



Righteous Adah

Actor Adah Sharma says she won't take a shortcut or do something that she thinks is morally incorrect to get success

LEISURE | P2



Netanyahu at UN

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu at the UNGA podium says he is there to refute the untruths told by other leaders on the same rostrum

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Stocks take breather

Sensex and Nifty retract from lifetime highs to settle lower Friday due to profit-taking in frontline stocks

BUSINESS | P11



Neeraj's next goal

Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra says that his next target is to win a medal at the World Championships next year

SPORTS | P12



POSING WITH PACHYDERMS: Miss Universe Great Britain Christina Dela Cruz Chalk poses for photos at the Elephant Conservation and Care Centre, at Churmura in Mathura district, Friday

Was asked to get out of police station: CM

Recounting the incident that occurred barely a month before he became CM, Majhi emphasised that police should treat citizens properly

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday recounted an incident from the past where an inspector asked him to 'get out' of a police station. Majhi made the remark after inaugurating the two-day collectors' conference here at Lok Seva Bhawan.

Reflecting on his experience that took place barely a month before he became the CM, Majhi said residents of Raisuani and Gopinathpur panchayats in Keonjhar constituency had staged a protest over drinking water crisis by blocking NH-20 May 2, when the simultaneous polls in Odisha were underway.

Majhi assured them he would raise their concerns with the executive engineer of the department. However, when the then inspector in-charge, Trinath Sethi, invited the protesters to the police station, he questioned Majhi's presence there, disregarding his role as an MLA.

"The inspector questioned my



presence at the police station, stating the Model Code of Conduct was in effect, and told me to 'get out' or he would arrest me," Majhi said.

"Can't an MLA, who is also a candidate, visit the police station with people's problems?" Majhi questioned.

Feeling humiliated, Majhi staged a sit-in outside the police station demanding accountability for the inspector's actions.

"Thanks to Lord Jagannath's blessings, I became the CM. I could only imagine the inspector's situation afterward. I forgave him, believing he acted

under pressure," Majhi remarked, emphasising that police stations should treat citizens properly. He said when people come to file complaints, they should be taken seriously and directed senior officials to look into it.

Majhi cited an example involving President Droupadi Murmu, who faced disrespect from a district collector while serving as a minister two decades ago during a meeting in Keonjhar.

He urged officials to change these practices and foster a culture of respect and accountability within government institutions.



IRREGULAR by MANJUL



One prescription is for the disease, and the other is for the side effects in case the medicines are of poor quality

Quality check for Mahaprasad

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: The Odisha government Friday said it has decided to introduce a quality check mechanism for 'Mahaprasad' and ghee being used at Srimandir in Puri.

The decision came after a major row that erupted following Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu's claims of low-quality ghee and presence of animal fat in lad- doos made and distributed at Tirupati Balaji temple.

Law Minister Prithiviraj

Harichandan said a food inspector will be appointed at Srimandir, who will check quality of materials being used for preparation of Mahaprasad. All articles will undergo a quality check before going to the temple kitchen and after offering to deities, he said.

2 get death for triple murder

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Sept 27: Two persons were sentenced to death by a court in Angul district Friday for killing a couple and their minor son during a robbery attempt.

The convicts, Prakash Behera and Nanda Kishore Sethi, entered the house of Biranchi Nayak in Gambharimaliha in Kishore Nagar police station area October 9, 2017, for robbery. The duo killed Nayak, his wife Tarini and four-year-old son Naba, and dumped their bodies in different places, according to the prosecution. The convicts were arrested within three days of the incident and confessed to the crime, the prosecution said.

Additional district sessions judge, Athmallik, sentenced Behera and Sethi to death.

According to the prosecution, Nayak had borrowed ₹1.5 lakh from a self-help group for some purposes before the incident.

Bhadrak tense over social media post



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Sept 27: The district administration here issued prohibitory order under Section of 163 of BNS for an indefinite period in view of the prevailing law and order situation at Santhia following an offensive post on social media, Friday.

Seven platoons of police force have been deployed on the spot.

According to reports, a youth made the derogatory post on Instagram Thursday. In protest against this,

some people from the minority community lodged a complaint at Puruna Bazaar police station and demanded immediate arrest of the youth. Police assured them to arrest the accused within two days. However, when the youth again posted some offensive message on social media Friday afternoon, hundreds of youths from the minority community marched towards Bhadrak city.

They were stopped near Santhia bridge by Bhadrak Tehsildar Priyadarshi Sangram Keshari Khuntia, Town DSP Anuman Dwivedi, and Town PS IIC Ajay Sudharsan Bage. Demanding immediate arrest of the youth, they staged a road blockade near the Santhia bridge by burning tyres on the road.

Following an argument with police a scuffle broke out. The agitators pelted stones at the police in which Town PS ASI Rajen Murmu suffered serious injuries on head.

Several other police personnel were injured in the stone pelting. DSP Dwivedi was also attacked and injured. The Tehsildar's vehicle was also damaged in the stone pelting.

Trump's new biz: \$100,000 watches

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Sept 27: He's sold Bibles, sneakers, photo books and cryptocurrency during his third campaign for president. Now, Donald Trump is launching a new business venture: diamond-encrusted watches.

