HERE . NOW
OrissaPOST

Alia's fashion philosophy
Actor Alia Bhatt says fashion, for her, is another form of storytelling, and she keeps it as true as it can be
LEISURE | P2

Ties elevated
India and Singapore Thursday elevate their bilateral ties to a 'comprehensive strategic partnership' and sign four MoUs
INTERNATIONAL | P10

PV sales drop
Passenger vehicle (PV) retail sales in India witness a 5 per cent decline in August on account of delayed customer purchases
BUSINESS | P11

Dharambir wins gold
Dharambir bags India's 5th gold medal in the club throw event at the ongoing Paralympic Games in Paris
SPORTS | P12

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 157 | www.orissapost.com | BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2024 | 12 PAGES | ₹5.00

SHORT TAKES

NMC backtracks

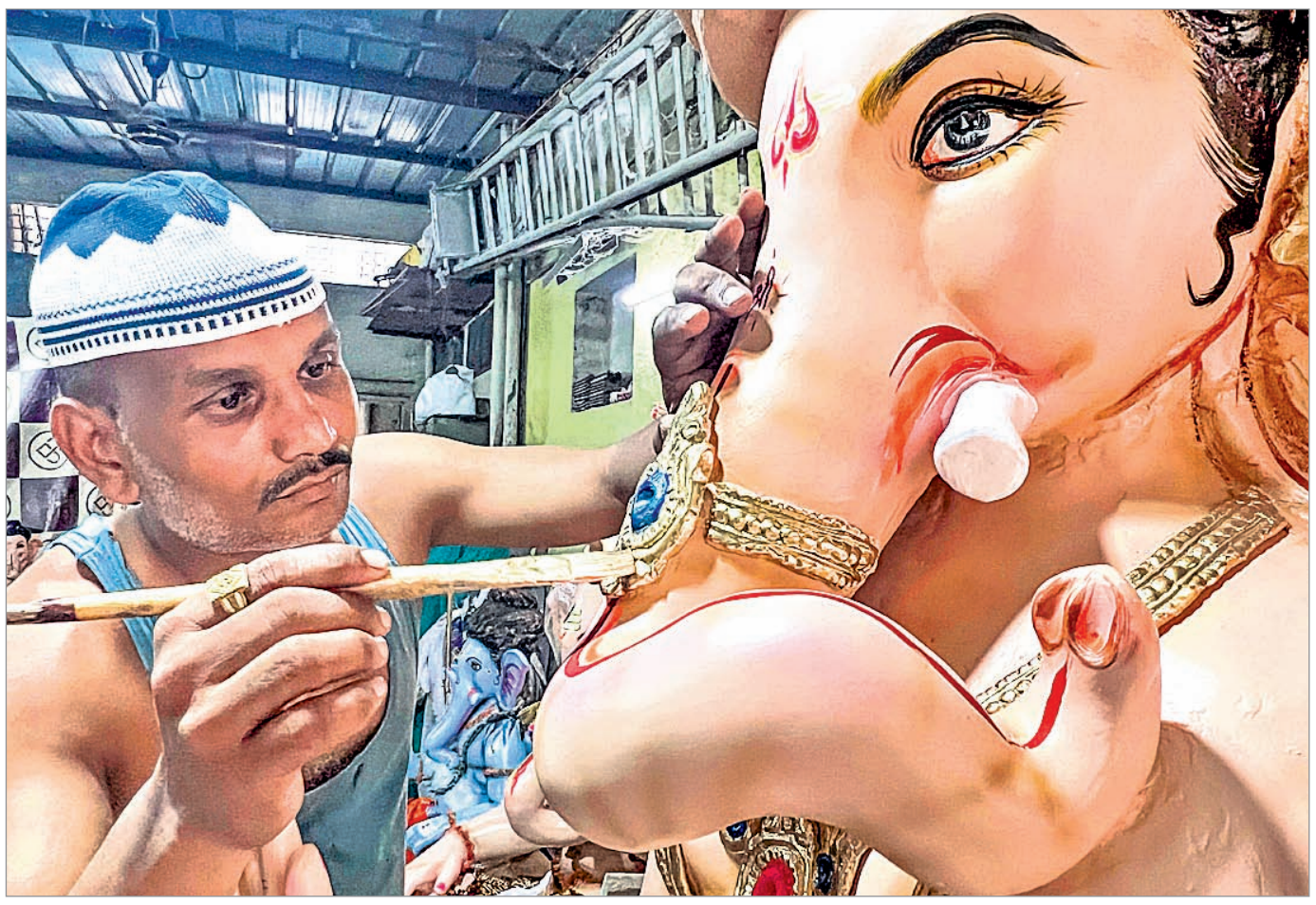
New Delhi: The National Medical Commission (NMC) Thursday withdrew and cancelled guidelines under Competency Based Medical Education Curriculum in which it had reintroduced sodomy and lesbianism as unnatural sexual offences in the forensic medicine and toxicology curriculum for UG medical students. The guidelines were issued August 31. Besides sodomy and lesbianism, the NMC had brought back topics such as the hymen and its type, and its medico-legal importance in addition to defining virginity and defloration, legitimacy and its medico-legal importance. These subjects were done away with in 2022. P9

Jolt to EV makers

New Delhi: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari Thursday said there is no need to provide subsidy to electric vehicle (EV) makers as consumers are now choosing EVs or compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles on their own. Addressing BNEF Summit, he said initially costs of manufacturing EVs were high, but as demand has increased, production costs have dropped, making further subsidies unnecessary. "Consumers are now choosing electric and CNG vehicles on their own and I do not think we need to provide much subsidy for EVs," Gadkari said. P11

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

We'll celebrate Teachers' Day as soon as the govt appoints one



DEFT HANDS: An artisan gives finishing touches to a clay idol of Lord Ganesh ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi in Nagpur, Thursday PTI PHOTO

State tops lightning strike deaths: Pujari

1,625 lives lost in 5 years

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: With 1,625 fatalities, the state registered the highest lightning strike deaths in the country in five years — 2019-20 to 2023-24, Revenue and Disaster Management (R&DM) Minister Suresh Pujari told the Assembly, Thursday.

Replying to a question of BJP legislator Tankadhar Tripathy, Pujari said while 372 persons were killed due to lightning strikes in 2019-20, 338 such deaths were reported in 2020-21 and 294 in 2021-22. The state registered 334 lightning strike deaths in 2022-23 and 287 in 2023-24.

"Odisha recorded the highest lightning-related fatalities in the country during the period," he said, adding, "States with higher mineral deposits tend to witness more lightning incidents and fatalities because minerals are good conductors of electricity."

> **The state has been providing an ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh each to the next of kin of those killed by lightning strikes from the SDRF**
> SURESH PUJARI | R&DM MINISTER

According to Pujari, lightning death cases were registered in all 30 districts of the state.

Mayurbhanj district registered the maximum lightning strike deaths (151) during the period, followed by Ganjam district (114). Keonjhar, the home district of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, and Balasore district each reported 111 lightning deaths, while Boudh district witnessed 14 such fatalities, which is the lowest in the state, he added.

As lightning was not declared as a natural disaster by the Centre, the state government announced it as a state-specific disaster in April 2015, he said.

The state has been providing an ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh each to the next of kin of those killed by lightning strikes from the SDRF, Pujari added.

"The government has also made a provision for a compensation of ₹16,000 if a person requires hospitalisation for more than a week due to a lightning strike. This apart, ₹5,400 is being provided to a person injured in lightning and hospitalised for less than a week," Pujari pointed out.

Analyzing data of the past six years, Pujari said, on an average, more than six lakh lightning strikes were reported in the state every year.

With the help of real-time data provided by Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) has been providing early warning and advisory on lightning to people through Satark mobile app, which was developed with technical support from Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES).

As palm trees can help mitigate the effects of lightning, the state government has allocated ₹7 crore to the Forest department for its plantation. Moreover, the state government has been creating public awareness for effective management of lightning, he added.

3L tribal students to get ₹5K/yr

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The state government Thursday announced an annual financial assistance of ₹5,000 under Madho Singh Haath Kharch Yojana to around three lakh tribal students for their studies.

The announcement was made by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling in the Assembly.

He said, "Every tribal student having passed Class VIII/X and taking admission in Class IX/XI, respectively, will be provided ₹5,000 annually as an incentive."

> **Madho Singh Haath Kharch Yojana was implemented as dropout rate among tribal students at the secondary education level remains one of the biggest concerns for the government**

The decision was taken at the Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Wednesday night.

The scheme will check tribal students' dropouts in the state, Mahaling told the House.

"Around three lakh students belonging to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category will benefit under the Madho Singh Haath Kharch Yojana for which the state government has allocated ₹156 crore in the Budget this year," Mahaling said, adding that the scheme will be implemented this year. With the help of this assistance, the students can continue their education without worrying about financial troubles, he said.

The scheme was implemented as the dropout rate among the tribal students at the secondary education level remains one of the biggest concerns for the government.

KOTA AGAIN

AGENCIES

Kota, Sept 5: A 21-year-old student preparing for NEET-UG here allegedly ended his life by hanging himself from the ceiling of a rented room in a house Wednesday night.

This is the 14th case of suicide by a student in the coaching hub this year since January, while 26 cases of death by suicide were reported in the city in 2023.

The deceased was identified as Parshuram Jatav of Barsana in Mathura of UP. Parshuram's father held the alleged NEET-24 exam scam responsible for the extreme step taken by the youth. No suicide note was recovered from the room in which the student stayed. P9

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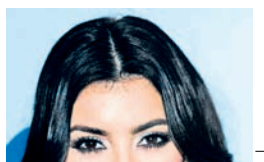
leisure

ALISON BRIE ROPED IN FOR MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE

Actress Alison Brie is the latest addition to the cast of the upcoming live-action feature film Masters of the Universe. The project is based on Mattel's famous toy line that spawned a successful animated TV series in 1983 as well as a 1987 film starring Dolph Lundgren as He-Man, according to Variety.

KIM'S SON JOINS YOUTUBE, SIGNS 'EXTENSIVE CONTRACT'

Reality TV personality Kim Kardashian made her eight-year-old son, Saint, sign an 'extensive contract' before allowing him to set up a YouTube channel. The 43-year-old beauty has finally allowed her eldest boy to launch an account on the platform, but compiled a strict list of rules for his posts first.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES

Today ideas will flood your mind, but it is good that you will be able to carry them out efficiently. However, Ganesha warns you not to take brash decisions. Wise people will help you along the way. Pay heed to the advise of experienced people.

TAURUS

Your thinking is expected to be immensely clear and focused this day. So says Ganesha. This, therefore is a great day for holding important meetings with colleagues and partners, for resolving vital issues, for entering new tie business tie ups. Knowing what you want as well as how to get it will give you tremendous advantage.

GEMINI

A fun and frolic filled day awaits you. You will have a lot of fun with your family members, especially children. You will help your children with their work. Marital life will be blissful. Relations with your spouse will be romantic today. A pleasure filled day awaits, says Ganesha.

CANCER

There is a chance today to benefit from womenfolk. Though you are methodical and disciplined in your work, you will feel rudderless. Yet you will et relief from this monotony and feel jovial, says Ganesha.

LEO

You will not be able to reap the rewards of your hard work fully today. You will take all matters very seriously today. You will feel a sense of responsibility and will try to find lasting solutions to problems today. It is a good day to put to rest some worries that have been haunting you for some time now, says Ganesha.

VIRGO

You will enchant people with your adaptability and your desire to gel with your surroundings. For those who are in love, something unexpected may take place, but there is no need to panic as by and by things will turn out to be in your interest. You will spend quality time with your family.

LIBRA

Ganesha says that for people you may appear to be a miser but when it comes to your closed ones you will never hold back or hesitate to spend. Today is a good day to take your loved ones shopping. You may overspend your budget but the spending will give you a feeling of happiness and contentment. Ganesha showers you with his blessings.

SCORPIO

You wish to make an image makeover in your office. You are tough and determined, and your work knows no limit when it comes to achieving your targets. You will love to brainstorm and give innovative ideas to colleagues and bosses. However, don't give away your best of ideas to anyone, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

Your far-sightedness and brilliance will not only impress your peers, but also help you to rope in big clients and huge projects. Cheers to that! Thanks to your systematic and disciplined approach, you are entitled to be the 'most desirable' employee of the company. Business may look forward to huge profits, predicts Ganesha.

CAPRICORN

Singles, you may meet the one of your dreams today and plan about a future together. You will feel and enjoy the exciting feeling of meeting your life partner and letting your heart open in front of somebody, says Ganesha. All of this will not be one sided. Your sweetheart will also shower love and affection upon you unconditionally.

AQUARIUS

You will spend the day introspecting, but the mental peace will still seem distant. Some unavoidable circumstances will force you to handle the situations with diligence, feels Ganesha. Due to your devotion to the Almighty and spiritualism, you will be able to deal with problems pretty well.

PISCES

You will find favourable conditions at work as you coordinate with your colleagues and seniors to tackle tough problems. You will be able to get the desirable results for all the effort you put in, in the office, says Ganesha.

30TH GKCM AWARD FESTIVAL—DAY I

Ghazal legend Chandan Dass charms audience

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival, a seven-day event organised by Srjan Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa, began with a soulful Ghazal recital by eminent singer Chandan Dass, here at Rabindra Mandap, Thursday.

A performance by Ghazal legend Chandan Dass

The inaugural evening commenced with the lamp-lighting ceremony and the welcome address. State Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari, Prof. Dr. Tej Partap, Vice Chancellor, Sri Sri University, Cuttack; Ashok Kumar Tripathy, former member, Board of Revenue, Govt. of Odisha; Pankaj Lochan Mohanty, Chairman, MGM Minerals Ltd.; and Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, Director, Srjan, were among the dignitaries who attended the event.

Dignitaries inaugurating the event at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Thursday.

Talking about performance, the soulful Ghazal rendition by Chandan Dass was replete with his distinctive style of singing. A Begum Akhtar Puraskar recipient, Dass lent his voice to the works of several renowned poets. Aiming to promote and preserve the rich Ghazal tradition of India, his harmonious recital with his accompanying orchestra on the opening evening of the event was a befitting inauguration and tribute to the arts. No wonder, the singer won the hearts of hundreds present in the gallery.

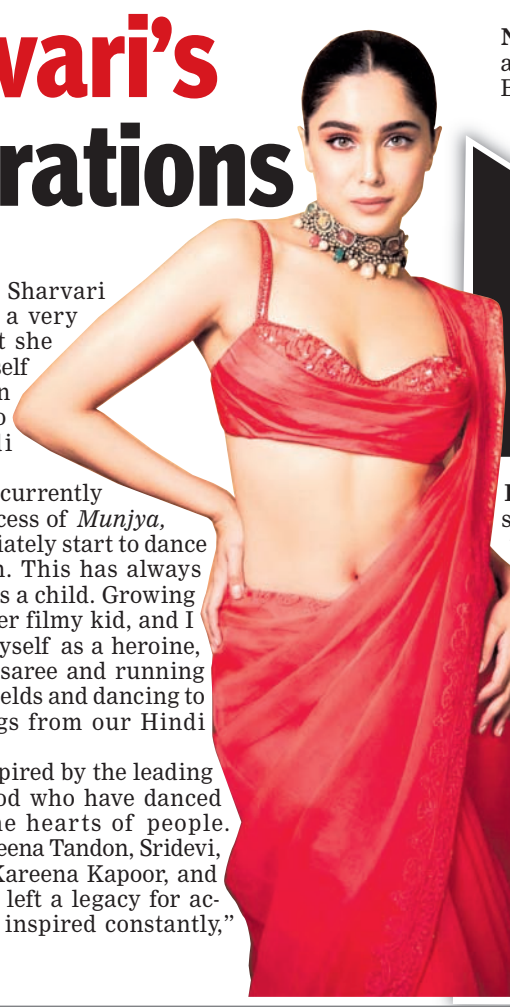
He was ably accompanied by Arshad Khan on tabla, Abhiram Nanda on flute, Arif Lateef on the keyboard, and Bhabhatosh Mohanty on the guitar.

The cultural extravaganza scheduled this year features an exceptionally well-curated line-up of artistes, including celebrated musicians Kalaimamani OS Arun, Pt. Rakesh Chaurasia, Ojas Adhiya, and Ambi and Bindu Subramaniam, renowned dancers Guru VaibhavArekar and Guru Ashimbandhu Bhattacharjee with their troupes, and Guru Ratikant Mohapatra's very own Srjan ensemble.

The award ceremony on the final day will see stalwart artistes Guru Kumkum Lal, Guru Laxmikanta Palit, Guru Dhaneswar Swain, and veteran actor Uttam Mohanty receiving the Shalimar's Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Award 2024, while Dr. Pompi Paul, Rajnita Mehra, Avijit Das, and Rohita Pradhan being conferred with Shalimar's Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Yuva Prativa Samman 2024.

Dharitri and **Orissa POST** are the print media partners for the event.

Sharvari's inspirations



Mumbai: Actress Sharvari said that she was a very filmy kid and that she would imagine herself wearing a chiffon saree and dancing to songs from Hindi films.

Sharvari, who is currently basking in the success of *Munjya,* said, "I can immediately start to dance if music comes on. This has always been me since I was a child. Growing up, I became a super filmy kid, and I used to imagine myself as a heroine, wearing a chiffon saree and running through mustard fields and dancing to the beautiful songs from our Hindi films."

"I am hugely inspired by the leading ladies of Bollywood who have danced their way into the hearts of people. Madhuri Dixit, Raveena Tandon, Sridevi, Karisma Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor, and Katrina Kaif have left a legacy for actors like me to be inspired constantly," she said. IANS

Aparanhhara Surjya to hit theatres this Ganesh Puja

Bhubaneswar: Annanya Productions' second venture, *Aparanhhara Surjya,* will hit the screens across the state September 7. A grand premiere of the movie will be held at Stutee cinema hall the previous day, informed the makers. Ajaya Kumar Mohanty, who has directed and produced the movie, has also written the movie's story and screenplay. He has performed in the movie too.

The movie tells the story of Mundapota Kelas, a tribal community of South Odisha, who earn their livelihood by burying their heads in soil for several minutes. The film depicts the struggle this community undergoes for a living.

The movie stars Pramod Rout, Jaya Swami, Kalinga Dash, Munmun Khuntia, Susandhya Narayani Mohanty, Ajaya Mohanty, Somnath Das, Maanvi Bhadra, Subham, Dr Lalit Behera, Pulin Sahu, and Rahul.

Director Mohanty said the street act of this community is extinct today. "The successors of members of this community are not interested in carrying forward this practice, which is why we have tried to showcase it through a movie," he added. PNN

An artiste playing 'Mundapota Kela'

Alia shares her fashion idea

New Delhi: Be it her performance on screen or her style, Alia Bhatt has always managed to sweep everyone by their feet.

For the star, fashion is another form of storytelling and said that she has always tried to keep it as true as it can be.

Talking about how she would define her fashion and how has it evolved, Alia told this agency: "Fashion is another form of storytelling for me, a reflection of one's self. I have always tried to keep as true as I can to me - ever-evolving but forever comfortable and easy."

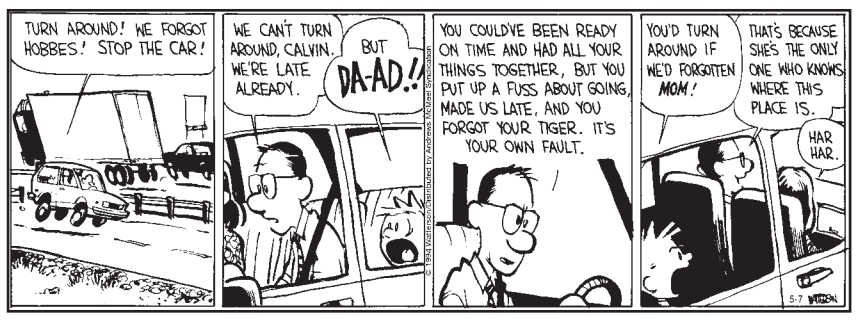
Asked about how she takes care of her hair and skin, the *Raazi* actress gave pointers on her routine. "I stick to a consistent skincare routine that includes cleansing, moisturizing, and protecting my skin from the sun. Staying hydrated is also a key part of my regimen. When I'm not working, I like to go makeup-free to let my skin breathe," said the actress.

