



Enviably record

Nora Fatehi reveals that she got all the scholarships as she studied extremely hard and aced all her exams

LEISURE | P2



First glimpse

North Korea for first time shows images of centrifuges that produce fuel for its nuclear bombs, as Kim visits uranium enrichment facility

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Funds frozen

Adani Group denies involvement in any Swiss court proceedings after Hindenburg alleges authorities had frozen \$310mn of company's funds

BUSINESS | P11



Preparations begin

Indian cricketers start training for a long season ahead in which they will play 10 Tests with the first starting Sept 19

SPORTS | P12

KEJRIWAL WALKS FREE



Probe agency must be above board, CBI should dispel notion of being caged parrot: Justice Bhuyan

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 13: The Supreme Court Friday granted bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the corruption case lodged by the CBI in connection with the excise policy 'scam', saying prolonged incarceration amounts to unjust deprivation of liberty.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan granted relief to Kejriwal on furnishing a bail bond of ₹10 lakh, and two sureties of like amount.

Kejriwal, who was arrested by the ED in the excise policy case March 21, was granted interim bail May 10 for campaigning in the Lok Sabha polls and has been in jail since June 2 when he surrendered. The top court directed Kejriwal not to make any public comment on the merits of the case and added that terms and conditions as imposed in the ED case would also be applicable here. The top court, while granting

him bail in the ED case, had said that Kejriwal cannot visit his office or the Delhi Secretariat and not sign any official file unless absolutely necessary to obtain the Lieutenant Governor's sanction. Justice Bhuyan, who wrote a separate judgement, concurred with Justice Kant on grant of bail.

"In a functional democracy governed by the rule of law, perception matters. Like Caesar's wife, an investigating agency must be above board. Not long ago, this court has castigated the CBI comparing it to a caged parrot. It is imperative that CBI dispels the notion of it being a caged parrot. Rather, the perception should be that of an uncaged parrot," he said.

In his first remarks after being released from Tihar Jail, Kejriwal said he will continue to fight against 'anti-national' forces working to weaken the country and asserted that incarceration has only strengthened his resolve. **P8**

“They put me in jail to break me but my resolve has only grown stronger. Jails cannot break me. I will continue my fight against anti-national forces”

ARVIND KEJRIWAL

No liquor in Puri beach shacks: Govt

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The Odisha government Friday withdrew its decision to set up shacks serving liquor on Puri beach, two days after the Puri Shankaracharya and various socio-cultural organisations opposed the move.

In a notification, the excise department said no licences will be granted for beach shacks within the jurisdiction of Puri municipality or within 5km of any site of socio-religious or cultural significance.

The state's new excise policy, unveiled August 30, allowed liquor to be served at shacks near sea, rivers, lakes, and dams to enhance tourist entertainment and revenue.

The controversy arose after the Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC) invited bids to set up beach shacks along the coastline from Puri to Konark to boost beach tourism.

However, the move faced strong resistance from socio-cultural groups, which led to a demonstration in front of the Shree Jagannath Temple two days ago.

Opposing the move, Puri Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati said Jagannath Dham should remain



a place for spiritual pursuits and religious activities rather than amusement. He argued that serving liquor would undermine the spiritual sanctity of Puri and tarnish the Jagannath culture.

"Jagannath Dham is the place for spiritual pursuit and soul-searching and not for amusement. Puri beach should be a place devoted to bhajan, kirtan and religious discourses. It should not serve as a destination for pleasure-seeking," the Shankaracharya told reporters September 11. Protesters also submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi through the Puri Collector opposing any such move.

The new excise policy also included provisions for temporary liquor licenses at eco-retreat venues at promotional rates. In 2021, a similar proposal to establish beach shacks in six locations, including Puri, was shelved due to protests.

2 SOLDIERS KILLED IN J&K ENCOUNTER

Jammu: Two Army personnel, including a junior commissioned officer (JCO), were killed and an equal number injured in an encounter with terrorists in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, security officials said Friday. The gunfight broke out when a joint security party of the Army and police, acting on a tip-off, launched a cordon-and-search operation in the Naidgham area in the Chhatroo belt, they added. The officials said there was an exchange of fire between the search team of the security forces and the terrorists hiding in the Pingal Dugadda forest area in the upper reaches of Naidgham village. Four Army personnel were injured and two of them -- JCO Naib Subedar Vipin Kumar and Sepoy Arvind Singh -- later succumbed to the injuries.

Port Blair becomes Sri Vijaya Puram

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 13: Port Blair, the capital city of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has been renamed Sri Vijaya Puram, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced Friday. Shah said the decision was taken to free the nation from colonial imprints as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands had an 'unparalleled place' in the country's freedom struggle and history.

"Inspired by the vision of Prime Minister @narendramodi ji, to free the nation from the colonial imprints, today we have decided to rename Port Blair as 'Sri Vijaya Puram'," Shah said on X.

While the earlier name had a colonial

legacy, Sri Vijaya Puram symbolises the victory achieved in India's freedom struggle and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' unique role in it, he said.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have an 'unparalleled place' in the freedom struggle and history, and the island territory that once served as the naval base of the Chola Empire is now poised to be the critical base for India's strategic and development aspirations, Shah added.

"It is also the place that hosted the first unfurling of our Tiranga by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose ji and also the cellular jail in which Veer Savarkar ji and other freedom fighters struggled for an independent nation," Shah said.

Man held for duping women across India

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: A man was arrested for allegedly conning several middle-aged women across India by marrying them, and then exploiting them financially, police said. Biranchi Narayan Nath of Chhendipada in Angul district targeted these women through a matrimonial website, they said.

He identified himself as a railway employee, an Income Tax inspector or a Customs officer on his different fake profiles. He targeted middle-aged women who were unmarried, divorced or widowed, police said.

"He emotionally manipulated them by promising lifelong support for their chil-

dren. He also promised many of his victims that he would get them jobs after marriage. He underwent marriage rituals with many women in temples, and later lived with them at their home but never took any of them to his own place," a police officer said. He later extorted these women by threatening them to make public their private photos and videos, he said.

Cases were registered against him at various police stations in Odisha, besides Rajasthan, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi, police said.

He was arrested after a case was registered with Cyber Crime Unit of Odisha CID-Crime Branch by a woman from Cuttack.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



They were only involved in a hate crime, not anti-govt propaganda, sir. We don't oppose the bail application

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Spain lures fans to iconic film's site

REUTERS

Caraza, Sept 13: There are two types of people in the world, Clint Eastwood's Man With No Name tells a rival gunslinger who has no bullets. "Those with a loaded gun, and those who dig. You dig."

Volunteers in northern Spain have taken his words to heart, painstakingly tending the freshly dug graves on sets featured in Sergio Leone's classic 1966 spaghetti Western 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly' to make the area a pilgrimage site for movie fans. With its rolling hills of heather-strewn shrubland,



the countryside near the town of Santo Domingo de Silos, some 200 km north of Madrid, stood in for the American Southwest in the epic set during the US Civil War.

The last installment in the Dollar Trilogy that propelled Eastwood to inter-

national stardom is a fixture in most all-time best movie lists.

In 2015, a local cultural association launched a sponsorship drive to reconstruct the fictional Sad Hill Cemetery, site of a famed showdown between the Man

with No Name and two rivals for a hoard of buried Confederate gold.

Kristine Guzman of the regional film commission said its refurbishment should sway fans to flock to what "will constitute a new place of pilgrimage."

Angel Sanchez, 63, from Toledo in central Spain, told Reuters he was weighing whether to have his own ashes scattered there.

To the east of the cemetery lies the Betterville prison camp, where the gunslingers played by Eastwood and Eli Wallach are held after being captured by Union soldiers.



Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT)

Deemed to be University

(Declared U/S 3 of UGC Act, 1956) Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India



20th Annual CONVOCATION

14th September 2024

Chief Guest



Shri Raghubar Das

Hon'ble Governor of Odisha



Convocation Address by

Ms. Oleksandra Matviichuk
Nobel Laureate (2022), Ukraine

Virtual Mode

11:00 a.m.

KIIT Campus 3 (Kathajodi)

Watch LIVE on **KALINGA** from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Website: www.kiit.ac.in | Email: kiit@kiit.ac.in

leisure



STALLONE EXPLAINS DRIVE BEHIND SUCCESS IN MEMOIR

Sylvester Stallone says his upcoming memoir will document how he went from most likely to end up in the electric chair to a movie legend. The 78-year-old actor is working on a book with a 'brilliant' co-writer and he's planning to go into detail about the drive that made him a Hollywood action hero after being written off at school.

LUCY HALE REVEALS REASON WHY SHE TURNED TO ALCOHOL

American actress and singer Lucy Hale, who is known for her work in *Pretty Little Liars*, revealed that she turned to alcohol as a teenager because she felt alone and misunderstood and it led to years of addiction issues and relapses.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181*

ARIES
Today is just another busy day. You may remain hassled sorting out problems at office and then at home. Your bosses may allow you certain concessions and this will ease things to some extent. Ganesh says you will gain valuable guidance from elderly people.

TAURUS
There will be a positive surge in your career prospects today. However, this progress may not be in the direction that you expected. Financial opportunities and success will knock at your door, a rare combination of guests. You will also achieve material progress, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI
A fantastic day to enter into all kinds of partnerships. A day to bond with your close friends, open joint accounts, strike deals, and make plans for a bright future, says Ganesh. You will be at the top of your game in almost everything you do.

CANCER
Today, you may find yourself marooned in a sea of emotions, and the tides of turmoil will keep on getting stronger as the day progresses. However, such dire circumstances bring out the best in you, and you will be able to wade through the storm with nothing but patience on your side.

LEO
Some promises are like whispers in the wind — never meant to be realised. Today holds something similar, in that you shall be so close and yet so far from what you desire most. Ganesh advises you to be a generous winner and a graceful loser. Remember, every day is not Sunday; also, you cannot win each time. Lower your expectations in order to avoid disappointments. Wait for the winds to change — it won't take long.

VIRGO
The extraordinary way in which you do things will earn you many admirers. Superiors at work will laud you for your commitment. Evenings will be fun-filled and entertaining. Look to relax with some meditation or music... or both.

LIBRA
If ever there was a time when that industrious nature of yours was to listen to your conscience, it is today. Call it a positive day to embark upon new business adventures, particularly for freelancers. It is mighty hard to go wrong when you listen to your inner voice and back it up with zeal. The hard work of the morning and the pressure of the afternoon will give way to pleasure in the evening.

SCORPIO
Better get down to serious business if you want to reap the benefits of your past actions. You are liable to treat subordinates as equals when deciding the best course of actions to achieve your goals. A golden favourable day for you, says Ganesh.

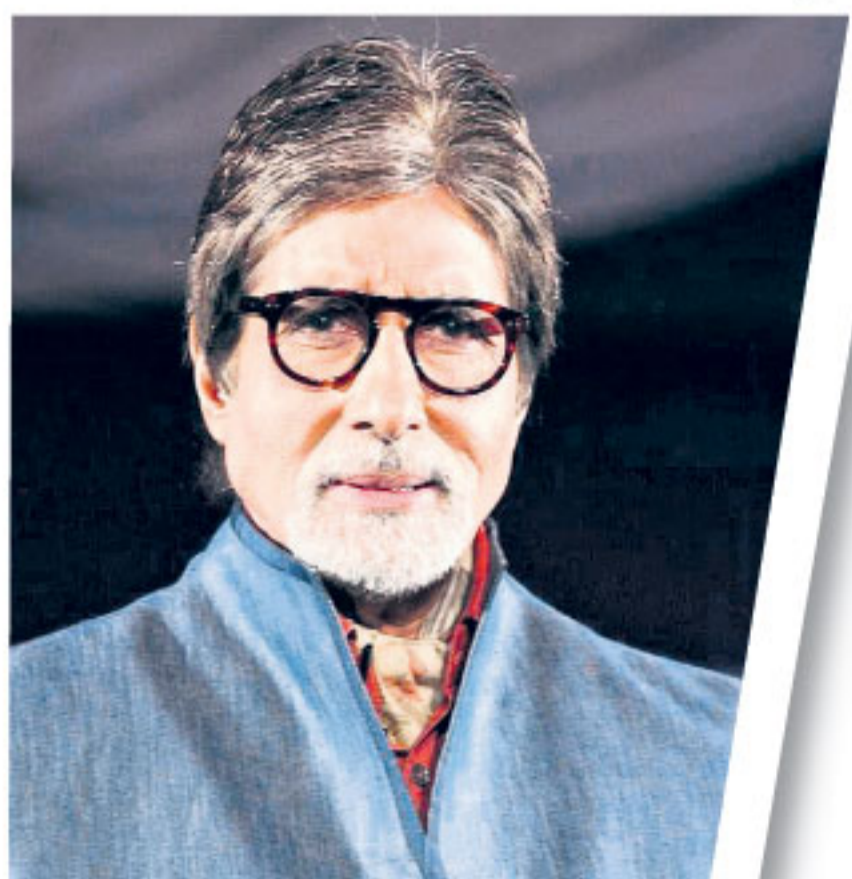
SAGITTARIUS
The horizons of your thoughts are open and serene. Forgive and forget will be your mood today — even for the most serious mistakes. Generosity was never your Achilles' heel, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Drag yourself out of the house, do some shopping, or better still, appoint an interior designer. You are very likely to move into a new house very soon, foresees Ganesh. This, of course, may also eat into your savings and force you to be thrifty by the end of the day, but you won't regret this once-in-a-while extravagant outing. It's all for a reason, after all.

AQUARIUS
It's a busy day at work, and you're probably involved in some pending project work. It's advisable that you don't get complacent. Keep an eye on your opponents to have an edge over them, suggests Ganesh. Colleagues will be supportive, and so will family.

PISCES
Being a graceful loser is just about as important as being a generous winner, for success does not come by every day. Lowering your expectations will help steel you against disappointments today. There are indications you will embark on a pleasure trip with your soul mate, says Ganesh.

Big B updates Hindi dictionary



Mumbai: Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan, who is currently seen as the host of the quiz reality show *Kaun Banega Crorepati* season 6, has updated the word aeroplane in Hindi as 'cheelgadi'. In the latest promo of the knowledge-based show, Big B was seen interacting with a contestant on a hot seat while responding to her father. The makers took to their Instagram account, and shared a promo in which Amitabh says, "Today you have coined the word 'cheelgaadi' for aeroplane, it has now become definite and we will put it in the dictionary because we have never heard before that anyone has described 'cheelgaadi' as beautiful as an aeroplane. The post is captioned as: "Amit ji ko mila unka new favourite word!"

On the work front, Big B was featured in Nag Ashwin's directorial *Kalki 2898 AD* as the immortal Ashwatthama. The sci-fi thriller also featured Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, Kamal Haasan, Disha Patani, Saswata Chatterjee and Shobana in pivotal roles. He will be next seen in Rajinikanth-starrer *Vettaivan*, helmed by *Jai Bhim* fame director TJ Gnanavel. Amitabh and Rajinikanth were last seen together in the 1991 action-drama *Hum*.

IAN S

Nora's erudition

Mumbai: Dancing diva and actress Nora Fatehi revealed she wore a \$15 (Rs 1,258) dress for her high-school graduation. She revealed that she took all the scholarships as she studied extremely hard and aced all her exams.

The actress took to Instagram, where she posted a throwback picture from her graduation day.

"My High school graduation. Took all the awards and scholarships that day! I studied extremely hard and aced all my exams!" she wrote.

Nora shared that she was "so competitive".

"I loved every moment of it, all my teachers were so proud of me! I remember I spent weeks preparing my outfit, I really thought I slayed with those heels and \$15 dress shoutout to all my teachers that supported me! And shoutout to my friends who are still in my life today," she added.

The 32-year-old star made her acting debut with the Hindi movie *Roar: Tigers of the Sundarbans*. She was then seen in Telugu films in special appearances such as *Temper*, *Baahubali: The Beginning* and *Kick 2*.

She gained immense popularity with her dance in numbers such as *Dilbar*, *Garmi*, *Saki Saki*, and *Manike* to name a few. IAN S

Mumbai: Mallika Sherawat is making her return to the big screen in *Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video*. At the trailer launch event Thursday, director Raaj Shaandilyaa shared the reason for casting her, explaining that while the film is mostly family-friendly, Mallika brings a touch of glamour and excitement, perfectly complementing the comedy. Fans are excited to see her alongside a strong ensemble cast, including Rajkumar Rao and Triptii Dimri.

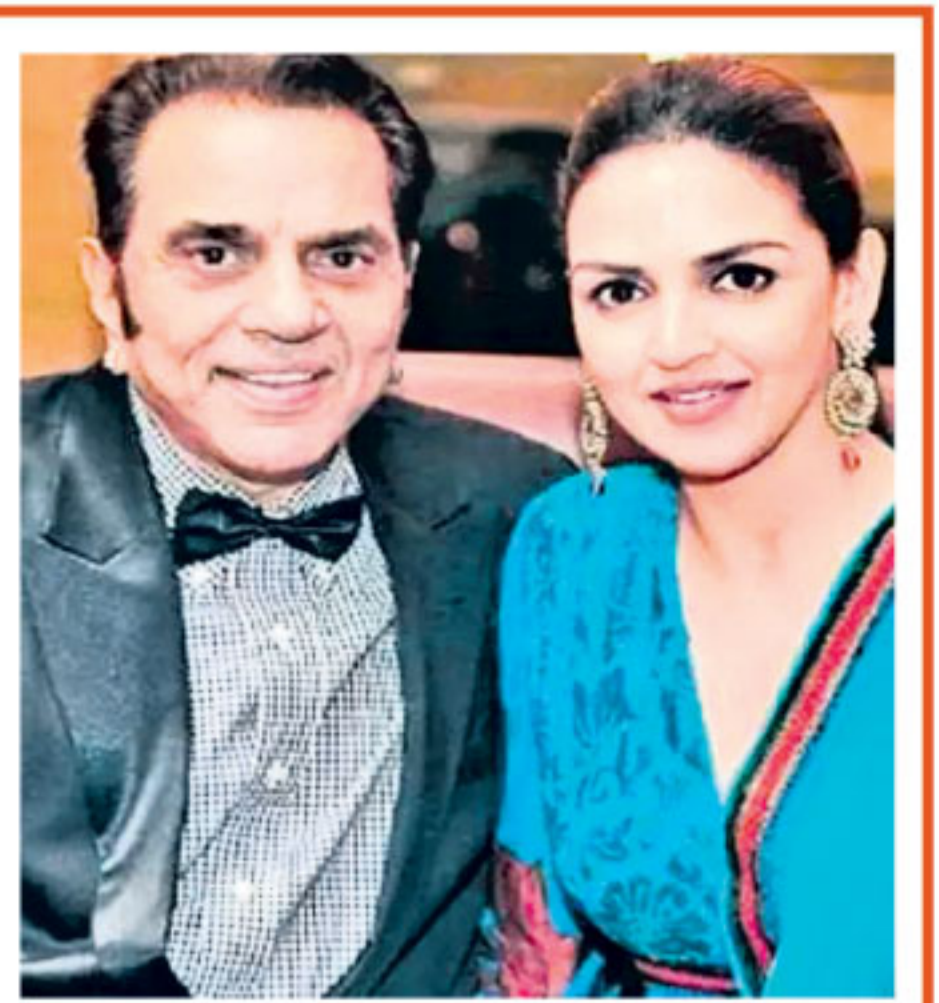
Producer Bhushan Kumar said, "We thought we would bring Mallika Sherawat back because she has not done this kind of specific role for a long time. Raj, you tell us your fantasy..."

This in turn, prompted the audience to burst into laughter, and Raaj Shaandilyaa had to clarify why he cast Mallika.

Shaandilyaa stated, "I made a film on a middle-class family. I used Rajkumar Rao, and Mallika Sherawat, all big names in it. The reason for bringing Mallika was that the

character we wrote, it suits her very well... the modern girls of that time fit perfectly with Mallika. That's why I cast her. Otherwise, I have no association with her."

AGENCIES



Dharam wanted Esha to marry at 18

Mumbai: Esha Deol, the daughter of icons Dharmendra and Hema Malini, recently shared in an interview how her father, was initially against her entering the film industry. While her passion for acting was inspired by her mother's career, her father had different plans for her future.

In a conversation with *Hauterfly*, Esha revealed that her father, who holds traditional views, wanted her to marry at the young age of 18. "He is a bit orthodox, rightfully so... He is a Punjabi father, and he wanted us to get married and settle down at 18. That is his conditioning. He comes from a place where all the women in his family were brought up that way," she explained.

Despite Dharmendra's initial reservations, Esha's upbringing with her mother, Hema Malini, deeply influenced her decision to pursue a career in acting. "I knew I wanted to be someone, but it took a while to convince him. It was not easy, but today is a different story," the actress shared, emphasizing that her journey to convincing her father was a challenging one.