The Republican presidential candidate unveiled the 'Official Trump Watch Collection' Thursday. The most expensive, listed as including 122 diamonds on its bezel and available in three 18-karat gold styles, costs USD 100,000. Another "Fight Fight Fight" model is listed at USD 499.

Trump has hawked a series of branded products since he launched his 2024 White House campaign, following his long tradition of melding his political and business interests. Thursday's launch, coming 40 days before Election Day, could open him up to criticism about monetising his campaign, particularly as he makes an argument that Vice President Kamala Harris is out of



touch with Americans' economic struggles.

While websites for the various products note that proceeds from their sales do not directly benefit Trump or his campaign, they also note that each is subject to a 'paid license agreement.'

That's the same mechanism that allowed Trump, well before he entered politics, to profit for years from sales of everything from water, vodka and steaks.

Earlier this week, he announced the sale of USD 100 silver coins bearing his face. In March, ahead of Easter, Trump released a video on Truth Social urging his supporters

to spend USD 59.99 for a 'God Bless the USA Bible,' inspired by country singer Lee Greenwood's patriotic ballad. Trump takes the stage to the song at each of his rallies and has appeared with Greenwood at events.

In February, he hawked new Trump-branded sneakers at 'Sneaker Con,' a gathering that bills itself as the 'The Greatest Sneaker Show on Earth.'

The shoes, shiny gold high tops with an American flag detail on the back, are being sold as 'Never Surrender High-Tops' for USD 399 on a new website that also sells other Trump-branded shoes and 'Victory47' cologne and perfume for USD 99 a bottle.

Trump has also dabbled in NFTs, or nonfungible tokens, and last year reported earning between USD 100,000 and USD one million from a series of digital trading cards that portrayed him in cartoon-like images, including as an astronaut, a cowboy and a superhero.

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୨୮ ସେପ୍ଟେମ୍ବର, ୨୦୨୪

“ସଂଗୋଧୂତ ଏମ.ଟି.ପି ଅଧିନିୟମ: ଭାରତରେ ଗର୍ଭପାତ ସେବାର ପରିସର ବୃଦ୍ଧି”

ଡାକ୍ତରଙ୍କ ପରାମର୍ଶରେ ଏବଂ ଅନୁମୋଦିତ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକେନ୍ଦ୍ରମାନଙ୍କରେ ଗର୍ଭଧାରଣତାରୁ ୨୪ ସପ୍ତାହ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଯେକୌଣସି ସମୟରେ ଗର୍ଭପାତ କରାଇବା ନିରାପଦ ।

- ୯ ସପ୍ତାହ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବଟିକା ସେବନ ଦ୍ୱାରା
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ଗର୍ଭପାତ ଯେତେ ଶୀଘ୍ର କରାଯିବ ସେତିକି ହେବ ସହଜ, ସରଳ ଓ ସୁରକ୍ଷିତ

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କେବଳ ଅନୁମୋଦିତ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ଗର୍ଭପାତ କରାନ୍ତୁ । ଏ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ ଅଧିକ ସୂଚନା ପାଇଁ ଆଶା, ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକର୍ମୀ କିମ୍ବା ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟକେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ପରାମର୍ଶ କରନ୍ତୁ ।

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ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

leisure

FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
Today you will feel mushy and forlorn. Ganesh says you will make special efforts to strengthen your relationships. You look upon commitment as a security for the future. As a result, you will develop strong, long-term bondings.

TAURUS
You will find comfort, perched on a branch in the family tree, today. Your maturity will help you deal with emotional issues with ease. Energy and exuberance will be an investment you make today, the results of which you will reap in the days to come, hopes Ganesh.

GEMINI
Today, you will toil as if you have to conquer Mt. Everest. And you will, says Ganesh. You may not get a standing ovation or a medal of honour for your hard work and dedication, but you will be lavishly appreciated by your superiors and colleagues. The task will require a lot of character and even a few changes in your disposition, but you will do this with ease.

CANCER
When the going gets tough, it's better to go with the flow. But you belong to a school of thought that believes that in such troubled times, it's better to stay out of water altogether. Since it is not your day today, you are likely to postpone all important decisions and work. Ganesh approves.

LEO
The trader in you comes to the fore today. With an impeccable eye for recognising profitable avenues, you will quickly spot opportunities that arise from buying goods at cheaper prices, and selling them off at a rate that leaves you with a lump sum profit.

VIRGO
There is a strong indication that you will dabble in writing or performing arts, and emerge with excellent results. Since these are your passions, you may cultivate hobbies in these fields, if they are not already your profession. Enjoy the power you have over people today as you grip them with sweet words, swinging to your whims, says Ganesh.

LIBRA
Your family is the cornerstone of your success. And today is no different. Your auspicious day starts from your home, and you manage to carry this luck everywhere you go with the same tempo and gusto, predicts Ganesh. Your smile enables you to keep winning people to your side.

SCORPIO
You will spend most of the day in self-introspection and in testing your capabilities. You will take all the needed steps to improve your professional proficiency. Your rare insight and gifted understanding of human nature will prepare you for leadership in the near future, hopes Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Today, you will most certainly put your heart and soul into your work. But it is rather unlikely that you will get the returns in proportion to the efforts you put in. Yet, at the end of the day, you will be more than satisfied that you have got the chance to display your innate talents, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
Often, sentiments take over your mind. Making you impractical, at times, this tendency proves to be harmful for you. Don't show it on your face as others may take advantage of your weakness, advises Ganesh. If you don't control your emotions, it may become an obstacle in your path to success. Be strong and give a tough fight to those who want to go ahead of you.

