



Subhadra

To be launched
Tomorrow

by

Shri Narendra Modi

Hon'ble Prime Minister

FULFILLED OUR PROMISE



- The scheme will benefit over 1 crore women in Odisha
- Beneficiaries will receive ₹10,000 annually in two installments, totaling ₹50,000 over 5 years
- 1st phase on International Women's Day (8th March) and 2nd Phase on Rakhi Purnima every year
- Financial assistance will be directly transferred to beneficiaries' Aadhaar enabled bank accounts through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer)
- The application process for Subhadra is ongoing and there is no closing date

leisure

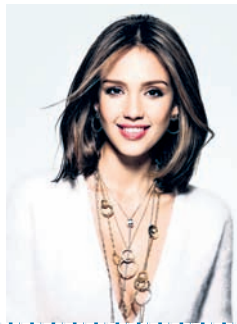


ELECTRA WAS HOMELESS BEFORE RISING TO FAME

Baywatch star Carmen Electra said that she was homeless in Los Angeles before she shot to fame and hauled herself to auditions filled with self-doubt. The 52-year-old got her first film when she was cast as Lani McKenzie in the hit action series *Baywatch* during the late 1990s.

JESSICA ALBA MAKING SURE LA OLYMPICS ARE A HUGE HIT

The Paris Olympics may have been a bit of a downer but actress Jessica Alba, is making sure that the upcoming Los Angeles Olympics turn out to be a huge success. The actress recently shared an array of pictures from her board meeting organised to discuss the preparations underway.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Nourishing high ambitions is a good thing if they can drive you to achieve your potential. You make plans and execute them with utmost care. You may focus all your attention on attracting a member of the other sex. But Ganesh warns you not to get too swayed by it, especially if you are taking crucial decisions.

TAURUS
You may begin the day in a grumpy mood - mostly, because you may be suffering from a stomach ailment, feels Ganesh. It would be best to visit a competent doctor at the slightest sign or symptom of an illness or even discomfort.

GEMINI
You need to understand and respect the feelings of others. You will be beset by financial worries and plagued by financial insecurity. You will work with grim determination to achieve all your goals and will be successful in doing so, says Ganesh.

CANCER
You will focus on near ones and give more attention to them. You will exude charm in your actions. Your kin's response will surprise you. Long-time relations will progress and benefit you.

LEO
Your expectations from your partner or spouse are likely to be unmet, so keep them low. For traders and commission agents, this could be a tough day, and hence they should be wary of suffering from financial reversals. Important documents should be signed only after careful scrutiny, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Personal problems which have been simmering for quite a long time may be resolved today. Ganesh advises you to put in that extra bit of effort. You may plan to start a joint venture. In the evening, you can dedicate your time to some much-needed socialising.

LIBRA
Ganesh says that you will be able to impress people with your extraordinary abilities. You will express your intention to study and go in for higher studies in the evening. This decision will help you understand which career field is best suited for you. Ganesh says before taking any further decisions you should think about the future too.

SCORPIO
The chemistry between you and your partner would be electrifying. Ganesh foresees a day full of romantic indulgences. Things at home front would be pretty relaxing. You are on a money saving mission today and your bargaining skills would definitely yield benefits.

SAGITTARIUS
According to Ganesh, creative juices are likely to flow freely today. You are all geared up to meet new challenges in life and crack few business deals. Financial gains on the cards. However, make sure your health does not take a back-seat all this while.

CAPRICORN
Today, you will sit back and think about the mistakes you have made in the past. At work, you perform like a team player and play an important role in the success of your team. But, your efforts may go unnoticed or may not receive deserved appreciation. It will disappoint you, but you know your worth so you'll not complain about it.

AQUARIUS
You will become flexible and tolerant in your approach, and this change will enable you to deal with unfavourable circumstances with an ease. You sympathise with the people who bear the brunt of injustice of any kind.

PISCES
The day will start well but there will be a sharp drop as it peaks in the afternoon and things may arise that will become a cause of worry. Money might be the primary reason for your stress. There will only be two solutions available to this problem.

'My work aligns with my belief'

Mumbai: Ananya Panday recently discussed how she integrates her professional work with her moral and social values. The actor mentioned that even though she doesn't talk about political matters, she is glad that her on-screen projects shed light on societal issues. During her speech on women's safety and empowerment at the India Today Mind Rocks Youth Summit 2024, Ananya reflected on the significant impact her work can have in addressing women's issues.

Ananya, while talking about the MeToo issue highlighted in her new series *Call Me Bae* stated that, "With great power comes great responsibility. It is very

important for me to use my voice correctly. Sometimes, as an actress, I feel a little helpless because people say 'Don't get too political or don't say that' but I've realised when I work, it aligns with my moral and social beliefs."

She also said, "As an actor, I don't think I will ever do something that goes against my beliefs as a human being, because I know the impact it has on people. Our country gets influenced easily. I get influenced so easily. I understand it and that's why it is important to be aware of the work you put out there. I try to be as true to myself as possible."

Malavika opens up on intimate scenes



Hyderabad: Malavika Mohanan will be making her Hindi film debut in the upcoming action thriller *Yudhra*, where she stars alongside Siddhant Chaturvedi. Directed by Ravi Udyawar the movie is generating buzz with the makers releasing the trailer and song from the film.

One of the highlights from the recently released song *Saathiya* has seen their chemistry. During a conversation with a news portal, she opened up about the challenges of filming intimate scenes. She acknowledged that intimacy can be difficult to navigate, but the presence of intimacy coordinators on set has made the process more manageable.

However, filming the song *Saathiya* presented an unexpected challenge. Malavika revealed that the cold weather during the shoot made the intimate scenes particularly difficult. The actors found themselves drenched in freezing temperatures, which made focusing on the romantic moments quite tricky.

She added, "We were against the waves, completely drenched, and it was freezing! The last thing on our minds was kissing." Malavika praised her co-star Siddhant Chaturvedi for his action and skill in performing long action sequences where one has to do complex moves where one has to make fake kicks and punches.

She said, "I've seen him do 10-15 moves in one shot in a single go." AGENCIES



Masaba faces racist remarks

Mumbai: Masaba Gupta, daughter of former West Indies cricketer Sir Viv Richards and veteran actor Neena Gupta, has often spoken about the challenges she faced in her professional as well as personal life. The Indian fashion designer turned actor recently revealed that even today she has to face racist and sexist remarks on a regular basis.

While speaking about the body-shaming and racist comments she has to deal with, Masaba said, "I keep seeing that how lighting plays such a big part in how you look. There have been times where I have done a shoot where the lighting is slightly different and I am looking little bit more light-skinned than I am. And then people would say,

'How is your skin so fair?' It is a skin tint I am showing people, and if I put a filter, my face will look kind of blurred. Someone said, 'But what are you doing with a makeup brand, you have skin like Om Puri.' What business does anyone have to talk about anything except Om Puri's acting talent? Sometimes, all that people see is textured skin or acne scars on you.

Which is why I have to keep doing more, being more successful. That's my fight. Hopefully, 10 years later, someone will say they could see beyond my scars." AGENCIES



Sidharth shares his spiritual journey

Mumbai: Actor Sidharth Malhotra shared that traditions during festivals take him back to his childhood memories and added that his grandmother had a big influence on his spiritual journey.

A childhood photograph of the actor, who made his debut in 2012 with Karan Johar's *Student Of The Year*, was shared on the Instagram page Team Sidharth. In the throwback picture, the actor is seen dressed up as Lord Krishna and is seen holding a flute as he posed for the picture.

"Traditions during festivals have always been very close to my heart, taking me back to my childhood memories. My grandmother had a big

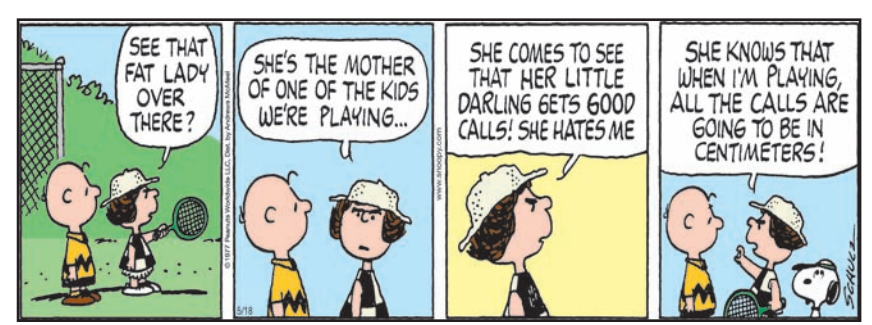
influence on my spiritual journey while growing up, sharing stories from the *Ramayana* and Krishna's life," said Sidharth. The 39-year-old star said he connected to Sikh traditions because of his mother.

"With my mom being a Sardarni, I also connected with Sikh traditions during my college days, doing seva at Bangla Sahib Gurudwara with friends," he added.

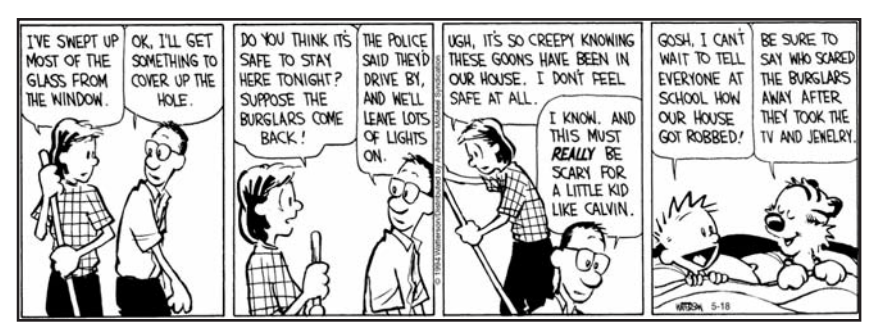
These experiences have shaped the person he is today.

Sidharth said: "These experiences have deeply shaped my beliefs and influenced the decisions I've made in my career, especially when it comes to my views on faith and karma." IANS

PEANUTS



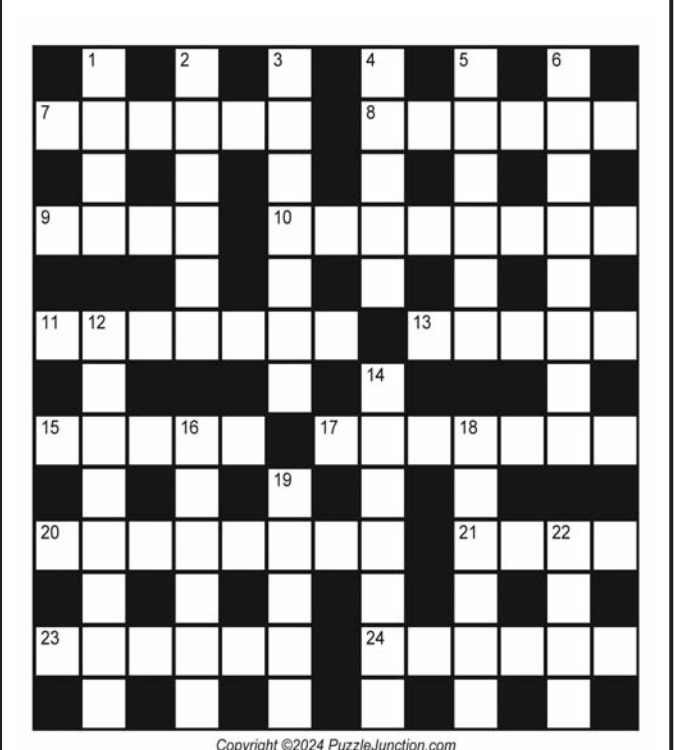
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



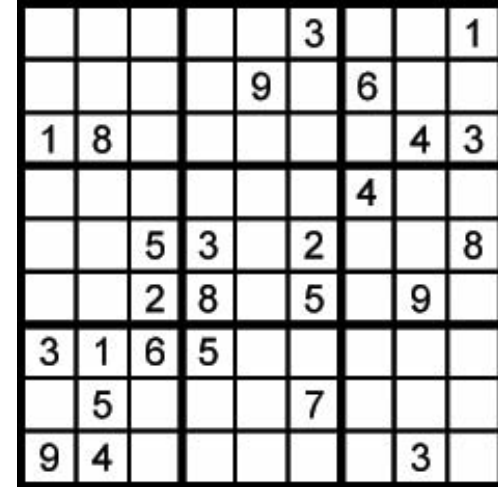
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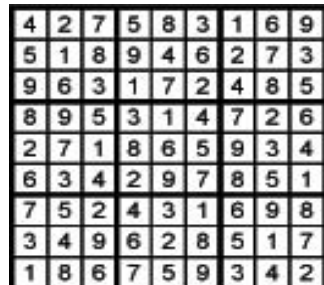
- Across**
- 7 Speaker unit
 - 8 Like some humour
 - 9 Genuine
 - 10 Doorbell sound (4-4)
 - 11 Map lines
 - 13 Not on deck
 - 15 Theatre section
 - 17 Tea service part
 - 20 Cruel
 - 21 Burst of wind
 - 23 Toadstool, e.g.
 - 24 Stay out of sight (3,3)
 - 21 Tusked animal
 - 2 Decadent
 - 3 Scholarly
 - 4 Casual wear
 - 5 Headgear for a horse
 - 6 Tibia
 - 12 Golf club material, at times
 - 14 Hospital attendant
 - 16 Something to hold
 - 18 Fisherman
 - 19 Light wood
 - 22 Dundee denizen

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



WALKATHON FOR AWARENESS: Deputy Chief Ministers Pravati Parida and Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo in the presence of others launch 'Subhadra Swagat' padayatra from Giri Durga Temple to Rama Devi Women's University in Bhubaneswar to create awareness among women about the Subhadra Yojana, Sunday (Report-P3) BIKASH NAYAK, OP

Will resign after 2 days: Kejriwal

BJP TERMS MOVE PR EXERCISE, DRAMA
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Sunday announced that he would resign after two days and sought early polls in the national capital while vowing not to sit in CM's chair till people give him a "certificate of honesty".
The BJP hit back at the AAP supremo, terming his move a "PR exercise" and a "drama".
Kejriwal, released on bail from Tihar Friday in the excise policy graft case, said he would hold a meeting of AAP MLAs in the next couple of days and a party leader would take over as chief minister.
The AAP national convener, who reached the party head-



I am going to resign after two days and ask people whether I am honest. Till they respond, I won't sit on CM's chair
ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

quarters here Sunday along with his wife Sunita to address party workers, said he would become chief minister and Manish Sisodia deputy CM "only when people say we are honest".
Sisodia got bail in the excise policy case last month.
Following Kejriwal's unexpected announcement, the names of his wife Sunita and Delhi Ministers Atishi and Gopal Rai as his probable replacement are doing the rounds.
"I am going to resign after two days and ask people whether I am honest. Till they respond,

I won't sit on CM's chair," Kejriwal said.
"Delhi elections are due in February but I demand that the elections in the national capital be held in November along with Maharashtra... I will only sit on CM's chair after people give me a certificate of honesty. Want to give 'agnipariksha' (trial by fire) after coming out of jail."
Alleging the BJP tried to prove him corrupt, Kejriwal claimed the saffron party could not provide good schools and free electricity to people because they were corrupt. "We

are honest," he asserted.
"They slap false cases against non-BJP chief ministers. If the CMs are arrested, I urge them not to resign but run their government from jail," the Delhi chief minister said.
"I didn't resign (after arrest in excise policy case) because I respect democracy and the Constitution is supreme for me," Kejriwal said and asserted that it is only the AAP that can stand up to the BJP's "conspiracies".
Slamming Kejriwal over his resignation announcement, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said, "The AAP national convener's announcement is a part of his plan to make his wife Sunita Kejriwal chief minister... Arvind Kejriwal has done a PhD on how to make a virtue out of necessity." P7

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Not scuba diving, it's for waterlogged roads, underpasses, and open sewers

City shocker: Army officer, friend 'assaulted' in Bharatpur PS

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: In an instance of alleged police apathy and excess, an Army officer and his woman friend were subjected to brutal assault by on-duty cops who they approached to register a complaint of road rage in the wee hours of Sunday.
According to reports, Delhi-resident Gurvansh Singh, a Major attached to the 22 Sikh Regiment

in Kolkata was in City to meet his friend Ankita Pradhan, a Patia based restaurateur.
Gurvansh told OrissaPOST that he and Ankita were traveling in a car late Saturday night when they had a close shave from a rashly-driven vehicle. "Some 8-10 miscreants came out of the vehicle after I intercepted them to tell them to drive properly. They however, misbehaved with me and my friend, before

Three women cops dragged my female friend inside a cell and disrobed her, said Major Gurvansh Singh of 22 Sikh Regiment
speeding off again" he said.
Gurvansh said when they went to the Bharatpur PS to lodge a complaint; the cops instead mis-

behaved with them and asked him to lodge a written complaint. "I begged them to nab the miscreants first instead of waiting for the written complaint. This angered them and they started misbehaving again," he alleged.
Gurvansh alleged that three woman cops dragged his friend inside a cell and disrobed her. "They tied her hands with a cloth and assaulted her repeatedly. When I protested, a cop

thrashed me too," he alleged, adding that he was eventually 'rescued' 6am by a few of his Army colleagues.
Meanwhile, when contacted, Bharatpur IIC Dinakrushna Mishra dismissed the allegations and said the duo misbehaved with the staff after reaching the police station in an intoxicated state.
Mishra also claimed that Ankita turned violent and bit a

woman SI on the hand.
When asked if the police had in their possession any CCTV footage of the incident, Mishra said the police station didn't have a CCTV set up.
He said Ankita was booked under Sections 126 (2), 115 (2), 118 (1), 296 and 351 of BNS, and produced before a local court Sunday for remand, while Gurvansh was granted bail under Section 41 of the BNS.