"For me, experimenting with my hair is a big part of embracing different roles and looks. It's fascinating how something as simple as a new hair colour or hairdo can shift your whole appearance and bring a different energy to your performance. Whether it's for a project or just for a change, experimenting with my hair keeps things fun," ended Alia. IANS

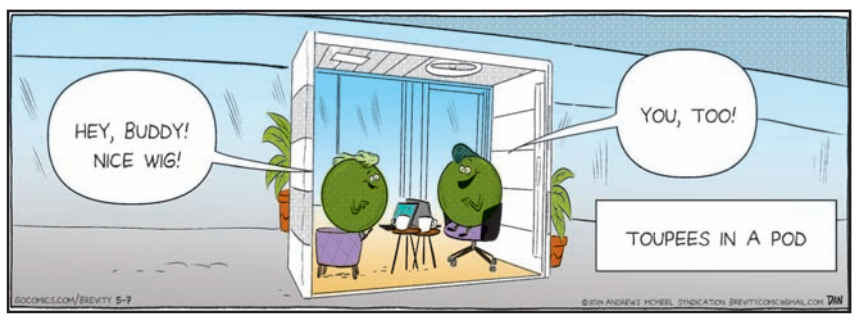
FUN post

PEANUTS

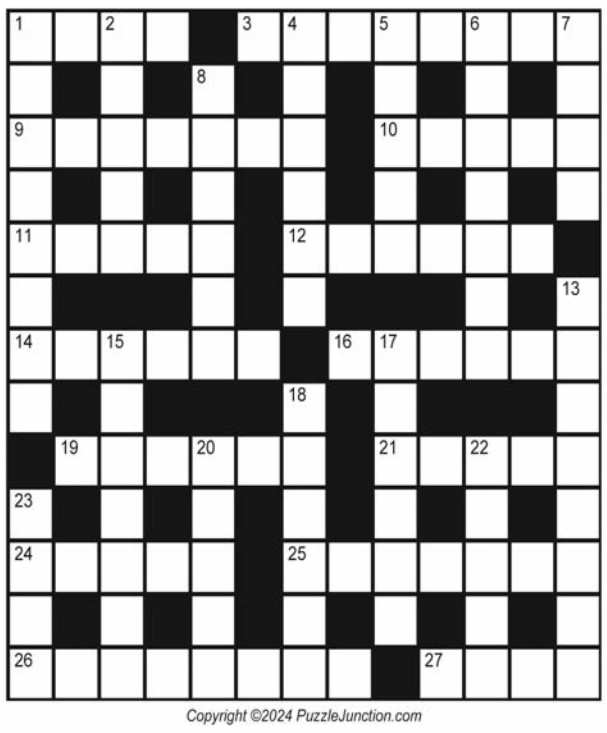
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



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Across
1 Renown
3 Uneducated
9 After class or family
10 Aquarium fish
11 Cereal grass
12 Steam
14 Take up space
16 Vegetable patch
19 Surgical seam
21 Cyclops, e.g.
24 Crone
25 Vex
26 Wall hanging
27 Dried-up

Down
1 Camping fuel
2 Rodent
4 Swiss canton
5 Like draft beer (2,3)
6 Bowl over
7 Streetcar
8 Circus tent (3,3)
13 Wobbly
15 Sideboard
17 Breed of goat
18 Ancient Greek city
20 Theatre worker
22 Treat badly
23 Barter

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

D	E	C	O	R	U	M	■	S	E	D	G	E	■	■
E	■	U	■	E	■	A	■	T	■	I	■	N	■	■
S	A	M	O	V	A	R	■	E	P	S	O	M	■	■
K	■	I	■	E	■	I	■	E	■	T	■	A	■	■
S	O	N	A	R	■	N	E	R	V	O	U	S	■	■
■	■	■	■	S	■	A	■	■	■	R	■	S	■	■
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A	■	N	■	■	■	F	■	R	■	■	■	■	■	■
R	E	G	A	T	T	A	■	S	I	T	A	R	■	■
C	■	A	■	I	■	J	■	E	■	E	■	E	■	■
E	R	R	O	R	■	I	N	N	I	N	G	S	■	■
N	■	D	■	E	■	T	■	A	■	O	■	I	■	■
Y	I	E	L	D	■	A	I	L	E	R	O	N	■	■

SUDOKU

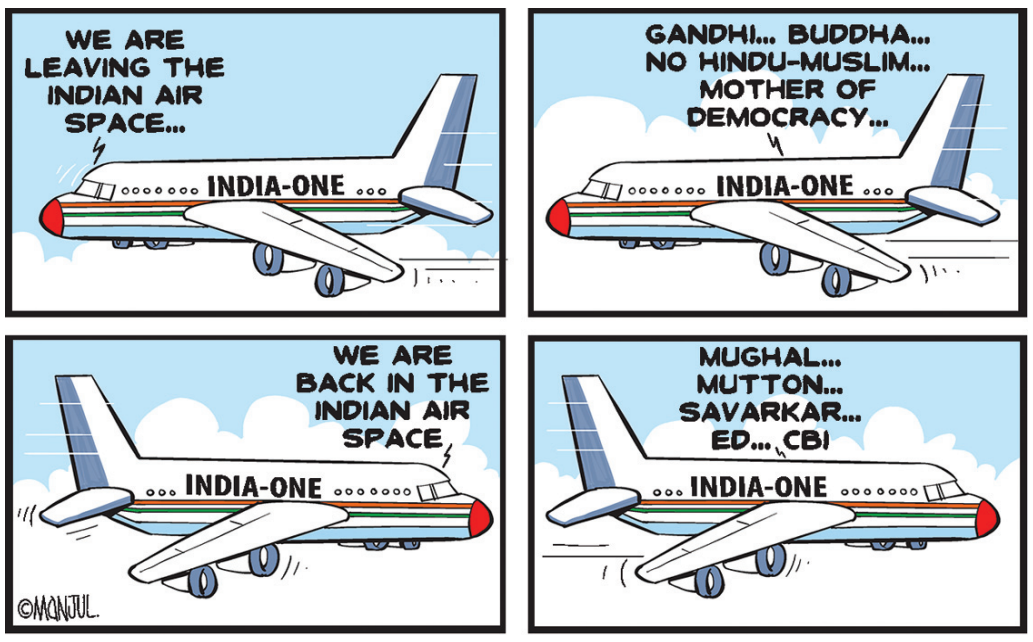
4	3	7	1	9	2	5	8	6
1	6	8	7	5	4	9	2	3
5	2	9	8	3	6	7	4	1
9	7	4	5	6	1	2	3	8
6	5	3	2	7	8	4	1	9
8	1	2	3	4	9	6	5	7
7	8	5	6	2	3	1	9	4
3	9	6	4	1	5	8	7	2
2	4	1	9	8	7	3	6	5

downtown

CHOCK-A-BLOCK

Massive traffic jam near Rasulgarh Square in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



BJD to oppose Waqf Bill

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly Naveen Patnaik Thursday asserted that his party, the BJD, would "strongly oppose" the Waqf (Amendment) Bill if it is tabled in Parliament.

Addressing the concluding session of the BJD Minority Cell meeting at 'Sankha Bhawan' here, Patnaik said Odisha is known for harmony, brotherhood and peace.

"The BJD will strongly oppose the bill if it is tabled in Parliament," the five-time former chief minister said.

The contentious Waqf (Amendment) Bill seeks to reform the registration process for Waqf properties through a centralised portal. It has been referred to a joint parliamentary panel.

Need Bengal-like law for women's safety: Oppn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Opposition BJD and Congress Thursday demanded a stringent law in the state on the lines of the one passed recently in neighbouring West Bengal for women's safety.

On September 3, the West Bengal Assembly unanimously passed the 'Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) Bill 2024' that seeks capital punishment for rape convicts if their actions result in the victim's death or leave her in a vegetative state, and life sentence without parole for other perpetrators.

Other significant features of the proposed legislation include the completion of probes into rape cases within 21 days of the initial report, a reduction from the previous two-month deadline, and a special task force where women officers will lead investigations.

During discussion in Odisha Assembly, both the Opposition parties, the BJD and the Congress, alleged that the state's BJP government has no sensitivity towards rape victims and none from the administration have met kin of the victims of rape-murder cases in Remuna in Balasore district, Naktideula in Sambalpur district, Patana in Keonjhar district and Bhubaneswar that took place after the formation of the new government in the state in June.

Initiating a debate on the alleged rise in the number of rape-murder cases in the state, Opposition Chief Whip Pramila Mallik claimed that incidents of crime against women and children have increased alarmingly after the BJP came to power in the state.

Demanding ₹10 lakh as compensation for the kin of the victim of rape and murder in Remuna area of Balasore district, Mallik said the nine-year-old girl was raped and murdered August 27, but government representatives were yet to visit their house.

She also cited an instance from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's home district of Keonjhar where a girl was raped and killed after being abducted.

> This government lacks sensitivity and sympathy towards the victims and their families
>
> PRAMILA MALLIK | OPPOSITION CHIEF WHIP

> State government should provide proper education and impart lessons in self-defence to girls
>
> SOFIA FIRDOUS | CONGRESS MLA

> The BJP government is committed to protecting women and children
>
> MUKESH MAHALING | PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER

"This government lacks sensitivity and sympathy towards the victims and their families," Mallik said, hailing the West Bengal government which has enacted a stringent law after the rape and murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata.

Mallik said the BJP government in Odisha should also bring a similar law in the state to curb crimes against women and children. "The number of such cases is rising as there is no fear among criminals," Mallik said alleging that atrocities on women and children have gone up significantly in the last three months after the Majhi-led government took charge.

BJD member Goutam Buddha Das from Balasore district, also came down heavily on the BJP and said that the new government has developed a habit of attacking the previous regime over crimes against women.

However, the white paper issued recently showed that crimes like rape and murder had declined during the BJD rule, he claimed.

Senior Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati alleged that women and children were not safe in Odisha.

Urging both the BJD and the BJP not to engage in mudslinging, Bahinipati said the state government must act promptly to prevent such incidents by bringing in a new law with stringent provisions to provide justice in a time-bound manner in cases of crime against women.

Congress's woman MLA Sofia Firdous also lashed out at both BJP and BJD for indulging in blame-game instead of focusing on the issue of increasing crimes against women. She blamed liquor as the major factor behind rape and murder cases in Balasore, Sambalpur and Bhubaneswar.

In order to secure women and girls, Sofia suggested the state government provide proper education and impart lessons in self-defence to girls.

Replying on behalf of the Chief Minister and Home department in-charge Mohan Charan Majhi, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling claimed that the police have swiftly arrested the accused persons, in some cases, within 24 hours of getting information about the incident.

Stating that the BJP government was committed to protecting women and children, Mahaling said that it has not left any criminal to go free.

All the accused have been arrested and the law is taking its own course, he said.

Dissatisfied with the minister's reply, both the BJD and Congress members later walked out of the House in protest.

Cong, BJD seek CM's views on RU name change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Opposition BJD and Congress Thursday raised the issue of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's suggestion to change the name of Ravenshaw University (RU) of Cuttack and sought a clarification from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Manjhi on the matter.

Students of the prestigious 156-year-old institution have staged protest rallies after Pradhan, during a visit to Cuttack August 31, floated the idea of the changing the name of the university, which is named after British bureaucrat Thomas Edward Ravenshaw. Pradhan, however, clarified, it was his "personal idea".

BJD member Byomakesh Roy raised the issue during the Zero Hour and was supported by his party colleagues as well as Congress legislators. BJP MLAs, however, defended Pradhan's proposal.

The BJD lawmaker said that Ravenshaw University is a milestone in the state's education sector and TE Ravenshaw had taken over shortly before the great famine of 1866.

Students of the prestigious 156-year-old institution have staged protest rallies after Pradhan floated the idea of the changing the name of the university

"He (Ravenshaw) had laid emphasis on the promotion of Odia and teaching in this medium in schools instead of the Bengali language," Roy said.

Claiming that the Union minister's statement has triggered students' unrest in the state, Roy sought a statement on the issue from the chief minister in the House.

Congress lawmaker Sofia Firdous sought to know the BJP's stand on the issue. She alleged that the saffron party has hurt the sentiments of the people of Cuttack and also demanded a statement from the CM on the issue in the House.

BJP MLA Tankadhar Tripathy, however, claimed that the people of Odisha have accepted the suggestion made by the Union minister and only "those who function through remote are opposing it".

"What is the point in carrying the name of a British when the state has many legendary leaders and great personalities who have contributed immensely towards enriching the culture, language and life in Odisha?" Tripathy said.

BJD's Sharada Jena said the quality and standard of education cannot improve only through change of name of an institution. He alleged that attempts are being made to create unrest in a peaceful city like Cuttack.

"Dharmendra Pradhan himself had arranged financial assistance for Ravenshaw University as the Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas from the CSR fund of an oil company during his tenure as Union Petroleum Minister," Jena said.

Jena said Pradhan, now in charge of the education sector, should take steps to make Ravenshaw a central university.

"Pradhan, as the country's education minister, is free to set up a university in the name of Nathuram Godse," he said.

Hitting back at the BJD legislator, BJP MLA Irasis Acharya described the suggestion for establishment of a university in the name of Godse as "unfortunate".

Acharya claimed that Ravenshaw had condemned Odia people as "lazy and unenthusiastic."

He, however, said that since Pradhan is not a member of the Assembly, there should be no discussion by taking his name.

Fake cop: Woman claims ₹10L fraud

Bhubaneswar: Five days after the Khandagiri Police arrested a man on charges of duping several women to the tune of lakhs of rupees by pretending to be a police inspector, a woman Thursday lodged a complaint alleging that the fraudster had swindled ₹10 lakhs from her on the pretext of marriage. DCP Bhubaneswar, Prateek Singh, said the accused Subash Chandra Kanwar identified himself as 'Manoj Kumar Mishra', an inspector attached to the Laxmisagar Police station before the victim. She first met Subash while travelling to Berhampur by train in 2021. Following brief introduction, a friendship developed between them and they exchanged their contact numbers with each other. Subash had also visited the victim's rented accommodation in Dumduma area of the City in subsequent period, the DCP said.

Model school in every panchayat: Majhi

GOVT TO START THE 'MADHO SINGH HAATH KHARCH YOJANA', UNDER WHICH EVERY TRIBAL STUDENT WILL GET ₹5,000 PER YEAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The Odisha government has decided to set up a model school in each panchayat of the state, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said here Thursday.

While addressing an event here to celebrate Teacher's Day, Majhi said the model schools would be established to enhance the quality of education, and will be named after Odisha's first education minister Godabarisha Mishra.

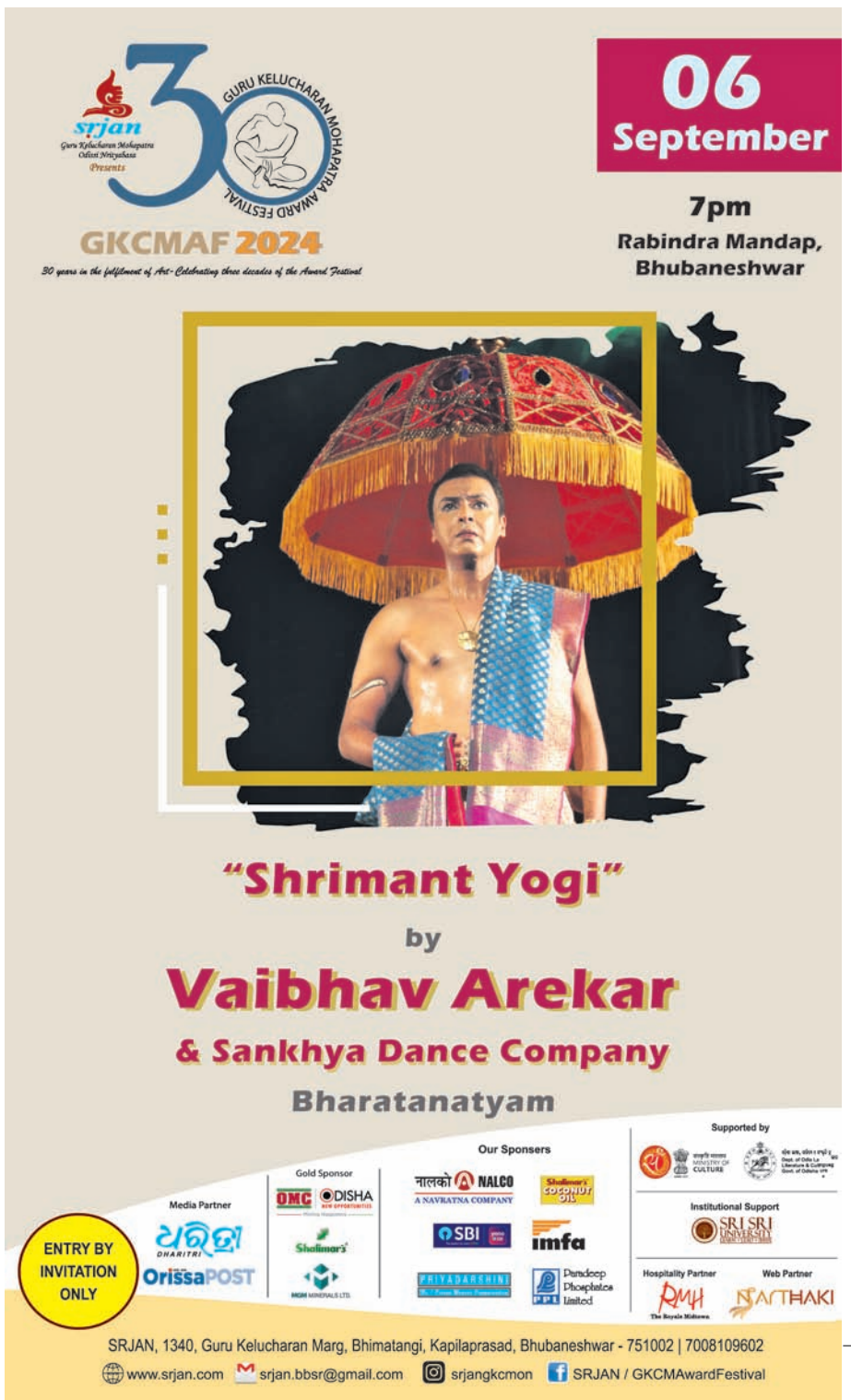
There are more than 6,700 panchayats in the state.

The government will also start the 'Madho Singh Haath Kharch Yojana', under which every tribal student will get ₹5,000 per year, the chief minister said.

Around 3 lakh students belonging to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category will benefit under the scheme and it will help in addressing the dropout of the tribal students, Majhi said.

Majhi said that the Odisha government is committed to preparing the framework of the state's education system according to the National Education Policy 2020.

The government is taking all necessary steps in this direction, he said. The chief minister also said that the education system is gradually changing and his government will emphasise culture-based education in the coming days.



EOW arrests 6 in ₹16.7cr loan fraud

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Odisha Police Thursday arrested six persons on charges of obtaining loans to the tune of ₹16.71 crores from the State Bank of India (SBI) by producing fake employment certificates and inflated salary slips.

A senior EOW official said the accused- Anirban Patnaik, Anupama Dash, Tophan Rout, Satyaban Rout, Tukuna Mallick and Feroz Khan -introduced themselves as employees of Phonepe company to avail 161 credit loans from five branches of SBI in the City: Jayadev Vihar, Patia, Raghunathpur and Jharpada, from November 2022 to October 2023.

The EOW stated an investigation following a complaint by the regional manager of SBI, Shiba Sundar Sahoo, August 12 this year. The complainant alleged that Aniraban ran a company- Purvi Venture- out of a rented office at DLF building in Patia which was shown as the regional office of Phonepe. During pre-sanction visits by the bank personnel, this address was mentioned as Phonepe office in the official documents while applying for corporate loans. The fraudsters used a fake email address to give the false impression that they were employees of Phonepe.

EOW said money was sent in advance for 3-4 consecutive months to the accounts of loanees on a particular date of a month to give the impression that regular salaries were being credited every month. When the loans became stressed due to non-refund, fraudulent activities were suspected. This necessitated an internal investigation during which the fraud came to the surface.

The EOW has booked the six men under IPC Sections 409,420,467,471, 120 (B), and Section 66 of IT Act, and produced them before a local court Thursday for remand.

