



**Anushka scripts history**  
Anushka Sen becomes the first Indian artiste to perform live at the iconic Times Square in New York City

LEISURE | P2



**Temple defaced**

Unknown miscreants vandalise the BAPS Hindu temple in California, desecrating it with graffiti saying 'Hindus go back!'

INTERNATIONAL | P10



**Borrowing target**

Centre retains its borrowing target for the current financial year and plans to raise ₹6.61 lakh crore during October-March period

BUSINESS | P11



**'Happy accident'**

Grandmaster Viddhi Gujrathi says initially he wanted to be a cricketer, but came into chess due to a 'happy accident'

SPORTS | P12



**UP IN SMOKE:** Smoke billows over southern Lebanon following an Israeli strike, amid ongoing cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, as seen from Tyre, Lebanon, Thursday

# K'taka blocks CBI

AGENCIES

**Bangalore, Sept 26:** Amid demands by Opposition BJP to hand over the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case to CBI, the Karnataka government Thursday withdrew general consent given to the Central agency to probe cases in the southern state alleging that it was 'biased'.  
Announcing the decision after a Cabinet meeting, chaired by CM Siddaramaiah, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said, "The notification granting general consent for CBI to probe criminal cases in Karnataka, under the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, has been withdrawn."  
"It has been done because it is clear that the CBI or the Central government while using their instrumentalities are not using

**According to Section 6 of the DSPE Act, 1946, CBI needs consent from the respective state governments to conduct investigations in their jurisdiction**

them judiciously. So, case-by-case we will verify and give (consent for CBI probe), general consent has been withdrawn," he said.  
According to Section 6 of the DSPE Act, 1946, the CBI needs consent from respective state governments to conduct investigations in their jurisdiction.  
Notably, consent given by a state government to CBI can come in two forms - either case-specific or general. General consent allows CBI to operate seamlessly within states. In contrast, if the CBI does not have general consent of a state government, it is required to apply for consent on a case-by-case basis and cannot act before

the consent is given.  
Karnataka is the latest state to join the list of non-BJP-ruled states to have withdrawn the 'general consent' to the CBI. Other states include West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.  
Patil said, "We've seen that CBI works with prejudice...their conduct has led us to come to this decision...they are biased... hence we have come to this decision." The Karnataka government's decision came a day after a Special Court here Wednesday ordered a Lokayukta police probe against Siddaramaiah in the MUDA case, setting the stage for registering an FIR against him.

The order of the Special Court followed a single-judge bench of the High Court upholding the sanction granted by the Governor to conduct an investigation against Siddaramaiah on the allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife BM Parvathi by MUDA.  
Asked whether this was being done to 'shield' the CM, who is facing a probe in the MUDA site allotment case, Patil said, "On CM there is a court order for Lokayukta probe, so there is no such question." He said concerns were expressed that CBI is 'misused' in several cases.  
When asked whether the government has done this keeping in mind the demand for a CBI probe into the KVMSTDC fund misappropriation case by the BJP, the minister said, "It has nothing to do with it as the matter is in court, the court will decide." P9

**SC relief for Balaji**

**New Delhi:** In a relief to former Tamil Nadu minister and DMK strongman Senthil Balaji, the Supreme Court Thursday granted him bail in a money laundering case after over 15 months, noting there is no possibility of the completion of trial in the near future. The SC said Balaji, who was arrested by the ED, has been in jail since last year and his continued detention will amount to an infringement of his fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said inordinate delay in the conclusion of the trial and the higher threshold for the grant of bail cannot go together. P8

## Cong spokesperson of urban Naxals: Nadda

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** BJP president and Union Minister JP Nadda Thursday came down heavily on Opposition Congress, labelling it as the 'spokesperson of urban Naxals' and accusing it of promoting disintegrative forces within the country.

Speaking at a gathering of intellectuals who joined the saffron party in the state, Nadda criticised the Congress for aligning with those advocating for the revival of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, stating, "The Congress has forgotten about nationalism."

He asserted that the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 was achieved under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.  
Nadda paid tribute to Jan Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who opposed the notion of 'Ek Desh, Do Nishan, Do Vidhan, Do Pradhan', and

highlighted the BJP's commitment to its ideology.  
Reflecting on the history of the Congress, Nadda remarked that Mahatma Gandhi had once suggested disbanding the party after independence, a recommendation that Jawaharlal Nehru ignored.  
He also criticised Left parties, claiming they lack direction and often engage in infighting in states like Kerala and West Bengal, only to unite for photo opportunities in Delhi.

Addressing issues of women's rights, Nadda pointed out that the Congress did not abolish the triple talaq system, saying, "They were depriving Muslim women of their basic rights." He praised Modi for empowering women.  
Contrasting the two parties, Nadda asserted that the BJP operates collaboratively under the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas', while Congress functions in isolation.



**Sanjay Raut convicted in defamation case**

**Mumbai:** A Mumbai court Thursday convicted Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut and sentenced him to 15 days simple imprisonment in a defamation complaint filed against him by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya's wife Medha Somaiya. The court later suspended the sentence for 30 days and granted bail to the Rajya Sabha member on his application for the same.

**Wage hike for workers**

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 26:** The Centre Thursday announced a hike in minimum wage rates for workers up to ₹1,035 a day by revising variable dearness allowance.  
After revision, minimum wage rates in area 'A' for workers in construction, sweeping, cleaning, loading and unloading for unskilled work will be ₹783 a day (Rs 20,358/month). For semi-skilled workers, the minimum wage rate will be ₹868 a day (Rs 22,568/month) and for skilled, clerical and watch & wards without arms at ₹954 a day (₹24,804/month).  
The minimum wage rate for highly skilled and watch and ward with arms will be ₹1,035 a day (₹26,910/month).

**Nod to surrogacy leave**

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** The state government Thursday allowed 180 days of maternity leave to female employees who become 'surrogate mothers' and 'commissioning mothers'.  
"Similarly, a male employee who becomes a 'commissioning father' will be eligible for 15 days of paternity leave within six months from the date of delivery of the child," a notification issued by the Finance department said.  
A 'surrogate mother' and 'commissioning mother' will be eligible for the leave if she has less than two surviving children. The same is applicable for a 'commissioning father' as well, it added.

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



You are going for an encounter, sir! Why do you need a bullet-proof jacket?

## Longest-serving death row inmate freed

AGENCIES

**Tokyo, Sept 26:** A pair of blood-spattered trousers in a miso tank and an allegedly forced confession helped send Iwao Hakamada to death row in the 1960s. Now, more than five decades later, the world's longest-serving death row prisoner was declared innocent by a Japanese court Thursday, bringing relief to the 88-year-old former boxer.  
Hakamada's acquittal by the Shizuoka District Court makes him the fifth death row convict to be found not guilty in a retrial in postwar Japanese criminal justice. After the two-hour full explanation of the ruling that followed the main sentencing, his sister Hideko, 91, walked



out of the courthouse with a big smile, welcomed by burst of cheers and two big bouquets to celebrate the acquittal of her brother after the 58-year legal battle.  
Hakamada was convicted of murder in the 1966 killing of a company manager and three of his family members, and setting a fire to their central Japan home. He was sen-

tenced to death in 1968, but was not executed due to lengthy appeals and the retrial process in Japan's notoriously slow-paced criminal justice system.  
He spent 48 years behind bars - more than 45 of them on death row - making him the world's longest-serving death row inmate, according to the Amnesty International.  
It took 27 years for the top court to deny his first appeal for retrial. His second appeal for a retrial was filed in 2008 by his sister. Hakamada was released from prison in 2014 when a court ordered a retrial based on evidence suggesting his conviction was based on fabricated accusations by investigators, but he was not cleared of the conviction.

He was allowed to await retrial at home because his frail health and age made him a low risk for escape. Then, in 2023, the court finally ruled in his favour, paving the way for the latest retrial that began in October.  
During the investigation that followed his arrest, Hakamada initially denied the accusations, then confessed. He later said he was forced to confess under violent interrogation by police.  
A major point of contention was five pieces of blood-stained clothing that investigators claimed Hakamada wore during the crime and hid in a tank of fermented soybean paste, or miso. The clothes were found more than a year after his arrest.

**46 DROWN DURING BIHAR FESTIVAL**

AGENCIES

**Patna, Sept 26:** At least 46 people, including 37 children, drowned while taking holy dip in rivers and ponds in several Bihar districts during the 'Jivitputrika' festival, officials said Thursday.  
The incidents occurred in 15 districts

of the state during the festival held Wednesday, they said.  
During the three-day 'Jivitputrika' festival, women fast for the well-being of their children and take holy dips, it was learnt.  
Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced an ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased.

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

Odisha Kheliba Duniya Dekhiba

**DHARITRI YOUTH CONCLAVE 2024**  
CLIMATE CHANGE : BUILDING RESILIENCE

**DHARITRI CLIMATE GRANT**

Inviting young people and youth organisations of Odisha deeply engaged in climate action with local communities.

Kindly send us entries of your work with simple bio description (250-300 words) and 4 high resolution photos/ a video of your climate action activities to get a chance to win the Dharitri Climate Grant.

You can also nominate someone else by following the same process.

Selected entries will be awarded the **Dharitri Climate Grant** as encouragement and impetus for their climate action work at **Dharitri Youth Conclave 2024** to be held in November at Bhubaneswar.

Chosen entries will also get invited to attend the Conclave with young climate warriors and experts in the field.

Last Date of Entry : **31<sup>st</sup> October 2024**  
Please send details to : [dharitriyouthconclave@gmail.com](mailto:dharitriyouthconclave@gmail.com)  
Visit : [www.dharitriyouthconclave.com](http://www.dharitriyouthconclave.com) for details

Climate Grant Award Date : **24<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**

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SAVE THE PLANET  
CLIMATE ACTION NOW



# leisure



## MAREN MORRIS NEEDS TO DATE TO FIND MUSICAL INSPIRATION

American singer-songwriter Maren Morris says she needs to date so that she has experience to draw upon in order to write new songs. The My Church hitmaker, who came out as bisexual in June, was recently romantically linked to Perfect Match star Justin Assada.

## LASHANA DOESN'T LOOK FOR EXTERNAL VALIDATION

British actress Lashana Lynch says she doesn't worry about what other people think of her work so long as she is happy with it. "I don't go looking for external validation so long as I'm happy with my performance," added The Woman King actress.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
Today will be an industrious day. The stars foretell that you may visit a historical place, or perhaps a museum. However, Ganesh says, you may need to pay a little attention to your health. If such is the case, it would be better to take the evening off for yourself.

**TAURUS**  
Today, Ganesh sees your mind shifting from your professional affairs and drifting, time and again, towards your home and family. You are likely to return home early and get happily engrossed in discussing pressing domestic issues with your family members. This may possibly be followed by a festive evening filled with fun and laughter.

**GEMINI**  
There is a possibility of conflicts brewing at your home today. The demands made by your family members will increase and you may struggle to cope to meet them. This could make you ill-tempered. You will encounter large expenses in meeting these demands.

**CANCER**  
The day shall find you in buoyant spirits, indicates Ganesh. As you are feeling lively and full of beans, you will not mind slogging it out, even if in some mindless activities or chores. It is a perfect day for activities like gardening, cooking, baking and even for a nice house warming get-together.

**LEO**  
Financial gains in shares and stocks are indicated. If you are an investor, your investments will yield substantial profits. Long-standing debts are also likely to be cleared, and pending dues will be settled. Expenses for the purposes of entertainment are a possibility, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
You will be in a very ambitious and conscientious mood today. Your actions will speak louder than words. You set the pace with your meticulous planning and careful execution. Ganesh says you may expect a lot of appreciation and recognition for your work coming from your boss and your colleagues.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says today is a day where you will spend happy moments with your family members. You will feel happy and will get to spend some romantic time with your beloved. Your innermost feeling will be showcased in the internal thoughts of your life partner and both of you will be in tandem with each other today. Ganesh advises you to enjoy these pleasant moments of togetherness.

**SCORPIO**  
Just another mundane day in store for you. At work, pressure may mount and lead to a hectic and tedious day. You may even feel irritated at times. Thus, feeling the need to unwind, you may invite your sweetheart for the cup of coffee and spend quality time together.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Variety is the spice of life. Add variety of activities to your daily schedule and nothing would seem boring any more, foretells Ganesh. Indulge in creative activities like writing, cooking, gardening or even reading. Catch up with friends and memories of old times; have a blast!

**CAPRICORN**  
You will feel little lost in the maze of problems and tricky situations. You will, however, find a way out, feels Ganesh. You like to be in a commanding position at work where you guide others and call the shots. But, it has a flip side, too. While you will be appreciated for the achievements, you will also have to bear the brunt if anything goes wrong.

**AQUARIUS**  
If you are an astrologer, doctor or a spiritual leader, today is a favourable day for you. Those who may want to challenge you must reconsider the thought of testing your strengths, says Ganesh. Doing charity work, helping the needy, and working for humanitarian causes give you a feeling of contentment.

**PISCES**  
You will be inspired to travel to a far off place or to a foreign land because of a very warm invitation. Some old friend or relative residing in a foreign land will get in touch and please you today. Ganesh says that today is a good day for those wishing to go abroad for some specialized study or work.

## Anushka makes history



Anushka performs on stage at the iconic Time Square in New York City

**Mumbai:** Anushka Sen has made history by becoming the first Indian artist to perform live on stage at the iconic Times Square in New York City. This remarkable achievement marks her debut as a singer in the West, where she collaborated with UN Young Leader for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AY Young, on his innovative *Battery Tour*.

Aiming to power 1,000 concerts with clean energy, this groundbreaking initiative highlights Anushka's commitment to both music and environmental sustainability, making her performance a landmark moment in the fusion of artistry and activism.

Anushka along with AY Young performed their song *Graduation*, from *Project 17*, a music album based on United Nations 17 SDGs. The song which is composed by Grammy Award Winner Ken Lewis reflected Anushka's commitment to advocating for education. Talking about her experience, Anushka shared: "I am so grateful that I got to be the first Indian to perform at Times Square. The fact that there were people from all over the world watching us perform was an exhilarating experience. I am so thankful to AY Young for giving me this opportunity and Ken Lewis who flew in just to support us, it makes me feel like I have a family in America. The event held in Times Square, New York was a part of the Climate week organised by the Climate Group. In addition to her performance, Anushka has been making waves in Korea while shooting for her first international project, a K-Film titled *Asia*.

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## Sonam's affinity for literary works

**Mumbai:** Actress Sonam Kapoor expressed her affinity for roles that originate from literary works, highlighting her passion for stories that transition from page to screen.

Sonam is the brand ambassador for Word to Screen at MAMI Mumbai Film Festival (Mumbai Academy of Moving Image) in partnership with Soho House Mumbai. The Options Market offers a unique platform to writers, publishers, and filmmakers to engage and option stories for various film cinematic formats.

Talking about her association, Sonam shared: "As an actor, I have always believed that a film is only as good as its script. It is imperative to encourage writers and publishers through an ecosystem like Word to Screen where they can ideate and collaborate with filmmakers who can bring their vision to screen in the most authentic and dynamic manner."

"As an avid reader, I am often drawn to roles that have been adapted from books. Such characters also bring a depth that is important to their evolution from paper to screen. Word to Screen is my attempt to give back to the art I love so much. It's a pleasure to continue my association with MAMI's Word to Screen and help enable and empower some truly engaging narratives on screen," she added.



### FSB'S 5TH IDFFB BEGINS

## Documentary on climate crisis grabs attention

**Bhubaneswar:** The 5th edition of the Indian Documentary Film Festival Bhubaneswar (IDFFB), organised by Film Society Bhubaneswar (FSB), began Thursday at the GKCM Odissi Research Centre, showcasing a rich selection of acclaimed non-fiction films.

The opening day featured Sarvanik Kaur's *Against the Tide*, focussing on the climate crisis and its impact on a small fishing community in Maharashtra. Rajesh James' *Slaves of the Empire*, which delved into the lives of washermen in colonial Kochi, drawing parallels between historical and contemporary struggles of the working class, also attracted attention.

Under the retrospective on director Haobam Paban Kumar, his movies *Phum-Shang* and *The First Leap* were screened.

Phum-Shang narrates the forced eviction of fisher families from Loktak Lake in Manipur in 2011, while

*The First Leap* documents the reunion of the cast and crew from Manipur's first feature film after 37 years.

The other film of the day, *Humare Beech Mein*, shot on mobile phone cameras in western Uttar Pradesh, seeks to explore the positions of the two women, Rajkumari, a social activist from Lalitpur UP, and Ruchika, a documentary filmmaker and educator from New Delhi, within the stratified structure of caste.

The directors duo—Rajkumari Prajapati and Ruchika Negi—had interaction with the audience during the post-screening conversations.

Filmmaker Megha Acharya also joined for an interesting post-screening conversation about her film *Meelon Dur* about the lives of three women working in a brick kiln. Megha shared her own experience of filmmaking practice and documenting lives and stories from rural India.



*Humare Beech Mein* directors Rajkumari Prajapati and Ruchika Negi and FSB president Subrat Beura during a conversation

## Manushi's quest for love insights

**Mumbai:** Miss World Manushi Chhillar recently delighted her followers by sharing cheerful snapshots from her flight, offering a glimpse into her travel experience. Alongside the photos, she provided an intriguing sneak peek into the book that she is reading - *The 5 Love Languages*.

Taking to Instagram, Manushi, who has 6.6 million followers, shared a delightful series of photos from her flight. In the snapshots, she looks effortlessly stylish in a white sleeveless tee, wrapped in a matching shawl, and sporting reading glasses that highlight her dimpled smile.

One photo offers a glimpse of the novel *The 5 Love Languages*, accompanied by a cozy cup of tea. Another snap features a tempting spread of fruits and a chocolate pastry.

In her caption, she writes, "A little love, some sunshine and an interesting read... catching flights has become second nature since my Miss World days, and I absolutely love giving myself some me time post wheels up... Also, before jumping to conclusions, this book is simply a fun read; humans and their ways interest me. But I guess love isn't only for a significant other; there are so many relationships that fuel our life. I would 100% recommend!"