AGENCIES



Mallika returns to big screen

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

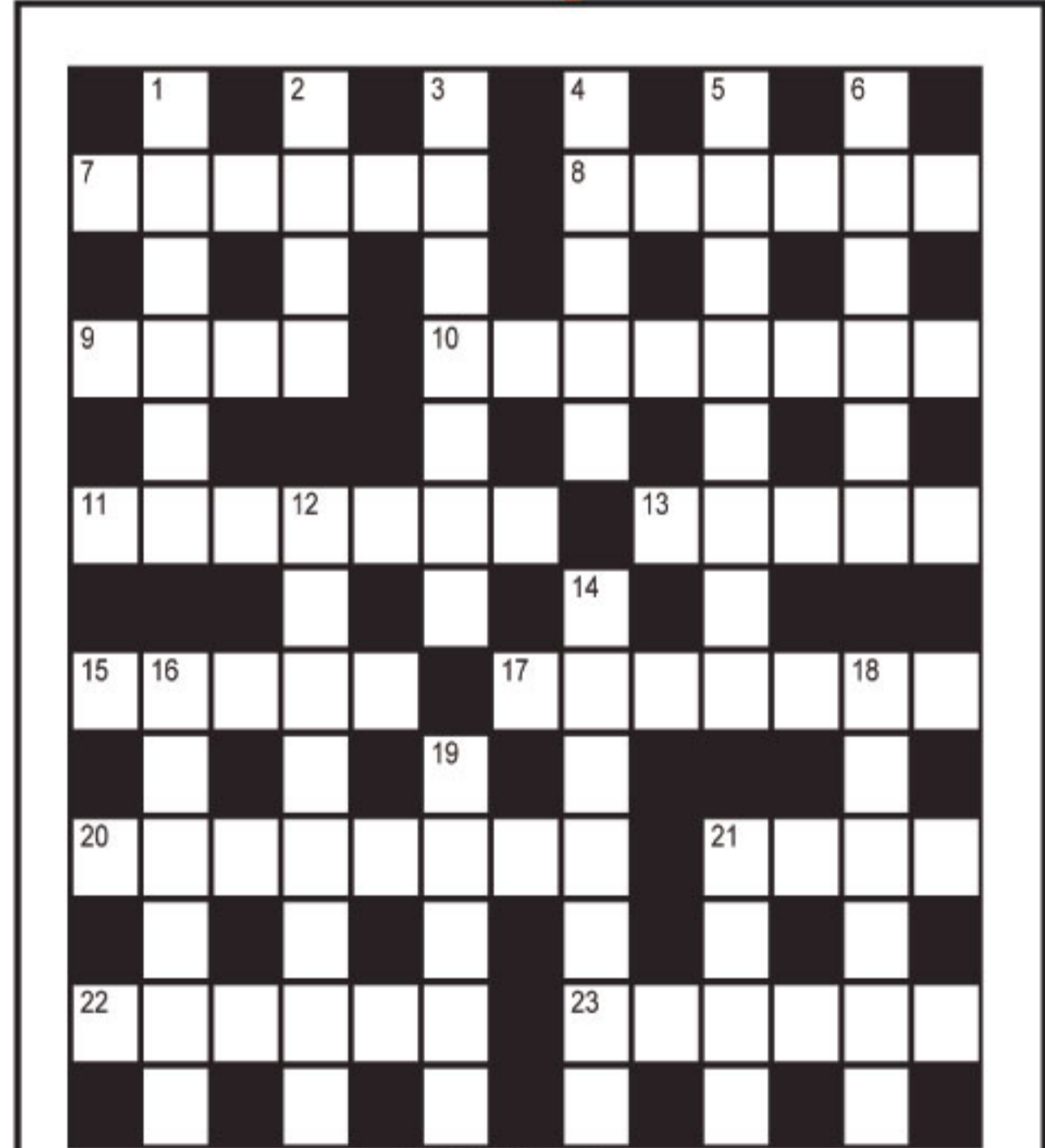


BREVITY



FUN post

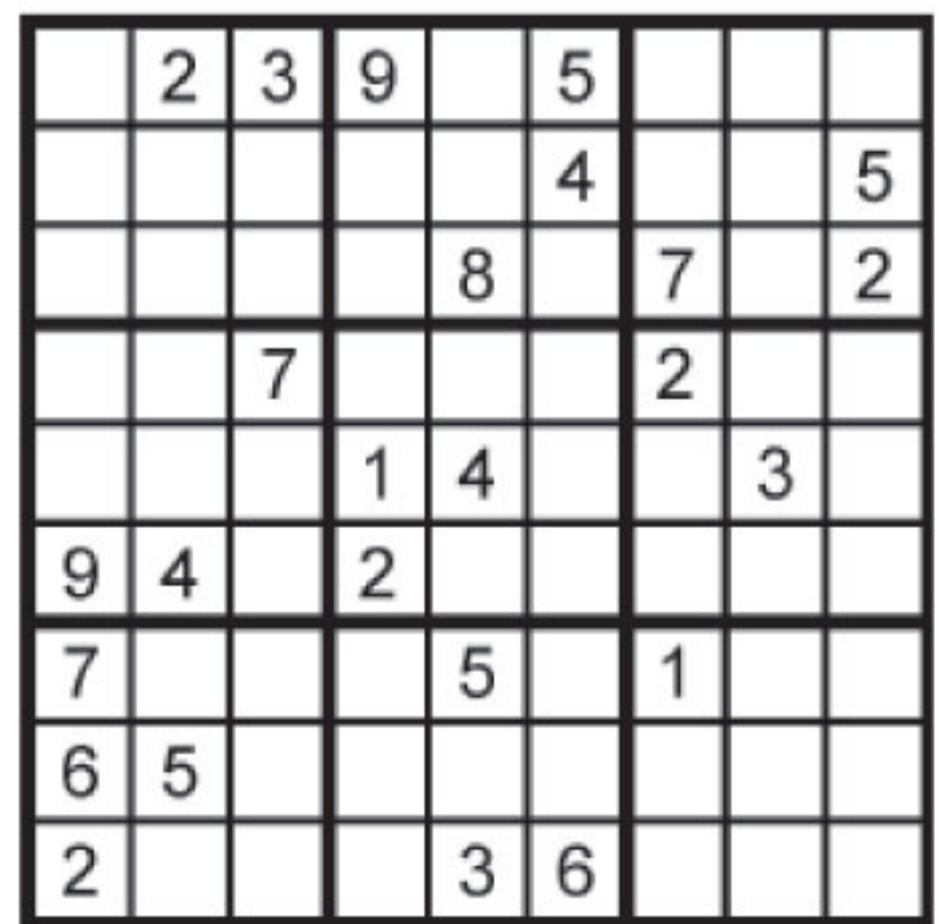
CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Road work machine
 - 8 Retaliante
 - 9 Olympic sled
 - 10 Crack shot
 - 11 Ottoman
 - 13 Persian Gulf emirate
 - 15 Big Bertha's birthplace
 - 17 Trinket
 - 20 Short cape or scarf
 - 21 Sea swallow
 - 22 Leafy vegetable
 - 23 Family relation
 - 4 Cavalry sword
 - 5 Comfort
 - 6 Large lizard
 - 12 Sugar apple
 - 14 Pipe filler
 - 16 Seafood dish
 - 18 Murky, as a liquid
 - 19 Roofing material
 - 21 Hoodlum
- Down**
- 1 Injury
 - 2 Edge tool
 - 3 Make a face

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

CPI(M) workers pay tributes to party general secretary Sitaram Yechury, who passed away Thursday, near College Square in Cuttack, Friday



Chorus grows against proposed Astaranga port



Astaranga, Sept 13: As chorus grows against the proposed port here in Puri district, people likely to be displaced by the mega project held a parallel hearing at Pir Jahania while the public hearing for them at the Block Ground remained largely unattended to, Friday.

Environmentalists and school-children joined the protest against the proposed port which will not only uproot the project affected population from their land but also pose serious threats to the biodiversity in the eco-sensitive area.

State Pollution Control Board regional officer Sohan Giri, deputy director Soumendranath Mohanty, additional executive officer Soumyaranjan Mallik, Transport and Commerce additional secretary Bidhan Chandra Ray, special land acquisition officer Kaibalya Kumar Kar, environment engineer Souendra Mohanty, land acquisition officer Niranjan Barik, Astaranga tehsildar Priyanka Priyadarshini Pati, ranger Monalisa Mohapatra, additional SP Bishnu Prasad Pati and others.



WOMAN'S BODY FOUND IN CITY FLAT, PARTNER PRIME SUSPECT

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: A 23-year-old woman was found dead in a rented flat under Khandagiri police limits Friday. Police suspect the woman had been murdered.

The deceased was identified as Jyotirekha Parida, a native Damanjodi in Koraput district. She was staying in a live-in relationship with a man, identified as Priyaranjan Patra, who was not to be found when the police recovered her body.

Plans on to amend Act to prevent cow slaughter: Majhi

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday announced plans to amend the Orissa Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1960, to make it more effective in reducing animal cruelty.



The state has also launched the GOMATA (Goal for Management And Treatment of Animals) Yojana to enhance livestock health care through mobile veterinary clinics. Another new scheme, "Mukhyamantri Prani Kalyan Yojana," aims to promote a compassionate approach toward stray animals, he added.



SPREADING AWARENESS: District Collector Dattatraya Bhusaheb Shinde and students of skill development centre at Khapuria in Cuttack during the launch of 'skill chariot', Friday

100 days, Odisha has already prepared a roadmap for transformative changes across all sectors, aiming for both immediate and long-term development," he added.

"This initiative will support small dairy units, provide subsidised calf feed, enhance livestock insurance coverage, and strengthen dairy cooperatives," he added.

also collaborating with NDDB to establish a vaccine production unit in Berhampur and a state-of-the-art feed analytical laboratory in Bhubaneswar.

Over 8.6K ltr illicit alcohol seized; 118 held

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Excise sleuths Friday confiscated 8,649 litres of illicit country liquor and 1,08,410 kg fermented brew (pocha) during raids carried out across the state.

PM's visit: Security arrangements reviewed

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Odisha Police reviewed the security arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to the state September 17.

The PM is expected to visit Odisha Tuesday to launch 'Subhadra Yojana' and lay the foundation stone for some projects

room has been opened at the venue. During the day, Odisha BJP leaders discussed the prime minister's meeting.

Min reviews OSWC's warehouse operations

Bhubaneswar: Minister of Co-operation, Handloom and Textiles Pradeep Bal Samanta reviewed various ongoing activities and operations of warehouses under Odisha State Warehousing Corporation (OSWC) here Friday. Samanta, during the review meeting provided valuable insights and suggestions, aimed at improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the corporation. He emphasised on integrating modern technologies, like CCTV surveillance and a comprehensive Warehouse Management System to enhance transparency, security, and safety across the warehousing operations. Minister also proposed the establishment of a central monitoring unit to oversee and manage these systems effectively.



PLEA FOR CLEANLINESS: Members of Advocate Committee appointed by the Orissa High Court Friday met the Superintendent (in-charge) of SCB Medical College and Hospital Luci Das and urged her to take steps for the resolution of the sanitation and other issues at the premier healthcare facility

CLASSIFIED LOST

My B.Tech. Original Degree Certificate has been lost, if anybody found, please call me 7381336515. Dharam Pratap Rana, Regd. No.-1201211446, O.E.C.

My B.Tech. Original Degree Certificate has been lost, if anybody found, please call me 7978063481. Hafizul Ali Khan, Regd. No.-1401211239, O.E.C.

My Migration Certificate has been lost, if anybody found, please call me 7701816522. Ashutosh Kumar, Regd. No.-0901211040, O.E.C.

Notice hereby given to the Public that the original registered Sale Deeds belonging to properties of M/s Aryans Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. having its registered office at Plot No.- 751/2217, Beherasahi, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, Pin- 751012, Odisha, particularly described in the schedule hereunder were misplaced and lost. By virtue of affidavits before the Court of Executive Magistrate, Bhubaneswar its Managing Director, Er. Mahadev Pati, on behalf of the company has sworn that the sale deeds are neither deposited by way of equitable mortgage by the company nor any charge or lien stand against the property. Any person(s)/financial institution(s) having any claim(s) in respect thereof are requested to inform the undersigned in above address within one month from the date hereof, failing which the claim(s), if any, will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO Mz: Johala, Tahasil-Bhubaneswar, Plot No.- 27, 28/215 vide SD No.- 367 dtd. 11.01.2005, 49/1209 SD No.- 3877, dtd. 01.06.2001, 47/1208 vide SD No.- 4594, dtd. 04.07.2001, 54 vide SD No.- 11081026462, dtd. 08.11.2010, (58,59) vide SD No.- 8239, dtd 27.07.2005, 62 vide SD No.- 6498, dtd. 26.03.2010, 71 vide SD No.4681, dtd. 05.05.2006 and (66,67,68,69,70) vide SD No.-7804, dtd. 15.07.2005, DSRO Khurda at Bhubaneswar. Mz: Badaragunathpur, Tahasil- Jatani, Plot No.- 183, 182/1237, 184 and 178 vide Sale Seed No.- 5573, dtd. 25.07.2003 DSRO Jatani. Er. Mahadev Pati, MD

'HAI's state chapter to boost tourism sector'

RESHMI YADAV, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The Hotel Association of India (HAI) has launched its Odisha Chapter to focus on the state's tourism and hospitality potential, highlighting its ability to generate jobs and contribute to the economy. The chapter was inaugurated at Hotel Swosti Premium here, Friday, under the chairmanship of HAI secretary Jitendra Kumar Mohanty, who is also the managing director of Swosti Group. Prominent figures of the HAI including HAI president and chairman of South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group KB Kachru, vice-president of HAI and executive VP (Operations) The Indian Hotels Company Limited Rohit Khosla, Jitendra Kumar Mohanty, member (ex-officio) and secretary general of HAI MP Bezbaruah and other key members also attended the

inaugural event, which marked the association's first state chapter.

The Odisha Chapter will prioritise collaboration with the government, tourism bodies, and stakeholders to promote sustainable tourism, focusing on regional incentives and policies to encourage investment in the hospitality sector.

Addressing the event, Kachru said, "We are happy to introduce the Odisha Chapter, which marks a significant milestone for the HAI and the hospitality sector. This chapter will help us promote state's tourism sector with the support of HAI members."

Mohanty highlighted the chapter's collaborative efforts, saying, "Our goal is to work with government bodies, local stakeholders, and industry partners to realise the sector's full potential for the benefit of the local community and state economy."



Bio-agents production unit to come up in City

Bhubaneswar: ICAR - Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) regional centre here Friday laid the foundation stone of a bio-agents unit for eco-friendly disease management in vegetable crops in the state. An allocation of ₹3.2 crore has been made under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), to be implemented over a period of three years. The primary objective of the initiative is to develop, popularise and commercialise Trichoderma bio-formulations, known for its broad-spectrum antagonism against various plant pathogens, thus promoting sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices in the state. The ceremony was graced by ICAR assistant director general Sudhakar Pandey as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, Pandey highlighted the critical role of bio-agents, such as Trichoderma which play a crucial role in the management of plant diseases in a sustainable manner.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, with high renewable energy (RE) potential, backed by land banks and infrastructure to generate renewable power and manage seasonality, could emerge as key players in meeting India's RE ambitions in the coming decades, according to a new study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) recently. India has a RE potential of over 24,000 GW, but reaching 7,000 GW and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 will need a holistic approach of addressing challenges such as land access, climate risks, land conflicts, and population density, the study noted. Currently, the country has an installed RE capacity of 150 GW, and up to 1,500 GW, the con-

straints are relatively manageable. The study, 'Unlocking India's RE and Green Hydrogen Potential: An Assessment of Land, Water, and Climate Nexus', highlights that deployment beyond 1,500 GW could face critical challenges as multiple constraints intensify, narrowing the runway to reach the net-zero target. A considerable portion of India's RE potential is in high-climate-risk and high-land-price areas—only 18 per cent of onshore wind potential and 22 per cent of solar potential are located in areas with low climate risks and low land prices, when looked at in isolation. However, the challenges to realising this potential increase too when other constraints such as population density, land conflicts and seasonality of solar power are factored in.

CAMPA funds spent, but wildfires rose 208pc: CAG



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The number of forest fire incidents increased by 208 per cent during the period from 2019 to 2021, though huge funds were pumped in for management and protection of forests under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) scheme, according to a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

The CAG report tabled in the Assembly recently said the number of forest fire incidents increased by 208 per cent during the period from 2019 to 2021. Similarly, the extent of forest area damaged went northward by 300 per cent in 2021 in comparison with 2019, despite expenditure of ₹58.84 crore for fire protection out of CAMPA funds. The report also highlighted that as many as 51 elephant deaths were recorded in Athagarh and Dhenkanal forest divisions from preventable

As many as 51 elephant deaths occurred in Athagarh and Dhenkanal forest divisions due to deficiency in forest foot patrolling, improper utilisation of trap cameras, and other protection measures

₹56.82 crore was irregularly utilised out of state CAMPA funds for various construction works

Causes due to deficiency in forest foot patrolling, improper utilisation of trap cameras, and other protection measures.

Conditional works under forest clearance such as elephant underpasses/overpasses, reptile underpasses were either under progress or not undertaken by user agencies even after two to four years of Stage-II approval.

The report also said out of

PM to distribute PMAY-G sanction letters Sept 17

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute sanction letters to around 10 lakh beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) and transfer their first instalments, amounting to around ₹3.180 crore, September 17 in Odisha, Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced Friday.

The PM will also launch 'Awas Plus 24' application that aims at ensuring the allotment of pucca houses by including eligible beneficiaries in the list at the event that will be held in Bhubaneswar.

According to the Rural Development ministry, in the current financial year, Odisha has been given a target of 22,572 houses against which an amount of ₹41.32 crore has been released. Modi will also distribute sanction letters to about 20,000 beneficiaries of Jharkhand at an event

in Jamshedpur September 15. More than ₹5 crore will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries through a single click. In the current financial year, Jharkhand has been given a target of 1,13,195 houses against which an amount of ₹187.79 crore has been released.

On September 16, at an event in Gujarat, the PM will transfer an amount of about ₹93 crore to the accounts of 31,000 PMAY beneficiaries, Chouhan announced.

In the current financial year, Gujarat has been given a target of 54,135 houses against which an amount of ₹99.1 crore has been released.

The PMAY-G is one of the flagship programmes of the government. It aims to achieve the objective of "Housing for All" by 2024 by providing 2.96 crore pucca houses with basic amenities to all homeless families living in kutcha and dilapidated houses in rural areas, in convergence with other schemes.

Rescue mentally-ill persons wandering on roads: OHRC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has asked the district social security officer (DSSO) of Khurda to ensure expeditious rescue and rehabilitation of mentally-ill persons found wandering on roads.

The rights body's move came while hearing a plea filed by Salaam Jeevan co-founder Mohammad Imran Ali.

It was in 2019 when Ali came across a media report highlighting the plight of people with mental maladies wandering on roads across the state. Moved by the news piece, Ali carried out a survey in the Capital city and approached the state's apex rights body with the findings of the study. The petitioner urged the commission to direct the authorities for immediate rescue and rehabilitation of these destitute.



Taking cognisance, the commission asked the Khurda DSSO to submit a report in this regard. In its report, the DSSO informed the commission that the City has two dedicated facilities - Mission Ashra and Mission Ashalak - for such destitute.

"More than 1,700 mentally ill persons have so far been rescued, kept at these facilities and later rehabilitated," it said.

Appreciating the measures, the OHRC asked the DSSO to keep close watch on the issue and ensure expeditious rescue and rehabilitation of mentally-ill persons whenever found wandering on roads.

Odisha emerging state for India's energy ambitions

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, with high renewable energy (RE) potential, backed by land banks and infrastructure to generate renewable power and manage seasonality, could emerge as key players in meeting India's RE ambitions in the coming decades, according to a new study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) recently. India has a RE potential of over 24,000 GW, but reaching 7,000 GW and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 will need a holistic approach of addressing challenges such as land access, climate risks, land conflicts, and population density, the study noted. Currently, the country has an installed RE capacity of 150 GW, and up to 1,500 GW, the con-

straints are relatively manageable. The study, 'Unlocking India's RE and Green Hydrogen Potential: An Assessment of Land, Water, and Climate Nexus', highlights that deployment beyond 1,500 GW could face critical challenges as multiple constraints intensify, narrowing the runway to reach the net-zero target. A considerable portion of India's RE potential is in high-climate-risk and high-land-price areas—only 18 per cent of onshore wind potential and 22 per cent of solar potential are located in areas with low climate risks and low land prices, when looked at in isolation. However, the challenges to realising this potential increase too when other constraints such as population density, land conflicts and seasonality of solar power are factored in.



The CEEW study recommends that states should establish graded land banks that consider RE quality, water availability, and proximity to infrastructure to ensure rapid project development. Evaluating and enhancing grid infrastructure and resilience are essential, particularly in regions with high RE seasonality, to support

large-scale deployment. Additionally, revising water management policies to prioritise energy production and assessing the need for surface water storage will be vital to sustaining green hydrogen production and mitigating resource challenges.

