

Ananya's stand
 Actor Ananya Panday says she objected to her character's dialogue in *Liger*, emphasising her responsibility to advocate for women's cause

LEISURE | P2

Crucial move
 President Volodymyr Zelenskyy orders a major government reshuffle at a crucial juncture in the war against Russia

INTERNATIONAL | P10

Trade reversal
 A push by India to make more corn-based ethanol turns Asia's top corn exporter into a net importer for the first time in decades

BUSINESS | P11

Career milestone
 Odisha cyclist Swasti Singh bags the 50th medal of her career by winning the silver at the Khelo India Women's Cycling League

SPORTS | P12

City IIT student ends life by suicide

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: A 23-year-old woman studying at IIT-Bhubaneswar, under Jatni police limits, ended her life by jumping off the fifth floor of the institution's administrative building late Tuesday.

The deceased, identified as Kritika Raj of Delhi, was pursuing her BTech degree in Minerals, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering at the premier institute, police said. "Even though, we suspect it to be a case of suicide, the cops have not found any notes from the student's room," said Jatni IIC Soumyakant Baliarsingh.

Meanwhile, the institute issued a statement, saying that the incident occurred around 11 pm, Tuesday.

"The police were informed immediately and are investigating the case," it added.

According to preliminary investigations, IIC Baliarsingh said the woman was undergoing severe mental anxiety and was diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). For the past few months, she was taking medication pills as a preventive measure against the disease. "She skipped her ongoing semester exams and went home recently. It has been three days since she returned from her home," he added.



MAN-ANIMAL COLLAB: A worker rides a cart during retting of jute at a water body in Nadia, West Bengal, Wednesday

ADANI MAGIC
 ₹62K cr claims settled for ₹16K cr by PSBs'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: The Congress Wednesday cited data purportedly revealed by All India Bank Employees' Association to allege that public sector banks (PSBs) that had claims of about ₹62,000 crore from 10 financially-stressed companies were made to settle them for just ₹16,000 crore after the Adani Group took over these firms.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh shared a screen shot of details purportedly shared by the Association which shows that 10 firms were given 'haircuts' ranging from 96 per cent to 42 per cent as they were purchased by the Adani Group. "The All India Bank Employees' Association has revealed, through publicly available data, how public sector banks that had claims of about ₹62,000 crore from 10 financially stressed companies have been made to settle for just ₹16,000 crore after the non-biological PM's favourite business group took over these 10 companies," Ramesh said. "In the colourful language of finance, this is a 74 per cent 'haircut' taken by the banks," Ramesh said. The Congress has been alleging financial regularities against the Adani Group and favours being given by the government to the conglomerate to augment its profits.

Govt dissolves SDCs

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday decided to dissolve all Special Development Councils (SDCs) in the state. The CM has approved the proposal to dissolve all 23 SDCs, a release from the CMO stated. With this, these councils will cease to operate, it added. The BJP government in the state had initially formed the SDCs in nine tribal-dominated districts in 2017 in order to ensure the development of the area through its welfare schemes. Those districts are Maurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Koraput. The government formed the SDCs in 14 more districts in May 2023, apparently keeping an eye on Assembly elections in 2024.

ACTS GONE ILLEGAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: The National Medical Commission (NMC) has reintroduced sodomy and lesbianism as unnatural sexual offences in the forensic medicine and toxicology curriculum for undergraduate medical students. It has also brought back topics such as the hymen and its type, and its medico-legal importance besides defining virginity and defloration, legitimacy and its medico-legal importance.

These subjects were done away with in 2022 in accordance with a Madras High Court directive. The revised curriculum under forensic medicine and toxicology also includes "Describe legal competencies including Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)" besides "Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), Civil and Criminal Cases, Inquest (Police Inquest and Magistrate's

UG MEDICAL CURRICULUM

- ▶ The NMC has brought back topics such as the hymen and its type, and its medico-legal importance besides defining virginity and defloration
- ▶ These subjects were done away with in 2022 in accordance with a Madras High Court directive
- ▶ The guideline also talks about discussing sexual perversions, fetishism, transvestism, voyeurism, sadism, necrophagia, masochism, exhibitionism, frotteurism, and necrophilia

Inquest), cognisable and Non-cognisable offences." It talks about discussing sexual perversions, fetishism, transvestism, voyeurism, sadism, necrophagia, masochism, exhibitionism, frotteurism, and necrophilia. However, distinctions between consensual sex between queer individuals have been removed, a source said. The amended curriculum has done away with the seven-hour training on disability. At the end

of teaching-learning in forensic medicine and toxicology, the student should be able to understand the medico-legal framework of medical practice, codes of conduct, medical ethics, professional misconduct and medical negligence, conducting medico-legal examination and documentation of various medico-legal cases and understand latest Acts and laws related to medical professional including related court judgements,

the NMC said in its document. "It was time to have a relook at all aspects of the various components in the existing regulations and guidelines, and adapt them to the changing demography, socio-economic context, perceptions, values, advancements in medical education and expectations of stakeholders," the NMC said in its Competency-Based Medical Education Curriculum (CBME) Guidelines, 2024.

The result is an outcome-driven curriculum which conforms to global trends. Emphasis is laid on alignment and integration of subjects both horizontally and vertically while respecting the strengths and necessity of subject-based instruction and assessment, it said. The course is designed with the goal of creating an Indian Medical Graduate (IMG) possessing requisite knowledge, attitudes, values and responsiveness, so that she or he may function appropriately and effectively as a physician of first contact of the community while being globally relevant, the document said.

Phogat, Punia meet Rahul; likely to contest elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: Wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat met former Congress president Rahul Gandhi here Wednesday with sources saying they are likely to contest the upcoming Haryana Assembly polls on the party's ticket.

Sources said deliberations are on to finalise the seats for the two wrestlers with Julana and Badli seats under consideration for Phogat and Punia respectively.

The Congress put out a photograph of Gandhi with Phogat and Punia on its official X handle.

Asked whether Phogat and Punia could contest on a Congress ticket, AICC general secretary in-charge of Haryana Deepak Babaria said there is a possibility and it would become clear by Thursday or Friday.

Punia is a Tokyo Games bronze medalist, while Phogat became the first woman wrestler to reach the Olympics final, the stage where she was disqualified after being found over weight by about



100 gm in her 50-kg category weigh-in. She subsequently announced her retirement from the sport.

The Congress' Central Election Committee (CEC) has cleared the names of candidates for 66 seats out of 90 till Tuesday.

Punia and Phogat were part of the protest over sexual harassment allegations against former BJP MP and then Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh in 2023.

The Congress and AAP are engaged in seat-sharing talks for the Haryana Assembly polls with hard bargaining from both sides. Voting on 90 assembly seats in Haryana will be held October 5 and counting of votes will be undertaken October 8.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



This path is full of wild animals, but we'll take it. The other one has gau rakshaks around

Harvinder scripts Paralympic history

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Sept 4: Tokyo Games bronze-winner Harvinder Singh became the first Indian archer to win a gold medal at the Paralympics, beating Poland's Lukasz Ciszek in a lop-sided final here Wednesday. The 33-year-old Indian who bagged a bronze three years ago, put up a dominant show to knock out Ciszek 6-0 (28-24, 28-27, 29-25).

Harvinder, who is pursuing Ph.D in Economics, won five back-to-back matches in a single day, showing neither fatigue nor nerves to etch his name in history and clinch India's second medal in archery here.

Both of Harvinder's legs are impaired owing to the side effects of dengue treatment that he underwent as a toddler.



1ST INDIAN ARCHER TO WIN GOLD

In the semifinals, Harvinder displayed excellent temperament to subdue Iran's Mohammad Reza Arab Ameri 7-3. Harvinder came up with the big shots at crucial times to win the tie. Earlier Harvinder despatched world No. 9 Hector Julio Ramirez of Colombia 6-2 in the quarterfinals and before that eliminated Tseng Lung-Hui of Chinese Taipei 7-3 in the round of 32. In each of the matches, Harvinder showcased his resilience, consistently staging comebacks to stay in the hunt.

McDonald's to offer multi-millet burgers

The company is over-sourcing Bajra, Ragi, Jowar, Proso, and Kodo directly from 5,000 Indian farmers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: McDonald's India, which operates a quick-service restaurant (QSR) chain in West and South through its franchise Westlife Foodworld, would offer burgers with multi-millet bun, which has been co-created with premier food technology research institute Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI).

The company has partnered with CSIR-CFTRI, functioning under Ministry of Science & Technology, for this multi-millet bun and it will source millets directly from farmers. This is the first-ever collaboration in the QSR space, which combines CSIR-CFTRI's expertise with McDonald's thrust for developing nutritious food options.

"The purpose is to improve the nutritional quality of our food, so that the customer in the long run benefits from it," McDonald's India Executive

Director Akshay Jatia told this agency. The multi-millet bun has five millets - Bajra, Ragi, Jowar, Proso, and Kodo. Asked about the premium charged by the company for burgers with multi-millet bun, he said: "It will be an upgrade of ₹10."

This new offering would be available across all McDonald's 400 outlets, which Westlife Foodworld operates in the West and South regions of the country.

CSIR-CFTRI Director Sridevi Annapurna Singh said: "This joint effort is a pivotal step towards developing menu items that offer added nutritional value and also delight the



palate. With CSIR-CFTRI's cutting-edge research capabilities, we believe we are ushering in a new era of giving food a great future."

Jatia said the company is over-sourcing millets directly from 5,000 farmers in India. It will be based on farm-to-fork model.

"We are directly sourcing from farmers using five kinds of millets, three major millets - Bajra, Ragi and Jowar and two minor millets - Proso, and Kodo. From there it would go to our trusted food suppliers and then go to our restaurants," he said.

Westlife Foodworld would directly work with farmers in seven states namely Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.

This long-term partnership between McDonald's India (W&S) and CSIR-CFTRI aims to explore new avenues in nutritional innovation.

MARKET WATCH

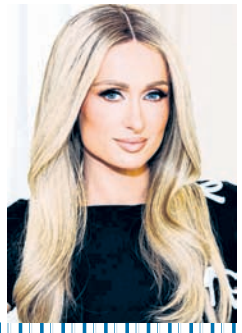
INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	82352.64	↓ 202.80
NIFTY	25198.70	↓ 81.15
DOLLAR	83.97	↑ ₹0.02
EURO	93.03	↑ ₹0.32
GOLD	₹71,520	↑ ₹139
SILVER	₹81,373	↑ ₹164

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	34.7°C	34.5°C
Min Temp	26.4°C	25.5°C
Humidity	77%	83%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil

FORECAST
 Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain

leisure



PARIS HILTON FEELS INSPIRED BY HER KIDS

Reality star Paris Hilton has admitted that her children inspired her new clothing line. The 43-year-old star has designed a new line of baby clothes, and Paris' children, Phoenix, 19 months, and London, nine months, served as her inspiration for the designs, reports *People*.

KATY PERRY IS NO LONGER ATTRACTED TO NARCISSISTS

Singer Katy Perry is no longer attracted to narcissists while discussing her red flags in a relationship. She was initially married to comedian Russell Brand and has also dated Travis McCoy and Diplo, was asked what her red flags are these days and admitted that she would not go near anyone who changed the goalposts in an emotional way.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
accuracy • reliability • trust
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Some cheerful news could put you in really high spirits today. The news could either be of a personal or professional nature – perhaps about your career, or a social gathering, or some monetary profit. You always give your best, and Ganesh says today it will lead to rich dividends.

TAURUS
It is more than likely that you will emerge victorious in all your meetings and outings today, predicts Ganesh. Your calm temperament will not let you flinch in the face of pressure. It is in your best interest to take some time to cope with all the stress, advises Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today will be a day of joy, happiness and festivities on the home-front. You will try and spend as much time as possible with the children and will enthusiastically participate in home improvement projects. You will be able to solve pending issues at home by taking an intelligent interest in them, says Ganesh.

CANCER
Ganesh says that you will feel tiredness and weakness but in the office or business you will be relaxed, with less tension. Ganesh suggests that you should be careful to fulfill new responsibilities entrusted to you. You will spend on travel.

LEO
You may not get the desired results inspite of working hard. You need to keep your weaknesses in mind, and your mistakes, before starting anew again. You will need to do more than necessary, if required, to make sure that your business relationships stay strong. Finances will improve, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Ganesh advises you to quantify your worth in the spheres of emotions and sentiments. You will prepare yourself for everything, from games to peers to family. However, at the same time you will realise your shortcomings. Ganesh foretells that from today on the artist in you will begin to come to the fore.

LIBRA
Ganesh says your nature of spending wisely is highly appreciated as it is a good thing to save money for the future. This nature of yours will not allow you to spend money on useless things. You will be able to buy a home or a vehicle in the near future with these savings of yours.

SCORPIO
Don't run from your troubles, learn to face the challenges and try to solve your problems. This piece of Ganesh's advice is going to help you today. And you very well know why. Take all the tips that come to you sportingly and try to implement it in your practical life.

SAGITTARIUS
You are a social butterfly as you attend a series of parties and events today, says Ganesh. You may even bump into old pals and relive good 'ol' days. Also, you meet your extended family! It's time for soiree and merry-making.

CAPRICORN
You are a bighearted person and you love to help others in every possible way. But, people may take you for a ride, warns Ganesh. You may realise that if you would have been extra careful, you could have stopped others take advantage of you. By the end of the day, you will shake off such negative feelings and be grateful to the God for blessing you with all the nice things in life.

AQUARIUS
You will try everything to please your colleagues and bosses, but they will still have something negative to say about your performance. In order to be in the good books of everyone you end up hurting your own interests, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
If you are the leader of a project or a team, then today is your day. Your enthusiasm and creativity will give a sense of purpose and direction to your colleagues. You are more concerned about the means rather than the ends. Today is a good day to progress on the work-front.

Ananya on voicing opinion for a cause

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday recently opened up about her movie *Liger*, stating that she had told the filmmakers she was not okay with saying a lot of the things her character says in the film. "The way we are exposed to things now, where you feel like it's on your phone but it is also so much more... I don't know how to label it. It's bad out there. Being a young, Gen-Z person, the only thing I can do is use my voice for what is important. I feel like everyone needs to stand for something, you don't need to stand for everything, but you can stand for something. That's what I try to do. Personally, for me, women's safety and the state of that in our country is very important to speak about, and I do voice my opinion a lot," she said

during a chat with Sucharita Tyagi. "Whenever I am reading a script, I have this red flag thing going on in my mind like, 'No Gen-Z person speaks like this.' This is not okay. It is my duty and responsibility as a woman to be that face and say this is not correct. If I say that, people are going to think that it is okay. For example, in *Liger*, there were a lot of things in that script where I was like, 'Listen, I am not okay saying this. As a woman, this is not correct.' They actually did make those changes, and I am really happy that I did voice my opinion at that time," she concluded.

Alia new face of L'Oréal Paris

Mumbai: Actress Alia Bhatt became the global ambassador for L'Oréal Paris and will represent the brand in its global campaigns. She joined Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, another global ambassador from India for the brand. The actor announced the news on Instagram, sharing a monochromatic look that was an iconic power dressing moment.

The actress wore a beige oversized blazer with high-waisted trousers and a white top underneath, with the brand's tagline, "I am worth it." The blazer has a relaxed, loose fit yet commands attention and authority. Similarly, the wide-leg trousers are also loose fitting and complement the blazer. In contrast, the white tank top underneath has a more refined, form-fitting appearance, accentuating her curves. The white tank top contrasts with the beige elements of the ensemble, drawing attention to the tagline. Her short hair was styled in youthful waves.

She spoke to Vogue India and expressed her heartfelt gratitude: "It's such an honour to join the L'Oréal Paris family. A brand that I have always admired for the strong legacy it has built and for being so rooted in celebrating a woman's worth. So excited to be a part of this journey with them and share our mutual passion to empower women to embrace their unique, beautiful selves."

On the work front, Alia will be seen next in *Nigra* and *Alpha*.



Sunny looks back at acting journey

New Delhi: It was in 2016 when Sunny Kaushal made his acting debut with *Sunshine Music Tours and Travels*, and now eight years into the industry, the actor looks back at his journey with a lot of fondness. "I look back at my journey with a lot of fondness. I am really grateful to have spent these past eight years in this beautiful industry. Actually more than eight years as an actor, and then I was an assistant

director before that, and so it's almost been like around 10 to 11 years in this industry," Sunny told IANS. He added, "I just feel so



Stree 2 song was risky, says Tamannaah

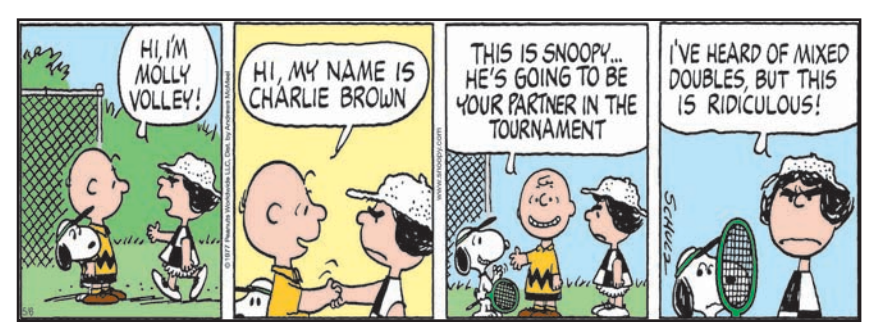
Mumbai: Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, in a new interview, has spoken about her *Stree 2* song, *Aaj Ki Raat*, and admitted she took a 'risk' by doing it 'on the heels of *Kaavaalaa*'s success'. Tamannaah, who was seen grooving with Rajinikanth to the popular song *Kaavaalaa* from the 2023 film *Jailer*, said, "On the heels of *Kaavaalaa*'s success, doing the song for *Stree 2* felt very risky. I thought, 'Will I be able to top what I've already done?'" *Kaavaalaa* became a global hit since its release; the upbeat song remains popular on social media. So why did Tamannaah agree to do *Aaj Ki Raat*? "But when Amar (Kaushik) met me and said, 'I have this song for you, and it's actually very crucial to the storyline,' I just instinctively knew I had to do it," Tamannaah added.



