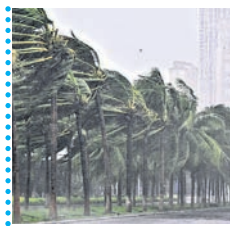




Hard reality

Actor Shreya Dhanwanthary says buying a house in Mumbai is like a scam and a stupidly expensive dream

LEISURE | P2



Yagi wrecks Chinese town

Asia's strongest storm this year, Super Typhoon 'Yagi', lands Friday in China's Hainan, bringing violent gales and heavy rains

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Markets in red

Benchmark indexes drop over 1% Friday due to weak global trends and foreign fund outflows amid jitters ahead of a crucial US jobs report

BUSINESS | P11



Neeraj qualifies

Two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra qualifies for the Diamond League final later this month

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

Vinesh, Bajrang join Congress

New Delhi: Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joined the Congress Friday ahead of the Haryana Assembly polls. Late in the evening, the Congress nominated Vinesh as its candidate from the Julana Assembly constituency. Before joining the Congress, Vinesh resigned from the Indian Railways citing personal reasons. "I want to thank the Congress party. It is said that you realise who is with you during difficult times. When we were being dragged on roads, all parties except the BJP stood with us," Vinesh said. The Congress always supported us," she added. **P9**

Best-ever gold haul for India at Para Games

Paris: India's Praveen Kumar dazzled with a record-breaking performance in the men's high jump T64 event, adding a Paralympic gold to his Tokyo Games silver here Friday. The 21-year-old from Noida, who was born with a short leg, smashed the Asian record with a best jump of 2.08m. It was India's sixth yellow metal in this edition of the Para Games beating their previous best of five gold medals at the Tokyo Paralympics. Along with the six gold, India have won nine silver and 11 bronze medals so far for a total of 26. It is also India's best-ever show at the Paralympics beating the 19 medals at Tokyo. **P12**

Woman filmed while being raped on road

Ujjain (MP): Police here have identified three to four suspects, who allegedly shot a video of a woman scrap collector's rape, and efforts were on to nab them, an official said Friday here. She was raped by a man Wednesday after he forced her to consume liquor in Agar Naka locality. The incident came to light after a video of the rape went viral on social media, following which the prime accused in the case was arrested, police said. "We have identified the suspects who shot a video of the incident and made it viral. We are trying to nab them," police added. **P8**

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The many Singapores you're planning ... will they come before or after the 100 smart cities promised 10 years ago?

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIAION
SENSEX	81183.93 ↓ 1,017.23
NIFTY	24852.15 ↓ 292.95
DOLLAR	83.953 ↓ ₹0.041
EURO	93.2080 ↓ ₹0.115
GOLD	₹71,725 ↓ ₹192
SILVER	₹ 83,970 ↓ ₹986

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.8°C	33.8°C
Min Temp	26.0°C	25.5°C
Humidity	79%	80%
Rainfall	4.6mm	1.6mm

FORECAST: PARTLY CLOUDY SKY



POWER AND FLEXIBILITY: Military personnel display their agility and fitness while performing stunts on a pole during the 'Know Your Army' programme at Ranchi, Friday **P11 PHOTO**

Sujeet joins BJP after quitting RS

FORMER MP FOLLOWS THE PATH SHOWN BY MAMATA MOHANTA

PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 6: Former BJD Rajya Sabha MP Sujeet Kumar joined the BJP in the presence of senior party leaders here Friday. The move came after the BJD expelled Kumar for anti-party activities earlier in the day. He subsequently resigned from his Rajya Sabha membership. Kumar joined the BJP in the presence of Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, BJP national general secretary Arun Singh, the party's Odisha in-charge Vijaypal Singh Tomar, MP Bhartruhari Mahtab and other leaders. Kumar told reporters here that he joined the saffron party as he was impressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's work and his vision for making India a developed country by 2047 and



“I tried to bring to the notice of BJD leadership about the corruption in Kalahandi district, but no one paid heed”
SUJEET KUMAR

Odisha a developed state by 2036. "For me, country is first and foremost. I returned to India in 2011 to contribute to the development of my country," he said. Kumar said he felt Kalahandi

district did not develop as it could have due to the 'kind of corruption and bad policy' prevalent there. "Several BJD leaders, including those from the district, were involved. I tried to bring this to the notice of the leadership several times. But when I saw that nothing was happening, I had to take this decision (to join the BJP). I resigned from the Rajya Sabha membership today," said Kumar. Expressing his happiness at joining the BJP, Kumar thanked party chief JP Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other leaders. Kumar also said that he had resigned from the BJD before his expulsion. "I had resigned from the BJD even before the expulsion order was issued. It is indeed ridiculous what has been said," Kumar stated.

3 die of asphyxiation

■ In the months of July and August, eight deaths due to asphyxiation have been reported while people worked in septic tanks in Sambalpur, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. It proves the lack of precautionary measures while undertaking such dangerous work

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Three labourers from West Bengal met a tragic end Friday while repairing and cleaning a septic tank at an apartment complex in Trisulia locality of this town. The deceased were identified as Abu Tahir Ali, 36, son of Mohammed Abul Seikh; Almin Seikh, 27, son of Aminul Rahman and Krishna Kishore Sarkar, 38, son of Dinanath Sarkar. While Ali and Seikh hailed from Murshidabad district, Krishna was from Nadia district.

Though the exact reason behind the accident is yet to be ascertained, police said that they suspected the deaths due to asphyxiation. They said that the labourers lost consciousness due to suffocation while removing the centre ring of the septic tank with a very narrow opening. On being informed, Baranga Fire Services personnel reached the spot and rescued the labourers.



Fire Services, police and disaster rescue personnel at the accident site Friday

The labourers were immediately rushed to the SCB Medical College and Hospital. However, doctors pronounced two of them dead on arrival.

SEPTIC TANK TRAGEDY

The condition of third deteriorated while undergoing treatment and he breathed his last later in the day.

"The septic tank had a very narrow opening. We entered inside the tank by breaking the wall with a drilling machine. We managed to rescue all the three labourers, but by then they were senseless. They must have inhaled some poisonous emissions. Despite our best efforts they breathed their last," informed a Fire Services official.

Locals alleged that the tragedy could have been averted if the labourers had protective gears. They informed that none of the labourers were wearing masks when they started working on the tank and had they done so, they could have been saved.

According to information available, one of the labourers working on the septic tank fell inside it through the opening. In an effort to rescue him, two others also jumped inside the tank. They immediately started feeling dizzy and started screaming for help. By the time, others rushed to the spot and informed the Fire Services, the three had lost their senses, locals informed.

572 tribals raped in 5 years: Gond

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: As many as 572 students and women belonging to tribal community have become victims of rape during the last five years in the state while trials have been completed in only 32 cases. Chargesheets filed in 509 of the 572 cases. 31 rape cases currently under investigation.

In a written reply to a question of Congress legislator Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Gond said, "A total of 572 tribal students and women have become victims of rape under Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, during the past five years." About the status of the 572 rape cases, Gond said trials have been completed in 32 cases, while

chargesheets have been filed in 509 cases.

Gond further mentioned that 31 cases are currently under investigation, shedding light on the ongoing struggle for justice.

Meanwhile, responding to a question of Congress member Sagar Charan Das on the current status of implementation of special financial assistance scheme for SC and ST students in KKB region, especially in higher education, Gond said there is no such scheme only for that particular region.

"The state government is implementing Mukhyamantri Medhahi Chatra Proishan Yojana for the higher education of SC and ST students. Under the initiative, ₹2,99,98,650 has already been disbursed to 305 SC and ST students in the 2023-24 financial year," Gond said.

22 kids injured in school brawl; seven suspended



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Sept 6: Twenty two junior students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Taraboda under Komana block in this district suffered serious injuries, after they were thrashed by their senior counterparts late Thursday night inside the hostel.

The entire issue blew up into a huge controversy Friday with parents of the injured and the junior students demanding stringent action against the guilty. So far, seven of the alleged attackers have been suspended, officials said.

According to sources, a Class X student allegedly passed inappropriate comments towards a Class XII girl student. This angered her batchmates and they decided to teach their junior counterparts a lesson.

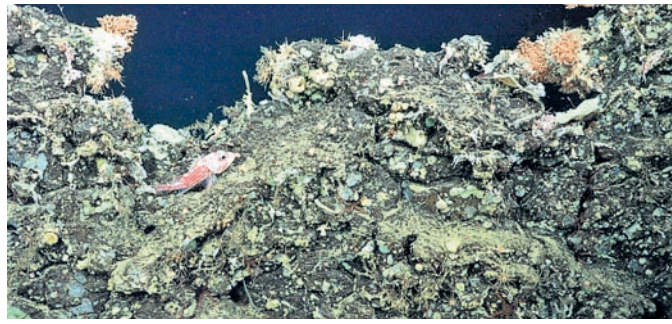
After some time, a group of Class XII students attacked the juniors with rods, belts and sticks resulting in injuries to 22 Class X students. According to eye-witnesses, students have suffered bruises and gashes on their backs, hands, legs and some even on their faces.

Upon hearing the news, parents rushed to the school, demanding strict action against the students responsible for the assault. They demonstrated in front of the school. The parents alleged that even though the assault took place Thursday night, the students were not taken to any hospital.

Subsequently, senior officials, including the sub-divisional magistrate Yogendra Majhi visited the school. They held discussions with the agitating students and their parents. A decision was taken to suspend seven of the alleged accused.

Abundant life found in new seamount

THE SEAMOUNT IS OVER 10,000 FEET TALL AND HAS BEEN DISCOVERED IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN OFF THE COAST OF CHILE

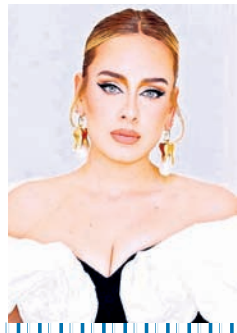


1,448 kilometres off the coast of Chile. It rises 3,109 metres (10,200 feet) from the ocean floor. It is part of an underwater mountain range teeming with life, including sponge gardens, ancient corals, and rare marine species such as a previously unfiled species of squid. The discovery was made during a 28-day expedition by scientists of the institute aboard the research vessel 'R/V Falkor'. The team used a sonar system beneath the ship's hull to map the mountain in detail. "Sound waves travel down, bounce off the surface, and return. By measuring the time it takes for the sound to return, we can create a detailed map of the seabed," explained Jyotika Virmani, the institute's executive director.

This discovery is significant because only about 26 per cent of the seafloor has been mapped at this level of detail, even though the seafloor covers 71 per cent of the Earth's surface. The newly-mapped seamount is taller than Mount Olympus in Greece (2,917 metres or 9,570 feet) and nearly four times the height of Burj Khalifa (830 metres). The biggest seamount is Mauna Kea near Hawaii. When measured from its underwater base, it is about 10,200m in height. Mount Everest on the other hand, is 8,848m high. Using an underwater robot, the team explored one of the mountain's ridges and discovered an area rich in marine biodiversity. Among their finds was a ghostly white octopus, nicknamed 'Casper', marking the first time this deep-sea creature has been observed. The team also spotted two rare 'Bathypheya siphonophores', which are sometimes referred to as 'flying spaghetti monsters' due to their string-like appearance. "The 'Casper' octopus has never been captured, so it doesn't yet have a scientific name," Virmani noted. Additionally, the team recorded the first-ever footage of a live 'Promachoteuthis' squid, a species previously known only from a few collected specimens. Details of these newly-discovered species will be shared with the 'Ocean Census', a global initiative aiming to identify unknown species. Virmani said that they have filmed many unknown species during the expedition and it will take decades to identify those.

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leisure



ADELE 'TURNED DOWN \$200M' TO EXTEND TOUR

Pop superstar Adele reportedly turned down a \$200 million deal to extend her tour and play a lucrative residency in a casino in Macau, China. The 36-year-old has been performing her *Weekends With Adele* residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas since late 2022.

HALSEY WAS OBSESSED WITH MAKING DOLL HOUSES

Popstar Halsey shared that she became obsessed with making doll houses when she was at home suffering from Lupus and a rare lymphoproliferative disorder. She also wanted to be able to play the piano and guitar, the star said.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES

Just grab any chance you get to demonstrate your expressive abilities, as it will fetch widespread appreciation. Something about your children may make you proud. However, Ganesh says, don't neglect the aged members of your family.

TAURUS

This opt a good day for being too firm or demanding. Ganesh advises you to steer clear of conflicts, arguments disputes. If you cannot avoid confrontation be sure you are the one who will have to step back. Loss of face and self esteem may be unavoidable. You need to face the fact that this is not your day.

GEMINI

Your day will be spent indulging in activities that appeal to you. You may go out shopping with your family members, or go out to dinner with friends. A leisurely, entertainment filled, fun day awaits you, says Ganesh.

CANCER

You may face unwanted events and circumstances. As a result you will feel sad, yet you will wriggle out of it with your efficiency. Put in efforts in studies, says Ganesh. remember that in success destiny is one per cent and effort 99 per cent.

LEO

Your expenses may shoot through the roof if you do not pay careful attention to your finances. You will want to splurge on expensive perfumes and clothing. You will be able to attract those of the opposite sex. You must guard against coming off as a show-off. Be humble and polite to everyone, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

You will be the flag-bearer for people around you, spreading hope and inspiration. Ganesh advises you to be the ideal family man today. By doing this you will radiate affection and love. This will, in turn, work remarkably in cultivating positive relationships.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that you will be more careful about your outward appearance and will try to enhance it further. Towards the evening you may impress people around you when you attend a social function. Those of you who are single can put forth a marriage proposal to their beloved today and it will be accepted.

SCORPIO

Relationships are the crux of life. It's very important how you make your near and dear ones feel when you are around. Make someone feel special today. Try to sort out misunderstandings if any. Don't dominate your friends or family members, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

Someone from the opposite sex is likely to get attracted towards you. Enjoy being in the limelight. Today, your main activity becomes hanging around with friends and cherishing their company.

CAPRICORN

Pain and fun, both are the two sides of a coin and today, you will experience both of them in equal amount. You may have to slog yourself to earn money, but be careful and don't drain yourself out, advises Ganesh. You will get what you have wished for, however, you need not try your luck too much. Spend money for the happiness of others.

AQUARIUS

Today will not be your day. You will find it difficult to create a peaceful environment in your home and adding to the woes will your children who will be making things even more difficult for you to handle. There may be some family disputes also, and green-eyed neighbours will try to add fuel to the fire. Try to be calm and evaluate situation with mind not with heart, advises Ganesh.

PISCES

Your day today will be like a tug-of-war competition. Try to come out on top in this competition. Ganesh advises you not to underestimate your enemies. It is advisable to find a solution or avoid conflict so that you don't need to waste your energy in this.

Shreya's frustration

Mumbai: Shreya Dhanwanthary has spoken for a lot of Mumbaikars when she expressed her frustration towards the rising real estate prices in the city. The actor, best known for playing journalist Sucheta Dalal in *Scam 1992*, said buying a house in Mumbai is a 'scam' and a 'foolish and stupidly expensive dream.'

The actor took to her X handle Friday and wrote, "I'm gonna say it: I think buying a house in Mumbai is... a scam. And I hate that I still want to fulfil that very foolish and very stupidly expensive dream."

Several X users echoed her frustration. One of them commented, "Don't fall into that trap, just rent." "It's same for all the MNC locations (Not just Mumbai)," wrote another. "Trouble is, the alternative is not always good. I avoided it for a long time, managed quite well, and financially it made a lot of sense, but eventually caved in," read a third comment, while a fourth one stated, "Millions of people fall prey to this scam. Welcome to the group."

A user also said, "I know of a friend who shifted to Bangalore just to fulfill that dream. They bought the house in Uru..." AGENCIES



Sanya turns yoga teacher

Mumbai: Actress Sanya Malhotra turned yoga teacher for actor Maniesh Paul and gave him a 'wonderful session', in which she taught him a 'pose'.

Maniesh took to Instagram, where he shared a video of them making a funny pose at the gym with the song 'yoga se hi hoga' playing in the background.

"Thanks @sanyamalhotra_ for a wonderful yoga session!!! kya kamaal ka pose sekhaya hai hahahahah," he wrote as the caption.

Maniesh and Sanya will together be seen with actors Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor in the upcoming film *Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari*.

Recently, Varun met Maniesh at the airport lounge as they left to shoot for their new project.

On September 1, Varun took to the Stories section of his Instagram and shared a video in which he meets Maniesh at the airport lounge as the latter was occupied reading the book *R.A.W. Hitman: The Real Story of Agent Lima* by crime journalist and author S Hussain Zaidi.

IAN S

30TH GKCM AWARD FESTIVAL-DAY-II

Life of Shivaji Maharaj comes alive on stage

Bhubaneswar: The second evening of the 30th Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra (GKCM) Award Festival, organised by Srjan Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Nrityabasa, witnessed a captivating portrayal of the emotional and inspiring narrative of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, here at Rabindra Mandap, Friday.

Dance drama *Shrimant Yogi*, chronicling the life and times of Shivaji Maharaj, by renowned Mumbai-based Bharatanatyam exponent Vaibhav Arekar and his ensemble, the Sankhya Dance Company, held the audience in thrall. Arekar espoused the titular role while Swarada Bhawe, Sacchidanand Narayanankar, Gautam Marathe, Mrinal Joshi, Devayani Samant, Vaishnavi Puntambekar, Swarali Ghanghurde, Prajakta Shinde, and Esha Pinglay, set the emotions, valour, and gravitas of the narrative. The 75-minute presentation was replete with scenes of war and conflict, juxtaposed with the portrayal of the character's duty and sacrifices, and the establishment of 'Swarajya' and 'Dharma'.

The production was aided by



A scene from famous dance drama *Shrimant Yogi* PIC: BIKASH NAYAK



Dignitaries at the event

the light design of Sushant Jadhav. Arekar was ably assisted in the direction by Swarada Bhawe, with concept development by Pradnya Agasthi; dramaturge and costumes by Sushant Jadhav; rhythm design and music inputs by Satish Krishnamurthy; and music composition and vocals by Manoj Desai and Karthik Hebbur. The production featured the poetry of legends Sant Ramdas, Kavi Bhushan, Kusumagraj, Subramaniam Bharati, and Zaverchand Meghani. Guru Aruna Mohanty, President, Odisha Sangeeta Natak Akademi and eminent Odissi Exponent; Surendra Das, National Secretary, Chinta O Chetana; and Guru Ratikant Mohapatra, Director, Srjan were among the dignitaries who graced the occasion. Dharitri and Orissa POST are the print media partners for the event. PNN

Sad Letters of an Imaginary Woman to premiere at BIFF

Bhubaneswar: Indian movie *Sad Letters of an Imaginary Woman* is all set to premiere at the prestigious Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), South Korea, this October! The film will be premiered under the A Window on Asian Cinema section of the festival.

