

## Manipur burning again

AGENCIES

**Guwahati, Sept 7:** There is no let-up in Manipur violence as six people were killed in Jiribam district of the northeastern state Saturday, prompting Chief Minister N Biren Singh to call an emergency meeting with MLAs from the ruling coalition to discuss the prevailing law and order situation. Security forces, on the other hand, have destroyed three bunkers of militants in Churachandpur district after the insurgents launched rocket attacks in adjoining Bishnupur killing one person and injuring at least six others.

The majority Meitei community and the tribal Kukis have clashed sporadically since last year after a court ordered the state government to consider extending special economic benefits and quotas in government

jobs and education enjoyed by the Kukis to the Meiteis as well.

More than 225 people have been killed and some 60,000 have been displaced.

Saturday's gunfire incident represents the most number of casualties for a single day in the latest spurt of violence that began a week ago. The attacks earlier this week have also seen the use of drones to drop explosive devices in what authorities have called a significant escalation.

Police say they suspect that the drones were used by Kuki militants – a claim denied by Kuki groups. "Fighting has been going on between armed groups of both the communities since the morning," said Krishna Kumar, deputy commissioner of Jiribam district where the clash occurred.

According to media reports, the civilian was shot dead in his

sleep. "He was fired upon in his room itself," Kumar said, adding that security forces had been deployed to control the situation. Manipur has ordered all schools in the state to remain shut Saturday.

Meanwhile, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh called an emergency meeting Saturday evening with MLAs from the ruling coalition, which comprises the BJP, Naga People's Front, and NPP, to discuss the prevailing law and order situation in the state.

A state of 3.2 million people, Manipur has been divided into two ethnic enclaves since the conflict began in May 2023 – a valley controlled by the Meiteis and the Kuki-dominated hills. The areas are separated by a stretch of no-man's land monitored by federal paramilitary forces.



### IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Emerging trend in the education sector

## Starliner returns uncrewed

REUTERS

**Washington, Sept 7:** Boeing's Starliner spacecraft landed uncrewed in a New Mexico desert late Friday night, capping a three-month test mission hobbled by technical issues that forced the astronauts it had flown to the International Space Station to remain there till February next year.

NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams, who became the first crew to fly Starliner in June, remained on the ISS as Starliner au-

tonomously undocked at 6:04pm ET (2204 GMT) Friday, beginning a six-hour trek to Earth using maneuvering thrusters that NASA last month deemed too risky for a crew.

The spacecraft reentered Earth's atmosphere at around 11pm ET at orbital speeds of roughly 27,400 km per hour. About 45 minutes later, it deployed a series of parachutes to slow its descent and inflated a set of airbags moments before touching down at the White Sands Space Harbor in New Mexico.



**FOR YOUR INFO:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, along with Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja and others, flags off Subhadra Yojana Awareness Rath in Bhubaneswar, Saturday (Report P3)

## Tuhin Pandey now Union Finance Secy

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** 1987-batch Odisha cadre IAS officer Tuhin Kanta Pandey was appointed the Union Finance Secretary, official sources said Saturday.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved designating Shri Tuhin Kanta Pandey, IAS (OR:87), Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, Ministry of Finance as Finance Secretary," according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

## Centre sacks Puja



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** A little over a month after the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) cancelled her candidature and debarred her from future examinations, the Centre has discharged Puja Khedkar, former probationary civil servant, from IAS with immediate effect, official sources said Saturday.

Puja has been accused of cheating and wrongly availing OBC

and disability quota benefits to ensure her selection, though she has denied all the allegations.

The government, vide order dated Sept 6, 2024, discharged her from Indian Administrative Service under Rule 12 of IAS (Probation) Rules, 1954, with immediate effect, the sources said.

The rules allow the Centre to discharge probationers from service if they fail "to pass the re-examination..." or "if the Central government is satisfied that the probationer was ineligible for recruitment to the Service or is unsuitable for being a member of the Service", among others. The UPSC had July 31, 2024 cancelled her candidature and debarred her from future examinations.

## Paralympian Navdeep brings silver for India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Paris, Sept 7:** India's Navdeep Singh claimed silver medal with a personal best effort of 47.32 metres in a dramatic men's javelin throw F41 final at Paris Paralympics Saturday.

Starting the competition with a foul, the 23-year-old para-athlete from Haryana came up with 46.39 metres in his second attempt, propelling him to the second place. But it was his third throw that electrified the stadium.




With a remarkable throw of 47.32 metres, Navdeep shattered the Paralympic record and surged into lead, only for Iran's Beit Sayah Sadegh to better the Indian's mark and clinch the gold with a record-breaking effort of 47.64 metres in his fifth attempt.


**SIMRAN WINS BRONZE IN 200M T12 FINAL** | P12

## Truck runs over two


**Koraput:** Two motorcyclists were run over by a heavy vehicle on NH-26 in Sadar police limits, Saturday. While one of the deceased, the rider, was identified as Labi Benia, 24, of Kamar Sahi, the identity of the pillion rider is yet unclear. The mishap occurred when the biker was trying to overtake the 14-wheeler and in the process hit its front wheel. Both of them were crushed under the rear wheels of truck. Police began a probe.



सत्यमेव जयते




DADLS - 28





**ନୂଆଁଖାଇ-୨୦୨୪ ଅବସରରେ  
ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ  
ବାର୍ତ୍ତା**

ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି, ମୈତ୍ରୀ ଓ ଆନନ୍ଦର ପବିତ୍ର ପରମ୍ପରା ଓ ପର୍ବ "ନୂଆଁଖାଇ" ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି । ଏହା ଏକ କୃଷିଭିତ୍ତିକ ପର୍ବ । ଏହି ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷାରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟର କୃଷକ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି କାମନା କରିବା ସହ କୃଷିକ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଏକ ଅଗ୍ରଣୀ ଓ ପ୍ରଗତିଶୀଳ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ପରିଣତ କରିବାକୁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

*(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)*



ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

**ନୂଆଁଖାଇ ତିହାର ଲାଗି  
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କର ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ**

ପଶୁମ୍ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବଡ଼ଖା ତିହାର ନୂଆଁଖାଇ ଲାଗି ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ମୋର ନୂଆଁଖାଇ ଜୁହାର, ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଆଉ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ । ମାଁ ସମଲେଇଂକର ଅପାର କୃପାକୁ ଧରତୀ ମାଁ ଶସ୍ୟ ଶ୍ୟାମଳା ହଉ । ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ଜୀବନ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଆଉ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ଉରିଯାଉ, ଇଚା ହିଁ ମୋର କାମନା ।

*ସୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ*  
(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)  
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/0146/2425



# leisure



## KIM TROLLED FOR VISITING REAL MADRID SQUAD

Reality television star Kim Kardashian faced the ire of passionate Real Madrid fans after she recently paid a visit to the Real Madrid CF squad. The fuming Internet user wrote, "Real Madrid lost 2 games in a row after you visited them."

## GOMEZ FEELS BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE'S NOT WEARING MAKE-UP

Singer Selena Gomez feels she does not actually need to wear make-up in order to feel pretty. "When I am everyday me, I'm not wearing that much because I do feel really beautiful sometimes and I just don't want to focus too much on it," she said on Instagram.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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**ARIES**  
You will be the focus of everyone's attention today - for your visual appeal or for your abilities. Ganesh suggests that you should make the best of the opportunity and recharge yourself. You can accomplish quite a lot with the energy you gain.

**TAURUS**  
This day could be full of surprises, mostly unpleasant, fears Ganesh. Nothing is likely to turn out as planned and expected. There will be sharp and sudden twist and turns, unexpected shocks and setbacks all day long. You will, however, with the grace and blessings of the Almighty, manage to stay steady and unruffled, and move ahead.

**GEMINI**  
You will be able to express your thoughts and opinions to the people you come in contact with today. They will also reciprocate and echo your feelings and emotions. This will give you validation and satisfaction. The day should be filled with fun and entertainment overall, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Your career will reach a decisive moment. You can expect a transfer, promotion or pay hike. Alongside your responsibilities will also increase. A chance of new job is also indicated. You can reject a tempting job offer.

**LEO**  
You will spend an enjoyable day with your favourite relatives and friends. In the office also, you will be afforded rare co-operation from all your colleagues. Financial gains are indicated. It is a good time for lovers, who will experience an intimate bond with their partners, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
Business and pleasure will be well balanced. Ganesh says you will enjoy the party which will seem endless today. Your monetary outflow will be in direct proportion to the time you spend just lazing around. However, Ganesh advises you to spend sensibly and not to worry about it.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says those of you in the field of business will find this to be a good time for them. In any work that you undertake your vision and ability will be showcased. You will have to spend more time at your workplace. Ganesh says you should try and maintain a balance between your work and your family.

**SCORPIO**  
You go on a shopping spree and that too with your beloved. This may be quite therapeutic for you for your relationship. You may be just happy to use your bargaining skills to the optimum. Spending lavishly, first on shopping and then on sumptuous dinner to treat your taste buds. What more one wants in life!

**SAGITTARIUS**  
A tiring day is in store for you today. Find yourself labouring worse than Hercules. The positive outcome would be that you would lose a few extra calories. But late in the day, a nice quiet time with family and friends would relieve you of all the stress.

**CAPRICORN**  
Everything you do today will be driven by the desire to meet the expectations of your family members, says Ganesh. For those of you pursuing studies, pending projects will finally get completed, and you will look forward to taking up new assignments. Giving free rein to your imagination will help you excel in areas of your interest, but don't go overboard or else you may lose touch with reality.

**AQUARIUS**  
You will receive some good news today. Whatever has been in the pipe line may come out in the open and you'll see the desired output, feels Ganesh. Courageous and patient, you can deal with the toughest of challenges with an ease and Ganesh gives a pat on your back for that.

**PISCES**  
You will work hard to organize your day to day routine but due to the ill alignment of the planets you will not be able to sort things out successfully today. Ganesh advises you to be patient and let things be as they are but also to hold on to the sentiments of change.

# Carnatic vocalist OS Arun's recital shines bright

**Bhubaneswar:** The impeccably conducted 30th Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival 2024, organised by Srjan-Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa, hosted the entrancing Carnatic vocal recital of celebrated singer Kalamamani Dr OS Arun and his orchestra here at Rabindra Mandap, Saturday.

The audiences were treated to an auditory delight by vocalist Kalamamani, accompanied by Badri Narayanan on the violin, MS Venkatasubramanian on the mridangam, and E Martin on the tabla, who paid their heartfelt tribute to Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra. The harmonious synergy of the musicians shone bright as Arun masterfully rendered complex notes and tonal intricacies, imbuing bhakti into the soul of the music and harmoniously blending the essence of bhakti into classicism.

The dignitaries for the evening included Jajpur Lok Sabha MP Dr Rabindra Narayan Behera, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi Secretary Prabodh Rath, eminent Hindustani vocalists and composers Guru Maheshwar



A performance by OS Arun (inset). Dignitaries on the stage. PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

Rao and Guru Debendra Narayan Satapathy, Prof. (Dr.) Rabinarayan Satpathy, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Sri Sri University, senior advocate Priya Ranjan Das, and Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, Director, Srjan.

The festival will witness the much-awaited musical fusion band led by renowned violinist Ambi Subramaniam and vocalist Bindu Subramaniam with their band SubraMania with musicians Frijo Francis, Anirudha Bhat, Prashanth Ganamuthu, and Karthik Mani, Sunday.

State's only home-grown English daily Orissa POST and one of the largest circulated Odia daily Dharitri are the print media partners for the event. PNN

## Triptii on debut movie failure

**Mumbai:** It was in 2018 when Triptii Dimri made her debut with *Laila Majnu*, as the film clocked six years since it hit the screens on Saturday, the actress said that she was heartbroken when the film didn't perform well upon its initial release.

In August, *Laila Majnu* was re-released, surpassing its original earnings. Reflecting on this turn, Triptii shared: "I was heartbroken when *Laila Majnu* didn't perform well upon its initial release. Now, it's incredible to see how people have embraced and celebrated it."

She went on to add: "Every day, I hear from fans who express their love for the film. It was a project that we all invested our hearts into, and it will always hold a special place in mine. I hope it continues to touch hearts worldwide and that the love for it never fades."

The romantic drama helmed by Sajid Ali, presented by Imtiaz Ali and produced by Preeti Ali, Ekta Kapoor and Shobha Kapoor. The film is a contemporary retelling of the story of Layla and Majnu.

Triptii is now set to star in *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video* with Rajkumar Rao. She will also be seen in Kartik Aaryan-starrer *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*, the latest installment in the horror-comedy franchise. IANS

## SARA FACES BACKLASH

**GANESHOTS AV AT HOME**

**Mumbai:** Top star Sara Ali Khan, who has shared pictures of bringing Bappa home on the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Utsav, got heavily trolled by the netizens for performing Hindu rituals.

Sara, who has 45.8 million followers on Instagram, shared pictures of herself along with a beautiful idol of Ganpati. She is wearing an orange coloured ethnic suit.

The post is captioned as: "Happy Ganesh Chaturthi...May Bappa bring only joy and peace to all of us."

However, the post didn't go well with the followers, and they have posted hate comments for the Kedarnath fame actress.

A user wrote: "Most secular heroine in Bollywood". Other said: "Qafir".

A fan commented: "We don't consider her to be Muslim..inka bas naam Muslim hai...Ye half naked ghumne wali kaha se hamare paak mazhab ki ho gayi."

One user said: "Sharam kar tu Muslim hai."

A fan also wrote: "tumhara fatva nikala jayega."

On the personal front, Sara is the daughter of actors Saif Ali Khan, and Amrita Singh. Her parents got separated in 2004. She has a younger brother Ibrahim.

Saif is the son of former captain of the Indian national cricket team, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, and actress Sharmila Tagore. He has two younger sisters, designer Saba Ali Khan and Soha. IANS

## Hindi movie Patang on orphans of Rourkela to hit screens Sept 13

**Bhubaneswar:** Hindi film *Patang*, which already has garnered appreciations at several film festivals, will hit the theatres across the state September 13, shared the makers at a presser held here at Buddha Mandir, Friday.

Significantly, the movie is set in Steel City, Rourkela, and its cast is primarily composed of local talents.

Written and directed by Madhab Chandra Parida, the movie is based on the struggles of 13 poor orphans who beg alms for a living and eventually become victims of drug addiction.

Producer Vibhuti Kumar Gupta, actors Nirakar Padhi, Ranjeet Boss, and Prashant Maharana, and other members of the team were present at the press meet.

"The film carries a message about the helpless children in our society," Gupta said and added that they have approached the state government, requesting concessions on ticket prices for school and slum children to watch the movie.

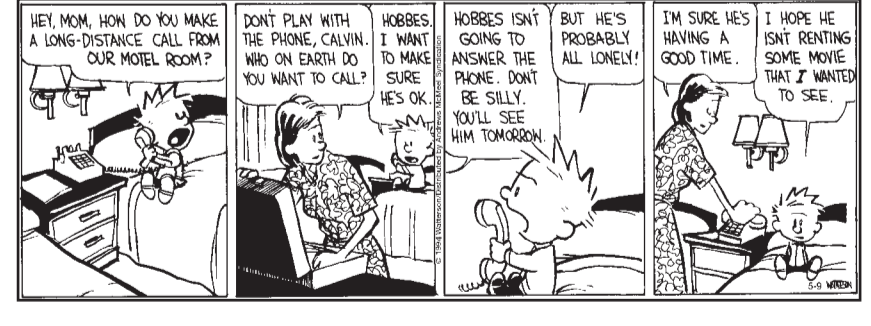
For the uninitiated, *Patang* was screened and honoured at the International Film Festival in Khajuraho and Nirmal Pandey Film Festival and set to screen at Kolkata International Film Festival.