AQUARIUS
You plot and plan well today! A lot of your time, energy and money may go into less productive activities. But the quality of your work will near perfection. Keep it up, says Ganesh, it is this creativity which gives you an edge over others.

PISCES
Today your intellectual streak comes to the fore. You will indulge your curiosity and take interest in natural phenomenon. Your faith will help you complete all your pending tasks with ease. You will leave things to destiny. You will be more inclined to intellectual pursuits rather than professional, however, do not neglect your responsibilities, says Ganesh.



HARRY POTTER ACTRESS MAGGIE SMITH DIES

Maggie Smith, who won an Oscar for *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* in 1969 and won new fans in the 21st century as the dowager Countess of Grantham in *Downton Abbey*, has died, her publicist said Friday. The *Harry Potter* actress was 89.

NAOMI DISQUALIFIED AS CHARITY TRUSTEE

English model Naomi Campbell has been banned from being a charity trustee for five years following a probe by the Charity Commission into her own Fashion For Relief organisation.



FSB'S 5TH IDFFB: DAY II

Film on farmers' stir in spotlight



Bhubaneswar: The second day of the Indian Documentary Film Festival Bhubaneswar (IDFFB), organised by Film Society Bhubaneswar (FSB), saw participation from students of various educational institutes, including NIFT, Centurion University, XIM University, Biju Patnaik Film & Television Institute of Odisha, and Ravenshaw University.

The day's line-up featured documentaries focussing on critical social and political issues, sparking meaningful discussions among attendees.

The day opened with *Trolley Times* by Gurvinder Singh, documenting the farmers' protest against the Union government's farm laws at the Delhi border, drawing all round attention. This was followed by *Umbro*, directed and edited by Prachee Bajania, who engaged with the audience in a post-screening discussion, sharing her insights on the filmmaking process.

Gia Singh Arora's *In No Sence* and *Dekho Main Hoon* explored themes of desire, guilt, and oppression through the medium of dance, generating lively discussions at the event. Vikramaditya Motwane's *Indira's Emergency*, which revisited the Emergency period (1975-1977) through archival footage and interviews, grabbed attention, while Lalit Vachani's *Prisoner No. 626710*, a film documenting the arrest of student activist Umar Khalid under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, also struck a chord with the viewers.

The retrospective on filmmaker Haobam Paban Kumar continued with *Mr. India*, a documentary on the life of HIV-positive bodybuilder K Pradipkumar from Manipur. Niharika Popli's *If I Could Tell You* concluded the day's screenings, exploring the role of Indian sign language in the lives of hearing-impaired individuals.

Day two set a high bar for the remainder of the festival, leaving audiences engaged and reflective.



'Emotion has no particular language'

Abu Dhabi: Regina Cassandra will be seen sharing screen space with Nawazuddin Siddiqui in the crime thriller *Section 108*.

Ever since her debut in 2005 with *Kanda Naal Mudhal*, Regina has worked in a myriad genres in Telugu and Tamil films. It was in 2019, when the 33-year-old actress made her Hindi film debut with Sonam Kapoor-starrer *Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga*.

Talking about working in various languages, she said: "The beauty of working in different languages, just the fact that you know, emotion has no particular language but just the fact that you have to learn to express it in a different way, I find that very beautiful."

Regina feels privileged to get the work that she has been getting.

"If I must say, to have been able to work in every industry and I'm happy that as an actor, I'm versatile enough to be able to pull it off and I think I love all the industries."

The actress will be present at the 24th edition of International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA), where she will be performing on a nine-minute medley.

Adah: Won't take shortcut to success

Mumbai: Actress Adah Sharma is ready for the release of her new web series, *Reeta Sanyal*, where she portrays a dedicated lawyer and sharp detective tackling crime.

Talking about the same, *The Kerala Story* actress, said: "Like Reeta, I think Adah is also righteous so I identified with that. I won't take a shortcut or do something that I think is morally incorrect for success even if I know I would get what I want."

"Reeta also loves her country just like me. Reeta gets into a lot of trouble for speaking up and standing with the truth and she knows there is another way but she still chooses to stand with the truth. I have faced situations in real life where I've been through exactly the same emotion so I identified with her. Reeta is also a human lie detector, she can tell when people are lying just like me," added the 32-year-old actress.

Produced by Rajeshwar Nair and Krishnan Iyer under the banner of Keylight Productions and directed by Abhirup Ghosh, the series is based on the character created by the acclaimed writer

Amit Khan. The series also includes a stellar star cast - Rahul Dev, Ankur Rathee, and Manik Papneja in key roles.



Siddhant's passion for dance

Abu Dhabi: Actor Siddhant Chaturvedi, who is eagerly preparing to perform at the 24th edition of the International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA), recently revealed his passion for dance, describing it as his first love. With a strong desire to explore this art form further, Siddhant expressed his aspiration to star in a dance-centric film.

In a conversation with this agency, Siddhant expressed his excitement regarding the IIFA, saying, "I am a bit nervous, but I know it is going to be fun. I am going to be hosting and performing as well, I am going to dance a bit. I will be doing a lot

of gags so I am just trying to keep everybody hooked and entertained."