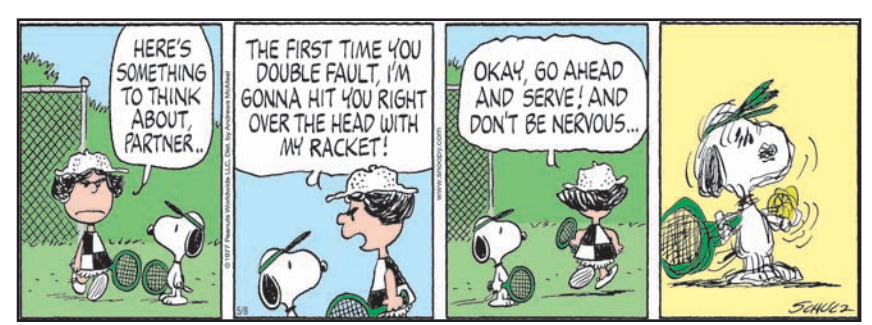
Produced by Nila Madhab Panda, Vimukthi Jayasundara, and Ajender Singh and directed by Nidhi Saxena, the movie delves into themes of memory and identity. It follows a middle-aged woman haunted by the ghosts of her past as she reaches out to her younger self through letters and phone calls. Confined with her elderly mother in their crumbling ancestral home, they desire to break free from the



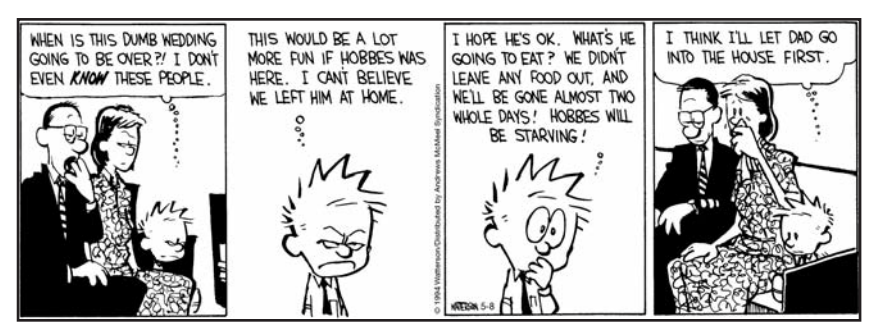
A still from the movie

current state of their lives through a vanishing ritual. Saxena, speaking about her debut project, shared, "It is a great honour and very empowering to receive the honour of the Asian Cinema Fund, especially since it marks a milestone for women in Indian cinema." Producer Panda said, "I am excited for the film to get an international platform! It is a wonderful film that dives deep into complex themes, and to see it presented on the big stage is a truly surreal feeling." PNN

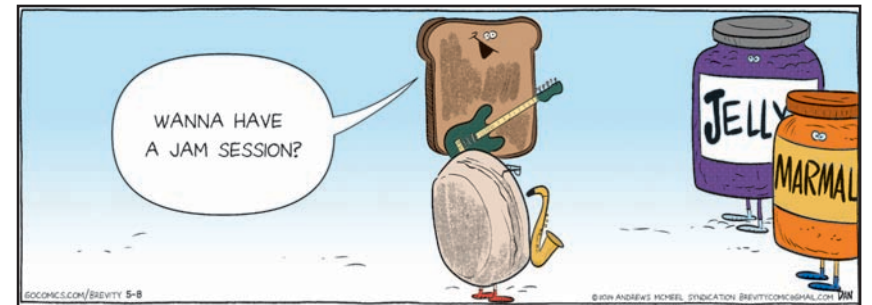
PEANUTS



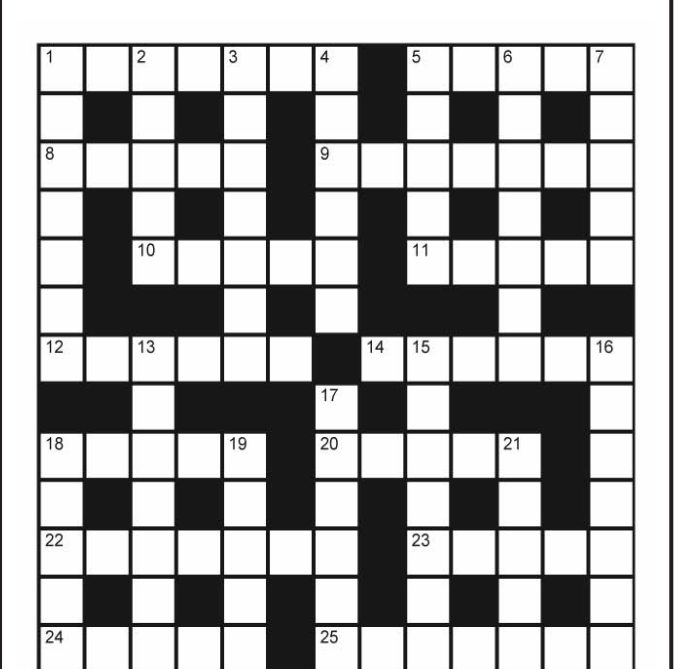
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



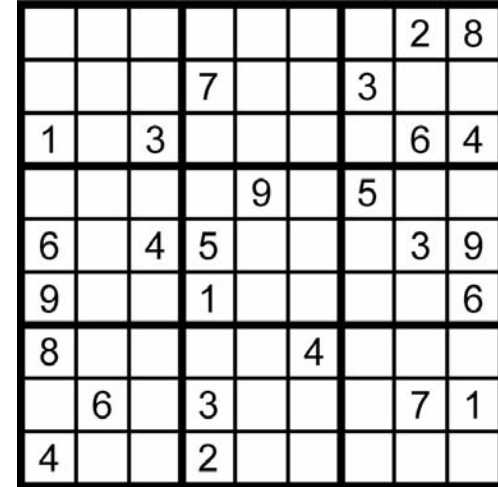
FUN post CROSSWORD



- Copyright © 2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 "Do not" follower, on a hotel sign
 - 5 Vessel
 - 8 Brief indulgence
 - 9 Vagabond
 - 10 Booby trap
 - 11 Writing assignment
 - 12 Bad to the core
 - 14 It's a bore, like a movie
 - 18 Billiards stroke
 - 20 Elbe or Aire, e.g.
 - 22 Get to know
 - 23 *Opus Majus* creator Bacon
 - 24 Bakery supply
 - 25 Place for a cinematic experience
 - 4 Financial plan
 - 5 Doorbell sound
 - 6 Craftsman
 - 7 Belated
 - 13 Mexican restaurant offering
 - 15 Unfavorable
 - 16 Ring official
 - 17 Set straight
 - 18 Voracious eel
 - 19 Proclamation
 - 21 Man of many words
- Down**
- 1 More round the bend
 - 2 Hops
 - 3 Improvement

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.

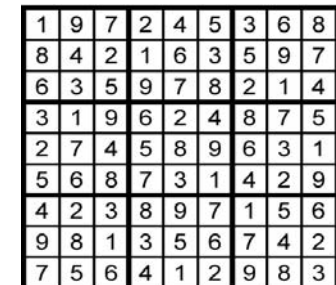


SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

GANESH CHATURTHI TODAY

People take home a clay idol of Lord Ganesh in Cuttack, Friday



Miscreants bulldoze house; 3 held

DCP PRATEEK SINGH SAYS INVESTIGATIONS ARE ON TO UNMASK THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE CRIME WHO GAVE 'SUPARI' FOR FORCEFUL POSSESSION OF THE PRIVATE PROPERTY AT PATIA

DEBADURLLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Even as the government mulls demolition of 191 illegal apartments in the City, a private person and his aides bulldozed portions of a residential building in Patia, under Infocity police limits, here in a bid to take forceful possession of the property by evicting the occupants.

DCP Prateek Singh said Friday that Manas Kumar Sahoo, 41, and his associates – Niranjan Rout, 54, and Jagadish Patasani, 28 — have been arrested on charges of trespassing and stealing valuables from the house, Thursday. He said around 12 more miscreants involved in the crime are on the run.

“Though we have not yet identified of mastermind behind the



crime, investigations have revealed that the arrested accused had received ‘supari’ (contract money) from a man for the audacious act,” the DCP added.

As per the FIR lodged by Padmamalini Mohapatra at Infocity police station, the DCP said, 10-15 men armed with sharp weapons and hockey sticks arrived at her house with a JCB machine (earthmover) around 1:30

pm September 2. “They vandalised the compound walls and gate with the machine. When we objected, the miscreants abused us using filthy language, and beat us up. They took away the mobile phones we were using to record their act. Before leaving the premises, they stole a few valuables from our house, and threatened to raze the building to ground if we didn’t evict

the premises,” Singh added, quoting the FIR.

The DCP said investigations so far have revealed that Manas showed a paper, claiming it to be a power of attorney (PoA) issued to him by the original landowner, before carrying out the demolition. “We have found that the land was entangled in legal disputes since 2009. The first owner had sold the property to Manas’ father in 2009. The owner subsequently made a deal and sold the house to Padmamalini the same year,” he said, adding that the cops are examining the property documents for more clarifications.

The Infocity police has booked the trio under relevant Sections of BNS and Arms Act, and produced them before a local court here Friday for remand.

CM lays stone for India’s ‘1st’ silicon carbide mfg facility

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday laid the foundation stone for India’s ‘first’ silicon carbide manufacturing facility, at Infovalley, on the outskirts of the City, a statement said.

The facility will be set up by RIR Power Electronics Limited, a firm working in semiconductor power electronics technology.

On the occasion, Majhi said, “The establishment of RIR Power Electronics Limited’s facility is another notable step in our ongoing journey to make Odisha a leading semiconductor hub in India.”

The new facility will not only create state-of-the-art products but also open up a wealth of opportunities for the state’s talented youth, providing them with avenues to work right here



in Odisha, the CM said.

It will attract skilled professionals, foster local innovation, drive economic growth, and further solidify Odisha’s position as one of India’s most promising destinations for electronics and semiconductor manufacturing, he added. The facility will be set up with a total investment of around Rs 620 crore over a period of three years.

This facility is expected to create over 500 new jobs across

various levels, the Chief Minister’s Office (CMO) said in its statement.

The project is expected to contribute significantly to India’s mission of becoming a self-reliant hub for semiconductor production, it said. Apart from RIR Power Electronics Limited, the state has received several other investment proposals in semiconductor and related fields for the establishment of new facilities in the Capital city.

Maximum beggars in Sundargarh dist

Minister Nityanand Gond informs Assembly that 3,000 ‘identified’ beggars in state will get govt help

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Sundargarh district- otherwise known for its rich mineral resources, steel plant at Rourkela and mega sports infrastructure- is home to the maximum number of beggars in the state, according to government data.

Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Minister Nityananda Gond informed the state Assembly Friday that of the 3,009 ‘identified’ beggars in the state, Sundargarh has the highest count of 417.



IN THE HOUSE

The northern district is closely followed by Cuttack (district) where a total of 400 beggars have been identified. While Puri district has 350 beggars, at 226, Sonepur district has the highest number of such individuals in western Odisha.

Gond said the government has opened rehabilitation centres in different places and taken many other initiatives to rehabilitate beggars under the ‘Sahaya’ scheme.

Among other districts, 195 beggars are there in Rayagada district, 189 in Dhenkanal, 180 in Bhadrak, 150 in Khurda, 135 in Jharsuguda, and 131 in Balasore, he said.

Significantly, of 30 districts in the state, Boudh, Deogarh, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur and Malkangiri districts are beggar-free, the minister said.

So far, 19 rehabilitation centres were opened in Puri, Khurda, Angul and Sundargarh districts along with Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) areas, he said.

Similarly, the government has approved the proposal to open rehabilitation centres for beggars in Ganjam, Dhenkanal and Keonjhar districts.

For the socio-economic development of beggars and their family members, the state government is providing scholarships, skill development training, inclusion in self-help groups (SHGs) and money for the marriage of their daughters under the Sahaya scheme, he added.

Ruckus over RU row

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The state Assembly was adjourned twice Friday amid a ruckus over the proposed name change of Ravenshaw University (RU) with Opposition BJD and Congress members demanding withdrawal of a police case against a sitting MLA.

The issue was raised during Zero Hour, a day after police booked three Opposition BJD leaders, including sitting MLA Byomkesh Ray, following a complaint by a student at Malgoddown police station.

The student alleged that Ray and others had threatened him with weapons during a torch rally protesting the proposed name change of RU, suggested by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan during his visit to Cuttack August 31.

During the session, members from both parties stormed the well of the House, chanting slogans against the BJP government besides accusing it of attempting to suppress Opposition voices and labelled the police action against Ray as ‘politically motivated’ and a case of vendetta politics. In his defence, Ray said he had visited RU at the invitation of some students and joined the torch rally, but never entered the campus. The rally was held from Clock Chowk to College Square and Ray claimed that he was outside the varsity gate.

“As the BJP often used CBI and ED against political opponents, here also the state government framed charges against me to take political revenge,” Ray said.

Ray was supported by senior member Ganeswar Behera of BJD who strongly condemned police action and said this was beginning of the vendetta politics of BJP in Odisha. “The allegations against the MLA are false, fabricated and politically motivated.

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Odisha set to become petrochemical hub: Min



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: Union Minister Anupriya Patel Friday said Odisha is ready to become a leader in the petrochemical sector which is projected to be a USD 1 trillion industry by 2047. Addressing a conference 'Advanced India: Indian Chemicals and Petrochemicals Paving the Future' here, she said the eastern state with its skilled manpower and strategic coastal location is poised to become a major hub in the sector. She also said the India Chem 2024 summit, scheduled to take place in Mumbai from October 17-19 after a two-year hiatus, is expected to attract significant global participation. "Odisha, with its skilled manpower and strategic coastal location, is poised to become a major hub for chemicals and petrochemicals, and will offer vast opportunities for manufacturing, employment and exports," Patel, the minister of state for chemicals and fertilizers, said. The sector, currently valued at

Over 40 organisations and industry associations from the state will participate in the programme

USD 220 billion, is projected to surpass USD 1 trillion by 2047, she said, adding that the government's focus on boosting intra-country manufacturing and reducing import dependence will further propel growth. Odisha's Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education Minister Sampad Charan Swain discussed the transformative impact of the state's industrial policies and incentives for the petrochemical sector. He highlighted the improvement in infrastructure, port system and electricity tariffs as well as the state's commitment to develop skilled manpower to meet industry demands. Swain also underscored the state government's focus on investing in green technologies to reduce carbon footprints and

achieve net-zero targets. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers Secretary Nivedita Shukla Verma elaborated on the significance of the petroleum sector, which contributes eight per cent to the nation's manufacturing and three per cent to global sales. The sector is one of the fastest-growing markets worldwide, she said, adding that the government is actively working to enhance its contribution to build a developed India and aims at doubling petrochemical exports within the next decade. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers Joint Secretary Deepankar Aron said the India Chem 2024 will feature over 200 companies and attract more than 7,000 visitors. The event will include B2B and B2G meetings, a global CEO forum and roundtable discussions with representatives from several countries like Japan, Korea, Brazil, Argentina and the UAE, the official said. Over 40 organisations and industry associations from the state will participate in the programme, and a job fair will be held for the first time. Joining the event, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja highlighted the state's expansion efforts in ports such as Paradip, Gopalpur, and Dhamra, along with the development of national highways and roads. He reaffirmed the state's focus on improving the ease of doing business and attracting investments, particularly in the petrochemical sector.



Dharitri and OrissaPOST Chief Executive Adyasha Satpathy, Nissan Bhubaneswar GM (Sales) Sanjaya Panda, State Bank of India DGM (R/R) Nitishi, LHO (CMO Auto) Shushil Behera, LHO AGM Mahesh Upadhyaya, LHO AGM Subash Pani and Jahnvi Automobiles Pvt Ltd MD Amit Kumar Jaiswal during the unveiling of Nissan X-TRAIL at Jahnvi Nissan in Pahal area of Bhubaneswar, Friday

1-year RI for sexually abusing minor

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: A special court here Friday handed down one year rigorous imprisonment (RI) to a man after holding him guilty of sexually harassing an 11-year-old girl under Balipatna police limits in 2021. Ad hoc ADJ (FTSC), Bhubaneswar, Saroj Kumar Sahoo also slapped a penalty of ₹5,000 on convict Manguli



Charan Mallick. Failure to pay the penalty would entail an additional month jail term, additional public prosecutor (APP) Balaram Deo said.

The APP said Manguli and the victim's family share the same neighbourhood. "The victim's family had reared a few chickens. Around 8:30am October 31, 2021 some fowls strayed into Manguli's home. When the minor girl went to Manguli's premises to catch them, he lured her into his room by offering her a chocolate. He then inappropriately touched

the minor," the APP said. Manguli also threatened the girl with dire consequences if she disclosed before anyone about the incident. The girl, however, mustered courage and narrated her ordeal before her parents, who approached the police with a complaint, the APP pointed out. The court examined as many as nine witnesses during the trial, before announcing the sentence, Friday.

AOCWA TEAM MEETS MAJHI

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: A delegation of All Odisha Contractors' Welfare Association (AOCWA), led by Jagadish Patra, president Rabi Narayan Mohapatra and joint secretary Anshul Patel met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday and invited him to the 2nd edition of the Odisha Infrastructure Conclave (OIC) that would be held here September 24. The OIC stands as a crucial platform for discussing and deliberating the vital role infrastructure plays in driving the growth and development of our state. "Our aim is to highlight the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders within this critical sector, and to celebrate the dedication, resilience, and innovative spirit of those committed to nation-building," said Patra. This year's conclave will focus on fostering an ecosystem conducive to knowledge-sharing, skill development, capacity building, technology integration, and collaborative growth among all participants.

