

Rare recognition
 Indian actor Anushka Sen has been honoured by the Korean government for her efforts to strengthen relationship between two nations
LEISURE | P2

Modi in US
 Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in the US on a three-day visit to attend the Quad summit and address a key conclave at the UN
INTERNATIONAL | P10

FII infuse ₹14,064cr
 The foreign institutional investors turn aggressive buyers this week infusing ₹14,064cr in equity market amid robust economic performance
BUSINESS | P11

Mammoth lead
 Bangladesh were reeling on 158 for 4 in their chase of 515 when bad light stopped play on day three of the opening Test Saturday
SPORTS | P12

Amar Preet Singh to be new Chief of Air Staff
New Delhi: Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh will take charge as the chief of the Indian Air Force after incumbent Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari retires September 30. Singh is currently serving as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff. "The government has appointed Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh, PVSM, AVSM, presently serving as Vice Chief of the Air Staff, as the next Chief of the Air Staff, in the rank of Air Chief Marshal, with effect from September 30," the Defence Ministry said. As Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Singh's priorities are expected to be the procurement of new fighter fleets and advancing the modernisation agenda of the force in view of the fast-evolving regional security landscape, including challenges along the LAC with China.



BEER FLOW: Germans enjoy the first glasses of beer on the first day of the 189th 'Oktoberfest' beer festival in Munich, Saturday

Weaponising ordinary devices violates human rights: UN

ASSOCIATED PRESS
United Nations, Sept 21: Weaponising ordinary communication devices represents a new development in warfare, and targeting thousands of Lebanese people using pagers, two-way radios and electronic equipment without their knowledge is a violation of international human rights law, the United Nations human rights chief said Friday.
 Volker Turk told an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council there must be an independent and transparent investigation of the two attacks in Lebanon Tuesday and Wednesday where these devices exploded, reportedly killing 37 people and injuring more than 3,400 others.
 "Those who ordered and carried out these attacks must be held to account," he said.
 Lebanon has blamed Israel for the attacks, which appeared to target Hezbollah militants but also saw many civilian casualties, including children. Hezbollah has fought many conflicts with Israel, including a war in 2006, and it has conducted near-daily strikes against Israel to support Hamas militants who attacked Israel October 7.
 Before the council meeting, Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon was asked by reporters about speculation Israel was behind the two explosions.
 "We are not commenting on the specific attacks you mentioned, but I can tell you that we will do everything we can to target those terrorists to minimise casualties for civilians," he replied.

Woman's dismembered body found in fridge
Bangalore: A 29-year-old woman's dismembered body was found in a house in Malleswaram here, police sources said Saturday. According to police, Mahalakshmi's body, cut into over 30 pieces, was stuffed in a refrigerator. Senior police officers reached the spot and barricaded the road leading to the building where the body was found in a single bedroom house, where the victim was staying alone. Police suspect it to be a case of murder.

Can't be touchy in politics: Top court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, Sept 21: You cannot be 'touchy' in politics, the Supreme Court observed while hearing Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan's plea relating to a criminal defamation proceeding initiated against him.
 Murugan approached the apex court last year, challenging a September 5, 2023, Madras High Court order in which it had refused to quash the proceeding against him on a complaint filed by Chennai-based Murali Trust for his alleged defamatory statements during a December 2020 press conference. While agreeing to hear his petition September 27 last year, the top court stayed the proceeding against Murugan that was pending in a special court in Chennai.
 The apex court had also sought the Trust's response on his plea challenging the high court order. When the matter came up for



hearing before a bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice KV Viswanathan Friday, the counsel appearing for Murugan said, "Where is the question of defamation in this case?"
 The lawyer appearing for the Trust sought an adjournment in the matter.
 "You cannot be touchy in politics," the bench observed.
 "Put up after four weeks at the request of the counsel for the respondent," the apex court said.
 Murugan had earlier approached the high court, challenging the proceeding initiated against him. The high court had noted in its order that according to the Trust, Murugan made

the statements "with an ulterior motive to degrade and tarnish the reputation of the Murali Trust in the eyes of the general public."
 "While dealing with the quash petition, this court cannot go into the merits of the case or the disputed questions of fact. This court has to merely go by what is alleged in the complaint and prima facie find out as to whether the offence is made out," the high court had said.
 "In an offence of defamation, the statements have to be tested only from the point of view of a common prudent man, who comes across the defamatory statements made," it had said.
 While dismissing the petition, the high court had directed the trial court to dispose of the case within three months.
 "It is left open to the petitioner (Murugan) to raise all the grounds before the trial court and the same will be considered on its own merits and in accordance with law," it had said.

'Efforts on to shift focus'

POST NEWS NETWORK
Bhubaneswar, Sept 21: The seven youths, who were arrested by the Chandaka police for allegedly misbehaving with Army Major Gurvansh Singh Gosal and his female friend, were granted bail by a court Saturday even as the woman's father alleged that the police was trying diversionary tactics to shift attention from the atrocities of Bharatpur cops.
BHARATPUR SHOCKER
 Brigadier (Retd) Antaryami Pradhan said, "Since the cover has already been blown that the police are solely complicit in assaulting and misbehaving my daughter, there is an insidious effort by the department to shift the focus of the case." He was ostensibly referring to the all out efforts by the police to nab the road rage accused while issuing no clarity over the status quo on the investigation into the 'errant' cops.
 Rubbishing Pradhan's claims, a top cop said several videos of the incident were taken into account before booking the youths.
 Meanwhile, the court, while granting bail, noted that the police had booked the youths without substantial evidence. Besides, it said the Sections imposed under BNS were available in nature.
 The accused, identified as Rakesh Nayak, 22, Abhilash Samanta, 21, Aman Kumar, 21, Aditya Ranjan Behera, 21, Akash Padhiary, 22, Harish Mahanta, 21, and Sameer Asis Kumar Swain, 22, were booked under Sections 126 (2), 115 (2), 117 (2) and 296 of the BNS, said ADCP Krushna Prasad Dash. While being escorted to court, the accused claimed that the police wrongly implicated them.
 "The narrative presented by the police is entirely false as the Army Major and his friend misbehaved with us when we were returning in the wee hours of Sunday," alleged Rakesh.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Your state is about to vote. Make sure there's no communal tension here. It should be far away, in some other state

WEATHER

BBSR	CTC
Max Temp 34.4°C	33.2°C
Min Temp 25.2°C	23.8°C
Humidity 87%	90%
Rainfall Nil	Nil

FORECAST
 Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain

Atishi sworn in as Delhi CM

New Delhi: AAP leader Atishi took oath Saturday as Delhi's third woman Chief Minister and became the youngest of all three to hold the top office in the national capital. The 43-year-old also became the 17th woman to hold the post of CM in independent India. The senior AAP leader, however, will have a brief tenure in office as Assembly elections in the national capital are due in February. A first-time legislator, Atishi is a key face of the party and managed AAP's operations during Arvind Kejriwal's time in Tihar jail.

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Olympian Mr. Paramjeet Singh Bisht Athletics (20KM. Race Walk)	Olympian Mr. Suraj Panwar Marathon Race Walk	Olympian Ms. Prachi 4x400m Relay Team	Olympian Mr. Akshdeep Singh Athletics (20KM. Race Walk)	Olympian Mr. Vikash Singh Athletics (20KM. Race Walk)	Olympian & Arjuna Awardee Ms. MR Poovamma Athletics (4 x 400M Relay)	Olympian Ms. Ankita Athletics (5000m Race)	Paralympian Mr. Rampal Para Athletics (High Jump)	Paralympian & Arjuna Awardee Mr. Praveen Kumar Para Athletics (High Jump)

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leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
The monotony of your hum-drum existence will get to you today, says Ganesh. A change of décor is what you may have in mind. Money may not be an issue, and a quick fix may result in a little partying in the evening. You want to show off your beautiful and serene ambience, don't you?

TAURUS
This is a day for going on a shopping spree, says Ganesh. There are strong chances that you will be buying something durable and lasting, may be the latest fridge on the stalls. Later in the day, you are most likely to visit an exhibition and pick up some artistic and exotic objects.

GEMINI
Ganesh advises you to remain steadfast and disciplined in any work that you take up today. You will be full of enthusiasm, and will try to complete all your pending work. However, you need to make sure that your energies are being channeled in the right direction.

CANCER
Today, you may get to spend a wonderful time with your loved ones, foresees Ganesh. Besides pleasure, the day will also fare well for business. As an entrepreneur, you may be able to see important deals and ventures coming through.

LEO
You are advised against being too emotional today. You will be able to excel in all spheres of your life today owing to your desire to change your attitude towards life. There is a possibility of re-decorating or renovating your house today. All in all, a progressive day awaits, says Ganesh.

VIRGO
Your emotional outlook today will lead to many alterations in your personal behaviour. Ganesh says you are likely to focus on some options that will lead to high spending. In the afternoon, says Ganesh, you are likely to play host to some members of your extended family and friends at home.

LIBRA
Ganesh says today a new romantic relationship may develop and you will enjoy the warmth and love of the companionship of your beloved. This will arouse an energetic and romantic feeling in you. You will be busy the whole day through. Ganesh says all your queries regarding trade and business will be solved today.

SCORPIO
Though not like in an X-Files series, expect to find yourself open to the unknown and the supernatural today, says Ganesh. Time spent at your work station will be troublesome. You may end up spending a small fortune on your health. You shall achieve your short-term targets, predicts Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Ganesh sees you holding the fort to safeguard the interests of your loved ones. Afternoon may be reserved for undertaking a business trip. But a fun-n-frolic outing may well be a good option too! Expect to shell out a few extra bucks though, when you opt for a cosmetic make-over.

CAPRICORN
The day will be spent juggling work and meeting personal demands, says Ganesh. It may virtually be a tug-of-war, in which your friends and relatives will emerge victorious as you will end up spending more time with them. You will catch up with gossips that you missed while trying to impress your boss.

AQUARIUS
Legal issues may be resolved in your favour today and that will bring a huge sigh of relief! You may just wish to spend time with your family after all that anxiety. Ganesh says you should go for more exciting stuff to take your mind off.

PISCES
Your time today will be carved between dealing with the diverse challenges that your profession will conjure up, and in caring for your family members. However, you ought to come out of your worries at the end of the day smelling like a rose, says Ganesh.



JANET JACKSON SHARES HER BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT

Janet Jackson's marriages are her biggest 'disappointment', particularly her third. Asked her biggest disappointment, Janet told *The Guardian's* Saturday magazine: "Every one of my marriages." But she then later corrected herself and clarified: "Just the last one."

DEMI MOORE'S PARENTS LET HER DRIVE AT 13

Demi Moore has hit out at the 'lunacy' of her parents for let her drive on the roads at the age of 13 - and in return had her promise to lie to cops and say she had stolen their car if she ever got caught.



KOREAN HONOUR FOR ANUSHKA

Mumbai: Actress Anushka Sen has recently been honoured with an award recognising her efforts to strengthen the relationship between Korea and India. Expressing her gratitude, she shared that this recognition will undoubtedly inspire her to continue fostering cultural connections and engaging in meaningful projects.

Taking to Instagram, Anushka, who has 39.4 million followers, shared a series of pictures from the award ceremony. In the snapshots, she exudes effortless style in a chic black crop jacket paired with matching trousers. Opting for a fresh, no-makeup look, she sported her hair in a sleek ponytail, completing her ensemble with trendy black shoes.

In the caption, she wrote: "Another moment to share with you all, honoured to receive the award from CEO Mr. Hyun Woo Kim of SBA(Seoul Business Agency) for my contribution to strengthening the relationship between Korea and India. Thank you @asialab_ceo Director Lee Jung-sub for this. My dream of working in K Drama, being appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Korea Tourism Organisation and now getting recognised for my contribution in strengthening Korea X India relationship will definitely motivate me to do more."

Earlier, Anushka also made headlines for being the only Indian to feature on billboards in Korea. Recently, she has joined forces with the South Korean pistol shooter Kim Ye-ji, who has won the silver medal in the Paris Olympics 2024, for a global project, reportedly titled Crush.



IANS

Sharvari's 'masterclass' experience

Mumbai: Sharvari Wagh, who is currently filming for Alpha alongside Alia Bhatt, recently opened up about her experience of working with the acclaimed actress.