Siddhant, who is also proficient in singing and painting, shared his heartfelt connection to dance when asked about his artistic preferences.

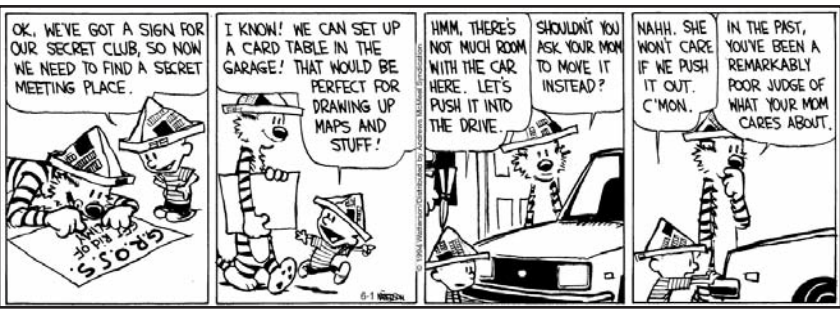
He revealed, "Not many people know, but dancing was my first love. A lot of people haven't watched me dance yet, but hopefully in my upcoming films, they will get to see that side of me. That's how it all started. Dancing is my first love and will always be."

The actor was last seen in *Yudhra*.

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

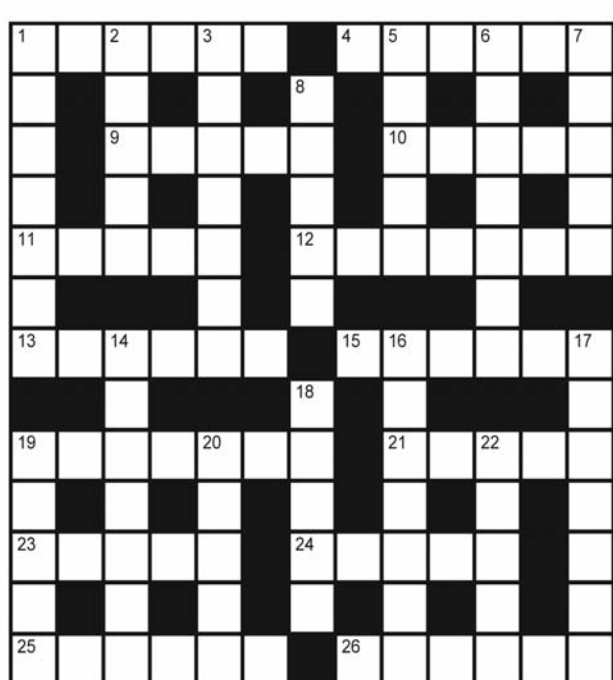


BREVITY



FUN post

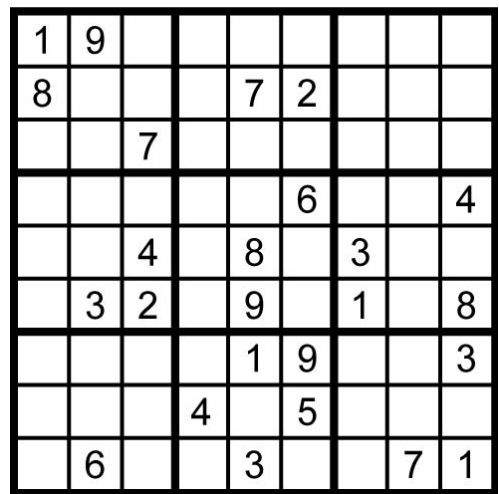
CROSSWORD



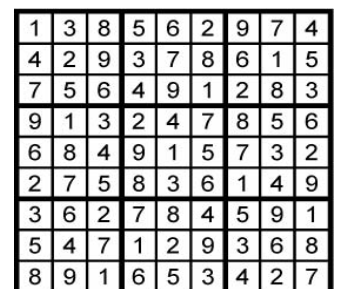
- Across**
- 1 Metal bars
 - 4 Funny stuff
 - 9 Bay window
 - 10 Rash
 - 11 Numbers game
 - 12 Eau de cologne
 - 13 Trickery
 - 15 Means of escape
 - 19 Place for a fan
 - 21 Automaton
 - 23 Stingless bee
- Down**
- 24 Proposal
 - 25 Kings and Queens, e.g.
 - 26 Spirited
 - 1 Null and void
 - 2 Hamlet's father, e.g.
 - 3 Capital of Libya
 - 5 Theatre employee
 - 6 Vague
 - 7 Jingle
 - 8 Ski run
 - 14 Coffee substitute
 - 16 Safari sight
 - 17 Assuage
 - 18 Ice house
 - 19 Durable aromatic wood
 - 20 Utopian
 - 22 Spassy, for one

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

WELCOME GUESTS

Artistes perform in a play organised by state Tourism department to mark World Tourism Day, at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Friday



MAHALAXMI MURDER CASE

Differences over marriage led to the crime, say police

PNN & AGENCIES

Bangalore/Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: The gruesome killing of a 29-year-old woman, whose dismembered body was found in the fridge of her house here, was allegedly due to differences over the issue of marriage between her and the accused, Bangalore police commissioner B Dayananda said Friday.



