in approach for the hosts with Virat Kohli and



The BCCI may request the ICC to pull the tournament out of Pakistan and organise it either in Sri Lanka or Dubai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanpur, Sept 30: Reiterating a long-held position, BCCI Vice President Rajeev Shukla Monday said a decision on whether the national cricket team will travel to Pakistan for next year's ICC Champions Trophy will depend on government approval.

Pakistan are scheduled to host the prestigious ODI tournament from February 19 to March 9.

"No decision has been taken (yet). But our policy is that for international tours, we always seek the permission of the government. It's up to the government to decide whether our team should go to any country or our team should not go to any country," Shukla told reporters here.

"In this case (also), whatever the government will decide, we will abide by that," he added.

Shukla was talking to the media on the sidelines of the ongoing second Test between India and Bangladesh here.

India and Pakistan only play each other in ICC events. India have not travelled to Pakistan for bilateral cricket since 2008 following the Mumbai terror attacks in which over 150 people were killed.

Pakistan were in India for the ODI World Cup last year after a gap of seven years. It is being speculated that India will not travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy.

The BCCI may request the ICC to pull the tournament out of Pakistan and organise it either in Sri Lanka or Dubai.

The latest edition of the Asia Cup was played as per a hybrid model allowing India to play all their matches in Sri Lanka. As a result, the island nation hosted nine games while Pakistan hosted the remaining four matches.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is averse to the idea of taking the tournament out of their country.

Recently, Pakistan all-rounder Hasal Ali had also said that if India do not travel to Pakistan. the tournament should go ahead without their Asian neighbours.

The ICC, on its part, has maintained that it would not force a member board to go against government policy.

SHORT TAKES **Young shuttler shines**

Mumbai: Young Indian badminton player Raksha Kandasamy continued her brilliant run as she clinched back-to-back titles in the Croatian International and Belgium Junior tournaments. The 16-yearold remained unbeaten throughout the two tournaments as she won each of her five games en route to her title wins. Raksha defeated England's Leona Lee 21-9, 21-5 in the final of the Croatian International played at Samobor Sunday. She had earlier defeated Bulgaria's Stefani Stoeva 21-14, 21-23 in the semifinal and Poland's Joanna Rudna 21-11, 21-10 in the quarterfinal. Earlier, Raksha had crushed the challenge from Tammi van Wonterghem of Belgium 21-5, 21-8 in the quarterfinals of the Belgium Junior event. Ireland's Siofra Flynn presented a strong fight against Rakha but the Indian

Presidents Cup: US cements supremacy

prevailed 21-8, 19-21, 25-23 in their

Germany's Gloria Poluektov 21-14,

10-21, 22-20 in the final played in

last-four clash. Raksha beat

the Belgian city of Herstal.

Montreal: Xander Schauffele ran off four straight birdies to lead an onslaught of red scores on the board and the Americans made the outcome as inevitable as it usually is, winning the Presidents Cup for the 10th straight time. Sam Burns completed an unbeaten week, Russell Henley capped off his impressive debut in the Presidents Cup with a win and Keegan Bradley - the Ryder Cup captain next year delivered the clinching point when Si Woo Kim missed a 10-foot putt putt on the 18th hole Sunday.

Australia clinch ODI series against Eng

Bristol: The rain arrived too late for England as Australia won the deciding fifth one-day international to clinch the series 3-2. Australia finished on 165-2 in 20.4 overs, appearing to be comfortably on track to reaching the original winning target of 310 before rain stopped play at Bristol's County Ground Sunday. No further play was possible and Australia won by 49 runs under the DLS method which sets revised targets for interrupted cricket matches.

Sinner, Alcaraz through to semis



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 30: Top-ranked Jannik Sinner moved into the semi-finals of the China Open with a 6-2, 7-6 (6) victory over Jiri Lehecka Monday.

Just two days after the World Anti-Doping Agency announced it was seeking a ban of one to two vears for the US Open champion, who tested positive twice



for an anabolic steroid in March. the 23-year-old Italian didn't appear distracted as he quickly got to grips with the No 37-ranked Lehecka's serve in a dominant

first set. The defending champion faced two set points at 4-6 in the secondset tie-break, but found a way to close out his 14th consecutive win and advance to a semi-final against either fifth-seeded

Andrey Rublev or local favourite No 96-ranked Bu Yunchaokete, who play later Monday.