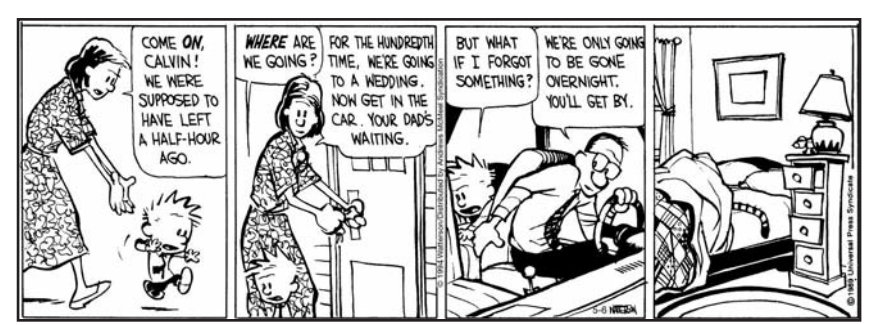
In the same interview, she said that even if she was being offered shorter roles and they came at pivotal moments in the story, she was eager to take them on. She said she had a phase of being stereotyped as the girl next door, so she began choosing parts that people never expected her to play. The actor said she was never focused on the length of the part, and all she 'wanted was for people to remember her'. On the work front, Tamannaah was last seen in *Vedaa*, which also released around *Stree 2*.

grateful that people have accepted me with such warmth, such love, and with open arms, and I just hope that I just continue to do so and continue to entertain everyone and just bring more and better characters and stories to people for their entertainment, and yeah." Looking forward, he hopes to become a better actor. He concluded, "So yeah, I just hope that the coming years bring about the same thing in me and make me a better person, probably, definitely make me a better actor because I would love to improve, love to enjoy, and love to experiment with newer things that scare me. I think I'm really looking forward to the coming years, you know, with bated breath."

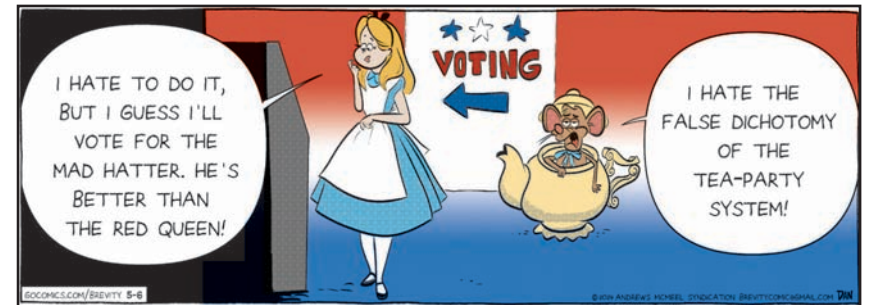
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

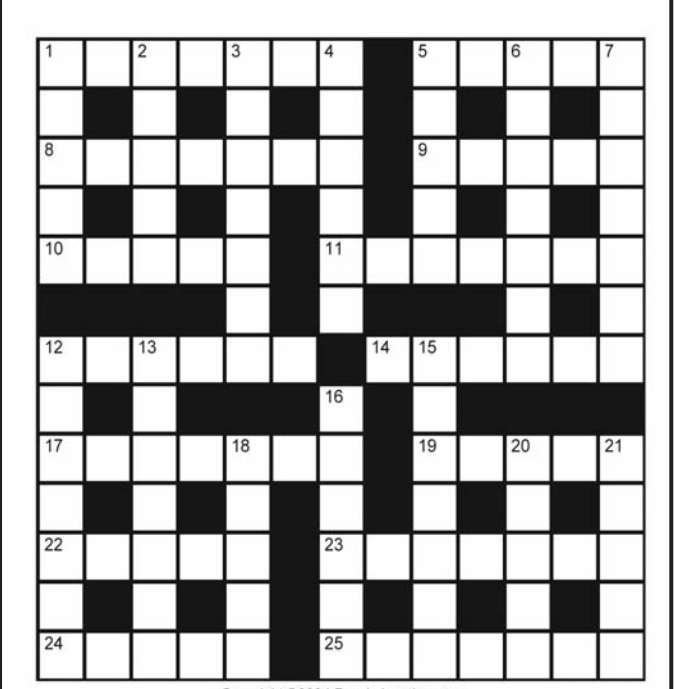


BREVITY



FUN post

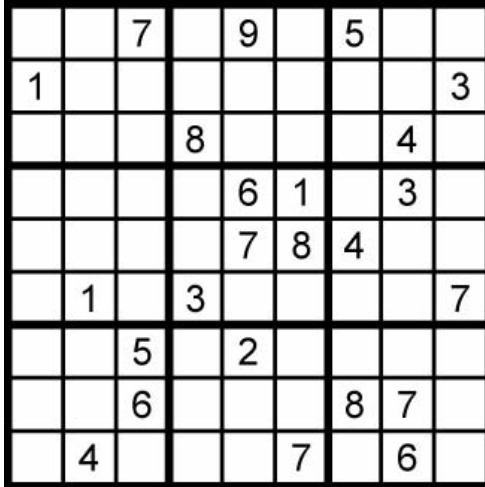
CROSSWORD



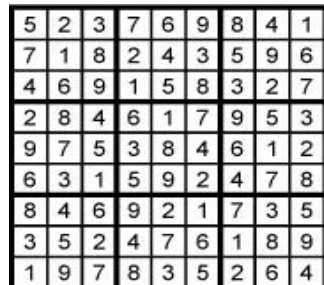
- Across**
- 1 Propriety
 - 5 Marsh plant
 - 8 Russian urn
 - 9 England's Downs
 - 10 Navigational aid
 - 11 On edge
 - 12 Looked suggestively
 - 14 No Exit writer Jean-Paul
 - 17 Boat race
 - 19 Long-necked instrument
 - 22 Mistake
 - 23 Baseball frames
 - 24 Give way
 - 25 Wing part
 - Down**
 - 1 Office stations
 - 2 Carrot family herb
 - 3 Gear setting
 - 4 Docking facility
 - 5 Beef on the hoof
 - 6 Garble
 - 7 All together now (2,5)
 - 12 Theft
 - 13 Defensive stance in fencing (2,5)
 - 15 Armoury
 - 16 Mexican menu item
 - 18 Fatigued
 - 20 Pavarotti, notably
 - 21 Pine product

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

IN FULL SWING

An artisan gives finishing touches to an idol of Lord Ganesh in Puri, Wednesday



PESA Act in next House session: Min

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Panchayati Raj Minister Rabi Narayan Naik Wednesday said the state government will introduce the PESA (Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act in the next Assembly session.

Naik made the announcement in response to a debate on the Act in the Assembly, during which Opposition parties criticised the state's BJP government for its perceived lack of commitment to implementing the legislation.

Naik said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi had pledged to introduce the PESA Act in his Independence Day speech and mentioned that the Central government has shown interest in the matter.

"Given the sensitivity of this issue, I plan to convene a meeting with all Scheduled Tribe MLAs and other members of the House to discuss it further," Naik added.

He also said PESA Act documents have been translated into Odia and Santali and sent to the District Magistrates overseeing the PESA regions.

Congress member Taraprasad Bahinipati highlighted that although the central Act was passed by Parliament in 1996, it has not been implemented in Odisha for 28 years.

He accused both the BJD and BJP of failing to uphold the rights of tribal communities over 'Jal, Jungle, and Jamin' (water, forest, and land).

Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Rama Chandra Kadam criticised both the BJD and BJP for not passing the Act in the Odisha Assembly.

"The central Act was passed during the Congress tenure, but the BJD-BJP coalition government from 2000 to 2009, followed by the BJD government under Naveen Patnaik, failed to implement it," Kadam alleged.

He alleged that the delay in passing the Act was an attempt to facilitate the operations of the mining mafia.

BJD member Ganeswar Behera demanded a clear timeline for the implementation of the PESA Act in Odisha, seeking a definitive response from the minister.



₹247 crore spent on distribution of jute bags ahead of polls

Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra Wednesday informed the Assembly that the state government had spent ₹247.36 crore on distributing empty jute bags to ration card holders across Odisha just before the 2024 general elections.

In response to a query from Jagatsinghpur MLA Amarendra Das, Patra said that jute bags, emblazoned with the 5T logo and the slogan 'Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha',



were distributed in all 147 Assembly constituencies.

Additionally, the government provided ₹1,000 in cash to each family covered under the public distribution system (PDS), totalling ₹959.05 crore in assistance. Patra acknowledged that there is no provision to aid those who did not receive the benefits.

Outside the Assembly, Patra assured that the government would investigate the distribution of the jute bags and take action if any irregularities were found.

He also announced that Aadhaar and biometric-based e-KYC verification for NFSA beneficiaries began August 22, 2024, and will continue until the entire state is covered.

To date, 44.33 lakh ration cards have undergone e-KYC verification, and ineligible beneficiaries, including those who have passed away, will be removed from the list. The minister added that new ration cards would be issued to applicants by the end of September after completing the verification process.



Security personnel stop NSUI members from marching towards Assembly

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Campus polls: Protesting NSUI members scuffle with police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: A scuffle broke out between police personnel and members of National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the student wing of the Congress, during a demonstration outside the Assembly Wednesday, demanding elections in colleges and state-run universities.

Members of the NSUI, led by its state unit president Udit Narayan Pradhan, marched to the Assembly at Mahatma Gandhi Marg, holding posters and placards aloft.

NSUI members scuffled with the police when they were not allowed to march and gherao the Assembly premises.

Some of them were whisked away in police vehicles and released later.

Pradhan said the NSUI has been protesting for the past several years to press its demand for the student union elections in colleges and state-run universities. After the BJP government



The BJD government had stopped conducting the campus polls since 2017. Now, the BJP government is following the same

YASHIR NAWAZ | NSUI FORMER STATE PRESIDENT

came to power in the state, the student wing of the Congress again raised its demand, he said, adding, "We hit the streets as the state government has not given any assurance about the student union polls in Odisha."

The BJD government had stopped conducting the campus polls since 2017. Now, the BJP government is following the same, said NSUI former state president Yashir Nawaz.

He alleged that the BJP was 'reluctant' to conduct the college elections as RSS-backed Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) 'feared of losing the polls'. Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan had stated that the BJP government does not have sufficient time to hold student union elections this year.

"So, the college polls will be conducted from next year onwards," he added.

BJD SEEKS RESOLUTION ON KALINGA PRIZE

Projecting the UNESCO Kalinga Prize as a symbol of Odia pride, Opposition BJD Wednesday demanded passage of a resolution in the Assembly supporting the continuation of the international science award.

The issue was raised during Zero Hour in the Assembly by BJD members Goutam Buddha Das and Kalkikesh Singh Deo. They emphasised that the state has gained international recognition through the UNESCO Kalinga Prize, which is being awarded since 1952 in honour of the ancient name of the state, Kalinga.

Das expressed concern that the Centre has discontinued its support for the award, highlighting that it is the only international prize with the name of an Indian state attached to it.

"The UNESCO Kalinga Prize is a unique honour for Odisha, and its discontinuation would

be a loss for the state," Das said. BJD president and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik had August 12 written to Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh urging continued support for the award.

In his letter, Patnaik expressed dismay over the Ministry of Science and Technology's decision to withdraw support, emphasising that the prize is the only international award from India dedicated to the popularisation of science.

Patnaik stressed that the prize has become a symbol of

Odia identity on the global stage and represents a cherished legacy for the people of the state.

The two BJD lawmakers noted that the award was established by state's former CM and renowned leader Biju Patnaik in 1952 with a generous grant of 1,000 pounds from the Kalinga Foundation Trust. Singh Deo suggested that if the Centre is unable to support the prize, the state government should consider taking on the responsibility to ensure its continuation.

So far, the prize has been awarded to 72 scientists including seven Nobel laureates - Louis de Brogile, Julian Huxley, Bertrand Russel, Karl von Frisch, Arthur C Clarke, Fred Hoyle and Sergei Kapitzka, among others, the BJD MLAs pointed out.

CM ANNOUNCES ₹10CR AID FOR CALAMITY-HIT KERALA, TRIPURA

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Wednesday announced a grant of ₹5 crore each for Kerala and Tripura to support recovery efforts following natural disasters in both states.

During telephonic conversations with Kerala Chief Minister

Chief Ministers of both the states expressed their gratitude for Odisha's support

Pinarayi Vijayan and Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha, Majhi expressed his condolences for the

devastation caused by these calamities. The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said Majhi conveyed Odisha's readiness to assist with post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.

Kerala was struck by a severe landslide, while Tripura has experienced significant flooding.

In light of these events, Majhi said, "Odisha will provide ₹5 crore

each from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to support the recovery efforts in both Kerala and Tripura."

Both Vijayan and Saha expressed their gratitude for Odisha's support. Majhi also thanked the leaders for their assistance to Odia residents in their states during recent natural disasters.

Central team visits bird flu-hit areas



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: A three-member Central team visited Puri district Wednesday to assess the situation following the detection of bird flu (H5N1 avian influenza) among poultry birds.

The team toured several affected poultry farms, interacted with farm owners, locals, and rapid response teams, officials said.

Abhijit Mitra, a member of the Central team, spoke to reporters in Nimapara block, emphasising that while bird flu primarily affects chickens, the possibility of the virus affecting humans cannot be entirely ruled out.

"No cases of bird flu in humans have been reported in India so far," Mitra noted. The Central team acknowledged the state government's efforts to contain the outbreak and planned to meet with senior officials to suggest recommendations.

In response to the outbreak, over 35,000 birds have been culled in Pipli, Satyabadi, Nimapada, and Delang blocks, officials added. More than 50 rapid response teams are actively involved in culling, disposing of infected birds, and sanitising affected areas. Senior veterinary doctors and other officials were present during the team's visit.

Expose BJP's lies: Naveen to women

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Leader of Opposition and BJD president Naveen Patnaik Wednesday urged women in the state to expose the 'lies' of the BJP, asserting that his party is committed to giving them significant roles and focusing on increasing female membership in the regional party.

Patnaik made these remarks during the concluding session of the Biju Mahila Janata Dal (BMJD) meeting at the party's state headquarters, Sankha Bhavan. "Lies are the biggest identity of BJP," the former CM said.

Dismissing Patnaik's allegation, the BJP claimed that the Opposition party was apprehensive about losing its women vote bank.

"BJD is apprehensive of losing its women vote bank for which Patnaik is casting aspersions on the Subhadra scheme meant for women empowerment," BJP spokesperson Urmila Mohapatra told reporters here.

Patnaik said though the BJP in its election manifesto announced a financial assistance of ₹50,000 to each woman in the state under the Subhadra Yojana within two years, now the government has announced to give it in five years. "That too, women will get a financial assistance

BJP CLAIMS OPPOSITION PARTY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT LOSING ITS WOMEN VOTE BANK

of ₹ 5,000 every six months," he pointed out.

The former CM also recalled the BJP's pre-election promise of providing 300 units of free electricity.

"BJP leaders came to Odisha during elections and made grand announcements, but in reality, people received nothing. The BJP should not betray the trust of women and the public. Our women are aware and will respond appropriately. Expose the BJP's lies. The BJD will continue to be the voice of women in the state," he said.

Asserting that the BJD is dedicated to working for the social and economic empowerment of women, Patnaik highlighted the success of Mission Shakti, which he claimed has united 70 lakh women, transforming them from self-help groups into entrepreneurs actively participating in development activities.

Reacting to Patnaik's 'lies'

jibe pertaining to Subhadra Yojana scheduled to be implemented by the saffron party from September 17, Mohapatra said the BJD is anguished over its loss in the 2024 elections and is now consoling the women leaders with such remarks.

Mohapatra said violence against women crossed all limits in Odisha during the BJD government. "Commissions were formed to probe crimes against women, but these efforts were futile and failed to deliver justice," she said.

Addressing the issue of crimes against women, Patnaik said, "It is a crime against the divine. In our culture, we revere women as goddesses. It is also a crime against humanity and must be stopped at all costs."

He called on women to support those in distress and encourage them to face challenges with courage. "Our collective efforts will help create a safer world for our daughters," Patnaik added.

The BJD chief expressed hope for the introduction of reservation for women in Lok Sabha and Assembly. "We should be fully prepared. Our membership drive should focus on enrolling more women, and I will be assigning greater responsibilities to women within the party organisation," he concluded.

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OPPOSING MOVE: Former students Association and students of Ravenshaw University in Cuttack, Wednesday take out a 'Mashaal' rally in protest against the name change suggestion of the university by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan
PIC: RAJKISHORE MOHANTY

Minister, Dy CM review Ekamra project in City

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Law, Works and Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, along with deputy Chief Minister Pravat Parida and Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi and MLA Babu Singh inspected the Ekamra project in the old town Wednesday.

The delegation first visited the project site near Sanitorium Square. The visit included a review of the project's progress and discussions with officials from the Odisha Bridge and Construction Corporation.

A detailed discussion was held on land acquisition, eviction of encroachment, protection of old monasteries, temples and heritage buildings along with full compensation to the landowners



in the project area and how to carry out the construction work in strict compliance with the guidelines.

At the same time, Watco, TP-CODL and other organisations were directed to complete the outstanding works within the major project areas at the earliest.

Minister directed the officials to give a progress report within seven days.

He said, Lingaraj temple and Ekamra area are famous all over the country. Ekamra Kshetra is closely related to the sentiments of the people of Odisha. Therefore, it will be a matter of pride and

glory for all of us to complete the historic project of Ekamra within the stipulated time.

According to an official statement from the BJP, the Ekamra project aims to attract tourists through various developmental activities around the sacred Bindussagar and Lingaraj Temple areas in Bhubaneswar.

Those present in meeting included Additional Chief Administrative Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Deoranjana Kumar Singh, Chief Administrative Secretary, East Division, Veer Vikram Yadav, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation Commissioner, Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, Khurda District Magistrate, Chanchal Rana and Engineer-in-Chief Purna Chandra Patra.

First-ever PWD musical band to debut today

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The state's first band of musicians with disabilities will make their debut in the Capital city, Thursday.