DADLS-30

ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମହଲ୍ଲଦଙ୍କ ଜୟନ୍ତୀ ଅବସରରେ ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଜ୍ୟପାଳଙ୍କ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ଆଜି ମହାପୁରୁଷ ମହଲ୍ଲଦଙ୍କ ପବିତ୍ର ଜନ୍ମତିଥି ଅବସରରେ ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମସ୍ତ ମୁସଲମାନ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଓ ଆତ୍ମିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଉଛି ।

(ରଘୁବର ଦାସ)

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(ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ)
ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

OIPR-15001/13/0164/2425

Subhadra Swagat rally organised at 10K places



Those who have filed the application by September 15 will receive the first instalment of financial assistance September 17

Those who complete the process by September 15 will receive the first instalment of financial assistance September 17, coinciding with the launch of the scheme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. She said all the eligible beneficiaries will be covered under the scheme.

Subhadra yojana is a women centric scheme under which at least 1 crore women of the state will get financial assistance of ₹50,000 over a period of five years. The beneficiaries will get ₹10,000 in two instalments in a year.

Bhubaneswar Mayor Sulochana Das and Mission Shakti secretary Shalini Pandit, commenced from Giri Durga Temple and culminated at Rama Devi Women's University in the Capital city.

Mission Shakti department and Women and Child Welfare department organised the event at 10,000 places across the state Sunday. Parida said around 60 lakh women have so far registered under Subhadra scheme.



Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The state government Sunday launched 'Subhadra Swagat' padayatra across the state, ahead of the launch of Subhadra yojana by Prime Minister Narendra Modi September 17.

Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida, who also holds the portfolio of Women and Child Development, launched the padayatra here and said the objective of this rally is to create awareness among women about the ambitious pro-women scheme and welcome the scheme at village level.

Flagging off the padayatra here, the Deputy CM stated that the padayatras are being organised at every gram panchayat under the supervision of the gram panchayat level federation (GPLF) leaders.

The padayatra, also attended by Deputy CM Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha MP Aparajita Sarangi,

Woman found dead; murder suspected

POST NEWS NETWORK

Konark, Sept 15: Police recovered the body of a woman from near Banakhandi Square on Bhubaneswar-Konark main road Sunday. The deceased was identified as Jharana Malla, 35, a resident of Badagundi village. According to sources, locals spotted the lifeless body of Jharana lying near a petrol pump and informed the Konark police who reached the spot and sent the body for post-mortem to Puri headquarters hospital.

While blood stains were found on the face of the woman, the body was covered with a white towel. Sources said Jharana had tied nuptial knot with Abinash Nayak of Saidabad village near Charichhak in 2018.

They have a five-year-old girl out the wedlock. The father of the deceased has lodged a complaint alleging that her in-laws have killed Jharana.

Acting on the complaint, Konark police registered a case (13/24) and began an investigation. Konark police station IIC Purna Chandra Sethi said, "The exact cause of the death will be ascertained once the autopsy report comes."

Bhub Manipal Hospitals to offer orthopaedic oncology services



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Manipal Hospitals, Bhubaneswar will launch specialised orthopaedic oncology services from September 19, a hospital official said Sunday.

Srimanth BS, the renowned orthopaedic oncologist from Manipal Hospitals, Bangalore, will offer consultation and treatment for bone and soft tissue tumours as well as bone metastases, bringing advanced care to patients in Bhubaneswar; he said.

Srimanth, who will visit the hospital once a month, will begin his Outpatient (OP) services Thursday from 11am to 1pm.

According to hospital sources, patients suffering from conditions such as painful bony lumps, rapidly growing swellings, fractures due to trivial injuries, or cancer diagnoses related to bone and soft tissue will now be able to access world-class care in the City.

Hospital director Saktimaya Mohapatra said, "The expertise of Srimanth will allow us to offer highly specialised treatments for bone and soft tissue cancers. This marks an important milestone for the hospital as it continues to expand oncology services to meet the needs of patients."

Srimanth said, "I am excited to be part of the oncology team and extend my services to the Bhubaneswar community and provide advanced care for conditions that can significantly impact quality of life."

Notably, Srimanth completed his specialisation in orthopaedic oncology at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, renowned for its expertise in cancer care. Additionally, he gained valuable insights and experience at the Rizzoli Orthopaedic Institute in Italy and Seoul National University in South Korea.



NEW SHOWROOM: Khimji Jewellers' chairman Dinesh Khimji and managing director Kishore Khimji unveil the leading jewellery brand's fourth outlet in Samantarapur area of Bhubaneswar, Sunday

KIIT hosts conclave on patient care, safety

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The Consortium of Accredited Healthcare Organisation (CAHO) east zone conclave was organised Sunday at KIIT-DU here. First-of-its-kind in eastern India, the conclave marked a significant milestone in the healthcare ecosystem of the state.

The conclave focused on the theme of 'Improving Diagnosis for Patient Safety - Get it Right, Make it Safe', ahead of the World Patient Safety Day, Tuesday.

The event brought together doctors and healthcare professionals from across the country to discuss critical issues surrounding patient safety, quality healthcare, and the importance of accreditation in fostering trust between healthcare providers and the community.



CAHO president Vijay Agarwal, in his inaugural address, emphasised the need for strong leadership to drive patient care and safety. Lauding KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta, he said, "Any region with a leader like Samanta can excel in our objective of patient care and patient safety."

Agarwal also spoke about the

increasing mistrust between the public and healthcare providers, stressing that accreditation and adherence to standards are essential to rebuilding trust and ensuring patient safety.

CAHO patron and Association of Healthcare Providers DG Giridhar J Gyani praised the KIMS campus for its dedication to quality education and patient

care. He remarked, "The KIMS campus is a testament to quality education."

Speaking on the occasion, Samanta highlighted the significance of patient safety. He reiterated KIMS's commitment to patient safety and extended support to CAHO's initiatives.

He applauded the efforts of KIMS in maintaining high standards of care and said, "Safety is a combined effort, starting from the sweeper to the principal and medical superintendent. We are trying to maintain it to the best of our ability."

KIMS dean and principal AP Mohanty and medical superintendent RC Das emphasised the importance of patient safety and affordable, quality healthcare at KIMS. KIMS operations director Soumyakanta Satpathy proposed the vote of thanks.

Tight security cover for PM's visit

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Around 3,000 policemen, including 500 of officers, will be deployed in the Capital city ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit September 17, a senior officer said Sunday.

Twin city police commissioner Sanjeeb Panda said the entire 12-km route from Bhubaneswar airport to Janata Maidan has been barricaded for security purposes. "For PM's security, the deployment will include 11 DCP-rank officers, 22 additional DCPs, 66 ACP-rank officers, 100 inspectors, and 300 officers, along with 81 platoons of forces (each comprising 30 personnel) and 500 home guards. Additionally, three special tactical units along with

two companies of CRPF and the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) will be stationed," he told a press conference.

Panda noted that three IG-rank senior police officers have been assigned to supervise the security arrangements - two officers will monitor the route and one will oversee the venue. The route has been declared a no-fly zone, and vehicular movement will be restricted. The area will be sanitised by bomb disposal and dog squads, he added.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and his deputy Pravatī Parida visited Janata Maidan to review preparations for the event organised by the state government.

During his visit to Bhubaneswar, Modi will launch

the state government's Subhadra scheme and unveil railway projects worth ₹2,800 crore.

Under the Subhadra scheme, eligible women aged 21 to 60 will receive ₹50,000 over five years, from 2024-25 to 2028-29.

An amount of ₹10,000 per annum will be credited in two instalments directly to the beneficiary's Aadhaar-enabled and DBT-enabled bank account.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to initiate the fund transfer for over 60 lakh women September 17, which also happens to be his birthday.

Deputy CM Parida said more than 50 lakh women who have already applied for the Subhadra scheme will receive their first instalment during the PM's launch event.

State gets two new Vande Bharat trains

BHUBANESWAR: Two new Vande Bharat express trains Sunday started their journey from Brahmapur and Rourkela after Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually flagged off six such trains in Jharkhand. The two trains flagged off from Odisha are Rourkela-Howrah and Brahmapur-Tatanagar. Special functions were organised at Brahmapur and Rourkela railway stations for the flagging-off ceremony. Governor Raghuraj Das and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi were present at Rourkela and Brahmapur railway stations when the Prime Minister flagged off six Vande Bharat Express trains of which two started running through Odisha Sunday. The Governor graced the inauguration of Rourkela-Howrah Vande Bharat at Rourkela railway station, while Majhi attended the flagging off of Brahmapur-Tatanagar Vande Bharat at Brahmapur railway station.

SANTALI WIKI REGIONAL CONFERENCE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata, Sept 15: Santali Wiki Regional Conference, a groundbreaking event aimed at shaping the future of the Santali language within the Wikimedia movement, concluded Sunday in Kolkata. Held at a city hotel here, from September 13 to 15, the event marked a historic milestone as the first in-person conference dedicated to development of Santali language and culture through Wikimedia platforms.

The conference themed, 'Unity, Empowerment, Knowledge: Bridging Communities,' was organised by the Santali Wikimedians User Group

(SWUG), in collaboration with the Centre for Internet and Society - Access to Knowledge (CIS-A2K). The event brought together Santali speakers, editors, and digital activists from across South Asia and beyond. The programme featured keynote speeches, panel discussions, workshops, and training sessions designed to address the community's needs.

Prominent figures in the Wikimedia movement, including executive director Tanveer Hasan, programme officer Nitesh Gill, Subodh Kulkarni from CIS-A2K, and Praveen Das and Rachit Sharma from the Wikimedia Foundation attended the event. Leading the efforts from the

Paving way for future of Santali language on Wiki



community, including R Ashwani Banjan Murmu, Ramjit Tudu, and Shakuntala Marndi from SWUG played key roles in co-ordinating the event.

Wikimedians working on

Bangla and Assamese language, including Bodhisatwa, Ananya Mondol, Nayan Jyoti Nath, and Pranamika Adhikari also participated in the event and shared their experiences. The event was

The conference aimed to bridge gaps between communities, encouraging partnerships for sustained growth of Santali language and culture in the digital space

further enriched by the presence of eminent guests Visva-Bharati Santali department assistant professor Ramu Hembram, Rahi Soren from Jadavpur University, and IIIT-Hyderabad programme manager Krupal Kasyap. Over the course of two days,

participants brainstormed strategies to enhance the Santali language content on Wikimedia platforms, foster community collaboration, and promote digital empowerment. The conference also aimed to bridge gaps between communities, encouraging partnerships for the sustained growth of Santali language and culture in the digital space.

The event is seen as a major step in empowering Santali voices and increasing the representation of Santali knowledge on global platforms like Wikipedia. The organisers hope that this conference will serve as a catalyst for future initiatives and collaborations within the movement and beyond.

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SPLENDID ACT: Artistes perform traditional Chhau dance at the Chhau conclave-2 organised by Project Chhauni in Baripada

OP PHOTO

Gahirmatha: 11 fishermen arrested, trawler seized

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara/Rajnagar, Sept 15: With shoals of hilsa (ilisi) fish having been swept away to Odisha coast from the coasts of Bangladesh due to repeated low-pressures on the Bay of Bengal, illegal fishing activities in the prohibited zone of the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary area near Bhitarkanika in Kendrapara district have witnessed a sudden increase.

Late Saturday night, Forest department personnel arrested 11 fishermen while they were casting nets in the prohibited zone, and seized their trawler.

The accused were identified as Baburam Sahu (trawler driver), Anadi Kar, Bharat Das, Shibu Das, Anila Majhi, Hemant Majhi, Prasant Kumar Majhi, Subal Majhi, Mangal Das, Srimant Das and Hrushikesh Das.

The accused fishermen hail from West Bengal and Balasore, while the fishing trawler, 'Maa Durga' has been registered in West Bengal. Twelve mobile phones, three quintal fish, a VHF,



GPS and 13 large fishing nets were also seized during the raid.

A case was registered in this connection and the accused were produced in the court.

When contacted, Forest Range Officer Pradosh Moharana said fishermen continue to sneak into the prohibited zone of Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary and illegally cast nets in the seawater. "They enter the area late in the night to avoid surveillance by Forest personnel. However, we are keeping a close watch on the movement of trawlers at our base camp and taking action as and when needed," he said.

'ODIA ASMITA' TAKES BEATING

Keonjhar: Non-Odia mafia continue to plunder mines

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 15: Odia Asmita (pride) seems to have taken a beating in mineral-rich Keonjhar as non-Odia mining mafia and miners continue their nefarious activities unhindered in the district, a report stated.

During his first visit to the district after assuming charge as Chief Minister of the BJP-led state government, Mohan Charan Majhi, who is also an MLA from the district, had announced to launch a crackdown against mineral smuggling, and initiate stringent action against outside (non-Odia) mineral traders.

He had stated that action will be taken against non-Odia miners for smuggling of minerals and other illegalities in mining operations in Keonjhar district. They will be rounded up and put behind bars - from Keonjhar to Jharpada jail in Bhubaneswar-Majhi had said.

The CM's resolve was welcomed by the residents of the district wholeheartedly. This was because it kindled a hope in them that Odia Asmita will be protected in the district after the BJP governments came to power both at the Center and the state.

Also it will be in line with the Odia Asmita pre-poll plank which helped the saffron party ride to power in the state.

However, even three months after the BJP government assumed power in the state, the promises made by the CM has yet to meet reality. This has sparked resentment among the residents.

While Opposition leaders and activists have become vocal about with their criticism over the inaction, workers and leaders of the saffron party are maintaining a dubious silence. This in the backdrop of the relentless criticism made against the previous government by the same BJP leaders and workers over the mining scam.

Majhi, after becoming the chief minister, had spoken about mining corruption and mafia menace in Keonjhar district. Subsequently, the CM's statement became a subject of discussion across the country and the state government's action was keenly watched. However, to everyone's disap-



pointment, the government is yet to initiate any visible steps in that direction.

"Nevertheless, the people of Keonjhar district have not given up all their hopes in the Majhi government. They are eagerly waiting for the day action begins against the mining mafia, and see the accused packed behind bars from Jharpada Jail to Keonjhar jail," said state Congress OBC Cell vice president and senior local leader Gurbax Singh Ahluwalia.

The Shah commission paid a visit to the state and asked the government to collect fines from mine owners for illegal mining transactions.

However, it was alleged that in subsequent period, no action was taken for realisation of the penalty from the illegal miners, and no steps initiated to confiscate their properties.

Significantly, it is now alleged that the loot of mineral resources is going on more than ever before. Illegal miners have been evading huge taxes by declaring 'high grade' iron ore as 'low grade' and transporting iron ore lumps with the permit of iron fines. The unscrupulous miners and agents are also manipulating in overloading of vehicles and quantity of iron ores. They are also transporting iron ores more than once using the same transit pass.

The mining department often conducts raids on receipt of complaints, but its failure to carry out further probe and follow up action against the guilty has only encouraged the wrongdoers to continue smuggling minerals with impunity, it is alleged.

As a result, such illegal business is thriving as before. Mineral transportation through rail route has its pitfalls as the railways lack an established

system to check such illegalities. This has raised many eyebrows. To bring transparency in mining transactions, the state government had introduced some restrictions on issuing commercial certificates. Former MLA Subarna Naik said as a result of the restrictions, people, or organizations, previously involved in illegal transactions regrouped again and started trading using alibis and changing names of the organizations. In 2012, the owner of a monopolistic mining company was arrested in connection with a shootout that took place at Rungta Mines in Jajang. However, he was back in operation once he was released from jail on bail. He was later detained under the National Security Act (NSA), while many cases were pending against him. Owing to this, he left the mining area for many years and hid in the Capital City.