OBPC opposes jetty on Puri beach

AGENCIES

Puri, Sept 6: The Odisha Beach Protection Council (OBPC) has opposed the proposed fish landing jetty at a location close to Swargadwara area of the Puri sea beach. President, OBPC Jagannath Bastia urged the concerned authorities to shift the construction site to Penthakata fishermen colony beach, where the fisherfolk carry out their daily fishing and related activities. Bastia pointed out that permission from the Puri Konark Development Authority was not obtained for the proposed construction. "When the permanent structure comes up, it will destroy the scenic beauty of the beach and the surrounding environment," he added. OBPC and other NGOs have suggested shifting the project from Swargadwara to Sipsarabali or Penthakata area. Bastia warned that if the administration did not listen to their plea, legal actions under the



Environment Protection Act (EPA) would be initiated against the contractor and the authority concerned. He said that the contractor informed him that the fish jetty would be built over an area- 110 meter long and 40 meter wide on the sandy beach. The state coastal regulation zone authority has permitted the construction of the jetty, informed the contractor. Meanwhile, Puri Collector Sidharth Shankar Swain said some complaints opposing the construction have been received. He has asked the Deputy Collector to inquire and submit a report.

Curtains down on Odisha Craft Odyssey expo

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 6: The first edition of the Odisha Craft Odyssey (OCO) exhibition concluded at Lalit Kala Akademi here Friday. Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida inaugurated the two-day exhibition while Aska MP Anita Subhadarshini joined the event as the guest of honour. A short documentary, followed by a curatorial presentation and presentations by the artists, was the major attraction during the concluding session. Members of 'Kansari Paribaar Bikasa O Unnayana Parishad' were also present on the dais and gave insightful thoughts about the community. Briefing about the exhibition, curator Premjish Achari remarked, "Apart from being a conventional exhibition on crafts, Odisha Craft Odyssey also presents a platform for groundbreaking research into the complex cultural domain of Odisha's bell metal workers. Through the in-depth exploration process, we aim to uncover the hidden



narratives and the everyday struggles, amidst the innovative developments by these skilled makers. This research-led exhibition presents the complex cultural domain in a thought-provoking and critical manner." Mentor of Bhubaneswar Experimental Art and Design Studio (BEADS) Jagannath Panda added, "Our life is rooted in the timeless traditions of Odisha, where every craft tells a story of the land and its peo-

ple. We aspire to weave creativity and innovation into the indigenous art forms, breathing new life into the heritage that continues to inspire, evolve, and celebrate our life." OCO is a collaborative effort between MGM Foundation and BEADS, aiming to foster an inclusive cultural landscape that recognises and celebrates the artistic value of crafts. The first edition of OCO focuses on the bell metal workers of Balakati.

NLC to start Machhakata coal block mining soon

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 6: State-owned Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) India Ltd is aiming to start the mining of Machhakata coal block in Angul district of Odisha ahead of schedule. Machhakata coal block is the second commercial coal block and the biggest among the NLCIL's mining projects. NLC India Ltd (NLCIL) had emerged as the successful bidder for Machhakata (Revised) coal block in Angul district under the commercial coal block-auction held in July. Machhakata coal block, having reserves of 1.4 billion tonne (BT), with average Grade of G10-G11, and capacity of 30 MTPA, is expected to be one among the top five biggest mines in the country. NLCIL said in a statement. "NLCIL aims to commence the mining ahead of schedule. This marks another milestone towards realising NLCIL's Corporate Plan 2030," the statement added. Machhakata coal block's vesting order was issued Thursday.

Over 60% of Odisha dists experiencing extreme climate events

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: More than 60 per cent of the districts in 10 states including Odisha are experiencing more than one extreme climate events such as floods, droughts and cyclones, according to a study conducted by IPE Global and Esri India. The study reveals that more than 85 per cent of districts in India are exposed to extreme climate events. The study also found that 45 per cent of the districts were experiencing a "swapping" trend, where traditionally flood-prone areas were becoming drought-prone and vice versa. It found that more than 60 per cent of districts in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Assam were experiencing more than one extreme climate event. Using a penta-decadal analysis, the study compiled a cata-

logue of extreme climate events during a 50-year period from 1973 to 2023, employing spatial and temporal modelling. The last decade alone saw a five-fold increase in these climate extremes, with a four-fold increase in extreme flood events, it said. Districts in eastern India are more prone to extreme flood events, followed closely by the country's northeastern and southern parts. The study also shows there has been a two-fold increase in drought events, especially agricultural and meteorological droughts, and a four-fold increase in cyclone events. Abinash Mohanty - head of climate change and sustainability practice at IPE Global and the study's author - said, "The current trend of catastrophic climate extremes that makes nine out of 10 Indians exposed to extreme climate events is a result of a 0.6 degree



SWAPPING TRENDS

The study revealed that more than 45% of districts are experiencing a swapping trend - some flood-prone districts were becoming more susceptible to droughts and vice versa

The number of districts that have transitioned from experiencing floods to facing droughts surpassed those that have shifted from droughts to floods

Districts in Tripura, Kerala, Bihar, Punjab and Jharkhand exhibit the most prominent swapping trends

Celsius temperature rise in the last century." "Recent Kerala landslides triggered by incessant and erratic rainfall episodes, floods in Gujarat, the disappearance of Om Parvat's snow cover, and cities getting paralysed with sudden and abrupt downpours is a testament that climate is

changed. Our analysis suggests that more than 1.47 billion Indians will be highly exposed to climate extremes by 2036," he said. The study revealed that more than 45 per cent of districts were experiencing a swapping trend - some flood-prone districts were becoming more susceptible to droughts and vice versa. The number of districts that have transitioned from experiencing floods to facing droughts surpassed those that have shifted from droughts to floods. Districts in Tripura, Kerala, Bihar, Punjab and Jharkhand exhibit the most prominent swapping trends, it said. The study recommended establishing a Climate Risk Observatory, a risk-informed decision-making toolkit for policymakers at the national, state, district and city levels under its National Resilience Programme, and the creation of an Infrastructure Climate Fund to

support sustained investment in climate-resilient critical infrastructure and foster locally-led climate actions. Ashwajit Singh, founder and managing director of IPE Global, said, "To meet climate goals, India must shift its budget focus from mitigation to adaptation. Current practices underfund climate resilience, risking long-term sustainability. India, in particular, experienced an 8 per cent GDP loss in 2022 and a cumulative capital wealth decrease of 7.5 per cent due to climate impacts." Esri India's managing director Agendra Kumar said the increasing frequency and intensity of heatwaves, in conjunction with intense precipitation, was causing significant impacts on lives, livelihoods and infrastructure. A holistic, data-driven approach is essential for informed policy decisions, climate adaptation and resilience, he said.

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CM's response renews hope of Police Commissionerate

IN THE LAST 24 YEARS OF BJD RULE, IT HAD COME UP FOR DISCUSSION SEVERAL TIMES BUT THERE WAS HARDLY ANY DECISION



ROURKELA POLICE

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Sept 6: The possibility of Rourkela getting a Police Commissionerate system has become stronger as Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, who holds the Home portfolio, has said in the Assembly that the government is actively considering the proposal.

The Chief Minister was replying to a question posed by Rourkela MLA Sarada Nayak Monday. Nayak also wanted to know the timeline of its implementation along with appointment of a police commissioner.

Majhi said, "This proposal is under active consideration."

The CM's answer in the House has rekindled the hope of a Commissionerate system in the Steel City – a long stand-

ing demand.

However, this proposal and the subsequent promise by the successive governments is nothing new.

In the last 24 years of BJD rule, it had come up for discussion several times but there was hardly any decision. Many are of the opinion that an opportunity was lost as the BJD government's tenure ended, though it remained as a matter of discussion only. The issue was put in the back burner until the Rourkela MLA raised the question September 2.

Earlier, the proposal came under consideration of the Congress regime when JB Pattnaik was the CM. Then Rourkela MLA late Gurupada Nanda had raised the issue, taking a cue from an article by Rabi

Kanungo, renowned columnist and former editor of an Odia daily. Since then, the issue was being raked up by elected representatives but it continued to remain at discussion level only.

There are many arguments that favour a Commissionerate system in Rourkela. First, the city has an independent administrative circle for which it has an additional district magistrate and an SP. Besides, the western range DIG is stationed here. Also, it is an independent telecom circle. Similarly, many Central and state organisations regard it as an independent circle for better administration. Another important factor is that Rourkela is a sensitive bordering area.

Many of the retired officials argue in favour of a Police Commissionerate system in steel city. Suman Dutta, a former police official, said, "It had always been a proposal only but now it may be a reality."

Likewise, Bimal Bisi, former SEFI secretary, said, "There is no better news than this for Rourkela; we are waiting for it to happen." Former president of RCCI Subha Pattnaik said, "This is a long standing demand and I am hopeful that it will be fulfilled this time."



GEARING UP: Artisans prepare the gold and silver ornaments on Samaleswari temple premises in Sambalpur, Friday ahead of Nuakhai, the popular agrarian festival of western Odisha

Youth shot at in front of mother



POST NEWS NETWORK

Jharsuguda, Sept 6: Ahead of the Nuakhai festival, law and order has gone for a toss in Jharsuguda town as assailants fired shots at a young man in broad daylight at his residence leaving him critically injured at Shanti Nagar here, Friday afternoon.

Soon after committing the crime, the accused fled the scene.

According to reports, Rakesh Oram and his mother were sitting together and having a chat at home when two youths arrived on a scooter and stopped in front of their house. Without any conversation, they entered the house and fired two rounds at Rakesh. Luckily, the bullet only grazed Rakesh's shoulder.

Hearing his screams, locals rushed to the scene, forcing the assailants to flee on their scooter.

Rakesh was rescued by his family members in critical condition and admitted to the Jharsuguda District Headquarters Hospital for treatment. Upon receiving information, police arrived at the scene and began an investigation.

Notably, Rakesh had got into an argument with the assailants over some matter Thursday. However, the accused entered Rakesh's house and shot him Friday. Rakesh's mother has filed a complaint, urging the police to immediately arrest the assailants. Based on the complaint, police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident.

2-day mushroom cultivation training programme by RSP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 6: A two-day mushroom cultivation training programme was held by CSR department of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) at the Institute of Periphery Development (IPD) here. GR Dash, GM (HR-CLC) presided over the valedictory function and handed over the certificates to the trainees for successful completion of the programme. Twenty members of SHGs from Birkera and Degaghat villages under Lathikata Block attended the training programme.

The trainees were provided with theoretical inputs, practical demonstration and hands-on training for mushroom cultivation. After the completion of the training programme, each trainee was given a self-made mushroom growing kit and a bottle of mushroom seed to cultivate at their respective places and motivate others for the same. All the trainees expressed their satisfaction at the end of the training.

T Vengra and B Ekka, the two master trainers from the CSR department, along with mushroom training instructor Kamala Toppo of Suman SHG from Dalpoh village conducted the training sessions.

Bike-lifting gang busted; 6 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kendrapara, Sept 6: A special squad of the Kendrapara district police busted a gang of bike-lifters and arrested six members of the racket Friday, an officer said.

The racket was unearthed after a complaint of bike-lifting was lodged in Kendrapara town. Nine motorbikes stolen by the gang were seized from a motor

garage in seaside Talchua village, the Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Kendrapara, Debashis Dhal, said.

"Search is on to catch the other members of the gang. We are hopeful that we will recover more stolen bikes," he said.

A total of 50 complaints have been registered in different police stations of the district in the past six to eight months, the police officer said.

Ganjam shows way to self-reliance through apiculture, fishery

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sorada, Sept 6: Apiculture and fishery have made the people of several villages under Badagada forest range and South Ghumusar forest division in Sorada block of Ganjam district self-reliant, according to a report.

Residents of Lembhakumpha, Rola, Besarbata, Binjigiri and Madhabpur who were earlier reeling under financial stress have now been able to earn a livelihood and meet the expenses of their family. This turnaround was possible when the Forest department intervened and decided to provide livelihood opportunities to five Vana Surakhya Samitis and are protecting the jungles. They have also taken up api-



SOME RESIDENTS OF THESE VILLAGES HAVE NOW BEEN APPOINTED IN THE VANA SURAKSHA SAMITIS AND ARE PROTECTING THE JUNGLES. THEY HAVE ALSO TAKEN UP API-CULTURE AND PISCICULTURE AFTER BEING ENCOURAGED BY THE BADAGADA FOREST RANGE OFFICER. THEY HAVE TAKEN UP BEEKEEPING DESPITE THE COMPLEX

process of maintaining bee colonies to obtain honey and honey based end products like beeswax, propolis, royal jelly and honeydew. They hope to reap benefit from this cultivation due to its high demand. They spend around two to three hours daily in honey farming.

Similarly, the Forest department is also promoting 25 farmers from these five villages interested in fishery. The officials are providing them with fingerlings, fish feed, fishing gadgets and medicines to start the cultivation. These efforts have helped check rampant migration from the area and made the people self-reliant.

As directed by the forest ranger, the villagers are being

provided ₹25,000 financial assistance to start pisciculture. The farmers use the funds to start cultivation of rohu, catla and various other varieties of fish. Badagad forest ranger, Siddhapur forester and the forest guards are assisting them in this cultivation, said sources.

Babu Bisoi, a farmer, said he sought help from Badagad forest ranger who advised him to take up honey and fish cultivation to augment his livelihood. He started the cultivation and is now happy with his earnings. Villagers said the initiative by the forest officials has helped them in earning a livelihood and checked migration of labour to a great extent.

Elderly man dies of snakebite

Chikiti: An elderly man died of snakebite at Badapalanka village under Ramachandrapur panchayat and this block in Ganjam district, Friday morning. The deceased has been identified as Ganapati Sethi, 60, a resident of the same village. According to information, Ganapati was working at his farmland Friday morning when a poisonous snake bit him. Family members of Ganapati immediately rescued him and rushed him to Chikiti hospital for treatment. As his condition deteriorated he was then shifted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital at Berhampur. However, Ganapati died while undergoing treatment at the hospital. A case of unnatural death has been registered in this regard at the police outpost at the hospital campus.

7-yr-old Rourkela taekwondo kid vows to bring gold medal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 6: At an age when most children love to play and do their studies, a seven-year-old taekwondo kid from the steel city here is representing the state and the country, eyeing for a gold medal in the Asian Taekwondo Olympics to be held in 2026.

Meet Kousik Kumar of Sector-5 here who has already made the city and state proud by clinching 12 gold medals, nine silver medals and 10 bronze medals in various national and international taekwondo championships. Kousik is a Class II student of DAV Public School, Sector-16. His father Malay Ranjan Barik is in Indian Army, while his mother Kshirodini Barik is a homemaker.

After observing that Kousik has trouble in sleeping and he would feel exhausted after playing and exercising, his mother enrolled him in The Next Gen Institute, a taekwondo training centre in Sector-3. Initially, he started with dance classes, but gradually shifted to taekwondo training under the guidance of his instructor Anand Kumar Suna. Kousik got a lot of inspiration and encouragement from his mentor who was happy about his quick grasp of various martial art techniques.



POST NEWS NETWORK

In 2019, Kousik participated in National-level Taekwondo Championship held at Guru Nanak Public School in Rourkela, where he showcased his exceptional talent by defeating three players in the junior category and winning his gold medal. Impressed by his skills, Anand began grooming him to represent the state and country at national and international levels.

During Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, Kousik continued his taekwondo training through online video conferences and won a gold medal.

In 2021, he was selected for the Indian team to participate in 4th National Taekwondo Championship, where he defeated a Korean player to win another gold medal.

Later, in 2021, Kousik participated in the India Cup Open International Taekwondo

Championship in Goa and won a gold medal along with a bronze medal in the All India Sub-Junior category in Bilaspur. Kousik is the only contestant in the junior category from Sundargarh district to earn a black belt in taekwondo. In 2022, he bagged a gold medal in Junior Category at the State-level Taekwondo Championship and secured one gold and two bronze medals in the 6th National Taekwondo Championship in 2023.

Kousik's achievements at such a young age led to his selection in the Indian Junior Taekwondo team for the 2024 Junior Asian Taekwondo Championship in Ghaziabad, Delhi. There, he got trained under Surendra Bhandari, first gold medalist in men's category from Asian Taekwondo Championship. On August 9, Kousik returned from a tour to Thailand where he won one gold and two bronze medals at the 7th Heroes Taekwondo International Championship.

Kousik has qualified for G1 Taekwondo championship to be held in South Korea.

Kousik has vowed to continue his efforts until he wins a gold medal in the Asian Taekwondo Olympics. He credits his success to the unwavering support of his family and the guidance of his mentor Anand.

Jail superintendent under Vig lens

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 6: A seven-member team from the Vigilance department raided the office and government quarters of Keonjhar Jail Superintendent Satya Prakash Swain, Friday morning. It is reported that the raid was conducted on the allegation of possession of disproportionate assets (DA).

The raid, led by Keonjhar Vigilance unit DSP Sudhanshu Pujari and Bhubaneswar DSP Aniruddha Nayak, began Friday morning. During the raid, jewellery, passports, and some watches were seized. Preliminary reports suggested the seizure of



POST NEWS NETWORK

furniture worth around ₹1.20 lakh and ₹11,00,000 cash.

Swain was transferred to Keonjhar in June. Additionally, simultaneous raids were conducted in Bhubaneswar and Bhadrak district. He had previously served as the superintendent of Jharpada special jail in Bhubaneswar.

Man killed in elephant attack; another critical



POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Sept 6: In yet another case of man-elephant conflict, a 65-year-old farmer was killed in an elephant attack near Gadaitaila village in Bantala forest under the Angul forest division and Sadar police limits in this district, Friday morning.

According to reports, the incident occurred around 5:30am Friday morning, when deceased identified as Kustu Dehuri, 65, was on his way to the farmland for agricultural work. Suddenly an elephant which had strayed into the village from the nearby forest arrived at the scene and attacked Kustu leaving him critically injured.

A critically injured Kustu was

rescued by his family members and rushed to the Angul District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) where doctors declared him dead.

In a separate incident, an elephant attacked a 62-year-old woman, Kumari Sahu, who was plucking flowers near the electricity department office at the entrance of Bantala village.

The pachyderm caught her with the trunk and dashed her onto the ground. Hearing her cries, locals rushed to the spot and rescued her. With their help, Kumari was taken to the District Headquarters Hospital, where she was found to have sustained severe injuries on her waist. Currently, she is under treatment at the hospital.