"So happy how I handled a tough situation," Sinner said. "Feel like I still can improve a couple of things here so hopefully tomorrow is going to be that day when I feel better on the court.

advanced to the semi-finals for the second straight year after an impressive 7-5, 6-2 victory against Karen Khachanov. The 21-year-old Spaniard was

Third-ranked Carlos Alcaraz

 $character is tically \, relentless \, from \,$ the baseline and ground down the No 27-ranked Khachanov's service games and converted four of 12 service break opportunities to win in 96 minutes.

It was Alcaraz's 46th win of the season and it allowed the reigning French Open and Wimbledon champion to climb back above the absent Alexander Zverev into second place in the ATP live rankings.

CLOSE MISS

India's U20 Asian **Cup journey ends**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Vientiane (Laos), Sept 30: India came within just a few goals of qualifying for the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025, in what was their best qualification campaign in 22 years at this age group.

The equation was simple for India as they took to the pitch against Laos in their last match of Group G of the AFC U20 Asian Cup qualifiers. After beating Mongolia (4-1) and suffering a heartbreaking defeat against IR Iran (0-1), India needed to win against hosts Laos at the Lao National Stadium KM16 in Vientiane, Laos, and then hope for the results in the other nine groups to go their way.

India only fell short on goal difference, after garnering six points, the same as Thailand and Jordan.

Griezmann is fourth on

France's list of all-time

scorers behind Olivier

Giroud, Thierry Henry

alongside some exceptional team-

mates. We have shared victories

that will remain forever engraved

After a disappointing show-

ing at the European

Championship earlier this year,

where France lost in the semi-

finals, Griezmann had lost some

of his influence in Deschamps'

team. His final appearance in

the France kit was in September

in a 2-0 win over Belgium in a

in our memories," he said.

and Kylian Mbappe



Usha slams EC members for not felicitating Olympians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 30: Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha Monday said it is "deeply concerning" that the Executive Committee members failed to honour Olympic medallists and accused the Finance Committee of blocking funds intended to support Indian athletes' preparation for the Paris Games.

India secured six medals, including two historic bronze by young shooter Manu Bhaker, but Usha said the "EC does not want to celebrate their success' and it makes her "very sad."

'These athletes have made the nation proud, and it is the responsibility of the IOA to celebrate their achievements with the respect they deserve. It is deeply concerning that, even after returning home in mid-August, the EC has failed to discuss or take any steps towards organizing a formal felicitation ceremony," she said in a statement.

She revealed that a proposal for a preparatory grant of Rs 2 lakh for each Olympic-bound athlete and Rs 1 lakh for each coach had been blocked by the Finance Committee, notably by IOA Treasurer Sahdev Yadav.

As someone who has represented India on the world stage, I understand the importance of recognising the hard work, our athletes. It is disheartening to see that others in positions of power, especially those who have also worn the national colours, are failing to uphold this duty

PT USHA | PRESIDENT, IOA

letes and their coaches the support they needed in the crucial period leading up to the Olympic Games. The refusal to disburse these funds reflects a lack of understanding of the needs of athletes and shows a complete disregard for their preparation and well-being," she stated.

Highlighting the contrast with previous leadership, Usha pointed out that a successful felicitation ceremony was organised for the seven medallists from the Tokyo 2021 Olympics, even amid the pandemic.

The IOA had planned to award

official felicitation.

Blow for France as Griezmann hangs boots

WORLD CUP WINNER ANTOINE GRIEZMANN RETIRES AFTER A DECADE WITH FRANCE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Sept 30: World Cup winner Antoine Griezmann took the soccer world by surprise Monday when he announced the end of his international career with The 33-year-old Atletico Madrid

player has played 137 matches with Les Bleus, scoring 44 goals during a successful 10-year tenure.

Griezmann started with France in 2014 in a friendly match against the Netherlands then quickly established himself as a stalwart of the team coached by Didier Deschamps with his versatile talent and influence as both a goalscorer and an assist provider.

Only two players, Hugo Lloris and Lilian Thuram, have played more international games with

France than Griezmann. 'It's with a heart full of memories that I close this chapter of my life," Griezmann said in a message posted on Instagram. "Thank you for this wonderful tri-



color adventure and see you soon." Griezmann is fourth on France's list of all-time scorers behind Olivier Giroud, Thierry Henry and Kylian Mbappe. He

won the 2018 World Cup and the Nations League three years later

"I was lucky enough to expe rience some incredible moments

Nations League match when he came on as a late substitute. Although Griezmann has ad-

mitted he struggled at the Euros, with his France teammates. he was expected to keep on playing with France until the 2026 World Cup.

"I strongly believe that this grant would have given our ath-

each individual medallist between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 1 crore, with coaches receiving Rs 15 (lakh to Rs 25 lakh as part of the

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