₹154cr subsidy to EV owners since FY'23: Min

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: The state government has so far provided subsidy of ₹154.27 crore to electric vehicle (EV) owners since the 2022-23 financial year, Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena said Thursday.

The sale of EVs has also shown an increasing trend in Odisha, after the government started giving subsidy from September 1, 2021, Jena said in a written statement in the Assembly. The state government has so far distributed a subsidy of ₹154.27 crore to EV owners since the 2022-23 financial year, he said. While a subsidy of ₹8.83 crore was disbursed during 2022-23, it was increased to ₹57.21 crore during 2023-24.

The Odisha government has provided subsidy for 14,182 EVs registered during the fiscal year 2022-23, which rose to 36,518 during 2023-24, it said.

During 2024-25 till August, the Odisha government has already distributed subsidies for 38,766 EVs registered in the state, the statement said.

Prez confers national awards on 50 teachers

SANTOSH KUMAR KAR

DWITI CHANDRA SAHU

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: On the occasion of Teachers' Day, President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Teachers' Award 2024 on 82 distinguished educators including 50 teachers from across the country at an event helt at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Thursday. The award carries a certificate of merit, cash award of ₹50,000 and a silver medal.

Among 82 selected awardees, Dwiti Chandra Sahu, who teaches at Government High School at Billesu Village in Seskhal, Rayagada and Santosh Kumar Kar, who teaches at Jaya Durga High School, Narla Road, Kalahandi were conferred the National Teachers' Award 2024 from the state.

Addressing the gathering, President Murmu said, "Children are the future of the country. As students, they learn life skills and values. Teachers, as mentors, can mold students into future leaders who will shape the destiny of our country," President Murmu said.

"Teachers have to prepare citizens who are not only educated but also sensitive, honest and enterprising. They should inculcate in children moral values, critical thinking skills, and a sense of responsibility towards the society," she said.

"Teachers play the most important role in success of any education system. Teaching is not just a job. It is a sacred mission of human development. If a child is not able to perform well, then the education system and teachers have a bigger responsibility," she said.

The President said that the dignity of women in any society is an important criterion for its development. She said that it is the responsibility of teachers and parents to educate children in such a way that they always behave women with dignity.

> Teachers play the most important role in the success of any education system. It is a sacred mission of human development
> DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

She emphasised that the respect of women should not be merely in 'words' but also in 'practice'. The 50 selected teachers are from 28 states, 3 Union Territories and six organisations, out of which 34 are male, 16 female and two are differently-abled and one working with CWSN.

In addition, 16 teachers from the Higher Education department and 16 teachers from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship were also awarded.

Notably, the National Teachers' Award aims to recognise and celebrate the exceptional contributions of teachers who, through their dedication and commitment, have significantly enhanced the quality of education and enriched their students' lives.

ALL ABOUT METAL: People visit Odisha Craft Odyssey 2024, an exhibition on bell metal crafts by local craftsmen, organised by MGM Foundation and BEADS studio at Lalit Kala Regional Centre in Bhubaneswar, Thursday
PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

MARKET WATCH

	INDEX		VARIATION
BOURSES	SENSEX	82201.16	↑ 151.48
	NIFTY	25145.10	↓ 53.60
CURRENCY	DOLLAR	83.987	↑ ₹0.01
	EURO	93.09	↑ ₹0.02
BULLION	GOLD	₹71,727	↑ ₹261
	SILVER	₹ 85,159	↑ ₹1,59

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	35.2°C	34.8°C
Min Temp	26.3°C	25.5°C
Humidity	82%	85%
Rainfall	40.2mm	0.0mm

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky with One/two spells of rain or thundershowers

PM Modi interacts with WSC interns in S'pore

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with the trainees of World Skill Center (WSC) during his visit to Singapore Thursday.

He also interacted with trainees from Singapore who had visited India as part of the CII-Enterprise Singapore India Ready Talent programme (CII-ESIRTP).

Taking to his social media account, the PM said, "It was wonderful to interact with interns from Odisha's World Skill Center who are visiting Singapore and interns from Singapore who have been to India as a part of the CII-Enterprise Singapore India Ready Talent Programme. I also met a team of Indian engineers working at AEM Holdings. Such cooperation is indeed special and celebrates human talent as well as innovation."

WSC, a premier skill development institute of the country has a long partnership with Singapore for students' exchange programme.

AISATS & Govt sign agreement to empower aviation professionals

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS), India's leading airport service management company, recently entered into a formal agreement with the state government for providing skill development training to the youth in the aviation sector.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Directorate of Skill Development and Employment (DSDE), Skill Development and Technical Education department, aims to enhance aviation training opportunities for aspiring professionals from Odisha.

The collaboration comes at a crucial time, with passenger capacity at major Indian airports projected to more than double from 192 million to 420 million in the next four years. Additionally, the fleet size of Indian carriers is expected to nearly triple from 700 to 2,000 aircraft, highlighting the urgent need for skilled aviation professionals.

Under the agreement, AISATS will facilitate a rigorous 30-day training programme for candidates from the state at its training academy in Hyderabad. The programme is designed to equip participants with the necessary skills for roles in ramp handling and customer service within airport operations. Admission to the programme requires meeting specific educational prerequisites to qualify for the AISATS training academy and to undertake training for the specialised roles.

AISATS CEO Sanjay Gupta said, "The partnership marks a significant aspect in our ongoing commitment to fostering indigenous talent and contributing to the advancement of India's aviation sector.

IIM-Sambalpur hosts 2nd annual book exhibition

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur/ Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: In commemoration of Teachers' Day, IIM-Sambalpur, one of the premier management institutions, hosted the second annual book exhibition on its campus located in Basantpur, Goshala Thursday. The exhibition will continue till September 8.

Institute director Mahadeo Jaiswal graced the inauguration of the exhibition and expressed his gratitude towards the faculty for their contributions to the institution.

The book fair garnered significant participation from noted publishers, including Bloomsbury, Cengage, McGraw-Hill, Wiley, Sage, Springer Nature, Taylor and Francis, CRC, Routledge, and CBS Publications.

The exhibited books were organised into two primary categories: literature pertaining to business and management, and a diverse selection of works on education, fiction, science fiction, biographies, and books on indigenous knowledge.

Several educational institutions and universities, including Sambalpur University, Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur Women's College, College of Agriculture in Chiplima, NAC College in Burla, Hirakud College and NSC Bose College in Sambalpur were formally invited to participate in the literary event.

BIPF holds 13th edition of Ideate-2024 in City

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 5: Bansidhar and Ila Panda Foundation (BIPF), in partnership with non-profit organisation Dasra, concluded the 13th edition of its annual flagship conference Ideate-2024 here, Thursday.

The policymakers and industry leaders across segments participated in the conference which was based on theme 'Utkal Udyam: Community-Centric Development for Climate Resilience.'

Speaking on the occasion, trustee and founder CEO of BIPF, Shaifalika Panda said, "By working together, we can co-create solutions to amplify our impact, pool our resources, and drive systemic change."

"Recognising the tremendous potential within our communities and empowering them is not just an option but essential to building resilience towards climate change," she added.

Boston University for Global Sustainability director Benjamin Sovacool, in his speech, highlighted the need for local knowledge integration. "Communities in Asia are leading the way in piloting new and innovative forms of nature-based, institutional, and informational climate adaptation. These efforts will harness communities themselves as critical agents of change."

Participating in the panel discussion on "Harnessing Grassroots Knowledge for Climate Resilience", Rainmatter Foundation CEO Sameer Shisodia said, "Building a collaborative ecosystem is not a choice, but essential for climate action".

MacArthur Foundation Deputy Director (India) Jarnail Singh said, "State-based strategies play a crucial role in combating climate change, driving localised solutions that are both sustainable and impactful."

A fireside chat between UNDP Odisha head Abha Mishra and Mahila Housing Trust director Bijal Brahmbhatt, and climate champion Madhusmita Parida examined ways of creating an ecosystem with women at the core, coming together to scale up climate action.

Mission Shakti holds state-level workshop on disaster mgmt

Bhubaneswar: Mission Shakti, in collaboration with the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), launched a state-level workshop on 'Training of Mission Shakti SHGs on Disaster Management' at Mission Shakti Bhawan here, Thursday. The event was chaired by Additional Secretary Sumitra Pattanaik, who emphasised the importance of equipping women with the knowledge and skills to manage and respond to disasters effectively. The workshop is part of a broader training programme that will be implemented across 14 cyclone-prone districts in the first phase, covering 1.81 lakh SHG members at the Gram Panchayat and ward levels. The training adopts a cascading model, where 716 women members from SHGs, GPLFs, and BLFs will be trained as 'Trainers' at the state level. These trainers will then impart disaster preparedness training to selected SHG members at the grassroots level. The training will be supervised by 358 BLF leaders, who will act as 'Training Supervisors', ensuring the programme success and reach across communities. During the workshop, Mission Shakti District Programme Coordinators (DPCs), District Project Managers (DPMs), Block Programme Coordinators (BPCs), and Block Project Managers (BPMs) received training on how to implement and manage the initiative. These field functionaries will play a key role in training SHG members and ensuring disaster management knowledge reaches every corner of the community.

People with depression have a much bigger brain network

> RESEARCHERS FOUND THAT A PART OF THE BRAIN CALLED THE FRONTOSTRIATAL SALIENCE NETWORK WAS EXPANDED BY 73% ON AVERAGE IN PARTICIPANTS WITH DEPRESSION

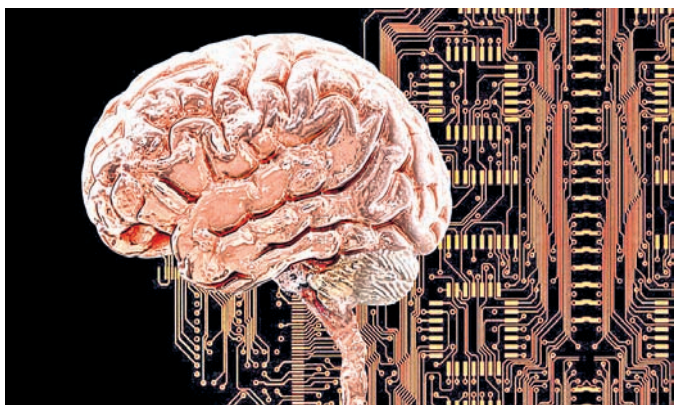
Researchers have found a particular brain network is far bigger in people living with depression. The largest imaging study of-its-kind has found that a certain brain network involved in directing attention to stimuli is nearly twice as big in people with depression as it is in the rest of the population — and that it remains that way when a person no longer feels depressed.

The surface of the brain is a communication junction box at which different areas talk to each other to carry out particular processes. But there is a finite amount of space for these networks to share.

Researchers say that in people with depression, a larger part of the brain is involved in the network that controls attention to rewards and threats than in those without depression.

"It's taking up more real estate on the brain surface than we see is typical in healthy controls," said Charles Lynch, a co-author of the research, from Weill Cornell Medicine in New York. He added that expansion meant the size of other – often neighbouring – brain networks were smaller.

Writing in the journal Nature, Lynch and colleagues report how they used precision functional mapping, a new approach to brain imaging that analyses a host of fMRI (functional MRI) scans from each individual.



The team applied this method to 141 people with depression and 37 people without it, enabling them to measure accurately the size of each participant's brain networks. They then took the average size for each group.

They found that a part of the brain called the frontostriatal salience network was expanded by 73 per cent on average in participants with depression compared with healthy controls.

These findings were supported by an analysis of single brain scans previously collected from 932 healthy people and 299 with depression. The team said the size of this brain network in people with depression did not change with time, mood or transcranial magnetic stimulation treatment.

However, brain signals between different parts of the network became less synchronised when participants had certain symptoms of depression, with these changes also associated with the severity of future symptoms.

The team added that an analysis of brain scans from 57 children who went on to develop depression as adolescents revealed this brain network was expanded years before their symptoms developed, while it was also expanded in adults with late onset depression.

The researchers said this suggested an expanded brain network could be a risk factor for developing depression, rather than a consequence of the condition.

Conor Liston, another author from Weill Cornell Medicine, said the results could benefit people with depression more widely. "Having that information, that there's something identifiable in the brain that is associated with their depression and may be conferring risk for their depression, I think is, by itself, really reassuring for some people," he said

Miriam Klein-Flügge, of the University of Oxford, who was not involved in the work, said it was surprising the study did not touch on the amygdala – a brain area at the core of depression research for decades.

However, she said, the new work was robust, important and exciting, adding it raised the question of whether it was possible to reverse an expanded frontostriatal salience network with early intervention.

AGENCIES

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SUBHADRA YOJANA

Women stage road blockade over delay in Aadhaar linking

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhograi, Sept 5: Irate women staged a road blockade on State Highway-57 opposite the Dehurda post office Thursday after they failed to get tokens to link their phone number with Aadhaar cards in order to apply for Subhadra Yojana.

Sources said, the post officials are issuing only 50 tokens per day. However, this sparked resentment and anger among hundreds of women waiting in queue for tokens to link their phone numbers with Aadhaar cards. They staged a road blockade demanding a resolution of their problem.

On being informed, Bhograi tehsildar Himanshu Sekhar Giri reached the spot and took stock of the situation. The women relented after Giri advised them to make correction in their Aadhaar cards at 33 numbers of common service centres titled 'Mo Seva Kendras' and 'Jan Seva Kendras' functioning under the block.

The tehsildar warned to cancel the licenses if any of the common service centres is found closed or collecting money from the applicants of Subhadra Yojana.

The scheme aims at enhancing the economic and social status of women by offering financial assistance and essential resources. Women within the age group of 21 to 60 can apply for financial assistance. Women who are income tax returnees or those engaged in government service are not eligible to apply under the scheme.

Buoyed by this announcement, thousands of women under the block were seen making long queues outside the banks and post offices from the Wednesday evening till Thursday to link their phone numbers with Aadhaar cards.

AGRI-FEST: Ascetics of Mahima cult participate in 'Nabanna Utsav' at Mahima Gadi in Joranda of Dhenkanal district, Thursday OP PHOTO

13 mobile medical units rot in DHH

TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES PURCHASED BY UTILISING THE DMF FUND ARE NOT BEING PUT INTO USE AND ARE LYING UNATTENDED TO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 5: Despite several allegations of misappropriation of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds in this district, there is no change in the situation as 13 mobile medical units (MMUs), purchased with DMF fund, have been lying unused on the district headquarters hospital premises here for more than six months.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who represents Keonjhar Sadar in the Assembly, had earlier expressed his concern over the misuse of DMF funds. When Majhi was in opposition, he had raised questions on misuse of DMF funds several times in the House.

While DMF money is being spent at the own sweet will of the officials, the tools, equipment and vehicles purchased by utilising the fund are not being put into use and are lying unattended to. This has triggered anger and dissatisfaction among the locals.

Meanwhile, residents have expressed their displeasure over 13 MMUs or ambulances (purchased with DMF fund) lying unused in the district. These MMUs are meant for 13 blocks in the tribal dominated district. These ambulances have not been put into use for more than six months.

Peeved over the development, a social activist has lodged a complaint at the Chief Minister's grievance cell Monday, on the basis of a news report published in a premier vernacular daily. He urged the CMO to take immediate steps and inquire whether the ambulances were purchased after approval of DMF trust board.

He also urged for an inquiry into the rationale behind the purchase of these vehicles and the reason as to why they have been kept unused for months together. He also demanded to recover the losses from those 'irresponsible' officials.

Sources said despite establishment of Dharanidhar Medical College and Hospital and the district headquarters hospital, people of tribal and inaccessible areas are facing difficulties to get free healthcare. They are unable to reach the hospitals in time due to long distances and lack of money. This has deprived them of availing free treatment. The condition of patients from these areas often turns critical due to delay in hospitalisation. This has severely hit the purpose of the free healthcare service launched by the state government.

There are many inaccessible pockets in Banspal, Telkoi, Harichandanpur and Joda blocks of the district. With many unknown diseases and common ailments like, cold, fever and diarrhoea are endemic to these areas, MMUs are required to provide free healthcare to the affected people.

These MMUs have all kinds of arrangements including presence of a doctor. Considering the need, 13 free MMUs were purchased with DMF fund to provide healthcare to the poor villagers at their doorsteps. However, they have been lying unused on the premises of the district headquarters hospital for the last several months.

Surprisingly, it had come to notice that Sundargarh DMF logo was affixed on these ambulances, instead of Keonjhar DMF. The logo of Sundargarh DMF was replaced after it was highlighted by the media.

Keonjhar chief district medical officer (CDMO) Kishore Chandra Prusty said, "The ambulances will be put into use after a launching programme."

Keonjhar Collector Vishal Singh, however, said he would look into the matter and take appropriate steps accordingly.

In anti-Maoist posters, tribal outfit asks people to shun ties with ultras

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Phulbani, Sept 5: Posters put up by a tribal outfit have called upon people in Maoist-affected areas to take an oath to shun any relations with the Red Rebels and not allow them to enter the villages, a police officer said Thursday.

The anti-Maoist posters issued by 'Kandhamal-Boudh Adivasi Surakhya Mancha', an apex body of local tribals, surfaced in various villages of Kandhamal district.

The posters have been put up in Maoist-hit villages such as Rebingia, Barkhama, Bataguda, Mediakia, Kamerikia, Kurtamgarh and other neighbouring villages in Baliguda and Tumudibandha police station areas in the district in the last one week, he said.

The incident is being investigated from all angles, Superintendent of Police (SP) Subhendu Patra said.

In the printed posters, the outfit appealed to villagers, particularly in Maoist-affected areas, to take an oath not to keep any relations with the Red Rebels in any manner and not to allow them to enter their villages at any cost.

The posters claimed that the Maoists have gradually become extremely self-centred and opportunistic.

The outfit alleged that the Maoists were persecuting innocent people, extorting businessmen and contractors, even at gunpoint, physically assaulting and even killing people on suspicion of being police informers and also sexually assaulting village women as well as women cadres.

Woman delivers baby girl on bus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Koraput, Sept 5: A 22-year-old woman in Rayagada district gave birth to a baby girl onboard a moving bus, officials said Thursday.

Both the mother and the baby have been admitted to Gunupur Hospital in the district, they added.

The woman went into labour just 30 minutes after the bus departed from Paralakhemundi around 5:30pm Wednesday.

Arun Nayak, a co-passenger and doctor from Paralakhemundi Hospital, was seated behind her and assisted with the delivery. He was helped by physiotherapist Sunita Mallick, who was also on the bus. They successfully delivered the baby near Reggada, officials said.

The bus staff cooperated by facilitating the immediate transfer of the mother and the newborn to Gunupur Hospital, located 50 km from Paralakhemundi.

According to hospital superintendent Ramesh Sahu, both the mother and her newborn, weighing 2.2 kg, are doing well.

2 including woman held for siphoning off ₹8.50L

A bike used by the branch manager was also seized by police during the arrest

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 5: Police arrested two employees of a finance firm including a woman on charge of siphoning off Rs 8.50 lakh from the company fund, Thursday.

The accused were identified as Haresh Kumar Barik, 31, a branch manager of the firm and a native of Kendubhadali village under Khaira police limits in Balasore district, and Namita Sahu, 27, who is a native of Indupur, Telisahi village under Nikirai police limits in Kendrapara district.

They were arrested over a complaint filed by Dhruba Charan Bandha, the cluster head of KGFS Dhabra Finance Company at Kashipur under Town police limits in Cuttack district.

Police registered a case and arrested the branch manager and the woman employee of the company. A bike used by the branch manager was also seized by police during their arrest.

Police said a quarterly audit of the firm found Rs 8.50 lakh missing from the company fund. The audit brought to light that these employees were behind the embezzlement of company funds.

Five bootleggers arrested with seizure of 115 litre duplicate IMFL

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 5: At a time when the state government has launched a crackdown on illicit liquor trade across the state in the wake of hooch deaths in Ganjam, Rourkela Excise department Thursday seized 115 litres of duplicate Indian-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and arrested five persons in this regard.

Besides, the Excise sleuths have seized one auto-rickshaw, one bike, one scooter and mobile phones of the persons involved in the illegal trade. Excise sources said the contraband was being brought from Jharkhand.