You have no right to judge a man unless you are capable of doing what he does better than himself

THE MOTHER

Couple Goals

Kerala's power couple just made history in the most unexpected way! Dr V. Venu, the outgoing Chief Secretary, handed over the reins to his wife, Sarada Muralidharan, in a formal ceremony at the Thiruvananthapuram secretariat. Yes, you read that right—one Chief Secretary passing the baton to their spouse! It's a scene straight out of a family drama but with a bureaucratic twist.

Both Venu and Sarada belong to the IAS batch of 1990, making them true partners in both life and service. Venu, being a few months older, has always had that slight seniority edge, now it's Sarada's turn to take the top spot in the state's bureaucracy. And it's not just a matter of protocol—this moment is one for the history books.

Kerala is no stranger to dynamic husband-wife duos in government, but this is the first time a Chief Secretary has handed over the reins to their better half. It's as if the state's top job was always meant to stay in the family. As Sarada steps into her new role, the couple's joint legacy is sure to be a topic of conversation, not just in bureaucratic circles but across dinner tables too.

One can only imagine the banter at home—Venu reminding Sarada that he warmed the seat for her, and Sarada playfully pointing out that she'll now have the final say in both office and home!



Satya Narayan Misra

THE RIGHT TO SHELTER IS STILL NOT A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT LIKE THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION IN INDIA

Rising Rajasthan

In the lead-up to the 'Rising Rajasthan' global investment summit, scheduled for December 9-11 in Jaipur, a team of IAS officers is gearing up for a major cross-country and international mission. Their task is to attract investment and put Rajasthan on the global business map. This delegation will visit over 25 countries to connect with potential investors and build long-term relationships.

Sources have informed DKB that this will not be just doing a meet-and-greet—the babus are expected to engage with representatives from foreign and domestic companies regularly. Their role, in many ways, mirrors that of diplomats, focusing on key regions like China, Japan, Russia, and the U.S., but with one big difference: they're coordinating all this from Rajasthan. The idea is to create a network that can funnel investment straight into Rajasthan's lap.

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma is aiming big. The government's target is to double Rajasthan's GDP from \$184 billion to a whopping \$350 billion over the next five years. It's an ambitious goal, and that's precisely why they're pulling out all the stops with this investment summit. It's a different strategy from Tamil Nadu, where Chief Minister M.K. Stalin recently donned a business suit and travelled to the US to meet Silicon Valley honchos to sell the state as an attractive investment destination.

Sharma is banking on the Rising Rajasthan Summit to be the catalyst for this growth spurt. Will this strategy pay off? Only time will tell, but it's clear that the state is positioning itself as a serious economic player.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

Puja Khedkar: The plot thickens

The Puja Khedkar case might have slipped off the front pages, but it's far from over. In fact, it's getting even more intriguing. You'd think she'd be keeping a low profile given the circumstances, but no—Puja Khedkar is coming out swinging.

For those who need a refresher, Khedkar, a former IAS officer, had her candidature canceled by the UPSC over some pretty serious allegations of exam fraud. But she's not backing down. She's told the Delhi High Court that the UPSC had no business cancelling her candidature in the first place. According to her, once she was selected for the civil services and appointed as a probationer, the only ones who could touch her were the folks over at the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). She's leaning on Rule 19 of the CSE 2022 to make her case, arguing that the UPSC simply overstepped its authority.

Let's not forget, though, why she's in this mess. The UPSC found her guilty of faking her identity and misusing her powers. They didn't just cancel her candidature—they banned her from all future exams and even filed an FIR against her. Yet, despite all this, Khedkar recently managed to secure anticipatory bail and is now challenging the UPSC's decision in court.

The plot thickens with UPSC's latest move. It has argued that Khedkar's custodial interrogation is essential to uncover the full extent of the fraud, suggesting that she may not have acted alone. It's a legal drama that just keeps unfolding.

Kerala's Chief Secretary post stays in the family
Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- Death is not extinguishing the light; it is only putting out the lamp because the dawn has come. **RABINDRANATH TAGORE**
- The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance. **ARISTOTLE**
- Men are born ignorant, not stupid. They are made stupid by education. **BERTRAND RUSSELL**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1191:** Muslim army of Saladin attacked the Crusaders of Richard I (the Lion-Heart) at the Battle of Ars f, and, though Richard successfully counterattacked in the evening, his march to Jerusalem was delayed.
- 1812:** Napoleon's French forces narrowly defeated the Russians under Mikhail Illarionovich Kutuzov at the Battle of Borodino.
- 1901:** With the signing of the Boxer Protocol, the Boxer Rebellion officially ended; a violent peasant uprising, it had unsuccessfully sought to drive all foreigners out of China.
- 1921:** In Atlantic City, New Jersey, the first Miss America Pageant (then known as the Inter-City Beauty Contest) began; 16-year-old Margaret Gorman was crowned the winner the following day.

LOL

What is the oldest profession?

A physician, an engineer, and an attorney were discussing who among them belonged to the oldest of the three professions represented. The physician said, "Remember, on the sixth day God took a rib from Adam and fashioned Eve, making him the first surgeon. Therefore, medicine is the oldest profession."

The engineer replied, "But, before that, God created the heavens and earth from chaos and confusion, and thus he was the first engineer. Therefore, engineering is an older profession than medicine."

Then, the lawyer spoke up. "Yes," he said, "But who do you think created all of the chaos and confusion?"



FOCUS JUSTICE

RETRIBUTIVE BULLDOZING

Responding to a batch of petitions against the order to bulldoze the houses of alleged accused, two judges of the Supreme Court, Justices Gavai & Vishwanathan, have decreed that the law does not allow the razing of homes of the accused and have suggested framing pan India guidelines and digitize the process, much like the Vishakhia guidelines issued in 1997 to deal with sexual harassment of women at their workplace. Retributive justice gives proportionate punishment based on the crime committed; an eye for an eye as in the Old Testament. Immanuel Kant pitched for it. The court has asserted that bulldozer justice will not be meted anywhere in the country. As may be recalled, the bulldozer has become a political tool in the state of UP, as a power statement. Called Bulldozer Baba, CM Yogi was followed by Shivraj Chauhan, CM in MP for a similar type of demolition in April 2022. Max Weber wrote in Politics as a Vocation (1918) that the state monopolizes the legal use of force. However, he also wrote that using force for effective governance is unnecessary.

When Solicitor General Tushar Mehta brought to the Court's notice that Municipal laws provide for the demolition of illegal structures, Justice Gavai pointed out that such demolitions are the exceptions and not the norm. He hastened to add "We are not protecting any unauthorized structures, even temples". Advocate Dave, arguing against the government's high-handed bulldozer justice made a passionate plea that the right to a home is an integral part of the right to life. This brings to memory the iconic Olga Tellis Case against BMC (1985) when the pavement dwellers and slum dwellers in the



The spate of bulldozing in states like UP, MP, and Delhi, under the cover of the Municipality Act, is an affront to our governance's failure to mete out basic socio-economic justice of decent livelihood, and shelter to all our citizens

Kamraj Nagar slum area were forcibly evicted from their huts under the BMC Act 1888. Olga Tellis, the intrepid editor of Asian Age along with two slum dwellers argued before the Supreme Court that the right to livelihood and shelter is part of the fundamental right to life. She also argued that the procedure followed for eviction without notice is patently arbitrary and unreasonable, as it deprives affected citizens of the right to natural justice, to be heard.

In a landmark judgment CJI YV Chandrachud upheld the contention that the right to life includes the right to livelihood, the reason why these slum-dwellers have migrated to Mumbai city in search of jobs like hawkers and workers. Referring to Article 39(a), which enjoins upon the state to provide adequate means of livelihood, and Article 41 which talks about the right to work, the Court observed that 'it would sheer pederasty to remove the right to livelihood from the ambit of Article 21. The court was realistic enough to observe that the

state may not be compelled to provide adequate means of livelihood and work, but any person deprived of his right to livelihood can challenge the deprivation as offending the right to life. The Court did not agree with the contention of the BMC that the slum dwellers were criminal trespassers under S 441 of IPC. It referred to a survey conducted by Dr Muttagi of TISS in 1972, 77,79 and 81 as per which the pavement dwellers are a peaceful lot, 53% of whom were self-employed as hawkers and 38% were wage employed. The Court was of the view that the stand of the government showed prejudice against the destitute.

The substantive relief that the court gave was that the slum dwellers should not be evicted at least one month after monsoon season. The Court also suggested that steps should be taken to offer alternative places to the pavement dwellers who were censured in 1976. But this was not a condition precedent to the removal of encroachment. The judgment had a massive impact on halting the government's

massive eviction plans. Housing rights jurisprudence has evolved considerably. The right to shelter is still not a fundamental right like the right to education in India. This is unlike South Africa's progressive Constitution, S 26 which gives rights to everyone to have access to adequate housing. It also guarantees minimal suffering if people become homeless as a result of eviction.

The spate of bulldozing in states like UP, MP, and Delhi under the cover of the Municipality Act is an affront to our governance's failure to mete out basic socio-economic justice of decent livelihood, and shelter to all our citizens. It may be recalled that in May 1976, Sanjay Gandhi launched the slum clearance drive of Muslim residents in the Turkman gate area which led to the death of many protesters who were run over by bulldozers. Forcible sterilization and bulldozing slum dwellers are often touted as prime reasons for Mrs. Gandhi's electoral rout in the general election in 1977.

As Santayana said 'Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it.' The Supreme Court's status quo intervention brought relief to residents of the Jahangipur area. This is no answer to the larger overarching questions related to the perceived targeting of certain sections of society and the arrogance of state power to use force ruthlessly. The denouement to the Supreme Court's final order to carve out a reasonable guideline for eviction and demolition will be keenly awaited. Quite clearly retributive bulldozing has no place in a plural society like ours. The rule of law has to be the basis for dispensing justice.

The writer teaches Constitutional Law

SPECTRUM INDIAN OCEAN REGION

Gravity of Colombo Security Conclave

A formal agreement was signed August 30 in Colombo to set up a secretariat for the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC). The signatories were NSAs of four member countries: Ajit Doval from India, Ibrahim Latheef of the Maldives, Sagala Ratnayake of Sri Lanka and Haymandoyal Diliun, High Commissioner of Mauritius. The other member Bangladesh was expected to sign but did not. The most important part of the agreement is to establish the secretariat in Colombo which hosted the signing ceremony.

The CSC began in 2011 as tri-lateral security cooperation between India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. But due to political developments between member countries, the growth of the cooperation was halted up to 2014. It picked up in 2020 after Mauritius joined in the fifth meeting of NSAs. Bangladesh and Seychelles were the observer members initially. Later, Bangladesh became a formal member. The idea is to expand the membership into other countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

What is the significance of CSC? This can be assessed in the context of India as a fast-rising power. Understandably, India is seeking a larger canvass to extend and project its influence. In order to do so, India has

to secure its neighbourhood and now the neighbourhood extends beyond its immediate geographical periphery to the IOR. Indian government has taken multiple initiatives to ensure the freedom and prosperity of IOR.

IOR is an important geo-political area for the entire world. IOR has 1200 islands, 2.4 million sq kms of Exclusive Economic Zone. Almost 90% trade by volume and 90% of oil passes through IOR. About ten thousand ships carrying 30% of world cargo transit through IOR. There are 40 countries constituting 4% of the global population in IOR. That is why the security of this region is critical.

The significance of CSC for India consists of the following. It is being seen as New Delhi's outreach to Indian Ocean to enhance regional cooperation and shared security objectives. Second, it can contribute to countering China, reducing Chinese influence and footprint in the member countries, remember the theory of 'String of Pearls'.

Third, Maritime security – India's coastline is 7,500 kms along with Islands of strategic chokepoints. This makes maritime security a priority and CSC plays an important role in it. Fourth, CSC should synergise with other regional initiatives like SAGAR, Quad, BIM-STEC, IORA – Indian Ocean Rim

Assistance and IONS – Indian Ocean Naval Symposium. Fifth, CSC will also contribute to sub-regionalism. The six Indian Ocean countries coming together indicate the development of sub-regionalism.

However, there are challenges down the road. Although, it may be a part of a strategy to counter China, it should not be bogged down by the China issue, lest it should meet the fate of SAARC. China is certainly the elephant in the room. The member countries and those participating in IOR will have to balance China in their trade and security policy. So, they may be hesitant to join. But the benefits of enhance cooperation should outweigh their hesitations. CSC underlines the need for regional cooperation as IOR should be developed into a global common.

The cooperation framework like CSC on IOR should expand its membership. At the same time, it should not duplicate the works of other multilateral groups in IOR. The member countries and the associates are naturally vulnerable to domestic political changes but multi-lateral mechanisms like CSC should insulate themselves from such changes by setting up working groups etc.

India does not have bilateral maritime security dialogues with any of the five associates of

CSC. New Delhi should seriously think of instituting such dialogues to complement the CSC process. New Delhi should nudge Australia to join the CSC to avoid it being seen as anti-China. Australia's experience in five pillars of CSC will come handy. Australia could provide security focussed exercises and enhance capacity building.

The way forward in CSC is for New Delhi to project India as a friendly power in the region. It could share technology, extend training facilities, supply equipments and upgrade coastal security installations with member countries. As such, Indian naval ships have been rescuing the merchant vessels from the wrath of the pirates. Recently, due to attacks by Houthee rebels in the Red Sea area, India has deployed more force. Finally, New Delhi should mobilise others to join the security arrangements like CSC in the IOR. This is necessary as Pakistan is said to have by 2028-29, similar naval capacity as that of India's Western Naval Command. The two-front confrontation for India is on the cards. Hence, New Delhi has to be security-ready all the time. CSC as a mini-lateral entity is a step in that direction.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism.



DK Giri

NEW DELHI SHOULD SERIOUSLY THINK OF INSTITUTING MARITIME SECURITY DIALOGUES WITH FIVE ASSOCIATES OF COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE

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

Judicial integrity

Sir, The ongoing clash between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) regarding his bail raises crucial questions about the misuse of power and the integrity of investigative bodies. While Kejriwal alleges political vendetta behind the CBI's actions, the agency claims to act within the bounds of law. This tension between political figures and investigative agencies is not new, yet it strikes at the heart of democratic accountability. The Supreme Court's decision to reserve its verdict is a prudent move, ensuring all legal perspectives are considered before passing judgment. However, this case symbolises a broader issue—the need for absolute impartiality in institutions like the CBI. Any perception of bias erodes public trust, which is fundamental in a functioning democracy. A transparent, non-partisan approach from both the judiciary and investigative bodies is crucial to maintaining the rule of law. Any deviation risks undermining the pillars of justice and governance, leading to a dangerous precedent where political battles overshadow legal fairness. The public must trust these institutions to act in the country's best interest, beyond the reaches of political influence.

Priya Gupta, KUSHINAGAR

Phogat's political debut

Sir, It's interesting to observe that our Olympian wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia have decided to join the Indian National Congress ahead of the Haryana election. Their meeting with Congress scion Rahul Gandhi has almost been conclusive proof that they would make it by getting their tickets. Phogat has given up her official position from Railways which green signals her entry into politics. While Phogat has been taking a stance to bat for the farmers in support of their claim to have a guarantee for the Minimum Support Price for their products, her patronage to farmers can touch the sentiments of the Indian public. This may help to prove her claim against the BJP-supported WFI president Brij Bhushan Singh on his alleged involvement in sexual abuse against women wrestlers. Who knows the marginally overweight slip in gaining gold in the Paris Olympics might help Phogat launch a successful innings in politics.

AP Thiruwadi, CHENNAI

KOLKATA METRO DRILLING ROW

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 6: Residents of Durga Pituri Lane in the city's Bowbazar area Friday engaged in a verbal duel with Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRC) officials over persistent cracks and water leaks in local buildings, which they allege have been caused by drilling operations.

KMRC evacuated 52 people and relocated them Thursday night to local hotels as a precautionary measure. This action followed reports of underground water leak during tunnel

Residents of Bowbazar stage protest



drilling in the Sealdah-Esplanade stretch of the east-west Metro corridor.

A KMRC official said, "We have moved 52 people from 11 families to four nearby hotels

as a precaution. Engineers said the leak has been contained, but we will monitor the situation for another day or two before allowing residents to return."

Despite this, residents voiced

their frustration, claiming that no one was taking responsibility for the ongoing issues. Local councillor Biswarup Dey expressed dissatisfaction, saying, "People are fed up. Since 2019, KMRC has failed to provide a deadline for resolving these issues. No one is taking responsibility, and people have been displaced from their homes."

Residents of the Bowbazar area in central Kolkata demanded accountability from officials, with one of them commenting, "Every officer is shifting their responsibility to someone else. We want

someone to take responsibility."

In response, residents briefly blocked access to the Central Metro station, causing inconvenience to passengers during office hours. The Kolkata Police intervened swiftly to restore order. The issues of subsidence and building cracks have been ongoing since 2022, with significant damage reported in Durga Pituri in 2022 and 2023. The situation remains volatile with residents threatening to protest on the Metro tracks if their concerns are not addressed.

Cal HC calls out state lawyers for missing non-political cases



Addressing a PIL regarding the plight of tiger attack victims in the Sunderbans, Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam remarked on the absence of state representation despite prior instructions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 6: The Calcutta High Court Thursday expressed serious concerns about the absence of West Bengal government lawyers in cases before it, particularly when the matters are not politically sensitive.

Addressing a PIL regarding the plight of tiger attack victims in the Sunderbans, Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam remarked on the absence of state representation despite prior instructions.

The Chief Justice observed, "Unless something is politically sensitive, no government counsel is promptly attending to the matters."

Sivagnanam questioned the process by which lawyers are assigned cases by the government, describing the situation as "very saddening."

He noted the inconvenience of having to enquire about state representation in every case. Maintaining that allocation of cases to lawyers needs to be done by the state properly, the bench said, "If this happens in court No 1 (the Chief Justice's court), imagine the plight of the other courts."

The division bench, also comprising Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya, said it's a matter of regret that in spite of having passed an order May 9, none has appeared for the state. The court has scheduled the matter for a follow-up hearing September 26.

Mohammed Ghalib, an advocate for the West Bengal government who was present in court but not involved in the PIL, apologised unconditionally on behalf of the state. He was requested to inform the government pleader's office to ensure corrective measures are taken.

The bench said in the instant petition before it, the court had May 9 directed the petitioner to serve notice in the office of the government pleader so that a counsel can appear for the state and make submissions before it in view of the sensitivity of the matter. On an earlier occasion in April, the state was represented by senior lawyers, the court noted.