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### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS

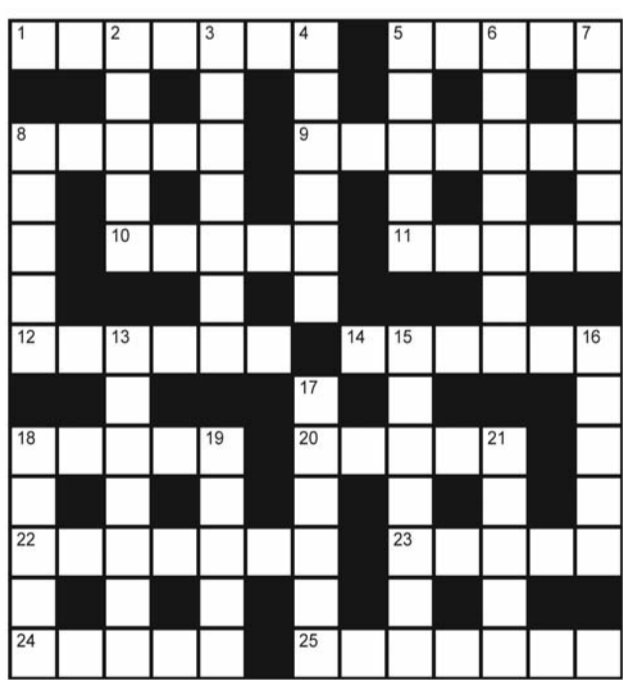


### BREVITY



### FUN post

### CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2024 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Booby trap
  - 5 Fisherman's haul
  - 8 Cloak
  - 9 Cheerful
  - 10 Scotch pancake
  - 11 Confronts
  - 12 Back streets
  - 14 Drinking vessel
  - 18 Vantage point
  - 20 \_\_\_ Sark
  - 22 Wander aimlessly
  - 23 Castle defences
  - 24 Asparagus unit
  - 25 Source of sudden wealth
  - 8 Letter before iota
  - 13 Travelling companion?
  - 15 Hassock
  - 16 Pier Angeli and Marisa Pavan, e.g.
  - 17 Egyptian beetle
  - 18 High points
  - 19 Church official
  - 21 Pine for

### 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

## NAVY DAY PREP

Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, along with other Navy officers, takes stock of the preparations for the upcoming Navy Day celebrations December 4, on the Blue Flag Beach at Puri, Thursday



## Schools shut in Puri; waterlogging at Konark temple

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** Heavy rain continued to lash the state even as the weather condition is likely to prevail till Friday due to a low pressure formed over the Bay of Bengal, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Thursday.

While normal life was affected in most places of the state, Puri district administration closed all schools within its jurisdiction for the safety of students.

The state during the last 10 hours - from 8:30am to 5:30pm - has received an average of 26.3 mm rainfall with Boudh recording the highest 46 mm down-pour followed by 29 mm in Chandbali, 26.3 mm in Bhubaneswar, 25.4 mm in Nuapada, 25 mm each in Khurda and Jajpur.

**RAIN FURY**

The IMD said that thunderstorm with lightning and heavy rainfall (7 to 11cm) is very likely to occur at isolated places in 21 of the state's 30 districts. However, the weather office forecast no rain for four days from 8:30am Friday.

Special Relief Commissioner has asked the district Collectors to remain prepared for the eventuality likely to be created due to incessant rainfall.

Officials said that incessant rains in the coastal districts have caused severe water logging in several locations.

Visitors to Konark Sun Temple near Puri faced difficulties due to flooding. Some tourists were seen wading through knee-deep water as the temple entrance was completely submerged.

## BANGALORE MAHALAXMI MURDER CASE

# Accused family claims victim blackmailed him



INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** A day after the suicide of the prime suspect in the sensational Mahalaxmi murder case in Bangalore, the family members of the deceased Mukthiranjay Roy Thursday alleged that the victim woman used to blackmail and extract money from Roy.

The accused had allegedly revealed about the crime and reasons behind the heinous act to his younger brother before committing suicide.

"He stayed with me for the last 10 to 12 days in my mess at Berhampur before committing suicide. He had also told me about committing the crime. He said she (Mahalaxmi) was blackmailing him constantly and also extracted large amounts of money and gold ornaments from him," said Roy's younger brother Thursday.

He added that the family mem-

## Roy cut Mahalaxmi's body with hacksaw

**Bangalore:** Police investigation into the gruesome Mahalaxmi murder case in Bangalore has revealed that her colleague and alleged lover killed her in a fit of rage and chopped her body into 59 pieces with a hacksaw. Accused Mukthiranjay Roy, Mahalaxmi's team leader at a mall, smothered her to death, dragged her body to the bathroom and chopped her into pieces. Roy stuffed the body parts into the fridge and cleaned the bathroom with acid to erase the evidence. He had also cleaned the house to make it look like nothing had happened if someone tried to peep inside, police sources said.

bers were angry with him as he failed to send any money back home. "My brother also told me that he had squandered at least ₹7-8 lakh after being blackmailed by Mahalaxmi. She had taken a gold chain and one of the three

rings he bought for his brothers," he said.

Roy's brother also alleged that once, when Roy was on his way to Kerala, Mahalaxmi intercepted her motorcycle and got him beaten by levelling false kidnapping charges against him.

"The public beat him up and handed him over to police who later let him go after taking ₹1,000 bribe," he said.

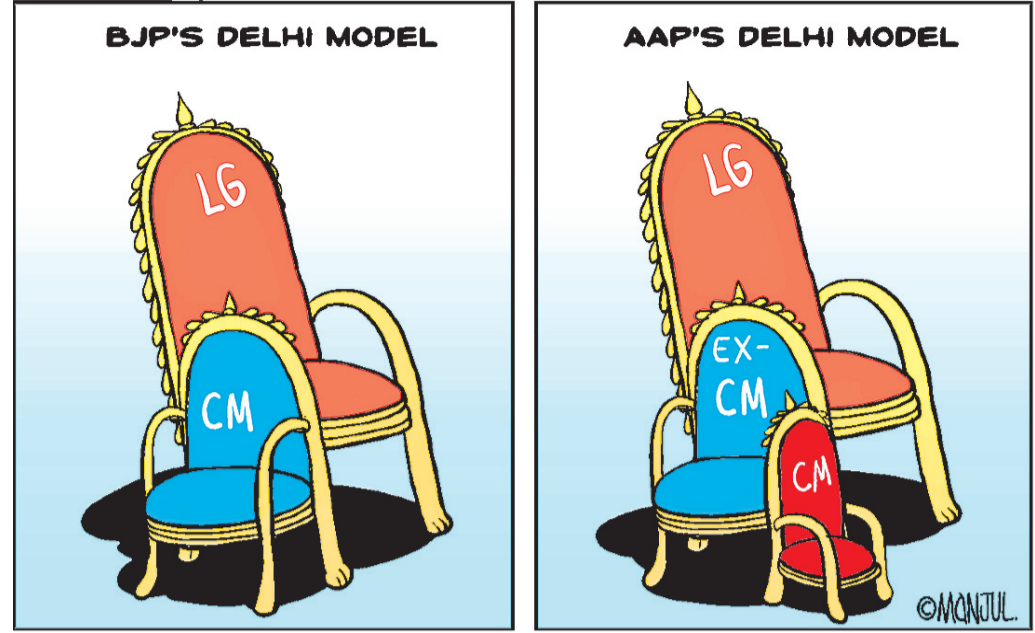
He also alleged that the brothers of Mahalaxmi had threatened Roy that they would kill him and his brother if he (Roy) failed to obey her instructions.

Roy's younger brother also claimed that on the day of the crime, his brother had gone to meet Mahalaxmi after she called him over the phone. She allegedly threatened to kill Roy and his brother. This angered Roy who, in a fit of rage, strangled her to death. "When it came to the fore that the prime accused in Mahalaxmi murder belonged to Bhadrak district in Odisha, a team of Bangalore Police had come to arrest Roy. But, before they could nab him, he committed suicide by hanging," said Bhadrak SP Varun Guntupalli.

He added that Roy committed suicide out of fear of getting arrested and also confessed to have committed the crime in his suicide note.

"The note was found in a book inside a bag kept on the seat of his parked scooter near the suicide spot," said SP Guntupalli.

## POLITICKLE by MANJUL



## BJP govt neglecting backward classes: BJD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** A day after labelling the ruling BJP as 'anti-tribal', Opposition BJD Thursday criticised the state government for neglecting backward class communities.

Addressing the media here, BJD Rajya Sabha MPs Sasmit Patra and Subhashish Khuntia accused the Mohan Charan Majhi government of hindering the progress of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), contrasting it with the previous BJD administration's efforts to support these communities.

Patra said, "The BJP governments at both the state and central levels are ignoring the needs of people belonging to backward class communities." The BJD called for an imme-



High Court Judge Justice Raghunath Biswal appointed as its chairman.

Additionally they referenced a unanimous Assembly resolution passed February 17, 2020, aimed at amending the Backward Classes Act to facilitate a survey of the social and educational conditions of backward class populations. Despite OBCs and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) comprising more than half of the state's population, BJD leaders stated that legal directives prevented the government from implementing 50 per cent reservation for them.

The regional party also called for proportional reservation in admissions to technical and medical institutions. As of now, the BJD has not responded to BJD's allegations.

# Mpox scare: Centre issues advisory

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** Two days after India reported its first case of monkeypox (mpox), caused by the virulent Clade 1b strain, which was declared a public health emergency by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry has issued an advisory to all the states and Union Territories (UTs), including Odisha, urging them to prevent and minimise the spread of the virus.

The advisory emphasised the importance of raising public awareness about the disease, the modes of transmission and the need for timely reporting.

Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra has issued the advisory saying, "The World Health Organization on 14th August, 2024 announced that the current outbreak of mpox (previously known as monkeypox) disease is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). This is the second time such mpox disease associated PHEIC that has been declared by WHO under the International Health Regulations, 2005, to which India is a signatory."



The advisory emphasised the importance of raising public awareness about the disease, the modes of transmission and the need for timely reporting

All states/UTs are requested to undertake appropriate activities to make communities aware about the disease, its modes of spread, need/importance of timely reporting and preventive measures.

To ensure preparedness, the letter outlines necessary actions such as identifying isolation facilities in hospitals for both suspected and confirmed mpox cases, ensuring the availability of logistics and training healthcare workers. The advisory also stresses the need to curb panic among the public, while health infrastructure is augmented to handle any potential outbreak.

Earlier, Odisha Public Health director Nilakantha Mishra had issued a set of precautionary measures for management of the fatal disease.

Mishra directed all the port health officers, chief district medical and public health officers to remain vigilant in view of mpox outbreak.

In a letter, Mishra said, "Monkeypox cases have been reported from several countries of the world including India. So, there is need to strengthen surveillance activities, preparedness and response against the disease."

"Although India has reported a few mpox cases, it is imperative that we take adequate precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the disease. We should ensure proper checking of persons having unexplained rash and fever with other signs and symptoms after coming from the affected countries within the last 21 days," he said.

## ADGP warns of action against cops with mining mafia links



DEBADURLAV HARICHANDAN, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** A day after an assistant mining officer (AMO) of the Deputy Director of Mines office in Koraput was viciously attacked by sand smugglers amid reports of certain police officials' tacit support to the mafia, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Law and Order, Sanjay Kumar Thursday warned of severe action against officers found hand-in-glove with such criminal elements.

AMO Pitambar Mohanta had sustained deep injuries in his face in the attack by the goons after he detained seven vehicles, including six dumpers and one tractor, engaged in illegal mining of sand under Town police station jurisdiction in the southern district, Wednesday.

In a letter, addressed to all

IGPs, DIGPs and twin city police commissioner, Kumar said, "It has come to the notice of SP, Headquarters that certain field officers are involved in activities not related to police duties, specifically in transportation and other unauthorised operations in mining and industrial zones. This issue has emphasised that such actions fall outside the scope of police responsibilities."

Warning serious action against officials found having continued involvement with the illicit business or showing favouritism towards the conducts of smuggling activities, Kumar directed the field officials to monitor such conduct. "All field officers are hereby instructed to take cognisance of this directive and comply with it in strict accordance," Kumar's letter added.

Prior to the attack on Mohanta, two mining officers in Bada Bisol area under Kaptipada division in Mayurbhanj district, were assaulted violently by smugglers after the officers imposed fines for illegal transportation of sand from Sono river, June 30.

## Odia singer Pami Mishra alleges copyright violation

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** Odia playback singer Pami Mishra Thursday lodged a FIR at Cyber police station against a city-based production house for allegedly plagiarising her song, and uploading the same on their Youtube channel.

In her FIR, Mishra said, "The owner of the production house, a couple- Prasanna Upadhyay and Pratibha Upadhyay- recently uploaded a song on their Youtube Channel which I sang in 2010. Pratibha lent her voice to the song by copying my song's lyrics."



Mishra said she contacted the couple after she came to know about the violation. "They bluntly dismissed my suggestions. They claimed the song has been created using Artificial Intelligence in a Chennai studio. Besides, they have also changed the name of original lyricist of the song," she alleged.

Meanwhile, IIC, Cyber police station, Tereskova Mohapatra said a complaint has been received in this regard.

"A probe will be launched soon into the allegations," the IIC said.

## THE ZAIN FOUNDATION TRUST PRESENTS



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AFFIDAVIT

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I, Shaikh Lalbabu, S/o Shaikh Muslim, At - Mulagarh, PO/PS - Kakatpur, Dist. : Puri - 752108. Declare by this affidavit No. 23265, Dated : 25.09.2024 that now onwards I shall be known as Sk Lalbabu for all future purposes.

Sworn before Executive Magistrate, Kantabanji bearing No.-450(1) on 26.9.2024, I Sri Aman Soni, S/o- Shankarlal Soni of Village/PO./P.S.- Kantabanji, Dist.- Balangir, declare that in my Educational Certificate, Aadhaar Card, PAN, Driving License my name spells as "Aman Kumar Soni and my father's name spells as "Shankarlal Soni but in my Birth Certificate my name Spells as "Aman Soni and my father's name spells as "Sankar Soni" where as "Aman Soni @ Aman Kumar Soni S/o Shankarlal Soni @ Sankar Soni is same and one person.

LOST

I, Manoranjan Basantara, S/o Madan Basantara, Village - Karimul, Post - Kalyanpur, P.S. - Delanga, Dist.-Puri, Odisha do declare that I purchased landed property in Mouza - Sebatiipurpaschimapari, Khata - 72, Plot - 62, P.S. - Delanga, Dist. - Puri, the original ROR Khata - 72 has been lost at Chandrakot Railway gate on dt. 05.09.2024. If anybody found the above ROR please contact Adv. Sitikanta Satapathy, Mob. No. - 9437233164.

I, Arman Gupta, a resident of Bargarh, hereby inform the public that I have misplaced my original mark sheets along with pass certificates for both the 10th and 12th grade examinations. The 10th grade mark sheet was issued by CISCE board, for the year 2018 under Index Number 1184181/020. The 12th grade mark sheet was also issued by CISCE board for the year 2020 under Index Number 2201155/019. I had given both the examinations from my school Sarala Birla Academy, Bengaluru. Despite my best efforts, I have been unable to locate these important documents, which are essential for my academic and professional records. I kindly request that anyone who may have found these mark sheets to contact me at phone - 8455011189/Email Address - armanagupta711@gmail.com. If found, please return them to the address - House No.28, Balaji City, Near Rukmini Talkies, Bargarh, Odisha, Pin code - 768028. I am also in the process of applying for duplicate copies from the respective educational board. Please be advised that any unauthorized use of these documents will be subject to legal action. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

# BJD threatens to hit streets over Rourkela rape cases

LOCAL BJD MLA SARADA PRASAD NAYAK SAYS THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION HAS COLLAPSED IN THE CITY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Rourkela, Sept 26:** Expressing concern over the rape of three girls in Rourkela city in a week, the Opposition BJD Thursday said it would hit the streets if the situation does not improve.

A delegation of the Rourkela unit of the BJD led by local MLA Sarada Prasad Nayak met Rourkela Superintendent of Police Brijesh Kumar Rai and discussed the prevailing situation in the city and demanded strong action against the culprits.

Speaking to reporters, Nayak alleged the law and order situation has collapsed in the city.

Several rapes, murders and other cases were reported in recent past and people are not feeling safe in Rourkela, he said. "As a responsible opposition, we are going to raise this issue as it affects the people. If the administration fails to do something tangible then we will hit the streets," he said.



During past few days, three girls were allegedly gangraped while another school student was physically abused by her teacher

Instead of waiting for complaints to be filed, the police should take suo motu action and maintain peace in the Steel City, the former minister said.

On the other hand, local BJP leader Latika Patnaik said several crimes were reported during the previous BJD government.

On the recent crime cases, she said, the police are doing their

investigation properly.

Notably, three girls were allegedly gangraped while another school student was physically abused by her teacher during past few days in the city.

Three persons involved in the gangrape of two girls were arrested while the police detained several persons in the alleged gangrape of another girl, a police officer said.

# 16 scientists picked for Bigyan Academy awards

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** Sixteen scientists have been chosen to receive Odisha Bigyan Academy awards for 2023 by the Science and Technology department. This year the recipients have been clubbed into five categories.

According to a release issued by the department, Prof Kshirod Kumar Jena of the School of Biotechnology, KIIT University, will be given 'Biju Patnaik Award' for scientific excellence.

Sanghamitra Samantaray, chief scientist at ICAR-NRRI in Cuttack, has been selected in 'Life Science' category who will receive 'Samanta Chandrasekhar Award'.

Similarly, Prof Bedanga Das Mohanty of NISER, Jatni has been selected in Physical Science category, while Prof Subrata Kumar Panda of NIT Rourkela will receive 'Samanta Chandrasekhar Award' for engineering and technology.

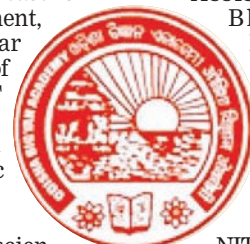
Moreover, Prof Pinaki Dutt, PGIMER, Chandigarh, who is working outside the state, will

also be given 'Samanta Chandrasekhar Award' for excellence in the field of Life Science.

Likewise, 'Young Scientists' award will be given to Sarit Shekhar Pattanik, Assistant Prof of SCB Medical College for Life Science, Apramita Chand, Assistant Prof of RIE, Bhubaneswar for Physical Science and Rajesh Kumar Prusty, Assistant Prof of NIT Rourkela for Engineering and Technology.

Sanjaya Kumar Panda, who is working outside the state, will also receive 'Young Scientists' award. Similarly, Rabindranath Majhee and Tulasi Swain will get Pranakrushna Parija Popular Science Books award.

On the occasion, senior scientists Raja Kishore Paramguru, Prof Subhanshu Sekhar Mohapatra, Krushna Chandra Mohanty, Raghupatruni Bhima Rao and Malay Kumar Misra will also be felicitated.



# Cuttack puja: HC's arch bar

PNN & AGENCIES

**Cuttack, Sept 26:** Expressing displeasure over the precarious condition of roads here, the Orissa High Court Thursday asked the authorities to ensure not a single arch is installed on Silver City roads during Dussehra.

While hearing a plea relating to various civic issues in the Millennium City, the HC came down heavily on the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) for its failure to improve the situation.

Acting upon the earlier order of the HC, the Works department secretary deposed before the court through virtual mode and informed that the road repair work here will be completed by October 5.