The accused Mukti Ranjan Ray allegedly ended his life by suicide at his native village in Bhadrak district September 25. The maggot-infested body of Mahalakshmi, chopped into 59 pieces and stuffed into the fridge, was found by her mother and elder sister at her Vyalikaval home here September 21.

crime and the reasons behind it, before committing suicide.

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

He added that the family members were angry with him as he didn't send any money back home. "My brother also told me that he had squandered a minimum of ₹7 to 8 lakh after being blackmailed by Mahalakshmi. She had taken a gold chain and one of the three rings he bought for his brothers," he said.

Quoting his conversation with Muktiranj, his brother said that on the day of the crime the former had gone to meet Mahalakshmi after she called him over the phone. "She threatened to kill Muktiranj and his brother. This angered Muktiranj who, in a fit of rage, strangled her to death," he said.

According to police sources, Mahalakshmi, who had separated from her estranged husband, had been living separately in Vyalikaval since October 2023.

They said she and Ray were colleagues at a clothing outlet and had known to each other for some time.

investigate...more information cannot be shared as it is still part of the investigation, but prima facie what we have got to know is that we have personal differences, especially differences in connection with marriage, which led to the crime," he said.

Dayananda said the accused's younger brother resides in Bangalore. He has been subjected to investigation and his statement has been recorded before the court.

It is worth mentioning here that the family members of Mukhiranj Thursday alleged that Mahalakshmi used to blackmail and extract money from the former.

One of Muktiranj's younger brothers told IANS Thursday that the accused had disclosed before him about committing the

"Regarding the murder case of a woman registered in Vyalikaval police station September 21, based on a complaint of her mother...we have gone to other states in search of the prime suspect, it came across that he has committed suicide in Dhusuri police station limits in Bhadrak district of Odisha. Our officials and personnel have gone there and we are gathering information," Dayananda said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said the accused has also written a death note in which he has mentioned about the murder and has confessed about his role in it.

"We will get all that information from there and further

district Collectors.

Majhi highlighted the vital role of district Collectors as a bridge between the government and the public, stressing the importance of ensuring that welfare benefits reach those at the grassroots level.

He also encouraged them to review ongoing projects using technology and real-time data, suggesting field visits to monitor progress directly.

The conference was attended by Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, ministers and department secretaries, with Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja presenting comprehensive guidelines at the start of the event.

WON'T TOLERATE CORRUPTION: CM



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi addressing Collectors from various districts at Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Friday

PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: The state government will not tolerate corruption at any level, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said during the inaugural session of a two-day Collectors' conference at Lok Seva Bhawan here, Friday.

"I have realised that there were significant irregularities and project cost escalations due to delays in the previous administration. However, there is no question of compromise on corruption under the BJP government," he said.

The CM urged district Collectors to investigate irreg-

I have realised that there were significant irregularities and project cost escalations due to delays in the previous administration. However, there is no question of compromise on corruption under the BJP government

MOHAN CHARAN MAJHI | CHIEF MINISTER

ularities that come to their attention, asserting, "We will not tolerate corruption at any level. This is as clear a message as possible from me."

Majhi reassured the district authorities that funds for development work were available, but criticised the slow pace of project implementation, particularly noting that expenditure often surged at the

end of the financial year. "This leads to deterioration in the quality of work. The officers should write to the departments concerned to resolve the issues. The officials can directly contact the Chief Minister. Collectors should conduct regular monitoring of block-wise implementation of schemes along with financial and physical progress," Majhi told the dis-

Majhi unveils biz summit logo

BHUBANESWAR: Seeking global investments in Odisha, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Friday unveiled the logo for the next edition of the state's marquee business summit to be held in January 2025. While unveiling the 'Utkarsh Odisha - Make in Odisha Conclave 2025' logo, Majhi outlined several initiatives - development of MSME parks in each district, establishment of an FDI park, multimodal logistics parks, and new industrial corridors - taken by his government. The conclave, to be held from January 28 to 29 next year, is designed to highlight Odisha's potential as an industrial powerhouse, focusing on teamwork, innovation, and sustainable growth, an official statement said.

Naidu, Sarma meet Governor ahead of Jharkhand elections



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: Former Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Friday called on Governor Raghuraj Das at Raj Bhavan here amid speculation that the former Jharkhand CM is interested to return to active politics.

The meeting assumes significance as Sarma is also the BJP's co-election in-charge of the Jharkhand where Assembly elections are due later this year.

Das earlier held a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

It is being speculated that Das, who was the Chief Minister of Jharkhand between 2014 and 2019, wants to return to the politics of his home state.

come by the Governor at Raj Bhavan today on his arrival in Odisha. Both had an engaging discussion on various developmental issues for a better India," he said.

Taking to X, Majhi said he had discussions with Naidu on shared values and the progress of Odisha and the nation.

"It was an honour to engage with such a distinguished leader, whose wisdom and contributions to the country are deeply respected. His insights and guidance continue to inspire efforts towards the betterment of Odisha and the nation," he added.

On his meeting with the Sarma, Majhi said in the post that the discussions focused on strengthening ties between Assam and Odisha and collaborative efforts for the development of both states.

In a series of posts, Sarma said, "While in Bhubaneswar, I was delighted to meet the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha Shri @MohanMODisha ji in the presence of the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha Shri @dasraghubar ji".