The event will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

The Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi have collaborated to form the band called 'Ninad'.

Department officials said that 'Ninad' has been formed with the finest musical talents among persons with disabilities selected from across the state through auditions. Following a rigorous selection process, 22 exceptional artistes were selected to perform.

These artistes were mentored by eminent musicians including Laxmikant Palit, who provided them with training to refine their skills and prepare them for the professional stage.

Department's Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi said the initiative will provide the artistes a platform to showcase their musical talents, a feeling of inclusiveness in the society and engage them in different cultural festivals and events through which they can eke out livelihood. The department will provide them platforms - cultural events and festivals organised by government and private organisations to perform.

1st consignment of Dragon fruit exported to Dubai



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo flagged off the first consignment of dragon fruit from Biju Patnaik International Airport here Wednesday.

The fruit, which was grown by Singh Deo himself at Patnagarh was exported to Dubai. Earlier, mangoes from Dhenkanal and 'parwal' from Bolangir had been exported.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Deo said, "The decision taken during the Covid time has yielded result as four quintal of dragon fruit was exported to Dubai through Indigo Cargo."

"The fruits are grown organically so that the nutrients remain intact and fresh longer than those produced with chemical fertilisers. Dragon fruit is beneficial for health. By consuming it, the body will not have problems like cancer, diabetes and consti-

pation," he said.

Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Principal Secretary Arabinda Padhee said the state government has been providing incentives for horticulture produce. Those include farm ponds, irrigation system and subsidy through DBT.

"Today horticulture is given more importance as the demand for it is increasing day by day and the farmers are also getting more returns with lesser investment within a short time," he said.

In the coming days, the government aims to export high-quality agricultural products in large scale, he added.

Director of Horticulture Nikhil Pawan Kalyan and other senior officials of the department were present on the occasion.

CUO receives ICSSR grant worth ₹23L



Bhubaneswar: The Central University of Odisha (CUO) in Koraput has been awarded with a grant of ₹23 lakh by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi for a collaborative research project on 'Viksit Bharat@2047'.

The proposal titled, 'Sustainable Livelihood, Food Security and Rural Transformation through Millets for Viksit Bharat: Primary Data Evidence from Southern and Eastern Indian States' was submitted by a team of researchers, which included two CUO faculties, assistant professor and head of the department (in-charge) of Economics Minati Sahoo as the project director and assistant professor in Journalism and Mass Communication department Sourav Gupta as the co-project director.

3 temporary ponds for Ganesh idol immersion

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: In order to prevent water bodies from pollution, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) prepared three temporary ponds at Kuakhai, Tankapani and Daya river banks for immersion of Ganesh idols, a BMC official said Wednesday.

According to BMC sources, an artificial pond was dug near Tankapani Bridge which is 26 metre in length and 16 metre in width. The pond on Daya riverbed is 25-ft X 12-ft with a depth of 5-ft, while the pond on Kuakhai river is 16-ft in length and 10-ft in width.

"For the last several years, the civic body has been creating artificial ponds for immersion of idols during festivals like Ganesh Puja and Dussehra. The step has been taken to pre-

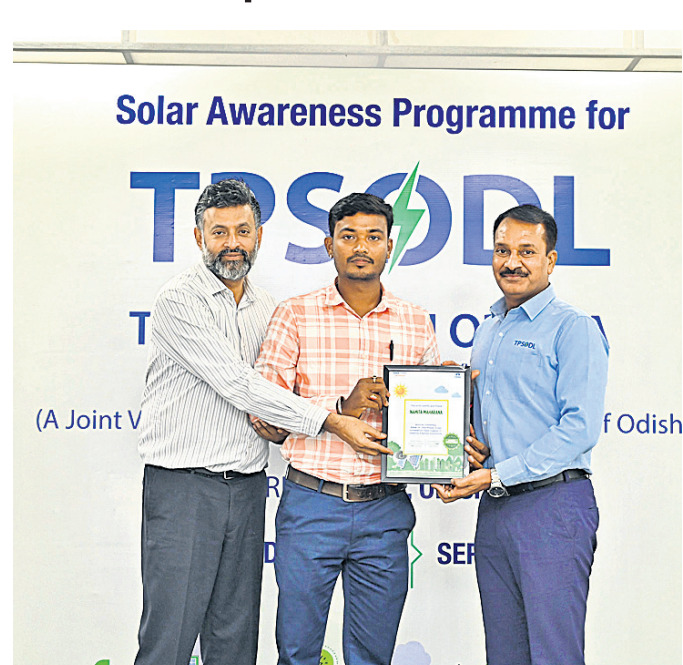
vent pollution of rivers and water sources with petroleum-based colours, polythene and plastic materials that are used for transport of puja materials," official said.

This year, more than 50 pandals will be set up for Ganesh Puja which will take place September 7. The idol immersion will be held September 8, 11 and 12.

As per the instruction of BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, the puja organisers in the City are informed not to dip the idols in river bodies and other natural ponds.

Earlier, DCP Prateek Singh presided over a preparatory meeting for Ganesh Puja with the presidents, secretaries and workers of various puja committees in presence of IICs of different police stations, Zone ACPs and other senior police officers.

TPSODL's drive for adoption of rooftop solar solutions



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has recently launched a mass awareness campaign to promote adoption of solar rooftop across the Southern Odisha, leveraging the region's abundant solar resources.

"The campaign seeks to educate residents, commercial and industrial customers about the benefits of solar energy and available subsidies from the government," company officials said.

"Key elements include information on the Central Financial Assistance (CFA) programme under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, which provides substantial subsidies for rooftop solar installations," they said.

The subsidy amounts range from ₹30,000 per kW for 1 kW to 2 kW systems, ₹78,000 for 3 kW

and above capacities. The campaign also offers support with the application process and technical evaluations.

The campaign was inaugurated by TPSODL CEO Amit Kumar Garg, and Tata Power National Head - Renewables Kaushik Sanyal, in the presence of senior officials from the company.

Emphasising the importance of this initiative, Garg said, "Our solar awareness campaign in Southern Odisha is a strategic move to harness the vast solar potential of the region. Through the promotion of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, we are committed to making solar energy both accessible and affordable for all."

"By driving solar adoption among our 23 lakh consumer base, we are empowering them with reliable, cost-effective, and clean energy solution," he added.

Lok Adalat to be held Sept 14

Bhubaneswar: The Khurda District Legal Services Authority (KDLA) will hold the Lok Adalat September 14. Pending cases like civil disputes, cheque bounce and banking will be heard during the session. The National Legal Service Authority and Odisha State Legal Services Authority, along with KDLA will organise Lok Adalat in all Jurisdictional courts of district, including Bhubaneswar, Khurda, Banapur, Chilika, Jatni, Begunia and Tangi. All types of cognisable criminal and civil cases, including road accident compensation cases, bank loans, electricity and water supply, family, matrimonial cases, land acquisition, labour disputes and check bounce cases can be settled in the said Lok Adalat, an official informed.

'Engage as equal partners in int'l research organisations'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The future scientists should engage in international research organisations as equal partners, rather than on a donor-recipient basis, advised former principal scientific adviser to the Central government R Chidambaram.

Chidambaram joined as the chief guest on the 50th Foundation Day celebration of the Institute of Physics (IOP) here Wednesday.

Other dignitaries including director of IOP KK Nanda, and chairman of the foundation day celebration committee T Som were present.



Nanda delivered the welcome address and briefed about the institution's journey. Giving a short glance on the history of institute, he said, "The institute was founded in 1972 by Professor Bidhu Bhusan Das, then Director of Public Instruction in the state. The institution was established

with the support of the state government and under the patronage of then education minister Banamali Patnaik. Trilochan Pradhan was appointed as the first director of the institution. The institute initially focused on theoretical research across various branches of physics."

Chidambaram delivered a compelling speech, touching on significant advancements in science and technology. He also recounted his experience during the Pokhran nuclear tests and emphasised the country's growing recognition in nuclear physics, a domain historically dominated by western countries.

Mangrove conservation in Astaranga



creation at the Devi River mouth, aiming to enhance both environmental resilience and local livelihoods.

The first phase of the initiative targets planting 10,000 mangroves within the first year, part of a broader goal to establish 50,000 mangroves over the next six years. The move will be implemented in collaboration with the Odisha Paryavaran Sanrakshan Abhiyan Trust. Along the tidal riverbank at Bhanurria Bridge,

six different mangrove species - Bruguiera Gymnorhiza, Kandelia Candel, Ceriops Decandra, Rhizophora apiculata, Bruguiera cylindrica, and Avicennia- will be introduced.

To ensure the success of the initiative, Sabuja Sakha has established a mangrove protection committee, led by local community leader Prashant Nayak. The committee has roped in prominent members including club founder Dibakar Chhatoi and president

Ramakant Bastia.

Among others, Durga Charan Maharana, Prasant Muduli, Ramaranjan Bastia, Santosh Kumar Kandi, Prashant Behera, Pradeep Chhatoi, Hrushikesh Muduli and Saswat sethy work as volunteers in the organisation. They monitor the progress, oversee conservation efforts, and engage with the local community to foster support and awareness.

The benefits of the initiative extend beyond environmental protection. By restoring mangroves, the project aims to strengthen natural defenses against climate impacts, boost local fisheries, and provide livelihood opportunities. The club has been active since 1995 in various welfare activities like education, tree planting, and cleanliness drives. PNN

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Landmine threat haunts residents of border areas

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Sept 4: Residents of Odisha-Jharkhand border areas are leading a dreadful life as lurking landmines laid by Maoists, targeting security forces, may go off at any time when they step out in search of livelihood.

Odisha-Jharkhand border is fraught with risks due to anti-Maoist operations.

"Here, someone maybe residing in Jharkhand, but his land is situated in Odisha border. For these villagers, crossing over to either side is a daily phenomenon," said a police officer on condition of anonymity.

Villagers of Chotanagra, Jariekela, Tirliposh, Maragiri, Hatiburu, Bitkilsoya, Thalkobad, Sagjodi, Digha, Redha and Samtha depend on the dense Saranda forest from where they collect firewood, mahua flowers other forest products. They sell these products on either side of the border. They also prefer to sell them in Rourkela and its nearby



weekly markets.

Problem, however, arises when anti-Maoist operations come into play.

According to sources, putting every step in Saranda jungle is fraught with life risks as Maoists have laid landmines during the anti-Maoist operation which is going on in Jharkhand for the last three months.

Sources also said a teenage boy died when he accidentally stepped on a landmine which exploded in November last year. Security forces have warned them against going into the jungles.

"Security forces have recov-

ered hundreds of explosives weighing 3kg and 10kg during the period from January to July. The ultras are laying the explosives at strategic points to stall the patrolling," sources added. It is highly impossible for innocent villagers to trace the landmines, which is the job of the security forces only.

"We are going to those areas that have been cleared by the security forces. This is a very long tedious process to clear a particular area," said a villager of Samtha in Jharkhand.

The fear is such that villagers reluctant to walk on kutcha roads.

Police nab 2 for land fraud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Sept 4: Police Wednesday arrested two persons for fraudulently selling four acres of prime land in Ganjam district.

Deed writer Maheswar Patra (44) and broker P Pravakar (48) are accused of selling the plot to 18 people at Kanishi tehsil sub-registration office in 2022-23, without the knowledge of the actual landowners, police said.

Police have confiscated fake voter ID cards of the landowners, duplicate sales deed documents, and other land-related papers from the suspects, according to Golanthara police station in-charge Bibekandan Swain.

Investigation also involved questioning some of the buyers. While the exact amount involved in the fraud is still being determined, the estimated cost of the total plot is over ₹50 lakh, police said.



Prohibitory orders imposed near Motto Degree College

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhadrak, Sept 4: Authorities of Bhadrak district administration Wednesday clamped prohibitory orders in nearby areas of a college at Chandbali, following a police report about possible clashes among supporters of the BJP and BJD, officials said Wednesday.

The move is aimed at maintaining law and order in Chandbali on the occasion of the foundation day of Motto Plus-III Degree College, they said.

"There could be clashes and vi-

olence among supporters of the two parties, as BJP state president Manmohan Samal and MP Abimanyu Sethi have been invited for the event, while local BJD MLA was not extended an invitation," a district official said.

Odisha BJD youth president Prince Rakesh and some other party activists had demonstrated on the college campus Tuesday, police said.

Bhadrak Sub-Collector Manoj Patra promulgated the prohibitory orders under different sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in one-km radius

of the college, including Kheranga Bazar, Nalgonda Bazar, Digachia market and Motto market from 7am of Wednesday till 7am Thursday.

The orders, which were imposed in view of a report submitted by the inspector-in-charge of Chandbali police station, restrict meetings and gatherings of more than five people in the designated areas.

SDPO (Chandbali) Kartik Mallick said there is heavy security deployment at the college and Bhadrak SP is monitoring the situation.

Anti-Maoist posters surface in villages of Niyamgiri hills

RAYAGADA: Anti-Maoist posters have been spotted at various places within the Niyamgiri hill area under Kalyansinghpur and Muniguda police limits in Rayagada district, Wednesday morning. Reportedly put up by the 'Sachetana Dongria Mancha', the posters strongly opposed the Maoist organisation, stating that many years ago, the Red rebels came to the area claiming they would solve people's problems, but instead they exploited the gullible tribals. They then instilled fear among the locals by showing guns and bullets, as per the posters. The posters also mentioned that the Maoists have been extorting money from ganja (marijuana) and timber mafias for their own benefit. In the posters, the villagers have been urged to stay away from the Maoists, take an oath to not shelter them, and refrain from providing any assistance.



Youth drowns in pond

Aska: In a tragic incident, a 25-year-old youth drowned in a pond at K Nuaagon village under Khandadeuli panchayat and this police limits in Ganjam district, Wednesday morning. The deceased youth, identified as Krishna Chandra Patra, had gone to take bath in the village pond around 9:30am after finishing farm work. However, he slipped and fell into the pond, leading to drowning. Villagers rescued and rushed him to Aska hospital, where the doctor declared him dead. An unnatural death case (20/24) has been registered in this regard at Aska PS.

500 turtles seized; 4 arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 4: Forest officials Wednesday seized 500 turtles and arrested four smugglers near Motu-Chintur road in bordering Andhra Pradesh under Kalimela block of this district.

Acting on a tip-off, officers of Motu Forest range intercepted two pick-up vans. When asked, the drivers told the forest officials that they were transporting fertilizers. The forest officials, however, grew suspicious and conducted a search of the vehicles. They found at least 500 live turtles stashed in the containers loaded on the vehicles. The tur-



tles were being smuggled from Andhra Pradesh to Odisha, it was learnt.

The seized turtles and the vehicles have been kept at the Forest department's MV 79 office premises. Investigation is underway, said forest officer Rashmiranjan Swain.

Baby elephant brings cheers in Sundargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 4: In what has brought cheers to wildlife lovers and nearby villagers, a baby elephant has taken birth in Kuanrunda forest range under this forest division recently.

The forest officials spotted the calf along with its mother Monday, though they preferred not to go closer to the mother-baby duo.

"Definitely this is a good news for all of us as a baby has taken birth after a long time under Rourkela forest division," said divisional forest officer (DFO) Jasobanta Sethi.



The mother jumbo and the calf are doing well and roaming near Birkera under Rukudipeta reserve forest under Kuanrunda forest range.

The forester learnt about the incident from the nearby vil-

lagers and informed the range officer of Kuanrunda to constitute a team that visited the spot and found the mother-baby duo.

"We found the mother and the calf in good health," said the

Man trampled to death

Meanwhile, tragedy struck Kulkutra village under Bonai forest range when a male elephant, which had made their life miserable for quite some days, trampled a man to death. The deceased was identified as Govinda Munda. The incident occurred when a few villagers and some forest officials were trying to drive away the makhna elephant. The elephant attacked Govinda when the latter fell into a pit. He was rushed to Bonai PHC where doctors pronounced him dead.

forest officer. Meanwhile, a video has gone

viral showing villagers rejoicing the moment as the forest range has got a new guest, even though the mother elephant is devouring the standing crops. The villagers were seen in the video leading the jumbo into the nearby reserve forest.

According to sources, a 24-member jumbo herd had been camping in the jungle for quite some days. However, the group split into two during mid-monsoon. While 18 went in another direction, six stayed put in Rukudipeta reserve forest and nearby areas. The mother-calf duo belongs to the smaller herd.



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The Trump Threat

An overhauled Democratic ticket has re-energized the party and eliminated the widening polling lead that former US President Donald Trump had over his successor, Joe Biden. There is much to admire in Kamala Harris and Tim Walz's backgrounds, careers, and recent campaign speeches, which have focused on fighting poverty, improving the lot of working people, reclaiming patriotism from Republicans, and strengthening democracy. But even setting aside these virtues, there are good reasons to support the Democratic ticket. After all, the alternative is Trump, who poses such a serious threat to US institutions that any halfway decent candidate running against him would deserve strong support.

Trump threatens American democracy in part because US institutions were not designed to deal with an autocratic populist who is willing to break norms and even laws. As I pointed out in 2017, American voters and civil society are ultimately the only forces that can stop such a figure. Although American democracy withstood Trump's presidency in 2017-21, he exploited every institutional weakness he could find, deepened the divisions of an already polarized society, and tried to overturn the result of a free and fair election that he lost.

The Democrats successfully reclaimed the White House in the 2020 election, despite Trump's coup attempt on 6 January, 2021, because they had a major advantage: his own incompetence. Although long-standing political norms had been severely damaged, democracy survived.

Trump's incompetence as president had two dimensions. First, he was incapable of demonstrating any consistency. His only real agenda was to concentrate power in his own hands and elevate and enrich his family and cronies, but he lacked the discipline and focus to see it through. The terrifying implication, of course, is that somebody more disciplined could have done far more damage. Second, Trump failed to win the unconditional personal loyalty of many of his underlings, and that ultimately meant that most of his wildest schemes and decisions were exposed or blocked from within.

Unfortunately, Trump poses a far greater threat to American democracy today for five key reasons. First, he has grown only angrier, which means he will be more determined to concentrate power in his own hands and deploy it against his enemies (real and perceived). If he returns to the White House, he will be not only more vicious but also potentially more consistent in pursuing his personal agenda.