In an exclusive interview with Bollywood Hungama, Sharvari expressed her admiration for Alia's talent and work ethic. When asked what she learned from working with Alia, Sharvari responded, "Everything. She's an incredible human being and an incredible artist. I just think that every day that I'm on set, it's a masterclass for me."

Sharvari also revealed that being part of such a prestigious project gives her both validation and drive to push herself further. "It gives me a lot of motivation and somewhere a little bit of validation that I must be doing something right."

Sharvari further added, "I get paid to be an actor and sit next to her and watch her perform. It's such a learning experience."

Alpha, directed by Shiv Rawail, promises to be a thrilling addition to Yash Raj Films' growing spy universe. The film will also feature Hrithik Roshan and other big names from the Hindi film industry.

AGENCIES

Krystle's shout out to TV actors

Mumbai: Krystle D'Souza's last major role in a fiction TV show was in *Belan Wali Bahu* in 2018. She made her OTT debut with *Fitrat* in 2019, and her first film, *Chehre*, was released in 2021. Like many of her peers, Krystle has previously discussed the discrimination she faced as a TV actor while auditioning for films and web series. In an interview with a news portal, she revealed that the situation has not improved, even after appearing in a film with Amitabh Bachchan, a rare achievement for many.

She said, "It still happens. It has been six-seven years since I haven't done TV, but I still get to hear it a lot. People use the words 'TV actor' in a derogatory way. TV made me who I'm today. It has given me my biggest hits. But I still hear words like, 'Oh, you're from TV, so casting you looks difficult.' But I don't mind it. I'm from TV and I'm proud of it."

When asked if her admirers still refer to her as her character from *Ek Hazaron Mein Meri Behna Hai*, she said, "Tomorrow, if I go to any small town, they'll call me Jeevika and ask me ki Manvi kahaan hai? On the contrary, if there's a film actor standing right next to them, they might not even know them. That's why I feel that TV has a great reach among masses. A big shout-out to them."

AGENCIES

Tina's unique obsessions

Mumbai: Television actress Tina Datta Saturday delighted her fans by sharing nostalgic throwback glimpses from her unforgettable vacation in the Maldives. In her heartfelt post, she revealed her three greatest obsessions: the stunning clouds, the warm sun, and her beloved mother.

The diva, known for her captivating role in the show *Uttaran*, took to Instagram, where she has 4.7 million followers, to share a series of enchanting photos from her Maldives getaway.

The snapshots beautifully capture her enjoying the serene blue sea alongside her mother, Madhumita Datta, highlighting the special moments they shared against the stunning backdrop of their idyllic surroundings. The post is



captioned as:

"Meet my obsession- The (cloud emoji), the (sun emoji), and my mom. Maybe the sky is meant to teach us that we are beautiful in every shade #nature #sky #sea #sun"

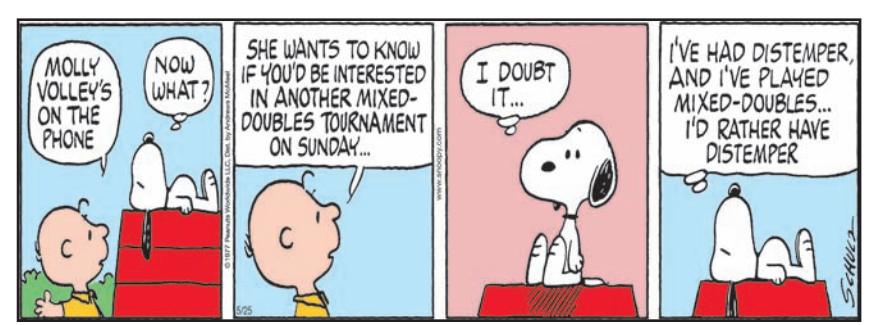
Born in Kolkata, Tina, made her debut at the age of five with the show *Sister Nivedita*. She made her film debut as a child artist with the Bengali film *Pita Maata Santan*. She also featured in Rituparno Ghosh's film *Chokher Bali*, alongside Aishwarya Rai.

Soon after, she essayed the role of young Lalita in *Vidya Balan* and Saif Ali Khan's movie *Parineeta*.

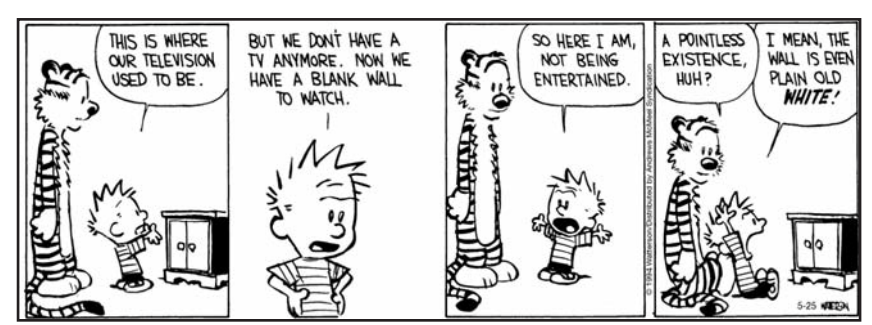
The 32-year-old was also a part of the controversial reality show *Bigg Boss 16*, in which MC Stan emerged as the winner.

ANS

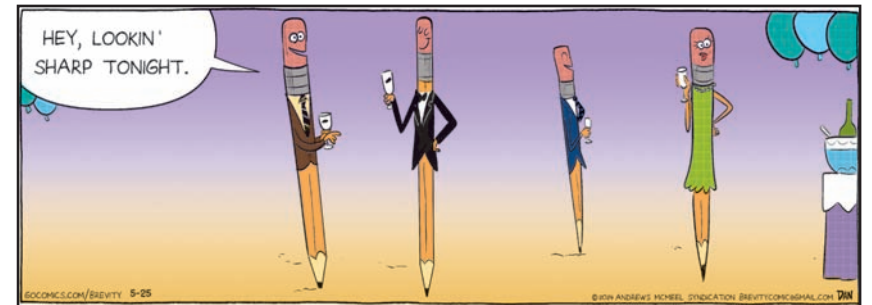
PEANUTS



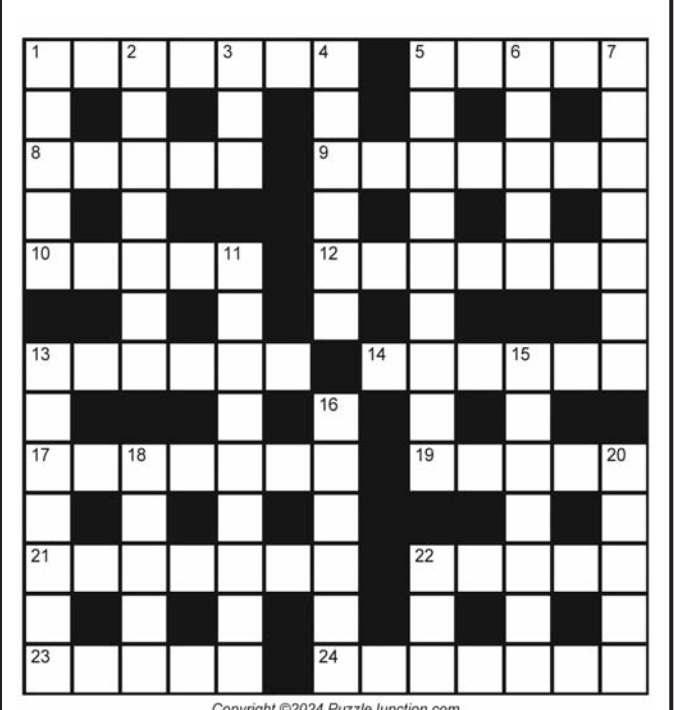
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



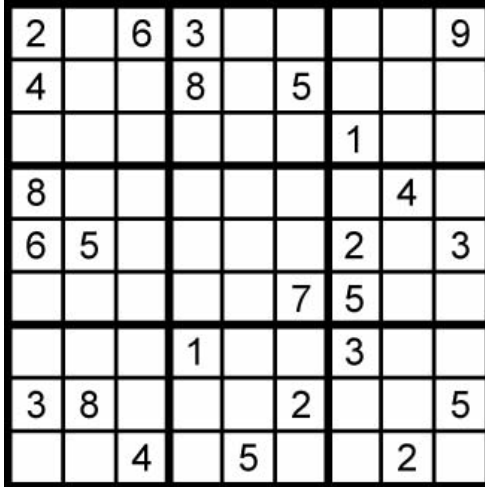
FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Beelzebub
 - 5 Vestibule
 - 8 Semitransparent fabric
 - 9 Medical examiner
 - 10 Spirited horse
 - 12 Cure-all
 - 13 Pass by
 - 14 Chewy candy
 - 17 Seedless raisin
 - 19 Rope fiber
 - 21 Cradlesong
- Down**
- 22 Acacia and albizia, e.g.
 - 23 Alcove
 - 24 Dereliction of duty
 - 1 Experiences
 - 2 Greek fire-breathing female monster
 - 3 Enemy
 - 4 Formula
 - 5 Just plain wrong
 - 6 Quinine water
 - 7 Football stat
 - 11 Fundamentally different
 - 13 5th letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 15 Type of lens
 - 16 Ravine
 - 18 Fragrant flower
 - 20 Hungarian composer and piano virtuoso
 - 22 Label

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.

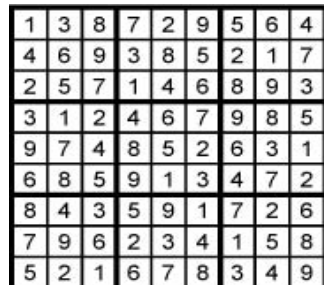


SOLUTIONS



CROSSWORD

SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

IMBALANCE OF POWER



India is the only country to be part of both Quad and BRICS though how it juggles both groups having come to represent two opposing world orders remains to be seen

to resolve the crisis amounts to an exercise in superfluity except to create the ground for the forthcoming BRICS Summit hosted by Russia in Kazan (Oct 21-22) where all these countries would be present besides the five new members inducted last year after the G20 Summit. It is interesting to note that Türkiye, a NATO member, has shown interest in joining BRICS and applied for membership supported by Moscow. Meanwhile, NSA Doval's attendance at the BRICS NSAs meeting at St Petersburg and subsequent meeting with Putin to brief him "personally" on Modi's meeting with Zelenskyy and the latter's asking for a bilateral meeting with the Indian PM on the sidelines of the BRICS summit brings India and Russian further close on the Ukraine issue though that may not necessarily translate to a peaceful solution as advocated by New Delhi. That Doval also met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at the same forum, ostensibly to find a quicker solution to the 4-year long border impasse on the eve of a possible Modi-Xi meeting in Kazan, could be yet another attempt of the Modi government at revisiting its China policy.

In this context Modi's visit to the US to attend the Quad Summit in Wilmington, Delaware on 21 Sept followed by his address at the UN Summit of the Future on 23 Sept gives an opportunity to expand India's mediatory efforts in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. India is the only country to be part of both Quad and BRICS though how it juggles both groups having come to represent two opposing world orders remains to be seen. As an emerging pole of the Global South, India's efforts at mediation on the Russia-Ukraine conflict would be watched with keen interest both at the UN and beyond.

The writer is a retired diplomat. Views expressed are personal.

British PM Stramer to Washington and meeting with Biden to discuss the possibility of sending long range missiles to Ukraine met with a cold response from the Biden administration except for an additional financial assistance of \$250 million. In an election year with Biden's lame-duck tenure, the administration cannot risk taking up a direct affront with Moscow, particularly when US intelligence has reported that Russia could be engaged in influencing the US Presidential elections. In fact, the influential social media Telegram's founder of part-Russian ancestry, Pavel Durov's arrest at the Paris Bourget airport soon after his arrival from Baku and sustained interrogation for 4 days after which he was directed not to leave French territory, is believed to be linked to messages being passed on to USA on the Telegram platform, besides child pornography and other abuses. In this context, Trump's assertion that he would put an end to the war soon after getting elected has further fuelled speculations though the manner in which he would end the war is not quite clear.

Under the circumstances, Putin's naming of China, Brazil and India as possible mediators

similar to Russians. If this be the leitmotif for the prolonged Russian war, its endgame is very much a part of global anxiety and diplomatic conjecture.