Met warns of low flash flood risk in 5 districts of HP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 6: As rains forced closure of 40 roads in Himachal Pradesh, the local Met office Friday warned of low flash flood risk in five districts of the state.

The local meteorological office has warned of low flash flood risk in parts of Shimla, Solan, Sirmour, Mandi and Bilaspur districts till Saturday. It has issued yellow alert of heavy rain, thunderstorm and lightning in 10 out of 12 districts of the state, barring tribal districts of Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti Friday. A total of 40 roads including 16 in Mandi, 10 in Kangra, nine in Shimla, two in Kullu and one each in Sirmour, Una and Lahaul and Spiti districts are closed for vehicular traffic as per the state emergency operation centre.

As many as 32 power schemes have also been affected in the state, the centre said. Meanwhile, moderate rains lashed parts of the state. Dehra Gopipur recorded 64 mm of rain and was the wettest, followed by Dharamshala 55.2 mm, Palampur 32.4 mm, Sarahan 22 mm, Kasauli 19 mm and Kangra 17.2 mm. Himachal Pradesh's rainfall deficit since the onset of monsoon in the state June 27 stands at 21 per cent, with the state receiving 509.3 mm rainfall against an average of 648.1 mm.

PENSION SCHEME Applications of over 2K women rejected: Shandil

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 6: Applications of over 2,000 women have been rejected for a pension of ₹1,500 per month under the "Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Rashi" scheme as these applicants were found ineligible during verification, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr Dhani Ram Shandil said Friday.

Responding to questions by the BJP's Rakesh Jamwal, Pawan Kajal, Sukh Ram Choudhary, Randhir Sharma and others, Dr Dhani Ram Shandil said 7,88,784 applications were received up to July 31, 2024 for pension. However, under the scheme only one eligible woman in the family would be given a pension, Shandil said.

Shandil said that the government has increased the pension of 2,45,881 women to ₹1,500, who were already receiving pensions under the Social Security Pension Scheme. Additionally, 28,249 women were added to the scheme, including 1,006 tribal women from Lahaul and Spiti districts.

As many as 2,384 applications were rejected for pensions under the "Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Rashi" scheme as they were found ineligible during the verification process, Shandil said.

A budget provision of ₹22.84 crore has been made for giving pensions to eligible women in the age group of 18 to 59. So far, ₹1.20 crore has been spent, he said. Verification of applications was delayed due to the Model Code of Conduct for Lok Sabha polls and assembly by-elections.

WB Guv sends anti-rape Bill to Prez

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 6: West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose Friday referred the anti-rape Bill passed by the Assembly to President Droupadi Murmu for her consideration, a Raj Bhavan official said.

Bose, who was handed over the technical report of the Bill by Chief Secretary Manoj Pant earlier in the day, referred the Bill to Murmu after going through it, he said.

"Governor refers the 'Aparajita Bill' to President Droupadi Murmu for consideration. He referred it after receiving the mandatory technical report from the state government," the official told PTI.

Bose had Thursday criticised the Mamata Banerjee administration for "failing to send" the technical report along with the Bill, which is necessary for giving assent to it.

The Raj Bhavan has also expressed its displeasure over the "failure" of the assembly and secretariat in providing the text of the debates and its translation



Bose had Thursday criticised the Mamata Banerjee administration for "failing to send" the technical report along with the Bill, which is necessary for giving assent to it

as required under the rules, the official said.

"Now, the 'Aparajita' Bill will join the lot of similar other Bills pending with the President from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh," he said.

The governor "pointed out the

omissions and commissions in the hurriedly passed Bill", he said, adding, Bose has "warned" the state government not to "act in haste and repent at leisure".

Bose has also pointed out the "glaring defects and lapses" in the Bill and advised the state



An activist clashes with a security personnel during a protest march to Howrah District Health office by various left organisations, demanding strict punishment for culprits involved in the alleged sexual assault and murder of the Kolkata medic and resignation of West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, in Howrah

RG KAR TRAGEDY Tension in pockets of WB over BJP's 'Chakka Jam' stir

IN CONTINUING PROTESTS FOLLOWING THE RAPE & MURDER, VEHICULAR TRAFFIC MOVEMENT WAS DISRUPTED ACROSS WEST BENGAL FRIDAY

AGENCIES

Kolkata, Sept 6: Tension broke out in different pockets of West Bengal Friday afternoon following the 'Chakka Jam' protest by the state BJP condemning the rape and murder of a junior doctor at RG Kar Medical College & Hospital in Kolkata last month.

Traffic was thrown totally out of gear at several pockets in the state following the protest by the Bengal BJP's workers and supporters.

In certain places like Behala on the southern outskirts of Kolkata and West Burdwan district the BJP cadres and supporters demonstrated by blocking roads and burning tyres. At some places tension broke out following scuffles between policemen and the BJP workers and supporters.

The impact of the 'Chakka Jam' protests was especially felt in pockets of North Bengal where the BJP has a substantial or-



Traffic was thrown totally out of gear at several pockets in the state following the protest by the Bengal BJP's workers and supporters

ganisational network. The BJP workers blocked the Asian Highway-II at Bagdogra and Matigara in Darjeeling district as part of the protest and demanded that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee resign taking moral responsibility for the failure of the Kolkata Police in handling the initial investigation in the rape and murder case. Meanwhile, tension broke out in Kolkata-adjacent Howrah district as well, after the activists

of the students' and youth wings of the CPI(M) started organising demonstrations there. As the protesters started marching towards the district health office, the police stopped them from doing so.

This led to a massive scuffle between the cops and the protesters. The police even raised barricades to stop the demonstration, which the protesters tried to break through. Thereafter the demonstrators sat on the road and started protesting, which disrupted the traffic movement there.

HP Assembly amends law to curb illicit liquor trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 6: The Himachal Pradesh Assembly Thursday passed a Bill that imposes stringent provisions against illicit liquor trade, including severe punishment for involving minors in illegal activities.

All offences of illicit liquor manufacturing, trafficking and consumption under the Himachal Pradesh Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2024 would be cognisable and properties acquired by illegal means would be confiscated. During a discussion on the Bill in the legislative assembly, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said



that besides provisions to regulate manufacture, sale and transportation of liquor, mak-

ing penal provision more stringent and streamlining its enforcement was imperative.

Jal Rakshaks clash with police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 6: A scuffle broke out between police personnel and 'Jal Rakshaks' here Friday as the latter tried to head towards the Himachal Pradesh Assembly while it was in session, to raise their demand for better wages.

Hundreds of protesters gathered at the Chaura Maidan near the Assembly building and raised slogans against the state government for not fulfilling their demands, which also include job regularisation within 8 years. The scuffle erupted when the protesters tried to break through the barricades installed to stop them from marching ahead.

'Jal Rakshaks', water guards or carriers who are crucial to managing water resources in rural areas, are hired by the government on a contractual basis and their services are regularised after 12 years. The Jal Rakshak Mahasangh has warned the government of a hunger strike if its demands are not met. The association's president Roop Lal said the government is not ready to listen to their demands.

"Those who are getting salaries in lakhs are getting paid on time but no one is paying attention to those who are being paid ₹4,000 to ₹5,000 per month," Lal said while addressing reporters during the protest.

national

of the day quote

The valour and discipline of the Indian Army is unparalleled...we can sleep peacefully because our brave soldiers protect the borders day and night

I think it shows Modi ji's sensitivity that he apologised over this matter, but those who are arrogant will never understand it

The Congress will hold a protest on September 20 across Madhya Pradesh seeking hike in minimum support price (MSP) for agricultural produce

SHORT TAKES

5 of family killed in road accident

Barabanki (UP): Five members of a family riding an e-rickshaw were killed in a collision with two speeding cars here, police said Friday. Three others, one of them a child, were left injured in the crash that took place around 10 pm Thursday on the Mahmudabad-Lucknow road in Inayatpur village, they said.

Lightning strike kills 2 CRPF jawans

Dantewada: Two personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were killed in a lightning strike at an anti-Naxalite training centre of the paramilitary force in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district Friday, police said. The incident occurred around 3 pm when a training session was underway at the facility in the Barsoor police station area of the district, an official said.

Inter-faith couple found hanging

Sitapur (UP): The bodies of a middle-aged, inter-faith couple were found hanging from a tree here Friday, police said. The couple allegedly committed suicide, they said. Bijehra village resident Salimun (45) was having an affair with Nakhachhed, whose wife died 15 years ago. He had two daughters, both of whom are married. Salimun was married to one Mushtaq and had two sons and a daughter with him. The bodies were found hanging from a tree in Nakhachhed's field outside their village in Reusa, the police said.

3 pilgrims die after train runs over them

Jaipur: Three people, on a religious pilgrimage, were killed after they were run over by a train in Rajasthan's Karauli district, police said Friday. Shyam (14), Darshan alias Kalu (41) and Tarun (31) were hit by the Delhi-Indore Superfast Express near Neemoda station of Sapotra subdivision Thursday night, Narauli Dang Station House Officer (SHO) Abjeet Kumar said. The loco pilot informed the Neemoda station master about the incident, Kumar said, adding that the trio was going on a 'padayatra' (religious pilgrimage) from Gangapur to a temple in Ranthambore.



I am immensely grateful to Scindia for his visit to Sikkim and sanctioning several projects for the development of the state. The sanction of various projects will cater to the needs of the people in all parts of the state

PREM SINGH TAMANG | CM, SIKKIM

NADDA INAUGURATES REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

Union Health minister JP Nadda inaugurated the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology on the campus of Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (IGIMS) and also the institute's extended building here Friday. Nadda arrived on a two-day visit to Bihar Friday



FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES PROBE

ED raids houses of ex-RG Kar hospital principal, aides

The raids were carried out at Ghosh's residence in Beliaghata and two locations in Howrah and Subhasgram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 6: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Friday detained Prasun Chattopadhyay, a data entry operator at the Calcutta National Medical College and a known associate of arrested ex-RG Kar hospital principal Sandip Ghosh, in connection with alleged financial irregularities at the latter institution, an officer said.

Chattopadhyay was seen being taken out of his residence at Subhasgram in South 24 Parganas district around 2 pm by ED officials, who previously conducted search operations at the premises for over seven hours.

He was then taken to Madhya Narayanpur in Canning area of the district where Ghosh had allegedly built a multi-crore farm house-cum-bungalow over a two-high plot three years ago and which Ghosh, according to local eyewitnesses, frequented with his family members.

Chattopadhyay, who allegedly used to identify himself as "Ghosh's PA", was also spotted amid the crowd from the purported August 9 video at the RG Kar hospital seminar hall crime scene where the murdered trainee doctor's body was discovered.

The CNMC employee allegedly used sign attendance registers at his official place of work but spent his days with Ghosh's office in RG Kar.

"I have replied to all questions of the ED officers," Chattopadhyay told reporters



Ghosh and three other associates were arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the same case September 3

while walking with the agency officials outside his residence.

Chattopadhyay denied he was arrested. His neighbours, mostly women, came outside their homes and were heard shouting the 'We Want Justice' slogan even as he was escorted to the agency vehicle by central paramilitary jawans.

The ED raids were part of the multipronged and simultaneous search operations in at least nine locations in the city and its suburbs since early Friday morning in connection with the alleged financial misconduct at the RG Kar hospital during Ghosh's tenure as principal, the officer said.

Ghosh and three other associates were arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the same case September 3.

The ED has filed an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) against Ghosh, which is analogous to a First Information Report (FIR) in criminal cases.

Besides Subhasgram, raids were conducted at Ghosh's Beliaghata residence in east

Kolkata and at dual apartments belonging to his relatives in Milan Palli area near Airport Gate number 2 in the northern fringes of the city.

In Beliaghata, ED was granted entry to Ghosh's house at 9.30 am after waiting for nearly three hours.

Ghosh's wife, who was not at home early morning, opened the locks for the central agency's team.

ED officers also reached the residences of arrested medical equipment supplier Biplab Sinha and at the house of Kaushik Koley in the same neighbourhood in Sankrail, Howrah.

Koley worked as an accountant in Sinha's firm.

At Milan Palli, ED officials began search operations from around 11.30 am at two apartments owned and rented by Ghosh's sister-in-law Arpita Bera and her husband Pritin. Both doctors at government establishments, the Bera couple had rented a second apartment in the complex which Ghosh used to visit, a neighbour said.

An ED official was seen carrying a black trolley bag out of one of the apartments during the course of the raid.

SC NOTIFIES CENTRE ON RJD'S QUOTA PLEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: The Supreme Court Friday sought responses from the Centre and the state government on a plea of Rashtriya Janata Dal against a Patna High Court order setting aside the amended reservation laws in Bihar that had led to raising of quotas for Dalits, tribals and backward classes from 50 per cent to 65 per cent.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of senior advocate P Wilson, appearing for RJD, that the plea needed to be decided.

"Issue notice and tag with the pending pleas," the CJ said.

The top court, while hearing other similar 10 pleas July 29, had refused to stay the high court order that set aside the amended

reservation laws in Bihar that enabled the Nitish Kumar government to raise quotas 50 per cent to 65 per cent.

The bench, however, had agreed to hear the petitions of the Bihar government against the verdict. The state government has also moved the top court against the high court judgement.

In its June 20 verdict, the high court declared that the amendments, passed unanimously by the state's bicameral legislature in November last year, were "ultra vires" of the Constitution, "bad in law" and "violative of the equality clause".

The exercise was undertaken by the Bihar government after the Centre expressed its inability to carry out a fresh head count of castes other than the SCs and STs, which was last held as part of the 1931 Census.

Scrap collector raped on Ujjain pavement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ujjain, Sept 6: A woman scrap collector was raped allegedly by a man after he forced her to consume liquor in Agar Naka area of Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain, a police official said Thursday. After the woman filed a complaint, the accused was arrested.

The incident came to light after a video of the rape, shot by unidentified persons, went viral on social media, Kotwali Area's City Superintendent of Police (CSP) Om Prakash Mishra said. The Police have identified three to four suspects, and efforts were on to nab them.

"We have identified three to four suspects who shot a video of the incident and made it viral. As per our information, all of them are at different locations and police teams are trying to nab them," Mr. Mishra, said.

The scrap collector was raped by a man after he forced her to



consume liquor in Agar Naka area of Ujjain. "Accused Lokesh promised to marry her, made her drink liquor and then raped her Wednesday. Some people who were passing by shot videos of the incident instead of stop-

ping the crime. Lokesh later fled from the spot. After the woman filed a complaint when the effect of alcohol wore off, Lokesh was arrested," he said.

The victim's health condition is stable and she is at her resi-

dence, he said. Madhya Pradesh Congress President Jitu Patwari questioned the silence of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's silence over the issue.

"BJP is protesting across the country against RG Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder incident...A woman was raped in Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's constituency. Why is MP CM Mohan Yadav, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, PM Modi silent?... There is 'Jungle Raaj' in Madhya Pradesh...BJP leaders should also look at these kinds of incidents that are happening in MP.."

Madhya Pradesh BJP chief and MP VD Sharma retorted that the accused had been arrested and the state government will ensure strict action. He said that the Congress was trying to create a controversy.

Light pollution at night may increase risk of Alzheimer's

Research says outdoor light exposure in evening increases prevalence of the disease, especially in people under age 65

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Night-time pollution from streetlights and illuminated signs has been linked with developing Alzheimer's disease because of its effects on people's sleep and biological clocks, according to a study that analysed light pollution maps in 48 US states.

Researchers said that nighttime light pollution may, therefore, be an important risk factor for developing the ageing-related disorder.

However, more studies are needed as the combined effects of both outdoor and indoor night-

time light exposure are important to fully understand how they impact the development of Alzheimer's disease, the researchers from Rush University Medical Center, US, said.

Irregular sleep patterns, including disturbances, is a common feature capable of triggering mild cognitive impairment, which is the stage preceding dementia, with Alzheimer's disease being the most common form.

Dementia is marked by affected memory, thinking and decision-making, thereby steadily deteriorating one's daily functioning.

Known risk factors for developing dementia include metabolic conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure, and depression.

In this study, published in the journal Frontiers in Neuroscience, the researchers looked at the light pollution maps



Irregular sleep patterns, including disturbances, is a common feature capable of triggering mild cognitive impairment, which is the the stage preceding dementia, with Alzheimer's disease being the most common form

along with residents' data taken from medical records. The data were related to risk factors for developing Alzheimer's disease. The researchers found that

among people aged 65 and older, Alzheimer's disease was more strongly correlated with nightly light pollution than other factors, including depression and

obesity. However, risk factors like diabetes, high blood pressure, and stroke were found to be more strongly linked with Alzheimer's disease than light pollution.

Among people aged below 65, the researchers found that a higher intensity in night-time light was related to more people being affected by Alzheimer's disease than any other risk factor they analysed in the study.

The results suggest that people younger than 65 years may be particularly sensitive to the effects of light exposure at night, the researchers said.

However, they were unclear as to why younger people could be more vulnerable, even as individual responses to light, along with their genetic risk of Alzheimer's disease, could play a role, they said.

"Certain genotypes, which influence early onset (Alzheimer's disease), impact the response to

biological stressors which could account for increased vulnerability to the effects of nighttime light exposure," study author Robin Voigt-Zuwala, an associate professor at Rush University Medical Center, said.

"Additionally, younger people are more likely to live in urban areas and have lifestyles that may increase exposure to light at night," Voigt-Zuwala said.

The authors said that possible processes by which light pollution may promote Alzheimer's disease include disturbed sleep, disruptions to biological clock and increase in inflammation due to exposure to light.

They added that while the data suggest that being exposed to night-time light may contribute to developing Alzheimer's disease, additional studies are needed, including those looking at effects of indoor and outdoor lights on developing the ageing-related condition.

PAC to decide on Buch's appearance



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman KC Venugopal said Friday it is for the panel to take a call on whether to ask SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch, who is facing allegations of conflict of interest, to appear before it or not.

Nishikant Dubey, a seasoned BJP lawmaker and member of the committee, appeared to question the suggestion that Buch may be scrutinised over the allegations as he told PTI that the PAC can take up a matter for scrutiny only based on "factual reports prepared by authoritative bodies".

Speaking to reporters on the raging row amid reports that the parliamentary panel may ask Buch to appear before it, the Congress leader confined himself to highlighting the committee's decision to review the performance of regulatory bodies established by Acts of Parliament.