Second, Trump and his ideological fellow travelers will have put much more thought and vetting into high- and mid-level appointees, as they have already done for his implicit governing agenda: the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025. Although Trump claims to renounce this comprehensive policy blueprint, it has already become a valuable tool for identifying potential administration personnel. Supporting the Heritage Foundation's dark vision is a litmus test, ensuring that no whistleblowers or defenders of democracy can serve as the "adults in the room" this time around.

Third, the GOP is now Trump's personal cult, which means that local Republican officials across the country will be willing to do whatever he commands. Some may go so far as attempting to rig elections and seize control of local law enforcement and public services. If Trump once again demands that local election officials "find" more votes in his favor, he might just get what he wants.

Fourth, owing to a variety of mistakes by intellectual elites and Democratic Party leaders – such as advocating extreme "woke" positions like open borders, defunding the police, and so forth – many right-leaning, moderate, and non-college voters have concluded that Democrats are left-wing extremists. Those who see the Democrats as lacking patriotism will be much less likely to break with Trump, even though Harris and Walz are taking steps to appeal to them.

Fifth, for all these same reasons, effective civil-society action against Trump has become more difficult. After years in which the left has applied its own ideological purity tests and shamed anyone who falls short, fewer independent voters and moderate Republicans will be willing to join a big-tent anti-Trump coalition. Progressive Democrats could end up standing alone against his unconstitutional or anti-democratic behavior, and that would not be enough.

For all these reasons, Trump's threat to US institutions must be taken seriously. Once again, the only way to defend American democracy is to use democratic means to defeat him. Democracy thrives when it delivers real-world results and helps people fulfill their aspirations. In practice, that means promoting economic prosperity, security, fairness, competent governance, and stability. The latter is especially important for withstanding periodic shocks and challenges, including threats to democracy itself.

Trump is not the first anti-democratic demagogue to attract a strong following, and he will not be the last. US institutions became stronger after withstanding a proto-fascist challenge from Father Charles Coughlin in the late 1930s; resistance to Black civil rights in the Jim Crow South of the 1950s and 1960s; the segregationist George Wallace's 1968 presidential run; and Watergate. If Trump is defeated this November, US institutions will emerge stronger once again.

But for democracy to withstand such challenges, there must be good alternatives on the ballot. People must be able to cast a vote for politicians with good track records of solving problems, inspiring people, and defending free institutions. The Harris-Walz ticket looks like it fits the bill. Now begins the hard work of mobilizing people and restoring support for democracy. But the even harder work will be to deliver on the promises of democracy, by combating poverty and inequality, reducing polarization and extremism from both sides, and demonstrating that government does work for the common people.

The writer is Institute Professor of Economics at MIT.
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Daron Acemoglu

Trump is not the first anti-democratic demagogue to attract a strong following, and he will not be the last



Bruhaspati Samal

BY GENERALISING CERTAIN COURT ORDERS, THE JUDICIARY CAN ENSURE A MORE EQUITABLE AND JUST LEGAL SYSTEM

FOCUS JUSTICE

JUDICIAL GENERALISATION



The judiciary has made significant progress in delivering justice, yet the inconsistency in applying judgements to similarly placed individuals remains a persistent challenge

Indian judiciary, known for its independence and commitment to justice, frequently delivers judgments that are meticulously tailored to the specifics of individual cases. However, a significant issue within this legal framework is the inconsistency in applying these judgments to similarly placed individuals, particularly in the context of employees and workers. The current practice often results in situations where individuals in similar circumstances receive different outcomes due to the case-specific nature of judgments. This discrepancy raises concerns about the fairness and uniformity of the legal process, particularly for those who find themselves in comparable situations but are treated differently under the law.

Judicial generalisation refers to the practice of applying a court's ruling more broadly to all similarly placed individuals, rather than restricting it to specific parties involved in the case. This approach is particularly important in matters concerning employees and workers, where consistent application of legal principles is essential to maintaining fairness. A notable example of judicial generalisation in India is the Vishaka case (Vishaka and others v. State of Rajasthan, 1997). In this landmark ruling, the Supreme Court established guidelines to address sexual harassment at workplace. These guidelines were made applicable to all workplaces across India until specific legislation was enacted, demonstrating how a court order can be extended to protect the rights of a broader group. The Vishaka judgement stands as a powerful example of the judiciary's capacity to generalise a ruling to benefit a larger segment of society.

In contrast, the implementation of the Ranganath Misra Commission's recommendations on reservations for minorities illustrates the challenges of inconsistent

application. Despite the Supreme Court's ruling in Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992), which upheld the Mandal Commission's recommendations for OBC reservations, the extension of similar principles to religious and linguistic minorities has been uneven across different states. This inconsistency underscores the difficulties in generalising court orders, particularly when they intersect with complex social and political issues.

The inconsistency in judicial orders has a profound impact on employees and workers, especially those in the public sector. For example, in State of Punjab v. Jagjit Singh (2016), the Supreme Court ruled that temporary employees performing the same work as regular employees are entitled to equal pay. However, the implementation of this ruling has varied across states and public sector organisations, leading to disparities among similarly placed workers. Daily wage workers have frequently been at the centre of legal disputes concerning their rights to regularisation and fair wages. The Supreme Court, in Secretary, State of Karnataka v. Uma Devi, 2006, ruled that irregular appointments could not be regularised without following due process. However, subsequent

judgements, such as State of Karnataka v. M.L. Kesari (2010), have allowed exceptions under certain conditions. This inconsistency in application of regularisation principles highlights the need for a more generalised approach to ensure that all similarly placed workers are treated equitably.

One of the more recent examples of a case-specific ruling that has not yet been generalised is the Supreme Court's judgement on the issue of granting notional increments to employees who retired on 30 June and 31 December. In Union of India v. P. Parmeswaran (2019), the Supreme Court ruled that an employee who retired on 30 June, the day before the annual increment was due, was entitled to the increment notionally, even though they were not in service on 1 July, the date of the increment. This judgement, though providing relief to the petitioner, has not been generalised to apply to all similarly placed retirees. As a result, other employees who retired on the same dates have had to approach the courts individually to claim the same relief, leading to a multiplicity of litigation and inconsistent outcomes. This case exemplifies the need for generalisation of judicial orders to prevent a piecemeal approach to justice.

To address these challenges, several steps could be taken to promote generalisation of judicial orders. The Supreme Court could issue broader guidelines outlining the circumstances under which judgements should be generalised to apply to similarly placed individuals. These guidelines would help lower courts uniformly apply principles established by higher courts. Moreover, the legislature should work closely with the judiciary to clarify laws and address legislative gaps that often lead to inconsistent judgements. Clear and comprehensive legislation would reduce the need for judicial interpretation and ensure uniformity in the application of court orders. Judicial training and awareness are also crucial in ensuring a consistent understanding of how to apply precedents across different cases. Strengthening the role of PIL is another vital step. PILs have been instrumental in bringing about systemic changes, and the judiciary should encourage PILs that aim to generalise court orders, particularly in cases affecting large groups of similarly placed individuals. Finally, the creation of a centralised database of all Supreme Court and High Court judgements, accessible to both the public and the judiciary, would facilitate the identification of cases where generalisation of orders is necessary. This database would also support the uniform application of judgements across the country, reducing disparities in legal outcomes.

The judiciary has made significant progress in delivering justice, yet the inconsistency in applying judgements to similarly placed individuals remains a persistent challenge. By generalising certain court orders, the judiciary can ensure a more equitable and just legal system.

The writer is General Secretary, Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers, Odisha State Coordination Committee.

SPECTRUM BRITAIN

Lumpen politics of Labour Party

In a Labour Party Election Broadcast on 16 April, Keir Starmer highlighted how his working-class background influences his approach to politics. In a BBC interview on 27 May, Starmer reinforced his working-class roots and promised to serve the interests of the working people in Britain. He even described himself as a progressive and a socialist. However, the mass hope following the Conservative Party's defeat is fading as Starmer's politics and policies as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom are revealed. As he unveils himself as PM, he not only betrays his working-class voters but also his own working-class heritage. Starmer's ideology, political positions, principles and policies changes more often than British weather. There is nothing called political pledge to principles for him.

In a recent press briefing on 27 August, Starmer warned the working masses in Britain that the upcoming October budget would be painful. He advised people to "accept short-term pain for long-term good." He is planning to implement Tory austerity measures that will increase the cost of everyday living for working people.

Starmerism is an ideology-free zone where commitment to principles is denied, and the lumpen politics of opportunism are promoted to uphold the interests of the transnational and national capitalist classes in Britain. He seized every opportunity to suppress democratic dissent within the party, ensuring that there is no space for popular leftist leadership or socialist debates within the Labour Party under his leadership. In doing so, Starmer has not only dismantled the Labour Party as a democratic socialist party but also transformed the party into a second-rate Tory party. The traditional Labour Party is doomed, and the future of Britain looks bleak under Starmer.

Austerity is not an economic policy; it is a project by the capitalist class to drain the pockets of working people. Austerity measures create economic conditions where the working masses suffer in crisis, normalising low wages and naturalising job insecurity. These conditions of low wages and job insecurity undermine a productive environment for innovation and diminish the productive abilities of the working class. Britain began experiencing rising wealth in-

equalities and increasing low incomes during the 1980s due to policies of liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation. These policies introduced structural adjustments and internal austerity measures as policy alternatives. In reality, austerity can neither help in the short term nor in the long term. It works against social, economic, and scientific progress and prosperity. It creates conditions of destitution that destabilise economy. Therefore, austerity is a destructive economic choice, now being adopted by the Labour government under the leadership of Starmer.

The working people are suffering from the rising cost of living crisis, whereas British corporations are making super profits. The Labour Party government is working like the Tories to protect the super-rich in Britain by marginalising the working people. His electoral promises and his actions in government are diametrically opposed to each other. The working masses did not vote for austerity measures in health, education, transportation, and other welfare services. People gave a landslide victory to the Labour Party to recover from the crisis, not to nor-

malise it in their everyday lives in Britain.

The lumpen politics of the Labour Party under Starmer's leadership reveals that there is no fundamental difference between the Conservative and Labour leadership. Both uphold the interests of the British establishment. It is clear that these two parties have failed and have no plans to uphold the interests of the working masses. Such an ideological alliance between the two mainstream parties in Britain creates an opportunity to establish the foundations of alternative politics based on peace, prosperity, and progress.

Working-class mobilisation is the first step toward defeating these two mainstream parties and politics of their lumpen leadership. The working-class dependency on the British establishment must end. It is time to establish working-class politics as the only viable alternative to establishment politics. No more expenditure on wars and focus on people's welfare. These possibilities can only address ongoing everyday crisis in Britain.

The writer teaches at the London Metropolitan University. Views are personal.

WISDOM CORNER

- We cannot be more sensitive to pleasure without being more sensitive to pain. ALAN WATTS
- Be brave. Take risks. Nothing can substitute experience. PAULO COELHO
- What's coming will come and we'll just have to meet it when it does. JK ROWLING

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1793:** The Reign of Terror began as harsh measures were undertaken against those suspected of being enemies of the French Revolution (nobles, priests, and hoarders); in Paris a wave of executions followed.
- 1960:** American boxer Muhammad Ali (then known as Cassius Clay) won the gold medal in the 175-pound division at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome and then embarked on a professional career that saw him become one of the sport's most legendary competitors.
- 1972:** Palestinian terrorists attacked the Olympic Village in Munich, West Germany, during the Summer Olympic Games, taking hostages and eventually killing 11 members of the Israeli team.

Paucity of judges

Sir, The recent "National Conference of District Judiciary," held in New Delhi and attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, rightly focused on two pressing issues plaguing the country's judicial system: pendency in courts and the working conditions of the district judges. Paucity of judges has been a matter of concern for a long time but as senior advocate Kapil Sibal told the distinguished gathering, many brilliant young minds choose not to seek appointment at the district judiciary because of the abysmal conditions in which the judges have to operate. The district level judges are hampered by, among others, a lack of proper courtrooms, office staff, residential accommodation and transport facilities. The sooner the stakeholders address these lacunae, the better it is for the litigants because it is only a secure and comfortable judge who can deliver dispassionate and speedy justice. Also, procedural delay leading to snail-paced justice delivery has to be addressed on a war-footing.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Praiseworthy decision

Sir, This refers to "SC raps bulldozer justice." Orissa POST, September 3. I think, the Supreme Court deserves to be praised for attempting to do away with the illegal practice of demolishing housing properties of convicted criminals without following the due process of law. This unlawful activity, practiced mostly by BJP-ruled states, ought not to have continued in this country had the Central government been honest enough to stop it. Why the government had to wait for the apex court to take up the matter? It would have been proper had the Solicitor General of India had suo motu advised the government at the Centre to frame guidelines what the apex court is now contemplating to do against these vengeful demolitions. The people who have faced the wrath of the bulldozer justice of the government must be compensated fully.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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Kangana's 'Emergency' fails to get relief from Bombay HC

Scheduled for release September 6, the biographical drama is caught up in a controversy after Sikh organisations, including the Shiromani Akali Dal, objected, accusing it of misrepresenting the community and getting historical facts wrong



The bench directed the censor board to consider the objections raised by the Sikh groups and certify the film by September 18

Mumbai, Sept 4: Kangana Ranaut's 'Emergency' film will miss the September 6 scheduled release date, with the Bombay High Court Wednesday refusing to grant any urgent relief by directing the censor board to certify the movie immediately.

A division bench of Justices BP Colabawalla and Firdosh Pooniwalla said it cannot grant any urgent relief at this stage in the wake of the directive issued by the Madhya Pradesh HC directing the censor board to consider objections to the movie before certifying it.

The bench said if not for the Madhya Pradesh HC it would have directed the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) to issue certificate to the movie "today" itself.

Scheduled for release September 6, the biographical drama is caught up in a controversy after Sikh organisations, including the Shiromani Akali Dal, objected, accusing it of mis-

Madhya Pradesh HC order was not there, then it would have directed the CBFC to "issue the certificate today itself".

"We know that there is something else happening behind. We don't want to comment on it. The CBFC shall consider the objections and take a decision by September 18," it said.

The Madhya Pradesh HC Tuesday heard petitions filed by Sikh groups claiming that the film contains scenes that may hurt their religious sentiments and may hence cause unrest.

The CBFC claimed there that the movie was yet to be issued a certificate.

The Madhya Pradesh HC then directed the censor board to consider the representation of the petitioner Sikh groups raising objections to the film before issuing the certificate to the movie.

The CBFC was directed to carry out the exercise and decide expeditiously.

During the hearing of the petition filed by Zee Entertainment, the Bombay HC said that while it was with the petitioner on the issue, it could not grant any relief in the wake of the Madhya Pradesh HC order.

"The Madhya Pradesh HC has given the CBFC a direction. If we give any relief today then it would be directly in contravention to that order. We will be asking CBFC to breach another HC order if we pass any order today. We cannot do that. Judicial propriety demands that of us," the bench said.

Let the CBFC examine it, the court said.

The bench directed the censor board to consider the objections raised by the Sikh groups and certify the film by September 18.

SHIVAJI STATUE COLLAPSE

Pune, Sept 4: The Congress Wednesday alleged a meagre amount of ₹1.5 crore was spent on the construction of the Shivaji Maharaj statue that had collapsed in coastal Sindhudurg even though a sum of "Rs 236 crore" was taken for this work from the state coffers.

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole also hit back at Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other leaders of the Mahayuti who have accused the Opposition of politicising the statue incident.

Speaking to reporters in Pune ahead of the party's constituency review meeting for Assembly elections, AICC in-charge for Maharashtra, Ramesh Chennithala, alleged spike in crimes against women and children, and murders, which is testimony to the worsening law and order situation under the Mahayuti government.

"Every day cases of murders, and sexual assaults on women and children are being reported. In Pune, two murders were reported. It shows that the law and order situation has crumbled completely," Chennithala told reporters.

He alleged the state government was insensitive towards people and engrossed in perpetrating "scams and means to collect money".

Patole claimed approximately ₹236 crore was taken from the state government's coffers in the name of the construction of Shivaji Maharaj's statue at Rajkot fort in Sindhudurg district.

"But as per our information, the statue construction work was completed with ₹1 crore to ₹1.5 crore," the Congress leader alleged.

The statue collapsed August 26, more than eight months after it was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, triggering a political firestorm.

Responding to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's charge that the Opposition was politicising the statue incident, Patole said venting anger against the "insult" of Shivaji Maharaj and the Badlapur incident cannot be termed as politicising the matter.

Two four-year-old girls were allegedly sexually abused by a male sweeper at a school in Badlapur in Thane district. The Opposition had alleged that the police delayed the registration of FIR in the case.

"These issues are beyond the realm of politics," Patole said, alleging the government was not taking the Opposition into confidence and instead the ruling parties are organising counter protests.

Youth Cong demands CM's resignation



LDF MLA'S ALLEGATIONS

Kochi, Sept 4: The Congress party's youth wing Wednesday held protests in various parts of Kerala, including the port-city of Kochi, demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in connection with the allegations by LDF MLA PV Anvar against the CM's political secretary and some top IPS officers in the state.

In Kochi, the Youth Congress (YC) activists marched to the office of the police commissioner demanding the CM's resignation.

The activists were stopped by police barricades and then water cannons were used several times to disperse them, according to visuals on TV channels.

The activists, however, did not disperse and sat down on the road in front of the barricades shouting slogans against the CM.

The police then forcibly carried them away into the police buses.

Similar scenes were witnessed outside the Malappuram SP's office, where things turned violent when police began forcibly removing the YC protestors from the site.

Meanwhile, the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) said that the party will hold a protest march to the Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram Friday demanding the CM's resignation, removal of the alleged criminals in the CMO and seeking a CBI probe into the allegations made by Anvar.

The KPCC, in a statement, said that KPCC chief K Sudhakaran, Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly

VD Satheesan and various other senior Congress leaders will take part in the protest.

