

**At receiving end**  
Netizens find Triptii Dimri's sensuous avatar in Mere Mehboob song of Vicky Aur Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video cringe and embarrassing

LEISURE | P2

**Biden's address to UNGA**  
US President Joe Biden to address world leaders at the United Nations for the final time Tuesday

INTERNATIONAL | P10

**NPCI eyes Africa, S America**  
India is in talks with countries in Africa and South America to help them build a digital payments system using its homegrown UPI

BUSINESS | P11

**Eyeing success**  
Captain of the Indian women's cricket team Harmanpreet Kaur says they have prepared well for the T20 World Cup

SPORTS | P12



**FAREWELL TO ARMS:** National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) extremists during a surrender ceremony in Jampuijala, West Tripura, Tuesday. More than 400 militants surrendered with their weapons after signing a settlement memorandum with the Tripura state government

## Nod to ₹4,954cr projects

**THE PROJECTS ARE EXPECTED TO CREATE OVER 24K JOBS**  
POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** The 131st State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) meeting, chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, approved 31 projects worth ₹4,954.26 crore, Tuesday.

Addressing media after the meeting, Ahuja said the projects are expected to create around 24,162 jobs, contributing to the region's overall economic development.

Polimiroir India Private Limited's proposal for manufacturing industrial steel rollers of capacity 3,000 units per annum in Khurda got the SLSWCA nod. With an investment of ₹128 crore, the unit will generate 200 jobs.

The SLSWCA approved the proposal of Danieli India Limited for establishing facility in Khurda to manufacture mechanical and electrical capital goods. With an investment of ₹190 crore, the plant is expected to create 380 jobs.

Similarly, Parth Electricals and Engineering Private Limited's proposal for an electrical equipment manufacturing unit in Khurda with an investment of ₹51 crore also got a go ahead. The unit is expected to provide 145 jobs.

The SLSWCA granted approval to Bisleri International Private Limited's proposal to set up a beverage manufac-

**ODISHA'S FIRST NATIONAL LEAGUE CRICKET TEAM**

**Odisha Kheliba Duniya Dekhiba**

## LEBANON DEATH TOLL REACHES 558

AGENCIES

**Beirut, Sept 24:** Lebanon's Health ministry said the death toll from Israeli airstrikes in the country since early Monday has reached 558. Health Minister Firass Abiad said Tuesday that 1,835 people were wounded during the same period and were taken to 54 hospitals around Lebanon. Abiad added that four paramedics were among those killed, and 16 paramedics and firefighters were among the wounded.

P10

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



You should be grateful. I saved your life from overworking, stress, and office pressure by not giving you a job

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	84914.04 ↓ 14.57
NIFTY	25940.40 ↑ 1.35
DOLLAR	83.68 ↑ ₹0.11
EURO	93.13 ↑ ₹0.18
GOLD	₹74,790 ↑ ₹495
SILVER	₹91,277 ↑ ₹2,046

**WEATHER**

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	30.2°C	29.0°C
Min Temp	25.4°C	24.0°C
Humidity	87%	86%
Rainfall	1mm	12.8mm

**FORECAST**  
Generally cloudy sky

## NRI quota a fraud: SC

*In a judgment which will have nationwide ramifications, the Supreme Court Tuesday junked a petition filed by the Punjab government, seeking quashing of a high court order to expand the definition of 'NRI quota' for admissions in medical and dental courses, by saying that "this NRI business (quota) is nothing but a fraud". The court said such a system has been depriving admission of candidates with three times higher marks in NEET-UG courses. Hours after the SC ruling, the Odisha Parents' Federation demanded an investigation by a 'neutral agency' into admissions under such quota in institutions across the state in the last five years*



verdict of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

On September 10, the high court had set aside the AAP-led government's August 20 notification that expanded the NRI seat category to include distant relatives of candidates "such as uncles, aunts, grandparents, and cousins" for admissions under the 15 per cent NRI quota to medical and dental courses in state government colleges.

"We will dismiss all the petitions. This NRI business is nothing but a fraud. We will put an end to all this... now the so called precedents must give way to primacy of law," the bench said.

The top court said distant relatives of a 'mama, tai, taya,' who are settled abroad, will get admissions ahead of meritorious candidates and this cannot be allowed.

"This is completely a fraud. And this is what we are doing

with our education system!... We will affirm the high court judgement. We must stop this NRI quota business now. The judges know what they are dealing with. The high court has dealt with the case threadbare," the CJI said.

"Let us put a lid on this... what is this ward? You just have to say that I am looking after X ... We cannot lend our authority to something which is blatantly illegal."

Terming the high court verdict "absolutely right," the top court said, "Look at the deleterious consequences... the candidates who have three times higher marks will lose admission (in NEET-UG courses)."

Meanwhile, welcoming the SC decision, president of Odisha Parents' Federation, Basudev Bhatt demanded that all NRI admissions in institutions across the state in the past five years be investigated by a 'neutral agency' in order to stop such 'corrupt practices' in future.

He said the federation is aware that NRI quota admission fraud has been going on in Odisha (and elsewhere in India) since a longtime. "Rackets are operating in several private medical colleges to facilitate NRI admission. We have received grievances from several parents that they have been charged more than Rs 5-10 lakh for NRI quota in Odisha," he said.

## HC jolt to Siddaramaiah



**Bengaluru, Sept 24:** In a setback to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Karnataka High Court Tuesday dismissed his petition challenging Governor's approval for investigation against him in a site allotment case.

The chief minister had challenged the approval given by the Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot for an investigation against him in the alleged irregularities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) in a prime locality.

After completing the hearings on the petition in six sittings from August 19, the single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna September 12 reserved its verdict. It had also extended its August 19 interim order directing the special court for people's representatives that was slated to hear complaints against him in the case, to defer its proceedings till the disposal of the petition.

"The facts narrated in the petition would undoubtedly require

## 6-year-old Gujarat girl killed by principal for resisting rape

AGENCIES

**Ahmedabad, Sept 24:** The investigation into the death of a six-year-old girl in Gujarat's Dahod district has led to a chilling revelation - the Class I student was choked to death allegedly by her school's principal after she resisted his attempts to sexually assault her. He then dumped her body in the school's compound and her bag and shoes near the classroom. Police have arrested the accused, Govind Natt, 55.

The Gujarat Congress has claimed the principal is close to the BJP and RSS.

Senior police officer Rajdeep Singh Jhala said the girl's body was found on the premises of her school Thursday evening, sparking panic in the area. The post-mortem revealed that she was choked to death.

Police registered a case and formed 10 teams to probe the matter. The girl's mother told the police that she went to school with the principal every day. When the cops spoke to him, the principal said he had dropped off the girl at the school and left for some work.

The cops were not convinced. When they examined Natt's phone location details on the day of the incident, it was found that he reached school late that day. When he was grilled, the principal confessed to the heinous crime, the NDTV reported.

## Amid animal fat row, 14L Tirupati laddoos sold in 4 days

AGENCIES

**Hyderabad, Sept 24:** Though the row over the alleged use of animal fat in Tirupati laddoos sparked a massive political row in Andhra Pradesh, it has not hit the sale of the most sought after prasada at Sri Venkateswara Temple, which draws over 60,000 pilgrims daily.

According to the temple administration, over 14 lakh Tirupati laddoos have been sold over four days. A total of 3.59 lakh laddoos were sold September 19, 3.17 lakh September 20, 3.67 lakh September



doo include Bengal gram, cow ghee, sugar, cashews, raisins, and almonds. A whopping 15,000 kg of cow ghee is used daily for preparing laddoos.

The Tirupati temple is at the centre of a massive row after Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister

**Every day, over 3 lakh laddoos are prepared at the temple using 15,000 kg cow ghee. Pilgrims visiting the temple buy them in large numbers, often to give to friends and relatives**

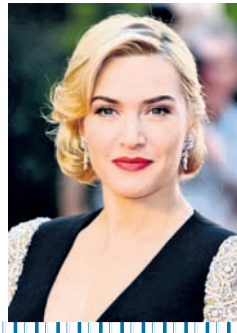
N Chandrababu Naidu alleged that ghee used to prepare Tirupati laddoos during the previous YSRCP regime contained animal fat.

Former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, whose party was voted out in the state polls this

year, has accused the ruling TDP of "politicising religious matters". "The tender process occurs every six months, and the qualification criteria have not changed for decades. Suppliers must provide an NABL certificate and a product quality certificate. The TTD collects samples of the ghee, and only products that pass certification are used. The TDP is politicising religious matters," he said, alleging that Naidu is a "pathological and habitual liar".

**Odisha govt to test quality of ghee used at Srimandir** | P3

# leisure



## KATE WINSLET RULES OUT JOINING SOCIAL MEDIA

Kate Winslet doesn't see the point of joining social media and admitted it's 'off-limits' in her house. The *Titanic* actress, 48, has no plans to join sites such as Instagram or X as she sees them as a distraction, insisting they are 'off-limits' in her house.

## KIM SURPRISED TO SEE HER KIDS HELP EACH OTHER

The Reality television star Kim Kardashian is pleasantly surprised to see her kids helping each other. The Kardashians star recently took to the Stories section of her Instagram, and wrote, "I never thought I would see the day where they were helping each other lol. All thanks to Saints YouTube channel."



### FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

#### ARIES

Today you will have an eye for beautiful and outlandish things. There is a possibility that you may even contemplate starting a business related to these things. Ganesh feels, though, that you will not be able to reach any conclusion about it. But you will keep the option open.

#### TAURUS

Today, you are likely to be more reckless than ever in splurging your hard earned money. Ganesh strongly advises you to leave your credit card at home today. Using it for making purchases will only make matters worse. Money wise, be very careful in your business dealings, about the commitments you make.

#### GEMINI

You will feel physical and mental excitement and emotions today. You may take part in some competition and will seek to improve your self-esteem by performing physically in it. Your intellectual capacity will be on display in the work that you do, says Ganesh.

#### CANCER

Lack of support from family members will disable your efforts. Children also disappoint you. Discord or difference of opinion in family is indicated. Beware of neighbours. Yet, says Ganesh, face circumstances with a smile.

#### LEO

You want to make your personal relationships conflict free and hence will attempt to resolve the conflicts which are within you. You will need to adopt a compromising attitude in life. It is best to stay away from risky financial investments today. An event which will make you happy will occur at the end of the day, says Ganesh.

#### VIRGO

Ganesh says today you will be highly motivated. Your creative talents and abilities set you apart as an excellent artist. Words will flow if you give vent to your creativity, and if you choose to sing or dance, you will be the focus of attention. Ganesh advises you to pursue the performing arts or writing as hobbies.

#### LIBRA

Ganesh says the inner artist in you will come to the surface today and you will showcase your imagination powers too. You will be able to focus on topics of interest today. Those of you in the field of interest will find themselves moving ahead. There may be signing of beneficial legal deals today for you. Ganesh says today is going to be a very good and successful day for you.

#### SCORPIO

Your account balance may suffer suddenly as you decide to loosen your purse strings. You are all set to splurge on your loved ones today, according to Ganesh. However, it is important to remember that the value of money is precious, and once spent it never returns; spend wisely.

#### SAGITTARIUS

Suddenly, you discover that you are fully dedicated to your family. Kith and kins form the crux of your life, says Ganesh. Showing your love and affection to your kids will give you a feeling of satisfaction. Spend some quality time with your partner!

#### CAPRICORN

You can't bear the weight of the heavy work load any more. Very cleverly, you will complete your tasks and slowly but steadily you take the load off your shoulders, predicts Ganesh. Attentive and observant, you meticulously plan your actions and minimise the chances of errors. Today, your efforts will not be effectively channelised, but it will not be a bad day, also.

#### AQUARIUS

You are talented, hard working, confident and down to earth. These four characteristics are the pillars of success. Now, it is time build the building. Your curiosity and desire to achieve your goals will help you with it, feels Ganesh.

#### PISCES

A reckless attitude is the root cause of any downfall. Ensure responsible behavior and actions at every step at your workplace, today, suggests Ganesh. Be alert and focused and you will be able to dodge any incoming trouble.

# Janhvi's refined sartorial sense

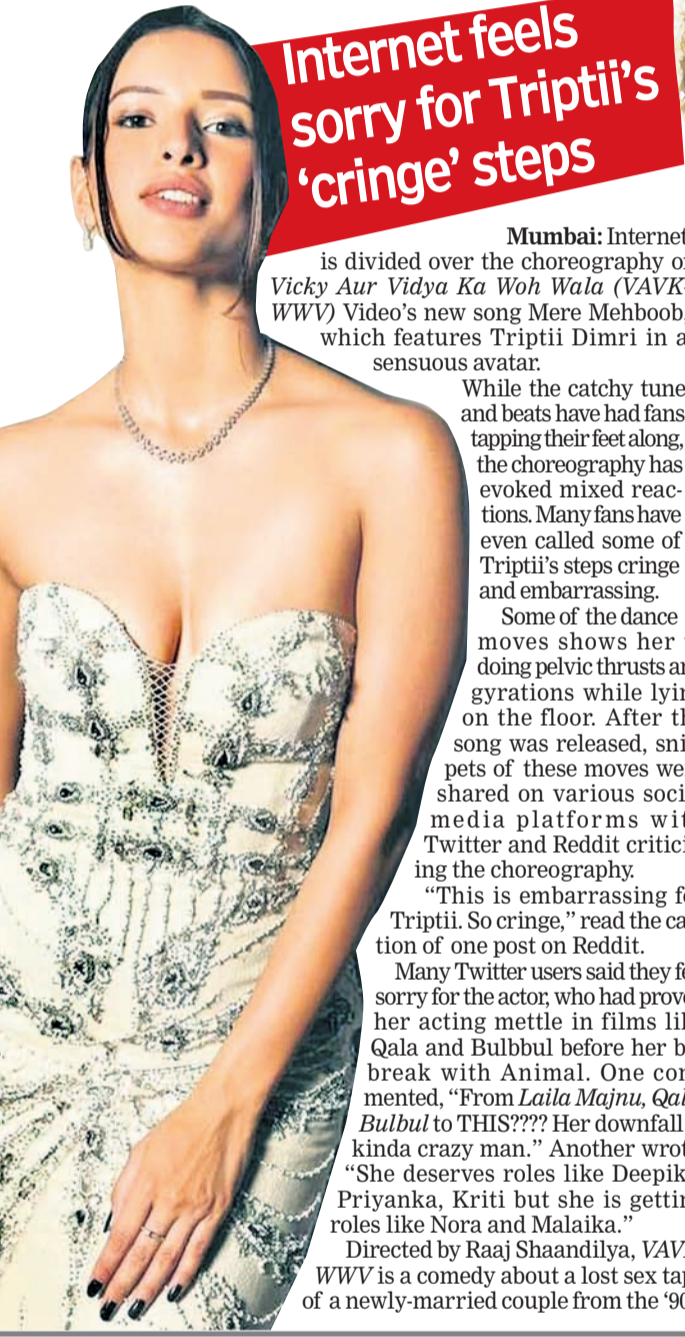
Mumbai: Janhvi Kapoor's stylish outfits always call for a mic-drop moment. One of the most fashionable actresses of her generation, she understands the importance of having a graceful sartorial sense and captures millions of hearts with her looks. From walking in a casual pair of shorts to acing her traditional looks, Janhvi's mind-blowing collection of sari moments is a vibe to watch out for.

She was recently seen in a stunning ocean blue half-sari with crystal-studded detailing making her look a moment in itself.

The actress wore a custom-made sari from the fashion brand Itrh featuring a

long trailing pleated skirt with two shades of blue. The half-sari had a shimmering effect in the light as it had the essence of stunning crystals which gilded throughout her ensemble like sparkling ocean water under the sunlight. To complement the skirt, she gracefully draped her dark blue dupatta which resembles a sari, and tucked it to her shoulder.

A half-sari is a traditional dress worn in South India that's a variation of the traditional Indian sari. AGENCIES



## Internet feels sorry for Triptii's 'cringe' steps

Mumbai: Internet is divided over the choreography of Vicky Aur Vidya Ka Woh Wala (VAVK-WVV) Video's new song Mere Mehboob, which features Triptii Dimri in a sensuous avatar.

While the catchy tune and beats had fans tapping their feet along, the choreography has evoked mixed reactions. Many fans have even called some of Triptii's steps cringe and embarrassing.

Some of the dance moves shows her to doing pelvic thrusts and gyrations while lying on the floor. After the song was released, snippets of these moves were shared on various social media platforms with Twitter and Reddit criticising the choreography.

"This is embarrassing for Triptii. So cringe," read the caption of one post on Reddit.

Many Twitter users said they felt sorry for the actor, who had proved her acting mettle in films like *Qala* and *Bulbul* before her big break with *Animal*. One commented, "From *Laila Majnu*, *Qala*, *Bulbul* to THIS???" Her downfall is kinda crazy man." Another wrote, "She deserves roles like Deepika, Priyanka, Kriti but she is getting roles like Nora and Malaika."

Directed by Raaj Shaandilya, VAVK-WVV is a comedy about a lost sex tape of a newly-married couple from the '90s.

# FSB's 5th IDFFB from Sept 26

Bhubaneswar: The 5th edition of the Indian Documentary Film Festival of Bhubaneswar (IDFFB), organised by the Film Society of Bhubaneswar (FSB), will kick off from September 26 here at the Odissi Research Centre Auditorium.

In the four-day event, 31 films, including the ones that won critical acclaim in major film festivals—Berlin, Sundance (US), Rotterdam, IDSF (Kerala film festival), Busan, and New York—will be screened.

There will be post-screening discussions with the filmmakers while a new feature, a retrospective section, is added to the event this year, shared the organisers.

Apart from movies of Haobam Paban Kumar, the noted film maker from Manipur, the viewers will get to watch Vikramaditya Motwane's *Indira's Emergency*, a movie that tells the backdrop of Emergency during 1975.

Other films to be screened at the event include *Against the Tide*, *Meelon Dur*, *The Orchard and the Pardes*, *No City for Women*, *And Towards Happy Alleys*, *Andro Dreams*, *The Books We Made*, and *I'll Come Back Dancing in the Dunes*. Sarvnik Kaur's *Against the Tide* chronicles the planetary crisis of climate change in a small fishing community in Maharashtra.

Megha Acharya's *Meelon Dur*, set in Bundelkhand, talks about the issues of workers and ex-



ploitation at brick-kilns. Renu Savant's *The Orchard and the Pardes* observes the lives of Nepali workers during the pandemic in Ratnagiri.