He also wrote, "In Bhubaneswar, I was privileged to seek the Margdarshan and Aashirwad of Adarniya Shri @MVenkaiahNaidu Garu."

3 chain snatchers held



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: The twin city Commissionerate Police busted an interstate gang of chain snatchers with the arrest of its three members, Friday.

Addressing media, Commissioner of Police Sanjeeb Panda said Subash Pradhan, 34, of Puri district, Jitu Behera, 30, of Ganjam district and Amit Sadanke, 30, of Maharashtra have been taken into custody.

"Eight gold chains, two motorcycles, and as many mobile phones have been recovered from their possession," he said.

The top cop said at least eight chain snatching cases have been registered against them in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack urban police district (UPD).

Panda said the trio came in contact in Gujarat's Surat around 2008. "The gang is also involved in a series of criminal cases in Surat. The trio returned to Odisha around four months back to evade police action there," the police commissioner said.

IIT-Bhub study reveals impact of ocean water mixing on climate

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: A new study has revealed the importance of mixing Atlantic and Arctic waters in sustaining the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), a key driver in regulating Earth's climate.

The research, conducted by an international team from IIT Bhubaneswar, University of Southampton (UK), National Oceanography Centre (UK), and Stockholm University (Sweden), explores the mechanisms behind AMOC formation.

The AMOC functions like a vast ocean conveyor belt, transporting warm tropical water northward and cold water southward, distributing heat globally.

It plays a vital role in keeping northern Europe, including the UK, relatively mild for its latitude. Published in 'Nature

Communications', the study found that the AMOC's lower limb consists of 72 per cent Atlantic and 28 per cent Arctic waters.

"As warm water reaches cooler regions of the North Atlantic, it loses heat, becomes denser, and sinks," explains Dipanjan Dey of IIT Bhubaneswar, lead author of the study.

"We discovered that much of this dense water travels northward, mixing with colder Arctic waters before flowing southward, bolstering the AMOC's strength," he said.

The study estimates that Atlantic-Arctic water mixing accounts for 33 per cent of the transformation of warm water into denser, colder water, with the remaining 67 per cent driven by ocean-atmosphere interactions.

This challenges prior assumptions that focused primarily on heat loss, underestimat-



ing the impact of water mixing. As the planet warms, models suggest that the AMOC may weaken, potentially causing significant shifts in global climate patterns.

These findings offer new insight into how Atlantic-Arctic

Nod for polygraph test of 4 suspended cops

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: Two days after granting permission for polygraph test of suspended Bharatpur police station IIC Dinakrushna Mishra, a Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate court Friday allowed the Crime Branch to subject four other suspended cops of the police to a similar lie detector test.

Those who will undergo the test include two women Assistant

Sub-inspectors of police (ASIs), one woman Sub-Inspector (SI), and a constable, a senior Crime Branch officer, privy to the probe, said. He said SI Baisalini Panda, ASI Salilamayee Sahoo, ASI Sagarika Rath, and constable Balaram Hansda would be taken to Gujarat where they will undergo the test at the State Forensic Science Laboratory in Gandhinagar.

Meanwhile, the SDJM Court Wednesday granted permission to the investigators to conduct

two non-invasive (brain mapping and polygraph) and one invasive (narco-analysis) tests on IIC Mishra who is facing serious charges of sexual assault and misbehavior by the victim.

It may be noted that Mishra and four other cops had been put under suspension by DGP YB Khurania September 18 after an Army officer's female friend levelled charges of sexual assault and custodial torture against them.

AMOC functions like a vast ocean conveyor belt, transporting warm tropical water northward and cold water southward, distributing heat globally

September, contributes approximately 80 per cent of the country's annual rainfall. Any variations in the timing or distribution of this rainfall can have far-reaching impacts on agriculture, the economy, and public health, both physically and mentally," he explains.

For over 300 years, the monsoon was believed to result from large-scale land-sea breezes driven by temperature differences.

However, in the 1980s, the introduction of satellite imagery

revealed that the cloud patterns over India closely resembled the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), a low-pressure zone near the equator.

This discovery redefined the monsoon as a seasonal migration of the ITCZ from the ocean toward land, rather than a simple land-sea breeze.

"The ITCZ generally stays just north of the equator, and research indicates that the northward flow of warm water in the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) plays a critical role in maintaining this position," Dey claimed.

However, with a warming climate, the AMOC is predicted to slow, reducing the northward movement of warm water and energy.

This can shift the ITCZ southward, potentially weakening the Indian summer monsoon in the future, he said.

Priority to make Odisha 3rd largest tourist hub: Pravati

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: On the occasion of World Tourism Day, Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, who also holds the Tourism portfolio, Friday said that Odisha has immense potential for tourism and that the priority of the state government will be to make Odisha the third largest tourist destination.

Parida flagged off the Heritage Super Bike Rally from Dhauli hills, with an aim to create awareness about Odisha Tourism. Bhubaneswar-Central MLA Babu Singh, Digapahandi MLA Sidhant Mohapatra, Tourism department's commissioner-cum-secretary Balwant Singh, Director Samartha Verma and



Khurda Collector Chanchal Rana among others were present.

On the occasion, Parida extended greetings to the people of Odisha and the tourism lovers of the entire country and the world from the Odisha's soil.