Anup Sinha has scored the music, while Vibhuti Gupta and Prabeen Kumar have penned the lyrics. Alok Kumar, Chhotu Rawat, and Indu Sonali have lent their voices to the songs. PNN

### PEANUTS



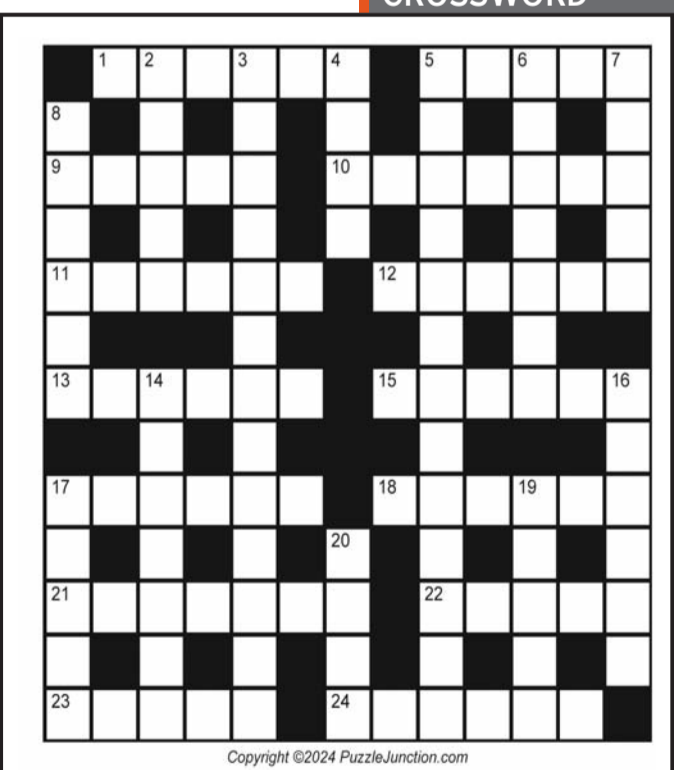
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



### FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Precious
  - 5 Bungling
  - 9 False move
  - 10 Division
  - 11 Explodes, like a volcano
  - 12 Ottoman, e.g.
  - 13 Trader
  - 15 Burrow
  - 17 Fix
  - 18 Separate out
  - 21 Bram Stoker character
  - 22 Slack-jawed
  - 23 Move laterally
  - 24 Kind of arrangement
- Down**
- 2 "Farewell, mon ami"
  - 3 Current (2-2-3-6)
  - 4 Short run
  - 5 Prisoner's position, at times
  - 6 Magazine issue
  - 7 On edge
  - 8 Disgust
  - 14 Praise
  - 16 Storage spot
  - 17 Goes by bus
  - 19 Jewelled headdress
  - 20 Young seal

### SUDOKU

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

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

### SOLUTIONS

**CROSSWORD**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | I | S | T | U | R | B | C | R | A | F | T |
| A | K | P | U | H | R | A |   |   |   |   |   |
| F | L | I | N | G | D | R | I | F | T | E | R |
| E | I | S | N | A | R | E | E | S | S | A | Y |
| R | O | T | T | E | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| O |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| M | A | S | S | E | R | I | V | E | R |   |   |
| R | E | A | L | I | S | E | R | O | G | E | R |
| Y | E | A | D | C | N | S | T | R | E |   |   |
| A | E | A | S | T |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

**SUDOKU**

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



## 'Subhadra' a symbol of Odia pride: Majhi

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** Subhadra Yojana is an identity of Odia Asmita (pride), Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said while flagging off the 'Subhadra Sachetanata Rath' here, Saturday.

"It (Subhadra Yojana) is an opportunity to fulfil the dream of every woman. The scheme is also an identity of Odia Asmita (pride)," Majhi said.

The specially-equipped vehicles will traverse the state to create awareness among the citizens about the state government's flagship women empowerment scheme.

Accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, who is also the Women and Child Development Minister, Majhi said that the Subhadra Yojana will empower women across the state. "The awareness vehicles will sensitise people on the scheme and also the procedure



came amid reports on the confusion prevailing among beneficiaries about the procedures and eligibility criteria even as the Opposition has upped the ante dubbing the 'riders' in the scheme a betrayal of the saffron party's poll promise.

Seeking to clear the air, Parida said before the launch of any major programme, confusions do prevail and it is natural. "The awareness chariots will clear doubts in the minds of the people," she said.

Under the scheme, women beneficiaries will receive ₹10,000 per annum for five years. The first instalment (of this year) of ₹5,000 will be given September 17, on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birth anniversary.

Officials said that the state government has set a target to enrol at least one crore women under Subhadra Yojana, a promise made by the BJP in its election manifesto.

## Nuakhai: Banks to remain shut Sept 9

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** All banks and other financial institutions in the state will remain closed September 9 (Monday).

The state government has declared September 9 as a holiday for banks and other financial institutions for this year's Nuakhai festival.

The state government has declared September 9 as a holiday for banks and other financial institutions in Odisha as per Section 25 of the Negotiable Instrument Act-1881, said a notification issued by the Revenue and Disaster Management department. The state government had earlier declared September 9 as a holiday for all government offices, magisterial courts and schools in Odisha.

As Nuakhai, the popular agrarian festival of western Odisha, falls September 8 (Sunday), Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has declared September 9 as a holiday, said the state government in a statement a few days ago.

All government, government-aided and private schools under the School and Mass Education department will also remain closed September 9 for Nuakhai festival.

## Brace for 4-day rain: IMD

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** The state is bracing for a wet spell for the next four days as the low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal is set to intensify into a depression Sunday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, Saturday.

The system now lies as a well-marked low-pressure area over northwest and adjoining Central Bay of Bengal, it said in a bulletin. "It is likely to move nearly northwards and intensify into a depression over northwest Bay of Bengal off north Odisha-Gangetic West Bengal coasts September 8. Thereafter, it is likely to move west-northwestwards across Gangetic West Bengal, north Odisha, Jharkhand and adjoining north Chhattisgarh during subsequent three days," the IMD said.

The state has experienced heavy rainfall in the past 24 hours, with the highest downpour of 81 mm at Khairmal in Boudh, followed by 79 mm at Gosani in Gajapati, the Met office said.

Heavy rain (7 cm to 11 cm) is likely to occur at one or two places in Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Nabarangpur, Koraput and Malkangiri during the next 24



hours, the bulletin said.

The weather office also issued an 'orange' warning (be prepared) for heavy to very heavy rain at one or two places over Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Malkangiri, and Koraput districts Sunday.

A 'yellow' warning (be updated) for heavy rain has also been issued for one or two places of Kendrapara, Khurda, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Kalahandi, and Nabarangpur districts Sunday.

The IMD also forecast rain in most parts of the state for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

It said that under the influence of the possible depression, squally weather with strong surface wind speeds reaching 40-50 kmph gusting to 60 kmph is very likely to prevail over northwest Bay of Bengal, adjoining West Central Bay of Bengal, along and off Odisha coasts during September 8-11.

## DA: Keonjhar jail supdt held

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** Vigilance sleuths Saturday arrested Keonjhar district jail superintendent Satya Prakash Swain after finding him in possession of disproportionate assets (DA) to the tune of 89 per cent of his known sources of income, official sources said.

Following allegations of amassment of DA, the anti-corruption wing sleuths carried out simultaneous searches at multiple locations related to Swain, who earlier served as the superintendent of Jharpada Special Jail here, and unearthed huge movable and immovable assets in the name of Swain and his family members.

"A four-storey residential building worth over ₹1.5 crore at Jharpada, four homestead plots in prime areas of Bhubaneswar, Bolangir and Dhenkanal, ₹10 lakh worth gold, bank and postal deposits of ₹6.24 lakh, two vehicles and household articles worth ₹15 lakh were found in the name of Swain and his family members," a Vigilance press statement said.

**Nuapada MVI caught**

A Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI) of Nuapada was caught with 'ill-gotten' cash to the tune of ₹1.32 lakh, Saturday.

Vigilance sleuths intercepted Bijay Kumar Behuria near Khurda Hospital Square while he was proceeding towards the City from Nuapada in a private vehicle in the afternoon. The sleuths found ₹1.32 lakh in cash from his possession. As Behuria could not give any satisfactory explanation regarding the source of the cash, the amount was seized.

## Underworld don serving life term offered 'diksha' in jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dehradun/Haridwar, Sept 7:** An underworld don, who had once entered Pakistan to kill Dawood Ibrahim and has been serving life sentence in Almora district jail, was offered 'diksha' by seers right inside the prison recently to initiate him into

monkhood, according to sources.

The underworld don identified as Prakash Pandey, aka PP, has been a history-sheeter with cases like extortion, robbery and murder pending against him. Two seers accompanied by the man who mediated between the gangster and the seer community reportedly went inside

in the jail premises September 5 to perform the 'diksha' ceremony during which Pandey was offered a rudraksha garland and a sacred beads necklace (kanthi) to wear. Vedic mantras were also chanted in his ears.

The don was renamed as Prakashanand Giri by the seers who introduced themselves as



being associated with the Panch Dashnam Juna Akhara, headquartered at Haridwar in Uttarakhand and has its ashrams in the Kumaon region.

After coming out of the jail complex, the seers and mediator - Krishna Kandpal - held a presser at a hotel in Almora and said it was done as the man was "full of patriotic feelings" and wanted to move towards a "religious and pure life".

"When I met PP bhai, I was impressed by his patriotic spirit. He

had entered Pakistan once to kill Dawood (Ibrahim). He had even entered Vietnam to kill someone else but was arrested as there was a red-corner notice issued against him. He expressed his desire to tread the spiritual path. I talked to the seers and they agreed to offer him diksha," Kandpal told reporters.

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# CITY CELEBRATES GANESH CHATURTHI WITH FERVOUR

## KATHMANDU KLF KICKS OFF

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** The City residents celebrated Ganesh Puja with religious fervour and enthusiasm here Saturday. Devotees thronged pandals to seek his blessings for good health, wealth and prosperity.

On the occasion, different puja pandals in the Capital exhibited a unique theme related to Lord Ganesh from religious tradition.

Educational institutions were beautifully decorated to mark the special day. A number of splendid puja pandals were set up at various places, creating a joyful atmosphere.

Some pandals stood out due to their unique idols and attractive decorations with vibrant lights and creative materials adding to the festive spirit. People in large numbers visited the pandals and took part in the rituals.

Among others, pandals in Saheed Nagar, Jharpada, Old Town, Nayapalli, and Badagada installed some of the largest idols to attract the city crowd.

A 57-ft tall idol, in the style of Mumbai's Lalbaug was installed by the Bright Star Youth Association of Badagada area here. The 'Ganesh Mahotsav' will continue for next 7-days, association secretary Sangram Marthia said.

The puja mandap was decorated with a German hangar shed and a mini pagoda. The entire area from the puja mandap to Kalpana Chowk was decorated with colourful lights. For the convenience of differently-abled and senior citizens, wheelchair facility was available for hassle-free visit to the puja mandap, Marthia added.

Similarly, Saheed Nagar Winners Association prepared a 47-ft tall idol. Several cultural programmes are scheduled to be held during the seven-day festival, the



**Dharitri and Orissa POST** Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy with staff during puja celebrations on the newspapers' office premises in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

club secretary said.

At several places the idols were made up of eco-friendly materials and would be immersed following a procession September 17.

City-based Bakul Foundation celebrated the festival by worshipping tree in an eco-friendly manner.

"As Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation has issued guidelines for eco-friendly immersion of idols, there is one Ganesh idol, whose immersion will be most eco-friendly as it will have a natural immersion at its own location during the rains. It is the unique but very meaningful 'Tree Ganesh'

celebrations by volunteers of Bakul Foundation," founder Sujit Mahapatra said.

Many well wishers, including Housing and Urban Development department Principal Secretary Usha Padhee, Director of Intelligence Soumendra Priyadarshi, Chief Conservator of

Forests Manoj Nair, and US Consulate General Advisor Saili Kader attended the event to worship the Tree Ganesh.

Apart from the traditional rituals, cultural events were being organised at various pandals to entertain the devotees.

In order to prevent water bodies from pollution, BMC has released guidelines for the immersion of Ganesh idols in the Capital city, emphasising eco-friendly practices. Three temporary artificial ponds near Tankapani Bridge, Daya and Kuakhai river banks are set-up for immersion of the idols.

"Citizens can also opt to hand over their idols to the BMC at designated Kalyan Mandaps for safe disposal. The BMC will ensure respectful handling and immersion of the idols, supervised by the Deputy Commissioner," an official said.

Eight Kalyan Mandaps in the City have been designated for collection of the idols, and a list has been released for pub-



BAKUL FOUNDATION

lic reference.

The initiative aims to promote eco-friendly and respectful immersion practices, protecting the City's water bodies and preserving religious sentiments, BMC Mayor Sulochana Das said.

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** The third edition of the Kathmandu Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) commenced at Hotel Himalaya in Lalitpur Saturday.

The event, themed 'Nepal: The Gateway to Asian Art, Culture, and Literature,' was jointly inaugurated by Nepal Academy Chancellor Bhupal Rai. Dignitaries including KLF founder Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Kathmandu KLF director Ranjana Niraula, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) at the Embassy of India in Kathmandu, Prasanna Shrivastava, writer Bhuwan Dhungana, Indian diplomat and novelist Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri, and Indian economist and writer Sanjeev Sanyal were present on the inauguration ceremony.



Poet and writer Bhuwan Dhungana was honoured with the Yashaswi Sahitya Samman on the occasion. Additionally, the Yashaswi Book Award 2081 was presented to six books across five categories. Each recipient received a prize of ₹20,000 along with the award. The festival brings together over 300 writers from Nepal, India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and other South Asian nations, fostering a rich exchange of literary and cultural traditions. It promises a grand celebration of literature, art, music, and culture, further strengthening Nepal's role as a central hub for Asian cultural dialogues.

Rashmi Ranjan Parida added that the festival serves as a common platform for cultural exchange between Nepal and India. He remarked, "It's hard to pinpoint when Nepal and India's shared journey began, and it still continues today."



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NUASAH, NAYAPALLI



WINNERS ASSOCIATION  
SAHEED NAGAR



BRIGHT STAR YOUTH ASSOCIATION  
BADAGADA



MAHAVEER CLUB  
SHASTRI NAGAR

## Workshop on space startups at OTR



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** OTR- Foundation for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and In-SPACE, department of Space, Govt of India recently held an orientation workshop here on "In-SPACE Pre-incubation Entrepreneurship Development Programme" for the faculty and students aspirants interested to begin their Space startup journey.

The guests who delivered talks on various aspects of space startups included Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR) VC BB Biswal, Aerospace Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore professor Radhakant Padhi, Director (Promotion Directorate), In-SPACE, department of Space, Government of India Vinod Kumar, Deputy director, PMA, In-SPACE Pranav Kumar Singh and OTR Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship Cell Prof-In-Charge Ranjan Kumar Pradhan.

Associate professor of School of Mechanical Sciences Sudhansu Sahoo and School of Electrical sciences HOS LN Tripathy attended the workshop.

## CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Sabita Rana, W/o-Bhimsen Rana, resident of At/P.O.-Ramnagar, P.S.-Jambhu Marine, Dist.-Kendrapara, PIN- 754224, Odisha declare by this affidavit No.- 766 volume-2, dtd 06.09.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Sabita Jena for all future purposes.

## CHSE observes 42nd Foundation Day

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** The 42nd foundation day of Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) was observed here, Saturday. On the occasion Police recruitment Board Chairman and Ex-Director General Fire Services Santosh Kumar Upadhyay joined as chief guest and encouraged more and more people to enroll their children in government schools.

Upadhyay stressed on promotion and inclusion of creative activities such as environmental protection, sports, music and moral education in the curriculum.

School and Mass Education (S&ME) department Additional



Secretary Subhashree Nanda, and Board of Secondary Education (BSE) President Srikant Kumar Tarai attended the ceremony as guests of honour.

In view of the newly-introduced National Educational Policy-2020, Nanda said that the

children could choose subjects according to their interest and will get opportunity to express their talent in new ways.

Speaking on the occasion, Tarai informed that the provision has already been made to choose vocational education as the third language from the school level.

## Tata Power strikes pact of ₹11cr with local suppliers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** Tata Power-led Odisha Discoms have awarded contracts worth ₹11.481 crore to local contractors and suppliers, an official said.

The joint ventures between Tata Power and the state government, placed orders worth ₹8,690 crore with local MSMEs and ₹2,791 crore to non-MSMEs by the Discoms over the past three years since taking over the state's power distribution operations.

These contracts, spread across two major categories like materials and services, have been awarded to local contractors and suppliers.