The study also identifies states with high unconstrained RE

potential. Rajasthan (6,464 GW), Madhya Pradesh (2,978 GW), Maharashtra (2,409 GW) and Ladakh (625 GW) have significant low-cost solar potential, while Karnataka (293 GW), Gujarat (212 GW), and Maharashtra (184 GW) offer considerable wind potential.

CEEW CEO Anabha Ghosh said, "India stands at a pivotal juncture in its energy transition. It has set out to do the near impossible: Provide energy access to millions of people, clean up one of the world's largest energy systems, and become a green industrial powerhouse. While our RE potential is vast, the road to net zero is fraught with challenges. From land conflicts and population density to the unpredictable but undeniable impact of climate change, every step forward will demand resilience and innovation."

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VALUE	VARIATION
SENSEX	82890.94	↓ 71.77
NIFTY	25356.50	↓ 32.40
DOLLAR	83.889	↓ ₹0.04
EURO	93.0240	↑ ₹0.08
GOLD	₹73,438	↑ ₹614
SILVER	₹89,280	↑ ₹2,185

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	33.2°C	33.0°C
Min Temp	27.4°C	26.0°C
Humidity	83%	85%
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST	PARTLY CLOUDY SKY	

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur-9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech- Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 977517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri-Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nu Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

2 surface-to-air missiles flight tested successfully in 2 days

POST NEWS NETWORK

Balasure, Sept 13: India successfully test fired the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) for the second consecutive day from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur on the Odisha coast Friday, defence sources said.

A statement from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) confirmed that both tests performed September 12 and 13 were successful.

"In both the tests, the missile successfully intercepted a high-speed low altitude aerial target mimicking sea skimming aerial target," the statement said.

The missile showcased its precision and capability to neutralise targets, the statement said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lauded DRDO, the Indian Navy and all associated teams for



the successful flight tests and stated that this missile equipped with modern technologies will

give further technological boost to the Armed Forces, it said.

For safety reasons, the Balasure district administration temporarily relocated 3,100 residents from six villages within 2.5km radius of ITR Launch Pad 3.

A revenue official said these precautions were taken in consultation with the ITR authorities at Chandipur.

This follows the earlier test Thursday when the VL-SRSAM missile effectively engaged another low-altitude target. These consecutive tests not only demonstrate the weapon system's reliability but also validate the recent upgrades made to various components of the system.

The Secretary of Department of Defence, R&D and DRDO Chairman Samir V Kamat also congratulated the teams involved in the flight tests of the VL-SRSAM system.



UP IN ARMS: Thousands of tribals armed with traditional weapons staged a massive demonstration in front of the Malkangiri Collectorate over various demands including sanction of forest rights, Friday

583 Nayagarh villages lack basic amenities

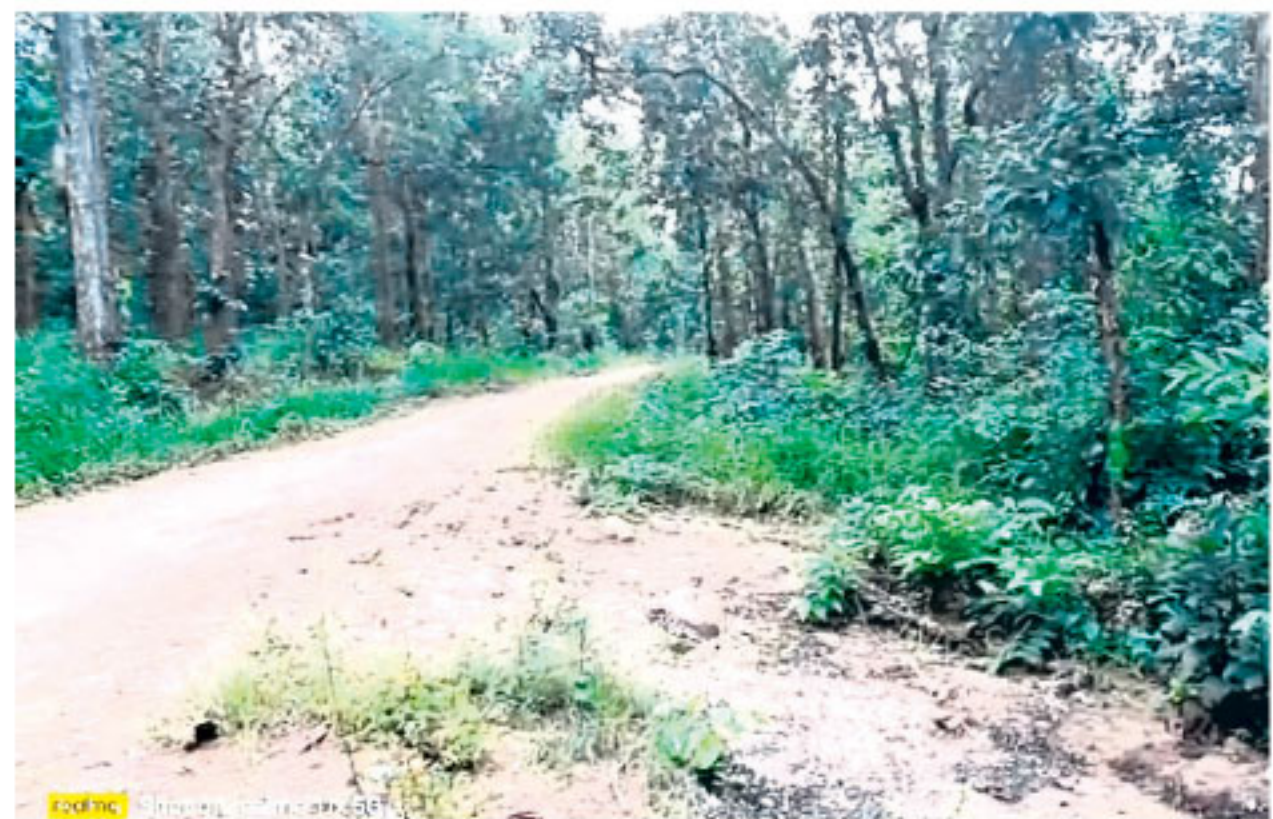
DESPITE PROXIMITY TO THE STATE CAPITAL BHUBANESWAR, VILLAGES UNDER DASPALLA, GANIA, NUAGAON, RANPUR AND KHANDAPARA BLOCKS IN NAYAGARH DISTRICT ARE DEPRIVED OF BARE MINIMUM FACILITIES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Sept 13: Although the country has stepped into the digital age, as many as 583 villages in Nayagarh district lack basic amenities and facilities as essential as a proper road, electricity and mobile service.

While 229 villages in the district lack power supply, mobile service still eludes 247 villages. People continue to carry critically ill patients to the hospitals on slings and cots as ambulances fail to reach 107 villages due to lack of an all-weather road. Critically ill patients often die at their homes or on the way after failing to reach hospital in time to avail healthcare services. As a result, residents of these villages continue to live a life of deprivation and drudgery.

These problems are not of far-away Kalahandi or Koraput districts but of villages under Daspalla, Gania, Nuagaon, Ranpur and Khandapara blocks in Nayagarh district despite proximity to the state capital Bhubaneswar. Over 75 years



since the country achieved independence from the British, development continues to be a misnomer in these villages.

The death of Sabita Mallick, wife of Pradip Mallick of Dahangisahi, in Kanapaju village under Daspalla block May 25 is a case in this point. Sabita died after an ambulance failed to reach near her house due to lack of a good road to the village.

Ambulances fail to reach Salapanda and Mushiguda vil-

lages under Gania block in the absence of a good road. Jayanti, wife of Harihar Pradhan in Salapanda village, delivered a stillborn on the way as she had to walk to the hospital after experiencing labour pain, May 24. Family members had called an ambulance but in the absence of a good road, it could not reach near her doorstep. Kin alleged that she delivered a stillborn as she had to walk on the rugged path while carrying the baby in

her womb.

Similarly, Rashmita, wife of Prasant Jani, delivered a newborn boy in a jungle on the way to the hospital while being carried on a sling, May 24.

Reports said majority of the villages in Gania, Daspalla, Ranpur and Nuagaon blocks do not have proper roads. People have been raising demands and making allegations for many years but to no avail.

The administration has failed to construct a good road in these villages where majority of the population belongs to tribal and Dalit communities.

The government is constructing roads to various villages under Centre sponsored Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) but it has given a miss to these villages in Nayagarh district, people alleged. Villagers Sudama Pradhan, Mithun Jani and Nirmala Pradhan said that the Centre and the state government are

spending several crores for the development of the tribals but still many villages in the district lack a good road while power supply and mobile phone service are still a dream.

Villages like Badabankajhari, Raikhol, Rugudisahi, Dumuduma, Damaghati, Senepari, Duisingh, Bedadi, Kumuri, Salapanda, Mushiguda and Bankajhari under Gania block and some villages under Daspalla, Khandapara, Nuagaon and Ranpur blocks not only lack a good road but also power supply and mobile phone service. This has put question marks on the development planks of the Centre as well as the state government.

These villages slip into darkness as evening descends. The tribal villagers light up a timber log or depend on oil lamps to fight the darkness. They expressed resentment as they wondered why all the developmental works are confined to the urban areas and questioned why the government is so apathetic towards their problems.

Girl burnt to death; family cries murder by boyfriend

RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Sept 13: A girl in her early 20s died under suspicious conditions while being treated for severe burn injuries at a hospital here. However, the deceased girl's family members have alleged that she was burnt alive by her boyfriend. Police have detained the youth in this case and the inquest is going on.

According to information, the deceased girl from Jharabahal village, and her boyfriend Ajaya Kumar Shah had booked a room at Maharaja Hotel on Station Road here September 12 and stayed there all through the day.

It was in the evening that the hotel staff found out that smoke was coming out of the room. They soon broke open the door to find the girl burning. They wrapped her with a blanket and rushed her to Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH).

Doctors at RGH soon referred her to Ispat General Hospital (IGH), which has an ultra-mod-

ern burn unit. However, the girl succumbed to her burn injuries at around 3.30am Friday.

The deceased girl's family members have brought a murder allegation against her boyfriend Ajay, who is a resident of Banposh.

The deceased's father, a police constable who retired from service only a couple of months back, filed an FIR Friday morning against Ajay accusing him of his daughter's murder.

Informed, police and a scientific team visited the spot in Hotel Maharaja here and took samples from the spot. Meanwhile, police have detained Ajay based on the allegation of the girl's father and started an investigation into the case.

Speaking about the case, SDPO (Zone 1) Nirmal Chandra Mohapatra informed that the duo was in a romantic relationship according to the family. "They booked a hotel room Thursday and stayed there. After receiving the complaint, we have detained the boy," said Mohapatra.

Found in flames inside a hotel room, the girl died in IGH Friday

Two schoolboys drown during idol immersion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, Sept 13: Two schoolboys drowned during the immersion of Ganesh idol in a canal in Mayurbhanj district Friday, police said.

The incident happened at the Subarnarekha canal in Laxmiposi in the Sadar police station area, they said.

Four Class XI students of Ranibhol Adarsha Vidyalaya School had gone to immerse the idol. They slipped into the canal and were swept away in the current. Two of them could be rescued, but the other two drowned. Personnel of the fire services later fished out their bodies, police said.

The deceased were identified as Tanmay Kumar Behera and Dibyajyoti Sahu, they said. A case of unnatural death was registered and the bodies were sent to the PRM Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem examinations, they added.

In a separate incident, a 70-year-old man identified as Gopal Krishna Jena drowned in Subarnarekha river Friday morning.

HEAVY RAIN FORECAST Mayurbhanj schools to remain shut today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: The authorities of Mayurbhanj district Friday announced the closure of all schools Saturday after the IMD forecast heavy rain in several parts of north Odisha.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a 'red' alert (take action) for Mayurbhanj district.

The alert for isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20cm) and thunderstorms with lightning has been issued for some places in Mayurbhanj, the Regional Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, said in a statement.

As instructed by Collector and District Magistrate, Mayurbhanj, all schools, including private ones, will be closed September 14 in the district due to anticipation of heavy rainfall, Mayurbhanj District Education Officer (DEO) in a message said. As per the IMD forecast, there

could be flash floods and waterlogging in low-lying areas, inundation of agriculture fields and mudslides or landslides in vulnerable hilly areas given the heavy rainfall.

Meanwhile, the IMD has also issued an 'orange' warning (be prepared to take action) as it forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall (7 to 20cm) and thunderstorms with lightning at isolated places in the other north Odisha districts like Balasure, Bhadrak and Keonjhar.

The weather agency also said that the low-pressure area over southeast Bangladesh and the neighbourhood moved west-northwestwards and lay as a well-marked low-pressure area over the northeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining southeast Bangladesh coast.

It is likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a depression over coastal West Bengal and adjoining northwest Bay of Bengal by Saturday.

GST raid at wholesale cloth warehouse

SAMBALPUR: A team of GST officials conducted a raid in a wholesale cloth warehouse at Kamlibazar here Friday. The raid was carried out due to suspected irregularities in GST filing and related documents by the wholesaler. The GST departments of Sambalpur and Bargarh, along with the Sambalpur GST Enforcement Division, jointly conducted raids simultaneously at Mittal Traders and Mittal Agencies in Kamlibazar. The raid was led by Dinesh Kumar Bag, Assistant Commissioner of Bargarh GST Enforcement Division, along with a 15-member team from the department. The officials are investigating the source of the goods and to which regions the cloth is being supplied. Assistant Commissioner Bag stated that after the investigation is complete, it will be determined whether there has been any irregularity in the business.

Youth dies of snakebite

MALKANGIRI: Snakebite claimed the life of a youth Friday at Chitapari-3 village of Sadar panchayat under Korukonda block in Malkangiri district. According to information, the deceased identified as Raghunath Muduli, son of Harischandra Muduli, had gone to his farmland for sprinkling of fertiliser and was bitten by a poisonous snake. After he informed his family members, they rushed him to the government health centre at Balimela where he died while undergoing treatment. Personnel from Orkel police station reached the hospital, seized the body and initiated an investigation into the incident. Police after registering a case of unnatural death sent the body for post-mortem.

Retired Sub-Collector gets 2-year RI over DA

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: A Vigilance court here Friday sentenced former Sub-Collector (retired) of Jharsuguda Pradeep Kumar Barik to two years of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI) and slapped a fine of Rs 1 lakh

after finding him guilty for possession of Disproportionate Assets (DA).

Earlier, Barik was chargesheeted by Odisha Investigation under section 13(2) read with 13(1)(e) PC Act, 1998/109 IPC for possession of DA. Odisha Vigilance will now move the

competent authority for stoppage of pension of Barik following his conviction. Mangra Kujur, Ex-DSP, Vigilance, Bhubaneswar Division had investigated the case and Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Ajit Kumar Pattnaik conducted the case on behalf of the prosecution.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
 File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/24-25/
 E-Tender/57, Dt. 09.09.2024
 Tender No. : e-Tender-CENTKUR-186-2024, Dtd. 04.09.2024
Description: REMOVAL OF COAL FROM RUNNING LINES OF TALCHER (TLHR) YARD, BUDHAPANK (BDPK) YARD, JSPC A CABIN, TALCHER (TLHR)-NTPC UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF SR. SECTION ENGINEER (SSE) (P.WAY)/TALCHER (TLHR) OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 90.75 Lakh.
EMD: ₹ 1,81,500.00, Completion period : 12 (Twelve) Months.
Tender closing Date & Time: At 1500 hrs. of 25.09.2024.
 No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders.
 Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : www.reps.gov.in
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.
 Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.) PR-521/P/24-25 Khurda Road

SECTION-1 No.i-158:
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, LOISINGHA
 Email: ori-loisingha@nic.in
 Identification No.01/24-25/LSNG/04
 1.The BDO Loisingha, on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in Single Cover system in ONLINE MODE for construction of building work detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.
 2. Nature of Work : Building Work
 3. No. of Tender : 4 Nos. Building Work
 4. Tender Cost: Rs.6,000/- (Tender Paper Cost)
 5. Class of Contractor : "D" and "C" (Registered with CDMS)
 6. Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids: From Dt.13.09.2024, 3.00 PM Dt.30.09.2024 upto 5.30 P.M.
 7. Date of Opening bid : Dt.01.10.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
 8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website:
<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
 Sd./- BDO, LOISINGHA BLOCK
 OIPR-19245/11/0001/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRI.), SOIL CONSERVATION, NORTHERN ZONE AT/PO-BURLA, SAMBALPUR-768017
 No.L-60: e-mail:eenzsc.sambalpur@gmail.com
 Notice No.160 Dt.12.09.2024
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
 Identification No.02/DSC&WD/NZ/2024-25, Dt.12.09.2024

1 Nature of Work	: Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) of Building
2 Nos. of Work	: 1 No.
3 Tendered amount in Rs.	: Rs.26,89,074.00
4 Period of Completion	: 180 days
5 Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 10.00 Hrs. of 19.09.2024 to 17.30 Hrs. of 24.09.2024
6 Last date/time of receipt of original documents in the tender box at the office of the undersigned	: Before 17.30 Hrs. of 27.09.2024
7 Date & Time of opening of bids	: 11.00 Hrs. of 30.09.2024 onwards
8 Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid	: Executive Engineer (Agril.) Soil Conservation, Northern Zone, Sambalpur, At/Po- Burla, Near Planetarium Chowk, Pin-768017

 Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in
 Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.) Soil Conservation, NZ, Sambalpur
 OIPR-014811/11/0002/2425

Diarrhoea outbreak in Mathili kills 5

POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Sept 13: Diarrhoea has been spreading in Mathili block of Malkangiri district for the past couple of days. Reports said that five people have died of the disease so far and 10 others are currently undergoing treatment at the Mathili Community Health Centre.

Notably, the district experienced heavy rainfall from September 7 to 9 resulting in a flood-like situation. Although rain has subsided, diarrhoea is now spreading its tentacles in Mathili block. Two women from Atalguda village under Kutunipalli panchayat were admitted to the Mathili CHC two days back and succumbed to diarrhoea Thursday while undergoing

treatment. Similarly, a family of three was wiped out in Tulasi village as a man, his son, and daughter, affected by diarrhoea, died Thursday. Additionally, 10 people from Bara village under Kartanpalli panchayat have been affected and are receiving treatment at the Mathili CHC.

Following the orders of the Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) Dhaneshwar Mahapatra, two medical teams have been dispatched to Atalguda and Bara villages to investigate the cause of the diarrhoea outbreak. These teams are also providing immediate medical treatment to the affected residents.

It is noteworthy that two months ago, diarrhoea outbreak in Bara village had claimed one life and affected over 30 people.

F.No. 10/121/2016-NCLT (Pt-V)/939
GOVT OF INDIA
NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL
 6th Floor, Block-3, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003
 Dated: 02/09/2024
Notification
Subject : Filling up posts of Joint Registrar in National Company Law Tribunal Benches on deputation basis.
 Applications are invited for filling up the following posts in National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for filling up existing/future vacancies in its benches as detailed below ;

S/N	Post	Bench	Pay level	No. of posts (Tentative)
1	Joint Registrar	New Delhi Mumbai	Level-13 (Rs. 123100-215900)	1 1

 2. The selected candidate will be required to serve at NCLT Bench for which he/she is selected.
 3. Last date for receipt of applications will be 60 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News/Rozgar Samachar.
 4. For Further details please visit www.nclt.gov.in (under "Career")
 Sd./- (Kamal Sultanpuri)
 Joint Registrar
 National Company Law Tribunal
 CBC 07118/12/0016/2425

FOCUS SOCIETY

PRICE OF SOCIAL DARWINISM



To increase expenditure on health to three per cent of GDP, a total of ₹1.06 lakh cr would be required. This can be raised by taxing the top 100 billionaires at two per cent

ation policy resulted in a total loss of ₹1.84 lakh crores. The Wealth Tax was abolished by Arun Jaitley in 2016-17. It was Chidambaram as FM who brought down the top tax rate from 50% in 1985 to 30% in 2005-06. India implemented the GST seven years ago, with the avowed objective of one nation one indirect tax. The flip side is that it has widened the existing inequality between the rich and the poor: GST collected from the bottom 50% of the population is 64.3% as against 4% from the top 10%. The report rightly calls for a reduction in GST rates on essential commodities. The rising income inequality is due to the pro-rich direct tax policy and regressive GST policy towards the poor in India's neo-liberal regime after the 90s, cutting across the main political adversaries, Congress & the BJP.

The impact of the redistribution of wealth and income and wealth of an economy is a contentious one. The right-wing economists believe that the welfare impact of redistribution, say of the Russian Revolution in 1917, is far less than productivity improvements through the Industrial Revolution, mass transportation & Information Technology. Wealth distribution distorts the allocation of resources from capital investment to consumption. It also discourages entrepreneurship and risk-taking. All the same, with marginal increases like 5% on wealth tax, the Oxfam report avers that the global tax collection will be around \$1.7 trillion, which will take nearly 2 billion people out of the quagmire of poverty. The India Supplement of Oxfam makes a sensible case for token net wealth taxation of 100 billionaires in India to improve access to health, education, and nutrition for the poor. Only when the ruling party eschews its molycoddling of India's crony capitalism, Social Darwinism in India will wane.