She said Odisha is our country's most kept secret. "We have immense potential for tourism," said the Deputy CM, adding that the priority of the

state government will be to make Odisha the third largest tourist destination and rapidly develop the economy through tourism and create employment opportunities. She also said establishing peace is the identity of Odisha's history.

The rally started from the Peace Pagoda and ended at Konark. One hundred bikers participated in the programme.

Department's commissioner-cum-secretary Balwant Singh said the tourism industry promotes peace and unity and also improves the regional economy. Singh said Odisha can become a leading state in the entire country in the field of tourism with the support from Union and state governments.



MOTHERS' PLEA: Members of Odisha Green Card Holders' Federation stage a protest at Lower PMG in Bhubaneswar, Friday, to press for fulfilment of their 11-point charter of demands

MARKET WATCH			
INDEX			VARIATION
SENSEX	85571.85	↓	264.27
NIFTY	26178.95	↓	37.10
DOLLAR	83.67	↑	₹0.05
EURO	93.54	↑	₹0.09
GOLD	₹75,100	↓	₹287
SILVER	₹92,380	↓	₹284

WEATHER			
	BBSR	CTC	
Max Temp	29.8°C	30.6°C	
Min Temp	24.6°C	23.5°C	
Humidity	98%	97%	
Rainfall	49.2mm	32.8mm	

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of Rain

Nat'l Forensic Science Univ campus in state

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: A campus of the National Forensic Science University will be established in the state that will provide education on cyber security.

A delegation of the university met Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Lok Seva Bhawan here Friday to deliberate on the issue.

Stating that there is dire need for such an institution in the state in view of rising cyber-crimes, the Chief Minister said that the state government will provide all kinds of support for the establishment of the campus.

Majhi said it will also help in creating competent experts in the field of crime investigation and prevention. This will facilitate training of police officers in the state on cyber security and also help in meeting the requirement of scientific officers in the state.

'Multi-pronged strategy to combat malnutrition'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Koraput/Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: In order to address Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in Koraput, Unicef in collaboration with the National Health Mission (NHM) and state government organised a high-impact roundtable here, Friday.

The discussion emphasised the role of multi-sectoral collaboration and media involvement in raising awareness.

District project manager (DPM) Mamata Mohanty delivered the welcome address and emphasised the critical need to address malnutrition in Koraput, one of the most affected districts in the state. In her address, the DPM presented the broad strokes of activities for SAM management in the district, highlighting the ongoing efforts and plans.

"The grassroots involvement of Anganwadi centres and local organisations is crucial to delivering effective nutrition solutions in Koraput. Our goal is to strengthen these networks and ensure that nutrition interventions reach every corner of the district," Pradhan said.

Unicef's nutrition specialist



Effective SAM management not only saves lives but also contributes to the overall well-being and cognitive development of children

SOURAV BHATTACHARJEE | UNICEF'S NUTRITION SPECIALIST

Sourav Bhattacharjee led a session on the overview of malnutrition and the importance of SAM management. "Over 43 per cent of children in Koraput are stunted, while 16 per cent suffer from wasting. We must prioritise SAM management to save lives and promote healthier futures for

our children. SAM management is not just about food, it is about integrated approaches including health, sanitation, and education."

"Effective SAM management saves lives and contributes to children's overall well-being and cognitive development," said Bhattacharjee.

The event also featured an open discussion and Q&A session, where participants shared insights and raised questions about the region's challenges and solutions to malnutrition. The session provided a platform for interactive engagement between policymakers, health experts, and media representatives.

AM/NS bags CCQC awards

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India), Odisha operations won three gold awards at recently held Chapter Convention on Quality Concepts (CCQC) 2024, organised by Quality Circle Forum of India (QCFI).

'Team Innovators' from Dabuna, Team 'Tech Titans' from Paradeep Pellet Plant, and 'Team Technocrats' from Paradeep Captive Power Plant received the awards for demonstrating extraordinary problem-solving skills, innovative thinking, and commitment to excellence.

On the occasion, AM/NS Odisha operations executive director Suresha G said, "The accomplishment reflects the hard work and spirit of collaboration that define our organisation. We commend our teams for their exemplary performance and draw inspiration from their success as we continue our journey towards excellence."

Around ninety teams representing various organisations participated in the competition.

Samanta receives IFE fellowship



Bhubaneswar: Renowned educationist, philanthropist and founder of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) Achyuta Samanta has been conferred a prestigious fellowship by the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) India at the ongoing international conference and exhibition 'Fire India 2024' in New Delhi, Friday. The fellowship was awarded in recognition of Samanta's remarkable contributions to education, health and social service over three decades. His name was selected for this honour by the Governing Council of the IFE in March this year. Upon receiving the fellowship, Samanta expressed his gratitude to the IFE and its director general US Chhittar. This marks Samanta's sixth fellowship as he has already received accolades from five prestigious organisations - ISTE, CSI, ICA, APSCH and London Royal Society of Chemistry. On the occasion, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between KISS and Institution of Fire Engineers. According to the MoU, 100 students of KISS will be imparted fire engineering training by the IFE. "It is a good initiative and more students of KISS will be benefitted by this agreement," said Samanta.

Arun Sarangi new OPSC chairman

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: Former acting Director General of Police (DGP) Arun Kumar Sarangi was appointed the chairman of Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) Friday, according to a notification.