# Nurses' agitation: Jena seeks CM's intervention

**BHUBANESWAR:** Congress leader Srikant Jena Thursday wrote to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi urging him to intervene in the ongoing

agitation by the Odisha Nursing Employees' Association. In the letter, the former Union minister said, "I am writing to bring your urgent attention to the ongoing protest by the nurses and concerns raised by them as a 10-point charter of demands. These demands are genuine and require immediate resolution and, if not addressed promptly, may lead to severe disruptions in healthcare delivery across the state." He said, "As you are aware, these dedicated healthcare workers are the backbone of Odisha's public health infrastructure."



# Charudutta to speak at Harvard University

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** Noted author and policy advocate Charudutta Panigrahi is scheduled to visit Harvard University, in the first week of October, where he is scheduled to interact with students and speak about India's bold and progressive reforms which have been driven by conviction rather than compulsion, aiming to boost economic growth and make the country a developed nation by 2047.

Panigrahi, who advises states, is expected to detail recent reforms, including an overhaul of the banking sector which has facilitated easier credit for businesses and entrepreneurs. These changes have transformed India from a mobile phone importer to an exporter and brought about advancements in skill development and manufacturing.

India's per capita income has doubled, its share in global growth has risen, the number of airports has increased, foreign exchange reserves have doubled, and global institutions have shown greater confidence in the country. Efforts are already underway on the next-generation 6G technology.



The students at Harvard would be benefitted from learning about the collective resolve of India's 1.4 billion citizens to achieve the vision of a prosperous and developed India by 2047 - how by lifting 250 million people out of poverty, India has shown the success of sustainable development and the country's readiness to share its digital public infra with the world.

India's digital public infrastructure includes a digital identity layer, a fast payment system running as a unified payment interface (UPI), and consent-based data sharing. It has helped create an inclusive and reliable payment ecosystem to conduct transactions conveniently and also facilitates the deployment and access of new financial services across communities.

# Odisha bags 2nd position in World No Tobacco Fortnight activities

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** Odisha has been awarded as second best performer in the country in various activities organised for World No Tobacco Day 2024, Thursday.

Additional Secretary and Director, National Health Mission Aradhana Pattnaik felicitated Odisha with certificate and citation. Director, Public Health Nilakantha Mishra received the award on behalf of Odisha.

The prize was awarded on the occasion of World No Tobacco Fortnight observed from May 20 to June 5. Odisha was selected for the second position on the basis of a well-designed structured evaluation by National Resources Centre for Oral Health and Tobacco Cessation, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, New Delhi under the aegis of National Oral Health Programme, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

With students and youths being particularly vulnerable to the menace of substance use, the state government has been implementing various measures



to create awareness among them, an official said.

"This year, the government made it mandatory for students to sign anti-drug declaration forms during admission to higher educational institutions (HEIs) - public universities, government and non-government-aided colleges (both technical and general)," he said.

The declaration prohibits the students from carrying, selling and consuming not just drugs but also tobacco products and alcohol

on campuses. Besides, students are expected to report to the HEI authorities the instances of drug/alcohol/tobacco consumption and sale by any student or staff on the premises.

The health and family welfare department Under the National Tobacco Control Programme, had started the 60-day tobacco free campaign for youth which started from September 24 and will continue till November 23 across the state.

## MARKET WATCH

| INDEX  | VALUE    | VARIATION |
|--------|----------|-----------|
| SENSEX | 85836.12 | ↑ 666.25  |
| NIFTY  | 26216.05 | ↑ 211.90  |
| DOLLAR | 83.62    | ↓ ₹0.02   |
| EURO   | 93.44    | ↑ ₹0.34   |
| GOLD   | ₹75,300  | ↓ ₹13     |
| SILVER | ₹92,636  | ↑ ₹591    |

## WEATHER

|          | BHUB          | CTK        |
|----------|---------------|------------|
| TEMP MAX | 28.0°C        | 27.2°C     |
| TEMP MIN | 25.0°C        | 24.0°C     |
| Humidity | 97%           | 98%        |
| Rainfall | 26.3          | 15.2       |
| Forecast | PARTLY CLOUDY | CLOUDY SKY |

# WORLD TOURISM DAY

## Role of ECoR in promoting tourism & travel across Odisha

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** The Indian Railways, particularly the East Coast Railway (ECoR) actively takes steps to attract tourists, positioning itself as a major driving force behind the promotion of tourism in Odisha.

On World Tourism Day, it is essential to recognise the role of railways in providing memorable travel experience, offering an extensive network that connects the country's cultural, historical, and natural heritage.

The ECoR zone, headquartered in Bhubaneswar, has actively contributed to the development of tourism by providing seamless connectivity to some of the most visited tourist destinations in Eastern India.

Covering parts of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, this zone facilitates travel to several iconic tourist spots, from beaches, lake and temples to wildlife sanctuaries and cultural festivals.

ECoR operates several special trains designed to enhance the tourism experience. These include trains to pilgrimage centers like Puri, which is home to the world-famous Jagannath Temple and the annual Rath Yatra, a significant cultural and religious event that draws millions of devotees and tourists from across the globe. Special trains are also operated during the Rath Yatra to accommodate the influx of tourists, ensuring a smooth and comfortable travel experience.

A major leap towards premium travel and tourism is the introduction of six Vande Bharat Express trains in the ECoR zone. Known for their high-speed, world-class facilities, and superior comfort, the semi-high-speed trains are revolutionising travel in the region.

The Vande Bharat Express connects major cities and tourist destinations, promoting easier and faster access for tourists. With reduced travel time and



luxury onboard experiences, these trains are attracting a new wave of tourists, enabling them to explore the cultural and natural beauty of the region in comfort and style.

Whether it's a visit to the state's famous temples, beaches, or scenic landscapes, the Vande Bharat Express has made it easier for tourists to plan day trips and extended stays.

Additionally, the zone oper-

ates trains connecting different parts of the country during festive seasons. ECoR zone contributes significantly to the overall tourism landscape through its connectivity to the Eastern Ghats, Hirakud Reservoir and Rengali Dam which offer scenic views and tranquil surroundings. Train journeys through these areas provide tourists with breathtaking glimpses of nature, mak-

ing the travel experience itself a memorable part of the trip.

ECoR plays a crucial role in promoting Odisha's rich cultural heritage. The state is known for its ancient temples, including the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar, and the rock-cut caves at Khandagiri and Udayagiri and Samaleswari Temple in Sambalpur.

The railway zone also serves as a gateway to Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish water

lagoon, known for its biodiversity and scenic beauty, attracting tourists and bird watchers from around the world.

In addition to its operational role, ECoR is also committed to preserving and promoting railway heritage. Waltair Division, a part of the East Coast Railway, is known for its historical significance in Indian Railways development. Rail Museums in Bhubaneswar is showcasing the rich history of railways in the region, highlighting the evolution of rail technology and its role in India's socio-economic growth.

ECoR has also taken significant steps to promote eco-tourism and sustainable travel. The railway zone has embraced the Indian Railways initiatives towards achieving greener and cleaner rail travel.

The promotion of eco-friendly initiatives such as electrification of rail routes, plastic-free stations, and the use of bio-toilets aligns with the growing demand for sustainable tourism options.

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# Life in prison for 3 of family

# Tusker tramples 4 to death in 3 days

# BJD threatens to hit streets over rape cases in Rourkela

PNN & AGENCIES

**Rourkela, Sept 26:** Expressing concern over the rape of three girls in Rourkela city in a week, the Opposition BJD Thursday said it would hit the streets if the situation does not improve.

A delegation of the Rourkela unit of the BJD led by local MLA Sarada Prasad Nayak met Rourkela Superintendent of Police Brijesh Kumar Rai to discuss the prevailing situation in the city and demanded strong action against the culprits.

Speaking to reporters, Nayak alleged the law and order situation has collapsed in the city.

Several rapes, murder and other cases were reported in recent past and people are not feeling safe in Rourkela, he said.

"As a responsible opposition, we are going to raise this issue as it affects the people. If the administration fails to do something tangible then we will hit the streets," he said.

Instead of waiting for complaints to be filed, the police should take suo motu action and maintain peace in the Steel City, the former minister said.

On the other hand, local BJP leader Latika Patnaik said several crimes were reported during the previous BJD government.

On the recent crime cases, she said, the police are doing their investigation properly.

Meanwhile, several women's organisations staged demonstrations in the city Thursday expressing concern over the crimes.

Notably, three girls were allegedly gang raped while another school student was physically abused by her teacher during past few days in the city.



## Man sentenced to life for killing 4-yr-old son

**Balasure:** A court in Balasure district Thursday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for strangling his four-month-old son to death "as he did not want a child".

The judgement was pronounced by Odisha Protection of Interests of Depositors (OPID) Special Judge, Balasure, Biswajit Das after hearing the criminal case of abduction and murder.

According to the prosecution, the complainant, Gory Baskey (35), the mother of the deceased child, said that her second husband, Dularam Baskey (37), strangled their four-month-old son as he did not want a child.

The boy, who was born in October 2022, was missing from their home in Panisili village in Khaira police station area in Balasure January 14,

Police registered a case and launched an investigation after the deceased's uncle Narasingh Bisoyi lodged a complaint at Gangpur police station. Former

2023. She said when asked about the child, Dularam had said that he had left the child in an Ashram school.

However, his body was found in a nearby agricultural field January 19 in highly decomposed state, following which the woman lodged the FIR accusing her husband of murdering their child when she was out of home. Gory had married Dularam after the death of her first husband and Dularam's elder brother.

"The court also imposed a penalty of ₹5,000 on the convict and default in its payment would attract two additional months in prison," Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda said.

The accused was convicted of murder after the court examined 12 witnesses and 15 exhibits, he added.

police IICs Ajay Barik and Pradip Kumar Barla of Gangpur police station conducted investigation and submitted the chargesheet in the case in the court.



POST NEWS NETWORK

## Baripada, Sept 26:

A tribal woman was dragged out of her house during sleep and trampled to death by a wild tusker at Radhikashola village under Baripada forest range and division in Mayurbhanj district in the early hours of Thursday, police said. The same tusker has claimed lives of four persons, including two women, in the last three days, they added.

The deceased was identified as Manka Hansda, 35, wife of Sitanath Hansda in the village. Similarly, a person Dhanu Singh sustained critical injuries after the animal strayed into Chakundapada village under Betanoti forest range and attacked him. Singh has been admitted to the Pandit Raghunath Murmu Medical College and Hospital at Baripada.

The incident took place when the villagers at Radhikasole village under the Baripada Forest Division were asleep, Wednesday night. The animal which was moving in areas under Betanoti forest range crossed the National Highway-18 and strayed into the village. It pulled down the houses of four villagers and dragged Manka out of her house and trampled her to death on her courtyard. Her husband Sitanath who was sleeping near her escaped death by a whisker.

The incident sparked tension among the villagers as they blamed the negligence

of the Forest department for the rising incidents of elephant attack. Police have registered an unnatural death case and sent the body to PRM Medical College and Hospital at Baripada for post-mortem, an officer said.

Notably, four persons, including two women, have been trampled by the same tusker in the past three days, creating panic among the villagers in the area, he said.

The other deceased were identified as Sakra Hembram (59), a tribal woman, of Uludhi village under Rasgovindpur range and Raghunath Hembram (55) of Sunpuria village under Deuli range. Both were trampled by the tusker Tuesday while they were sleeping in verandahs outside their houses.

The injured victims, Sanga Mohanta of Uludhi, Sarbeswar Mohanta of Tadki village and Ruchika Soren of Pokharia village were admitted in a critical condition to PRM Medical College and Hospital at Baripada. One of them succumbed during treatment Wednesday night. Official sources said ex-gratia will be given to family members of deceased as per government norms.

The Forest department is keeping a close watch on the situation and the movement of the elephant is being monitored, another official said. It is learnt that forest department is planning to tranquilise the tusker and hunt it elsewhere and it has formed a team for the purpose.



**SOCCER TOURNEY:** Players of Jajpur and Dhenkanal teams during the inter-district Sahani Cup football tournament at Baripada Stadium, Thursday

OP PHOTO

## Man dies, 3 injured due to electrocution

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Rayagada, Sept 26:** A man was electrocuted to death and three others sustained critical injuries after they came in contact with live electric wire while painting a building in Rayagada district headquarters town Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Dusasan Khara, 35, and the injured were identified as Binod Nag, 35, Laxman Kandhapani, 33, and Damodar Ganta, 26. All are residents of Ambaguda area of Rayagada town.

According to reports, while the workers were painting a house at Lane No. 10 of Rayat Colony here perched on scaffolding, they came in contact with a live electric wire. All the injured workers were immediately rushed to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) here. The condition of two of the injured workers is stated to be critical. All injured are currently undergoing treatment at the hospital.

A case (320/2024) has been registered at the Town police station and police have launched an investigation into the incident.

The family of the deceased has demanded compensation as he was the sole bread winner of the family.

# Jackal scare grips Ganjam villages

PNN & AGENCIES

**Berhampur, Sept 26:** Polasara area in Ganjam district is on high alert after more than 20 people in three villages were injured after they were attacked by jackals over the last two days, officials said Thursday.

Most of the injured, including several elderly people and women, from Hatiota, Jemadeipur Shasan, and Chandramadeipur villages received treatment at the community health centre (CHC) in Polasara, they added.

"We have treated at least 21 patients—mostly elders—who were attacked by jackals. All have been discharged and their condition is stable," said Narayan Swain, medical officer at CHC Polasara.

One victim from Hatiota recounted that a jackal attacked him while he was walking to a pond early



Wednesday morning. He said two persons accompanying him were also attacked by the animal.

The jackal later fled to the neighbouring village of Jemadeipentha after being chased away by residents, he said.

Panic has gripped the local community, with many villagers fearing to go outside alone. They are also demanding compensation for the victims.

"A forest team rushed to the area to investigate the incident," said BK Acharya, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) for Ghumsar South division. He assured that compensation would be provided to the victims in accordance with government guidelines.

According to officials, jackals have become more aggressive due to flooding caused by recent rains, which have displaced them from their hiding places. Additionally, this is their mating season, during which they tend to be more aggressive.

"We are keeping a close watch on the situation," Acharya added.

Anil Kumar Panda, range officer in Polasara, said the forest team is working to identify whether the animals are indeed jackals. "We are closely monitoring the situation," he said.

## 14 fishermen stranded at sea rescued

PNN & AGENCIES

**Paradip, Sept 26:** As many as 14 fishermen standard in the sea amid inclement weather were Thursday rescued by the personnel of Odisha Marine Police and Indian Coast Guard (ICG), police said.

The 14 fishermen in two boats were stranded in the rough sea near the Mahanadi river mouth close to Paradip. The boats had developed technical

glitches for which they became defunct in the sea, the police said.

All the fishermen were rescued to safety by the ICG and the Marine police, a police officer said.

The sea condition is rough due to a low-pressure area over Bay of Bengal.

Meanwhile, several fishing boats, mostly from neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, have also moved towards the Paradip coast due to unfavourable conditions in the sea, the police officer added.

## NITR faculty among world's top 2% researchers

POST NEWS NETWORK

### STANFORD ELSEVIER RANKING

25 FACULTY MEMBERS OF NIT ROURKELA AMONG WORLD'S TOP 2% MOST-CITED SCIENTISTS



stated, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our faculty members for their remarkable research contributions and high-impact publications that have established benchmarks in their fields. This achievement highlights our institution's commitment to excellence in research and showcases the significant global impact of our faculty's work."

Under this ranking, the scientists are categorised into 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-fields according to the Science-Metrix classification system. The career-long data are updated through the end of 2023, while the recent year data pertains to citations accrued during the calendar year 2023.

Notably, 13 faculty members made it to both lists. This ranking which acknowledges scientists based on the impact of their research work, citation index, and other critical academic parameters is widely respected across the global academic community. The Stanford-Elsevier ranking evaluates the performance of scientists over their careers and also emphasises their recent contributions, making this recognition particularly notable for the selected scholars.

Reacting to this commendable achievement, Director NIT Rourkela, K Umamaheshwar Rao

**EAST COAST RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No.: eT-M-KUR-FE-282-2024, Dtd.: 19.09.2024  
Name of Work: OUTSOURCING OF THE WORK OF MAINTENANCE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS.  
Advertised Value: ₹88,66,292.16  
EMD: Rs. 1,77,300/-, Cost of Tender Form: 5,900/-  
Completion Period: 36 (Thirty Six) Months  
Tender closing Date & Time: At 15:15 hrs. on 14.10.2024  
The Tender documents complete details available at www.irgsp.gov.in  
Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer  
PR-557/P/24-25 Khurda Road

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Marketing Division – Odisha State Office  
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No. GAD-1205: The Unit Head, UIHEP, Mukhiguda, Dist. Kalahandi invites percentage rate bids in Double Cover System i.e. Cover-I (Technical Bid) & Cover-II (Price Bid) in Online mode from eligible contractors for the work as detailed in the table below:  
Availability of tender document in the portal: From 27.09.2024 to 07.10.2024 (upto 13.00 Hrs.)  
Last date & time of submission of tenders in the portal: 07.10.2024 upto 13.00 Hrs.  
The date & time of opening of the bid: 07.10.2024 at 16.30 Hrs. (Only Technical Bid)  
The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen and tender document can be downloaded from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tenders.odisha.gov.in>"  
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For registration, please contact: Sanket Swaroop, Mobile: 99370 81778.  
Registration is compulsory.  
The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.  
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Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, Ranihat Branch** 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 a Demand Notice calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon 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/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Ranihat Branch** for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

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| <b>Borrower: M/s. Taramani Traders, Prop.: Mrs. Aiswaryarani Behera, At: Flat No.: 111/6, Bidanasi Main Road, Bidanasi, Cuttack-753014</b><br><b>/ Guarantor: Mrs. Taramani Behera, W/o.: Late Kartik Chandra Behera, At: Gopala Sahi, Mangala Chowk, Bidanasi, Cuttack-753014</b> | <b>₹ 1,81,61,890.40</b> + interest & expenses thereon | <b>15.07.2024 / 24.09.2024</b>             | EQM of Vacant Land (demarcated) situated at Mouza: Narajmarthapur, Thana: Cuttack Sadar No.: 9, Tahasil: Baranga (No.: 185), SRO: Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack, <b>Khata No.: 405/166</b> , Plot No.: 973/2173, Area: Ac.0.07 Dec, Plot No.: 973, Area: Ac.0.07 Dec, <b>Khata No.: 405/214</b> , Plot No.: 967/2225, Area: Ac.0.487 Dec, <b>Total Area: Ac.0.627 Dec</b> , Standing in the name of <b>Mrs. Taramani Behera</b> |

**Place: Bhubaneswar**  
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**Chief Manager & Authorised Officer**  
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FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

# MESSAGE TO CHINA



US President Joe Biden was forthright in calling China out. He said that Beijing's belligerence is causing concern to all the democracies in the world

Prime Minister Modi attending the sixth Quad leaders' summit in USA asserted that 'Quad is here to stay'. This was an obvious signal to Beijing that it better hold back on the aggressive postures it is making in Indo-Pacific. Modi watered down the warning by adding that Quad was not against anyone. US President Joe Biden was forthright in calling China out. He said that Beijing's belligerence is causing concern to all the democracies in the world.