The lives of women living in Gurgaon are explored by Rangan Chakravarty in *No city for women*.

Sreemoyee Singh's *And, Towards Happy Alleys* examines the poetry and lives of women in Iran and their protests to live a decent life.

Meena Longjam's *Andro Dreams* explores the lives of young women affiliated with a village football club. Anupama Chandra's *The Books We Made* is a biography of India's first feminist publishing house (Kali for women, Zubaan Books), founded by Urvashi Butalia and Ritu Menon.

The closing film at the festival will be *I'll Come Back Dancing in the Dunes* by Ladakhi film maker Stanzin Dorjai. The film, set in the steppes of Mongolia, narrates the story of a young girl and her ambition to become a ballet dancer in Ulan Bator. The filmmaker will be physically present to interact with the audience.

# When Salman wanted to marry Rekha



Mumbai: From the time Salman Khan made his debut in the Hindi film industry, he instantly became everyone's crush. However, not many know who was the diva, who stole Salman's heart when he was just a teenager? She is none other than the very charming, the ever-green beauty Rekha.

Salman confessed about his childhood crush on Rekha on the sets of *Bigg Boss*. Back in 2014, Rekha came to his show for the promotions of her movie *Super Nani*, it was then Salman shared that in his childhood days, he

attended a yoga class only because Rakha was the instructor.

"At that time I had no connection with yoga, but as Rekha ji taught there, I and my friends used to go there," he recalled.

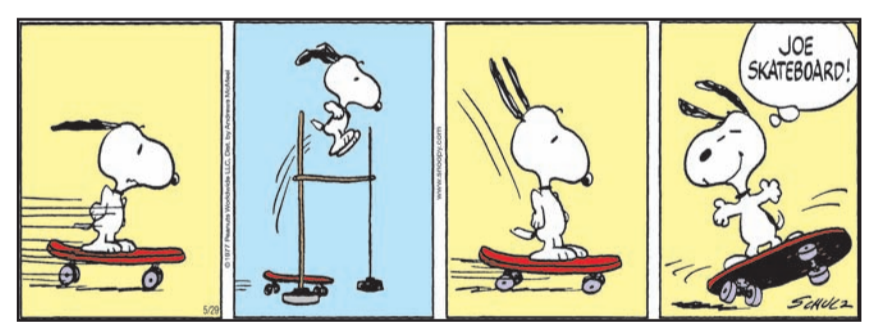
Thereafter Rekha revealed, that Salman fell in love with her even before he reached his teens. He was hardly 7 or 8 years old and used to follow the actress on his bicycle. His innocent heart saw no bounds and thus, he went to his home and told everyone that he would marry Rekha when he is a grown up. To this,

Salman had jokingly added, "That is why I never got married."

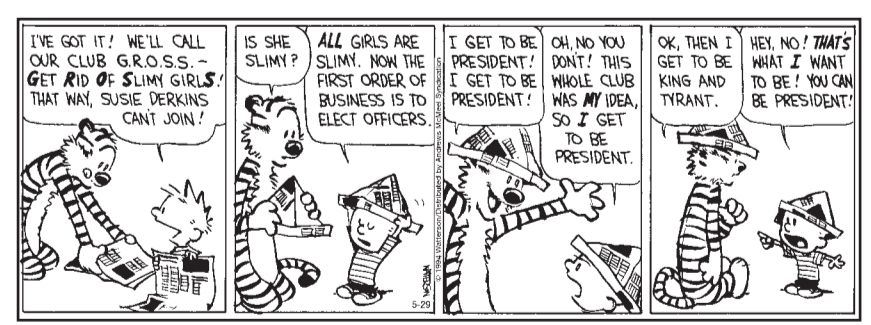
Adding more fun to the conversation, Rekha further said, "I guess even I never got married!"

One cannot blame young Salman for falling head over heels in love with Rekha. The veteran actress can to date give the new girls of the industry a run for money when it comes to grace and beauty. She is an epitome of elegance and there cannot be a heart that doesn't skip a beat on getting a mere glimpse of her.

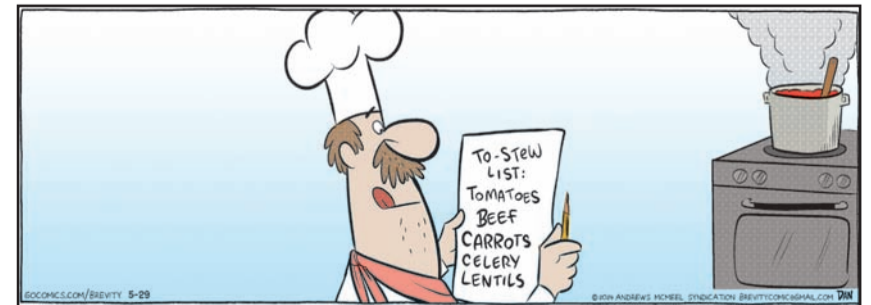
### PEANUTS



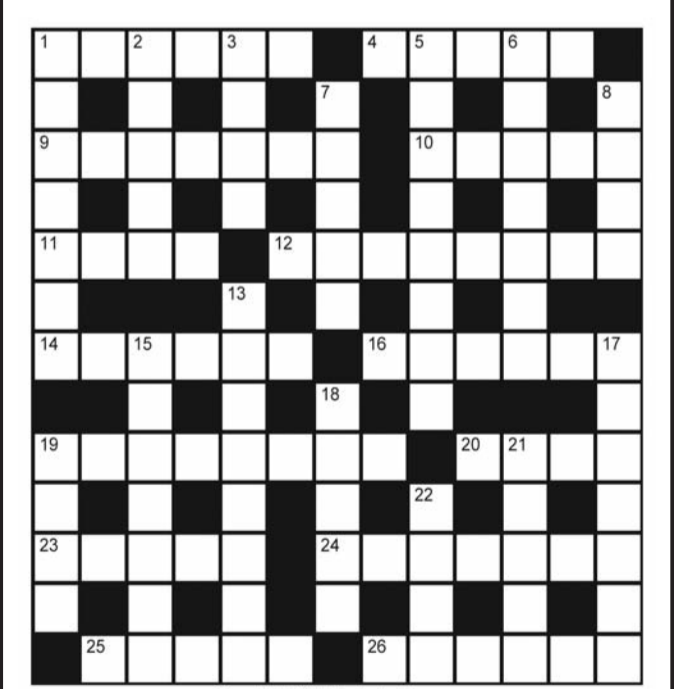
### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



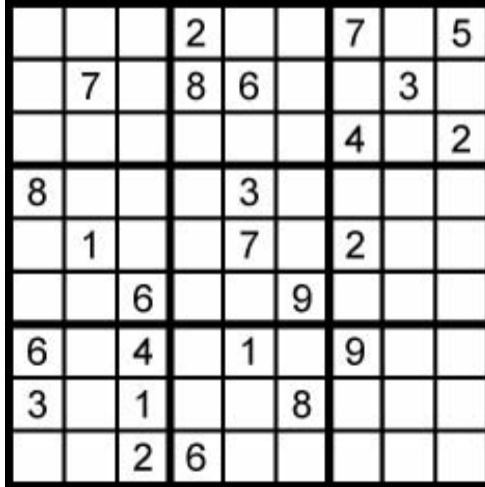
### FUN post CROSSWORD



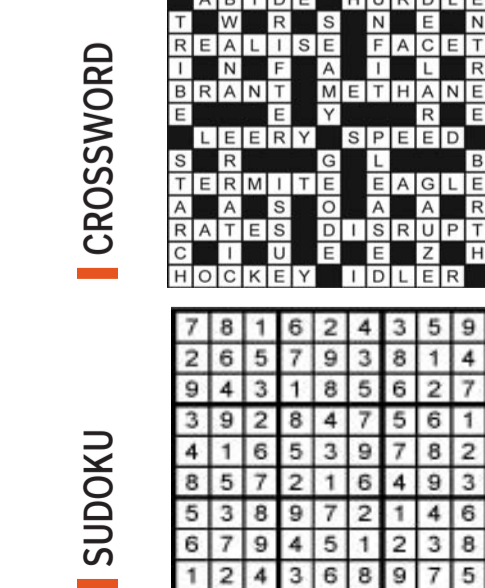
- Across
- 1 Sharp piercing cry
  - 4 Speech disorders
  - 9 Medieval brass instrument
  - 10 Physically weak
  - 11 Nymph spurned by Narcissus
  - 12 Intrepid
  - 14 Manatee or dugong, e.g. (3,3)
  - 16 Caviar source
  - 19 Favouritism shown to relatives
  - 20 "Beowulf," e.g.
  - 23 Blood carrier
  - 24 Magnify
  - 25 Bracelet site
  - 26 Optimistic
  - 5 Educated
  - 6 Tableland
  - 7 Wrath
  - 8 Monte Bianco locale
  - 13 Contact sport
  - 15 Headache helper
  - 17 Like some history
  - 18 Fall-blooming flower
  - 19 Ham's father
  - 21 Handbag
  - 22 Radar image
- Down
- 1 Can they be kept?
  - 2 Boxer's stat
  - 3 Door sign

### SUDOKU

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



### SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# downtown

## GOVT TO TEST QUALITY OF GHEE USED AT SRIMANDIR

**Puri, Sept 24:** The state government Tuesday decided to test the quality of ghee used for preparation of offerings at Srimandir here, an official said. The decision was taken amid the row over the alleged use of animal fat in the ghee with which the laddoos offered at the Tirupati temple in Andhra Pradesh are prepared. District Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said that though there have been no such allegations here, the administration will test the quality of ghee being used for the preparation of 'Kotha Bhoga' (prasad for the deities) and 'Baradi Bhoga' (prasad on order) at the 12th-century shrine. He said the state-run Odisha Milk Federation (Omfed) is the only supplier of ghee for use in the Puri temple. "However, a decision has been taken to examine the standard of ghee being supplied by Omfed to allay any fear of adulteration," he said, adding that discussions will be held with the



Though there have been no such allegations (like in Andhra Pradesh) in case of Puri, the administration will test the quality of ghee being used for the preparation of 'Kotha Bhoga' (prasad for the deities) and 'Baradi Bhoga' (prasad on order) at the 12th-century shrine, District Collector Siddharth Shankar Swain said

Omfed as well as the temple's servants who prepare the 'prasad'. Jagannath Swain Mohapatra, a servitor, claimed that earlier adulterated ghee was found to be used for lighting 'diyas' or lamps on the temple premises. "That has been stopped. We will request the temple's chief administrator for a complete test of the ghee used here," he said, maintaining that the faith of devotees was very important. The quality of laddoos at the Tirupati temple came under the national spotlight after Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu claimed that standard ingredients and animal fats were used in making them under the previous YSRCP government.

## JSW denies reports of withdrawing EV project

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** Amid media reports that JSW group was planning to shift its proposed ₹40,000 crore electric vehicle (EV) and battery project from Odisha to Maharashtra, the company Tuesday clarified that the group is not "withdrawing" its project from the eastern state. Asked about media reports, Ranjan Nayak, executive vice president of corporate strategy, office of chairman and managing director said, "We are not withdrawing from Odisha". JSW group had February 10, 2024, signed a memorandum of understanding with the state government for establishment of an integrated electric vehicle and EV battery manufacturing project at an investment of ₹40,000 crore in the state. At Naraj in Cuttack district, the JSW group had planned to set up an EV and component manufacturing plant, while at Paradip in Jagatsinghpur district, it proposed to establish a copper smelter and lithium refinery. The project consists of a 50 GWH EV battery plant, EV, lithium refinery, copper smelter and related component manufacturing units. The MoU was signed after the state Cabinet approved a special incentive package for the group's ambitious EV and component manufacturing projects. Amid media reports about the company's planning to shift its project to Maharashtra, Odisha Industries Minister Sampad Swain Tuesday said the state government is in talks with JSW group for implementation of the EV project in the state. Swain said the state government is not aware of the company's plans as "reported" in the media. "Though MoU was signed in February this year, the previous government had not allocated land for the JSW's project. Now, we are talking to the company to set up its plants. We are not informed regarding the shifting of the plant from Odisha. However, there is a delay in the implementation of the project," Swain told PTI over phone.

## IMD predicts heavy rain till tomorrow

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** The state is likely to receive heavy rainfall at most places in 20 districts for the next few days under the influence of a low-pressure area (Lopar) over the Bay of Bengal, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Tuesday. The weather office has forecast torrential rain (7-11 cm) accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places in the 20 districts Wednesday.

## Continue with Naveen's schemes, BJD tells BJP



**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** The BJD Tuesday suggested that the BJP government in the state should carry forward the schemes and programmes launched by former chief minister Naveen Patnaik as the state saw 'development' under his regime. Patnaik was the CM of Odisha between 2000 and 2024 and the state showed improvement in various economic indices, as enumerated in Union government documents, the BJD said. "Let the state's BJP government not get confined to changing names and colour of logos, but carry forward Patnaik's schemes as they have proved to be helpful to Odisha's progress," BJD national spokesperson Santrupt Mishra said in a press conference. Citing a report of the Economic Advisory Council to the PM Working Paper (EAC-PM), Mishra and another spokesperson Sasmit Patra said Odisha's economic progress during the last two decades was possible due to inclusive policies and prudent economic management. "We are not making such claims, but the report of the EAC-PM reveals such facts," Patra said. Quoting the report, the BJD leaders pointed out that during Patnaik's regime, Odisha registered growth in relative per capita income from 55.8 per cent in 2000-01 to 88.5 per cent in 2023-24. Similarly, Odisha's share in the country's GDP increased from 2.3 per cent to 2.8 per cent during the period. "While Odisha's contribution to the country's GDP increased, Punjab's share came down to 2.4 per cent from 3.9 per cent, Maharashtra's share declined to 13.3 per cent from 14 per cent, West Bengal's from 8.2 per cent to 5.6 per cent. This indicated that Odisha could flourish due to Patnaik's policies and proper economic management," Mishra said. The BJD leaders also said that when Patnaik took over the charge of Odisha in 2000, the state had incurred an overdraft of ₹144 crore from the Reserve Bank of India. They claimed that the state was facing difficulties in paying the salaries and pensions to its employees, adding that the state's per capita income increased to ₹1,61,437 in 2024 from just ₹10,211 in 2000. BJD leaders rejected BJP's allegation that Odisha could not progress during Patnaik's 24 years of rule.

## Sand quarry in Subarnarekha river faces NGT ban

*The green body asked the SEIAA to take necessary action and pass order for revocation of environmental clearance granted by it illegally in favour of the lessee*

the district, the eastern zone bench of the environment watchdog asked the SEIAA to take necessary action and pass order for revocation of environmental clearance granted by it illegally in favour of the lessee. "In case sand mining is still being carried out at Rayaramchandrapur quarry, the SEIAA shall also take steps to ensure that such operation is ceased with immediate effect," said the order passed by judicial member Justice B Amit Sthalekar and expert member Arun Kumar Verma. The petitioner had informed the NGT that the 'lessee' has been carrying out illegal mining at Rayaramchandrapur sand quarry spread over 20.38-acre in Balasore. The Jaleswar tehsildar executed a lease deed in favour of Asit Kumar Parida April 13, 2021. Environmental clearance was granted by the SEIAA July 13,

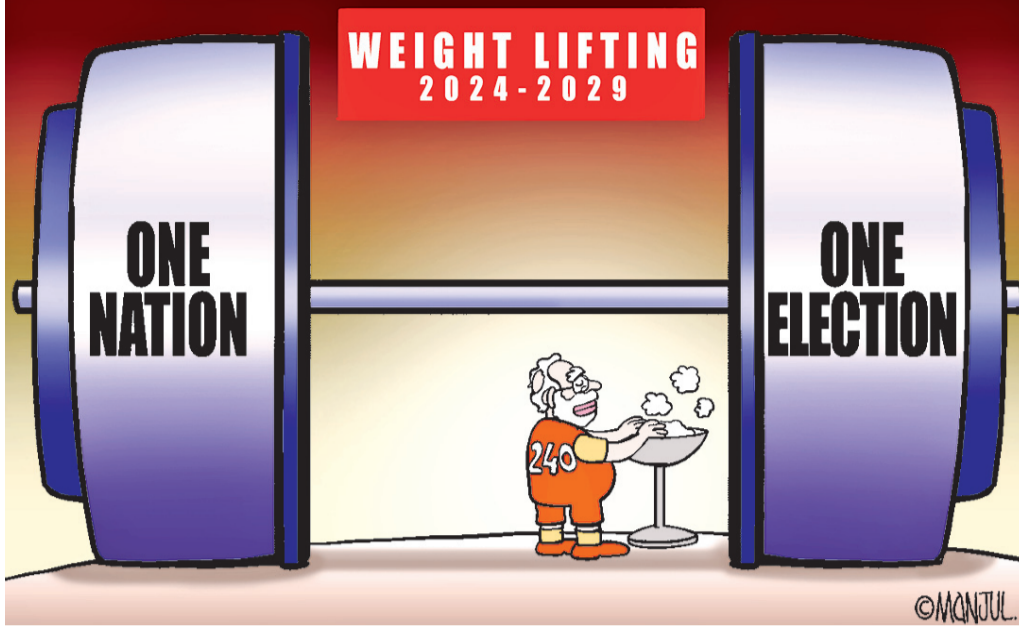


2017 in favour of Rajesh Kumar Khatua and thereafter it was transferred to Parida March 9, 2021. The SEIAA issued a clarification May 6, 2022 stating that environmental clearance has been granted in ad hoc manner and will be revoked after December 31, 2022. The consent to operate was granted by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board May 10, 2022 and that was valid till December 31, 2022 and thereafter was renewed February 14, 2023 which was valid till March 31, 2023 for a mining capacity of 2500 m3 of sand, the petitioner said. The petitioner claimed that the consent to operate was granted illegally without verifying the validity of the environmental clearance.