Odisha discoms - TP Central, TP Southern, TP Northern, and TP Western Odisha Distribution Limited have forged agreements with 6,645 local vendors and sup-



pliers, the official said.

The company in a statement said that these collaborative partnerships serve as the backbone for day-to-day operations and services, with a special emphasis on encouraging local vendors to employ residents from the nearby regions.

Within the service sector, covering meter reading, billing, network maintenance and others, the discoms have awarded contracts to 4,347 vendors with a total value of ₹7,560 crore.

Similarly in the materials supply category, including distribution transformers, cables,

poles and others, the discoms have assigned 2,298 contracts valued at ₹3,921 crore for its operations.

Contracts in the materials domain encompass essential components like distribution transformers, cables, poles, LT and HT hardware, laptops, and desktops.

In the service domain, contracts cover a wide range of activities, including meter installation, billing, collection, call centre operations, meter reading, and administrative roles such as housekeeping and catering.

"This initiative not only aligns with Make in Odisha vision but also plays a pivotal role in driving Odisha's economic progress. It has transformed the business landscape, significantly contributing to the economic prosperity of local communities," the company said.

## Man arrested for assault in Jatni

**Bhubaneswar:** The Jatni police Saturday arrested a 36-year-old man for attacking Ganesh puja pandal organisers inflicting serious injuries to a man. IIC Soumyakant Baliarsingh said the accused is identified as Bibhuprasad Mohanty alias Bubula. As per the FIR, the accused visited Sainagar Puja Committee in a drunken state and attacked the victim with a blade. The police have booked the accused under Sections 115 (2), 118 (2) and 351 (2) under BNS. He was produced before a local court Saturday.

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 7:** Manipal Hospitals, Bhubaneswar hosted the 6th edition of Continuous Physiotherapy Education (CPE) 6.0, to commemorate the World Physiotherapy Day here Saturday.

The event was organised by the department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, led by Sibani Sankar Tripathy (PT) and his team.

The event witnessed the participation of over 100 professional physiotherapists from across the state, emphasising the vital role physiotherapists play in patient care and recovery.

This year's theme 'Low back pain and the role of physiotherapy in its management', highlights the impact of physiotherapy on treating and managing one of the most common global health issues.

The occasion was graced by head coach at Odisha's Reliance High Performance Centre Martin Owens. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "Physiotherapy is a cornerstone for athletes to re-

cover, perform, and excel, ensuring both physical resilience and long-term career sustainability."

Lauding hospital's initiative, Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIR-TAR) director Patitapaban Mohanty said, "Low back pain is a global concern, and physiotherapy offers a holistic approach to managing and preventing its long-term effects."

Hospital director Saktimaya Mohapatra emphasised the critical role of physiotherapists, saying, "They help take care of patients throughout all phases of healing, from initial diagnosis to restorative and preventive stages of recovery."

Hospital's medical superintendent Siddharth Mishra said, "Physiotherapy is a partnership in healing, where hope and science meet."

CPE 6.0 serves as a testament to hospital's commitment to advancing physiotherapy education and patient care, ensuring a healthier, more mobile future for all, an official said.

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| BBSR   | CTC    |
| Max Temp 33.0°C  | 33.2°C |
| Min Temp 26.0°C  | 25.4°C |
| Humidity 87%   | 83%    |
| Rainfall 7.8mm   | 10.4mm |
| FORECAST   |        |
| Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershower |        |

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# Row over salary advance to DMF casual workers

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Keonjhar, Sept 7:** Despite repeated complaints of irregularities, the alleged misappropriation of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds in Keonjhar district continues unabated.

The ruling as well as Opposition parties have expressed concern over the state of affairs and lack of action in this regard.

In the latest instance, ₹1.70 crore has allegedly been paid towards salary advance to DMF casual employees in the district in gross violation of established norms, a report said.

According to reports, casual workers from outside of the district are being hired by the DMF to manage its day to day affairs. Moreover, the salary advance to them has sparked resentment in the district.

The matter came to the fore in a reply received under the Right to Information Act (RTI) in response to an application filed by activist Subhakanta Nayak. What came as a surprise was the fact that these casual employees had been paid advance salary for three years totalling ₹1, 70, 55,720, though they draw high salary from DMF.

Sources said that the DMF operates out of a government building as it does not have its own office (project management unit (PMU)) in the district. The foundation has outsourced its hiring to a private agency. It is alleged that



work/business transactions worth of thousands of crores are being made through the casual workers without any pre-conditions or guarantee.

As many as 12 workers are posted at the PMU, while over 400 are posted in various blocks as well as departments for the DMF fund works. These workers are paid ₹17, 59,500 cumulatively towards their salary every month.

Notably, five more persons were engaged at the PMU and the monthly salary allegedly increased to around ₹50 lakh. However, all the

staff was paid the salary advance.

However, the government employees posted at the PMU work with less salary though they are made accountable for their performance. The disparity makes the government staff feel let down.

The casual employees are appointed by an outsourcing agency. They do not abide by any service condition and, thereby, lack any accountability. It is alleged that the 'outside' recruits often facilitate the appointment of their kin, or known persons, while neglect-

ing local youths. It is also alleged that the son of a former official has got an appointment in DMF in Sundargarh district at a high salary.

Sources meanwhile, said that a small proportion of their advanced salary is debited from their salary every month. The payment of advanced salary is a blatant misutilisation of DMF funds for which the DMF has been loses interest which it gets from its deposits in banks.

Under these circumstances, questions have also been raised about the compensation to DMF in the event any casual worker, who has received advance salary, quits job and joins elsewhere.

Nayak meanwhile, has demanded a thorough probe into and action against the irregularities and recovery of the bank interest which the DMF has lost so far.

The RTI activist has also written to the chief minister and chief secretary, demanding an impartial probe into these irregularities.

When contacted, chief development officer, Zilla Parishad-cum-chief executive officer, DMF Nagbhusan Mishra said he is not aware of the salary advance to casual employees, "but regular audit of the funds is being carried out". "It is true that outsourcing agencies, and not employment exchange, hire candidates for appointment as field staff," he added.

# Sarpanch's kin booked for hurling casteist slurs at PEO

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Hatadihi, Sept 7:** The Nandipada police Saturday registered an FIR against the elder brother-in-law of Pandado Gram Panchayat sarpanch, under this block in Keonjhar district, for allegedly threatening the Panchayat Executive Officer (PEO), a woman belonging to a Scheduled Tribe (ST), using casteist slurs.

Police said Sasmita Ojha serves as the sarpanch of Pandalo Gram Panchayat where Urmila Murmu works as the PEO.

As per Murmu's allega-

tions, Ojha never showed up at the Panchayat office ever since she was elected, and, instead, conducted all official work from her house. Murmu said when she was returning from Ojha's house, where she had gone for some official work September 4, 2024, the latter's elder brother-in-law, Nikunja Bihari Ojha, stopped her near a canal. He abused her using casteist slurs and even issued threats for visiting the sarpanch's residence despite being a member of a tribal community.

"He also forcibly took away the government files I was

carrying," Murmu alleged in the FIR.

She said Nikunja, along with one Surendra Raut, barged into her house and repeated the threats and abuses.

Following this, Murmu, along with other members of the Hatadihi PEO association, made a written complaint to the Block Development Officer (BDO), Soumyashree Panigrahi, and also warned to go on a 'pen-down' strike if the accused was not arrested immediately. Panigrahi thereafter asked the Nandipada police station to file an FIR and initiate action, September 6.

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# CCTV footage save potential flare up

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Sept 7:** Thanks to rational thinking by citizens and CCTV footage, a major law and order problem was averted on the eve of Ganesh Puja in the Steel City Friday.

With a day to go for the Ganesh Puja celebrations, locals and organisers of the Daily Market Puja pandal discovered the severed head of a calf near the pandal in the early hours of Friday. The market, a vegetable wholesale hub, is commonly referred to as Sabji Mandi.

The news spread like wildfire and a large crowd gathered near the pandal within no time. Fortunately, there was no tension and everyone decided to inform the police and wait for the outcome of the investigation.

The cops arrived immediately, recovered the animal body part and launched an investigation to ascertain how it landed at the place. Following spot investigation, the police decided to rummage through the footage of CCTV cameras mounted at shops in the vicinity, and also those temporarily installed by the puja organisers at the pandal for crowd management

and visitors' safety. Much to the relief of everyone, the footage revealed that the animal body part had been carried to the place by stray dogs.

SDPO Zone 1 Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra said, "It was a sensitive matter and my team spared no time in seeking help of CCTV footage in the locality to establish the facts. While scanning the feed, we came to know that some stray dogs had found the animal body part somewhere else and dragged it up to the place, before abandoning it."

Mohapatra added, "We will take up the issue of an increase in stray dog population and the nuisance caused by them with the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) authorities. These strays are causing many problems, from traffic to spreading litter."

Sometime back, two persons were bitten by stray dogs near the Daily Market area. A member of the puja organising committee said, "The rail lines run in the vicinity. The calf might have been run over by a train, and stray dogs might have dragged its body parts."

# 2 dead, another critical in Daspalla road mishap

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Daspalla, Sept 7:** Two persons were killed while another sustained critical injuries in a road mishap at Dihagaon Chhaka under this police limits in Nayagarh district Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Shukra Bajju and Sudarshan Pradhan, both residents of Dihagaon village, while the critically injured bike rider was identified as Dibyajyoti Panda from Mukhakhanda.

Police said Dibyajyoti was returning to Mukhakhanda from Daspalla after purchasing clothes for Ganesh Puja when the accident occurred near the Dihagaon market. The rider first ran the bike into Shukra Bajju when he was crossing the road to relieve himself. He then hit Sudarshan who was standing near a shop.

Locals rescued all the injured, including the bike rider, and rushed them to Daspalla Community Health Centre where the doctor declared Sudarshan dead on arrival.

The other two were referred to Nayagarh District Headquarters Hospital where a doctor pronounced Shukra dead.

Dibyajyoti was later shifted to a hospital in Bhubaneswar for further treatment as his condition deteriorated. He is recuperating at present. Preliminary investigation by the Daspalla police suggests that reckless driving and over speeding had resulted in the accident.

# Man killed in lightning strike

**Chikiti:** A 62-yr old man was killed after lightning struck him during a thunderstorm at Jagannathpur village under Girishola panchayat of this block in Ganjam district Saturday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Juria Pradhan, a resident of the village. According to information, Juria was working on his farmland when heavy rainfall accompanied by lightning occurred in the area. He collapsed on the ground and lost his sense when lightning struck him. Locals rescued Juria in an unconscious condition and rushed him to MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Berhampur in a 108-ambulance where the doctors pronounced him brought dead, informed Chikiti tehsildar Baladeba Behera.

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FOCUS MPOX OUTBREAK

# COST OF VACCINE HOARDING



Despite the WHO's urgent call for Western countries to send unused mpox vaccines to Africa, Dutch Health Minister Fleur Agema, a member of Wilders' party, has flatly refused to release any of the Netherlands' 100,000 doses

In the lead-up to this historic election year, many feared that Europe's rightward shift would undermine international cooperation and jeopardize decades of social progress. These fears have now materialized in the Netherlands, where the governing Dutch Party for Freedom, led by the far-right populist Geert Wilders, refuses to send mpox vaccines to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where the disease is spreading rapidly.

Despite the World Health Organization's urgent call for Western countries to send unused mpox vaccines to Africa, Dutch Health Minister Fleur Agema, a member of Wilders' party, has flatly refused to release any of the Netherlands' 100,000 doses.

Agema's refusal is baffling, given that many of these doses are set to expire by 2025 and could be destroyed without ever being used. The Dutch National Health Institute has made it clear that containing the outbreak in Africa is the most effective way to prevent it from spreading to Europe. Even the center-right New Social Contract party has advocated a pragmatic approach, urging the government to "do what we can to contain the mpox outbreak at the source." Yet, Agema insists that the country might need the vaccines, disregarding both expert advice and parliamentary support for donating the doses.

Meanwhile, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has reported that 20,000 people have been infected across the continent after the virus mutated into a faster-spreading strain. Outbreaks have been confirmed in 12 African countries, including Rwanda, Kenya, and Uganda, as the disease continues to spread from the DRC, where it has claimed the lives of 615 people to date. Alarmingly, cases have now been reported in distant countries like Thailand and Sweden.

Even before the Dutch announcement, Western countries were slow to respond to the mpox outbreak. Stella Kyriakides, the European Union's Health Commissioner, has urged member states to donate more mpox vaccines. In response, the European Commission's Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority has delivered more than 215,000 doses to African countries. But with the virus spreading rapidly, DRC Health Minister Samuel-Roger Kamba has called on European countries to increase their pledges.

The international community must do more. So far, Japan has pledged more than three million doses of its LC16m8 vaccine, which is also recommended for children, and the United States has committed to donating 50,000 doses to the DRC. In Europe, it is the Spanish government leading the way, with Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez pledging 500,000 vaccine doses - 20% of the country's stock - and proposing that all EU members states donate the same proportion of their supplies. Germany and France have each promised to deliver 100,000 doses, and Austria has offered part of its 34,000-dose stockpile.

But with the Africa CDC estimate that up to ten million doses may be required to contain the outbreak, much more must be done. The failure to demonstrate greater solidarity risks further straining EU-Africa relations, already damaged by Europe's reluctance to supply vaccines to developing countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, insufficient humanitarian aid to tackle the ongoing food crisis, and repeated delays in meeting the bloc's long-term climate-financing commitments. As South African President Cyril Ramaphosa recently reminded Western leaders, during the mpox emergency in 2022, global efforts focused on curbing the spread in the US and Europe, leaving Africa behind. To correct the "unfair treatment" of previous health crises, the response to the current outbreak "must be different."

To be sure, affected countries must also step up their efforts to combat the virus. Stopping transmission requires governments to engage local communities, strengthen health systems, invest in infrastructure, and ensure workers are trained to administer vaccines. The WHO's Emergency Use Listing for mpox vaccines could streamline approval and access, enabling Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to procure approved vaccines and distribute them more efficiently.

But combating the mpox epidemic will be impossible without enhanced international support. With the two-dose vaccine priced at \$70-100 per dose - prohibitively high for the world's poorest countries - the financial burden of eradicating the disease must be shared. The recent establishment of Gavi's \$500 million First Response Fund, which aims to provide low-income countries with financing for vaccine distribution during public-health emergencies, represents an important step in the right direction. In the longer term, Western vaccine manufacturers must facilitate technology transfers to African countries to help boost local production capacity and ensure a more effective response to future outbreaks.

The immediate lesson of Africa's mpox crisis is that the begging-bowl approach, where action is taken only after a crisis has already erupted - and often too late - must end. The all-too-familiar scramble for emergency funds should be replaced by predictable, long-term financing for affected countries.

Providing the WHO with the flexible funding required to respond to public-health crises quickly and effectively is crucial to achieving this goal. Financing the organization's four-year \$7 billion investment plan must be at the top of the agenda at November's G20 summit, chaired by Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

The world cannot afford to wait for another global-health emergency to recognize that no one is safe in a pandemic unless everyone is safe. Amid the rise of right-wing isolationism and xenophobia, we must reaffirm the power of global cooperation to save lives. The Dutch people, too, have a unique opportunity to send a message of solidarity by pushing back against their government's ugly and destructive policy. Holland should follow Sánchez's leadership and display European internationalism at its best by giving at least 20% of their vaccines to Africa.

The writer, a former PM of the UK, is UN Special Envoy for Global Education and Chair of Education Cannot Wait.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

To listen to some devout people, one would imagine that God never laughs

SRI AUROBINDO



## Directionless Drift

Minority governments have two major concerns. Clearing votes of no-confidence and passing legislation.

The first, remaining in office for five years, requires meeting a threshold number of MPs for the ruling party. Meaning, having a sufficiently large mass at the centre of the coalition to keep it together. Our history indicates that this can be as low as 150 seats, but not much lower. The 1996 coalition formed by the Janata Dal and the Communists with two prime ministers, Deve Gowda and Inder Gujral, had only 78 seats - too few for stability and too dependent on external support. After much drama, having survived at the whim of the Congress led by Sitaram Kesri, this fell in two years.