The summit was attended by Biden, Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Modi. All four leaders gave their unequivocal support to the consolidation and continuation of Quad. Modi summed it all by affirming, "A free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific is our shared priority and shared commitment." He added that Quad has taken several positive and inclusive initiatives in sectors of health, security, critical and emerging technologies, climate change and capacity building.

Biden announced that as soon as he took over the Presidency, he proposed to elevate the Quad. He claimed that by the end of his term, four member countries of Quad are more strategically aligned than ever before. Quite a few initiatives have been taken by the United States for securing positive impact for the Indo-Pacific region. The initiatives include supply of maritime technologies to regional partners of the US, launching co-operation between Coast Guards and expanding the Quad fellowshipship to the students of South East Asia. He expressed serious concerns about the situations in the East and South China Seas. Militarisation of disputed areas and coercive manoeuvres in South China Sea by Beijing is a matter of grave concern.

On the political front, the

Quad leaders were unanimous in reforming the UN Security Council. They agreed that it was time for UNSC to be made more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable. This could be done by expanding the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of the UNSC. The reform of the United Nations, mainly restructuring the UNSC has been a long-pending demand by the Global South.

The next stop for Prime Minister Modi was the bilateral meeting between him and Biden. While Biden acknowledged that US-India relationship now is stronger, closer and more dynamic, Modi told Biden that "India and the US enjoy a comprehensive, global strategic partnership which covers all areas of human interest, driven by shared democratic values, convergence of interest and active people-to-people ties."

Another development which caught the attention of the public and the media in India was the return of Indian antique objects by the US. From available reports, the US has handed over

to India 297 antique pieces which were smuggled out of the country. With this lot, the total number of antique items recovered by India since 2014 has gone upto 640, out of which 578 came from USA. Modi profusely thanked Biden for such an act of generosity and friendship. He said on his X handle that, "deepening cultural connects and strengthening the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural properties was necessary step that both countries must take." He expressed his gratitude to Biden and his government for doing so. Giving an emotional touch, Modi said that these objects were not just a part of India's historical material culture, but formed the inner core of its civilisation and consciousness.

Addressing the UN General Assembly, Modi reiterated that India believes in 'One Earth, One Family and One Future.' That is a commitment he urged all countries to make. Modi did not lose the opportunity in highlighting terrorism as a serious threat to global peace and security. He said, "While, on one hand, terrorism continues to

be a great threat, on the other hand, cyber security, maritime and space are emerging as new theatres of conflict." He urged that on such issues, global action must match global ambition.

Modi had several bilateral meetings on the fringe of events like Quad and UN meetings. Among these were the meetings with Crown Prince of Kuwait, President of Ukraine Zelenskyy and Mahmoud Abbas, the President of Palestine. His meeting with the Indian diaspora gave an opportunity to open his heart in an elaborate speech about India's current development situation. He highlighted the achievements under his regime so far and urged the people of Indian origin to connect with India. He called them the real ambassadors of India. In an emotional articulation, he said, "India's priority is not to increase the tension in the world, but to increase the impact."

The agreement between India and the US that is called path breaking is about a semi-conductor fabrication plant in India, which will supply chips to defence forces in both countries. It will promote an innovation ecosystem and deliver high quality jobs. The only heartburn in the entire visit of Prime Minister is the meeting of Khalistani separatist at the behest of National Security Council officials. It is said partly to be a compromise on India's sovereignty. United States is known for putting pressure on their friends and partners with various means. In India, they have been doing this through Pakistan. New Delhi has rightly ignored this political stunt and has gone ahead with bigger issues. That is in fact the way to go while refusing to be too sensitive to inconsequential matters.

The writer is Secretary General, Association for Democratic Socialism.

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## MILITARISATION OF DISPUTED AREAS AND COERCIVE MANOEUVRES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA BY BEIJING IS A MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN



DK Giri

It is not God who made man wicked. It is man who makes himself wicked by separating himself from God.

THE MOTHER



# A Climate Assembly

It has been nearly ten years since countries came together in Paris and agreed finally to get serious about averting a climate disaster. But while there is an emerging consensus on the structural economic reforms needed to transform sectors such as energy, transportation, and agriculture, the necessary investments are not being made fast enough.

Instead, our governance systems are struggling to muster an adequate response to what is an increasingly obvious and severe climate and ecological crisis. Although many governments have proposed robust climate measures, these often trigger a social backlash, because they are perceived as unjust and inequitable. Many see policies that pit the old against the young, the city against the country, or the Global North against the Global South. Such controversies are tailor-made for social media, where they ripen and then rot in a hothouse of misinformation, incendiary rhetoric, and polarisation.

Although the argument for the necessity of major reform has been won, the argument for how to do it fairly has not. This challenge will become only more difficult the deeper we get into the net-zero transition. Most people care deeply about addressing the climate crisis: in a survey conducted across 18 G20 countries, 71 per cent of respondents agreed that major action is needed immediately to reduce carbon emissions. But trust in government action is lacking, with only 39 per cent believing that their own government will act effectively.

One way to address this gap is to allow citizens participation in the elaboration and implementation of climate policies and measures designed by governments. Instead of having climate policies imposed by technocrats from above, governments should embrace approaches that combine "top-down" with "bottom-up" methods, with the latter bringing together ordinary people who are tasked with shaping a shared vision of the future.

Successful examples of those participatory methods already exist. Citizens' assemblies in France are decision-making bodies composed of randomly selected, demographically representative individuals who deliberate on a specific issue of public concern and provide policy recommendations.

In addition to fostering consensus on divisive topics, citizens' assemblies educate the public about complex policy issues and give citizens a direct role in decisions that affect their lives. These elements are especially important for issues like the net-zero transition, which entails major economic changes that can leave communities feeling divided. Unlike politicians, assembly members make decisions free from electoral pressures and lobbying. Notable examples include Ireland's assemblies on marriage equality and abortion, which led to national referendum and breakthrough legislation; and France's climate assembly, which helped shape its most ambitious climate bill to date.

Brazil's long standing participatory approach to policymaking has also proved successful. For example, its Climate Plan is being developed through a governance structure that includes several ministries of the federal government together with representatives from the scientific community, subnational governments, the private sector, and civil society.

Moreover, a climate participatory platform (involving both digital and in-person exchanges) has been launched to invite all Brazilian citizens to propose solutions. The National Environmental Conference and the National Social and Economic Development Council, by prioritising the Climate Plan, have further contributed to strengthening this bottom-up process.

Such methods can steer climate policy proposals away from sources of polarisation, and toward opportunities for collaboration and deliberation. Among G20 countries, 62 per cent of people favour using citizens' assemblies for decision-making, and that number has risen above 70 per cent in countries like Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico, and South Africa, and to over 80 per cent in Kenya. More than 170 citizens' assemblies have been held in more than 30 countries, each with the goal of accelerating climate action in ways that support a fair and just transition for all.

Drawing on the model of the World Social Forum, what we need now is a Global Social-Climate Forum, or a Global Citizens' Assembly for People and Planet, to bring citizens together from every country, not just to chart a collective path forward, but to reimagine our politics and encourage a global ethical stock-take. This would be an opportunity for humanity to come together, to understand each other's aspirations and anxieties, and to co-create a green transition that benefits everyone. Rather than leaving anyone behind, we can forge a new social contract rooted in solidarity, equity, and fairness.

In 2015, France and Peru established a new mechanism, the Action Agenda, because they recognised that the scale of change needed to tackle the climate crisis requires more than just government action. It also depends on the wealth of ideas that civil society – including businesses, cities, and communities – has to offer.

As countries prepare to announce their next climate commitments in 2025, we must acknowledge the critical role that ordinary citizens have to play, both individually and collectively, in addressing the climate crisis.

At COP30 and beyond, we must provide a dedicated space to hear every voice, and to ensure that the transition is not only fast but fair. Failing that, we will not achieve our common goals. That is why Brazil is committed to making COP30 (in November 2025) the People's COP, and to giving every person on Earth the opportunity to participate in shaping our common future.

Laurence Tubiana, a former French ambassador to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is CEO of the European Climate Foundation. Ana Toni is National Secretary for Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Brazil.

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## WISDOM CORNER

- If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear. **GEORGE ORWELL**
- We are each made for goodness, love and compassion. Our lives are transformed as much as the world is when we live with these truths. **DESMOND TUTU**
- One of my favorite philosophical tenets is that people will agree with you only if they already agree with you. You do not change people's minds. **GRANK ZAPPA**

## SPECTRUM SCIENCE

# Fillip to India's space sector

In a recent landmark development, the Union Cabinet approved several crucial projects to boost India's space sector and to establish it in par with international standards. This includes the Chandrayaan-4 mission, Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM): the Shukrayaan, Bharatiya Antriksh Station (BAS) and a Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV).

While Chandrayaan-1 mission was simply an orbiter designed for collecting data from the lunar surface through its onboard sensors, Chandrayaan-3 was basically a lander that landed its rover successfully on the south pole of the Moon. The rover remained active for nearly one lunar day. This made India the first country in the world to soft-land on the mineral rich and hitherto unexplored south polar region of the Moon. The next mission will be the Chandrayaan-4 that will be able to return soil samples from the Moon to the Earth for its scientific study. Recently, a Chinese probe has brought back soil samples from the far side of the Moon through its Chang'e 6 mission. Chandrayaan-4 project would cost around ₹2,104.06 crore and the core mission is expected to be completed within 36 months. The mission will have five mod-

ules that will be carried to space through two different launches. The mission is designed to land on the lunar surface, collect samples, store them in vacuum containers and bring them safely back to the Earth. The mission will see demonstration of several crucial technologies in space like docking and undocking in lunar orbit.

The Cabinet also gave green signal to launch a probe to the planet Venus, Shukrayaan, with a total budgetary outlay of ₹1236 crore. Venus is the closest planet to Earth and because of its similarity in size, it is often regarded as the Twin Sister of Earth. Venus is the hottest planet of our Solar System although it is not the closest one to the Sun. The thick carbon dioxide rich atmosphere of the planet with yellowish clouds of sulphuric acid traps the Sun's radiant heat allowing greenhouse effect to take place on a copious scale. The broad research areas of interest for this mission include study of the surface or subsurface rock layering of the planet, its atmospheric chemistry, dynamics and compositional variations, and the solar irradiance and solar wind interaction with its ionosphere. The mission would also carry out research on the planet's active volcanic hotspots,

lava flows and their patterns. Understanding the fundamental processes that have transformed Venus (once thought to have been habitable and very comparable to Earth) will be crucial to comprehending the evolution of Earth through space and time.

The Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) would be primarily an augmentation of the Gaganyaan mission, India's first human spaceflight programme slated for launch by mid 2025. Gaganyaan mission basically comprises a capsule with life support system to sustain the astronauts for a few days in space and aims at a merely technological demonstration of sending humans to space. However, the project does not hold potential for long duration stays by astronauts to carry out experiments in the microgravity environment of space primarily due to the lack of proper infrastructural facilities in it. If we look at the International Space Station, on the other hand, which is a joint venture of five leading space faring nations of the world; it's hugely spacious and measures like an American football stadium. It has immense facilities for its passengers like living quarters, laboratories for research, gym, medical stores,

food items, internet, library, music system and many more. Hence the vast infrastructural facilities that exist inside a space station make it a suitable platform for a prolonged period of stay in space by humans. At present, only three countries in the world have their own space stations. By giving nod to an Indian space station, the government has shown its intent for a serious and systematic study of space by Indians.

Amongst the other projects cleared was the development of the NGLV at an estimated cost of ₹8,239 crore. It will feature a partially reusable, cost-effective and commercially viable platform to meet goals defined in India's future space programmes. It will be possible to operate the BAS missions and other crewed lunar missions through this launch vehicle. The space launcher will have a payload capacity of 30 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit; it will be a three-stage vehicle with liquid oxygen-methane and cryo-propulsion, a reusable booster stage with clustered engine design and scalable configurations to meet our increased demands.

The writer is Education Officer, Regional Science Centre, Bhopal.



Nikunja Bihari Sahu

## BY GIVING NOD TO AN INDIAN SPACE STATION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN ITS INTENT FOR A SERIOUS AND SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF SPACE BY INDIANS

## Hockey greatness

Sir, Indian hockey is on a high as exemplified by the way Manpreet Singh's men dominated the Men's Asian Trophy at China's Halunbui. Notwithstanding the fact that India was the favourites to lift the title, the boys had to perform on the day, and they did. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics bronze medal, 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games gold medal, bronze at the recent Paris Olympics, and now Asian gold, India has had an excellent run on the astro-turf for a couple of years, after a long, long period. The best part of the present Indian hockey team is the unity and spirit with which they come across the field come what may. Coach Craig Fulton's disinclination towards unnecessary and unwarranted chopping of players, in contrast to a few former coaches, has played its role. At the same time, it is felt that India should not rest on its laurels; 2026 World Cup at Belgium and Netherlands should be another platform to showcase their undoubted brilliance.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

## Design in India

Sir, During his address at the United Nations General Assembly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined India's progress. He emphasised that India stands as a guiding light for the world in key areas such as poverty alleviation, human welfare, and sustainable development. He detailed how India can achieve sustainable development by lifting 250 million people out of poverty and highlighted the need for equitable regulations for international cooperation. Modi asserted that the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) should serve as a bridge necessary for global digital governance. He underscored India's advancements in sectors like semiconductors, electronics, and workforce development. Focusing on 'Design in India,' he announced an additional investment of USD 15 million in the semiconductor industry to bring new innovations to the global market. The direction outlined by the Prime Minister clearly indicates India's future. To achieve these goals, we must work together in coordination, as only through collective strength can India realise its progress.

Krishna Kumar Vepakoma, HYDERABAD

# 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)

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# 'Why Gurugram crawls' Centre extends AFSPA in Nagaland, Arunachal

**VOTERS ASK POLITICAL PARTIES AS CAMPAIGNING FOR ASSEMBLY POLLS INTENSIFIES**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Gurugram, Sept 26:** The campaign for upcoming Assembly polls in Haryana has seen parties making varied promises but voters in Gurugram have a common grievance -- why does the traffic in the millennium city crawl?

Pitched as the "Singapore of India", the most elite region of NCR, Gurugram is one of Asia's largest IT and corporate hubs. The city might be offering employment to people from across the country who now call it home, but when it comes to civic amenities, life is getting increasingly difficult, voters say.

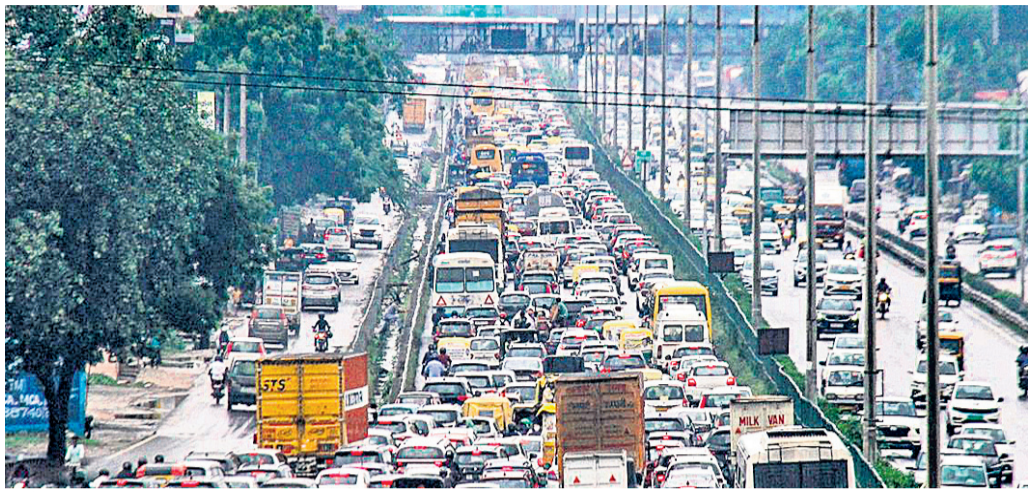
Intense waterlogging, damaged roads and serpentine traffic jams are the everyday woes faced by the people and they are now demanding assurance from candidates that their grievances will finally be addressed.

Posters of "No road, no vote", "Abki bar, no guddha sarkar", "Stuck in traffic, can't vote", and "Why Gurugram crawls" are flashed by voters when the candidates go out in the city to seek votes.

Jaiswal's fellow residents protested with posters when candidates of both the BJP and the Congress visited the area this week.

"We are asking all candidates what is their plan to address the traffic issue. We don't need promises, we need a plan and then only we will vote," he said.

The city which is in proximity to Delhi airport also has residences of several VIPs. Swanky apartments, the cost of which runs into several crores of ru-



**The city is in a mess but the traffic situation is worse. The only solution left is to never step out of the house. Even a few kilometres of distance takes over an hour and travelling to Delhi is like taking a flight to Dubai or Singapore**

SUMEGH JAISWAL | A RESIDENT OF MULTI-STOREY COMPLEX IN SECTOR 82

pees, mark the entry of the cyber city from Delhi. "Sometimes it takes less time in flight than it takes to reach the airport from Gurugram. There is no metro connectivity to the airport and going by road is a nightmare. And if it rains, God save us because it is like literally rowing a boat. Why should we vote for any party if nobody is bothered about these basics," said Trikha, an architect.

The traffic situation has also become a subject of blame game among political parties.

Ruling BJP's Rao Narbir Singh, a three-time Haryana minister who is contesting from Bahadur constituency which constitutes 70 per cent of Gurugram's electorate, admitted that the city is a "civic mess".

"I agree Gurugram (old name of Gurugram) is a civic mess currently. We have the worst waterlogging, the worst roads and a traffic crisis. The city has turned into a garbage dump. The

last five years not just brought the city to a standstill but reversed the pace of development," he told PTI in an interview.

The BJP and Dushyant Chautala-led Jannayak Janata Party formed an alliance in October 2019 which broke up in March 2024.

"I blame the coalition for it (the Gurugram's civic problems). We had a majority government from 2014 to 2019 and anybody can question the pace of development but things have gone downhill since 2019. It was our coalition with the JJP which is to be blamed. The civic infrastructure department was with the JJP and they didn't do anything. The people are disappointed that despite the BJP being at the helm of affairs, no work has been done," Singh said.