The writer teaches macro economics

British philosopher and scientist Herbert Spencer coined the phrase Social Darwinism to denote how the life of a human being was a struggle for existence, ruled by survival of the fittest, just like Darwin's perception of the law of natural selection in plants and animals. The India Supplement of Oxfam considers India on the cusp of Social Darwinism where the richest only survive. While the wealthiest 10% own more than 80% of the concentrated wealth, and the total number of billionaires has increased from 102 in 2020 to 166, India is home to the world's highest number of poor at 229 million. The World Inequality Report (2024) states the top 1% of India holds 40% of wealth and the bottom 50% have received 15% of national income, a drop of 7% from 1990, when India embraced economic liberalization and free market economy. Conversely, the share of the top 10% has gone up from 32% in 1990 to 57% by 2021. While the GDP has increased by 50% since 2013 as per the NFHS V Survey 32% of children are underweight, 35.5% are stunted and 19.3% are wasted, which is the highest rate among countries.

The Gini Coefficient which measures income inequality shows that India's Gini has gone up from 28.9% in 1980 to 30.1 in 1990 to 26.2 in 2010. This is despite the constitutional mandate in Article 38(2) that the 'state shall strive to minimize the inequalities in income and eliminate inequalities in opportunities'. The impact of inequality is especially stark at the margins of the Indian state, with some communities like SC & ST suffering from physical remoteness and systematic exclusion from the means to achieve vertical mobility. An average Dalit woman dies 14-16 years earlier than women from higher castes. The Oxfam report brings out how Rural India where 70% live,

has 31% of the total number of hospitals and 16% of beds. In the Public Health Centres, 21.8% do not have doctors, and Community Health Centres without specialist doctors account for 68% as of 2021. The Indian government needs to spend 3.8% of its GDP (Rs 5.5 lakh Crores) for providing proper healthcare services at affordable cost. To increase expenditure on health to three per cent of GDP, a total of ₹1.06 lakh cr would be required. This can be raised by taxing the top 100 billionaires at 2%.

On the Education front, the report brings out how allocation has gone down from 3.3% (2017-18) to 2.35% in 2022-23. Investment in secondary education has remained stagnant at 1% of GDP. The unavailability of secondary schools within 5 km of habitation makes it difficult for girls to the school. The dismal learning outcomes as reported by successive ASER surveys have put a big question mark on the marquee SSA programme. The Report brings out how NEP 2020's sensible proposal to supplement the MDM scheme with a breakfast scheme was rejected by the Ministry of Finance, stating paucity of fund.

The report had noted 'Children are unable to learn optimally when they are undernourished. Hence nutrition & health of children will be addressed through healthy meals.' About 11.59 cr elementary school children benefit under the MDM scheme, with an allocation of ₹13,400 cr. The DMK government has already launched the breakfast programme. The report brings out how a 2% tax on 100 billionaires would cover the cost of providing a healthy breakfast for 3.5 years.

Rousseau after the French Revolution had warned: When people have nothing more to eat, they will eat the rich. To preempt, such dismal foreboding, the report strongly pitches for distributive justice through the taxation mechanism to hold those in power accountable to improve the health, education, and nutrition needs of the less fortunate. The Indian Constitution mandates in Article 39(b) that 'material resources of the community are so distributed to subserve the common good'. In India, the Central government reduced corporate tax slabs from 30% to 22%, with newly incorporated companies paying a lower rate at 15%. The new tax-



Satya Narayan Misra

ONLY WHEN THE RULING PARTY ESCHEWS ITS MOLLYCODDLING OF INDIA'S CRONY CAPITALISM, SOCIAL DARWINISM IN INDIA WILL WANE

Rise of Odisha Cadre

This column has previously talked about the Odisha cadre's rise. Here's another example. Tuhin Kanta Pandey, a senior IAS officer from the Odisha cadre (1987 batch), is India's new Finance Secretary, stepping into a pivotal role following the elevation of Dr. T.V. Somanathan to Cabinet Secretary.

Pandey brings a wealth of expertise, having previously led the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). Under his leadership, DIPAM successfully managed high-profile divestments, including the historic sale of Air India, demonstrating his ability to manage complex government undertakings. He is the longest-serving secretary in charge of DIPAM, indicating the trust he enjoys among his political masters.

Pandey's portfolio, which also included the position of Secretary of the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), provides him with a unique perspective on managing public sector firms and implementing privatization policies. Observers expect this knowledge to shape Pandey's tenure as Finance Secretary, particularly given the government's continued emphasis on disinvestment, fiscal prudence, and structural reforms.

Looking ahead, we may anticipate Pandey to continue driving Modi's privatization agenda, potentially expanding it to new areas. With his track record, Pandey is also likely to push for more efficient asset management and may simplify public-private partnerships to attract foreign and domestic investments. His experience leading DIPAM through one of India's most critical privatization phases implies a proactive, reformist approach that could prove advantageous as the government faces financial challenges and seeks to boost economic growth.

Pandey's tenure may also see a greater emphasis on balancing fiscal consolidation with growth-oriented measures, especially as India navigates global economic uncertainties.

Rot runs deep

Suspended IAS officer Puja Khedkar's discharge from service has spotlighted a larger issue within the civil services selection process. Khedkar was dismissed under Rule 12 of the IAS (Probation) Rules 1954, but her case seems to have opened a can of worms. Since her removal, the UPSC has received over 30 complaints from people accusing other candidates of misrepresenting their credentials.

Sources have informed DKB that these complaints have been forwarded to the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) for further investigation. If the allegations hold water, tough action is expected. A key area of concern is the misuse of the disability quota, as seen in Khedkar's case, which has prompted the government to initiate discussions on preventing such abuses. Multiple meetings are reportedly being held to address these issues.

Interestingly, several of Khedkar's batch mates at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) were apparently aware of her alleged manipulation of the disability quota but chose not to report it. To avoid similar lapses in the future, both the DoPT and LBSNAA are working on new protocols to better identify and deal with such concerns early on.

On its part, the UPSC has also upgraded its systems to tackle fraudulent practices. The commission has enhanced its software to detect name changes by linking candidates' names to their date of birth, which should help prevent fraud between attempts. These steps are a much-needed course correction for the selection process.

Media maverick with bureaucratic ties

Purva Misra's move to NDTV as Chief People Officer is certainly one to watch. After an impressive 11-year run as CHRO at India Today Group and COO of India Today Media Institute, she's bringing a wealth of experience to her new role. Her expertise in managing people and navigating the complex media landscape makes her a great fit for NDTV, which has been seeing a lot of changes recently.

What adds a unique dimension to Purva's profile is her strong family connections. As the daughter of Nripendra Misra, former Principal Secretary to PM Narendra Modi and the chair of the Ram Temple construction committee, Purva comes from a family deeply embedded in key areas of governance and policy. Her father is known for being one of Modi's most trusted aides, and that's no small feat. Add to that her husband, Shyamal Misra, a 1996-batch IAS officer currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, and you've got a family that's well-connected across multiple layers of government.

While Purva has clearly carved out her niche in the corporate world, her family's political clout adds an interesting layer to her professional journey. Her shift to NDTV is bound to be significant, and it'll be exciting to see how her leadership influences the network moving forward.

Share a babu experience! Follow dilipthecherian@twitter.com. Let's multiply the effect

WISDOM CORNER

- The worst enemy of truth and freedom in our society is the compact majority. - HENRIK IBSEN
- A good newspaper, I suppose, is a nation talking to itself. - ARTHUR MILLER
- Love, friendship and respect do not unite people as much as a common hatred for something. - ANTON CHEKHOV

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1829: Russia and the Ottoman Empire signed the Treaty of Edirne, concluding the Russo-Turkish War of 1828-29.
- 1847: U.S. General Winfield Scott's advance on Mexico City was marked by an unbroken series of victories that culminated this day, when he entered Mexico City and ended the military phase of the Mexican-American War.
- 1927: Isadora Duncan, a pioneer of modern expressive dance, died in France when her long scarf became entangled in the rear wheel of the car in which she was riding.
- 1985: The American sitcom The Golden Girls debuted on American television; known for its focus on older women—played by Betty White, Rue McClanahan, Beatrice Arthur, and Estelle Getty—and for tackling timely topics, the series became hugely popular.

LOL

I'll do anything to pass

A student comes to a young professor's office hours. She glances down the hall, closes his door, kneels pleadingly. "I would do anything to pass this exam." She leans closer to him, flips back her



hair, gazes meaningfully into his eyes. "I mean..." she whispers, "...I would do...anything." He returns her gaze. "Anything?" "Anything." His voice softens. "Anything?" "Absolutely anything." His voice turns to a whisper. "Would you...study?"

SPECTRUM DIPLOMACY

Enhancing Southeast Asia connect



DK Giri

INDIA'S GOOD RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA WILL HELP COUNTERBALANCE CHINA'S GROWING INFLUENCE IN THE REGION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit last week to Brunei Darussalam and Singapore signify advancement in India's diplomatic and economic engagements in Southeast Asia. Singapore is a commercially strategic country and Brunei is cash rich. Deepening engagements with both these countries is highly beneficial for India.

Singapore is an island nation consisting of one main island and 62 smaller islands. Originally known as Tumasik, which means sea, the island country has been a key stop for traders offering duty-free ports. Having become a Republic in 1965, Singapore has become by far the strongest economy in Southeast Asia with major sectors in banking and manufacturing.

Brunei is strategically located along the South China sea in the north and bordered by Malaysia on all other sides. It has a strong economy, mainly from crude oil and natural gas. Brunei is the third largest oil producer in the whole of Southeast Asia and significantly, fourth largest liquefied natural gas producer globally. Its main exports consist of three major commodities - crude oil, petro-

leum products and natural gas.

As usual, the PM's visit resulted in enhancing political relationship, trade and economic transactions, and people-to-people connect. It also leads to the signing of multiple agreements. In Singapore, the major agreement signed is an MoU on developing a resilient semi-conductor supply chain. This MoU marks a great geo-strategic significance in view of the need for semi-conductor chips in various technologies across the globe. Along with that another MoU is signed on digital technologies in order to increase cooperation in data, AI, and cyber-security.

Modi nudged his counterpart to agree to upgrade the bilateral relationship to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'. This will increase cooperation across various sectors. In view of a large community in Singapore of people of Indian origin, it was agreed to strengthen the cultural linkages. PM announced the inauguration of the Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre in Singapore in honour of the legacy of the Tamil saint Thiruvalluvar. From Indian side, New Delhi agreed to grant an exemption for exporting non-basmati white rice to Singapore,

addressing Singapore's food-security needs.

Modi started to work on his agenda in Brunei by visiting the iconic Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque in Bander Seri Begawan, which is regarded as a symbol of Brunei's Islamic heritage. Among the major developments, Modi appreciated Brunei's support in hosting ISRO's Telemetry Tracking and Telecommand (TTC) Station. Both countries underscored the critical need of a peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea in keeping with the international law.

The issue of climate change was another major discussion. Following Modi's visit, New Delhi agreed to support Brunei's efforts on climate change mainly hosting the ASEAN Centre for climate change.

From the point of view of India's foreign policy, Modi's visit to these two countries contributes to accelerating the Act East Policy. Remember India is deepening its defence ties in Southeast Asia by signing agreements with countries like Philippines and collaborating with countries like Vietnam and Indonesia. The region also presents great economic opportunities for India. Southeast Asia

also is important for India's efforts in making India-Pacific, free, open and inclusive. Above all, India's good relations with countries of Southeast Asia will help counterbalance China's growing influence in the region.

China's aggressive actions in the South China Sea complicate matters. India is somewhat hassled by China in securing her maritime routes for trade. Beijing's proximity with Southeast Asia and its economic heft gives it an edge over India in matching its influence in Southeast Asia. There is diverse response to China's policy towards Southeast Asia. This requires India to double its efforts in curating its policies in Southeast Asia vis-a-vis China.

In order to meet some of the above challenges, the immediate and important thing for India to do is to develop and diversify supply chains to reduce Southeast Asia's reliance on China.

Let us hope that Modi's visit to these countries contributes to such a line of strategic thinking.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism

Trump's lacklustre show

Sir, By any reasonable metric, Vice President Kamala Harris has soundly defeated Donald Trump in the presidential debate last Tuesday. If Joe Biden appeared a lot shaky in his performance against Trump in their debate in June this year, a display that precipitated his exit from the race, this time it was Trump's rambling, lacklustre showing, in which he was repeatedly baited by Harris into going off script. She did it by demonstrating superior knowledge not only of policy, but also of her opponent's psychology. Harris figured out exactly how to get Trump angry, how to trick him into veering off course, and how to keep the debate on favourable terrain. To put it more bluntly, Harris manipulated Trump into spiralling at several points during the debate. In fact, even before the debate could begin, Harris put Trump on the defence by walking over to his podium and introducing herself by shaking hands. It was an assertive way to approach a man who spent weeks insulting her with racist and sexist attacks. Trump had no choice but to accept the gesture.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Tender violations

Sir, This refers to "Omfed threw tender norms to winds: CAG" [Orissa POST, September 13]. The CAG report has disclosed gross irregularities in the tendering processes of Omfed, an organisation based in Odisha for milk production. The report states that Omfed flouted existing rules of tendering, which may lead to misappropriation of funds and lessen fair competition. Instances were identified in the report when contract orders were given without following proper channels, avoiding competitive bidding and showing favouritism towards specific suppliers. By allowing such things to happen, public institutions' credibility is questioned. Therefore, there is an urgent requirement for change in Omfed's tendering procedure, according to CAG's report. The government now needs to initiate immediate corrective measures so that this does not happen again in the future. There should be stringent regulations put into place to improve transparency, accountability, and efficiency in order to protect resources for citizens. As a key stakeholder of the state's dairy industry, Omfed needs to focus on adherence to morality in order to maintain its operational ethics while serving the community at large.

Garima Singh, KANPUR

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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Four states join Kerala's push for reform in Central funding

Inaugurating the conclave, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that cess and surcharge levied by the Centre were showing a 'rising trend' and resulting in the 'shrinkage' of states' share in the divisive pool of taxes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 13: Non-BJP ruled Kerala, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Punjab Thursday pushed for an increase in the states' share in the divisive pool of taxes and said good performance by them should be incentivised and not penalised by reducing allocation of funds to them.

This common opinion was aired by the finance ministers of the five states at a conclave organised here by the Kerala government to discuss key issues related to the 16th Finance Commission.

Inaugurating the conclave, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that cess and surcharge levied by the Centre were showing a "rising trend" and resulting in the "shrinkage" of states' share in the divisive pool of taxes.

He further said the rise in surcharges and cesses, which are not included in the divisive pool, was happening at a time when the Finance Commission has been recommending a higher share for the states from the net proceeds of the taxes collected by the Centre.

A similar view was expressed by Kerala Finance Minister KN Balagopal in his presidential address at the conclave which was attended by top dignitaries, including Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, and Tamil Nadu FM Thangam Thennarasu.

Other notable participants included Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Assembly VD Satheesan and renowned econ-



VIJAYAN AND BALAGOPAL CALLED FOR AN INCREASE FOR THE STATES' SHARE IN THE DIVISIVE POOL TO AT LEAST 50 PER CENT FROM THE 41 PER CENT RECOMMENDED BY THE LAST FINANCE COMMISSION, A DEMAND ECHOED BY THE MINISTERS OF THE OTHER STATES WHEN THEY SPOKE AT THE CONCLAVE

omist and former economic advisor to the central government Dr Arvind Subramanian.

Balagopal said the share of states' in the divisive pool was decreasing as the union government was "cutting it down" by "mobilising revenue through sources which are not divisible, such as cess and surcharges, disinvestment, monetisation of public assets, RBI profits".

Vijayan and Balagopal called for an increase for the states' share in the divisive pool to at least 50 per cent from the 41 per cent recommended by the last Finance Commission, a demand echoed by the ministers of the other states when they spoke at the conclave.

Mallu said there should be an increase in the states' share in Central taxes from 41 per cent to 50 per cent, resisting the Centre's increasing use of cesses and

surcharges, reducing the Centrally sponsored schemes and allowing the states to spend on their local priorities.

"We must ensure our states have the resources and autonomy needed to chart their own development path," the Telangana deputy CM said.

Thennarasu said the Indian polity has an "inherent imbalance" in the distribution of powers and responsibilities between union and the states.

He said while the states are entrusted with the majority of responsibility related to the development of society and delivery of public services, including education, health, agriculture, and social welfare, the union retains the majority of the powers of revenue generation.

Karnataka Minister Gowda said that if the state does well it can contribute a proportionately larger share to the union.

He pointed out that the participating states have high per capita income, high development rate and added that Kerala tops the whole country in the Human Development Index.

Gowda said by penalising performance and efficiency, the union government was sending a message that just because you are doing well, you are going to be cut

CM Stalin concludes two-week US tour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 13: The Tamil Nadu government on Friday said it has signed a MoU with US-headquartered Rapid Global Business Solutions, Inc, a supplier of business solutions across various industries, and the firm would set up a new unit in the state by investing Rs 100 crore.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Chief Minister MK Stalin in Chicago September 12 between officials of the state and the company, represented by its Chairman and CEO Nanua Singh and others, an official release here said, adding the new electronic and telematics firm would come up at Hosur. Industries Minister TRB Rajaa and top state officials were present.

In total, the state government has inked pacts totally worth Rs 7,616 crore with 18 companies during the Chief Minister's official US tour to attract investments.

Stalin, who embarked on his US tour August 27, completed his trip and departed from Chicago to Chennai September 12 following a warm send-off by the Tamil diaspora.

In a post on X, he said, "Goodbye, USA! The CM is scheduled to land in Chennai Saturday morning."



Stalin, also the ruling DMK's chief writing to his party cadres said the Dravidian model of government has been putting into action the government's ideal of making Tamil Nadu the first destination of investors and the investment commitments secured in the US would provide employment opportunities to the young people.

Recalling his interaction with the Tamil diaspora in Chicago on September 7, he said they did not fail to laud the momentous schemes of the DMK government during the past three years.

CMFRI scientists crack genetic code of Asian green mussel

THE FINDINGS WILL BENEFIT THE AQUACULTURE SECTOR BY IMPROVING GENOMIC SELECTION AND BREEDING PRACTICES, LEADING TO ENHANCED PRODUCTIVITY AND RESILIENCE IN FISHERIES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Sept 13: In a groundbreaking achievement, researchers at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) have successfully deciphered the genome of the Asian green mussel (*Perna viridis*), a discovery poised to revolutionise the understanding of this vital marine species.

This is the first-ever chromosome level genome sequencing of a marine invertebrate species from India.

Earlier, CMFRI had come out with a similar genome finding for Indian oil sardine.

The Asian green mussel, *Kallummakkaya* in local parlance, is an important aquaculture species in the family Mytilidae contributing substantially to molluscan aquaculture.

CMFRI's research found that the mussel's genome contains 723.49 Mb in size and is anchored into 15 chromosomes, according to a CMFRI release here Thursday.

The research was published in the journal *Scientific Data* by Nature Group.

"The development will be a game-changer in boosting sustainable mussel aquaculture in the country, as this research will help gain insights into its growth, reproduction and disease resistance", said Dr Grinson George, Director of CMFRI.

The findings will benefit the aquaculture sector by improving genomic selection and breeding practices, leading to enhanced productivity and resilience in fisheries, he added.

A team of researchers from CMFRI led by Principal Scientist Dr Sandhya Sukumaran carried out this study with funding support from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), New Delhi.

The team includes Dr A Gopalakrishnan, VG Vysakh,



CMFRI designated as Centre of Excellence for seaweed cultivation

The Department of Fisheries under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has designated the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute as a Centre of Excellence for seaweed cultivation. The regional centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) at Mandapam in Tamil Nadu will serve as a hub for research, development, training and capacity building in seaweed cultivation. "The centre will promote sustainable seaweed farming practices and address key challenges in the area with an aim to enhance India's role in the global seaweed industry," CMFRI said in a release. Dr Grinson George, Director of CMFRI termed this development as a crucial step in unlocking the country's potential in seaweed cultivation.

Dr Wilson Sebastian, Dr Lalitha Hari Dharani, Dr Akhilesh Pandey, Dr Abishek Kumar and Dr JK Jena.

According to scientists, this will help develop new strategies to combat diseases in the mus-

sel. According to the scientists, the genome assembly of green mussels will emerge as a valuable tool for exploring cancer mechanisms and developing new therapeutic strategies.

"A total of 49654 protein-coding genes were identified, including 634 genes associated with the cancer pathway and 408 genes associated with viral carcinogenesis. This indicates that this species is a novel model organism for cancer research," Sukumaran said.

This advancement promises to significantly enhance our understanding of cancer pathways and facilitate the discovery of novel treatments, she added.

Apart from its aquaculture prospects, Asian green mussels play a vital role as a bio-monitor as it is capable of accumulating heavy metals and other environmental pollutants in large quantities.

