



Fusion on cards

Dancing diva and actress Nora Fatehi collaborates with Nigerian singing sensation CKay for an upcoming new track

LEISURE | P2



Anura takes oath

Marxist leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake takes oath Monday as Sri Lanka's 10th president

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Market on a high

Shares hit record highs for the third straight session Monday as outsized US rate cut last week boosts investors' risk appetite

BUSINESS | P11



Eyes on WTC final

India tighten their grip on the top spot in the World Test Championship table with a 280-run victory over Bangladesh

SPORTS | P12

SHORT TAKES

ASI begins GPS at Konark Sun Temple

Bhubaneswar: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) began a ground penetrating survey (GPS) at the Sun Temple in Konark Monday. The survey aims to locate any hidden structures or artifacts beneath the ground, to ASI Puri Circle Superintendent DB Garnayak said. "We are utilising the machinery and scientific equipment brought to Odisha for the Ratna Bhandar survey. Following that, the Hyderabad-based National Geographical Research Institute (NGRI) has agreed to conduct the GPS at the Konark Temple," an official said. The survey of the temple's surroundings is part of preparatory work for upcoming beautification efforts.

P4

Badlapur accused shot dead by police

Mumbai: Akshay Shinde, accused of sexually assaulting two minor girls at a school in Badlapur town of Maharashtra, died in retaliatory firing by police after he snatched a cop's pistol and opened fire Monday, an official said. The incident occurred at 6.15pm when Shinde, 24, was being taken to Badlapur in Thane district from Taloja Jail in Navi Mumbai in a police vehicle. One cop also suffered injuries in the incident.

P9

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



The new tax code will be simple. The govt will take the income, deduct the tax and give the rest to the taxpayer

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	84928.61 ↑ 384.30
NIFTY	25939.05 ↑ 148.10
DOLLAR	83.55 ↑ ₹0.07
EURO	93.01 ↓ ₹0.17
GOLD	₹74,326 ↑ ₹286
SILVER	₹ 89,415 ↓ ₹720

WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.2°C	33.2°C
Min Temp	25.8°C	25.0°C
Humidity	81%	83%
Rainfall	0.6mm	12.8mm

FOG/MIST IN THE MORNING



LEGENDARY RECOGNITION: Indian legend Viswanathan Anand presents Sunday night a trophy to the gold-winning Indian men's and women's teams at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest. P11PHOTO

Watching, downloading child porn an offence: SC

Earlier Madras High Court had said that in order to constitute an offence under section 67B of the IT Act, an accused must have published, transmitted or created material depicting children in a sexually-explicit act

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court held Monday that watching and downloading child pornography are offences under the POCSO Act and the Information Technology (IT) law.

A bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud set aside the Madras High Court ruling that had said mere downloading and watching child pornography was not an offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and IT Act.

The bench, also comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, also laid down certain guidelines on child pornography and its legal consequences. "We have said about lingering impact of child pornography on victimisation and abuse of children and on role to report an offence, including role of society and stakeholders," the bench said.

"We have suggested to Parliament to bring an amendment to POCSO... so that defini-



Odisha to implement apex court ruling

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government said Monday it will form a dedicated task force to investigate and prosecute cases of child pornography. In a statement, the government said it will implement the Supreme Court ruling, which states that watching and downloading child pornography can be an offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The state reaffirms its commitment to upholding stringent legal frameworks aimed at eliminating child sexual exploitation in all forms, it said.

tion of child pornography can be referred to as 'child sexually abusive and exploitative material'. We have suggested an Ordinance can be brought in," the bench added.

The top court delivered its

verdict on a plea challenging the Madras High Court order. The high court January 11 had quashed the criminal proceedings against 28-year-old S Harish charged with downloading pornographic content involving children on his mobile phone. While pronouncing the verdict, the apex court restored the criminal proceedings in the case.

Termining the high court ruling atrocious, the apex court had earlier agreed to hear the plea challenging the high court ruling that had said mere downloading and watching child pornography was not an offence under POCSO Act and IT Act.

The Madras High Court had also said that children these days were grappling with the serious issue of watching pornography and instead of punishing them, the society must be 'mature enough' to educate them.

Lightning kills 2

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur/Gopalpur, Sept 23: Two persons were killed in lightning strikes Monday in the districts of Sambalpur and Ganjam. Two others also suffered injuries.

In the first incident, a woman died while two others were injured in a lightning strike in Duki village under Jujumura block of Sambalpur district Monday afternoon. The deceased woman has been identified as Lalitha Bhoi, while the injured are Savitri Suhula and Padmini Rana. They were working on their farmland when they

were struck by lightning. Locals rushed all the three to Jujumura village community health centre where doctors pronounced Lalitha dead on arrival. Meanwhile after the condition of Savitri deteriorated she was transferred to a hospital in Sambalpur.

In the second case a 65-year-old man died after being struck by lightning near Dharampur village under Rangelunda block in Ganjam district Monday afternoon. The deceased has been identified as Bhimsen Sahu, 65, a resident of the same village. He had taken his sheep out for grazing, when lightning struck.

Majhi pledges prompt action

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: The Indian Army officer and his fiancé, who were allegedly assaulted at a police station here September 15 met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at the Secretariat here Monday, a day after the state government ordered a judicial inquiry into the incident. The woman's father was also present in the meeting.

After the meeting, the woman said she felt 'relieved' after the CM gave her a patient hearing. "The CM has guaranteed me justice. I do feel relieved, but I will be happy and satisfied when justice is provided to me through the

HC ASKS MEDIA NOT TO NAME VICTIMS

Cuttack: Taking suo motu cognisance of last week's alleged assault of an Army officer and his fiancé at a police station in Bhubaneswar, the Orissa High Court expressed shock and concern Monday over the incident and restrained both the mainstream media and social media from publishing the names and identification of the victims. A division bench headed by Chief Justice Chakradhari Saran Singh however, appreciated the steps taken by the state government so far in the case.

judicial inquiry. I am happy that he gave me a patient hearing." "He (the CM) heard all my

grievances. Till date, my complain remains against seven personnel of Bharatpur police station who wronged me and molested me. The CM has assured me of justice with a judicial inquiry," she added.

Majhi had Sunday evening ordered a judicial inquiry into the alleged torture of the Army officer and the 'sexual assault of his fiancé

The Odisha government has appointed a commission of inquiry to be headed by Justice Chittaranjan Dash, a retired high court judge, an official notification said. The inquiry report will be filed within 60 days, it added.

'Laapataa Ladies' is India's bet at Oscars

FILM-MAKER KIRAN RAO'S CREATION HAS BEEN CHOSEN FROM 29 MOVIES BY FILM FEDERATION OF INDIA

AGENCIES

Chennai, Sept 23: Kiran Rao's *Laapataa Ladies* has been picked as the country's official entry for Oscars 2025, the Film Federation of India announced here Monday.

The Hindi film, a light-hearted satire on patriarchy, was chosen from a list of 29 films, including Hindi blockbuster *Animal*, Malayalam National Award winner *Aattam* and Cannes winner *All We Imagine As Light*.

The 13-member selection committee headed by Assamese director Jahnua Barua 'unanimously' decided on *Laapataa Ladies*, produced by Aamir Khan and Rao, for reckoning in the best international film category

at the Academy Awards. Besides *Laapataa Ladies*, Hindi film *Srikanth*, Tamil movies *Vaazhai* and *Thangalaan* and Malayalam movie *Ullozhukku* were among the top five in the 29-title list.

Laapataa Ladies, which was released in March to universal praise from the critics, is a heart-warming and empowering take on two brides in rural India in 2001 who both accidentally get swapped during a train journey. The film is backed by Rao's 'Kindling Productions', 'Aamir Khan Productions' and Jio Studios.

Rao said she is 'deeply honoured and delighted' that her film will represent India at the 97th Academy Awards. "Cinema has always been a powerful medium to connect hearts, transcend bound-



Film-maker Kiran Rao

aries, and ignite meaningful conversations. I hope that this film will resonate with audiences across the world, just as it has in India,"

she said in a statement. "I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the selection committee

great enthusiasm'. Rao made her debut with *Dhobi Ghat*, the 2010 drama centered around people from different walks of life in Mumbai.

Starring Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta and Sparsh Shrivastav in the lead alongside Ravi Kishan, Chhaya Kadam and Geeta Aggarwal Sharma, *Laapataa Ladies* had its world premiere at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival.

No Indian entry has been nominated for best international feature film at the Oscars since the Khan-starrer *Lagaan* in 2002. Only two other films have previously made it to the final five and they are the Nargis-starrer *Mother India* and Mira Nair's *Salaam Bombay!*

Milk adulteration unit busted in Jagatpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Manguli/Jagatpur, Sept 23: The twin city Commissionerate Police, along with the health wing of Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), busted a unit engaged in production of adulterated milk and related products, officials said Monday.

The unit's owner Pradipta Kumar Parida has been arrested, they added. Acting on a tipoff, a joint team comprising Additional DCP Anil Kumar Mishra, ACP (Zone I) Arun Kumar Swain, Jagatpur inspector-in-charge Om Prakash Mohanty and CMC health officer Satyabrata Mohapatra raided



the unit near Baragodia Atoda Square here.

During the raid, it was discovered that milk, curd and lassi, that were marketed in the name of 'Rohini' brand, were not just manufactured at the unit under unhygienic conditions but also adulterated with chemicals like sodium hydroxide, salt and contaminated water, Mohapatra said.

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
You will make a great deal of progress which will help you set aside quite a chunk of money for lean times. There are yet more deals to be signed which will turn out to be landmarks in your business. Ganesh says that your current labours will bear fruits in the future.

TAURUS
In the more morning you are due to be gripped by an urge to acquire a fresh look, a complete make over. You will probably visit a beauty parlour for necessary treatment. Ganesh says that you will be desperate to make an impression on the people around you. In the evening you are likely to be vexed and puzzled by some particular issue.

GEMINI
You will be able to improve your social standing and status tremendously today. You will spend all your energies in making your heart's desires come true. You may end up proposing to that special someone and will find your life partner.

CANCER
With Ganesh's grace you will reap an unexpected gain, and help, joy and excitement on the home front. You will be affectionate towards family members. Yet in afternoon, you may have mood change. Ganesh counsels you to be calm, or else you will lose peace of mind.

LEO
You will think of decorating or renovating your house today. You will likely buy some new decorative articles for your house today. You will take a huge business related or financial risk today but due to Ganesh's blessings it will transform into substantial gain for you.

VIRGO
You will look up to your family to put you in high spirits, says Ganesh. However, you will have to loosen your purse strings and blow up some money on them to win their appreciation. Later in the evening you may start writing an account of a platonic affair.

LIBRA
The ghosts of 'old lovers past' are in the air. There is every possibility that you might end up reliving an old romantic affair; maybe even get treated to your heart's content by your soul mate. Everything is possible in love. The afternoon may bring with it mixed fortunes. But remember to put on your party hat in the evening.

SCORPIO
Today is that day when you make a fine show of your commitment to work and dedication to family. At work, the right job has landed on the right table - yours. At home, cement your place as the quintessential family man, advises Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
You are inclined to be over-protective of your personal belongings. Sensational love affairs are plotting to hold you ransom. All the work you have been pushing off to do later will be completed reasonably on time. Ganesh sees a rather hopeful day in store for you.

CAPRICORN
Striking a perfect balance between work and passion, you are likely to inspire people and leave them in awe with all that multitasking, says Ganesh. Of course, as the day progresses, work will gain more prominence and demand more attention, but for the time being, you will enjoy the break you may get from work. Amid all the happenings, your social life may take a back-seat, but you wouldn't as much as even realise it.

AQUARIUS
Your ideas may be excellent, says Ganesh, but it's your diplomacy and charm which will oil the wheels. You are a silver-tongued smoothie, and can even talk people into eating soap! Family and friends will revel in your company. If you are a student, you may get As in all your tests!

PISCES
Today is a day when the focus is solely on achieving your career goals. A joint venture you have been hankering after for quite some time ought to fall into place today. A tour for business purposes is also indicated. On the domestic front, all should be well, says Ganesh.



KRISTEN BELL: I MARRIED TO MY POLAR OPPOSITE

Hollywood star Kristen Bell said that her husband Dax Shepard is her 'polar opposite' but their differences keep them 'stimulated.' The 44-year-old actress has been married to the 49-year-old podcaster for more than a decade now.

ZENDAYA TALKS ON PRESSURES OF FAME

Singer-actress Zendaya has recently spoken about the pressures of fame. Sharing her experience of being a celebrity, she said, "I feel like, often, I am not cut out for that part of it. I do love my job, I'm so grateful. But I am terrified of that part of it, often."



KRITI'S DIGITAL DETOX

Mumbai: Known for her performances in Hindi and South cinema, popular actress Kriti Kharbanda decided to do something different recently. Amid her onscreen projects, Kriti shared her recent experience of a digital detox.

Taking to social media, Kriti wrote, "To the week that was. A much-needed digital detox. Some amazing food with no diet restrictions. Super awesome family time - the one where u sleep on gadda's and fight for space, all that while holding each other tight. Some amazing one on one time with members of the fam every time we found a quiet corner." She concluded writing: "Revisited some of the places I frequented as a child, they may have been worn out, but didn't lose their charm. A slashed tyre and mid night arguments about who's method is most effective. Teary good byes and tight hugs! I wish I could go back and relive every moment, but for now this will do. The fuel to my fire. And now back to reality."



Mumbai: Dancing diva and actress Nora Fatehi has collaborated with Nigerian singing sensation CKay for an upcoming new track.

Nora Monday took to Instagram, where she shared a note, which read: "Up Next...CKay X Nora Fatehi...Stay tuned"

The upcoming new track promises to blend Nora's unique style with CKay's innovative sound, creating a fusion. The song is scheduled to be unveiled next week.

Nora teams up with CKay



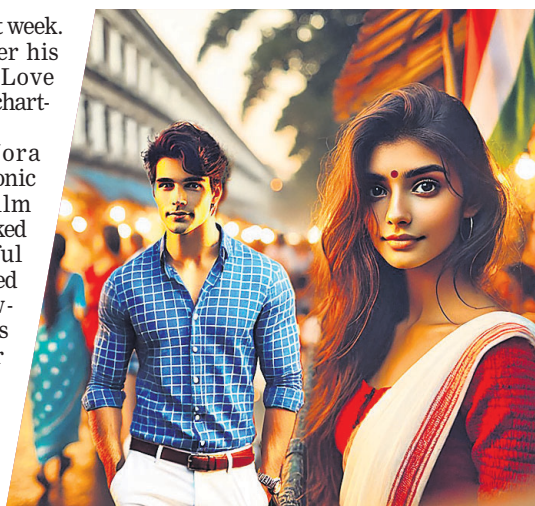
CKay became a rage after his international hit single Love Nwantiti became an instant chart-buster.

Earlier this month, Nora shared a BTS video of her iconic track *Manike* from the film *Thank God* after it clocked its two successful years. She posted some throw-back videos from her song sequence.

Manike was sung by Jubin Nautiyal, Surya Ragunaathan, and the Sri Lankan-based songwriter-composer Yohani.

The song is from the 2022 comedy-drama *Thank God* featuring Ajay Devgn, Sidharth Malhotra, Rakul Preet Singh, Seema Pahwa and Kanwaljit Singh in pivotal roles.