He said the committee decided to include the performance review of regulators such as SEBI and TRAI on the suggestions of its members.

"Rest of the things, the committee has to take a decision," Venugopal said to questions on summoning the SEBI chairperson before the PAC.

Hinderburg Research, a US-based short-shelling firm, had

first levelled the allegation of conflict of interest against Buch, a charge which ignited a political controversy as the Congress seized on the report to target her and levelled fresh charges against her.

She has categorically denied the allegations.

Dubey suggested that a private firm report cannot be a ground for the PAC to investigate anyone. "PAC can only take up matters mentioned in factual reports, which must be prepared by authoritative bodies," he added.

Two other PAC members said on the condition of anonymity that the committee could always look into SEBI's work, and it does not necessarily mean that the allegations against Buch will be on the agenda.

Among the suo-moto subjects selected by the committee are the performance review of regulatory bodies established by Acts of Parliament, reforms in the banking and insurance sector, review of the implementation of centrally sponsored welfare schemes, policy measures underway for transition in the energy sector and levy and regulation of fees, tariffs, user charges on public infrastructure and other public utilities.

The PAC has selected 161 subjects for examination during its tenure, in addition to the pending matters before the committee from the previous year.

PAC can only take up matters mentioned in factual reports, which must be prepared by authoritative bodies

KC VENUGOPAL | PAC CHAIRMAN



Today, I had the privilege to join Hon'ble Union Minister Shri @sarbansandsonwal dangoriya and my other colleagues to dedicate the Chief Minister's secretariat in Dibrugarh. This secretariat is not just a building but illustrates our sustained efforts to bring governance closer to the people

INDIA, MALDIVES HOLD DEFENCE DIALOGUE

India and the Maldives on Friday held a fresh round of "productive" defence dialogue with a focus on the situation in the Indian Ocean and ways to expedite implementation of ongoing defence projects. The defence dialogue in Delhi took place nearly a month after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar paid a three-day visit to the Maldives, in the first high-level trip from New Delhi after the island nation's pro-China president Mohamed Muizzu assumed office



of the day quote

No investors will come to the state if we seek clearance from the Enforcement Directorate or CBI. We had judged the trust's financial capacity for the past three years whether it could manage the college or not

Around 62 lakh people will receive ₹3,200 each for Onam. This is in addition to the one month's pension that is currently being given

The Engineering Task Force of the Indian Army is engaged in closing the breaches. Two breaches have been closed by officials on a war footing and with the cooperation of Army officials, the most difficult third breach is being worked upon

POST OF THE DAY

Every year more medals are won by Indians in Paralympics than Olympics. Unfortunately we don't see the same adulation, fanfare, brand deals, awards & cash prizes. These people defy ALL ODDS to be where they are. It really needs to change

SHORT TAKES

Pollution in Ganga: SC stays NGT order

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday stayed an order of the National Green Tribunal directing criminal prosecution and punitive action against Uttarakhand government officials for failure to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage into the Ganga. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar issued notice to the Centre and posted the matter for hearing in the second week of December. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on February 9 had deprecated the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board for remaining a "silent spectator" and not taking proper action to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage into the Ganga.

Teen killed as Army vehicle hits bike

Nagpur: An 18-year-old boy died after the two-wheeler on which he was riding pillion was hit by an Army quick reaction team (QRT) vehicle in the cantonment area in Nagpur's Kamptee, a police official said Friday. The incident took place at Taof Chowk at 8pm Wednesday, the Juni Kamptee police station official said.

TDP's Satyavedu MLA suspended

Amaravati: Telugu Desam Party state president P Srinivas Rao has suspended party MLA, K Adimulam, over allegations of sexually harassing a woman. Adimulam represents the SC-reserved Satyavedu Assembly constituency. The woman held a press conference at Somajiguda Press Club in Hyderabad Thursday and levelled the allegations, adding that she caught him on camera.

HARYANA POLLS

Wrestlers Vinesh, Bajrang join Congress

VINESH PHOGAT GETS TICKET FROM JULANA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Olympians Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia, who were at the forefront of the wrestlers' protest against then WFI chief and former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, entered the political arena Friday by joining the Congress with a vow of "not being scared or backing off".

Phogat and Punia met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at his residence and later joined the party at the AICC headquarters in the presence of Congress general secretary in-charge organisation KC Venugopal, AICC general secretary in-charge Haryana Deepak Babaria, Haryana Congress chief Uday Bhan and the party's Media and Publicity department head Pawan Khera.

Both Phogat and Punia or at least one are set to contest the Assembly polls in Haryana on a Congress ticket, the sources said.

The Julana seat is being considered for Phogat, they added.

At the press conference during which they joined the party, Venugopal claimed that Phogat received a showcause notice from the Railways after she met



Rahul Gandhi Wednesday. Party sources said the notice talked about violating service rules by meeting political leaders.

Venugopal asked if it was a crime to meet the leader of the Opposition and urged the Railway authorities to relieve Phogat and not "play politics".

Without elaborating, Venugopal claimed Punia had also got a notice.

Phogat Friday resigned from the Indian Railways, citing personal reasons.

After joining the party, Phogat said the BJP was supporting Singh while the Congress supported the protesting wrestlers when they "were being dragged on the roads" in Delhi.

Punia and Phogat were part of the protest over sexual harassment allegations against former

the women that she was standing with them and that the Congress was standing with them, whenever they faced any problem.

Punia said the Congress stood with them during their tough times.

"What BJP IT Cell is saying today, that we just wanted to do politics... We had written to all women BJP MPs to stand with us but they didn't come. We are paying the price for raising our voices for women but now we know that the BJP stands with atrocities against women at Jantar Mantar, and all other parties stand with us," he said.

The Congress Friday released its first list of 31 candidates for the Haryana Assembly polls, fielding former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda from Garhi Sampla-Kiloi, state unit chief Uday Bhan from Hodal and wrestler Vinesh Phogat from Julana.

Besides Hooda, Bhan and Phogat, the Congress has fielded Mewa Singh from Ladwa to take on Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

The party has also fielded Surender Panwar from Sonapat, Bharat Bhushan Batra from Rohtak, Kuldeep Vats from Badli, Chiranjeev Rao from Revari and Neeraj Sharma from Faridabad NIT.

BSF asks BGB to prevent infiltration into India from B'desh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: The Border Security Force (BSF) has asked its Bangladeshi counterpart, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), to "prevent" citizens of the neighbouring country from illegally entering India in the wake of the Sheikh Hasina government's fall in August, the force said Friday.

The BSF also said it is committed to maintaining the sanctity of the 4,096-km international boundary with Bangladesh, along with ensuring the safety and security of the border population.

Since August 12, the BSF and the BGB had 722 meetings at various levels, the border-guarding force said after the meeting of a special committee appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which was held in Kolkata Thursday.

The two forces carried out 1,367 simultaneous coordinated patrolling (SCP) in vulnerable border patches, the BSF said in a statement.

"During these border meetings, BGB officials have been apprised to prevent Bangladeshi nationals from illegally infiltrating into Indian territory. The BGB has assured to take all steps for the safety of Indian citizens and people belonging to minority communities in Bangladesh," it added.

Officials of both the forces are in "constant" contact and sharing information on various operational matters on a real-time basis, the statement said.



A newly-inducted police constable with her family members during the passing out parade, in Nagpur

15 killed, 13 hurt after bus hits van in UP's Hathras

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hathras (UP), Sept 6: At least 15 people, including four women and an equal number of children, travelling in a van were killed Friday after a roadways bus hit the vehicle from behind on National Highway 93 in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh, officials said.

Thirteen people have also been injured in the accident and admitted to a government hospital. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed district officials to reach the spot and take care of the relief measures. The chief minister has also asked



the officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured. "The bus hit the van while trying to overtake it on the Agra-Aligarh national highway," Superintendent of Police (SP) Nipun Agarwal said. The accident occurred near

Kanwarpur village, about 10 kilometres from the district headquarters.

The passengers were on their way to Agra from Hathras.

The deceased have been identified as Irshad (25), Munne Khan (55), Muskan (16), Talli (28), Tabassum (28), Najma (25), Bhola (25), Khushbu (25), Jameel (50), Chote (25), Ayan (two), Sufiyan (one), Alfaz (six), Shoaib (five) and Ishrat (50).

The chief minister has given instructions to provide a financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh each

to the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each to those seriously injured.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the deaths in the accident and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. The local administration is providing all possible help to the victims under the supervision of the state government, he said on X.

Modi announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for those injured.

President Droupadi Murmu condoled the loss of lives in the accident and prayed for a speedy recovery of the injured.

Moon's seismic activity likely linked to meteorite impact: ISRO

THE RESEARCH PAPER, PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL ICARUS, IS A SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS MADE ON 190 HOURS OF DATA RECORDED BY THE INSTRUMENT FOR LUNAR SEISMIC ACTIVITY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Seismic activity in the Moon's soil could be due to impact from meteorites in the past or local heat-related effects, according to ISRO's preliminary analysis of data received from Chandrayaan-3's quake-detecting instrument.

However, detailed studies are needed to get more insights from the data, they said.

Their research paper, published in the journal Icarus, is a summary of observations made on 190 hours of data recorded by the Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA).

ILSA is one of the five major scientific instruments, all of them carried by Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander and Pragyaan rover together.

Chandrayaan-3 made a soft-landing on the Moon's south pole August 23, 2023.

The quake-detecting ILSA was operated continuously until September 2, 2023, after which it was switched off and was packed back up, before the lander was relocated to a new point roughly 50 centimetres away from the initial one, the researchers from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) explained.

ILSA operated on the lunar surface for about 218 hours, of which 190 hours of data are available, they said.

"We have identified more than 250 distinct signals of which about 200 signals are correlated to known activities involving the physical movements of the rover or the operation of science instruments," the study



authors wrote. The 50 signals, which could not be linked to movements of either the lander or the rover, were deemed "uncorrelated events" by the authors.

"The uncorrelated signals recorded by ILSA might be due to impact of micrometeorites at near ranges of the instru-

ment, local thermal effects on the soil, or thermal adjustments within the lander subsystems," they wrote.

A micrometeorite is a very small meteorite, or a remnant of a meteoroid, with diameter usually less than a millimetre.

The researchers also found that during its course of opera-

tion, ILSA also recorded a wide-range of changes in temperature -- from (minus) 20 degrees Celsius to (plus) 60 degrees Celsius.

ILSA was operated during a lunar day where the sun elevation angle had changed steadily

AFTER THE INITIAL FIVE HOURS OF OPERATION, THE TEMPERATURE STARTED TO DECREASE, WHICH WAS NOTED BY SHADOWS CAST BY THE LANDER'S PARTS ON THE INSTRUMENT

lunar day where the sun elevation angle had changed steadily. After the initial five hours of operation, the temperature started to decrease, which was noted by shadows cast by the lander's parts on the instrument, the authors said.

They said detailed studies are required to understand potential sources of ILSA's data.

"Even though the possible causes of signals due to uncorrelated events are presented, detailed analysis has to be conducted to get more insights from the records," the authors wrote.

ILSA is the first instrument ever to have recorded seismic data from the Moon's polar region and the second one to record ground movements on the Moon after NASA's Apollo mission about four decades back.

No talks with Pak unless terrorism ends: Shah

Shah made the remarks while releasing here the BJP's manifesto for Jammu and Kashmir



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Sept 6: Union Home Minister Amit Shah unequivocally said Friday that India is not in favour of talks with Pakistan until terrorism ceases, emphasising that "talks and bombs cannot go together".

Shah made these remarks while releasing here the BJP's manifesto for Jammu and Kashmir: He dismissed any possibility of dialogue with Pakistan amidst the ongoing terrorist activities.

Asserting that Article 370 is a thing of the past, Shah stated that no one can bring it back.

"Talks and bombs cannot go together. We are not in favour of talks with Pakistan unless and until terrorism ends. But we will definitely talk to the youth of Kashmir," Shah told reporters shortly after releasing the BJP manifesto ahead of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections.

Responding to a question about the National Conference (NC) and People's Democratic Party's (PDP) demand for talks with Pakistan and the restoration of cross-LoC trade, Shah said, "Unless terrorism comes to an end and the trade-terror ecosystem is dismantled, we cannot agree with it."

Taking a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his silence on the NC's manifesto, which advocates the restoration of Article 370, Shah said, "You should ask

this question to the Congress. Whatever they do, nothing is going to happen."

"The agenda of NC cannot get implemented on the ground. Article 370 is the past. It is history. Nobody can bring it back," the Union minister said.

Asked about separatists entering politics through elections, Shah said, "I do not have concerns about separatists. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the valley, have decided to support

Narendra Modi ji in making J&K free of terrorism. I hope that your question has been seen by Rahul Gandhi."

Criticising the contradiction between the NC manifesto and Rahul Gandhi's stance on reservations, Shah said, "There is a contradiction. This is a trait of Congress as they differ in what they say and what they do."

"I want to reassure the people of Jammu and Kashmir that Gujjar Bakerwal, Pahari, OBC, Dalit — the reservation given to them by us — nobody will snatch it. We will definitely continue," the senior BJP leader said. Commenting on Omar Abdullah's decision to contest two seats, Shah said, "What can I say? First, he did not want to contest because of fear. Then he contested one seat following pressure on him."

"Now, one seat is not enough, he is contesting two seats. But Omar Sahib, the people are not with you," the Union minister said.

The agenda of NC cannot get implemented on the ground. Article 370 is the past. It is history. Nobody can bring it back. AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

international

of the day quote

That's why I made it my personal goal to ensure we significantly improve things in this regard. We've already started that process internally, and I will share more details on our progress with you very soon

The government must have the emergency preparedness capacity to promptly respond in any circumstance to protect the people's lives and safety from the ever-intensifying threats from North Korea

There will be no impact on the India-US relationship because India-US relations over the last three decades have become strong and well entrenched. Irrespective of whether a Democrat or a Republican is elected president, the relationship will remain just as strong, whether it's economic, whether it's commercial, defence or strategic

SHORT TAKES

Hunter Biden pleads guilty

Los Angeles: Hunter Biden has pleaded guilty to federal tax charges in a surprise move that spares President Joe Biden and his family another likely embarrassing and painful criminal trial of the president's son. Hunter Biden's stunning decision to plead guilty to tax charges without the benefits of a deal with prosecutors came Thursday, hours after jury selection was supposed to begin in the case accusing him of failing to pay at least USD 1.4 million in taxes.

Nepal lifts ban on TikTok

Kathmandu: Effective Friday, Nepal has lifted the ban on popular social media app TikTok with some pre-conditions. Nepal had banned TikTok on November 12 last year, arguing that the social networking site was responsible for disturbing social harmony in the country, which invited widespread criticism from the general public. A notice by Nepal Telecommunication, the government-owned body, said, "This is to notify all the Internet Service Providers and Mobile Service Providers that the ban imposed on TikTok has been withdrawn."

Kishida's farewell visit to Seoul

Seoul: Less than a month before leaving office, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited Seoul and reaffirmed sympathy for the suffering of Koreans during Japan's colonial rule, as he and his South Korean counterpart Friday underscored the need to maintain warming ties between the Asian neighbours. Since early last year, Kishida and conservative South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol have worked together to repair ties badly frayed over grievances stemming from Japan's brutal 1910-45 occupation of the Korean Peninsula.

Oli to visit USA

Kathmandu: Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli will be embarking on his maiden foreign visit to the USA to take part in the UN General Assembly, breaking the tradition of visiting a neighbouring country first. The date of his departure has not yet been announced. A cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Oli Thursday endorsed his visit to the USA, government-run Gorkhapatra daily reported quoting a senior cabinet minister.



If Brussels wants illegal migrants, Brussels can have them
BENCE RÉTVÁRI | MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF HUNGARY

PRINCE HISAHITO TURNS 18

In a big milestone for Japan's royal family, Prince Hisahito turned 18 Friday, becoming the first male royal family member to reach adulthood in almost four decades. It is a significant development for a family that has ruled for more than a millennium but faces the same existential problems as the rest of the nation — a fast-aging, shrinking population



Israeli forces pull out of Jenin

After days largely trapped in their homes, residents of the Jenin camp emerged to take stock of the damage from what officials said was the most destructive assault in years

AGENCIES

Jenin Refugee Camp (West Bank), Sept 6: Israeli forces appeared to have withdrawn from three refugee camps in the occupied West Bank by Friday morning, after a more than week-long military operation that left dozens dead and a trail of destruction.

Overnight, Israeli armoured personnel carriers were seen leaving the Jenin refugee camp from a checkpoint set up on one of the main roads.

After days largely trapped in their homes, residents of the Jenin camp emerged to take stock of the damage from what officials said was the most destructive assault in years. Twisted rebar protruded from the concrete of collapsed buildings. Walls still standing were pockmarked by bullets and shrapnel.

During the operation, Israeli military officials said they were targeting militants in Jenin, Tulkarem and the Al-Faraa refugee camps in an attempt to curb recent attacks against Israeli civilians. They say such attacks have become more sophisticated



and deadly since Israel launched its campaign in Gaza in response to Hamas' attack on Israel nearly 11 months ago.

Troops were pulled out of the Tulkarem camp by Friday morning and had left Al-Faraa earlier, but in a statement the Israeli military suggested that the operation wasn't yet over.

"Israeli security forces are continuing to act in order to achieve the objectives of the counterterrorism operation," the military said in a statement. Hundreds of Israeli troops have been involved for more than a

week in what has been their deadliest operation in the occupied West Bank since the Israel-Hamas war began, employing what the United Nations called "lethal war-like tactics".

The main focus has been the Jenin refugee camp, a densely built district home to around 20,000 Palestinians where armed groups — including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, but also other factions advocating "resistance" to Israel's occupation — have a powerful presence.

Fighting in Jenin accounts for 21 of 39 Palestinians who

- Israel ends nine-day operation against West Bank militants
- Fighters and some civilians killed, thousands displaced
- Buildings demolished, infrastructure damaged
- Israel says aimed to thwart attacks on its civilians

local health officials say have been killed during the Israeli push in the West Bank. The military says most have been militants. The fighting has had a devastating effect on Palestinian civilians living in Jenin.

Water and electric services have been cut, families have been confined to their homes and ambulances evacuating the wounded have been stopped on their way to nearby hospitals, as Israeli soldiers search for militants. Israeli military bulldozers ripped up roads.