Already, there are several prescriptive suggestions on the table; Ukraine's 10-point peace plan incorporated in the Burgenstock Communiqué (India had not signed the Communiqué), China and Brazil's 6-point plan at de-escalation not agreed to by Kyiv and India's proposal made during PM Modi's meeting with Zelenskyy on 23 Aug for a face-to-face meeting between the two parties, a proposal which had been made light of by Zelenskyy. Yet the West's insistence in pushing back Russia's aggression, getting its annexed territories in the Donbas back and getting Kyiv into the European fold (read membership in EU and NATO) would not only negate the spirit of negotiations but seriously jeopardize the European balance of power which is what Putin ultimately desires, to create rift within the European bloc by weaning away certain countries on to its side. Putin's assertion that use of foreign arms and missiles on Russian territory would amount to a war with NATO seems to have alarmed the Biden administration to the point that the recent visit of

Ukraine-born Marxist revolutionary Leon Trotsky, comrade-in-arms of Lenin and Stalin, had famously questioned, "If the end justifies the means, what justifies the end?" and he had answered it himself, "The end is itself a means to another end." This could have been the vindication for the long-drawn Bolshevik revolution at the beginning of 20th century, but a century and two decades later, it has found expression in yet another Russian upheaval in the continuing Russian aggression against Ukraine.

In this context, President Putin's recent comments made at the Russian Economic Forum at Vladivostok on pursuing peace negotiations in pursuance of the Istanbul talks held soon after the 22 February invasion, has come as a surprise, a cold comfort of sorts for Western powers backing Ukraine in its counter-offensive against Moscow. Putin's remarks, aimed in the context of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy's forthcoming visit to USA to ask for more US arms to hit Russia directly in its territory, added to the surprise invasion and occupation of Kursk and taking a large number of Russian soldiers as captives could also amount to a wake-up call against the background of Putin's earlier provocative statement of the possibility of using tactical nuclear weapons if Ukraine continued to use foreign arms and munitions on Russian soil.

Putin's statement needs to be juxtaposed against the indiscriminate missile and drone attacks of Russia against Ukraine civilians and power infrastructure in Poltava, Lviv and other regions. Though there is an abject shortage of manpower among Russia's forces, Putin has made his position clear, that evacuating the eastern Ukrainian territories is non-negotiable. As such, Putin deems Ukraine as part of Russian territory, Ukrainians being a Slavic people of Orthodox Christian belief



Malay Mishra

THOUGH THERE IS AN ABJECT SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER AMONG RUSSIA'S FORCES, PUTIN HAS MADE HIS POSITION CLEAR, THAT EVACUATING THE EASTERN UKRAINIAN TERRITORIES IS NON-NEGOTIABLE



Akaar Patel

If one were to follow the news conscientiously nowadays, they'd find Indian authorities outlawing at least one non-governmental organisation every month

Discrediting Dissent

Here are two headlines from this month. One is 'FATF's Thumbs-Up To India's Efforts To Tackle Terror Financing, Money Laundering: Why It Matters'. Another was 'FATF Flags Terror Financing Lacunae In Indian NGO Sector'.

Let us see what these mean when put together. If one were to follow the news conscientiously nowadays, they'd find Indian authorities outlawing at least one non-governmental organisation every month. And the closure of these organisations at least finds a mention in the newspapers. There are many others, in fact the majority, that shut down in the darkness with no news of their demise. This is because under this government data on the closure of NGOs has been pulled down from the official websites where these things were previously made public. Outrage and protest against the relentless shrinking of civic space by the Indian government has also been criminalised. Deliberate attempts are made to force the civil society into submission every day.

But that is exactly what we need to be questioning right now - clearly and loudly. What makes it an especially opportune moment is that the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has published India's mutual evaluation report (MER) after a gap of 14 years calling out India for non-compliance with its standards in regulating the non-profit sector.

Now one may ask - what is Financial Action Task Force and why is it important? The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body with 40 members mandated to tackle global money laundering, terrorist financing and countering the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It functions by setting international standards for countries and then regularly evaluating and ranking countries' anti-money laundering and countering of financing of terrorism regime against those standards. India is one of the member states of FATF.

FATF is important because in 2023, civil society groups in India documented that Indian government had consistently exploited FATF's recommendations to either enact or tighten the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) - three laws that have become convenient tools of oppression at the hands of the Indian authorities against those who dare to speak up against the government.

Specifically, FATF operates through a peer-review system to mutually assess the full and effective implementation of its 40 recommendations on money laundering and nine special recommendations on terrorist funding by its member states. In line with the mutual evaluation process, a country's compliance is examined by other FATF member states, resulting in the production of an in-depth assessment report with targeted recommendations to address shortcomings called a mutual evaluation report. The countries who fail to comply with the standards, are put under increased monitoring and termed as "high risk jurisdiction," externally referred to as a "grey or blacklist." In the past, countries such as Turkey and Pakistan have been put on these lists.

After a series of delays, India's mutual evaluation process started in November 2023 and concluded in June 2024. On the conclusion of the evaluation process, FATF published its summary findings. On the one hand, FATF lauded India for its "high level of technical compliance" with FATF's other standards. This is what the first headline we began with refers to. On the other hand, and this is about the second headline, it called on the country to ensure that the measures it has put in place to prevent the non-profit sector from being abused for terrorist financing are implemented in line with a risk-based approach mentioned in FATF's Recommendation 8.

So what does this mean? FATF Recommendation 8 requires that laws and regulations to combat money laundering and terrorism financing target only those Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) that a country has identified - through a careful, targeted "risk-based" analysis - as vulnerable to terrorism financing abuse, and that fall under the FATF definition of NPO. It also recommends that corrective measures must be focused and proportionate to avoid disrupting the legitimate activities of NPOs. However, in complete defiance of Recommendation 8, the Indian authorities have not only passed laws that are severely overbroad in nature but continue to exploit them against civil society organisations and human rights defenders for carrying on their legitimate human rights work.

With a mere 2.2 per cent cases registered under India's anti-terror law resulting in conviction between 2016 and 2019 and at least 83 per cent of the cases pending before the court by the end of 2022, FATF also called on India to address the delays in concluding prosecutions under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. It recommended the same for prosecutions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act that has seen only 31 cases completing trial in the past nine year, indicating a clear lack of efficiency.

These recommendations, however, did not find a mention in the press release issued by India's Ministry of Finance that self-congratulated the country for an "outstanding outcome" in FATF's review. The convenient cherry-picking of recommendations by the Indian government is also evident from its continuous cancellation of the FCRA licenses of NGOs even after the review and misuse of UAPA and PMLA to shut down critical voices.

India will again be reviewed after three years. In this time, the government needs to ensure that it is reaching out to the non-profit sector and conducting an adequate risk assessment to put in place measures that are focused and proportionate and not overbroad and vague like the FCRA. It also needs to put an end to politically motivated prosecutions under India's anti-terror and money laundering laws. True governance does not lie in discrediting dissent.

WISDOM CORNER

- When Reason died, then Wisdom was born**
SRI AUROBINDO
- We need enlightenment, not just individually but collectively, to save the planet. We need to awaken ourselves. We need to practice mindfulness if we want to have a future, if we want to save ourselves and the planet**
THICH NHAT HANH
- Always say 'yes' to the present moment... Surrender to what is. Say 'yes' to life - and see how life starts suddenly to start working for you rather than against you**
ECKHART TOLLE

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Helping women adapt to extreme heat



Jess Ayers & Helen Mountford

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO EXTREME HEAT IS NO EASY FEAT, ESPECIALLY FOR THE MORE THAN 500 MILLION WOMEN IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

Climate shocks - from heatwaves to droughts, floods to wildfires - often hit women the hardest. New research published this May in The Lancet found that even in wealthy European countries, women died at nearly twice the rate as men from extreme heat over the last two decades. According to Marcos Quijal, one of the report's authors, the findings "reflect a global trend."

In July, as heat records accumulated, causing even more deaths and economic damage, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called for international action to address what he described as our "global boiling." But protecting vulnerable communities from extreme heat requires deep commitment and significant funding, both of which seem to be in short supply.

The flow of climate finance has traditionally been skewed toward emissions-reduction efforts and clean-energy projects, because adaptation measures are viewed as being too location-specific and hard to scale, as well as generating low returns. The UN Environment Programme's 2023 Adaptation Gap Report found that climate-

finance flows in 2021 amounted to only about one-tenth of the estimated \$215-387 billion per year that developing countries need to meet their adaptation needs. Philanthropic foundations, however, are catalyzing investment by showing that adaptation is more scalable than previously thought. This summer, Climate Resilience for All, a global NGO focused on helping climate-vulnerable women build resilience, partnered with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), a trade union for informal workers in India, and local insurance companies Swiss Re and ICICI Lombard. These public- and private-sector groups teamed up with philanthropies to buy low-cost heatwave insurance for 50,000 members across 22 districts. As temperatures soared above 46° Celsius, every woman received a pay-out, averaging \$12.38 per person.

For women with strenuous and precarious jobs, the money was crucial for weathering the extreme heat. It helped them feed their families and pay their children's school fees when they couldn't work, restock their shelves as perishables spoiled

faster, and pay for treatment of heat-related injuries and illness. Such an intervention may seem trivial, but it is enough to protect vulnerable individuals from being driven into poverty by climate shocks.

"I enrolled 350 members. When they got ₹400 [just under \$5], they said it was like ₹4000, as it came at a critical time of life. Some women repaid debts, others paid for their children's education and bought fresh goods," reported Sarojben, a grassroots leader of SEWA, adding, "It brings dignity to us."

This pioneering insurance scheme is adaptation at its best: directly reaching those most in need when they need support the most. Moreover, the programme is scalable and delivers significant social and economic benefits, enabling women to move up the development ladder and support themselves and their families on firmer financial footing.

Globally, women - including the leaders of SEWA, Climate Resilience for All, and many other organisations - have some of the best ideas for minimising the effects of climate change, often based on their practical experience. Moreover, many of

these solutions can be deployed at scale. But helping millions more women protect their livelihoods and their health in the face of unrelenting heat requires more funding.

Philanthropy is a start. All stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil-society organizations, and local communities, have a role to play in reducing the risks of extreme heat, protecting human health, and offering economic opportunities for everyone.

Building resilience to extreme heat is no easy feat, especially for the more than 500 million women in the informal economy. Innovative solutions such as heat insurance do exist, but philanthropies, governments, and private investors must work together to scale them up faster to counter the effects of rapidly rising temperatures. The payoff will be worth it, because boosting women's climate resilience benefits us all.

Jess Ayers is CEO of Quadrature Climate Foundation. Helen Mountford is President and CEO of ClimateWorks Foundation.

Cautious treading

Sir, This refers to "India is a leader within Quad, says US," Orissa Post, Sept 21. This remark by Mira Rapp Hooper, White House official, came in the backdrop of PM Narendra Modi's US visit to participate in the annual Quad meeting. PM Modi's visit comes at a critical juncture, marked by electoral junctions in the US and diplomatic challenges. India is cautiously treading the line between engaging with both Republicans and Democrats as the US election looms, ensuring it does not appear to favour either side. At the heart of the current diplomatic equation is India's need to maintain a balanced relationship with both political factions in the US. Modi's rapport with Trump may have served India well during the latter's presidency, but it would be risky to appear partisan in the evolving geopolitical landscape. With Vice-President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee, India must ensure that its strategic ties with the US are not jeopardised, regardless of who wins the White House. Also, this visit focuses on multilateral engagements like the Quad summit and the UN Summit for the Future, marking a shift from Modi's earlier high-profile, personality-driven diplomacy to a more nuanced approach. The agenda includes strengthening ties on regional security, technology and climate change, along with solidifying India's position as a global peacemaker.

N Sadasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

Reckless activities

Sir, This refers to "SC pulls up CBI" (Orissa Post, September 21). It may be a conspiracy of the CBI to get all the cases relating to post-poll violence in West Bengal in 2021 transferred by levelling scandalous allegations against the entire judiciary in the state. Kudos to the apex court for foiling the attempt of the CBI by cautioning the additional solicitor-general SV Raju who may have indirectly pampered the advocate concerned for reckless drafting of the petition. In my opinion, the Union Law minister should take cognisance of the matter and convey the message that such reckless activities of the CBI shall never be tolerated.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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national

of the day quote

The 'Parivartan Yatra' will continue in the state until the JMM-led alliance government is dethroned from power. The JMM, Congress and the RJD have indulged in corruption and looted Jharkhand

SAMRAT CHOUDHARY | BIHAR DEPUTY CM

The country is a union of states. The attempt of the BJP to prove its dominance under the veil of 'one nation one election' by hurting the spirit of union of states should be repelled

A REVANTH REDDY | TELANGANA CM

We are constructing new phases for Pune Metro. As many as 3.5 lakh people travelled by Metro for immersions during the Ganapati festival

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHA DY CM

SHORT TAKES

Soldier killed in road accident

Jammu: An Army jawan was killed and six others injured when their vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said Saturday. The accident took place near Sukrala Devi temple on Machedi-Billawar road Friday when the troops were on patrol in the remote area, they said.

Bihar: Panchayat head shot dead

Samastipur (Bihar): The head of a panchayat in Bihar's Samastipur district was shot dead in Halai area, police said Saturday. The assailant has been arrested and an investigation is underway, they said. The deceased has been identified as Narayan Sharma, the 'mukhiya' of Banviro panchayat in Samastipur.

Student jumps off fifth floor, dies

Indore: A Class XI student allegedly committed suicide by jumping off a building in Madhya Pradesh's Indore Saturday, police said. Vinayak Mishra, a student of Barfani Academy living in Nilgiri hostel at Swadesh Bhawan, jumped from the fifth floor of the building in the morning, MIG police station in-charge Manish Lodha said.

Ex-MP's nephew shot dead in Guj

Chhota Udepur: Kuldeep Rathwa, the nephew of former MP Ramsinh Rathwa, was shot and killed during a scuffle related to the Gram Panchayat elections in Pipladi village in Gujarat Saturday. The incident occurred when two individuals allegedly opened fire, resulting in Kuldeep's death. Reports said that Kuldeep Rathwa had previously defeated one of the accused, Shankar Rathwa, twice in the Panchayat elections, leading to threats against his life.

9 from one family attempt suicide

Rajkot: Nine members of the Soni family from the Kevdavadi area of Rajkot attempted mass suicide by consuming poison Saturday. The family members have been rushed to Civil Hospital for emergency treatment. Reports said that the Soni family - jewellers by profession - took the extreme step after traders from Mumbai withheld ₹2.75 crore for 22-carat gold jewellery they had supplied.



Hemant Soren is the most corrupt CM. He has played with India's healthy democratic practices and indulged in corruption. India will never accept any tainted person

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

IAF TO HOLD MEGA AIRSHOW

Seventy-two aircraft including frontline fighter jets of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will carry out a diverse range of acrobatic manoeuvres and formations over the iconic Marina Beach in Chennai October 6. The mega airshow will be held as part of the IAF's 92nd anniversary celebrations. IAF Day is celebrated October 8 every year



Atishi urges Delhiites to make Kejriwal CM again

Atishi hailed Kejriwal for setting an example in morality by stepping down as the chief minister despite getting bail from Supreme Court in the excise policy case



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 21: In her first remarks after taking oath, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi hit out at the BJP Saturday for hatching a "conspiracy" against her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal and urged the people of the capital to ensure that the AAP national convener returns to the top post again after the Assembly polls due early next year. Addressing a press conference here, Atishi said it is an "emotional day" for her as Kejriwal will not continue to be the Chief Minister. "It is an emotional moment for me as he will not be the chief minister. He understood the pain of every person. He ensured free treatment for people, worked to improve the lives of the students of government schools, brought the provision of free bus rides for women."

"The BJP implicated him in a false case and did everything to break him," the Chief Minister said, as she referred to Kejriwal as her "guru" and thanked him for giving her this opportunity. With the Assembly polls due early next year, Atishi said the people of the national capital must ensure that Kejriwal becomes the Chief Minister again so that the free services like free electricity and water continue. She accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of trying to stop the facilities being enjoyed by people under the Kejriwal government. "I assure you that since Kejriwal has come out of jail now, we will not let any conspiracy of the BJP succeed," she said. Atishi hailed Kejriwal for setting an example in morality by stepping down as the chief

13 portfolios for CM

New Delhi Chief Minister Atishi will retain all the 13 portfolios, including education, revenue, finance, power and PWD, that she held in the previous government in the national capital headed by Arvind Kejriwal. A proposal from the Chief Minister for allocation of work among the ministers of her cabinet has been approved by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, officials said Saturday. Atishi's predecessor Kejriwal did not hold any portfolio. Atishi, the eighth Chief Minister of Delhi, has retained four ministers from the previous government -- Saurabh Bhargava, Gopal Rai, Kailash Gahlot and Imran Hussain. First-time MLA from Sultanpur Majra Mukesh Ahlawat is a new member in her Cabinet.

minister despite getting bail from Supreme Court in the excise policy case.

BANGALORE HORROR

30 pieces of woman's body found in fridge



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 21: A 29-year-old woman's dismembered body was found in a house in Malleswaram here, police sources said Saturday. According to police, Mahalakshmi's body, cut into over 30 pieces, was stuffed in a refrigerator. Senior police officers reached the spot and barricaded the road leading to the building where the body was found in a single bedroom house, where the victim was staying alone. Police suspect it to be a case of murder, which took place about a week ago. An investigation has been launched into the case. Additional Commissioner of Police (West Zone) N Satheesh Kumar said, "A woman's body was found chopped into pieces and stored in a fridge at a house within the Vyalikaval police sta-

Police suspect it to be a case of murder, which took place about a week ago. An investigation has been launched into the case

tion limits. It appeared to have been done 4-5 days ago." He said the dog squad and the forensic experts too visited the spot and started the investigation. "The body has been identified. The probe is going on. We will give more information after the investigation. She was settled in Karnataka but is originally from another state," Kumar told reporters. It is learnt that the woman was living separately from her husband. While Mahalakshmi lived in Malleswaram and was working in a mall, her husband worked in a hermitage away from the city. After learning about the incident, he too came to the spot. The incident was a stark reminder of the brutal murder of Shraddha Walker by her live-in partner Aftab Poonawalla May 18, 2022 at Mehrauli in Delhi. Twenty-eight-year-old Poonawalla allegedly strangled Walker and sawed her body into 35 pieces which he kept in a 300-litre fridge for almost three weeks at his residence before dumping them across the city.



People visit a painting exhibition organised in protest against the alleged rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata, West Bengal

Chief justices appointed in 7 high courts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 21: New chief justices were appointed in seven high courts, including in Delhi, Saturday. Separately, Justice M S Ramachandra Rao, who heads the Himachal Pradesh High Court, has been transferred as the chief justice of the Jharkhand High Court. His transfer came days after the Jharkhand government moved

the Supreme Court against the BJP-led Centre for not implementing the apex court collegium's recommendation to send Justice Rao to head the state high court. The appointments came after the Supreme Court Collegium amended some of its July 11 recommendations Tuesday. While Justice Manmohan, the acting chief justice of the Delhi High Court, has been appointed as the court's chief justice, Justice

Rajiv Shakdher, a Delhi High Court judge, has been elevated as the chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court. Justice Shakdher is due to retire October 18. The collegium had recommended that upon his retirement on attaining the age of 62, Justice G S Sandhawalia be appointed as the chief justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh. This recommendation is pending with the government and may come

through ahead of Justice Shakdher's retirement. Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar, a Bombay High Court judge, has been appointed as the chief justice of the Kerala High Court. Justice K R Shriram of the Bombay High Court has been made the chief justice of the Madras High Court. Justice Indra Prasanna Mukerji of the Calcutta High Court has been appointed as the chief justice of the High Court of Meghalaya.

AI could be capable of learning by thinking: Researchers

ALBERT EINSTEIN AND GALILEO GALILEI ARE KNOWN TO HAVE USED THOUGHT EXPERIMENTS FOR COMING UP WITH THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY AND INSIGHTS ABOUT GRAVITY, RESPECTIVELY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 21: Artificial intelligence (AI) too could be capable of 'learning by thinking', which is known to be core to a great discovery, according to a review. Cognitive scientists have doc-

umented how people learn from observation, in which one acquires knowledge by observing the external world. However, another way of learning - a relatively neglected one - is 'learning by thinking', in which one gains knowledge without input from the external world, such as through thought experiments or self-explanations, according to Tania Lombrozo, a professor of psychology at the Princeton University and the author of the review published in the journal 'Trends in Cognitive Sciences'. In a thought experiment, one hypothetically explores a theory or a principle by thinking through its consequences, whereas in learning through self-explanations, one makes a sense of new information by relating it with what they al-



ready know. Lombrozo's review showed that this process of thinking may not be exclusive to humans and that AI too is capable of correcting itself and arriving at new conclusions through 'learning by thinking'. In the review, Lombrozo said, when asked to elaborate on a

complex topic, AI may correct or refine its initial response based on the explanation it provides. The author continued that in the gaming industry, simulation engines are used to approximate real-world outcomes, and models can use outputs of these simulations as inputs to learning. Further, asking a language

model to draw analogies can lead it to answer questions more accurately than it would with simple questions, Lombrozo said. A form of AI, a large language model is trained on massive amounts of textual data and can, therefore, respond to users' requests in the natural language. Prompting AI to engage in step-by-step reasoning can lead it to answers it would fail to reach with a direct query, the author added. In humans, the authors explained that people can acquire knowledge through explanation, simulation, analogy, and reasoning. Giving examples of 'learning by thinking' in humans, Lombrozo said that explaining how a microwave works to a child might reveal gaps in our understanding. The author

explained that in humans, examples of 'learning by thinking' can include explaining how a microwave works to a child, during which we might come across gaps in our understanding. Another example stated was that of rearranging furniture, which often involves picturing different layouts in one's mind before making physical changes in a room. The comparison of 'learning by thinking' examples in humans and AI "poses the question of why both natural and artificial minds have these characteristics," according to Lombrozo. When one learns something new, they may not know exactly how the information will serve them in the future, and so, will be stashed away in their minds until the context makes it relevant, the author said.

national

of the day quote

The government will not compromise on law and order and strict action will be taken against negligent police personnel

You should understand that we have escaped from it...we have escaped from a disease more virulent than Coronavirus

There was no wrongdoing on his part. No matter who says otherwise, all such claims can be dismissed with contempt, and no investigation is required into these matters

X POST OF THE DAY

In UP, a 20 year old monster named Rinku was arrested on the charges of raping a 17 year old girl. He was still given bail. He came out and this time shot her dead in front of her mother and brother. Welcome to Yogi's Ram Rajya

SHORT TAKES

■ BJP worker accused of assaulting minor

Tikamgarh (MP): Police has registered a case against a BJP worker, recently appointed as a local representative by Union minister Virendra Kumar, for allegedly sexually assaulting a 7-year-old girl in Madhya Pradesh's Tikamgarh district. The minister Saturday removed accused Ashish Tiwari from his post after the alleged crime came to light. Tiwari was absconding after the First Information Report was registered, said a police official here. Union Minister and local MP Virendra Kumar had September 10 named Tiwari as his 'sansad pratidinhi' (local MP's representative) for a government school.

■ Woman gets stuck in flyover pillar

Noida: A woman got stuck on the pier -- some 35 ft above the road -- where she fell after her scooter lost control on a flyover here and hit a divider Saturday, officials said. Two people who went down to help the woman also got stuck there. They were later rescued as the local police and the fire bridge personnel rushed to the spot, they said. The incident happened at 12.45 pm when the woman along with her friend was travelling from Sector 18 to their home in Ghaziabad on a two-wheeler, they said.

■ 8 Naxalites surrender

Bijapur: Eight Naxalites, three of them carrying a cumulative cash reward of ₹11 lakh on their heads, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district Saturday, a senior police official said. The ultras, including a woman, were active in various wings of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) in Gangaloor, National Park and Usoor Pamed areas, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Kumar Yadav said.