She will next be seen in *Matka*, which is set between the years 1958 and 1982, based on the *Matka* gambling scams that rocked the country in the 20th century.



First AI-generated Odia music video

BHUBANESWAR: The craze of artificial intelligence has now spread to the entertainment industry in the state with *Tu Kahin Laguchhu Mote* becoming the first ever AI-generated music video in Odia.

A brainchild of Avinash Nanda and Kajal Jena, this project marks a revolutionary step in the evolution of music, blending creativity with cutting-edge technology to bring a unique and mesmerizing experience to audiences worldwide.

Nanda and Jena are making their first bold foray into integrating AI into the music world. Their vision to usher in a new era of artistic expression is now brought to life in a spectacular fashion.

Set against the vibrant, festive backdrop of Kolkata's iconic Park Street, the video weaves a heartfelt romantic narrative, enhanced by captivating melodies and enchanting lyrics. The music video, composed by Sudeep Jena and sung by Humane Sagar, promises to be a sensory delight, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Odia music.

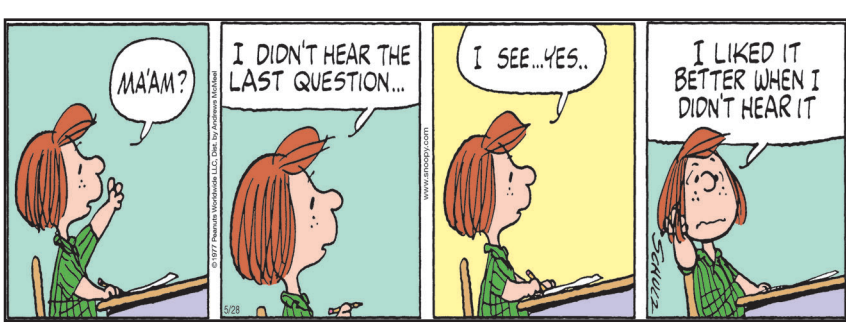
"We are incredibly excited to share this innovation in music with the viewers and hope it resonates with audiences everywhere," said Nanda.

3RD NATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL - DAY II

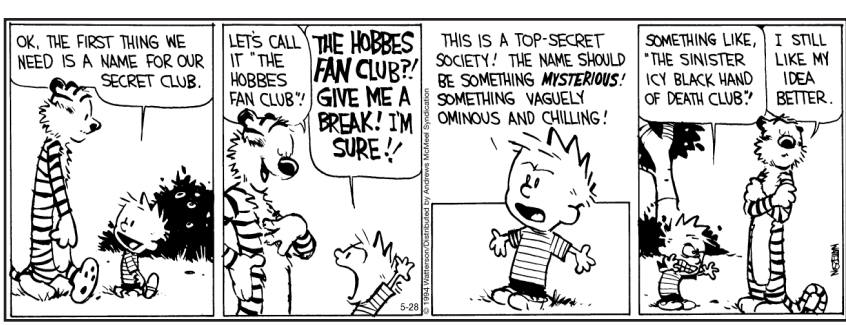


The Drama department students of Bhubaneswar-based Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya (USM) performed Odia play *Agnee O Barsha* at Rabindra Mandap, Monday. Written by Girish Karnad and translated into Odia by Pratap Rout, the drama was directed by Debanand Nayak (Soni). Among the dignitaries, dramatist Prasanna Mishra and ex-USM principal Maya Das were in attendance. Theatre directors Sudam Bisoi and Mihir Meher were felicitated on the occasion. The five-day event is a joint initiative of Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department, Government of Odisha, Odisha Natya Sangha and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

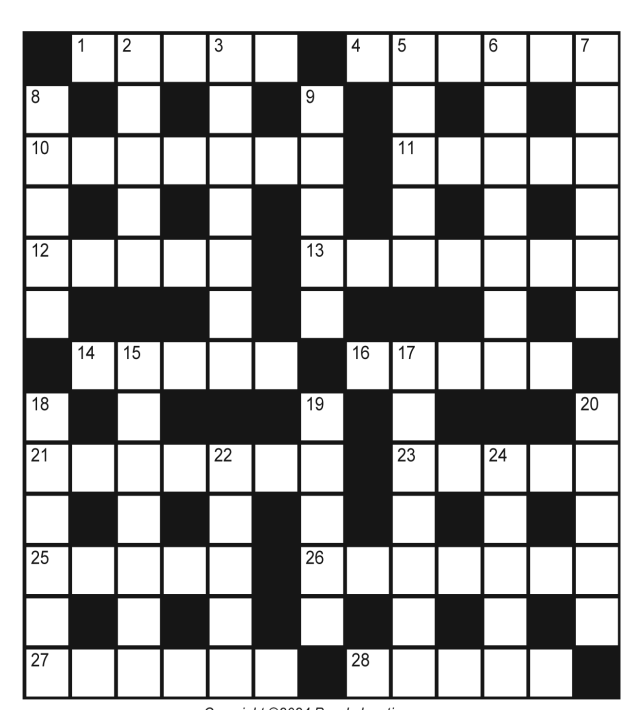


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Endure
 - 4 Obstacle
 - 10 See clearly
 - 11 Aspect
 - 12 Small goose
 - 13 Colourless odourless gas
 - 14 Suspicious
 - 16 Accelerate
 - 21 It can eat you out of house and home
 - 23 Double birdie
 - 25 Hotel posting
 - 26 Throw into disorder
 - 27 Game of goals
 - 28 Loafer
 - Down**
 - 2 Master, in Swahili
 - 3 Vagabond
 - 5 Ill-suited
 - 6 Announce
 - 7 Main course
 - 8 Kinship group
 - 9 Squalid
 - 15 Inconsistent
 - 17 Delighted
 - 18 Request at the cleaners
 - 19 Crystal-lined stone
 - 20 Mooring
 - 22 Magazine release
 - 24 Surgical dressing

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

S	C	R	A	T	C	H	D	E	P	T	H
C	O	H	O	E	R	O					
E	A	G	L	E	T	A	B	L	E	A	U
P	E	S	S	R	T	P	S				
R	T	O	P	D	O	G	W	A	K	E	
H	I	D	F	E	R						
E	N	T	R	A	P	B	R	E	E	C	H
U	N	J	E								
U	N	I	T	N	E	B	U	L	A	L	
S	T	G	T	D	L	O					
H	E	I	R	E	S	I	C	I	N	G	
E	O	D	E	A	S	B	E				
R	I	N	S	E	T	E	N	S	I	O	N

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

CLEAN PROMISE

People take pledge to maintain cleanliness at an event organised by Puri Municipality at the beachfront to mark Swachhata week, Monday



CHILD PORNOGRAPHY Dedicated task force soon to probe cases

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: The state government Monday said it will form a dedicated task force to investigate and prosecute cases of child pornography. In a statement, the government said it will implement the Supreme Court ruling, which states that watching and downloading child pornography can be an offence under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The state reaffirms its commitment to upholding stringent legal frameworks aimed at eliminating child sexual exploitation in all forms, it said. "The state will enhance co-ordination with law enforcement agencies to effectively combat the dissemination and consumption of child pornography. This includes the establishment of dedicated task forces to investigate and prosecute such

crimes," it said. "The landmark decision sends a powerful message that the state will not tolerate any form of child sexual exploitation. It reinforces the responsibility of each citizen to protect our children, ensuring their safety and well-being," it added. In line with the Supreme Court's recommendations, the state will invest in comprehensive support services for victims of child abuse, providing them with the care and resources they need for recovery, the statement said. The government appealed to the people to report any suspicious activity to protect vulnerable children. In a path-breaking judgment, the Supreme Court held mere possession of any child pornographic material will constitute offences under the POCSO and the IT laws even if they are not disseminated further.

CM, ministers hear grievances of 1,000 people

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and his four Cabinet colleagues Monday heard grievances of 1,000 people, according to an official statement. The Chief Minister started hearing of the public grievances July 1, and it was the fourth such arrangement where he directly heard the issues of people, it said. Majhi directed officers concerned to resolve the issues raised by the citizens. Ministers Prithviraj Harichandan, Gokulananda Mallick, Rabi Narayan Naik and Sampad Swain also heard the grievances of people, the statement said. The hearing took place at the Chief Minister's Grievance Cell here. The CM started the hearing at 11 am and it continued till 5 pm. "A total of 1,000 complaints were registered and all these were heard by the Chief Minister and the state ministers," the statement added.



BHARATPUR Don't name victims: HC

COURT SEEKS STATUS REPORT ON CCTV CAMERA SET UP AT ALL 650 POLICE STATIONS IN THE STATE

Cuttack, Sept 23: Taking suo motu cognisance of last week's alleged assault of an army officer and his female friend at a police station in the Capital city, the Orissa High Court Monday expressed shock and concern over the incident and restrained both mainstream media and social media from publishing the names and identity of the victims. A division bench headed by Chief Justice Chakradhari Saran Singh, while appreciating the steps taken by the state government so far in the case, however, came down heavily on the administration for not installing CCTV camera surveillance facilities in all 650 police stations of the state. The court directed



a senior police officer of the state to submit a report on this by October 8. Stating that the Bhubaneswar police station incident was very "disturbing", the high court also directed the state government to appraise it (HC) with details

as to what measures are going to be taken at the police station level in future, so that the dignity and identification of the complainants arriving at the police station are protected. "We have intentionally not disclosed the names of the per-

sons, who had visited the police station September 15 night to lodge a complaint, but came out injured and implicated in an attempt to murder case. We consider it necessary for the facts and circumstance to restrain all concerns from publishing the identity of the two persons who visited the police station," the court said. Advocate General Pitambar Acharya told the court that the state government has appointed a Judicial Commission of Enquiry under Justice CR Dash, a former judge of the high court. He also informed that the state government was swift in its action, by suspending five police officers involved in the incident and arresting the seven persons who had allegedly harassed the complainant duo.

Naveen slams govt over law & order situation

Former Odisha Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik Monday expressed concern over the alleged deterioration of law and order situation in the state under the BJD government. Patnaik said this while meeting BJD MLAs and leaders of Nabarangpur and Kalahandi districts here. The BJD president called upon the party leaders and workers to work jointly and serve the people as the law and order situation has been "deteriorating" in the state. "During our government, many developmental activities were being done and the law and order situation was well under the control of the government," Patnaik said. He also suggested to party leaders to serve the people. "We can return to power again if we fight for the rights of the people," Patnaik said. When BJD leaders from Nabarangpur district drew the attention of Patnaik on the recent rape and murder of a minor tribal girl in Tentulikhunti block, the Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembly said, "This is happening not only in your district but in different places."

Pujari raps Patnaik



Reacting to the BJD chief's charges, senior BJD leader and Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari said, "The BJD government led by former CM Naveen Patnaik was in power for 24 years. Had it worked efficiently, the state would have become violence-free. The BJD government has set up model police stations. Our BJD government will try to create model police officers." "Many women were tortured during the BJD government. No action was taken against BJD leaders even as they were involved in several cases," Pujari said.

Cong seeks probe by SC judge

The Opposition Congress Monday demanded a judicial investigation led by a sitting Supreme Court judge into the allegations of assault of the Army officer's fiancée in police custody. A Congress delegation led by its former women's wing president Sashmita Behera submitted a memorandum addressed to President Droupadi Murmu to Governor Raghubar Das regarding it. The BJD government in the state has ordered a judicial inquiry led by retired High Court judge Chittaranjan Das into the allegations. In the memorandum, the party said the conduct of the police was absolutely 'disgraceful' and the incident has shamed the entire state. **AIDWA ANNOUNCES STATE-WIDE DEMO TUESDAY**

"The police, whose duty is to protect, have become the perpetrators, and the whole state hangs its head in shame at such behaviour. If this is how the police treat the fiancée of a high-ranking army officer, what hope is there for ordinary women in Odisha regarding their safety?" it said. The party urged the president to set up a judicial inquiry panel, headed by a sitting SC judge, to ensure that justice is delivered. Meanwhile, the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) has announced statewide demonstration Tuesday, demanding the arrest of the police officers involved in the alleged torture of the Army officer and sexual assault of his fiancée in the Bharatpur police station.

My first priority is to install CCTV cameras: IIC

Soon after assuming charge as the Inspector-In-Charge (IIC) of Bharatpur Police station - which is presently in the eye of a storm following the alleged custodial assault of a woman and her male friend from the Indian Army - Monday, Inspector Deepak Kumar Khandayatray said that his first priority would be to install CCTV cameras at all sensitive locations of the police station as per the Supreme Court guidelines.



When asked why the police station didn't have CCTV camera set up earlier, Khandayatray said, "The cameras installed in the old building (of the police station) will now be fixed at the new building." Khandayatray replaced Dinakrushna Mishra who had been suspended, along with four more cops of the police station, on an order of the Director General of Police (DGP) pending the Crime Branch (CB) investigation against them in connection with the allegations made by the woman.

Meanwhile, before taking charge, Khandayatray conducted a 'special puja', and some other religious rituals at the police station. The puja was performed by a priest for around two hours in the presence of other officials. The new IIC said the rituals were his personal preference in order to ensure peace and calmness (at the police station) before assuming charge.

Poet Harihar Mishra passes away to 84

Puri: Eminent poet, writer and dramatist Harihar Mishra passed away at his residence here following a brief illness, Monday. He was 84. Known for his versatility, the renowned litterateur had carved a special identity as a poet, writer, playwright and translator who also acted during his distinguished career. Mishra, who taught in several colleges and authored a large number of poems, was the president of Odisha Sahitya Akademi from 2016 to 2021. Winner of many awards, he was honoured with the prestigious Sarala Puraskar, Bishuba Puraskar and Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award for his outstanding contribution in the field of literature. Born January 20, 1940, the author, a retired principal of a Puri college, is known for his versatility as a dramatist as well as writer of prose and poetry. As a dramatist, he has worked on major works such as Chhikka Tira for the radio and among his famous poetry books - Diba Asantosh stands tall.

SAI RANKS 1ST IN NATIONAL SURVEY

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: SAI International School here has secured the first rank for 2024-25 in a national survey of day-cum-boarding schools conducted by Education World, in collaboration with AZ Research Partners Private Ltd. The 18th annual Education World India School Rankings (EWISR) survey was released in Bangalore Monday. Emerald Heights International School of Indore shared the honour with SAI International School, while ODM Public School secured 10th position in the same category. In the state government day-schools India Ranking category, Odisha Adarsh Vidyalaya (OAV), Budhapal in Deogarh district secured the fourth rank, while

OAV Sangathan Akhupadar in Nayagarh district got ninth rank. In the government boarding schools category, OAV Mahipani in Sundargarh district got ninth rank while OAV Baripada got 10th rank. Similarly, in the co-ed boarding schools category, SAI International Residential School in Cuttack secured the eighth rank nationwide. The school was ranked 10th last year. And, in the philanthropy school category, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) got the second rank. It ranked sixth last year. The survey rates and ranks the country's top 4,000 schools in four main and 23 sub-categories, namely - Day: co-ed, boys and girls, Day-cum-boarding; Boarding: co-ed, girls and boys; International: Day, Day-cum-boarding and fully residential.

