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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 iniuries in the incident



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 PTIPHOTO



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



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 land

POST NEWS NETWORK

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 12 PAGES | ₹5.00

Constable held for assaulting nurse in Jajpur

PNN & AGENCIES

Jajpur, Sept 23: A constable was arrested Monday for allegedly assaulting a woman who rejected his advances in this district, police said.

In her complaint to the police, the woman who works as a nurse at Mangalpur community health centre (CHC) alleged that the police constable had been harassing her for the last one year and was pressuring her to enter into a relationship with him. She alleged that the accused con-

stable barged into her rented house at Mangalpur market locality Sunday night and made improper advances towards her. As she turned down his advances, the constable allegedly assaulted her inside the house.

'The constable has been following and harassing me for the last one year and I was silent as the accused is a policeman. He barged into my rented house Sunday night and made advances which I rejected. He turned furious over my refusal and thrashed me and misbehaved with me last (Sunday) night. I mustered courage and decided to file a complaint," the victim said.

Following her complaint, police registered a case and arrested the accused.





Sambalpur/Gopalpur, Sept

Bhoi, while the injured are

Lightning kills 2

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 de-

teriorated she was transferred to a hospital in Sambalpur. In the second case a 65-yearold man died after being struck by lightning near Dharampur village under Rangeilunda block in Ganjam district Monday afternoon. The deceased has been identified as Bhimsen Sahu, 65, a resident

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	NIFTY	25939.05		148.10
	DOLLAR	83.55		₹0.07
	EURO	93.01	₽	₹0.17
NO	GOLD	₹74,326		₹286
BULL	SILVER	₹ 89,415	₽	₹720
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WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	32.2°⊂	33.2°(
Min Temp	25.8°⊂	25.0°(
Humidity	81%	83%
Rainfall FORECAST	0.6mm	12.8mm
FOG/MIST IN THE MORNING	Ê	

mark 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 Manoi 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 of-

fence, including role of society and stakeholders," the bench said. "We have suggested to Parliament to bring an amendment to POCSO ... so that defini-

SC BENCH

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. **P**3

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.

Terming 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

Savitri Suhula and Padmini Rana. They were working on their farmland when they

of the same village. He had taken his sheep out for grazing, when lightning struck.

Odisha Kheliba Duniya Dekhiba

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. P3

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

Film-maker Kiran Rao

aries, and ignite meaningful con-

versations. I hope that this film will

resonate with audiences across

the world, just as it has in 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 Jahnu 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 re-

leased in March to universal praise from the critics, is a heartwarming and empowering take on two brides in rural India in 2001 who both accidently 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 boundshe said in a statement. "I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the selection committee

Only 2 Indian movies have made it to the final 5 at Oscars, Mother India and Salaam Bombay!

This was Rao's second film after Dhobi Ghat in 2010

> and to everyone who believed in this film. It is indeed a great privilege to be selected from among such amazing Indian films this year - who are equally worthy contenders for this honour, Rao added.

> The filmmaker, who returned to direct Laapataa Ladies after a hiatus of almost 13 years, said she and her team look forward to taking the journey ahead 'with

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



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."



FORTUNE **FORECAST**



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. Ganesha says that your current labours will bear fruits in the future.

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. Ganesha says that you will he 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.

With Ganesha'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. Ganesha 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 Ganesha's blessings it will transform into substantial gain for you.

VIRGO

You will look up to your family to put you in high spirits, SI, says Ganesha, 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

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 vith it mixed fortunes. But re



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.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kriti will next be in Risky Romeo opposite Sunny Singh and also in an untitled film alongside Rana Daggubati. AGENCIES

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 prom-

ises to blend Nora's unique style with CKay's innovative sound. creating a fusion.

The

song

is

teams buster. up with CKay

Nora

scheduled to be unveiled next week. CKay became a rage after his international hit single Love Nwantiti became an instant chart-

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 throwback videos from her song sequence. Manike was sung by Jubin Nautival,

Surya Ragunaathan, and the Sri Lankan-based songwritercomposer Yohani.

The song is from the 2022 comedy-drama Thank God featuring Ajay Devgn, Sidharth Malhotra, Rakul Preet Singh, Seema Pahwa and Kanwaliit 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 intelli gence has now spread to the entertainment industry in the state with *Tu Kahin Laguchu 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 o music, blending creativity with cutting-edge technol ogy to bring a unique and mesmerizing experience to au liences 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

Set against the vibrant, festive backdrop of Kolkata's iconic Park Street, the video weaves a heartfelt romantic nar rative, 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 every-where," said Nanda.



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 Navak (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

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 guintessential family man, advises Ganesha.

SAGITTARIUS

You are inclined to be over protective of your persona belongings. Sensational love affairs are plotting to hold you ran-som. All the work you have been pushing off to do later will be completed reasonably on time. Ganesha 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 Ganesha. 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.

Your ideas may be excellent, says Ganesha, 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!



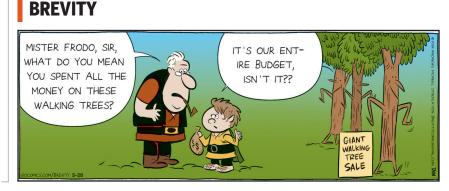
Today is a day when the focus is solely on achieving your career goals. A joint venture you have been hankering after for guite some time ought to fall into place today. A tour for business purposes is also indicated. On the domestic front, all should be well, says Ganesha.

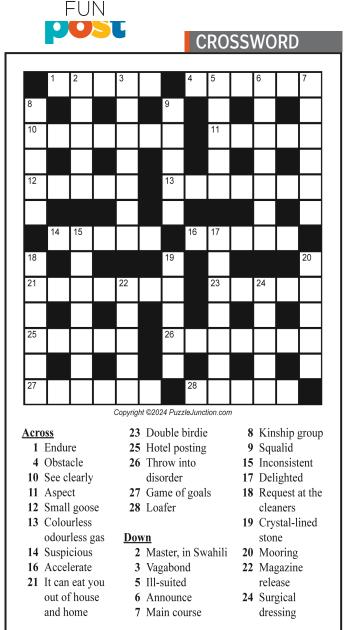


CALVIN AND HOBBES

PEANUTS







Natya Sangha and Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi.

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

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.

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CLEAN PROMISE

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

CM, ministers hear grievances of 1,000 people



CHILD PORNOGRAPHY Dedicated task force soon to probe cases

PNN & AGENCIES

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 coordination 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.

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.

PNN &A AGENCIES

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 Prithiviraj 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.



Naveen slams govt over law & order situation

Pujari raps Patnaik



Reacting to the BJD chief's charges, senior BJP 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 BJP government will try to create model police officers

Cong seeks probe by SC judge

 $T^{\rm he \ Opposition \ Congress}_{\rm Monday \ demanded \ a \ judi-}$ cial 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 BJP 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.

STATE-WIDE DEMO TUESDAY

"The police, whose duty is to pro-

BHARATPUR Don't name victims: HC

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

AGENCIES

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



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 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

sons, who had visited the po-

lice station September 15 night

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 com-

ormer 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 BJP 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

of the state. The court directed

to appraise it (HC) with details

disclosed the names of the per-

plainant duo.

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.'

as to what measures are going be

taken at the police station level

in future, so that the dignity and

plainants arriving at the police

"We have intentionally

station are protected.

identification of the com-

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 connec-

tion 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.

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."

Alleging that the police hesitate to tack action against the culprits of the rape and murder of the tribal minor girl, the Nabarangpur district leaders informed Patnaik that they have given a call for a 12 hour bandh September 26.

While expressing concern over rape incidents in different parts of the state, the BJD president pointed out to the alleged gang rape of two minor girls in Rourkela.

'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.

On Friday, while making a statement on the alleged custodial torture of an Army officer and his fiancee at Bharatpur police station, Patnaik had stated that the way an Army officer and a lady were treated in Bharatpur police station is shocking and beyond comprehension.

The manner in which police allegedly treated them has shocked the conscience of the country. This has happened to a serving Army officer and a lady within Odisha," Patnaik said.

tect, 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.

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 Chilika Tire for the radio and among his famous poetry books - Dibya Asantosh stands tall.

SAI RANKS 1ST IN NATIONAL SURVEY

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: SAI International School here has secured the first rank for 2024-25 in a national survey of daycum-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.