**MUSIC FEST**  
Artistes perform at Hindustani Music Festival 'Malhar Utsav' at Soochana Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Tuesday



## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## GOVT WARNS OF ACTION AS NURSES CALL CEASEWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** As the Odisha Nursing Employees' Association (ONEA) have called a two-day cease-work protest from Wednesday due to non-consideration of their demands, the Director of Nursing, Tuesday directed the heads of all the state-run healthcare facilities to take action against the nursing officers as Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Act 1988 is still in force. The letter issued by Director of Nursing Artabandhu Nayak said, "As per the power conferred by Section 3 and Section 2 of the ESMA in interest of public, the state government prohibits strikes in form of cessation of work by nurses paramedics, technicians and other Class III and Class IV employees and the order remains in force for a period of six months with effect from the date of issuance of the order (August 7, 2024)". Earlier, the ONEA, in a letter addressed to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, September 18, mentioned about an indefinite cease-work call by all nursing



- KEY DEMANDS**
- Promotion of eligible nursing officers to the post of senior nursing officer and assistant nursing superintendent by way of relaxation of residency period
  - Recruitment against the post of community health officers under NHM
  - Reverting regular nursing officers to their parent cadre and regularisation of left-out contractual nursing officers

The association demanded promotion of eligible nursing officers to the post of senior nursing officer and assistant nursing superintendent by way of relaxation of residency period, recruitment against the post of community health officers under National Health Mission (NHM), reverting the regular nursing officers to their parent cadre and regularisation of left-out contractual nursing officers.

The state government had enforced ESMA last month after the ONEA threatened to go for a cease work August 27 to join the nationwide protests by health professionals over the brutal rape and murder of a medico at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. officers in government hospitals from September 27. As per the plan, non-emergency services will be ceased September 25 and 26. Thereafter, all non-emergency and emergency services will be halted from September 27 for an indefinite period.

## NHRC seeks report on starvation death

**Kendrapara, Sept 24:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the Odisha Chief Secretary to submit an action-taken and compliance report on the disbursement of ₹3 lakh compensation in a starvation death case in Keonjhar. The apex rights body ordered that the compensation be equally distributed among all the children of the deceased, with proof of payment to be submitted to the Commission within four weeks. It also asked the Chief Secretary to report on whether the family possesses a valid and updated ration card after the death of the beneficiary, Late Nandi Munda, and if the remaining family members are routinely receiving ration supplies as per the provisions of the NFSA, 2013. "If the victim belonged to SC/ST community, as recognised by Odisha or the Government of India, the Chief Secretary must also submit a list of applicable benefits for this category, along



with information on any benefits already provided to the family," the order mentioned. Acting on a petition filed by human rights defender Sagar Jena, the NHRC issued the directive last week. The petitioner, referencing media reports, brought to the commission's attention the incident in which Nandi Munda, a widow and resident of Kuturu Sahi in Padmapur under Sadar block of the district, died from starvation January 3. According to the complaint, after the death of her husband, the woman lived with her daughter and two sons. The entire family fell ill due to starvation. After the incident was reported in the

media, government officials visited their residence and sent Nandi and her children to the hospital for treatment, where Nandi died. The complainant previously requested the commission's intervention, seeking compensation for the next of kin (NoK) of the deceased and ensuring the proper care of her orphaned children. The commission took cognizance of the matter January 10 and directed the District Magistrate (DM) of Keonjhar to submit an ATR. However, no report was submitted despite a reminder sent March 15, 2024. The Chief Secretary has been instructed to submit the compliance report by October 27.

## Security officer for 'cop assault victim'

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** A day after the alleged Bharatpur police assault victim met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi along with her father, the Commissionerate Police Tuesday deputed a personal security officer (PSO) for the woman. The officer, Rabintra Narayan Behura, has been appointed to guard the victim round-the-clock against potential attacks, said an official of the Commissionerate Police. The officer has also been provided with a 9mm automatic pistol to avert any violent attacks, he added. Notably, the Chief Minister Sunday evening ordered a judicial inquiry into the alleged torture of the Army officer and the 'sexual assault of his fiancée'. The inquiry commission will be led by Justice Chittaranjan Das, a retired High Court judge. The commission has been directed to submit the report within 60 days.

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a ban on sand mining at Rayaramchandrapur along Subarnarekha river in Balasore district in the absence of a State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)-approved District Survey Report (DSR), official sources said. While hearing a plea filed by Abani Kumar Sahu of Jamalpur under Jaleswar police limits of

# Cleanliness event to mark NSS Day



RESHMI YADAV, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** On the occasion of National Service Scheme (NSS) Day Tuesday, volunteers from Dhauli College of Art and Crafts (DCAC) organised a cleanliness drive at Shanti Stupa, on the outskirts of the City.

The event kicked off with an address by DCAC principal Panchanan Samal, who introduced the guests and underlined the significance of the occasion.

Social activists Sushant Kumar Sahu and Trilochan Beura attended the programme as chief guests. Several faculty members including, professors Bhupathi

Panda and Lakshmidhar Swain participated in the campaign aimed at promoting civic responsibility.

Student representatives Debashish Behera and Lipsa Pradhan raised the NSS flag, marking a formal start to the programme. Commending the volunteers' effort, Sahu stated, "These initiatives embody the spirit of service and help build a better India." Trilochan Beura also praised the institution's contributions to social causes.

DCAC achieved a significant milestone this year as DCAC NSS programme officer Chandan Kumar Samal was honoured by Utkal University of Culture for his exemplary service.

# 'Husband calling wife parasite insult to her'

THE COURT OBSERVES THAT INDIAN WOMEN LEAVE THEIR JOBS TO LOOK AFTER THE FAMILY, CATER TO THE NEEDS OF THEIR HUSBANDS AND CHILDREN



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** Wife being able-bodied to earn a livelihood does not absolve a husband from providing her maintenance, and calling her 'parasite' is an insult to her as well as the entire woman-kind, the Delhi High Court has said.

The court, while dealing with a husband's plea challenging a lower court's direction to pay maintenance to his wife, observed that Indian women leave their jobs to look after the family, cater to the needs of their children and look after their husbands and his parents.

The petitioner husband, who was stated to have abandoned his wife and children and was living with another woman, was ordered by the trial court to pay ₹30,000 per month as maintenance to his wife, along with ₹5 lakh towards the "injuries" sustained by her, including mental torture, depression and emotional distress.

The trial court had also directed him to pay ₹3 lakh as compensation to his wife, including ₹30,000 as litigation costs.

Challenging the order, the petitioner argued in the high court that his wife was an able-bodied lady who has worked in a boutique and, therefore, she could not be allowed to become a 'parasite' by misusing the law.

The court refused to interfere with the directions and said the fact that the wife is capable of earning cannot work to her detriment.

The court, in a recent order, noted that the financial and asset profile of the petitioner reflected a 'comfortable and af-

fluent lifestyle' and, therefore, he was in a position to pay ₹30,000 per month as maintenance.

"The fact that the Respondent (wife) is able bodied and can earn a livelihood does not absolve a husband not to provide maintenance to his wife and children. Indian women leave their jobs to look after the family, cater to the needs of their children, and look after their husbands and his parents," it said.

"The contention that the Respondent is only a parasite and is abusing the process of law is nothing but an insult not only to the Respondent herein but to the entire woman kind," said Justice Subramonium Prasad while dismissing the petition.

"The Respondent had to leave her matrimonial house because she was unable to tolerate the fact that her husband is living with another woman. Since the Respondent/Wife was not in a position to take care of her two children, she had no option to leave them with the parents of the Petitioner herein," the court observed.

The court stated that section 125 entails that if the husband has sufficient means, he is obligated to maintain his wife and children, and not shirk away from his moral and familial responsibilities.

# 'No DJ music, crackers, alcohol during Dussehra'



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** No DJ music will be played at Dussehra pandals and during the immersion procession in the Capital city, Twin City Commissioner of Police Sanjeeb Panda said Tuesday.

"No DJ music vehicle will be allowed. The effort is to make Dussehra free of vibrato music, alcohol and plastic," he told reporters.

The decisions were taken by the Commissionerate Police in consultation with all the stakeholders during a preparatory meeting here. BMC Mayor Sulochana Das, local MLAs, senior police officials, Fire Service officials, representatives of WATCO and Tata Power were present on the occasion.

This apart, musical melody programme at the puja pandals will be allowed till 10pm instead

of midnight. The puja committees have been asked not to use crackers with high decibel during 'Ravana Podi'. They have also assured to ditch plastic and chemicals during the making of the idols.

In a first, the puja committee members will also take an oath to abide by the guidelines, sources said.

The Excise department will take measures to prevent illegal liquor sale during the puja. The government has readied a single window clearance system for the puja committees to get required licence for organising the puja and immersion procession.

The Commissionerate Police has approved a total of 171 puja pandals in City, the sources added.

In view of the celebrations, women police officers will also be deployed at the pandal.

# Self defense campaign

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** The NSS bureau of Odisha University of Technology and Research (OUTR) here organised a special self-defense campaign on the occasion of NSS Day. Around 150 students participated in the event.

The event was aimed at raising awareness and equipping the participants with essential self-defense techniques, fostering a sense of security and confidence.

The programme coordinator of NSS bureau, Sabita Dash and programme officer

of Unit V Jitendra Naik conducted the event. Rosalin Dalai and Bishnu Narayan Mahapatra were also present on the occasion.

All the NSS volunteers of OUTR were present at the event, contributing to its success and demonstrating the solidarity and support within the university community for such initiatives. Registrar Renuprava Nayak delivered the concluding speech, highlighting the importance of self-defense skills for girls and commending the NSS team for organising the event.



DRAWING ATTENTION: Sanitary workers at Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar stage a sit-in protest outside the hospital entrance gate to press for fulfillment of their demands, Tuesday

# WORLD SKILL COMPETITION CM felicitates winners, participants

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi felicitated the winners and participants of the World Skills Competition-2024 at Lok Seva Bhawan here Tuesday.

Majhi awarded ₹25 lakh cash prize to Amaresh Kumar Sahu from Deogarh, who won a bronze medal at the competition recently held at Lyon, France. Amaresh excelled in the 'Renewable Energy' skill segment, showcasing outstanding performance.

Gedela Akhil from Gajapati district was awarded ₹5 lakh on winning the medallion for excellence in 'Water Technology' at the competition.

Speaking on the occasion, Majhi said that it is a matter of great pride that the skills of students from the state are getting global attention. The state's skill development and technical



education learning will be turned into a role model for different states in coming days.

"Such talented young students can create a beautiful future for Odisha. They hold the primary responsibility of building a new Odisha 2036," Majhi said.

"We have prepared a roadmap for future skill development projects in view of 2036 and 2047. We don't just believe in

dreams, but also create metaphors for reality. This year's budget has earmarked ₹1,050 crore only for programme implementation in the field of skill development and technical education," he added.

Referring to the CM ASPIRE scheme, Majhi said that the aim is to create employability in industrial sector and to develop the skills according to the demands of modern industry standards.

"Recently, we have given approval for setting up 26 industries worth ₹45,000 crore, which will create around 36,000 job opportunities for the people of Odisha. A student needs proper skills to be employed in these fields. Therefore, utmost importance is being given to prepare them for industry grade," the chief minister quoted.

"Along with this, skill development programme has been decentralised and 'Odisha District Skill Centre' is being opened at district level. Now, the local area youth can acquire skills and also meet the demand of local industry," Majhi stated.

Participants from over 80 countries took part in the competition to compete across various sectors, including manufacturing, technology, and services. There were around 60 participants from India out of which 15 were from Odisha.

# UU inks pact to boost young entrepreneurs

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** The Utkal University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Northeastern University, Boston to promote student entrepreneurship and innovation.

A new programme has been initiated where centres will be established for the programme purpose. A total of 3,000 students will be enrolled in the programme at the Utkal University. The programme is open to both PG and UG students. The opportunity to enroll students will also be extended to affiliated colleges under the university. Ten university students will also embark on an educational tour each academic year as part of an additional attempt to gain further knowledge, informed the authorities.

"The New Education Policy



(NEP) 2024 aims to integrate vocational education into the school system to assist students in becoming skilled workers and entrepreneurs," stated University vice-chancellor Sabita Acharya. The university serves as a resource to inspire students to pursue further education in entrepreneurship, added Acharya.

Earlier, under the guidance of the former VC, steps were taken in addition to establishing innovation and startup parks at the university. The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Uchhatar Siksha Abhiyan (PM-RUSA) 2.0 will provide funds for the programme.

# Bus initiative in Koida to check dropout rate

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 24:** In a bid to reduce students' drop-out rate, Vedanta Sesa Goa-Iron Ore Odisha (IOO) recently launched school bus service for students from the peripheral villages of Rengalbeda and Naddidihni in Sundargarh district. The initiative aims at ensuring safe and reliable transportation for school children in the region.



The 32-seater school bus was handed over to the Block Development Officer (BDO) and Sarpanch of Kasira, which will cater to the transportation of students to three different schools. With the inauguration of the bus service, Vedanta IOO is addressing transportation challenges faced by students, reducing health hazards previously encountered by children walking long distances to school.

The inauguration was graced by Koida block BDO Rashmi Rekha Patra, panchayat members, community members, and students. Key IOO staff, including COO - IOO Biswanath Sahoo, logistics head Camilo Fernandes, CSR and ER head Sambit Nayak were also present during the event.

Commenting on the initiative, Sahoo stated, "This school bus service is not just a means of transportation. It represents our commitment to the holistic development of the communities we serve. By improving access to education, we are investing in a brighter future for the children and empowering the next generation to achieve their full potential."

Speaking on the occasion, Koida BDO stated, "The introduction of the school bus service is a transformative initiative for the community. It not only improves access to education but also eases the concerns of parents regarding the safety of their children. We appreciate the effort of Vedanta Iron Ore Odisha for their continued support in uplifting the lives of students and families in our region."

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# World Heritage Site tag eludes Bhitarkanika

### NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF GUIDELINES FOR ECO-SENSITIVE ZONES POSES THREAT TO THE RAMSAR SITE

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Sept 24:** Bhitarkanika, the nature's wonder that has been nationally and internationally acclaimed as a biodiversity hotspot and also a Ramsar site, is yet to get UNESCO World Heritage Site tag, primarily due to a delay in conduct of a review of the site for the purpose and non-implementation of Eco-Sensitive Zone guidelines.

Sources said a proposal for inclusion of the national park in UNESCO World Heritage Sites list at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) meeting in Kraków, Poland in July 2017 was rejected. The review that took place there highlighted several management flaws and disorganisation within the wetlands. The review underscored the fact that the site is under threat for which it was

excluded from the World Heritage Sites list. However, no review has been conducted since.

Many believe that these management flaws are being overlooked.

Environmentalists like Srikanta Nayak and Hemant Kumar Raut, social activists Sanjay Kumar Behura, Pradeep Kumar Tarai and others have stated that Bhitarkanika is rich in biodiversity as National Park is home to species like saltwater crocodiles, six types of dolphins, 41 species of fish, rare Olive Ridley turtles, 36 types of rare wildlife species, 280 species of migratory and native birds, and 34 types of reptiles.

The biodiversity wonder is also home to around 57 species of mangroves and is abundant with medicinal plants and shrubs.

The national park faces ecological threat with issues like



private land ownership, unrestricted access for locals, farming, cattle grazing and shrimp farming gripping the protected area, in violation of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. These were mentioned in the report by team members Naomi Dock and Remko van der Mare during their visit in November 2016. Additionally, there's a lack of boundary protection and monitoring. Even though more than 400

villages exist within Bhitarkanika Eco-Sensitive Zone, guidelines for managing these areas are not being effectively implemented. The presence of Dhamra port and DRDO's integrated testing range (ITR) at Wheeler Island (or Abdul Kalam Island) also pose threats to Bhitarkanika's eco-sensitive area.

These apart, mangroves and other species in Bhitarkanika rely on freshwater the availability of which is gradually de-

clining. The area faces constant threat from fishermen, while there is a lack of security personnel to monitor the protected marine zones. Other concerns include the need for funds to manage conservation efforts and prevent coastal erosion.

Environmentalists and social workers have demanded that a review be conducted on these issues, especially on non-implementation of guidelines for Eco-Sensitive Zones. A notification has already been issued regarding the construction of a river-based port and industries in Mahakalapada block, which would impact the biodiversity of the national park and cause economic distress to local fishermen.

When asked about the obstacles to Bhitarkanika getting World Heritage Site tag, Rajnagar DFO Sudarshan Gopinath Yadav said a review is underway and efforts are on to rectify the issues.

# Forest officials rescue saltwater crocodile from village pond



POST NEWS NETWORK

**Kendrapara, Sept 24:** Forest personnel from the Rajnagar Forest Division in Kendrapara district rescued a 5.4-foot-long saltwater crocodile late Monday night from a village pond located on the outskirts of Bhitarkanika National Park.

The crocodile rescued late Monday night had entered the pond belonging to a villager Ranjit Mandal in Debendranayanpur village.

Forest officials believe the estuarine crocodile may have strayed into the pond from the

Baunsagadi river which is located about 300 meters from the place, Monday evening.

Villagers spotted the reptile in the pond and informed the Rajnagar forest personnel, who promptly arrived and managed to rescue the crocodile using fishing nets after struggling for over three hours. The rescued crocodile was later released into the Mahipur river, forest officials said.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
e-Tender Notice No. SNT/PPBS-KAVACH-08/2024

**Name of Work:** SURVEY, DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF KAVACH EQUIPMENTS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED WORKS BETWEEN RAMITAL LINK CABIN (RLC), PALASA (PSA) SECTION OF KHURDA DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

**Approximate Advertisable Value:** ₹ 172.05,35,626.58, EMD: ₹ 87,52,700.00, Period of Completion: 30 Months.

**Date & time of tender closing:** At 1500 hrs. on 19.11.2024. Pre-Bid Conference Date and Time: 1100 hrs. on 30.09.2024.

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: [www.irfps.gov.in](http://www.irfps.gov.in)

**Note:** The prospective bidders are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/contingendum issued for this tender.

**Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/PR-70/CH/24-25** **Proj/Bhubaneswar**

# Tutor misbehaves with girl student; arrested

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Sept 24:** Parents of a girl student demonstrated Tuesday in front of Guru Nanak Khalsa School located on Gandhi Road in this town demanding disciplinary action against a teacher who had allegedly misbehaved and physically harassed her. The accused teacher, Jasbir Singh has been arrested and a probe has been initiated after a complaint was filed. The incident took place September 21. The girl's parents along with others demanded the immediate sacking of the accused.

The victim's mother said that since the incident happened the girl has been in shock. "She and her friend were called by the teacher to a room inside the school, Saturday. The accused asked the victim's friend to leave and then made objectionable gestures and inappropriately touched my daughter. When she objected, the teacher asked her to leave. However, he threatened my daughter that she would be rusticated if she disclosed the matter to anyone," the victim's mother said.

Balbir Singh, a member of the governing body of the school said that law will take its own course. "We have immediately dismissed the accused. A complaint has been lodged and police are investigating the case," he stated.