NGT notice to CS over stone mining

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has served a notice on the Chief Secretary (CS), seeking his responses in connection with a plea demanding cancellation of environmental clearance to Kharbhuni-I stone quarry under Harabhanga tehsil in Boudh district. Boudh Collector and superintendent of police (SP), and divisional forest officer (DFO), director of Mines and Geology, Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), deputy director general of Forests have also been made respondents by the tribunal. The Eastern Zone bench of the environment watchdog sought the replies within four weeks while hearing a petition filed by Naresh Majhi, a resident of Kharbhuni under Harabhanga police limits of Boudh. The petitioner had informed the tribunal that Kharbhuni-I stone quarry - spread over 2.833



hectare land on Plot No 275/A, Khata No 194 in Kharbhuni Jungle under Harabhanga tehsil in Boudh - has been operating in violation of environmental norms. The quarry has received environmental clearance July 10, 2024, Majhi's counsel Sankar Prasad Pahi said. Highlighting the alleged violations of environmental norms, the petitioner said the lessee has carried out excess mining without environmental clearance and environment compensation has not been realised. "Reclamation of void pits has not been done, trees and medicinal plants in the lease and adjoining areas have been felled while clearing the land for quarry

activity and illegal as well as uncontrolled blasting in the quarry has resulted in damages/cracks to the houses near Kharbhuni jungle village," the petitioner said. The petitioner also claimed that the overburden dumps were not being dressed, benched and barricaded so as to prevent soil erosion during monsoon. Besides, there is no garland drain around the mining pit. "Proper site visit has not been done by the district authorities prior to grant of environmental clearance. The District Survey Report (DSR) of Boudh is invalid as it is not approved by the SEIAA and SEAC. The quarry and the plot for which the

EC is granted is not a part of the DSR," the petitioner alleged. It was also alleged that the site has no billboard informing people about the conditions in mining. The environment clearance letter is neither displayed in Kharbhuni jungle village or panchayat office, nor is it available in the website of SEIAA, Odisha. "In the DSR, Kharbhuni-I stone quarry is located in khata no.2, plot no.50. However, the environmental clearance granted to the lessee mentions Kharbhuni I stone quarry on khata no.194, plot no.275/A," the petitioner pointed out. Judicial member Justice B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Dr Arun Kumar Verma posted the next hearing to October 10, 2024. The notices have also been served on Harabhanga tehsildar, deputy director of mining, deputy director of explosives, State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Odisha and the lessee.

WORLD FOOD INDIA 2024

MSME multi-product parks in all dists: Min



World Food India 2024 highlights Odisha's growth potential in food processing and its strategic role as an investment hub in the sector

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 23: In a bid to give an impetus to the food processing industry in the state, the state government is in the process of establishing MSME multi-product parks in all the districts. This was revealed by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Minister Gokulananda Mallik while addressing the World Food India 2024, organised by Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), held at Pragati Maidan here recently. World Food India 2024 provided a global platform for businesses to network, collaborate, and explore new avenues for growth. Odisha's active participation underscored the state's leadership in the food processing industry, positioning it as a preferred destination for investments, according to a release. "Key pillars such as facilitation, infrastructure, financing, market access and entrepre-

neurship are critical to the development of the food sector. The state government plays a pivotal role across these verticals. Both the Central and state governments continue to support the sector through policy initiatives and schemes for promotion and sustenance of MSMEs, including food processing units. In addition, MSME multi-product parks are being established in all districts to meet the infrastructure needs of the sector," said the MSME minister. The MoFPI successfully concluded World Food India 2024, with Odisha emerging as a key highlight for its exceptional display of diverse food products, innovative technologies, and significant investment opportunities, according to a release issued by the state government. The event brought together manufacturers, producers, food processors, buyers, investors, policymakers and global organisations, offering a comprehensive platform for collaboration across the food industry. The event featured a diverse range of activities, including exhibitions, conferences, thematic knowledge sessions, buyer-seller meetings for B2B en-

gagements, as well as B2G and G2G meetings, and CEO roundtable discussions. The Odisha Pavilion, with Palladium as the knowledge partner, stood out as one of the major attractions, captivating visitors with its vibrant representation of the state's rich cultural heritage. State Industries director D Prasanth Kumar Reddy, who inaugurated the Odisha Pavilion and interacted with exhibitors, lauded the contributions made by local entrepreneurs and their quality food products. As part of the event, the state government hosted a dedicated session titled 'Unlocking the Flavour of Odisha: Opportunities in Food Processing'. The session, moderated by MSME department special secretary Bibhuti Bhushana Dash, featured a distinguished panel that included the MSME minister, the department's principal secretary Hemant Sharma, Industries director Reddy, Palladium India CEO Amit Patjoshi, OUAT vice-chancellor Pravat Kumar Roul and Odisha Seafood Exporters' Association president Kamlesh Mishra. The panel discussion emphasised Odisha's growth potential in food processing and highlighted its strategic role as an investment hub in the sector. "We are grateful to the Odisha government for making Palladium their trusted partner to support the growth of MSMEs in food processing. As Odisha is one of the fastest growing economies in India, we are keen to take this partnership forward and contribute to its economic growth," said the Palladium India CEO.

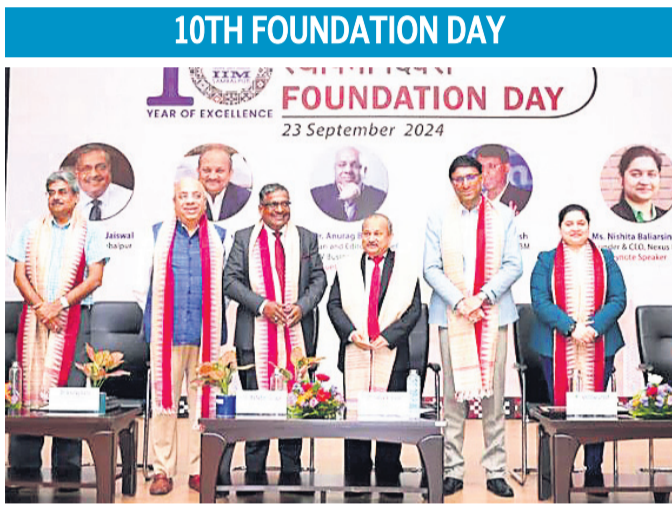


TAKING TO STREETS: Farmers from Aul Assembly constituency in Kendrapara stage a protest at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Monday, demanding CAG audit into functioning of all primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS) in the segment

IIM Sambalpur to introduce AI in classrooms

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar/Sambalpur, Sept 23: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sambalpur is set to introduce artificial intelligence (AI) in classrooms with an aim to transform the way students learn and gather knowledge. This announcement was made on the 10th Foundation Day of the institute, Monday. Addressing the event, IIM Sambalpur director Mahadeo Jaiswal said that the implementation of AI in classrooms will enable a transformative learning experience. He also shared about plans to organise a Women's Empowerment Summit in February to further the goals of Vikshit Bharat. Talking about the institute, he said, "IIM Sambalpur, which



beginning with just 49 MBA students in 2015, is today an institution with 320 MBA students and a ground-breaking 75 per cent female student body. We created world-class infrastructure and process of on boarding more than 60 start-ups under our incubation centre, and promoted international collaborations." He expressed his gratitude to

PM Narendra Modi, Education Minister Dharmendra Prahan and others who contributed to the building of the institute. Uday A Kaole, chairman and managing director of MCL, who graced the event as the chief guest, congratulated IIM Sambalpur for its accomplishments and lauded Jaiswal for his successful leadership. Other keynote speakers included Anurag Batra, who was the guest of honour, Nishita Baliaisingh co-founder and CEO at Nexus Power, and Anindya Ghosh, the associate partner at IBM. According to officials, the institute, this year, will have three centres of excellence, a more diverse MBA programme that is in line with National Education Policy's focused efforts towards international accreditations, and expansion of campus.

OCPL looks to sell surplus coal

New Delhi: State-run Odisha Coal and Power Ltd (OCPL) is looking to sell surplus coal from its mine in eastern India at a discount, an auction document showed, indicating lower demand for the fuel in the country. OCPL will auction 3 million tonne of its surplus coal via online auctions October 4 for power plants at a 15 per cent discount to the base price on the national coal index, according to sources. India's total domestic coal production rose 7.12 per cent from a year ago to reach 370 million tonne between April 1 and August 25, according to Coal Ministry data. The sale indicates high supply and reduced demand, said Riya Vyas, senior analyst at iEnergy Natural Resources Ltd. "At the moment, electricity demand from coal-fired power plants is limited, while domestic production has increased as the rains subside," Vyas said, referring to the ending of the annual monsoon. The country's coal production in the last fiscal, till March 31, rose to a record 997.828 million tonnes, a 12 per cent rise from a year ago. More than 75 per cent of India's power generation was from coal in 2023.

ASI conducts survey at Sun Temple

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: A day after completing the technical survey of Srimandir Ratna Bhandar in Puri, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conducted a ground penetrating survey (GPS) at the Sun Temple in Konark Monday. The survey, which will take

place over two days, aims to locate any hidden structures or artifacts beneath the ground, according to ASI Puri Circle Superintendent DB Garnayak. "We are utilising the machinery and scientific equipment brought to Odisha for the Ratna Bhandar survey. Following that, the Hyderabad-based National Geographical Research

Institute (NGRI) has agreed to conduct the GPS at the Konark Temple," an official said. The survey of the temple's surroundings is part of preparatory work for upcoming beautification efforts. A three-member team from NGRI conducted the GPS, assessing the potential existence of structures, artifacts, or debris up to 10 metres

below ground. Garnayak said the ASI will submit the survey report on the 13th-century temple to the government soon, enabling them to proceed with beautification based on the findings. The team included senior scientist AK Pandey and scientists Nilesh Kumar Jaiswal and Satish Chandra Verma.

Bhub Manipal Hospitals' campaign on heart health



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Manipal Hospitals, Bhubaneswar launched the Hrudaya Arogya Rath campaign, an initiative dedicated to raising awareness about heart health, here Monday. BMC Mayor Sulochana Das flagged off the campaign with a roadshow from BDA City Centre, engaging local residents and providing vital information on heart health. Present on the occasion were a team of renowned cardiologists, including Jajati Keshri Padhi, Lingaraj Nath, Mahesh Agarwal, Dibyanjan Behera, Pradeep Kumar Dash, along with cardio surgeon Jitendra Nath Pattnaik and Biswajeet Mohapatra. The seven-day campaign, which will cover Puri, Khurda and Cuttack districts, aims at educating communities about risk factors, preventive measures, and the significance of regular health check-ups. Institute director Saktimaya Mohapatra said, "We are thrilled to launch the campaign, reflecting our commitment to improving heart health awareness in the region. The campaign is an integral part of our efforts to create a healthier and more informed society." "Through awareness, education and engagement, the campaign seeks to empower individuals to make informed choices for their cardiovascular well-being," he added. An institute official informed that Manipal Ambulance Response Services (MARS) is available 24x7 for medical emergencies and people can call the emergency helpline at 0674-6666666 in situations like cardiac arrests, strokes, or accidents. "The hospital's accident and emergency care department is fully equipped with experienced doctors to handle emergency situations and other medical crises, ensuring round-the-clock care for critical conditions," the official added.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGE 'Sanketa-Mo Bhasha' to produce 100 sign language interpreters

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: In a bid to promote sign language and empower the hearing-impaired community across the state, the state government, in partnership with Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech & Hearing Disability (AYJNSHD) and Odisha Rising Foundation (ORF), launched 'Sanketa-Mo Bhasha' project at Janla, Monday, marking the celebration of International Day of Sign Language. The ceremony commenced with the welcome address by assistant director of AYJNSHD-DRC Janla Lanu Wanboy Aimol, followed by the lighting of the inaugural lamp by esteemed dignitaries, including Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department director Niyati Pattnaik and the department's additional secretary Santosh Pradhan. The event featured the official introduction to 'Sanketa-Mo Bhasha' project by chair-



man of ORF Akhaya Sagar. This project is designed to promote awareness, provide training and create opportunities for the deaf community by offering sign language interpreter training. Pradhan outlined the government's commitment to enhancing services for people with disabilities and supporting projects like 'Sanketa-Mo Bhasha'. SSEPD director Pattnaik delivered an inspiring speech highlighting the department's continuous efforts towards disability inclusion and growing need for more sign language interpreters to bridge communication gaps. She also said, "In this first phase, we are going to pro-

AM/NS India launches dengue awareness campaign in Barbil

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) India recently launched a month-long dengue awareness campaign in Thakurani village and several wards of Barbil Municipality. The initiative aims to spread awareness and combat the spread of the vector-borne disease in the area. The campaign includes fogging, anti-larva spraying, and distributing informative leaflets to households. A dengue awareness mobile van was flagged off at Kara Basti, by Ward II councillor Babirani Mahanta, manager of Thakurani Iron Ore Mines, AM/NS India, Mukesh Thawait and Lead-CSR, Barbil, AM/NS India, Arun Agrawal, in presence of community members, schoolchildren, and company employees. Thawait said, "Dengue is a major challenge in this area, and we believe that collective participation is key to overcoming it." Mahanta said, "AM/NS India's commitment to community health is commendable."

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

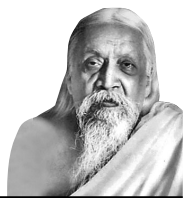
By virtue of an affidavit by the Executive Magistrate, vide No.-2004, dt. 12.05.17, I Subash Chandra Das, Village-Ganeswarpur, P.O.-Januganj, P.S.- Industrial, Dist.-Balasore have changed the name of my son from "Aritra Das" to "Swasti Swayam Das". Henceforth, he will be known as "Swasti Swayam Das" for all purposes.

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Spirituality is indeed the master key of the Indian mind; the sense of the infinitive is native to it.

SRI AUROBINDO



Electoral Strike

The BJP-led NDA government's decision to accept the recommendations of a high level committee, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, to go ahead with the idea of simultaneous elections, dubbed as "One Nation, One Election," is not merely an administrative action. Under the changed circumstances of the BJP's failure to win a simple majority in the Lok Sabha elections held a few months back, it assumes a greater significance. The message that is sought to be given, it seems, is that the BJP is getting over the initial shock of failing to form the government on its own, and increasingly asserting its authority. The Prime Minister had been maintaining a low profile since the election results were announced. He gave the impression that he was chastened and subdued by the poll verdict that dashed his hope and confidence that the BJP alone would cross the 350-mark. The electorate did not repose its trust in the BJP the way the PM had expected. This made the Opposition euphoric and the BJP top brass, especially the PM and Home Minister Amit Shah, withdrew into a shell.

It appears the BJP top leadership feels that by simply re-instating old faces in their old ministries and terming the current government as 3.0 yet remaining in the defensive mode is giving a wrong message to both the nation and party supporters. Hence, the PM could have started to go on the offensive to tell the nation that he is in command of the situation. Such a stance is particularly needed in view of the elections in Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir, in particular.

The PM first chose the emotive Ganesh Puja recently to create the impression that even the judiciary is willing to rub shoulders with him and play second fiddle to the executive. Apparently, he deliberately posted in his X handle the picture of his visit to the Chief Justice of India (CJI)'s house performing 'aarti' on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. This was a calculated step to mix religion with politics and drag the judiciary into it so as to refurbish the image of a demoralised and defeated BJP unable to get the numbers to rule on its own. In the process, the PM breached the convention of the executive staying away from the judiciary. The dictum that justice is seen to be done makes it mandatory that judges do not mix with the executive since it means a conflict of interests, the government often being a litigant. In this case, the CJI came under severe criticism for allowing such an incident, much more than the PM. The Opposition cried itself hoarse, but the PM was not bothered. He questioned the Congress' intent for criticising his visit.