Understanding the genome assembly will provide valuable information about the genomic pathways involved in response to pollutants.

Several parts in Chennai reel under power outage

EB REROUTES SUPPLY TO RESTORE ELECTRICITY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chennai, Sept 13: Several parts of Chennai reeled under a sudden power outage due to a fire incident which caused sequential faults on both feeders at the Manali substation, here.

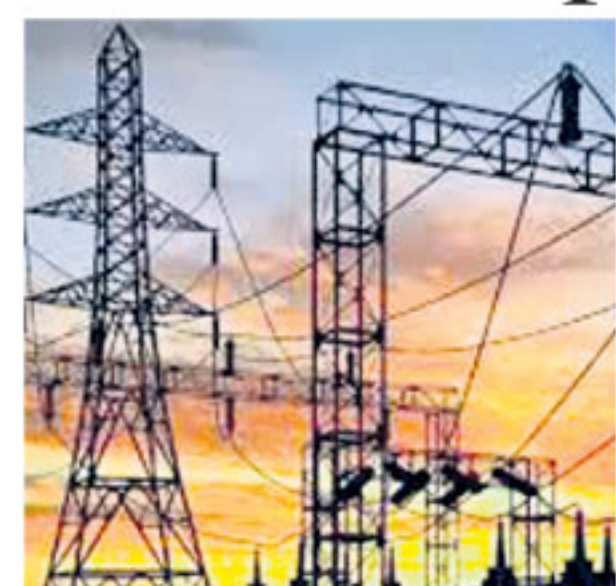
Power supply was, however, restored by Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO), which responded promptly, by rerouting supply through alternate pathways, an official said Friday.

The cascading fault on the second redundant feeder Alamatty of Manali Substation caused damage to the switch structure, he said.

The affected substation has been repaired on a war-footing and regular power supply has been restored, an official release here said. The Manali substation is an important power hub of Chennai supplying electricity to major parts of the city. There are two charger sources namely Alamatty and NCTPS II exclusively to supply power to this substation. These were designed to provide 100 per cent power to the sub-station.

At around 9.58 pm September 12, a massive fire broke out at the Alamatty substation and this led to subsequent blackout of two 400 KV power sources (Alamatty and NCTPS II) supplying power to the Manali substation.

The fire was extinguished immediately. However, due to the failure of the dual power sources,



Mylapore, Luz, Santhome, Nungambakkam, Royapuram, Tondiarpet, Tollgate, Saidapet, Vyasarpadi, Sembium, Kolathur, Periyar Nagar, Madhavaram, Puzhal, Red Hills, Kodungaiyur, Anna Salai, George Town, Egmore and other areas were affected.

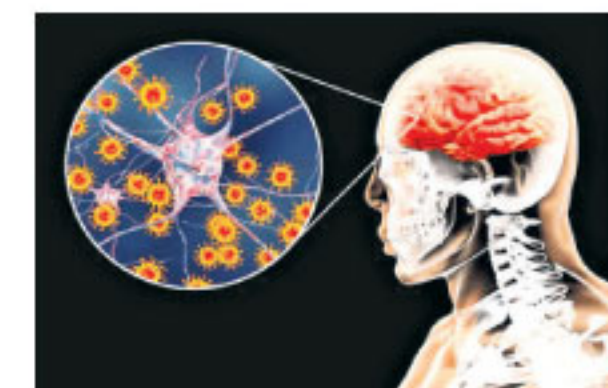
The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board took steps to provide alternative power supply and

cleared the inconvenience caused to the public, the release said.

The fire had caused extensive damage at the substation. "Though there was a delay in the electricity restoration, the work was accelerated on a war-footing by providing power through alternative routes," the release said. The restoration started at 11 pm and by this morning all the affected areas gradually obtained the power supply.

Despite sequential faults on both feeders from NCTPS II to Manali 400/230KV, TANGEDCO swiftly ensured uninterrupted power to the city by stepping up 230KV to 400KV and rerouting power through Pulianthope. This was a testament to resilience and efficiency, TANGEDCO said in a post on the social media platform X.

All ten patients recover from rare brain infection



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 13: The Kerala Health Department announced Thursday that it has achieved a historic feat in treating Amoebic Meningoencephalitis, a rare and often deadly brain infection, with all 10 patients undergoing treatment being discharged, marking a remarkable recovery rate.

Kerala Health Minister Veena George said all 10 patients admitted to Thiruvananthapuram Medical College with Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (Amoebic Brain Fever) have been discharged.

According to her, this extraordinary success story is all the more remarkable given the global context.

Only 25 people worldwide have ever recovered from Amoebic Meningoencephalitis, and 14 of them are from Kerala, the minister said in a statement.

"Globally, this disease has a mortality rate of 97 per cent. However, Kerala has successfully reduced the mortality rate to 26 per cent. Worldwide, only 11 people have achieved recovery from this disease. Meanwhile, Kerala has managed to cure 14 people so far, including these 10 patients," it said.

The key to this success was the timely and accurate diagnosis, followed by effective treatment with medicines like Miltefosine, which led to the recovery of all patients, the statement said.

It said following the confirmation of Amoebic Meningoencephalitis in a deceased person in Thiruvananthapuram, the Health Department took swift and robust measures.

FROM MURDER CONVICTS TO FARMERS

Kerala prison inmates reap harvest for Onam market

PRISONERS ARE NOW WASHING THEIR STAINED HANDS WITH THE FERTILE SOIL IN THIS LAND, CAREFULLY NURTURING AND CARING FOR PLANTS, WATCHING THEM GROW AND FLOURISH, AND FINDING JOY IN THE PROCESS

facility in Nettukaltheri is not only challenging conventional notions of incarceration but also empowering inmates to become experts in sustainable farming practices.

From cultivating rubber to raising cattle and honeybees, the prisoners are learning valuable skills that will serve them well upon release.

As the Onam festival season approaches, the Open Prison is abuzz with excitement.

Prisoners are thrilled to be reaping the rewards of their hard work, harvesting the fresh vegetables they grew with care and dedication.

They wear white shirts bearing the numbers allocated to them by the department. All of them are murder case convicts, people who either would have knowingly or accidentally killed someone or multiple people.

They are now washing their stained hands with the fertile soil in this land, carefully nurturing and caring for plants,



watching them grow and flourish, and finding joy in the process.

"There is something called agricultural therapy. Nurturing a plant and seeing it flower and bear fruit is proven to have a very positive mental transformation in people. We hope this will help them lead a happy and crime-free life when they leave from here," Rajesh Kumar, superintendent in charge of the open prison, told PTI.

There are more than 350 prisoners housed in this open prison and its annexe located nearby.

The prison has rubber plantations as the major cultivation. In addition, they have vegetables, a dragon fruit farm, a grass farm, and honey bee cages, using almost all available land inside the vast campus.

They had, for some time, discontinued vegetable farming as they found it difficult to market the large quantity of organic vegetables they produce.

The open prison is located about 50 km away from Thiruvananthapuram city and it was unviable for them to trans-

port the vegetables to the city. The prison can sell these vegetables only at rates prescribed by the Horticulture Corporation.

"We grow everything here, and this time we cultivated vegetables, aiming at the Onam market. On the day of Pooradam, (two days ahead of Thiruvonam, that is Friday), we send these vegetables to the mega Onam mart near our prison headquarters in Poojappura," Ajith Singh WR, agriculture officer of the open prison, told PTI.

The prison authorities managed to generate a revenue of Rs 2.11 crore in the last financial year from the agriculture activities alone. Moreover, these farming activities also provide them with a steady supply of quality vegetables and milk for the mess for the inmates and the staff.

"More than creating revenue for the prison, these activities are meant to be vocational training for the inmates. Many have learnt rubber tapping and other farm

activities from the prison and use them even when they go out on parole," Rajesh Kumar said.

The prison also has a sales outlet at the front gate, where local people can also buy the organic vegetables produced there.

They sell the excess milk, after taking what they need for use in the mess, to the milk society. There are more than 50 cows; out of them, 20 are milching.

"Since this location shares its boundary with the forest, we face a lot of issues from wild animals. Indian Gaur are very common, and along with wild boars, they pose a grave threat to our cultivation. We keep the prison inmates on guard round-the-clock to protect what they produce," Ajith Singh said.

The farm features a large check dam within the property, which caters to its water needs. The cow dung and slurry from the dairy farm, along with the vermicompost from the vermicomposting yard, take care of the farm's fertiliser needs.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 13: In a radical departure from traditional prison reform, an Open Prison and Correctional Home for males near Thiruvananthapuram is pioneering a bold experiment in rehabilitation.

By transforming 472 acres of land into a thriving farm, the

national



The two-day conference will chalk out the road map to solutions to emerging national security challenges with the top police leadership of states, Union Territories, Central Armed Police Forces and Central Police Organisations
AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

CLEAN AIR SURVEY: PATNA CLIMBS TO 14TH SPOT

Bihar's capital Patna has secured 14th place in the 'Clean Air Survey Report 2024', in the category of cities with a population above 10 lakh in the country. The city was in the 29th position last year



of the day quote

If this arrogant government would listen to the people they would understand that a simplified GST with a single tax rate would solve the problems of lakhs of businesses

RAHUL GANDHI | FORMER CONG PRESIDENT

The slogans were the same as those used in Bangladesh by the protesters; they stopped train movement and most of them, including women and children, had sharp weapons and sticks

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | CM, ASSAM

Two lakh places have been marked across the country to carry out a cleanliness drive during the 15-day national social mobilisation campaign for a clean nation

MANOHAR LAL KHATTAR | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

NIA raids multiple locations in Punjab

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Friday conducted searches at multiple locations in Punjab associated with pro-Khalistan leader Amarjot, the brother-in-law of jailed lawmaker and radical preacher Amritpal Singh, and his aides in connection with its probe into an attack on the Indian High Commission in Canada last year, officials said. NIA teams are examining digital devices, SIM cards and suspicious financial-transaction records, besides incriminating documents seized during the searches.

Mid-day meal horror: 65 students fall ill

Dumka (Jharkhand): At least 65 students of a government school were taken ill after consuming mid-day meal in Jharkhand's Dumka district Friday, an official said. A dead chameleon was allegedly found in the meal, he said. The incident took place at a middle school in Tongra area. The students, who started vomiting after eating the meal, were referred to the Masalia community health centre, and their condition is stated to be stable. Block Development Officer (BDO) Azfar Husnain said.

Railway minister boards local train

Mumbai: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Friday travelled by a local train, the lifeline of lakhs of Mumbaiers, and chatted up with commuters. Vaishnaw boarded the suburban train at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in south Mumbai at 2.34 pm and alighted at Bhandup station at 3.18 pm after his 27 km-long journey. Railway officials said Vaishnaw, who was in the city for an awards ceremony, boarded a second class coach of the Ambarnath-bound slow local train.

Karan Dev joins Cong

Chandigarh: Former Haryana minister Karan Dev Kamboj, who recently stepped down as OBC Morcha chief of the BJP's state unit after being denied a ticket to contest next month's Assembly polls, quit the saffron party Friday and joined the Congress. Kamboj was eyeing a ticket from either the Radaur or the Indri seats. He joined the Congress in the presence of former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Haryana Congress chief Uday Bhan, a statement said. Kamboj last week claimed that the BJP rewarded many new entrants and turncoats with tickets while ignoring those who had worked for the party for years.

DELHI EXCISE POLICY CASE Caged parrot: SC slams CBI

Launching a scathing attack on the CBI, the apex court also questioned the necessity and timing of the AAP convener's arrest, and said the agency must dispel the notion of being a "caged parrot"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: The Supreme Court Friday granted bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in CBI's corruption case related to excise policy scam, saying the prolonged incarceration amounts to "unjust deprivation of liberty". Launching a scathing attack on the CBI, the apex court also questioned the necessity and timing of the AAP convener's arrest, and said the agency must dispel the notion of being a "caged parrot". Kejriwal, who was arrested March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED)



AAP workers celebrate after Delhi Chief Minister and party chief Arvind Kejriwal was granted bail

These anti-national forces that are trying to weaken the country, divide it... I have always fought against them and will continue fighting against them

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

and later by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), came out after spending 155 days in Tihar jail on the evening hours following completion of procedural formalities in a Delhi court here.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan granted the relief to Kejriwal on furnishing a bail bond of ₹10 lakh and two sureties of like amount.

While Justice Kant and Justice Bhuyan concurred on the issue of grant of bail, they, however, differed on the question of legality of arrest by the CBI.

Writing a separate concur-

ring judgment on bail to the AAP supremo, Justice Bhuyan said the arrest of Kejriwal by the CBI was unjustified. Holding that Kejriwal's arrest does not suffer with any procedural infirmity, Justice Kant, who wrote a 27-page judgment, said the CBI complied with the procedure encompassed within the framework of Section 41A of the CrPC.

Justice Kant said although the procedure for the Kejriwal's arrest meets the requisite criteria for legality and compliance, his continued incarceration would infringe upon established legal principles and his right to liberty.

Rejecting the CBI's contention of influencing the outcome of the trial, Justice Kant said all evidence and material relevant to the agency's disposition is already in their possession, negating the likelihood of tam-

pering by the appellant. "Similarly, given the appellant's position and his roots in the society, there seems to be no valid reason to entertain the apprehension of his fleeing the country. In any case, in order to assuage the apprehensions of the CBI, we may impose stricter bail conditions.

"As regard to appellant indulging in influencing witnesses, it needs no emphasis that in the event of any such instance, it will amount to misuse of the concession of bail and necessary consequences will follow," Justice Kant wrote.

On the issue that Kejriwal should be relegated to the trial court for bail, the apex court said if there are significant delays following notice, it may not be prudent to send the matter back. Justice Bhuyan questioned the timing of Kejriwal's arrest by the CBI and

Big relief for AAP

AAP Friday demanded that the BJP should apologise to the country for keeping a "staunchly honest" leader like Arvind Kejriwal in jail, and said the Supreme Court order granting him bail in the excise policy case has exposed the BJP's "lies". At a joint press conference here, senior AAP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the Supreme Court order granting bail to Kejriwal was a moment of "big relief" for the party and its leaders and workers. "It is not just the issue of bail granted to Kejriwal. The court has also given a big message to the BJP-led Centre to stop its dictatorship," he said.

said the agency's aim was to frustrate grant of bail to him in the ED case.

"When the CBI did not feel the necessity to arrest the appellant for 22 long months, I fail to understand the great hurry and urgency on the part of the CBI to arrest the appellant when he was on the cusp of release in the ED case," Justice Bhuyan said.

Justice Bhuyan said he has serious reservations on the conditions imposed in the ED case on Kejriwal which bar him from entering the CM's office and signing files. "I am not commenting on conditions imposed on Kejriwal due to judicial discipline as it was in separate ED case," he added.

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

Centre gives Inquiry Commission more time to submit report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: The Centre Friday granted time till November 20 to a Commission of Inquiry to submit a report on its investigations into the series of violence in Manipur that has claimed more than 220 lives so far.

The commission, headed by former chief justice of Gauhati High Court Ajai Lamba, was set up June 4, 2023.

The panel, also comprising retired IAS officer Himanshu Shekhar Das and retired IPS officer Aloka Prabhakar, was mandated to make inquiries with respect to the causes and spread of the violence and riots targeting members of different communities, which took place in Manipur since May 3, 2023. The Commission of Inquiry was supposed to submit its report to the central government "as soon as possible but not later than six months from the date of its first sitting".

According to the terms of reference of the Commission of Inquiry, it would probe into the sequence of events leading to, and all the facts relating to such violence; whether there were any lapses or dereliction of duty in this regard on the part of any of the responsible authorities or individuals and adequacy of the administrative measures taken to prevent, and to deal with the violence and riots.



Protesters climb makeshift barricades put up by the police during a protest against the alleged rape and murder of a medic at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, in Kolkata

Mhow attack: All six arrested

SIX MEN HAD ATTACKED TWO ARMY OFFICERS AND ALLEGEDLY RAPED THEIR WOMAN FRIEND IN THE INTERVENING NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 10 AND 11 NEAR JAM GATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indore, Sept 13: A departmental inquiry has been ordered against two army officers who were attacked by a 6-member gang near Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, an official said Friday.

The army officers, aged 23 and 24, are part of the Young Officers course at the Infantry School in Mhow cantonment town.

"A departmental inquiry has been ordered against the two trainee officers. It is in progress

and is being headed by a senior officer," an Army officer told PTI over phone from Mhow late Friday evening.

He said the women who accompanied the two officers during the ill-fated picnic were "old acquaintances" and they had not met on a dating app as is being speculated on social media.

Rubbishing talk that the two women may have been part of a gang, the senior officer said they are "working women who had come from out of station to meet the two lieutenants", adding that



"nothing must be read into it".

As per police, the two lieutenants had gone with the women for a picnic at Jam Gate, which gets a lots of tourists during daytime in the monsoon but becomes desolate once night sets in. Three accused, identified as Rohit Girwal (23), Sandeep Wariya (18) and Sachin Makwana

RG KAR CASE

Court denies narco test on Sanjay Roy

The arrested accused, Sanjay Roy, denied to undergo the test. Roy had initially agreed to take the test but later changed his mind, CBI sources claimed



AGENCIES

Kolkata, Sept 13: A local court here Friday turned down CBI's appeal to conduct a narco analysis test on the prime accused in the alleged rape and murder of a doctor at the RG Kar hospital here, an officer said.

The arrested accused, Sanjay Roy, denied to undergo the test, he said. Roy had initially agreed to take the test but later changed his mind, CBI sources claimed.

The central probe agency had appealed to the city-based Sealdah court, seeking permission to conduct the test on Roy. "The accused did not agree to undergo the narco analysis test when the judge asked him about it," the officer said.

The CBI was planning to conduct the narco test on Roy to cross-check his version in the case. The accused was earlier brought to the Sealdah court, where the judge spoke to him personally to find out whether he had any objection to the test.

During a narco analysis test, the drug - sodium pentothal - is injected into the body of the subject, which takes him to a hypnotic state, and his imagination is neutralised, the CBI officer said. "In most cases, the accused gives the true information," the officer said. The CBI has already conducted a polygraph test on Roy inside the Presidency Correctional Home. Meanwhile, a CBI team

Left parties' protest continues near Kolkata Police headquarters

Leaders and supporters of the CPI(M)-led Left Front camped near the Kolkata Police headquarters Friday evening to press for the resignation of commissioner Vineet Goyal over alleged mishandling of the rape and murder of the woman doctor. The 'Lalbazar Abhijan' by the Left parties, led by the CPI(M), was stopped near the city police headquarters around 3 pm, as over an eight-foot tall steel wall was set up by the force to prevent the protesters from moving further, as the spot is under prohibitory orders.

Thursday went to the RG Kar hospital, where the body of the postgraduate trainee was found August 9, and spoke to several officers besides visiting departments as a part of its investigation.

Later in the evening, they also took the parents of the deceased doctor to the state-run hospital. "We asked them some specific questions as well," the officer said, adding, they left for home after around two hours. The CBI took over the case from the Kolkata Police upon directions of the Calcutta High Court.

Gujarat: 8 drown in Meshwo river

Ahmedabad: Eight persons drowned while bathing in the Meshwo river in Gujarat's Gandhinagar district Friday evening, an official said. The deceased were residents of Vasna Sogthi village in Dehgam taluka, said Sub Divisional Magistrate B B Modiya, adding the incident took place near the village. Modiya, who supervised the search and rescue operation, said a group of villagers who came to the waterbody to immerse Ganesh idols learnt about the drowning incident and alerted authorities. "After getting a message, police and fire brigade personnel rushed to the site. We recovered eight bodies from the river. One person who was assumed to be missing was later found moving about in the village."