For over a decade, the BJP has made hollow promises and failed to deliver on its commitments to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Unemployment is soaring, developmental projects have been delayed and basic services remain out of reach for many

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE | CONGRESS PRESIDENT

DHARAVI TENSE

Tension prevailed in Dharavi slum colony Saturday morning after hundreds of residents blocked a road to oppose the Mumbai civic body's plan to demolish an alleged illegal portion of a mosque, an official said



Flood-like situation in Bihar: CM inspects affected areas

THE RISING TREND IS NOT LIMITED TO THE GANGA, ALMOST ALL RIVERS IN THE STATE ARE AFFECTING LOW-LYING LOCALITIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Sept 21: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inspected the rising water levels of the Ganga at key locations in Patna and Hajipur Saturday and urged district officials to "remain alert and be prepared to tackle any situation" in light of the developments.

Officials said the river is flowing above the danger mark at Digha Ghat, Gandhi Ghat, Hathidah, and Maner in Patna district and consequently several low-lying areas in Patna and Hajipur (Vaishali district) have been inundated.

The rising trend is not limited to the Ganga, almost all rivers in the state are affecting low-lying localities. So far, around



five people —four in Saran and one in Bhojpur — have lost their lives after their areas were inundated, they added.

Accompanied by senior officials, the Chief Minister inspected Ganga's water levels near J P Setu, Kangan Ghat, Gandhi Ghat, and Krishna Ghat. A statement from the Chief

Minister's Office (CMO) said, "the CM directed the district administration and other officials concerned to remain alert and be prepared if the water level rises further."

According to the state Disaster Management Department (DMD), approximately 12 districts along the Ganga are ex-

periencing flood-like situation and around 9.78 lakh people living in low-lying areas have been affected by rising water levels. A total of 327 village panchayats in these districts have been impacted, with Bhojpur and Patna each reporting a maximum of 43 affected panchayats, officials added. Around 1,280 boats are being used in rescue and relief operations, officials said.

The 12 affected districts are Buxar, Bhojpur, Saran, Vaishali, Patna, Samastipur, Begusarai, Lakhisarai, Munger, Khagaria, Bhagalpur and Katihar.

Kumar also visited a relief camp for flood-hit people in Hajipur, instructing officials to "take all-out efforts to provide assistance and relief." The state-

ment added that a large number of people from low-lying areas have been evacuated and brought to the camp.

Additionally, the Chief Minister emphasised the need for the agriculture department and Vaishali district administration to ensure that farmers involved in banana plantations receive adequate compensation for crop damage due to flooding.

"The agriculture department has been directed by the CM to conduct an immediate survey to assess the damage to crops...so that compensation is distributed among the affected farmers at the earliest," the statement added. Officials noted that flash floods have destroyed several acres of banana plantations in Vaishali district.

Veteran CPI (M) leader M M Lawrence no more

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Sept 21: Veteran CPI(M) leader M M Lawrence, who was among the leaders involved in the attack on a police station at Edappally here during the Communist uprising in Kerala in 1950, died Saturday, party sources said.

He was 95. His death occurred at a private hospital where he had been receiving treatment for age-related ailments for about a month.



Lawrence's body, which was shifted to the mortuary of the hospital, will be kept at his residence, the CPI(M) Ernakulam district committee office, and the town hall Monday for the public to pay their last respects. The body will later be handed over to the Government Medical College Hospital, Ernakulam, at 4 PM Monday, the CPI(M) said in a statement.

According to CPI(M) leader and State Industries Minister P Rajeeve, the body will be donated to the medical college, fulfilling his last wish, which he had previously discussed with his family.

A former Lok Sabha member representing the Idukki seat, Lawrence served in various capacities, including as a member of the CPI(M) Central Committee, a member of the state secretariat, state general secretary of CITU, and convener of the Left Democratic Front (LDF).

TIRUPATI LADDU ADULTERATION

Will consult priests: AP CM



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Amaravati, Sept 21: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu Saturday said the government will consult pontiffs, sages, priests and other top Hinduism experts on the future course of action to be taken following allegations of animal fat adulteration in Tirupati laddus.

During a recent NDA legislative party meeting, Naidu claimed that the previous YSRCP government did not even spare Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple and used substandard ingredients and animal fat for making the popular Tirupati laddus, known for their unique taste. The Chief Minister said after consultation, the government will take its decision with respect to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), the official custodian of world-renowned Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Tirupati. "We are discussing what to do next and how

to go forward with respect to TTD. After deliberating with pontiffs, priests and Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism) experts, we will decide on how the samprokshana (ritualistic sanitisation) should be done," said Naidu in an official release.

Highlighting the unique glory of the Tirupati laddu, the CM noted that many people tried to make better prasadam (consecrated food) but failed at it.

"In Ayodhya also they tried to replicate Tirumala laddu and workers were also taken from here but it was not possible. This matter was told to me by people from there (Ayodhya)," said Naidu, adding that Tirupati laddu is centuries old.

Further, the CM vowed that the government will accord utmost primacy to the holiness of temples and protect devotees' sentiments. "Every religion will have some customs and traditions and the government needs to protect them," he said, adding that several alleged desecrations

'KMF using GPS to track ghee supplied to TTD'

Bangalore: Karnataka Milk Federation has installed geo-positioning system on its vehicles that supply ghee to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), which manages the Tirupati temple, following a row over substandard 'ghee' used in Tirupati laddus, a top official said Saturday. KMF managing director M K Jagadish said the Nandini Ghee supply was restored after the TTD awarded a tender to KMF a month ago. Nandini is the popular brand of the Karnataka Milk Federation.

occurred in temples during erstwhile YSRCP government.

Castigating YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for his rebuttal to the a nimal fat allegations and the NDDB lab report on the ghee used in laddus, the TDP supremo questioned as to how cow ghee could be procured as low as ₹320 per kg. He also questioned the previous YSRCP government policies such as reverse tendering employed for making laddus offered to the deity and the manner in which Reddy defended himself, alleging that Naidu was indulging in diversion politics.

According to the CM, immediately after the new government formed, he directed TTD executive officer to completely sanitise Tirumala, who took several measures to improve the quality of laddus, which also included blacklisting some suppliers.

ANTI-TOBACCO DISCLAIMER

Govt wants 30 secs unskippable OTT ads



It also proposed displaying anti-tobacco health warnings as prominent static messages at the bottom of the screen during the scenes that show use of tobacco products in all content

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 21: The Union health ministry has proposed mandatory display of "non-skippable" anti-tobacco health spots of at least 30 seconds and audio-visual disclaimer on ill-effects of tobacco use for 20 seconds on OTT platforms as soon as one starts streaming them.

The ministry recently released draft amendments for anti-tobacco rules for over-the-top (OTT) platforms. According to the draft norms, all films of Indian and foreign origin irrespective of their CBFC certification status published and released on or after September 1, 2023 will have to display anti-tobacco health spots of minimum 30 seconds duration each at the beginning and middle of the movie.

"The Cigarette and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Rules 2024" amend the anti-tobacco rules that the ministry had issued in May last year. The 2023 rules also mentioned that every publisher of online curated content displaying tobacco products will have to display anti-tobacco health spots of minimum 30 seconds duration each

at the beginning and middle of the film and display anti-tobacco health warning as a prominent static message at the bottom of the screen during the period of the display of tobacco products or their use.

But the 2023 rules did not explicitly use the term "films" and separately detailing the rules for them. The draft rules issued September 13 state, "All content published in the online curated content platforms, shall display non-skippable and anti-tobacco health spots of minimum 30 seconds duration and non-skippable audio-visual disclaimer on the ill effects of tobacco use, of minimum 20 seconds upon opening the platforms of the publishers of the online curated content."

"So basically streaming platforms now will have to show these health spots and audio-visual disclaimers not just in the beginning and in the middle of the programmes but as soon as someone opens up the streaming platform in the existing current rules, the health spots and audio-visual disclaimers are not displayed immediately after opening the platforms," explained an official source.

The draft rules have been published in the Gazette of India for information of all stakeholders who can send their suggestions and objections till October 13.

Considering public health as a priority issue, India in May last year became the first country to make it mandatory for OTT platforms to display anti-tobacco warnings and disclaimers as seen in movies screened in theatres and television programmes.

EY DEATH CASE

Rahul speaks to victim's family

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 21: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Saturday spoke with the parents of Anna Sebastian Perayil, who died due to alleged extreme work pressure at Ernst & Young, and assured them that he will fight for the cause of improving working conditions for the millions of professionals in India.

Rahul spoke with Anna Sebastian's parents via a video call arranged by the Chairman of All India Professionals' Congress (AIPC) Praveen Chakravarty who visited their home in Kochi.

"I spoke with the heartbroken parents of Anna Sebastian, a bright and ambitious young professional whose life was tragically cut short by toxic and unforgiving work conditions," Rahul said in a post on X.

In the face of unimaginable grief, Anna's mother has shown remarkable courage and selflessness, turning her personal loss into a powerful plea for safer and fairer workplaces for all, he said.

"I have promised Anna's family my personal commitment, along with the full support of the Congress party, to ensure that this tragedy becomes a catalyst for change," Rahul said in a statement.

B'desh reinstates hilsa export to India for Durga Puja

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Sept 21: Bangladesh's interim government Saturday said it would export 3,000 tonnes of hilsa fish to India, coinciding with the upcoming Durga Puja, revising its earlier decision.

Durga puja will be celebrated from October 9 to 13. The development comes days after the interim government, led by Professor Muhammad Yunus, earlier this month imposed a ban on hilsa export to India to meet domestic demand, discontinuing a long-standing tradition of Bangladesh as a "good-will gesture" to its neighbour.

"Against the backdrop of appeals by the exporters, approval has been given to export 3,000 tonnes of hilsa fish (to India), fulfilling the specific conditions on the occasion of the upcoming Durga Puja," the commerce ministry said in a statement.

The ministry asked applicants to contact its relevant wing to obtain export permission.

The previous Awami League government led by deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina had allowed hilsa exports to India between September and October every year as a goodwill gesture, a tradition that had been nurtured for years. Officials said Bangladesh



in 2023 had allowed 79 companies to export a total of 4,000 tonnes to India, coinciding with the Durga Puja, the largest religious festival of Hindu Bengalis.

Bangladesh is the world's largest hilsa producer but it restricts the export of the fish due to high local demand. However, during the Durga Puja festival,

it usually relaxes the ban on the export of the fish, which is a much sought-after delicacy of Bengalis.

India's Fish Importers Association earlier this month urged Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain to allow the export of hilsa to India during Durga Puja, amid uncertainty over the shipments of the fish this year following unrest and change of government in the country.

The Association secretary Syed Anwar Maqsood, in a letter dated September 9, pointed out that while Bangladesh imposed a ban on hilsa export in 2012, it has been allowing its export in a limited quantity from the first week of September until the end of the Durga Puja festival as a goodwill gesture for the last five years.

international

of the day quote

I hope to meet Donald Trump next week when I travel to the US to present Ukraine's victory plan in the war against Russia
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

It is time for all countries with the mission of protecting world peace to come up with solutions that will stop Israel
TAYYIP ERDOGAN | PRESIDENT, TURKEY

There may also be cases when Bangladesh does not like many comments from India. This is not a major issue. We cannot change our neighbours but can only coexist and with a good relationship
TOUHID HOSSAIN | FOREIGN ADVISER, BANGLADESH

SHORT TAKES

China gov jailed over 58 affairs

Beijing: A female official in China has been sentenced to 13 years in prison and fined one million yuan (approximately ₹1.18 crore) for misconduct. According to the South China Morning Post (SCMP), Zhong Yang, nicknamed "the beautiful governor" for her looks, served as the governor and deputy secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Qiannan prefecture, Guizhou province. She has been accused of having sexual relations with 58 male subordinates and accepting nearly 60 million yuan in bribes. The 52-year-old joined the Communist Party at 22, eventually rising to the rank of deputy in the National People's Congress (NPC).

Cartel war kills 53

Mexico City: Some 53 people have been killed and 51 others are missing in Mexico's western Sinaloa state since rival factions of the Sinaloa Cartel began clashing September 9, local authorities said Friday, with gruesome violence showing no signs of abating. The trigger for the conflict between the two most powerful factions of the Sinaloa Cartel, a drug gang, dates back to July, when legendary trafficker and leader of one of those groupings, Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, was arrested in the United States. Since fighting broke out Sept 9, shootouts have disrupted daily life in the capital, Culiacan, where schools have had to close on some days while restaurants and shops shuttered early.