Jenin's governor, Kamal Abu al-Rub, said that the damage to infrastructure was extensive. In southern Gaza, health workers resumed vaccinating children against polio, continuing the second phase of a large-scale immunisation campaign.

US woman killed by Israeli soldiers at West Bank protest

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nablus, Sept 6: Israeli soldiers killed an American woman participating in an anti-settlement protest in the West Bank Friday, another protester who witnessed the shooting told The Associated Press. Two doctors said she was shot in the head.

US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller confirmed the death of the 26-year-old woman but did not say whether she had been shot by Israeli troops. He said the US was gathering more information about the circumstances of her death and would have "more to say."

He and the doctors who treated her released the woman's name, but the activist organisation she was volunteering with, the International Solidarity Movement, said her family had asked she not be identified.

The Israeli military said it was looking into reports that troops had killed a foreign national while firing at an "instigator of violent activity" in the area of the protest.

The woman who was fatally shot was attending a weekly demonstration against settlement expansion, protests that have grown violent in the past: A month ago, American citizen Amado Sison was shot in the leg by Israeli forces, he said, as he tried to flee tear gas and live fire.

Jonathan Pollak, an Israeli who was also participating in the protest, said the shooting occurred shortly after dozens of Palestinians and international activists held a communal prayer on a hillside outside the northern West Bank town of Beita overlooking the Israeli settlement of Evyatar.



Pope Francis is taken past a guard of honour ahead of his departure from Jakarta Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Indonesia

Trump hush money sentencing delayed until after US election

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 6: A judge agreed Friday to postpone Donald Trump's sentencing in his hush money case until after the November election, granting him a hard-won reprieve as he navigates the aftermath of his criminal conviction and the homestretch of his presidential campaign.

Manhattan Judge Juan M. Merchan, who is also weighing a defence request to overturn the verdict on immunity grounds, delayed Trump's sentencing until November 26, several weeks after the final votes are cast in the presidential election.

It had been scheduled for September 18, about seven weeks before Election Day. Trump's lawyers pushed for the delay on multiple fronts, pe-

titioning the judge and asking a federal court to intervene. They argued that punishing the former president and current Republican nominee in the thick of his campaign to retake the White House would amount to election interference.

Trump's lawyers argued that delaying his sentencing until after the election would also allow him time to weigh next steps after Merchan rules on the defence's request to reverse his conviction and dismiss the case because of the US Supreme Court's July presidential immunity ruling. In his order Friday, Merchan delayed a decision on that until November 12.

A federal judge Tuesday rejected Trump's request to have the US District Court in Manhattan to seize the case from Merchan's state court.

Typhoon Yagi roars into China's Hainan



REUTERS

Hong Kong/Beijing, Sept 6: Asia's strongest storm this year, Super Typhoon Yagi, landed in China's Hainan Friday, bringing violent gales and heavy rain that triggered widespread power outages, paralysing the tourist island province known as "China's Hawaii".

Packing maximum sustained winds of 234 km per hour (145 mph) near its centre, Yagi registers as the world's second-most powerful tropical cyclone in 2024 so far, after the Category 5 Atlantic hurricane Beryl, and the most severe in the Pacific basin this year.

After more than doubling in strength since killing 16 people in the northern Philippines earlier this week, Yagi slammed into the city of Wenchang in Hainan Friday afternoon.

A little more than an hour after Yagi's arrival, Hainan saw power outages that affected 830,000 households in the province, the official news agency Xinhua said.

The provincial power supply department had put together a 7,000-member emergency team that would embark on repairs as soon as conditions permitted, Xinhua added.

By Friday night, power to 260,000 households had been restored. Ahead of Yagi's arrival, the island known for its sandy beaches and glitzy hotels had cancelled flights and ferries, shuttered businesses, and told its population of more than 10 mil-

- Makes landfalls in Hainan, Guangdong; 574,500 evacuated
- Power outages affected 830,000 Hainan households
- Schools shut, flights cancelled in southern China
- Hong Kong stock exchange and businesses closed
- China sends task forces to guide flood and typhoon prevention

lion to refrain from going out. The typhoon had already shut schools, businesses and transport links in Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong province as well as airports in Vietnam, which it is predicted to hit, along with Laos, over the weekend.

On Friday night, Yagi crossed Qiongzhou Strait north of Hainan and made its second landfall in Guangdong with winds still exceeding 200 kph.

In Guangdong, more than 574,500 people had been evacuated from areas at risk by noon, more than two-thirds of them from the city of Zhanjiang.

In the financial hub of Hong Kong, the stock exchange was shuttered while schools remained closed.

Hong Kong's airport authority said operations had largely returned to normal after 50 flights were cancelled Thursday, and the city of over 7 million people also lowered its typhoon warning by a notch after midday, as Yagi moved west towards Vietnam.

SNIPPETS

Zelenskyy appeals for weapons as Russia advances

Ramstein Air Base (Germany): Ukraine needs the ability to strike deep within Russia now, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told US and allied military leaders Friday as Kyiv more fervently pressed the West to loosen weapons use restrictions and allow it to target Russian air bases and launch sites far from the border. Zelenskyy made the case during an in-person meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. He appeared to make inroads with some of the defence leaders from the 50-plus partner nations who regularly gather to coordinate weapons aid for the war.

Anti-corruption laws: Pak SC rules in favour of govt

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court Friday reinstated the changes in the country's anti-corruption laws that had benefited several leading politicians, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his elder brother Nawaz Sharif, with jailed former premier Imran Khan also emerging as an unlikely beneficiary. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isha pronounced the verdict reserved by a five-member bench June 6 after hearing intra-court appeals (ICAs) filed by the federal government and other parties. The apex court overturned a previous ruling that nullified amendments to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws, granting intra-court appeals filed by the federal government and other affected parties.

Fire at school dormitory in Kenya kills 18 students

Nairobi (Kenya): A fire in a school dormitory in Kenya has killed 18 students and 27 others have been hospitalised, with 70 children unaccounted for, the country's deputy president said Friday. Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said only 86 out of more than 150 children had been accounted for, and urged community members who may have sheltered some of the children to help account for them. The cause of the fire Thursday night at Hillside Enderasha Primary school in Nyeri County was being investigated, police spokesperson Resilia Onyango said. The school serves children up to the age of 14. Nyeri County Commissioner Pius Murugu and the education ministry reported that the dormitory that caught fire housed more than 150 boys between age 10 and 14.

UK watchdog objects to Google's ad tech practices

Google is a major player throughout the digital ad ecosystem, providing servers for publishers to manage ad space on their websites and apps, tools for advertisers and media agencies to buy display ads, and an exchange where both sides come together to buy and sell ads in real time at auctions

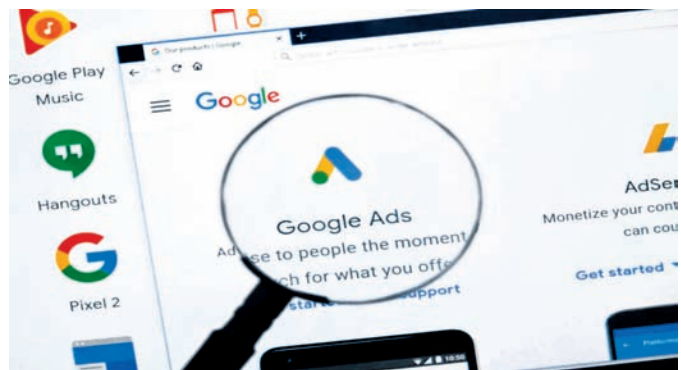
ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Sept 6: Google was slammed Friday by UK regulators who say it's taking advantage of its dominance in digital advertising to thwart competition in Britain, ratcheting up pressure that the tech giant is facing on both sides of the Atlantic over its "ad tech" business practices. Britain's Competition and Markets Authority said the US

company gives preference to its own services to

the detriment of online publishers and advertisers in Britain's 1.8 billion pound (USD 2.4 billion) digital ad market. The watchdog levelled its accusations after an investigation, and the findings could potentially lead to a fine worth billions of dollars or an order to change its behaviour.

"We've provisionally found



that Google is using its market power to hinder competition when it comes to the ads people see on websites," the watchdog's interim executive director of enforcement, Juliette Enser, said in a press release.

The watchdog's charges,

known as a statement of objections, arrive two years after it opened its investigation. Google's digital ad business is also the focus of a European Union antitrust investigation and a US Justice Department lawsuit that's set to go to trial this month.

The CMA said that Google's "anti-competitive" conduct is ongoing, but the company disputed the allegations Friday. "Google remains committed to creating value for our publisher and advertiser partners in this highly competitive sector," the company said in a prepared statement. "The core of this case rests on flawed interpretations of the ad tech sector. We disagree with the CMA's view and we will respond accordingly."

The UK watchdog alleged Google has been exploiting its dominance since 2015 to strengthen the market position of its own AdX ad exchange and protect it from rivals. AdX is where Google charges the highest fees in the ad tech system, taking about 20 per cent of the

amount from bids, the CMA said.

The regulator's accusations include charges that Google manipulates advertiser bids so they have higher value when they go into AdX auctions than rival exchanges. AdX also gets to bid first in auctions run by Google's publisher ad server, potentially shutting out rivals from the chance to bid, the watchdog said.

Google now has the chance to reply to the charges. The CMA said it's considering what is needed to make sure Google ceases the anti-competitive practices. It has the power to impose a fine worth up to 10 per cent of a company's annual worldwide revenue or issue a legally binding order to stop violations of competition law.

business

of the day quote

I have invited the steel industry to understand the unfair competition that some of them are facing and take appropriate measures so that the steel industry remains vibrant, continues to grow and adds jobs to the Indian economy

PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

Met with H.E. Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Digital Transformation of Japan, to discuss strengthening India-Japan digital ties. Explored avenues for collaboration and innovation in the digital landscape, focusing on futuristic technological advancements

ASHWINI VAISHNAW | UNION MINISTER

ISA is excited to collaborate with MIGA for providing cost-effective guarantee solutions for decentralised solar projects in Africa

AJAY MATHUR | DIRECTOR GENERAL, ISA

SHORT TAKES

Godfrey may issue bonus shares

New Delhi: Cigarette maker Godfrey Phillips India Ltd Friday said its board will consider issuing bonus shares to existing shareholders in the ratio of 2:1. A meeting of the board of directors is scheduled to be held Friday, September 20, 2024, to consider and recommend to the shareholders for their approval, the issue of bonus shares, Godfrey Phillips India said in a regulatory filing. The bonus shares are proposed to be issued in the ratio of 2:1 -- two new fully paid-up equity shares of ₹2 each for every existing fully paid-up equity share of ₹2 each, to the equity shareholders of the company by capitalisation of reserves, it added.

Spicejet plans to raise ₹3,200cr

Mumbai: Cash-strapped domestic carrier Spicejet plans to raise over ₹3,200 crore through various debt and equity instruments and capital infusion by the promoter, the airline said in a corporate presentation. The funds will be utilised in fleet ungrounding, liability settlement, new fleet induction and other general purposes, SpiceJet said in the presentation. "Spicejet plans to raise ₹2,500 crore through QIP and ₹736 crore through Previous Warrants and promoter infusion," it said. The proposed fundraising is subject to shareholders' approval, it added.

RBI penalises 3 housing fin firms

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties on three entities, including Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd, for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions on 'non-banking financial company - housing finance company'. A penalty of ₹3.5 lakh has been imposed on Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited, the central bank said in a statement Friday. In a separate release, RBI said it has imposed a penalty of ₹5 lakh on Godrej Housing. The Reserve Bank of India has also imposed a monetary penalty of ₹5 lakh on Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. In each case, the RBI added that penalties are based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and are not intended to be pronounced upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the firms.



The coming days belong to technical textiles in every sector. I am fully confident that in 2025-26 the niche carbon fibre product will also be with India

GIRIRAJ SINGH | UNION TEXTILES MINISTER

Avoid becoming 'EV colony' for China: GTRI

There is a rising risk that China might dump excess EVs in India as access to developed markets becomes tougher

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: The government should allow the domestic electric vehicle sector to grow naturally without relying on incentives as it would avoid India becoming an 'EV colony' for China, think tank GTRI said Friday.

India faces unique challenges not faced by other countries in adopting EVs (electric vehicles) at large scale, it added.

These challenges include 80 per cent of electricity generated from fossil fuels like coal, frequent power cuts, and dependency on imports for making EVs in the country like batteries and

critical minerals, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

"Considering these challenges, instead of rushing into the fray with heavy incentives or falling into dependence on Chinese imports, India has the opportunity to let its EV sector evolve naturally. By allowing market forces to steer the sector's growth, India can avoid becoming an 'EV colony' for China and carve out its own path in the global EV landscape," it added.

It also said the global EV market is undergoing a seismic shift, driven by the US, EU, and Canada imposing high tariffs and restrictions on imports of EVs



and parts from China.

These regions make up about half of China's global EV exports and in a strategic pivot, China is moving its production to ASEAN countries and setting its sights on India.

"These production units would still depend heavily on imports from China, with 70-80 per cent of parts, including batteries,

Thailand, the first to allow local production by Chinese firms, is already facing challenges with rising imports and complaints of lower sales from established manufacturers

AJAY SRIVASTAVA | FOUNDER, GTRI

coming from there. Thailand, the first to allow local production by Chinese firms, is already facing challenges with rising imports and complaints of lower sales from established manufacturers," GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said.

The GTRI suggested that India

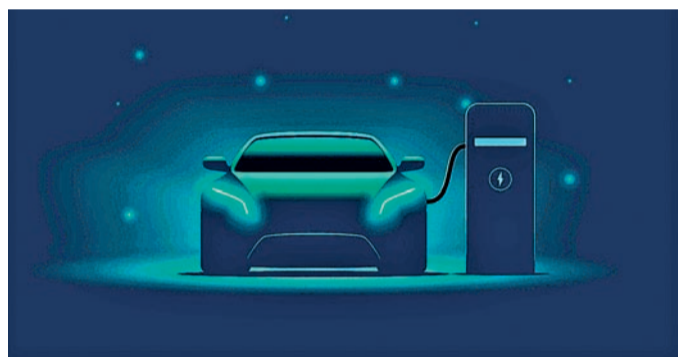
should focus on capturing leadership in the next phase of EVs, using a new generation of batteries.

Increasing investment in research and development (R&D) for advanced battery technologies, battery recycling infrastructure, and supporting clean energy sources to power EV charging stations are some of the steps which would help boost the sector's growth, it added.

Hi-Tech Gears Chairman Deep Kapuria said the world EVs market is all set to face more turbulence and structural transformation as the sector is witnessing several trends that are driving its growth.

BROTHERS' FEUD LIKELY

Reliance Infra weighs EV push



Hires consultants for cost feasibility study | Eyes plant will initial capacity of 250,000 EVs | Hires ex-BYD India exec Gopalakrishnan as adviser

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 6: India's Reliance Infrastructure is considering plans to manufacture electric cars and batteries, and has hired a former India executive at China's BYD Co to advise on its plans, two sources briefed on the matter told Reuters.

The company, part of Anil Ambani's Reliance Group, has hired external consultants to conduct a "cost feasibility" study for setting up an EV plant with an initial capacity of about 250,000 vehicles a year, to be scaled up to 750,000 over some years, the first source said.

It is also looking at the feasibility of building a battery plant starting with 10 gigawatt hours (GWh) of capacity and scaling up to 75 GWh over a decade, the person added.

Anil Ambani is the younger brother of Mukesh Ambani, Asia's richest man and head of Reliance Industries, which has interests ranging from oil and gas to telecoms and retail. The brothers split the family business in 2005.

Mukesh's company is already working to locally manufacture batteries and this week won a bid to receive government incentives for 10 GWh of battery cell production.

If Anil's group decides to press ahead with its plans, the brothers will go head-on in a market where EVs have a niche presence but are growing fast.

Electric models made up less than 2% of the 4.2 million cars sold in India last year, but the government wants to grow this to 30% by 2030. It has budgeted over \$5 billion in incentives for companies locally manufacturing EVs and their components, including batteries.

Battery making is yet to take off in India but some local manufacturers like Exide and Amara Raja have tied-up with Chinese players for technology to manufacture lithium-ion battery cells in the country.

Reliance Infrastructure is also looking for partners, including Chinese companies, and is aiming to finalise its plans within a few months, the first source said.

India's Tata Motors is the country's largest EV player with a nearly 70% share of the market, with rivals like SAIC's MG Motor and BYD gaining pace. Overall auto market leaders Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai Motor plan to launch EVs in 2025.

Former executive Sanjay Gopalakrishnan retired from BYD this year after spending more than two years there, heading and setting up BYD's electric passenger vehicle business in India, launching three EVs, and establishing a dealership network.

Reliance Infrastructure has in recent years struggled with high debt levels and cash flow issues. It is not clear how the EV project will be funded.

Bloodbath on D-St

Indices tank over 1% to close at 2-week low tracking weak global trends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

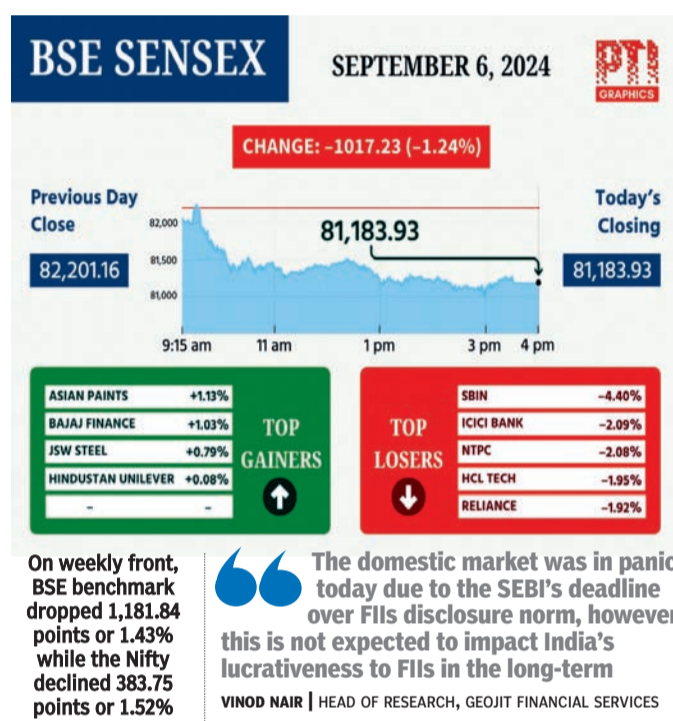
Mumbai, Sept 6: Falling for the fourth straight day, benchmark Sensex tanked 1,017 points to close at a two-week low Friday due to selling in IT, oil & gas and PSU bank shares triggered by weak global trends and foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,017.23 points or 1.24 per cent to settle at 81,183.93, the lowest closing level since August 23. As many as 24 Sensex shares closed in the red while six advanced. During the day, it plunged 1,219.23 points or 1.48 per cent to 80,981.93.