The department did not reveal the identity of the five accused in the case. Two of them are regular offenders and have cases against them in different police stations, sources said. The arrested individuals include the owner of a 'dhaba' and two auto-rickshaw drivers.

They used to bring the illicit liquor from Jharkhand for sale in the roadside eateries or 'dhabas'. The total value of the seized contraband has been pegged at Rs 5 lakh. Further investigation is going on in this regard.

Speaking about the arrest and seizure, Excise official Archana Barik said, "We have launched an investigation into the matter. The arrests were made after we received a tip-off and came to know that the contraband was to be offloaded at Chhend."

Barik informed that the total seizure was 115 litre and five persons were arrested. "However, we are sure more people are involved in this," Barik said. One Kalu from Rourkela is the mastermind of the entire operation and search for him is on for some time, she added. Duplicate Excise Licence and faulty barcodes that could not be scanned properly led to the conclusion that the liquor consignment was duplicate.

File No. Research Study/109/2024-NCM

National Commission for Minorities
Government of India
1st Floor, Block No.14, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003

Tender Notice

The National Commission for Minorities (NCM), a statutory body under the Ministry of Minority Affairs is inviting sealed bids from interested agencies for conducting a study on the topic '**Outreach to the Sikh Community**'. The details may be seen under 'Tender Section' at NCM website **www.ncm.nic.in**.

Sd./- (S. Najeeb Ahmed)
Research Officer
CBC-27102/11/0001/2425

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BHADRAK
BHADRAK-756100 (ODISHA)
Tel.No.06784-251519 (O), Fax No.06784-251221
E-mail:eobdkmunicipality@gmail.com

No.4268 Date:04.09.2024

1st Corrigendum to Expression of Interest (EOI)
No.C-552 **Notice No-4020, dt.21.08.2024**

In partial modification of this office Expression of Interest (EOI) Notice No-4020, dt.21.08.2024, the extension of the last date of sale of bid documents and receipt thereof are hereby made as in the table below.

Sl. No.	Details	Extension of date & time
1	The last date & time of receipt of EOI documents	11.09.2024 upto 12.00 Noon
2	Date and time of opening of EOI documents	12.09.2024 at 12.30 PM

All other terms & conditions remain unchanged.
Inconvenience caused is regretted.

OIPR-13152/11/0012/2425
Sd./- Executive Officer,
Bhadrak Municipality

DQC OF PLATE MILL ACHIEVES MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 5: The Dynamic Quality Circle (DQC) group of the plate mill department of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has successfully eliminated delays caused by failures of the groove roll gearbox bridge. It was their innovative project titled "Elimination of Delay Due to Groove Roll Gearbox Bridge Failure" that led to the success.

Notably, the plate mill relies on 12 groove rolls to feed slabs into the mill, with eight rolls, including one idle roll, on the entry side and four rolls on the delivery side. These groove rolls are powered by three gearboxes. The Dynamic QC group identified that groove roll gearbox -2, positioned near the mill's work roll, was particularly vulnerable to failures.

The bridge of this gearbox, which supports the output gear train, frequently cracked at the welded joint due to uneven load conditions from the mill. These failures caused damage to both input and output gears resulting in significant delays, taking 10 to 12 hours to restore the gearbox to operational status.

Dynamic QC group SK Swain, deputy manager, JC Bisoi, MOMT, group leader, K Berik, OCT, Deputy leader, RP Hembrom, OCT, SK Behera, operator, S Sahoo, ACT and Anand Ekka, ACT found that while the outer sides of both bridges inside the gearbox were welded to the walls, the inner sides lacked vertical support.

To resolve this, the team cut two plates, each 20 mm thick, to fit into the blank spaces between the bridges. These plates were then fabricated and welded vertically to the bridges and the bottom of the gearbox, effectively transforming the two separate bridges into a single, sturdy structure. This modification now ensures that any uneven load from the mill is evenly distributed between the bridges, preventing the stress points that previously caused the welds to crack.

The innovative initiative has resulted in the complete elimination of delays caused by bridge failures enhancing production, performance and productivity.

PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE, PARJANG, DIST- DHENKANAL
E-mail ID: ori-parajang@nic.in, Tel.No.:-06768-261121
No.4943, Date:03.09.24

No.i-117 **TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. 02 OF 2024-25**
DTCN No.02 Date:03.09.2024

1. Name of the Project:- Construction of Additional Class Room Building at Kankadasoda Govt. Nodal High School & Construction of Additional Class Room Building at Govt. U.P. School, Kulei. 2. Total No. of Project: 02 Nos. 3. Class of Contractor : "D" Class. 4. Period of Completion : 6 Calendar Months. 5. Other details: As per DTCN.

Sl. No.	Procurement Officer	Tender Documents will be sold for bidding		Last date of receipt of Bids	Date & Time of opening of Bid
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Block Development Officer, Parjang	06.09.2024	21.09.2024	21.09.2024, 5.30 PM	24.09.2024, 11.00 AM

7. Cost of Tender Paper: The Tender specifications can be obtained from Panchayat Samiti Office, Parjang on payment towards cost of tender papers Rs.6000/- (Rupees Six Thousand) only Non-refundable in shape of Bank Draft in favour of Block Development Officer, Parjang. 8. Further details can be seen from the in website portal "https://www.dhenkanal.nic.in. 9. Any other changes/ Corrigendum/ Addendum may be seen only in website portal https://www.dhenkanal.nic.in.

OIPR-19416/11/0001/2425
Sd./- Block Development Officer, Parjang

> The first step on this long path is to consecrate all our works as a sacrifice to the Divine in us and in the world
>
> **SRI AUROBINDO**

Protesting Ethically

Climate protesters have disrupted the tennis at Wimbledon, thrown tomato soup at the glass protecting famous paintings, sprayed orange powder on Stonehenge, and blocked traffic. In response, European governments have been cracking down on environmental protesters with detentions and fines, and, in one case, with a five-year prison sentence for advocating civil disobedience in a Zoom call.

Whether a protest is ethical is distinct from whether it is legal. As Martin Luther King, Jr., argued in his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," protesters who engage in civil disobedience show their respect for the law when they behave nonviolently and accept the penalty that the law imposes.

We agree that nonviolence is a crucial element in an ethical protest, and that protesters who live in a democracy with safeguards against excessive penalties for nonviolent political actions should be willing to accept the penalty that the law imposes. But what counts as an excessive penalty depends on how much inconvenience protesters can ethically inflict on the public.

We suggest adapting the internationally recognised principle of proportionality in war. That principle prohibits military actions when the harm to civilians is disproportionate to the military advantage gained. To target a single enemy commander, while foreseeing that the method used will kill hundreds of innocent civilians, is wrong.

Peter Singer & Martin Skladany

Applying this approach to nonviolent protests in liberal democracies has four aspects. First, a "protest proportionality principle" should attempt to balance the annoyance to others against the number of citizens protesting. If a million people join a protest march, it is inevitable that they will fill the street, stopping traffic.

Princeton University professor Zeynep Tufekci is correct that contemporary mass protests have lost gravitas because social media has made them so much easier to organise. Instead of investing years building bonds between like-minded individuals and then leveraging such grassroots efforts to culminate in a national protest, organisers can simply send a tweet with a time and place to meet.

> The principle of proportionality can serve as a useful guide to the factors that protesters should consider, enabling us to defend the right to protest while also specifying protesters' ethical responsibilities

Yet such ease of communication does not invalidate the difference between five protesters and 500,000. People still have to be willing to give up their time and make the effort to turn out. Vast numbers of protesters tell a democracy that something may be fundamentally wrong (although it is also possible that the protesters are wrong).

The second component of the protest proportionality principle is the importance of the issue relative to the inconvenience caused. Just because protesters are few in number does not necessarily make their actions wrong. The art-targeting climate activists are trying to spur us to action against a slow-motion crisis that has already harmed millions, and without drastic action, will alter our planet's climate in ways that harm billions. Even a small chance of waking people up to the need for change outweighs the disappointment of many tourists who are temporarily unable to see the Mona Lisa.

Of course, protesters tend to believe that their cause is crucial. If they are wrong, the protest may be unethical, even if it causes only minor inconvenience.

The third consideration is whether activists intend to inflict significant inconvenience or seek to minimise disruption. Protesters feel they are trapped in an activist's dilemma: the easiest way to gain publicity is to protest in a disruptive way that might turn public opinion against their cause. To break through the media fog, they believe they must cause mass inconvenience.

It can be hard to think of creative ways to let others know about injustice without disturbing their lives, but it can be done. Instead of disrupting a Christmas tree lighting for kids, protesters could hold a rogue tree-planting event in a public park. The originality of such a protest could go viral, while also ensuring that any response by bureaucrats, such as removing the newly planted trees, would only add to the media coverage.

Intentionally inflicting inconvenience is not necessarily unethical; it must be weighed in relation to the other protest proportionality factors, including who is being inconvenienced. This is the fourth factor. A dozen climate protesters blocking thousands of people from driving their kids to school or going to work is more ethically worrisome than disrupting the routine of those with the power to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

It is more ethical to inconvenience politicians and bureaucrats in their official capacity than the public. For democracies to function, public officials must know the views of citizens. Yet protesters need to consider the importance of the services to be disrupted. Interrupting a politicians' meeting with corporate lobbyists is easier to justify than blocking the provision of public services.

Whether we are assessing international conflicts or nonviolent protests, the principle of proportionality will not yield precise answers. Yet ethical considerations remain vital. Unethical activism, even when nonviolent, can easily spur counter-protests that spiral into violence. The principle of proportionality can serve as a useful guide to the factors that protesters should consider, enabling us to defend the right to protest while also specifying protesters' ethical responsibilities.

Peter Singer, Founder of the organization The Life You Can Save, is Emeritus Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University. Martin Skladany is Professor of Law at Penn State.

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WISDOM CORNER

> Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope
>
> **MAYA ANGELOU**

> If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them
>
> **HENRY DAVID THOREAU**

> The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age, which means never losing your enthusiasm
>
> **ALDOUS HUXLEY**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1901:** US President William McKinley fatally shot. Republican William McKinley, the 25th president of the United States (1897–1901), was shot this day in 1901 by Leon Czolgosz, an anarchist, at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, and died eight days later.
- **1914:** French and British forces launched an offensive against advancing Germans in the First Battle of the Marne during World War I.
- **1944:** Germany fired the first long-range V-2 missile at an Allied target during World War II.
- **1966:** South African Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd, who rigorously developed and applied the policy of apartheid, was stabbed to death by a temporary parliamentary messenger who was later ruled insane.

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

A STEALTHY ASSAULT

Brahma Chellaney

> EVEN THE WORLD'S LEADING DEMOCRACIES ARE SUFFERING FROM LOW PUBLIC TRUST IN GOVERNMENTS AND BITTERLY POLARISED POLITICS

With great-power rivalries again at the center of international relations, democratic governments have been relying on secret statecraft to shape or sway regimes in weaker states, including by supporting or aiding regime change. Far from advancing democracy globally, these efforts are exacerbating its vulnerabilities at a time when authoritarianism is on the rise.

To be sure, local militaries – with or without external backing – remain the leading drivers of regime change. In Pakistan, for example, the military reasserted its traditional dominance over government in 2022, when it engineered the ouster of Prime Minister Imran Khan. In Bangladesh, the military recently took advantage of a violent student-led uprising to compel Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee the country, before installing an interim civilian-led administration headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.

But external powers also often play a key role in driving regime change. Yes, the mechanisms remain murky. Since strategic skullduggery rarely leaves any political fingerprints, intervening powers can plausibly deny involvement, leaving independent analysts struggling to distinguish fact from fiction.

Nonetheless, it is usually fairly easy to see where an external power gets its leverage. China, for example, is the world's largest trading economy and official creditor for developing countries. While the details of China's loan agreements are far from transparent, there is no doubt that it attaches many strings to its funding, which increase its leverage over borrowers, possibly even driving them into sovereignty-eroding debt traps.

The United States, for its part, dominates the international financial architecture, enjoys considerable leverage over traditional lenders like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and issues the world's main reserve currency. With these levers, it has significant power to reward or punish countries, including by imposing painful economic sanctions.

> Of the more than two dozen military coups or indirect takeovers that have taken place in the last 15 years, the US refrained from condemning about half, because it considered the regime change favourable to its regional interests

The US has long been accused of – and sometimes admitted to – helping to topple or prop up foreign regimes, including by meddling in elections or aiding uprisings, such as the "color revolutions" in some post-Soviet states. Some have even alleged that the US played a role in the recent overthrow of Khan in Pakistan and Hasina in Bangladesh, though US officials have denied any involvement.

The question is what a democracy like the US hopes to achieve by contributing to regime change. The answer cannot be lasting democratic breakthroughs, which rarely arrive in the wake of popular uprisings. Instead, countries are likely to face political instability, social disorder, and economic disruption. That is certainly the case in Bangladesh, which is now facing chaos and violence, with mobs burning down factories, hospitals, hotels, and homes.

A more likely explanation – for which there is ample evidence – is that Western powers are seeking to advance their own geopolitical and economic interests by supporting "friendly" regimes and driving out "unfriendly" ones. The regimes' democratic credentials (or lack thereof) seem to matter little here, though Western powers do prefer that there is a pretense of democracy.

This helps to explain why military takeovers are often followed by elections or the installation, as in Bangladesh, of a government with a civilian face: military leaders hope to bolster the new government's international legitimacy and, in many cases, retain access to Western financial assistance. After all, the US is legally required to cut off aid to a country after a coup. After the military junta returned to power in Myanmar in 2021, US President Joe Biden's administration imposed stringent sanctions on the country and, later, began providing non-lethal aid to anti-junta forces.

But US leaders take great care in deciding which military takeovers to label as "coups." Of the more than two dozen military coups or indirect takeovers that have taken place in the last 15 years, the US refrained from condemning about half, because it considered the regime change favourable to its regional interests. In this sense, the US has often sacrificed democracy at the altar of geopolitics.

Elections alone – even if competitive – do not guarantee popular empowerment or adherence to constitutional rules, especially when the military holds decisive power. While the international community might view a civilian-led government positively – even if it is merely a façade for continued military control – domestic legitimacy may well be lacking, even when the coup-makers shed their uniforms and rebrand themselves "civilian" leaders, as the Thai army chief did after seizing power in 2014. (He remained in office as the country's "civilian" prime minister for nine years.)

Democracy is in retreat globally. Many populations are facing the erosion of their political rights and civil liberties. Even the world's leading democracies are suffering from low public trust in governments and bitterly polarised politics. And closed autocracies now outnumber liberal democracies. By accepting or tolerating military rule – even behind a civilian façade – Western powers will only accelerate this trend.

The writer is Professor Emeritus of Strategic Studies at the New Delhi-based Center for Policy Research and Fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy in Berlin.

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SPECTRUM NATION

Socioeconomic justice & Indian politics

Dhurjati Mukherjee

> THE PURPOSE OF A CASTE CENSUS, BROADLY SPEAKING, IS TO FIND OUT THE MOST BACKWARD AND MARGINALISED SOCIAL GROUPS FOR THE SAKE OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

All political parties, not just in India but the worldover, talk of justice, interpreting it in various ways. Obviously, in a country like India, where a significant section of the population belongs to low-income groups, the need for social and economic justice can't be overemphasised.

The aggregate push for a Uniform Civil Code and the controversial reform package for Wakf institutions underline the fact that the ruling BJP would evoke Hindutva as a defining feature of its policies in the very near future. The INDIA grouping, on the other hand, has highlighted justice as a metaphor for politics and this is going to electoral configurations in the coming states' elections.

The non-BJP parties are, however, not fully confident in asserting social and economic justice as a future agenda for electoral mobilisation. As a result, the BJP wants to go back to its basics – the Indianisation of Muslims to revive Hindutva while the Opposition is going to rely on the conventional unproblematic and safe discourse of social justice, simply to avoid any direct ideological confrontation with the BJP.

As per CSDS-Lokniti post-poll surveys, issues such as nationalism, national pride and the need for a decisive leader continued to survive at the grassroots level in the recent elections. However, socio-economic disparities and caste-based exploitation emerged as determining factors for the average voter. It means that the people at the bottom tiers of society expect the political class to produce a discourse of inclusive nationalism, which can ameliorate the problems of livelihood, injustice and inequality. But this unfortunately is not happening.

It must also be noted that the non-BJP parties do not have a clear political stand on minorities. They evoke the term Hinduism to reject Hindutva as an exclusive political project of the BJP. This line of thinking indirectly talks of secularism and embracing unity of all religions in line with Swami Vivekananda's thinking. This has great acceptance in West Bengal, Odisha and some southern states, mainly Tamil Nadu but not in the northern states.

Regarding the sub-categorisation of castes as well as the creamy layer, the Congress has opposed both. The party has also alleged that the BJP wants to finish reservation for Dalits. However, the grand old party's calculated response to the recent Supreme Court judgement does not go well with the social justice scheme, which it means to develop as an alternative narrative of present-day politics. The purpose of a caste census, broadly speaking, is to find out the most backward and marginalised social groups for the sake of affirmative action. It goes without saying that such a census is a necessary precondition for any possible restructuring of the affirmative action framework.

While there is much talk in recent times of social justice, which includes the need for a caste census to give adequate opportunities to the most backward and neglected sections among SCs, in reality not much progress is manifest.

Moreover, gender justice is a key issue in this connection where rape and murders are continuing, the most recent example being of RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata.

And while we hear much about social justice, it is quite evident that though Dalits make up 250 million to 300 million of India's 1.4 billion population, a recent study found they face a stigma that is attached to them as persons and is perpetuated in social interactions. However, the study revealed that human capital, measured through school and college education, provided as much benefit on income to Dalit business owners as to other business owners. But, by and large, majority of the community continued to languish.

Regarding economic justice, the less said the better. The policies of the government are aimed at making life easier and better for the upper echelons of society in various ways without much concern for the backward districts and whether the population there gets proper education and healthcare.

Justice denotes happiness and communitarian bondage, which unfortunately is missing in our society today though political leaders talk about our tradition and heritage. The lack of equality in society – and equality from all standpoints - - is due to lack of justice reaching the citizens of this country. The entire strategy of our progress must be reshaped, keeping in view the needs and aspirations of the struggling masses and to upgrade their standards of living.

INFA

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**

Orissa POST HERE . NOW
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Sheer political feud

Sir, Thanks to the Supreme Court for coming up strongly against bulldozing of homes and private properties of persons just because they are "accused" in cases. Courtesy the BJP, the growl of bulldozers is being constantly heard in northern India, especially in Uttar Pradesh. It has become a regular affair for the authorities to come with bulldozers to neighbourhoods and illegally demolish the properties of the poor belonging to minority religions. This shows the class character of the ruling dispensation and its approach towards the poor. The BJP leaders justify the razing down of Muslims' properties as "unauthorized constructions." It is well known to them that illegal constructions are taking place on a large scale where the urban rich are living. Can the BJP government say that all these big constructions are taking place with strict rules and regulations? For the saffron leaders, concerns of human rights and democratic norms are trivial. They approach the issue with sheer political feud, guided by communal intolerance and religious zealotry.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Revealing report

Sir, The release of the study report on sexual exploitation and the condition of women in the Malayalam film industry by the Justice Hema Commission has triggered a revolution which undoubtedly is going to bring big changes not just in the Kerala film industry but other film industries in India and abroad. Such is its impact that more and more female artistes in the country are now boldly coming forward to reveal exploitations, harassment, inequality and dehumanising practices that they face in the industry. There is a demand for constituting similar panels in the various film industries to redress the grievances of women in the film world. It is high time the concerned ministries set up commissions to monitor, cleanse and put an end to the indignities and ill-treatment faced by women. Political or any other interventions must not stand as an escape exit for predators and whoever they are should be prosecuted once evidences are presented.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

TELANGANA CLASHES

Tension eases after protest over tribal woman's rape

A bandh call was given by tribal organisations in Jainoor town Wednesday to protest the alleged sexual assault and attempt to murder a 45-year-old tribal woman by a man from another community

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Sept 5: The situation in Jainoor town in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district remained peaceful Thursday, a day after protests by tribal organisations against an autorickshaw driver's alleged attempt to rape and murder a tribal woman sparked communal tension prompting authorities to impose a curfew.

The Opposition BRS and BJP hit out at the Congress government over the incident. The saffron party alleged that the government was trying to cover up the matter by projecting it as a communal issue.