However, what has surprised many is that soon after the new government took charge, he got a NoC for his business which helped him expand his operations by establishing his monopoly over railway loading and transportation work in Nayagarh, Bansapani and Jurudi railway sidings. He has a fleet of trucks to transport ore, while truck owners who make a living out of transporting ore are on the verge of bankruptcy. This has sparked unrest in the mining areas.

"Illegal mining will increase if tainted businessmen or organizations are allowed to carry out mining operations once again. The Majhi government will earn a bad name in the district if it did not put curbs on it," said Champua Congress leader Binod Bihari Naik.

6 killed, 11 injured in road accidents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada/Bolangir, Sept 15: At least six people were killed and 11 others injured in three separate road accidents in the state, police said Sunday.

Two persons, riding a motorcycle, were killed Sunday morning after being hit by a vehicle on National Highway-26 near Madhiapali in Bolangir district, a senior officer said. Locals spotted the two victims lying in a pool of blood and informed the police. The two were taken to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital, where



doctors pronounced them dead on arrival, he said. The deceased are yet to be identified, the officer said. He added that the police have registered a case and started an investigation.

Four people were killed and 11 others injured in two separate accidents in Mayurbhanj district

late Saturday. Two persons, riding a motorcycle, rammied into a truck and died on the spot near Palbani on NH-18 on the outskirts of Baripada town, the police said. The deceased were identified as Bikash Mohanta (25) and Mitu Mohanta (26).

In another accident, a speed-

ing car with 13 people on board hit a roadside tree near Khasadiha on the Baripada-Lulung road, another officer said. The driver and one passenger died on the spot, while 11 others were injured, he said. The deceased were identified as Bhuban Singh (40), the driver, and Jayanta Singh (30). The injured passengers were admitted to the PRM Medical College and Hospital in Baripada, the official said.

The district police registered two cases and bodies were sent to the hospital for post-mortem, the officer informed.

Sagar in contention for NSUI chief post

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Sept 15: Bhawanipatna Sadar Assembly constituency MLA Sagar Charan Das is in the race for the post of president of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the student wing of the Indian National Congress, sources stated here Sunday.

This matter came to the fore after Das was called to Delhi by senior Congress leaders. He is stated to have appeared for an interview for the post. Chatters are abuzz that opposition leader in Parliament and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is looking for a young face from the Dalit community for appointment as the president of the students' wing of the party. This development has been highlighted by a section of the media.



Sagar, who also hails from a Dalit family, has established himself as a fighting youth leader: His father Bhakta Charan Das is a former Union Minister and has worked as a senior leader of the AICC for which speculation is rife that Sagar might be appointed to this post.

POLITICKLE by MANJUL



2 killed in wall collapse in Mayurbhanj district

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rairangpur/Udala, Sept 15: Two persons including a woman were killed in separate incidents of wall collapse following incessant rainfall under Gorumahishani and Udala police limits in Mayurbhanj district, late Saturday night.

The deceased were identified as Pangla Pingua, 56, wife of Jujhar

Pingua of Badbila village under Gorumahishani police limits in Rairangpur sub-division and Tunu Bindhani, 57, a resident of Marsinga village under Udala police limits.

In the first case, Pangla was asleep inside her house when the rain-soaked mud wall collapsed on her and she died on the spot. Police, who arrived at the spot, registered a case of unnatural death and sent the body for post-

mortem to Rairangpur hospital. In the second case, Tunu also was asleep when the mud wall collapsed on him. Family members rescued him from the heap of mud, but by then he had breathed his last. On being informed, Udala MLA Bhaskar Madhei visited the bereaved family members and gave ₹3,000 as financial assistance. Police registered a case and sent the body for post-mortem.

BU to study human-wildlife conflict in Eastern Ghats

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Sept 15: Berhampur University (BU) will undertake a study on the human-wildlife conflict in the entire stretch of Eastern Ghats in the state.

The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) has awarded the study project (a longitudinal study) to the university, officials said Sunday.

The five-year project on Intervention Models for Socio-Ecological Reconciliation of Human-Wildlife Conflicts in the Eastern Ghats in Odisha to reconcile the human-wildlife conflict pertains to four different animals including elephant, blackbuck, leopard and snakes.



The ICSSR has sanctioned ₹2 crore for the project, said Geetanjali Dash, vice chancellor of the university.

The Department of Environmental Science of the university in collaboration with MDS University, Ajmer, XIM University, Bhubaneswar, and Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD)

will carry out the study, she said. After completion of the study, the university will provide the policy recommendations to the Central and state governments for implementation of the socio-economic and technology models for reconciliation of the conflict between humans and wild animals in the region, she added.

One of the causes of the human-wildlife conflict was due to the aggressive human activities in the habitat of the wild animals. The Eastern Ghats of the state is considered as a model for such a large-scale assessment to deal with the increasing human and wildlife conflicts.

Several tangible and intangible factors including land-use changes,

replacement of natural vegetation by cash crops, erection of electric fencing on private properties might be forcing the animals to migrate to newer areas, thereby creating conflict between humans and wildlife, a professor of the university said.

The project would be undertaken through a citizen science-centric model. A mobile app will be designed in collaboration with various departments of the state government, which will be available for public users, said B Anjan Kumar Prusty, project coordinator.

The government will be implementing an early warning system of the wild animals' proximity. The hotspot areas of these four species and human-wildlife coexistence zones would be identified, officials said.

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FOCUS POLITICS

YEAR OF GOVERNANCE



As the world shifts from the electoral frenzy of 2024 to the practical realities of governing, newly elected reformist leaders will face the difficult task of making good on their campaign promises

With half of the global population having already voted or preparing to do so in 2024, the "year of elections" has had a profound impact on democracies worldwide. Now, as the year enters its final quarter, it is becoming increasingly apparent that 2025 will be an equally transformative "year of governance."

The 2024 election cycle has already led to significant political shifts. In Poland, record turnout among women and young voters in last year's general election handed a victory to a united coalition of pro-democracy parties, which also won the European elections in June. The same month, India's general election resulted in an other win for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, but the BJP lost its parliamentary majority, owing to regional movements and social-justice campaigns that enabled opposition parties to make significant gains. And in Senegal, mass protests forced former President Macky Sall to abandon his efforts to extend his term by postponing the election. Just weeks later, Bassirou Diomaye Faye, a former tax inspector running on an anti-corruption platform, won decisively.

While the challenges ahead may seem daunting, these victories offer glimmers of hope, underscoring the resilience of democratic systems. But as the world shifts from the electoral frenzy of 2024 to the practical realities of governing, newly elected reformist leaders will face the difficult task of making good on their campaign promises.

This is no easy feat, even in well-established democracies. Countries emerging from autocratic rule face even greater challenges, as new governments must dismantle entrenched networks of former regime loyalists who may act as spoilers and try to block any reform that

threatens their interests.

Recent political transitions offer important lessons for newly elected reformist leaders as they confront what we call the "five Ds": democratic (re)construction, debunking propaganda, discord, debt, and disasters.

First, to prevent democratic backsliding, newly elected reformers must strengthen core democratic institutions like the legislature, the judiciary, and independent government agencies. Above all, they need to protect these bodies from the influence of illiberal forces, both foreign and domestic.

In extreme cases, sweeping reforms are necessary to root out entrenched corruption and restore integrity to public administration. Ukraine's 2014 Revolution of Dignity is a prime example. After ousting Viktor Yanukovich's kleptocratic regime, the new government – in cooperation with civil-society groups – initiated a series of anti-corruption measures. These included vetting the judiciary, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and introducing transparency tools like open-access databases to enable ordinary citizens to track corporate ownership structures and the allocation of state resources.

Second, reformist leaders must

confront sophisticated information operations aimed at undermining their legitimacy. Taiwan, for example, has faced relentless efforts by China to destabilise its democratic process through false narratives. In Moldova, President Maia Sandu has had to fend off a barrage of pro-Russian propaganda and cyberattacks from the Kremlin and domestic pro-Russian factions.

Third, reformist governments often inherit countries plagued by deep social and political divisions. Addressing these lingering conflicts is critical for new leaders. In Guatemala, for example, President Bernardo Arévalo has engaged in dialogue with Indigenous communities, acknowledging the centuries of violence and exclusion they have endured while making a genuine effort to respond to their needs.

Fourth, debt distress can severely impede a new government's ability to implement essential economic and social programmes. When Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema took office in 2021, he discovered that his predecessors had taken on enormous, undisclosed loans, especially from China. Zambia's crushing debt burden has forced the government to spend more on servicing loans than it does on

health, education, and sanitation combined. Meanwhile, the process of restructuring these debts has dragged on for more than three years.

Kenya offers another stark example of the powerful destabilising role debt can play. Earlier this year, President William Ruto was forced to withdraw a controversial finance bill aimed at reducing the country's \$80 billion debt after a wave of protests against its austerity provisions left dozens dead.

Lastly, with global temperatures rising at an alarming rate, climate-related disasters are becoming increasingly frequent. Experts warn that children born today will experience a seven-fold increase in extreme-weather events compared to their grandparents. Incoming leaders must establish robust systems that enable quick and effective responses to crises while upholding democratic principles such as transparency, accountability, and inclusion. This is particularly urgent in climate-vulnerable countries like Malawi, where devastating floods and droughts have led to crop failures and acute levels of food insecurity.

Amid economic and geopolitical turmoil, the stakes could not be higher. Newly elected reformist leaders must deliver on their promises to improve living standards while protecting democracy. Failure risks pushing voters toward populist leaders and exposing their countries to domestic or foreign manipulation. But if they succeed, the coming "year of governance" could be a turning point, ushering in an era of democratic renewal.

Adam Nelson is Senior Program Director for the Asia-Pacific at the National Democratic Institute. Kristen Sample is Director of the National Democratic Institute's Democratic Governance team. @PROJECTSYNDICATE



Adam Nelson & Kristen Sample

NEWLY ELECTED REFORMIST LEADERS MUST DELIVER ON THEIR PROMISES TO IMPROVE LIVING STANDARDS WHILE PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

CBI In Dock

In May 2013, while hearing a matter related to the coal scam, a Supreme Court Bench led by Justice RM Lodha, who has now retired, had made scathing observations on the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), dubbing it as a "caged parrot speaking in master's voice." Eleven years down the line, the top court's perception of the country's premier probe agency has not changed. This was evident from the observations made by Justice Ujjal Bhuyan while granting bail to Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party supremo Arvind Kejriwal in a corruption case lodged by the CBI in connection with the excise policy case.

Justice Bhuyan noted that in a functional democracy that upholds the rule of law, public perception is vital. He emphasised that an investigative agency must maintain a position of integrity and transparency. "It is imperative that CBI dispel the notion of it being a caged parrot," Justice Bhuyan said in his 31-page concurring verdict. He stressed that investigations should not only be conducted fairly but also be perceived as such. In order to do that, all efforts should be made to eliminate any impression that the inquiry was unfairly executed or that arrests were made in an arbitrary and biased way.

It may be noted that Kejriwal, who was arrested by the ED in connection with the excise policy case on 21 March, was granted interim bail on 10 May to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections. He has been in custody since 2 June, when he surrendered as per the court's order. Justice Bhuyan raised concerns about the timing of Kejriwal's arrest by the CBI, suggesting that the agency's intention was to hinder his chances of obtaining bail in the ED case. He stated that the CBI cannot defend the arrest and ongoing detention by pointing to Kejriwal's evasive responses, emphasising that a lack of cooperation does not equate to self-incrimination. "I fail to understand the CBI's urgency to arrest Kejriwal on cusp of release in the ED case when it did not do so for 22 months," Justice Bhuyan said.

Meanwhile, Kejriwal surprised his adversaries when he announced Sunday that he would resign within two days and seek early polls in November instead of February, when polls to the national capital are due. The AAP leader made his intentions clear when he said that he will not sit on the Chief Minister's chair till the people give him a "certificate of honesty." It is obvious that it will be difficult for the Delhi CM to conduct his duties properly, with the apex court having given conditional bail with a lot of restrictions on office proceedings and conduct like barring visiting his office at the Secretariat and signing any official files. Resignation seems to be a better choice in this situation for Arvind Kejriwal.

The developments over the past decade have made it pretty apparent that the Central probe agencies such as the CBI and the ED have become pawns at the hands of political bosses. They are ruthlessly used by the ruling party against political adversaries to settle scores. The timings of the arrests make them all the more doubt worthy. This is evident in the arrests of Arvind Kejriwal and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, as also, AAP leader Manish Sisodia and BRS leader K Kavitha, in the run-up to 2014 general elections.

One of the biggest indicators for the survival of democracy in a country is the independence of its institutions. When institutions function with integrity and stand up to arbitrary rule, they ensure a healthy check and balance system and bring justice to the people. And when these institutions get compromised, they spell doom for democracy. In this context, the Prime Minister's much publicised visit to the residence of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi has raised eyebrows and concerns regarding the judiciary's independent image.

WISDOM CORNER

If you are vigilant and make a stern effort to reject every thought when it rises, you will soon find that you are going deeper and deeper into your own inner self, where there is no need for your effort to reject the thoughts.

RAMANA MAHARSHI

Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power, but in character and goodness. People are just people, and all people have faults and shortcomings, but all of us are born with a basic goodness.

ANNE FRANK

Keep me away from the wisdom which does not cry, the philosophy which does not laugh and the greatness which does not bow before children.

KAHLIL GIBRAN

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1620:** Mayflower's departure for America. On this date in 1620, English colonists aboard the Mayflower set sail for America, where they founded Plymouth, Massachusetts, after 41 men, including William Bradford and Myles Standish, signed the Mayflower Compact.
- **1810:** A local revolt in Mexico was sparked by Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a parish priest in Dolores, who uttered the Grito de Dolores ("Cry of Dolores"), calling for the end of rule by Spanish peninsulars, for equality of races, and for redistribution of land.
- **1908:** General Motors Corporation is founded in Flint, Michigan by William C. Durant and Charles Stewart Mott. The company, also known as GM, was one of the world's largest manufacturers of cars and trucks. Most notably, the company manufactured Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Pontiac, and Hummer brand cars.
- **1963:** Malaysia is created. The Federation of Malaya united with Sabah, Sarawak, and Singapore to create Malaysia. Singapore left the arrangement two years later.
- **1970:** King Hussein of Jordan declared martial law following the hijacking of four international airliners by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).
- **1975:** Papua New Guinea achieved full independence from Australia. The island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, encompasses the eastern half of New Guinea, the world's second largest island (the western half is made up of the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua); the Bismarck Archipelago (New Britain, New Ireland, the Admiralty Islands, and several others); Bougainville and Buka (part of the Solomon Islands chain); and small offshore islands and atolls.

LOL

Dealing with criminals

A local policeman had just finished this shift one cold November evening and was at home with his wife. "You just won't believe what happened this evening, in all my years on the force I've never seen anything like it." "Oh yes dear, what happened?"

came across two guys down by the canal, one of them was drinking battery acid and the other was eating fireworks." "Drinking battery acid and eating fireworks!! What did you do with them?" "Oh that was easy, I charged one and let the other off."

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

State polls bare infra risks

Amid the critical Haryana elections, the Reserve Bank of India's concerns over infrastructure funding and new guidelines have sparked debate in political and economic circles about the state's health, poverty levels, and nationwide infrastructure challenges. The World Bank highlights corruption as a major obstacle to investment, warning that it deters investors and can lead to crises, as seen in Southeast Asia in 1997 and the global financial meltdown in 2007-08.

RBI Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao says that infrastructure projects face high risks, complicating their financing. His statement coincides with the RBI's proposed new norm requiring banks to set aside 5% of the loan amount, compared to 0.5%. This could make project financing more expensive. The move is a sequel to many projects, including roads, seeking financing in parts for bigger projects and thus concealing the real nature of the loans. It also has some linkages to high debts of most of the states.

Between 2014-15 and 2022-23, scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) wrote off loans worth over Rs14 lakh crore. Nearly half of these were related to large industries and services. However,

the total recovery was just over Rs 2 lakh crore. The NPAs being sold at discount to the bad bank or NARCL, set up two years ago, also couches the reality.

Since the pandemic, the Union government has invested heavily. Between 2019 and 2024, the Union government's share of investment in the economy rose by 226%. In the same period, private investment rose around 54%. Additionally, as a share of GDP, there has been a significant fall in private investment from 27% in 2010-11 to about 20% in 2020-21. Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, Bibek Debroy, says that private investment has to rise as government has to reduce fiscal deficit.

Haryana alone is estimated to repay Rs 64,044 crore in debt in 2024-25, up from a net public debt of Rs 28,656 crore in 2019-20, as the infra push began. This is now putting a pressure on the state's functioning and possibly more borrowings. The rising deficit hits the state's welfare and development missions. This is despite an estimated GSDP of Rs 11.2 crore in 2023-24, a 13% increase from 2022-23.