Heights Emerald International School of Indore shared the honour with SAI International School, while ODM Public school secured 10th po-

sition in the same category. In the state government dayschools India Ranking category, Odisha Adarsh Vidvalava (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 survery 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-cumboarding and fully residential.

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 Kharbhuin-I stone quarry under

POST NEWS NETWORK

Harabhanga tehsil in Boudh district Boudh Collector and superin-

tendent 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 Kharbhuin under Harabhanga police limits of Boudh. The petitioner had informed the tribunal that Kharbhuin-I stone quarry - spread over 2.833



NGT notice to CS over stone mining

hectare land on Plot No 275/A, Khata No 194 in Kharbhuin 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 Pani 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 Kharbhuin 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 Kharbhuin jungle village or panchayat office, nor is it available in the website of SEIAA, Odisha. "In the DSR, Kharbhuin-I stone quarry is located in khata no.2, plot no.50. However, the environmental clearance granted to the lessee mentions Kharbhuin 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.







OrissaPOST TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 24 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

downtown

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-

OCPL looks to

New Delhi: State-run Odisha Coal

sell surplus coal from its mine in

eastern India at a discount. an

auction document showed

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, buverseller 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 Patioshi, 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 high lighted 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 transformatinve 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 **10TH FOUNDATION DAY** FOUNDATION DAY

began 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 infra

structure and process of on boarding more than 60 start-ups under our incubation centre. and promoted international collaborations.

He expressed his gratitude to

Minister Dharmendra Prahan and others who contributed to the building of the institute. Uday A Kaole, chairman and

PM Narendra Modi. Education

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 Baliarsingh 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.

ASI conducts survey at Sun Temple sell surplus coal

AGENCIES

and Power Ltd (OCPL) is looking to Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: A day after completing the technical survey of Srimandir Ratna indicating lower demand for the fuel Bhandar in Puri, the in the country. OCPL will auction 3 Archaeological Survey of India million tonne of its surplus coal via (ASI) conducted a ground penonline auctions October 4 for power etrating survey (GPS) at the Sun plants at a 15 per cent discount to Temple in Konark Monday. the base price on the national coal index, according to sources. India's 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 Pandev and scientists Nilesh Kumar Jaiswal and Satish Chandra Verma.

Bhub Manipal Hospitals' campaign on heart health



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.

total domestic coal production rose

CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit before 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.

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 (AYJNISHD) 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 AYJNISHD-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 inter-

preter training Pradhan outlined the government's commitment to enhancing services for people with disabilities and supporting projects like 'Sanketa-Mo Bhasha'. SSEPD director Pattnaik de-

livered an inspiring speech highlighting the department's continuous efforts towards disability inclusion of and growing need for more sign language interpreters to bridge communication gaps. She also said, "In this first phase, we are going to produce 100 sign language inter preters and training to more than 8,400 parents and teachers in 55 schools across Odisha."

A special segment of the event was dedicated to introducing the first batch of trainees enrolled in the sign language interpreter training programme, a key component of the project that has already garnered significant public interest.

"This inaugural event has set the stage for a transformative journey to promote sign language in Odisha, addressing the communication challenges faced by the deaf community and creating pathways for greater inclusivity and social empowerment," said Pattnaik.

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.'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 23: Hospitals, Manipal 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, Dibyaranjan 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.

diac 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 con-

ditions," the official added.

Mohapatra said, "We are

thrilled to launch the cam-

paign, reflecting our commit-

ment to improving heart health

awareness in the region. The

campaign is an integral part of

our efforts to create a health-

ier and more informed

cation and engagement, the

campaign seeks to empower individuals to make informed

choices for their cardiovascu-

that Manipal Ambulance

Response Services (MARS) is

available 24x7 for medical emergencies and people can call the

emergency helpline at 0674-

66666666 in situations like car-

An institute official informed

lar well-being," he added.

"Through awareness, edu-

society.'

Institute director Saktimaya

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FORESTER'S SUICIDE

Departmental probe against DFO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Sept 23: The Forest department has initiated a departmental investigation into the suicide case of Sanjay Nayak, 33, a forester at the Jaring Hi-Tech Silviculture Nursery under Junagarh block in Kalahandi district following allegations of involvement of the Rayagada DFO (Research Wing) in his death. A Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF)-ranked officer has been assigned to investigate the matter, informed Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Debidatta Biswal, Monday.

Biswal informed mediapersons that a departmental inquiry has been ordered after the police revealed that the suicide note left by the forester mentioned DFO Debendra Behera. He emphasised that swift action is being taken, and a report is expected to be submitted soon. If the investigation



finds anyone guilty, strict action will be taken.

It is noteworthy that forester Sanjay Nayak was found hanging in his government quarters in Bhawanipatna, Wednesday. In a suicide note left by him, there were mentions of several internal issues within the department. The police seized the note during the recovery of the body. In the presence of Sanjay's family members, including his elder brother and complainant Rabi Narayan Nayak,

the note was read by the IIC of the Town police station in front of the Kalahandi SP.

In the note, Sanjay alleged that DFO Behera had repeatedly demanded bribes from him. Sanjay claimed to have paid ₹7 lakh to him last year and another ₹3.5 lakh during Ganesh Puja. He also mentioned installing an air conditioner at the DFO's house and digging a bore well for him. Additionally, he donated ₹40.000 to a temple on the DFO's demand. Sanjay alleged that the DFO used to threaten him of withholding his promotion and transfer to coerce him into paying bribes. The suicide note mentioned these demands and other similar pressure tactics by the DFO on the deceased. The incident has caused a wide-

spread outcry across the state. Meanwhile, Sanjay's wife Privanka also made similar allegations against the DFO, holding him responsible for her husband's death. Sanjay's family hails from Shundhisahi in Rayagada. His elder brother; Rabi Narayan Nayak, alleged that his brother's death was not a suicide but a planned murder. He claimed that DFO Behera had subjected Saniav to severe harassment for over 10 months, which was documented in the suicide note found in Sanjay's pocket. The deceased had not shared the issue with others fearing that it might tarnish his image. In a video posted on social media, Rabi demanded jus-

tice for his brother's death. Last Friday, Minister Ganesh Ram SinghKhuntia during his visit to Ravagada met Sanjav's family and expressed his condolences. He assured them of an impartial investigation into the incident. During the meeting, Sanjay's wife, Priyanka had requested the minister for the payment of her husband's pending dues and other government support.

Junagarh's Khandabasa festival today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Sept 23: The famous Khandabasa festival of Goddess Lankeswari, the presiding deity of Junagarh in Kalahandi district will be held Tuesday. Meanwhile, all preparations for the festival reached its last leg Monday.

The temple has been decked up in colourful lights as devotees made a beeline for 'darshan' of the deity, Monday. The famous sword of the goddess will be taken out in a procession till the Dak Bungalow

EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: ELOP-T-07-2024, Dtd.: 17.09.2024 Name of Work: ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND

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पावरग्रिड

POWERGRID



Square within 6pm to 6.30pm. Tuesday and the Khandabasa ritual will be held at 9.30pm, priest Aswini Panda said. Police have made elaborate

arrangements for the peace-

ful conduct of the festival. One platoon of police force will be deployed while all the sub-inspectors and the assistant sub-inspectors will remain present to ensure law and order, Junagarh police IIC Ullas Rout and Dharmagarh SDPO Manoi Behera said. Junagarh tehsildar Surmi

Soren, BDO Debashis Kar and NAC executive officer Pramod Khilo will also remain present during the festival.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

NOTIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENTS (STBA) No. SDCM/KUR/STBA/Notification/Phase-XXV, Dated : 16.09.2024 pplications are invited for selection and appointment of "Station Ticket Booking gents" (STBA) for 03 (Three) years on commission basis at 04 (Four) "NSG-6" ategory stations over Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway for issuing Unreserved

Tickets through computerized Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS). Interested person Idialities the stipulated conditions may apply in the prescribed format to Senior Divisio Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road Division. NAME OF THE STATIONS

NSG-6' CATEGORY STATIONS (for a period of 03 years): No. of STBAs Required – Only One (01) STBA at each station to work Round the Clock NSG-6 CATEGORY : 1 KHURDA TOWN (KURT), 2. JHADPUDI (JPI), 3. BARUV/ (BAV), 4. GURUDIJHATIA (GJTA),

Applications for the above stations duly filled in should reach the office of the Senio Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road by 11.00 hrs on or before 15.10.2024. If the last day i.e. 15.10.2024 happens to be or is declared to be holiday, applications will be received by the same time on the next working day Closing Date and Time of submission of Applications: 1100 hrs. of 15.10.2024 Opening Date and Time of Application Box : 1130 hrs. of 15.10.2024.