Congress' Vardhan Yadav who is contesting his debut election from the constituency accused the BJP of neglecting Gurugram.

"There are two national highways passing through the city and still the traffic on main roads as well as interior roads is unbelievable. Despite contributing a hefty sum to Haryana's coffers, Gurugram has been given a short shrift and that is what needs to change. The situation wasn't like this till Congress was at the helm in the state," he said.

Traffic authorities blame the increasing number of vehicles in the city.

"Every month at least 5000 new private cars get registered in Gurugram, besides this there are two-wheelers and commercial vehicles. We deploy teams at all major intersections and even during waterlogging teams are at the spot navigating the traffic, but there is a larger problem," a top traffic police official said, requesting anonymity.

Gurugram district has four assembly constituencies -- Gurgaon, Pataudi, Badshahpur and Sohna -- with a total electorate of over 15 lakh. Badshahpur is the largest constituency in the state in terms of electorate.

The Haryana assembly polls are slated to be held October 5 and the votes will be counted October 8.

*An area or district is notified as a disturbed area under the AFSPA to facilitate the operations of the armed forces*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 26:** The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, under which an area is declared as "disturbed" for the convenience of security forces, has been extended in eight districts in Nagaland, three districts in Arunachal Pradesh and some other areas for six months after a review of the law and order situation in the two northeastern states.

The AFSPA gives armed forces sweeping powers to search, arrest and to open fire if they deem it necessary for the "maintenance of public order".

In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said the central government in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (28 of 1958) had declared eight districts, and 21 police stations in five other districts of Nagaland as 'disturbed area' for a period of six months with effect from April 1, 2024.

The home ministry said a further review of the law and order situation in Nagaland has been undertaken.

The districts and police stations areas have been declared as 'disturbed area' again under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 for a period of six months with effect from October 1, 2024, unless withdrawn earlier, the notification issued Wednesday night said.

The districts in Nagaland where the AFSPA was reimposed are Dimapur, Niuland, Chumoukedima, Mon, Kiphire,



Noklak, Phek and Peren.

The areas in Nagaland falling within the jurisdiction of Khuzama, Kohima North, Kohima South, Zubza and Kezocha police stations in Kohima District; Mangkolemba, Mokkokchung-I, Longtho, Tuli, Longchem and Anaki 'C' police stations in Mokkokchung District; Yanglok police station in Longleng District are also declared 'disturbed'.

In addition, Bhandari, Champang and Ralan police stations in Wokha District; and Ghatashi, Pughoboto, Satakha, Suruhuto, Zunheboto and Aghunato police stations in Zunheboto District of Nagaland are also declared 'disturbed' under the AFSPA.

In a separate notification, the home ministry said under the AFSPA, the central government had declared Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts in Arunachal Pradesh and the areas falling within the jurisdiction of Namsai, Mahadevpur and Chowkham police stations in Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh, bordering Assam as 'disturbed area' with effect from April 1, 2024.

A further review of the law and order situation in Arunachal Pradesh has been

**There have been demands from various organisations and individuals in the northeastern states to revoke the AFSPA**

undertaken, it said.

"Now, therefore, Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts in Arunachal Pradesh and the areas falling within the jurisdiction of Namsai, Mahadevpur and Chowkham police stations in Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh, bordering the state of Assam, are declared as 'disturbed area' under Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 for a period of six months with effect from October 1, 2024 unless withdrawn earlier," the notification said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had earlier said the AFSPA has been removed in 70 per cent areas in the northeastern states even though it is in force in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah had also said that the central government would consider revoking AFSPA in Jammu and Kashmir.

## BID FOR ST STATUS

### Soren writes to Himanta flagging tea tribes' plight



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Ranchi, Sept 26:** Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren Wednesday wrote to his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma, claiming that tea tribes were marginalised despite their significant contribution to the economy of the northeastern state.

In his letter to Sarma, Soren expressed deep concern about the plight of 70 lakh tea tribe community members in Assam and sought ST status for them.

Sarma, the BJP's election co-in charge for Jharkhand, has attacked the JMM government for various reasons recently.

"I am acutely aware of the significant challenges faced by the tea tribes in Assam, more so because a majority of them are the indigenous tribes of Jharkhand,

including Santhali, Kuruk, Munda, Oraon and others, whose ancestors migrated during colonial rule to work in tea plantations. I very strongly feel that they meet the criteria for ST status, including their distinct cultural identity, traditional way of life, and vulnerability to exploitation," Soren wrote to Sarma.

He said most of the ethnic groups of the tea tribes are recognised as STs in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, Assam continued to classify them as OBCs.

"Despite their vital contributions to Assam's economy and culture, they continue to be marginalised and denied the benefits and protections accorded to Scheduled Tribes," Soren wrote to Sarma demanding immediate ST status for them.

The tea tribes of Assam, while being classified as OBCs, miss out on several crucial government benefits and opportunities due to their non-ST status, including many central government schemes specifically designed for STs.

# Young women wrestlers pin hopes on Vinesh

**STAR WRESTLER HAS BEEN CANVASSING EXTENSIVELY IN HER CONSTITUENCY AND IS VISITING DIFFERENT AKHADAS TO SEEK SUPPORT**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jind/Sonipat, Sept 26:** Several women wrestlers in Haryana, especially those rethinking their career paths in the wake of protests against sexual harassment in the WFI, are hoping Vinesh Phogat becomes the state's sports minister and helps them return to the akhada.

Wrestling arenas or akhadas were once abuzz with activity as young girls and boys trained with a common goal -- medals at big events followed by government jobs.

However, things changed after the January 2023 protests by top wrestlers, including Phogat, Sakshi Malik, and Bajrang Punia, demanding the resignation of former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and then BJP

## HARYANA POLLS



MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for allegedly harassing junior women wrestlers.

The akhadas have since witnessed a spurt in dropouts among young women grapplers.

"I did not come here for five months after the protests began as my parents did not allow me to continue training," said a young woman wrestler training at the Yudhvir Akhada in Sonipat, the biggest arena in the

district for girls.

"I have somehow convinced them to resume training but now my father accompanies me and waits as long as I am here," the wrestler said, requesting anonymity.

"We hope that when Vinesh Phogat gets elected, she is made the sports minister because she understands the challenges that women wrestlers face," she told PTI.

Phogat is contesting the assembly elections in Haryana from Julana in Jind district.

At the Meher Singh Akhada in Rohtak, there has been a significant drop in the number of young grapplers coming for training.

Mohit Malik, the owner of the akhada, said Phogat's performance at the Paris 2024 Olympics, where she missed out on a gold medal, would motivate parents sceptical about sending their daughters to the akhada.

"Vinesh's Olympic performance is expected to change things and give strength to those families who have been uncertain about sending their daughters to the akhada," he said.

"There is unemployment in the state and one way to secure a government job is through sports, that is what the common people believe. The funding for the akhada also comes from local residents or individuals and there is very limited government support," he added.

While Phogat is not the candidate from his constituency, Malik said she had his support, along with that of several wrestlers and coaches at the

akhada across the state.

"We need someone from amongst us to be able to be our voice in the Vidhan Sabha. Vinesh knows the challenges a wrestler has to face," he said.

Phogat, who was born in Charkhi Dadri, joined the Congress after returning from the Olympic Games where she was disqualified from the women's 50-kilogramme freestyle wrestling final for being 100 grams overweight.

AAP's Kavita Dalal -- the first woman wrestler to compete in the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) -- is taking on Phogat from Julana.

Dalal won a gold medal in the 2016 South Asian Games and represented India in weightlifting before transitioning to professional wrestling. She was with the WWE from 2017 to 2021.

The BJP has fielded Yogesh Bairagi, a former Indian Army captain and a commercial pilot, from the seat.

Phogat is not the first woman wrestler from the state to join politics and contest elections. Her cousin Babita Phogat had unsuccessfully contested the assembly polls in 2019 from Charkhi Dadri.

# NIMAS scales virgin peak in Arunachal

**THE 20,942 FT HIGH PEAK 'TSANGYANG GYATSO' IS NAMED AFTER 6TH DALAI LAMA**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Guwahati, Sept 26:** A team from the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS) scaled an unnamed and unclimbed 20,942 ft high peak in Arunachal Pradesh and decided to name the summit after the 6th Dalai Lama Tsangyang Gyatso.

NIMAS, located at Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh, functions under the Ministry of Defence.

The 15-day expedition to scale the peak is one of the most technically challenging summits in the region with sheer ice walls,

treacherous crevasses and a 3 km long glacier in the Gorichen range of Arunachal Pradesh Himalayas in Tawang-West Kameng region, a defence release said Thursday.

The 15-member team, led by Col Ranveer Singh Jamwal, has decided to name the summit "Tsangyang Gyatso Peak" after the 6th Dalai Lama who was born in 1682 in the region of Mon Tawang.

Naming the peak after the 6th Dalai Lama is a tribute to his timeless wisdom and his profound contributions to the Monpa community and beyond, the re-



lease stated. NIMAS has informed the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) about the ascent and the decision to name

## China miffed over mountain naming

**BEIJING:** China was Thursday miffed over Indian mountaineers naming a previously unnamed peak in Arunachal Pradesh after the 6th Dalai Lama, reiterating its territorial claims over the area. When asked for his reaction, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a media briefing here, "I'm not aware of what you mentioned. Let me say more broadly that the area of Zangnan is Chinese territory, and it's illegal, and null and void for India to set up the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh' in Chinese territory. This has been China's consistent position," he said. China calls Arunachal Pradesh Zangnan. Also, China has been renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh since 2017 to assert its claims. India emphatically rejected China's claims over Arunachal Pradesh, saying it is an integral part of India and assigning "invented" names does not alter this reality.

the peak. Formalities for naming the peak are being completed to en-

sure that "Tsangyang Gyatso Peak" is recognized on the official map.

# Man missing for 11 yrs reunited with family

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Chandigarh, Sept 26:** A 20-year-old man who went missing 11 years ago was Thursday reunited with his family by the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Haryana Police, officials said.

Satbir alias Tarzan was a boy when he went missing from Karnal district in September 2013, police said.

A police complaint was lodged by his mother who told the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) probing the matter that her son had a dog bite scar on his hand and a monkey bite mark on his left arm.

Rajesh Kumar, Assistant Sub-Inspector, of the AHTU, led the probe and distributed posters of the boy across childcare institutions in Delhi, Jaipur, Kolkata, Mumbai, Kanpur, Shimla, and Lucknow.

After a wait of several years, the team was contacted by representatives of a government care organisation in Lucknow, who reported that a youth at their facility matched the description of the boy in the posters.

ASI Kumar and his team have so far helped reunite over 800 missing persons with their families over the last many years.



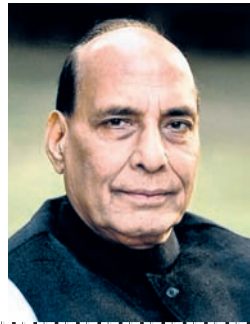
# national

## of the day quote

She (Kangana) has just entered politics and it is taking some time for her to understand things. She will understand these things soon

During the worst suffering of Kashmiri Pandits, these people (Farooq Abdullah) would spend 8 months holidaying in Europe. Today people of PoK want to be part of J&K and I assure you they will soon be part of J&K

The prison life did not extend for so many days even during the Emergency



**Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren is pretending to be a 'martyr' after going to jail on corruption charges**  
RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

## GODHRA CARNAGE: NEXT HEARING JANUARY 15

The Supreme Court Thursday said it will hear January 15 the appeals filed by the Gujarat government and several other convicts in the 2002 Godhra train burning case. A bench of Justices JK Maheshwari and Rajesh Bindal made it clear that no adjournment will be given in the matter on the next date of hearing



# CDSCO's red flag for over 50 drugs

The samples include commonly used paracetamol, Pan D, calcium, vitamin D3 supplements, and anti-diabetes pills

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 26:** The country's central drug regulatory authority has listed samples of more than 50 drugs, including paracetamol, Pan D, calcium and vitamin D3 supplements, and anti-diabetes pills, as "not of standard quality" in its latest report.

The batches of medicines flagged by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) in its drug alert for August are of companies such as Alkem Laboratories, Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Hetero Labs Limited, Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Nestor Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Priya Pharmaceuticals and Scott-Edil Pharmacia Ltd.

The CDSCO's drug alert for August included samples from batches of medications such as Shelcal, Vitamin B Complex with



QUALITY WARNING

Vitamin C Softgels, vitamin C and D3 tablets and Ciprofloxacin tablets.

High blood pressure medications Telmisartan and Atropine Sulphate and antibiotics such as Amoxicillin And Potassium Clavulanate tablets have also been categorised as not of "not of standard quality".

While batches of some drugs

failed the 'dissolution test' as per Indian Pharmacopoeia and failed the 'Assay' and 'water' test as per IP, some were identified as spurious or having uniformity of volume issues. According to an official source, a list of "not of standard quality" drugs is released every month.

"The drug regulator constantly monitors drugs and samples are

randomly tested every month to ensure their quality as well as safety standards. When found as not of standard quality, action is taken against manufacturing firms accordingly," the source said.

According to the CDSCO, the drugs licensing authorities of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu, have not submitted any data regarding the Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) Alert for August 2024.

Pondicherry, Telangana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Andaman and Nicobar, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep have also not submitted data, it said.



Delhi Chief Minister Atishi with former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia leaves after attending a session of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, in New Delhi

## SHORT TAKES

### Manmohan Singh turns 92

**New Delhi:** Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh turned 92 Thursday, with Congress leaders lauding his contributions and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi hailing his humility, wisdom and selfless service in shaping the country's future. Singh was prime minister of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government between 2004 and 2014. He was also India's Finance Minister in the PV Narasimha Rao-led government during 1991-96, an epochal era for the country's economy marked by wide-ranging reforms.

### CBI records Suresh's statement

**New Delhi:** The CBI has recorded the statement of alleged conman Suresh Chandrasekhar, in connection with its preliminary enquiry into an alleged extortion racket running from the Tihar Jail and other prisons in Delhi, officials said Thursday. The agency took permission from a special court August 30 to examine Chandrasekhar in the prison where he is lodged over various charges of extorting money, they said.

### President visits Siachen base camp

**New Delhi:** President Droupadi Murmu Thursday visited the Siachen base camp and told soldiers posted at the world's highest battlefield that all citizens salute their bravery. Addressing the troops, she said in difficult situations like heavy snowfall and minus 50 degrees temperature, they present extraordinary examples of sacrifice and tolerance in protecting the motherland.

### Mann admitted to hospital

**Chandigarh:** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has been admitted to a private hospital in Mohali, sources said. Mann was admitted to the hospital late Wednesday night after he fainted thrice, the sources said. "The Chief Minister has been hospitalised as he's undergoing a thorough examination," a senior AAP leader said.

### Goods train derails

**Ranchi:** Two wagons of a goods train derailed near Tupkadih station in Jharkhand's Bokaro affecting movement of trains, an official said Thursday. "Two wagons of a goods train carrying steel consignment derailed near Tupkadih station in Bokaro district last night at about 9 pm. We have diverted 15 trains including 14 express trains," Sumit Narula, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Adra division of South Eastern Railway, told PTI.

# SC GRANTS BAIL TO BALAJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 26:** In a relief to former Tamil Nadu minister and DMK strongman Senthil Balaji, the Supreme Court Thursday granted him bail in a money laundering case after over 15 months, noting there is no possibility of the completion of trial in the near future.

The top court said Balaji, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate, has been in jail since last year and his continued detention will amount to an infringement of his fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Noting that there are more than 2,000 accused and over 600 witnesses in the case, a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said inordinate delay in the conclusion of the trial and the higher threshold for the grant of bail cannot go together.

"Therefore, even in ideal conditions, the possibility of the trial of scheduled offences concluding even within a reasonable time of three to four years appears to be completely ruled out," it said. However, the top court imposed tough bail conditions on Balaji while granting him bail. Welcoming the bail order, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said attempts were made to break the



- Balaji was arrested June 14 last year by the ED in connection with a money laundering case
- The ED had August 12 last year filed a 3,000-page charge sheet against Balaji.
- The high court October 19 had dismissed Balaji's earlier bail plea
- A local court has also dismissed his bail petitions thrice

DMK leader's resolve by keeping him behind bars but that he has emerged stronger than ever before. In Balaji's native village Karur in Tamil Nadu, supporters of the DMK strongman celebrated the bail order.

While pronouncing the order, the top court said stringent provisions regarding the grant of

bail in Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cannot become a tool which can be used to incarcerate the accused without trial for an unreasonably long time. "The appellant has been incarcerated for 15 months or more for the offence punishable under the PMLA. In the facts of the case, the trial of the scheduled offences and, consequently, the PMLA offence is not likely to be completed in three to four years or even more. If appellant's detention is continued, it will amount to an infringement of his fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution of speedy trial," the bench said. The apex court, however, took into note the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED, that Balaji may influence the witnesses in the case and imposed stringent conditions on him. It directed Balaji to furnish bail bonds in the sum of ₹25 lakh with two sureties in the like amount.

The bench directed that Balaji shall not directly or indirectly attempt to contact or communicate with the prosecution witnesses and victims of the three scheduled offences in any manner. The top court directed Balaji to surrender his passport to the special court under the PMLA at Chennai before he is enlarged on bail.

## Amit Shah extends olive branch to terrorists in J&K

**Jammu:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday asked terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir to give up arms and come forward for talks with the government while reiterating that there will be no dialogue or cross-border trade with Pakistan. Ahead of the third and final phase of polling in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections next week, Shah addressed five rallies in poll-bound assembly segments Thursday and launched a scathing attack on the Congress, NC and PDP, accusing these parties of providing protection to terrorism over the last three decades. Shah, who is spearheading the saffron party's poll campaign, alleged that the National Conference-Congress alliance would implement Pakistan's agenda if it comes to power in the Union Territory.

## China-bound Iraqi Airways flight diverted to Kolkata

**Kolkata:** An Iraqi Airways flight from Baghdad to Guangzhou in China made a medical emergency landing at the Kolkata airport after a passenger on board suddenly fell ill, officials said Thursday. The passenger, a 16-year-old Iraqi girl, was declared "brought dead" when she was taken to a hospital in the city. The flight IA-473 with 100 passengers and 15 crew on board made a diversion from its course and landed at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport here at 10:18 pm Wednesday. According to an Airports Authority of India (AAI) spokesperson, a medical team present at the airport immediately attended to the passenger, Deran Samir Ahmed, the spokesperson said.

## CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 26:** One in every two El Nino events could be extreme by 2050 if current trends in greenhouse gas emissions continue, a new study has found.

El Nino, a weather pattern known for triggering warmer extremes like heatwaves and floods, is known to raise sea surface temperatures, while its counterpart La Nina leads to cooling effects. Both are phases of El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) climate driver.