# Ailing 70-year-old woman forced to crawl for pension

PNN & AGENCIES

**Keonjhar, Sept 24:** A 70-year-old woman in this district was recently forced to crawl nearly two kilometres from her home to the panchayat office to collect her old-age pension. The ailing woman identified as Pathuri Dehury, a resident of Raisuan village, cannot walk. A video of Dehury crawling on the village road has gone viral on social media.

Raisuan sarpanch Bagun Champia said that he drew the attention of the administration after watching the old woman crawling on the road on television and seeing her pictures in newspapers. "I have also verified from villagers that the woman is not able to walk properly due to her age-related ailments," the sarpanch said.

Though the Odisha government had earlier issued a directive to officials to deliver pensions of elderly and disabled beneficiaries at their doorsteps, Dehury said a panchayat official had asked her to visit the office to collect the monthly pension. Villagers said she had to crawl as no other option was available for her to go to the panchayat office.

The village incidentally is in Telkoi block in Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's home



district, which is Keonjhar.

Telkoi block development officer (BDO) Geeta Murmu informed that pension was being deposited in Dehury's bank account. However, as she fell ill and expressed her inability to visit the bank, the local administration had been disbursing pension personally to Dehury, she added. The question however is, why Dehury had to crawl to the panchayat office if it was being handed to her.

"The panchayat extension officer has been asked to disburse the pension to Dehury at her home each month. A wheelchair has also been provided to her," the BDO said. Champia meanwhile said a civil supply assistant has been asked to provide rations to Dehury at her doorstep.

# Mahulpada IIC shot with arrow

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Sept 24:** A youth Tuesday shot the inspector in-charge of Mahulpada police station with an arrow leaving the cop hospitalised.

The youth identified as Dhani Munda, a resident of Phuljhar village, has been on a rampage for the last two days as he has been carrying bow and arrow, sling-shot and stones and staying on the terrace of the Badjal Government Primary School, under Mahulpada police station. Munda had barged into Badjal GP School Sunday and had an altercation with the headmaster there. Following the argument, he shot at the head of the headmaster with his slingshot. Later, he also broke into the storehouse of the school where the midday meal grains were stored.

He also broke the door of the school kitchen before climbing to the terrace.

He went to the roof top and kept shouting, 'this is my house'. Repeated pleas from the locals and his acquaintances failed to calm him down. He threatened anyone trying to go closer to him by climbing up to the roof.

Scared locals informed the police Tuesday following which IIC of Mahulpada Suresh Chandra Pradhan, along with his team, reached the spot.

The IIC was hit with an arrow on his palm when he tried to climb to the roof with a ladder. Soon, he was shifted to Bonal primary health centre. Bonal SDPO Swaraj Devta then reached the spot along with fire brigade personnel. However, no one could dare to climb the three storied building.

# NIT holds financial literacy programme for students

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rourkela, Sept 24:** School of Management at NIT Rourkela, in collaboration with Grapevine Business Club, a students' club under Student Activity Centre (SAC), hosted the 'FINFLUENCE Fest' September 21 at BB Auditorium of the NIT.

The programme aimed at promoting financial literacy among young learners was attended by more than 500 students from the NIT and other colleges in the steel city. The program featured Neha Nagar, a renowned digital financial influencer, as the keynote speaker.

SAC president Rajeev Kumar Panda, in his welcome address, said, "FINFLUENCE Fest is offering interactive, knowledge-building sessions aimed at empowering students to achieve financial success in today's dynamic economic environment. We have or-



ganised this event to provide students with early insights into financial management and its discipline, enabling them to plan their future more effectively."

Dean, Student Affairs, Niranjan Panda, said, "Investment is the key, but knowing how to utilise the profits is even more critical for maintaining consistent growth."

Emphasising the importance of students learning to secure their finances for their future endeavours, Rohan Dhiman (Registrar) said, "Financial literacy is key to achieving long-term stability and success in

today's rapidly changing economy."

Director of NIT Rourkela, K Umamaheshwar Rao said, "Understanding financial risks is crucial. Keeping money idle or failing to invest wisely may result in lost opportunities over time. In science, 2 plus 2 is 4, but in investing, it can be zero or 22."

Nagar advised the students to prioritize gaining knowledge and simultaneously consider upgrading their skills to create multiple earning opportunities. "There are scholarships, internships, and government schemes that students

can utilise to build financial reserves," she added.

Encouraging students to invest, she said, "Investing doesn't always mean diving into the stock market. There are less risky options as well. Knowing financial calculations can help students manage their money wisely. She further shared actionable strategies for managing personal and professional finances. The event was sponsored by Krishna Financial Services (KFS). KFS Director, Vaishnavi Jhunjhunwala participated in the inaugural ceremony and highlighted the importance of financial independence.

The event also featured speakers Anand Shendge (well-known derivatives analyst) and Harsh Paresh (technical analyst) from Bajaj Broking, who contributed valuable insights into financial management in the concluding session of the event.

# NSS Foundation Day observed by school

**Sundargarh:** The Government Women's Higher Secondary School (HSS) here observed Tuesday the Foundation Day of National Service Scheme (NSS) on its premises. NSS volunteers along with teachers and other staff members of various departments also took part in the event. Principal Indira Garnaik in her speech motivated the volunteers to conduct more events under NSS platform. Bipin Choudhury, guest faculty of the Department of Education and chief speaker spoke on the contribution of youths towards nation-building. Teacher Kuni Patel urged the students to contribute towards the society and nature. She also encouraged them to participate in various NSS programmes as those can help in character development. The programme was coordinated by Dipanjali Hansdah, NSS programme officer while lecturer Binod Panda gave away the customary vote of thanks.

**Regional Office (Sambalpur Region)**  
1st Floor, G.M. College Chowk, Christian Para, Sambalpur-768001

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(Immovable Property)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned below. The Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for an amount stated herein below plus further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

HOSPITAL ROAD SUNDARGARH BRANCH/ Name & Address of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor	Description of the Immovable Property	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Total Dues as on
<b>Borrower: M/s. Jay Bajrang Lubricants, Prop.: Mr. Manish Prasad Tiwari, At: New Amilipali, P.O.: Rangadhapa, Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN-770002 / Co-Borrower: Mr. Naresh Prasad Tiwari, S/o.: Sri Debi Prasad Tiwari, At/PO.: Rangadhapa, Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN-770002 / Guarantor: Mr. Bismaya Ranjan Pattnaik, S/o.: Sri Kutartha Ranjan Pattnaik, At: Near Govt. Womens College, Nuapada, Maheshdih, Sundargarh, Odisha, PIN-770011</b>	Equitable Mortgage of Land & Building having admeasuring Area: Ac.0.070 Dec, situated at Nua Amilipali, P.S./Tahasil/Dist.: Sundargarh, bearing Khata No.: 237/170, Plot No.: 1047/1607, Tahasil No.: 186, P.S. No.: 80, Kissam: Gharabari, in the name of <b>Mr. Naresh Prasad Tiwari</b> , Bounded by East: Property of R K Patel, West: Property of K. Meher, North: Road, South: Road	31.01.2024 / 23.09.2024	₹9,71,591.42 as on 31.08.2024 + further interest thereon at contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment

**Place: Sambalpur, Date : 24.09.2024**

Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

**IIFL FINANCE**  
CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797  
Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604  
Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654  
E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS**

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted on **28.09.2024 at 10:00 AM** at following district Centre **Jeyapore-Bell Road GI - IIFL Finance Limited, Plot No-588, 1st Floor Bell Road , Jeyapore, Koraput, Near Bandhan Bank, Odisha, Pin-764001**. Any change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction center. If for any reason the auction cannot be held on the date mentioned here in or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date with same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir.

**Gold Loan A/C No. :** GL27315965, GL27334945, GL27503026, GL28438634, GL28457698, GL28490195, GL28502692, GL28609615, GL29412920, GL29433079, GL29630395, GL29760944, GL30104655, GL30120274, GL30120274, GL30129190, GL30151802, GL30352641, GL30430098, GL30526278, GL31150240, GL31399382, GL31416870, GL31530555, GL31579356, GL31616765, GL31676765, GL31696617, GL31717367, GL31745547, GL31810765, GL31818586, GL31914242, GL31938293, GL32044466, GL32075851, GL32164041, GL32183808, GL32199850, GL32213013, GL32233653, GL32236653, GL32324774, GL32344117, GL32345990, GL32367422, GL27029369, GL27047967, GL27270763, GL27504862, GL27514185, GL27526073, GL27694052, GL27698368, GL27700348, GL27720071, GL27789306, GL27974005, GL28141727, GL28154397, GL28173910, GL28183959, GL28573331, GL29422038, GL29428293, GL29433940, GL29458814, GL29477957, GL29510747, GL29551683, GL29567552, GL29805020, GL29821323, GL29920580, GL30194682, GL30200819, GL30212394, GL30223558, GL30227953, GL30430287, GL30576073, GL30791734, GL32026993, GL32244996, GL32258309, GL32354248, GL32446552, GL32474592, GL32481258, GL32502071, GL32508053, GL32512988, GL32524012, GL32529002, GL32620180.

The Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATSOEVER THERE IS" basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regarding quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s) pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulting borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulting loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.

**For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited.**

**Place: KORAPUT**  
Date: 25.09.2024

**AUTHORISED SIGNATORY**  
IIFL FINANCE LIMITED

**IIFL FINANCE**  
CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797  
Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604  
Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654  
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**Gold Loan A/C No. :** GL21132093, GL22829806, GL23270686, GL23648878, GL24052751, GL24473463, GL24679259, GL24985515, GL25244991, GL2559295, GL25649456, GL26913685, GL27108059, GL27501587, GL27568309, GL27661263, GL27670583, GL27612281, GL27631556, GL27646294, GL27737718, GL27803178, GL27808113, GL27876132, GL27884984, GL28043059, GL28056200, GL28067716, GL28250801, GL28276078, GL28467817, GL29185488, GL29201923, GL29271328, GL29292355, GL29421119, GL29429317, GL29457837, GL29474672, GL29480249, GL29502349, GL29518017, GL29537094, GL29548212, GL29554614, GL29566011, GL29571342, GL29581373, GL29588249, GL29645701, GL29646974, GL29663144, GL29663439, GL29713729, GL29953207, GL30047379, GL30061079, GL30197683, GL30211557, GL30244996, GL30406318, GL30424085, GL30793172, GL3132884, GL31206420, GL31314636, GL31477005, GL31494778, GL31822424, GL31822849, GL32089114, GL32453460, GL32466815, GL25853671, GL25881621, GL27106921, GL27173336, GL28335503, GL28357251, GL28368225, GL29106212, GL29199700, GL29284675, GL29298030, GL29302753, GL29330065, GL30149906, GL30164527, GL31018145, GL31048145, GL31542112, GL31560023, GL31917081, GL31937988, GL31943730, GL32289865, GL321946904, GL22405978, GL23767183, GL25299650, GL28143790, GL28153441, GL29136224, GL29368330, GL29670130, GL29687091, GL29912446, GL29939519, GL29956720, GL30273479, GL30443130, GL30449148, GL30518853, GL31155980, GL31226044, GL31501162, GL31502499, GL31518731, GL31789201, GL31820887, GL32075008, GL32085141, GL32098666, GL32376044, GL32412602, GL32415452, GL32443234, GL34169758, GL21182089, GL21200240, GL21452516, GL21466386, GL22599451, GL22799130, GL23252764, GL23774502, GL27104642, GL27174695, GL27400794, GL27423969, GL27430083, GL27784628, GL28040592, GL28718215, GL28729893, GL29160331, GL29179756, GL29577242, GL30613958, GL30630236, GL31127717, GL31188409, GL31188801, GL31190415, GL31204695, GL31315816, GL31383405, GL31548979, GL31608164, GL31654360, GL31685741, GL31715585, GL31715646, GL31790880, GL31808868, GL31829271, GL32023558, GL32071525, GL32090671, GL32250261, GL32375712, GL32393429, GL32445493, GL32474518, GL32540631, GL32596817, GL32976316, GL33158771.

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**For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited.**

**Place: BHADRAK**  
Date: 25.09.2024

**AUTHORISED SIGNATORY**  
IIFL FINANCE LIMITED

We are always surrounded by the things of which we think.

THE MOTHER



## German Dilemma

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz got a reprieve after a much needed win for his Social Democratic Party (SPD) in the eastern state of Brandenburg 22 September. However, that is hardly good news for his three-party coalition which is facing an existential crisis following a sensational rise of the far-right neo-Nazi party, Alternative for Germany (AfD). State elections in Germany do not affect the government in Berlin directly, but they are often seen as a barometer of the national mood and a snapshot of the government's popularity. The election in the state of Brandenburg was the third and final one in a state that was once part of East Germany before the country votes for a new chancellor and federal government in a year from now. Scholz's party won 31 per cent of the votes, and the AfD got just above 29 per cent, according to official results. Nearly 45 per cent of voters chose extremist parties and the election had the highest voter turnout in the state, 73 per cent, since reunification. These statistics reflect the people's mood against the ruling coalition of the three parties of SPD, Free Democratic Party (FDP) and Green party.

The surprise win for the Social Democrats in Brandenburg is being viewed as the result of the popular governor's intense campaigning and also strategic voting against the AfD. The governor belonging to the SPD, Dietmar Woidke, succinctly summed up the outcome by asserting that their goal from the outset was to prevent the state from being captured by the AfD. Earlier this month, two other eastern states, Saxony and Thuringia, had held their elections and the far-right party dominated. The AfD won around 30 per cent in all three states. In Brandenburg, the Social Democrats still edged out the AfD, but in Thuringia the AfD got 32.8 per cent.

The implications of the victory in Brandenburg are not lost on Woidke who realises that if an openly far-right extreme party can win around 30 per cent of the votes in his state, then it is a wake-up call for all democrats who "stand for freedom, openness and tolerance."

Both the AfD and the new far-left party, Bündnis Sahra Wagenknecht, campaigned on controlling immigration which many Germans perceive as a problem and against military support for Ukraine.

As such, the narrow victory over the AfD in Brandenburg is already overshadowed by debate within the federal three-party coalition over how — and for how long — the government will survive. The coalition will have to reinvent itself in the next months with major policy resolutions on key issues ranging from migration to the economy. While the SPD was able to end a string of election defeats in the Brandenburg vote, the two other parties — the Greens and the FDP — continued their streak of dismal losses. The Greens crashed out of the Brandenburg state parliament, winning just around 4 per cent, a drop of nearly 7 percentage points from the last election and below the 5 per cent threshold needed to gain parliamentary seats. The FDP fared the worst, winning less than 1 per cent of the vote share.

These results, followed by poor outcomes in state elections earlier this month and the European election in June, put the coalition parties — and particularly the FDP — in an existential crisis that is likely to make governing inside the divided coalition even harder. As a federal election is scheduled to be held in a year, the ruling parties are hard put to bury their differences and try to consolidate their bases which at the moment seems to be an uphill task.

The steady rise of the far-right has so much unnerved the FDP that many of its leaders are openly questioning whether it would be better to pull the plug on the coalition in a last-ditch effort to revive their party's fortunes — a move that could lead to an early election.

Experts say the coalition's future now depends on whether it can move to curb the influx of asylum seekers, stimulate economic growth and reach a budget agreement in the coming months.

Time is running out and the coalition government will have to act fast if it wants to seriously take on the AfD. The frictions within the coalition make its prospect appear bleak at the moment unless all anti-Nazi forces close rank in the coming elections and win back the trust of the people. At the moment, their credibility has hit the rock bottom.



Vappala Balachandran

**EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT BE SWAYED BY ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE UN BODIES OR THE US CONGRESSMEN**

Two dimensions of a future scenario emerge after the present Israeli war on Hezbollah in Lebanon by using aerial attacks and triggering explosions on pagers and walkie talkie sets. One is whether this violates international law. The other is a cold analysis whether Israel's predatory mass explosion of pagers has established a new and dangerous future template which other countries could adapt later.

Israel's step of hiding explosives in pagers and walkie talkie sets could also be copied to blow up aircraft and vehicles are the fears being expressed even by the country's American supporters. One conservative US think tank wondered, immediately after the pager blasts, whether this action could be replicated on cell phones or other electronic equipment in common use.

There is no doubt that the entire communication system of Hezbollah through pager-walkie talkie system was destroyed which the group had nurtured for so long to prevent the detection of communication by Israeli agencies. There were two waves of massive explosions of pagers and walkie talkie sets in Lebanon. These massive explosions have caused several civilian deaths. As this is written, the casualties in the sudden explosion of pagers and walkie talkie sets on September 17-18 in Lebanon and Syria are 32 deaths including children. Thousands are reported injured.

Although Israel has not officially claimed responsibility, defence minister Yoav Gallant publicly revealed that Israel was "entering a new phase of war." Israeli army chief Herzi Halevi also warned that they were capable of many more surprises as "we are already two stages ahead... We will make it so that terrorists will be afraid of going to the toilet and even eating food."

American National Public Radio (NPR) disclosed on September 20 that an official not authorised to speak pub-

FOCUS WARFARE

# THE MODERN WEAPONS



**A study of the history of terrorism would reveal that the present Israeli action of triggering pager and walkie talkie explosions might be the first predatory step by any State compared to the usual practice of action or over-reaction like the US invasion of Afghanistan after 9/11**

licy told them that Israel had notified Washington after the explosions claiming responsibility "for Tuesday's attacks." Quoting legal experts, NPR added that Israel was responsible for violating international law signed by Israel and Lebanon.

This is because UN had added Article 7(2) in 1996 to the Amended UN Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on the use of conventional weapons. Under that amendment, there is a ban on "booby traps" hidden in devices which "civilians are likely to be attracted to or are associated with normal civilian daily use" and which strike "military targets and civilians without distinction."

Experience indicates that Israel will not be swayed by allegations of human rights violations by the UN bodies or the US Congressmen. It was only on 17 September that the UN General Assembly had overwhelmingly adopted a non-binding resolution drafted by

Palestine demanding Israel end "its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" within 12 months.

Israel also ignored the July 2024 order of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) asking it to stop settlement activity in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem and end its "illegal" occupation of those areas and the Gaza Strip as soon as possible. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had then said the court had made a "decision of lies."

Israeli bombing last Friday (September 20), after Hezbollah's rocket barrage in the wake of mass pager explosion, killed Ibrahim Aqil. The Hezbollah chief was reportedly killed in an air strike in suburban Beirut during a meeting of the Lebanese militant group's Radwan unit. Aqil also known as Al-Haji Abdul Khader was the chief of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force.