This supposedly has emboldened the BJP so much that the controversial issue of "One Nation, One Election" was brought back in an unabashed manner and the Cabinet cleared the Kovind committee recommendations. However, apart from the mathematical ability in the Parliament, it seems extremely difficult for the government to swing this deal due to internal counter pressures.

The committee envisaged simultaneous Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections as the first step, followed by municipal and panchayat polls within 100 days of the general election. For this, the government would need to get constitutional amendments to be passed, in Parliament and in majority of State Assemblies. Two key reasons have been given for the proposal. The first is that the cost of conducting these elections would be significantly reduced if held together. The second is that if there are no simultaneous elections, political parties would remain busy with prolonged campaigns affecting governance and legislative work. However, there has been little to no data to support the first reason. Already, general elections take an inordinately long time, with some state polls being held in multiple phases.

One of the committee's recommendations is that if a State Assembly gets dissolved before five years of its term, after the "appointed date" for synchronising Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, fresh "midterm" elections will be held but the new Assembly will not have a full five-year tenure which will end five years from the "appointed date." This provision militates against the original idea of cost-cutting through simultaneous elections. It also goes against the concept of federalism.

In a multi-tiered governance system, people choose their representatives based on their perception of who is best suited. Each tier has its importance of its own.

The second reason is that representatives are in campaign mode for far too long and as such polls to every tier should all be held during the same period. The fact that national representatives of parties are forever in campaign mode is actually the fallout of the centralising tendencies of parties that are in power. Replacing multi-tier elections with simultaneous mode has the potential to reduce the importance of each tier, especially the Assembly and municipal/panchayat levels, and is anti-federal.

Finally, according to the proposal, the tenures of quite a few state governments will have to be cut short.

The new system may sound the death knell of democracy and therefore needs to be given a decent and immediate burial.

WISDOM CORNER

- The greatest deception men suffer is from their own opinions. **LEONARDO DA VINCI**
- I put my heart and my soul into my work, and have lost my mind in the process. **VINCENT VAN GOGH**
- The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls. **PABLO PICASSO**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1869:** Plummeting gold prices led to a panic known as Black Friday, when U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant, after learning of an attempt by Jay Gould and James Fisk to drive up the gold market, ordered \$4 million of government gold to be sold on the market.
- 1877:** Saigo Takamori, a hero of the Meiji Restoration, was killed after reluctantly leading a rebellion against the Meiji government.
- 1906:** Devils Tower in northeastern Wyoming was named the first national monument in the United States.
- 1960:** The first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the Enterprise, was launched in the United States.
- 1968:** The prime-time American television news show 60 Minutes debuted; created by Don S. Hewitt and featuring such reporters as Mike Wallace, it became one of the most successful programs in broadcast history.

LOL

The tradition at weddings

A little boy, at a wedding looks at his mom and says, "Mommy, why does the girl wear white?" His mom replies, "The bride is in white because she's happy and this is the happiest

day of her life." The boy thinks about this, and then says, "Well then, why is the boy wearing black?"



FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

LET POLLUTERS PAY

For most people, the idea of suddenly losing everything – their home, their possessions, and even their family members and friends – is unthinkable. But, for island communities around the world, this idea is all too real. And as the effects of climate change – including more frequent and severe natural disasters and extreme weather events – intensify, the threat is becoming increasingly acute.

Seven years ago, my home, the small island country of Dominica, was struck by Hurricane Maria – a Category 5 hurricane, which caused catastrophic loss and damage from which we are still recovering. Two other island countries, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, fell victim to a similar tragedy this past summer, when Hurricane Beryl, a Category 4 storm, tore through the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

Hurricanes have long been a feature of life in the Caribbean. But Maria and Beryl were no ordinary hurricanes: Maria brought record-breaking rainfall, and Beryl was the earliest hurricane in history to reach Category 5 in the Atlantic Ocean. Scientists agree that climate change powered these disasters – and has made more storms like them far more likely.

It bears repeating that the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change – especially small island developing states (SIDS), like Dominica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada – are often those that have done the least to cause it. As a result, we have little power to mitigate it directly, such as by reducing our own (already low) emissions. But we can still contribute to overcoming the challenge. The key is to work together to compel big polluters to change



There are few polluters bigger than the shipping industry. Not only is shipping responsible for around 3% of total global greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions; it also pollutes our oceans with sewage, plastics, and oil and chemicals

their behavior.

There are few polluters bigger than the shipping industry. Not only is shipping responsible for around 3% of total global greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions; it also pollutes our oceans with sewage, plastics, and oil and chemicals. Shipping thus causes serious harm to human health, especially for low-income port communities in developing countries, with pollutants from ships estimated to contribute to over 250,000 premature deaths annually.

To be sure, a functioning shipping industry remains essential both to the global economy and to life in SIDS. Ships move around 80% of all traded products worldwide; for Dominica, this includes virtually all vital goods, from food to medical supplies. Shipping also facilitates the tourism that supports so many livelihoods on our island.

But, while shipping is essential, so is reducing the associated pollution. That is why the

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea – the world's highest court for marine protection – issued an unprecedented advisory opinion in May stating that countries are legally obliged to cut emissions, including from shipping, in order to protect the ocean.

Putting a price on the industry's GHG emissions would go a long way toward advancing that objective. Requiring shipping companies to pay for every ton of emissions from their vessels would raise the cost of using fossil fuels, thereby accelerating the shift toward clean-energy sources.

According to a recent study by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, such a levy would harm the global economy less than other approaches to decarbonizing shipping, such as a clean-fuel standard. And if the revenues generated are directed toward developing economies, the surcharge could reduce global inequality. Those revenues would

be substantial: according to the World Bank, a levy of \$150 per ton would generate \$60-80 billion per year.

For countries like Dominica, such a policy would be a game-changer. It would reduce the pollution from ships that come to our shores, make our ports and supply chains more resilient to rising sea levels and extreme weather events, advance a just energy transition, and support progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

An ideal opportunity to accelerate progress toward this goal is about to unfold in London. Between September 23 and October 4, the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) and its 175 member states will attempt to agree on a set of policies for reducing shipping emissions, including some form of emissions pricing, to be adopted in April 2025.

In the negotiations, SIDS must stand together to ensure that the levy is sufficiently high, and that the revenues will be distributed equitably. Already, a growing majority of countries want to see a levy mechanism adopted at the IMO, but others, including Brazil and China, continue to resist this opportunity.

Belize and Pacific island states are calling for a price of \$150 per ton, with the revenues going mostly to SIDS and least developed countries to finance investment in zero-emissions energy, ships and maritime infrastructure, and broader climate and resilience goals. More countries, in the Caribbean and beyond, must join them. When speaking in unison, our voices will matter.

The writer is a climate smart agriculture officer at the World University Service of Canada.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM CLIMATE CHANGE

Dealing with man-made disasters

States affected by floods are perennially reaching out to the Centre for release of immediate funds to mitigate the widespread devastation caused by the floods.

The latest case in West Bengal reiterates the factor of man-made floods. The release of water by the dams of the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) has caused inundation in over seven districts with lakhs of people rendered homeless. The chief minister has frequently questioned the release of water by the DVC and alleged that proper dredging is not being carried out by this Central agency. While release of water by the dams is inevitable after the storage capacity is breached, there is also need for dredging to check release of water. But it is strange why before the release of water, the people cannot be transferred to rehabilitation camps.

Then river flooding is a common phenomenon. This happens in various parts of the country at different points of time. One may refer to the recent flooding in the prestigious city of Varanasi, which the Prime Minister claimed to convert to a smart city. According to river scientists, construction in the streams of the river, dumping of construction materials in the river and reno-

vation of the ghats in recent years without protecting the old sewer lines are some of the reasons behind the flood.

The dumping of several hundred tonnes of debris in the Ganga in Varanasi in the last three years due to renovations and modern buildings coming up has resulted in floods. Obviously, in such a high-profile city there is lack of proper planning and proper estimation of the capacity of the river to hold water. Not just Varanasi, many cities, even metro cities like Chennai are affected almost every year. This has accentuated in recent years due to climate change causing erratic rainfall and other such factors.

In such a situation, it is heartening to note that the government has launched Mission Mausam for which an investment of Rs 2000 crore over the next two years has been made which will involve a major upgrade in India's weather forecasting infrastructure to raise area specific, short and medium-term forecast accuracy by around 10%. The Mission will also focus on broadening the observation network with the installation of next generation technology, including supercomputers, dopplers, wind profilers, radiometers and GIS-based automated

decision-making instruments that will enhance capacities to provide accurate and timely weather updates.

While the Mission's plans and programmes look quite encouraging, it is necessary that these are implemented judiciously so that poor people, who are mostly affected by floods, do not have to suffer much because of this natural calamity.

At the same time, flooding is a global phenomenon, and there are countries other than India severely affected by floods and cyclones almost every year. Losses due to floods are immense and for countries like India, where there is significant population pressure, millions of dollars are lost every year. A new study predicted that global flooding incidence could increase by 49% between 2020 and 2100 if the world continues to follow the ominous path of emitting greenhouse gases by following the present strategy of development.

The biggest increase in flooding incidence is projected to be around coastlines in tropical Africa and Asia, and in arid North Africa. The North Atlantic and Indian Ocean coasts, as well as south-eastern Asia and the Pacific Islands are likely to see the most pronounced effects, a paper published in Water

Resources Research noted.

Projections reveal that river-triggered flooding is likely to occur in sub-Saharan Africa, southern, eastern, and south-eastern Asia, and South America. Meanwhile, rainfall-induced flooding hazards appear to intensify and are especially vulnerable to human-caused climate change. They are likely to increase by 6% by 2100 in a low emissions scenario, and 44% in a high emissions model, the study highlighted.

In understanding the recurrence of floods, many studies have highlighted that the world may witness a consistent and large change in coastal flood hazard globally. There are reports that this may almost double, even in a low emissions scenario. This is because the mean ocean temperature will continue to increase even after global surface air temperature has stopped climbing. This causes the water to expand, leading to an increase in sea levels.

The writing is on the wall and not paying heed would be a great folly. While the vagaries of climate are not in the hands of the government, it should go all-out to get its act together when it comes to floods triggered by man-made mistakes.



Dhurjati Mukherjee

THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL AND NOT PAYING HEED WOULD BE A GREAT FOLLY

People's verdict

Sir, Sri Lanka's presidential election reinforced a global trend in which parties based on old frames of thinking are no longer acceptable to the public. This is due to their inability to provide solutions to people's everyday difficulties. Such an approach has gained traction in traditional thinking, and the interests of the 'economy' and the common man have begun to appear incompatible. On the one hand, the economy develops or performs better, while the everyday existence of the average person deteriorates. Following the Aragayala (people's uprising) of 2022, Sri Lanka's ruling system appointed Ranil Wickremesinghe, the head of the party that won only one seat in the previous parliamentary election, as President. Wickremesinghe attempted to solve the extraordinary economic crisis by finding sanctuary in the IMF. The Wickremesinghe government accepted the IMF's tough requirements and obtained a loan from them. This eliminated all subsidies, including those for food and electricity. The tax burden on the middle class and the average man has increased. As a result, most people's current state is said to be poorer than in 2022. Given Wickremesinghe's high unpopularity, the traditional forces backed Opposition leader SJB's Sajitha Premadasa in the presidential election. Premadasa positioned himself as a savior without proposing any alternative policies. Meanwhile, more than 20 organizations banded together to form the National People's Power (NPP), which was led by the Marxist party Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP). Breaking from the norm, the NPP presented voters with an alternative strategy that included ordinary people-centric economic ideas. Anura Kumara Dissanayake, 56, the charismatic head of the JVP and an NPP candidate, has been elected President of the country. **Abhijit Roy, JAMSHEDPUR**

Kudos to RPF

Sir, On and often we come across incidents of railway passengers losing their lives or severely getting injured due to slips, trips and falls occurring on railway platforms. Many passengers have got killed getting stuck between the train and the platform either while alighting or boarding a moving train. Many a lives have been saved in the past because of alertness and prompt action of Railway Protection Force personnel. Slips, trips, and falls often occur due to carelessness and ignorance. **M Pradyu, KANNUR**

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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2ND PHASE OF J&K POLLS

High-octane campaigning ends

SECOND PHASE OF POLLING WEDNESDAY WILL DECIDE THE POLITICAL FATE OF 239 CANDIDATES, INCLUDING FORMER CM OMAR ABDULLAH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu/Srinagar, Sept 23: Ruling and Opposition bigwigs led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi locked horns on the political stage as campaigning for the second phase of the Jammu and Kashmir polls ended Monday evening.

The blazing campaign saw emotional appeals to people and uncouth remarks about rivals, as the leaders tried to woo voters of 26 Assembly constituencies spread across six districts of the Union Territory, including the summer capital Srinagar.

There are 25.78 lakh eligible voters in the penultimate phase of the three-phase Assembly elections. An estimated 61.38 per cent of the electorate cast their ballots in the first phase of polling September 18, while the third phase of elections covering the remaining 40 Assembly segments will go to polls in the final phase October 1. The votes will be counted October 8.

This is the first Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir post the abrogation of Article 370 which granted special status to the region and its bifurcation into two Union Territories in August 2019. The last Assembly elections were held in 2014.

Modi addressed two rallies, one each in Srinagar and Katra in Reasi district, September 19, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed rallies in



Peoples Conference candidate from Zadibal constituency Abid Hussain Ansari shows victory sign during a 'shikara' rally ahead of the 2nd phase election of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, at Dal Lake in Srinagar, Monday,

Mendhar, Surankote, Thanamandi, Rajouri and Nowshera in the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also dashed to the two districts in the Jammu region to canvas for the BJP candidates and addressed rallies in Poonch, Budhal and Sunderbani during his daylong tour Sunday. Both Shah and Singh addressed rallies in Akhnoor and Sainik colony in Jammu, while BJP president JP Nadda also visited Jammu to attend election-related events.

The star campaigners of the Congress included its president Mallikarjun Kharge and the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

Gandhi addressed two rallies -- one in the Surankote constituency in Poonch and another in the Central-Shalteng segment in Srinagar -- to pull the curtains on the high-pitched campaign of the Congress.

The BJP also deployed several of its Union ministers and senior party functionaries, including Jitendra Singh and G Kishan Reddy for campaigning, while the Congress campaign featured AICC national secretary Sachin Pilot, Alka Lamba and other leaders. National Conference president Farooq Abdullah extensively campaigned for his party candidates on either side of the Pir Panjal Mountain Range while his son and vice president Omar Abdullah largely focused on the valley seats as he is contesting from Ganderbal and Budgam segments.

Iltija Mufti seems to have taken over the mantle of lead campaigner for the PDP as party president Mehbooba Mufti was not as active as she used to be in earlier elections.

The campaigning had its share of emotional moments particularly the cap-removing gesture by Omar Abdullah while seeking support from the people of Ganderbal. The former chief minister impressed upon people that it was not only his dignity that was at stake but of all people.