Earth shook for 9 days due to Greenland landslide: Study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

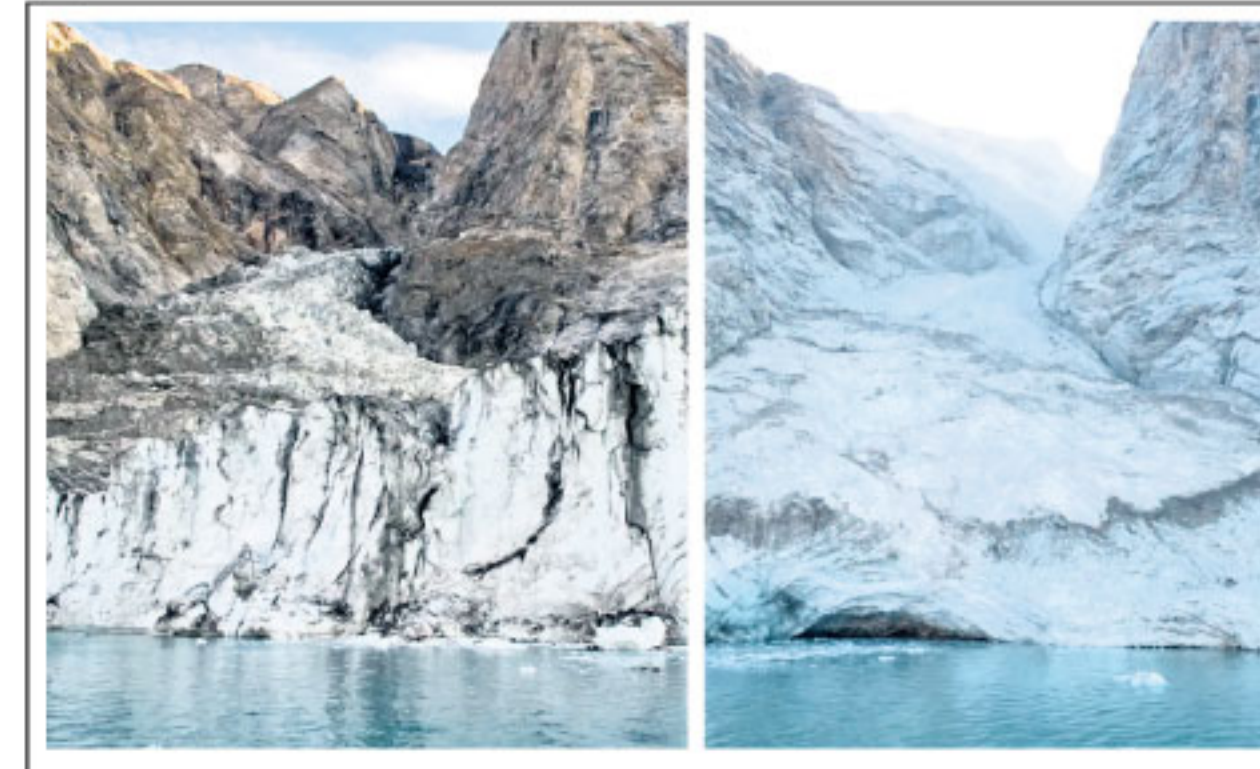
New Delhi, Sept 13: A landslide in Greenland, triggered by glacier melting due to climate change, caused an earthquake, vibrations from which reverberated throughout the planet for nine straight days and damaged infrastructure, according to a new study.

While no one was hurt, the shocks destroyed infrastructure worth nearly \$2,00,000 at an unoccupied research station on Ella Island in eastern Greenland, the international team, including researchers from the University College London, UK, said. According to them, the landslide was a result of the melting of glacier at the foot of the mountain, becoming thinner and unable to

hold up the rock-face above it - this was ultimately due to climate change.

"Our findings highlight how climate change is causing cascading, hazardous feedbacks between the cryosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal Science.

"When I first saw the seismic signal, I was completely baffled. Even though we know seismometers can record a variety of sources happening on Earth's surface, never before has such a long-lasting, globally travelling seismic wave, containing only a single frequency of oscillation, been recorded. This inspired me to co-lead a large team of scientists to figure out the puzzle," co-author Stephen



Hicks, from the University College London, said.

For the study, the researchers used a mathematical model and recreated the landslide, along with the uniquely narrow and bendy fjord, to understand how

the sloshing of water could have continued on for nine straight days without dying down. The team, comprising 68 scientists from 41 research institutions, combined seismic recordings from around the

IN SEPTEMBER 2023, A 1.2 KILOMETRE-HIGH MOUNTAIN PEAK IN AN EAST GREENLAND FJORD - A NARROW INLET OF SEA BETWEEN TWO STEEP CLIFFS - COLLAPSED, CAUSING A TSUNAMI ABOUT 200 METRES TALL

RESEARCHERS SAID THE GIANT WAVE ROCKED BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE FJORD FOR NINE DAYS, WHICH SENT SEISMIC SHOCKS REVERBERATING THROUGHOUT EARTH'S CRUST, BAFILING SCIENTISTS AROUND THE WORLD

world, field measurements, satellite imagery and computer simulations for their analysis.

The simulations were eventually able to closely match the height of the real-world tsunami as well as the slow cycles of the

long-lasting back-and-forth sloshing of water, they said.

By bringing together diverse datasets, the model predicted that the giant tsunami wave would have moved back and forth every 90 seconds, matching the recordings of vibrations travelling in the Earth's crust all around the globe, the researchers said.

As climate change continues to melt Earth's polar regions, it could lead to an increase in large, destructive landslides such as this one, they said. "Climate change is shifting what is typical on Earth, and it can set unusual events into motion," said co-author and seismologist Alice Gabriel, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California - San Diego, US.



The Union home minister should resign as this raises questions on him. The Supreme Court called the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) a caged parrot
SAUBHAR BHARGAVA | MINISTER OF HEALTH OF DELHI

JACKAL ATTACKS IN MUNGER

The residents of Dariyapur Mandit Tola village in Bihar's Munger district are terrified after a series of animal attacks, which they claim are jackals. In the past week, around 15 people have fallen victim to jackal bites. The incidents are concentrated in this village, which lies near a forested area under the Haveli Kharagpur block



of the day quote

We ourselves are saying, I am saying it sitting in the AICC office that the attack on Harmandir Sahib in 1984 was wrong. So why doesn't the BJP accept that there was a huge movement of the saffron party behind the attack that happened in 1984

CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

As per the direction of the Home Minister, we have completed all the necessary formalities in regard to the losses due to the damage of crops, infrastructure and properties. A senior state government officer Friday is going to Delhi to apprise the government of India officials in this regard

MANIK SAHA | TRIPURA CM

Let them (the Opposition) lie, we won't care for it. They are making false allegations against me. I have respect for the law of this land, I have respect for the court's verdicts, I'm confident about getting justice, because I have committed no wrong

SIDDARAMAIAH | KARNATAKA CM

X POST OF THE DAY

China Becomes First Country to Sell Over 1 Million Electric Vehicles in Just a Month They Are Expecting 10 Million EV Sales in 2024 India Is Yet To Witness Massive EV Revolution

@Ravisutanjani

SHORT TAKES

Flight diverted due to bad weather

New Delhi: An IndiGo flight from Mumbai to Phuket was diverted to Penang in Malaysia Friday due to bad weather conditions, according to the airline. The aircraft was in Penang for around four hours and after receiving requisite clearances, it took off and landed in Phuket (Thailand), a source in the know said. Some people took to social media to mention about the flight diversion. "In response to adverse weather conditions in Phuket, flight 6E 1701, operating from Mumbai to Phuket, has been diverted to Penang, Malaysia, the nearest airport."

4-yr-old dies after vomiting in school

Kolkata: A four-year-old boy died allegedly after vomiting in school in central Kolkata Friday, police said. The boy, a student of a reputed school in Moulaali area, was rushed to state-run Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and Hospital, where he was declared "brought dead", they said. "He started vomiting soon after reaching school in a pool car. He likely had a slight fever, too," an officer of Taltala Police Station said. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination, he said, adding, the police were also enquiring what the child ate before coming to school.

T'gana floods: Central team meets CM Reddy

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday met the central team that visited the flood-hit areas in the state and sought immediate release of funds from the Centre for flood relief activities.

ILLEGAL MOSQUE CONSTRUCTION

PROTESTS ERUPT IN MANDI

The protests in Mandi came just two days after Shimla saw protesters gathered on a call by Hindu groups clash with security personnel during a demonstration to call for the demolition of an illegal portion of a mosque in the Sanjauli area

AGENCIES

Mandi/Shimla (HP), Sept 13: Hindu groups held a protest march in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi Friday demanding the demolition of an unauthorised portion of a mosque in the town and tried to force their way towards the structure, forcing police to use water cannons to control the situation.

Protests by Hindu outfits against the disputed structure in the Sanjauli mosque kept Shimla on the boil since last week. But Wednesday, the protest took a violent turn with people breaking barricades and pelting stones as police used water cannons and batons to disperse them - something unheard of in the cosmopolitan town.

About 10 people, including police and women, were injured in the Himachal Pradesh capital and police detained some protesters as well, including Hindu Jagran Manch secretary Kamal Gautam. In Mandi, however, police had beefed up security with heavy deployment after the Hindu outfits gave the call for the protest march. Raising slogans of "Jai Shri Ram", the protesters initially held a march in the Mandi market area and sat on a dharna at Seri manch. Later, they made attempts to proceed



Members of the Muslim community had Thursday demolished a portion of the mosque, saying it was a wall that was encroaching on government land

towards the mosque but were stopped by police, who used water cannons to disperse them.

The management committee of the Jail Road mosque in Mandi were Friday served a notice by the municipal corporation to remove the portion built on encroached land within 30 days. According to the notice, the mosque stands on 232 square metres of land while the approval granted was just for 45 square metres. This came a day after members of the Muslim

community demolished an unauthorised portion of the mosque on their own.

Iqbal Ali, a member of the mosque committee, Thursday said, "PWD officials had informed us that a wall of the mosque was in PWD land and we were served a notice. So we decided to demolish the wall." The unauthorised construction was on a plot of land which belongs to the public works department. The department and the municipal corporation had earlier

served notices on the mosque management committee in this connection.

Members of the VHP and the Bajrang Dal have demanded that all illegal structures belonging to the Muslim community be demolished, alongside encroachments on government land across the state. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu appealed to the people of the state to maintain peace and brotherhood.

"I have appealed to everyone to maintain peace and make no provocative statements. No one is allowed to take the law into their hands. We respect everyone. The land of Himachal respects all religions," Sukhu said after an all-party meeting in Shimla. Referring to the protest by Hindu organisations demanding the demolition of the unauthorised structure of the mosque in Mandi town, he said Himachal Pradesh is a state of protest. "There are protests by Dev Bhumi, the BJP, the CPI(M) and the unemployed."

The chief minister said that the all-party meeting agreed that peace and brotherhood should prevail in the state and that all unauthorised construction should be dealt with strictly as per the law. No one has the right to hurt the sentiments of any community, he added.

NAGAMANGALA VIOLENCE

Police Inspector suspended, three more detained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagamangala (Karnataka), Sept 13: A police inspector has been suspended for dereliction of duty while three more people have been taken into custody in connection with the violence during a Ganesh idol immersion procession here.

The situation in this town in Mandya district, where clashes broke out between two groups following which mobs went on a rampage targeting several shops and vehicles leading to tension Wednesday night, has returned to normal, police said Friday.

Though the situation remains peaceful, additional police forces continued to be deployed in the town, where prohibitory orders banning assembly of more than four people have been imposed till September 14 as a precautionary measure. With the fresh arrests, the total number of people held in the case now stands at 55.

Police Inspector Ashok Kumar posted at Nagamangala town police station was suspended Thursday evening for dereliction of duty in connection with the clashes that broke out during the procession, Mandya Superintendent of Police, Mallikarjun Baldandi told PTI.



People enjoy during rains, at Kartavya Path in New Delhi

PTI PHOTO

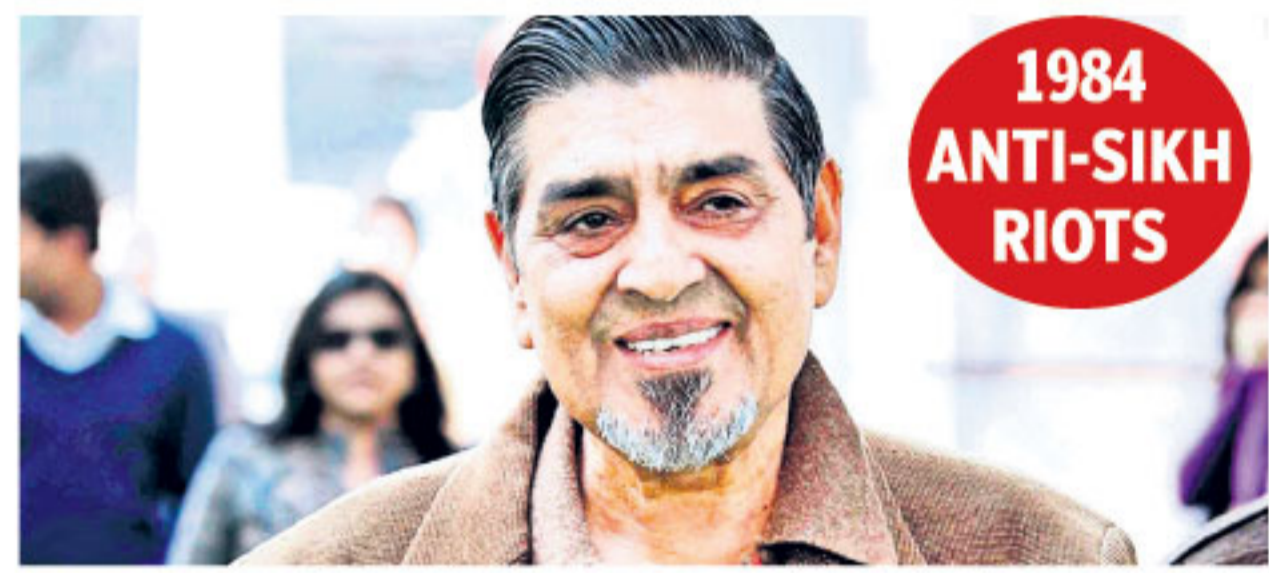
Delhi court frames murder charges against Tytler

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: Forty years after the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, a Delhi court Friday framed charges for murder and other offences against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in a case related to the killing of three people in north Delhi's Pul Bangash area.

Special Judge Rakesh Siyal directed that Tytler face trial after he pleaded not guilty to the offences. Besides murder, the court ordered framing of charges for several other offences, including unlawful assembly, rioting, promoting enmity between different groups, house trespass and theft.

The judge had August 30 said there was sufficient ground to



proceed against the accused. The CBI had May 20, 2023 filed a charge sheet against Tytler in the case.

Tytler "incited, instigated and provoked the mob assembled at Pul Bangash Gurudwara Azad Market" November 1, 1984 that resulted in burning down of the

gurdwara and killing of three Sikhs - Thakur Singh, Badal Singh and Gurcharan Singh - the CBI alleged in its charge sheet. The agency had invoked charges under IPC sections 147 (rioting), 148, 149 (unlawful assembly), 153A (provocation), 109 (abetment) read with 302 (murder)

HINDENBURG-SEBI ROW

All allegations false, malicious: Madhabi



Terming the allegations completely "false, malicious and defamatory", Buchs said there is a clear pattern emerging to "distort and twist the facts" and hinted at taking appropriate legal actions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch Friday said she had made all necessary disclosures and complied with recusal guidelines in dealing with companies such as Mahindra Group that hired her husband, as she rejected allegations of impropriety as "false, malicious and motivated".

Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch in a joint statement - the second since US-based short seller Hindenburg Research charged her of not being motivated enough to act on allegations against Adani group due to conflict of interest - also addressed issues raised by opposition Congress over receiving payments from her previous employer ICICI Bank while being a whole time member of Sebi.

The statement said Buch never dealt with any file involving Agora Advisory and Agora Partners - the advisories where she held 99 per cent and continued to earn revenue even after she joined the market regulator body Sebi in 2017.

According to the statement, she never handled files involv-

ing the Mahindra Group, Pidilite Industries, Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd, Alvarez and Marsal, and Sembcorp - the firms that had employed her husband at some time during her stint at Sebi - as also that pertaining to her previous employer ICICI Bank at any stage after joining the regulator.

The payments that she got from ICICI Bank while being in Sebi pertained to contributory annuity scheme and exercising of ESOPs at various stages over 10 years. "Sebi's guidelines permit board members, including the Chairperson, to hold and transact in ESOPs," Buch's statement said.

While Hindenburg had alleged that the Buchs had previous investments in a fund that was part of network of funds used by two Adani associates to round-trip money and inflate group stock prices, the Congress alleged conflict of interest in dealings with ICICI, where she worked until 2011, as well as with Mahindra Group and four other companies due to consulting fees given by them to her husband Dhaval Buch. "We are upright and honest professionals and have led our respective professional lives with transparency and dignity," the couple said, describing their work record as "unblemished" and that they will demolish all "motivated allegations even in future".

Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had faced questions over the delay in concluding the investigation into allegations against Adani Group.

"In keeping with the highest standards of governance, Madhabi has never dealt with any file involving Agora Advisory, Agora Partners, the Mahindra Group, Pidilite, Dr Reddy's, Alvarez and Marsal, Sembcorp, Visu Leasing or ICICI Bank at any stage after her joining Sebi," Sebi chairperson and her husband Dhaval Buch said in a six-page joint statement.

Terming the allegations completely "false, malicious and defamatory", Buchs said there is a clear pattern emerging to "distort and twist the facts" and hinted at taking appropriate legal actions.

Maharashtra BJP stages protest against Rahul

Mumbai: Workers and leaders of Maharashtra BJP Friday held state-wide protests against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on reservation during his visit to the US. While Maharashtra BJP president Chandrashekhar

QUOTA REMARKS

Bawankule said it was necessary to stage a protest to tell people about Rahul's mentality against reservation, Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat accused the saffron party of spreading fake news and doing "nautanki" (drama). During a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, the Leader of Opposition alleged that democracy in India for the last ten years was broken, but now it is fighting back. The BJP announced a state-wide protest over Gandhi's "anti-reservation" remarks.

'Mission Mausam' to boost radar network, tweak clouds

AS WEATHER PATTERNS GROW MORE UNPREDICTABLE DUE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS, INDIA IS TAKING A GIANT LEAP WITH "MISSION MAUSAM" TO IMPROVE WEATHER UNDERSTANDING AND FORECASTING THROUGH EXPANDED OBSERVATION NETWORKS, BETTER MODELLING AND ADVANCED TOOLS LIKE AI AND MACHINE LEARNING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: India will add around 70 new Doppler radars under Mission Mausam with the aim of predicting weather up to the panchayat level and improving short- to medium-range forecast accuracy by five to 10 per cent, officials said.

At a press conference, M Ravichandran, secretary of the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences, said the five-year mission would be implemented in two phases.

The first phase, running until March 2026, will focus on expanding the observation network, including the addition of

around 70 Doppler radars and 10 wind profilers.

"During the first phase, 60 to 70 new radars will be installed in 18 months. We already have 39 Doppler radars functioning. Ten wind profilers and 10 radio masts will also be set up," Ravichandran said.

"We will also conduct an Observing System Simulation Experiment (OSSE) in the first phase, which will help determine the number of observations needed moving forward," he said. The second phase will focus on adding satellites and aircraft to further enhance observational capabilities.

Over the five-year period, the ministry and its institutions - the



India Meteorological Department, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting --

will work to improve their understanding of weather and climate processes and prediction capabilities and develop weather management technologies.

Mission Mausam aims to improve short- to medium-range weather forecast accuracy by five to 10 per cent and enhance air quality prediction in all major metro cities by up to 10 per cent. It will enable weather prediction up to the panchayat level with a lead time of 10 to 15 days and improve the nowcast frequency from three hours to one hour.

A nowcast provides a very short-term prediction, usually for the next few hours. It is useful for tracking fast-changing weather events such as thunderstorms, heavy rain or snow.

Tropical weather forecasting remains challenging due to the complexity of atmospheric processes and limitations in cur-

rent observation and model resolution.

Observational data is relatively sparse, both spatially and temporally, and the horizontal resolution of Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models, currently at 12 kilometres, makes it difficult to accurately forecast small-scale weather events in India, according to a ministry note.

Climate change is making the atmosphere more chaotic, resulting in isolated heavy rainfall and localised droughts, which pose simultaneous challenges of flooding and drought. Cloudbursts, thunderstorms, lightning and squalls are among the least understood weather events in India.



Your (leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah Sayed Hassan Nasrallah) blessed actions have expressed your solidarity on the fronts of the Axis of Resistance, supporting and engaging in the battle

YEHYA SINWAR | HAMAS CHIEF

SUNITA TO ADDRESS EARTH FROM ISS

NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore will put a call to Earth and participate in a press conference aboard the International Space Station (ISS) in low Earth orbit, the US space agency said



of the day quote

As part of our additional tax cuts, we will end all taxes on overtime. Your overtime hours will be tax-free

DONALD TRUMP | FORMER PRESIDENT, US

China will, as always, provide support and assistance to the economic and social development of the Maldives within its capability

MAO NING | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, CHINA

I have no problems if people comment about our politics. But then, I think, in fairness, they should also be ready to hear my comments about their politics. Because everybody says that we are equal but they don't actually behave like that

S JAISHANKAR | EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, INDIA

SHORT TAKES

Gunmen kill 14 in Afghanistan

Islamabad: Gunmen killed 14 people in a Shiite-majority area in central Afghanistan, the Taliban said Friday, in one of the deadliest attacks in the country this year. Six other people were wounded in the assault. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility before the Taliban acknowledged the shootings, which took place Thursday and targeted Hazara Shiite people as they travelled between the provinces of Ghor and Daikundi. A machine gun was used in the assault, the IS group said.

SA's Indian-origin ex-minister dies

Johannesburg: Pravin Gordhan, who was a South African government minister for many years after beginning his political career opposing apartheid, died Friday. He was 75 and had cancer. Gordhan, an Indian-origin long-time member of the African National Congress party, retired from active politics after the May elections when the ANC lost its parliamentary majority for the first since it came into power in 1994. "Mr Gordhan passed away peacefully in hospital surrounded by his family, closest friends and his long-time comrades in the liberation struggle in the early hours of this morning," his family said.