Putting the CPI(M)-led government in a spot, Anvar, the MLA from Nilambur, had Sunday accused Vijayan's political secretary P Sasi and ADGP (Law and

Order) Ajith Kumar of breaching trust and failing to discharge their duties honestly.

He had alleged that Kumar tapped ministers' phone conversations, had links with gold smuggling rackets and was involved in serious crimes.

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CONG HINTS AT CORRUPTION IN CONSTRUCTION

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THE REAL STORY OF SURVIVAL

Kids of landslide-hit Wayanad back to school

As over a month passed after the landslides devastated the interiors of the hill district, the Kerala government, under the auspices of the General Education Department, had made arrangements to resume the studies of the survivor children



of the buses with his friends. "I want to study well. That's my hope while resuming the studies," he said with a smile.

Ahalya, another student, also shared the happiness of restarting studies, but Ajmal, a 9th standard student, said he did not know whether he was happy or not at the moment.

"If you are asking me whether I am happy now, I am not," he said and stared out of the window.

One of the parents said while their locality may be a small one, but there was no need for them to go outside for anything.

"Everything was here, from school and bank to post office... it is for the first time that these children are going out for their study requirements. Let them adapt to the new circumstances and go ahead," she said.

The children of Vellarmala and Mundakkai were given a grand welcome Monday at Meppadi, located some 10 kilometres away from the landslide-hit areas.

They were ushered to their new class rooms by general education minister V Sivankutty, his cabinet colleagues, and other people's representatives who offered them sweets, as a band performance accompanied them.

The temporary classes had all facilities, including fresh furniture and other study material. The classes were painted with beautiful pictures to bring happiness and positivity to the minds of children.

Mundakkai GLPS and Vellarmala GVHSS had suffered immense damage in the July 30 calamity, which had also claimed the lives of several children who studied there.

As over a month passed after the landslides devastated the interiors of the hill district, the Kerala government, under the auspices of the General Education Department, had made arrangements to resume the studies of the survivor children

Temporary classrooms were set up for them in the government higher secondary school and at the panchayat community hall in nearby Meppadi. Thus, over 600 children of Mundakkai and Vellarmala schools restarted their studies amid colourful ceremonies and festivities Monday. Many children expressed their wish to study well and thus overcome the shock of the unexpected tragedy.

Mohammed Shahid, a class VI student, was seen happily seated in one

Central Bank of India (A Government of India Undertaking) Regional Office: Plot No.: 108-B, 1st Floor, Unit - VII, Surya Nagar, Near Gopabandhu Square, Bhubaneswar-751003, E-mail: recoverybhuro@centralbank.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISIO TO RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Central Bank of India- Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on the date and time specified herein below, for recovery of due to the Central Bank of India- Secured Creditor from the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit of the respective property is mentioned herein below:-

Table with columns: Sl. No., BRANCH/ Name & Address of the Borrowers / Account, Name & Address of the Guarantor/ Mortgagee, Description of Property, Demand Notice Amount / Demand Notice Date/ Possession Notice Date, Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- 1. Date & Time of E-Auction : 27.09.2024 from 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M with auto extension of 10 minutes.
2. Last Date & Time of Submission of EMD online on or before 27.09.2024 up to 10.00 A.M.
3. Date and Time of Property Inspection: 05.09.2024 to 25.09.2024 on any working day during office hours in consultation with respective Branch Head.
4. For Participating in the E-auction sale, the intending bidders should register their details with the service provider https://uat.ebkray.in/psb-alliance-web/bidder-registration well in advance and shall get user ID & password. For detailed terms & conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in https://ebkray.in and Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.centralbankofindia.co.in. The interested bidders who require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, please go through USER MANUAL in URL: https://ebkray.in. For any support please call on Mob.: 8291220220 & Mail ID: support.ebkray@psballiance.com
5. For any property related query, bidders may contact: MRS. SWARNALATA SAMAL, Branch Head, Palaspalli Branch, Mob No.: 7381004818, E-mail ID: bmbhub4818@centralbank.co.in at any working day during office hours.
6. The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/additional stamp duties/transfer charges, fees etc. and also all statutory/ non-statutory dues, taxes, TDS, rates, fees etc. owing to anybody.
7. Other terms and conditions are available in the auction site.

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 23.08.2024 Authorised Officer Central Bank of India

national



No social security, no stable income and no permanent job - contractual labour has reduced a job of great responsibility to a state of compulsion

RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

33 PC QUOTA ANNOUNCED FOR WOMEN IN RAJ POLICE

Rajasthan Cabinet Wednesday decided to give 33 per cent reservation to women in Rajasthan Police subordinate services. An official said that Rajasthan Police Subordinate Service Rules 1989 has been amended to pave the way for the induction of the reservation



of the day quote

The All India Bank Employees Association has revealed, through publicly available data, how public sector banks that had claims of about ₹62,000 crore from 10 financially stressed companies have been made to settle for just ₹16,000 crore after the non-biological PM's favourite business group took over these 10 companies

JAIRAM RAMESH | CONG GENERAL SECY

The MHA today constituted a central team of experts, led by the Additional Secretary (Disaster Management), MHA. The team will visit the flood-affected areas for an on-the-spot assessment of flood management, reservoir management, issues of dam safety, etc. and make recommendations for immediate relief

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

Ab Bangladesh ki dori to aise haath main chala gaya hai, ki Pakistan ka bada Bhai ban jayega, Chhota nahi rahenga, to kaun investor wahan jaana chahega (Reins of Bangladesh fallen into such hands that it will become big brother of Pakistan...then which investor would like to go there)

GIRIRAJ SINGH | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Drunk man rapes mother, arrested

Kota (Rajasthan): A 28-year-old was arrested for allegedly raping his mother in an inebriated state in Bundi district, police Wednesday said. According to the police, the incident occurred on Friday, when the accused was returning home at a village with his 52-year-old mother, they said. After the incident, the victim, along with her younger son and daughter, reached Dabi Police Station and lodged a complaint against her son, police said. Police arrested the accused, who during initial interrogation confessed his crime.

SC to hear Kejriwal's pleas today

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear Thursday Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's pleas seeking bail and challenging his arrest by the CBI in the alleged excise policy scam. According to the cause list, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan is likely to hear the matter. The top court had August 23 allowed the CBI to file its counter affidavit in the matter and gave two days to Kejriwal to file a rejoinder. Kejriwal has filed two separate petitions challenging the denial of bail and against his arrest by the CBI in the case.

Mizoram govt hikes petrol, diesel prices

Aizawl: The Mizoram government has hiked prices of petrol and diesel by ₹4 per litre each with effect from September 1, a minister said Wednesday. Taxation Minister Dr Vanlalhlana said the hike was for social infrastructure and road maintenance.

3 children die in wall collapse

Chandigarh: Three children were killed when a wall of a brick kiln collapsed on them while they were talking shelter during a heavy rain in Panchkula Wednesday, police said. The oldest of the three was a seven-year-old girl, the other two were boys -- each aged 5 and 2.5 years, they said. According to the police, the children were playing near the brick kiln where their parents worked as labourers, when it started raining.

Manipur village on edge after explosive attacks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Sept 4: A section of villagers of Senjam Chirang in Manipur have been forced to abandon their homes and seek refuge in a nearby community hall after bombs dropped from a drone injured three members of a local resident's family two days ago.

The first bomb smashed through the roof of a 65-year-old farmer's house, injuring his daughter. Minutes later, another bomb fell from the sky and injured him and his son. Watham

Gambhir said the explosive that broke the roof of his house was the second of the three bombs that were dropped from a drone on Monday evening in his house. The first one damaged his cowshed, which was empty, and the third explosive injured him and his son who took shelter under a tree after fleeing home in Imphal West district. Drones are a new technology added recently to the weapons used in the violence between the two large ethnic groups -- Meitei and Kuki -- in the northeastern state, which left over 200 people dead

DRONES OF TERROR



since May last year. The use of the remote-controlled small flying device as a weapon is first noticed in Manipur Sunday in Koutruk

village in Imphal West district. In the attack in which guns were also used, two persons were killed and nine others were injured. Drones were employed again in Senjam Chirang, around three km away, the next day.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh has described the dropping of bombs on the civilian population and security forces using drones as an act of terrorism. The state government has imposed restrictions on the import of drones or their components. Naoba Singh, a villager vol-

unteer, suspected that hi-tech drones that can be used at night were brought from outside the country.

Both Meiteis and Kukis formed armed volunteer groups to protect their villages from attack by the other community.

The three persons injured in the bombings in Senjam Chirang were undergoing treatment in a private hospital in Imphal.

A government official said that earlier, the trend was to purchase drones from outside the state but those were used for recreation.

BJP defeats AAP in MCD ward poll

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: The BJP Wednesday defeated the AAP in the MCD ward polls, sealing its dominance in the highest decision making body of the civic agency -- the standing committee.

The BJP bagged the posts of chairman, deputy chairman of the zonal-level ward committees, and one member each for standing committee in seven of 12 zones, restricting AAP to five zones in the keenly contested poll.

Voting in Karol Bagh and City SP did not take place as BJP did not field a candidate, while in Keshav Puram, BJP's was the sole candidate in fray. BJP bagged Narela, Civil Lines, Keshav Puram, Shahdara North, Najafgarh, Shahdara South, and Central Zones, while AAP won Karol Bagh, West, South, City SP and Rohini zones.

Pawan Shehrawat and Sugandha, the councillors who recently switched sides from the AAP to BJP, won the post of chairman for the ward committees from Narela and Central Zones respectively.

The Civil Lines Zone saw a keen contest between the AAP and BJP with the saffron party winning all three posts by a margin of one vote each. Anil Kumar Tyagi defeated Ajeet Singh Yadav by polling 10 votes, while Rekha triumphed over her rival Gagan Chaudhary in a similar fashion.

Former North Delhi mayor and BJP leader of opposition in MCD Raja Iqbal Singh defeated Promila Gupta of AAP by polling 10 votes as against nine by her.

In the Karol Bagh Zone, AAP councillor Rakesh Joshi was elected unopposed as chairman of the ward committee, while Jyoti Gautam and Anush Narang bagged the posts of deputy chairman and member of the standing committee in absence of any BJP candidate.

AAP candidates Mohd Sadiq, Kiran Bala, and Punardeep Singh Sawhney were elected unopposed as chairman, deputy chairman of the ward committee, and member of the standing committee from City SP Zone in the absence of any candidates from the BJP.

SHAHI IDGAH DISPUTE

Muslim side moves SC against HC order



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: The Muslim side has moved the Supreme Court against the Allahabad High Court order rejecting their plea challenging the maintainability of 18 cases related to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute in Mathura.

The plea challenging the August 1 order of the high court has been filed in the apex court by the Committee of Management Trust, Shahi Masjid Idgah through advocate RHA Sikander. Sikander said the plea is likely to be taken up for hearing next week.

On August 1, the high court rejected the plea challenging the maintainability of 18 cases related to the temple-mosque dispute in Mathura, and ruled that the "religious character" of Shahi Idgah needs to be determined. The high court had dismissed the Muslim side's contention that the suits filed by Hindu litigants relating to the dispute over the Shahi Idgah mosque complex adjoining the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple and violated the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act -- and were thus not maintainable.

The 1991 Act prohibits changing the religious character of any shrine from what existed on the day of the country's Independence. It exempted only the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute from its purview. The cases filed by the Hindu side seek the "removal" of the Aurangzeb-era mosque they claim was built after demolishing a temple that once

stood there.

In its ruling, the high court had said the 1991 Act did not define the term "religious character" and the "disputed" place cannot have a dual religious character -- of a temple and a mosque, which are "adverse to each other" -- at the same time. "Either the place is a temple or a mosque. Thus, I find that the religious character of the disputed place as it existed August 15, 1947 is to be determined by documentary as well as oral evidence led by both the parties," the high court judge had said.

Justice Mayank Kumar Jain of the high court had concluded that the cases "do not appear to be barred by any provisions of the Wakf Act, 1995; the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991; the Specific Relief Act, 1963; the Limitation Act, 1963 and Order XIII Rule 3A of the Code of Civil Procedure Code, 1908".

On August 9, the top court had extended its stay till November on the operation of the Allahabad High Court order that allowed a court-monitored survey of the Shahi Idgah mosque complex.

A bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna had ordered continuation of the stay the apex court had imposed January 16 on the operation of the December 14, 2023 order of the high court.

The high court in its December 14, 2023 order had allowed a court-monitored survey of the Shahi Idgah mosque complex and agreed to the appointment of a court commissioner to oversee it.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 4: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Wednesday defended his government's "bulldozer action" as brave even as Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav challenged him to run for elections on a "bulldozer" symbol if he was so confident about his approach.

The Supreme Court Monday had said it will lay down guidelines on the "issue" that would be enforceable across the country.

"How can anybody's house be demolished just because he is an accused. Even if he is a convict, it can't be done without following the procedure as prescribed by the law," the apex court had also observed. It was this observation that sparked off a rather acrimonious verbal exchange between Adityanath and his predecessor Yadav.

"I can see at this time some man-eating wolves are creating havoc in different districts. More or less the same situation prevailed in the state before 2017," Adityanath said. Adityanath made the remark - a rather stinging riposte to his predecessor's 'bulldozer' barb directed at the government - during an event in Lucknow Wednesday.



Akhilesh Yadav attacked Adityanath and asked whether the government would apologise for the bulldozer operation that was going on till now

"As soon as the Samajwadi government is formed in 2027, the bulldozers of the entire state will head towards Gorakhpur," Yadav had earlier said from his party's X account. Adityanath responded sharply to it, stating that only those with a "bulldozer-like capability" can operate it. "Handling a bulldozer requires both 'dil and dimaag' (heart and mind). Only someone who has a bulldozer-like capability and determination can operate it. Those who yield to rioters cannot operate a bulldozer as their hands

wouldn't measure up," Adityanath said during an event in Lucknow. "Now 'Tipu' is also trying to become a 'Sultan'," he said. 'Tipu' is the nickname of the former chief minister. Adityanath also said Yadav's ambition of returning to power in Uttar Pradesh is nothing more than a daydream and accused the former chief minister and his uncle Shivpal Yadav of indulging in extortion during the SP's rule.

At another programme in Prayagraj later in the day, he again targeted the SP. "Courage is needed to run the bulldozer. Will those who rub their noses before the rioters and mafias be able to run those bulldozers," Adityanath said.

The SP chief, however, cited Supreme Court's September 2 observation to dub the "bulldozer" action of the Adityanath government as "unconstitutional". "The Supreme Court only yesterday said that now the bulldozer cannot run, so will the government apologize for the bulldozer that was running till now?" Yadav asked. He also dared Adityanath to form a new party and contest the next polls with 'bulldozer' as the election symbol if he were so confident of his action.



Health officials distribute medicines to flood-affected people at an area inundated with floodwaters, at Bhutni, in Malda district, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

'India provided more climate funds than many rich nations'

India provided \$1.287 billion in climate finance to other developing countries through MDBs in 2022, a sum larger than what was contributed by some developed countries like Greece (\$0.23 billion), Portugal (\$0.23 billion), Ireland (\$0.3 billion) and New Zealand (\$0.27 billion)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: India contributed USD 1.28 billion in climate finance through multilateral development banks (MDBs) in 2022, surpassing the contributions of many developed countries, ac-

ording to a new analysis. The analysis, conducted by the UK-based think tank ODI and the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance, comes amid a renewed push by some developed countries to broaden the donor base for climate finance to include developing countries like China and Saudi Arabia.

The report reveals that only 12 developed countries provided their fair share of international climate finance in 2022. These countries are -- Norway, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Japan, the Netherlands, Austria, Belgium

and Finland. Researchers noted that the significant gap in climate finance is largely due to the United States failing to contribute its fair share. Australia, Spain, Canada and the United Kingdom also performed relatively poorly in this regard.

The analysis has identified the top 30 non-Annex II countries that provided substantial climate finance to developing countries in 2022 through multi-lateral contributions to development banks and climate

funds. This group includes former economies in

transition like Poland and Russia, countries that have achieved high-income status since 1992, such as Chile, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and South Korea, and middle-income countries with large populations, including Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines and Pakistan.

China provided USD 2.52 billion in climate finance through MDBs in 2022, Brazil gave USD 1.135 billion, South Korea USD 1.13 billion and Argentina USD 1.01 billion. Harjeet Singh, climate activist and Global Engagement Director for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, said emerging economies like India are already stepping up, taking on more than their fair share of climate action while also providing financial support to other developing countries.

CBI files fresh FIR against Deshmukh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 4: The CBI has registered a fresh FIR against former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh for allegedly trying to frame BJP leaders in false cases, officials said Wednesday.

The CBI lodged the case after a two-year preliminary enquiry which originated from a pen drive handed over to the then Maharashtra Assembly speaker by Devendra Fadnis who was then the leader of the opposition, they said. The probe was handed over to the CID and later to the CBI.

The prima facie findings of the CBI preliminary enquiry show that Special Public Prosecutor Pravin Pandit Chavan conspired with one Vijay Bhaskarrao Patil, who acted as complainant, and the then home minister Anil Deshmukh to file a zero FIR December 9, 2020 at Nimbhora



Galgaon police station related to a two-year-old incident in Pune "to falsely implicate BJP leaders and others to wrest control of the Jalgaon Zilla Maratha Vidhya Prasarak Sahakari Samaj Limited (Educational institution)," the FIR has alleged.