The situation is peaceful and under control, a senior police official told PTI.

Additional forces were deployed along with Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel in the town, who conducted a flag march today.

Prohibitory orders under Section 163 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), imposed in Jainoor mandal, will continue, he said, adding that depending on the situation a decision on lifting or extending prohibitory orders will be taken.

The saffron party alleged that the government was trying to cover up the matter by projecting it as a communal issue

Prohibitory orders were also enforced in four mandals of neighbouring Adilabad district today after some organisations gave a call for rallies to protest against the incident.

Senior police officials were monitoring the law and order situation.

Special teams were formed and investigations were on to nab offenders involved in incidents of arson and violence, the official said.

According to police, a bandh call was given by tribal organisations in Jainoor town Wednesday to protest the alleged sexual assault and attempt to murder a 45-year-old tribal woman by a man from another community, August 31.

Some agitated youth had burnt shops and commercial establishments besides hurling stones at a place of worship.

After the protesters began attacking properties of another community, there was retaliation leading to arson, stone pelting, damage of properties.

Based on the statement of the woman, who is undergoing treatment at a state-run hospital here, the accused was arrested on charges of sexual assault, attempt to murder and under relevant sections of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

State Women and Child Welfare Minister Danasari Anasuya, also known as Seethakka, Thursday met the family members of the victim at the state-run Gandhi hospital where the latter was undergoing treatment.

The minister enquired with doctors about the treatment being given to the victim and handed over financial assistance of ₹1 lakh to the family members, her staff said in a release.

The Minister assured the family members that the government would stand by them.

Dismissing Opposition charge that the government was trying to "divert" attention from the issue, she told media that it is the government's responsibility to ensure that the culprits are punished.

T'gana aims AI-driven services to over 1cr people

THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY FOR 1CR+ CITIZENS AND ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES BY MORE THAN 20 PER CENT OVER THE NEXT 3 YEARS, SETTING THE BENCHMARK FOR AI-DRIVEN GOVERNANCE ACROSS INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Sept 5: Recognising the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence in promoting Sustainable Development Goals, Telangana intends to improve service delivery for over one crore citizens and enhance productivity of the government employees by more than 20 per cent over the next 3 years.

A report- AI Powered Telangana Strategy Document and Implementation Roadmap- released by the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said six critical pillars have been identified to enable an AI-powered state.

"The government intends to improve service delivery for 1Cr+ (over one crore) citizens and enhance productivity of government employees by more than 20 per cent over the next 3 years, setting the benchmark for AI-driven governance across India."

The government will set an example by integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) across its operations to enhance efficiency and service delivery and generative AI will be leveraged to power interventions aimed at solving the most critical governance challenges across domains including education, healthcare, agriculture, and service delivery, the report further said.

Addressing the gathering after releasing the report at the ongoing Global AI Summit here, Reddy said nothing will change society, and lives of people, as technology and innovation.

"Our commitment to artificial intelligence is not new. We have already taken big steps for AI. We want to lay a strong foundation for our future," he said.

Telangana AI Mission, or T-AIM, in partnership with Nasscom, will help implement the AI framework in the state

Telangana AI Mission, or T-AIM, in partnership with Nasscom, will help implement the AI framework in the state, he added.

IT Minister D Sridhar Babu also spoke at the event.

The state government intends to promote the development of datasets and models that allow AI to account for state-specific nuances including language and culture, besides government departments and selected early stage startups will be provided subsidised access to compute capacity to level the playing field for innovation, specifically for socially conscious solutions, the report further said.

Police personnel rescue people stranded in flood-hit Kurnool district. PTI PHOTO

INT'L DAY OF DEMOCRACY

100 km-long human chain to be formed in Udupi district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 5: This September 15, when the world commemorates the UN-proclaimed International Day for Democracy, Karnataka hopes to form the world's longest human chain, by linking arms from Bidar to Chamarajanagar.

The event, supposedly a nod to Karnataka's continued commitment towards democratic principles and a thriving democracy, will cover all 31 districts of Karnataka, approximately 2,500km.

"This will be the longest such attempt in the world. About 25 lakh people are expected to participate, with an average of more than 1,000 people every kilometre," said Minister for Social Welfare HC Mahadevappa.

According to him, the participants of the human chain will not only display banners and posters on democracy underlining the concept of liberty and freedom of expression, but they also remind us of our fundamental duties, like protecting our environment.

"We are also planning to plant 10 lakh saplings across the state by those participating in the human chain," the minister added.

Last year too, Karnataka observed International Democracy Day by reciting the Preamble of the Constitution of India. The initiative was led by the chief minister of Karnataka, Siddaramaiah and was organised by the Social Welfare Department in collaboration with the Backward Class Welfare Department and Tribal Welfare Department.

With a registration of 2,31,66,401 participants from 84 countries, including online, the event went on to receive recognition from the World Books of Records, London, said the minister.

Telangana's free electricity boost for govt schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Sept 5: The Telangana government Thursday issued an order providing free power supply to government educational institutions in the state to impart quality education. The scheme will into effect immediately, the Government Order (GO) said.

According to the modalities for the scheme's implementation, the DISCOMS (power distribution companies) will create an online portal with logins given to respective departments of all the government educational institutions of Telangana.

The secretaries of the concerned departments would finalise the list of institutions to be covered in the scheme and include the same on the online portal.

Monthly billing will be done for each institution and will be displayed in the departments' login.

The portal would also enable generation of reports pertaining to the consumption, bill amount, historical consumption, billing, payments and others.

The portal will be integrated with the finance department to enable the departments to pay the bills to DISCOMS using the budget provision, the GO added.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy August 2 said the government would provide free electricity to about 30,000 government schools as part of measures to improve infrastructure facilities.

Addressing a convention of teachers, he had also said Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal won elections thrice as he improved government schools and provided quality education to the poor.

ECOLOGICAL DISASTER

About 50,000 trees uprooted in Mulugu

The Forest department is assessing the damage, and the Panchayat Raj Minister calls for Central intervention to rejuvenate the affected area

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Sept 5: In an ecological disaster, an estimated 50,000 trees spread over about 500 acres in the forests of Mulugu district in Telangana were uprooted following a huge gale and a sudden cloud burst.

This happened on the night of August 31 because of local climatic conditions that suddenly developed there due to cloud formation, a senior forest official said Wednesday.

"We never saw such an incident in our lives," the official told PTI.

With the massive wind and water gushing (in a particular width and length), it has destroyed the forest and big trees have been uprooted, he said.

The other reason why the trees got uprooted was that the plants do not develop a very deep root system as moisture and nutrition are easily available for them in the area, he said.

In some places, the root system is developed within one foot, he added.

Had it been a very deep root system, the damage would have been less, the official said. In some places, the top part was broken as one tree fell on another tree or the top might have got broken due to any "injury" to the tree.

The Forest department has started an enumeration of the damage, which is expected to be completed in about a fortnight once the ongoing rainfall subsides.

The official said though cloud bursts have been reported from places like Himachal Pradesh, he has not come across damage to the forest on such a large extent of land.

The Forest department would prepare a report and also urge experts or agencies like the Meteorological department to throw light on the reasons for the weather phenomenon that led to the massive damage to the forest, he said, and added that they would plan on how to rejuvenate the area to bring back the glory.

THIS HAPPENED ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 31 BECAUSE OF LOCAL CLIMATIC CONDITIONS THAT SUDDENLY DEVELOPED THERE DUE TO CLOUD FORMATION

WITH THE MASSIVE WIND AND WATER GUSHING (IN A PARTICULAR WIDTH AND LENGTH), IT HAS DESTROYED THE FOREST AND BIG TREES HAVE BEEN UPROOTED

THE OTHER REASON WHY THE TREES GOT UPROOTED WAS THAT THE PLANTS DO NOT DEVELOP A VERY DEEP ROOT SYSTEM AS MOISTURE AND NUTRITION ARE EASILY AVAILABLE FOR THEM IN THE AREA

Though the forest is home to bison and spotted deer, no wildlife casualty has been reported, he said. Telangana Panchayat Raj Minister Danasari Anasuya expressed anguish over the loss of trees on about 500 acres.

There would have been widespread destruction had the incident occurred in villages, she said in a release.

She said Union Ministers from Telangana G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar should depute special teams from the Centre to ascertain the reasons for the incident.

The Centre should sanction special funds to rejuvenate forests where the trees got uprooted, she said.

'1K new jobs for skilled aviation engineers'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 5: The Air India's Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facility being built in Bangalore is not only expected to generate over 1,200 new job opportunities for skilled aviation engineers in India, but it will also create seven times more indirect jobs for the local population, said Air India CEO and managing director Campbell Wilson Wednesday.

The ground-breaking ceremony for the MRO facility on a 35-acre land parcel at the Bangalore International Airport was held Wednesday.

Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner for Industrial Development & Director, Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Karnataka, Hari Marar, Managing Director and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), Chin Yau Seng, CEO, SIA Engineering Company as well as the senior leadership team of Air India, including Wilson participated.

Earlier this year, Air India signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Karnataka government to establish the MRO facility in Bengaluru.

"Studies have found that every job created at the airport had a simulated effect on the economy that resulted in seven more jobs. This is consistent with what we see in other parts of the world," said Wilson, who addressed a press conference elaborating on the plans of Air India to build a self-reliant aviation eco-system for India.

According to Wilson, Air India has earmarked ₹1,400 crore for the MRO project, which is expected to become an important hub for Air India's aircraft maintenance operations in the region, as the airline modernises its fleet and expands its global operations.

The upcoming MRO facility will feature a mega hangar to accommodate wide body and narrow body aircraft under a single roof for base maintenance, said Wilson.

The facility, which will be equipped with the latest aircraft maintenance technology, including overhead tele platforms, cranes, universal docking systems, and the largest vertical lift hangar doors in the country, is expected to be completed by the end of 2025 and be operational by 2026, he said.

According to him, Air India has also signed an agreement with SIA Engineering Company (SIAEC) to be its strategic partner for the development of this MRO facility.

Wilson also said Air India will be opening a Basic Maintenance Training Organisation (BMTO) in 2025, in Bengaluru, to ensure continuous inflow of trained personnel for aircraft maintenance and engineering activities.

"This will create opportunities for engineering students to receive training to become type-rated engineers for certification. We are looking at training about 50 engineers initially," said Wilson.

Stating that India's aviation sector is on a growth trajectory, he said that the Bengaluru MRO facility is coming up at an opportune time to help strengthen India's aviation ecosystem.

"We will also be enhancing our in-house capabilities to maintain our fleet. This is a step ahead in our mission to make Air India a world-class airline," he added.

REGULATED MARKET COMMITTEE, PADAMPUR
No.357/ Date: 03.09.2024
INVITATION OF BIDS THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No.01 of 2024-25
No.H-16: (Ref-TCN No.354/ dated 03.09.2024)

Sr. No.	Item	Details
1	The Sub-Collector-cum-Chairman, RMC, Padampur, invites percentage rate bids in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE only for work as detailed below:	
2	Nature of the Work	Construction of building type works
3	No. of Work	02 Nos.
4	Bid Cost	Rs.10000.00 online transfer.
5	Value of Tender	Rs.413.16 lakhs & Rs.346.71 lakhs
6	Class of Contractor	"A" Class
7	Availability of BID documents in the website	Dt.06.09.2024 to 20.09.2024
8	Last date/time of Receipt of bids in the portal	Dt.20.09.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.
9	Date of Opening of Bid	Dt.21.09.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
10	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersorissa.gov.in. Any Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation of the Tender etc can also be seen in the website: https://tendersorissa.gov.in.	

Sd./- Sub-Collector-Padampur-cum-Chairman
RMC, Padampur
OIPR-07044/11/0002/2425

national

"The status of women in any society is an important criterion for its development. It is the responsibility of teachers and parents to educate children in such a way that they always behave in accordance with the dignity of women. The respect of women should not be only in words but also in practice

DROUPADI MURMU | PRESIDENT

BRINDA KARAT SLAMS HARYANA GOVT

Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Brinda Karat met the family of Aryan Mishra, a 19-year-old boy shot dead allegedly by cow vigilantes in a car chase in Faridabad, and accused the state government of giving the vigilantes "licence" to take the law in their hands

Quote of the day

I will catch the RSS-BJP by the ear and make them get caste census done

LALU PRASAD | RJD PRESIDENT

People should feel that they can expect justice from the government. Now, the feeling is not there. That is what was reflected in the massive protest that culminated yesterday

CV ANANDA BOSE | BENGAL GOVERNOR

As fish cannot survive without water, our opposition (BJP) feels the same without power... They have been after me and our MLAs for the past two years. But, we are neither saleable nor are we scared

HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

SHORT TAKES

Heavy showers predicted in Raj

Jaipur: A man died in a rain-related incident Thursday as the weather office predicted heavy showers in the coming days in southern and southeastern parts of Rajasthan. Heavy rain was recorded in many districts, including Jodhpur and Barmer, in the last 24 hours. Police said a house collapsed due to rain in Madoli village in Sawai Madhopur Thursday morning, killing Aman Meena in the incident. His body was taken out of the debris and later handed over to the family after post-mortem, they said.

Woman alleges assault by driver

Bangalore: A woman has alleged that she faced harassment and was physically assaulted by an auto driver here after she cancelled her ride which was booked through an app. She said the incident occurred Wednesday when she and her friend booked two autos on Ola app. Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) S Girish said the auto driver has been apprehended by Magadi Road Police. Action is being initiated for the offence committed as per law.

Sena leader booked for attacking Dalit

Thane: A Shiv Sena leader and several others were booked in Thane for allegedly attacking some people and preventing them from entering a temple, a police official said Thursday. The incident took place late Wednesday night after a meeting called at a temple by accused Vikas Repale, who is a former corporator, the Wagle Estate police station official said.

Kanhaiya Lal murder accused granted bail

Jaipur: Mohammad Javed, one of the accused in the tailor Kanhaiya Lal murder case in Rajasthan's Udaipur in 2022, was Thursday granted bail by the Rajasthan High Court. Javed had pleaded for bail in the Jaipur bench of the high court after the NIA court denied him relief in the case. Reacting to the development, former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot alleged that the BJP used the case to gain electoral advantage, whereas BJP leader Rajendra Rathore said his party's government was committed to punishing the culprits behind the murder. Kanhaiya Lal was hacked to death at his shop in the busy Hathipole area of Udaipur in June 2022 by two cleaver-wielding men – Mohammad Riyaz and Mohammad Gause – for allegedly supporting a social media post against Islam, an incident that sent shockwaves across the country.

Rebellion in Haryana BJP

AGENCIES

Chandigarh, Sept 5: A day after the ruling BJP announced its first list of 67 candidates for the October 5 Haryana Assembly polls, the party faced rebellion with minister Ranjit Singh Chautala and MLA Lakshman Dass Napa who were denied ticket quitting the party.

Energy and Jails Minister Ranjit Chautala (79), son of former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, said he took a decision after a meeting with his supporters and will now enter the fray as an Independent. Napa quit the party after being denied ticket while former minister Karan Dev Kamboj also stepped down as state BJP's OBC Morcha chief after party ignored his candidature.

The rebel trouble for BJP started shortly after it came out with the first list of candidates as it left many sulking. After quitting the party, Napa met former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda at his residence in the national capital and later said he will be joining the Congress along with his supporters. Ranjit Chautala called a meeting of his supporters after the party ignored his candidature from Rania segment in Sirsa district.

"I took the decision after consulting my supporters," he said when asked about his move. "I had good relations with them (BJP). They gave me Lok Sabha ticket (from Hisar, which he fought unsuccessfully). But don't know on whose advice they have acted. I will say anyone who has given them this advice has caused damage to the party," Chautala said. Chautala was hoping to contest from Rania seat but the BJP fielded Shishpal Kamboj instead.

Ranjit had resigned as Independent MLA from Rania ahead of the Lok Sabha polls to join the BJP and fought the Hisar parliamentary seat unsuccessfully.

Napa, sitting MLA from Ratia reserve constituency in Fatehabad district, said he served his constituency with full dedication and undertook development works. He said he does not know why the party denied him re-nomination from the assembly segment. Napa said he had met Hooda Thursday morning. "I am joining Congress."

In another jolt to the BJP after it put out the first list of candidates, former minister Karan Dev Kamboj said he has resigned as state president of Haryana BJP's OBC Morcha and from all party posts he held.

Kamboj, who was also a ticket hopeful but did not get it, said he had been serving the party over the years with dedication. "Perhaps the BJP does not need loyalists anymore," he said, adding the party is rewarding leaders with tickets who joined a day before while ignoring those who served it for years.

Napa, in a letter to state party chief Mohan Lal Badoli shortly after the BJP put out the first list of 67 candidates for the polls, said he was resigning from the party's primary membership. A few sitting legislators, including minister Sanjay Singh and former minister Sandeep Singh, do not figure in the first list of BJP candidates.

From Ratia, the party has fielded former Sirsa MP Sunita Duggal. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Duggal was denied re-nomination from the Sirsa parliamentary constituency after former Haryana Congress chief Ashok Tanwar, who had joined BJP ahead of the LS polls, was given the ticket. Tanwar, however, lost to Congress veteran Kumari Selja.

The rebel trouble for BJP started shortly after it came out with the first list of candidates as it left many sulking

Former Haryana minister and senior BJP leader Kavita Jain, a ticket hopeful from Sonipat, was also sulking after party fielded Nikhil Madan from the constituency. Addressing her supporters in Sonipat, she turned emotional, and said she had always worked as a dedicated soldier for her party and her candidature should have been considered.

In its first list released Wednesday, the BJP fielded Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, who is the sitting MLA from Karnal, from the Ladwa seat, and rewarded several recent entrants to the party with poll tickets.

The BJP is aiming for a hat-trick in Haryana but faces tough challenge from a resurgent Congress which is looking to cash in on the anti-incumbency factor.

Saini is the BJP's Chief Ministerial face for the Assembly polls. The counting of votes for the elections to the 90-member Assembly will take place October 8.

Rahul: PM should apologise to every Maharashtrian

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sangli (Maharashtra), Sept 5: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should apologise to every Maharashtrian for the collapse of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue in Sindhudurg district, and also say sorry for demonetisation, anti-farmer bills and GST.

Rahul Gandhi was speaking at a public meeting here after inaugurating a statue of late party leader Patangrao Kadam.

"I want to ask the prime minister what he is sorry for, is it because the contract to make the Shivaji statue was given to an RSS person who had no merit, or for the corruption in the proces," he said. With the BJP-Shiv Sena-NCP government in Maharashtra coming under fire over the collapse of the statue last month, the Prime Minister during his subsequent visit to the state said he apologised to the iconic king, his "deity", and also the people whose sentiments were hurt.

I want to ask the Prime Minister what he is sorry for, is it because the contract to make the Shivaji statue was given to an RSS person who had no merit, or for the corruption in the process

RAHUL GANDHI | LOP IN THE LS

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, senior leaders Sushilkumar Shinde and Prithviraj Chavan, and NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar attended the function in Sangli, a city in western Maharashtra and a traditional Congress bastion. But ally Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray was conspicuous by his absence. Notably, Sena (UBT) candidate had lost to Congress rebel Vishal Patil in the Sangli Lok Sabha seat.

Modi should answer why all contracts are given only to "Adani and Ambani" and why he was running the government only for "two people", Rahul further said.

SNIPPETS

Hindu right bodies stage mass protest in Shimla over 'illegal' mosque

Shimla: Hindu right bodies Thursday staged a massive protest at Chaura Maidan here in the vicinity of the Vidhan Sabha demanding demolition of an "illegal" mosque in Sanjauli. The Sanjauli area was choked as the protesters took out a march. The area teemed with hundreds of demonstrators, several of whom carried Hindu religion insignia, such as saffron flags and banners bearing Lord Ram's image and the protesters demanded demolition of the illegal mosque in 15 days. The protesters had gathered on the call of Dev Bhumi Shatriya Sangathan and Hindu Jagaran Manch.

SC directs Sahara Group to deposit ₹1,000 crore

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday directed Sahara Group to deposit ₹1,000 crore in a separate escrow account within 15 days and allowed it to enter into a joint venture for developing its land at Versova in Mumbai to realise ₹10,000 crore. The amount of ₹10,000 crore has to be deposited in SEBI-Sahara refund account for returning the investors' money, in compliance with the apex court's 2012 order. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna, MM Sundresh and Bela M Trivedi said in case the joint venture/development agreement is not filed in the court within 15 days, then it will sell the 12.15 million square feet of land at Versova on 'as is where is' basis.