The Railway Administration reserves the right to accept any application ssigning any reason whatsoever. For detailed terms & conditions and application format, please visit websit

www.eastcoastraii.indianrailways.gov.in & http://tenders.gov.in or contact the office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, East Coast Railway, Khurda Road Division, P.O. : Jatni, Dist.: Khurda, Pin-752050. PR-543/P/24-25 Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Khurda Road

NOTICE IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, CUTTACK C-71, SECTOR-7, CDA, CUTTACK-753014 O.A. No. 86 of 2024 UCO Bank, Bhanjanagar Branch, At: Khalasi Street, High Court Square, Old LIC Building, Bhanjanagar, Dist.: Ganjam, Represented by its Chief Manager ... Applicant -And-...Defendants M/s. HMH Products & another То 1. M/s. HMH Products, At: R.C. Road, Bhanjanagar Dist.: Ganjam-761126, Represented through its Proprietress Mrs. Minati Kumari Bisoyi. 2. Mrs. Minati Kumari Bisoyi, W/o.: Late Hiten Swain, At: Bankasala, 1st Lane, Bhejiput, P.S.: Bhanjanagar Dist.: Ganjam-761126. SUMMONS BY PAPER PUBLICATION FOR SHOWING CAUSE AS TO WHY THE RELIEF PRAYED SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED Take notice that the applicant has instituted a suit in O.A. No. 86 of 2024 in the Court of Debts Recovery Tribunal, Orissa, at Cuttack for recovery of **Rs.27,68,438.13** only together with current and future interest, costs and other relief's. The above mentioned defendants are therefore hereby directed to appear before this ribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of their defense to show cause within **30 days** from the date of publication or on **21**st **day of Oct 2024** at **10.30 A.M.** as to hy relief's prayed for should not be granted.

and determined in their absence

ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସମିତି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ପିପିଲି

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI. PIPILI

Sd/- Registrar **Debts Recovery Tribunal**



get speedy justice.'

As part of its follow up in-

vestigation, a scientific team,

dog squad and police officers

led by sub-divisional police officer

(SDPO), Rourkela (zone-II),

Nirmal Mohapatra visited the

spot along with the accused and

Speaking about the investi-

gation, Mohapatra said that the

standard operating procedure

was being followed to learn in de-

three accused persons and are

trying to find out whether some

other persons were also involved

that the medical examination

of the accused and the minors

were conducted Monday while

statements of the victims will be

The police officer informed

in the crime or not," he said.

'We have already arrested

recreated the crime scene.

tail about the crime.

Cops recreate crime scene in

'gangrape' of 2 minor sisters

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 23: Police Monday conducted crime scene recreation in the alleged gangrape of two minor girls in Rourkela city, a police officer said.

Speaking to media persons Rourkela SP Brijesh Kumar Rai said a case has been registered at Plant Site police station under relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)

The two minors (14 & 15) were taken to a desolate spot behind the Birsa Munda Stadium here September 21 evening when they were returning from the local

market and gangraped. Scientific team and a dos visited the crime scene, he said, adding, "We are hoping to complete the investigation very soon and submit the chargesheet in the court so that the victims will

Berhampur varsity orders probe after ragging allegation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Sept 23: An investigation was ordered after some first-year post-graduate (PG) students of Berhampur University in Ganjam district alleged ragging by their senior in the hostel, officials said Monday.

In a complaint to the UGC, the students alleged that their seniors came to their hostel about 11pm Saturday, and continued asking them various details in the name of introduction and did not let them sleep.

dents in the complaint, officials said. The varsity swung into action after the UGC

The Anti-Ragging Committee has been directed to investigate the allegation, said Sukant Kumar Tripathy, the in-charge Vice-Chancellor of the varsity.

The Anti-Ragging Committee and the Board of Residence held separate meetings to discuss the issue, officials said.

Tripathy said night patrolling would be intensified on the campus, and the antiragging squad has been asked to regularly visit the hostels and other vulnerable areas.



However, they did not name the senior stuforwarded the complaint.



NOTICE al under Regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations'1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations'2019 i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2024-29 tariff block for assets under Transmission system associated with Darlipalli TPS in Eastern Region. 2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (i) Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd, (ii) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd..(iii) Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd., (iv) Damodar Valley Corporation (v) Power Department, Govt of Sikkim ,Gangtok, (vi) Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigarr Ltd., (vii) NTPC Ltd. 3. Tariff details a) 2019-24 Block DOCO Completion Tariff 2019-20 2020-21 2021-22 2022-23 2023-24 Asset Cost as on Revised detai AFC 31.03.2024 based on 1896.68 1837.28 1791.43 1763.30 1739.03 Asset-I 26.04.2017 11418.05 truing up b) 2024-29 Block Rs. In lakhs Tariff 2024-25 2025-26 2026-27 2027-28 2028-29 Asset Completion Cost detail as on 31.03.2029 Asset-I 11418.05 AFC | 1677.91 | 1632.51 | 1588.65 | 1526.96 | 1491.66 4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com 5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice. Sd/-Place: Gurugram General Manager (Commercial) Date : 23.09.2024 **POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED** (A Government of India Enterprise) Corp. Office: "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurugram-122001, (Haryana) Tel.: 0124-2571700-719 Reg. Office: B-9. Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi-110 016. Tel: 011-26560112, 26560121 www.powergrid.in, CIN: L40101DL1989GOI038121 A MAHARATNA PSU

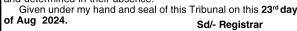


3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport,



Rs. In lakhs

Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard



Man gets 20-yr RI for minor's rape

Phulbani: A POCSO court here Monday convicted a 61year old man for raping a minor girl in 2023 and sentenced him to 20 years of Rigorous Imprisonment (RI). Judge Rajesh Das also slapped a fine of ₹60,000 on the convict Debaraj Digal, a native of Gochhapada PS area under Phiringia block. In case of default, the convict has to undergo an additional 10-month jail term, the judge ordered. According to the case diary, the incident took place February 5 in 2023 when the 17-year old victim was alone at home. Debaraj called the minor girl to come outside her house and forcefully took her to a nearby forest. There he raped her multiple times. When her parents returned home February 9, they came to know about the ordeal of their daughter. The victim's father lodged a written complaint in this regard at Gochhapada PS February 10. Acting on the complaint a case was registered and police after investigation arrested Debaraj. The judge pronounced the judgment after hearing from witnesses and going through the medical and police investigation reports. The judge also ordered the district legal services authority (DLSA) to provide ₹6 lakh compensation to the survivor, said Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Asim Praharaj.

recorded before the magistrate. All the evidence collected so far will be sent to the laboratory for scientific investigation,

the SDPO stated.



Ministry of Corporate Affairs Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE), IICA Building, 7th Floor, Plot P- 6, 7, 8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050

PUBLIC NOTICE

[Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016]

Public Notice: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2024-25/871 Date: 03/09/2024

Reference:

(1) In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (4) companies in the state of ODISHA under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:

S. No.	Work Item	CIN	Company Name
1	AA9862217	U90009OD2023PTC044305	KASHVI ENTERTAINMENT PRIVATE LIMITED
2	AA9866714	U18100OR2022PTC039836	EASTCLAN FASHION PRIVATE LIMITED
3	AA9430630	U45309OR2019PTC031394	SNV CONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED
4	AB0024266	U14200OR2007PTC009473	D.B. MINERALS PRIVATE LIMITED

(2) Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Companies had received applications from the above mentioned companies under section 248(2) of the Companies Act, 2013 for removal of its/their name (s) from the register of companies either on the ground that they have failed to commence business within one year of their incorporation or on the ground that the company(ies) is/are not carrying on any business or operation for a period of two immediately preceding financial years and has/have not made any application (s) within such period for obtaining the status of a dormant company under section 455 of the Companies Act, 2013 or the company(ies) have obtained the status of dormant company/ subscribers to the memorandum have not paid the subscription which they had undertaken to pay at the time of incorporation of a company and a declaration to this effect has not been filed within one hundred and eighty days of its incorporation under subsection (1) of section 10A/ have not been carrying on any business or operations, as revealed after the physical verification carried out under sub-section (9) of section 12, but it/they do not wish to continue its/their registration as companies and have, therefore requested for removal/strike off of its/their names from the register of companies.