The NSE Nifty dropped 292.95 points or 1.17 per cent to close at 24,852.15, its third day of decline.

Among the 30 Sensex firms, State Bank of India tanked over 4 per cent. NTPC, ICICI Bank, HCL Technologies, Reliance Industries, Axis Bank and ITC were the other major laggards.

Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, JSW Steel and Maruti were



On weekly front, BSE benchmark dropped 1,181.84 points or 1.43% while the Nifty declined 383.75 points or 1.52%

The domestic market was in panic today due to the SEBI's deadline over FIs disclosure norm, however this is not expected to impact India's lucrativeness to FIs in the long-term

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

among the gainers. "Coupled with lack of new market catalysts and elevated valuations, a muted trend is expected to continue in the short-term. Global markets are also adopting a cautious stance ahead of the release of the US non-farm payroll data," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

The sell-off was broad-based, with the banking and energy sectors taking the biggest hit. Broader indices also saw declines, losing more than a per cent each.

The recent weakness in US markets has stalled the momentum in Indian markets, causing participants to become cautious ahead of the upcoming jobs data, Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research,

Religare Broking Ltd said.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge dropped 1.41 per cent while the BSE small-cap index declined 0.96 per cent.

All indices ended in the negative territory. Telecommunication plunged 3.23 per cent, oil & gas (2.19 per cent), bankex (1.93 per cent), capital goods (1.70 per cent) and services (1.58 per cent).

A total of 2,541 stocks declined while 1,406 advanced and 87 remained unchanged on the BSE. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹688.69 crore Thursday, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.14 per cent to \$72.79 a barrel.

Tower, Adani plan \$10bn chip project

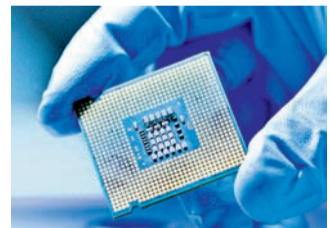
REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 6: Israel's Tower Semiconductor and Adani Group will invest ₹839.47 billion (\$10 billion) for a semiconductor project in India's western state of Maharashtra, its chief minister said in a post on X Thursday.

India has taken steps to encourage global companies to set up their manufacturing units in the country, with Prime

Minister Narendra Modi aiming to make the country a chip-maker for the world despite initial setbacks.

Foxconn withdrew in July last year from a \$19.5 billion semiconductor joint venture with Indian conglomerate Vedanta, and plans by ISMC, a venture between Abu Dhabi-based Next Orbit Ventures and Tower Semiconductor, to invest \$3 billion in India, have



been stalled. Still, India expects its semiconductor market to be worth \$63

Forex kitty jumps to fresh record of \$683.987 billion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 6: India's forex reserves jumped by \$2.299 billion to a new high of \$683.987 billion for the week ended August 30, according to the RBI data release Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the forex reserves had jumped by \$7.023 billion to a high of \$681.688 billion.

For the week ended August 30, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$1.485 billion to \$599.037 billion, the data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves increased by \$862 million to \$61.859 billion during the week. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by \$9 million to \$18.468 billion.

India's reserve position with the IMF was down by \$58 million to \$4.622 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

AIX aims AIX Connect merger in October

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: Air India Express (AIX) is targeting the merger of another Tata Group subsidiary AIX Connect in October, according to an internal communication Friday.

Also, Hamish Maxwell will be the new chief operating officer of the unified entity, the communication stated. AIX Connect is Air India's other low-cost airline.

Maxwell will replace the incumbent Pushpinder Singh, who completes his deputation with the AIX and return to the parent company, Air India, it said.

"As we approach two significant milestones, the targeted merger of AIX Connect/Air India Express on 1st October and the merger of Air India/Vistara on November 12, I would like to announce an important leadership transition within our group," Air India Express Managing Director Alok Singh said in the internal communication.

Stating that Pushpinder Singh will be completing his deputation with AIX October 31 and Maxwell who is currently Senior Vice President for flight operations at Vistara, will step in as the new COO for the merged entity,

India to tighten derivatives rules despite investor pushback

REUTERS

Mumbai, Sept 6: India's markets regulator will tighten derivative rules to increase entry barriers and make it more expensive to trade as it tries to limit retail investors speculating on risky contracts, said four sources with direct knowledge of the matter.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will limit the number of options contract expiries to one per exchange a week and nearly triple the minimum trading amount, the sources said, in rules similar to those proposed in July, despite pushback from traders and brokers.

But SEBI will review some of its earlier proposals to increase margin requirements and to monitor intraday trading positions, according to the sources.

Authorities have been flagging risks from speculative trading by retail investors, who have been funneling savings into India's booming options market.

The monthly notional value of derivatives traded was ₹10,923 trillion (\$130.13 trillion) in August - the highest globally, data from the regulator showed. The largest share of trading is in options contracts linked to stock indices like BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty 50.

The share of individual investors in index options has risen to 41% in the financial year ended March 2024 from 2% six years earlier, regulatory data showed.

"A key objective was to put an end to the large and rising spec-

ulative volumes in index options contracts close to expiry," said the first of the sources, who all declined to be identified as the decisions are not yet public.

"The regulator believes that this warrants additional measures both for small investor protection and for ensuring continued systemic stability," the source added.

The final rules will be released this month through a circular, the sources said.

The steps follow an increase in tax on derivative transactions in July intended to reduce the participation of retail investors



in the options market. India's finance minister flagged concerns in May that any unchecked explosion of retail investor trading in derivatives could create future challenges for the markets, investor sentiment and household finances.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

The regulator received nearly 10,000 comments on its July pro-

posals from traders and other market participants after a social media campaign, the first source said, adding a large majority of them were from traders and brokers who argued the regulator's new rules would hit trading profits and liquidity.

"There was a social media campaign to overwhelm the regulator with the responses," the source added.

The final rules will ask exchanges to reduce the number of contract expiries to one a week per exchange from multiple expiries currently that give traders the opportunity to speculate more, said the four sources.

SEBI will also raise the minimum trading amount to nearly ₹1.5 million to ₹2 million (\$18,000-\$24,000) as proposed in the July consultation paper from ₹500,000, the second of the sources said.

In its proposals, the regulator had suggested higher margins for contracts expiring on the same day, but feedback from the country's stock exchanges and market participants said this would be difficult to implement.

This was a genuine concern and the regulator would tweak the proposed hike in margins, the sources said.

PARIS PARALYMPICS

Sensational Praveen strikes gold

The 21-year-old born with a short leg gave a dazzling performance by smashing the Paralympics record with a best jump of 2.08m in the T64 category to finish on top of the podium



praveen kumar
TOYOTA
PRAVEEN KUMAR
PARIS 2024

one lower leg or the absence of one or both legs below the knee. While T44, under which Praveen is categorised, is for athletes with movement affected at a low or moderate degree in one lower leg.

His impairment, which is congenital, affects the bones that connect his hip to his left leg.

Kumar's odyssey toward becoming a para-athlete was marked by considerable trials. He often grappled with profound feelings of inadequacy in comparison to his peers as a child.

He started playing sports to counter these insecurities and found a passion for volleyball.

His life changed when he took part in a high jump event at an able-bodied athletics competition.

This experience exposed him to the vast opportunities available for athletes with disabilities, igniting a new and inspiring trajectory in his journey.

He is the third high jumper after Sharad Kumar and Mariyappan Thangavelu to secure a medal in Paris.

Sharad and Thangavelu won silver and bronze in the men's high jump T63 event September 3.

Chef de Mission lauds athletes' performance

India has so far won 26 medals, including six gold, nine silver and 11 bronze and is currently placed at 14th position in the medal tally which is their best ever performance at the Paralympics



AGENCIES

New Delhi: London Games bronze medalist shooter and India's Chef de Mission at the Paris Olympics, Gagan Narang Friday heaped praise on the country's para athletes for their performance in the ongoing Paralympics.

The Indian Paralympic contingent has already bagged a record 26 medals in this edition of the quadrennial showcase with 6 gold, 9 silver and 11 bronze and is currently placed at the 14th position in the medal tally.

When asked about his analysis of the Paris Olympic Games, the former shooter said he hasn't done it yet.

"I haven't done my analysis of the Paris Olympics yet, everybody has spoken about it. But the most important thing right now is that in the Paralympics we are performing well, we are on the 16th position today. A fantastic effort by our Paralympians. They surpassed the Tokyo Paralympics medal tally, looking forward for more medals," Narang told PTI Videos on the sidelines of the Media Photojournalist Trust's photo exhibition event at the Press Club of India.

Narang also shared his thoughts on his love for photography and expressed his admiration for the photos he saw at the exhibition.

"Fantastic exhibition indeed, photographers are lifeline of journalism. They give us a perspective and no AI (Artificial Intelligence) can replace them. I wish, pray and help the association to do this function every year. Fantastic effort and great pictures," he concluded.

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"I wish, pray and help the association to do this function every year. Fantastic effort and great pictures," he concluded.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Paris, Sept 6: India's Praveen Kumar dazzled with a record-breaking performance in the men's high jump T64 event, adding a Paralympic gold to his Tokyo Games silver here Friday.

The 21-year-old from Noida, who was born with a short leg, smashed the Asian record with a best jump of 2.08m in the six-men field to finish on top of the podium.

USA's Derek Loccident claimed the silver with a jump of 2.06m while Uzbekistan's Temurbek Giyazov, who notched a personal best 2.03m, finished third.

India jumped to the 14th spot in the pecking order after Praveen's win.

The country has so far won six gold, nine silver and 11 bronze medals to achieve its best-ever haul at a single edition of the Paralympic Games.

India surpassed its Tokyo Games gold medal tally after Praveen's triumph in the men's high jump T64 event. At the Tokyo Paralympics, India had won five gold, six silver, and eight bronze medals.

Praveen won the country its sixth gold medal after clearing 2.08m.

Opting to start from 1.89m, Kumar aced seven jumps in his first attempt to put himself in

pole position to grab the coveted gold medal.

The bar was then raised to 2.10m, with both Kumar and

Loccident fighting for the top spot on the podium but failed to clear the mark.

This was also the 2023 world

championship bronze medalist's personal best performance.

T64 is for athletes with movement moderately affected in

Simran storms to semis

Indian track and field athlete Simran Sharma topped her heat and entered the semifinals of the women's 200m T12 event at the Paris Paralympics here Friday. Simran, who is the reigning world champion, topped her heat with a timing of 25.41s to make the semi-finals. As per rule, the winner of each heat qualify to final A. The three fastest runners in each semifinal qualify to final A. The T12 classification in the Paralympics is for athletes with visual impairments.



Canoists sail into semis

India's Prachi Yadav and Yash Kumar qualified for the semifinals of women's VL2 200m and men's KL1 200m after finishing fourth and sixth in their respective heats at the Paris Paralympics here Friday. While Prachi and Pooja Ojha clocked 1:06.83 and 1:16.09 in women's single 200m VL2 heat 1 and KL1 200m heat 2 respectively, Yash came up with a timing of 1:03.27 in men's KL 200m heat. The semi-finals will take place Saturday. Winner of each heat qualify directly to the final, while the remainder goes to the semifinals. The three fastest athlete of each semifinal make it to the final.



SHORT TAKES Chess players shine

Waskaduwa: Indian chess players delivered an impressive performance at the Commonwealth Rapid Chess Championship, securing three podium finishes. Grandmaster Mitra Guha claimed the gold medal with 6.5 points, while GM Panneerselvam Iniyar took silver with six points. GM Laxman Rajaram secured the bronze with 5.5 points. Out of the 14 Indian participants, all finished within the top 30. Notable rankings among Indian men included Shyaam Nikhil P (5th with 4 points), Sayantan Das (8th with 4.5 points), and Hari Madhavan NB (9th with 4 points).

Shuttlers bow out

Taipei: India's Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila bowed out of the Taipei Open Super 300 badminton tournament after a hard-fought loss in the mixed doubles quarterfinals here Friday. The Indian duo lost 20-22, 12-21 to Thailand's fourth-seeded pair Pakkapon Teeratsakul and Phatimas Muenwong in a match lasting just over half an hour. Tanisha and Dhruv, ranked 97th in the world, started strong, leading 6-3 and later held a 19-16 advantage in the first game.

Neeraj seals Diamond League final spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 6: India's two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra has qualified for this month's season finale of the prestigious Diamond League after finishing fourth in the overall standings at the end of its 14 series meetings across the world.

The season finale will be a two-day affair September 13 and 14 in Brussels. Chopra accumulated 14 points from his two second-place finishes in the one-day meets held in Doha and Lausanne.

He skipped the last series meet in Zurich Thursday.

The 26-year-old is two points adrift of Czechia's Jakub Vadlech. Grenada's Anderson Peters and German star Julian Weber occupy the top two spots with 29 and 21 points respectively. Peters had piped Weber in the Zurich meet.

Chopra, who won gold in the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and added a silver to his kitty in the Paris edition last month, has been struggling with his fitness this season.



The Haryana-lad has talked about a groin injury troubling him since before the Olympic Games that has come in the way of his quest to hit the 90m mark.

The Indian finished second in the Lausanne Diamond Leg, bested by Peters, who threw 90.61m. In Paris Olympics, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem had

taken the gold with a monster throw of 92.97m.

"First goal, go to the doctor and make my groin 100 per cent fit and also I will be technically better and try to throw far again," he had said last month about his plans for this year and the coming one.

Chopra had won the Lausanne

leg in 2022 and 2023 and finished second behind Vadlech in the winner-takes-all finale in Eugene, USA, last year.

Each Diamond League season finale champion is awarded a prestigious "Diamond Trophy", \$30,000 prize money and a wild card for the World Athletics Championships.

World Deaf Shooting C'ship: Saini sets record to win gold



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 6: Shourya Saini shot a World Deaf Shooting Championship record of 452.4 to secure the gold medal in the 50m Rifle 3 Positions (3P) men's event on Day Six of the 2nd World Deaf Shooting Championship 2024, being held at Hanover, Germany.

Chetan Hanmant Sapkal clinched bronze in the men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol (RFP) to take India's medal tally to 17 medals - five gold, seven silver, and five bronze - in the championship.

Shourya had earlier qualified for the final with a qualification score of 580. The other Indian in the fray, Kushagra Singh, fin-

ished fourth in the final. This is Shourya's second medal in the championship after his silver in the men's 10m Air Rifle individual event earlier.

Chetan shot 534 in the men's RFP to win the bronze behind the Ukrainian duo of Serhii Ohorodnyk and Oleksandr Kolodii, who won gold and silver respectively.

Meanwhile, Thursday, Mahit Sandhu clinched the gold medal in the Women's 50m Rifle Prone event, while Abhinav Deshwal secured silver in the Men's 25m Pistol on Day 5, as India continued to impress at the 2nd World Deaf Shooting Championship 2024.

Kerala invites Argentina football team

In the soccer-crazy northern districts of Kerala, the Argentina football team has the biggest support base compared to other teams

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 6: A high-level delegation from Kerala held discussions with officials of the Argentina Football Association (AFA) in Spain to work out plans for the reigning world champion to play an exhibition match in the state, a State Minister said here Friday.

In a statement released by his office here, the State's Sports Minister, V Abdurahiman informed that the team led by him had fruitful discussions with the AFA officials over the possibility of the three-time World

EXHIBITION MATCH



Cup winners (1978, 1986, 2022) visiting Kerala.

"The discussions took place in Madrid and the first reaction was the happiness that they expressed to the love the Kerala fans always show towards the Argentinean football team," said Abdurahiman.

"We have held excellent discussions on how an exhibition match of the Argentina team

could be held in Kerala and as a follow-up on our discussion, a delegation of the AFA will be visiting Kerala shortly," said Abdurahiman.

"The AFA also expressed hopes of setting up football academies in Kerala with the help of the state government. As and when this happens, it will be a huge boost for our state," added the Minister.

In the soccer-crazy northern districts of Kerala, the Argentina football team has the biggest support base compared to other teams.

The Sports Minister also pointed out that while in Spain they have been on a tour to various sporting places and met with various sports administrators.

"With the Spain sporting officials also our talks centred around how there can be a meaningful association with the Kerala Sports Council. Our aim is to turn our sporting centres into a place of excellence and for that, we need to get the support of the best. We also want to improve the job opportunities in the sports sector and discussions were also held for that," said the Minister and expressed hope that a likely collaboration with the upcoming Sports Institute at the Kozhikode University was also discussed.

Dravid joins Rajasthan Royals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 6: Former India captain Rahul Dravid was Friday announced as the head coach of the Indian Premier League team Rajasthan Royals on a multi-year contract.

Dravid's tenure as India's head coach ended in June with the team winning the T20 World Cup for the second time. PTI had reported a few days ago that Dravid was set for his next move to RR.

"The former Royals' captain and coach spent five seasons with the franchise from 2011 to 2015, and will commence with the team immediately working with Royals' director of cricket Kumar Sangakkara to implement the franchise's overall cricketing strategy," the franchise said in a statement.

Dravid has coached Rajasthan Royals in 2014 and has held different roles with the India U-19 team as well as at the National



After the World Cup, I feel it's the ideal time for me to take on another challenge, and the Royals is the perfect place to do that

RAHUL DRAVID | FORMER INDIA CAPTAIN

Cricket Academy in Bangalore. "His exceptional coaching capabilities are evident with the transformation he's driven in Indian cricket. He also has a deep connection to the franchise, and we've seen that passion come through in all our conversations," Jake Lush McCrum, CEO of the Royals Sports Group said.

"Rahul has already got to work with Kumar (Sangakkara) and the rest of the team, as we prepare for this exciting new period for

the franchise starting with IPL retention and the auction just around the corner," he said.

"We have made fantastic progress in our on-field performance over the past few years, but there is still lots to learn, improve and grow. His return will, hopefully, further accelerate our progress and will be a great boost for everyone involved, most importantly our players and our fans," said lead owner Manoj Badale.