Cricketer Ravindra Jadeja joins BJP

New Delhi: Having retired from T20 internationals after India's T20 World Cup triumph this year, cricketer Ravindra Jadeja appears to have embarked on a political journey by joining the BJP. The announcement was made by the cricketer's wife, Rivaba Jadeja, who is a BJP MLA from Gujarat. In a post on X Thursday, Ms Jadeja shared photos of Ravindra Jadeja's card as a BJP member, along with her own. The post mentioned the BJP's 'sadasyata abhiyan', or membership drive, which began September 2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also renewed his membership of the party under the drive the same day.

PROTEST TURNS UGLY: Police lathicharge an Indian Youth Congress activist during a protest demanding the resignation of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over LDF MLA P V Anvar's allegations against top IPS officers in the state, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala PTI PHOTO

Congress demands independent probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, SepT 5: Amid the row over allegations against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch, the Congress Thursday demanded an independent inquiry into the matter, asserting that it is in national interest to have a probe as foreign investors were getting concerned and there were doubts about the integrity of India's stock markets.

The opposition party said only an objective, independent inquiry with the SEBI Chairperson Buch stepping aside was needed until then can restore trust and confidence in India's stock markets and hence the economy.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEBI CHIEF

Chairman of Professionals' Congress and Data Analytics Praveen Chakravarty claimed that lots of skeletons are tumbling out of the cupboard of SEBI, which is one of the nation's most important institutions. "On 10 August, a foreign research firm issued a report with allegations against the SEBI chairperson and her family regarding offshore funds, for which they claimed to have documentary evidence," he said at a press conference at the AICC headquarters.

Four soldiers die in Sikkim road mishap

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 5: Four Army personnel, on their way from their unit in Bengal to Sikkim, in a road accident in the latter's Pakyong district Thursday, officials said.

The accident occurred when the vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge on the Rhenock Rongli state highway, popularly termed the Silk Route. The Army's Eastern Command, consoling the deaths of its personnel, identified them as Subedar K Thangapandi, Naik Gursev Singh, craftsman W Peter Singh and Sepoy Pradeep Patel.

"Lt Gen RC Tiwari, #ArmyCdrEC & All Ranks express deepest condolences on the sad demise of Subedar K Thangapandi, Naik Gursev Singh, Craftsman W Peter Singh and Sepoy Pradeep Patel in the line of duty in #Sikkim. Indian Army stands firmly with the bereaved families," it said in a post on X. Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra expressed their grief over the incident and paid tributes to the deceased soldiers. "The news of the martyrdom of four soldiers of our army in a road accident in Sikkim is extremely saddening. I pay my tributes to the martyred soldiers and extend deep condolences to their grief-stricken families," Rahul Gandhi said.

Haryana has 15 cities among India's most polluted: Analysis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: Fifteen out of 24 cities in Haryana ranked among India's 100 most polluted cities based on PM2.5 levels in the first half of 2024, according to a new analysis.

According to India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), safe limits for PM2.5 and PM10 annual levels are 40 micrograms per cubic metre and 60 micrograms per cubic metre, respectively. However, these limits are much higher than the World Health Organization's (WHO) 2021 guidelines, which recommend 5 micrograms per cubic metre for PM2.5 and 15 micrograms per cubic metre for PM10.

Only three cities -- Palwal, Ambala, and Mandikhera -- managed to keep PM2.5 levels below the NAAQS limits. Gurugram had the highest PM10 concentration at 227 micrograms per cubic metre while Ambala recorded the lowest at 79 micrograms per cubic metre.

"All 24 cities in Haryana overshot the WHO standards for particulate matter in the first half of the year. Although some cities have not yet surpassed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) due to their more lenient thresholds, this disparity highlights that current national standards may be insufficient for protecting public health. A revision is needed to align more closely with international recommendations," said Manoj Kumar, an analyst at the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

Although many cities in Haryana have poor air quality, only Faridabad is currently part of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Other cities with persistent pollution problems lack action plans to address the issue.

India launched the NCAP in 2019 with a target to reduce particulate pollution by 20-30 per cent by 2024, using 2017 as the base year.

The target was revised to a 40 per cent reduction by 2026, using 2019-20 as the base year. However, the programme currently covers only 131 non-attainment cities -- those that consistently failed to meet national ambient air quality standards between 2011 and 2015. Air quality is equally poor in smaller cities, towns and villages since pollution doesn't respect state or national borders, experts argue.

Air quality data from January to June showed that every city in Haryana exceeded both NAAQS and WHO PM10 standards

Faridabad was the most polluted city in Haryana, with an average PM2.5 level of 103 micrograms per cubic metre, far above NAAQS and WHO guidelines

They have urged for the adoption of an airshed approach to manage air pollution in the region. An airshed refers to a geographic area where air quality is influenced by similar factors, such as wind patterns and pollution sources. Since pollution in one area can easily spread to neighbouring regions, an airshed approach promotes coordinated efforts across states.

CREA said NCAP should be revised to include a stronger institutional framework that promoted coordination among states, cities and agencies.

This would ensure effective long-term management of air quality, requiring better monitoring systems, transparent data sharing, and strict enforcement to reduce pollution and protect public health, it said.

national

People of Jammu and Kashmir are not slaves of the Centre but the real owners of their land

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

DRUNK TEACHER CHOPS GIRL'S HAIR

A government school teacher in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district was suspended on Teachers' Day Thursday for cutting a girl's hair in an inebriated state, an official said. District Collector Rajesh Batham said a criminal case will also be registered against the teacher, Veer Singh Medha, for the misconduct

Quote of the day

We have elevated teachers to the position of gurus and they are key to shaping future generations

ATISHI MARLENA | MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF DELHI

The central government is bringing in changes to ensure quality education and also bring out skilled students. The Pondicherry government measures up to the reforms in the education sector

N RANGASAMY | PONDICHERRY CM

The government is laying a major thrust on complete overhaul of the education system. It is regularly sending school principals and teachers to eminent institutes within the country and abroad for updating their expertise

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

X POST OF THE DAY

In India, everyone seems to be fighting with each other:
[1] Reserved vs unreserved
[2] Direct tax payers vs freeloaders
[3] Fight on religion
[4] Veg vs non-vegetarians
[5] BJP vs Congress vs AAP
[6] Soros vs non-Soros gangs
Every day there is some new fuel added to the fire. No one bothers about building better systems.
If any fault is pointed: we go back fighting on one of the above 6 points.
System does not improve. People get used to corruption. And, we keep celebrating 4Tr/5Tr economy, where 60% people have to survive on food subsidy.
Most people forget the absolute basic principle of prosperity: without peace, there is no prosperity.

@Akshat_World

SHORT TAKES

19-year-old raped, murdered; 3 held

Bidar (Karnataka): A case of rape and murder has been registered after the body of a 19-year-old woman was found with multiple injuries days after she went missing from her home at Gunateerthawadi village in this district of Karnataka, police said Thursday. Three people have been arrested in connection with the incident which allegedly happened August 29, they said.

2 students killed in road accident

Raichur (Karnataka): Two school students were killed and three critically injured when the school bus they were travelling in collided head-on with a government bus at Kapagal in Raichur district Thursday, police said. The bus with 42 students was heading for a private school when the accident occurred.
"Two have died, three have sustained critical injuries, (some) other children have sustained serious injuries. The injured are being treated in a nearby hospital," a police officer told PTI.

4 killed in private bus-van collision

Nagpur: Four people were killed in a collision between a Matador van and a private bus in Nagpur district of Maharashtra Thursday, police said. A senior police official told PTI that the collision took place in Bhivapur town in the afternoon after which both the vehicles overturned.

Fuel prices to go up in Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 5: Fuel prices are set to go up in Punjab with the state Cabinet Thursday deciding to increase value-added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel by 61 paise a litre and 92 paise per litre, respectively.

A decision in this regard was taken by the council of ministers in a meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann here. At present, the retail price of petrol in Mohali stands at ₹97.01 per litre and diesel is priced at ₹87.21.

Already, the fuel is more expensive in Punjab than in Chandigarh. In the Union Territory of Chandigarh, prices of petrol and diesel are ₹94.24 and 82.40 per litre, respectively. Fuel pump owners strongly condemned the decision of the AAP-led government, saying it would hit their business hard.

They further said it is the third time that the Bhagwant Mann-led government raised fuel prices in the past two-and-a-half years. Addressing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said the decision has been taken to raise VAT on petrol and diesel.

He said VAT on petrol will be raised by 61 paise and 92 paise a litre for diesel.

Reacting to the hike in VAT on fuel, Petrol Pump Dealers' Association, Punjab, spokesperson Monty Sehgal criticised the state government's decision. He said with the hike in VAT on fuel, the sales of petrol and diesel located in border districts will be impacted as their business will shift to neighbouring states where the fuel is less expensive.

EXCISE POLICY CASE

Kejriwal, CBI spar over bail; SC reserves verdict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday vehemently opposed in the Supreme Court the CBI's argument that he should have approached the trial court first for bail in the corruption case linked to the alleged excise policy scam, asserting it would not be fair to send the matter back to the trial court at this stage.

After protracted arguments by the counsel for the beleaguered AAP leader and the central probe agency, the court reserved its judgement on separate pleas filed by Kejriwal for bail and against his arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Questioning the maintainability of Kejriwal's pleas, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the central agency, submitted that even in the money laundering case in which he had challenged his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), he was sent back by the apex court to the trial court.

"He has approached Delhi High Court directly without going to sessions court. Under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), both have concurrent jurisdiction. My preliminary objection is he must first go to trial court." "He seems to be an extraordinary person who requires different approach. When all other Aam Aaadmis (common people) go to the trial court for bail, there cannot be a special treatment for anyone," Raju told a a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan. Raju said if the Supreme Court grants bail to Kejriwal, it will demoralise the Delhi High Court, while had upheld his arrest. Countering Raju's submissions, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the chief minister, said the questions arising for consideration in the present bail case have already been extensively dealt with by the trial court during remand.

"It's not a fair argument for CBI to raise at this stage. You cannot consider sending me back there. Arguments were looked into during remand and affirmed against me. It is not fair to raise that argument now. At this stage, there is huge delay involved since it has been heard on merits. I am giving the right of appeal. CBI should be the last one to complain," Singhvi said.

Pointing out alleged legal infirmities in the case, Singhvi said no notice was served to Kejriwal by the CBI before his arrest and an ex-parte arrest order was passed by the trial court. Caling it as a mere "technicality", the ASG said the CBI did not issue a notice to Kejriwal under section Section 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure as he was already in judicial custody.

GODLY TOUCH: An artisan gives finishing touches to a clay idol of Lord Ganesh ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi festival, in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

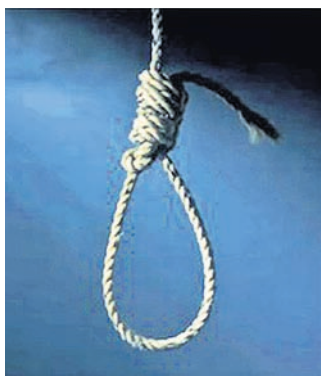
NEET aspirant hangs self in Kota, 14th suicide this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota (Rajasthan), Sept 5: A 21-year-old student preparing for NEET-UG in Kota allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of a rented room in a house Wednesday night.

The father of the deceased held the alleged NEET-24 exam scam responsible for the extreme step taken by the youth

This is the 14th case of suicide by a student in the coaching hub Kota this year since January, while 26 cases of death by suicide were reported in the city in 2023. The father of the deceased held the alleged NEET-24 exam scam responsible for the extreme step taken by the youth. However, he did not level any allegation in the report to the police in the matter. No suicide note was recovered from the room in which the student stayed.



The deceased, identified as Parshuram Jatav (21), a resident of Barsana in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh, last spoke to his father Wednesday around 1.15 pm and expressed his wish to return home. His father, Khacharmal, asked him to come back home. However, the son did not attend to his calls after that.

The incident came to light around 11 pm Wednesday night when the house owner knocked on the youth's room door after he failed to notice him since the evening. The caretaker informed the police, who rushed to the spot, broke the room door open, recovered the body and placed it in the mortuary of MBS hospital. Khacharmal, who works as a mason, reached Kota Thursday morning. While speaking to media outside the mortuary here, he held the NEET-UG-24 exam 'scam' responsible for the extreme step taken by his son.

6 Maoists neutralised

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Sept 5: Six cadres of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) including two women were killed after an exchange of fire between the ultras and police in Bhadradri Kothagudem district of Telangana Thursday, police said.

Two commandos of the Greyhounds, the elite anti-naxal force of Telangana Police, were also injured in the exchange of fire and were shifted to a hospital and their condition is out of danger, they said. The exchange of fire took place at around 6.45 am in the forest area of Mothe village under Karakagudem police station limits when the armed CPI (Maoist) cadres opened fire indiscriminately on the police party which was on patrol, a release from police said. After warning the Maoist cadres to stop fire and in self-defence, as the firing from the Maoists did not stop, the police party also returned fire. After the firing stopped from CPI (Maoist) armed cadres, the police party searched the area and found six bodies, clad in olive green clothes, it said. The six dead were CPI (Maoist) cadres of Bhadradri Kothagudem-Alluri Sitharamaraju Divisional Committee, the release said.

Two commandos of the Greyhounds, the elite anti-naxal force of T'gana Police, were also injured

The identities of the deceased is yet to be established, it said. Based on inputs that a Maoists team crossed over to Telangana from neighbouring Chhattisgarh, special police parties took up combing in the area when the incident happened, a senior police official told PTI. The dead included a senior cadre of the Maoists, he said based on preliminary investigation. Police recovered weapons including two AK-47, one SLR, one .303 rifle, one pistol and magazines, live rounds, kit bags and other materials from the spot, he said. Further investigation was on, police added.

EC notifies 3rd phase of J&K polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 5: The Election Commission of India Thursday issued a notification for the third and final phase of the Legislative Assembly polls for Jammu and Kashmir.

The notification was issued for 40 assembly constituencies, spread across Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, and Jammu districts, where polling will be held October 1. In Kashmir Division, 16 assembly constituencies will go to polls, while in Jammu region voting will be held on 24 seats.

The seats going to polls in Kashmir are Karnah, Trehgam, Kupwara, Lolab, Handwara, Langate, Sopore, Rafiabad, Uri, Baramulla, Gulmarg, Wagoora-Kreeri, Pattan, Sonawari, Bandipora, and Gurez (ST). In Jammu division, the constituencies going to polls are Udhampur West, Udhampur East, Chenani, Ramnagar (SC), Bani, Billawar, Basohli, Jasrota, Kathua (SC), Hiranagar, Ramgarh (SC), Samba, and Vijaypur, Bishnah (SC).

In Kashmir Division, 16 Assembly constituencies will go to polls, while in Jammu region voting will be held on 24 seats

■ The notification was issued for 40 Assembly constituencies, spread across Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Udhampur, Kathua, Samba, and Jammu districts, where polling will be held October 1

Suchetgarh (SC), R S Pura, Jammu South, Bahu, Jammu East, Nagrota, Jammu West, Jammu North, Marh (SC), Akhnoor (SC), and Chhamb are the other constituencies going to polls in the region.

According to the notification, the last date for filing nominations for this phase is September 12, while the scrutiny of the nomination papers will take place on September 13. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is September 17. The polling for the first two phases of polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be held on September 18 and September 25.

Assembly polls are being conducted in Jammu and Kashmir after a gap of 10 years and first time since the erstwhile state was carved into two Union Territories following the abrogation of Article 370.

3 labourers killed in slab collapse

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 5: Three labourers were killed and as many injured after a portion of a slab at an under-construction building collapsed here Thursday, civic officials said.

The incident occurred around 12.10 pm at Govind Nagar of Malad (East) in the western suburbs of Mumbai.

A portion of the 20th-floor slab of the 23-storey Navjeevan building collapsed, said an official. The high-rise is being constructed on Haji Bapu Road as a saleable wing of an SRA (Slum Rehabilitation Authority) project by Right Channel Private Limited, a senior civic official said. Two purported videos of the incident surfaced on social media. In one of the clips, a labourer can be seen plunging on construction material on the ground and a few people trying to lift him. The second video shows some people visibly shaken apparently after a narrow escape.

NMC withdraws newly announced MBBS curriculum

"It is informed that the Circular of even number dated 31.08.2024 thereby issuing Guidelines under Competency Based Medical Education Curriculum (CBME) 2024, stands "withdrawn and cancelled" with immediate effect. The above guidelines will be revised and uploaded in due course," the NMC said

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: The National Medical Commission Thursday withdrew and cancelled guidelines under Competency Based Medical Education Curriculum in which it had reintroduced sodomy and lesbianism as unnatural sexual offences in the forensic medicine and toxicology curriculum for undergraduate medical students.

The guidelines were issued on August 31. "It is informed that the Circular of even number dated 31.08.2024 thereby issuing Guidelines under Competency Based Medical Education Curriculum (CBME) 2024, stands "withdrawn and cancelled" with immediate effect. The above guidelines will be revised and uploaded in due course," the National Medical Commission (NMC) said.

Besides sodomy and lesbianism, the NMC had brought back topics such as the hymen and its type, and its medico-legal importance in addition to 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 Inquest), and 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 judgments, the NMC said in its document.

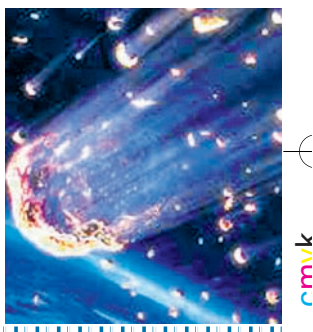
international

In the face of today's many challenges, we respond with the sign of fraternity. Indeed, by welcoming others and respecting their identity, fraternity urges them on a common path traveled in friendship and leading towards the light

POPE FRANCIS | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

ASTEROID BURNS UP

A small asteroid discovered Wednesday harmlessly burned up in Earth's atmosphere the same day, NASA said. The asteroid — about 3 feet (1 meter) across — was spotted by astronomers in Arizona and broke apart over the coast of the Philippines hours after the discovery



Quote of the day

Gaza must be demilitarized, and this can only happen if the Philadelphi corridor remains under firm control

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PM, ISRAEL

We have never intended in any way to be intentionally provocative, unnecessarily hostile. China is a great friend, but of course we have to operate in our waters and secure economic advantage, including drilling for oil in our territory

ANWAR IBRAHIM | PM, MALAYSIA

I mean, the president made clear his continued concerns about the safety and security of the people in Bangladesh and the future of their democratic institutions

JOHN KIRBY | WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMUNICATIONS ADVISER

SHORT TAKES

Harris accepts debate rules

Washington: Vice President Kamala Harris has accepted the rules set forth for next week's debate with former President Donald Trump, although the Democratic nominee says the decision not to keep both candidates' microphones live throughout the matchup will be to her disadvantage. The development, which came Wednesday by way of a letter from Harris' campaign to host network ABC News, seemed to mark a conclusion to the debate over microphone muting, which had for a time threatened to derail the September 10 presidential debate at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. President Joe Biden's campaign had made the muting of microphones, except for the candidate whose turn it is to speak, a condition of his decision to accept any debates this year. Some aides have said they now regret that decision, saying voters were shielded from hearing Trump's outbursts during the June debate.

Teen held for Indian's murder

London: A 14-year-old boy arrested following the fatal assault on 80-year-old Bhim Kohli while he was out walking his dog in a park near the eastern England city of Leicester appeared in court Thursday charged with his murder. The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons as he is a minor, appeared at Leicester Youth Court sitting at Leicester Magistrates' Court. He was among five children aged between 12 and 14 years to be arrested following the death of Kohli in hospital on Monday night by Leicestershire Police, with the other four released earlier with no further action. Meanwhile, Kohli's family released a statement via the police to say they were heartbroken and struggling to cope with the loss of a loving and caring person.

China halts foreign adoptions of kids

Beijing: The Chinese government is no longer allowing foreign adoptions of the country's children, a spokesperson said Thursday. The only exception will be for blood relatives adopting a child or a stepchild, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning said. She didn't explain the decision other than to say that it was in line with the spirit of relevant international conventions. Many foreigners have adopted children from China over the decades, visiting the country to pick them up and then bringing them to a new home overseas.