Venezuela slams new US sanctions

Caracas: Venezuela rejected the new sanctions the US Treasury Department imposed against several Venezuelan officials "in the strongest terms." In a statement Thursday, Venezuela's Foreign Affairs Ministry denounced the US move as "unilateral, illegitimate and illegal coercive measures" and a "new crime of aggression," Xinhua news agency reported. The ministry noted that the latest sanctions violated the agreements signed in Qatar between the governments of Venezuela and the United States in September 2023.

US sanctions Chinese firms

Washington: The US has taken action against four Chinese entities, one Pakistani company, and one Chinese individual for their supply to Pakistan's ballistic missile programme under the missile sanctions laws, a State Department statement has said. State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller in a statement Thursday said the US imposed sanctions on the Beijing Research Institute of Automation for Machine Building Industry (RIAMB).

KAMIKAZE DRONE

Russia getting Chinese help

GARPIYA, WHICH MEANS HARPY IN RUSSIAN, HAS BEEN DEPLOYED AGAINST MILITARY AND CIVILIAN TARGETS IN UKRAINE, CAUSING DAMAGE TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

REUTERS

Kyiv, Sept 13: Russia started producing a new long-range attack drone called the Garpiya-A1 last year using Chinese engines and parts, which it has deployed in the war in Ukraine, according to two sources from a European intelligence agency and documents seen by Reuters.

The intelligence, which included a production contract for the new drone, company correspondence on the manufacturing process and financial documents, indicated that IEMZ Kupol, a subsidiary of Russian state-owned weapons maker Almaz-Antey, produced more than 2,500 Garpiyas from July 2023 to July 2024.

The existence of the new Russian drone incorporating Chinese technology has not been



Russia started producing new long-range attack drone last year

More than 2,500 Garpiya drones were produced in the year to July

New Russian-made drone has Chinese engines and parts, documents indicate

Garpiya would reduce Russian reliance on Iranian drones, expert says

previously reported. IEMZ Kupol and Almaz-Antey did not respond to requests for comment.

The two intelligence sources said that the Garpiya, which means Harpy in Russian, has been deployed against military and civilian targets in Ukraine, causing damage to critical infrastructure as well as both civilian and military casualties.

They shared with Reuters what they said were images from Ukraine of the wreckage of a Garpiya, without providing further details. Reuters found information that rein-

forces this conclusion, but was unable to confirm the images independently.

The sources asked that neither they nor their agency be identified due to the sensitivity of the information. They also asked that certain details, such as dates, related to the documents be withheld.

Samuel Bendett, an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, a Washington DC-based think tank, told Reuters that Garpiya, if confirmed, would mark a departure from Russia's reliance on Iranian

designs for long-range drones. "If this is happening, it could indicate that Russia can now rely more on domestic development as well as, obviously, on China, since both sides in this war depend on many Chinese components for drone production," he said.

Iran, which didn't comment for this story, has supplied more than a thousand Shahed "kamikaze" drones to Russia since the start of the invasion in February 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in May last year.

They have been used to exhaust Ukrainian air defences and hit infrastructure far from the front lines. Iran has repeatedly denied sending drones to Russia for use in Ukraine.

Russia's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment for this story. The Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement to Reuters that Beijing strictly controls the export of items with potential military applications, including drones.

"With regard to the Ukrainian crisis, China has always been committed to promoting peace talks and political settlement," the statement said. It added that there were no international restrictions on China's trade with Russia.

NK reveals uranium enrichment facility



REUTERS

Seoul, Sept 13: North Korea for the first time showed images of the centrifuges that produce fuel for its nuclear bombs Friday, as leader Kim Jong Un visited a uranium enrichment facility and called for more weapons-grade material to boost the arsenal.

The state media report on Kim's visit to the Nuclear Weapons Institute and a production base for weapon-grade nuclear materials was accompanied by the first photos of the centrifuges, providing a rare look inside North Korea's nuclear programme, which is banned under multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The photos showed Kim walking between long rows of metal centrifuges, the machines that enrich uranium. The report did not make clear when the visit occurred nor the facility's location.

Kim urged workers to produce more materials for tactical nuclear weapons, saying the country's nuclear arsenal is vital for confronting threats from the

United States and its allies.

The weapons are needed for "self-defence and the capability for a preemptive attack," he said. The North Korean leader said "anti-DPRK nuclear threats" from the "US imperialists-led vassal forces" have crossed the red-line, according to the report.

South Korea condemned North Korea's unveiling of its uranium enrichment facility and will never accept Pyongyang's possession of nuclear weapons, the South's unification ministry said.

North Korea is believed to have several sites for enriching uranium. Analysts say commercial satellite imagery has shown construction in recent years at the main Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center, including its uranium enrichment plant, suggesting possible expansion. Kim stressed the need to boost the number of centrifuges so as to "exponentially increase" North Korea's nuclear arsenal, and expand the use of a new type of centrifuge to strengthen the production of weapon-grade nuclear materials.

SNIPPETS

Pak-origin man found guilty of murdering Indian

London: A 25-year-old man of Pakistani heritage has been convicted of murdering an Indian restaurant manager with a stolen car while the victim was cycling back home in south-east England on Valentine's Day this year. Vignesh Pattabhiraman, 36, was killed by Shazeb Khalid with a "stolen Range Rover" while he cycling back from his workplace, an Indian restaurant "Vel", in Reading, United Kingdom. The Indian man was declared dead at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and a murder investigation was launched. Khalid was arrested February 19 and charged with murder the following day. Khalid was Wednesday found guilty of murdering Pattabhiraman following a trial at Reading Crown Court that lasted 28 days. Khalid is set to be sentenced October 10.



WHO grants first mpox vaccine approval

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva, Sept 13: The World Health Organisation Friday said it has granted its first authorisation for use of a vaccine against mpox in adults, calling it an important step toward fighting the disease in Africa and beyond.

The pre-qualification of the vaccine by Bavarian Nordic AS means that donors like GAVI the Vaccine Alliance and UNICEF can buy it. But supplies are limited because there's only a single manufacturer. "This first pre-qualification of a vaccine against mpox is an

important step in our fight against the disease, both in the context of the current outbreaks in Africa, and in future," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The UN health agency chief called for "urgent" scale-up of procurement, donations and roll-out to get the vaccine where it is needed most, along with other response measures.

Under the WHO authorisation, the vaccine can be administered in people aged 18 or above in a two-dose regimen. The approval says that while the vaccine is not currently licensed for those under 18



years old, it may be used in infants, children and adolescents "in outbreak settings where the benefits of vaccination outweigh the potential risks".

Officials at the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention said last month that

nearly 70 per cent of cases in Congo, the country hardest hit by mpox, are in children younger than 15, who also accounted for 85 per cent of deaths. On Thursday, the Africa CDC said 107 new deaths and 3,160 new cases had been recorded in the past week, just a week after it and WHO launched a continental response plan.

Mpox belongs to the same family of viruses as smallpox but causes milder symptoms like fever, chills and body aches. People with more serious cases can develop lesions on the face, hands, chest and genitals.

Colombian President Petro under fire



Bogot: Colombia's President Gustavo Petro is facing criticism from press freedom groups after some comments made about female reporters, calling them "dolls of the mafia" in one of the most dangerous countries for journalists in South America. Without a hint of irony, Petro made the statement at the August 30 inauguration of Colombia's new human rights ombud Iris Marin, the first woman to hold the job. Petro, the first woman to hold the job. Petro, the first woman to hold the job.

the South American country's first-ever leftist President, has often bristled at criticism from the media, which he has accused of conspiring with armed groups, business tycoons or other powerful figures. Some say he has now gone too far in a country where dozens of threats and attacks of various types are reported against women reporters every year.



Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF) Rear Admiral Susheel Menon with the crew of the Indian Navy P8I aircraft who is participating in the multinational exercise 'Kakadu 2024', in Darwin, Australia

PTI PHOTO

POW exchange

Ukraine secures return of 49 people

REUTERS

Kyiv, Sept 13: Ukraine has secured the release of 49 people from Russian captivity in the latest exchange of prisoners with Moscow, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday.

The latest swap since Russia's invasion in 2022 was mediated by the United Arab Emirates, a spokesperson for Ukraine's military intelligence agency said.

"Another return of our people, something we always wait for and work tirelessly to achieve. We must bring home every single one of our people, both military and civilian," Zelenskyy said on X, announcing the 56th such swap with Russia. Zelenskyy's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, said on the Telegram messaging app the Ukrainians released included seven civilians as well as personnel from the armed forces, national guard, police and the border guard service. Ukraine did not say how many Russians had been released. Moscow is yet to comment on the swap.

Video footage released by Ukraine from an undisclosed location showed service personnel being greeted with flowers, hugs and leaflets saying "Thank you for enduring it all". One released prisoner held the leaflet to his heart and wept. Kyiv and Moscow have frequently exchanged prisoners since Russia's full-scale invasion, and Friday swap was the second since Ukraine began a cross-border incursion into Russia's Kursk region in early August.

Ukraine said its troops had captured at least 600 Russian soldiers during the incursion, and that this would help it secure the return of captured Ukrainians.

China approves plan to raise retirement age

The retirement age will be raised for men to 63 years old from 60, while for women in white collar work it would be raised to 58 years from 55. For women in blue collar work it will be increased to 55 from 50



By raising the retirement age, the government can increase the labour force participation rate, helping to mitigate the adverse effects of population aging

REUTERS

Hong Kong, Sept 13: China's top legislative body has approved a proposal to raise the country's retirement age, the official Xinhua news agency said Friday, accelerating an overhaul of decades-old laws to tackle the economic pressure of a shrinking workforce.

China's retirement ages are currently amongst the lowest globally. Reform is urgent with life expectancy in China having risen to 78 years as of 2021 from about 44 years in 1960 and projected to exceed 80 years by 2050. At the

same time, the working population needed to support the elderly is shrinking.

The retirement age will be raised for men to 63 years old from 60, while for women in white collar work it would be raised to 58 years from 55. For women in blue collar work it will be increased to 55 from 50.

The changes are set to come into force January 1, 2025 and

be implemented over a 15 year period.

Having people work for longer would ease pressure on pension budgets with many Chinese provinces already reeling from large deficits. But requiring pension payouts and requiring older workers to stay at their jobs longer may not be welcomed by all of them.

Hundreds of thousands of peo-

ple took to social media after Xinhua reported that China's top lawmakers discussed the topic September 10, with many expressing concern there would be more job seekers chasing too few openings.

By raising the retirement age, the government can increase the labour force participation rate, helping to mitigate the adverse effects of population aging, said Xiujuan Peng, senior research fellow at the Centre of Policy Studies at Victoria University in Australia.

"The government must take action. If the population continues to decline, the shrinking of the labour force will accelerate, further negatively impacting economic growth."

Xing Zhaoqiang, ANZ's senior China strategist said the move would have little short-term impact but help maintain stable productivity growth in the long run.

PENSION PROBLEMS

Wang Xiaoping, Minister of Human Resources and Social Security, said Friday that the raising of the retirement age would be done gradually with the

adjustment starting from next year but taking 15 years to fully implement.

It would be done on a flexible and voluntary basis whereby an employee can choose to retire earlier or extend retirement for a period of up to three years, she said.

Outdated retirement ages have resulted in a growing number of retirees and a declining pool of active workers, said Bruce Pang, chief economist China at Jones Lang LaSalle.

In China, authorities expect the cohort of those aged 60 and older to rise from 280 million to more than 400 million by 2035, equal to the populations of Britain and the United States combined.

Eleven of China's 31 provincial-level jurisdictions are running pension budget deficits, finance ministry data show. The state-run Chinese Academy of Sciences said the pension system would run out of money by 2035 without further reform.

China's move aligns it more closely with its regional peers, Japan and South Korea, where people can only receive pensions at 65 and 63 years, respectively.

business



I think India's potential growth today ... is about seven-and-a-half-percent-plus. This year, we expect at the end of the year to record 7.2%
SHAKTIKANTA DAS | GOVERNOR, RBI

INDIA HITS CHINESE CHEMICAL IMPORTS

India has extended countervailing or anti-subsidy duty on a Chinese chemical used in pesticides for five more years to guard domestic players. The decision followed a recommendation of the commerce ministry's investigation arm DGTR for continuation of the duty on the imports of 'Atrazine Technical' from China



of the day quote

You don't become a developed nation with backward agriculture. Many initiatives we hear from the new government are clearly focused on modernizing Indian agriculture

SIMON WIEBUSCH | PRESIDENT, BAYER SOUTH ASIA

Large office spaces have seen a significant uptick in leasing activity, driven by sustained interest from GCC and global clients seeking strategic footprints in India's growing commercial hubs

MADHUSUDHAN G | CHAIRMAN AND MD, SUMADHURA GROUP

Looking ahead, as the country enters the festive season, demand for vehicles is expected to grow, which will also be duly augmented by the recent announcements of PM E-DRIVE and PM-eBus Sewa Schemes of Government of India

RAJESH MENON | DIRECTOR GENERAL, SIAM

E-comm giants flout antitrust laws

The CCI investigation findings are the latest setback for Amazon and Flipkart in a country where they continue to face criticism for their business practices from smaller retailers, who say their businesses have suffered in recent years due to deep discounts offered online



CCI SAYS AMAZON, FLIPKART BROKE LOCAL COMPETITION LAWS
COMPANIES HAD SELECT SELLERS WHICH HURT SMALLER PLAYERS
AMAZON, FLIPKART HAVE PREVIOUSLY DENIED CHARGES

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 13: An Indian antitrust investigation has found US e-commerce giant Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart violated local competition laws by giving preference to select sellers on their shopping websites, according to reports seen by Reuters.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) in 2020 ordered an investigation into Amazon and Flipkart for allegedly promoting certain sellers with which they had business arrangements and giving priority to certain listings.

In a 1027-page report on Amazon and a separate 1,696-page report on Flipkart, both dated August 9, the CCI investigators said the two companies were found to have created an ecosystem where preferred sellers appeared higher in search results, elbowing out other sellers.

"Each of the anti-competitive practices alleged ... were investigated and found to be true," said both reports, which are not public and are being reported by Reuters for the first time.

"Ordinary sellers remained as mere database entries," the two reports said in identical conclusions on both companies. Amazon and Flipkart, as well as the CCI, did not immediately respond to Reuters queries. They have previously denied wrongdoing and said their practices are in line with Indian laws.

The two companies will now review the report and file any objections before CCI staff decides on any potential fines.

The investigation was triggered by a complaint from the Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh, which is an affiliate of the country's biggest trade body, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) that represents 80 million retailers.

In a statement to Reuters, CAIT welcomed the CCI investigation findings, saying it would study the reports and "escalate the matter" with the federal

government.

In the United States, the Federal Trade Commission has sued Amazon alleging the company uses "anticompetitive and unfair strategies to illegally maintain its monopoly power". Amazon has said that the FTC lawsuit is wrongheaded and would hurt consumers by leading to higher prices and slower deliveries.

PREFERENTIAL LISTING, DEEP DISCOUNTING
Indian investigators raided certain sellers of Amazon and Flipkart during the probe, following a Reuters investigation in 2021 which was based on Amazon internal documents and showed the company gave preferential treatment for years to a small group of sellers on its platform, and used them to bypass Indian laws.

The CCI investigation report on Amazon said preferred sellers on the platform "get the advantage in the (online) listing" and when a customer searches for any product, "his attention is drawn towards" those listings.

The practice of preferential listings and deep discounting of mobile phones - including selling products below cost price - causes a "catastrophic impact on the existing competition in the market."

In the report on Flipkart, the CCI said preferred sellers were provided various services such as marketing and delivery at a "minuscule cost." They were also enabled by Flipkart to sell phones with deep discounts which amounts to "predatory pricing" and forecloses competition, the CCI said.

The anti-competitive practices are not limited to sales of mobile phones. They are equally prevalent in other categories of goods," both reports said.

Flipkart and Amazon for months tried to block the investigation through legal challenges in courts, but the Supreme Court in 2021 allowed it to go ahead.

Last month, India's commerce minister publicly called out Amazon by saying the company's investments were often used to cover its business losses.

Amazon in June last year said it will increase its Indian investment to \$26 billion by 2030, including for its cloud business. It is also targeting merchandise exports worth \$20 billion from India by 2025.

Forex kitty jumps to all-time high of \$689.24 billion



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 13: India's forex reserves jumped \$5.248 billion to a new all-time high of \$689.235 billion for the week ended September 6, the Reserve Bank of India said Friday.

The overall kitty had jumped by \$2.299 billion to a record \$683.987 billion for the previous reporting week.

For the week ended September 6, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$5.107 billion to \$604.144 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 \$129 million to \$61.988 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by \$4 million to \$18.472 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF was up by \$9 million to \$4.631 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

SHORT TAKES

PV wholesales dip

New Delhi: Domestic passenger vehicle wholesales declined by about 2 per cent year-on-year in August as companies curtailed dispatches to reduce inventory at dealers amid a drop in demand. According to data issued by the industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the total passenger vehicle dispatches in the domestic market stood at 3,52,921 units last month compared to 3,59,228 vehicles in August 2023, a dip of 1.8 per cent. Two-wheeler wholesales rose 9 per cent to 17,11,662 units last month against 15,66,594 units in the year-ago period, it added.

Ford to restart plant

Bangalore: Ford Motor plans to restart a manufacturing plant for exports in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, the company said, potentially re-entering a market it exited three years ago. Ford said it has submitted a letter of intent to the state's government, two days after Tamil Nadu's chief minister said that the two were in talks to restart manufacturing in the state for exports. Ford stopped producing cars in India for domestic sale in 2021 after struggling to boost volumes and pulled the plug on exports in 2022, effectively exiting the world's third-largest car market, which is dominated by Asian rivals.

NLCIL's RE boost

New Delhi: Lignite-to-power producer NLC India Ltd (NLCIL) will invest around ₹50,000 crore to ramp up its renewable energy (RE) capacity from 1.43 GW to 10.11 GW. NLC India Green Energy Limited (NIGEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NLCIL, is established with special focus on renewable energy generation, an official statement said Friday. "The above plan entails an investment of ₹50,000 crore (approx) in renewable portfolio, which will support India's RE target and contribute to the broader aim of achieving 'net zero' emissions by 2070," the statement said.

Max buys JHL stake

New Delhi: Max Healthcare Institute Friday said it will acquire 64 per cent stake in struggling Jaypee Healthcare for an enterprise value of ₹1,660 crore. The company has entered into a strategic agreement with Lakshdeep Group, the promoter of Jaypee Healthcare Ltd (JHL) which is undergoing Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP), Max Healthcare said.

Swiss authorities freeze \$311mn of Adani proxy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: Swiss authorities have frozen \$311 million (Rs 2,610 crore) held by a Taiwanese resident in multiple Swiss bank accounts as part of money laundering probe, suspecting he may be a frontman from the Adani group - a charge the conglomerate vehemently denied saying it was neither involved in any Swiss court proceedings nor any of its accounts are subject to sequestration.

US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research, which had last year targeted the Adani group in a damning report that led to wiping away of \$150 billion in market value of listed firms of the conglomerate in the following weeks, in a post on X cited "newly released Swiss criminal records reported by Swiss media outlet" to state that "Swiss authorities have frozen more than \$310 million in funds across multiple Swiss bank accounts as part of a money laundering and securities forgery investigation into Adani, dating back as early as 2021."

"Prosecutors detailed how an Adani frontman invested in opaque BVI/Mauritius & Bermuda funds that almost exclusively owned Adani stocks," it said citing the report.

Adani group rejected the allegations as baseless saying it had no involvement in any Swiss court proceedings.

"We unequivocally reject and deny the baseless allegations presented. The Adani Group has no involvement in any Swiss court proceedings, nor have any of our company accounts been subject to sequestration by any authority," it said.

The Swiss media outlet Gotham City in its report stated that a ruling by the Federal Criminal Court (FCC) reveals that the Geneva Public Prosecutor's Office was investigating alleged wrongdoing and more than \$310 million belonging to an alleged front man for billionaire Gautam Adani have been sequestered in five Swiss banks over the last three years.

The Swiss investigators suspect that the associate, Chang Chung-Ling, is not the ultimate beneficial owner (UBO) of the company under investigation, but a mere front.

The Adani Group, however, said that the court order was not linked to them and they have not been mentioned in it.



clarification or information from any such authority or regulatory body. We reiterate that our overseas holding structure is transparent, fully disclosed, and compliant with all relevant laws," the conglomerate said.

The allegations, it said, "are clearly preposterous, irrational, and absurd. We have no hesitation in stating that this is yet another orchestrated and egregious attempt by the same cohorts acting in unison to inflict irreversible damage on our group's reputation and market value."

"The Adani Group remains steadfastly committed to transparency and compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements," it said.

The name of Chang Chung-Ling had first surfaced in the 2023 Hindenburg report that alleged stock market manipulation, accounting fraud and money laundering at Adani Group. Adani Group has repeatedly denied all charges.