There were also incidents of the discourse going downhill with some candidates using foul language against their rivals.

Sugra, the daughter of jailed separatist leader Sarjan Ahmad Barkati, was at the receiving end of verbal abuse as she campaigned for her father, contesting from Ganderbal and Beerwah segments.

The second phase of polling September 25 will decide the political fate of 239 candidates, including former chief minister Omar Abdullah.

Other prominent candidates in the fray include Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina (Nowshera constituency), Pradesh Congress Committee president Tariq Hamid Karra (Central-Shalteng), Apni party president Altaf Bukhari (Channapora), former ministers Ali Sagar (Khanyar), Rahim Rather (Chrar-i-Sharief), and Choudhary Zulfikar (Budhal) and Syed Mushtaq Bukhari (Surankote), both of whom are fighting on a BJP ticket.

Officials said the political blitzkrieg witnessed over the past few weeks ended peacefully at 6pm Monday for the mandatory 48-hour 'silence period' before the conclusion of the day-long polling Wednesday which is scheduled to start at 7am.

According to officials, the highest 93 candidates are trying their luck from eight seats of Srinagar district, followed by 46 in five seats of Budgam district, 34 in five seats of Rajouri district, 25 in three seats of Poonch district, 21 in two seats of Ganderbal district and 20 in three seats of Reasi district.

Over 15.5K Kashmiri Pandits eligible to vote in 2nd phase

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Sept 23: More than 15,500 displaced Kashmiri Pandit voters from across the country are eligible to vote at 24 polling stations in the second phase of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election Wednesday.

The polling, scheduled to be held in 26 Assembly segments of six districts in the Union Territory September 25, will decide the fate of 239 candidates.

The displaced Kashmiri Pandits will be exercising their right to franchise in the 15 segments of central Kashmir's Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal districts.

Over 15,500 Kashmiri migrant voters are eligible to cast their votes at 24 special polling stations set up in Jammu, Udhampur and Delhi tomorrow for the second phase of elections, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Arvind Karwani told PTI.



Karwani, who is supervising the election process, said over 14,700 such voters are registered in Jammu to exercise their right to franchise at 19 polling stations here.

Similarly, over 600 Kashmiri migrant voters are registered in Delhi to cast their votes at four polling stations in Delhi and over 350 at one such polling station in Udhampur, he said.

Although the majority of Kashmiri Pandit population lives in Delhi and NCR areas, a minuscule number of over 600 have registered for the polling in current Assembly elections.

Karwani, who is supervising to facilitate better arrangements and facilities for the displaced community voters, said all arrangements have been made for free and fair polling Wednesday.



Members of Yuva Rajput Sabha celebrate the birth anniversary Maharaja Hari Singh, in Jammu, Monday PTI PHOTO

Violence during Ganesh immersion processions puts K'taka Cong in spot



The images of Lord Ganesh's idol being placed inside a police vehicle used to transport detainees in Bangalore have hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus

PM Modi referenced the images during an election rally in Haryana, stating, "In Congress-ruled Karnataka, even Ganapati is being put in jail"

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Sept 23: The series of violent incidents during the Ganesh Visarjan procession, ahead of by-elections in Karnataka, is proving to be a setback for the Congress party and its government.

Congress leaders have confessed that they are concerned about the incidents connected to stone-pelting and rioting in Nagamangala town in Mandya district, known as a Vokkaliga heartland, where more than 20 shops were burnt. Additionally, stone-pelting and communal unrest in Davanagere City, located in central Karnataka, have also become a problem for the party.

The images of Lord Ganesh's idol being casually carried away by police personnel during the protests in Bangalore, and the sacred idol being placed inside a police vehicle used to transport detainees have hurt the religious sentiments of Hindus.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi referenced the images during an election rally in Haryana, stating, "In Congress-ruled Karnataka, even Ganapati is being put in jail." The BJP and Hindu organisations have since criticised the Congress government for its handling of the situation.

Home Minister G Parameshwara's statement downplaying the event as a "small incident" only fuelled further criticism of the party. The BJP also objected to the police initially

naming the event organisers as the first 23 accused and later adding names from the Muslim community in the FIR related to the Nagamangala case.

The death of a 23-year-old Hindu youth, Kiran, from the Badrikoppalu area of Nagamangala, who disappeared after fearing arrest in connection with the violence, is likely to further complicate matters for the Congress party Kiran had left his village after the incident September 11, fearing arrest. He was admitted to the hospital Friday and died of a brain stroke Saturday (September 21). Kiran's father is also under arrest. Kiran is named as the 17th accused in the case.

The BJP has also criticised the Congress government after Tumakuru University issued a circular restricting students from participating in Ganesh Utsav.

The Congress, which is already facing the consolidation of the influential Vokkaliga and Lingayat vote banks and suffered a setback in the Parliamentary elections, now faces the challenge of retaining its SC, ST, and OBC vote banks, which have been core strengths for the party.

This is happening at a critical time when by-elections for three Assembly seats are due.

Above all, Ganesh Visarjan processions will continue until October in the state, and the Congress is worried about the unfolding events.

HC tightens rules on live-streaming after judge's controversial remarks

The changes come after K'taka HC Justice V Srishananda's remarks, which led to public backlash, prompting the judge to express regret

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 23: The Karnataka High Court has introduced strict guidelines for live-streaming of judicial proceedings to prevent unauthorised sharing of clips on social media platforms.

The incident stems from remarks made by a single judge recently. These comments, made during a live-streamed hearing, sparked widespread criticism after video clips went viral.

To address this, the High Court has issued a note titled, "Prohibitions and Restrictions on Usage of the Recording or Live Stream," which is now displayed at the beginning of live-streamed sessions.

The note prohibits any unauthorised recording, sharing, or dissemination of live-streamed proceedings and archival data, including on social media and



messaging platforms. Only authorised individuals or entities are permitted to handle such recordings. The court also warned that anyone found violating these rules would face legal consequences under the Indian Copyright Act, 1957, the Information Technology Act, 2000, and contempt of court laws.

Further, the note underscores the court's exclusive copyright over its recordings and mandates that the use of authorised recordings—allowed for news, educational, and training purposes—must not be edited or repurposed for commercial use.

Srinagar's spirit of co-existence amid historical challenges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 23: In a striking display of communal harmony, a Kashmiri Pandit temple and a mosque stand just 100-200 metres apart in the heart of downtown Srinagar, symbolising the enduring spirit of co-existence in a region often overshadowed by conflict and violence.

Despite the tumultuous history of Kashmir, the bond between the majority Muslim community and the minority Kashmiri Pandits remains strong, embodying the ethos of Kashmiriyat -- a cultural concept promoting brotherhood and mutual respect.

Local Muslims have taken an active role in supporting the Purushyur temple in the Habba Kadal area, fostering an atmosphere of respect for each other's beliefs.

Babloo Jee Bhat, the temple's caretaker for the past 18 years, expressed gratitude for the Muslim community's support.

"I live in a Muslim neighbourhood and they have always been supportive. I have never faced harm from anyone," he told PTI Videos.

Reflecting on the challenges faced by Kashmiri Pandits since their migration to Jammu in 1990, Bhat noted a significant improvement in the region's atmosphere since 2018, marked by the end of stone pelting and curfews.

"Life is returning to normal now," he said, countering negative stereotypes by emphasising that only a small number of individuals had disrupted the peace in Kashmir.

Sushil Kaul, the caretaker of another Hindu temple in the same area, echoed Bhat.



"I travel between Kashmir and Jammu, my family has always lived here. Muslims and Kashmiri Pandits have coexisted peacefully," he said, ex-

Exhibition at UN's Broken Chair on terrorism victims in Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

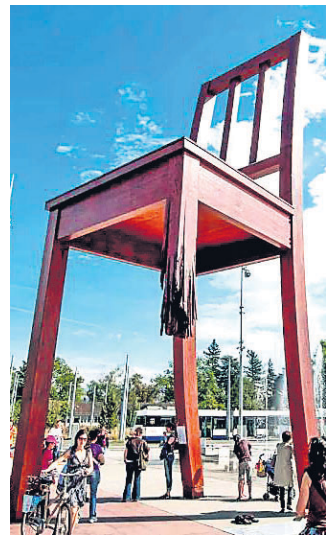
Geneva, Sept 23: A photo exhibition highlighting the plight of victims of terrorism in Kashmir was held recently at the United Nations' Broken Chair.

The central focus of the exhibition, organised by ECO FAWN Society, was to humanise the statistics surrounding terrorism, giving a voice to the affected communities, particularly women and children, in Kashmir, according to a press release.

The event was aimed to raise awareness about the ongoing struggles faced by the region's people. Through striking imagery, the exhibition vividly depicted the personal stories of loss, survival, and resilience in the face of decades of violence and instability, it said.

The exhibition was attended by UN delegates, diplomats, foreign travellers, NGOs, human rights activists, media personnel, and members of the public from diverse backgrounds.

The participants praised the initiative for creating a platform



to foster empathy and dialogue on the issue, the release said. Public feedback emphasised the emotional impact of the photographs, inspiring conversations about peace, reconciliation, and justice for the victims.

The ECO FAWN Society is a non-governmental organisation focused on environmental and human rights issues.

highlighted the close proximity of the Valley's oldest mosque, just 50 metres away.

"We have never encountered any trouble," he affirmed, reinforcing the message of coexistence. As the region gears up for the final two phases of the Assembly elections September 25 and October 1, residents are hopeful for a reaffirmation of their shared values.

"We want to see a Kashmir where people live together in peace and harmony," Kaul emphasised, underscoring the importance of community support and unity.

The experiences of Bhat, Kaul and Tiku serve as a poignant reminder that, despite the historical challenges, the essence of Kashmiriyat continues to thrive, fostering resilience and hope for a harmonious future in the Valley.

national

of the day quote

I assure all support to the emerging investment in this frontier sector. Let West Bengal be the true destination for knowledge-based industries

MAMATA BANERJEE | CM, WEST BENGAL

The world's largest Rewa ultra mega Solar Power Project has become functional. It has been included as a case study by Harvard University in terms of an ideal example of excellent management operations

MOHAN YADAV | CM, MADHYA PRADESH

Union Territory of Puducherry is a small geographical area with a very little consumption base and the scope of additional revenue mobilisation through taxes is very limited after the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST)

N RANGASAMY | CM, PUDUCHERRY

SHORT TAKES

2 boys drown in Nashik farm pond

Nashik: Two minor boys drowned in a pond in Maharashtra's Nashik city while trying to catch crabs, police said Monday. The incident took place Sunday afternoon in Sanjeevanagar located on Ambad-Satpur link road. The two boys along with another friend went to the pond located at a farm near their houses, a police official said. While trying to catch crabs, the victims, aged 8 and 11 and residents of Viratnagar, slipped into the water. They could not ascertain the water depth and drowned, he said. Later, police and fire brigade personnel launched a rescue operation, but could not save the two minors.

Road crash leaves two dead in UP

Budaun (UP): Two people were killed and another seriously injured in a collision between a roadways bus and a motorcycle in Wazirganj area of the district early Monday, police said. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Brajesh Singh said the accident occurred near the JJ petrol pump in Ban Kota village at around 12:30 am. The roadways bus collided with the motorcycle carrying three people. Two of the riders died on the spot, he said.

History- sheeter shot dead in TN

Chennai: 'Seizing' Raja, a proclaimed offender who was arrested from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, was shot dead here Monday after he attempted to flee from custody by opening fire on them, police said. When the accused was taken to a location on the outskirts of the city to recover weapons hidden by him, he tried to escape and shot at the police team. A police officer fired at him in self-defence and he succumbed to his injuries, a senior official said.

2 labourers killed as tractor overturns

Buldhana (Maharashtra): Two labourers were killed and three other persons seriously injured after their tractor-trolley loaded with concrete poles overturned in Maharashtra's Buldhana district, police said Monday. The accident took place Sunday afternoon on Borakhedi-Vadgaon road, they said. Out of the three injured persons, a 22-year-old man was an Agniveer aspirant and had cleared its recruitment exam, his relative said.

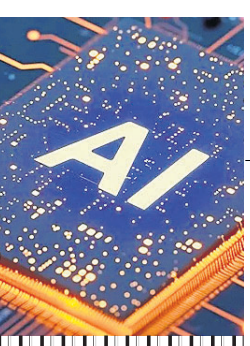


The BJP gang from all over the country are entering Jharkhand in view of upcoming elections. Around a dozen chief ministers, the Prime Minister and Home minister of the country are after a tribal chief minister here to remove him. Let's see who is more powerful, the capitalists or the poor of the state

HEMANT SOREN | CM, JHARKHAND

CERT-IN & SISA LAUNCHES FIRST OF ITS KIND AI SECURITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME

A first of its kind AI security certification programme in India was launched Monday. Certified Security Professional for Artificial Intelligence (CSPA) is a joint project between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and SISA



Atishi takes charge as Delhi CM

THE NEW CM INVITES BJP, CONG REBUKE FOR KEEPING EMPTY CHAIR FOR KEJRIWAL



Atishi has retained the 13 portfolios she held in the Kejriwal government, including those of Education, Revenue, Finance, Power and Public Works departments

The chair of the chief minister of Delhi belongs to him (Kejriwal). Till then, this chair (pointing towards the chair next to her) will remain in this room, waiting for him

ATISHI MARLENA SINGH | CM, DELHI

New Delhi, Sept 23: AAP leader Atishi took charge as the chief minister of Delhi Monday, and kept the chair used by her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal empty and "waiting for him", a move the BJP and the Congress said was a "grave insult" to the post.

Talking to reporters at the CM's office after taking charge, Atishi referred to the Hindu epic Ramayana and said her situation was like that of Lord Ram's brother Bharat who had to rule Ayodhya after Lord Ram went into exile for 14 years.

In the chief minister's office at the Delhi Secretariat, the 43-year-old Atishi sat in a white chair next to the red one used by AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal.

"The chair of the chief minister of Delhi belongs to him (Kejriwal). Till then, this chair (pointing towards the chair next to her) will remain in this room, waiting for him," she said.

She said she will run the Delhi government for the next four

carried out with ill-intentions. Had there been somebody else, they wouldn't have even thought for a moment and sat on the chief minister's chair, but he chose to resign, she said.

Meanwhile, other Cabinet minister also took charge of their portfolios.

Atishi has retained the 13 portfolios she held in the Kejriwal government, including those of education, revenue, finance, power and Public Works Department (PWD).

Exuding confidence of an AAP victory in the Assembly polls to be held in February, she said the people of Delhi will again choose Kejriwal as chief minister.

The BJP and the Congress attacked Atishi over her decision not to sit in the chair used by Kejriwal.

"What she did was not ideal. Through her gesture, she has not only insulted the post of chief minister but also hurt the feelings of the people of Delhi. Arvind Kejriwal needs to answer whether he will run the government through a remote control," Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said.

Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav said Atishi has proved herself to be a "dummy" chief minister.

months just as Bharat ruled Ayodhya by keeping Lord Shri Ram's 'khadaun' (wooden slippers) on the throne for 14 years.

She said that Lord Ram fulfilled a commitment made by his father that is why he is called "Maryada Purushottam" and whose life is an example in dignity and morality.