India, S'pore elevate ties

COUNTRIES SIGN 4 MOUs DURING PM MODI'S VISIT AND BILATERAL TIES ELEVATED TO "COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

We also want to create many Singapores in India and I am happy that we are working together in this direction. The ministerial roundtable that has been formed between us is a path-breaking mechanism

NARENDRA MODI | PM, INDIA

Singapore, Sept 5: India and Singapore Thursday elevated their bilateral ties to a "comprehensive strategic partnership" and signed four MoUs, including on cooperation in semiconductors, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with his counterpart Lawrence Wong.

During his opening remarks, Modi said Singapore is not only a partner nation but it is an inspiration for every developing country.

"A new chapter in - ties: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established. PM @narendramodi and PM @LawrenceWongST held a productive meeting in Singapore today," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X after the meeting.

"The leaders agreed to elevate the - ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. They extensively reviewed various facets of the bilateral relationship covering areas of Advanced Manufacturing, Connectivity, Digitalisation, Healthcare & Medicine, Skills Development and Sustainability," he said.

The MEA in a statement said both leaders reviewed the progress of India - Singapore bilateral relations.

"Given the breadth and depth of bilateral ties and immense potential, they decided to elevate the relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This would also give a major boost to India's Act East Policy," it said.

Taking stock of the robust progress in economic ties, the leaders called for further expanding trade and investment flows between the two countries. Prime Minister highlighted that Singapore with an investment of around $160 billion in the Indian economy, is a leading economic partner for India. He further noted that rapid and sustained growth in India has opened up immense investment opportunities for Singaporean entities, it added.

Singapore, India sign pact on semiconductor ecosystem

First-ever Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre, Invest India office to be set up in Singapore

They also reviewed existing cooperation in the fields of defence and security, maritime domain awareness, education, AI, Fintech, new technology domains, science and technology and knowledge partnership. The two leaders called for strengthening connectivity between the countries to enhance economic and people-to-people ties. They also called for acceleration in green corridor projects.

The two leaders discussed the outcome of the 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable held in Singapore in August 2024.

"Noting that the Ministerial Roundtable is a unique mechanism, the leaders appreciated the work done by senior ministers from both sides in deliberating and identifying a new agenda for bilateral cooperation. The leaders called for accelerated action under the pillars of cooperation identified during the Ministerial Roundtables - advanced manufacturing, connectivity, digitalisation, healthcare & medicine, skills development and sustainability," the statement said.

The leaders underscored that the cooperation under these pillars, particularly in the areas of semiconductors and critical and emerging technologies, opens a new chapter in bilateral relations making our ties future-oriented, the statement said.

Their discussion also covered the celebration of the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations in 2025. Highlighting that the cultural connect between the two countries is an important component of these ties, the Prime Minister announced that India's first Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre would be opened in Singapore.

The leaders also exchanged views on important regional and global issues of mutual interest, including India-ASEAN relations and India's vision for the Indo-Pacific.

Prime Minister invited Wong to visit India, which he accepted. Modi flew to Singapore Wednesday after wrapping his visit to Brunei, the first bilateral visit there by an Indian prime minister.

UKRAINE PEACE TALKS

Putin in touch with India, China, Brazil

The Indian Prime Minister can lead the line on getting first-hand information from the participants in this conflict as he freely communicates with Putin, with Zelenskyy, and with the Americans

DMITRY PESKOV | RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Moscow, Sept 5: Russian President Vladimir Putin Thursday named India among the three countries he is constantly in touch over the Ukraine conflict and said they are sincerely making efforts to resolve it, TASS news agency reported.

Reporting on his remarks at the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) in Vladivostok, US media outlet Politico reported him as also saying, "If there is a desire of Ukraine to carry on with the negotiations, I can do that."

Putin's remarks came within two weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Ukraine where he held talks with President President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"We respect our friends and partners, who, I believe, sincerely seek to resolve all issues surrounding this conflict, primarily China, Brazil and India. I constantly keep in touch with our colleagues on this issue," Putin was quoted as saying by the Russian news agency.

Separately, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the Izvestia daily that India could help in establishing a dialogue on Ukraine.

Underlining the existing "highly constructive, even friendly relations" between Modi and Putin, he said the Indian Prime Minister can "lead the line on getting first-hand information from the participants in this conflict," as he "freely communicates with Putin, with Zelenskyy, and with the Americans."

"This gives a great opportunity for India to throw its weight in world affairs, to use its influence that would drive the Americans and Ukrainians towards using a greater political will and entering the peaceful settlement track," Peskov said.

He, however, said there are "no specific plans" on Modi mediating on the issue.

"At this time they can hardly exist, as we do not see any preconditions for talks for now," the Kremlin spokesman said.

Modi August 23 visited Ukraine where he conveyed to President Zelenskyy that both Ukraine and Russia should sit together without wasting time to end the ongoing war and that India was ready to play an "active role" to restore peace in the region.

Macron names former Brexit negotiator Barnier as new PM

At 73, Barnier will be the oldest PM in France's modern political history, taking over from Gabriel Attal, who was youngest

REUTERS

Paris, Sept 5: French President Emmanuel Macron appointed Michel Barnier, the European Union's former Brexit negotiator, as his new prime minister Thursday, in a bid to put an end to political paralysis following an inconclusive snap election.

A key question will now be whether Barnier's government will manage to get reforms adopted by a deeply divided parliament.

The discreet, conservative politician will quickly face a baptism of fire as time is running out to prepare France's 2025 budget, which could trigger a vote of no confidence if other parties are not satisfied.

Barnier first became a lawmaker aged 27, and later held roles in several French governments, including foreign minister and agriculture minister. He is best known abroad for having led the EU's talks with Britain over its exit from the bloc from 2016-2021.

Macron had considered a string of potential prime ministers in recent weeks, none of whom mustered enough support to guarantee a stable government, which was his key criteria.

There is no guarantee Barnier's government will be able to convince parliament to adopt reforms or keep him in power for long.

But at least the far-right National Rally (RN), the biggest single party in parliament after the early July election, signalled earlier Thursday it would not immediately reject Barnier if he met certain conditions.

Barnier is a staunch pro-European and a moderate career politician, but he toughened his discourse considerably during his failed 2021 bid to get his conservative party's ticket for the presidential election, saying immigration was out of control - a view shared by the RN.

14-year-old student fatally shot four in rampage at school

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winder, Sept 5: Georgia police interviewed a 13-year-old boy more than a year ago while looking into online posts threatening a school shooting, but investigators didn't have enough evidence for an arrest.

On Wednesday, that boy opened fire at his high school outside Atlanta, killing four people and wounding nine, officials said.

The teen has been charged as an adult with using an assault-style rifle to kill two Apalachee High School students and two teachers in the hallway outside his algebra classroom, Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Chris Hosey said at a news conference.

It was the latest among dozens of school shootings across the US in recent years, including especially deadly ones in Newtown, Connecticut, Parkland, Florida, and Uvalde, Texas.

The classroom killings have set off fervent debates about gun control and frayed the nerves of parents whose children are growing up accustomed to active shooter drills in classrooms. But there has been little change to national gun laws.

'Hasina must stay silent in India till Bangladesh seeks her extradition'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Sept 5: Muhammad Yunus, the head of Bangladesh's interim government, has said that former prime minister Sheikh Hasina making political remarks from India is an "unfriendly gesture", asserting that she must remain silent to prevent the discomfort to both countries until Dhaka requests her extradition.

"If India wants to keep her until the time Bangladesh (government) wants her back, the condition would be that she has to keep quiet," he said.

In an interview with PTI at his official residence in Dhaka, Yunus, who was appointed the country's Chief Adviser after Hasina's ouster, stressed that while Bangladesh values strong ties with India, New Delhi must move "beyond the narrative that portrays every other political party except Awami League as Islamist and that the country will turn into Afghanistan without Sheikh Hasina."

"No one is comfortable with her stance there in India because we want her back to try her. She is there in India and at times she is talking, which is problematic. Had she been quiet, we would have forgotten it; people would have also forgotten it as she would have been in her own world. But sitting in India, she is speaking and giving instructions. No one likes it," he said.

"It is not good for us or for India. There is discomfort regarding it," he told PTI.

Yunus was apparently referring to Hasina's statement August 13 in which she demanded "justice", saying those involved in recent "terror acts", killings and vandalism must be investigated, identified and punished.

This has been the only statement made by Hasina after she fled. It was posted on her US-based son Sajeeb Wazed Joy's X handle.

Following unprecedented anti-government protests that peaked August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled to India. Her presence in India for nearly four weeks has fuelled speculation in Bangladesh.

When asked whether Bangladesh has communicated its stance to India, Yunus said it has been conveyed verbally and quite firmly that she should keep quiet.

"Everyone understands it. We have said quite firmly that she should keep quiet. This is an unfriendly gesture towards us; she has been given shelter there and she is campaigning from there. It is not that she has gone there on a normal course. She has fled following a people's uprising and public anger," he said.

Yunus stated that the interim government is committed to ensuring justice for the people of Bangladesh against the atrocities, and justice requires that she be brought back to the country.

DEBT TRAP

China pouring billions to challenge US-led global order

Many African nations have been openly critical of the US role in the war in Ukraine and refused to condemn Russia's invasion, taking a non-aligned stance that has led to political frictions with the US

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing, Sept 5: Dozens of African leaders gathered Thursday in Beijing for a summit that signals China's influence in a continent that it hopes will be a key ally in pushing back against a US-led global order.

Chinese President Xi Jinping promised the leaders billions of dollars in loans and private investment over the next three years, and proposed that relations with all African countries that have diplomatic ties with China be elevated to the "strategic" level.

"We stand shoulder to shoulder with each other to firmly defend our legitimate rights and interests," he said at the opening ceremony of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

China has become a major player in Africa since the forum was founded in 2000. Its companies have invested heavily in mining for the resources Chinese industry needs, and its development banks have made loans to build railways, roads and other infrastructure under Xi's Belt and Road program.

African leaders have welcomed China's assistance but are pushing for a closer alignment of aid with the continent's development goals. They are seeking to industrialise their economies and expand agricultural exports to reduce a trade deficit with China, which has become sub-Saharan Africa's largest bilateral trading partner.

"In the context of our industrialization effort, the portfolio of private investments in Africa should be sufficiently diversified to extend beyond the traditional field of mining and energy resources," Moussa Faki Mahamat, the chair of the African Union Commission, said, addressing the forum in French.

In a reflection of China's broadening relationship with Africa, Xi outlined 10 "partnership actions" that included training for African politicians and future leaders, further opening of Chinese markets, agriculture demonstration areas, vocational and technical training, green energy projects and 1 billion yuan ($140 million) in military assistance grants.

Xi said China would eliminate tariffs on products from most of the world's poorest countries, including 33 in Africa, in an expansion of existing exemptions.

Modernisation is an inalienable right of all countries. But the Western approach to it has inflicted immense sufferings on developing countries. Since the end of World War II, Third World nations, represented by China and African countries, have achieved independence and have been endeavouring to redress the historical injustices of the modernisation process

XI JINPING | PRESIDENT, CHINA

"While commending the overall progress so far achieved, we also appreciate the announcement of further areas of partnership actions," said Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan, speaking on behalf of eastern Africa. "We salute a new characterisation of China-Africa relations."

China is training more military professionals in Africa than anyone else, and its widespread leadership and governance training gives the country an extra layer of influence by putting it in touch with consecutive generations of politicians, said Paul Nantulya, who specialises in relations with China at the African Center for Strategic Studies in Washington.

The relationship has moved beyond trade and investment to take on political overtones.

China has tried to position itself as a leader of the Global South, a catchphrase for the developing world. While others don't necessarily see China as the leader, its message of rewriting the international order resonates with African nations that feel frustrated and abandoned by their traditional Western partners.

business

A sector (solar) growing so rapidly will definitely provide momentum to India's growing economy. India has created a competitive industry structure in renewable

PRALHAD JOSHI | UNION MINISTER

JIO MARKS 8TH ANNIV WITH OFFERS

India's largest telecom operator Reliance Jio marked its 8th anniversary milestone Thursday doling out offers on select recharge plans for its users. According to information on Jio.com website, those recharging between September 5 and September 10 will get three benefits worth ₹700 with quarterly plans of ₹899 and ₹999 as well as annual plan of ₹3,599

Quote of the day

It is evident that India is on a sustainable growth path. Consumption and investment demand, the two main drivers of growth, are growing in tandem. Overall, the RBI's projection of GDP growth at 7.2% for 2024-25 does not appear out of place

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

Let's try and utilise AI (artificial intelligence) to optimise our production, reduce waste, and improve efficiency across the value chain and work towards a circle economy in a bigger way

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

With four months remaining in 2024 and the festive quarter from October to December ongoing, we are likely to see more such large ticket-size residential deals happening before the year is through

ANUJ PURI | CHAIRMAN, ANAROCK

SHORT TAKES

Reliance okays 1:1 bonus issue

New Delhi: The board of Reliance Industries Ltd Thursday approved issuing 1:1 bonus shares -- the first bonus issue in seven years. Reliance, the nation's most valuable company, had last issued bonus shares in September 2017. In a regulatory filing, the company said its board recommended to shareholders for their approval "issue of bonus shares in the ratio of 1:1 i.e. 1 (one) new fully paid-up equity share of ₹10 each for every 1 (one) existing fully paid-up equity share". The record date for such issuances will be intimated separately, it said.Prior to the 1:1 bonus issue in 2017, Reliance had in 2009 issued 1:1 bonus share.

Malabar to open 20 new stores

New Delhi: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the world's sixth-largest jewellery retailer, Thursday announced plans to launch 20 new showrooms in October as part of its global expansion strategy. The company will open three new showrooms in Uttar Pradesh, while two each in Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Rajasthan and one new showroom each in Odisha, Telangana, West Bengal and Punjab. New showrooms will also be opened in Muwaileh in Sharjah; Muaither in Qatar; and Nakheel Mall in Saudi Arabia, as well as North America.

AUTO SALES SLUMP

The double whammy of higher inventory costs and deeper discounts is a nightmare for auto dealers as that has a direct impact on their profit margins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: Passenger vehicle retail sales in India witnessed a 5 per cent on-year decline in August on account of delayed customer purchases, poor consumer sentiment and persistent heavy rains, industry body FADA said Thursday.

The overall passenger vehicle (PV) registrations last month stood at 3,09,053 units, as compared to 3,23,720 units in August 2023.

"Even with the arrival of the festive season, the market remains under significant strain... Inventory levels have reached alarming levels, with stock days now stretching to 70-75 days and inventory totalling 7.8 lakh vehicles, valued at an alarming ₹77,800 crore," Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) President Manish Raj Singhania said in a statement.

Rather than responding to the situation, PV Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) continue to increase dispatches to dealers on a month-on-month basis, further exacerbating the issue, he added.

"FADA urgently calls upon all banks and NBFCs to intervene and immediately control funding to dealers with excessive inventory," Singhania said, adding that dealers must also act swiftly to stop taking on additional stock to protect their financial health.

The OEMs, too, must recalibrate their supply strategies without delay, or the industry faces a potential crisis from this inventory overload, he said.

If this aggressive push of excess stock continues unchecked, the auto retail ecosystem could face severe disruption

MANISH RAJ SINGHANIA | PRESIDENT, FADA

"If this aggressive push of excess stock continues unchecked, the auto retail ecosystem could face severe disruption," Singhania said.

Commercial vehicle registrations saw a 6 per cent year-on-year dip in August, while tractor retail sales also witnessed a drop of 11 per cent as compared to the year-ago period.

Two-wheeler sales, however, increased 6 per cent year-on-year to 13,38,237 units in August, as compared to 12,59,140 units in the same month last year, on the back of improved stock availability and the onset of the festive season, Singhania said.

Three-wheeler retail sales also increased by 2 per cent to 1,05,478 units last month, as compared to 1,03,782 units in the year-ago period. Overall registrations last month saw an increase of 3 per cent year-on-year at 18,91,499 units, as against 18,38,501 units in August last year.

On business outlook in the near term, FADA said it remains cautiously optimistic. While the festive season and improved rural demand present promising opportunities for growth, ongoing weather uncertainties and high inventory levels may temper the overall recovery, it stated.

To navigate these challenges, strategic inventory management and targeted marketing initiatives will be crucial in maximising festive sales and mitigating risks from adverse weather conditions, it added.

- Passenger vehicle retails dip 5%
- CV registrations witnessed 6% dip
- FADA raises alarm over rising inventory level

Sebi employees stir at HQ; demand Buch's resignation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 5: A large number of Sebi employees protested outside the capital markets regulator's headquarters Thursday, seeking chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch's resignation.

The staffers, numbering over 200 as per an estimate, held a silent protest outside the main building in the Bandra Kurla Complex, housing Buch and other officials' offices.

None of the protesting employees spoke to the media, but a handout purported to have been drafted by the protesting officials sought the withdrawal of a press release issued by Sebi Wednesday and also Buch's resignation. The protesting employees assembled in front of the building and were seen standing there for about 90 minutes before dispersing.

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

This is not the first instance of a protest at the Sebi, which witnessed a similar protest over a month ago by some employees.

In what is unprecedented for any financial regulator, around 500 employees are reported to have written to the Finance Ministry on August 6 against the top management for what they called a "toxic" work environment, which includes instances of public humiliation and shouting down.

D-St extends losses into second session

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 5: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty surrendered early gains to close lower for the second straight day Thursday, tracking losses in the most valuable firm Reliance Industries, Bharati Airtel and L&T amid a sluggish trend in global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex failed to hold on to initial gains and declined 151.48 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at 82,201.16. During the day, it dropped 222.2 points or 0.26 per cent to 82,130.44.

The NSE Nifty dipped 53.60 points or 0.21 per cent to 25,145.10 despite a positive beginning of the trade.

"Markets ended weak in a volatile trading session led by profit-taking in Reliance Industries. Globally, most of the equity indices were sluggish to mixed and are awaiting key US data Friday, which would provide some hint on the Federal Reserve chief's likely stance on the interest rate in this month's policy announcement," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, Reliance Industries declined over 1 per cent. Tata Motors, Nestle, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, JSW Steel and Mahindra & Mahindra were other big laggards.

In contrast, Titan, ITC, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Tata Steel and State Bank of India were among the biggest gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹975.46 crore Wednesday, according to exchange data.

On Wednesday, the BSE benchmark dropped 202.80 points or 0.25 per cent to settle at 82,352.64. The Nifty declined 81.15 points or 0.32 per cent to 25,198.70. The Nifty had surged nearly 1,141 points or 4.59 per cent in 14 straight days.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.14 per cent to $73.53 a barrel.

BIZ BUZZ

MoU signed between ECoR, SBI for enhanced railway salary package

BHUBANESWAR: State Bank of India, Local head Office, Bhubaneswar signed a MoU with East Coast Railways, Headquarter, Bhubaneswar for enhanced railway salary package in presence of Parmeshwar Funkwal, General Manager, ECoR and Dinesh Pruthi, Chief General Manager, SBI. This was witnessed by many senior officials from SBI and ECoR. With this MoU, employees of ECoR will be benefited with Personal Accident Insurance, Air Accident Insurance, Term Life Insurance, Top Up Health Insurance, Locker Concession up to 50%, RuPay Debit Card with lifestyle benefits in addition to other account level benefits.

Gadkari against EV subsidies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 5: Union minister Nitin Gadkari Thursday said there is no need to provide subsidy to electric vehicle makers as consumers are now choosing EVs or CNG vehicles on their own.

Addressing BNEF Summit, Gadkari said initially costs of manufacturing electric vehicles were high, but as demand has increased, production costs have dropped, making further subsidies unnecessary.

"Consumers are now choosing electric and compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles on their own and I do not think we need to provide much subsidy for electric vehicles," the road transport and highways minister said.

The minister pointed out that GST on electric vehicle is lower than petrol and diesel vehicles.

"In my opinion, manufacturing of electric vehicles no longer needs to be subsidised by the government. The ask for subsidies isn't justified anymore," he said.

At present, 28 per cent GST is levied on vehicles powered by

internal combustion engines, including hybrids, and 5 per cent on electric vehicles.