Public sector banks in India are doing better in comparison to their private sector counterparts in terms of NPAs, a survey con-

ducted by FICCI and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) found. However, the survey found that lenders expect high NPA levels in the infrastructure sector in the next few months. The present NPAs are at 3.9%.

Parliament was informed on 7 August, 2023 that banks have written off bad loans worth Rs 14.56 lakh crore since 2014-15. The system-level capital to risk-weighted assets ratios in March 2024 -- under the baseline, medium and severe stress scenarios -- are projected at 16.1%, 14.7%, and 13.3%, respectively. This is an indicator that infra spendings, mostly out of borrowings from banks, have their problems.

As banks increased provisions for NPAs, their ability to extend fresh credit reduced sharply. Credit growth in the industrial sector, particularly large industries, declined. According to RBI data, the growth rate of bank credit to industry fell from 7% in 2015 to a negative 1.9% in 2017.

The credit crunch contributed to a significant decline in private sector investment. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), a measure of private investment, showed a decelerating trend, reflecting reduced private investment. Private investment growth rate slowed from 6.1% in 2014-15

to around 2.9% in 2017-18, according to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. India faces a number of challenges in infrastructure development, including on quality roads. The country's infrastructure financing gap is estimated to be more than 5% of GDP.

The World Bank and RBI say that private investment has not matched public investment and is a great drawback. The World Bank has a number of strategies to help developing countries. Its tools like the Infrastructure Sector Assessment Program (InfraSAP) and Beneficial Ownership Registers (BORs) help governments for improving infrastructure performance. The World Bank has implemented BORs in Nigeria, North Macedonia, Kenya, and the United Kingdom. It also mobilises private sector funds.

The latest RBI moves are somewhat aligned to this concept. The National Bank for Infra Development (NaBFID) would raise Rs 90,000 crore from the capital market shortly. Debts of Haryana and other states increase and now they may have to take it from NaBFID at higher rates. The RBI freebies for states may be over. These may become serious issues in the state polls.

INFRA



Shivaji Sarkar

THE COUNTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING GAP IS ESTIMATED TO BE MORE THAN 5% OF GDP

Much-needed relief

Sir, The central government has approved the inclusion of all citizens over the age of 70 in the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, as promised in the Lok Sabha election 2024 manifesto. Now, six crore elderly adults in the country will be eligible for free treatment worth up to Rs 5 lakh. Until now, only poor families could participate in the Ayushman Bharat initiative, which began in 2018 and provided cashless coverage of five lakhs. The government has boosted the health spending quota in the budget. However, it is still less than China and America. This decision was necessary because India falls far behind in terms of social security. According to the National Family Health Survey 2019-21, just 41% of all families in the country had at least one member covered by health insurance. In states with substantial populations, like Bihar and Maharashtra, it is about half the national average. Medical treatment in India is becoming more expensive by the day. According to a report conducted by brokerage firm Mercer and Marsh Benefits, medical inflation in India was 9.6% in 2023, and could reach 11% this year. During the pandemic, India experienced the highest rate of medical inflation in Asia. Then medical inflation in our country hit 14%, surpassing China.

AAP to introspect

Sir, Arvind Kejriwal has come out on bail and has decided to resign as Chief Minister of Delhi. May be, efforts will be made by him to dissolve the Assembly and go in for fresh elections. He has also chided the ruling BJP using very caustic words for arresting him and has said that they were behaving worse than the British in India. The release of Kejriwal at a time when elections in Haryana are in the offing give vent for one to believe that the entry of AAP with his added presence in the election fray will only make inroads into the Congress votes, ultimately benefitting the common enemy, the BJP. If Kejriwal is really interested in defeating the saffron party, they should go in for an alliance with the Opposition parties.

Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR

Tharcus S. Fernando, CHENNAI

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

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ASHA KIRAN SHELTER HOME

Delhi LG directs secy for immediate posting of doctors



THE DIRECTIONS WERE ISSUED FOLLOWING A REPORT THAT WAS SOUGHT BY SAXENA ON THE ASHA KIRAN SHELTER HOME WHERE 14 DEATHS WERE REPORTED IN JULY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena has directed the health secretary for immediate posting of doctors against the vacant posts in Asha Kiran shelter home for the intellectually challenged, after a report flagged a surge in the cases of tuberculosis and gastroenteritis, Raj Niwas officials said Saturday.

The directions were issued following a report that was sought by Saxena on the Asha Kiran shelter home where 14 deaths were reported in July.

AAP said their stand on the shortage of doctors and the negligence of the administrator of the home had been vindicated. They demanded strict action against erring officials. According to Raj Niwas officials, the report submitted to Saxena flagged issues like overcrowding, absence of doctors, the prevalence of communicable diseases, poor ventilation and cleanliness, absence of medical records, and lack of drinking water facilities, among others at the home.

Officials said the LG has taken a strong view of the enquiry report that the chief medical officer (CMO) submitted July 19, which attributed a surge in the cases of acute gastroenteritis and TB on account of malnutrition and negligence due to lack of supervision by the superintendent and welfare officers.

They added that the CMO also highlighted poor hygiene and sanitary conditions and pointed out that the administrator, de-

spite several alerts, chose not to act.

The LG has directed the chief secretary to initiate disciplinary action against the administrator of the shelter home by serving him a show-cause notice and the removal of the duty medical officer for obstructing the investigation into the deaths of the inmates.

The enquiry report also stated that a superintendent, in a communication to the CMO July 6, had flagged that there was a rise in TB cases and the inmates had even died of the disease.

The primary reasons attributed to such deaths were late diagnosis and absence of treatment. The report also mentioned that the manual for functionaries of institutions and services, issued by the Department of Social Welfare, was not being followed, especially in matters related to the visit of the medical officers, administration of medicine by nursing staff and medical staff accompanying the patients to outside health facilities.

"It is incomprehensible that in the eventuality of the outbreak of communicable disease, why isolation of inmates was not done to prevent its spread. It is also brought out that there is extreme overcrowding and the number of inmates is way beyond the capacity of the facility resulting in inhuman conditions for the inmates," the LG noted.

The LG has also sought immediate action on infrastructure upgradation and procurement of additional equipment at the facility, while the social welfare department, which runs the Asha Kiran home, has been told to maintain a digital record of all inmates, tracking history of their treatment, health parameters, and nutritional inputs.

Saxena has asked the chief secretary for redressal, improvement and monitoring since the social welfare department does not have a minister.

The report submitted to Saxena flagged issues like overcrowding, absence of doctors, the prevalence of communicable diseases, poor ventilation and cleanliness, absence of medical records, and lack of drinking water facilities, among others at the home

Chautala's brother. The JJP, headed by Dushyant and Digvijay's father and former MP Ajay Singh Chautala, is contesting the polls in alliance with Chandra Shekhar Azad-led Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram).

JJP's Digvijay Chautala said he is confident that he will win the seat with a big margin.

From Hisar district's Adampur segment, the BJP has fielded former chief minister Bhajan Lal's grandson Bhavya Bishnoi.

Bhavya is at present the sitting MLA from Adampur. His father Kuldeep Bishnoi, a senior BJP leader, said despite a short period after Bhavya won the Adampur seat in the by-poll two years ago, he has brought several developmental projects for the constituency. Kuldeep Bishnoi's brother Chander Mohan, a Congress leader, is contesting from the Panchkula constituency.

Dura Ram, a nephew of former chief minister Bhajan Lal, a BJP leader, is seeking re-election from the Fatehabad seat.

From the Rania seat in Sirsa, interesting contest appears on the cards after Ranjit Singh Chautala, former minister Devi Lal's son, quit the BJP recently after being denied ticket and has entered the fray as an independent candidate.

Delhi Zoo adds rhino, tiger and pied hornbills

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: A rhinoceros, a Bengal tiger and a pair of pied hornbills were brought to the Delhi Zoo Saturday as part of an exchange programme with Assam, officials said.

They will be ready for public exhibition at Delhi's National Zoological Park -- commonly called Delhi Zoo -- after a 21-day quarantine, they said.

Confirming the animals' arrival from Assam State Zoo-cum Botanical Garden, Zoo Director Sanjeet Kumar told PTI, "A male tiger, a male rhino, and a pair of pied hornbills arrived this morning. After a veterinary examination, all have been placed in quarantine."

The nine-member team that was tasked with bringing the tiger named Sultan and rhino named Dharmendra left Assam September 11 and arrived the Saturday. "The zoo team departed for Assam in two trucks September 4 to bring new animals to our zoo," a Delhi Zoo official told PTI. The Bengal tiger, named Sultan, and the male rhinoceros, named Dharmendra, will soon join the zoo's collection of majestic wildlife.

This is the first exchange in several years, as the programme had been repeatedly postponed due to extreme temperature fluctuations and unfavourable weather conditions, according to officials. The new additions will help with conservation and breeding activities, they said.

Dynasts enter Haryana battleground

The election features kin of the state's three famous 'Lals' and other notable political families

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 15: In Haryana, it is the family that matters, with dynasts from politically influential backgrounds entering the contest for Assembly polls to reap electoral dividends.

While kin of Haryana's three famous 'Lals' are in the race, with some even taking on each other, there are a few more from other prominent political families whose entry has made the electoral battle interesting.

Ever since Haryana was carved out as a separate state way back in 1966, its politics has revolved for about three decades around the three 'Lals' -- Devi Lal, popularly known as 'Tau' Devi Lal, Bhajan Lal and Bansil Lal -- all of whom have served as the state's chief ministers. Devi Lal also served as the country's deputy prime minister.

While political parties, including the Congress, BJP, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) have fielded candidates belonging to



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While political parties, including the Congress, BJP, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) have fielded candidates belonging to these three political families

The 90-member Haryana Assembly is scheduled to go to polls October 5 and the counting of votes will be undertaken October 8

these three political families, there are a few more from other political families who have been given tickets.

The 90-member Haryana Assembly is scheduled to go to polls October 5 and the counting of votes will be undertaken October 8. The Tosham Assembly seat in the Bhiwani district is witnessing a clash between two grandchildren of Bansil Lal.

Anirudh Chaudhry, a former treasurer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), is the grandson of Bansil Lal and is crossing swords with his cousin and former MP Shruti Choudhry -- the BJP candidate.

Shruti Choudhry is the daughter of BJP leader Kiran Choudhry and Bansil Lal's son Surender Singh, while Anirudh

Chaudhry is the son of Ranbir Singh Mahendra. Mahendra, a former BCCI president, and Surender Singh were brothers.

The Tosham Assembly seat was represented by Kiran Choudhry, but she quit as an MLA last month after which the BJP nominated her for the Rajya Sabha by-poll from Haryana, which she won unopposed.

Not just Tosham, the contest has become keen in Sirsa dis-

trict's Dabwali seat too, a seat currently held by the Congress.

Devi Lal's grandson and sitting INLD MLA Abhay Singh Chautala, whose party is contesting elections in alliance with the BSP, is seeking re-election from the Ellenabad seat in the Sirsa district while from Dabwali, Devi Lal's grandson Aditya Devi Lal, an INLD candidate, is taking on JJP's Digvijay Singh Chautala, great-grandson of the former deputy prime minister.

Aditya Devi Lal, who is the son of Jagdish, the youngest son of Devi Lal, quit the BJP and joined the INLD Sunday and was fielded from Dabwali.

Digvijay Singh Chautala is JJP leader and former deputy chief minister Dushyant

4 LAKH CASES DISPOSED OF AT NATIONAL LOK ADALAT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 15: Around 4 lakh cases, including those of matrimonial disputes and motor accident claims, were disposed of during the National Lok Adalat held Saturday in Haryana.

Under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), the Haryana State Legal Services Authority (HALSA) organised the 3rd National Lok Adalat.

The National Lok Adalat was organised in all 22 districts and 34 sub-divisions of Haryana through the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) by way of constituting 167 benches for both pre-litigation and pending court cases, according to an official statement.

More than 4.50 lakh cases were referred to the Lok Adalat benches for settlement by way of mutual consent.



The purpose of holding National Lok Adalat is to provide a platform for litigants to settle their disputes amicably without any delay, while the award of Lok Adalat is final and there is a provision for refund of court fees in case of settlement in Lok Adalat. Surya Partap Singh, District and Sessions Judge-cum-Member Secretary, HALSA informed that around 4 lakh cases were disposed of, said the statement.

In Karnal, a case of marital discord came up at the Lok Adalat.

A couple married for over a decade had been embroiled in a conflict, leading to the husband filing for divorce, according to an official release.

During the initial discussions, it was evident that both were emotionally exhausted. The bench encouraged them to reflect on their shared history, their children, and the potential for reconciliation. The couple decided to withdraw their divorce petition, said the statement.

In Faridabad, a vegetable seller appeared before the bench. He had been left without work due to injuries sustained in the accident. However, without concrete evidence, his chances of receiving compensation from the insurance company seemed slim, said the statement.

District and Sessions judge Sandeep Garg played a crucial role, enlisting the help of an orthopaedic surgeon, who assessed the applicant's disability on the spot.

WOMEN'S SAFETY DRIVE

Share live location, stay on call with cops: Hry police

Users can activate a panic call by pressing the power button on their phone three times quickly or long-press '5' or '9' key on a feature phone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram, Sept 15: Haryana Police has launched an initiative under its Emergency Response Support System, allowing women travelling alone to be in touch with them in real time in a bid to ensure their safety, especially at night.

Women can now dial '112' and share their live location on Whatsapp with the police control room to avail the service, a senior police officer said.

They will also have the option to stay on a call with cops until they reach their destination, the officer said.

To register, women can call '112' and share their travel details, including name, mobile number, departure and arrival locations and expected travel times. The Haryana dial '112' team will then track the woman's location and stay in contact with her until she reaches her destination, he said.

The system is also connected to existing emergency response



To register, women can call '112' and share their travel details, including name, mobile number, departure and arrival locations and expected travel times

The Haryana dial '112' team will then track the woman's location and stay in contact with her until she reaches her destination

systems, including Police, Fire and Health departments, which allows it to track the location of all services in real time and direct the nearest vehicle to the person in need, police said.

Additionally, users can activate a panic call by pressing the power button on their phone three times quickly or long-press '5' or '9' key on a feature phone.

They can also email an SOS alert to the State Emergency Response Centre or use the 112

India Mobile App, the officer said. Haryana Director General of Police, Shatruej Kapur recently held a review meeting with senior police officials in Chandigarh to enhance women's safety system.

Kaur also released a video message, especially for the working women, talking about the new services in the system.

The meeting focused on the trip-monitoring service, creation of databases for auto-rickshaws and working women as well as the operational review of Haryana '112'.

Since introducing the 'Dial 112' project in July 2021, the average response time has reduced from 16 minutes and 14 seconds to 7 minutes, the officer said, adding that police teams now reach out to distress callers faster.

IIT Delhi develops advanced secure information storage

The research conducted in collaboration with the Max Plank Institute of Polymer Research and University of Stuttgart, Germany has recently been published in renowned science journal ACS Langmuir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi have developed a Cyclic Transparent Optical Polymer (CYTOP) material-based charge writing mechanism which may open new ways of developing advanced electronic devices for data storage and encryption, according to officials.

The research conducted in collaboration with the Max Plank Institute of Polymer Research and University of Stuttgart, Germany has recently been published in renowned science journal "ACS Langmuir" and the team is in process of filing a patent for the mechanism.

According to Ankur Goswami, Assistant Professor at the

Department of Materials Science and Engineering, IIT Delhi, of late exchange of information securely has become challenging with the enhancement in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) technology.

"It has become imperative to develop systems where the classified information can be shared among the security and surveillance agencies in a secure way. Written information, which can only be shared via physical

AI, IOT CHALLENGES



There is need to develop a mechanism to write and read an information, which can only be accessed by the sender and receiver. Even if a middleman gets access to the information carrying object, he or she should not be able to read it

ANKUR GOSWAMI | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

means, can be traced and read by middleman that may lead to strong threat to the nation," Goswami told PTI.

"Therefore, there is need to develop a mechanism to write and read an in-

formation, which can only be accessed by the sender and receiver. Even if a middleman gets access to the information carrying object, he or she should not be able to read it. Aside from that, this information can be erased at specific voltage using same technique," he added.

The researchers at IIT found

The researchers at IIT found CYTOP can hold the inserted charges for long duration, which is not generally possible with the other materials

This property of CYTOP can be utilized to write an information at nanoscale in the form of charges, which can further be read by Electrostatic Force Microscopy (EFM) only

CYTOP can hold the inserted charges for long duration, which is not generally possible with the other materials. This property of CYTOP can be utilized to write an information at nanoscale in the form of charges, which can further be read by Electrostatic Force Microscopy (EFM) only.

The present investigation would allow us to write anything on an electret substrate (material which can store charge indefinitely) by charge deposition using a sharp metal tip at a micro

to nano metre scale and read by a scanner which can recognize the charged pattern," said Shalini Singh, researcher at the School of Interdisciplinary Research (SIRE), IIT Delhi.