"Later, the zero FIR was transferred to Pune and registered January 5, 2021," it said. The CBI alleged that in furtherance to the criminal conspiracy, special public prosecutor Chavan, Patil and the then DCP Poornima Gaikwad and ACP Sumsha Chavan, fabricated the statements of witnesses and evidence to falsely implicate the BJP leaders and other innocent persons.

of the day quote

Lakhimpur district has made a significant achievement by removing waste accumulated over years, revitalising the Sumdiri river and restoring 16 bighas of land for an urban forest and retreat zone focused on sustainability

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CM, ASSAM

The government imposed a new levy of ₹2 per litre on both diesel and petrol for social infrastructure and services cess, and an additional ₹2 per litre for road maintenance

DR VANLALTHLANA | TAXATION MINISTER, MIZORAM

The state government will provide the highest possible compensation, even beyond the criterion set by the National Disaster Response Force

EKNATH SHINDE | CM, MAHARASHTRA

X POST OF THE DAY

As 500 employees accuse SEBI chief Buch of promoting a toxic culture in SEBI, & her numerous conflicts of interest are exposed, Modi goes all out to protect her since she protects his crony Adani. All institutions being destroyed by this corrupt govt

@pbhushan1

SHORT TAKES

Haryana: 3 dead in rain-related incident

New Delhi: Three children were killed in a rain-related incident in Haryana's Panchkula Wednesday as it poured down at many places in northern India, disrupting road traffic and rail movement in a few areas. The IMD warned of "heavy to very heavy rainfall" at isolated places in coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and "heavy rainfall" at isolated places in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, east Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, in addition to parts of east and northeast India, Thursday

MLA caught on video misbehaving with TTE

Kolkata: The Eastern Railway Wednesday said it was mulling legal action against Trinamool Congress MLA Kanai Chandra Mondal for his alleged misbehaviour with a travelling ticket examiner (TTE) while travelling in a train, a purported video of which has gone viral on social media. The video, the authenticity of which PTI has not independently verified, shows co-passengers in an AC chair car compartment protesting Mondal's companion allegedly travelling without a valid ticket and the legislator losing his cool in the wake of the din that ensued.

Curfew imposed in Telangana

Hyderabad: A protest by tribal organisations against an auto-rickshaw driver's alleged attempt to rape and murder a tribal woman in Jainoor town of Kumaram Bheem Asifabad District turned violent Wednesday, leading to communal tension prompting authorities to impose curfew, an official said. The situation has been brought under control, a senior police official told PTI.



Unfortunately, some aspirants died during the recruitment drive. The deaths are not only happening due to running; people are also dying while walking. It is known that the vaccine doses given to the people of this country during Covid-19 pandemic by the BJP government were defective and have had a global impact

HEMANT SOREN | CM, JHARKHAND

DELHI LG SEEKS DISMISSAL OF MEDHA PATKAR'S APPEAL

Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Wednesday told a Delhi court that Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) leader Medha Patkar filed a "false" and "ante-dated" affidavit, and sought dismissal of her appeal against the conviction in a defamation case



SC poses tough questions to ED



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 4: The Supreme Court Wednesday put tough questions to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) over its submission that an accused cannot seek each and every document seized by the central agency in the course of the investigation, at a pre-trial stage.

A bench, headed by Justice Abhay S. Oka, queried Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, representing the ED, if an accused booked under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) can seek such a document for seeking bail before the trial has commenced.

As ASG Raju said that an accused cannot seek any document unless it is demonstrated "necessary" and "desirable", adding that the supply of every document may vitiate the investigation, the Bench, also comprising Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Augustine George Masih, said: "How will he (accused) come to know about which document is necessary and desirable?"

The federal anti-money laundering agency said that the documents not relied upon can be inspected at the time of trial. Further, it said that the accused may seek a "specific document" but cannot ask for "many documents".

However, the apex court observed that the accused has a right to produce documents for the purpose of bail or quashing of the case, as it reserved its verdict on the issue if an ac-

cused may be denied the document solely on a technical ground.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Wednesday fixed September 18 for hearing a batch of petitions seeking review of the 2022 judgment in the Vijay Madanlal Choudhary case, which had upheld the ED's powers related to arrest, searches, seizures, and attachment of property, under the PMLA.

A three-judge bench, in the case of Vijay Madanlal Choudhary & Others vs Union of India & Others, had turned down the challenge to vices of Section 50 of the PMLA giving power to the ED to summon an accused and record the statement, which is admissible evidence in the court of law. The 2022 decision rendered by a bench headed by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar (now retired), affirmed the stringent provisions of PMLA in connection with the definition of proceeds of crime, power of arrest, search & seizure, attachment of properties and also the twin bail conditions.

Subsequently, a bench headed by then CJI N.V. Ramana had agreed to review its PMLA judgment for two main concerns -- non-providing of ECIR to the accused at the time of arrest, and negation of presumption of innocence.

A special bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna is dealing with another batch of petitions seeking reconsideration of the 2022 PMLA judgment and its reference to a larger bench.

Graft case: Sandip Ghosh moves SC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 4: Former principal of Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital Sandip Ghosh has moved the Supreme Court, challenging the Calcutta High Court order dismissing his plea to be added as a party to a petition alleging financial irregularities at the institute during his tenure.

On August 23, the high court ordered the transfer of the probe into the alleged financial irregularities from a state-constituted Special Investigation Team (SIT) to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The murder and alleged rape of a junior doctor at the state-run hospital has sparked nationwide protests. The medic's body with severe injury marks was found in the seminar hall of the hospital's chest department on August 9. A civic volunteer was arrested by the Kolkata Police in connection with the case the following day. The high court's August 23 order had come on a petition by a former deputy superintendent of the facility, Akhtar Ali, who had



Centre seeks report from States, UTs on docs' safety

NEW DELHI: The Union health ministry has urged the states to submit action-taken reports on the immediate and short-term security measures implemented in medical institutions for doctors and healthcare workers. Referring to a virtual conference held on August 28, Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra, in a letter sent to the chief secretaries and directors general of police (DGPs) of all the states and Union Territories Tuesday, highlighted the key security measures discussed at the meeting and requested them to submit the action-taken reports before September 10. The key points highlighted at the meeting included identification of high-risk establishments as part of which each territory or district has to identify the hospitals with high foot-fall and consider those as high-priority establishments for security improvements.

requested a probe by the Enforcement Directorate into alleged financial misconduct at the hospital during Ghosh's tenure. It had noted in its order,

"In light of the apparent nexus between the aforementioned allegations and the locus of the incident, and considering that the investigation in the case (of mur-

der and rape)... has already been entrusted to the CBI, in the interest of ensuring a comprehensive and unbiased inquiry, the investigation into the present matter ought to be similarly transferred to the CBI."

Ghosh, through his advocate Siddhartha Chowdhury, has approached the apex court against the high court's August 23 order. As per the cause list of September 6 uploaded on the apex court website, his plea is slated to come up for hearing before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud.

Before the high court, the principal's lawyer had prayed for being given an opportunity to defend his client since serious allegations had been levelled against him by the former deputy superintendent. On August 20, the apex court termed the rape and murder case of the medic at the hospital "horrific" and issued a slew of directions, including the setting up of a 10-member National Task Force to formulate a protocol for ensuring the safety and security of doctors and other healthcare professionals.

In Dhoom-style heist, man steals ₹15 crore gold, caught

AGENCIES

Bhopal, Sept 4: Inspired by Hrithik Roshan's character in Bollywood film 'Dhoom 2', a man in Bhopal allegedly attempted to steal gold worth ₹15 crore from a museum. But in a bizarre twist, the thief was discovered unconscious inside the State Museum in Bhopal, with priceless artifacts like ancient gold coins and jewelry lying beside him.

Vinod Yadav, believed to be a professional thief, had entered the museum with a ticket Sunday evening and managed to hide inside until the museum closed. The museum remained closed Monday, during which police believe Yadav broke into the two



gallery rooms and stole the artifacts. When the museum reopened at 10.30 am Tuesday, the staff discovered shattered glass and several valuable items missing. Security personnel immediately began to search of the premises. During the search, they found Vinod Yadav lying unconscious in the hallway,

near a large bag filled with stolen artifacts.

The bag contained gold coins from the Gupta period, along with other items from the British and Nawab eras, including jewelry and utensils. Investigations suggest that Yadav may have fallen from a height of over 23 feet while attempting to escape, resulting in an injury to his leg. "The accused seems to have tried to jump over the wall, but failed, leading to his injury," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Riyaz Iqbal. He said over 50 fingerprints were collected from the museum. Police are exploring the possibility of an accomplice outside the museum.

BJP names 67 candidates for Haryana polls

New Delhi/Chandigarh: The BJP Wednesday fielded Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini from the Ladwa seat and rewarded several recent entrants to the party with poll tickets as it released the first list of 67 candidates for the elections to the 90-member assembly. Former Haryana BJP chief Om Prakash Dhankar, who is the party's national secretary, has been fielded from Badli while veteran party leader Anil Vij will seek re-election from his Ambala Cantt stronghold. Devender Singh Babli, who switched over to the BJP from the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) a few days ago, as well as Sanjay Kablana and Shruti Choudhry, who joined the ruling party recently, will contest from the Tohana, Beri and Tosham seats, respectively. Shruti is the daughter of senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Kiran Choudhry.

J&K POLLS

Rahul promises to restore statehood

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dooru/Jammu, Sept 4: Kickstarting the Congress' election campaign in Jammu and Kashmir, Rahul Gandhi Wednesday said restoring statehood to J-K will be the first decision of the INDIA bloc when it comes to power at the Centre if the Modi government fails to do so after the assembly polls.

Addressing rallies in Dooru and Banihal assembly seats, Gandhi alleged that the Lieutenant Governor appointed by the Centre in Jammu and Kashmir is acting like a "21st-century king" and all benefits are



being given to people from "outside" the UT.

Gandhi attacked the Modi government, saying it had snatched people's rights and committed injustice to J-K by reducing it to a Union Territory. "Restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is a responsibility of not only the Congress party or INDIA bloc but of every citizen of the country,"

he said.

Gandhi said his party wanted the statehood to be restored before the holding of assembly polls but the BJP wanted to do it after the elections.

"We will ensure the return to statehood, whether the BJP wants it or not. We will pressure the government under the banner of the INDIA alliance to ensure the restoration of statehood," the Congress leader said. "I guarantee that... either the BJP restores it (after polls) or when the INDIA bloc forms the next government (at the Centre), it will be the first decision," he said.

Gujarat an example for other states in agri sector: Mishra



POST NEWS NETWORK

VV Nagar, Sept 4: Gujarat has set an example for other states in the country developing from a subsistence-based economy to a diversified and market-oriented agricultural sector, Dr PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, said during the Foundation Day celebration of Agro-Economic Research Centre (AERC) at Sardar Patel University in Gujarat, Wednesday.

In his speech, Dr Mishra highlighted the significant transformation of Gujarat's agricultural sector over the past 25 years, transitioning from a subsistence-based economy to a diversified and market-oriented one. He emphasised that Gujarat's agricultural success serves as a model for other Indian states.

Dr Mishra underscored the importance of sustainable agricultural practices for long-term productivity and environmental health. He advocated for strategies such as soil testing, conservation tillage, and the adoption of advanced technologies like remote sensing, GPS, drones, and AI to optimise agricultural operations. Additionally, he encouraged the use of renewable energy and bioenergy production from agricultural residues.

Addressing climate change challenges, Dr Mishra called for climate-smart practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resilience, alongside timely weather advisories for

farmers. He stressed the necessity of investing in agricultural research, particularly in developing climate-resilient crops, efficient water use, and innovative fertilisers. Dr Mishra talked about Gujarat's significant changes in land use, crop patterns, irrigation methods, technology adoption, market dynamics and rural socio-economic structures. He highlighted how Gujarat's agriculture and allied sector has grown at a rate of 9.7 percent CAGR compared to 5.7 percent India's average, primarily driven by allied sectors.

Dr. Mishra emphasised Gujarat's potential for fisheries development, given its 1,600 km coastline along the Arabian Sea. He noted the Vision Viksit Gujarat @ 2047, which aims to harness market opportunities in horticulture, dairy, and fishery, both domestically and internationally. He also highlighted the forestry sector's 18.6% annual growth between 2014-15 and 2022-23.

Among the dignitaries present included Prof. (Dr) Niranjan Patel, Vice Chancellor, Sardar Patel University; Shri PK Laheri, former Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat; Dr. Kirit Shelat, former Agriculture Secretary, Gujarat and Chairman, NCCSD; Dr. Keshav D. Naik, former Director General, DRDO; Dr AR Pathak, former Vice Chancellor, Junagarh University; Dr. Bhailalbhai Patel, Registrar, Sardar Patel University and faculty members of various institutions.

No pension for defected MLAs in Himachal

The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members (Amendment) Bill, 2024) will affect six former Congress MLAs, who were disqualified by the Speaker for defying the whip and abstaining from the House during discussion on cut motions and passing of Budget in February

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 4: The Himachal Pradesh Assembly Wednesday passed a Bill which will bar the members of the House who are disqualified under Tenth Schedule of the Constitution (anti-defection law) from drawing pension.

The opposition BJP objected to the Bill stating that it smacks of "political revenge" and it cannot be implemented with retrospective effect. The six former MLAs who will be impacted due to the Bill are Sudhir Sharma, Inder Dutt Lakhnupal, Rajinder Rana, Devinder Kumar Bhutto, Chetanya Sharma and Ravi Thakur. All of them had voted in favour of the BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan during the Rajya Sabha elections held in February. All six had contested the bypolls on BJP tickets earlier this year. While Sudhir Sharma and Lakhnupal got re-elected, the



other four lost.

Himachal is first state in the country to pass such a bill under which "A person shall not be entitled for pension under the Act, if he has been disqualified at any point of time under the tenth schedule of the Constitution".

The statement of object and reasons of the Amendment Bill passed by voice vote said it was necessitated as there was no provision in the 1971 Act to dis-

courage the defection of members, protect the mandate given by the people, preserve democratic values and deterrence towards "constitutional sin".

The Bill would become Act after the consent of the governor. Replying to discussion on the Bill, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said six Congress MLAs betrayed the Congress party and the Bill is aimed at strengthening the democratic

values and deter the MLAs from defection.

Rakesh Jamwal (BJP) said the Bill has been brought in a haste and asked how it can be implemented retrospectively. Leader of opposition Jai Ram Thakur said the Bill smells of "political revenge" and the Congress members had not joined the BJP at the time of voting for Rajya Sabha polls. The Speaker disqualified them for violating the party whip and as such they do not attract action under the Tenth Schedule, he added.

Randhir Sharma (BJP) said the Bill has been brought out of vengeance and added that the Congress MLAs who voted for the BJP candidate in the Rajya Sabha polls were not defectors and demanded that the Bill be sent to the Select Committee. Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi defended the Bill and said defection weakens democracy and defectors should be punished for this action.

international

of the day quote

War will not benefit anyone, war will only bring suffering and misery to the common people. Therefore let us celebrate the differences that we have

JOKO WIDODO | PRESIDENT, INDONESIA

Issues like climate change, migration and the rise of social media and the role of artificial intelligence are crucial for our democracies

K P SHARMA OLI | PM, NEPAL

I have throughout my whole political life been fighting for women having access to decision-making positions and leading positions. My experience is that if you don't ask for it, you don't get it. It does not come naturally

URSULA VON DER LEYEN | EUROPEAN UNION CHIEF

SHORT TAKES

Thai king endorses PM's new Cabinet

Bangkok: Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn has endorsed Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra's new cabinet, the Royal Gazette showed Wednesday, with 12 new faces in the 36-member lineup of her coalition government. Paetongtarn, 38, was elected by Parliament last month to become Thailand's youngest premier after the shock removal of predecessor Srettha Thavasin by a court.

Hasina's murder cases pile up

Dhaka: Two more murder cases have been filed against Bangladesh's deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, taking the total number of cases to 94, a media report said Wednesday. The 76-year-old Awami League leader, who resigned and fled to India last month, has had a slew of cases filed against her mostly for murders. Hasina is now facing at least 94 cases.

7 Indian fishermen repatriated

Colombo: Seven Indian fishermen arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly poaching in the island nation's waters were repatriated Wednesday, the Indian mission here said. "On their way home! 07 Indian fishermen have been successfully repatriated from Sri Lanka," the Indian High Commission here said in a post on X. Last month, 30 Indian fishermen, who were arrested by the Sri Lanka Navy, returned to India.

Ukraine's biggest reshuffle amid war's crucial juncture

A total of six ministers, including Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, submitted their resignations and Parliament accepted the resignations of four

REUTERS

Kyiv, Sept 4: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Wednesday that Ukraine needed "new energy", as he ordered a major government reshuffle at a crucial juncture in the war against Russia.

A total of six ministers, including Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, submitted their resignation and Parliament accepted the resignations of four.

They included the resignations of a deputy Prime Minister in charge of European integration, the strategic industries minister overseeing Ukraine's arms production and two other ministers, the lawmakers said.

"We need new energy today, and these steps are related only to the strengthening of our state in different directions," Zelenskyy told media during a joint news conference with a visiting Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris. Lawmakers said that Parliament was expected to consider Kuleba's resignation Thursday.

After Zelenskyy, 43-year-old Kuleba was the best-known face of Ukraine overseas, meeting leaders around the world and lobbying for military and political support in fluent English.

Analysts said the government reset had been planned for some time but was postponed because Zelenskyy had focused on talks with Kyiv's Western partners through the summer to secure military and financial aid.

"This is a planned personnel



We need new energy today, and these steps are related only to the strengthening of our state in different directions
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

Russian attack kills four in Lviv

Lviv: A Russian drone and missile attack early Wednesday killed seven people, including four members of the same family, in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv, local officials said. The mayor of Lviv, which is close to the border with NATO member Poland, said one man, Yaroslav Bazylevych, lost his wife and three young daughters when their home was struck. "In the centre of Europe, Russia is eliminating Ukrainians by (killing off) entire families. The Russians are killing our children, our future," mayor Andriy Sadovyi said via social media. Bazylevych's daughters were seven, 18 and 21 years old, Sadovyi said. Earlier, the mayor said three children had been killed in Wednesday's attack. Videos from the site showed emergency service workers carrying out bodies from a damaged residential building as one woman pleaded for information about her daughter and granddaughters.



I won't be surprised by anything, the Americans have already crossed the threshold they set for themselves. They are being egged on, and Zelenskyy of course sees this and takes advantage of it
SERGEI LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

FIRST MPOX VACCINE DELIVERY

Democratic Republic of Congo expects to receive its first delivery of mpox vaccine doses Thursday and a second delivery Saturday, the head of the country's mpox outbreak response said



NK's Kim orders to execute 30 officers over flood deaths

AGENCIES

Pyeongyang, Sept 4: Several South Korean media reports suggest that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered the execution of up to 30 officers, allegedly due to their failure to prevent devastating flooding and landslides. The disasters reportedly resulted in approximately 1,000 deaths.