(3) Accordingly, the Registrar of Companies proposes to remove or strike off the names of the above mentioned companies from the Register of Companies.

(4) Any person objecting to the proposed removal or striking off name of the companies from the register of companies may send his or her objection to the office address mentioned here above within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

Irkan Tirkev **Assistant Registrar Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit**

New Delhi-110003

Request for Proposal for engagement of Consultant for Formulation of Performance Standards of Airports relating to Quality, Continuity and **Reliability of service and Associated Activities.**

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) requests for proposals from agencies for engagement as Consultant for formulation of Performance Standards of Airports relating to Quality, Continuity and Reliability of service and Associated Activities.

The Bid for the same has been floated on GeM portal (https://gem.gov.in).

- The details regarding Terms of Reference/ Scope of work, 3. eligibility criteria, evaluation methodology, last date of submission etc. are available in the Bid document uploaded on the GeM portal. The Bid Number of the subject RFP floated on the GeM Portal is GEM/2024/B/5423497 dated 20.09.2024
- Last date for submission of Bid is 15.10.2024. Only the Bids submitted on GeM portal as per timelines mentioned therein will be entertained.

Sd./- Under Secretary (Policy & Statistics) Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, 3rd Floor, Udaan Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi - 110003 cbc 03112/12/0010/2425

No. 4319/ Date:21.09.2024 e" Procurement Notice

Phone:06758-240746, 06758-240745, e-Mail:ori-pipili@nic.in

No.i-186:Bid Documents consisting of Work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, Time of Completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. https://tendersodisha gov.in

1.	Tender Reference No. :	10/PSP/2023-24
2.	Name of the Work :	Development of Pond at
		Dasia Bauri Pitha at Teisipur.
3.	No. of Works :	1 No.
4.	Estimated Cost :	Rs.39,30,082/-
5.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) :	Rs.39,301/-
6.	Period of Completion :	180 Days
7.	Date & Time of Bidding :	23.09.2024 at 11.00 AM
8.	Last date & time for receipt :	03.10.2024 at 5.00 PM
	of bids in the portal	
9.	Bids received online shall be :	05.10.2024 at 10.00 AM
	opened on	
10.	Name and address of the :	O/o- Block Development
	Officer Inviting Bid	Officer, Pipili
- ×		
go۱		
	Sd./- Block Dev	elopment Officer, Pipil
	2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. Fur	 Name of the Work No. of Works Estimated Cost Estimated Cost Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Period of Completion Date & Time of Bidding Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal Bids received online shall be opened on Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid Further amendments, corrigend regarding this letter will be availabl gov.in and will not be published in proceeding

OIPR-19373/11/0003/2425



भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड Securities and Exchange Board of India

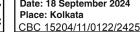
SEBI-Eastern Regional Office, L&T Chambers, 5th floor, 16 Camac Street, Kolkata-700017

PUBLICATION OF DETAILS OF UNTRACEABLE DEFAULTERS

Recovery Certificates (RC) were drawn up against the following Defaulters by the Recovery Officer, SEBI under section 28A of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act. 1992 read with section 222 of the Income-tax Act, 1961. However, Notice(s) of Demand (NoD) could not be served on these Defaulters at their last known address as provided in the table below:

Sr. No.	Name of Defaulter	PAN	Last known address	R.C. Number	Date of NoD
1	Adarsh Wealth Ventures Limited	AAICA9555B	Plot No 504/2310, Kanan Vihar, Phase - II Bhubaneshwar, Khordha, Odisha - 751031	RC7105 of 2023	31/08/2023
2	Bijaya Kumar Rout	AJAPR7516B	At/PO - Natkai, Via - Nischantakoili, Dist: Cuttack, Odisha- 754207	RC7105 of 2023	31/08/2023
3	Ganeswar Mahanta	BAVPM4368K	At - Belaposhi, PO - Nelung, Keonjhar, Odisha - 758002	RC7105 of 2023	31/08/2023
4	Dipak Kumar Mohanty	AKOPM1988P	At/ PO - Jenapur, PS: Jajpur, Dist: Jajpur, Odisha- 755023	RC7105 of 2023	31/08/2023
5	Ramakanta Mahakul	BFLPM3735C	At/PO - Bhojpur, PS: Jamankira, Dist: Sambalpur, Odisha - 768223	RC7105 of 2023	31/08/2023
6	Anil Singh	BAMPS0082D	LIC Colony, Cuttack Sadar Madhupanta, Cuttack, Odisha - 753009	RC7105 of 2023	31/08/2023
7	Choudhary Niranjan Pradhan	AIAPP3677Q	Plot No - 131, Rajarani Nagar, Bhubaneshwar, Odisha - 751014	RC7105 of 2023	31/08/2023
8	Bibhuti Bhushan Panda	AENPN4881R	At/PO - Lendura, Bhagabanpur, Salipur, Cuttack, Odisha - 754203	RC7105 of 2023	31/08/2023

The abovenamed Defaulters are advised to contact the Recovery Officer by sending a letter to the address given above or an email to recoveryero@sebi.gov.in latest by October 03, 2024. Further, if any person is aware of the where abouts of the Defaulters mentioned above, details of the same may be provided by sending a letter to the Recovery Officer at the address given above or an email to recoveryero@sebi.gov.in latest by October 03, 2024. Date: 18 September 2024 Rajkumar Kaluri



(Recovery Officer)

CBC 07123/11/0422/2425









power post

FOCUS SUSTAINABILITY

LET POLLUTERS PAY

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



Electoral Strike

he BJP-led NDA government's decision to accept the recommendations of a high level committee, headed by former President Ram Nah 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 fiveyear 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 represen-

tatives 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



Shania Scotland

IT BEARS REPEATING THAT THE **COUNTRIES THAT ARE MOST VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE ARE OFTEN THOSE THAT HAVE DONE THE LEAST TO CAUSE IT** 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 cat-

or most people, the idea

of suddenly losing every-

thing-their home, their

possessions, and even

their family members and

astrophic 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

International Tribunal for the

Law of the Sea – the world's highest court for marine pro-

tection – issued an unprece-

dented advisory opinion in May

stating that countries are legally

obliged to cut emissions, in-

cluding from shipping, in order

Putting a price on the indus-

try's GHG emissions would go

a long way toward advancing

that objective. Requiring ship-

ping companies to pay for every

ton of emissions from their ves-

sels would raise the cost of using

fossil fuels, thereby accelerating

the shift toward clean-energy

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 ap-

proaches to decarbonizing ship-

ping, such as a clean-fuel stan-

dard. And if the revenues

generated are directed toward

developing economies, the sur-

charge could reduce global in-

equality. Those revenues would

to protect the ocean.

sources

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 tools 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 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 gamechanger. 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 emis sions, 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 oth ers, including Brazil and China continue to resist this oppor-

tunity. 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

tates affected by floods are vation of the ghats in recent perennially reaching out to the Centre for release of immediate funds to mitigate the widespread devastation caused by the floods.

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 programmes look quite en-

decision-making instruments that will enhance capacities to provide accurate and timely weather updates. While the Mission's plans and

Resources Research noted. Projections reveal that rivertriggered flooding is likely to occur in sub-Saharan Africa, southern, eastern, and southeastern Asia, and South America

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 by 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.

LOI

The tradition at weddings

little boy, at a wedding looks at Ahis 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?"



Dhurjati Mukherjee THE WRITING IS ON

THE WALL AND NOT PAYING HEED WOULD BE A GREAT FOLLY

The latest case in West Bengal reiterates the factor of manmade 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 ca-

pacity 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 renoGanga 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 mediumterm 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 GISbased automated

couraging, 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

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 manmade mistakes.

INFA

People's verdict



TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are 105 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

rissapost B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

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 \rightarrow 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













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 Mallikariun 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 cur-tains 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 daylong 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 miniscule number of over 600 have registered for the polling in cur rent Assembly elections.

OrissaPOS

TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 24 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

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.

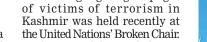


Members of Yuva Rajput Sabha celebrate the birth anniversary Maharaja Hari Singh, in Jammu, Monday PTI PHOTO

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA







HC tightens rules on live-streaming Violence during Ganesh immersion processions after judge's controversial remarks puts K'taka Cong in spot The changes come after K'taka HC Justice V Srishananda's remarks,

which led to public backlash, prompting the judge to express regret

Rule 10(2) of the Karnataka



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 confided 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 Ganpati is being put in jail." The BJP and Hindu organisations have since criticised the Congress government for its handling of the situation.