Running a government where 'allies' have almost an equal number of seats is not easy but it is possible to finish the term. All three coalitions in office before 2014 survived five years, the first of them confidently choosing to go into elections six months early. This is despite the ruling party in these coalitions having as few as 182 seats (Vajpayee 1999), 145 seats (Singh 2004) and 206 seats (Singh 2009).

It is true that much of the news cycle in these years was occupied by reports and rumours of 'allies' sulking, throwing tantrums and pulling out, but all three crossed the finishing line.

In the 18th Lok Sabha, the BJP with 240 seats is the only party that can form a government. It may have lost its majority but it will remain in power as long as it wants to. The BJP's 'allies' know this, they understand also that they will keep their ministries till 2029 and for this reason have no reason to defend the government except with their vote.

One news report from mid-August described the strange situation this has produced: "The NDA constituents remained curious onlookers in Parliament whenever BJP MPs got into heated exchanges with the INDIA bloc. While the INDIA bloc reacted in unison, the BJP remained isolated."

This is because the 'allies' have no investment in the BJP's ideology and no incentive to defend it on issues like the Waqf Bill. This brings us to the second concern of coalition governments: getting legislation passed. If the BJP is assured of a full term, and I believe it is, what is it to do with five years in office?

Its early u-turns on waqf and lateral entry indicate that getting legislation passed will be difficult but again, the history of coalitions informs us that this is not necessarily the case.

The weakest of the three previous coalitions, Singh 2004, was able to get high impact legislation passed. This included laws on the Right to Information, NREGA and the nuclear deal with the United States. The last of these was especially opposed by an 'ally', the Communists, but made it through nonetheless.

Narasimha Rao had only as many seats as Narendra Modi does today but was able to get parliament to clear the economic reforms that are referred to as liberalisation. And so it would appear that it is possible for weak governments to take strong action, if they have conviction.

It is also the case that strong governments often avoid debate and clear laws in dubious fashion. The BJP in the past hid behind something called the 'money bill' to avoid the Rajya Sabha and passed laws on Aadhaar and Electoral Bonds.

This will no longer be possible for this current Modi government, given its weakness in the Lok Sabha. So how it's possible for Modi to proceed?

The only course available appears to be to let go of things that are guaranteed to get into trouble, like the uniform civil code and the national register of citizens. Like Vajpayee, he has to abandon Hindutva and form some other framework of governance and policy.

This may not be easy in the absence of a clear vision such as the UPA had, on citizen empowerment, or the first two Modi governments had, on minority persecution. In any case, entering a third term, any leader would have exhausted his grand ideas. Think of Nehru after the 1962 election or Tony Blair after 2005.

The media tycoon Rupert Murdoch gave the then presidential candidate Barack Obama some advice before the 2008 election: He had known all presidents since Harry Truman but none of them had been able to push reform after their first few months. That was the only period in which motivation, energy and goodwill produced results. It should be noted that all of the things Manmohan Singh had cleared that are listed above came within months of him taking office.

Today even those who support Prime Minister Modi feel there is a certain sense of listlessness in this government. What is it intending to achieve? This is not easy to say. The u-turns have come because when the old ways were persisted with in the absence of a majority, they failed. In the absence of new and, importantly, inclusive, ideas from Modi, this directionless drift will continue. The leader will be in office but unable to make impact.

The British have a line describing the role of their monarch, who is sovereign but severely constrained: 'The king reigns but does not rule'.

### WISDOM CORNER

- Genius is one per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration - THOMAS A EDISON
- Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning - ALBERT EINSTEIN
- Work gives you meaning and purpose and life is empty without it - STEPHEN HAWKING

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1429:** French heroine Joan of Arc, a peasant girl who believed she was acting under divine guidance, attempted to oust the duke of Burgundy and take Paris for newly crowned King Charles VII.
- 1664:** As part of the Anglo-Dutch Wars, the duke of York (later James II) took the city of New Amsterdam, whose name was changed to New York.
- 1945:** At the end of World War II, the first U.S. troops entered the Korean peninsula south of the 38th parallel to receive the Japanese surrender; north of the parallel, Japanese troops surrendered to Soviet forces.
- 1960:** The psychological thriller Psycho, directed by Alfred Hitchcock and based on real-life serial killer Ed Gein, was released in American theatres; it became a classic, especially known for the scene in which Janet Leigh's character is murdered in the shower.



Gordon Brown

THE WORLD CANNOT AFFORD TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER GLOBAL-HEALTH EMERGENCY TO RECOGNIZE THAT NO ONE IS SAFE IN A PANDEMIC UNLESS EVERYONE IS SAFE



Aakar Patel

Today even those who support Prime Minister Modi feel there is a certain sense of listlessness in this government. What is it intending to achieve? This is not easy to say

### SPECTRUM SOCIETY

## Hidden epidemic of student suicides

The recent report on 'Student Suicides: An Epidemic Sweeping India', based on the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, was released at the Annual IC3 Conference and Expo 2024 highlighted once again the gravity of the problem. The report revealed that student suicides have grown at an alarming annual rate of 4 per cent over the past two decades, double the national average. The NCRB says that 6,113 students committed suicide during 2022 which accounts for 7.6 per cent of the total number of the year. They are not limited to general colleges but also to premier institutions like IITs, IIMs, NITs and medical colleges. In 2022, male students constituted 53 per cent of the total student suicides. Between 2021 and 2022, male student suicides decreased by 6 per cent while female student suicides increased by 7 per cent.

Suicide is a significant public health issue with profound social, emotional, and economic impacts. To highlight this global concern and emphasize that suicides can be prevented, World Suicide Prevention Day is observed annually on September 10th.

As per the NCRB data, 1,70,924 persons committed suicide in 2022 of which male accounted for 71.8 per cent. Around 6,930 male students and 6,113 female students lost their precious lives which constitute 7.6 per cent of the total suicides of the country. Male persons number is more in all professions where in students, 47 per cent of the suicide deaths are female which is a matter of concern. Failure in the examination is the reason for 2,094 student suicides which comes around 16 per cent of total student suicides. If we analyze the data, one student is committing suicide in the country every forty minute and every four hours, one student is losing life for failure in the examination.

The theme for World Suicide Prevention Day 2024-2026 is "Changing the Narrative on Suicide". Changing the narrative on suicide is about transforming how we perceive this complex issue. It's about shifting from a culture of silence and lack of understanding to one of openness, empathy, and support. Changing the narrative on suicide aims to inspire individuals, communities, organizations, and governments to engage in open and honest discussions about suicide and suicidal behaviour. By initiating these vital conversations, we can break down barriers, raise awareness, and create better cultures of understanding and support.

Addressing student suicides with sensitivity is essential. Teachers, academic institutions, and parents must recognize the importance of students' mental health and take proactive steps to support it. Understanding the emotional and psychological needs of students is critical. The pressures of academic goals, parental expectations, teachers' demands, and peer influence can push students to their limits. While some may manage to cope and thrive, others may struggle and fall behind.

Reaching out for help is a sign of strength, not weakness. It's okay to ask for help. This concept is to be inserted in to the minds of the students. There are people who care about them and ready to extend help. Opening to others or sharing their problem with others is half solved. If plan A failed, there is plan B. Passing

examination is not everything. Securing top rank is not all. Ending life is the solution; rather it results in unimaginable crisis for the loved ones.

Cultivating a positive attitude among students is a key responsibility of teachers. While providing training in counseling can be beneficial, every teacher has the potential to inspire their students toward a bright and hopeful future.

World Suicide Prevention Day serves as a crucial moment for all academic institutions including teachers, administrators, parents, counselors, practitioners, policy-makers, volunteers, etc. to engage in discussions about suicide prevention. The government should provide guidelines to colleges to ensure that the day is observed appropriately. Each student is a unique, irreplaceable part of our community. Let's make sure every student feels valued and supported.

The writer is founder, Supporting Shoulders, an organization striving for mental health of students, Jeypore, Odisha



Bhaskar Nath Biswal

REACHING OUT FOR HELP IS A SIGN OF STRENGTH, NOT WEAKNESS. IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP

### Different yardsticks

Sir, While condemning the cruel manner in which the trainee woman doctor was raped and murdered in the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in West Bengal and referring to the immediate action initiated by the government to arrest the accused, the former woman employee of the Raj Bhavan, who had accused Governor CV Ananda Bose of sexually harassing her and filed a complaint against him at the Raj Bhavan police station, has raised a pertinent question as to why no action has been initiated against him till date. While one is able to appreciate the anguish of the victim and sympathise with her on her pathetic plight, it is unfortunate that some of the Governors allegedly commit such misdemeanours, knowing well that they can escape from the long arms of law due to the immunity available to them due to the gubernatorial positions they hold.

Tharcus S Fernando, CHENNAI

### Declining labour income

Sir, The international reports present the dismal decline in the share of the labour income across the globe as the growing use of artificial intelligence (AI) is leading to inequality. While such technologies are known to lead to a rise in productivity, they can also lead to a reduction in labour income share. The biggest lesson that needs to be learnt is that there cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach to fighting inequality and the role of technology in driving it. Many countries in the world are at a stage of demographic evolution where they would need technology to ease the pressure on the already falling share of the working population. The more important question for them is not to control the roll-out of technology per se but who gets to control the surplus generated from its growing use. To be sure, it is important to ensure that technology does not become the excuse for other policy failures to boost mass incomes. For example, India, the world's most populous country, has done very well in high-technology exports but performs much below its potential in labour-intensive exports. These counter-intuitive facts remind us that the battle against inequality is best fought outside convenient echo-chambers.

N Sathasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST  
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# Delhi's push for adult BCG vaccination to combat TB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** The Delhi health department has so far administered the BCG vaccine to over 50,000 adults as part of its efforts to combat tuberculosis (TB) and reduce mortality rates, according to an official statement.

The Adult BCG Vaccination Study, conducted under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP), aims to target high-risk adult populations in five revenue districts - New Delhi, North-East, West, East, and South - with six other districts serving as control

areas, the statement said.

The Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine, traditionally administered to newborns, is now being explored for its potential to reduce TB cases among adults, especially those at higher risk, the release said.

Previous studies, including the Chingleput BCG trial, have shown a modest 36 per cent efficacy over a 15-year period, suggesting potential benefits of adult vaccination, it added. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a TB vaccine with just 50 per cent efficacy could reduce TB incidence by 12 per cent and mortality by 8.5



per cent, by 2030. The Delhi government's study is part of an initiative by the

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Department of Health Research (DHR).

"It focuses on vaccinating adults aged 18 years and above from high-risk groups, including contacts of TB patients within the last three years, individuals treated for TB within the last five years, those with a Body Mass Index (BMI) below 18 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, adults aged 60 and above, self-reported smokers and self-reported diabetics," read the statement.

So far, around 50,000 eligible adults across the targeted dis-

tricts in Delhi have received the BCG vaccine, the statement said. The study will closely monitor the health outcomes of these participants over the next three years, with 14 periodic assessments to evaluate the vaccine's effectiveness, it added.

This effort aligns with the National Strategic Plan 2017-2025 for TB, which seeks to meet India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets for TB elimination by 2025, the release said. By focusing on prevention, including adult BCG vaccination, Delhi hopes to make significant strides in eradicating the disease, the statement added.

# Delhi electoral roll revision next month

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** The formal exercise for holding the Delhi Assembly polls, due early next year, will begin with a special summary revision of the electoral rolls from next month, officials said.

The polls for the 70-member Assembly in Delhi are due in February 2025, they said. As part of the special summary revision, a crucial house-to-house verification exercise is being conducted across the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi in which Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be visiting the homes of the people to verify elector details and assist in filling up relevant forms, the office of Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi said. The house-to-house verification started in August will continue till October 18, officials said. The Election Commission of India has ordered that the electoral roll of NCT of Delhi be updated with reference to January 1, 2025 as the qualifying date by conducting a special summary revision of the electoral rolls, the office of CEO, Delhi said.

According to the special summary revision schedule of CEO, Delhi, the integrated



roll will be published October 29. Claims and objections regarding it will be received till November 28 that will be disposed of by December 24. The final publication date of electoral roll is January 6, 2025.

Appealing to the people of Delhi to take part in the exercise, the CEO office said having the electoral photo identity card (EPIC) was not enough to vote, they also have to be on the updated voter list. During the house to house verification exercise, voters will need to verify their existing electoral details during the visits of BLOs. If any modification like address update, correction, issuance of replacement EPIC, PWD marking, linking of mobile number is required, voters will have to fill Form-8, said the CEO's office.

# Seers demand Sanskrit for Urdu words in Hindu context

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Haridwar, Sept 7:** Seers of Haridwar on Thursday pitched for removal of Urdu words like 'shahi' used in Hindu religious contexts and suggested replacing them with their Hindi or Sanskrit substitutes.

The development comes after Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, while referring to the Lord Mahakal procession in Ujjain recently, used 'Rajasi Sawari' instead of 'Shahi Sawari'.

The seers said that a meeting of the various Akharas will soon be convened here to pass a resolution seeking replacement of words like 'shahi' or 'peshwai' with their Sanskrit substitutes.

According to them, these words are symbolic of India's slavery to the Mughals. 'Shahi' is often used in the context of Kumbh congregation in which royal bath is referred to as 'Shahi Snan'. Supporting the Madhya Pradesh CM, the Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad - the highest body of saints - said that the word 'shahi' is not in the tradition of Indian culture.

"Words like shahi and peshwai are symbols of slavery and were used by the Mughal rulers to show their pride. These words are from the Urdu language, whereas the language of an-

■ THE DEVELOPMENT COMES AFTER MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER MOHAN YADAV, WHILE REFERRING TO THE LORD MAHAKAL PROCESSION IN UJJAIN RECENTLY, USED 'RAJASI SAWARI' INSTEAD OF 'SHAHI SAWARI'

■ THE SEERS SAID THAT A MEETING OF THE VARIOUS AKHARAS WILL SOON BE CONVENED HERE TO PASS A RESOLUTION SEEKING REPLACEMENT OF WORDS LIKE 'SHAHI' OR 'PESHWAI' WITH THEIR SANSKRIT SUBSTITUTES

cient Indian Sanatan culture is Sanskrit from which Hindi has originated," Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad president Mahant Ravindra Puri (Niranjani) said.

Words like 'rajasi' were used in ancient times for 'shahi' or royal, he said.

A meeting of the Akharas will soon be called to discuss the matter and pass a resolution for the replacement of the Urdu words used in Hindu religious contexts with Sanskrit-origin words.

The resolution will be sent to the administration of all cities where the Kumbh fair or similar religious congregations are held, Puri said.

# Crimes against women surging in U'khand: RTI

As per the report, crimes against women are rising rapidly in Uttarakhand. Other criminal activities such as robbery, molestation, and rape have become common as per the data revealed through an RTI enquiry



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** Uttarakhand reported 1,016 dowry harassment cases and 421 rape cases in 2023, Right to Information (RTI) activist Advocate Nadeem Uddin revealed through an enquiry Saturday.

Nadeemuddin (Advocate), a resident of Kashipur in Udhham Singh Nagar and an RTI activist requested information from the Uttarakhand Police Headquarters regarding crimes recorded in 2023. According to the data, Udhham Singh Nagar district recorded the highest number of rape incidents among the 13 districts of Uttarakhand. Out of the 421 rape cases in Uttarakhand in 2023, the highest, 204, occurred

in Udhham Singh Nagar. Additionally, Dehradun recorded 85 cases, Haridwar 50, and Nainital 26 cases. Other districts include Almora with 3 cases, Bageshwar with 5, Chamoli and Uttarkashi with 2 each, Champawat with 4, Pauri Garhwal with 13, and Pithoragarh with 8. Only the Rudrapur district reported no rape cases.

In 2023, as many as 48 dowry death cases were recorded in the state. Haridwar reported the highest with 16, followed by Udhham Singh Nagar with 12, Nainital with 6, and Dehradun with 3 cases. Additionally, Pithoragarh, Rudrapur, and Uttarkashi recorded 2 cases each, while

Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champawat, and Pauri Garhwal recorded one case each. Only Tehri Garhwal reported no dowry death cases.