"The written string would not be visible even in optical or electron microscope rather can be only read by special scanner, which can read these types of charges. In the current study writing and reading were done by the microcantilever probe of Atomic Force Microscope's EFM mode. Although this is a very initial step of charge writing capability at nanoscale but can be extended to the macroscale using motorized stage and probe, like lithographic patterning," Singh added.

The researchers explained that the proposed mechanism also has the potential to be utilized in various other fields to measure the surface charges such as renewable energy generation from rainwater, chemical sensing for water quality monitoring.

national



In a system often stacked against women, it is critical for each one of you to fight for and claim your rightful share of social, economic and political power. I am happy to know that the membership drive will be followed by a pan-India leadership training program

RAHUL GANDHI | LEADER OF OPNN IN THE LS

LWE RESTRICTED TO 43 STATES, TO BE ELIMINATED BY 2026

The government's sustained campaign against Left Wing Extremism (LWE) has led to the menace being restricted to 43 districts as against 200 before 2014, sources said Sunday. The sources, on condition of anonymity, said over 700 Maoists have been arrested, surrendered or killed in encounters between January and September this year



of the day quote

Whether I am in power or not, I feel empowered by the support of the people. Balasaheb (Thackeray) never held a position of power but all powers were wrested with him because of people's support

UDDHAV THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

There is huge traffic on Mumbai-Pune Expressway. A 14-lane road will be built near Atal Setu, which will further connect to Pune via a ring road and then onwards to Bengaluru. This road will bring down traffic on Mumbai-Pune Expressway by 50 per cent

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

Mehbooba Mufti has brought nothing but destruction to Jammu and Kashmir. If anyone has played the biggest role in bringing BJP (in J&K) then it is PDP and its leadership

OMAR ABDULLAH | NC VICE PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

5 dead as pickup van collides with car

Mumbai: Five persons were killed and four others injured after a pick-up van collided with a car in Maharashtra's Dhule district Sunday, police said. The accident occurred at Dasvel Fata in Shindkheda taluka in the morning, an official said. A pick-up van collided with a car, killing five persons, including three women, he said. Four persons also sustained injuries and are undergoing treatment at a hospital, the official said.

Rallies rock Kolkata

Kolkata: Rallies and demonstrations demanding justice for the RG Kar hospital's doctor who was raped and murdered rocked Kolkata Sunday. Retired Army officers, who were alumni of the Purulia Sainik School, marched from Jadavpur 8B Bus Stand to Golpark in South Kolkata with placards in their hands amid rains. In Wellington in the central part of the city, former students of Calcutta Girls' High School marched in a rally. Hundreds of nurses held a rally at Karunamoyee in Salt Lake, seeking safety at the workplace.

Trainee doctor kills self in Delhi

New Delhi: A 25-year-old trainee doctor allegedly hanged himself in his hostel room at Maulana Azad Medical College in central Delhi, police said Sunday. Around 7:10 pm, an incident of suicide of a second-year MD (Doctor of Medicine) student of Maulana Azad Medical College was reported. The victim was identified as Navdeep, a senior officer said. His parents had asked his friend to check on him after Navdeep failed to answer their calls, the officer added.

Recruitment exam held in Assam

Guwahati: The Assam Direct Recruitment Examination (ADRE) to fill vacant posts of Group III employees in state government was held Sunday amid tight security and suspension of internet connectivity for three and a half hours across the state, an official said. There was no report of any untoward incident from any of the 2,305 centres in the state. After the exams ended, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the first ADRE exam had concluded peacefully.

Consent for sex under fear amounts to rape: HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Prayagraj, Sept 15: Sexual relationship even with the consent of a woman who is under fear or misconception would amount to rape, the Allahabad High Court has ruled.

Justice Anis Kumar Gupta dismissed a petition filed by Raghav Kumar, challenging the criminal proceedings going on against him in a case of rape on the pretext of marriage. In the petition filed before the court, the accused had prayed to quash the charge sheet filed against him in December 2018 in a complaint lodged under Section 376 (rape) of the IPC at a police station in



the Agra district.

On the said charge sheet, criminal proceedings started, which is pending before the court of

Agra's district and sessions judge. It was alleged in the FIR that the applicant first established a physical relationship with the woman

by rendering her unconscious. Thereafter, he allegedly continued to physically exploit her on the pretext of marriage.

The counsel for the petitioner submitted that the applicant and the woman were known to each other and both were preparing for civil services examination. They developed a consensual physical relationship which continued for a long period of time, the counsel added.

"Since it was a longstanding continuous consensual physical relationship between the parties, therefore, no offence whatsoever under section 376 (rape) of IPC can be said to have been made out against the applicant

herein," the counsel said.

The state counsel opposed the petition, saying the inception of the relationship between the parties was based on "cheating" and it was a "forcible act" on the part of the applicant herein, for which no consent was there on the part of the opposite party.

After going through the arguments and evidences on record, the court in its decision dated September 10 said, "Since the initial relationship was established by the applicant with an element of cheating, threat etc. against the will of the opposite party woman, prima facie an offence under section 376 (rape) IPC is made out against the applicant.

'One nation, one election to come in this tenure of govt'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: The BJP-led NDA government will implement 'one nation, one election' within its current tenure, sources said, exuding confidence that the reform measure would receive support across party lines.

As the third term of the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi completes 100 days in office, the sources said that the cohesion within the ruling alliance will continue for the rest of the tenure. "Definitely, it will be implemented in this tenure itself. It will be a reality," one source said, speaking on condition of anonymity. In his Independence Day address last month, the Prime Minister made a strong pitch for 'one nation, one election', contending that frequent polls were creating hurdles in the country's progress. "The nation has to come forward for 'one nation, one election,'" Modi had said in his address from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

The Prime Minister urged the political parties "from the Red Fort and with the national tricolour as a witness to ensure the nation's progress". He also asked the parties to ensure that national resources are used for the common person and said, "We have to come forward to realise the dream of 'one nation, one election.'" 'One nation, one election' is one of the key promises made by the BJP in its manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections.

A high-level panel headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind in March this year recommended simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies as the first step

Sources: Census to be conducted soon

New Delhi: The government has started preparations for conducting the decadal census, but a decision is yet to be taken on including a column on caste as part of the exercise, sources said Sunday. Speaking on condition of anonymity, one source said that the decadal census will be conducted soon. India has conducted the census every 10 years since 1881. The first phase of this decade's census was expected to begin April 1, 2020 but had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The implementation of the Women's Reservation Act, enacted by Parliament last year, too is linked to the conduct of the decadal census.

followed by synchronised local body polls within 100 days.

Separately, the Law Commission is likely to recommend holding simultaneous polls for all three tiers of government -- Lok Sabha, state assemblies and local bodies like municipalities and panchayats -- starting with 2029 and a provision for unity government in cases like hung house or no-confidence motion.

The Kovind panel has not specified any period for rolling out simultaneous polls. It has proposed creation of an 'Implementation Group' to look into the execution of the panel's recommendations.

The panel recommended as many as 18 constitutional amendments, most of which will not need ratification by the state Assemblies.

However, these would require certain Constitution amendment bills that would need to be passed by Parliament.

Bangladeshi, Rohingya infiltration major threat to Jharkhand: Modi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jamshedpur, Sept 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday accused the ruling JMM-led coalition in Jharkhand of encouraging Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltration for vote bank politics.

He asserted that these infiltrators pose a significant threat to the state by altering the demographic landscape of Santhal Parganas and Kolhan regions.

"Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators have become a major threat to Santhal Parganas and Kolhan regions. The demography of these regions is changing fast. Tribal population is on decline. Infiltrators are establishing control of the panchayat system, grabbing land, indulging in atrocities on daughters of the state... Each Jharkhand resident is feeling unsafe," the PM said while addressing the 'Parivartan Maharally' of the BJP at Gopal Maidan here.

He said the JMM was "supporting infiltrators" and that "illegal immigrants from the neighbouring country have managed to gain influence over the ruling party in the state."

Modi criticised the Jharkhand government for refusing to acknowledge the infiltration, despite a High Court order to establish an independent panel to probe "infiltration of Bangladeshi immigrants" in the state. He termed the JMM, RJD and the Congress as the "biggest enemies of Jharkhand", asserting that these parties were "power-hungry" and "indulged in vote bank politics".

The PM said the RJD was still taking revenge for the creation of Jharkhand while the Congress hated the state and prevented tribals from coming to the mainstream. "JMM which came to power through tribal votes is siding with forces which are usurping tribal land and forests,"

Er Rasheed, Jamaat form alliance in J&K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 15: In a significant political development, the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) headed by Lok Sabha member Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer and former members of Jamaat-e-Islami (JEI) have come together in a strategic alliance for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls.

"A joint meeting was held today in which the AIP delegation was led by AIP Supremo and chief spokesperson Inam Un Nabi, while the JEI delegation was led by Ghulam Qadir Wani. Prominent JEI members participated in the discussions," the AIP said in a statement.

Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir was banned by the Union Home Ministry in 2019. The ban was extended for another five years in February this year. Several influential leaders of Jamaat are contesting Assembly polls as independent candidates. An AIP spokesperson said the two sides agreed to work together in the larger interest of the region's population.



the PM said and added that the party was doing vote bank politics at the cost of dalits, backwards and tribals.

He said, "Tribal Chief Minister Champai Soren was insulted and ousted for JMM's greed for power. This has dealt a severe blow to the tribals of Jharkhand, and a fitting reply will be given. Even Sita Soren, sister-in-law of CM Hemant Soren, was subjected to disrespect."

The PM said the JMM-led coalition is all out to increase their vote bank in the name of religion. This is the time to prevent the threat by strengthening the BJP in the state. The government has been trained by Congress' school of corruption. It is time to bid farewell to JMM that looted mines, minerals and Army land."

India sends aid to Myanmar, Laos & Vietnam

OPERATION SADBHAV

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: India Sunday sent urgent relief supplies to Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam under an operation christened 'Sadbhav' to assist them in dealing with the devastating impact of a major typhoon.

Various parts of Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam have been reeling under massive floods after Typhoon Yagi, said to be Asia's most powerful storm this year, hit the three countries. The typhoon that originated from the South China Sea made landfall over a week back reportedly killing over 170 people in Vietnam and around 40 in

Myanmar. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said 10 tonnes of aid including dry ration, clothing and medicines were dispatched to Myanmar onboard Indian naval ship INS Satpura. A C-130J military transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force is carrying 35 tonnes of aid to Vietnam and 10 tonnes of relief materials to Laos.

"India launches #OperationSadbhav. Demonstrating our solidarity with the people affected by Typhoon Yagi, India is dispatching aid to Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos," Jaishankar said on "X". "10 tons of aid including dry ration, clothing and medicines left for Myanmar on-



board @indiannavy INS Satpura today," he said. Jaishankar added:

"@IAF_MCC is carrying 35 tons of aid comprising of water purification items, water contain-

ers, blankets, kitchen utensils, solar lanterns for Vietnam." "10 tonnes of aid comprising of dry ration, clothing and medicines were dispatched to Myanmar onboard Indian naval ship INS Satpura. A C-130J military transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force is carrying 35 tonnes of aid to Vietnam and 10 tonnes of relief materials to Laos."

The Indian Navy said it has commenced rapid preparations to deploy humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations in response to the devastating flash floods in

Myanmar. The Eastern Naval Command in coordination with Eastern Fleet and other supporting units successfully completed the overnight loading of HADR pallets including drinking water; rations and medicines onto an Indian naval warship destined from Visakhapatnam for operations in Yangon, it said. "This rapid mobilisation comes despite the short notice, showcasing the Navy's ability to swiftly respond to humanitarian crises in the region," Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said.

PM virtually flags off six Vande Bharat trains at Ranchi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi, Sept 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday virtually flagged off six Vande Bharat trains for Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar and UP at Ranchi.

Earlier, the PM was scheduled to flag off these trains from Tatanagar but his chopper could not take off from Ranchi airport due to poor visibility and inclement weather conditions.

On the occasion, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar were present at Tatanagar station.

The new trains will run on the Tatanagar-Patna, Brahmapur-Tatanagar, Rourkela-Howrah, Deogarh-Varanasi, Bhagalpur-Howrah and Gaya-Howrah routes. The trains will offer faster connectivity, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

"Today every city and every state wants a Vande Bharat train to boost connectivity," he said. PM Modi underscored that the expansion of rail connectivity in the eastern states will strengthen the economy of the region and hugely benefit businesses, professionals and students.

Claiming that the six new semi-high-speed trains would boost tourism, the prime minister mentioned that a large number of pilgrims, who visit Kashi, would now get a chance to reach Baba Baidyanath Dham in Deogarh with the introduction of Varanasi-Deogarh Vande Bharat train.

It would also encourage the industrial development of Tatanagar and facilitate creating new employment opportunities for the youth, he said.

He mentioned that laying the foundation stone for the Madhupur bye pass line in Deogarh district will facilitate avoiding detention of trains on the Howrah-Delhi main line and will also help reduce travel time between Giridih and Jasidih.



Malayali women dance near a 'pookalam' as they celebrate Onam festival in Salem, Tamil Nadu

PTI PHOTO

Meerut house collapse death toll rises to 10

Meerut/Lucknow (UP): The death toll in the collapse of a three-storey house in the Zakir Nagar area of Meerut has risen to 10 while the rescue work at the site is still underway, the district administration said Sunday. District Magistrate Deepak Meena said a process was underway to provide financial assistance of ₹4 lakh for each deceased from the natural calamity fund and ₹1.20 lakh for the house being completely damaged. Action is also being taken to provide financial assistance to the affected family for the animals that died in the incident, he said. The Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Congress expressed deep sorrow over the house collapse and demanded that the government provide proper compensation to the affected family. Meanwhile, the district administration released a new list of the deceased Sunday afternoon. According to it, those who died have been identified as Naffo alias Nafias (65), her son Sajid (40), Saima (35) the wife of Sajid; Sania (15) (Sajid's daughter), Saqib (12) (Sajid's son); Farhana (27), Alisa (25), Ria (10), Himsa (6 months) and Saifiyan (7).

Various parts of Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam have been reeling under massive floods after Typhoon Yagi, said to be Asia's most powerful storm this year, hit the three countries. The typhoon that originated from the South China Sea made landfall over a week back reportedly killing over 170 people in Vietnam and around 40 in Myanmar

national



It is a matter of shame for the BJP that has been saying the situation has improved, but they could not hold elections in J&K in the last 10 years. People are annoyed, they are suffocating

MEHBOOBA MUFTI | PDP PRESIDENT

IAF TO INDUCT FIGHTER JET LCA AF MK II BY '25

LCA AF MK II, a multi-role supersonic fighter jet indigenously developed by DRDO, will be inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) by 2025, an official said. Vaji Rajpurohit, an employee of Aeronautics Development Authority Agency, Bangalore, informed media persons that the IAF plans to procure a total of 324 Tejas aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, including the LCA AF MK II, which is planned to be inducted by 2025



of the day quote

Reservation is not against meritocracy, but it is the soul of the country and the Constitution. It is an affirmative action and not negative. It is not depriving someone of opportunity but handholding those who are pillars of strength of the society

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

If something goes wrong in this nation, then it affects the Hindu society because it is the karta-dharta of the nation but if anything good happens in the country, it adds to the glory of Hindus

MOHAN BHAGWAT | RSS CHIEF

Aam Aadmi Party's national convener @ArvindKejriwal has announced his resignation from the post of Chief Minister of Delhi after two days... (He) also appealed to the people of Delhi that if he is honest, then they should vote for him in the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls... Only an honest and pro-people thinking leader can say this

BHAGWANT MANN | PUNJAB CM

X POST OF THE DAY

To keep Ganga river "CLEAN"..... BJP MP & Actress Hemamali performed 'Ganga dance ballet' on the shores of Ganga River in Haridwar, Uttarakhand. Sometimes u no need search for comedy, it's directly thrown at your face by these kind of Politicians

SHORT TAKES

Fire breaks out at shoe factory

New Delhi: A fire broke out at a shoe manufacturing factory on Lawrence Road Industrial Area in northwest Delhi Sunday afternoon, officials of the Delhi Fire Services said. According to the officials, no casualty was reported as the fire was brought under control. "We received a call regarding a fire in a factory at 12.19 pm. A total of 19 fire tenders were pressed into service and the blaze has been brought under control. No injuries have been reported," the official said.

Rain lashes parts of south Bengal

Kolkata: Moderate to heavy rain lashed parts of southern West Bengal, including Kolkata, Sunday under the impact of a deep depression in the region, the IMD said. A deep depression is a more intense stage of a low-pressure system and typically precedes the formation of a cyclonic storm. The weather system currently lies about 120 km west-northwest of Kolkata, 70 km south of Bankura (West Bengal), 100 km east of Jamshepur (Jharkhand) and 200 km east-southeast of Ranchi (Jharkhand), the Met department said.