Minister Home 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.

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 livestreamed sessions The note prohibits any unau-

thorised 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.

Rules on Live Streaming and Recording of Court Proceedings. 2021, reinforces these restrictions by barring the use of recording devices by unauthorised individuals during hearings. The changes come after Justice V Srishananda's remarks, which led to public backlash, prompting the judge to express regret.

Following media reports, the Supreme Court has taken note of the issue and asked the High Court Registrar General to file a detailed report on the matter.

The Advocates' Association of Bengaluru has also called for a temporary halt on live-streaming and urged judges to exercise greater sensitivity during proceedings.

They raised concerns that certain YouTube channels had exaggerated the judge's comments, attaching misleading titles to the content.

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

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 Kashmirivat -- a cultural con-

cept promoting brotherhood and mutual respect. Local Muslims have taken an

active role in supporting the Purushyar temple in the Habba Kadal area, fostering an atmosphere of respect for each other's beliefs.

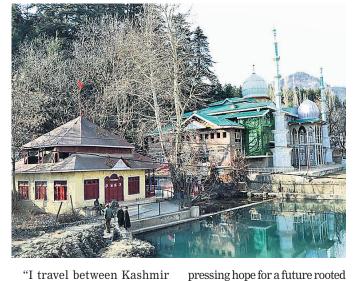
Babloo Jee Bhat, the temple's caretaker for the past 18 years, expressed gratitude for the Muslim community's support.

"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.



gion.

"I travel between Kashmir and Jammu, my family has always lived here. Muslims and Kashmiri Pandits have coexisted peacefully," he said, exhighlighted 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 re-silience and hope for a harmonious future in the Valley.

in humanity rather than reli-

another Hindu temple nearby,

Rakesh Tiku, who oversees









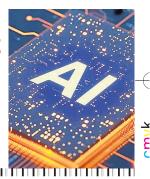
national



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 (CSPAI) is a joint project between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India and SISA



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

Atishi takes charge as Delhi CM

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Avodhya after Lord Ram went into exile for 14 years.

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

"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



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

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 "Marvada Purushottam" and whose life is an example in dig-

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

"In the same way, Arvind Keiriwal has set an example of dignity and morality in the politics of this country," she said, alleging that the BJP left no stone unturned to tarnish his image.

Atishi said Kejriwal was granted bail by the Supreme Court which said his arrest was 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 Keiriwal 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.

BANGALORE FRIDGE HORROR Prime suspect identified, from West Bengal

volved), but unless we have more

information, we can't really con-

firm. He is from West Bengal,

they say. As early as possible we

will secure (those involved).'

Parameshwara told reporters.

Later, talking to the media.

City Police Commissioner B

Dayananda said, "the suspect

has been identified and he is an

outsider". The maggot-infested

body of Mahalakshmi was dis-

covered by her mother and elder

reports that one person was al-

ready taken into custody in con-

nection with the case.

Parameshwara 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 hus-

band has expressed suspicion

about a man known to her.

Responding to a question about

sister at her home Saturday.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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-

> 8 killed in lightning strike in Chhattisgarh



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Garg told PTI.

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

India reports first case of Mpox Clade 1b strain



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Malappuram 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



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

COURT CORNER

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 Mithal 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 Civic Procedure Code (CPC). "We will have to first hear the preliminary objections raised against the suit, the bench said and adjourned the matter.

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





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

nity and morality.



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.

1 (UP): Two beoble wei 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 tractortrolley 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.

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 Concern by the WHO, 30 cases said.

years, effective from Haj, 2024, and also ordered the forfeiture of their security deposits.



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 Prasadams," 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 senior advocate Karuna Nundy, appearing for a litigant in the case. Senior advocate Indira Jaising September 18, appearing for one of the litigants, mentioned that the pleas needed to be heard urgently.

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.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 high-

est among the parties in these

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 Samai 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 frav. 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

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

Parliament and state Assemblies was passed but it will be implemented in 2029, which is also a joke with women," she said. Bhukkal is contesting from

Jhaijar Throwing her hat in the ring for the Congress in Julana in Jind district is Vinesh Phogat -- a wrestling icon who became the face of an anti-sexual harass ment 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 Harvana 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 can-didate from Nuh, a Muslim-dominated constituency.

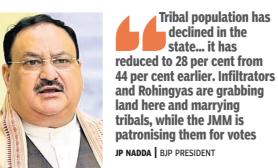


elections









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



Tribal population has

declined in the state ... it has



Two women naval officers to embark on global sailing voyage

As we work towards environmental sustainability and climate resilience, Yuva Shakti must lead the charge in

sustainable future

fostering a greener and more

BHUPENDER YADAV UNION MINISTER

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 KIREN RIJIJU UNION MINISTER

Our(MVA)attempt is to give a progressive alternative in Maharashtra with help of other parties like Samaiwadi Party and Peasants and Workers Party SHARAD PAWAR FORMER UNION MINISTER





elling 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.

@PRIYANKAC19

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

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

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 Tirupati Devasthanam, official sources said Monday.

In the notice, the food regu-Regulation. 2011.

> The **TIRUPATI** LADDU ROW



Hope, Navy officials said Monday. "We are fully prepared for the voyage," the two woman offi-

cers 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 onboard 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

J&K ASSEMBLY POLLS

he 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

he 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

The circumnavigation highlights the exceptional valour. courage and perseverance of the officers, who will face rigours of high seas, extreme weather conditions, pushing the limits of human endurance, it 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, 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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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 in-

cident 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.

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

"BJP-linked" school manage-

ment but an arrested accused

is shot dead in suspicious cir-

cumstances, he said, adding "we

have no trust in Badlapur po-

Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesper-

son Sushma Andhare equated

the incident with the gunning

down of four rape accused in

it was done in self-defence.

However, due to the deaths, the

truth never came out. The same

"There too the police claimed

Telangana in 2019.

There is no action against the

said.

lice"

Badlapur sexual assault Will be your voice in Parliament: Rahul case accused shot dead **COPS ACTED IN** "Is it an attempt to destroy evidence? Were Akshay Shinde's **SELF-DEFENCE, SAY** hands not tied by the police during the transit? How could he

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

Akshay Shinde, accused of sexually abusing two girls in the school where he worked as an attendant, was being taken to Badlapur from Taloja jail for investigation when he snatched a policeman's gun and fired at an assistant inspector when the police vehicle reached Mumbra bypass

He was killed in retaliatory firing by a police officer who was part of the escort team.

will be the case with the Badlapur "Akshay Shinde's ex-wife

RAHUL GANDHI | LOP

elections

vour statehood after

elections," the former Congress president said

CM. FADNAVIS

Shinde in self-defence.

sexual assault. Was Akshay Shinde killed as he was hiding had accused him of sexual visomething more sinister? Why olence and the police was takis the school management still ing him for a probe regarding 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"

Seeking support for Congress-National Conference alliance candidates, Rahul said his

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 presi dent 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



lator 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)

According to the notice, FSSAI said it received information from 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 inform

party wanted the restoration of statehood before the ongoing polls PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Monday said the Congress wants Jammu and Kashmir to be run by locals

Addressing back-to-back rallies at Surankote and Srinagar on the last date of campaigning for the second phase of polling

Surankote/Srinagar, Sept 23:

rather than from Delhi, and promised the party would pressure the Centre to restore J&K's statehood after the ongoing Assembly polls.

district Monday, a senior police official said. The gunfight broke out at around 4 pm in the forest of Abhuimaad on the Chhattisgarh-Maharashtra inter-border when a joint team of security personnel was out on an antinaxal 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 Gandhinagarbased 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.

tion, 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 blacklisted by EO, TTD," the notice said.

"By virtue of the above nonconformance 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.

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 56inch 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

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".

We were of the view that

statehood should be

by elections but they did not

do it. We will put pressure on

them and you will get back

restored first followed

'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.'

the gun of a police personnel opened fire. Police fired back in self-defence," CM Shinde told reporters.

these allegations. He snatched

However, the incident drew condemnation from the Opposition parties who questioned the chain of events and also asked if it was a move to destrov evidence in a case that had triggered national outrage.