Aqil was involved in two bombings of US targets in Lebanon in the 1980s. In 1983, he

reportedly organised two major explosions: One on 18 April 1983 outside the US embassy in Beirut which killed over 100 people including 17 Americans. The second was on 23 October 1983 against multi-national forces. After the "Beirut barracks bombing" the then US President, Ronald Reagan, withdrew the American presence from Lebanon.

A study of the history of terrorism would reveal that the present Israeli action of triggering pager and walkie talkie explosions might be the first predatory step by any State compared to the usual practice of action or over-reaction like the US invasion of Afghanistan after 9/11. Starting with the first suicide bombing in history in 1881 by "Narodnaya Volya," the organisation, which killed Tsar Alexander II in St. Petersburg, to the modern day, no State has triggered such an attack, with such serious ramifications.

The same goes with the assassinations of Lord Cavendish (British Chief Secretary in Ireland) in 1882, French President Carnot in 1894, Spanish PM Antonio Canovas in 1897 and King Umberto of Italy in 1900.

Could America have preempted 9/11 if their agencies had taken Ramzi Yousef's warning seriously in 1995? Yousef, who drove an explosive laden van into the basement of New York World Trade Center on February 26, 1993, and exploded it to bring it down, causing six deaths, was arrested from Pakistan in 1995 and airlifted to New York where FBI officer Lewis Schiliro received him.

From the airport while he was being ferried to Manhattan to his jail, an FBI officer taunted him, pointing out the World Trade Center building still standing to which Yousef calmly replied: "It would not have been, had we had more money."

*The writer is a former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat. Views are personal.*

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WISDOM CORNER

Achievement of your happiness is the only moral purpose of your life, and that happiness, not pain or mindless self-indulgence, is the proof of your moral integrity, since it is the proof and the result of your loyalty to the achievement of your values. **AYN RAND**

Elegance is usually confused with superficiality, fashion, lack of depth. This is a serious mistake: human beings need to have elegance in their actions and in their posture because this word is synonymous with good taste, amiability, equilibrium and harmony. **PAULO COELHO**

There are no mistakes. The events we bring upon ourselves, no matter how unpleasant, are necessary in order to learn what we need to learn; whatever steps we take, they're necessary to reach the places we've chosen to go. **RICHARD BACH**

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1513: Pacific Ocean sighted by Balboa. On this day (or two days later) in 1513, Spanish conquistador and explorer Vasco Núñez de Balboa, standing "silent, upon a peak in Darién," on the Isthmus of Panama, became the first European to sight the Pacific Ocean.

1777: Philadelphia, then the American capital, was occupied by British forces during the American Revolution.

1890: Sequoia National Park is established by the United States Congress. The park, situated in the state of California is famous for its giant sequoia trees.

1962: The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria is officially created. Ferhat Abbas was appointed as the President of the Algerian National Assembly, and Ben Bella was seated as the country's new Prime Minister.

1970: Hostilities came to an end during Black September, the brief but violent civil war between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Jordan.

1977: Runners run the first Chicago Marathon. One of the world's six major marathons, which include the marathons in Berlin, Boston, London, New York, and Tokyo, the Chicago Marathon was initially called the Mayor Daley Marathon. The first race was won by Rhud Metzner.

1992: NASA launches the Mars Observer. The robotic space probe's main goal was to study Mars. Almost a year later all communications with it were lost.

LOL

ROOKIE ON THE JOB

A rookie police officer was out for his first ride in a cruiser with an experienced partner. A call came in telling them to disperse some people who were loitering. The officers drove to the street and observed a small crowd standing on a corner. The rookie rolled down his window



and said, "Let's get off the corner people." A few glances, but no one moved, so he barked again, "Let's get off that corner... NOW!" Intimidated, the group of people began to leave, casting puzzled stares in his direction. Proud of his first official act, the young policeman turned to his partner and asked, "Well, how did I do?" "Pretty good," chuckled the vet, "especially since this is a bus stop."

IN JEST THIS

## Exercise does wonders for your fat

Scientists keep giving us new ways of thinking of our bodies. The latest research indicates that one person's fat is not necessarily the same as another person's. Whether you have healthy fat or unhealthy fat depends on how you use it. Do you take it to the gym with you or do you let it hang out on the couch?

To illustrate this, let's picture two roommates, David and Rohan. They have similar builds, each with a pot belly. At least four times a week, David takes his belly to the gym, giving it a 30-minute workout on an exercise bike. While David's belly is on a stationary bike, Rohan's belly is merely stationary. It's stationed on a stool at the bar.

After two years, their bellies look the same. Despite his effort at the gym, David has been unable to reduce his belly. And despite his effort at the bar, Rohan has been unable to expand his

David wonders if he should quit trying. What's the point of exercising regularly if you can't lose weight?

Well, as countless studies have shown, exercise can improve your health in many ways, even if you don't lose weight. But here's another reason for David to keep working out: a new study at University of Michigan in the US has found that regular aerobic exercise makes your fat tissue healthier.

Hearing about the study, David bought himself a T-shirt that says, "My pot belly is healthier than your pot belly."

To conduct the study, researchers recruited 32 overweight adults with a similar amount of body fat. Half of them had exercised regularly like David for at least two years, while the other half were sedentary like Rohan.

Researchers examined samples of their subcutaneous belly fat and found significant differ-

ences. The fat of regular exercisers had more blood vessels, more protein and less inflammation.

Perhaps most importantly, the researchers found that the fat of regular exercisers wasn't rigid and had the capacity to expand and accommodate more fat. Because of regular exercise, David could make his fat more welcoming to immigrants (other fat cells).

But why is that a positive thing? Because storing fat just under your skin is safer than in other parts of your body, according to Jeff Horowitz, a professor who led the University of Michigan study.

"Unfortunately, most of us, even regular exercisers, gain weight as we get older," Horowitz told CNN. "If we have a greater capacity to store that in our fat tissue, less of it'll go to our liver, less of it will go to our heart, less will go to all these other places that in excess can be re-

ally problematic."

Many of us exercise to make our muscles stronger, but we should also exercise to make our fat healthier. After a good workout, don't just look in the mirror and flex your muscles - jiggle your fat too.

While many people have a negative view of fat, Horowitz wants us to recognise its importance for our bodies.

"Fat tissue itself is very, very important for health," he said. "It's actually an important reservoir of our extra energy."

The main takeaway from his study is that exercise can make even your fat tissue healthier. Don't let your weight keep you from exercising. It's better to be overweight and healthy than slim and unhealthy.

Whether you're going for a brisk walk, jogging down the street, or using a stationary bike like David, your body will thank you.



Melvin Durai

**IT'S BETTER TO BE OVERWEIGHT AND HEALTHY THAN SLIM AND UNHEALTHY**

## Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

**OrissaPOST**  
B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

Chess milestone

Sir, Indian chess has achieved an extraordinary milestone by winning a 'double gold' at the 45th Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary. The momentous occasion marks the first time that India has won a gold in this prestigious tournament, and the victory highlights the nation's growing prominence in global chess. Over the years, the Indian chess community has gone from strength to strength, with players emerging as strong competitors on the world stage. India's rise in the global chess rankings has been marked by the rise of these talented youngsters who have shown a great understanding of the game and a strong commitment to improving their skills. The 'double gold' win is a solid proof that more youngsters will be inspired to take up chess and aim for the top at the global level. The achievement at Budapest has sent a strong message that India has become a powerhouse in world chess, capable of defeating the best of teams globally.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Social evil

Sir, This refers to the news report "atching, downloading child porn is an offence: SC" (Orissa POST, September 24). I think the Supreme Court has rightly suggested the Parliament, albeit belated to seriously consider amending the POCSO Act with a new nomenclature "child sexual exploitative and abuse material" (CSEAM) in place and instead of "child pornography" to get rid of this social evil. This step was long overdue for maintaining a healthy society. All the state governments must play a proactive role to ensure that the persons indulging in child pornography for any purpose whatsoever which has been ruled by the apex court as an offence should be punished within a reasonable period of time so that our nation can boast of stopping the sexual exploitation of children.

Arun Gupta, KOLKATA

Rising prices

Sir, The price of onions has seen a steep rise in the country once again in the last few weeks. The government must control inflation as a relief to families of lower and middle income groups. Potatoes, tomatoes and onions are vital ingredients in Indian cooking, and any significant price increase in these items can disrupt the monthly budget of households.

Jubel D'Cruz, MUMBAI

UP tightens food safety rules

UP RESTAURANTS ASKED TO INSTALL CCTVS, EATERIES TO DISPLAY NAMES OF PROPRIETORS, STAFF TO WEAR MASKS, GLOVES

Lucknow, Sept 24: Taking cognisance of incidents of spitting and mixing of urine in eateries in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Tuesday directed that the name and address of operators, proprietors and managers should be mandatorily displayed at all food centres.

FOOD ADULTERATION

and gloves besides making installation of CCTVs in hotels and restaurants mandatory. Addressing a high-level meeting here, Adityanath said the presence of human waste in food items was disgusting and ordered strict action against those who adulterate food items with human waste or dirty things, an official statement said.



by police in Noida for allegedly selling juice contaminated with their spits. In view of such incidents, the chief minister has also given instructions for thorough investigation, verification of all hotels, dhabas, restaurants, and related establishments in

the state. Instructions were also given to amend the rules as per the need while ensuring the health safety of the general public. Adityanath said, "Dhabas, restaurants and food establishments should be thoroughly investigated and police verification of every employee should be done and necessary amendments should also be made in the Food Safety and Standards Act to ensure the purity and sanctity of food items."

According to the statement, now it will be mandatory to display the name and address of the operator, proprietor, manager etc. at the food centres. "Now whether it is a chef or a waiter, they will have to wear masks and gloves and it will be mandatory to install CCTV in hotels/restaurants," the chief minister said.

In the meeting, Adityanath said in recent times, incidents of adulteration of food items like juice, pulses and roti with human waste, and dirty things have been seen in various parts of the country.

"Such incidents are gruesome and have an adverse effect on the health of the common man. Such efforts cannot be accepted at all," he said.

Concrete arrangements are necessary to prevent such incidents in Uttar Pradesh, he said, adding that by running a state-wide intensive campaign, verification of all the employees working there including the operators of these food establishments should be done.

The chief minister said this action should be completed quickly by a joint team of Food Safety and Drug Administration, police and local administration.

Forest dept, Army capture 2 leopards

Udaipur, Sept 24: The Forest department in Udaipur district, with help of the Army, has captured two leopards, bringing a sigh of relief to residents of Gogunda town where three people were killed in attacks by the big cats last week, officials said Tuesday.



ment launched a search operation with local police, according to officials.

The leopards were captured in separate cages Monday night, they added. The traps were set following a wave of panic in the community after the rise in deaths due to leopard attacks.

In response to the fatalities, which included a 16-year-old girl, a 50-year-old man, and a 40-year-old woman, the Forest department

A team from the Indian Army was also called in Saturday to trace the animals. Cages were strategically placed at six locations in the area, they said.

Gogunda police station SHO Shaitan Singh Nathawat said the leopards were rescued and transported to Sajjangarh Biological Park in Udaipur city by the Forest department team.

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AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE. Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds. Date and Venue: Saturday, 28th September 2024; 6:30 pm onwards. at JDR Hotel, At/Po- Rangadhripa, Sundargarh - 770 002, Odisha.

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice. OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER DHENKANAL DIVISION, DHENKANAL. E-Procurement Bid Identification No. No.MM-171: 06-DFO/DKL of 2024-25.

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice. OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RAYAGADA (R&B) DIVISION NO.1, RAYAGADA. Bid Identification No. RC (RANB) RGD 08/2024-2025 (Online Tender) File No. E-I-CB-28/2024 No. 7683 Date: 21.09.2024.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL

# national

## of the day quote

It is Tuesday today, the day of Hanumanji, and I will work like Hanuman of Arvind Kejriwal and clear all his pending works. The AAP worked well under his leadership and tried to establish Ram Rajya

I sought blessings of Lord Hanuman, who has protected us in all the crises, to continue working for Delhi people and bring back Arvind Kejriwal as chief minister in the elections

In all the cases of Dalit oppression, there was clear connivance or silent support of the Hooda government

## SHORT TAKES

### T'gana BJP to take up 24-hr fast Sep 30

Hyderabad: BJP MLAs and other leaders in Telangana will undertake a 24-hour fast here September 30 demanding that the Congress government implement its promises, including the 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme, to the farmers. BJP floor leader in Assembly, A Maheshwar Reddy, alleged that some ministers themselves say that the crop loan waiver has not been completed, reflecting the state of governance in the state. The 'Rythu Bharosa' scheme of providing investment support to farmers has not been implemented, though the government assumed office nine months ago, he told reporters here Tuesday.

### Pulwama attack accused dies

Jammu: A 32-year-old man chargesheeted in the deadly terror attack on a CRPF convoy in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district five years ago has died of a heart attack in the Government Medical College Hospital here, officials said. Bilal Ahmad Kuchey of Kakapora's Hajibal village was among 19 people formally charged in the case. Forty CRPF personnel were killed and eight more injured when a terrorist of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad rammed his explosive-laden car into a convoy in Pulwama's Lethpora February 14, 2019.

### Fakecurrency racket busted, 10 arrested

Kushinagar (UP): Ten people were arrested here for their alleged involvement in the counterfeit currency trade after recovery of fake notes with a face value of ₹5.62 lakh from them, police said Tuesday. Along with the fake notes, the police also found genuine currency totalling over ₹1 lakh from the accused, they said. Meanwhile, the BJP has launched an attack on the Samajwadi Party on this issue, while the Samajwadi Party on the other hand, said that law should take its own course without any bias Kushinagar Superintendent of Police (SP) Santosh Kumar Mishra said a joint team from the Tamkuhi Raj, Taraya Sujana, Sevarhi, and Cyber police stations nabbed the gang Monday.

### Teen girl raped by plumber

New Delhi: A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a plumber in south Delhi's Sangam Vihar area, police said Tuesday. The accused was identified as Mukesh who works as a plumber in the area, they said. According to police, the incident occurred Sunday when the girl was alone at her home. He entered her house and allegedly raped her.



Let them (Centre) take it (DVC) away. I do not care. They have removed everything from Kolkata and there is nothing left. They keep a building (DVC headquarters) in Kolkata, but will not listen to Kolkata and keep on releasing water inundating Bengal and killing people

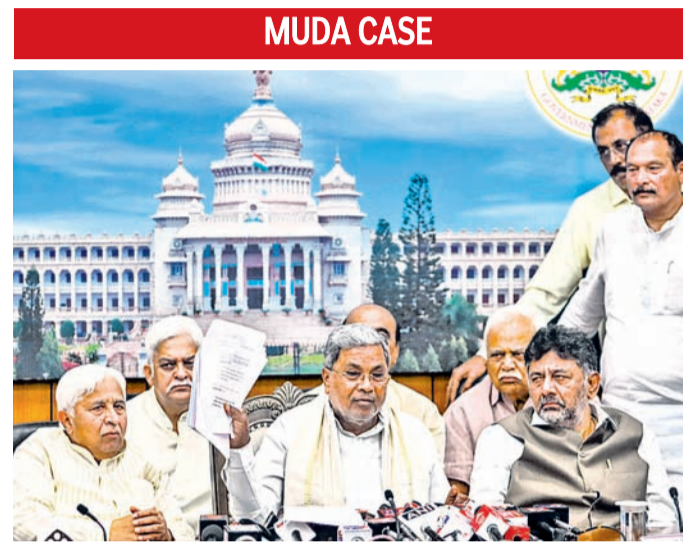
MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CM

## PREZ CALLS FOR TIMELY AUDIT OF PUBLIC FINANCE

Underscoring the importance of timeliness in auditing public finance, President Droupadi Murmu Tuesday said if a wrong is pointed out well within time, it can be corrected and help save huge amount of public money



# Siddaramaiah, Congress allege 'vendetta politics'



MUDA CASE

In a setback to Siddaramaiah, the high court Tuesday upheld Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's approval for investigation against him in the site allotment case, and dismissed his petition stating that the gubernatorial order nowhere suffers from want of application of mind

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: As the Karnataka High Court upheld the state governor's approval for an investigation against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in a site allotment case, he and the ruling Congress Tuesday remained defiant, rejecting the Opposition's demand for his resignation, and accused the Modi government of indulging in vendetta politics. In a setback to Siddaramaiah, the high court Tuesday upheld Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's approval for investiga-

tion against him in the site allotment case, and dismissed his petition stating that the gubernatorial order nowhere suffers from want of application of mind.

The Chief Minister had moved the high court August 19 challenging the sanction granted by the governor for an investigation against him in the alleged irregularities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) in a prime locality.

"The facts narrated in the petition would undoubtedly require investigation. In the teeth of the fact that the beneficiary of all these acts is not anybody outside but the family of the petitioner, the petition stands dismissed," Justice M Nagarasanna ruled. "Interim order of any kind subsisting today shall stand dissolved," he said. Accusing the Centre of indulging in vendetta politics against Opposition-ruled state governments, including the one headed by him, Siddaramaiah rejected the Opposition's demand for his resignation. Alleging a conspiracy by the Opposition

against him and his government, Siddaramaiah asserted that he would face them politically and said he would decide on his next course of action after consulting legal experts and party leaders.

"I still say that I have done no wrong," the Chief Minister told reporters in Bangalore. "Why should I resign? Has (H D) Kumaraswamy (Union Minister) resigned? He is out on bail, ask him... it is only said that an inquiry needs to be done. At the inquiry stage itself resignation is sought? I will answer them... we will face them politically because it is a conspiracy," Siddaramaiah said in response to a question on Opposition parties seeking his resignation. Accusing the BJP and the JD(S) of "conspiracy and misuse of Raj Bhavan", the CM said he is not afraid of them as the people of the state are with him and he and his party have their blessings.

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said there is no question of the chief minister resigning over the high court dismissing his petition.

He alleged that there was a "big conspiracy" against Siddaramaiah. He asserted that the Chief Minister had done no wrong and would come out clean.

Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress president, said he and his party stand in support of the Chief Minister who is doing a good job for the party and the state. "There is a big conspiracy against our chief minister, like how the BJP had hatched a big conspiracy against me by filing a case and sending me to jail. I came out because of God's grace. The case in which I went to jail was dismissed. Similarly, they have hatched a conspiracy against the Chief Minister and his family," Shivakumar said.