Kim Jong Un called for "strict punishment" to be meted out to those deemed responsible for the "unacceptable loss" of life caused by the recent flooding. Officials were also charged with corruption and dereliction of duty. The executions reportedly took place late last month.

Although the identities of the executed officials remain undisclosed, the North Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported that Kang Bong-hoon, the secretary of the Chagang Province Provincial Party Committee since 2019, was among the leaders removed from their positions by Kim Jong-un.

In July, severe rainfall triggered landslides and flooding in North Korea, affecting over 4,000 homes and leaving 15,000 residents displaced. Kim Jong Un himself visited the affected areas and stated that it would take several months to rebuild and restore the neighbourhoods that were completely inundated by the floods. The government also provided shelter in Pyongyang facilities for 15,400 people, including vulnerable groups such as mothers, children, the elderly, and disabled soldiers.

However, the North Korean leader denied reports of a high death toll from the flooding, dismissing the claims as "false rumours." He accused South Korea of spreading these rumours as part of a deliberate "smear campaign" designed to damage North Korea's international reputation.

Modi arrives in Singapore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Sept 4: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday arrived here for a two-day visit aimed at boosting India-Singapore friendship, deepening 'strategic partnership' and attracting investment from the Southeast Asian country.

During his visit at the invitation of his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong, the Prime Minister will connect with three generations of Singapore's leadership, officials in New Delhi said.

"Landed in Singapore. Looking forward to the various meetings aimed at boosting the India-Singapore friendship. India's reforms and the talent of our Yuva Shakti makes our nation an ideal investment destination. We also look forward to closer cultural ties," Modi posted on X soon after his arrival for his fifth official trip to Singapore.

Modi flew to Singapore after wrapping his visit to Brunei, the first bilateral visit there by an Indian Prime Minister.

"PM @narendramodi lands in the Lion city, Singapore today. Warmly received by Minister of Home Affairs and Law K Shanmugam of Singapore. An action packed agenda lies ahead," Ministry of External Affairs said in a post on X.

The Prime Minister will receive an official welcome at the Parliament House Thursday and call on President Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

This visit comes days after Wong took over and Modi began his third term as Prime Minister.

Ahead of his departure from New Delhi, Modi had posted on X "I look forward to my discussions to deepen our Strategic Partnership with Singapore, particularly in new and emerging areas of advanced manufacturing, digitalization, and sustainable development."

Modi, who last visited Singapore in 2018, is accompanied by Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and



This visit will build synergies in semiconductor ecosystems of Singapore and India

other government officials.

"The leaders will review the progress of India-Singapore Strategic Partnership and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest," a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) statement said ahead of his departure for Brunei and Singapore.

Modi will call on Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. Wong and Lee will host Modi to separate meals. Modi will also meet with Singaporean business leaders and interact with those in the country's semiconductor ecosystem.

This visit will build synergies in semiconductor ecosystems of Singapore and India. Both PMs will visit a semiconductor manufacturing facility, officials said.

They said MoUs will be signed for cooperation in manpower skilling in the semiconductor sector.

From skilling centres to training and recruitment by Singapore firms, this will help India's youth with better skills and opportunities, officials added.

SNIPPETS

Four PIOs burnt alive in road accident

Houston: Four Indian nationals, including a young woman, lost their lives and several others were injured in a tragic multi-vehicle road accident in the US state of Texas during the Labour Day weekend. According to the Collin County Sheriff's Office, the accident involving five vehicles occurred on the northbound US 75 just past White Street at Anna near Dallas. According to witnesses and preliminary reports, traffic was at a standstill on the highway and an SUV was among those vehicles that were halted when the accident took place Friday afternoon. A truck travelling at a high speed failed to slow down and struck the rear of the SUV.

UK PM apologises for Grenfell Tower fire

London: A damning report on a deadly London high-rise fire said Wednesday that decades of failures by government, regulators and industry turned Grenfell Tower into a "death trap" where 72 people lost their lives. The years-long public inquiry into the 2017 blaze concluded that there was no "single cause" of the tragedy, but said a combination of dishonest companies, weak or incompetent regulators and complacent government led the building to be covered in combustible cladding that turned a small apartment fire into the deadliest blaze on British soil since World War II. The inquiry's head, retired judge Martin Moore-Bick, said the victims' deaths were all avoidable, and "those who lived in the tower were badly failed over a number of years by multiple people and organisations. Prime Minister Keir Starmer apologised on behalf of British state, saying the tragedy "should never have happened" and promising the victims justice.



Chinese J-10 fighter jets perform during the first edition of the Egypt International Airshow at al-Alamein airport

China's new textbook cautions youth against 'colour revolution'

ROCK 'N' ROLL, POP MUSIC, INTERNET CAN SOW SEEDS OF 'COLOUR REVOLUTION' IN GEN Z, SAYS THE BOOK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 4: A new textbook cautions that rock 'n' roll, pop music, and the internet can be exploited to incite a colour revolution among Chinese youths, aligning with President Xi Jinping's push for stronger ideological controls.

"Colour revolution" is Beijing's code for subversion instigated by Western powers, and their attempts to infiltrate various sectors of society and fuel unrest to overthrow the ruling establishment.

The textbook on national security which was officially launched last week is seen as Beijing's latest move to

strengthen ideological control and promote national security among young Chinese.

The book, National Security Education Reader for College Students, will be used in the foundational course on national security education in universities, according to the ruling Communist Party of China's (CPC) mouthpiece People's Daily.

Primary and junior high schools have also been issued new textbooks that emphasise national security and traditional culture, the state broadcaster CCTV reported.

According to the textbook, university students must remain vigilant against Western popular culture and beware of "colour revolution" traps when surfing online, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported Wednesday.

"The internet is a key channel of communication; popular culture like pop and rock music is often used as covers for colour revolution," the textbook warned. It cites the 2010 Jasmine



Revolution in Tunisia and the Arab Spring movement that followed as examples of colour revolutions, arguing that these movements led to national turmoil.

The new textbook is based on various speeches on national security by Xi, 71, who highlighted the threat from "subversive" "foreign forces" trying to influence China's youth in a speech at the National Education Conference in September 2018 organised by the CPC to devise

the need for ideology education in classrooms.

"For a long time, various hostile forces have never stopped implementing strategies to Westernise and divide our country," Xi told the conference, according to the excerpts published by the Qushi magazine.

"They have never stopped carrying out subversive and sabotaging activities against the leadership of the party and our country's socialist system, and they have always attempted to plot a 'colour revolution' in our country.

The area where they focus most is in the fight over our young people, Xi said. In his speech, Xi quoted party founder Mao Zedong who said that the activities of the imperialists would not affect the first and second generations after

the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, but they might hope to influence the third and fourth generations.

"Currently, our college students are the third and fourth generations. In the future, there will be dozens of generations. The fight over the youth is long-term and difficult, we cannot lose, and cannot afford to lose," Xi said in his speech.

Xi called for cultivating "successors to socialism" and "establishing firm ideals and beliefs", especially the "ideals of communism and socialism with Chinese characteristics".

"Today's young people have lived in peace for too long, they have not experienced the pain of a nation struggling between life and death, have not been tested through blood and fire, and have not taken part in difficult battles," he said.

"If we do not guide them and educate them, it is difficult for them to hold the correct ideals and they might even go astray," Xi said.

The textbook cites the 2010 Jasmine Revolution in Tunisia and the Arab Spring movement that followed as examples of colour revolutions

business

of the day quote

The World Bank's suggestion for India to reconsider joining RCEP is based on flawed assumptions and outdated projections

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER, GTRI

The government is planning to set up a special purpose vehicle for pushing ahead with plans for manufacturing aircraft in India

K RAMMOHAN NAIDU | UNION CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

Indian policy related to product approval takes a lot of time. It is very bureaucratic and there is an impact on farmers

JEFF ROWE | CEO, SYNGENTA GROUP

SHORT TAKES

RIL wins bid to make EV batteries

Bangalore: Reliance Industries (RIL) has won a bid under an incentives program which supports EV battery production, a statement from the Indian government said Wednesday. Earlier this year, seven companies submitted bids to set up local manufacturing units for the production of advanced chemistry cells, or ACCs, under the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme. Reliance can make up to 10 gigawatts of ACCs, the statement said. The oil-to-telecom conglomerate beat six other competitors, which included units of battery maker Amara Raja Energy and Mobility and power producer JSW Energy.

Bajaj Housing IPO to open next week

New Delhi: With Bajaj Housing Finance set to launch its initial public offering (IPO) next week, at least three more 'upper layer' non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are expected to go public within a year to meet the RBI's mandatory listing requirements. The three NBFCs that are likely to float public issues are Tata Capital Financial Services, HDB Financial Services (NBFC arm of HDFC Bank), and Aditya Birla Finance, investment bankers said. "Given the appetite in the capital market for good quality businesses, and subject to valuations we will definitely see quite a lot of NBFCs going for listing. This is expected; not just to satisfy RBI's requirement to list, but also to have the ability to keep raising money for growth once the company is listed," Sachin Mehta, Director, Investment banking, Anand Rathii Advisors, said.

Flipkart expects 1 lakh new jobs

New Delhi: E-commerce major Flipkart is expecting to create 1 lakh new jobs for the upcoming festive season sale, The Big Billion Days 2024, across India, the company said Wednesday. Ahead of The Big Billion Days (TBBD) 2024, Flipkart has launched 11 new fulfilment centres (FCs) across nine cities, bringing their total number in the country to 83, the Walmart group firm said in a statement. "With its commitment to socio-economic development, Flipkart remains focused on enabling employment opportunities, creating over 1 lakh new jobs within its supply chain across the country. This aims to strengthen Flipkart's operational capabilities while empowering local communities and driving economic growth during this year's festive season," the statement said.



The problem which you are facing from China for that I will try to convince... the finance ministry to look at (raising the duty on steel imports) from 7.5 per cent tax to 10-12 per cent tax

HD KUMARASWAMY | UNION STEEL MINISTER

VOLVO JUNKS EV-ONLY TARGET

Swedish automaker Volvo Cars scrapped its target of going all electric by 2030 Wednesday, saying it now expected to still be offering some hybrid models in its lineup at that time



India remains fastest growing paper mkt globally

PACKAGING PAPER & PAPERBOARD MARKET IS GROWING AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 8.2% IN THE COUNTRY

Mumbai, Sept 4: India remains the fastest-growing paper market in the world with domestic consumption of packaging paper and paperboard growing at 8.2 per cent in 2023-24, a report said Wednesday. According to the report by Indian Paper Manufacturers Association (IPMA) for 2023-24, packaging paper & paperboard market is growing at an annual rate of 8.2 per cent in the country.



The domestic packaging paper & paperboard market stands at about 15 million tonne which is nearly 65 per cent of the total paper, paperboard and newsprint market of 23 million tonne in

Per capita paper consumption in India is projected to increase over time with increasing levels of literacy, higher growth of organised retail and need for packaging, and overall economic development

PAWAN AGARWAL | PRESIDENT, IPMA

the country, the report said. Demand for better quality packaging of FMCG products, textiles, pharmaceuticals, among

others, as well as, booming e-commerce and rising healthcare spends are among the factors that are driving the growth of packaging paper & paperboard market in India, it said. The ban on single-use plastic, with paper offering a sustainable environment-friendly option, has also emerged as a key demand driver for these products, it added. "Overall, the demand for paper in India is growing at 6-7 per cent per annum, making it one of the fastest growing markets

in the world," the report said. Writing & printing (W&P) paper market, which is traditionally associated with consumption of paper in the country, is growing at around 3 per cent and within this, copier paper demand is growing at the fastest rate of 4.5 per cent, it said. Per capita paper consumption in India is currently at a low of 16 kg as against the global average of 57 kg. Developed countries have 200+ kg of per capita consumption of paper, as per the report.

FinMin relaxes norms for expenditure above ₹500cr to boost capex

New Delhi, Sept 4: The finance ministry has relaxed norms for expenditure exceeding ₹500 crore to accelerate capex (capital expenditure) that is pegged at ₹11.11 lakh crore for the current fiscal. This will give a push to government spending which suffered a slowdown for a couple of months due to general elections. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget proposed to raise the capital expenditure target by 11.1 per cent to record ₹11.11 lakh crore for 2024-25. To provide requisite operational flexibility in the execution of the Budget, it has been decided to relax rules for big releases above ₹500 crore for all items of expenditure in the current financial year, an office memorandum dated September 2, 2024, said.

The relaxation permitted is subject to strict compliance by all ministries and departments, it said. All expenditures should be in compliance of the guidelines of the Single Nodal Agency (SNA)/Central Nodal Agency (CNA) and Monthly Expenditure Plan (MEP) and Quarterly Expenditure Plan (QEP) ceiling prepared by ministries for both scheme and non-scheme expenditure, it said. Earlier, according to a May 2022 memorandum, the release of amounts ranging between ₹500 crore and ₹2,000 crore had to be prepared to enable tracking of expenditure and cash flow. The range of dates for such releases may be kept between the 21st and 25th of a month to take advantage of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) inflows. Similarly, bulk expenditure items of over ₹2,000 crore in value were to be timed during the second fortnight in the last month of the quarter to avail of direct tax receipts inflow. Now, these conditions will not exist. Financial Advisers would review and freeze the timing of the receipts of dividends of various other non-tax receipts of their respective ministry and department, it said.

Services activity at 5-month high

COMPANIES REMAIN UPBEAT REGARDING INDIA'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK



New Delhi, Sept 4: India's services sector activity growth touched a five-month high in August on stronger rise in new work orders, while payroll numbers rose solidly as companies remained upbeat regarding the economic outlook, a monthly survey said Wednesday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index rose from 60.3 in July to 60.9 in August, registering the fastest expansion since March and was largely supported by productivity gains and positive demand trends. In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction. On the price front, input costs rose at their slowest pace in six months, with both the manufacturing and service sectors exhibiting the same pattern. Consequently, output price inflation receded in August. "The overall rate of charge inflation across India's service economy was moderate. The rise in public issues are Tata Capital Financial Services, HDB Financial Services (NBFC arm of HDFC Bank), and Aditya Birla Finance, investment bankers said. "Given the appetite in the capital market for good quality businesses, and subject to valuations we will definitely see quite a lot of NBFCs going for listing. This is expected; not just to satisfy RBI's requirement to list, but also to have the ability to keep raising money for growth once the company is listed," Sachin Mehta, Director, Investment banking, Anand Rathii Advisors, said.

was also slower than that seen in July," the survey noted. However, the outlook for the Indian private sector over the next year has moderated, reaching its lowest level in 15 months due to competitive pressure, although the Future Output Index remained above the long-term average. According to the survey, employment levels remained robust, though there was a slight decrease in the pace of hiring compared to July. "Confidence in the year-ahead outlook for business activity, coupled with rising backlogs and sustained growth of new business continued to support job creation across the service sector," the survey noted. Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite Output Index stood at 60.7 in August, unchanged from its July reading. The Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing and services PMI indices. Weights reflect the relative size of the manufacturing and service sectors, according to official GDP data. The rate of output growth remained unchanged as acceleration in services negated the slowdown in manufacturing. Service providers signalled the strongest increase in business activity since March, while goods producers posted the weakest rise in production for seven months. August survey data further showed that prices charged for Indian goods and services rose to a lesser extent than in July. Both the manufacturing companies and their services counterparts saw cost pressures receding in August.

Uptick in new work orders
Payroll numbers rose solidly

The composite PMI for India continued to show strong growth in August, driven by accelerated business activity in the service sector, which experienced its fastest expansion since March. This growth was largely fuelled by an increase in new orders, particularly domestic orders

PRANJUL BHANDARI | CHIEF INDIA ECONOMIST, HSBC

Rupee continues downward trend

Mumbai, Sept 4: The rupee breached the crucial 84-mark second time within a month and settled 3 paise lower at 84.01 Wednesday amid a sharp decline in the domestic equity markets as investors stayed away from riskier assets. However, a weak dollar against major currencies overseas and a drop in crude oil prices capped losses in the local unit, forex traders said. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 83.96 and traded in the range of 83.95-84.02 during the day. The unit moved in a tight range of 83.95-83.97 for most part of the session, but finally settled at 84.01, registering a loss of 3 paise from its previous close of 83.98. The Indian unit had touched its lowest closing level of 84.09 August 5.

Recovering from the day's lows, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled at 82,352.64, down by 202.80 points or 0.25 per cent. The index opened lower and tumbled further 721.75 points or 0.87 per cent to hit a low of 81,833.69 amid losses in Asian markets. "The warning signals from weak US manufacturing data added concerns about a potential slowdown in the US economy, which dragged the domestic indices. Due to a lack of major domestic triggers, the indices will take direction based on global cues," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Among the 30 Sensex firms, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Axis Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finance and Adani Ports were the major laggards.



"...Weak domestic markets and risk aversion in the global markets pressurised the rupee. However, a decline in crude oil prices and FII inflows cushioned the downside. India's services PMI expanded to 60.9 in August vs forecast of 60.4 and a reading of 60.3 in July," Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.17 per cent to 101.65. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net buyers in the capital markets Wednesday, as they purchased shares worth ₹975.46 crore. The Indian rupee was the second-worst performing Asian currency in August, after the Bangladeshi taka, due to strong dollar demand and outflows from domestic equities. It depreciated by 0.2 per cent during the month, with only these two currencies experiencing a decline against the US dollar over the month.

WEAK GLOBAL TRENDS Nifty snaps 14-day run



Snapping its 14-day rally, the NSE Nifty declined 81.15 points or 0.32 per cent to 25,198.70. Intraday, it tanked 196.05 points or 0.77 per cent to 25,083.80. Nifty had surged nearly 1,141 points or 4.59 per cent in 14 straight days to Tuesday. "The warning signals from weak US manufacturing data added concerns about a potential slowdown in the US economy, which dragged the domestic indices. Due to a lack of major domestic triggers, the indices will take direction based on global cues," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Among the 30 Sensex firms, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Axis Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finance and Adani Ports were the major laggards.