Similarly, in 2023, one acid attack case was recorded in Haridwar district. The state recorded a total of 1,016 dowry harassment cases. The highest number of cases were in Dehradun (382), Udhham Singh Nagar (249), Haridwar (203), and Nainital (110). Other districts recorded cases as follows: Almora with 11, Bageshwar with 3, Champawat with 9, Pauri Garhwal with 15, Pithoragarh with 13, Tehri Garhwal with 15, Uttarkashi with 4, and Chamoli and Rudrapur with one case each. In 2023, as many as 698 cases of female abduction were recorded across 12 districts in the state. Only Tehri Garhwal reported no abduction cases. The highest number of cases were in Haridwar (183), followed by Dehradun (178), Udhham Singh Nagar (44), and Nainital (27).

Other districts include Chamoli with 15 cases, Champawat with 12, Pauri Garhwal with 22, Pithoragarh with 20, Rudrapur with 8, Uttarkashi with 9, and Bageshwar with one case.



Humanitarian aid consisting of essential life-saving antibiotics and general medicines being sent to Chad PFI PHOTO

# 561 complaints registered on Delhi's vigilance portal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** The Vigilance Complaint Information Management System (VCIMS), launched by Lt Governor V K Saxena in 2023, has so far received over 550 complaints, most of which pertain to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Delhi Police, officials said.

Since its launch in September 2023, the portal has received a total of 561 complaints against various Delhi government departments. The largest numbers of complaints were against the MCD (105), Delhi Police (71), Delhi Jal Board (44) and Delhi Transport Corporation (39), among others, the officials said. In a recent review of the com-

Since its launch in September 2023, the portal has received a total of 561 complaints against various Delhi government departments. The largest numbers of complaints were against the MCD (105), Delhi Police (71), Delhi Jal Board (44) and Delhi Transport Corporation (39), among others, the officials said.

plaints received on the portal, instructions were issued for the speedy, time-bound disposal of these cases related to irregularities and graft, a senior Delhi government officer said.

Of the 561 complaints, around half were closed for various reasons, while the remaining are at various stages of disposal, the official said.

# Houses in U'khand villages develop cracks

Locals attributed land subsidence, which had aggravated with time, to large-scale soapstone mining in the area and excavated ditches being left untreated by contractors, who often violated mining norms by blasting and using heavy machinery for digging

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Pithoragarh (U'khand), Sept 7:** Cracks similar to those in Joshimath have appeared on the walls and ceilings of houses in more than two dozen villages of Bageshwar district in Uttarakhand's Kumaon region, sending residents in a state of alarm.

"Despite mining being stopped in the area two years ago, we found at least seven to eight houses in Kanda village with cracks still appearing on the walls and ceilings," said District Mining Officer Jigyasa Bisht, who visited the village on September 3 along with a geol-

ogist and revenue officials.

However, the National Green Tribunal has not taken cognisance of any such incident in the district, Bisht said. Cracks have also appeared in houses in more than 25 villages adjacent to the areas where mining is still going on in the district, the officer said.

These are mostly villages whose residents had given a no-objection certificate for conducting mining operations. Of the total of 402 villages in the district, more than 100 face the threat of gradual subsidence, local resident Ghanshyam Joshi said.

Shikha Suyal, Bageshwar's district disaster management officer, said more than 131 families in 11



Cracks that appeared in Joshimath last year. FILE PIC/PFI

villages had been identified for rehabilitation as landslides were endangering their habitation. "More surveys of such villages are on the anvil," she said.

Officials of the departments concerned visited the Kalika temple in Kapkot block after receiving complaints but found no violation of mining rules.

"The mines in the Kalika temple region of Kapkot were closed

two years ago but the cracks are still occurring in houses," Bisht, the mining officer, said.

Former Kapkot MLA and senior BJP leader Balwant Bhauriyal, who owns a soapstone mine in the Saneti region of Bageshwar, said soapstone mining in the region was done in fields given by villagers for mining. "So the question of mining being done against their wishes

Around 1,000 people had to leave their homes in Joshimath, recently renamed Jyotimath, in early 2023 when large cracks appeared on the walls and floors due to land subsidence

The administration's attention was drawn to the latest threat when locals raised the issue during a janata darbar at the collectorate in Bageshwar

does not arise. At one time, the district had 121 soapstone mines, out of which only 50 are running at present," he said.

"Regions of Kapkot and Kanda blocks have the maximum number of mines and, due to mining activities nearby, the villages suffer from sliding and cracks in houses almost every monsoon," said Chandra Shekhar Dwivedi, who is studying the effects of soapstone mining in Bageshwar's villages.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
e-Tender Notice No. ST-SBP-TENDER-2024-19 Dt. 29.08.2024

**Name of the Work:** ANNUAL REPAIR CONTRACT (ARC) OF DIGITAL AXLE COUNTER (SSDC, HASSDAC) SYSTEMS OF M/S G.G. TRONICS MAKE AT SAMBALPUR DIVISION FOR THREE (03) YEARS.

**Tender Value:** ₹ 71,80,380.90, EMD: ₹ 1,43,600/-, Cost of tender document: ₹ 5,900/-

**Tender closing date & time:** At 11:00 hrs. of 23.09.2024.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

Note: The prospective bidders are advised to visit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) Sambalpur  
PR-497/P/24-25

**DISTRICT PROJECT OFFICE SAMAGRA SHIKSHA KANDHAMAL**  
E-mail: [dpccsakandhamal@gmail.com](mailto:dpccsakandhamal@gmail.com), Ph.06842-255480

**TENDER CALL NOTICE**

No.n-88:1. The District Project Co-ordinator, Samagra Shiksha, Kandhamal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate bids in double cover system mode for internal electrification works from MV license with udayam registration certificate under MSME Registered with State Govt./Central Govt. under District Project Co-ordinator, Samagra Shiksha, Kandhamal in different Block areas under Kandhamal District for installation of Solar Panel works, i.e. Installation of Solar Panel to the different KGBV Building under Kandhamal District as mentioned in the Tender schedule only received through speed post only 2. The detail Tender Call Notice and Tender Document can be seen and download at [kandhamal.odisha.gov.in](http://kandhamal.odisha.gov.in) and apply accordingly. 3. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

By orders of the Collector, Kandhamal  
DEO-cum-DPC SS, Kandhamal  
OIPR-27136/11/0002/2425

No C-566  
**CUTTACK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE  
Tender Call Notice No. 6606 (PW) Date: 05.09.2024  
Tender ID: 2024\_ORULB\_103641 (Two Bid)  
Civil Work - 2 No.  
Bid Value: Rs.54.89 Lakhs to Rs.66.43 Lakhs  
Date and Time Schedule:

| Start                      | End                       | Opening                    |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 11.00 AM on dt. 06.09.2024 | 5.00 PM on dt. 17.09.2024 | 11.00 AM on dt. 20.09.2024 |

Tender Details can be seen from the procurement portal: [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)  
Sd./- Executive Engineer  
City Division-III, CMC  
OIPR-13031/11/0055/2425

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
NOTIFICATION OF PASSENGER HALT AGENT FOR MAHADIA AND BARITHENGARH PASSENGER HALTS

No. G.51/P/H/MDHB & BRTG Dated : 30.08.2024

Applications are invited from interested applicants for appointment as Passenger Halt Agent to sell tickets for Mahadia Passenger Halt (MDHB PH in between Sadashibpur & Hindoi Road) and Barithengarh Passenger Halt (BRTG PH in between Byree and Dhanmandal) under the jurisdiction of Khurda Road Division.

COMMISSION PAYABLE to the Halt Agent will be as under :

Amount of Sale of Tickets per month & Commission payable :  
• ₹ 1/- to ₹ 15,000/- : 15% , • ₹ 15,001/- to ₹ 50,000/- : 12% , • ₹ 50,001/- to ₹ 1,00,000/- : 9% , • ₹ 1,00,001/- to ₹ 2,00,000/- : 6% , • ₹ 2,00,001/- and above : 3%.

Security Deposit for above Halt is ₹ 2,000/- (Rupees two thousand only).

Application duly filled should reach this office by 1500 hrs. on or before 25.09.2024 (Wednesday). If the last day i.e. 25.09.2024 happens to be or is declared to be a holiday, applications will be received by the same time on the next working day.

The details and the prescribed format for filling application please visit our website [www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in)  
PR-501/P/24-25 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Khurda Road



## of the day quote

Our youth are dying every day due to drug abuse, but the government is neither banning drug abuse nor taking any action against the smugglers

It is a historical juncture that will transform the destiny of youths. This venue witnessed a number of such events in which youths got jobs in various government departments. This reflects the commitment of the state government to ensure their well-being and opening new avenues of employment for them

Today the sacred purpose of building generations is fulfilled through Sainik School. This is an important day for eastern Uttar Pradesh

## SHORT TAKES

### EAM to visit to Saudi, Germany, Switzerland

**New Delhi:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will Sunday embark on a six-day visit to Saudi Arabia, Germany and Switzerland with a larger aim to boost overall bilateral ties and deliberate on pressing regional and global challenges. He will first travel to the Saudi capital Riyadh on a two-day trip primarily to attend the first India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers' meeting, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

### Security guard beats dog to death

**Palghar:** Police in Maharashtra's Palghar district have registered a case against a security guard of a housing society for allegedly beating a stray dog to death, a police official said Saturday. The Nalla Sopara police have booked the accused Pankaj Singh under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) section 325 concerning the maiming or killing of animals and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the official said.

### Indore-Jabalpur Express train derail

**Jabalpur:** Two coaches of Indore-Jabalpur Express train derailed Saturday morning when it was approaching the Jabalpur station in Madhya Pradesh, railway officials said. No passenger was injured in the derailment that occurred around 5.40 am, they said.

### Heavy rainfall expected in AP

**Amaravati:** The India Meteorological Department Saturday forecast heavy rainfall at isolated places in nine districts of Andhra Pradesh during the next two days and issued an orange alert in those districts. The weather department issued the alert to Eluru, Alluri Sitaramaraju (ASR), Parvatipuram Manyam, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, West Godavari, East Godavari, NTR and Krishna districts.

### Dimple Yadav meets Dalai Lama

**Dharamshala (Himachal):** Samajwadi Party leader and Member of Parliament, Dimple Yadav Saturday paid a visit to the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama in Himachal's Dharamshala. Yadav, wife of SP chief and former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav expressed her admiration for the Dalai Lama and pledged her support for the Tibetan people's ongoing struggle.



How can one even imagine that a country like India, with a vibrant, thriving democracy, could face the same situation as were witnessed in neighbouring countries. This is not done

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

### ARUN GOEL APPOINTED INDIA'S NEXT AMBASSADOR TO CROATIA

Arun Goel has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Croatia, the Ministry of External Affairs said Saturday. The retired bureaucrat earlier served as the Election Commissioner of India. "Shri Arun Goel, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Croatia. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly," the MEA said



# Cong hails BGY on 2nd anniv

The Congress, in a post on X, said that as the Bharat Jodo Yatra marks a milestone, "we celebrate the resilient tapestry of unity & inclusivity it has woven across India's diverse landscapes". "Let us reaffirm our commitment to justice & a brighter future, where every thread counts & every voice matters"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** The Congress Saturday hailed the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra, saying

the Kanyakumari-Kashmir march was a "massive booster dose" for the party and a historic mass movement which became synonymous with uniting the society.

On the second anniversary of the launch of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi



said the yatra proved that Indians were inherently loving people and "today our mission remains to ensure that the voice of love is heard in every corner of the country".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the distance covered on foot by Rahul Gandhi and Bharat Jodo Yatri from Kanyakumari to Kashmir awakened an unprecedented public consciousness of love, mutual harmony and brotherhood in the hearts of crores of people.

"On the occasion of the second anniversary of Bharat Jodo

Yatra, I only appeal to the people of the country to continue the struggle to preserve the Constitution and democracy," Kharge said in a post in Hindi. "Our struggle continues on the real issues of economic inequalities, inflation, unemployment, social injustice, destruction of the Constitution, centralization of power," the Congress chief said.

The resolve to protect our constitutional values "of justice, freedom, equality and brotherhood must be stronger", he said. "We will not let the agenda of hatred and division succeed.

The victory of love and humanity is certain. The Congress Party will not stop, it will not pause. The voice of Mother India is our voice," he said.

"As the Bharat Jodo Yatra marks a milestone, we celebrate the resilient tapestry of unity and inclusivity it has woven across India's diverse landscapes," Kharge said. "Let us reaffirm our commitment to justice and a brighter future, where every thread counts and every voice matters," he said.

Posting a video montage of the yatra on X, Gandhi said, "The Bharat Jodo Yatra taught me the beauty of silence. In the midst of cheering crowds and slogans, I discovered the power to tune out the noise and focus entirely on the person next to me -- to truly listen."

"In those 145 days, and the two years since, I've listened to thousands of Indians from diverse backgrounds. Each voice has carried wisdom, teaching me something new, and each has represented our beloved Bharat Mata," the former Congress chief said. The yatra proved that Indians are inherently loving people, he said.

# Nearly 62K cases in HC stuck for over 30 years



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** There are nearly 62 thousand cases pending in various high courts, which are more than 30 years old, including three awaiting disposal since 1952.

According to official data, there are four cases pending since 1954 and nine since 1955 in high courts. Out of the three cases pending since 1952, two are in the Calcutta High Court and one in the Madras High Court.

Addressing the national conference of district judiciary here earlier this week, President Droupadi Murmu had called for a change in the "culture of adjournments" in the judiciary. She said long-standing pendency and backlog of cases is a big challenge before the judiciary.

"All stakeholders have to find a solution by giving priority to this problem," she said. As many as 58.59 lakh cases, including 42.64 lakh of civil nature and 15.94 lakh of criminal nature, are pending across high courts. According to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), nearly 2.45 lakh cases are pending in high courts which are 20 to 30 years old.

Addressing the same event, Law Minister Arjun Ram

Addressing the national conference of district judiciary here earlier this week, President Droupadi Murmu had called for a change in the "culture of adjournments" in the judiciary

She said long-standing pendency and backlog of cases is a big challenge before the judiciary

Meghwal had called for breaking the perception that Indian courts follow the "tareekh pe tareekh culture". He said the law ministry has analysed that there were cases pending since five, 10, 15, 20 and 30 years.

He said an analysis of pending cases mentioned on the NJDG shows that parties involved in litigation are either not present or not interested in taking the case forward. He said 25 to 30 per cent of such cases can be closed in one go. In this regard, some high courts have taken effective steps.

Referring to the concepts of 'ageing analysis' and 'clubbing of similar cases', he said these have helped settle pending cases in a time-bound manner. More than five crore cases are pending in various courts, including district courts, high courts and the Supreme Court.

## SNIPPETS

### Man who filmed rape in Ujjain arrested

**Bhopal:** The man who filmed the rape of a woman in a footpath in Ujjain in broad daylight, and later circulated the video on social media, has been arrested, the police said Saturday. The arrested individual has been identified as Mohammad Salim, an auto rickshaw driver. The police also recovered the mobile phone that was used to record the obscene video which he later shared on social media. Ujjain SP Pradeep Sharma told IANS that the process of questioning was still underway as the police were trying to understand the motive behind the filming the video, and whether it was a part of any 'conspiracy'. A separate case has been registered against the auto driver under sections 72, 77, 294 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), IT Act and Indecent Representation of Women Act, Sharma said

### ASF outbreak: Over 33K pigs culled in Mizoram

**Aizawl:** Over 12,200 pigs were killed and over 21,000 pigs culled as the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) continued in Mizoram for over past seven months, officials said Monday. Mizoram Animal Husbandry and Veterinary (AHV) Department officials said due to the outbreak of ASF, a large number of farmers across the state incurred huge losses. AHV Department officials said that though the ratio of pig deaths due to ASF and culling has reduced in the past few weeks, the outbreak of the infectious disease continues unabated in many districts. As per unofficial estimates, pig farmers and rearers in six of the 11 districts in the mountainous bordering state have suffered huge losses of over ₹23-25 crore due to the outbreak of this communicable disease since February this year.

## 297 officers commissioned into Indian Army



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Sept 7:** As many as 258 officer cadets and 39 women officer cadets were commissioned into various arms and services of the Indian Army at an impressive ceremony at the Officers Training Academy, Chennai, Saturday.

The 'Passing Out Parade,' held at the Parameshwaran Drill Square of the institute, was reviewed by the Vice Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General N S Raja Subramani.

Ten officer cadets and five officer cadets (women) from friendly foreign countries also successfully completed their training, fostering bonds of camaraderie and cooperation across international borders, the OTA said.