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 antidepression 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 preiournal

Psilocybin vious work, we had found that psilocy also improves bin also improves sexual drive. in sexual drive, in contrast to SSRIs, contrast to SSRIs, which tend to which tend to lower lower libido in many patients. So, libido in many overall it seems psilopatients cybin might give addi-

tional positive mental health benefits," Barba said. The findings are published in the

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

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

> DAVID ERRITZOE CLINICAL DIRECTO

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 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 \rightarrow found that both groups showed significant improvement in depressive symptoms.

However, those given psilocybin were found to report greater improvements in socialfunctioning and psychological connectedness.







international



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



uote

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 TYKHYI 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

Anura vows Lanka's 'Renaissance'

Crisis-stricken country's new Marxist President takes oath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 23: Marxist Anura Kumara leader 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 predecessor Ranil his 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.

Dissanavake 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



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

REUTERS

World Health Organization said Monday. More than 800 people died of suspected mpox across the con-

Zelenskyy is due to present the plan to US President Joe Biden this week and his two poWHO records over 30k mpox cases in Africa

Burundi has also been hit by a

growing outbreak, it added. London, Sept 23: Nearly 30,000 Mpox can spread through close contact. Usually mild, it is suspected mpox cases have been fatal in rare cases. It typically reported in Africa so far this vear. most of them in causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions on the body. Democratic Republic of Congo where tests have run out, the

The WHO statement did not give comparative figures from previous years. The African Union's public health agency has said 14.957 cases and 739 deaths were reported from seven affected states in 2023 - a 78.5% increase in new cases from 2022

There were 29,342 suspected cases and 812 deaths across Africa from January to September 15 this year, according to the WHO report.

A total of 2,082 confirmed cases were reported across the world in August alone, the highest since November 2022, the WHO said.

On Saturday, the World Bank's pandemic fund said it would give \$128.89 million to ten African countries to help fight the outbreak

DEADLIEST BARRAGE SINCE 2006 Israeli strikes kill



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,

Sirens warning of Hezbollah it's with Hezbollah. For too long rocket fire sounded across north-Hezbollah has been using you as human shields," he said.

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

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

by Iran.

up attacks in southern Lebanon, and urged Israelis to stay united. "I promised that we would

southern border, Israel is shift-

ing its focus to the northern

frontier, where Hezbollah has

been firing rockets into Israel

in support of Hamas, also backed

Israel's military said it had

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.

ern Israel, including in the port city of Haifa, and in the northern part of the occupied West Bank, the military said.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE Xi pledges more BRI investment Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping Monday congratulated his newly-

idential election.

Marxist Janatha Vimukthi

Peramuna party's broader front

National People's Power (NPP),

defeated his closest rival Sajith

Premadasa of Samagi Jana

Balawegaya (SJB) in Saturday's

election. The election was the

first to be held since mass protests

unseated Gotabaya Rajapaksa

in 2022 after the country suf-

His swearing-in comes hours

after Prime Minister Dinesh

Gunawardena resigned from his

post as part of a power transition

in the country following the pres-

fered an economic crisis.

elected Sri Lankan counterpart Anura Kumara Dissanayake, pledging more high-quality cooperation through BRI, amid speculation that his Marxist background may lead to stronger ties with Beijing and a delicate balancing act between China and India. Xi, 71, also pledged to work with the Sri Lankan President to facilitate more fruitful high-quality Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation and make steady and long-term progress in the China-Sri Lanka strategic cooperative partnership. China is Sri Lanka's largest bilateral lender owning 52 per cent of the \$40 billion external debt when Sri Lanka announced its sovereign default in 2022.

Modi expresses optimism for stronger ties

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his heartfelt congratulations to Sri Lanka's President-elect Anura Kumara Dissanayake on his victory in the Sri Lankan Presidential election Sunday. In a message posted on social media platform X, PM Modi expressed his optimism for stronger ties between the two nations, highlighting Sri Lanka's key role in India's foreign policy. "Congratulations, Anura Kumara Dissanayake, on your victory in the Sri Lankan Presidential elections. Sri Lanka holds a special place in India's Neighbourhood First Policy and Vision SAGAR. I look forward to working closely with you to further strengthen our multifaceted cooperation for the benefit of our people and the entire region," he said.

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 guota 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.

tential 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 sum-

mit to discuss a resolution to the

tiative, Kremlin spokesman

Dmitry Peskov told reporters:

analyse media reports. If infor-

mation about it appears in offi-

cial sources we will of course

scrutinise it. There is a lot of

contradictory and unreliable in-

formation on it out there, so we

are very cautious about this.'

Asked about Zelenskyy's ini-

We believe that one should not

conflict under the new plan.

OUA

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 determination to uphold its "sovereignty and maritime rights" in the disputed South and East China Seas.

tinent in that time, the UN health

body said in its report. Congo's

central African neighbour

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

SA seeks to reform faltering Black empowerment system

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-yearold 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 Dhinessh 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 — Dhinessh, Naviinjaay C Nathan and K Vicknesh 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 willreturn to court next week, according to the report.

Russia violates Japan's airspace

Tokyo: Japanese Defense Minister Minoru Kihara told reporters that the Russian II-38 plane breached Japan's airspace above Rebun 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.

The African National Congress is under intense pressure to improve the lives of Black people left disadvantaged by decades of white minority rule

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 lost its parliamentary majority in May elections, is under intense pressure to improve the lives of Black people left disadvantaged by decades of white minority rule.

The empowerment law enacted in 2003 created a scorecard system that encourages companies to hire and promote Black people by offering them tax breaks and access to government contracts.

Two decades later, unemployment is five times higher for Black people than for white people and income inequality is the worst in the world, according to the World Bank, and critics say the empowerment policy has not worked.

"There's no society that can be viable with (this) level of inequality," Tshediso Matona, head of the Broad-based Black



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.













business



The advent of artificial intelligence will most certainly lead to the creation of new roles and jobs in the economy, although some of the current functions involving repetitive and commoditised tasks may be impacted **ROMAL SHETTY** | CEO (SOUTH ASIA), DELOITTE

ROADSHOWS FOR HZL STAKE SALE

The government has conducted several roadshows in the last 15 days in financial capitals like Mumbai, London, Boston and New York to assess the market and meet investors for sale of its stake in Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL). The government, which owns 29.5 per cent in the company, is the largest minority shareholder in Hindustan Zinc



uote

Human factors whether in the cockpit, air traffic control or ground support operations now play a pivotal role in aviation safety

K RAMMOHAN NAIDU CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER

Refiners aren't sure about the demand for the December quarter with these higher prices. They're also worried about whether the prices will hold. That's why they're cancelling contracts

SANDEEP BAJORIA CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SUNVIN GROUP

With the interplay of dynamic factors such as rapid urbanisation, rising median age, and technological

advancements, we are on the brink of a quantum leap, entering a new era of growth and diversification BOMAN IRANI PRESIDENT, CREDAI NATIONAL

SHORT TAKES

EPFO adds 20 lakh

New Delhi: Retirement fund body EPFO recorded a net addition of 19.94 lakh members in July this year, the Labour Ministry said Monday. Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in a press conference that 10.52 lakh new or first-time workers subscribed to Social Security schemes run by the **Employees Provident Fund** Organisation (EPFO). The minister said almost 20 lakh net new members addition (19.94 lakh) were recorded in July this year. He also informed that 8.77 lakh members added in July are in the age group of 18-25 years.

SpiceJet in soup

New Delhi: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Monday issued notice to debtridden air carrier SpiceJet over the plea filed by one of its operational creditors. A two-member NCLT bench. sina M

INDICES CLOSE AT RECORD HIGH FOR 3RD DAY ON CONTINUED OPTIMISM OVER FED RATE CUT

SHARES CONTINUE TO CLIMB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 23: Benchmark BSE Sensex jumped 384 points to close at a new all-time high Monday, driven by gains in energy, select banking and auto shares amid continued optimism over the US Fed rate cut and positive Asian markets.

Rallying for the third day running, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 384.30 points, or 0.45 per cent, to settle at an all-time high of 84,928.61. During the day, it soared 436.22 points, or 0.51 per cent, to hit a fresh lifetime intraday peak of 84,980.53.

The NSE Nifty rose 148.10 points, or 0.57 per cent, to close at a record peak of 25,939.05. During the day, it zoomed 165.05 points, or 0.63 per cent, to reach a new intra-day all-time high of 25,956.