Delhi cops bust gang of fake visa, six held

New Delhi: Delhi Police Sunday said it has arrested seven people and claimed to have busted a gang of counterfeit visa operating in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar area. A substantial quantity of equipment used in manufacturing fake visas along with 14 Nepalese and two Indian passports have been seized from the house of the main accused, they said.

Who will be the next Delhi CM after Kejriwal resigns?

Kejriwal, who was earlier this week released on bail from the Tihar Jail in the excise policy graft case, said that he would hold a meeting of the AAP MLAs in the next couple of days and a party leader would take over as the Chief Minister



AAP may have to convince EC on early polls: Experts

As Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal pitches for early Assembly polls in Delhi, experts Sunday said the city government may have to write to the Election Commission giving reasons behind the demand. The final decision will, however, rest with the poll panel on when to hold the polls. The term of the Delhi Assembly ends February 23 next year and the polls are expected to be held sometime early February. Kejriwal Sunday demanded that polls in Delhi be held in November alongside Maharashtra. The term of the Maharashtra Assembly ends November 26. The experts, who are conversant with provisions of the Constitution as well as the Representation of the People Act, said the city government may have to write to the Election Commission (EC) giving reasons for holding early polls but the decision will rest with the poll authority.

Delhi, Gujarat and Haryana. She is a former Indian Revenue Services (IRS) officer who understands the working of the government as well, he reasoned. However, another senior AAP leader claimed that an MLA of the party will become the new Chief Minister. Kejriwal said the name of the next Chief Minister will be decided in a meeting of the party MLAs Tuesday. The potential candidates for the Chief Minister's post also include the names of ministers Kailash Gahlot and Saurabh Bharadwaj.

There was also speculation that the AAP may bring forward some dalit or Muslim legislator to hold the Chief Minister's post in view of the Delhi Assembly polls. There are 12 reserved constituencies and nearly half a dozen seats with significant minority population in the city. Among the probables for the Chief Minister's post, Atishi was considered head and shoulders above others for holding

maximum number of portfolios in the Delhi government, including education, finance, PWD, revenue and services, and is considered close to Kejriwal. She is also a frontline spokesperson of the party defending the AAP government and Kejriwal, and attacking the BJP in her regular press conferences. Gopal Rai is one of the senior most party leaders, commanding respect about being there in government since the AAP came to power for the first time in 2013. Bharadwaj is also a prominent member of the Delhi Cabinet holding several important portfolios, including health and urban development. The AAP sources said the surprise candidate could also be a member of the minority community as the party has witnessed thinning support among the community since the Delhi riots in 2020. In such a scenario, Delhi Minister Imran Hussain may be that surprise face, the added.

RG Kar horror: CBI gets 3-day custody of Sandip Ghosh, Abhijit Mondal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 15: A local court here Sunday sent for mer principal of RG Kar hospital Sandip Ghosh and Tala police station officer-in-charge Abhijit Mondal to CBI custody till September 17, an officer said. Both Ghosh and Mondal were produced before a court here by the central agency in connection with the rape-murder of a doctor at the state-run hospital. "We have got their custody for three days till September 17. Now, both will be questioned together. The duo has played vital roles in the RG Kar case," the officer told PTI.

The CBI, probing the case, had Saturday evening arrested Mondal and added charges of evidence tampering against Ghosh, who is currently in judicial custody in a corruption case related to the RG Kar hospital. Mondal also faces accusations of tampering with evidence, delaying registration of the FIR, and other related offences, according to the officer: The RG Kar Medical College and Hospital falls under the jurisdiction of Tala PS. The police officer was held

after he "failed to provide satisfying answers" during questioning by the CBI officers Saturday. The CBI claimed in court that "there could be a bigger conspiracy" and that both Ghosh and Mondal had played some "vital roles" in this crime. The two were in touch with each other, and the former issued instructions to the policeman on how to proceed with the rape-murder case. Mondal was informed about the death of the doctor around 10 am August 9, but the FIR was lodged around 11 pm, the CBI said. Both of them tried to "downplay the incident" as well as "shield" the heinous crime, it said in court. The police should have treated it as a suo motu case at the outset, since it's a rape-murder case, the central probe agency said. The CBI arrested Ghosh September 2 in connection with financial irregularities at the hospital. The body of the postgraduate trainee was found in the seminar hall of the state-run hospital August 9. To date, three persons have been arrested in connection with the rape-murder case.

Both Ghosh and Mondal were produced before a court here by the central agency in connection with the rape-murder of a doctor at the state-run hospital

5 killed on suspicion of practising witchcraft

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sukma, Sept 15: Two couples and a woman were allegedly beaten to death on suspicion of practising witchcraft in a village in Chhattisgarh's tribal-dominated Sukma district Sunday, police said. Five persons, all from the same village, have been detained concerning the murder and are being interrogated, they said. The incident took place in Ektal village under Konta police station limits and the victims were identified as Mausam Kanna (34), his wife Mausam Biri, Mausam Buchcha (34), his wife Mausam Arjo (32), and another woman Karka Lachhi (43), a police official here said.

After being alerted, senior officials rushed to the spot, he said. The accused who have been detained are Savlam Rajesh (21), Savlam Hidma, Karam Satyam (35), Kunjam Mukesh (28) and Podiam Enka, he said. Further investigation into the incident is underway, he added. In a similar incident on Thursday (September 12), four members of a family, including an infant boy, were allegedly killed on the suspicion that a member of their family practised black magic in a village in the state's Balodabazar-Bhatapara district.

Two Navy women officers to embark on sailing expedition

SAYAN CHATTERJEE

New Delhi, Sept 15: In a remarkable celebration of maritime tradition and gender equality, two Indian Navy officers, Lt Cdr Roopa A and Lt Cdr Dilna K, are poised to embark on the extraordinary sailing expedition Navika Sagar Parikrama II. Aboard the INSV Tarini, the duo will circumnavigate the globe, continuing the Navy's legacy of oceanic exploration. The officers have spent the past three years preparing for this challenging journey, demanding exceptional seamanship, physical endurance, and mental fortitude. Their training included a trans-oceanic expedition from Goa to Rio de Janeiro via Cape Town, a two-handed sailing mission to Port Blair, and a recent sortie to Mauritius.

Under the mentorship of acclaimed circumnavigator Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd.), the officers are set to represent India's maritime prowess on the global stage. This expedition highlights the Indian Navy's revitalised focus on sailing, drawing inspiration from vessels like INS Tarangini and INS Sudarshini and pioneering voyages on INSV Mhadei and Tarini. The recently unveiled logo for Navika Sagar Parikrama II embodies this spirit. The octagonal shape reflects the Indian Navy, while the sun and compass symbolise guidance and resilience in the face of challenging seas.



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SNIPPETS

24-yr-old man dies of Nipah in Kerala

Malappuram: The 24-year-old man who died recently at a private hospital in Malappuram was infected with the Nipah virus, Kerala Health Minister Veena George said Sunday. George said the suspicion of Nipah infection arose after a death investigation conducted by the Regional Medical Officer. "The available samples were immediately sent for testing and it turned out to be positive," the minister said.

Road crash in Rajasthan leaves 8 dead

Jaipur: Eight people, including two women and a child, were killed and 18 others injured when a jeep collided with a truck in Pindwara area of Rajasthan's Sirohi district Sunday night, police said. The overcrowded jeep was moving on the wrong side when the incident took place, they said. Sirohi SP Anil Kumar said police reached the spot and the injured were rushed to a nearby hospital. Pindwada police station SHO Hamir Singh said the overcrowded jeep collided with a truck which left five men, one child and two women dead.

Fresh encounter breaks out in J&K

Jammu: A fresh encounter broke out between terrorists and police Sunday in a forest area in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, while an overnight firefight in Poonch district ended with one terrorist believed to have suffered injuries, officials said. A police search party came under fire from terrorists at remote Nuknali Nalla in Bani area of Kathua district late this afternoon, the officials said.



Devotees arrive at Marina Beach to immerse an idol of Lord Ganesh into the Bay of Bengal during the Ganesh Chaturthi festival in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

TWO YEARS OF PROJECT CHEETAH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: The MoU process to bring a new batch of cheetahs from Kenya is in progress, with India having finalised its part and awaiting approval from the African country, a senior official has said. Cheetahs for the breeding centre being built in Gujarat's Banni grasslands will also be brought from Kenya, SP Yadav, the director general of the International Big Cat Alliance, told PTI editors during a recent interaction here. As part of the first-ever intercontinental translocation of the big cats, 20 cheetahs have been brought to the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh so far -- eight from Namibia in September 2022 and

12 from South Africa in February 2023.

Since they arrived in India, eight adult cheetahs -- three females and five males -- have died. Seventeen cubs have been born in India, with 12 surviving, bringing the total number of cheetahs, including cubs, in Kuno to 24. Currently, all are in enclosures. The grand initiative completes two years September 17. The 'Action Plan for Reintroduction of Cheetah in India' talks about bringing around 12-14 cheetahs each year from South Africa, Namibia and other African countries for five years to establish a founder stock. "Discussions are ongoing with South Africa. It has already identified 12 to 16 surplus cheetahs. They must either give them to another country or euthanise them. That is the current situation," Yadav added. In South Africa, animals are kept in sanctuaries based on their carrying capacities. If the population ex-



ceeds this capacity, they either export the animals or euthanise them, as they cannot sustain an overpopulation, he explained. The conservation breeding centre being developed in a 500-

Due to differences in circadian rhythms between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, some cheetahs developed thick winter coats during the Indian summer and monsoon last year, in anticipation of the African winter (June to September)

Three of these cheetahs -- a Namibian female and two South African males -- died after wounds beneath their winter coats, on their backs and necks, became infested with maggots which led to blood infections

hectare enclosure can accommodate 16 cheetahs, officials have said. Yadav also dismissed reports suggesting that a Namibian cheetah named Pawan died from poisoning last month.

He clarified that there were no signs of poisoning such as saliva oozing from the mouth or liquid seeping from the nose.

Asked about the low prey base in the Kuno National Park and the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, he said, "The number of cheetahs in the wild will depend solely on the prey population. We will not release more cheetahs if the prey population cannot support them. That is within our control."

Yadav said that the staff at Kuno will administer prophylactic medicine to the cheetahs in the wild through tranquilisers. If they are unsuccessful, "there is no option but to recapture the animals", he said. Prophylactic medicines are given to prevent infections.

international



I do think we need a comprehensive strategy for success in this war and that is what President Zelenskyy says he is bringing, so we are very much looking forward to sitting down and talking that through and President Biden is eager for that conversation

JAKE SULLIVAN | WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, US

SPACEX POLARIS DAWN CREW WRAPS MISSION

The SpaceX Polaris Dawn mission, which made history when its crew conducted the first spacewalk by non-government astronauts, splashed down off the coast of Florida early Sunday



of the day quote

At the start of our government, we did have some rough patches with India, you know. We have good relations with both China and India, and both countries continue to support Maldives

MOOSA ZAMEER | FOREIGN MINISTER, MALDIVES

The occupying mafia and its handlers are fighting only for their survival, regardless of the national interest. The attack on the independence of the judiciary is also a link in this chain. All institutions in the country have been destroyed

IMRAN KHAN | PM, PAKISTAN

During this period (summer 2025), they (Russia) will face a dilemma: either to declare mobilisation or to somehow reduce the intensity of hostilities, which may ultimately be critical for them

KYRYLO BUDANOV | MILITARY LEADER, UKRAINE

SHORT TAKES

Jordan PM resigns days after election

Amman: Jordan's Prime Minister Bisher Khasawneh submitted his resignation Sunday, officials familiar with the matter said, less than a week after a parliamentary election that saw some gains for the Islamist Opposition in the US-allied kingdom. US-educated Jaafar Hassan, now head of King Abdullah's office and a former planning minister, is expected to replace Khasawneh, a veteran diplomat and former palace advisor who was appointed nearly four years ago, the officials told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Iran President to attend BRICS summit

Dubai: Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian will attend the upcoming BRICS summit in Russia, state media cited Tehran's ambassador in Moscow as saying Sunday, amid tensions with the West over military cooperation between the two countries. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Tuesday that Russia had received ballistic missiles from Iran and was likely to use them in Ukraine within weeks. Cooperation between Moscow and Tehran threatened wider European security, he said.

Gas truck blast kills 24 in Haiti

Port-Au-Prince: A fuel truck explosion on a road in Haiti's southern peninsula Saturday killed 24 people and left half of the 40 injured survivors with third-degree burns, the government said. Haiti Prime Minister Garry Conille visited the site, near the coastal city of Miragoane in the department of Nippes, and said some of the most seriously injured victims were evacuated by helicopter to receive specialized care.

Shanghai cancels hundreds of flights

Bangkok: Shanghai's airports are cancelling hundreds of flights Sunday as they brace for impact from Typhoon Bebinca, which is due to make landfall in the early hours of Monday morning, the authorities said. Flights past 8 pm local time will be cancelled at Hongqiao and Pudong airports in the city, the airport officials said, affecting more than six hundred flights. The city also announced that it was suspending travel on some bridges while restricting that on other highways. State media reported that 9,318 people had been evacuated from one district in Shanghai.

IN A FIRST HOUTH MISSILES LAND IN ISRAEL

Missile fired by Yemen's rebels lands in Israel, triggers sirens at international airport

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jerusalem, Sept 15: A missile fired by Yemen's Iran-backed rebels landed in an open area in central Israel early Sunday and triggered air raid sirens at its international airport, in the latest reverberation from the nearly yearlong war in Gaza.

Israel hinted that it would respond militarily.

There were no reports of casualties or major damage, but Israeli media aired footage showing people racing to shelters in Ben Gurion International Airport. The airport authority said it resumed normal operations shortly thereafter.

A fire could be seen in a rural area of central Israel, and local media showed images of what appeared to be a fragment from an interceptor that landed on an escalator in a train station in the central town of Modiin.

The Israeli military said it made several attempts to intercept the missile using its multi-tiered air defences but had not yet determined whether any had been successful. It said the missile appeared to have fragmented midair, and that the incident is still under review. The military said the sound of explosions in the area came from interceptors.

Israel indicates response

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hinted at a similar response in remarks at a Cabinet meeting after Sunday's attack.

"The Houthis should have known by now that we exact a heavy price for any attempt to



The Israeli military said it made several attempts to intercept the missile using its multitiered air defences but had not yet determined whether any had been successful

The Houthis should have known by now that we exact a heavy price for any attempt to harm us

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PM, ISRAEL

harm us," he said. "Anyone who needs a reminder is invited to visit the port of Hodeidah."

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, a military spokesman for the rebels, said they fired a ballistic missile targeting "a military target" in Jaffa, which is part of Tel Aviv.

Hashim Sharaf al-Din, a spokesperson for the Houthi-run government, said Yemenis will celebrate the birthday of Islam's Prophet Muhammad while "the Israelis will have to be in shelters." Another senior Houthi official, Hezam al-Asad,

posted a taunting message in Hebrew on the social media platform X.

Missiles fired from Lebanon
The military said around 40 projectiles were fired from Lebanon early Sunday, with most intercepted or falling in open areas.

The strikes along the Israel-Lebanon border have displaced tens of thousands of people on both sides. Israel has repeatedly threatened to launch a wider military operation against Hezbollah to ensure its citizens can return to their homes.

"The status quo will not continue," Netanyahu said at the Cabinet meeting. "This requires a change in the balance of power on our northern border. We will do everything necessary to return our residents safely to their homes."

Russian bomb injures 30 civilians in Kharkiv

REUTERS

Kyiv, Sept 15: At least 30 people, including three children, were injured when a Russian guided bomb hit a high-rise residential building in Kharkiv in north-eastern Ukraine Sunday.

"The rescue operation in Kharkiv continues. A Russian air strike. An ordinary residential building, a multi-storey building, was damaged. There is a fire and rubble between the 9th and 12th floors," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on the Telegram messenger app.

He posted photos of smoke and fire billowing out of the windows of a multi-storey building. All windows had been blown out. Kharkiv governor Oleh Syniehubov said civilian infrastructure was also damaged.

Kharkiv, Ukraine's second biggest city, is located near the Russian border and is constantly under attack from Russian bombs, missiles and drones.

"And the world must help defend Ukraine from Russian military aircraft, from dozens of guided bombs that take lives of Ukrainians every day. This terror can be stopped," Zelenskyy said.

Kyiv has said it needs to be allowed to use more powerful Western-supplied weapons to inflict greater damage inside Russia and impair Moscow's ability to attack.

Russia denies intentionally targeting civilians despite having killed thousands of them since it invaded Ukraine in 2022.