The parade marked the culmination of almost a yearlong grueling training for them in the premier institute. The officer cadets belonged to the 118th batch of the Short Service Commission course and the 32nd batch of the Short Service Commission Course (women) and other equivalent courses in the institute. The significant event, steeped in tradition and reverence, marked their transformation into the future leaders of the Indian Army.

The parade of the qualifying officer cadets captivated the spectators as they marched in perfect harmony, with martial tunes playing in the backdrop.



Indian Air Force's aerobatics team Surya Kiran during the 2nd phase of multinational air exercise Tarang Shakti, in Jodhpur

PTI PHOTO

## LUCKNOW BUILDING COLLAPSE

### 5 dead, several feared trapped

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Lucknow, Sept 7:** Five people were killed and 24 others were injured when a three-storey building collapsed in the Transport Nagar area here Saturday evening, officials said.

As per information provided by the office of the UP Relief Commissioner, the injured have been rushed to Lok Bandhu Hospital in the state capital.

Five people have been killed in the incident and 24 have been injured. Rescue operation is underway, they said. The identities of two of the deceased are yet to be ascertained.

The incident occurred at around 5 pm. The building was being used as a godown, officials said. Some construction work was being done in the three-storey building.

Senior police and administrative officials are on the spot to oversee the ongoing rescue operations.

# Healthcare workers at higher risk of TB: Study

Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the most critical public health challenges globally, particularly in countries with high endemic rates such as India, which alone accounts for approximately one-fourth of the global TB burden

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** Underlining critical occupational risks in the health sector, a new study has found that cases of tuberculosis (TB) are a lot more prevalent among healthcare workers in India in comparison to the general population.

The analysis of 10 separate studies conducted in the last two decades between 2004 and 2023 found an average prevalence of 2,391.6 cases per 1,00,000 healthcare workers in India, far higher than the rate of 300 cases per 1 lakh population.

The study, titled "Prevalence of Tuberculosis Among Healthcare Workers in India: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis," is a collaborative effort by Dr Ravindra Nath from Teerthanker Mahaveer University, Moradabad, along with Dr Jugal Kishore, Dr Pranav Ish, Dr Aninda Debnath, and Dr Nitin Panwar, from VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital, and Dr Anirban Bhattacharya from Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar Medical College and Hospital, Delhi.

This infectious disease, caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis,



is predominantly spread through airborne particles, making it a significant occupational hazard, especially in healthcare settings.

The incidence of TB among healthcare workers (HCWs) is alarmingly high, reflecting broader systemic vulnerabilities within healthcare infra-

structures. The frequency of exposure to the pathogen is often compounded by the presence of multidrug-resistant (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB strains. These strains not only complicate treatment but also highlight the critical need for stringent infection control measures in healthcare facilities.

Studies have indicated that TB incidence rates in HCWs are three times higher than those observed in the general population. Despite the acknowledged risks, comprehensive epidemiological data on TB among HCWs in India is sparse and often inconsistent, Dr Jugal Kishore, Director and Professor in the Department of Community Medicine at Safdarjung Hospital highlighted.

The analysis, which reviewed ten studies conducted between 2004 and 2023, identified particularly high TB prevalence rates among laboratory technicians (6,468.31 cases per 100,000), doctors (2,006.18 per 100,000), and nurses (2,726.83 per 100,000).

This data points to significant occupational hazards that are often overlooked in the healthcare sector, Dr Kishore said. The study's findings high-

lighted several factors contributing to the high TB rates among HCWs. These include inadequate ventilation and underlying poor air circulation in healthcare facilities significantly increasing the risk of airborne transmission of TB.

Also, despite the high risks, many HCWs do not consistently use PPE, such as N95 masks, particularly in high-exposure areas, the study pointed out.

HCWs frequently encounter patients with multidrug-resistant (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR) TB, further complicating their occupational risks.

Given these findings, the authors strongly recommend immediate action to protect HCWs which includes ensuring consistent use of PPE and other infection control measures in all healthcare settings.



## of the day quote

It has become a habit for the Congress party to promise the moon during elections and then backtrack once they are in power

KARAN NANDA | BJP LEADER

The state government should coordinate with the central government, HPCL (Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited) and ensure completion of the refinery work within the stipulated time frame

ASHOK GEHLOT | FORMER RAJASTHAN CM

No one will be spared. Be it Ujjain or (anywhere in) the state, we are committed to good governance under the leadership of Prime Minister (Narendra Modi)

MOHAN YADAV | MADHYA PRADESH CM

## POST OF THE DAY

Two bridges at the same place. One is standing still and was made in Congress Rule. The other one was made under BJP rule which got collapsed only in few years. Difference bw Development of Congress and BJP

@dhruvrahee

## SHORT TAKES

### Four killed in road accident

**Guwahati:** Four persons, including a woman, died and three others were critically injured when two speeding cars collided in Assam's Hailakandi district Saturday, police said. The vehicles collided near Katakhal area on National Highway-37, killing all four passengers, including three of a family, they said. The three injured have been admitted to a local hospital, a police officer said. The deceased have been identified as Brojgopal Das (62), Gopa Das (55), Romendra Narayan Das (68) and Ajit Devnath (34). The bodies have been sent to Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH) for postmortem, the officer added.

### Toll in Hathras bus mishap rises to 17

**Hathras (UP):** The death toll in the bus accident that occurred here yesterday has reached 17 after two children succumbed during treatment, officials said Saturday. Sixteen people -- 11 in Hathras and 5 in Aligarh -- are still undergoing treatment, District Magistrate of Hathras Ashish Kumar told PTI. Apni (2) and around 12-year-old Gulshan died during treatment at a hospital in Aligarh, the officials said. Fifteen people, including four women and as many children travelling in a van, were killed Friday after a roadways bus hit the vehicle from behind on National Highway 93, officials had said.

### Fire breaks out in Mumbai high-rise

**Mumbai:** A minor fire broke out in the electrical duct in a 16-storey residential building in Kurla (East) area here Saturday afternoon but no one was injured in the incident, officials said. The flames were doused within half-an-hour. The fire started in the duct on the fourth floor of Saveria Heights in Nehru Nagar around 2.30 pm, said a release issued by the civic body.



**Around 1,40,000 beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana were provided with ₹1928.45 crore while cooking gas connections were provided to 1,22,000 people under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**

RAMDAS ATHAWALE | UNION MINISTER

## ACT ON AIR POLLUTION: MOTHERS

A collective of mothers from across India advocating for clean air Saturday urged the Union Health Ministry to create "Low Emission Zones" around hospitals and issue advisories for doctors to consider a patient's exposure to air pollution when diagnosing illnesses



# Amit Shah assures J&K statehood after polls

Shah assured people about the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood after the Assembly election, which he said is the first under the national flag and the Constitution following the abrogation of Article 370 by the Narendra Modi government



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jammu, Sept 7:** Home Minister Amit Shah Saturday dismissed the Opposition's attempt to revive the autonomy plank during the Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls and asked the NC-Congress alliance to stop fooling people by promising statehood as only the Centre can restore the status.

Shah assured people about the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood after the Assembly election, which he said is the first under the national flag and the Constitution following the abrogation of Article 370 by the Narendra Modi government.

At a BJP workers' rally at Ploura in the Jammu North Assembly segment, told them that "Jammu would decide the formation of government" and the National Conference-Congress alliance would "never be able to form a government".

Accusing the Congress-National Conference alliance of attempting to revive the "old system" and pushing Jammu and Kashmir into the fire of terrorism and corruption again, Shah said, "The time when someone else was deciding whose

government will be formed (in J&K) has gone. Now Jammu will decide the formation of government."

The NC and Congress, however, claimed the BJP was attempting to sow confusion and fear among the electorate as it was in a state of panic since the two parties announced a seat-sharing arrangement and asserted that the 10-year BJP rule in the country was a "disappointment". Shah was in Jammu on a two-day visit to boost the BJP's election campaign for the Assembly polls, voting for which is scheduled September 18, 25 and October 1. The counting of votes will be held October 8. He released the party's manifesto on his first day of visit Friday and also chaired meetings with senior leaders to discuss the campaign strategy.

"The upcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir are historic because, after Independence, the polls are happening for the first time under our national flag and Constitution, unlike the past practice of two flags and two constitutions. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, we have only one Prime Minister and he is

Modi," Shah told the rally before leaving for Delhi. "(PM) Modi restored your honour by ending discrimination and injustice faced by you... Ensure (the formation of) a government that will work for you so that you do not have to go to Srinagar with a begging bowl. It is possible by strengthening Modi's hand," he said.

Shah started his over half-an-hour speech at the BJP workers' rally by paying tributes to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Prem Nath Dogra and Baba Daleep Singh Manhas and extended greetings to the nation on Ganesh Chaturthi and the Jain community on Paryushana Parva. He introduced the BJP's candidates from 11 seats of Jammu districts that are going to polls in the last phase and said, "We have to not only defeat their opponents but also ensure that they lose their security deposits."

"This election is being held outside the shadow of Article 370. We have seen a miracle in the Lok Sabha elections when 58.46 per cent of voters exercised their franchise unlike in the past when 10 per cent voting was being celebrated by the previous governments in Delhi. "This is the biggest success of democracy," he said, reiterating that there will be no talks with Pakistan till terrorism ends and peace is restored.

On the Opposition's poll promise of statehood restoration, Shah said, "I want to ask Farooq Abdullah and Rahul Gandhi, who is going to restore the statehood. You cannot give it back. Why are you misleading the public?"



A goose and a turtle near the Jorpukhuri pond, in Guwahati, Assam

PTI PHOTO

## RJ KAR HOSPITAL CASE

### WB Medical Council sends show-cause notice to Ghosh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kolkata, Sept 7:** The West Bengal Medical Council Saturday issued a show cause notice to arrested ex-RG Kar hospital principal Sandip Ghosh over his alleged involvement in financial irregularities at the health facility, an official said.

The 'show-cause notice' to Ghosh is a step before the council takes any decision on cancelling his medical registration, he said.

Ghosh has been arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in connection with the financial irregularities at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. The allegations of financial irregularities at the hospital came to light after the body of a woman doctor was recovered from there August 9. The postgraduate trainee doctor was allegedly raped and murdered while on duty in the health facility. The incident triggered a nationwide protest. Three other doctors have also been asked



to refrain from any activity of the council until they come out clean of allegations against them, the official said.

The three doctors, who have been considered close to Ghosh, have been accused of threatening other medics at several state-run hospitals, he said, adding that the council has received several complaints in this connection.

The three other doctors are Avik Dey, a former resident medical officer of Burdwan Medical College and Hospital, Birupaksha Biswas, a former senior doctor of the same institution and Mustafizur Rahaman Mallick, a junior medic of Midnapore Medical College and Hospital, he added.

## EXCISE POLICY CASE

### Kejriwal was party to criminal conspiracy: CBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 7:** Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was "party to the criminal conspiracy" of the formulation and implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy since the beginning, the CBI has alleged in its latest supplementary charge sheet in the case, even as the AAP claimed that not one rupee of corruption has been traced so far by the agency.

Concluding its probe with the submission of the fifth and final charge sheet in the case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has alleged that Kejriwal already had a "pre-conceived idea of privatising" the excise policy, which was scrapped after allegations of corruption surfaced.

"He (Kejriwal) demanded monetary support for his party AAP in the month of March 2021, when the policy was being formulated by the GoM headed by the co-accused Manish Sisodia," the agency has alleged.

"His close associate and in-charge of media and communication of the AAP (and) accused Vijay Nair was approaching different stakeholders of the Delhi excise business and demanding illegal gratification from them in lieu of a favourable excise policy," the agency has alleged.

The AAP refuted the CBI's charges. "So why has not even a single penny been recovered till now? Despite questioning 500 witnesses and filing 50,000 pages of documents, not one rupee of corruption has been traced to any AAP leader," the party said in a statement.

Asserting the Aam Aadmi Party is a "staunchly honest party", it accused the BJP of making false allegations against its leaders. Both the ED's trial court and the Supreme Court have questioned the CBI's investigation, the AAP said.

Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI June 26 from Tihar Jail while he was lodged there in connection with a money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy scam registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The Supreme Court's verdict on his petition challenging the arrest by the CBI is awaited.

## Ten killed in separate road accidents in MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Vidisha/Ratlam/Jabalpur (MP), Sept 7:** At least ten persons were killed in three separate road accidents in Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha, Ratlam, and Jabalpur districts Saturday, police said.

Four persons, originally from Rajasthan, were killed and six others accompanying them injured when their SUV rammmed into a truck at around 4 am on Biaora-Bina highway in Vidisha district, a police official said. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed grief over the incident.

In Raoti of Ratlam district, a pick-up vehicle fell into a 60-foot gorge, leaving three persons, including a boy, dead and 20 others injured.

The incident occurred on the Raoti-Dholawad road, 35 km away from the Ratlam district headquarters, when the vehicle climbing a slope reversed due to a brake failure and tumbled down in the gorge, said Raoti



police station in-charge Jaiprakash Chouhan.

The deceased are identified as Leela Bai (40), Nani Bai (47) and Ajay (15), he said. In Jabalpur district, three persons were killed in a collision between a car and a two-wheeler near Belkhedha village, an official said. The deceased were travelling on a motorcycle to attend a family function when the incident occurred.

Among the trio, Prem Singh (55) and Sheel Rani (50) died on the spot, while seriously injured Mohan (35) succumbed to his injuries in the medical college hospital during treatment, said Belkhedha police station in-charge Sarojani Chouksey.

## No NRC, no Aadhaar: Himanta

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, Sept 7:** All new applicants for Aadhaar cards in Assam need to submit their NRC application receipt number (ARN), Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Saturday.

A detailed standard operating procedure (SOP) will be prepared for the purpose and this will be implemented from October 1, he said. The submission of the application receipt number of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) will stop the "influx of illegal foreigners" and the state government will be "very strict" in issuing Aadhaar cards, he said.

"Applications for Aadhaar cards are more than the population...It indicates that there are doubtful citizens and we have decided that new applicants will have to submit their NRC application receipt number (ARN)," the Chief Minister said at a press conference here.

He also said, "It will not be easy to get Aadhaar in Assam and hopefully, other states will also be strict in issuing Aadhaar cards."



The submission of the ARN will not be applicable to the 9.55 lakh people whose biometrics were locked during the NRC process, and they will get their cards, Sarma said. It will also not be applicable in the tea garden areas as many have not got their Aadhaar cards due to some practical difficulties like non-availability of adequate biometric machines, the CM said.

Sarma pointed out that four districts have reported "more applications for Aadhaar cards than their total projected population". "These districts are Barpeta with 103.74 per cent, Dhubri with 103 per cent, and both Morigaon and Nagaon with 101 per cent," he said.

# Vinayaka Chaturthi celebrated with fervour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai/Hyderabad/Bangalore, Sept 7:** Vinayaka Chaturthi was celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety across the south Saturday, with prominent leaders, including Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy joining the celebrations in their respective states.

A festive mood prevailed as people gathered in large numbers to offer worship in temples and grandeur marked the occasion with the installation of large Ganesha idols in Chennai and Hyderabad, among other cities. Prominent Ganesha temples such as the ones at Pillayaratti in Sivaganga and Malaikottai in Tiruchirappalli, both in Tamil Nadu, and the Manakula Vinayakar temple in neighbouring Pondicherry teemed

with devotees.

Telangana CM Reddy participated in a well-attended Ganesh Puja at Khairatabad in Hyderabad. JD(S) leader and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy held prayers at Bangalore. Celebrations were also held in some temples in Kerala. In Tamil Nadu, the famous Ganesha temple (Malaikottai Uchhi Pillayar) atop a hill in Tiruchirappalli was decked up for the festival.

In keeping with the tradition, a huge Kozhukattai, a sweet made from rice flour, jaggery and coconut was made for the deity. It was packed in a big vessel and it was suspended from a decorated bamboo pole and it was carried all the way upto the hill temple by people to offer it to Lord Ganesha.

At some places in the state,



police denied permission to install Ganesha idols due to alleged violations, like failing to secure proper permission and flouting norms on ensuring environment friendly idols.