# SEBI must name big players: Rahul on F&O trading



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Tuesday said 90 per cent of small investors have lost ₹1.8 lakh crore in Futures and Option (F&O) trading in three years and asked the SEBI to reveal the names of the "so called big players" profiteering at their expense.

Gandhi, who is the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said on X, "Uncontrolled F&O trading has grown 45X in 5 years. 90% of small investors have lost 1.8 lakh Cr in 3 years."

"SEBI must reveal the names of the so called 'Big Players' making a killing at their expense," the former Congress chief said. The study said in FY24 alone, individuals incurred about ₹75,000 crore in net losses.

It 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.

More than 91 per cent, or 73 lakh, individual traders lost money in the 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

Although such investors contributed about 30 per cent to 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 actively trade in options and futures contracts, contributing to the surge in market liquidity," SEBI said.

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.

# TN: NIA raids 11 places to probe promotion of anti-India ideology

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: The NIA conducted searches at multiple locations across Tamil Nadu Tuesday as part of its probe into an "anti-election campaign" promoted by the Hizb-ut-Tahrir, a pan-Islamist organisation seeking to establish Islamic rule in the country, an official statement said.

It said officials of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) raided the houses of 11 suspects in Chennai, Tambaram and Kanyakumari districts, and seized incriminating materials, including digital devices, unaccounted cash and literature belonging to the Hizb-ut-Tahrir.

The NIA said the searches were conducted as part of a case related to causing and creating disaffection through various social media handles and campaigning against the exercise of the electoral franchise, which is deemed by the Hizb-ut-Tahrir as un-Islamic or 'Haram'.

The Hizb-ut-Tahrir is a fundamentalist organisation engaged in instigating its followers to overthrow the lawfully established democratic government through divisive actions, according to the anti-terror agency.

Hameed Hussain, a key conspirator in the case, had collaborated with five other accused to hold secret meetings to promote the anti-India ideology of the Hizb-ut-Tahrir, it said.

"NIA investigations in the case so far have revealed that the accused, along with several groups of people, had carried out campaigns throughout Tamil Nadu to establish Khilafah or Islamic rule in India, and had been involved in activities aimed at dividing the people and disrupting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country," the statement said.

Investigations in the case, taken over by the NIA from the Chennai City Police in July this year, are continuing, and the material seized during the searches is being examined.

# Actor Mukesh held, Sidhique on the run



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Sept 24: Legal actions intensified Tuesday against two prominent Malayalam actors, Sidhique and Mukesh, as the Kerala High Court denied Sidhique's bail plea in a 2016 rape case involving a young actress, while Mukesh was arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for allegedly sexually assaulting another female actor a decade ago in Kochi.

While Mukesh, a ruling CPI(M) MLA, was released on bail after

his formal arrest, having already secured bail from a court in Kochi, Sidhique is reportedly on the run, prompting the police to launch a manhunt.

Before his arrest was formally recorded, Mukesh was interrogated by the SIT for more than three hours at the Coastal Police Headquarters here.

The rape complaints against both actors, along with those against a few other artists, were filed after the state Culture Ministry released selected portions of the Justice K Hema Committee report following a legal battle.

The committee was established by the Kerala government after the 2017 actress assault case. Its report highlighted instances of harassment and exploitation of women in the Malayalam cinema industry.



Congress leader and LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi during an election campaign ahead of Haryana Assembly polls in Karnal

## RAPE CASES

## SIT PROBE AGAINST MISSIONARIES

# Don't drag us into your agenda: SC slams NCPCCR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: The Supreme Court Tuesday told NCPCCR not to drag the apex court in its agenda over a plea seeking an SIT probe into cases of children allegedly sold by shelter homes in Jharkhand of the Missionaries of Charity founded by Mother Teresa.

Slamming the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh dismissed the plea filed by the child rights body. It said the relief sought is vague and omnibus, and it cannot be considered.

"Don't drag the Supreme Court into your agenda. What kind of



relief is sought in your petition? How can we pass such directions? The petition is totally misconstrued," the bench told the lawyer appearing for the NCPCCR. At the outset, the lawyer ap-

pearing for the NCPCCR submitted that the plea has sought direction for an apex court-monitored time-bound investigation of all such organisations in Jharkhand to ensure protection

The top court said the NCPCCR was empowered to conduct enquiry and take action in accordance with law under the CPR Act, 2005

The bench refused to entertain the petition and dismissed the plea

of children.

The top court said the NCPCCR was empowered to conduct enquiry and take action in accordance with law under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005. The bench refused to entertain the petition and dismissed the plea.

The NCPCCR in its plea filed in 2020 had sought enforcement of fundamental rights of prohibition of trafficking in human be-

ings guaranteed under Article 23 of the Constitution. It had said discrepancies have been found in children's homes in various states and it has added them as parties in its plea.

The plea had cited cases of child rights violation in Jharkhand and said the authorities in the state have adopted a callous approach to protect minors. "During course of inquiry by petitioner (NCPCCR), shocking revelations were made by the victims which included the factum that the children were being sold in the children homes. These facts were emphatically brought to the notice of the state government (Jharkhand) but continuous attempts were made to sabotage and derail the inquiry," the plea said.

# 8 KILLED IN MP ROAD MISHAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Damoh (MP), Sept 24: Eight persons were killed and two injured in a collision between a truck and an autorickshaw in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district Tuesday, police said.

The accident occurred between 1.30 pm and 2 pm near Samanna village, said Damoh Superintendent of Police Shrutikirti Somvanshi. The injured persons were rushed to Jabalpur through a special corridor created on the road.

"Police personnel and residents of the village rushed to the spot to launch the rescue operation," the officer said. According to the police, seven persons were killed on the spot, and one succumbed to the injuries at the hospital.

Five of the victims were family members, and three were minors, an official said.

The truck driver, Neeraj Singh Lodhi (22), was drunk and was not in a position to give a statement, the SP said.



The deceased were identified as Sajhi Gupta (12), Horilal Gupta, Rajesh Gupta (50), Gayatri Gupta (40), Alok Gupta (40), Shiva Gupta (13), Mahendra Gupta (5) and Geeta Rani, police said. Condoling the incident, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav directed authorities to take stern action against the person responsible for the negligent act. He also announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh each to the kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 each for the treatment of injured persons.



national



The world is going through a phase of technological revolution. In this era of Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Technology and drones, the field of security is witnessing significant changes

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

SAGAR DEFENCE JOINS HANDS WITH LIQUID ROBOTICS

India's Sagar Defence Tuesday announced a partnership with Liquid Robotics, a Boeing company, for co-development and co-production of scaled Uncrewed Surface Vehicle (USV) systems.



POST OF THE DAY



Dear @PawanKalyan garu..i saw your press meet.. what i have said and what you have misinterpreted is surprising.. im shooting abroad. Will come back to reply your questions.. meanwhile i would appreciate if you can go through my tweet earlier and understand #justasking

@prakashraaj

ENCOUNTER DEATH OF BADLAPUR ACCUSED

Kin, Oppn challenge police claims

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 24: The Opposition as well as the kin of Akshay Shinde, accused in the Badlapur sexual assault case, Tuesday picked holes in police's version of his killing and accused the government of trying to shield the school management.

Shinde's father Anna Shinde moved the Bombay High Court seeking probe by a Special Investigation Team into his son's death in a "fake encounter". His mother and uncle had alleged Monday night that it was a conspiracy by police and management of the Badlapur school where the alleged sexual assault had taken place.

Akshay Shinde (24), died in 'retaliatory firing' by a police officer after he allegedly snatched the pistol of a policeman in a van and



A forensic team examines the police van in which Akshay Shinde, the accused in the Badlapur sexual assault case of two minor girls, was killed in police encounter in Thane

opened fire, leaving an assistant inspector injured Monday. The incident took place near Mumbra bypass in Thane when he was being taken to Badlapur in Thane district from Talaja Jail for the probe into a case registered against him on the complaint of his former wife.

A contractual sweeper, Akshay was accused of sexually assaulting

two kindergarten girls at the Badlapur school in August. "We want justice," his father told PTI.

The Opposition too slammed the government and refused to accept the police's theory. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said though the encounter was suspicious, there was no need to show sympathy for Akshay. "How convincing is it that a school janitor snatches a gun from a policeman and fires a locked weapon? This is the basic question," he said, alleging that Akshay was the main piece of evidence that was destroyed as Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis wanted to shield the school management.

Thane Police registered a case of attempt to murder against Akshay for allegedly opening fire at police. Meanwhile, the father of Akshay Shinde has moved the Bombay High Court seeking probe by a special investigation team into the death.

Spycams in toilet, bedroom

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: A 30-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly installing spy cameras in the bedroom and washroom of his female tenant's home in east Delhi's Shakarpur area, police said Tuesday.

The victim, a civil service aspirant, was staying alone in the house for the past few months and would handover the keys to her landlord's son Karan before going out of town, they said. The matter came to fore after the woman noticed some unusual activity on her WhatsApp, Deputy Commissioner of Police (east) Apoorva Gupta said.

The woman became more suspicious and began searching her apartment for hidden cameras or surveillance devices and she found one in the bulb holder of her bathroom, the officer said. Following this, she made a PCR Monday. A police team conducted

a thorough search and found another camera installed in the bulb holder of her bedroom, Gupta said. The woman told police that wherever she went out of town, she gave her house keys to Karan, who lives on a different floor of the same building, she said. During interrogation, Karan admitted that three months ago, when she left for her hometown in Uttar Pradesh, she had handed over her keys to him, the DCP said.

Taking advantage of this, Karan bought three spy cameras commonly available in electronics markets and installed one in her bedroom and the other in her bathroom, she said. Since these cameras could not be operated online and used a memory card to store videos, Karan persistently requested the woman to give the keys of her house under the pretext of repairing electrical fixtures and fans as he wanted to transfer the recorded videos from the memory card to his laptop, she said. During further probe, another spy camera was recovered from Karan's possession, along with two laptops used to store the recorded videos, a police officer said.

SNIPPETS

2 dead as vehicle falls into gorge

KATRA/JAMMU: Two people, including a policeman, were killed when their vehicle carrying a zonal magistrate on poll duty, plunged into a deep gorge in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday, officials said.

J&K polls: 26 Assembly seats to vote today

JAMMU: Amid tight security, the stage is all set for the second phase of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday. Voting will begin at 7 AM in 26 constituencies.

Jarange enters eighth day of hunger strike

JALNA: Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange's health deteriorated Tuesday as he entered the eighth day of his hunger strike to press for reservations for the Marathas under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category.

SUB-CLASSIFICATION OF SCs FOR QUOTA

SC TO REVIEW ITS JUDGMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 24: The Supreme Court is scheduled to consider in chambers Tuesday a batch of pleas seeking review of its judgement which held that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes, which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation.

As per the cause list, a seven-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Chandrachud, by a majority of 6:1, set aside the apex court's five-judge bench verdict of 2004 in the EV Chinnaiiah vs State of Andhra Pradesh case which had held that no sub-classification of Scheduled Castes (SCs) can be allowed as they are a homogeneous class in themselves.

Justice Trivedi, in her 85-page dissenting judgement, said it is only Parliament which can include a caste in the SC list or exclude it, and states are not empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes, which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially and educationally more backward.

backwardness and representation in government jobs and not on "whims" and as a matter of "political expediency".

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The top court August 1 had held that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes, which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially and educationally more backward. The apex court, however, made it clear that states have to make sub-classification on the basis of "quantifiable and demonstrable data" of

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Place: RAYAGADA Date: 25.09.2024



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Place: BALANGIR Date: 25.09.2024



AUTHORISED SIGNATORY IIFL FINANCE LIMITED

# international



I think Zelenskyy is the greatest salesman in history. Every time he comes into the country, he walks away with 60 billion dollars. He wants them (democrats) to win this election so badly, but I would do differently, I will work out peace DONALD TRUMP | FORMER PRESIDENT, US

## PAKISTAN'S FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Pakistan People's Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari Tuesday pushed for the creation of the country's first-ever constitutional court



### of the day quote

We reaffirm that Yemen stands with Lebanon and its valiant Islamic resistance. We call on Arab and Islamic countries to break the silence. We will not stop until the aggression on Gaza stops MOHAMED ABDUL-SALAM | SPOKESMAN FOR HOUTHIS

China is the first country when it comes to daily cyber attacks, doing it against Taiwan and countries with similar democratic ideals. They are the real originators WELLINGTON KOO | DEFENCE MINISTER, TAIWAN

I will stand beside him (Muhammad Yunus). Come what may. So that he can accomplish his mission WAKER-UZ-ZAMAN | ARMY CHIEF, BANGLADESH

### SHORT TAKES

#### Four arrested for forging documents

**Kathmandu:** Four people were arrested Tuesday for their alleged involvement in issuing a fake Nepali citizenship certificate to a Tibetan, police said. Three Nepali and a Chinese national from Tibet, the autonomous region of China, were arrested for issuing a fake Nepali citizenship certificate to Tibetan national Sonam Tamang by producing fake documents, said the police. Sonam was among the seven persons, including an Indian and four Chinese nationals, arrested Monday for allegedly running a gambling racket in Nepal's capital city, police said. The police said Sonam paid Nepali ₹400,000 (INR 25,025) to a Chinese national, who posed as a broker, to produce fake documents with the help of his Nepalese accomplices to issue the citizenship certificate.

#### Khan's military trial: HC rejects petition

**Islamabad:** A Pakistani high court Tuesday disposed of a petition regarding holding a military trial of former Prime Minister Imran Khan after it was informed that no decision had been taken by the federal government. Khan's supporters allegedly attacked defence installations and vandalised state properties May 9, 2023, to protest the arrest of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder in a case of alleged corruption. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb stated that if such a trial is pursued, it will be conducted in accordance with Rule 549, following the necessary legal procedure. He further informed the court that in the event of a military trial, the process would start with a request to a civil magistrate.

#### Tropical Storm strikes Mexico

**Puerto Escondido:** Tropical Storm John struck Mexico's southern Pacific coast with life-threatening flood potential after growing into a major hurricane in a matter of hours. It came ashore near the town of Punta Maldonado late Monday night as a Category 3 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 190 kph. It weakened back to tropical storm status early Tuesday with maximum sustained wind speeds of 110 kph and was expected to weaken rapidly. Still, the United States National Hurricane Centre warned that the storm's slow pace and heavy rains could cause potentially catastrophic flash flooding and mudslides in some Mexican states.

## UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# Biden delivers his farewell address

**BIDEN STEPS UP TO THE GREEN-MARBLED LECTERN AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH WARS IN UKRAINE, THE GAZA STRIP AND SUDAN STILL RAGING**

AGENCIES

**New York, Sept 24:** US President Joe Biden addressed world leaders at the United Nations for the final time Tuesday, declaring that Russia's war in Ukraine has failed and that a diplomatic solution between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah was still possible.

With four months left in office, Biden stepped up to the green-marbled lectern at the UN General Assembly with wars in Ukraine, the Gaza Strip and Sudan still raging and likely to outlast his presidency, which ends in January.

He sought to calm tensions as the nearly year-long war between Israel and Palestinian militants Hamas in the besieged Gaza Strip now threatens to engulf Lebanon, where Israel targeted more than a thousand Hezbollah targets Monday.



I've seen a remarkable sweep of history. I know many look at the world today and see difficulties and react with despair but I do not JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

**B**iden seeks to calm ME tensions  
**T**o strengthen partnerships across Indo-Pacific  
**B**iden calls on Israel, Hamas to finalise ceasefire

"Full scale war is not in anyone's interest, even if situation has escalated, a diplomatic solution is still possible," he told the 193-member UN General Assembly. To a round of applause, Biden called on Israel and Hamas to finalise the terms of a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal put forward by the US, Qatar and Egypt.

Biden's presidency has also been dominated by Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was in the assembly hall to hear Biden

speech and emphasize US support for his country.

"The good news is Putin's war has failed at his core aim. He set out to destroy Ukraine, but Ukraine is still free," said Biden.

"We cannot grow weary, we cannot look away, and we will not let up on our support for Ukraine, not until Ukraine wins with a just, durable peace," he said.

Biden is due to hear from Zelenskyy about a new Ukrainian peace plan when they meet in Washington Thursday. A US official said the plan is probably much like previous plans calling for more

weaponry and support for Ukraine's fight.

#### Strong message to China

In a strong message to China, US President Joe Biden Tuesday told world leaders that Washington will continue to strengthen its network of alliances and partnerships across the Indo-Pacific, which he said are not against any nation, as it seeks to responsibly manage the competition with Beijing.

"We also need to uphold our principles as we seek to responsibly manage the competition with China so it does not veer into conflict," Biden said as he addressed world leaders from the podium of the UN General Assembly. Biden told the General Debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly that in matters of conviction, the "US is unabashed, pushing back against unfair economic competition, against military coercion of other nations in the South China Sea, and maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits, protecting our most advanced technologies so they cannot be used against us or any of our partners."

"At the same time, we're going to continue to strengthen our network of alliances and partnerships across the Indo-Pacific. These partnerships are not against any nation. There are

building blocks for a free, open, secure and peaceful Indo-Pacific," he said.

#### Peaceful elections across the globe

Citing the example of India, Joe Biden said that the world witnessed people across the globe "peacefully" choosing their future through elections held this year.

"We've seen citizens across the world peacefully choosing their future, from Ghana to India to South Korea, nations representing one-quarter of humanity will hold elections this year alone," Biden said as he addressed world leaders from the podium of the UN General Assembly Tuesday.

"This summer, I faced a decision whether to seek a second term as President. It was a difficult decision. Being President has been the honour of my life. There's so much more I want to get done. As much as I love this job, I love my country more. I decided, after 50 years of public service, it's time for a new generation of leadership to take my nation forward. My fellow leaders, let us never forget, that some things are more important than staying in power. It's your people," Biden said to a round of huge applause from the world leaders in the UNGA hall.

"We are here to serve the people, not the other way around."

### Under Umrah visa

## Saudi asks Pak to prevent beggars from entering kingdom

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Islamabad, Sept 24:** Saudi Arabia has raised concerns about the growing number of Pakistani beggars arriving in the Kingdom under the guise of religious pilgrimage and asked Islamabad to take action to prevent them from entering the Gulf country, a media report said Tuesday.

Citing sources from Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Express Tribune newspaper reported that the Saudi authorities have also warned that if the situation is not controlled, it could negatively affect Pakistani Umrah and Hajj pilgrims.

"The Saudi Ministry of Hajj has issued a warning to Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs, urging action to prevent Pakistani beggars from entering the kingdom under Umrah visas," the paper said.