He was alleged to have made substantial profits by buying and selling Adani stocks through offshore funds and that he was the sole director of Growmore, allegedly a shell company based in Mauritius used to siphon off funds.

According to Hindenburg, Growmore netted an overnight \$423 million gain through a stock merger with Adani Power.

Chung-Ling's son, Chang Chien-Ting was identified as the alleged sole beneficial owner of PMC Projects (India), which along with Growmore and Adani Global were firms that were investigated by SEBI over related-party transactions. The outcome of the SEBI probe is not known.

According to the Swiss media report, a court order of August 9, 2024, which was published September 10, 2024, stated that the Adani Group is "suspected of engaging in illicit activities, including money laundering and embezzlement."

An entity controlled by Chang Chung-Ling invested substantial amounts of money entrusted to him by the Adani Group in "opaque funds".

SEBI junks charges against NSE in '19 co-location case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Friday dismissed regulatory violation charges against the NSE and its seven former employees, including Chitra Ramkrishna and Ravi Narain, in the matter of the co-location facility, citing the absence of sufficient evidence.

"Due to the absence of sufficient material/evidence/objective facts on record in this case, the test of preponderance of probability fails to produce enough justification for the establishment of collusion/connivance between OPG and its directors with Noticees (NSE and its seven employees)," SEBI said in its 83-page order.

Apart from NSE, Ramkrishna and Narain, SEBI has dropped charges against Anand Subramanian, Ravindra Apte, Umesh Jain, Mahesh Soparkar and Deviprasad Singh.

The case relates to the alleged preferential access given to certain broking firms in the form of 'dark fibre' at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to connect across the colocation facilities before other members.



47% Gen Z professionals prioritise work-life balance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 13: Forty-seven per cent Gen Z professionals plan to leave their jobs within two years, while as many prioritise work-life balance when evaluating potential employers, according to a survey.

The report, titled "Gen Z at workplace", is based on a survey of over 5,350 Gen Z and 500 HR professionals, conducted by Unstop - a talent engagement and hiring platform for students and graduates.

The report highlighted a significant concern among Gen Z professionals, with 51 per cent expressing fear of job loss at present. This anxiety extends to their career prospects, as 40 per cent worry about securing positions in their preferred fields upon entering the job market.

"Despite these reservations, Gen Z demonstrates a clear set of priorities when it comes to their careers. 77 per cent of the respondents prioritise the role or brand over commercials, with 43

Markets snap record rally

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,70,701 points or 2.10% and the Nifty climbed 504.35 points or 0.20%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 13: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty took a breather Friday after a record rally in the previous session and ended marginally lower on the emergence of profit-taking.

In a range-bound trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 71.77 points or 0.09 per cent to close at 82,890.94. During the day, it dived 309.49 points or 0.37 per cent to 82,653.22. The NSE Nifty dropped 32.40 points or 0.13 per cent to 25,356.50.

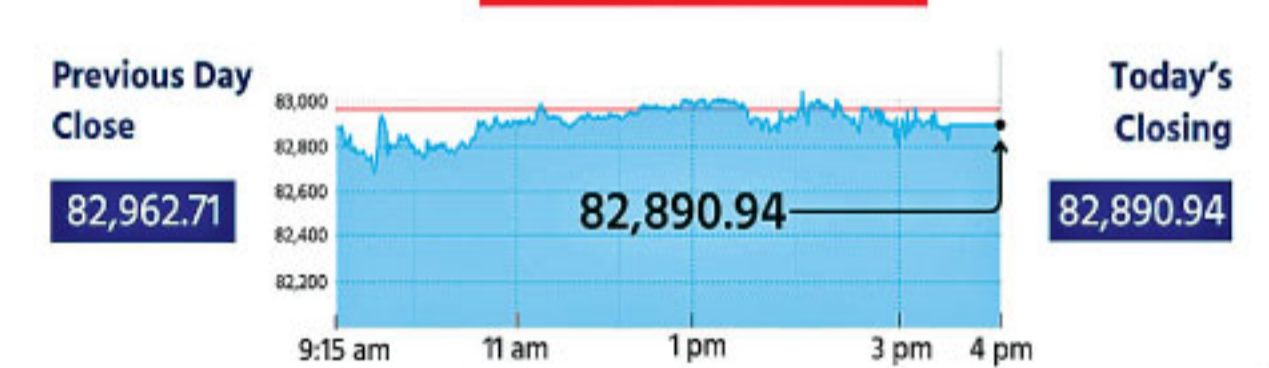
"After a sharp fall in early trades, key indices recouped most of their losses to end marginally lower on select profit-taking in power, oil & gas and FMCG shares. Markets were mostly range-bound after Thursday's sharp surge, and investors could now be in a wait-and-watch mode ahead of next week's Fed policy meeting," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Adani Ports was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, declining 1.37 per cent, followed

PROFIT-TAKING

Markets snap record rally

BSE SENSEX SEPTEMBER 13, 2024
CHANGE: -71.77 (-0.09%)



TOP GAINERS		TOP LOSERS	
BAJAJ FINANCE	+2.31%	ADANI PORTS	-1.37%
BAJAJ FINSERV	+2.17%	ITC	-1.01%
INDUSIND BANK	+1.46%	NTPC	-0.88%
AXIS BANK	+1.19%	MARUTI	-0.75%
TATA STEEL	+1.09%	ASIAN PAINTS	-0.73%

Higher liquidity from FIs to the domestic market and a slide in US 10-year yield increased the prospects of the FED rate cut, which will aid domestic sentiment

VINOD NAIK | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

by ITC, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, Maruti, Asian Paints, Sun Pharma, Power Grid, Hindustan Unilever and Larsen & Toubro. In contrast, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel, Axis Bank and Tech Mahindra were among the gain-

ers. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.95 per cent and midcap climbed 0.48 per cent.

A sharp flag-end rally Thursday drove the BSE benchmark to the 83,000 level for the first time. The barometer surged 1,593.03 points or 1.95 per cent to hit its lifetime intra-day peak of 83,116.19. The index ended at a record high of 82,962.71, up by 1,439.55 points or 1.77 per cent.

The NSE Nifty surged 470.45 points or 1.89 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 25,388.90. The benchmark hit its fresh all-time intra-day high of 25,433.35, a jump of 514.9 points or 2 per cent.



For the youngest generation in the workforce, work isn't just a place you go to every day to get your account credited regularly. It has to fit into several key aspects of your life seamlessly

ANKIT AGGARWAL | FOUNDER AND CEO, UNSTOP

pc specifically seeking hands-on experience and growth opportunities. This focus on professional development is further emphasised by the fact that 72 per cent of Gen Zs consider job satisfaction more important than salary," the report said.

The study also revealed a disconnect between Gen Z's moti-

fications and HR perceptions.

"While 78 per cent of Gen Zs switch jobs for career growth, 71 per cent of HR professionals assume it is primarily for better pay. In reality, only 25 per cent of Gen Zs prioritise money as their main motivation while switching jobs. Work-life balance is one of the crucial factors to consider in any job

for Gen Zs, with 47 per cent of them citing this as a key element when evaluating potential employers. Their ideal workday involves completing routine tasks efficiently, leaving room for skill-building and productivity without feeling overwhelmed," it said.

The report underscored Gen Z's ambition and desire for growth. Their top priority is a solid career path with room for promotions, accompanied by a vibrant, supportive culture.

"While 44 per cent of recruiters believe Gen Z values company culture more than career progression, the reality is more nuanced. Gen Z seeks a balance of both, with a strong emphasis on opportunities for personal and professional development," it said.

The report also delved into other aspects, such as Gen Z's top reasons for switching jobs, top concerns while entering the job market, their expectations with respect to mental health, and their varied working style that shifts from the one-size-fits-all approach.

Players begin the grind

CRICKETERS COMMENCE PREPARATIONS FOR HOME SERIES AGAINST BANGLADESH AND NEW ZEALAND FOLLOWED BY 5 AWAY TESTS AGAINST AUSTRALIA

MADRAS CRICKET CLUB Estd. 1846



Indian players have a team huddle as skipper Rohit Sharma speaks at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai

PTI PHOTO

AGENCIES

Chennai, Sept 13: Batting legend Virat Kohli spent about 45 minutes in the nets and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah bowled full tilt as the Indian cricket team began their preparations Friday for a two-Test series against Bangladesh.

With the first Test against Bangladesh scheduled here from September 19, the entire squad, including skipper Rohit Sharma and Kohli, assembled at the MA Chidambaram Stadium for a closed door training session.

This would be the first home assignment for new head coach Gautam Gambhir. New bowling coach, South African great Morne

Morkel, and assistant coach Abhishek Nayar were also in attendance. The BCCI said in a text on 'X', "The countdown starts as Team India begin their preps for an exciting home season."

"Virat was there for 45 minutes and Bumrah also bowled full throttle," a local source said. Virat has flown in directly from London for the opening Test while Rohit arrived here Thursday night.

The likes of Bumrah, KL Rahul and wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant had also reached here Thursday. Batter Sarfaraz Khan will join the squad after the Duleep Trophy game in Anantapur, where he is playing for India B right now.

The players are returning to

- India to play 10 Tests in the current WTC cycle
- India are currently heading the points table
- South African great Morne Morkel joins as bowling coach

action after a much-needed break of more than a month and would look to put behind the disappointment of losing the ODI series against Sri Lanka in August, which was Gambhir's first assignment as head coach after taking over from Rahul Dravid.

It would be interesting to see how Rohit's side approaches the game against a Bangladesh side, who are on a high following their 2-0 Test series win

over Pakistan recently. Vital World Test Championship (WTC) points are at stake in the two-match series as India get ready for a gruelling 10-match Test season, which also includes a three-Test series at home against New Zealand and the five-match Border-Gavaskar series later this year in Australia.

India are currently heading the table with 68.52 percentage points, while Australia are a close second with 62.50 percentage points. Bangladesh have jumped to fourth spot with 45.83 percentage points following their series win over Pakistan.

The second Test of the India-Bangladesh series will be played in Kanpur from September 27.

WE WANT TO DO BETTER THAN 4TH-PLACE FINISH LAST YEAR, SAYS COACH

OFC eye winning start

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Odisha FC (OFC) will look to start on a winning note when they start their ISL campaign at the Kalinga Stadium here Saturday against Chennaiyin FC (CFC). In the last edition of the league both sides had won one game apiece. The two teams have met 10 times in the ISL and there also the spoils are even. Both sides have three wins each and four matches have ended in draws.

However, since last year much water has flown through the Mahanadi. OFC have been strengthened by the addition of Hugo Boumous, Rahim Ali, Rohit Kumar and Saviour Gama, while Raynier Fernandes has returned for his second stint with the club. OFC lost in the semis last year and finished fourth. With the addition of the new recruits

they would certainly aim to go all the way to the top.

Head coach Sergio Lobera talked about the style of play that he prefers. "We are preparing the squad in a way that we play each game in the style that I want the players to do so," Lobera stated. "It's helpful for me as a coach also to start the second season in this club. All the players know what I want as coach and it is helpful. We have signed some new players, but that doesn't mean we are going to change our style," Lobera added.

Lobera also stated that instinctively he is attacking. "That is what I want the players to follow. You don't win if you do not score goals," Lobera stated.

Captain Amrinder Singh said that OFC will play an attacking brand of football. "In a match there are times when the opposition will be better than

Points shared

Kolkata: Mohun Bagan's defensive frailties haunted them once again within a fortnight, as they squandered a two-goal lead to play out a 2-2 draw with Mumbai City FC (MCF) in the Indian Super League opening match here Friday. MB led in the ninth minute when MCF's Tiri scored an own goal. They increased the advantage to 2-0 with Alberto Rodriguez scoring in the 28th minute. However, in the second session, Tiri (70th) and substitute Thaer Krouma (89th) scored to ensure a point for MCF.

you," Amrinder said. "The key is to remain focused during that time and not change your style. As a team we like to attack and it is important that we continue to do so. Hopefully we will be able to do that in the game tomorrow (Saturday)," said Amrinder.



Odisha FC head coach Sergio Lobera (left) and captain Amrinder Singh speak to the media Friday

OP PHOTO

SHORT TAKES

Tanisha, Dhruv enter mixed doubles semis

Ho Chi Minh City: India's mixed doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila progressed to the semifinals of the Vietnam Open with a thrilling win in the Super 100 badminton tournament here Friday. Seeded sixth, Dhruv and Tanisha eked out a come-from-behind 14-21, 21-10, 21-14 win over top ranked fellow Indians Sathish Kumar Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath. The match lasted 44 minutes. Tharun Mannepilli's impressive run, however, came to an end as he went down 13-21, 13-21 against Japan's Shogo Ogawa.

Beckham pays tribute to Eriksson

Torsby (Sweden): David Beckham and former England coach Roy Hodgson were among the soccer dignitaries who attended the funeral of Sven-Goran Eriksson here Friday. "It is a day of grief but also a day of thankfulness," priest, Ingela Alvsog, told those in attendance. Beckham greeted Eriksson's 95-year-old father Sven and other family members with hugs. Eriksson became England's first foreign-born coach when he led the national team from 2001-06, and made Beckham his captain.

Nadal withdraws

Berlin: Rafael Nadal has withdrawn from next week's Laver Cup tennis tournament here. His withdrawal has once more given impetus to speculation that he will retire soon. "I'm really disappointed to share that I won't be able to compete at the Laver Cup in Berlin next week," the 38-year-old Nadal said on social media Friday. "I think there are better players than me now to deliver and win for Team Europe," he added. Nadal hasn't played a single competitive match since the Paris Olympics.

Odisha colts win

Jalandhar: Odisha hammered Arunachal Pradesh 8-0 in a match of the Junior National Men's Hockey Championships here Friday. Pratap Toppo (8th, 54th) and Deepak Pradhan (37th, 38th) scored a brace each while Wilson Xaxa (18th), Karan Lakra (23th), Premdayal Giri (32th) and Deonath Nanwar (47th) also found the back of the net for Odisha. In another match Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu drubbed Assam 11-0. Pramod Pal (21st, 26th, 31st, 37th, 46th, 49th) got a double hat-trick.

Gukesh leads India's charge

BOTH MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TEAM ACHIEVE FACILE TRIUMPHS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Budapest, Sept 13: The Indian men's team got off to another 4-0 win, led by D Gukesh's triumph over H Stefansson of Iceland, in the second round of the 45th chess Olympiad here Thursday evening. The Indian men had little to worry against Iceland who came up with a gritty performance before finally giving up. Harikrishna was the only Indian stretched as he had to work hard to carve out an elusive victory.

The Indian eves also scored another 3.5-0.5 win over the Czech Republic to make their presence felt. While it was Vantika Agrawal who gave away half-a-point in the first round, Tania Sachdev was the one settling for a draw in this round while the other three teammates won with ease.

Grandmaster Gukesh emerged as the player to watch, showcasing his growth into a true master of the chessboard. In an equal middle game, the Chennai prodigy made a bold decision, sacrificing a pawn in a move that did not sound good initially. But the Chennai lad



D Gukesh during his match against Iceland's H Stefansson

PHOTO CHESS.COM

broke through in a style reminiscent of the legendary Garry Kasparov on the other flank. "At times one has to lure the opponent into a mistake and I did just that," Gukesh said after the match.

With Praggnanandhaa rested in the second round, Vidit Gujrathi took charge and delivered perfectly with his Caro Kann opening. Arjun Erigaise came up with some great manoeuvres to win his game,

while Harikrishna was still looking for a favourable outcome as he approached the final time control.

In the women's section D Harika and Vantika came up with expected victories against lower ranked Czech ladies but Sachdev had to be satisfied with a half point on the last board. The Indian eves had no troubles on the remaining boards and took home 3.5 points for the second day running.

A BILLION FANS FOLLOW 1 JOURNEY

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 13: Not only does Cristiano Ronaldo (also called CR7) breaks records on the field, he does off it also. Ronaldo hit a historic milestone Thursday on social media becoming the first individual ever to hit a cumulative figure of one billion followers.

The 39-year-old footballer who plays for Saudi Arabian club, Al-Nassr announced that he has reached one billion followers across his social media platforms, a number not matched by any individual in history. Ronaldo's YouTube account, the latest addition to his social media presence, breached the 50 million mark inside one week, shattering multiple records en route.

Ronaldo has more than 639 million followers on Instagram, which holds the biggest chunk of his one billion followers on social media platforms. The former Manchester United and Real

CRISTIANO RONALDO BECOMES 1ST INDIVIDUAL TO HAVE ONE BILLION FOLLOWERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Madrid footballer also has 170.5 million followers on Facebook and 113 million on 'X'.

"We've made history - 1 BILLION followers! This is more than just a number - it's a testament to our shared passion, drive, and love for the game and beyond. From the streets of Madeira to the biggest stages in the world, I've always played for my family and for you, and now 1



A BILLION DREAMS, ONE JOURNEY.

billion of us stand together. You've been with me every step of the way, through all the highs and the lows. This journey is our journey, and together, we've shown that there are no limits to what we can achieve. Thank you for believing in me, for your support, and for being part of my life. The best is yet to come, and we'll keep pushing, winning, and making history together," Ronaldo wrote on X.

It should also be stated a handful of Ronaldo followers also exist on smaller followings on Chinese platforms 'Weibo' and 'Kuaishou'.

A few days back, September 5, Ronaldo scored his 900th goal during a Nations Cup match between Portugal and Croatia which the former won 2-1. He became the first player in the history of the game to score 900 goals for country and club. He was also the first to reach the 800-goal mark in December 2021.

AGENCIES

Bangalore, Sept 13: India A took command Friday against India D on the second day of their Duleep Trophy match being played at Anantpur. After dismissing India D for 183 to get a first innings lead of 107 runs, India A were 115 for one on stumps. Pratham Singh (59 batting) and Mayank Agarwal (56) scored half centuries to take their team to a position of strength.

Earlier India D, despite Devdutt Padikkal's 92 (124b, 15x4) could only manage to score 183 in reply to India C's mammoth first innings score of 290. Pacer's Khaleel Ahmed (3/39) and Aaqib Khan (3/42) bowled well to restrict the opposition.

In the other game being played here India B were 124 without loss in reply to India C's mammoth first innings score of 525. Abhimanyu Easwaran (51 batting) and Narayan Jagadeesan (67 batting) looked good till stumps were called on the second day.

Earlier riding on some useful knocks from Manav Suthar (82, 156b, 11x4, 3x6) and Anshul Kamboj (38), India C went past the 500-run mark. Rahul Chahar (4/73) and Mukesh Kumar (4/126) bowled well for India B.

Contrasting victories for Rovers, Sunrise

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Rovers Club defeated Odisha Police 2-1 in a hard-fought game of the MGM FAO Super Cup football tournament played Friday at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack. In a game where fortunes swung like a pendulum the footballers of Rovers Club held their nerves at crucial junctures to come out on top.

Kartik Hantal (30th) and Suresh Khadia (65th) scored the goals for Rovers Club. On the other hand, Anand Soreng scored Odisha Police's only goal in the 56th minute. Hantal, after missing a couple of easy opportunities managed to make amends with a powerful strike. However, Odisha Police were always on the lookout for an equaliser and their efforts finally bore fruit when Soreng restored parity. However, Odisha Police's joy was short-lived as Khadia, coming in as a substitute, got the all-important match-winner off a combined move down the middle.

In another match of the same tournament, Sunrise Club defeated Jr Gallant Club 6-2. Even though the first half was a well-



Players tussle for the ball during the Rovers Club-Odisha Police game

OP PHOTO

contested affair, Sunrise club completely dominated proceedings in the second session. Sunrise led 2-1 at the interval, but on resumption scored four goals to emerge emphatic winners.

Jitu Muduli (20th, 80th), Dinabandhu Das (34th, 47th) and Arun Lakra (74th, 77th) got the goals for Sunrise Club. The scorers for Gallant Club were Rohit Badaik (35th) and Sachin Munda (84th). Had Sunrise Club utilised all the chances that came their way they could have scored some more goals, especially in the second session.

Odisha swimmers shine



(From left): Mannata Mishra, Pratyasa Ray and Shristi Upadhaya

OP PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 13: Odisha achieved their best-ever medal haul at the 77th Senior National Aquatic Championship at the International Complex in Mangalore which concluded Friday. Odisha swimmers bagged three silver medals taking the state's overall tally to six in the competition. Odisha finished eighth in the medal tally, bagging one gold, four silver and one bronze medal.

Pratyasa Ray, Mannata Mishra and Shristi Upadhaya won the sil-

ver medals on the last day of the meet. Pratyasa bagged the silver medal in the 200m backstroke with a new personal-best time of 2:24.29s. This was the second individual silver and fourth overall medal for the ace swimmer, following a silver in 100m backstroke, gold in 4x100m medley relay and bronze in 4x200m freestyle relay.

Mannata won the silver in 100m breaststroke, clocking 1:14.66s and then Shristi capped Odisha's dream run, claiming the third silver of the day in 100m butterfly with a time of 1:04.24 seconds.