Heavily indebted Lanka votes to decide economic future

Buttressed by a \$2.9bn bailout programme from the IMF, Sri Lanka's economy has posted a tentative recovery but the high cost of living remains a core issue for many voters

REUTERS

Colombo, Sept 21: Millions of Sri Lankans were casting their votes Saturday to elect a president who will face the task of bolstering the South Asian country's fragile economic recovery following its worst financial crisis in decades.

More than 17 million of Sri Lanka's 22 million people are eligible to vote in an election that has shaped up to be a close contest between President Ranil Wickremesinghe, main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and Marxist-leaning challenger Anura Kumara Disسانayake,

ISRAELI STRIKE ON BEIRUT FRIDAY KILLED 37 INCLUDING 16 HEZBOLLAH MEMBERS, TWO SENIOR LEADERS

REUTERS

Beirut, Sept 21: At least 37 people died in an Israeli airstrike on a Beirut suburb Friday, the Lebanese health ministry said Saturday, including three children and seven women, in the deadliest strike in a year of conflict between Hezbollah and Israel as they continue to trade fire.

Hezbollah said overnight that the dead included 16 of its members, including senior leader Ibrahim Aqil and another top commander, Ahmed Wahbi.

The strike sharply escalated the conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed group and inflicted another blow on Hezbollah after two days of attacks this week in which pagers and walkie-talkies used by its members exploded. The total death toll in those attacks has risen to 39, and more than 3,000 were injured.

The attacks on communications devices were widely believed to have been carried out by Israel, which has neither confirmed nor denied its involvement.

Hezbollah-aligned transport minister Ali Hamieh told reporters at the scene of Friday's strike that at least 23 people were still missing.

"The Israeli enemy is taking the region to war," he said. The ministry had dispatched vehicles and equipment to help rescuers dig through the collapsed buildings. "We've been taking out women and children from under the rubble," he said.

Hezbollah confirmed Aqil's

Big blow to Hezbollah



death in a statement just after midnight that called him "one of its top leaders".

It said overnight that 15 other members were also killed, including senior commander Wahbi, who oversaw the military operations of the Radwan special forces during the Gaza war until early 2024.

The Friday afternoon strike targeted a building next door to a nursery, which suffered impact from the strike, a security source said on Friday.

A second security source said multiple missiles slammed into the opening of a building's garage. The explosion tore into the building's lower levels as Aqil met other commanders inside.

In a brief statement Friday evening carried by Israeli media, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel's goals were clear and its actions spoke for themselves.

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant,

COMMS BLASTS

Hungary interviews CEO linked to exploding Hezbollah pagers

Hungarian intelligence services have conducted several interviews with the CEO of BAC Consulting, a Budapest-based company linked to deadly explosions of pagers used by Hezbollah members this week, the Hungarian government said Saturday. Taiwanese pager firm Gold Apollo said Wednesday that the model of pagers used in detonations in Lebanon were made by BAC Consulting, adding it had only licensed out its brand to the company and was not involved in the production of the devices. Cristiana Barsony-Arcidiacono, 49, the Italian-Hungarian CEO and owner of BAC Consulting, told NBC News earlier this week that she did not make the pagers and said she was "just the intermediate." Hungarian intelligence agencies have been conducting their investigation since Wednesday and have interviewed Barsony-Arcidiacono several times, the Hungarian government's international press office said in a statement.

Keralite linked with explosions

Rinsson Jose, a Kerala-born emigrant to Norway, has been linked to the Hezbollah pager blasts in Lebanon, which killed 12 people. Reports have suggested that Norta Global, a Bulgaria-based company owned by him, had a role in supplying the pagers. The relatives of Rinsson Jose, a Malayalee, said that they trust him and he will not be involved in the Lebanon pager blasts. "We speak daily over the phone. However, for the last three days, we have had no contact with Jose. He is a straightforward person and we trust him fully. He will not be part of any wrongdoing. He may have been trapped in these blasts," said Thankachen, a relative of Jose. Jose hails from Wayanad who holds a Norwegian passport and is settled with his wife in Norway's Oslo. Media reports said that Jose owns Norta Global, a company registered in Bulgaria and is believed to have supplied the pager explosives to Lebanon.

With at least 70 people killed in Lebanon this week, the death toll in the country since October has surpassed 740. The current conflict between Israel and Hezbollah is the worst since they fought an all-out war in 2006. Friday's strike marked the second time in less than two

Israeli strike on school kills 22 people in Gaza

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Deir al-Balah (Gaza Strip), Sept 21: An Israeli strike on a school in northern Gaza Saturday killed at least 22 people, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, while the Israeli army said it targeted a Hamas' command centre in what used to be a school.

Another 30 were wounded in the strike on the school in the Zeitoun area of Gaza City, the ministry said in a statement. Most of the casualties were women and children, it said.

The Israeli army said earlier Saturday it struck Hamas' "command and control centre, which was embedded inside a compound that previously served" as a school. It said steps were taken to limit harming civilians, including the use of precise munitions and aerial surveillance.

"The Hamas terrorist organisation systematically violates international law by operating from inside civilian infrastructure," the army said, an accusation it has repeatedly made.

Since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war, the Israeli army has struck a number of schools, packed with tens of thousands of Palestinians driven from their homes by Israeli offensives and evacuation orders. The conflict has left 90% of Palestinians in Gaza displaced, according to figures from the United Nations.

The military has continually accused Hamas of operating from within civilian infrastructure in Gaza, including schools, UN facilities and hospitals.

Earlier this month, an Israeli strike hit a school in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing 14, according to Palestinian medical officials. The Israeli military said it was targeting Hamas militants planning attacks from inside the school.

Modi meets Biden ahead of Quad summit

The annual Quad summit at President Joe Biden's hometown Wilmington is expected to roll out a series of new initiatives to boost cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and explore ways to find peaceful solutions to the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Wilmington, Sept 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday met US President Joe Biden on the margins of the Quad summit here and the two leaders were expected to discuss a range of issues, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

During the meeting at Biden's home in Wilmington, Delaware, the two leaders were set to review and identify new pathways to further deepen India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.



The war and Modi's recent visit to Ukraine is expected to figure prominently in the bilateral meeting, according to US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan.

Modi was welcomed by Biden at his residence and the two leaders hugged each other. Biden held Modi's hand as he led him into the house.

Modi, who is here as part of his three-day visit to the United States, will also hold separate bilateral meetings with

Biden will allow us to review and identify new pathways to further deepen India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership for the benefit of our people and the global good," Modi had said in his departure statement in New Delhi.

Modi was accompanied by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Ambassador of India to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra. The US team included Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs TH Jake Sullivan and Ambassador of the US to India Eric Garcetti.

The four-member Quad, or the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, advocates upholding a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific. Beijing sees it as an anti-China grouping.

From Wilmington, Modi will travel to New York where he will attend an Indian community event at Long Island September 22 and address the Summit of the Future at the UN General Assembly the next day.

Iran boasts new missile, drone amid ME unrest



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tehran, Sept 21: Iran unveiled a new ballistic missile and an upgraded one-way attack drone at a military parade Saturday, state media said, amid soaring regional tensions and allegations of arming Russia. Iran stands accused by Western governments of supplying both drones and missiles to Russia for use in its war with Ukraine, a charge it has repeatedly denied.

The solid-fuel Jihad missile was designed and manufactured by the aerospace arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and has an operational range of 1,000 kilometres (more than 600 miles), state news agency IRNA said.

The Shahed-136B drone is an upgraded version of the Shahed-136, with new features and an operational range of more than 4,000 kilometres (2,500 miles), it added.

New President Masoud Pezeshkian attended the annual parade in Tehran, commemorating the 1980-88 war with Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

"Today, our defensive and deterrent capabilities have grown so much that no demon even thinks about any aggression towards our dear Iran," he said.

"With unity and cohesion among Islamic countries... we can put in its place the blood-thirsty, genocidal usurper Israel, which shows no mercy to anyone, women or children, old or

Unable to hurt the real fighters in Palestine, they are venting their malicious anger on small children, on hospital patients, and on schools filled with young children
AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI | SUPREME LEADER, IRAN

young." Also Saturday, in a show of strength, Iran unveiled its "Jihad" single-stage liquid-fuel ballistic missile with a high-explosive detachable warhead and a range of 1,000 km, according to state TV.

The missiles were displayed, along with other military hardware, during a parade marking the anniversary of the start of the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

The Middle East has been in turmoil since Iran-backed Palestinian group Hamas attacked Israel October 7 sparking war in Gaza and drawing in Iranian allies around the region.

The tensions have intensified in recent days as the focus of Israel's firepower has shifted north to the Lebanon border where its troops have been battling the Iran-backed group Hezbollah.

Britain, France, Germany, and the United States slapped new sanctions on Iran earlier this month, alleging that it had been providing ballistic missiles for Russia's war effort in Ukraine.



WICKREMESINGHE, PREMADASA, DISSANAYAKE ARE FRONTRUNNERS
MORE THAN 17 MILLION PEOPLE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN PREZ ELECTION
FIRST ELECTION SINCE SRI LANKA'S 2022 ECONOMIC MELTDOWN

who led in one recent opinion poll.

Well-organised polling booths manned by public officials and police guided Sri Lankans on how to cast their vote as citizens in Colombo, the country's biggest city, lined up after voting

Voting was proceeding peacefully across the island nation and queues outside booths lengthened as the day progressed, local TV channels showed. Polls close at 4 pm, with counting scheduled to start shortly afterward. The Election Commission is expected to announce the winner Sunday.

Over 13,000 polling stations were set up across the country and 250,000 public officials deployed to manage the election, RML Rathnayake, the head of Sri Lanka's election commission, told Reuters.

This is the first election since Sri Lanka's economy buckled in 2022 under a severe foreign exchange shortage, leaving the Indian Ocean island nation unable to pay for imports of essentials including fuel, medicine and cooking gas.

Thousands of protesters marched in Colombo in 2022 and occupied the president's office and residence, forcing then-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee and later resign.

Although inflation cooled to

0.5% last month from a crisis high of 70%, and the economy is forecast to grow in 2024 for the first time in three years, millions remain mired in poverty and debt, with many pinning hopes of a better future on their next leader.

"This is an election that will change the history of Sri Lanka. People are voting enthusiastically," Dissanayake said after casting his vote at a temple in the outskirts of Colombo.

The winner will have to ensure Sri Lanka sticks with the IMF programme until 2027 to get its economy on a stable growth path, reassure markets, attract investors and help a quarter of its people climb out of crisis-induced poverty.

"The people have to decide the future of this country. I ask everyone to vote peacefully," Wickremesinghe, accompanied by his wife, said after voting at the University of Colombo. "We have stabilised the government and the democratic system. I'm happy I've been able to make a major contribution to that."

business

of the day quote

Whether typing or speaking, customers can now enjoy a more intuitive shopping experience, further enhanced by AI-powered tools like personalised recommendations and Alexa for seamless shopping assistance

SAURABH SRIVASTAVA | VICE PRESIDENT, CATEGORIES, AMAZON INDIA

When we consider that the FY in question covered only the early part of our transformation program, before most of the initiatives we have been working on were implemented, these early results should encourage us that the effort is bearing fruit. Work has of course continued apace in the six months since the FY ended, and the strong momentum has continued...

CAMPBELL WILSON | AIR INDIA CHIEF

The review of India-ASEAN free trade agreement in goods will forge deeper trade and economic ties besides creating new opportunities for businesses on both sides

PIYUSH GOYAL | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

OYO to acquire Motel 6 brand

New Delhi: IPO-bound travel tech platform OYO Saturday announced it has agreed to acquire iconic American budget hotel chain Motel 6 and Studio 6 brands from Blackstone Real Estate for USD 525 million in an all-cash transaction, as the Indian unicorn eyes expansion in the US. Oravel Stays, the parent company of OYO stated that it has agreed to acquire G6 Hospitality, the leading economy lodging franchisor and parent company of Motel 6 and the chain's offshoot hotel brand, Studio 6. The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2024, subject to customary closing conditions. Motel 6's franchise network produces gross room revenues of USD 1.7 billion, which generates a strong fee base and cash flow for G6. OYO will leverage its comprehensive technology suite as well as its global distribution network and marketing expertise to further strengthen the Motel 6 and Studio 6 brands and drive continued financial growth, it stated.