In response, Pakistan's Ministry of Religious Affairs has decided to introduce an "Umrah Act," which aims to regulate travel agencies facilitating Umrah trips, bringing them under legal oversight, it said. Additionally, the ministry has asked the Pakistani government to find ways to prevent beggars from travelling to Saudi Arabia under the guise of religious pilgrimage.

## SL's new Prez dissolves Parl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Colombo, Sept 24:** Sri Lanka's newly appointed President Anura Kumara Dissanayake Tuesday signed the special gazette notification ordering the dissolution of Parliament, officials said.

The dissolution will be effective from midnight Tuesday and the election will be held November 14.

Dissanayake in the run-up to Saturday's presidential election said he would immediately dissolve parliament to order a snap poll. The last Parliament was convened in August 2020. The dissolution has come 11 months ahead of schedule.

Dissanayake, 56, was sworn in as Sri Lanka's ninth President by Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya at the Presidential Secretariat Monday.

His swearing-in came hours after Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena resigned from his post as part of a power transition in the country following the presidential election.

On Monday, Dissanayake said he wanted a new assembly to push through his National People's Power (NPP) reform agenda. Earlier today, President Dissanayake appointed his cabinet of four, including himself and also Harini Amarasuriya was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, making her the 16th person to hold the position. She was sworn in as the new Prime Minister in the pres-



ence of President Dissanayake. NPP parliamentarians Vijitha Herath and Laxman Nipunarachchi were sworn in as cabinet ministers. They would serve as the caretaker cabinet.

Also, the Election Commission has announced its readiness to conduct a general election at any given time.

Commissioner General of Elections, Saman Sri Ratnayake, stated that the estimated cost for a general election would be approximately Rs. 11 billion.

The Election Commission also noted that the voter registration list prepared for the presidential election will be used for the general election.

Dissanayake, the leader of the 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.

## Telegram can disclose user data at authorities' requests: Co-founder

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Moscow, Sept 24:** Telegram can disclose users' data upon reasonable requests from authorities, the encrypted messaging service's co-founder Pavel Durov said on his Telegram channel.

"We've made it clear that the IP addresses and phone numbers of those who violate our rules can be disclosed to relevant authorities in response to valid legal requests," Pavel Durov said Monday, specifying that the messenger has updated its terms of service and privacy policy, bringing them to uniformity across the world, Xinhua news agency reported.

Such changes were introduced to "further deter criminals from abusing Telegram Search," he noted. Pavel Durov also pointed out that some users were abusing Telegram's search function to sell illegal goods. However, the team of the platform has removed all problematic content from searches in recent weeks.

Pavel Durov, a native of Russia, was detained in Paris last month and later released on a \$5.6 million bail for charges including failing to act against Telegram users involved in cyberbullying, sharing pedophilic content and glorifying terrorism. He was placed under judicial supervision and banned from leaving France.

# Israeli airstrike kills Hezbollah commander

REUTERS

**Beirut, Sept 24:** An Israeli airstrike on the southern suburbs of Beirut Tuesday killed a Hezbollah commander who was a leading figure in its rocket division, two security sources in Lebanon said, as fears of a full-fledged war in the Middle East mounted.

The sources identified the commander who was killed as Ibrahim Qubaisi. The attack, in which six people were killed, dealt another blow to the Iran-backed group which has faced a series of setbacks at the hands of Israel over the past week.

The relentless pressure on Hezbollah has increased fears that nearly a year of conflict will explode into another all-out war and destabilise the Middle East, where a conflict between Israel and Hezbollah's ally Hamas is already raging in Gaza.

Israel struck the Hezbollah-controlled area of the Lebanese capital for a second consecutive day after mounting a new wave of airstrikes on Hezbollah targets in Lebanon, increasing fears that nearly a year of conflict would explode into an all-out war and destabilise the oil-producing Middle East.



After nearly 12 months of war against the Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza on its southern border, Israel is shifting its focus to the northern frontier, where Hezbollah has been firing rockets into Israel in support of Hamas, which is also backed by Iran.

The sources in Lebanon declined to identify who had been targeted in Tuesday's strike on Beirut and said his fate was unknown. The health ministry gave an initial toll of six dead and 15 wounded in the strike.

The Israeli military, which carried out airstrikes against Hezbollah Monday which Lebanese authorities said killed more than 500 people, said it had carried out a strike in Beirut Tuesday, but gave no details.

The airstrike hit a building in the usually busy Ghobeiry neighbourhood. One of the se-

curity sources shared a photo showing damage to the top floor of the five-storey building.

Israel's military chief said attacks on Hezbollah would be accelerated. "The situation requires continued, intense action in all arenas," said Military Chief of General Staff Herzi Halevi after holding a security assessment.

Lebanese authorities said 558 people had been killed, including 50 children and 94 women, in Israel's airstrikes Monday. A further 1,835 were wounded, they said, and tens of thousands more have fled for safety.

The casualty tolls and constant pressure from the most powerful and advanced military in the Middle East has spread panic in Lebanon, which suffered from devastating destruction when Israel and Hezbollah fought in 2006.

"We are waiting for victory, God willing, because as long as we have a neighbour like Israel, we can't sleep safely," said Beirut resident Hassan Omar.

Aff Ibrahim, a taxi driver from southern Lebanon, was defiant. "They (Israel) want us (Lebanese) to kneel, but we kneel only to God in our prayers; we bow our heads to no one but God," he said.

# Mexico's Ayotzinapa victims still search for truth and justice

Forty three students were kidnapped by organized crime members who colluded with local police, according to two separate international probes

REUTERS

**Mexico City, Sept 24:** Ten years ago, Edgar Vargas' life forever changed when he was shot in the face in one of Mexico's most notorious cases of mass violence in recent memory: the attack and disappearance of 43 students from the rural teacher-training school of Ayotzinapa.

A bullet pierced Vargas' jaw on the night of September 26, 2014, as he tried to help his classmates trapped in a bus being shot at by gunmen. Vargas, then 19, survived by crawling along the road until he found shelter, though he was left with deep physical and emotional scars.

"I knew that nothing would ever be the same again. I could hardly look at myself in a mirror," Vargas, who has undergone seven surgeries, said through tears in an interview with Reuters.

"I couldn't (speak), I saw my body full of tubes inside my mouth, of cables, it was very hard."

Vargas, now a teacher, is part of a group of survivors who have since scattered across Mexico, many of them saying they have been threatened by organized crime members and government officials, warning them to stop discussing and protesting or face unspecified consequences along with their family members.

Despite fear and trauma, some say they want to continue to seek truth and justice that has eluded them for a decade.

Every anniversary is a painful reminder of the assault on more than 100 student teachers from Ayotzinapa, in the city of Iguala in the violent state of Guerrero,



The students were traveling in several buses en route to Mexico City to remember the 1968 student massacre there when they were shot at

some 220 kilometers south of Mexico City.

The students were traveling in several buses en route to Mexico

City to remember the 1968 student massacre there when they were shot at. Forty three of them were then kidnapped by organized crime members who colluded with local police, according to two separate international probes, including one backed by the Organization of American States (OAS).

The motive for the attack remains a mystery.

In its initial findings, the previous government concluded the 43 had been kidnapped by

corrupt police in cahoots with a local drug gang who believed the students had been infiltrated by members of a rival outfit. The gang then killed the students and burned their bodies, their report said.

The administration of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who took power in 2018, has described the disappearances as a "state crime" that authorities had tried to cover up. No one has been convicted in relation to the incident and authorities have only managed to identify remains of three of the students.

**UNFULFILLED PROMISES**  
Families of the disappeared are still clamoring for the truth, clinging ever more skeptically to the government's promises to find the young people or get to the bottom of what happened.

President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum, who will take office October 1, has promised the investigations will continue into the incident that occurred during the mandate of then-

President Enrique Peña Nieto, who was criticized by international investigators and victims' families for bringing about an abrupt closure of the case.

Peña accepted the assertion by his attorney general's office that the students' bodies had been burned on a pyre. But that was later rejected by international investigators, including the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI), a panel set up by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Many family members are also disappointed by Obrador, who had promised to resolve the case. The outgoing President has defended the armed forces, who have been accused of playing a role in the events by the foreign investigators and lawyers for the parents of the victims.

The military has denied that any of its members participated directly and says it has provided information for the investigations.

## of the day quote

We are seeing very big investment plans on the anvil which will create millions of jobs and expand our manufacturing contribution to the economy



**PIYUSH GOYAL** | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER

We see a good amount of interest in private capital expenditure. The infrastructure financing, of course, is mainly coming from the roads, renewable energy, and some of the refineries



**SANDIP PATEL** | IBM INDIA MANAGING DIRECTOR

Today we are living in a defining moment. We are witnessing India's digital renaissance. I like to call it the 'Naya Daur' of digital Bharat, and each one of you here is propelling this charter, IBM, together with you, is committed to innovating in India, for India and the world



**SANDIP PATEL** | IBM INDIA MANAGING DIRECTOR

## SHORT TAKES

### REC to raise \$500mn via global notes

**New Delhi:** State-owned REC Ltd Monday said it will raise USD 500 million under its USD 10 billion global medium term note programme. According to a filing, these notes represent direct, unconditional and unsecured obligations of the company and will rank pari passu among themselves and all other unsecured obligations of the company. "REC under its USD 10 billion Global Medium Term Note Programme, has priced USD 500 Million, 4.75 per cent Notes, on September 23, 2024," a BSE filing stated. These notes will be listed on Global Securities Market of India International Exchange Ltd (India INX) and NSE IFSC.

### Telcos discuss AGR, OTP apps

**New Delhi:** Telecom operators in a meeting with Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia expressed concerns over regulator Trai excluding messaging and calling apps like WhatsApp and Telegram in its recommendation on new licensing rules, sources aware of the development said. Operators also discussed issues concerning adjusted gross revenue payments, they added. The meeting was attended by Reliance Jio Chairman Akash Ambani, Vodafone Idea CEO Akshaya Moondra, Bharti Airtel MD and CEO Gopal Vittal and BSNL Chairman and Managing Director Robert J Ravi. "All telecom operators expressed concern over the exclusion of over-the-top apps by Trai in its recommendation on Service Authorisation. Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel raised the issue of adjusted gross revenue," a source said.

### NMDC iron ore output grows 10%

**New Delhi:** NMDC posted 'best-ever yearly performance' in FY24 with iron ore production rising 10 per cent to cross 45 million tonnes and sales going up 16 per cent to touch 44.48 million tonnes mark, the company's CMD Amitava Mukherjee said Tuesday. The nation has witnessed strong growth of 7 per cent year-on-year in iron ore output, with production increasing from 257 million tonnes in FY23 to an impressive 275 million tonnes in FY24, the CMD said while addressing NMDC's 66th Annual General Meeting (AGM).



The trade-off between price stability and growth emerges when the pursuit of price stability entails large growth sacrifice

**SHAKTIKANTA DAS** | RESERVE BANK GOVERNOR

## APPAREL RETAILERS TO SEE GROWTH

Festive and wedding season and increasing preference for fast fashion is expected to help the organised retail apparel sector log 8-10 per cent revenue growth this financial year, a report said Tuesday. The organised retail apparel sector will clock a revenue growth of 8-10 per cent this fiscal riding on higher demand stemming from a normal monsoon, easing inflation, festive and wedding season and increasing preference for fast fashion, which is inexpensive, trendy clothing that mimics high fashion designs and popular styles, Crisil Ratings said in a report.



# NPCI eyes Africa, S America

The NIPL, carved out of the NPCI to promote the adoption of India's payment systems overseas, has held talks with at least 20 countries in Africa and South America to help them develop a UPI-like system



REUTERS

**Mumbai, Sept 24:** India is in talks with countries in Africa and South America to help them build a digital payments system using its homegrown Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as a blueprint and expects two launches by early 2027, a senior official said Tuesday.

The overseas arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is in talks with 'several countries' and is closing in on an agreement with one of

them, said Ritesh Shukla, CEO of NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL).

The NPCI, a quasi-regulator under the central bank, is a public non-profit organisation for retail payment systems in India.

It runs UPI, the country's most popular digital payments mode, whose monthly volumes surged 41% to nearly 15 billion transactions in August.

The NIPL, carved out of the

NPCI to promote the adoption of India's payment systems overseas, has held talks with at least 20 countries in Africa and South America to help them develop a UPI-like system, a source aware of the discussions said.

There are seven such links already and "several more are in the pipeline," Shukla said, declining to provide details.

Earlier this year, the NIPL signed deals with the central banks of Peru and Namibia to help them build real-time payment systems similar to UPI.

The two countries are expected

to launch their systems by late 2026 or early 2027, NIPL CEO Shukla said.

Among the other countries, "Rwanda is the only one with which serious discussions have happened," a second source familiar with the discussions said. Both the sources declined to be named as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

Shukla declined to provide the number of countries the NIPL is in talks with and whether Rwanda is among them. "The Bank of Rwanda did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Besides helping countries build payment systems, the NIPL is also tasked with linking UPI with other countries' real-time payment systems, such as Singapore's PayNow.

There are seven such links already and "several more are in the pipeline," Shukla said, declining to provide details.

The NIPL plans to double its 60-member team by March 2025 to deploy more staff overseas besides the handful of executives it has in Singapore and the Middle East currently, Shukla said.

# S&P expects RBI to cut rates in Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** S&P Global Ratings Tuesday retained India's growth forecast at 6.8 per cent for the current fiscal and said it expects the RBI to start cutting interest rates in its October monetary policy review.

In the economic outlook of Asia Pacific, S&P Global Ratings also retained its GDP growth forecast for the 2025-26 fiscal at 6.9 per cent and said solid growth in India will allow the Reserve Bank to focus on bringing inflation in line with its target.

"In India, GDP growth moderated in the June quarter as high interest rates temper urban demand, in line with our projection of 6.8 per cent GDP for the full fiscal year 2024-2025," S&P said.

The Indian economy grew 8.2 per cent in the last fiscal. S&P said the Union Budget in July outlined that the government remains committed to fiscal consolidation and to keeping the focus of public expenditure on infrastructure. The Budget has earmarked a capi-



tal expenditure of ₹11.11 lakh crore in the current fiscal ending March 2025.

S&P said the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) considers food inflation a hurdle for rate cuts. It reckons that unless there is a lasting and meaningful decline in the rate at which food prices are increasing it will be tough to maintain headline inflation at 4 per cent.

"Our outlook remains unchanged: we expect the RBI to begin cutting rates in October at the earliest and have pencilled in two rate cuts this fiscal year (year ending March 2025)," S&P said. S&P expects inflation to average 4.5 per cent in the current fiscal.

# Banks to rely on CDs for year-end credit demand

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Sept 24:** Indian banks are set to issue more certificates of deposit to meet year-end loan demand as deposit mobilisation remains challenging, six bankers said.

Certificates of deposit (CDs) are debt instruments with maturities of less than one year issued by banks.

"With the bulk deposit space becoming increasingly competitive, banks will be looking to issue more CDs to meet the rising credit demand ahead of the festive season," a senior treasury official at a mid-sized private sector lender said.

In India, retail sales peak during October-December, when the nation of 1.4 billion celebrates major festivals.

The stock of outstanding CDs rose to a record high of 5.15 trillion rupees (about \$61 billion) at the end of August. Since then, banks have issued more than 1 trillion rupees of these notes, clearing house data showed.

Loans given by Indian banks have been growing at double-digit percentages since April 2022, boosted by a spike in consumer spending, but the rise in deposits has lagged. Banks' loans grew 13.3% year-on-year in the

fortnight to Sept. 6, while deposits rose by 11.1%.

"Garnering retail deposits typically incurs additional cost through marketing spends, especially in such a competitive market, which is why we would prefer CD route for some time," a banker said, citing "healthy" demand from mutual funds.

Banks' reliance on these short-term notes is likely to persist despite the central bank urging them to garner more long-term funds to minimise potential asset-liability mismatches and spur financial inclusion, a separate source aware of the central bank's thinking said.

The bankers and the source requested to not be named as they are not authorised to speak to the media.

The Reserve Bank of India did not immediately reply to a Reuters email seeking comment.

"Owing to low interest rates and no tax benefit (on deposits), investors are flocking towards equity market for better returns... a combination of tight liquidity, sluggish deposit growth, shift in retail investments has led to a surge in CDs," said Bhushan Kedar, director - funds and fixed income research at CRISIL Market Intelligence and Analytics.

# Sensex hits 85,000 before closing flat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



**Mumbai, Sept 24:** Benchmark Sensex scaled the 85,000 level and Nifty breached the 26,000 mark for the first time before paring gains to close flat in a volatile session Tuesday, dragged by losses in FMCG and select banking shares.

The 30-share BSE benchmark declined by 14.57 points or 0.02 per cent to settle at 84,914.04, snapping its three-day record-breaking run.

In the morning trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex scaled the 85,000 level, jumping 234.62 points or 0.27 per cent to scale a new all-time intra-day peak of 85,163.23. China announcing stimulus measures to bolster its economy fuelled metal shares.

The index, however, hit a low of 84,716.07 in the afternoon session due to profit-taking at record levels.

Selling in Hindustan Unilever, Kotak Mahindra Bank and ICICI Bank dragged the key index from the day's highs.

The Nifty eked out gains of 1.35 points or 0.01 per cent to close at a fresh high of 25,940.40. During the day, it climbed 72.5 points or 0.27 per cent to hit a new record intra-day high of 26,011.55.

Investors are struggling to find clear directions following a record rally, traders said.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said, "Domestic benchmarks are attempting to sustain new highs, driven by the US Fed's aggressive rate cut. Meanwhile, the Chinese central bank's rate cut, and additional stimulus measures have positively influenced global investor sentiment, resulting in gains for domestic metal stocks."

Conversely, FMCG and banking stocks exhibited declines due to profit-booking at higher levels, he said, adding that in the near term, strong inflows from FIIs, driven by the US Fed's dovish outlook and expectations of a rate cut by the RBI in October, are expected to maintain

momentum.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Hindustan Unilever, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank, Titan, Nestle, Bajaj Finance and Asian Paints were among the biggest laggards. Tata Steel, Power Grid, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Mahindra & Mahindra and JSW Steel were among the gainers.

The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.21 per cent while small-cap index dipped 0.04 per cent.

Among the indices, FMCG declined 0.75 per cent, telecommunication (0.57 per cent), services (0.45 per cent), financial services (0.40 per cent), consumer durables (0.31 per cent)

and bankex (0.30 per cent). Metal surged 2.78 per cent, power jumped 1.38 per cent, utilities (1.18 per cent), commodities (0.95 per cent) and industrials (0.47 per cent).