Multiple studies have provided evidence that a consistently warming climate favours more frequent and intense El Nino events, which are known to fuel extreme weather

# El Nino events to get more extreme: Study

events. In this study, conducted by researchers including those from the University of Colorado Boulder, US, used computer models to stimulate El Nino events over the past 21,000 years -- the peak of Earth's last Ice Age, one of the planet's coldest periods.

It was found that as the Earth's climate warmed since then, El Nino events increasingly became more frequent and intense.

The model also predicted that if greenhouse gas emissions continue at current rates, by 2050, one in every two El Nino events could be an extreme.

"The highest (ENSO) variability occurs in response to greenhouse warming, with one in two events reaching extreme amplitude," the authors said in



the study published in the journal Nature. An increased ENSO variability signals higher levels of human-induced global warming.

The study's findings mean a

relatively lesser time for people to recover, along with increased impacts to life and property, according to lead author Pedro DiNezio, an associate professor at the University of Colorado

The most recent 2023-24 El Nino has been linked to global temperatures breaking records for 12 straight months, starting June last year

The climate driver is thought to have played a major role behind this summer's record breaking temperatures registered across India, especially in the north

Boulder. "If these extreme events become more frequent, society may not have enough time to recover, rebuild and adapt before the next El Nino strikes. The consequences would be devastating," DiNezio said.

The study's model was validated against data from fossils of foraminifera, ocean-dwelling

single-celled organisms that existed long before humans.

Through an analysis of preserved oxygen in these fossils, the team reconstructed how El Nino drove changes in temperatures across the Pacific Ocean for the past 21,000 years.

The World Meteorological Organization has described the 2023-24 El Nino as one of the five strongest ones on record, causing widespread natural disasters, including heatwaves, floods and wildfires. It also said that 2023 was Earth's hottest year since records began. Currently, neutral conditions are said to be prevailing before La Nina is expected to set in later this year, according to the United Nation's weather and climate agency.





We (the undivided Shiv Sena which controlled the Mumbai civic body from 1997 to 2022) were always there, but no one from the Sena-BJP was there on the ground yesterday to help people in Mumbai, Pune and Thane. No officer from the civic bodies was seen on the ground to deal with the situation

AADITYA THACKERAY | SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

### SC HALTS BYJU'S INSOLVENCY CASE

The Supreme Court Thursday directed the insolvency resolution professional (IRP) to maintain status quo and not to hold any meeting of the committee of creditors (CoC) in the matter pertaining to insolvency proceedings against ed-tech firm Byju's



### of the day quote

If the BJP returns to power in the state, the scheme will be restored and farmers will get ₹5,000 per acre in addition to the Centre's ₹6,000 under Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN | UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER

For vote-bank politics, they (Opposition parties) are asking for talks with terrorists. If they want to talk, let them come forward after giving up arms. In the northeast, 10,000 people have surrendered

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

So I request the PM to inaugurate Pune Metro online...it is the same project he had inaugurated five times in the past...it will help the people of the Pune city and the inauguration must not wait for the next visit of the PM

SUPRIYA SULE | NCP (SP) LEADER

## POST OF THE DAY

Delhi Riot Cases With transfer of Justice Kait as CJ Madhya Pradesh High Court Bail pleas filed since March 2022 of Abdul Khalid Saudi Gulfisha Fatima Mohd. Salim shift Ur Rehman Will have to be heard a third time! Is it fair? Who is responsible? Answer : Courts

@KapilSibal

# Won't quit, will wage legal battle: K'taka CM

Amid the ongoing land allotment row against the CM, and demand by the BJP that the case be handed over to Central Bureau of Investigation, the Karnataka government Thursday withdrew general consent given to CBI to investigate cases in the State as it alleged that the agency was "biased"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 26: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Thursday asserted that he will not resign, following a Special Court here ordering a Lokayukta police probe against him in a site allotment case, as he held consultations with experts to fine-tune strategy to wage a legal battle.

The Lokayukta police, meanwhile, are yet to register an FIR against the CM following the court order in connection with the allotment of 14 sites to his wife B M Parvathi by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil, briefing reporters on the decisions taken at a meeting of the Cabinet, chaired by the Chief Minister, ruled out any connection between the decision on CBI and the allegations of illegalities in MUDA.

Opposition BJP in Karnataka today staged a protest in front of Mahatma Gandhi statue at Vidhana Soudha, the seat of state legislature and secretariat here, demanding Chief Minister's resignation, to which Siddaramaiah responded by reiterating that he will not quit as he again denied any wrongdoing in the case.

"There is no question of resigning, because I have done no wrong. This (charges against him) is a BJP (conspiracy)," Siddaramaiah told reporters here.

"...did the Prime Minister (Narendra Modi as the then Gujarat CM) resign in the Godhra



incident as FIR was done (then)? (H D) Kumaraswamy (JDS leader) is in Narendra Modi's government, he is on bail, has he given resignation?" the Chief Minister asked.

"Have they given resignation? Are they not embarrassed? I will not resign. I will fight legally."

"I won't resign, let them get Kumaraswamy's resignation, he is on bail. He is in whose Cabinet, in which government? He should give (resignation first). Did Narendra Modi resign? Despite hundreds of people dying, he did not resign. I have done no wrong, there is no need for me to resign," he added.

Shivakumar said: "I'm saying that the proposal for the Chief Minister to resign won't come. This is a political conspiracy by BJP and JD(S). They are unable to digest the benefits of our five guarantee schemes reaching people."

The order of the Special Court Judge, Santhosh Gajanan Bhat,

came a day after the High Court upheld the sanction granted by the Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to conduct an investigation against Siddaramaiah on the allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife B M Parvathi by MUDA.

The Special Court exclusively to deal with criminal cases related to former and elected MPs/MLAs issued the order directing the Lokayukta police in Mysuru to initiate an investigation on the complaint filed by RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna of Mysuru.

The Lokayukta police are seeking 'legal clarification' to register an FIR against the Chief Minister, sources said.

Meanwhile, a key legal advisor to the CM said consultations are on with senior counsel and experts on filing an appeal in the wake of court orders upholding Governor's sanction for investigation against Siddaramaiah.

The BJP lawmakers and leaders who staged protest under the leadership of Leader of Opposition R Ashoka were later whisked away by the police in a bus, as they marched towards the Vidhana Soudha building, shouting slogans demanding CM's resignation, allegedly with an intention to lay siege to it.

Speaking to reporters, Ashoka said: "...Siddaramaiah must resign and respectfully cooperate with the investigation. We are not saying the government should go, if not him (Siddaramaiah as CM), someone else. We want a fair probe, and government property should be protected."

## Family demands police protection for last rites

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, Sept 26: Family members of Akshay Shinde, the Badlapur sexual assault case accused who was killed in an alleged shoot-out with police earlier this week, Thursday demanded security for his last rites.

Amar Shinde, his uncle, told mediapersons that they were yet to decide where the body should be buried.

"We have been searching for a place. Police have called us to show some spots. We will bury the body at a secure place," he told reporters here.

Police protection should be provided for the last rites, and also to Akshay's parents and his lawyer as there was a threat to their lives, he said.

"We have also sent an email making this request to Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister (Devendra Fadnis)," he added. Akshay Shinde had in the past expressed desire that he would like to be buried instead of being cremated, his lawyer Amit Katarnavre told PTI.

His father had informed the family was ready to take possession of his son's body but could not find a burial site. The public prosecutor assured the high court that a Deputy Commissioner of Police of the Thane crime branch would ask the local authority to make necessary arrangements.

Akshay Shinde, 24, was arrested last month for allegedly sexually assaulting two kindergarten girls at a school in Badlapur in Thane district. He was being taken to Badlapur for probe in another case Monday evening when the alleged shootout occurred inside the police van, resulting in his death.

He was being taken to Badlapur for probe in another case Monday evening when the alleged shootout occurred inside the police van, resulting in his death.

## PARL FORMS STANDING COMMITTEES

# Mahtab to head Finance, Tharoor External Affairs



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: Parliament's standing committees were constituted Thursday with BJP's Bhartruhari Mahtab as chair of the key panel on Finance and Congress' Shashi Tharoor at the helm of the panel on External Affairs.

The department-related standing committees, which have representation from across party lines, act as mini parliaments and keep a tab on the functioning of various ministries.

The notification of the committees was announced by a communique issued by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The committees on Defence will be chaired by former Union Minister Radha Mohan Singh, while the panel on Home Affairs will be headed by BJP member Radha Mohan Das Agrawal.

The leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi is a member of the Committee on Defence. United Progressive Alliance (UPA) chairperson Sonia Gandhi's name does not figure in any of the committees. Major BJP allies such as the TDP and Janata Dal (United) besides its partners in poll-bound Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena and NCP, will be heading one committee each.

The lone NCP Lok Sabha member Sunil Tatkar will be heading the panel on Petroleum

and Natural Gas and Shiv Sena's Shrirang Appa Barne will helm the committee on Energy.

JD(U)'s Sanjay Jha will be heading the committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture while TDP's Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy will chair the committee on Housing and Urban Affairs.

Congress members Charanjit Singh Channi and Saptagiri Ulaka have been made chairpersons of the committees on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing; and Rural Development and Panchayati Raj respectively.

DMK's Tiruchi Siva and Kanimozhi will chair the committees on Industry; and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution respectively.

Of the total 24 department-related standing committees, BJP has got to chair 11, while its allies have got to lead four panels. Congress leaders will helm four committees, followed by two each by DMK and Trinamool, and one by the Samajwadi Party.

Former Union Minister Anurag Thakur and Rajiv Pratap Rudy have been given the chairmanships of the committees on Coal, Mines and Steel; and Water Resources respectively. BJP member Nishikant Dubey has been made the chairman of the Committee on Communications and Information Technology.

## SHORT TAKES

### BMC panel to probe woman's death

Mumbai: The Mumbai civic body Thursday announced a high-level probe into the death of a 45-year-old woman after she fell into a storm water drain here following heavy rains, while the police registered a case of accidental death. The woman, Vimal Anil Gaikwad, died in the incident that occurred at 9.20 pm Wednesday near gate no. 8 of MIDC, Andheri East, police have said. The local police and the fire brigade were alerted and they took the woman to the Cooper Hospital where she was declared brought dead, the police said.

### Two dead in car-MUV collision

Nashik: Two people were killed and four seriously injured in a car-MUV collision in Nashik in Maharashtra Thursday morning, a police official said. A Mahindra Bolero multi-utility vehicle collided with a car at Hirenagar Phata in Nandgaon on the road leading to Manmad, he said.

### ED attaches assets of Elvish

Lucknow: The Enforcement Directorate Thursday said it has attached assets worth more than ₹52 lakh of YouTuber Siddharth Yadav alias Elvish Yadav, his friend and singer Rahul Yadav alias Fazilpuriya and a company as part of a money laundering investigation. A provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) has been issued to attach an agricultural land in Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh and some bank deposits of the three entities, the ED said in a statement.

## SC REJECTS GUJ GOVT PLEA IN BILKIS CASE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: The Supreme Court Thursday dismissed a plea filed by the Gujarat government seeking a review of the court's verdict which contained certain observations against the state while quashing the remission granted to 11 men convicted of raping Bilkis Bano and murdering seven of her family members during the 2002 riots.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan also rejected the application for listing review petition in open court. "Having carefully gone

through the Review Petition, the order under challenge and the papers annexed therewith, we are satisfied that there is no error apparent on the face of the record or any merit in the Review Petition, warranting reconsideration of the order impugned. The Review Petition is, accordingly, dismissed," the bench said.

The Gujarat government in its plea had said the apex court's observation in the January 8 judgment, holding the state guilty of "usurpation of power" and "abuse of discretion" for complying with an order of another top court bench, was an "error apparent on the face of the record" primarily on three grounds. It had said another coordinate bench of the apex court had, in May 2022, held the state of Gujarat to be the "appropriate government" and directed the state to decide the remission application of one of the convicts in accordance with the remission policy of 1992.



LoP in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi with party candidate Bhupinder Singh Hooda during a public meeting ahead of the Haryana Assembly elections, at Barwala in Hisar

# Weekend workouts as effective as daily exercise: Study

SCIENTISTS SAY TOTAL AMOUNT OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PEOPLE GET IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN HOW FREQUENTLY THEY TRAIN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: People cramming their entire week's exercise in one or two days or over the weekend, could be at a lower risk of developing over 200 diseases, with similar effects to those who exercise throughout the week, a study has found.

'Weekend warriors' are individuals who engage in moderate or vigorous physical activity over the weekend and yet meet the World Health Organization's recommendations of 150 minutes of exercise per week for overall health.

However, researchers said it is not clear if 'weekend warriors' experience more health benefits compared to those distrib-

uting their exercise in durations of 20-30 minutes on most days of the week.

"We show the potential benefits of weekend warrior activity for risk not only of cardiovascular diseases, as we've shown in the past, but also future diseases spanning the whole spectrum, ranging from conditions like chronic kidney disease to mood disorders and beyond," said Shaan Khurshid, a faculty member at Massachusetts General Hospital, US and a senior author on the study.

In a study, published in July in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA), the team had found that the weekend warrior style of exercise was associated with a lower



risk of heart disease and stroke compared to exercise performed evenly over a week.

The research, published in the journal Circulation, analysed

data from nearly 90,000 individuals in the UK Biobank dataset.

Participants wore wrist accelerometers for a week between June 2013 and December 2015,

which recorded their total physical activity, including duration and intensity. They were classified under 'weekend warrior', 'regular', or 'inactive'.

The study examined links between physical activity patterns and incidence of 678 conditions across 16 types of diseases, including mental health, digestive and neurological ones.

Both weekend warriors and regulars were found to have significantly lower risks of developing over 200 medical conditions, particularly cardiometabolic ones like hypertension and obesity, compared to those inactive.

Further, the disease risk reduction was similar for both weekend warriors and regulars, with no significant differences

in risk across any condition between the two groups, the researchers said.

"Achievement of measured physical activity volumes consistent with guideline recommendations is associated with lower risk for (over) 200 diseases, with prominent effects on cardiometabolic conditions," the authors said.

"Associations appear similar whether physical activity follows a weekend warrior pattern or is spread more evenly throughout the week," they added.

The findings were consistent across many different definitions of weekend warrior activity, as well as other thresholds used to categorise people as active, said Khurshid.



# international



The US, as a so-called 'problem solver,' has only exacerbated crises worldwide. Wherever the West gets involved as the main 'fix-it man,' pardon my slang, the situation deteriorates, hundreds of thousands of victims, devastation, and socio-economic issues  
SERGEY LAVROV | FOREIGN MINISTER, RUSSIA

**HK GETS NEW PAIR OF PANDAS**  
Hong Kong welcomed a new pair of giant pandas gifted by Beijing with a lavish ceremony, raising hopes for a boost to the city's tourism



## of the day quote

Let us not forget that having wealth includes responsibility. I ask for constant vigilance so that the most disadvantaged nations may be helped to rise from their impoverished conditions  
POPE FRANCIS | HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

It is obvious that such accusations (that Iran had targeted Donald Trump) are just a part of creating the election atmosphere in the US and not even worth a response  
NASSER KANAANI | FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON, IRAN

France is in favour of the Security Council being expanded. Germany, Japan, India, and Brazil should be permanent members, as well as two countries that Africa will decide to represent it  
EMMANUEL MACRON | PRESIDENT, FRANCE

## SHORT TAKES

### SK criminalises explicit deepfakes

**Seoul:** South Korean lawmakers Thursday passed a bill that criminalises possessing or watching sexually explicit deepfake images and videos, with penalties set to include prison terms and fines. There has been an outcry in South Korea over Telegram group chats where sexually explicit and illegal deepfakes were created and widely shared, prompting calls for tougher punishment. Anyone purchasing, saving or watching such material could face up to three years in jail or be fined up to 30 million won (\$22,600), according to the bill.

### Trudeau survives no trust motion

**Ottawa:** Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Wednesday survived a vote of no confidence in the first major test of his minority Liberal government whose popularity has waned after nine years in office. Following a heated debate that saw members of Parliament trade insults and slam their fists on desks, they voted 211 to 120 against the Conservative motion to unseat the Liberals and force snap elections. Trudeau's tenuous grip on power, however, is already set to face more challenges in the coming days and weeks, with the main Opposition Conservatives vowing to try again to topple the government as early as Tuesday.

## NO END TO WAR

# Israel rejects Lebanon truce plan

**THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE AND SEVERAL OTHER ALLIES CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE 21-DAY CEASEFIRE ACROSS THE ISRAEL-LEBANON BORDER**  
REUTERS



**Beirut, Sept 26:** Israel rejected proposals Thursday for a ceasefire with Hezbollah, defying allies including the United States which had called for an immediate three-week halt in fighting to allow for diplomacy to avert a wider war. Israeli warplanes bombed Lebanon, including a strike on the southern suburbs of Beirut that shook the capital. On its own side of the border, the Israeli army staged an exercise simulating a ground invasion. "There will be no ceasefire in the north," Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on X. "We will continue to fight against the Hezbollah terrorist organization with all our strength until victory and the safe return of the residents of the north to their homes." The comments dashed hopes for a swift settlement, after Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati had expressed hope that a ceasefire could be reached soon

in Lebanon, where hundreds of thousands of people have fled their homes seeking safety. World leaders voiced concern that the conflict, running in parallel to Israel's war in Gaza, was escalating rapidly. The heaviest fighting in nearly two decades between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah group has raised fears of a new Israeli ground offensive across the Lebanese-Israeli frontier. The United States, France and several other allies called for an immediate 21-day ceasefire across the Israel-Lebanon border. They also expressed support for a ceasefire in Gaza following intense discussions at the United Nations. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, heading to New York to address the UN, said he had not yet given his response to the truce proposal but had instructed the army to fight

**There will be no ceasefire in the north. We will continue to fight against the Hezbollah terrorist organization with all our strength until victory and the safe return of the residents of the north to their homes**  
ISRAEL KATZ | FOREIGN MINISTER, ISRAEL

**The world is speaking clearly for virtually all of the key countries in Europe and in the region on the need for the ceasefire**  
ANTONY BLINKEN | SECRETARY OF STATE, US

on. Hardliners in his government said Israel should reject any truce and keep hitting Hezbollah until it surrenders. Israel has launched the heav-

iest air strikes against Lebanon since a 2006 war over the past week, killing more than 600 people, as months of cross-border fire with the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement spiralled close to all-out war. Hezbollah has fired hundreds of missiles at targets in Israel including, for the first time, its commercial hub Tel Aviv, although Israel's aerial defence system has ensured that the damage has been limited. Asked if a ceasefire could be secured soon, Lebanese leader Mikati told Reuters: "Hopefully, yes." His caretaker administration includes ministers chosen by Hezbollah, widely seen as Lebanon's most powerful political force. On Wednesday, Israel's army chief made the most explicit public comment yet on the possibility of a ground assault on Lebanon, telling troops near the border to be prepared to cross. Israeli fighter jets Thursday hit infrastructure on the Lebanese-Syrian border to stop the transfer of weapons from Syria to Hezbollah in Lebanon, Israel's military said. The Lebanese health ministry said Thursday that at least 26 people had been killed across Lebanon in Israeli strikes overnight and throughout the day, most of them Syrians who were killed in the town of Younine in the Bekaa Valley. Lebanon is home to around 1.5 million Syrians who fled civil war there.