"The euphoria from the FED rate cut continued to lift the domestic market. The benign input costs and an expectation of a change in stance by the RBI amid cuts by global banks will provide tailwinds to valuation. Though there is moderation in India PMI data, investors are anticipating that the wave of liquidity from FII may provide stability in the sentiment," Vinod

Nair, Head of Research, Geojit

	D 3E 3	ENSE		SEPTEMBE	R 23, 2	2024	
			CHANGE:	+414.39 (+0.49	9%)		
	revious lose	84,900 84,800 Marth	84,	958.70 —	mm		Today's Closing
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		84,500					
		9:15 am	11 am	1 pm	3 pm	4 pm	
	M&M	+3.29%			ICICI BAI	NK	-1.25%
	SBIN	+2.55%	ТОР	ТОР	INDUSIN	D BANK	-1.05%
	BHARTI AIRTEL	+2.25%	CAINERS	LOSERS	ASIAN P	AINTS	-0.97%

FRESH PEAKS

HINDUSTAN UNILEVER +1.62%

DCE CENCEV

Sensex up 384.30 points to end at all-time high of 84.928.61

+1.71%

 \uparrow

 Nifty rose 148.10 points to close at record peak of 25,939.05

Financial Services said

From the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra was the biggest gainer, rising by 3.29 per cent. State Bank of India rose by 2.55 per cent, Bharti Airtel by 2.25 per cent and Kotak Bank by 1.71 per cent.

Gains HDFC Bank, Reliance

Trade unions protest against labour codes

The rising labour discontent poses a challenge to Modi's efforts to attract foreign

investors by easing labour laws to streamline business operations and boost productivity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: Thousands of Indian workers marched through several towns and cities including New Delhi.



union and opposition objections," Vidya Sagar Giri, national vice president of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), one of 10 unions which organised the protests, told demonstrators in the capital.

One of the union leaders said the government aims to allow large companies to reduce wages



service sectors exhibited similar trends during the month. Nevertheless, the pace of growth remained well above the longterm average.'

The dominant services industry's index fell to 58.9 this dropped the most by 1.25 per cent, capping Sensex gains. IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services, and Larsen & Toubro

were among the laggards. The BSE midcap and smallcap indices climbed 0.73

per cent each Among indices, oil & gas jumped 2.23 per cent, realty by 2.07 per cent, telecommunication by 1.93 per cent, energy by 1.80 per cent, auto by 1.46 per cent, consumer durables by 1.39 per cent, consumer discretionary by 1.22 per cent and utilities by 0.92 per cent.

BSE IT emerged as the only loser.

A total of 2,382 stocks advanced while 1,731 declined and 120 remained unchanged on the BSE. The BSE benchmark jumped 1,359.51 points, or 1.63 per cent, to settle at an all-time high of 84,544.31 Friday. During the day,

it soared 1,509.66 points, or 1.81 per cent, to hit the momentous intra-day peak of 84,694.46. The NSE Nifty also surged

375.15 points, or 1.48 per cent, to close at a record 25,790.95 level During the day, the gauge zoomed 433.45 points, or 1.70 per cent, to reach an all-time intra-day peak of 25,849.25.

Input cost inflation rose

at a slightly quicker

pace in September.

Rates of increase in output

sectors, with manufacturers

slowdown, implying a bigger

companies refrained from fully

passing on a slight acceleration

in input costs to customers as

prices charged were muted com-

pared to last month. Firms noted

higher raw materials and elec-

reduction in their margins

charges slowed in both

experiencing a larger

PRANJUL BHANDARI CHIFF INDIA

ECONOMIST, HSBC

Unemployment rate stays unchanged in July '23 to June '24

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: Unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above has remained unchanged at 3.2 per cent in July 2023 to June 2024, according to the labour force survey annual report released Monday.

The unemployment rate (UR) is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.

The report stated that while the UR for male has shown a marginal decline from 3.3 per cent during July 2022 - June 2023 to 3.2 per per cent during July 2023 – June 2024, among female it has increased from 2.9 per cent to 3.2 per cent during the same time span



Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in usual status for persons of age 15 years and above was 60.1 per cent during July 2023 - June 2024 higher than 57.9 per cent in the previous year.

The same for male and female was 78.8 per cent and 41.7 per cent, respectively.

LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population

LFPR for female of age 15 years above in usual status has increased from 37.0 per cent during July 2022 - June 2023 to 41.7 per cent during July 2023 -June 2024.

For male of the same age group LFPR in usual status increased from 78.5 per cent to 78.8 per cent during the same time span. Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in usual status was 58.2 per cent during July 2023 – June 2024 up from 56.0 per cent in the year ago. The same for male and female was 76.3 per cent and 40.3 per cent respectively.

The WPR in usual status among female of age 15 years and above has shown an increase from 35.9 per cent during July 2022 - June 2023 to 40.3 per cent during July 2023 – June 2024.

NINE-MONTH LOW

SERVICES SECTOR JOBS ROSE AT THE FASTEST PACE IN

absence of significant domestic triggers AJIT MISHRA SVP, RESEARCH, RELIGARE BROKING **Investors' wealth** climbed ₹8.30 lakh crore in three days of record-breaking -0.89%

The prevailing

optimism in

driving the trend, and this

is likely to continue in the

global markets is

₹ snaps six-day gaining streak; slips to 83.54

Mumbai: The rupee pared its early gains to close lower by 2 paise at 83.54 against the US currency Monday, snapping its six-day gaining streak due to a strengthening dollar in overseas markets and an uptick in crude oil prices. A decline in India's Services PMI also affected the investor sentiment while gains in domestic equity markets capped losses in the local unit, forex traders said. Earlier in the day, the rupee opened at 83.44 against the greenback, 8 paise higher than its previous close. However, it gave up gains during the day to finally settle at 83.54 against the US dollar, 2 paisa lower than its previous close. The rupee had closed at 83.52 Friday. "We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias on positive global equities and fresh FII inflows. However, a recovery in the greenback and elevated crude oil prices may cap sharp upside," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was up 0.34 per cent at 101.06.

Industries and Hindustan Unilever helped the index hit all-time high. UltraTech Cement,

Adani Ports, and Tata Steel were also among the gainers. ICICI Bank, on the other hand,

Biz growth drops as demand eases

TWO YEARS

REUTERS

Bangalore, Sept 23: Growth in India's business activity slowed to a nine-month low in September amid a slight cooling in demand and an uptick in costs, according to a survey that also showed services sector jobs rose at the fastest pace in two years.

HSBC's flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index compiled by S&P Global, slipped

to 59.3 this month from August's

market rally

Khandelwal and Sanjeev Tanjan, has directed Spicejet to file a reply and list the matter for the next hearing November 14. SpiceJet is already facing several insolvency petitions from creditors, including Willis Lease, Aircastle Ireland Ltd, Wilmington and Celestial Aviation at NCLT and the appellate tribunal NCLAT. The latest petition is by Techjockey Infotech Pvt Ltd.

Lucknow and Kolkata Monday to protest and demand the repeal of four labour codes which they say favour multinational corporations.

The protesters waved banners and placards, chanting slogans against the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they marched through

industrial towns. "The labour laws were introduced by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in 2019, despite by outsourcing substantial work, thereby infringing workers' rights to form unions. 'This is a violation of human

rights and global practices," said Amarjeet Kaur, general secretary of the AITUC, the country's third biggest union with over 14 million members.

The protests coincide with an ongoing labour strike at the Samsung plant in South India over low wages, which has disrupted production.

final reading of 60.7. However, overall activity re-

mained strong, taking the expansionary streak - the 50-mark separating expansion from contraction - to over three years.

'The flash composite PMI in India rose at a slightly slower pace in September, marking the slowest growth observed in 2024," noted Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC.

"Both the manufacturing and

month from 60.9 in August, its lowest since November, while the manufacturing one cooled to an eight-month low of 56.7 from 57.5.

Overall growth was hurt by a softer rise in new business and orders - key gauges for demand - for both services and goods providers in domestic as well as overseas markets. The pace of expansion in manufacturing output was largely unchanged from August.

Highlighting softer demand,

tricity prices. That is likely to keep the Reserve Bank of India on edge as uncertainty over the inflation outlook has increased despite registering below its mediumterm target of 4.0% for a second month in August. The next policy meeting will be October 7-9.