BANGALORE FRIDGE HORROR

Prime suspect identified, from West Bengal

In the case that has brought back memories of the infamous Shraddha Walkar killing, Mahalakshmi's body was found Saturday in the refrigerator in her flat at Vyalikaval



Bangalore, Sept 23: The prime suspect in the gruesome murder of a 29-year-old woman, whose body was chopped into 50 pieces and stored in a refrigerator, has been identified and is from West Bengal, Karnataka Home Minister G Paramaeshwara said Monday and assured that the culprit will be nabbed soon.

In the case that has brought back memories of the infamous Shraddha Walkar killing, Mahalakshmi's body was found Saturday in the refrigerator in her flat at Vyalikaval here.

"Already some information has been collected, which I cannot reveal now...but we will soon nab those involved in it...an individual- they say is the one (in-

olved), but unless we have more information, we can't really confirm. He is from West Bengal, they say. As early as possible we will secure (those involved)," Paramaeshwara told reporters.

Later, talking to the media, City Police Commissioner B Dayananda said, "the suspect has been identified and he is an outsider". The maggots-infested body of Mahalakshmi was discovered by her mother and elder sister at her home Saturday.

Responding to a question about reports that one person was already taken into custody in connection with the case, Paramaeshwara said, "Police bring in suspects and inquire them. If somebody confesses (to the crime), then they will be taken into custody." The deceased woman's estranged husband has expressed suspicion about a man known to her.

India reports first case of Mpox Clade 1b strain



New Delhi, Sept 23: India has reported the first case of the Mpox strain, which led to the WHO declaring it a public health emergency last month, in a patient from Kerala who had tested positive last week, official sources said Monday.

They said Clade 1b strain has been detected in a 38-year-old man from Malapuram district who had recently returned from the United Arab Emirates.

The patient is stable, the sources said, adding "this was the first case of the current strain that led to the World Health Organization declaring Mpox a public health emergency last month for a second time".

The earlier case of Mpox that emerged in the national capital was a 26-year-old resident of Haryana's Hisar who has tested positive for the previous West African Clade 2 strain earlier this month. Since the 2022 declaration of Mpox as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the WHO, 30 cases

were reported in India.

Meanwhile, Kerala Health minister Veena George has already appealed to the public, including those returning from abroad with any symptoms, to inform the health department and seek treatment at the earliest.

In a social media post, she also released a list of state-run hospitals in various districts where treatment and isolation facilities for the affected persons have been arranged. Besides this, treatment was available in all medical colleges in the state, the minister said.

Urging people to be vigilant, George said the state Health department has already stepped up surveillance in airports in the state in accordance with the Centre's guidelines in the wake of the outbreak of Mpox in many African countries.

Those arriving from the nations where the infection was reported have been instructed to report at the airport if they develop any symptoms, she said.

COURT CORNER

Delhi HC sets aside Centre's decision to blacklist Haj Group Organisers

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has set aside the Centre's decision to blacklist several Haj Group Organizers over alleged violations of the Haj Policy, 2023. Justice Sanjeev Narua, while dealing with over 15 pleas by the organisers, said the show cause notices issued to the petitioners had "vague language" and therefore blacklisting orders were legally unsustainable and in violation of the principles of natural justice. The Ministry of Minority Affairs last year blacklisted the petitioners from applying for registration as 'Haj Group Organizers' (HGO) for periods ranging from five to 15 years, effective from Haj, 2024, and also ordered the forfeiture of their security deposits.

British-era Shanan Hydropower Project dispute: HP moves SC for rejection of Punjab's suit

New Delhi: The Himachal Pradesh government Monday sought the dismissal of the Punjab government's suit in the Supreme Court by which it has sought to restrain the hill state from taking over the control of the Shanan Hydropower Project upon expiry of the 99-year lease agreement. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mishra said it will first hear November 8 the Himachal Pradesh government's application challenging the maintainability of the suit of the Punjab government under Order 7 Rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC). "We will have to first hear the preliminary objections raised against the suit," the bench said and adjourned the matter.

8 killed in lightning strike in Chhattisgarh



Rajnandgaon (Chhattisgarh), Sept 23: Eight persons, including five boys, were killed in a lightning strike near a village in Chhattisgarh's Rajnandgaon district Monday amid heavy rains, police said.

The incident, in which a man was also injured, took place at around 2 pm near Joratarai village under the Somni police station area where the victims had taken shelter under a structure on the roadside, Rajnandgaon Superintendent of Police Mohit Garg told PTI.

As per preliminary information, after heavy showers started, a group of persons, including some minors, rushed to save themselves from rains and took shelter under the structure where a lightning struck them, he said.

Eight persons died in the lightning strike of which four were students of Classes XI and XII at a government school in nearby Mudhipar village. They were returning home on bicycles after appearing in quarterly exams. The fifth boy among the deceased had come to pick one of the school children when the tragedy struck, Garg informed.



Tirupati laddu row: Subramanian Swamy moves SC seeking court-monitored probe

New Delhi: BJP leader Subramanian Swamy Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking a court-monitored probe into the alleged use of animal fat in making Tirupati laddus. The BJP leader requested the court to direct the Andhra Pradesh government to file a detailed report on the source and sampling of the ghee used for making the laddus. Swamy also urged the court to issue an interim direction to obtain a detailed forensic report from the authorities concerned. "There ought to have been checks and balances internally to supervise and verify and check the quality or the lack of it, of the suppliers supplying various ingredients to the temple which go into the making of the Prasadam," the plea said.

SC to hear pleas against laws granting immunity to husbands in marital rape cases

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has said it listed for Tuesday pleas on the vexed legal question of whether a husband should enjoy immunity from prosecution for the offence of rape if he forces his wife, who is not a minor, to have sex. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala said the pleas were already "listed tomorrow" and they would be taken up after some part-heard cases. The pleas for early listing were mentioned by the senior advocate Karuna Nundy, appearing for a litigant in the case. Senior advocate Indra Jaising September 18, appearing for one of the litigants, mentioned that the pleas needed to be heard urgently.

STILL A MAN'S WORLD

Only 87 women elected to Haryana Assembly since 1966

While the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has given tickets to ten women, the main Opposition Congress party has fielded 12 women candidates, the highest among all political parties in fray

Gurugram/Rewari, Sept 23: It is still a man's world in the Haryana Assembly polls, with only 51 women candidates - most of them either having the backing of a political family or celebrity status - being fielded by frontline political parties.

Since it was carved out from Punjab in 1966, the state, known for its skewed gender ratio, has sent only 87 women to the Assembly. Haryana has never had a woman chief minister.

An analysis of candidates' lists shows that the main Opposition Congress has fielded 12 women candidates, the highest among the parties in these elections.

The Indian National Lok Dal



(INLD) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), contesting the elections in an alliance, have fielded 11 women candidates combined while the ruling BJP has named 10 women nominees.

The alliance of the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) and the Azad Samaj Party (ASP) has named eight women candidates in the 85 seats it is contesting while AAP's list of 90 hopefuls has 10 women.

According to Haryana Vidhan Sabha records, in the five Assembly elections beginning in 2000, a total of 47 women have become legislators in the state, notorious for its skewed gender ratio - 916 female births per 1,000 males in 2023.

In the 2019 elections, 104 women candidates, including those contesting as Independents, were in the fray. The 2014 elections witnessed the highest number of women candidates - 13 out of 116 - winning from their seats. That number fell to nine in the 2019 elections.

Elections for the 90-member Haryana Assembly will be held October 5 and the results declared October 8.

In the fray this time is Union minister Rao Inderjit Singh's daughter Arti Singh Rao, who is contesting her debut election from Ateli on a BJP ticket.

Former chief minister Bansi Lal's granddaughter Shruti Chaudhary, who joined the BJP from the Congress earlier this year, is in the fray in Tosham.

Four-time Congress MLA and former state education minister Geeta Bhukkal told PTI that the Congress had fielded the maximum number of women candidates compared to the other parties.

"A Bill granting 33 per cent reservation to women in

■ According to Haryana Vidhan Sabha records, in the five Assembly elections beginning in 2000, a total of 47 women have become legislators in the state, notorious for its skewed gender ratio -- 916 female births per 1,000 males in 2023

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face of an anti-sexual harassment protest and retired from the sport after a shock end to her campaign for gold at the Paris 2024 Olympics. She is pitted against AAP's Kavita Dalal, the first Indian woman wrestler to compete in the WWE.

The most prominent woman contesting the polls is Savitri Jindal, Asia's richest woman and chairperson of the OP Jindal Group. While she was hopeful of getting a ticket from the BJP, the 74-year-old entered the fray as an Independent and is contesting against Haryana minister and incumbent Hisar MLA Kamal Gupta.

Chitra Sarwara, the daughter of former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda's confidant Nirmal Singh, has entered the fray as an Independent from the Ambala Cantonment seat after being denied a ticket by the Congress. AAP's Rabia Kidwai is the first woman candidate from Nuh, a Muslim-dominated constituency.

national

of the day quote

As we work towards environmental sustainability and climate resilience, Yuva Shakti must lead the charge in fostering a greener and more sustainable future

No one ever thought a JPC would receive recommendations in crores. Even if 1,000 recommendations or representations were made, we used to consider it a big number

Our (MVA) attempt is to give a progressive alternative in Maharashtra with help of other parties like Samajwadi Party and Peasants and Workers Party

POST OF THE DAY

Dear Nirmala Sitaraman Ji Anna had inner strength to handle the stress that came with pursuing a gruelling Chartered Accountancy degree. It was the toxic work culture, long work hours that took away her life which needs to be addressed. Stop victim shaming and atleast try to be a little sensitive, am sure god will be the guide if you seek.

SHORT TAKES

3 Naxals killed in encounter

Narayanpur: Three Naxalites, including a woman, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district Monday, a senior police official said. The gunfight broke out at around 4 pm in the forest of Abhujmaad on the Chhattisgarh-Maharashtra inter-border when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-naxal operation, he said. Security personnel recovered the bodies of three Naxalites, including a woman, with a cache of weapons including an AK-47 rifle, from the spot, he said.

Four dead as bus falls off bridge

Amravati: Four persons died and seven were seriously injured Monday after their bus fell off a bridge over a 'nullah' in Maharashtra's Amravati district, a police official said. The incident took place near Semadoh village on Paratwada-Dharni road at 8am, he said. "There were 45 passengers in the bus. Four of them died, while seven are seriously injured. Another 20 have sustained minor wounds. All the injured have been hospitalised," he said.

3.3 magnitude tremor hits Kutch

Ahmedabad: A tremor of 3.3 magnitude hit Gujarat's Kutch district Monday morning, the Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) said. No casualty or loss of property was reported in the district due to the seismic activity, officials said. The tremor was recorded at 10.05 am, with its epicentre located 12 km west-south west of Rapar, the Gandhinagar-based ISR said. This is the fourth tremor of more than 3 magnitude recorded in the state's Saurashtra-Kutch region so far this month, the ISR data showed.



Tribal population has declined in the state... it has reduced to 28 per cent from 44 per cent earlier. Infiltrators and Rohingyas are grabbing land here and marrying tribals, while the JMM is patronising them for votes

JP NADRA | BJP PRESIDENT

KOLKATA DOCTOR RAPE-MURDER: SC TO HEAR SUO MOTU PLEA OCTOBER 1

The Supreme Court Monday said it will hear October 1 a case it has initiated on its own following the rape and murder of a resident doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata amid the ongoing protests by doctors in West Bengal



Two women naval officers to embark on global sailing voyage

Over a period of eight months, the duo will navigate more than 21,600 nautical miles without any external assistance, relying solely on wind power



Hope, Navy officials said Monday "We are fully prepared for the voyage," the two woman officers told reporters. It will be more than a voyage and underlines the essence of India's maritime prowess and commitment to a greater cause, Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan said. The two women officers will

circumnavigate the globe on-board Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini. The historic voyage will be flagged off from Naval Ocean Sailing Node, INS Mandovi, Goa. Over a period of eight months, the duo will navigate more than 21,600 nautical miles without any external assistance, relying solely on wind power, the Navy said.

The expedition was conceived by the Indian Navy with the inaugural Navika Sagar Parikrama, the first ever Indian circumnavigation of globe by an all women crew of six officers in 2017

The second edition of the expedition will be an exceptional one as they will become the first from India to accomplish such a feat in double handed mode

one as they will become the first from India to accomplish such a feat in double handed mode, the Navy said. The expedition is being conducted under the aegis of Indian Naval Sailing Association based at Naval headquarters, New Delhi and Ocean Sailing Node, Goa under Southern Naval Command. Both the nodal centres will be coordinating the voyage in liaison with international maritime agencies and authorities. Vice Admiral Swaminathan described Navika Sagar Parikrama II as a journey of empowerment, innovation, and commitment to India's maritime heritage while charting new paths for a brighter and empowered future. He reaffirmed the Indian Navy's pledge to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and responsibility, not just on our shores but across the vast expanse of the world's oceans.

Bihar: Portion of under-construction bridge collapses

Patna, Sept 23: A portion of an under-construction bridge collapsed in Bihar's Patna district, an official said Monday. No one was injured in the incident that occurred Sunday night, he said. The incident comes in the backdrop of more than a dozen bridges and causeways collapsed in several Bihar districts in the recent past. The construction of the Bakhtiyarpur-Tajpur Ganga Mahasetu has been supervised by the Bihar State Road Development Corporation Ltd (BSRDCL). "The incident took place during the replacement of bearings of girders of the Bakhtiyarpur-Tajpur Ganga Mahasetu. While placing the girders on the pillars, one of them collapsed.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: Two women officers of the Indian Navy -- Lt Commander Dilna K and Lt Commander Roopa A -- will October 2 embark on an extraordinary expedition to circumnavigate the globe covering 21,600 nautical miles (approx 40,000 km) over an eight-month period. The route will take them through some of the most treacherous waters including the perilous passage around the three great capes -- Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn and Cape of Good

Health Ministry issues show-cause notice to ghee supplier

New Delhi, Sept 23: In the wake of Tirupati Laddu adulteration allegations, the FSSAI has issued a show cause notice to a Tamil Nadu-based firm for supplying substandard ghee to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, official sources said Monday. In the notice, the food regulator asked AR Diary Food Private Ltd why its central licence should not be suspended for contravention of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011. According to the notice, FSSAI said it received information from The Director of the Institute of Preventive Medicine, Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh), that AR Diary Food Private Ltd in Dindigul was one of the suppliers of Ghee to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) since last four years. Further as per the information, the ghee procurement committee of TTD has sent all the samples supplied to TTD for testing to NDDB CALF Lab at Anand, Gujarat. "After analysis, the sample from your firm M/s. A R Diary Food Private Ltd (FSSAI Central License number 10014042001610) has failed to meet the parameters and your firm has been black-listed by EO, TTD," the notice said. "By virtue of the above non-conformance of the product "Ghee" manufactured by your firm which is not meeting the standards, you have contravened the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, Rules and Regulations made there under.

TIRUPATI LADDU ROW

Accountancy degree. It was the toxic work culture, long work hours that took away her life which needs to be addressed. Stop victim shaming and atleast try to be a little sensitive, am sure god will be the guide if you seek.