INDIA MATTERS

ADB asks Pak to adopt Indian plan on education

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has advised Pakistan to adopt India's scheme ULLAS to fix its dysfunctional education system and impart quality training to its citizens, according to a media report. The Manila-based lender's recommendation came in response to Pakistan's request for financial support to improve its education system and impart education to all out-of-school children, The Express Tribune newspaper said. The Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) was launched by the Government of India in July last year to help non-literate and adults who missed out on formal schooling. The ADB emphasised that the ULLAS scheme emphasises the need for both federal and provincial governments to collaborate urgently to enhance access to quality education and can offer insightful lessons of success and challenges when considering a similar vertical scheme in Pakistan.

India is 'very important market': Malaysia Airlines

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia Airlines is keen to expand its operations into India, which is a very important market, according to a top airline official. The airline, which currently flies to nine Indian cities, is eyeing new destinations as well as looking to increase frequencies to Trivandrum and Ahmedabad. Part of the Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG), Malaysia Airlines operates daily flights to Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Amritsar, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kochi. It also has four weekly services from Ahmedabad and Trivandrum. We continue to remain excited about the Indian market. It has been driven by robust economic movement, MAG's Group Managing Director Datuk Captain Izham Ismail told PTI in an interview. "We aspire to expand more into India that will happen only next year. India is a very important market," he said and added that it will look at expansion once it gets more aircraft.



People dance as revelers hold fireworks fixed to dragons while participating in a "Correfoc," or running with fire festival in Barcelona, Spain

AI IS 'ACCELERATING CLIMATE CRISIS,' EXPERT WARNS

The language models on which the programmes are based require enormous computing capacities to train on billions of data points, necessitating powerful servers

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Canada, Sept 15: Generative artificial intelligence uses 30 times more energy than a traditional search engine, warns researcher Sasha Luccioni, on a mission to raise awareness about the environmental impact of the hot new technology.

Recognized as one of the 100 most influential people in the world of AI by the American magazine Time in 2024, the Canadian computer scientist of Russian origin has sought for several years to quantify the emissions of programs like ChatGPT or Midjourney.

"I find it particularly disappointing that generative AI is used to search the Internet," laments the researcher, who spoke with AFP on the sidelines of the ALL IN artificial intelligence conference, in Montreal.

The language models on which the programs are based require enormous computing capacities

to train on billions of data points, necessitating powerful servers.

Then there's the energy used to respond to each individual user's requests.

Instead of simply extracting information, "like a search engine would do to find the capital of a country, for example," AI programs "generate new information," making the whole thing "much more energy-intensive," she explains.

According to the International Energy Agency, the combined AI and the cryptocurrency sectors consumed nearly 460 terawatt hours of electricity in 2022, two per cent of total global production.

Energy efficiency

A leading researcher on the impact of AI on climate, Luccioni participated in 2020 in the creation of a tool for developers to quantify the carbon footprint of running a piece of code. "CodeCarbon" has since been downloaded more than a mil-



lion times.

Head of the climate strategy of startup Hugging Face, a platform for sharing open-access AI models, she is now working on creating a certification system for algorithms.

Similar to the program from the US Environmental Protection Agency that awards scores based

know that for a specific task, we can measure energy efficiency and say that this model has an A+, and that model has a D," she says.

Transparency

In order to develop her tool, Luccioni is experimenting with it on generative AI models that are accessible to everyone, or open source, but she would also like to do it on commercial models from Google or ChatGPT-creator OpenAI, which have been reluctant to agree.

Although Microsoft and Google have committed to achieving carbon neutrality by the end of the decade, the US tech giants saw their greenhouse gas emissions soar in 2023 because of AI, up 48 per cent for Google compared to 2019 and 29 per cent for Microsoft compared to 2020.

"We are accelerating the climate crisis," says Luccioni, calling for more transparency from tech companies.

The solution, she says, could

come from governments that, for the moment, are "flying blindly," without knowing what is "in the data sets or how the algorithms are trained."

"Once we have transparency, we can start legislating."

'Energy sobriety'

It is also necessary to "explain to people what generative AI can and cannot do, and at what cost," according to Luccioni.

In her latest study, the researcher demonstrated that producing a high-definition image using artificial intelligence consumes as much energy as fully recharging the battery of your cell phone. At a time when more and more companies want to integrate technology further into our lives, with conversational bots and connected devices, or in online searches, Luccioni advocates "energy sobriety."

The idea here is not to oppose AI, she emphasizes, but rather to choose the right tools, and use them judiciously.

of the day quote

Nayara Energy has been steadily building its domestic business and strengthening its retail network strategically to underserved markets that uphold the potential to fuel India's growth. With almost 35 per cent of our retail outlets being in rural areas, we believe in playing a vital role in enhancing mobility and linking new urban centres that are spurring commerce

ALESSANDRO DES DORIDES | NAYARA ENERGY CEO

India is a huge market, and everyone knows that purified water and access to purified water is a big challenge...Currently, in a country the size of ours, penetration of water purifiers is still at 7 to 8 per cent of the total household population of India

RAKESH KAUL | LIVPURE MANAGING DIRECTOR

We believe that the moment we have clarity on GM mustard, also on the next technology in cotton, we will be seeing movements

SIMON WIEBUSCH | BAYER CROPSCIENCE MD AND CEO

SHORT TAKES

IOB bags award

Chennai: Public sector Indian Overseas Bank has secured the Rajbhasha Kirti Pratham Puraskar first prize for the second consecutive year in the Official Language Implementation category for 2023-24 by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The recognition underscores the commitment of the city-headquartered bank in promoting the use of Hindi language and enhancing the implementation of official language policies across its operations. Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the award to the bank's Managing Director and CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava in New Delhi at a function to mark the Hindi Day Celebrations and the Diamond Jubilee of Official Languages, a press release from the Bank said.

Goyal to launch BHASKAR today

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will Monday launch the Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR) initiative which will serve as a central hub where startups, investors, service providers, and government bodies can come together to collaborate, exchange ideas, and accelerate growth. According to an official statement, it will also enhance collaboration among key stakeholders within the entrepreneurial ecosystem, including startups, investors, mentors, service providers, and government bodies. The primary goal of BHASKAR is to build the world's largest digital registry for stakeholders within the startup ecosystem.

Black Box to hike India biz share

New Delhi: Essar Group's IT arm Black Box expects the share of India business to grow by 1-2 percentage points in its course to become a USD 2 billion revenue company by 2027-28, a top official of the company said. The company specialises in building IT infrastructure for critical technology applications including hyperscaler data centres and planning to bring its learning to the Indian market as many of the company's global customers are looking to invest in the country, Black Box CEO Sanjeev Verma told PTI. He said that the company plans to increase employee headcount across all levels in India to around 1,000 people from about 600 people at present.



Reels is big for Meta globally, but Reels is certainly huge for Meta in India

SANDHYA DEVANATHAN | META INDIA VICE PRESIDENT

AUDIO DEVICE MARKET SEES GOOD GROWTH

The Indian audio devices market is experiencing 'remarkable growth' as offline retail sales hit Rs 5,000 crore moving annual turnover (MAT) in June 2024, driven by a 61 per cent YoY volume growth in the Personal Audio segment, according to a report from GfK. Growth is driven by the rise in immersive sound technologies, enhanced consumer experiences, and a growing demand for high-quality audio products across both home and personal categories, it said.



RBI to revamp currency management infrastructure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: The Reserve Bank plans to comprehensively revamp its currency management infrastructure over the next 4-5 years, mainly to ensure adequate storage and handling capacity to cater to the future cash needs of the growing economy. The creation of greenfield currency management centres, the introduction of warehouse automation, the installation of security and surveillance systems, an inventory management system, and a centralised command centre are being mooted to modernise the existing infrastructure, according to an RBI document.

The expected timeline for the whole project is 4-5 years, according to the expression of interest (EoI) issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for procurement of consultancy and project management services for the modernisation of currency management infrastructure.

"Despite moderation in the growth rate of NIC (Notes In Circulation) in the last three years, analysis indicates that the growth will continue to be positive over the foreseeable future though the pace thereof is expected to be slower over the next decade," the document said.

Further, the central bank said the trend in volume growth is expected to continue, and the rate may even accelerate, such that the value needs of the public are met sufficiently yet conveniently.

Notes in Circulation (NIC), in volume and value terms, have increased considerably over the past two decades. NIC volume stood at 136.21 billion pieces (bps) March 31, 2023, and 146.87



bps as of March 31, 2024.

Coins in Circulation (CIC) have also increased in terms of volume and value.

CIC volume stood at 127.92 bps as of March 31, 2023 and 132.35 bps as of March 31, 2024.

"Concomitant with this growth, and in line with the Clean Note Policy of the Bank, the volume of soiled notes is also likely to keep increasing proportionately. Thus, the current currency management infrastructure needs modernisation to ensure adequate capacities (factoring future needs), optimisation, as also making the process safer and environment friendly," the RBI said.

The banknotes are printed at four printing presses, and coins are minted at four mints.

The new banknotes and coins are received at nineteen Issue Offices (IOs) across the country, from where they are further distributed to about 2,800 Currency Chests (CCs) operated by scheduled banks.

The RBI said several central banks/monetary authorities have been facing multiple challenges in currency management due to

the increase in the volume of banknotes printed, distributed, retrieved and processed as also due to increasing costs and security risks associated with them.

To handle the increasing volume of banknotes, some central banks/monetary authorities have proactively modernised their currency management infrastructure by adopting suitable re-engineering of their currency management processes and setting up separate facilities for the handling of banknotes.

These countries include Austria, Egypt, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, and the USA.

The RBI, according to the document, is interested in modernisation of the currency (banknotes and coins) management infrastructure across India to create adequate state-of-the-art storage and handling capacity to meet future cash needs of the economy, enhancing efficiency in currency management operations, ensuring security of the highest possible order while contributing towards a greener planet.

MCAP OF 9 OF 10 MOST VALUED FIRMS JUMPS ₹2 LAKH-CR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Nine of the top-10 most valued firms together added Rs 2,01,552.69 crore in market valuation last week, with Bharti Airtel stealing the show, amid bullish investors' sentiment in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,707.01 points or 2.10 per cent. The 30-share BSE Sensex hit its lifetime high of 83,116.19 Thursday.

Bharti Airtel's valuation jumped Rs 54,282.62 crore to Rs 9,30,490.20 crore, becoming the biggest gainer among the top-10 firms.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of ICICI Bank surged Rs 29,662.44 crore to Rs 8,80,867.09 crore.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) added Rs 23,427.12 crore taking its valuation to Rs 16,36,189.63 crore.

The mcap of Hindustan Unilever soared Rs 22,438.6 crore to Rs 6,42,531.82 crore and that of HDFC Bank zoomed Rs 22,093.99 crore to Rs 12,70,035.77 crore.

The market valuation of Infosys climbed Rs 17,480.49 crore to Rs 8,07,299.55 crore and that of ITC rallied Rs 15,194.17 crore to Rs 6,42,531.82 crore.

The valuation of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 9,878.19 crore to Rs 19,92,160.61 crore and that of State Bank of India went up by Rs 7,095.07 crore to Rs 7,05,535.20 crore.

However, the mcap of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) declined by Rs 3,004.38 crore to Rs 6,54,004.76 crore.

Reliance Industries was leading the chart of the top-10 most valued firms followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India, Hindustan Unilever, LIC and ITC.

India seeks tech transfer for shipbuilding clusters



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Goa, Sept 15: India is seeking investments and technology transfer from South Korea and Japan to establish shipbuilding and ship repair clusters to promote the domestic shipping supply chain in the country, according to a senior government official.

Currently, India holds less than 1 per cent of the global shipbuilding market, dominated by China, South Korea, and Japan. "We are looking at South Korea and Japan for investments and technology transfer for establishing shipbuilding and ship repair clusters in India," TK Ramachandran, Secretary in Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), told a group of journalists here.

Ramachandran was in Goa to participate in the 20th Maritime State Development Council (MSDC), where plans for a mega shipbuilding park, spanning multiple states, were discussed.

"We have communicated to them (South Korea and Japan) that you come with your technology and investments, we will provide you land for setting up shipbuilding and ship repair clusters," he said.

Ramachandran also said that Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal has written to chief ministers of all states to provide land immediately if Japanese or Korean companies express interest in setting up shipbuilding and ship repair clusters in their states.

"At least three states have expressed interest in providing land for establishing shipbuilding and ship repair clusters," he said, without naming the states.

According to him, this ambitious initiative aims to consolidate shipbuilding capabilities across regions, fostering greater efficiency and innovation.

Ramachandran said India's proposed Rs 25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund (MDF) - which looks at providing long-term, low-cost financial support and push towards indigenous ship-building - will be basically equity funding. "The equity funding will come from the Centre, PSUs, pension funds and private sector," he noted.

While pointing out that currently, 95 per cent of India's foreign trade happens through foreign-owned and foreign-flagged vessels, which results in an outgo of USD 110 billion annually from India, Ramachandran said at most 60 per cent of the country's ship repair work happens outside the country.

"The financing ecosystem (for the shipping industry) is not there in India. Entire value chain financing, insurance, ownership of ships, leasing, recycling and repairs of ships happens abroad," he said.

US lenders counter Byju's claim on debt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: US lenders represented by Glas Trust have countered BYJU'S founder Byju Raveendran's claim on verified debt on the company being merely around Rs 20 crore, and have said that the beleaguered edtech firm will have to pay the entire USD 1.2 billion Term Loan B along with interest.

The founder of Think and Learn (TLPL) and owner of BYJU'S brand, Byju Raveendran, had about a week ago said that verified debt on the company is only Rs 20 crore as per insolvency proceedings and he may not have to pay any money to the US lenders represented by Glas Trust.

"Neither Byju nor the IRP have the authority to disqualify any term loan lender 'and even if they did, BYJU's would

still be obligated to repay the full amount of the loan plus interest. Any argument otherwise is illegitimate, and Byju knows it," a steering committee of the ad hoc group of term loan lenders to Byju's Alpha, Inc said in a statement.

Glas Trust has sued BYJU'S for the recovery of USD 1.2 bn TLB in US as well as in India. The financial trouble of once the most-valued Indian edtech firm BYJU'S started after US-based lenders started legal action against the company to recover USD 1.2 billion TLB.

The lenders have alleged that BYJU'S group firm BYJU'S Alpha secured USD 1.2 billion Term Loan B, which is a loan given by institutional investors, and moved USD 500 million out of the US in breach of loan agreement norms.

Investors to focus on US Fed decision this week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: The US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision is the biggest event that would drive sentiments in the domestic stock market this week, besides a host of macroeconomic data from the global front and trading activity of foreign investors, analysts said.

The Indian equity market had an exceptional last week, with both the Nifty and Sensex hitting their all-time high levels Thursday. The BSE benchmark breached the 83,000 level for the first time Thursday.

"One of the most anticipated events of the year is set to unfold this week with the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting scheduled for September 18th. It is almost certain that this will mark the beginning of



an interest rate cut cycle in the US. The general consensus is for a 25 basis points (bps) rate cut, though some market participants are speculating a more aggressive 50 bps cut. Such a move would be a significant positive trigger for global markets, particularly for emerging markets like India, as it would likely result in a weaker dollar and lower US yields, spurring foreign inflows into Indian equities," said Santosh

Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

Additionally, Japan's inflation data is due on Friday, followed by the Bank of Japan's (BoJ) monetary policy announcement, he said.

"In addition to this, other crucial factors that will influence market sentiment include FII (Foreign Institutional Investors) flows, the geopolitical landscape, and crude oil prices," Meena added.

"The outlook for the market will be guided by the major domestic and global economic data such as India's WPI inflation, US industrial production, US Fed interest rate decision, US FOMC economic projections and US initial jobless claims," Palka Arora Chopra, Director, Master Capital Services Ltd, said.

Last week, the BSE bench-

mark jumped 1,707.01 points or 2.10 per cent and the Nifty climbed 504.35 points or 2.02 per cent.

"Looking ahead, this week will be critical with the US Fed meeting scheduled, and its outcome expected September 18. Domestically, participants will be closely monitoring WPI inflation data and foreign fund flows," said Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "A significant trend in the market for the week ended 13th September is that FIIs were buyers of equity in the cash market on all days of the week."

There are two reasons why FIIs have changed their strategy from selling to buying, he noted.

Rising freight costs, container crunch hitting exports: GTRI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Increasing freight costs, shortage of containers and dependence on major shipping hubs and foreign carriers pose serious challenges to the country's exports, think tank GTRI said Sunday.

To address these challenges, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) recommended that India implement several strategies to boost domestic container production, enhance the role of local shipping companies, promote use of domestic containers, and strengthen local shipping firms.