In Chennai, the actors' asso-

ciation, (Nadigar Sangam-South Indian Artistes Association) held 'Annadhanam,' a distribution of food to the people.

In neighbouring Puducherry, people thronged Manakula Vinayagar temple since early

morning to offer worship to the presiding deity. Special poojas and other rituals were performed to Lord Ganesha.

Chief Minister N Rangasamy, Home Minister A Namassivayam and leaders of political parties were among those who greeted the people on the occasion.

In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu participated at a Vinayaka Chaturthi celebrations in Vijayawada.

In Telangana, the nine-day-long festivities commenced on a grand scale and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy attended the puja at the famous pandal at Khairatabad in Hyderabad, known for the giant size of the idol.

This year a 70 ft idol was installed for worship at the pandal, which attracts thousands of devo-

tees during the festival observed for nine days. Governor Jishnu Dev Varma visited the Khairatabad pandal in the evening and offered prayers.

Several pandals were set up across the state, especially in Hyderabad. The state government has made elaborate security arrangements for the festival and also for the immersion of idols in water bodies after the conclusion of the worship.

Clay Ganesha idols are gaining more popularity with each passing year in the state, as part of initiatives to promote greener celebrations.

At Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, a 63-feet Ganesha idol made of eco-friendly materials was set up on the banks of Tungabhadra river and Hubballi in Karnataka witnessed elaborate security arrangements for the festival.



# international



I believe China and India have a role to play to resolve the conflict. The only thing that cannot happen is to think that the conflict can be solved by abandoning Ukraine  
GIORGIA MELONI | PM, ITALY

**RARE COPY OF US CONSTITUTION**  
A rare copy of the US Constitution that was signed and sent to states to ratify is up for auction later this month. There are just a few creases and tiny discolorations, even though it's just a few weeks shy of 237 years old and has spent who knows how long inside a filing cabinet in North Carolina



## of the day quote

As citizens, we each have a duty to put country above partisanship to defend our Constitution. That is why I will be casting my vote for Vice President Kamala Harris  
DICK CHENEY | FORMER VP, US

Never in post-war history had a population been made to go hungry so quickly and so completely as was the case for the 2.3 million Palestinians living in Gaza  
MICHAEL FAKHRI | INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATOR, UN

Women are the ones who carry the country forward, they give life, build and grow a country. Let us not forget the women who are on the front line of human and spiritual development  
POPE FRANCIS | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

## SHORT TAKES

### Modi to skip UNGA session

**United Nations:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not address the annual debate at the United Nations General Assembly session here later this month, according to a revised provisional list of speakers issued by the UN. PM Modi is scheduled to travel to New York later this month and address a mega community event on September 22 at the 16,000-seater Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Long Island. He will also address the UN's landmark "Summit of the Future" that is being convened at the world body's headquarters September 22 and 23. A provisional list of speakers for the General Debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) issued by the UN in July had said that PM Modi would address the high-level debate September 26. However, according to a revised provisional list of speakers issued by the UN Friday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is now expected to address the General Debate September 28.

### Italy min resigns over affair

**Milan:** Italy's culture minister resigned Friday days after tearfully acknowledging an affair with a ministry consultant that embarrassed Premier Giorgia Meloni's government. After standing by him for nearly two weeks as the scandal brewed, Meloni accepted the resignation of Gennaro Sangiuliano, a member of her far-right Brothers of Italy party, calling him "an honest man". Beyond the affair, the scandal included speculation that the consultant, Maria Rosaria Boccia, had been given access to sensitive government documents pertaining to an upcoming G-7 culture ministers meeting.

### Dormitory blaze kills 17 in Kenya

**Nairobi:** A fire killed 17 boys when it tore through the dormitory in which they were sleeping at a boarding school in central Kenya in the early hours of Friday, police said. "We saw several children in there that had been burnt," Phillip Gathogo, a local resident, told reporters. "I was just lucky to save one of them, but I heard that he later died. It was a very troubling and sad tragedy." The blaze occurred at the Hillside Endarasha Academy in Nyeri, a primary boarding school for young students about 150 km (93 miles) from the capital Nairobi.

# Pak Army chief admits military's role in Kargil

Munir's statement is being seen as a first-of-its-kind confession by a sitting Army Chief on the direct role of country's military in the Kargil war, a position Islamabad has refrained from taking for the past 25 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, Sept 7:** In a rare public acknowledgement by a serving Pakistani army chief, General Asim Munir has mentioned the involvement of Pakistan army in the Kargil war as he listed the 1999 conflict with India among the major wars fought with the eastern neighbour. Munir, the Chief of Army

Staff (COAS) was speaking during the Defence and Martyrs Day event at Rawalpindi Friday. The 1999 Kargil war ended with India recapturing the border posts occupied by Pakistani infiltrators. India celebrates the victory as Vijay Diwas July 26. In his speech, General Munir highlighted the role of the army in defending the motherland with the support of the people of



Pakistan and also touched upon various conflicts with India, including the Kargil war. "Indeed Pakistani nation is a courageous and bold nation, which understands best the importance of independence and how to protect it at any price. Whether the Pak-India wars of 1948, 1965, 1971 and Kargil or

Siachen conflict, thousands of martyrs gave sacrifices for the security and honour of the country," Munir said. Pakistan had initially distanced itself from the conflict by saying that only private "freedom fighters" were involved in it. However, soon the scale of fighting revealed that the armies of two countries were fighting against each other. The 2006 book 'In The Line Of Fire' written by then Perverz Musharraf, who was the army chief during the Kargil war, clearly acknowledged the Pakistan Army's role. Musharraf had sent in the Northern Light Infantry men in the Kargil theatre of war. Pakistan awarded Captain Karnal Sher

Khan of 27th Battalion, Sind Regiment and Havaldar Lalak Jan of Northern Light Infantry with the highest gallantry award called Nishan-e-Haider after the Kargil war was over. Munir, in his address, also said the country would "not allow political differences to turn into hatred." He asserted that the strong relations between the army and the public would act as the foundation to defeat any enemy trying to create rifts between the two. Pakistan Prime Minister Shebaz Sharif was also present at the ceremony, which was attended by the army's top brass, senior military and governmental officials, and families of soldiers, among others.

## US PREZ POLLS

# Hindu group endorses Trump over Harris



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Washington, Sept 7:** Hindus for America First, a newly created grassroots organisation, has announced it will endorse Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and launch a campaign against Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris in the key battleground states of Pennsylvania, Georgia and North Carolina. Announcing the decision Thursday, Hindus for America First chairman and founder Utsav Sanduja claimed that Harris would be "very destabilising for Indo-US relations".

**The concern is that if Kamala becomes the president of the United States, then she might put in some liberal wolves on the bench who may actually reverse the Supreme Court on this (and) that impacting the Asian-American voters**  
UTSAV SANDUJA | HINDUS FOR AMERICA FIRST CHAIRMAN AND FOUNDER

"The concern is that if Kamala becomes the president of the United States, then she might put in some liberal wolves on the bench who may actually reverse the Supreme Court on this (and) that impacting the Asian-American voters," he said. The Biden-Harris administration has not kept the border secure. Harris is the second in command after President Joe Biden and did nothing to stem the flow of illegal immigrants into the US, he said. "As a consequence of all these illegal immigrants, we've seen record crime, record drug smuggling... and it ends up affecting minority communities, in particular many of the Asian-American business owners," he said. On the other hand, Sanduja praised Trump's efforts to make the immigration system more merit-based. He also lauded the former president's efforts to bolster defence and technology cooperation with India. Trump is "very pro-India". He was able to cultivate an excellent relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

collaborate on many defence projects that would enable India to take on China, he said. Unlike Harris, who made a lot of "disparaging remarks" about the government and people of India, Trump did not interfere in the country's internal affairs, Sanduja said. "Kamala Harris would be very destabilising for Indo-US relations," he claimed. He said Hindus for America First is organising efforts among Hindus in battleground states like Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, and Nevada against Harris. Sanduja said the global Hindu community is concerned about the attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh. "We would request all political entities concerned to raise this issue," he said, adding that the Hindus of Bangladesh are suffering. "I give President Trump a lot of credit. Under his leadership, the State Department acknowledged the persecution of Hindus in various parts of the subcontinent, like in Afghanistan...Pakistan, it was President Trump that took the leadership in acknowledging Hindu genocide," he said.

## ISRAEL-GAZA WAR

# Two days of death

Israeli strikes in Gaza kill 61 in 48 hours as UN pursues vaccinations

REUTERS

**Cairo, Sept 7:** Israeli military strikes across the Palestinian Gaza Strip killed at least 61 people in the space of 48 hours, local medics said Saturday, as Israeli forces battled Hamas-led militants in the territory. An Israeli airstrike in on the Halima al-Sa'diyya school compound serving as a shelter for displaced people in the Jabalia urban refugee camp killed at least eight people and wounded 15 others, medics said. The Israeli military said the strike had targeted a Hamas command centre inside the compound. It accused the Islamist militant group of repeatedly exploiting civilians and civilian infrastructure for military purposes, an allegation Hamas denies. Five more people were killed in a strike on a house in Gaza City. Later Saturday, an Israeli strike killed four people and wounded 25 others at Amr Ibn Ala's school, which also houses displaced families in the Sheikh Radwan suburb of Gaza City, Palestinian medics said. The Israeli military said the air strike targeted a command center operated by Hamas gunmen in the compound that had previously served as a school. Palestinian health officials said Israeli military strikes had killed so far 28 people across the Gaza Strip Saturday.



**Israeli airstrike on Jabalia refugee camp kills 8, wounds 15**  
**Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah fight Israeli troops with rockets and bombs**  
**CIA director Burns says more detailed US truce proposal coming in days**  
**UN has vaccinated over half of 640,000 children in Gaza amid conflict**

The armed wings of the Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah groups said they had fought Israeli troops in Gaza City, in central areas and in the south with anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs, and in some incidents detonated bombs to target tanks and other army vehicles. The two warring sides continued to blame one another for the failure of mediators, including Qatar, Egypt and the United States, to broker a ceasefire. The US is preparing to present a new proposal, but the prospects of a breakthrough appear dim as gaps between the sides remain large. CIA Director William Burns, the chief US negotiator, told an event in London that a more detailed proposal would be made in the coming days.

## POLIO VACCINATIONS CONTINUE

On Thursday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said it was incumbent on both Israel and Hamas, which ran Gaza before the war and was responsible for the October 7 killing spree against Jews in Israel that triggered it, to make concessions to reach a deal. On Saturday, senior Hamas official Hossam Badran said the group had made no new demands and remained committed to a July 2 proposal put forward by the United States, accusing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of attaching new conditions that would not end the war. Netanyahu says it was Hamas that introduced unacceptable conditions.

# China stops short of Africa debt relief

REUTERS

**Nairobi, Sept 7:** China stopped short of providing the debt relief sought by many African countries this week, but pledged 360 billion yuan (\$50.7 billion) over three years in credit lines and investments. The Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) launched in 2000 took on an enhanced role after the 2013 inception of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to recreate the ancient Silk Road for the world's second largest economy and biggest bilateral lender to Africa. "China is moving back on to the front foot in terms of overseas deployment of capital in the emerging markets," said Tellimer's Hasnain Malik, while adding it was not yet at pre-Covid levels. China has also sought to use FOCAC to counter growing competition in Africa from the United States, the European Union, Japan and others. In Beijing, diplomats and del-

egates from around the world mingled in the Great Hall of the People in Tiananmen Square as leaders from more than 50 African countries and Chinese officials led by Xi gathered for a group photo. The new financial pledge is more than what Beijing promised at the last FOCAC in 2021, but below the \$60 billion of 2015 and 2018, which marked the peak of lending to Africa under the Belt and Road Initiative. During those peak years, Beijing bankrolled the construction of roads, railways and bridges. But a drying up of funds since 2019 has left Africa with stalled construction projects. The new funds will go towards 30 infrastructure projects to improve trade links, China said, without giving details.



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# Tens of thousands in SK protest lack of climate progress

WITH TEMPERATURES EXCEEDING 30 DEGREES CELSIUS 86 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT, PROTESTERS YOUNG AND OLD MARCHED IN THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST DEMONSTRATION SO FAR THIS YEAR, SNARLING TRAFFIC IN CENTRAL SEOUL

REUTERS

**Seoul, Sept 7:** More than 30,000 protesters gathered in South Korea's capital in broiling heat on Saturday, demanding more aggressive action by the government to combat global warming. With temperatures exceeding 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit), protesters young and old marched in the country's biggest demonstration so far this year, snarling traffic in central Seoul. They waved large banners reading "Climate justice," "Protect our lives!" and "NO to climate villain (President) Yoon Suk Yeol's administration". "Truth is, without the air con-

**We are facing a problem not unique to a country or an individual. We need systemic change and we are running out of time to act**  
YU SI-YUN | ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST

ditioner this summer was not liveable and people could not live like people," said Yu Si-yun, an environmental activist leading the protest. "We are facing a problem not unique to a country or an individual. We need systemic change and we are running out of time to act." Organised by the 907 Climate Justice March Group Committee,



the protest followed a ruling last month by South Korea's top court that the nation's climate change law fails to protect basic human rights and lacks targets to shield future generations. The 200 plaintiffs, including young climate activists and even some infants, told the constitu-

tional court that the government was violating citizens' human rights by not doing enough on climate change. South Korea, which aims to be carbon-neutral by 2050, is the biggest coal polluter after Australia among the Group of 20 big economies, with a slow adop-

tion of renewable energy. The government last year lowered its 2030 targets for curbing industrial greenhouse-gas emissions but kept its national goal of cutting emissions by 40% from 2018 levels. Even South Korea's kimchi has fallen victim to climate change. Farmers and manufacturers say the quality and quantity of the napa cabbage used in the ubiquitous pickled dish is suffering due to intensifying heat. "Feel how long this summer is," said Kim Ki-chang, a 46-year-old novelist who was participating in the protest for a third straight year. "This would be a much bigger threat and survival issue to

younger generations than the older ones, so I think the older generation should do something more actively for the next generation." Seoul has had a record 20 consecutive nights defined as "tropical", with low temperatures remaining above 25 degrees C (77 degrees F). Protest organising committee member Kim Eun-jung said the demonstrators chose the popular Gangnam financial and shopping area this year, not the Gwanghwamun area they used last year, to have their voices heard by the many big corporations there that the group blames for carbon emissions.

## DECADE'S BIGGEST

### Typhoon Yagi kills 4, injures 78 in Vietnam

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Hanoi, Sept 7:** Vietnamese authorities say Typhoon Yagi has killed at least four people and injured 78 others after making landfall Saturday afternoon in the north of the country.



Yagi, described by Vietnamese meteorological officials as "one of the most powerful typhoons in the region over the past decade," made its way to the Southeast Asian country after it left three people dead and nearly a hundred others injured in the Chinese province of Hainan. The typhoon landed at Vietnam's coastal provinces of Quang Ninh and Haiphong with wind speeds of up to 149 kilometres per hour, state media reported. Before landing, strong winds felled a tree, killing a woman in the capital, Hanoi, local media said Saturday. Quang Ninh is home to the UNESCO World Heritage site Ha Long Bay, known for its many towering limestone islands. Hundreds of cruises were cancelled at the popular site before the typhoon landed, according to local media. Haiphong is an industrial hub, home to large factories, including EV maker VinFast and Apple supplier Pegatron.

The typhoon has also triggered power outages in large parts of Quang Ninh and Thai Binh provinces. Earlier, the government issued several alerts, and those vulnerable to floods or landslides were evacuated. Four airports were shuttered, including in Hanoi, and Haiphong. Yagi struck the Chinese city of Wenchang in Hainan province Friday afternoon with wind speeds of up to about 245 kph near its center. Authorities said the typhoon left three people dead and injured at least 95 others and that it affected over 1.2 million people as of noon Saturday. Some 420,000 Hainan residents were relocated before the typhoon's landfall. Another half a million people in Guangdong province were evacuated before Yagi made a second landfall in the province's Xuwen County Friday night.