However, firms continued to hire additional staff this month as the business outlook for the coming 12 months was upbeat, driven by expectations of securing new business.

Steel imports from China at

7-year high in April-August

WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.

Considering the importance of availability of labour force data at more frequent time intervals, National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) launched Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017.

Over 91% individual traders in F&O lost money

THE REGULATOR SAID RAPID GROWTH IN F&O TRADING ACTIVITY HAS HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR INVESTOR EDUCATION AND RISK MANAGEMENT PRACTICES. AS A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF RETAIL TRADERS CONTINUED TO INCUR LOSSES IN THE MARKET

tures contracts, contributing

This study follows up on a re-

port published by Sebi in January

2023, which found that 89 per

cent of individual equity F&O

traders in F&O during FY22 to

FY24, and for all the categories

of investors in F&O during

With increased participation

traders lost money in FY22.

to the surge in market liquidity,'

Sebi said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: More than 91 per cent, or 73 lakh, individual traders lost money in the Futures & Option (F&O) segment in FY24 with an average net loss of ₹1.2 lakh per person, a study conducted by markets regulator Sebi revealed Monday.

Further, 93 per cent of over 1 crore individual F&O traders incurred average losses of about ₹2 lakh per trader (inclusive of transaction costs) during the three years from FY22 to FY24. The aggregate losses of such traders exceeded ₹1.8 lakh crore during the period.

In FY24 alone, individuals incurred about ₹75,000 crore in net losses, it added

The Sebi study found the top 3.5 per cent of loss makers about 4 lakh traders -- faced an average loss of ₹28 lakh per person over the same period, inclusive of transaction costs.

On the other hand, only 7.2 per cent of individual F&O traders made a profit over the period of three years and only 1 per cent of individual traders managed to earn profits exceeding ₹1



lakh, after adjusting for transaction costs

Moreover, the number of retail traders. or individual traders. has almost doubled in two years to about 96 lakh in FY24 from about 51 lakh in FY22.

Although such investors contributed about 30 per cent in the total turnover in FY24, they are a clear majority in number terms, as 99.8 per cent of total traders in the equity F&O segment are individuals

"The availability of sophisticated trading platforms and lower transaction costs have enabled retail investors to ac-

The aggregate losses of such traders exceeded ₹1.8 lakh crore during the period

FY24 alone.

While individuals made losses in F&O, the FPIs and proprietary traders earned profits. The proprietary traders earned about ₹33,000 crore of gross profits in F&O segment in FY24, followed by FPIs who earned about ₹ 28,000 crore in gross profits. Against this, individuals and others incurred losses of over ₹61,000 crore in FY24 (before accounting for transaction costs)

In terms of demography, the proportion of young traders - less than 30 years of age -- has significantly increased trading in the segment to 43 per cent in FY24 from 31 per cent in FY23. Nearly 93 per cent of these young traders incurred losses in F&O in FY24, higher than the average lossmakers of 91.1 per cent in FY24.

Over 75 per cent of individual F&O traders (65.4 lakh traders) in FY24 had declared annual income of less than ₹5 lakh. The proportion of low-income traders (annual income less ₹5 lakh) has increased from 71 per cent in FY22 to 76 per cent in FY24.

The proportion of female traders participating in F&O has decreased from 14.9 per cent in FY22 to 13.7 per cent in FY24. Compared to male traders, less proportion of female traders incurred losses.

While 91.9 per cent of male traders incurred losses in FY24, 86.3 per cent percentage of female traders made losses in F&O.

In terms of geography, individuals from Beyond Top 30 (B30) cities made up over 72 per cent of the total F&O trader base in FY24, a higher proportion compared to mutual fund investors, 62 per cent of whom are from B30 cities.

On an average, individual traders spent ₹26,000 per person on F&O transaction costs in FY24 and over the three-year period from FY22 to FY24, individuals collectively spent about ₹50,000 crore on transaction costs, with 51 per cent of these costs being brokerage fees and 20 per cent being exchange fees.

New Delhi, Sept 23: India's finished steel imports from China hit a seven-year high during the first five months of the 2024/25 financial year, provisional government data reviewed by Reuters showed.

REUTERS

India's overall finished steel imports also reached a six-vear high at 3.7 million metric tonne in the April-August period of this year, and the country was a net importer.

The world's second-biggest crude steel producer has been consuming the alloy at a faster pace with robust demand from the infrastructure and automotive sectors.

India shipped 1.1 million tonne of the alloy from China in the April-August period, up 31.7% year-on-year, the data showed.

China was the largest exporter of finished steel to India during this period, followed by South Korea and Japan, primarily shipping stainless steel, hot-rolled coil steel, galvanised sheets, and plates

India's federal steel ministry is discussing various trade measures against imports in response to calls from Indian mills.



India's imports of finished steel from Russia during the April-August period also hit a sixyear high, the data showed.

Russia, whose exports of finished steel at around 54,000 tonne, more than doubled from a year ago, was also the fifth-largest exporter of finished steel to India during the period.

Domestic steel prices fell in August, India's steel ministry noted in its report.

"Indian domestic rebar prices fell during the month under review reflecting the ongoing challenges in the market which in- \rightarrow cluded supply-demand mismatch and falling offers," it said.

However, for April-August, domestic demand was robust, as finished steel consumption touched a seven-year high at 60.3 million -(metric tonne, up 13.8% from a year ago.









of individual investors in equity and equity derivatives markets, the current study was undertaken to analyse profit and loss patterns for individual

OrissaPOST TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 24 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

ike a magical time for India. As I said, with such players, you **cnow that** vou'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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 23: "If you

had to roll the dice, these are

pretty good teams to roll them

with." Viswanathan Anand had

a strong hunch that India would

go on to be more than within

"smelling" distance of gold at the

World Championship chal-

lenger D Gukesh, R

Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi,

Chess Olympiad this time.

Father of Indian Gukesh & Co stress on team spirit after heroics 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.

"Mv 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, semiretired 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.



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

especially since what happened last time, we were so close as the team to win goal. 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 watch-

ing 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 avsia the bronze medal match to finish behind the Philippines and Indonesia in the six-nation event. The other participating countries were China and Singapore.

Vaishali, Divya Deshmukh, Vantika Agrawal, and Tania Sachdev claimed the top honours in the women's event ahead of Kazakhstan and USA to complete an Indian sweep.

It was a first for the country and it was fitting that Anand, its original superstar of the game, had a role.

Both the teams had fetched And much to the delight of the revered Grandmaster, who bronze medals in the previous played a key role in shaping Olympiad, which was held on home turf in Chennai. Anand some of the brightest youngsters in Indian chess right now, knew they "were smelling the the country swept both the men's gold" at that time but let it slip and women's gold at the 45th in the closing stages. Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary.

However, the 54-year-old fivetime world champion, in an interview to PTI before the Olympiad, put his faith in both the teams' ability to go the distance in Budapest and it was icing on the cake that he was capital. "...you know, if I had to

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

both open and women's category at Chess Olympiad!

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 form-

as the "father of Indian chess

ative 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 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

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.

challenging the 2023 World Test Championship finalists for a

Vidit Gujrathi, and P Harikrishna decimated competition to clinch the gold in the open section, finishing ahead of there to witness history being top seeds USA and Uzbekistan. made by them in the Hungarian Then Harika Dronavalli, R

DOMINANT PERFORMANCE

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 280run 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.





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 Brahmacharimayum headed in the winning goal in the 92nd minute. Sunday's 1-1 draw between Bangladesh and Maldives meant that India qualified for the semifinal 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.

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

spin duo of Ravichandran

Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja

resisted briefly, though India's

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

ASSOCIATED PRESS

came within seconds of victory.

came to play football,

an intense, absorbing and inci-

dent-packed 2-2 draw at Etihad

Stadium. "The other came to

play to the limits of what was pos-

sible to do and allowed by the ref-

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 get-

ting closer and closer to Pep

Guardiola's repeat champions.

City's players know it, too.

eree, unfortunately."

to win.

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 runnersup 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 winnertakes-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 actionpacked 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.

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

English soccer's new big rivalry



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.

"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.

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on to the pitch.'

the dark arts.

"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 sea-

sons. "Probably not so much cer-

tain stuff — I think it's part and

parcel of the game and we'll say

Stones spoke of Arsenal's at-

tempts to slow the game down by

what he perceived as feigning

injuries to allow manager Mikel

Arteta to "get some information