J&K ASSEMBLY POLLS

Will be your voice in Parliament: Rahul

Seeking support for Congress-National Conference alliance candidates, Rahul said his party wanted the restoration of statehood before the ongoing polls



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Surankote/Srinagar, Sept 23: Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Monday said the Congress wants Jammu and Kashmir to be run by locals rather than from Delhi, and promised the party would pressure the Centre to restore J&K's statehood after the ongoing Assembly polls. Addressing back-to-back rallies at Surankote and Srinagar on the last date of campaigning for the second phase of polling September 25, Gandhi launched a broadside against the BJP and RSS, and also attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying the INDIA bloc has "broken his psychology" after the Lok Sabha elections. "He used to boast about a 56-inch chest but he is not the same person anymore," Gandhi said. He addressed the first rally of the day at the Surankote Assembly segment of Poonch district, where he accused the BJP and RSS of spreading "hatred and violence" and dividing people on the lines of caste, creed, religion, region and language. His second rally was in Srinagar, which a party leader termed "a new dawn" for the

Congress in Kashmir as it was "the first major gathering for the party in Srinagar in the past three decades". At the Surankote Assembly, Gandhi said there are numerous examples of union territories being upgraded to states but never ever in the history of India a state was downgraded to a union territory. "For the first time, a full-fledged state (J&K) was turned into a UT and your democratic rights were snatched," he told the rally, also attended by Congress ally and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah. "We will put pressure on them (government) and we will ensure that it (restoration of statehood) is done. If they don't do it we will," Gandhi said. Seeking support for Congress-National Conference alliance candidates, he said his party wanted the restoration of statehood before the ongoing polls. "We were of the view that statehood should be restored first followed by elections but they did not do it. We will put pressure on them and you will get back your statehood after

We were of the view that statehood should be restored first followed by elections but they did not do it. We will put pressure on them and you will get back your statehood after elections

RAHUL GANDHI | LOP

elections," the former Congress president said. Lashing out at the BJP-led government for "taking away" the rights of the people, he said earlier governments in J&K were run by locals and their decisions were meant for "your better future and in your interest". "Today, outsiders are making decisions for you and your voice is not there in your government. Your government is run from Delhi, orders are coming from Delhi. We want your government to be run from J&K," he told the gathering. He asked people to feel free to reach out to him to raise any issue in Parliament. "I am always available for you, just give me an order and I am there to help you."

Badlapur sexual assault case accused shot dead

COPS ACTED IN SELF-DEFENCE, SAY CM, FADNAVIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 23: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnavis Monday said police shot dead Badlapur school sexual assault case accused Akshay Shinde in self-defence. Akshay Shinde, accused of sexually abusing two girls in the school where he worked as an attendant, was being taken to Badlapur from Talaja jail for investigation when he snatched a policeman's gun and fired at an assistant inspector when the police vehicle reached Mumbai bypass. He was killed in retaliatory firing by a police officer who was part of the escort team. "Akshay Shinde's ex-wife had accused him of sexual violence and the police was taking him for a probe regarding these allegations. He snatched the gun of a police personnel opened fire. Police fired back in self-defence," CM Shinde told reporters. However, the incident drew condemnation from the Opposition parties who questioned the chain of events and also asked if it was a move to destroy evidence in a case that had triggered national outrage.

"Is it an attempt to destroy evidence? Were Akshay Shinde's hands not tied by the police during the transit? How could he reach for the gun, and how come the police were so careless? We demand a judicial probe in this matter," Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar said. There is no action against the "BJP-linked" school management but an arrested accused is shot dead in suspicious circumstances, he said, adding "we have no trust in Badlapur police". Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Sushma Andhare equated the incident with the gunning down of four rape accused in Telangana in 2019. "There too the police claimed it was done in self-defence. However, due to the deaths, the truth never came out. The same will be the case with the Badlapur sexual assault. Was Akshay Shinde killed as he was hiding something more sinister? Why is the school management still on the run," she said. How come Akshay Shinde managed to snatch a gun despite being handcuffed and how did he know to operate the firearm, Andhare further questioned. Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, who holds the home portfolio, must throw some light on these questions, she said, adding "it shows the state home minister's inability to handle critical cases".



Psilocybin offers more long-term benefits than anti-depressants

A direct comparison between the experimental psychedelic drug psilocybin and a standard SSRI antidepressant shows similar improvement of depressive symptoms, but that psilocybin offers additional longer-term benefits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: Psilocybin, the psychedelic drug commonly known as 'magic mushrooms', offers longer-term benefits, compared to standard antidepressants, including overall better well-being, meaning in life and social functioning, a study has found. Comparing two separate anti-depression treatments -- one involving the psychedelic drug and the other involving a standard SSRI antidepressant escitalopram -- researchers had previously found that after six weeks, depressive symptoms such as sadness and negative emotions had improved to similar levels.

SSRI refers to selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, a class of drugs commonly used to treat depression and other psychiatric illnesses. These drugs work by increasing serotonin levels in the brain, a chemical that is known to play a positive role in mood, emotion and sleep. "However, this work shows that psilocybin outperformed escitalopram (SSRI antidepressant) in several measures of well-being, meaning in life, work and social functioning. These results appeared to be maintained over a 6-month follow-up period," lead researcher Tommaso Barba, a PhD candidate from Imperial College London, UK, said.



"In addition, in previous work, we had found that psilocybin also improves sexual drive, in contrast to SSRIs, which tend to lower libido in many patients. So, overall it seems psilocybin might give additional positive mental health benefits," Barba said. The findings are published in the journal eClinicalMedicine. The researchers said that psilocybin may offer an alternative to the fraction of patients who do not respond to SSRI treatment, even though they said this aspect was not tested in this study. Psilocybin, extracted from psychedelic plants, has been used for centuries across indigenous cultures in the world for inducing ecstasy and spiritual experiences. However, in medicine, the drug is still experimental and not yet approved for general use. First author David Erritzoe, Clinical Director and Deputy Head of the Centre for Psychedelic Research, Imperial College

It is administered in highly controlled and protected environments: these precautions are not found in recreational psychedelic use, which is known for having unpredictable and potentially harmful effects, especially for vulnerable people struggling with mental health issues

London, said. "It is administered in highly controlled and protected environments: these precautions are not found in recreational psychedelic use, which is known for having unpredictable and potentially harmful effects, especially for vulnerable people struggling with mental health issues," Erritzoe said. For the study, the researchers included 59 patients -- 30 were treated with a single dose of psilocybin, while 29 were given a six-week course of escitalopram. The participants were followed for a period of six months and received similar psychological support of around 20 hours in total. After six months, the authors found that both groups showed significant improvement in depressive symptoms. However, those given psilocybin were found to report greater improvements in social functioning and psychological connectedness.

international

of the day quote

Given Russia's long history of false numbers and propaganda, there is simply no way of verifying their claims (that Ukraine's incursion has killed 56 civilians). If Russia wants to show the real situation on the ground it can grant such access to the UN and ICRC

HEORHIY TYKHVIY | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, UKRAINE

In flood areas, they have deferred tax payments and there are a number of factors that make the probability (of a budget amendment) increase

ANDRZEJ DOMANSKI | FINANCE MINISTER, POLAND

Many of them (former prisoners) who return, and this is an emerging trend, have been perpetrating new violent crimes to begin with against women, against girls, against children, including sexual violence and killings

MARIANA KATZAROVA | UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

SHORT TAKES

Malik named new DG of Pak's ISI

Islamabad: Lt Gen Muhammad Asim Malik has been appointed as the new Director General of Pakistan's spy agency - Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), state-run TV announced on Monday. Lt Gen Malik, currently serving as an adjutant general at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, will assume his new role on September 30, replacing the current DG Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum. The ISI chief is appointed by the prime minister but as part of a tradition he executes this power in consultation with the army chief.

Deposed Hasina's cases pile up

Dhaka: Bangladesh's deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana and 69 others were Monday booked over the death of a garment worker during the quota reform protests in Dhaka's Kafrul area August 5. Hasina, 76, who resigned and fled to India August 5, is now facing 194 cases, including 173 for murders, 11 for crimes against humanity and genocide, three for abduction, six for attempted murder, and one for an attack on a Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) procession. After the hearing, the magistrate asked the Police Bureau of Investigation to submit a report following an investigation. In her complaint, she said her husband, Md Fazlu, was shot in front of the police lines at Mirpur-14 on the morning of August 5.

Russia violates Japan's airspace

Tokyo: Japanese Defense Minister Minoru Kihara told reporters that the Russian Il-38 plane breached Japan's airspace above Rebus Island, just off the coast of the country's northernmost main island of Hokkaido, for up to a minute in three instances, during its five-hour flight in the area. It came a day after a joint fleet of Chinese and Russian warships sailed around Japanese northern coasts. Kihara said the airspace violation could be related to a joint military exercise that Russia and China announced earlier this month. Japan scrambled an undisclosed number of F-15 and F-35 fighter jets, which used flares for the first time after the Russian aircraft apparently ignored their warnings, Kihara said.

Anura vows Lanka's 'Renaissance'

Crisis-stricken country's new Marxist President takes oath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 23: Marxist leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake Monday took oath as Sri Lanka's new President and said he will usher in a "Renaissance" for his country. Dissanayake, 56, was sworn in as Sri Lanka's ninth President by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya at the Presidential Secretariat.

In his inaugural address to the nation, Dissanayake thanked his predecessor Ranil Wickremesinghe for respecting the people's mandate and facilitating a peaceful transfer of power. "I assure you that I will do my best to preserve democracy and work towards restoring the honour of politicians as people have misgivings about their conduct," Dissanayake said in an address after taking the oath. Dissanayake stressed Sri Lanka cannot remain in isolation and needed international cooperation. He said he is not a magician, but his objective is to be part of a collective responsibility to elevate the economic crisis-stricken country.

"I'm not a magician. I'm an ordinary citizen born in this country. I have abilities and shortcomings. I have things I know and don't know. My first task is to make use of people's talents and know-how and make better decisions to lead this country," he said. "I want to be a contributor to that collective responsibility," he added. Later in a post on X after the swearing-in ceremony, Dissanayake said, "I promise to

Kremlin likely to study Zelenskyy's 'victory plan'

REUTERS

Moscow, Sept 23: The Kremlin said Monday it would study what Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has billed as his "victory plan" to end the war with Russia as and when official information on it was released.

Zelenskyy is due to present the plan to US President Joe Biden this week and his two potential successors, Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, during a trip to the United States which will see Zelenskyy address the UN General Assembly Tuesday. The plan, details of which Zelenskyy has so far publicly held back, appears to be a big push from Zelenskyy to try to persuade Washington and other allies to provide further and deeper aid to his country. Ukrainian officials have suggested that Russia could eventually be invited to a summit to discuss a resolution to the conflict under the new plan.

Asked about Zelenskyy's initiative, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters: "We believe that one should not analyse media reports. If information about it appears in official sources we will of course scrutinise it. There is a lot of contradictory and unreliable information on it out there, so we are very cautious about this."

SA seeks to reform faltering Black empowerment system

REUTERS

Johannesburg, Sept 23: The head of South Africa's flagship Black economic empowerment programme plans to introduce additional incentives and potential fines to improve corporate participation and curb exploitation of the system meant to tackle the country's gross inequality, he said. The African National Congress, which had ruled unchallenged for 30 years until it



- Prime Minister Gunawardena resigns
- Sri Lanka needs international cooperation, says new Prez

I assure you that I will do my best to preserve democracy and work towards restoring the honour of politicians as people have misgivings about their conduct

ANURA KUMARA DISSANAYAKE | NEW PRESIDENT, SRI LANKA

fulfill your responsibility to usher in a new era of Renaissance for this country, and I look forward to your collective contribution to that."

Dissanayake, clad in a white long-sleeved tunic and black trousers, received blessings from the Buddhist clergy present after the ceremony.

Dissanayake, the leader of the

WHO records over 30k mpox cases in Africa

REUTERS

London, Sept 23: Nearly 30,000 suspected mpox cases have been reported in Africa so far this year, most of them in Democratic Republic of Congo where tests have run out, the World Health Organization said Monday.

More than 800 people died of suspected mpox across the continent in that time, the UN health body said in its report. Congo's central African neighbour



My opponent seems to be looking for an excuse. I feel very strongly that we owe it to the American people, to the voters, to meet once more before Election Day

KAMALA HARRIS | VICE PRESIDENT, US

POPE CANCELS AUDIENCE

Francis cancelled his audiences Monday because of a "slight flu-like state," just days before he is to embark on a trip to Belgium and Luxembourg, the Vatican said



DEADLIEST BARRAGE SINCE 2006

Israeli strikes kill 356 in Lebanon



AGENCIES

Marjayoun, Sept 23: Israeli strikes Monday killed 356, including 24 children and 42 women, and wounded 1,246 Lebanese in the deadliest barrage since the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war as the Israeli military warned residents in southern and eastern Lebanon to evacuate their homes ahead of a widening air campaign against Hezbollah.

After some of the heaviest cross-border exchanges of fire since the hostilities flared last October, Israel warned people in Lebanon to evacuate areas where it said the armed movement was storing weapons.

Tens of thousands are fleeing southern Lebanon "due to Israeli atrocities", the Lebanese minister coordinating the crisis response, Nasser Yassin, told Reuters.

Nasser Yassin, the Lebanese minister coordinating the crisis response, told Reuters 89 temporary shelters in schools and the like had been activated, with capacity for more than 26,000 people as civilians fled "Israeli atrocities".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent a short video statement addressed to the Lebanese people. "Israel's war is not with you, it's with Hezbollah. For too long Hezbollah has been using you as human shields," he said.

After almost a year of war against Hamas in Gaza on its

southern border, Israel is shifting its focus to the northern frontier, where Hezbollah has been firing rockets into Israel in support of Hamas, also backed by Iran.

Israel's military said it had struck Hezbollah in Lebanon's south, east and north.

One Lebanese official said it was Lebanon's highest daily death toll from violence since the 1975-1990 civil war.

Netanyahu said Israel faced "complicated days" as it stepped up attacks in southern Lebanon, and urged Israelis to stay united.

"I promised that we would change the security balance, the balance of power in the north, that is exactly what we are doing," he said.

On Monday evening an Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs targeted senior Hezbollah leader Ali Karaki, the head of the southern front, but his fate was unclear, a security source told Reuters.

The Israeli military said it had struck about 800 targets connected to Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa valley. "Among the targets struck were buildings where Hezbollah hid rockets, missiles, launchers, UAVs and additional terrorist infrastructure," it said in a statement.

Sirens warning of Hezbollah rocket fire sounded across northern Israel, including in the port city of Haifa, and in the northern part of the occupied West Bank, the military said.

CHINA CALLS QUAD 'US TOOL'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 23: China Monday termed Quad as a tool used by the US to contain Beijing, asserting that interference by any external force will not shake its "sovereignty and maritime rights" in the disputed South and East China Seas.

The Quad, identified as the premier regional grouping in the US Indo-Pacific strategy, is a tool used by Washington to contain China to perpetuate its hegemony, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a media briefing, fielding a spate of questions on the Quad summit.



Hosted by President Joe Biden, the Quad Summit took place Saturday in his hometown Wilmington, Delaware. The summit was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan. Lin accused the US of pooling

together countries to muster military and security cooperation under the pretext of maritime issues to contain China by peddling the China threat narrative.