Global market sentiment has notably shifted towards caution, as evidenced by Nvidia's 25 per cent decline after reaching a record high in June

SUNIL DAMANIA | CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER, MOJOPMS

NSE's NEW SCULPTURES

Leading stock exchange NSE Friday unveiled two sets of sculptures showing a bull and six human figures representing an Indian family.



of the day quote

Celebration of eight years of the NIDHI underscores Prime Minister Modi's commitment to empower women entrepreneurs and extend financial inclusion

India offers a large market for the Mediterranean goods and services given the close connection both the nations have shared over the decades

The industries that are growing - e-commerce, logistics, quick commerce - are doing so because they're aligned with the needs and behaviours of today's consumers.

SHORT TAKES

Demat accounts rise

New Delhi: India's total demat accounts continue to rise, with over four million new ones added in August, as per the depositories' data.

Fuel demand dips

New Delhi: Fuel consumption in August fell by more than 2% year-on-year to 18.35 million metric tonne, oil ministry data showed Friday.

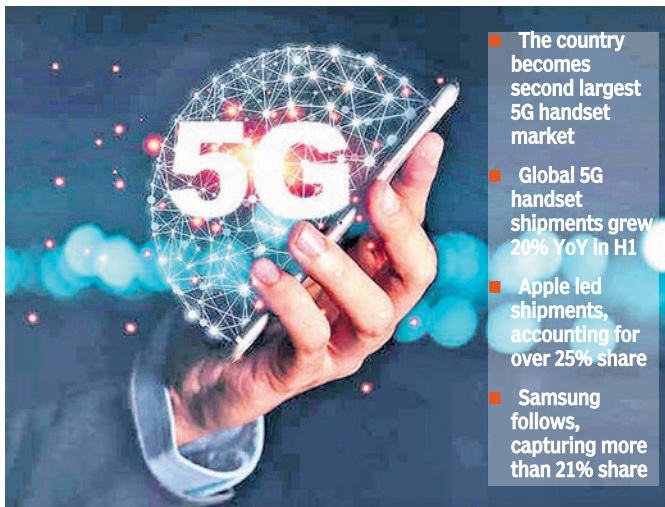
IN A FIRST

India pips US in 5G mobile mkt

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 7: India has overtaken the US to become the world's second-biggest 5G handset market for the first time.

Global 5G handset shipments grew 20 per cent (year-on-year) in the first half of 2024, according to the Counterpoint Research.



India became the second-biggest 5G handset market during the first half, overtaking the US. The strong shipments from Xiaomi, vivo, Samsung and other brands in the budget segment were the main reason for this trend.

PRACHIR SINGH | SENIOR ANALYST, COUNTERPOINT RESEARCH

- The country becomes second largest 5G handset market
Global 5G handset shipments grew 20% YoY in H1
Apple led shipments, accounting for over 25% share
Samsung follows, capturing more than 21% share

handsets as an upgrade to their devices, even in the lower price segments. Asia-Pacific accounted for 63 per cent of the overall global net adds and commanded a 58 per cent 5G shipment share.

Startups raise over \$348mn funding

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 7: The Indian startup ecosystem raised more than \$348 million in funding this week, as the growth momentum for the industry continued for a second consecutive week.

The Indian startups collectively secured \$348 million across 19 deals this week, compared to \$466 million raised by 16 startups in the previous week.

Inflows of ₹37K-cr likely after India leaves behind China in MSCI EM IMI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chinese markets have struggled on the back of economic headwinds in China, India's markets have benefitted from favourable macroeconomic conditions," official sources said.

While the main MSCI EM index (standard index) covers the large and midcap space, the IMI includes a more comprehensive range, encompassing large, mid, and small cap stocks.

They said that in the recent past, India has posted a much superior equity market performance, driven by strong macroeconomic fundamentals of Indian economy as well as robust performance by Indian corporates.

Key factors contributing to this positive trend include a 47 per cent increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the early part of 2024, decreasing Brent crude prices, and substantial foreign portfolio investment (FPI) in Indian debt markets.

Banks to hire young graduates as apprentices

A CANDIDATE APPLYING FOR APPRENTICE SHOULD BE A GRADUATE BETWEEN 21 AND 25 YEARS OF AGE AND WILL RECEIVE STIPEND OF ₹5,000

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 7: Banks are mulling to hire graduates under 25 years of age as apprentices in a month, a top industry official said Friday.



There are a lot of areas where we don't need any skilled manpower for example marketing, recoveries. We can give them training in those areas and they can create employment for themselves

SUNIL MEHTA | CHIEF EXECUTIVE, INDIAN BANKS ASSOCIATION

Nirmala Sitharaman, under which the government is targeting to provide internships at top-500 companies for up to 1 crore youth over the next five years.

for example marketing, recoveries. We can give them training in those areas and they can create employment for themselves."

like IIT or IIM, Mehta said. Mehta also hinted that such apprentices, who can be hired for up to 12 months, will also be hired in other areas like working as business correspondents to take the banking services to the last mile.

Advertisement for NTA (National Technical Aptitude) exam in Odia, mentioning exam dates and registration details.



PARIS PARALYMPICS

# From battlefield to bronze

**LANDMINE BLAST SURVIVOR SHOT-PUTTER SEMA WINS BRONZE**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Sept 7: On a quiet October day in 2002, a young soldier's dreams were shattered in a heart-beat in the volatile terrain of Jammu and Kashmir's Chowkibal.

An unexpected explosion ended the ambition of Havildar Hokato Hotozhe Sema to join the Special Forces.

That landmine blast during an anti-terrorist operation claimed his left leg below the knee, inflicting immense physical pain and mental trauma.

Sema's world went dark, or everyone thought so.

But for Sema, it was the beginning of an extraordinary journey of resilience, courage, and fierce determination to rebuild life -- a process he went through at the Army Paralympic Node, BEG Centre in Pune.

Twenty-two years later, at the swank State de France, the 40-year-old Indian shot-putter came up with his career-best throw of 14.65 metres to secure a bronze medal in the men's F57 category at the Paralympics to swell the country's medal haul to 27 (six gold, nine silver and 12 bronze).

His rise in para-athletics has been nothing short of inspiring. He quickly distinguished himself with his sheer willpower in the F57 category, which includes athletes with limb deficiencies and impaired muscle power.

Sema was encouraged by senior army officials at the Pune-based Artificial Limb Centre to take up shot put after seeing his fitness as he embraced the sport in 2016 at the age of 32.

That year, he travelled to Jaipur to compete in the National Para Athletics Championships. A silver at the Morocco Grand



**A proud moment for our nation as Hokato Hotozhe Sema brings home the Bronze medal in Men's Shot Put F57! His incredible strength and determination are exceptional. Congratulations to him. Best wishes for the endeavours ahead**

NARENDRA MODI | PM

when he battled against a fiercely competitive field.

Strapped to a throwing chair, each of his six throws was a manifestation of grit and physical strength.

He touched the 14m mark on his second throw and then improved further with a heave of 14.40m.

Sema achieved his best throw in his fourth attempt, bettering his personal best to 14.49m en route to the bronze.

Iran's Yasin Khosravi, the 31-year-old two-time para world champion, clinched the top spot with a Paralympic record of 15.96m, while Brazil's Thiago Dos Santos took the silver (15.06m). Sema has been supported by the Khelo India initiative and his training, boarding, and lodging were taken care of by the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) scheme.

Prix in 2022 was followed by a bronze medal at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou.

He narrowly missed a medal at the 2024 World Championships, finishing fourth. But Sema's determination never wavered.

The defining moment came during his Paralympics debut,

# Simran bags bronze

Reigning world champion finished third on the podium with a personal best time of 24.75 seconds

Paris: Braving all odds with a steely resolve, India's Simran won the bronze medal in the women's 200m T12 final at the Paralympic Games here Saturday.

Reigning world champion Simran finished third on the podium with a personal best time of 24.75 seconds in what was a culmination of

a journey that was fraught with obstacles right from the day she was born.

The T12 classification in the Paralympics is for athletes with visual impairments.

The 24-year-old Simran was born prematurely and spent the next 10 weeks in an incubator where it was discovered that she is visually impaired.

The Indian, who became world champion this year in Kobe, Japan, faced numerous challenges throughout her life, including her father's chronic illness and eventual passing.

She had earlier finished fourth in the 100m event.



# SPORTS MINISTER FELICITATES MEDALLISTS

The contingent has shattered the record for India's best-ever medal haul

New Delhi: In a ceremony at the Sports Authority of India's headquarters, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated some of the para-athletes who have brought pride to our country.

"Our Paralympic athletes are bringing pride to the nation in Paris. I am pleased to announce that we have won a total of six gold, nine silver, and twelve bronze medals, bringing our total to 27 so far. With more events still to be held today, there is a possibility of winning additional medals. At the Tokyo Paralympics, we won 19 medals. Now, we have reached 27," said Dr Mansukh Mandaviya to IANS.



India currently is in 18th position in the medal tally with six gold, nine silver and 12 bronze medals to their name.

Avani Lekhara bagged a second consecutive gold medal at the Paralympics in the Women's 10m Air Rifle standing SH1. In

the final, Avani bettered her previous record set in the Tokyo Games to finish at the top in the eight-player competition.

Avani finished with a total of 249.7 to achieve the new Paralympic Games record in the category. Her previous best was 249.6 in the Tokyo Paralympics.

"I am very happy and feeling great. I have brought another medal for India. It was a proud moment for my family. I started shooting in 2015, and it has been 9 years of hard work. There has been significant support from the team, the coach, and my family, which has played a crucial role," Avani said.

SHORT TAKES

## Girls shine in U20 Wrestling C'Ship

Pontevedra: Nikita won silver in the women's 62 kg freestyle category, while Neha clinched a bronze as India finished overall second with five medals at the U20 Wrestling World Championships here. Nikita, a former gold medalist at the U20 Asian Championships last year, went down to Ukrainian wrestler Iryna Bondar 1-4 in the final. Fresh from her gold medal at the U17 World Championships last month, Neha claimed a bronze, overpowering Gerda Terek of Hungary 10-8 in the women's 57 kg freestyle. India signed off their campaign with five medals -- one gold, one silver, and three bronze. Jyoti Bernal earlier had won a gold medal in the women's 76 kg event. Komal (women's 59kg) and Srishti (women's 68kg) have won two bronze medals.

## Anshul finishes 9th, Zara 10th at junior golf

Manila: Teenager Zara Anand secured a top-10 finish at the 2024 Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation Junior Championships. Zara carded a bogey-free final round of 1-under 71, with a birdie and 17 pars in a steady round. Zara, with 74-74-71, was T-10, while her teammate Keerthana Rajiv Nair (81-75-72) was 20th. The Indian boys Anshul Mishra and Ranveer Mitroo also finished. Mishra, who shot 72-74-73, was tied-ninth, and Mitroo (74-75-71) was T-11.

## Asian Champions Trophy

# Olympic bronze medallist India all-set to defend title

Last year, India won the title at home, making them the only team to bag four titles in the history of the tournament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hulunbuir (China), Sept 7: The Indian men's hockey team will look to press the restart button after a successful Olympic campaign and defend its Asian Champions Trophy title when it opens its campaign against hosts China here Sunday.

After bagging back-to-back Olympic bronze medals, India will start as favourites to defend their ACT title against top hockey playing nations of Asia in the form of China, Japan, Pakistan, Korea and Malaysia.

Last year, India won the title at home, making them the only team to bag four titles in the history of the tournament.

Back from a short break after the Paris Olympics, India skipper Harmanpreet Singh is keen on continuing their dominance in the continental championships.



"The Asian Champions Trophy last year gave us the right momentum going into the Asian Games and followed it up with the Olympic Games triumph of standing on the podium yet again. This time too, we want to begin the fresh Olympic cycle by winning this tournament," Harmanpreet said ahead of their tournament opener.

"While we have 10 members from the Olympic side playing in this tournament, we have a few youngsters trying to make their impact in the team. In terms of game point-of-view, our attacking and penalty corners are our

forte but we will be looking to play a structured defence, particularly against teams like Japan, Malaysia and Pakistan. This is an important tournament for us in terms of world ranking points and we are ready for the challenge," he added.

After China, India will take on Japan in their second match September 9, followed by games against last year's runners-up Malaysia September 11, Korea September 12 and arch-rivals Pakistan September 14.

The semifinal and final are scheduled for September 16 and 17.

## Randhir to be elected as first OCA prez from India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 7: Veteran sports administrator Randhir Singh is set to be elected as the first Indian president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in the 44th General Assembly of the Asian body here Sunday.

Randhir, a former Indian shooter, will be officially named OCA president in the presence of Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and top sports leaders from all 45 countries of Asia.

Randhir, 77, hails from Patiala in Punjab and belongs to a family of sportspersons. His uncle, Maharaja Yadavindra Singh, played Test cricket for India and was an IOC member. His father Bhalindra Singh, also a first-class cricketer, was an IOC Member between 1947 and 1992.

Randhir competed in four Asian Games, winning the trap gold in 1978, bronze in 1982 and a team silver 1986. He also competed at the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Canada.

Randhir entered sports administration in 1987 when he was appointed the secretary-general of the Indian Olympic Association, a position he held till 2012.

He was also appointed as a member of the governing board of the Sports Authority of India in 1987, a position he held till 2010. He was also vice-chairman of the Organising Committee for the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games.

## US OPEN

# Fritz sets up singles final against Sinner



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Sept 7: Taylor Fritz is now just one win away from ending the United States' 21-year drought for a male Grand Slam singles champion. The 12th seed fought back to defeat his close friend and fellow American Frances Tiafoe 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 Friday, advancing to his first major final at the US Open.

The last American male to win a Grand Slam was Andy Roddick, who triumphed at Flushing Meadows in 2003. Now, Fritz will face top seed Jannik Sinner Sunday for a shot at the title.

Fritz, 26, had a challenging road to the final, coming into the tournament with just one win from the ATP Masters 1000 events in Montreal and Cincinnati, as per ATP. But he made history as the first American male to reach a Grand Slam final since Roddick at Wimbledon in 2009.

The match against Tiafoe was a rollercoaster, with Fritz struggling to control the baseline rallies. Tiafoe, energised by the New York crowd and determined to make his own

mark, appeared to be in control after taking the third set. However, Fritz stayed composed and broke Tiafoe late in the fourth set to force a decider.

In the fifth set, Fritz quickly took charge, securing an early break. Although he briefly let a double-break advantage slip, he regained his focus and won 25 of the final 34 points to claim victory in three hours and 18 minutes. "I just told myself to stay in it and apply scoreboard pressure as much as possible," Fritz said.

Fritz, the son of former professional tennis players Kathy May and Guy Fritz, reflected on the magnitude of the moment. "It's the reason I do what I do, the reason I work so hard. I'm in the finals of the US Open," he said, tearing up. "It's a dream come true, and I'm going to give it everything I have."

Having defeated two-time ATP Finals champion Alexander Zverev in the semifinals, Fritz is riding high on confidence. He will look to earn his first Grand Slam title Sunday in New York, where he hopes to make history and end the long wait for an American champion.

# OLLIE POPE SETS RARE TEST MILESTONE

The England batter has scored seven hundreds so far with a different opponent, thus achieving a feat yet untouched in the 147-year history of Test cricket

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Colombo, Sept 7: It was a special Friday for Ollie Pope. He had managed a mere 30 runs in four previous innings since succeed-

ing the injured Ben Stokes as England skipper at the start of the series against Sri Lanka.

But he returned to form in style Ollie Pope returned to form on his Oval home ground with a first hundred as England captain Friday's opening day of the third Test against Sri Lanka. But when bad light ended play for the day Pope was a run-a-ball 103 not out, with England well-placed on 221-3.

It was Pope's seventh century in Test cricket. Interestingly, each of his first

seven centuries came against different opponents - a first in the 147-year history of Test cricket.

Sri Lanka, already 2-0 down in this three-match series, failed to make the most of over-

cast conditions and a green-tinged pitch after captain Dhananjaya de Silva won the toss.

And England should arguably have had another century-maker Friday, with opener Ben Duckett, not for the first time, giving his wicket away after making 86. Duckett praised his skipper for ignoring the com-

ments from the likes of former England captain Michael Vaughan, who questioned whether Pope could cope with the competing demands of leadership and batting at No 3.

"It shouldn't be the case but there has been quite a lot of noise around Popey in the last couple of weeks," Duckett told reporters after stumps.

"To block that out and score an incredible hundred was so good," he added following Pope's 12th first-class hundred on his Surrey home ground.