"Although markets ended on a lacklustre note after a volatile session, key benchmark indices hit new milestones signifying that liquidity flows has remained strong as investors are confident of India's long term growth story," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

"Nifty ended on a flat note in a volatile session on Tuesday after crossing 26,000 for the first time. Asian stocks rose on Tuesday to their highest in more than two and half years, heartened by broad stimulus measures from China while expectations for more US rate cuts kept risk sentiment up," Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory. Shanghai and Hong Kong markets ended significantly higher.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹404.42 crore Monday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 2.35 per cent to USD 75.64 a barrel.

# SEBI probes investment banks over handling of small IPOs

The capital markets regulator is looking to curb coordinated activity between banks and some investors who break rules to place huge bids both as high net-worth individuals and as ordinary retail investors

REUTERS

**Mumbai, Sept 24:** India's securities regulator, worried about malpractice in a frothy IPO market, is investigating six domestic investment banks that have worked on offerings by small businesses, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

The probes by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) began earlier this year and are focused on the fees that the banks have charged, according to the sources who declined to be identified as the investigations are confidential.

It has found that at least half a dozen small investment banks have charged companies fees equivalent to 15% of funds raised via their IPO, they added. That's much higher than the standard practice of 1-3% in India.

Reuters was not able to learn the names of the banks under investigation. SEBI did not re-



spond to requests for comment. The investigations follow efforts by SEBI to warn investors about the dangers of investing in some small businesses as well as plans for tighter rules for such IPOs.

In India, smaller businesses with annual turnover of 50 million to 2.5 billion rupees (\$600,000-\$30 million) list on separate sections of the BSE and National Stock Exchange of India (NSE). There are fewer disclosure requirements and the offerings are vetted by the exchanges as opposed to large IPOs which have to be cleared by SEBI.

SEBI's preliminary findings suggest that the high fees are being charged to ensure the offerings are oversubscribed, according to one of the sources.

The regulator is looking to curb coordinated activity between banks and some investors who break rules to place huge bids both as high net-worth individuals and as ordinary retail investors, the second source said.

"These bids are not genuine and are cancelled at the time of allotment but the high subscriptions end up attracting more bids and investments from other investors," the source added.

India has more than 60 investment banks that actively work on IPOs for small businesses - a segment that like the rest of India's IPO market has been booming.

In the last fiscal year ended in March, 205 small firms raised 60 billion rupees, a sharp jump from the 125 companies that raised 22 billion rupees a year earlier, according to PRIME Database, a capital markets data provider.

For the April-August period this year, 105 small firms have raised 35 billion rupees with more than two-thirds of the offerings oversubscribed.

Ashwani Bhatia, a senior SEBI official, said this month that IPOs for small and medium-sized enterprises have lacked checks and balances. The regulator will soon issue a proposal for tighter rules, he added.

As part of its clampdown, the regulator in July capped share gains for a small firm's first day of trade at 90%.

The sources also said that SEBI has asked auditors and exchanges to be vigilant and stop companies from listing in cases where there is dissatisfaction with the information stated in IPO documents.

SEBI is also working on 12-15 action points that would tweak how smaller firms go about their IPOs, one of the sources said.

## BIZ BUZZ

### PNB Zonal Manager visits Balasore Circle



**Balasore:** Rajesh Kumar, Zonal Manager of Punjab National Bank (PNB) for the Bhubaneswar Zone, embarked on a visit to the Baleswar Circle September 21, underscoring the bank's efforts to strengthen customer relationships and

expand services in Odisha. His tour commenced with an interactive session in Jajpur district, where he engaged with both existing and potential clients, reaffirming PNB's commitment to fostering strong ties with the community. During his visit, Rajesh Kumar attended a significant event organised by Branch Offices Motto and Nalgunda in Bhadrak district. At this event, he disbursed Rs 5 crore in loans to 50 Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Addressing the gathering of SHG members, he emphasised the importance of these groups in the state's socio-economic development and educated attendees about various government benefits available to them. Rajesh Kumar also attended a customer meet, where he shared insights into PNB's customer-centric initiatives and future plans for the region.

### Bank of India celebrates Hindi Month

**Bhubaneswar:** Bank of India, Zonal Office enthusiastically celebrated Hindi Month. Seven competitions like news reading, email competition, more work in Hindi, essay competition, Oriya and Hindi song competition, placard competition, right word and its translation were organised on this occasion. An oath-taking ceremony was also organised to work in Hindi. Along with this, Hindi messages were also read. During the event, the winners of various competitions were awarded with certificates. Bijoy Kumar Malik, Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar Zonal Office and Ashok Kumar Jena, Deputy Zonal Manager, Bhubaneswar Zonal Office distributed the awards to the winners. Zonal Manager Malik said, "Hindi is our official language." Speaking on this occasion, Jena said that every language has its own dignity and culture and we must do more and more work in Hindi.



SHORT TAKES

Mixed fortunes for Indian tennis pairs

**New Delhi:** Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and his partner Vijay Sundar Prashanth clinched their maiden ATP title together, winning the men's doubles title at the Hangzhou Open tennis tournament, while Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti finished runners-up at the Chengdu Open in matches played Tuesday. The unseeded Indian duo of Jeevan and Vijay defeated the German pair of Constantin Frantzen and Hendrik Jebens 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 10-7 in a 109 minutes battle. Yuki and his French partner Olivetti narrowly missed out on a third title this year, losing 4-6, 6-4, 4-10 to the top-seeded French pair Sadio Doumbia and Fabien Reboul in a tense final.

Shuttlers notch up contrasting wins

**Macau:** Indian third seeds Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand overcame a stiff challenge from the Japanese pair of Akari Sato and Maya Taguchi in women's doubles to move to the second round of the Macau Open badminton tournament here Tuesday. The Indian pair lost the opening game before winning 15-21, 21-16, 21-14 in a round of 32 contest that lasted nearly an hour. In another doubles match, the pair of Sikki Reddy and Ruthvika Shivani got the better of Hong Kong-China's Cheung Yan Yu and Chu Wing Chi 21-15, 21-10.

India face Germany in two-Test series

**New Delhi:** The Indian men's hockey team will take on Germany in a two-match bilateral contest at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium here October 23 and 24, Hockey India (HI) announced Tuesday. The last time India faced Germany was in the semifinals of the Paris Olympics, where the European giants emerged victorious 3-2. India won the bronze medal at this year's Olympics beating Spain in the third place play-offs. HI president Dilip Tirkey expressed his enthusiasm and stated: "This bilateral series against Germany will be a remarkable showcase of world-class hockey. We are honoured to host this event, which will promote the spirit of hockey," Tirkey said.

BAI cash rewards for para shuttlers

**New Delhi:** The Badminton Association of India (BAI) announced Tuesday a total reward of ₹50 lakh for the shuttlers who secured medals at the Paris Paralympics last month. Indian para shuttlers won five medals, including one gold, two silver and as many bronze, at the Games. Nitesh Kumar, who clinched the coveted gold in the men's Singles SL3 category, will receive a prize of ₹15 lakh, while silver medallists Suhas Yathiraj (men's singles SL4) and Thulasimathi Murugesan (women's singles SU5) will each be awarded ₹10 lakh. Bronze-medal winners Manisha Ramadass (women's singles SU5) and Nithya Sre Sivan (women's single SH6 category) will each receive ₹7.5 lakh.

Six from KISS in Indian rugby teams

**Bhubaneswar:** Six players from KISS have been selected to the Indian squads that will participate in the Asia Rugby U-18 Championships. The tournament will be held September 28 and 29 in Johor, Malaysia. Four boys and two girls have been selected to the teams. They are (Boys): Charan Hembram, who also is the skipper of the side, Bharat Pujari, Bidyadhar Majhi and Pradeep Kanhar. The girls' team will be led by Basi Ho from KISS while the second player is Manisha Majhi.

Injured Rodri set to miss rest of season

**London:** Manchester City and Spain midfielder Rodri could miss the rest of the season due to an anterior cruciate ligament injury, according to media reports Tuesday in Spain. The 28-year-old limped off during City's 2-2 draw Sunday against Arsenal in the Premier League after going down holding his right knee. ESPN and Spanish sports daily Marca reported that tests Monday have confirmed an ACL tear. Rodri's loss would be a huge blow to City's hopes of winning a fifth consecutive Premier League title and ambitions of reclaiming the Champions League. The former Atletico Madrid player has lost just one of the 84 games he played for club and country.

Rousing reception for chess stars

4 MEMBERS OF THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S OLYMPIAD GOLD-WINNING TEAMS RETURN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chennai, Sept 24:** Flashing radiant smiles after their history-making gold at the Olympiad, some of the members of India's trailblazing chess teams returned to an enthusiastic welcome from fans, officials and their families here Tuesday. The quartet of D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa, R Vaishali and men's team captain Srinath Narayanan landed here early this morning.

Gukesh, who was instrumental in Indian men's team dominance in the tournament with an unbeaten run, flashed his individual and team gold medals for the cameras. The 18-year-old is now gearing up for the World Championship clash against China's Ding Liren in November after becoming the youngest ever challenger to the crown by winning the Candidates Tournament in April. "It's very special, since both the teams won gold medals," Gukesh said.

The brother-sister duo of Praggnanandhaa, Vaishali and Narayanan reached before Gukesh. All of them were welcomed with garlands, bouquets and traditional stoles as fans scammed to click selfies with them.

"I'm very happy that we have won the Olympiad for the first time, we had only won a bronze till Budapest. And we managed to win in both sec-

Despite losing against Poland, we managed to draw against the US and won our last two matches to win gold. We delivered when it mattered

R VAISHALI



HAPPY HOMECOMING: D Gukesh proudly shows off his two gold medals at the Chennai airport Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

tions so it's a very special feeling and a proud moment for us," Praggnanandhaa said.

Vaishali, who laid the foundation for the women's team's triumph, said missing out on the gold in the last edition in Chennai was painful. "It's a dream moment. Last time at the Chennai Olympiad we won bronze. We were so close to winning gold we missed it in the last round and it was very painful. I'm glad that both teams have won gold. It's a historical moment," Vaishali stated.

For men's team captain Narayanan the gold is a culmination of years of hard work. "It feels great that I was the captain of one of the strongest teams that won the Olympiad in such a dominant fashion. When something spectacular like this happens it's usually a result of years of effort and that's what happened here as well," he said.

"We have the Olympiad gold, now we also want the World Champion in India and so we will be cheering for Gukesh," Narayanan added.

'Played Olympiad as individual event'

**Chennai:** Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh said Tuesday he approached the recently-concluded Chess Olympiad as an individual event. "In the Olympiad, I took it as an individual event. I just wanted to perform well in this specific tournament. I am very happy with my performance and the team's show," Gukesh said. In the 10 games Gukesh played he won eight matches and drew two. "The result is proof that we were doing many things right and we were in the right spirit," he added.

INDIAN EVES LEAVE FOR T20 WORLD CUP IN UAE

Haramanpreet happy with preparations



Captain of the Indian women's cricket team, Harmanpreet Kaur smiles as she speaks to the media Tuesday

PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 24:** The feeling of near misses has haunted Harmanpreet Kaur for long but the Indian captain feels that her team has ticked all the boxes in their bid to cross the line in the Women's T20 World Cup beginning in the UAE from October 3.

Since the tournament's inception in 2009, India have managed to reach the final only once - in 2020 when they lost to nemesis Australia. India have also played WODI World Cup final in 2017. Harmanpreet has been a part of both teams and led in the 2020 T20 World Cup.

"This is the best team we are going forward with. The players have been together for a long time. For us we came so close last time and lost in semis (2023)," Harmanpreet said Tuesday at the press conference preceding the team's departure.

"We have ticked all the boxes in terms of preparations compared to the small things that were not there may be in earlier editions," the Indian skipper said.

India have not had game time since end of July when they surprisingly finished runners-up to Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup. They had an extensive preparatory camp at the NCA where the players spent a lot of time on fitness and fielding, areas where

the team has been found wanting in the past.

"During the Asia Cup, we played good cricket, one odd day things did not go to plan," informed Harmanpreet, who has been part of all the T20 World Cups that have been staged till date.

In spite of a career spanning close to a decade-and-half, she is as excited as her maiden World championship. "I know I have played so many World Cups but I have the same excitement as I had when I was 19," the 35-year-old Harmanpreet said.

The main challenge for India will come from England and Australia. However, Harmanpreet is not worried. "We can beat any team and Australia know that very well. They know if there is one team that can beat them it is us," asserted Harmanpreet.

Head coach Muzumdar shed more light on the team's focus areas during the training camp in Bangalore. "We did identify a few things (after the loss to Sri Lanka) and we went about it in the camp. We first had a fitness and fielding camp. Then we had a 10 day skills only camp. We brought in a sports psychologist also (Mughda Bawre). She has been fantastic with the group," Muzumdar stated.

The Indian eves will begin their campaign against New Zealand, October 4.

Crucial BCCI apex panel meeting today

Appointment of Jay Shah's successor not on agenda

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** The BCCI's apex council will meet Wednesday to discuss a variety of issues related to the board's functioning but the appointment of a new secretary to replace the outgoing Jay Shah is not on the agenda. However, sources stated here Tuesday that the matter may come up for discussion.

It will be the last apex council meeting before the board's 93rd AGM in Bangalore in five days' time. The appointment of a new secretary has become necessary after Shah was unanimously elected as the next ICC chairman. However, he will not step down from his current role as BCCI secretary during the upcoming AGM, as he is scheduled to assume his new position only from December 1.

But even a discussion on the process of nomination is not part of the eight items listed in

the apex council's agenda which features, among others, the update on Byju's matter. The BCCI has a payment settlement issue with their former title sponsor.

The embattled edtech firm ended its sponsorship deal with the BCCI in March last year. The Bangalore-based company, co-founded by Byju Raveendran, had initially signed a jersey sponsorship deal in March 2019 for three years, which was later extended by another year for a reported sum of USD 55 million.

Payments were made until September 2022, but the controversy revolves around unpaid dues from October 2022 to March 2023.

There will also be a discussions on the inauguration of the state-of-the-art National Cricket Academy on the outskirts of Bangalore. Currently, the NCA functions at the M Chinnaswamy stadium premises since its inception over two decades back.

Unpaid dues by jersey sponsor Byju from Oct 2022 to March 23 will be one of the main topics of discussion in the meeting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** Australian captain Pat Cummins acknowledged that Rishabh Pant has been a 'major influence' in India's back-to-back Test series wins Down Under. He stressed the need to keep the flamboyant wicketkeeper-batter 'quiet' in the upcoming five-Test series later this year.

A key figure in India's historic Test triumphs in 2018-19 and 2020-21, the 26-year-old Pant made a stunning comeback from a horrific car accident in December 2022, scoring a second innings century in the first Test against Bangladesh last week.

"He's (Pant) someone that has a big influence in a couple of series and we have got to try and keep him quiet," Cummins said on Star Sports.

Known for his unorthodox shots, including the reverse and one-handed flicks, Pant has made significant contributions in the last two Test series against Australia. In 12 innings, he has amassed 624 runs at an impressive average of 62.40, with a top score of 159 not out.

Pant's unbeaten 89 in the second innings at the Gabba in 2021 not only handed Australia their first defeat at the venue in 32 years but also secured a 2-1 se-



In 12 Test innings against Australia, Pant has amassed 624 runs at an impressive average of 62.40, with a top score of 159 not out.

ries victory for India.

"Someone like Pant might play a reverse slap and it's an incredible shot, and that's just part of who he is. I think we've become a bit more accustomed to it," Cummins observed.

The 31-year-old pacer further compared Pant's aggressive approach to that of his teammates Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh.

"Every team have one or two of those players who can take the game on. You know, we've got Travis and Mitch. I think with those guys, you know that they're going to be aggressive. If you miss your area a little bit, they're going to take the game on," pointed out Cummins.

Australia will be in search of their first Test series win against India since the 2014-15 series. The five-match series starts November 22 at Perth.

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** London Games bronze medal-winner wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt has slammed Vinesh Phogat for crying foul after her disqualification in the Paris Olympics. Dutt expressed astonishment at the way Vinesh tried to garner attention and sympathy.

"Since she (Vinesh) was disqualified from the Olympic Games, she should've apologised in front of the entire nation, say that she made mistakes and it was her failure. But instead, she termed it a conspiracy, even blaming the Prime Minister of the country. Everyone knows that the disqualification is just, even if the weight exceeds by a single gram," Dutt stated while attending a talk show on a national TV channel.

"If I speak just about the Olympics, despite costing India a medal, false perception was created that something wrong happened with her. If I was in Vinesh's place, I would've apologised to the country," added Dutt.

Dutt, a BJP supporter, also criticised Vinesh for being a part of the protests. "She should not have tarnished the image of the country by joining protests when the new Parliament was inaugurated May 23," Dutt opined.

Sindhu strengthens coaching team

SHUTTLE EYES FRESH START WITH NEW SUPPORT STAFF; TO PLAY 2 EVENTS IN OCTOBER

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 24:** Double Olympic medallist shuttler PV Sindhu will have South Korean great Lee Hyun Il as her consulting coach on interim basis as she bolstered her team ahead of her anticipated return to action next month.

The move came after the re-



cent appointment of Anup Sridhar as Sindhu's interim coach. The duo will be in Sindhu's till December 2024. A decision on a permanent coaching team is expected by that time. Sindhu is expected to return to competitive action at the Finland Open and Denmark Open, both in October.

"I'm thrilled to have Anup and

Lee Hyun Il joining my team in this crucial period. Anup's understanding of Indian badminton and his strategic approach have always impressed me, and I look forward to working closely with him," Sindhu said Tuesday in a release.

"Having Lee, with his meticulous preparation and legendary experience, is an honour. I've always respected his attention to detail, and I can't wait to learn from him during these next few months," she added.

Meanwhile Sridhar asserted that Sindhu still has the hunger to succeed, and the primary aim is to help her regain consistency. Sindhu has been training under

Sridhar for the past three weeks at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad.

Sridhar said that since their association is not long-term, he is taking it week by week. "We've made significant progress, and in two weeks, we'll head to tournaments in Europe," the 41-year-old Sridhar said. "I'm taking it week by week. Since we haven't committed to anything long-term, it's hard to plan for 2025. However, there are a couple of tournaments in 2025 that Sindhu should aim to peak at. The immediate focus is to enhance her consistency and get her back on the podium," added Sridhar.