India, Korea talk trade

New Delhi: India and Korea Saturday held discussions on upgrading the existing free trade agreement, balancing two-way commerce and promoting investments between the two countries. The issues were discussed during a meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and his Korean counterpart Inkyo Cheong at Vientiane, Laos. "Deliberations were held on achieving more balanced trade, upgrading the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), promoting investments linked to job creation and addressing non-tariff barriers to further strengthen our economic ties," Goyal said in a post on social media platform X. The two countries are holding review meetings to upgrade the CEPA, which was operationalised in January 2010. So far, over 10 rounds of review talks have been held. The two countries have sought greater market access for certain products that are under the negative list of the agreement. No customs duty concessions are granted for the goods under this list. Department of Commerce had earlier engaged with different ministries, including heavy industries, steel, and chemicals, to prepare the offer list.



India is facing a surge in steel imports from countries like China, Vietnam, and Indonesia, which have flooded the Indian market with low-cost steel

AJAY SRIVASTAV | GTRI FOUNDER

J&J UNIT FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY

A Johnson & Johnson subsidiary filed for bankruptcy for a third time as the healthcare giant seeks to advance an approximately \$10 billion proposed settlement that would end tens of thousands of lawsuits alleging that the company's baby powder and other talc products caused cancer.



FII infuse ₹14,064cr in equity market this week



THE FLOOD OF FII MONEY HAS APPRECIATED THE RUPEE BY 0.4% FOR THE WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 20

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 21: The foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turned aggressive buyers this week infusing ₹14,064 crore in the cash market as Indian markets remained resilient amid robust economy performance, data showed Saturday.

FII investment till September 20 stood at ₹33,699 crore, taking the total FII investment in the country to ₹76,585 crore this year to date, as per NSDL data. Market watchers said that the trend of FII buying is likely to continue in the coming days. Manoj Purohit from BDO India said the US Federal Reserve made the first interest rate cut in the last four years, by a larger than anticipated margin of 50 bps and the foreign portfolio investors (FPI) fraternity has been conscious about this move and reacted passively. "The Indian markets reflected their resilience on a positive note basis the strong funda-

mentals and robust economy performance at the expected GDP growth," said Purohit. September witnessed the second highest inflows in 2024 so far, the last one being in March. The flood of FII money has appreciated the rupee by 0.4 per cent for the week ended September 20. This can boost further FII buying, said analysts.

Despite global uncertainties, the primary factors, to make emerging markets like India a sweet spot, are balanced fiscal deficits, rate cut impacts on the Indian currency, strong valuations, and RBI's approach to keep inflation under control without a rate cut. To add, the IPOs announced this year attracted a large chunk of foreign funds making the Indian capital market buoyant and a lucrative place to shift their positions from other riskier countries, said analysts. All eyes on the RBI now whether it follows the suit by making a cut in the repo rate in October or wait till December.

There is a strong case to marginally cut rates to manage food inflation, diluted interest from household savings which impact the retail lending business of banks. India's monetary policy has been more conservative despite the Fed's action so far, said Purohit.

Nifty's bullish momentum to continue

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 21: After a sideways start, the Indian benchmark indices gained momentum this week after a surprise 50 bps rate cut by the US Fed Reserve, as Sensex crossed 84,000 for the first time and Nifty hit a new all-time high.

As per market watchers, the apprehension of a slowdown in growth was eased slightly after the lower-than-expected US jobless claim and data pointed to a soft landing of the US economy at the start of the rate cut cycle. The ongoing bullish momentum is like to take Nifty towards 25,900-26,000 levels. On the upside, 26,000 will act as an immediate hurdle for Nifty.

"On the downside, 25,500 will serve as an immediate support for Nifty followed by 15-DEMA support, which is placed near 25,300 levels. As long as Nifty stays above 25,600, a 'Buy on Dips' strategy is advisable for traders," said Hrishikesh Yedve from Asit C Mehta Investment Intermediates. Following the Fed's rate cut, Indian markets have seen renewed buying interest, partic-



ularly in sectors that had previously experienced selling pressure. "The resilience of the Indian markets is providing additional strength to the rupee. Key support levels for the rupee are seen at 83.60-83.65, while resistance lies in the range of 83.40-83.30,"

said Jateen Trivedi from LKP Securities. The rupee traded positively with gains of 0.10 at 83.53, supported by continued weakness in the dollar index, which is trading at 52-week lows. Analysts saw a sectoral rotation among investors to large caps, especially in consumption, staples, auto, finance, and realty. In the short term, investors are being cautious on export-oriented sectors like pharma and IT due to depreciation in the dollar; they added. Gold traded very positively, reaching an all-time high in Comex above \$2,610, driven by strong liquidity inflows from the US Fed following a significant rate cut. Analysts said that the outlook for gold continues to favour upward momentum, with further rate cuts likely boosting prices.

MF investments move beyond top cities

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 21: Investors from smaller cities in India are embracing mutual funds like never before and the share of such investors in cities beyond the top 15 have risen significantly in the last four years, a new report showed Saturday.

While Mumbai and Delhi continue to hold their place with most number of investors, accounting for 39 per cent investors as of June 2024, other cities have steadily contributed over 30 per cent of investors since March 2021, according to a Franklin Templeton report. Mumbai and Delhi also contributed over 40 per cent investors till December 2023 but the contribution of these metros slipped to 39 per cent in March this year, the report mentioned.

Also, the assets under management (AUM) of investors in below 30 cities outpaced the top growth in the AUM of the top 30 cities in the country. The top 30 cities saw AUM growth from ₹20 lakh crore in



December 2018 to ₹54 lakh crore in August 2024 – a CAGR of 19 per cent.

On the other hand, the below 30 cities saw a CAGR of 24 per cent, from ₹4 lakh crore AUM in December 2018 to ₹12 lakh crore by August 2024.

Telangana accounts for 63.89 per cent of investors in India with the highest average AUM growth. It is followed by Rajasthan with 51.19 per cent growth. Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Gujarat also make it to the list with more than 40 per cent growth.

New Delhi and Maharashtra saw the least growth over the year with a little over 30 per cent growth in average AUM.

As per latest data from the Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI), the net AUM of the Indian mutual fund industry surged to cross ₹65 lakh crore mark in August. Equity funds saw ₹38,239 crore inflows in August, a 3.03 per cent growth from ₹37,113 crore witnessed in July. Equity inflows have shown remarkable strength, with the last four months consistently exceeding ₹34,000 crore. The systematic investment plans (SIPs) reached fresh highs as monthly contributions via SIPs hit ₹23,547 crore in August, against ₹23,332 crore in the previous month.

Sharing his outlook for the RE sector, Kadam said India has made significant progress in renewable energy capacity addition with a strong policy focus, but factors such as energy storage, grid integration, and fully-integrated renewable energy equipment manufacturing pose challenges, given the increasing share of renewables in the energy mix. The evolving landscape presents both risks and significant investment opportunities, especially as the demand for cleaner energy sources intensifies. The sector's growth potential is immense, provided the government addresses these pressing issues expeditiously, he said.

BIZ BUZZ

Malabar launches artistry show



Bhubaneswar: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest gold and diamond retail chains in the country, launched 'Artistry Show', from Sept 21 to 29 at its Chandrasekharpur showroom. This show has been launched by Preetinanda Routray, BMC Corporator. This exclusive exhibition will showcase the artistic finesse of handcrafted jewellery with an extensive range of traditional and contemporary designs. Each piece of jewellery on display at the show is unique and a testament to the art and skilled craft of Indian design. The collection features designs crafted with utmost perfection and a wide variety of pieces from the exclusive brands of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, such as Mine diamond jewellery, Era uncut diamonds, Precia gemstone jewellery, Ethnix handcrafted jewellery, Viraz Royal Polki jewellery, and more. "We are delighted to launch the Artistry Show in Chandrasekhar showroom and introduce exquisite designs that celebrate the excellence of our jewellery craftsmanship. Jewellery buyers in the city can enjoy our products with the assurance of the highest quality, purity, and fair prices," said MP Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group.

Swosti Group presents Lake Side Glamour

Bhubaneswar: Swosti Group is offering Lake Side Glamour, is an initiative to promote the art & culture of Odisha. Lake Side Glamour offers a platform for traditional handloom weavers of Odisha into the local as well as national market. Participating in Lake Side Glamour will serve the brands an awareness and media coverage. Handloom of Odisha always represents a rich cultural heritage. Each handloom from Odisha, whether it's the vibrant Sambalpur Ikat, the intricate Bomkai, or earthy Kotpad, tells a story of tradition, craftsmanship, and artistic excellence. This initiative will also offer an opportunity to exchange the thoughts between the social media influencers and well known brands from Odisha to look for further prospects. The event will be held October 27, 2024 at Swosti Chilika Resort.



Bank of Maharashtra celebrates 90th Foundation Day



Bhubaneswar: Bank of Maharashtra marked its 90th Foundation Day with a grand celebration at a city hotel Saturday. The event, organised under the leadership of Zonal Manager Alok Kumar Mishra, was attended by around 50 esteemed customers along with key bank officials, including Zonal Manager Sanjib Kumar Dash and Chief Manager (Credit), Ravi Shankar Kumar. Former Executive Director of the bank, A.C. Rout, graced the occasion and interacted with the bank's valued clients. The event also featured a live-streaming session with bank's Board of Director Nidhu Saxena, who lauded the collective efforts of all stakeholders. The gathering provided an opportunity for the bank to receive valuable feedback from its customers, further strengthening its service commitment. During the event, Mishra highlighted the bank's vision for growth, stating, "Bank of Maharashtra has a strong presence in every district of Odisha, with 54 branches. We are committed to delivering the best services to our customers." He also expressed gratitude towards A.C. Rout for his contributions and emphasized Odisha's potential in contributing to the bank's success.

Qualcomm's bid to acquire troubled chipmaker Intel

REUTERS

San Francisco, Sept 21: Qualcomm has in recent days approached Intel to explore a potential acquisition of the troubled chipmaker, a source familiar with the situation said Friday, in what could be a transformational deal in the sector but faces many hurdles. Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon is personally involved in the negotiations to acquire five-decade-old Intel, according to the source who was briefed on the matter. Another person familiar with the situation said Amon has been actively examining various options for a deal for the company. Earlier this month, Reuters reported that Qualcomm explored the possibility of acquiring portions of Intel's design business and that its PC design unit was of particular

interest. Qualcomm executives were examining Intel's entire portfolio of businesses. The conversations with Intel are at an early stage. The San Diego-based company has not made a formal offer for Intel, according to third person familiar with the matter. The sources requested anonymity as the discussions are confidential. Intel declined to comment. Qualcomm did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. Intel's shares closed up 3.3%, while Qualcomm fell 2.9%.

The approach by Qualcomm comes at a moment of weakness for Intel, which was once the most valuable chipmaker in the world, but whose shares have lost nearly 60% of their value since the start of the year. A deal, should it go ahead, would likely invite scrutiny from



antitrust regulators in the United States, China and Europe. Qualcomm may be required to divest parts of Intel in order to gain regulatory approvals. A bid would mark the biggest takeover attempt in the technology industry since Broadcom sought to buy Qualcomm for

\$142 billion in 2018, before President Donald Trump nixed the tie-up, citing national security risks. Reuters could not determine how Qualcomm, which has a market value of \$188 billion, would finance a bid for Intel, which is valued at \$122 billion,

including its debt. Qualcomm has roughly \$13 billion in cash, according to recent company filings. It is also unclear how Qualcomm would handle the takeover of Intel's contract manufacturing business. To build chips with an atomic level of precision, Intel has invested hundreds of billions of dollars over decades on its fabrication process and amassed tens of thousands of engineers to do it. Qualcomm has never operated a chip factory, or fab, and currently contracts the likes of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co and uses designs and other technology supplied by Arm Holdings.