"India can lower its risk of global supply chain disruptions by boosting domestic container production, encouraging the use of locally made containers, and increasing the use of Indian shipping companies for transporting goods," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

Between 2022 and 2024, shipping rates for a 40-foot container have fluctuated significantly.

It said that in 2022, the average cost was USD 4,942 due to the lingering effects of the covid pandemic, while by 2024, the

rate had stabilized around USD 4,775, it said adding that these rates are still significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels, where the cost was USD 1,420 in 2019.

"The elevated freight rates reflect the persistent supply chain challenges that continue to burden global trade," Srivastava said. He added that there had been unverified reports of China hoarding containers to maximize its exports to the US and Europe ahead of potential trade restrictions and a hike in duties on solar panels, electric vehicles, steel and aluminium manufactured by Chinese firms located in China or elsewhere like in ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries.

However, the real container shortage issue likely stems from broader logistical inefficiencies like port congestion and Red Sea disruptions rather than deliberate stockpiling, Srivastava said.

Freight costs for Indian exporters shipping goods to Europe and the US have more than doubled in the past year, driven by disruptions in the Red Sea.

The GTRI said that last month, delays in ship arrivals at India



port were caused by congestion at Singapore port.

"Indian exporters may soon face another disruption if the US-China trade war escalates in the coming months," it said.

The global container shortage, first triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, may soon reemerge, causing severe difficulties for Indian exporters. "To minimise Trade Disruptions Due to US-China Trade War Escalation and other geopolitical events, India must invest in Container Production and Domestic Shipping," it added.

It also said that India's dependence on major shipping

hubs and foreign carriers significantly increases costs and risks. "To cut costs and minimise risks, three key logistics challenges need urgent attention. First, 90-95 per cent of India's cargo is transported by foreign shipping liners, giving them control over access and freight rates, limiting India's ability to manage costs and schedules," it suggested.

About 25 per cent of India's cargo is transhipped through hubs like Colombo, Singapore, and Klang, increasing transit time and freight costs.

India depends heavily on containers made in China, making

it vulnerable to supply disruptions and price fluctuations, it said adding "India's dependence on major shipping hubs and foreign carriers significantly increases costs and risks".

The shipping container industry is critical to global trade, and India has been making efforts to expand its container production. However, the GTRI said that current output is insufficient to meet growing demand.

India produces between 10,000 and 30,000 containers annually, while China, the global leader, produces around 2.5 to 3 million containers per year.

This leaves India with less than 1 per cent of the global market share, making it vulnerable to disruptions in container availability.

"The ownership of shipping containers is dominated by major shipping lines and leasing companies with negligible share of India. Companies like Maersk (Denmark), Mediterranean Shipping Company (Switzerland), and CMA CGM (France) are among the top owners of containers, with millions of TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) in their fleets," the GTRI said.

Additionally, China's state-owned shipping giant, COSCO, holds a significant share of global container ownership.

"Indian manufacturers face production costs of USD 3,500 to USD 4,000 per 40-foot container, which is higher than China's cost of USD 2,500 to USD 3,000. As a result, Indian businesses remain dependent on imported containers, primarily from China. This reliance makes the country susceptible to global supply chain disruptions," Srivastava said.

Key production hubs in India are emerging in Bhavnagar (Gujarat) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu), but significant investments and policy support are required to scale up container production.

In addition to container shortages, India is heavily dependent on foreign shipping companies for its international trade. About 90-95 per cent of India's total cargo is carried by foreign lines, such as Maersk, MSC, and COSCO. Indian shipping companies, led by Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), handle only about 5-10 per cent of trade by volume, it said.

A centimetre short of crown

STAR JAVELIN THROWER FINISHES 2ND IN SEASON-ENDING DIAMOND LEAGUE FINALE

AGENCIES

Brussels, Sept 15: Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra came agonisingly close to winning the Diamond League (DL) crown before missing it by just one centimetre to finish as runner-up for the second consecutive year with a throw of 87.86m in the season-ending finale here.

The 26-year-old Chopra, who had won the DL trophy in 2022 before finishing second last year, achieved his best throw of the day in his third attempt but that was one centimetre short of eventual winner Anderson Peters' 87.87m effort Saturday.

Grenada's Peters, a two-time world champion, produced his best throw of the day in his opening attempt. Julian Weber of Germany was third with 85.97m.

Chopra, who added a silver to his Olympic medal tally in Paris following a historic gold at the Tokyo Games, thus ended his season on a high. The Indian javelin thrower, who has a per-

sonal best of 89.94m and season's best of 89.49m, had a series of 86.82m, 83.49m, 87.86m, 82.04m, 83.30m and 86.46m throws.

Peters collected a trophy and USD 30,000 for emerging as the DL champion this season. Chopra pocketed

athletics season.

The Haryana athlete remained consistent throughout the season, though he won just one international event at the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland, June 18. He had made the Diamond League finale after finishing fourth in the overall standings with 14 points from his two second-place finishes in DL one-day meets in Doha and Lausanne May 10

chaser Sable had finished ninth in a 10-man field in his maiden DL final with a mediocre time of 8 minutes and 17.09 seconds to end a largely disappointing season. He had finished 11th in the Olympic Games.

'Took part with fractured hand'

Brussels: Neeraj Chopra revealed Sunday that he took part in the Diamond League season finale despite a hand injury sustained during a training session. "I injured myself in practice last Monday and x-rays showed that I had fractured the fourth metacarpal in my left hand. It was another painful challenge for me. But with the help of my team, I was able to participate in Brussels," the 26-year-old said on his social media handle. "This was the last competition of the year, and I wanted to end my season on the track. While I couldn't meet my own expectations, I feel this was a season in which I learned a lot," Chopra added.

and August 22. Chopra has been struggling with his fitness this season and is expected to meet a doctor to rectify a groin injury that has affected him all season and came in the way of his quest to hit the 90m-mark.

Earlier Friday, national record-holding 3000m steeple-

USD 12,000 for his second-place finish in the grand finale which marked the end of the prestigious Diamond League series after 14 legs, as well as the end of international



Neeraj Chopra in action at the Diamond League finale in Brussels PHOTO X

Maini survives massive crash



(Left): The mangled remains of Kush Maini's car; the actual crash during the race Sunday

INDIAN DRIVER LUCKY TO ESCAPE AS OTHER CARS CRASH INTO HIS VEHICLE AT AZERBAIJAN

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 15: Indian Formula 2 driver Kush Maini suffered a massive crash at Baku in the Azerbaijan Grand Prix F2 feature race Sunday. Luckily he escaped without any major injury suffering only bruises and cuts.

Starting fifth on the grid, Maini's car failed to launch off the line at the start of the race. With his car stalled on the grid, a lot of cars managed to evade Maini, before he was slammed

into by a car from behind causing a huge crash and immediately bringing out the red flag. Thankfully, Maini and all the drivers involved in the incident managed to walk away safe.

Maini, driving for Invicta Racing, had qualified a strong fifth for the feature race. After missing out on points in the sprint race Saturday, the Indian was hoping to make amends. However, his race came to an early and abrupt end due to the massive incident, which saw cars go upside down.

Spanish driver Pepe Marti and Danish-German driver Oliver Goethe were the others massively affected by the crash. However, they also managed to escape without any major injuries. The fact that all drivers were safe displayed another highlight of increased safety in motorsport.

Maini's father Gautam con-

firmed that his son is doing fine. "He is doing okay. As part of the standard protocol all medical check ups were conducted on Kush and all reports are normal," he said from Chennai.

Maini is currently in his second season in Formula 2, and also a part of the driver academy of Alpine F1 Team, for whom Pierre Gasly and Esteban Ocon currently race. However, Ocon will be replaced by Australian rookie Jack Doohan in 2025. Maini is presently fighting to land a reserve driver role at Alpine for next season.

After a strong start to the 2024 F2 season, Maini's form dipped mid-season, and he is currently 11th in the Driver's Championship standings. His teammate, Brazilian driver Gabriel Bortoleto, leads the championship points tally. Hence Maini was looking forward to accumulating some points.

SHORT TAKES

Punjab FC ride on Majcen magic

Kochi: Punjab FC secured a stoppage time 2-1 victory over Kerala Blasters FC (KBFC) to kick off their ISL campaign here Sunday on a winning note. Skipper Luka Majcen turned out to be the hero for Punjab scoring one goal and providing the assist for the second. He put the team ahead converting a penalty in the 86th minute. Then after KBFC had restored parity through Jesus Jimenez, Majcen provided a beautiful ball for Filip Mrzjak to tap in from close and ensure full points for the side.

Messi returns with a brace

Fort Lauderdale (US): Lionel Messi made a successful return after a lengthy absence, scoring two goals and assisting on the third to lead Inter Miami to a 3-1 victory over the Philadelphia Union in a MLS game here Saturday. He had not played for his club since June 1. Messi, who resumed practicing three weeks ago, showed no rust or ill-effects from the injury in his performance. He scored twice in a four-minute span midway through the first half that negated an early goal by Philadelphia. "A little bit tired because of the heat and humidity of Miami but I wanted to return so much after such a long time away," Messi said after the game.

Colts in quarters

Jalandhar: Hockey Association of Odisha defeated Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey 5-2 to enter the quarterfinals of the 14th Hockey India Junior Men's National Championship here Sunday. They will now face Punjab Hockey in the game Monday. Karan Lakra (30th, 50th) scored two goals for of Odisha. The other scorers were captain Jasman Munda (15th), Abhishek Topno (27th) and Deepak Pradhan (60th).

Gunners sink Spurs

London: Arsenal are leaving arch rival Tottenham's stadium with a win for the third season in a row after Gabriel Magalhaes' second half header settled a feisty and physical north London derby in the Premier League Sunday. Tottenham had Arsenal pegged back for much of the game but couldn't make their chances count as the visitors weathered the pressure before Gabriel secured the winner in the 64th minute of the game.

Shanto exudes confidence on arrival

BANGLADESH ARRIVE IN INDIA FOR 2 TESTS AND 3 T20IS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 15: A confident Bangladesh team arrived here Sunday for two Test matches and three T20Is with visiting skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto hoping that their historic 2-0 series win in Pakistan recently would hold them in good stead against the formidable hosts in the coming weeks. The first of the two Tests begins here September 19.

"It's definitely going to be a very challenging series for us," Shanto was quoted as saying at the pre-departure press briefing at the Dhaka airport. "After a good series (vs Pakistan) there is definitely an extra confidence in the team, in the people of the country. Every series is an opportunity. We will play to win both matches. The things that matter to win, the process matters... our aim will be to do the work properly. Good results are possible if we do our job properly," the Bangladesh captain added.

While India are on top of the World Test Championships (WTC) table, the Bangladesh skipper believed that it will all boil down to how they perform during those five days and the result can come even in the last session.

"If you see the ranking, they (India) are much ahead of us," Shanto said. "We have been playing well lately. We have had a good series against Pakistan.



Bangladesh players before their departure at the Dhaka airport

“We will approach both the games with positivity to win. The aim is to play good cricket over five days”
NAJMUL HOSSAIN SHANTO

Our aim will be to play well for five days. The result comes in the last session on the last day. If we play good cricket for five days, there is a chance for either team to win in the last session," the skipper added.

Usual security protocol was in place for the Bangladesh team like it happens for all interna-

tional teams with two police vans accompanying the team bus to the hotel. Upon arrival at the hotel, the players were given a warm welcome as staff showered them with rose petals. The entire team will be staying on one floor with armed security personnel available round the clock.

The Bangla Tigers are visiting India after the tiny neighbours witnessed civil unrest for over a month. BCCI secretary Jay Shah has assured the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) of adequate security measures being taken during their three week stay in the country.

Pranshu triumphs in school chess



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Pranshu Das of Apeejay School (Bhubaneswar) emerged winner of the 22nd State Schools Open Chess Championships here Sunday. The meet was organised by DAV Public School, Kalinga Nagar. Das finished with five points from five matches to take top spot.

Four others finished with four points to jointly occupy the second spot. They were Mitrabhanu Khatua (DAV Public School, Unit VIII), Aditya Jena and Annay Amiyanshu (DAV Kalinga Nagar) and Aditya Pradhan (Kendriya Vidyalaya No.1, Bhubaneswar). Competition was also held among various age group participants and also girls with youngsters in large numbers taking part.

DESPITE BHUI TON, INDIA A WIN EASILY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Anantapur, Sept 15: Ricky Bhui (113, 195b, 14x4, 3x6) delayed the inevitable with a stubborn hundred, but spinners Shams Mulani (3/117) and Tanush Kotian (4/73) eventually brought India D to their knees as India A walked away with a 186-run win in the Duleep Trophy match here Sunday. The other game between India B and India C ended in a draw with the latter getting three points for taking the first innings lead.

India D who began the last day on 62 for one were bundled out for 301 chasing 488 for victory with spinners Mulani and Kotian inflicting the maximum damage.

The victory enabled India A to stay in contention for the title with six points. But they will have to get a favourable result against table-toppers India C (nine points) in their next match here beginning September 19.

In the other game pacer Anshul Kamboj (8/69) ended up with an eight-wicket haul as India C took the lead. Resuming day four at 309 for seven, India B were dismissed for 332 with Kamboj cleaning up the tail. India B skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran remained unbeaten on 157 (286b, 14x4, 1x6).

Gill to be rested for T20I matches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Shubman Gill will be one of the prominent players who will be rested for the three-match T20I series against Bangladesh starting October 7 as part of BCCI's workload management policy. Gill, India's No.3 in Test matches, is a vital cog in the team's top-order alongside Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Yashasvi Jaiswal and is expected to play all 10 Tests this season. Apart from Gill, a few more important players will also be rested keeping the three-Test series against New Zealand in mind.

"Yes, Shubman will be rested for the Bangladesh T20I series. If you look at the fixture, the three T20Is will be played October 7 (Gwalior), 10 (Delhi) and 13 (Hyderabad). The first Test versus New Zealand starts October 16. So with a turnaround of three days, it is important to give Gill a break," a BCCI source told this agency on the condition of anonymity.

Gill has so far played 21 T20Is and has a hundred and three 50s to his credit besides a strike rate of nearly 140. He was recently appointed captain for the five-match series against Zimbabwe in

Shami not to rush comeback

Kolkata: Star India pacer Mohammed Shami provided his fitness update recently. He said he is working hard to make a comeback soon but he doesn't want to rush and risk getting injured again. "I am working hard to make a comeback soon because I know I have been out of action for quite some time. I want to ensure there is no discomfort when I return. I have to work on my fitness so there is no discomfort," Shami was quoted by ICC as saying. "The stronger I return, the better it is for me," he added.

Harare, which India won 4-1. In the current season, T20Is are least priority for the Indian team with the World Test Championship points. The five-match series against Australia is topmost on the agenda for the Indian team.

While the trio of Rohit, Virat and Ravindra Jadeja has retired from the shortest format, pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj also will be given rest as per workload management requirements.

In-form India start favourites

Men in Blue face Korea in semifinals of ACT tournament

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hulubuir (China), Sept 15: Maintaining a clean slate, favourites India will fancy their chances when they take on a below-par but unpredictable Korea in the semifinals of the Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) hockey tournament here Monday.

India have been in rollicking form in the tournament so far, registering five wins out of five league matches. The Harmanpreet Singh-led side started their campaign with a 3-0 win over hosts China and then trounced Japan and Malaysia 5-1 and 8-1 respectively. India then beat Korea 3-1 before eking out a narrow 2-1 win over arch rivals Pakistan. The most promising part of



Skipper Harmanpreet Singh has been in very good form PHOTO H X

India's performance in the league stages has been the form of the strikers. The Indian defence too has performed stoutly, conceding just four goals with goalkeepers Krishan Bahadur Pathak and Suraj Karkera not letting the team feel the void left by the retirement of the talismanic PR Sreejesh.

Harmanpreet one of the best drag-flickers in the world currently, has led from the front and has continued his good form of Paris, converting five penalty corners. He however, warned his teammates Sunday against taking Korea lightly.

"We came into this tournament with very little rest or preparations after our Olympic campaign. Despite that, I am happy with how the team have done to progress into the semi-final stage. Korea are a tough team, they defend very well and can counter attack fast and skillfully. Hence we have to be careful," Harmanpreet pointed out.

"As this will be a knockout game, we will have to start afresh and dominate," the skipper added.

Odisha girls march into final

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The Odisha eves have entered the final of the Sub-Junior National Football Championships at Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh. In the semifinal played Sunday, the Odisha eves blanked Kerala 3-1.

Kamini Mallik (13th) gave Odisha an early lead in the match played at the Dr Rajendra Prasad Stadium. Kerala did not help their cause as they conceded an own goal in the 29th minute when Teertha A headed the ball into her own goal. Lipi Kishan (32nd) made it 3-0 for Odisha. Kerala did score a consolation goal in the 68th minute through Ashika Merlin. However, that was the only goal moment for them.