While ruling out additional taxes on petrol and diesel vehicles, Gadkari said the overall shift away from fossil fuels to alternative fuels would be a gradual process, given the size of India's economy and energy needs.

The minister also opined that further reduction in cost of lithium-ion battery will bring down the cost of electric vehicles.

"Within 2 years, the cost of diesel, petrol and electric vehicles will be same...at the starting time, cost of EVs were very high, so we needed to subsidised EV manufacturers," he said.

Asked whether the government will extend FAME scheme, the minister said, "FAME scheme subsidy is a good subject and it is not related to my ministry."

On Wednesday, Union Heavy Industries Minister HD Kumaraswamy has said the government is expected to finalise the third phase of its flagship electric mobility adoption scheme FAME in a month or two.

He has said that an inter-ministerial group is working on the inputs received for the scheme, and efforts are being made to address the issues in the first two phases of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicle (FAME) scheme.

FAME 3 will replace the temporary Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) 2024, which is set to expire in September.

The second phase of FAME was rolled out in 2019 with an initial outlay of ₹10,000 crore for three years. It was later extended up to March 2024 with an additional outlay of ₹1,500 crore.

The initial target of the scheme was to support 10 lakh electric two-wheelers, 5 lakh electric three-wheelers, 55,000 passenger cars, and 7,000 electric buses.

Centre sets steel production target

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 5: The Centre Thursday set the target of achieving 500 million tonne of steel production by 2034, urging the industry to find new ways towards low emission, high productivity, high quality and the use of artificial intelligence (AI).

The country's crude steel production shot up by over 35 million tonne in the last four years, from 109.14 million tonne in 2019-20 to 144.30 million tonne in 2023-24, as per the latest government data last month.

Addressing the 'ISA Steel Conclave' in the national capital, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, said the industry leaders should focus their energy on economies of scale through decarbonisation, as "green steel will be in more demand".

"This is India's decade to show innovation, inclusion, collaboration and cooperation among different sectors of Indian industries to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat," said the minister.

Hailing the steel industry for branding domestic steel as a 'Made in India' product, Minister Goyal said it is a signal of "our growing Atmanirbharta".

"Steel made and consumed in India is reflective of our nationalist spirit," the minister told the gathering.

The Commerce Minister also asked the industry to utilise AI to optimise production, reduce waste and improve efficiency across the value chain, urging the industry leaders to integrate indigenous machinery for domestic production.

Meanwhile, India's core sector, comprising industries such as coal, electricity, steel, and cement, posted a 6.1 per cent growth in July after having slowed to 4 per cent in June. The growth in steel production rose to a three-month high of 7.2 per cent in July, compared with 6.7 per cent in the previous month.

At the event, Minister Goyal said that domestic industry should be given a level playing field, adding that the Centre will take up the issue related to Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in discussions with steel industry leaders to promote sustainable manufacturing in the sector.

Foreign investors struggle to keep up with India's rise

REUTERS

Singapore, Sept 5: India's stock market rally is ramping up its index weighting and creating a dilemma for global fund managers: sit back and watch as their relative exposure shrinks while the market grows, or buy in at increasingly eye-watering prices.

Most find the latter uncomfortably risky and are seeking alternatives, some driving money into India's smaller companies, while others are looking elsewhere at other emerging markets.

The trend has been driven by years of strong earnings in India at the same time as China's markets have stumbled, upending their weightings in the MSCI Emerging Markets' Index which serves as a benchmark for global EM funds.

India's MSCI EM weight has shot to 19%, up from just 8% four years ago and analysts at Nuvama Alternative & Quantitative Research expect it to top 22% by the end of this year. China's weighting over the same period has collapsed from 40% to 25%, data from MSCI shows.

"The convergence between India and China is causing problems for a lot of portfolio managers because if you had a global mandate or a pan-Asia mandate, you probably were at best equal weight India and probably underweight," said Vikas Pershad, portfolio manager for Asian equities at M&G Investments. "And that underweight is growing."

Part of the reason for the long-term underweight has been that many investors preferred China's cheaper and dynamic market, while entry and exit costs for funds can be high in India.

Managers would need to buy Indian companies at a rapid clip to keep up with their increasing presence in indexes, which with an average 12-month price-to-earnings ratio of 24 times for big and middle-sized firms are the most expensive in major markets, according to LSEG data.

Many are choosing not to do so, leaving India the biggest underweight allocation among emerging market funds, according to HSBC and Copley Fund Research.

India's economic growth story is not a secret. When you have such a consensus, and the outlook appears to be benign, investors can fall into a trap, blind to any potential pitfalls, such as paying too high a price to participate

JAMES COOK | INVESTMENT DIRECTOR, FEDERATED HERMES

Valuations for Chinese blue chips, by contrast, are far lower with the same price-to-earnings measure at 17 and at 15 for big Malaysian stocks.

For Gary Tan, portfolio manager at Allspring Global Investments, and his clients, valuations are the sticking point.

- India surges toward leading position on EM benchmark
- Mid and large stocks have highest PE ratio globally – LSEG
- Funds shy of buying deepen underweight allocation

"We are optimistic on the long-term story, but really cautious on where valuations are," said Tan, who has been underweight India for the last couple of years.

NO SECRET

Valuations have long been relatively high in India and no barrier to outperformance. Now, however, some investors are becoming wary of the risk-reward balance.

India's Nifty 50 index has risen 145% and the S&P BSE Sensex has surged 136% since mid-2020, while the S&P 500 in the same period has gained 78% and China's blue-chip index has slid 22%.

Yet while foreigners have been consistent buyers of Indian stocks this year and in 2023, the flow and sentiment is beginning to shift.

ICICI Securities data shows foreign buying over the first half of this year has been much higher in small to mid size firms than in large caps and in August, exchange data showed foreigners turned sellers of $662 million in shares.

Foreign investors account for roughly 16% of total Indian stocks holding, according to ICICI Securities, the lowest in a decade.

To be sure, there are plenty of bulls and money that isn't benchmarked to emerging markets' indexes that is flowing in.

Howie Schwab, portfolio manager for emerging markets growth at Driehaus Capital, said there's an increased interest from global investors in India, not just from those with emerging markets mandates.

Vivian Lin Thurston, portfolio manager for William Blair's emerging markets growth strategy, says valuation alone is not necessarily reason enough to look elsewhere.

1-2 for India in club throw

DHARAMBIR WITH NEW ASIAN RECORD AND SOORMA BAG GOLD AND SILVER RESPECTIVELY

TWO TO TANGO: Dharambir (left) and Pranav Soorma completely dominated the club throw event at the Paralympic Games in Paris Wednesday PHOTO X

AGENCIES

Paris, Sept 5: Paralympics gold medallist in men's club throw F51 event Dharambir has dedicated his medal to teammate and coach Amit Kumar Saroha.

The 35-year-old Dharambir broke the Asian record with a throw of 34.92m en route to the gold medal Wednesday at the Paralympics with Pranav Soorma clinching the silver with a throw of 34.59m.

"I am feeling very proud. For any athlete, winning a medal at the Paralympics is a dream and it has come true with this. My guide Amit Kumar Saroha has played a big role in it," Dharambir said Thursday.

"We came into the sport after getting to know about him (Saroha). I hope the next generation (of athletes) will see us and get into this sport," he added.

Dharambir, who has been guided by the 39-year-old Amit, dedicated the award to the veteran sportsperson. "I dedicate this award to my guru Amit Saroha. His blessings are with me since the start and that is why I was able to win this medal," he said.

While Dharambir will return home as one of India's gold medallists at the Paralympics, he was in trouble when he fouled the first four of his throws. Under pressure, Dharambir looked towards Amit, who gave him an assuring look and things fell in place for him.

"At the start I made a few fouls because the gum (glue) had not set in," he said. "Pressure is also a major factor. I made eye contact with my coach and the fifth throw came out well," Dharambir added.

> "I am feeling very proud that the Asian record has also come with this medal. I will always cherish this moment"
> DHARAMBIR

A quadriplegic who feels that the accident which left him wheelchair-bound was a 'blessing in disguise', Soorma quite lives up to his last name which will now get its fair share of fame after a silver medal on debut at the Paralympic Games.

Soorma was just 16 when a cement sheet fell on him leaving his spinal cord severely damaged causing loss of movement in his legs and hands. Even gripping the wooden club is a massive task for him and he has to use glue to hold it and compete in the event.

"We have worked day and night for this moment because seeing the medical condition, there are a lot of things that are going on and regular training and exercises are a very big challenge in our conditions," Soorma said.

The Faridabad-lad, who is a commerce pass-out from the prestigious Delhi School of Economics, is also an assistant manager with a nationalised bank. Soorma said given his physical condition, life 'in itself is a very big challenge'.

If there is an athlete that Soorma admires, it is batting stalwart Virat Kohli for his work ethics. "I have been a (Michael) Jordan (NBA all-time great) fan for a very long time. If I talk about the biggest role model in sports, I think it is Virat Kohli for me," stated Soorma.

Kapil bags historic judo bronze

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Sept 5: Kapil Parmar bagged India's first-ever Paralympic medal in judo, winning a bronze in the men's 60kg (J1) after convincingly defeating Brazil's Elielton de Oliveira in the play-off here Thursday. Parmar produced a superlative performance, dominating his opponent to record a 10-0 win in the bronze medal contest. It was India's 25th medal of the competition and matched the target predicted by president of Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), Devendra Jhajharia.

Kapil had earlier lost to S Banitaba Khorram Abadi in the semifinals, beaten 0-10 by his Iranian opponent. The J1 class in para judo is for the athletes who suffer from no to very low visual activity. Athletes in this category wear red circles to indicate that they may need guided support before, during and after a contest.

Parmar, who won the silver medal at the 2022 Asian Games in the same category, had earlier beaten Venezuela's Marco Dennis Blanco 10-0 in the quarterfinals.

Parmar hails from a small village named Shivor in Madhya Pradesh. As a child, Parmar had a life-altering accident when he was playing in the fields of his village and accidentally touched a water pump, resulting in a severe electric shock. He was in coma for six months after being taken to a hospital by a villager who found him.

GOLD 5 SILVER 9 BRONZE 11

Parmar is the youngest of four brothers and a sister. Parmar's father works as a taxi driver, while his sister runs a primary school.

Despite the setback, Parmar never gave up his love for judo. He continued to pursue his passion in blind judo, thanks to his mentor and coaches Bhagwan Das and Manoj. It was not end of the struggle for Parmar who used to run a tea stall with his brother Lalit to make ends meet.

Simran finishes 4th

India's Simran Sharma finished fourth in the women's 100 T12 final at the Paralympics here Thursday. Simran, accompanied by her guide Abhay Singh, finished fourth and last in the sprint race clocking 12.31 seconds. Cuba's Omara Durand Elias comfortably won the gold with a timing of 11.81 seconds. The silver went to Ukraine's Oksana Boturchuk and bronze to Germany's Katrin Mueller who registered times of 12.17s and 12.26s respectively.

Earlier in the day, Simran advanced to final after clocking 12.33 in the semifinals. The 24-year-old from New Delhi finished second behind Mueller-Rottgardt in semifinal 2.

Bronze eleudes archers

History-making Indian archer Harvinder Singh's pursuit of a double medal at the Paris Paralympics ended in heartbreak as he, along with Pooja Jatyan, lost to Slovenia in the shoot-off in a tense recurve mixed team bronze playoff match Thursday. After being outplayed by the top-seeded Italy in the semifinals, the fifth-seeded Harvinder and Pooja, who both hail from Haryana, slipped twice from a 2-0 and 4-2 lead to lose to Ziva Lavrinc and Dejan Fabcic 4-5 (19-17) in the bronze medal match.

Kapil Parmar (white dress) in action during one of his bouts Thursday at the Paralympic Games

SHORT TAKES

IM Sahu wins gold in Sri Lanka

Bhubaneswar: International Master (IM) Sekhar Chandra Sahu won the gold medal in the veteran's category (60 years-plus) in the Commonwealth Chess Championships 2024 which ended Thursday at Waskaduwa in Sri Lanka. The tournament started August 28. Sahu finished with five points from nine games to emerge champion. Sahu works as the chief chess coach at KIIT and KISS.

Olympian burnt to death in Kenya

Nairobi (Kenya): Ugandan Olympic athlete Rebecca Cheptegei has died at a Kenyan hospital where she was being treated after sustaining 80% burns on her body due to an attack by her partner. A spokesperson at the hospital, Owen Menach, confirmed her death Thursday. Cheptegei was undergoing treatment at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret city. Her partner Dickson Ndiema had poured gasoline on her and set her on fire Sunday, police said.

Indian shuttlers in quarterfinals

Taipei: India's mixed doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila entered into the quarterfinals of Taipei Open badminton tournament here Thursday. Crasto and Kapila took only 33 minutes to brush aside the challenge from Chinese Taipei's Ko-Chi Chang and Yen Yu Lin 21-13, 22-20 in their round of 16 match.

Buttler ruled out

London: England white ball captain Jos Buttler was ruled out of the Twenty20 series against Australia because of a right calf injury, the ECB said Thursday. He might also miss the one-day series between the two teams, it added. Buttler has been replaced in the T20 squad by Jamie Overton, while Phil Salt will take over as captain.

1 arrow at a time is **Harvinder's motto for success**

Singh is King of archery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Sept 5: Dealing with the unexpected, whether in archery or life in general, is no big deal for Harvinder Singh. He has aced the anticipation game thanks to the hard lessons that came his way. In the final Harvinder overwhelmed his 44-year-old opponent from Poland, Lukasz Ciszek 6-0 (28-24, 28-27, 29-25) here Wednesday.

The 33-year-old from Haryana, who scripted history by becoming the first Indian archer to win a Paralympics gold, has impaired legs owing to a dengue treatment gone wrong when he was just one year old but instead of lamenting his fate, he chose to become bigger than his circumstances.

Harvinder's journey to Paralympics glory began with a bronze three years back in Tokyo, which made him the first Indian to finish on the Games podium. All his achievements are a first in Indian archery. And when he is not shooting down medals, Harvinder is busy pursuing a Ph.D in economics.

"In the last few months, I was shooting very well in practice, more than the world record in qualification. Here, I finished ninth (in the ranking round), and my confidence went a little bit down. Anyway, I focused on the matches because anything could happen," Harvinder was quoted as saying by 'World Archery'.

"Archery is a game of unexpected. Everything can happen. I focused on one arrow at a time. Only the next arrow counts," Harvinder added.

Harvinder was India's second medal winner in archery at the ongoing Games after Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar combined for the compound mixed team bronze.

What works best for Harvinder is to stay in the moment and not think too far ahead. "I was just focusing on my next match. Only that way, I could move to the next round, and one by one, I moved to the final. And eventually won gold," he described his process.

Three years back in Tokyo, Harvinder who hails from Ajitnagar in Kaithal district of Haryana, could not realise his dream of a gold. He said his teammates had a role to play in instilling belief in him that he could aim for the top podium finish.

"In Tokyo, I won bronze, so I'm happy I could change the colour of my medal. Before the (Paris) Games, everybody told me I had a chance to get gold. I'm happy I was able to," said Harvinder.

'We can't take Bangla lightly'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 5: Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant warned against taking Bangladesh lightly in the upcoming two-Test series, and stressed on the need for India to keep improving themselves to stay ahead of the competition. Bangladesh will face Rohit Sharma's side in the first Test at Chennai starting September 19.

"Asian countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka perform well in Asian conditions because they are accustomed to the wickets," Pant was quoted as saying by *Jio Cinema*.

"As the Indian cricket team, we focus solely on our own standards and how we can improve. Regardless of the opposition, we strive to play with the same intensity and give our 100 per cent every single day," added the player.

Pant said no series can be taken lightly with the margins between the teams decreasing in international cricket. "Pressure will always be there because in cricket, you can't take any series lightly. The margin between winning and losing is very small, and nowadays, the gap between international teams isn't much," he said.

Musheer, Axar shine in Duleep

Musheer Khan cuts during his unbeaten century Thursday PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 5: Rishabh Pant's much-awaited return to red ball cricket lasted a mere 10 balls and 15 minutes but Musheer Khan's (105 batting, 227b, 10x4, 2x6) resolute unbeaten hundred carried India B to a satisfactory 202 for seven against India A, on the opening day of the four-day Duleep Trophy contest here Thursday.

Before Musheer and Navdeep Saini (29 batting, 74b, 4x4, 1x6) fought back for India B with a stand of 108 for the eighth wicket, they were in a huge hole at 94 for seven as 'A' skipper Shubman Gill made the prudent choice of bowling first under overcast skies.

But Musheer, younger brother of Sarfaraz Khan (9), saved his side from a total collapse with an innings of rare maturity that belied his 19 tender years.

Despite wickets falling at regular intervals including that of Pant (7), Musheer, the younger brother of Test player Sarfaraz Khan, showed great technique and temperament to hold the India 'B' innings together.

Musheer received a slice of fortune too when Avesh Khan dropped a regulation chance off his own bowling when the batter was on 69. India 'B' were on 144 for seven then. For the India 'A' side pacers Akash Deep, Khaleel Ahmed and Avesh Khan shared six wickets among them.

In the other game played at Anantpur, all-rounder Axar Patel (86 and two wickets) brought India 'D' back in the game against India 'C'. Thanks to Axar's knock (118b, 6x4, 6x6), India 'D' recovered from 48 for six to 164 all out. In reply India 'C' were 91 for four at stumps.

Gallant qualify for Super Cup

Footballers of Gallant Club pose for a picture after their win Thursday

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 5: Gallant Club emerged champions in the Silver Group of the FAO league with a thumping 6-1 victory over Chauliaganj Club in a match played at the Barabati Stadium here Thursday. The footballers of Gallant Club completely dominated the show and scored at will to emerge victorious.

Om Kali Mahananda opened the scoring in the sixth minute for Gallant Club. Even though they dominated the first session, Gallant Club could not add to the tally. However, in the second session they completely demolished the opposition. Arjun Nayak (48th), Rohit Badaik (54th), Mahananda (60th), Sachin Munda (67th) and Rohit Munda (92nd) scored for the winners. Sushant Munda (71st) got a consolation goal for Chauliaganj. With the win, Gallant Club sealed their spot in the FAO Super Cup league.

The other teams that have qualified for the Super Cup are Sunrise Club, Rovers Club, Radha Raman Club and Sports Odisha (all Diamond Group), Kishore Club, Mangala Club and Odisha Police (Gold Group).

Pegula stuns Swiatek; in US open semis

Sinner continues his run with hard-fought win over Medvedev, to meet Draper next

AGENCIES

THAT UNBELIEVABLE FEELING: Jessica Pegula is all smiles after beating Iga Swiatek at the US Open, Tuesday AP PHOTO

New York, Sept 5: Jessica Pegula became the fourth American to reach this year's US Open semifinals Wednesday by stunning World No.1 Iga Swiatek. Pegula swept past the 2022 champion and four-time French Open winner Swiatek 6-2, 6-4 to reach a maiden semifinal at the majors after falling in six quarter-finals. The 30-year-old will next face Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic.

"Finally I can say I'm a semi-finalist. I lost so many of these damn things," said the American after her fourth career win against Swiatek. "Thanks to the crowd. I sent over a 65mph second serve (on the third match point) because I was so tight."

World No.1 Jannik Sinner reached his first US Open semifinal here Wednesday with a four-set victory over 2021 champion and two-time runner-up Daniil Medvedev. Sinner, looking to capture his second major of the season after the Australian Open, won 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, 6-4 and will take on Britain's 25th-ranked Jack Draper for a place in the final. Draper defeated Alex de Minaur of Australia 6-3, 7-5, 6-2 and became the first British player to reach the semifinals after Andy Murray who achieved the feat in 2012.

Sinner, 23, is the only top-10 player to make the semifinals with No. 12 Taylor Fritz due to face US compatriot Frances Tiafoe, ranked 20, in Friday's other last four duel.

Sinner had defeated Medvedev from two sets down to claim the Australian Open title before the Russian gained revenge in another five-setter at this year's Wimbledon

"It was very tough, I knew it would be very physical," said Sinner. "It was strange in the first two sets, whoever got the break started to roll."

Sinner said he was looking forward to facing Draper. "We are good friends off the court. He's having an incredible tournament and hasn't dropped a set," the Italian added.

Printed and published by Tathagata Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha;Phone:7894447142(Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159