Recovering from the day's lows, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled at 82,352.64, down by 202.80 points or 0.25 per cent. The index opened lower and tumbled further 721.75 points or 0.87 per cent to hit a low of 81,833.69 amid losses in Asian markets. "The warning signals from weak US manufacturing data added concerns about a potential slowdown in the US economy, which dragged the domestic indices. Due to a lack of major domestic triggers, the indices will take direction based on global cues," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. Among the 30 Sensex firms, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Axis Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finance and Adani Ports were the major laggards.

Godrej & Boyce launches new products for jewellers

Bhubaneswar: The Security Solutions business of Godrej & Boyce, part of Godrej Enterprises Group, has unveiled its latest range of high-security products designed specifically for the jewellery sector, the Defender Aurum Pro as per the newly created Class E standards prescribed by BIS. This launch comes at a crucial time following the introduction of a new Quality Control Order (QCO) by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which mandates the sale of BIS-certified high security safes, doors, and lockers, effective June 2024. This order represents a significant shift in the industry, compelling jewellers to upgrade their security infrastructure to certified products that ensure superior protection and peace of mind. The Defender Aurum Pro, designed specifically for the jewellery industry, provides enhanced security features tailored to the unique needs of jewellers, ensuring they remain compliant while safeguarding their precious assets. In addition to the Defender Aurum Pro, the company also launched the 'SmartFog' system—a cutting-edge security solution designed to provide an additional layer of protection by instantly creating a fog barrier that disorients intruders. The 'AccuGold' Gold Purity Testing Machine offers jewellers a reliable tool to ensure the purity of gold, further enhancing their ability to provide top-notch service to their customers. These innovations reflect the company's growing commitment to addressing the evolving security needs of jewellers in India.



ETHANOL push turns Asia's top corn exporter into importer

Mumbai, Sept 4: A push by India to make more corn-based ethanol has turned Asia's top corn exporter into a net importer for the first time in decades, squeezing local poultry producers and scrambling global supply chains. The jump in import demand comes after India in January hiked the procurement price of ethanol made from corn to drive a shift away from sugarcane-based ethanol for blending in gasoline. With the government promoting ethanol in gasoline to reduce carbon emissions and trying to ensure ample supply of cheap sugar in the world's biggest market for the sweetener, India appears set to become a permanent net importer of corn. The prospect of India ramping up corn imports is likely to support global prices which are trading near four-year lows. Crushed by soaring feed costs as local corn prices rise far above global benchmarks, India's poul-

try producers want the government to remove duties on imports and lift its ban on genetically modified (GM) corn. The prohibition severely limits their buying options. India usually exports 2 million to 4 million metric tonne of corn, but in 2024, exports are expected to drop to 450,000 tonne while the country is set to import a record 1 million tonne, mainly from Myanmar and Ukraine, which grow non-GM corn, traders estimate. Traditionally, the poultry and starch industries absorbed most of India's corn production of around 36 million tonne. Last year, however, ethanol distilleries started using corn, and their demand grew this year after the government abruptly curbed the use of sugarcane for fuel following a drought. That led to a shortfall of 5 million tons, an official with the All India Poultry Breeders Association said. "Now, the poultry and starch industries are battling with distilleries to get their share of sup-



plies, and this fight is keeping prices high," said Nitin Gupta, senior vice president of Olam Agri India. Olam estimates ethanol distilleries will need 6 million to 7 million tonne of corn annually, demand that Gupta said can only be met with imports. Traditional export markets such as Vietnam, Bangladesh,

ETHANOL FOR CLIMATE FIGHT
Looking to curb carbon emissions, India aims to increase the share of ethanol in gasoline to 20% by 2025-26, from 13% now. To achieve its 20% blending target, India will need more than 10 billion litres of ethanol, government estimates show, which is double the volume the country produced in the marketing year ended October 2023. This year, around 3.5 million tons of corn has been used to make 1.35 billion litres of ethanol, about four times more than a year earlier, government data shows. "Sugarcane can start contributing more from the next season, but it cannot contribute more than 5 billion litres. The government's priority is to fulfill domestic sugar consumption," said a senior government official.

POULTRY GROWERS CRY FOUL
Rising corn prices are pushing poultry growers into the red, with feed accounting for three-fourths of production costs.

Uddhav Ahire, chairman of Anand Agro Group in the western city of Nashik, said the farm gate price of a broiler is about ₹75 rupees, but production costs have risen to ₹90. "The poultry industry cannot sustain such losses for a prolonged period," he said. The All India Poultry Breeders Association and the Compound Livestock Feed Manufacturers Association to demand 5 million tons of duty-free corn imports. "Since there is a shortage, more corn imports should be allowed at zero duty," Ahire said. "The government should allow GM corn for feed purposes." Corn imports attract a 50% import duty, while India allowed imports of around 500,000 tonne at a concessional duty of 15%. In the first half of this calendar year 2024 India's corn imports surged to 531,703 tonne from just 4,981 tonne a year earlier, while exports fell 87% from 1.8 million tonne to 241,889 tonne, trade ministry data showed.

Khilari's silver-lining show

India's para athletes continue their medal-winning spree at the Paris Paralympics taking India's tally to 22



TOP CLASS SHOW: Sachin Khilari hurls the iron ball during the shot put event at the Paralympic Games Wednesday PTI PHOTO

AGENCIES

Paris, Sept 4: World Champion Sachin Sarjerao Khilari clinched a silver in men's shot put F46 event with an Asian record distance of 16.32m as the country's track-and-field athletes continued their unprecedented medal-winning run in the Paralympic Games here Wednesday. Harvinder Singh's gold and Khilari's silver took India's medal tally to 21, well above the 19 achieved in Tokyo

three years ago. The 34-year-old Khilari achieved his best throw of the day in his second attempt to better his own Asian record of 16.30m which he set while winning gold in the World Para-Athletics Championships in Japan in May. However, the effort, which was also his personal best, was not enough for the top honour as Greg Stewart of Canada defended his Tokyo Paralympics gold with a throw of 16.38m.

F46 classification is for athletes with arm deficiency, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of movement in arms, with athletes competing in a standing position. "I had wanted to win the gold medal, but it did not happen. It's my best distance but I am not satisfied. I feel I could have done better. It was not my day," Khilari said after winning the silver medal. Khilari was leading at the end of the second round but

Stewart surged ahead with his third throw of 16.34m before improving further in his fifth and penultimate attempt of 16.38m. A mechanical engineering degree holder, Khilari, who had also won a gold in last year's Asian Para Games in China, has an impaired left hand. Hailing from a farming family at Karangani village in Maharashtra's Sangli district, Khilari met with an accident during his school days. The injury resulted in gangrene of the skin on his elbow and muscle atrophy. Even after several surgeries, his arm never recovered. He also lost his mother when he was young. Despite all these setbacks, he took up javelin while he was studying to become an engineer. A shoulder injury during competition forced him to switch to shot put. Khilari was introduced to para sports in 2015 and later met well-known coach Satyanarayana who supported him in improving his game.

Disappointing show
India's Arshad Shaikh and Jyoti Gaderiya finished 11th and 16th in their respective cycling events at the Paralympics here. Gaderiya finished the 5.8km women's C1 individual time trial in 16th and last position with a time of 30 minutes and 0.16 seconds. In the men's C2 time trials, Arshad also finished last.

Bhavinaben bows out
India's challenge in women's singles table tennis at the Paralympics ended Wednesday after Tokyo edition's silver-medallist Bhavinaben Patel lost to China's Ying Zhou 3-1 in the class 4 quarterfinals. She lost 12-14, 9-11, 11-8, 6-11. Bhavinaben fought hard but simply was no match for her Chinese opponent who controlled the pace of the game.

INDIA TOP TOKYO TALLY



High jump silver winner Sharad Kumar (R) and bronze medallist Mariyappan Thangavelu (L) Ocelebrate on the podium with the Indian Tricolour, Tuesday night in Paris PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gold	Silver	Bronze
4	8	10

Paris, Sept 4: India achieved their best ever medal haul in the Paralympics as they went past last edition's number of podium finishes on the back of superlative performances by the country's track and field athletes here Tuesday. A late evening rush of medals swelled India's tally to 20 (3 gold, 7 silver, 10 bronze) to surpass their earlier best haul of 19 medals at the Tokyo Paralympic Games three years ago.

India had won five gold, eight silver and six bronze medals at the Tokyo Paralympics. The tally swelled to 22 with archer Harvinder Singh's gold and Sachin Khilari's silver Wednesday. On a red-letter day for Indian para sports, the track and field athletes showcased their might for the second consecutive day at the iconic Stade de France, bagging five medals – two silver and three bronze medals – as the country ended day six of the quadrennial showpiece at 17th place. India's javelin throwers continued to set the bar high with Ajeet Singh and world record holder Sundar Singh Gurjar clinching the silver and bronze with throws of 65.82m and 64.96m respectively in the F46 category. The F46 category is for field athletes with moderately affected movement in one or both arms or the absence of limbs. High jumpers Sharad Kumar and Tokyo Paralympics gold medallist Mariyappan Thangavelu gave it their all before settling for silver and

bronze in the T63 finals, with jumps of 1.88m and 1.85m respectively. T63 is for high jumpers with available movement moderately affected in one leg or the absence of limbs above the knee. Born in Muzaffarpur in Bihar, Kumar suffered paralysis of his left leg after being administered a spurious polio drug during a local eradication campaign at the age of two. He is a Masters degree holder in International Relations from Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University. He is a product of Delhi's Modern School and Kirorimal College. Kumar took up high jump when he was in Class VII at the St Paul's School in Darjeeling. He said some of his teachers were against him taking up the sport. He had trained for three years in Ukraine from 2017 to prepare for the Paralympics.

SHORT TAKES

Dravid to coach Rajasthan Royals

New Delhi: Rahul Dravid, who masterminded India's T20 World Cup 2024 triumph, is set to take over Rajasthan Royals' head coach role in the IPL 2025. Dravid, who is currently on a short career-break since India's victory at Barbados in June, will soon start working with the franchise on important issues such as player retention ahead of the auction later this year. "The talks have reached the final stages and he will soon step into the head coach job," a source close to the development stated. Kumar Sangakkara, who has been Royals' director of cricket since 2021, will continue in his role.

Sharath to play for another year

New Delhi: Indian table tennis great Sharath Kamal was expected to chalk out his retirement plans post his fifth appearance at the Olympics but the 42-year-old Wednesday committed to another season on the professional tour. Sharath was named Wednesday captain of the Indian men's team for the Asian Championships in Astana next month. The highest ranked Indian at 37 is also aiming to play in the 2025 World Championships in Doha. "For the next nine months to one year I would still be an active player. But at the same time, I will be exploring options in IOC and ITTF. At home with TTFI, I would try to help create a structure and bridge the gap between SAI and TTFI," said the veteran.

Historic low for Pakistan cricket

Dubai: Pakistan's first-ever series loss to Bangladesh has resulted in Shan Masood's team slipping down to the eighth position in the ICC Test rankings besides hitting a historic low of lowest rating points since 1965. Pakistan were thrashed by 10 wickets in the first Test and by six wickets in the second. "Pakistan dropped two places in the ICC men's Test team rankings to go to eighth position after suffering a shock series loss at home to Bangladesh," the ICC said on its website. India, Australia and New Zealand are the top three in the ICC rankings and look to maintain their positions.

'Pramod's absence motivated me'

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 4: India's gold medal winner in badminton Nitesh Kumar said Wednesday that Pramod Bhagat's absence from the Paris Paralympics gave him 'extra responsibility' and 'motivated' him to win the title. Nitesh, who clinched the gold in men's singles SLC category, Thulasimathi Murugesan (silver), Suhas Yathiraj (silver), Manisha Ramadass (bronze) and Nithya Sre Sivan (bronze) were Wednesday felicitated by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya for their feats here at the SAI headquarters. They all arrived back in the country Wednesday. Incidentally Pramod had won gold three years ago in the same category in which Nitesh emerged victorious. However, Pramod is now serving an 18-month Badminton World Federation's anti-doping whereabouts clause suspension. "I thought of taking one game at a time. Going out there as World No. 1, first seed, it was a responsibility for me to win the title, especially when Pramod was unable to participate in the Paralympics," Nitesh stated. "It was an extra responsibility for me to go out and win for India. Entering the final, I knew it would be intense and mentally tough for both (opponent Daniel Bethell) of us. I had the confidence to be superior to him and be at my best," Nitesh added.



I called Pramod bhैया and told him that the gold medal which he first won was going to stay in India for the next four years
NITESH KUMAR

Mandaviya lauded the Indian contingent for recording the country's best-ever medal haul and hoped the athletes would win more medals in the remainder of the competition. Nitesh said it took him a couple of days to realise the importance winning the gold. "When I returned to my hotel room, I did not feel that I had done anything huge, but since then whenever I meet an Indian, they are congratulating me, showering me with blessings," I can feel how it means to India," he stated.

Odisha teams leave for Sub-Jr nationals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: The Odisha boys and girls teams left Wednesday to take part in the Sub-Junior National Football Championships. The sub-junior nationals for the boys will be played at Bangalore (Sept 7 to Sept 22) while the same for the girls will be held at Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh (Sept 8 to Sept 17). Both the girls' and boys' squads consist of 22 members each. Sheikh Manzoor has been appointed the head coach of the boys' team, the Football Association of Odisha (FAO) said in a press release. Nine players of the boys' team are from Sundargarh district. Sanjeev Patsani has been appointed as head coach of the girls' squad with Sushanta Kumar Mallick as his deputy. The boys' team are in Group C along with Mizoram, Meghalaya and Delhi. They will open their campaign against Meghalaya September 7 followed by matches against Mizoram (Sept 9) and Delhi (Sept 10). The Odisha girls are in Group D along with Telangana and Rajasthan. The Odisha eves will open their campaign against Telangana September 9.

Cyclist Swasti reaches new career milestone

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 4: Odisha cycling star Swasti Singh achieved a fantastic career milestone by winning her 50th medal with a silver in the elite 40km mass-start event of the Asmita Khelo India Women's Cycling League Road Event (North Zone), which was held Wednesday in Amritsar. Among the 50 medals that Swasti has won so far, six are at international tournaments. The other 44 are in National Championships, National Games, Khelo India Women League and All-India Competitions since 2018. The silver that Swasti won Wednesday followed the 20km individual time-trial gold, which she won in the road event Tuesday. Swasti settled for the silver with a time of 1 hour, 14 minutes and 39.270 seconds. The gold went to Meenakshi who clocked 1:14:39.170. Sanskruti Sudhir Khese of Maharashtra claimed the bronze medal with a time of 1:14:40.132. A photo-finish determined gold and silver medals and Swasti would have captured the gold again had she not given



importance to her safety. "In mass-start events, there is always a possibility of accidents and injuries. I could have won the gold had I taken risks and pushed myself more. Since this was a zonal event, I played safe. I am happy with the silver," said the Odisha cycling icon. Expressing joy over her career milestone of 50 medals, Swasti said: "I am thankful to everyone who has helped and supported me since the start of my career in 2015. This will encourage me to win greater laurels for my state and the country. I will continue to work hard with a goal to achieve a career haul of 200 medals."

Gill not yet happy with Test career

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 4: Shubman Gill understands that his Test career has not touched the expected peaks yet, but the right-hander is banking on an improved defence against spinners to make a mark in the upcoming season that will feature 10 traditional format matches. Gill made close to 500 runs in the home series against England this year in, perhaps, his best sustained outing in Test cricket so far. He now wants to build on that from the two-match series against Bangladesh, starting from September 19, where he will be challenged by a set of experienced visiting spinners. "I worked on my defence a little bit more against spinners. You should be able to defend a lot more when you are playing on a turning tracks against spinners, then you can play the scoring



You should know your strengths and weaknesses. Then only you will develop as a batter
SHUBMAN GILL

shots," Gill, who will lead Team A in the Duleep Trophy, said here Wednesday. Unlike in white ball formats where Gill is a strong force, the 24-year-old is yet to blaze the Test arena. He hopes for a turnaround sooner than later.

All eyes on Pant in Duleep Trophy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 4: Rishabh Pant's return to red ball cricket will be closely monitored but the national selectors will also trace suitable back-up options to frontline stars when Duleep Trophy, which precludes an important Test season, begins Thursday here and at Anantapur. Pant, who returned to white ball formats after that horrific car crash, is yet to play in a longer-duration match. His last red ball outing was against Bangladesh in December 2022. Now, he will turn out for Abhimanyu Easwaran-led Team B against Shubman Gill-captained Team A at the Chinnaswamy Stadium here beginning Thursday. Pant is the designated stumper in Team B, and it is evident that the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel wants to take a deep look into his role as the wicketkeeper-batter in a season that will culminate with the WTC final.

US Open to have American men's finalist after 18 years

AGENCIES

New York, Sept 4: It will be the first time in 18 years that a player from the United States will play in the final of the US Open tennis tournament, the last time being Andy Roddick's appearance in 2006. That it will happen became clear when Taylor Fritz of the US ensured a semifinal win over Alexander Zverev while country-mate Frances Tiafoe sealed his last four spot after Grigor Dimitrov retired with an injury in the quarterfinals here Tuesday. The 12th-seeded Fritz won a big-hitting battle against fourth-seeded 2020 runner-up Alexander Zverev of Germany 7-6 (7-2), 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-3). The home crowd had also a lot to cheer for Emma Navarro who also broke through to a maiden Slam semifinal by defeating



Taylor Fritz celebrates his victory over Alexander Zverev Tuesday AP PHOTO

Paula Badosa of Spain 6-2, 7-5 after trailing 1-5 in the second set. The 13th seed will tackle second-ranked Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka who demolished China's Olympic gold medallist Zheng Qinwen 6-1, 6-2 for a spot in Saturday's championship match. Sabalenka simply did not give her opponent any chance in the match.

Campaign ends
New York: Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna and his Indonesian partner Aldila Sutjiadi lost to the American pair of Donald Young and Taylor Townsend 3-6, 4-6 in the mixed doubles semifinals of the US Open here Tuesday. With Bopanna's loss the Indian campaign ended at the US Open.