# US prepares \$8bn in arms for Ukraine

**WASHINGTON, Sept 26:** The United States plans to announce more than \$8 billion worth of military assistance for Ukraine Thursday during Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's visit to Washington, two US officials said Wednesday. President Joe Biden's administration has been engaged in urgent discussions with Congress to allow it to use up \$5.6 billion in military aid for Ukraine before September 30, the end of the federal fiscal year - when the authority was set to expire. On Thursday US officials said, the White House intends to notify Congress it will move forward with the announcement of a \$5.6 billion drawdown from US weapons stocks. The contents of that package are still in flux, the officials said. Reuters reported this month that the Biden administration was considering a backup plan under which it would announce plans for shipments for Ukraine, but with an extended delivery timeline for the weapons and equipment, allowing for a more gradual transfer of resources to Ukraine without missing the September 30 deadline. A second announcement slated for Thursday will be for \$2.4 billion worth of aid under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative program, which allows the administration to buy weapons for Ukraine from companies rather than pull them



from US stocks. That aid will include munitions, weapons to combat drones and material to support munitions production in Ukraine, one of the US officials said. In addition, the US announced Wednesday \$375 million worth of Presidential Drawdown Authority for Ukraine. **RUSSIA'S N-WARNING** Changes in Russia's nuclear doctrine are intended to discourage Ukraine's Western allies from supporting attacks on Russia, the Kremlin said Thursday. The Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the revisions in the document announced by President Vladimir Putin are a "warning signal to those countries about the consequences in case of their involvement in an attack on our country with various assets, not necessarily nuclear ones." In a strong, new warning to the West, Putin said Wednesday that any nation's conventional attack on Russia that is supported by a nuclear power will be considered a joint attack on his country.

## SNIPPETS

### No discrimination in Afghanistan: Taliban

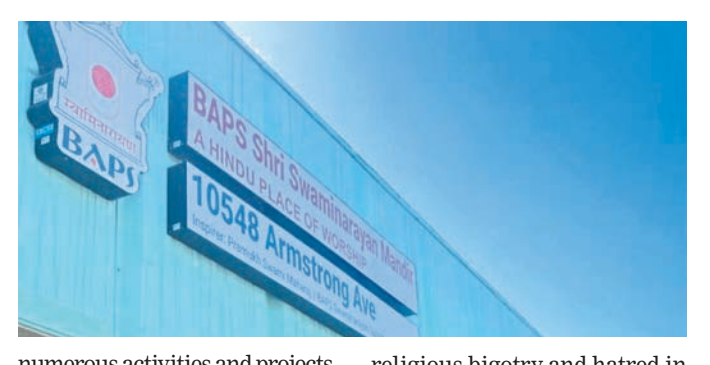
**Kabul:** The Taliban said Thursday it was absurd to accuse them of gender discrimination and other human rights violations, as four countries vow to hold Afghanistan's rulers accountable under international law for their treatment of women and girls. Australia, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands are set to start legal proceedings against the Taliban for violating a UN convention on women, to which Afghanistan is a party. The countries launched the initiative Wednesday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, which is taking place in New York until Monday. More than 20 countries expressed their support Thursday for the proposed legal action against the Taliban. The Taliban's deputy spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat said human rights were protected in Afghanistan and that nobody faced discrimination. "Unfortunately, an attempt is being made to spread propaganda against Afghanistan through the mouths of several fugitive (Afghan) women and misrepresent the situation," he said on social media platform X.



### US temple defaced with anti-hindu graffiti

**2nd vandalism incident within 10 days after the desecration of the BAPS Mandir in New York**

**WASHINGTON, Sept 26:** Unknown miscreants have vandalised the BAPS Hindu temple in California's Sacramento, desecrating it with expletive-laden graffiti saying "Hindus go back!", the BAPS Public Affairs said. "Less than 10 days after the desecration of the @BAPS Mandir in New York, our Mandir in the Sacramento, CA area was desecrated last night with anti-Hindu hate 'Hindus go back!' We stand united against hate with prayers for peace," the BAPS Public Affairs said in a post on X. Wednesday night's incident comes after the desecration of the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Melville, New York, September 17. "Our condemnation of hate remains resolute; our sadness has only deepened; and our prayers for all, including those with hate in their heart, have grown stronger," the organisation said in a statement. "BAPS is working with law enforcement authorities on this hate crime," the statement said. "The BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Sacramento is home to a vibrant Hindu community engaged in



numerous activities and projects to support the larger community. We are and shall remain an integral part of this community's fabric," the statement added. The temple community in response to the incident gathered for a prayer ceremony and called for peace and unity, remembering His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj's ideal of harmony and respect. This was the second incident of desecration at a BAPS temple in less than a month in the US amidst the growing trend of temple vandalism as part of a systematic hate crime against the Hindu community in the country. Amerish Babul or "Ami" Bera, an American physician and politician serving as a member of the US House of Representatives from California, said on X: "There is no place for

### Indian-origin author turns down award in protest of kaffiyeh ban

**NEW YORK, Sept 26:** Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian-origin writer Jhumpa Lahiri has declined to accept an award from the Noguchi Museum in Queens in protest after it fired three employees who had worn kaffiyehs in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza. "Jhumpa Lahiri has chosen to withdraw her acceptance of the 2024 Isamu Noguchi Award in response to our updated dress code policy," the museum said in a statement Wednesday. "We respect her perspective and understand that this policy may or may not align with everyone's views," The New York Times cited the statement as saying of Lahiri. "We remain committed to our core mission of advancing the understanding and appreciation of Isamu Noguchi's art and legacy while upholding our values of inclusivity and openness." The New-York based museum founded nearly 40 years ago by Noguchi, a Japanese American designer and sculptor, announced last month that employees during their working hours could not wear clothing or accessories expressing "political messages, slogans or symbols".

# N-bomb can deflect life-threatening asteroid

**SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN WORKING ON HOW TO STAVE OFF ANY BIG ASTEROIDS THAT COULD COME EARTH'S WAY IN THE FUTURE**

**Paris, Sept 26:** Humanity could use a nuclear bomb to deflect a massive, life-threatening asteroid hurtling towards Earth in the future, according to scientists who tested the theory in the laboratory by blasting X-rays at a marble-sized "mock asteroid". The biggest real-life test of our planetary defences was carried out in 2022, when NASA's fridge-sized DART spacecraft smashed into a 160-metre (525-foot) wide asteroid, successfully knocking it well off course. But for bigger asteroids, merely

crashing spaceships into them will probably not do the trick. When the roughly 10-kilometre wide Chicxulub asteroid struck the Yucatan peninsula around 66 million years ago, it is believed to have plunged Earth into darkness, sent kilometres-high tsunamis rippling around the globe and killed three quarters of all life, including wiping out the dinosaurs. We humans are hoping to avoid a similar fate. There is no current threat looming, but scientists have been working on how to stave off any big asteroids that could come our way in the future. A leading theory has been to blow them up with a nuclear bomb, a last-ditch plan famously depicted in the 1998 sci-fi action movie "Armageddon". In the movie, Bruce Willis and a plucky team of drillers save Earth from an asteroid 1,000 kilometres wide, roughly the size of Texas. For a proof-of-concept study



**The biggest real-life test of our planetary defences was carried out in 2022, when NASA's fridge-sized DART spacecraft smashed into a 160-metre wide asteroid, successfully knocking it well off course**  
published in the journal Nature Physics this week, a team of US scientists worked on a much smaller scale, taking aim at a mock asteroid just 12 millimetres (half an inch) wide. To test whether the theory would work, they used what was billed as the world's largest X-ray machine at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The machine is capable of generating "the brightest flash of X-rays in the world using 80 trillion watts of electricity", Sandia's Nathan Moore, the lead study author, told AFP. Much of the energy created by a nuclear explosion is in the form of X-rays. Since there is no air in space, there would be no shockwave or fireball. But the X-rays still pack a powerful punch. Turned into a "rocket engine" for the lab experiment, the X-rays easily vaporised the surface of the mock asteroid. The vaporising material then propelled the mock asteroid in the opposite direction, so that it effectively "turned into a rocket engine," Moore said. It reached speeds of 250 kilometres an hour, "about as fast as a high-speed train," he added. The test marked the first time that predictions about how X-rays would affect an asteroid had been confirmed, Moore said. "It really proves this concept could work."

### China, India make progress on Ladakh disengagement

**BEIJING, Sept 26:** China and India were able to "reduce differences" and build "some consensus" on disengaging troops from friction points to end the standoff in eastern Ladakh and agreed to maintain dialogue to reach a resolution acceptable to both sides at an "early date", the Chinese Defence Ministry said Thursday. Under the guidance of two leaders, China and India have maintained communication with each other through diplomatic and military channels including between two foreign ministers and China's Foreign Minister and India's National Security Advisor and through the border consultation mechanisms, Zhang Xiaogang said. Both China and India through talks were "able to reduce their differences and build some consensus besides agreeing to

strengthen dialogue to accommodate each other's legitimate concerns", Zhang, a spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defence, told a media briefing here. "The two sides agreed to reach a resolution at an early date acceptable to both sides," he said. He was replying to a question on the talks between the two countries on disengagement from the remaining friction points especially Demchok and Depsang to end the over four-year-long military standoff in eastern Ladakh resulting in a freeze of relations between the two countries. Zhang referred to the meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi as well as the recent meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS meeting in Russia between Wang and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.





**India has done well in areas like infrastructure in the last 10 years, but it also needs to do more in other sectors to boost local manufacturing and job creation**

**RAGHURAM RAJAN** | FORMER GOVERNOR, RBI

## JIO-BP'S 500TH EV-CHARGING UNIT

Anant Mukesh Ambani, Director, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Murray Auchincloss, CEO, bp, Thursday inaugurated the 500th Jio-bp pulse EV-charging station of Jio-bp. Jio-bp is a fuels and mobility joint venture between RIL and global energy giant BP



## of the day quote

The PLI schemes in the pharma and meditech sectors have been a roaring success, 50 brand new greenfield pharma and medical device manufacturing plants have already become operational, and 50 more are in the pipeline

**ARUNISH CHAWLA** | DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS SECRETARY, ASSOCHAM

With further rise in demand and restricted supply, the prices of natural rubber are expected to remain elevated, impacting the margins of tyre manufacturers well beyond fiscal 2025

**MOHIT ADMANI** | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR- RESEARCH, CRISIL

We would like to work on a system whereby industries can align and partner with us to improve 200 hub ITIs and 800 spoke it is. We will launch the skills voucher system very soon as well

**ATUL KUMAR TIWARI** | SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# Space to cut fuel prices by ₹2-3/L

The price of a basket of crude oil India imports averaged \$74 per barrel in September, down from about \$83-84 a barrel in March when petrol and diesel prices were last cut by ₹2 per litre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 26:** A reduction in crude oil prices in recent weeks has improved margins on retail auto fuels, providing state-owned firms a headroom to cut petrol and diesel prices by ₹2-3 per litre, rating agency Icrs said Thursday.

In a note, Icrs said the marketing margins on retail sales of auto fuels for the Indian Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have improved in recent weeks with the reduction in crude prices.

The rating agency anticipates that there is headroom for the downward revision of retail fuel prices if crude prices remain stable at current levels.

Girishkumar Kadam, Senior Vice President and Group Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA, said: "ICRA estimates that the OMCs' net realisation was higher by ₹15 per litre for petrol and ₹12 a litre for diesel vis-à-vis international product prices in September 2024 (till September 17). The retail selling price (RSPs) of these fuels have been unchanged since March 2024 (Rs 2/litre was reduced on petrol and diesel on March 15, 2024) and there appears to be headroom for their downward revision by ₹2-3 per litre, if crude prices remain stable".

Crude prices have witnessed a sharp decline in the last few months, primarily due to weak global economic growth and high US production and the



**The OMCs reported healthy operating margins in FY2024 (April 2023 to March 2024), recouping the losses incurred during FY2023. Despite moderation in the GRMs, the improvement in marketing margins is likely to result in the OMCs maintaining their profitability in H1 FY2025**

**GIRISHKUMAR KADAM** | SENIOR VP, ICRA

OPEC+ has pushed the rollback of its production cuts by two months to combat the declining prices.

A decline in the price of crude oil -- which is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel at refineries -- had rekindled hopes for a reduction in petrol and diesel rates that have been on a freeze for over two years now barring a pre-election reduction in March.

While petrol and diesel pricing is deregulated (meaning oil companies have the freedom to fix retail rates), the state-owned fuel retailers, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat

**Icrs's outlook on the refining and marketing sector remains stable**

Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), have rarely used this freedom since late 2021 by not revising prices in line with cost.

They stopped daily price revision in early November 2021 when rates across the country hit an all-time high, prompting the government to roll back a part of the excise duty hike it had effected during the pandemic to take advantage of low oil prices.

The freeze continued into 2022 but the war-led spike in international oil prices prompted a ₹10 a litre hike in petrol and diesel prices from mid-March 2022 be-

## CAREER BUZZ

### Chevening Scholarship goes online

The Chevening Scholarship offers a unique opportunity for future leaders from over 160 countries to pursue fully funded master's degrees at top UK universities. Sponsored by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) and partner organisations, it covers tuition fees, living expenses, and round-trip airfare, allowing scholars to focus on their studies and professional development. Chevening stands out for its global alumni network of over 57,000 innovators and leaders. This one-year programme includes exclusive access to over 40 annual events, offering a chance to build global connections and further develop professional skills. The alumni come from diverse backgrounds, contributing to fields such as politics, business, climate, arts, and law. Eligibility criteria include being a citizen of a Chevening-eligible country, having at least two years of work experience, and committing to return home for at least two years post-study. Applicants are assessed on leadership potential, networking abilities, and future aspirations. With no upper age limit, Chevening opens doors for mid-career professionals as well, offering fellowships for research or professional placements. This prestigious scholarship aims to foster positive change across the world, equipping scholars with the knowledge, networks, and skills to impact their home countries positively. To apply, visit [chevening.org/apply](https://chevening.org/apply).



## Gold continues to glitter at record high



**NEW DELHI:** Gold prices Thursday jumped by ₹400 to breach a record ₹78,000 per 10 gram level in the national capital on sustained buying by jewellers as well as strong trends in global markets. Maintaining its record-breaking run for the second day, gold spurred by ₹400 to a fresh lifetime high of ₹78,250 per 10 grams, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal had closed at ₹77,850 per 10 grams Wednesday. Silver also soared by ₹1,000 to ₹94,000 per kg on robust demand from industrial units and coin makers amid strong overseas trend. The metal had finished at ₹93,000 per kg in the previous session. In addition, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also hit a fresh high of ₹77,900 per 10 grams. On Wednesday, the yellow metal had ended at ₹77,500 per 10 grams. Traders said a rise in local demand, coupled with robust global trend supported gold prices.

## SHORT TAKES

### FinMin pre-Budget meet from Oct 10

**New Delhi:** The finance ministry will commence from October 10 its pre-Budget meetings with review of six ministries and departments, including new & renewable energy and skill development & entrepreneurship. The meetings, which will continue through November 11, are being held to firm up budgetary allocations for 2025-26 and finalise the revised estimates for the current fiscal year. On the last day, Ministry of Railway and Department of Health and Family Welfare will be discussed. The Union Budget 2025-26 is expected to focus on reforms to further accelerate growth and implement measures to boost job creation and economic demand.

### NCLAT clears IECCCL resolution

**New Delhi:** The NCLAT Thursday gave a go-ahead to the insolvency resolution of IL&FS Engineering and Construction Company Limited (IECCCL) and delinked it with the other listed loss-making companies of debt-ridden IL&FS. However, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) also clarified that ICICI-led consortium, which is opposing the IECCCL resolution, would have the liberty to press for its "objection on the extinguishment of its entire debt, or mere payment of 42.25 per cent shareholding of IECCCL in the ongoing resolution process." IL&FS, which owns 42.25 per cent of IECCCL, is selling a stake in the company and has invited bids under the Swiss Challenge method. It has received a binding bid from a prospective buyer and voting by lenders is expected to be completed by September 30, 2024.

### Star Health sues Telegram over leak

**Bangalore:** Top Indian insurer Star Health has sued Telegram and a self-styled hacker after Reuters reported that the hacker was using chatbots on the messaging app to leak personal data and medical reports of policy holders. The lawsuit comes amid growing scrutiny of Telegram globally and the arrest of its founder Pavel Durov in France last month, with the app's content moderation and features allegedly abused for illegal activities. Durov and Telegram denied wrongdoing and are addressing the criticism.

## Markets on a roll

Rallying for the sixth day in a row, Sensex jumps 666 pts to record high, Nifty closes above 26,200

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 26:** Benchmark Sensex rallied 666 points to close at a fresh record high Thursday following buying in auto and banking shares amid gains in global markets.

The BSE Sensex jumped 666.25 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at a record high of 85,836.12 amid monthly expiry in the derivatives segment. As many as 28 Sensex stocks advanced and two declined.

During the day, it reached a record intra-day peak of 85,930.43, surging 760.56 points or 0.89 per cent. The benchmark is just 69.57 points away from the 86,000-peak.

Rallying for the sixth day in a row, the NSE Nifty climbed 211.90 points or 0.81 per cent to close at a record high of 26,216.05. During the day, it soared 246.75 points or 0.94 per cent to hit a fresh intraday lifetime peak of 26,250.90.

From the 30 Sensex firms, Maruti jumped nearly 5 per cent. Tata Motors, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance and Nestle were the other big gainers.

Larsen & Toubro and NTPC were the laggards.

"China's recent economic stimulus announcement has greatly enhanced investor confidence,



resulting in significant positive momentum in global markets, especially within Asian indices. Moreover, the market is maintaining an optimistic outlook in response to stable US economic data," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

As many as 257 stocks hit their 52-week high levels while 46 firms declined to their 52-week lows.

Asian markets had a fantastic day at trade, with exchanges in Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settling with significant gains. European markets were trading in the positive territory. The US markets ended mostly lower Wednesday.