The US says Qaud doesn't target China but the highest on its agenda is China, he said in a veiled reference to informal comments by Biden to fellow Quad leaders. Biden was caught on a hot mic telling leaders of the Quad nations that China was testing them, thus reflecting upon the American seriousness of the emerging Chinese threat.

"We believe (Chinese President) Xi Jinping is looking to focus on domestic economic challenges and minimise

the turbulence in China," Biden told the leaders at the Summit.

About the Quad summit expressing grave concern over the situation in the South China Sea and East China Sea, Lin said external interference will not shake China's resolve to uphold its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Lin said the situation in the South China Sea and East China Sea is stable. "I want to stress that any inference of any forces will not shake China's firm determination to uphold its territorial sovereignty, maritime rights interests, regional peace and stability," he said, adding that China will lodge diplomatic protests to countries if they take any action to undermine Beijing's sovereignty.

PIO charged for killing compatriot in Singapore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Singapore, Sept 23: A 22-year-old Indian-origin man has been charged with the murder of a compatriot in a fight that broke out in the wee hours of Sunday in Singapore's Little India precinct.

Muhammad Sajid Saleem was given the capital charge, read in Tamil, while five other people were handed charges of rioting over the same incident that claimed the life of a 25-year-old man, Channel News Asia reported. Saleem is accused of causing the death of Dhinesh Vasie between 4 am and 4:08 am near Verdun Road in the Farrer Park area.

The five charged with rioting are Satish Jason Prabahas, 23, Kirrthik Roshan Prem Ananth, 22, Pradave Shashi Kumar, 20, and two women, Nur Diyana Harun Al Rasheed, 24, and Kasthuri Kallidas Marimuthu, 24.

At least one of them was allegedly armed with a deadly weapon during the riot, and three people — Dhinesh, Naviinjay C Nathan and K Vickesh were injured as a result, the charge sheets stated.

The police prosecutor asked for all six to be remanded for further investigations, to conduct raids, seize exhibits and visit the scene.

The judge has adjourned it to September 30.

Murder carries the death penalty, while rioting with a deadly weapon carries a jail term of up to 10 years and caning. Women cannot be caned.

The six were remanded for further investigations and will return to court next week, according to the report.



Economic Empowerment Commission told Reuters.

Under the voluntary programme, companies earn points in categories such as Black ownership, management control and skills development.

However, Matona says some companies inflate their scores by

falsely listing Black people as managers, a practice commonly known in South Africa as "fronting", a crime under the law. The commission, which refers cases of infringement to state prosecutors, has received 1,348 complaints of fronting since 2017, said Matona. He

added, without saying how many cases had been sent to trial, that no one had yet been convicted of fronting largely because the criminal justice system was "still figuring out how to work with the B-BBEE regulation".

Listed companies are required to disclose their Black empowerment status in annual reports, but fewer and fewer are doing so. In 2022, only 141 of about 400 listed companies submitted a report.

Matona said he hoped to enhance company incentives for compliance while "naming and shaming" and possibly fining those which fail to submit the reports. President Cyril Ramaphosa has said he wants to focus on showing companies the advantages of Black empowerment, but that if they refuse to comply then penalties would be needed.

“

It feels like a magical time for India. As I said, with such players, you know that you'll have a certain amount of results, but they consistently exceeded (expectations). It's very nice to have it all at the same time

VISWANATHAN ANAND | CHESS VETERAN

'Father of Indian chess boom'

THE ANAND EFFECT THAT'S SHAPING A 'GOLDEN GENERATION'

"The aim was very simply, to help. Indians were consistently getting to the top 200, but not quite in breaking into the top 100 in the same way. So the idea was, you know, can we support the most talented youngsters and see if we can just help them get past that stretch? I think we have been successful now," he had said before the Olympiad.

"I mean, obviously, there are lots and lots of people involved. Not only you know, WACA, but also their parents, their own coaches, we try to integrate and make sure that we can fit in nicely. But I think, you know, we definitely played our part."

In his interaction with FIDE during the Olympiad, Anand did admit to being surprised at the pace with which the likes of Gukesh and Praggnanandhaa have risen.

"I took all the youngsters who had become Grandmaster before the age of 14. To be honest, the idea was to support them from being top juniors to becoming world beaters," he said.

"My initial group was Praggnanandhaa, Gukesh, Arjun joined a bit later. In the girls, Vaishali was there. Did I expect it to go this fast? Not really. Did I suspect this could happen? Yes. But somehow this is unbelievable," he added.

"This is not a coincidence but at the same time, exceeds my expectations." The affable, semi-retired player, who still manages to win tournaments for fun, the last being the Leon Masters in Spain a couple of months back is quite content with what he has managed to achieve as a mentor given the challenges that WACA faced before taking off.

roll the dice, these are good teams to roll them with," he had said. Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, Erigaisi and Vaishali have trained at the Westbridge Anand Chess Academy (WACA) that the bespectacled chess wizard set up four years ago in Chennai.

The 18-year-old Gukesh and the 19-year-old Praggnanandhaa have often stated that they would not be where they are without "Vishy sir".

So, it was hardly a surprise that the International Chess Federation (FIDE) addressed him

as the "father of Indian chess boom". This was after the great Garry Kasparov paid tribute to his genius by saying that the "children of Vishy Anand are on the loose!" after Gukesh won the Candidates in April to become the youngest world title challenger.

Anand prefers to share the credit with the parents and formative coaches of the players but does say that his idea of a chess academy, which was inspired by schools he had seen in the Soviet Union more than three decades ago, did play its part.

Historic win for India as our chess contingent wins the 45th #FIDE Chess Olympiad! India has won the Gold in both open and women's category at Chess Olympiad! Congratulations to our incredible Men's and Women's Chess Teams. This remarkable achievement marks a new chapter in India's sports trajectory. May this success inspire generations of chess enthusiasts to excel in the game

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

Gukesh & Co stress on team spirit after heroics



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: A dream come true, a nice feeling. The maiden Chess Olympiad gold meant different things for the members of the five-strong Indian men's team, spearheaded stupendously by the youngest ever challenger to the world title -- D Gukesh.

The 18-year-old issued a statement of sorts ahead of his eagerly-anticipated world championship clash in November against Ding Liren of China by registering one of the best ever individual performances in the just-concluded 45th Olympiad.

"I am just super happy right now," Gukesh said after winning his final round game against giant-killer Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia Sunday.

It was a sensational display by the teenager on the top board for India as he notched up nine points out of his 10 games conceding just a couple of draws besides eight victories.

This phenomenal performance helped the team clinch gold as India scored a dominating 21 points out of a possible 22, winning 10 and drawing just one match against last Olympiad winners Uzbekistan.

"It was a very nice experience for me personally and for the team...this was basically a dream (come true)," Gukesh said in the final press conference of the Olympiad. The women too won gold and both the teams were seen jumping in joy at the podium.

Another key contributor to the men's success was Arjun Erigaisi, who scored 10 points playing all the 11 games in the event. He has now elevated himself to number three in live world

This tournament for me, especially since what happened last time, we were so close as the team to win gold. This time I thought no matter what I'm going to do, whatever it takes to win the team goal. So I did not really think about the individual performance much. I just wanted the team to win this time

D GUKESH | GRANDMASTER

rankings behind Magnus Carlsen of Norway and American Hikaru Nakamura. Humble as he is, Erigaisi quickly pointed out that it did not matter too much.

"It's a nice feeling but there are about 10-15 players with similar strength, so I don't want to care too much about being number three or number four," he said. R Praggnanandhaa's performance might not have been up to his own lofty expectations but he played the perfect anchor especially till the ninth game giving the much-needed stability to the team.

Team captain N Srinath was obviously delighted. "I don't have to give them a lot of advice as these guys are professionals, they know what to do. Basically it was some preparation, bringing them together but mostly just sitting back watching them flow," he said.

As the team returns home Monday, the real celebrations might have to wait a couple of days but it has proved beyond any doubt that India can now be called the Chess powerhouse of the world. Indian men had earlier won two bronze medals -- in 2014 and 2022 (held in Chennai) -- in the showpiece.

SHORT TAKES

Maiden bronze in Asia Pacific Padel Cup

Mumbai: India's first-ever international team for Padel secured third place in the first edition of the Asia Pacific Padel Cup, which was played in Bali, Indonesia, from September 19 to 22, the Indian Padel Academy informed Monday. The event is the first-ever padel competition between nations held in the Asia Pacific region. The Indian team, selected by the Indian Padel Academy, defeated Malaysia 3-0 in the bronze medal match to finish behind the Philippines and Indonesia in the six-nation event. The other participating countries were China and Singapore.

SAFF U-17: India look to rotate players

Thimphu: Having already booked their spot in the semi-finals, India will eye the top spot in Group A when they take on Maldives in the SAFF U17 Championship here Tuesday. In their opening match last Friday, Ishfaq Ahmed's boys saw off Bangladesh 1-0 in a repeat of last year's final as Sumit Sharma Brahmachariyayam headed in the winning goal in the 92nd minute. Sunday's 1-1 draw between Bangladesh and Maldives meant that India qualified for the semi-final with a game to spare. Ahmed suggested that might allow him to rotate the squad and give valuable game time to more players, while resting a few starters from the first game.

No fairytale ending for F1's Ricciardo

Washington: Daniel Ricciardo admitted that Sunday's Singapore Grand Prix may have been his last, after finishing in style with a hot lap and being voted "driver of the day" by global TV viewers. The Australian self-styled "Honey Badger" came last of the 18 finishers in his RB at the Marina Bay Circuit, but not before he had managed to snatch the fastest lap from race winner Lando Norris. That could prove crucial for former team-mate Max Verstappen's title race as Norris had been set to grab the bonus point. Verstappen's lead in the title race is down to 52 points after he came second and he was grateful to Ricciardo and the junior Red Bull team for preventing it being whittled further. "Thank you, Daniel," Verstappen said over team radio after crossing the finish line.

DOMINANT PERFORMANCE

India tighten grip on top spot in WTC table

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 23: A dominant India tightened their grip on the top spot in the World Test Championship table with a 280-run victory over Bangladesh, while Sri Lanka saw off New Zealand in Galle to help their move towards a potential spot in the final at Lord's next year. The two results have led to shifts in the race for the two final spots, with Sri Lanka leapfrogging their current opponents into third spot.

India's win in Chennai and the 12 WTC points reasserts their status at the top of the table, moving to a percentage of 71.67%, extending their lead on Australia in second (62.50%).

Bangladesh, who had jumped to the fourth position following an exceptional 2-0 win against Pakistan, drop to sixth place place (point percentage of 39.29%) behind Sri Lanka



and England after the defeat. Bangladesh started the fourth day at 158/4 in pursuit of India's 515, with skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto and Shakib Al Hasan at the crease. The duo resisted briefly, though India's spin duo of Ravichandran

Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja wiped claimed the remaining six wickets for just 40 runs. Ashwin won the Player of the Match award for his brilliant hundred in the first innings and six-for in the second innings. Moving to third on the WTC25 table after victory in Galle, Sri Lanka stand the best chance of

challenging the 2023 World Test Championship finalists for a spot in the 2025 final.

The 63-run victory over the Black Caps in Galle was their fourth in eight matches, moving them an even 50% of possible World Test Championship points, with a best possible percentage of 69.23% for Dhananjaya de Silva's men.

That figure would likely be enough for a chance of lifting the mace in next year's finale at Lord's, though the side would need to beat New Zealand once more, claim a clean sweep of South Africa, and beat Australia 2-0 at home in a series early next year.

The Indians still have nine Tests remaining in this WTC cycle to decide their fate and make it to their third consecutive final of the tournament. They had ended as the runners-up in the previous two editions -- to New Zealand (2021) and Australia (2023).

Team Europe ride on Alcaraz show, win Laver Cup trophy

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Berlin, Sept 23: Carlos Alcaraz delivered a pair of stunning performances in Berlin to help Team Europe complete a thrilling come-from-behind 13-11 victory to lift the Laver Cup title.

The Spaniard dispatched Taylor Fritz 6-2, 7-5 in a winner-takes-all singles clash Sunday night to ensure Team Europe lifted the team event trophy for the first time since 2021.

By defeating Fritz, Alcaraz secured three points and his second singles win of the action-packed weekend, during which he earned a total of eight points for the men in blue.

It's the fifth Laver Cup title for Team Europe, providing an unforgettable moment for outgoing captain Bjorn Borg, who closes out his tenure with a 5-2 record over longtime rival, friend, and Team World captain John McEnroe.

Team Europe, which started the day at a 4-8 deficit, mounted an impressive comeback led by Alcaraz and Casper Ruud, who triumphed in the day's



opening doubles match over Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe to thrust their side into contention.

Though Daniil Medvedev lost a tough battle, decided by a Laver Breaker, against Shelton, local hero Alexander Zverev kept Team Europe's hopes alive by eking out a win over Tiafoe in another Laver breaker.

English soccer's new big rivalry

ARSENAL GETS UNDER CITY'S SKIN AMID "DARK ARTS" ACCUSATIONS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Sept 23: Call it the dark arts. Call it anti-football. Call it doing whatever it takes to win.

Arsenal tried it all against Manchester City Sunday in the latest chapter of the Premier League's new heavyweight rivalry -- and came within seconds of victory.

"There was only one team that came to play football," Manchester City midfielder Bernardo Silva grumbled after an intense, absorbing and incident-packed 2-2 draw at Etihad Stadium. "The other came to play to the limits of what was possible to do and allowed by the referee, unfortunately."

John Stones' equalizer for City in the eighth minute of second-half stoppage time denied Arsenal, which played with 10 men for the entire second half, what would have been a defining victory for a team that is getting closer and closer to Pep Guardiola's repeat champions. City's players know it, too.



Hence Bernardo's outspoken post-match comments on Arsenal. Notice how Erling Haaland chucked the ball at the back of Arsenal defender Gabriel's head in City's wild celebrations after Stones' late intervention. Look, too, at Pep Guardiola kicking his seat in the dugout after feeling a sense of injustice at the manner of Arsenal's equalizer by Ricardo Calafiori.

Arsenal has gotten under City's skin. Roll on the return match at Emirates Stadium in early February.

"As a football match, it is a great spectacle for the Premier League," City captain Kyle Walker said of the new rivalry with Arsenal, which has been runner-up in the last two seasons. "Probably not so much certain stuff -- I think it's part and parcel of the game and we'll say the dark arts."

Stones spoke of Arsenal's attempts to slow the game down by what he perceived as feigning injuries to allow manager Mikel Arteta to "get some information on to the pitch."

"I wouldn't say they have mastered it but they have done it for a few years now so we knew to expect that," Stones said. "You can call it clever or dirty, whichever way you want to put it, but they break up the game which upsets the rhythm."

To that extent, Arteta looks to have taken a page out of former Chelsea and Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho's playbook. Mourinho was, of course, once a huge rival of Guardiola's and took cynical play to the extremes at times.

For Silva, matches against Liverpool -- which was City's big rival before Arsenal -- were more enjoyable to play in.

Silva was one of many City players to get riled in what was an incendiary encounter pretty much from the start. At one stage, he curled his finger into a "0" as he faced up to Gabriel -- seemingly in reference to Arsenal not winning any Premier League titles, at least since Silva joined City in 2017. Arsenal's last league championship was in 2004.