Once the dominant force in chipmaking, Intel ceded its manufacturing edge to Taiwanese rival TSMC and failed to produce a widely desired chip for the generative AI boom capitalized

on by Nvidia and AMD. Intel has been attempting to turn its business around by focusing on AI processors and creating a chip contract manufacturing business, known as a foundry. As part of a memo from CEO Pat Gelsinger, Intel released a series of announcements that stemmed from a board meeting last week. Gelsinger and other executives presented a plan to shave off businesses and restructure the company, Reuters has previously reported. The company plans to pause construction on factories in Poland and Germany, and reduce its real estate holdings. Intel also said it had reached a deal to make a custom networking chip for Amazon.com's AWS. The Wall Street Journal reported on Qualcomm's talks with Intel earlier Friday.

COMEBACK HUNDREDS

Pant, Gill put India in command

INDIA SET BANGLADESH MAMMOTH 515-RUN TARGET



Chennai, Sept 21: Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill cleansed months of hurt, anxiety and disappointments of varying nature with emotional hundreds on the third day to place India in a prime position to win the first Test against

Bangladesh here Saturday. Gill (119 not out) and Pant (109) led the hosts' run glut with an alliance of 167 for the fourth wicket that helped India, overnight 81/3, declare their second innings at 287 for 4 for an overall lead of 514. Bangladesh showed some spunk in their second innings to reach 158 for four when play was called off at 4.25 pm due to bad light. They still need a whopping 357 runs for the result to be in their favour. Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto (51) and Shakib Al-Hasan (5) were manning the crease for the visitors, and the day could have ended on a better note for them have they been a slightly more judicious in shot selection against star off-spinner R Ashwin (3/63). But let's forget the match situation and those dreary numbers for a while to cast a deeper look into the story of the day. The hundreds by Pant and Gill stood as a testimony of these two fine young men's will to rise above towering personal obstacles that would have strangled the ordinary. Pant's turmoil has been widely-documented after that horrifying car crash in December 2022, and the way he reacted after reaching his sixth Test hundred with a two off Shakib Al-Hasan underscored the value he attached to the knock. Pant stood near the middle of the pitch with closed eyes, an

upward tilted head and a raised bat – offering a silent prayer, perhaps, to the Lord above for returning life and cricket to him. Gill watched the whole scene from a fair distance, as he did not want to invade into an intensely private moment of his partner. Soon, the two brave-hearts melted into a warm embrace as Chepauk erupted. Perhaps, the moment stood

mental than physical in nature, stemming primarily from the lack of confidence in himself in the traditional format. However, since making that hundred against England at

Visakhapatnam earlier this year, Gill seemed to have turned a corner and he further validated that journey upwards with his fifth Test hundred, fetched through a single off

also as a tribute to Pant equalling Chennai's very own 'Thala' MS Dhoni's record for the most Test hundreds by an Indian wicketkeeper-batsman – six. Compared to Pant's, the struggles of Gill have been less pronounced as they were more

Mehidy Hasan Miraz. But while Gill, beginning from overnight 33, and Pant, starting from 12, were in the office, all these feelings were hidden as it was

time to enjoy the sight of them taking down Bangladesh bowlers in their contrasting methods. The left-hander started rather sedately, looking to get his eye in before opening up. The break-away moment came when Pant pulled off-spinner Miraz for a four around the first drinks break of the day. Since that point, Pant's dismantling of Miraz became a feature of the innings as he brought up his fifty off 88 balls. Once the fifty was achieved, the 26-year-old unfurled some of those typical Pant shots. Pant moved around the crease like a trapeze artist, and his scooped six over fine leg off Hasan Mahmud enthralled a sizeable weekend crowd here. He was dropped on 72 by Shanto off Shakib but that was not even a deterrent. He duly completed his ton before offering a return catch to the hard-working Mehidy. Minimalism is quintessential to Gill's batting as he plays shots with little flourish. The short-arm pull from in front of the face or that zero follow-through punch through the covers, which he often executed off pacers Nahid Rana and Hasan, might not be out of the batting manual but were productive nonetheless. Gill milked a further 53 runs off 51 balls with KL Rahul for the fifth wicket to take India's lead past 500. However, Bangladesh, tasked with a tall chase, showed better application than in their first innings. Shanto took it upon himself to lead their fightback. But his colleagues, particularly the set Zakir Hasan (33) and Shadman Islam (35), threw their wickets away with callous shots. Shanto, though, was not flustered and creamed Ashwin for three sixes, and the swept one among them earned him fifty off 56 balls as the final passage was played under floodlights because of poor light.

CHESS OLYMPIAD

Women team lose tempo; men draw

Vantika helps Indian draw with US; men split points with Uzbekistan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Budapest, Sept 21: International Master Vantika Agrawal delivered the goods when it was badly needed, defeating Grandmaster Irina Krush to force a 2-2 draw against the United States while the Indian men stayed in sole lead after splitting points with Uzbekistan in the ninth round of the 45th Chess Olympiad currently underway here. The Indian think-tank rested an out-of-form Grandmaster D Harika but it did not change the fortunes on the top board as R Vaishali went down to Gulrukhbegim Tokhirjonova. On the second board, Divya Deshmukh settled for the peace result in an uneventful game with black against Carissa Yip. On the fourth board, Tania Sachdev had almost everything going in her favour but could not find the knock-out blow when the opportunity came to share the point with Alice Lee. It was left to Vantika to equalise the score and the young girl played with a lot of heart and commitment to beat her higher-rated opponent. For the record, Krush blundered in mutual time pressure and Vantika was remorseless in her attack. The draw took India to 15 points, and they will now probably need two victories in the last two rounds to keep the gold medal chances alive. Kazakhstan emerged as the new sole leader in this section on 16 points, defeating Poland 2.5-1.5. Alua Nurman played the star performer for Kazakh women as she won on the fourth board against Alicja Sliwicka after the top three boards had ended in draws. With Kazakhstan in front, India is in sole second position and they are trailed by as many as nine teams on 14 points each. In the penultimate round, Kazakhstan will face another stiff test against second seed Georgia, while the Indian women will take on a depleted China. In the Open section, the Indian men conceded the first point with four draws against defending champions Uzbekistan. After eight straight victories, the ninth win, which would have almost sealed the gold medal, was pretty much on the cards when Arjun Erigaisi's opponent Shamsiddin Vokhidov blundered. It was a mutual oversight by both players as Arjun failed to spot a tactic which he would have normally found in a few seconds. Once Arjun slipped, Shamsiddin did not give another chance and drew rather comfortably. At the top of the tables, D Gukesh played out an easy draw with white pieces against Nodirbek Abdusattorov.

SHORT TAKES

Harmanpreet nominated

New Delhi: Skipper Harmanpreet Singh, who powered India to a second successive bronze medal in hockey at the Olympics in Paris, was Saturday nominated for the FIH Player of the Year Award. The 28-year-old ace drag-flicker, who was the top scorer at the Paris Olympics with 10 goals from eight matches, had previously won the award twice in a row from 2020-22. "It is a great honour to be nominated for the FIH Player of the Year Award again," the Indian defender stated in a Hockey India release. "While I am elated to be named among some of the best players in the world, I would like to acknowledge that it would not have been possible without the support of my team. All the goals I have scored in the FIH Hockey Pro League, and the Paris 2024 Olympic Games are because the team created those goal-scoring chances for me," he added. Harmanpreet has been nominated along with the Dutch duo of Thierry Brinkman and Joep de Mol, Hannes Müller of Germany and Zach Wallace of England.

Swiatek withdraws

Beijing: World top-ranked and defending champion Iga Swiatek has withdrawn from next week's China Open in Beijing, citing personal reasons. Swiatek and the WTA Tour announced her withdrawal Friday. "Due to personal matters, I'm forced to withdraw from the China Open in Beijing. I'm very sorry as I had an amazing time playing and winning this tournament last year and was really looking forward to being back there," Swiatek said. "I'm sorry I won't be a part of it this time."

Sharma misses cut

Wentworth: Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma ended a disappointing week early, missing the cut at the BMW PGA Championship here. Sharma had two birdies and three bogeys in a row in the middle of the round. He then birdied on the 12th followed by a bogey on the 15th for a second round of 74.

F1's Singapore Grand Prix: Norris beats Max for pole position

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Sept 21: Lando Norris edged ahead of his title rival Max Verstappen on Saturday to start on pole position for the Singapore Grand Prix. Qualifying turned into a one-lap shootout for the top positions when a crash for Carlos Sainz Jr interrupted the final session. "I was finding it a little difficult to progress much and to get a lot of lap time and more of the guys around seemed to get quicker and quicker," Norris said. "So it put me under a little bit more pressure, especially with just one lap at the end, but it was good enough for pole and I'm happy with that." The McLaren driver was .203 of a second ahead of Verstappen to start on pole, with Lewis Hamilton third for Mercedes, .316 off Norris' time. Verstappen, who said he was happy with second after struggling for grip in practice in his Red Bull, leads Norris in the standings by 59 points. There are seven rounds of the championship remaining, including Sunday's race. Daniel Ricciardo qualified 16th, eight places behind teammate Yuki Tsunoda, as the Australian's place with RB comes under threat. Red Bull's second team could replace Ricciardo with reserve driver Liam Lawson for the last six rounds of the championship, starting from the United States Grand Prix next month.



Kalikesh Singh Deo elected NRAI prez

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 21: Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo was elected president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) after he beat his rival VK Dhall 36-21 in the polls held at the Constitution Club of India here Saturday. Kalikesh, a former MP from Odisha, was taking care of the day-to-day functioning of the NRAI after the position fell vacant last year following the resignation of Raninder Singh as per the government's National Sports Code (NSC). Last year, the Sports Ministry had issued a directive that heads of national sports federations (NSFs) cannot hold office for more than 12 years as per the NSC. The ministry had pointed out in March 2023 that Raninder had completed 12 years as president — from Dec 29, 2010 to Dec 29, 2022 — and as per the code, he cannot continue any further. After Raninder stepped down in April last year, the NRAI has been headed by its senior vice-president Kalikesh.

India Capitals start campaign with nail-biting win

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Jodhpur, Sept 21: India Capitals began their Legends League Cricket (LLC) Season 3 campaign with a thrilling one-run victory over Toyam Hyderabad at the Barkatullah Khan Stadium here Saturday. After setting a challenging target of 186, thanks to a 60-run knock by Ben Dunk and late hitting by Ashley Nurse and Colin de Grandhomme, the Capitals successfully defended their total with a disciplined bowling performance. Ben Dunk was named Man of the Match for his outstanding contribution. The Capitals will next face the Southern Superstars September 25 at the same venue. In his debut as captain of India Capitals, Ian Bell won the toss and elected to bat first. However, the team got off to a challenging start, losing opener Dwayne Smith for 14 runs off 9 balls early in the second over. Chasing 186 for victory, Toyam Hyderabad got off to a good start, with opener Chadwick Walton (18

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off 14) and George Worker contributing 41 runs. Walton was dismissed in the fifth over. At the other end, George Worker looked composed, anchoring the innings with a solid 52 off 43 deliveries, including four fours and three sixes.

New format for 2024 Intercontinental Cup

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Zurich, Sept 21: The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) announced the Intercontinental Cup 2024, an exciting new format that will feature stand-alone intercontinental competitions and give more fans the chance to watch their favourite clubs in action on home soil. The revamped tournament will bring together champions from the six confederations for five thrilling matches between September and December 2024, with the final set to take place in Qatar. The tournament, which was announced in December 2023, replaces the annual Club World Cup which will now be played every four years with 32 teams from 2025. For the first time in the tour-

Champions League 2023-2024, will face Auckland City, the 2024 OFC Champions League winners. This match will take place in Al Ain, UAE. The winner of this play-off will then travel to Cairo, Egypt, to face CAF Champions League winners Al Ahly on October 29, 2024, in the FIFA African-Asian-Pacific Cup final. The FIFA Derby of the Americas, an eagerly anticipated clash between the CONMEBOL Libertadores 2024 champions and the Concacaf Champions Cup 2024 winners, Pachuca, will take place in Doha, Qatar, on December 11, 2024. Winners of the FIFA African-Asian-Pacific Cup and the FIFA Derby of the Americas will meet in the FIFA Challenger Cup December 14, 2024, in Doha. The winner of this match will earn a spot in the ultimate showdown. On December 18, the FIFA Challenger Cup champions will face UEFA Champions League winners Real Madrid in the grand finale, the FIFA Intercontinental Cup, also in Doha. This decisive match will coincide with Qatar's National Day and marks the two-year anniversary of the unforgettable FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 final.