The BSE benchmark climbed 255.83 points or 0.30 per cent to settle at an all-time high of 85,169.87 Wednesday. The Nifty climbed 63.75 points or 0.25 per cent to close at a record high of 26,004.15.

## Govt retains borrowing target

CENTRE TO RAISE ₹6.61 LAKH CRORE IN H2 TO FUND REVENUE GAP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 26:** The Centre has retained its borrowing target for the current financial year and plans to raise ₹6.61 lakh crore through auction of dated securities during October-March period of 2024-25 to fund the revenue gap to boost economic growth.

"Out of Gross Market borrowing of ₹14.01 lakh crore budgeted for 2024-25, ₹6.61 lakh crore (47.2 per cent) is planned to be borrowed in H2 through issuance of dated securities, including ₹20,000 crore of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGRBs)," the finance ministry said in a statement Thursday.

The gross market borrowing of ₹6.61 lakh crore shall be completed through 21 weekly auctions.

The market borrowing will be spread over 3, 5, 7, 10, 15, 30, 40 and 50 year securities. The share of borrowing (including SGRBs) under different maturities will be 3-year (5.3 per cent), 5-year (10.6 per cent), 7-year (7.6 per cent), 10-year (24.8 per cent), 15-year (13.2 per cent), 30-year (12.1 per cent), 40-year (15.9 per cent) and 50-year (10.6 per cent).

The government will carry out switching/buyback of securities to smoothen the redemption profile, it said.

It will continue to reserve the



Out of the gross market borrowing of ₹14.01-cr estimated for 2024-25, ₹7.4L-cr, or 52.8%, is already raised in H1

Against the estimate of ₹10L-cr for 2023-24, the govt has earmarked ₹11.11L-cr for this year

right to exercise greenshoe option to retain an additional subscription of up to ₹2,000 crore against each of the securities indicated in the auction notifications, it said.

Weekly borrowing through issuance of Treasury Bills in the third quarter of 2024-25 is expected to be ₹19,000 crore for 13 weeks with issuance of ₹7,000 crore under 91 dated treasury bills (DTBs), ₹6,000 crore under 182 DTBs and ₹6,000 crore under 364 DTBs.

To take care of temporary mismatches in government accounts, the Reserve Bank of India has fixed the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for H2 of FY 2024-25 at ₹50,000 crore.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the interim Budget had proposed to borrow ₹14.13

lakh crore by issuing dated securities to meet revenue shortfall in the next financial year.

However, she reduced the gross borrowing estimate by ₹12,000 crore in the final Budget tabled in July on account of robust revenue collection.

The gross borrowing for FY25 is lower than last year's gross borrowing estimate of ₹15.43 lakh crore, which was the highest ever.

"The gross and net market borrowings through dated securities during 2024-25 are estimated at ₹14.01 lakh crore and ₹11.63 lakh crore respectively. Both will be less than that in 2023-24," she had said.

There are signs of private investment picking up in the steel and cement sector due to massive capital expenditure by the government.

# FinMin expects 6.5-7% GDP growth in FY25

THE FINANCE MINISTRY SEES FOOD INFLATION EASING, LOW OIL PRICES A 'BRIGHT SPOT'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 26:** India is set to achieve 6.5-7 per cent GDP growth in the current financial year as indicated by the movements in high-frequency indicators till August, a finance ministry report said Thursday.

The recent developments analysed indicate strong foundations of macroeconomic stability in India with steady growth, investment, employment and inflation trends, a strong and stable financial sector and a resilient external account, including a comfortable foreign exchange reserve position.

"A challenge on the macroeconomic front is of navigating the continuing uncertainty in



global economic prospects. We will likely encounter a cycle of policy rate cuts globally amid fears of a recession in advanced economies and continuing geopolitical conflicts," the Monthly Economic Review for August said.

On balance, the report said, the GDP growth of 6.7 per cent in Q1 FY25 and the movements in high-

vestment impetus. In the farm sector, higher kharif acreage is already visible. Adequately replenished reservoir levels will potentially give a fillip to the upcoming Rabi crops as well.

The skewed spatial distribution of rain may have an impact on farm output in a few regions. However, in the absence of any serious adverse climate shocks, rural incomes and demand should get stronger, and food inflation will be milder, it said.

There are also incipient signs of strains in certain sectors. For instance, the automobile dealers' body FADA has pointed to moderating sales of passenger vehicles and a build-up of inventory, it added.

Data from Nielsen IQ indicated that the growth of fast-moving consumer goods sales in urban areas slowed in Q1 FY25.

While these may turn out to be transient with the onset of the festival season, they warrant monitoring. Further, capital spending by Indian states has declined in the current financial year.

Stock markets around the world are booming, reinforced by recent policy announcements in a few countries, it said.

"Consequently, the risk of an eventual correction has risen. If the risk materialises, the spillover effect may be felt globally as well," it said. Amidst these concerns, it said, low oil prices are a bright spot for the economy.

## LIC announces TCoE in Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** LIC is setting up a state-of-the-art Testing Center of Excellence (TCoE) in Bhubaneswar. This strategic move underscores LIC's commitment to technological innovation and operational excellence.

Bhubaneswar, recognized as one of India's fastest-growing IT hubs, offers a great environment for the development of LIC's advanced IT solutions. This TCoE will be equipped with all modern tools and expertise, including cutting-edge automation tools.

The deployment of these advanced technologies will ensure greater efficiency, accuracy, and faster turnaround time. The new TCoE will initially host approximately 100 IT professionals, comprising both LIC employees and expert vendors, who will focus on enhancing digital capabilities.

## Tata, PSMC conclude pact for ₹91,000-cr chip making facility

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 26:** Tata Electronics Thursday said it has concluded an agreement with Taiwan-based Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation, which will provide technology support for the Dholera wafer fab of the Indian tech major.

As per the agreement, PSMC will provide design and construction support to build India's first AI-enabled greenfield fab in Gujarat, license a broad portfolio of technologies and provide engineering support to the fab unit.

"We are pleased to partner with PSMC, whose technology and expertise will significantly accelerate our roadmap to pioneer semiconductor manufacturing in India. It will position us to play a key role in the growing semiconductor market to serve global customers," Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrabosekaran said.

The company is setting up a chip manufacturing unit in Dholera at an investment of up to ₹91,000 crore (about \$11 billion).



# Chess, a happy accident: Vedit

OLYMPIAD GOLD MEDALLIST INITIALLY WANTED TO PLAY CRICKET LIKE ANY OTHER KID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Sept 26:** Grandmaster Vedit Gujrathi was just another Indian kid who dreamt of becoming a cricketer in his childhood before an accidental initiation to chess, which he feels was a 'very happy accident'. He was part of the five-member Indian men's team that won a historic gold in the open category of the recent Olympiad in Budapest.

"It (chess) was accidental. I was six-years-old and I was very mischievous as a child. My parents wanted to engage me in some activity. I used to play cricket like every Indian kid," Gujrathi stated.

"My dad took me to a club and there cricket was played with hard ball, so he asked to me wait for a year and till then pick another sport. So I started chess. My father taught me and I wanted to win against him, so that was the motivation. It was an accident but a very happy accident," Gujrathi added.

The 29-year-old from Nashik became a Grandmaster in 2013 and was also a part of India's silver medal-winning side at the Hangzhou Asian Games.

"It (winning gold) has not sunk in yet, but I do know this

achievement is going to stay with us for a long time. Scoring 21 out of a possible 22 points is the highest-ever and it would be hard to break this record," Gujrathi pointed out.

"This was the same team that played in the Asian Games. That was the first time we all were together. We won silver there and there were lessons that we learnt from the Asian Games. This time we came with a new vibe, we are rooting for each other, celebrating each others' success," the Grandmaster stated.

Gujrathi said it was not easy to script such a dominating performance as they felt the

pressure of being rated as one of the favourites in the Olympiad.

"When the team was drafted we knew that

we are one of the favourites. Everybody around us kept telling us the same but I never thought of it. As we got closer to the event we started to realise there is that pressure which has started to build. But what took away the pressure is when we started to play. We won the first match 4-0 and the second by the same margin. We then knew we had a chance," Gujrathi informed.

**"I hope chess is included in the Olympics someday. I was watching the Paris Olympics and was rooting for our players. When we were winning medals, I thought I want to do this as well"**

VIDIT GUJRATHI



## 'Women's game needs attention'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Sept 26:** Overjoyed by India's remarkable dual triumph at the Chess Olympiad, five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand said that while this marks a promising beginning, there is still much work to be done for women's chess in the country.

"It's a very good beginning. I think still a long way to go because we must continuously keep progressing," Anand said on the sidelines of the Tech Mahindra Global Chess League. "And more important, get more and more girls to play. I think this result will inspire more girls to play chess and that is the hope," he added.

The 54-year-old chess icon said he was delighted to witness history being created by Indian players. "First, great pride that it had happened. It's not like the result caught me by surprise. But you're happy to suddenly realise that you're double Olympiad champions, I know all of them for many, many years, and there's also the feeling of being with friends who had great success," Anand said.

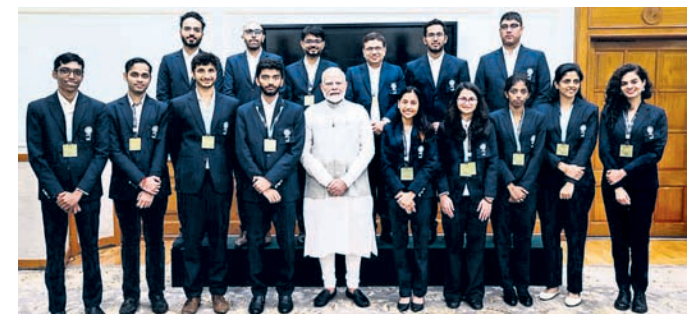
"I personally enjoyed being there (Budapest). I enjoyed listening to the national anthem twice. And I knew that the whole world kind of took notice of India's performance," Anand added.

Anand feels that to continue the recent success in chess, India must tap into the talent at the grassroots level. "First, grow the game. Increase the base of the pyramid, so to speak. And support players at all levels and at the grassroots level," Anand stated.

**"The players should be aware that every country will come back stronger against India. However, we have a fantastic group of players who will continue to bring laurels and win titles"**

VISWANATHAN ANAND

## Champion squads 'chill' with Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi poses with the gold-winning men's and women's chess teams at his residence in New Delhi, Thursday

TOPICS RANGE FROM AI, SPORTS AND HOW TO HANDLE PRESSURE

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Sept 26:** Artificial Intelligence (AI), an upcoming birthday, and the ambition to make India a sporting powerhouse came up for discussion when Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the Olympiad gold-winning Indian chess teams at his residence here Thursday, seeking to understand their mindset in the high-pressure event.

In the interaction, both the men's and women's teams, who won gold medals in the event for the first time ever, sat with the PM to share their experiences and also ask him about his interest in sports.

Member of the women's team Harika Dronavalli said all the players got so involved in a conversation that 'we forgot we were speaking with the PM'. "He (Modi) is so down to earth; we were speaking like we were having a normal conversation. The atmosphere was so, surprisingly chill, I will remember this experience forever," she said.

Modi asked them about their sensational run during which the men's team won 21 of the 22 points on offer and the women gathered 19 from a total of 22. He also wanted to know how their opponents reacted to the stupendous performance. "All our opponents expressed their hap-

piness for us," responded Harika. D Gukesh, who is now gearing up for the much-awaited world title clash against China's Ding Liren in November-December, reiterated that it was team-work that steered the gold-winning show.

"This experience was a great team effort. We were in excellent form, we were all super motivated. In the last Olympiad, there was one match I should have won to guarantee a gold for India but unfortunately lost," Gukesh said. "This time we were motivated to win," the reticent 18-year-old added.

The PM was curious to know how AI is shaping the future of chess where players routinely test themselves against computers. "With AI, chess has evolved, the computers have become much stronger, showing new ideas," said R Praggnanandhaa.

Tania Sachdev then threw a query at the PM, asking him about his interest in sports and Modi said it was an important indicator of a nation's growth.

"Economy is not the only indicator of growth and development. Development requires invincibility in every field. So if you are talking about films, how many Oscars are your films winning? If you talk about science then the number of Nobel Prize winners. In the same way, when our kids win maximum gold medals, that's how our country becomes great," Modi answered.

**This meeting with the PM has truly been motivational and he inspired us a lot. It's truly a special day for all of us**

TANIA SACHDEV

## SHORT TAKES

### Cameroon defender Bodolo joins OFC

**Bhubaneswar:** Odisha FC have signed Cameroonian defender Eliane Manbola Bodolo for their women's team. Club officials said that the experienced Bodolo will certainly bolster the defence during matches. Prior to joining Odisha FC, Bodolo had been playing for Extremadura UD club in Spain playing 14 matches and scoring two goals. "We are excited to have Eliane join our squad," said Crispin Chettri, head coach of the Odisha FC women's team. "Her experience and leadership will greatly enhance our defensive capabilities and we are confident she will make a significant contribution to the performance of the team," he added.

### Barcelona register 7th successive win

**Madrid:** With Robert Lewandowski on target again, Barcelona extended their perfect start to the Spanish league season. Lewandowski scored his seventh goal in as many matches and Barcelona won their seventh in a row in the La Liga by defeating Getafe 1-0 at home Wednesday. The triumph gives Barcelona their second-best league start ever, equalling the seven victories they also achieved at the start of the 2017-18 season. The Catalan club won eight straight matches to start the 2013-14 season. "The boys have been fantastic," coach Hansi Flick stated. Barcelona currently have a four-point lead over defending champions, Real Madrid.

### Maiden win for MSC

**Chennai:** Debutants Mohammedan Sporting Club (MSC) earned their maiden victory at the ISL defeating Chennaiyin FC (CFC) 1-0 with Lalremsanga Fanai scoring the solitary goal of the game here Thursday. Fanai struck in the 39th minute to give the Kolkata side, who were promoted to the ISL after winning the I-League, their first ever win in the top-tier league. CFC started the game strongly, and before MSC's goal, they had two chances to score. However, those were missed by Irfan Yadwad and Lalrinliana Hnamte

## ROHIT, KOHLI EYE RETURN TO FORM



Head coach Gautam Gambhir and captain Rohit Sharma have something to talk about during the training session

**2ND TEST AGAINST BANGLADESH BEGINS TODAY WITH INDIA STILL UNDECIDED ON PLAYING XI**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kanpur, Sept 26:** India would want their big guns Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma to fire when the mighty hosts aim for a clean sweep against a beleaguered

Bangladesh in the second and final Test starting here Friday. However, even though they announced the playing XI in Chennai a day before the game, they have not done so here. Discussions are on whether to play three spinners or three pacers.

Assistant coach Abhishek Nayar while talking to reporters said that the nature of the pitch and overhead conditions on the morning of the match will influence the decision-making. "To be honest, I don't know which surface we are going to

Ravindra Jadeja is one away from 300 Test wickets. If he gets it he will be the second man after Ian Botham to score 3,000-plus runs and bag 300 wickets in Tests

Rain can play spoilsport on the first and third day

Till date India have not lost a Test to Bangladesh.

play on yet. Both the pitches look pretty good. Kanpur is often known to have good pitches. I am not sure about the bounce yet," Nayar said

"It is too early for us to judge and decide or have any sort of thought process on the pitch or the conditions. But we are hoping we come in tomorrow (Friday) to a sunny day and not an overcast Kanpur," he said and added that all the players are available, fit and ready to go.

India will be hoping that their batting big guns, skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli along with KL Rahul get some runs under their belts. Both Kohli and Rohit failed to get among the runs in the first Test despite India's overall supremacy. With a long Test season ahead of them, the two premier batters must be itching to get back among the runs.

The way India bounced back in the Chennai game reaffirmed their supremacy in Test cricket, especially at home where they are on course for a record-extending 18th consecutive series win.

The Green Park wicket has traditionally been a low and slow track that assists spinners. It means, India can play three spinners instead of three pacers. If that is indeed the case, Akash Deep could make way for Kuldeep Yadav.

In the last Test played at Green Park in 2021, India had fielded three spinners - Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel - in a game that ended in a thrilling draw with New Zealand.

## 10 from state for U-23 athletics meet

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Sept 26:** Ten athletes from Odisha will be participating at the IVth Indian Open U-23 Athletics Competition 2024, which will be held September 28 to 30 in Patna. These athletes who train at the Odisha RF Athletics High-Performance Centre, will compete across a range of events. They are Animesh Kujur and Reyan Basha (both in 100m and 200m) Abhisekh Dalabehera and Sukhi Baskey (100m), Astik Pradhan (400m) Jashbir Nayak (decathlon), Laxmipriya Kisan and Dayanidhi Munda (800m) Nikhil Kumar Das (high jump)



and Susmita Tigga (3000m steeplechase).

Speaking about the preparation of the athletes, Martin Owens, the head coach at the high-performance centre, expressed his optimism. "This group of ath-

letes has been putting in tremendous effort, and their dedication is evident in their recent performances. Each one of them has a great chance to make their mark at the U-23 competition," Owens stated.

## Srikanth shines

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Macau, Sept 26:** Star Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth advanced to the men's singles quarter-finals of the Macau Open Super 300 badminton tournament with 21-13, 21-18 victory over compatriot Ayush Shetty in the second round here Thursday.

In women's doubles, the pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also reached the quarter-finals, securing a solid 22-20, 21-11 win over Chinese Taipei's Lin Chih-Chun and Teng Chun Hsun in just 38 minutes.

In women's singles Tasnim Mir lost to Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan 17-21, 21-13, 10-21.

LEGENDS LEAGUE CRICKET

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## Shakib announces retirement plans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Kanpur, Sept 26:** Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan announced Thursday his retirement from T20 Internationals with immediate effect and also said that the second Test against India will be his last if his country's board doesn't give him a farewell match against South Africa at home. His final international game for Bangladesh will be in the Champions Trophy which is likely to be held in UAE and Pakistan.

The 37-year-old great, who featured in 129 T20Is for Bangladesh will, however, continue to play in franchise leagues.

"I have played my last T20 match in the World Cup. I have discussed this with the selectors. Looking at the 2026 World Cup, this is the right time for me to move out," said Shakib on the eve of the second and final Test against India here.

Shakib, who has played 70 Tests, scoring 4,600 runs and taking 242 wickets might just play his last Test here in case the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) can't assure him of his security



after being accused of murder although he wasn't even in the country at that time.

"I have expressed my desire to play my last Test in Mirpur to BCB. They agreed with me. They are trying to organise everything so that I can go to Bangladesh. If that doesn't happen, the match against India in Kanpur would be my last in Test cricket," he added.

When it comes to cricketing pedigree, Shakib's 14,271 international runs with 14 centuries, 708 wickets and 119 catches across 446 international games in the last 17 years, puts him on a pedestal which will be difficult to surpass for Bangladeshi cricketers in the coming generations.