Sarangi, a 1990-batch IPS officer, was Special DGP (Training) and Director of Biju Patnaik State Police Academy in his last assignment.

"The Governor has been pleased to appoint Arun Kumar



Sarangi, IPS, Special Director General of Police (Training) and Director, Biju Patnaik State Police Academy, Odisha as Chairman, Odisha Public Service Commission for a term

of six years from the date he enters upon his office or until he attains the age of sixty-two years, whichever is earlier," the notification said.

It also said the conditions of Sarangi's service as the chairman of OPSC will be regulated in accordance with Odisha Public Service Commission (Conditions of Service) Regulations, 1952.

Sarangi was made the acting DGP December 31, 2023, and held the post till YB Khurania was appointed August 16 this year.

Baxipatra demands Southern Odisha Development Council



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: The Dakshina Odisha Unnayana Parishada Friday urged the state government to officially set up Southern Odisha Development Council (SODC) for the development of south Odisha. The issue was raised by Parishad chairman Bhruhu Baxipatra during the outfit's 20th anniversary held at Gita Govinda Sadan here.

The event, chaired by Baxipatra, saw the presence of notable figures including Rajya Sabha MP Munna Khan, Parlakhemundi MLA Rupesh Panigrahi and other dignitaries like organisation's secretary Bipin Bihari Panda.

The council, which operates across seven districts - Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Kandhamal, Gajapati and Ganjam - highlighted the region's persistent underdevelopment despite its contributions to the state's economy.

During the meeting, the 11th edition of the council's journal, 'Dakshinavarta', was unveiled. The discussions centred on the

region's lack of a dedicated development council, a promise that remains unfulfilled by the state government.

"While Western Odisha Development Council is already there and the government has formed a task force for establishment of Northern Odisha Development Council, Southern Odisha continues to be sidelined. We urged the government to start the process of establishment of the Southern Odisha Development Council," said Baxipatra. MP Khan urged the formation of a delegation to meet with the state government. "We hope the government will cooperate and address these pressing issues," he said.

Panigrahi said, "Any further delay in addressing the needs of Southern Odisha is unacceptable."

Key topics of discussion included promoting local employment through cottage industries, eco-friendly tourism around historical sites like Mahendragiri, and exploring renewable energy resources. Khan also voiced concerns about large-scale projects like expansion of Gopalpur port.

Maniabandha among India's best tourism villages

Aiming at integrating Maniabandha's centuries-old handloom legacy with tourism, the state government has planned to develop a Maniabandha Buddhist Handloom Village Tourism Centre

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: Maniabandha in Cuttack, a picturesque village emerges as a vibrant tapestry of cultural heritage and economic resilience, has figured in the list of villages winning the Best Tourism Village Competition



(BTVC) 2024 in Craft Category, organised by Ministry of Tourism on the occasion of

World Tourism Day, Friday. Renowned for its exquisite textiles, Maniabandha Pata

Sarees woven by skilled artisans in the village stands as a beacon for rural tourism.

The handloom cluster includes Maniabandha village, Badamba and Athagarh. Around 20,000 weavers from these villages produce traditional tie-dye and Khandua Pata sarees.

The weavers, predominantly engaged in textile tourism, contribute significantly to the local economy, becoming a key player in the state's tourist landscape. With a com-

mitment to preserving its cultural and natural treasures, Maniabandha sets forth a vision for sustainable rural development through tourism, beckoning travelers to explore the rich tapestry of tradition and craftsmanship.

Aiming at integrating Maniabandha's centuries-old handloom legacy with tourism, the state government plans to develop a Maniabandha Buddhist Handloom Village Tourism Centre.

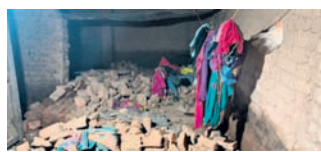
To promote tourism in rural parts of the country, BTVC was introduced in 2023 by the Central government. The focus was to identify and recognise villages which preserve and promote cultural and natural assets through community-based values and commitment to sustainability in all aspects.

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- Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488, Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816, Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi Travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookiemann-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilkantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

2-year-old girl dies in wall collapse

Patana, Sept 27: In a tragic incident, a 2-year-old girl child lost her life after being trapped under a collapsed wall at Baratania village, under Barabil panchayat and Patana police limits of Saharapada block in Keonjhar district, late Thursday night. The deceased was identified as Subhalaxmi, daughter of Chittaranjan Munda of the village. According to information, Chittaranjan Munda and his family, including his two daughters, Banita and Shubhalakshmi, and wife Rajani, were sleeping Thursday night when heavy rainfall caused a wall of their house to collapse on them. As a result, the entire family was trapped under the debris. Villagers rushed to the spot, rescued the injured and took them to Karanja Sub-Divisional Hospital.



From there, Subhalaxmi was being rushed to the district headquarters hospital (DHH), Keonjhar as her condition deteriorated. However, she succumbed to her injuries on the way. Severely injured, Chittaranjan's wife Rajani and his elder daughter Banita, are currently undergoing treatment at the district headquarters hospital. Patna PS Inspector In-Charge Uday Veer Kulu confirmed that the body of the deceased child was handed over to the family after post-mortem. Meanwhile, Saharapada tehsildar Paramananda Khandei visited the site and promised a thorough investigation and government assistance for the family.

Asst engineer in Vigilance net

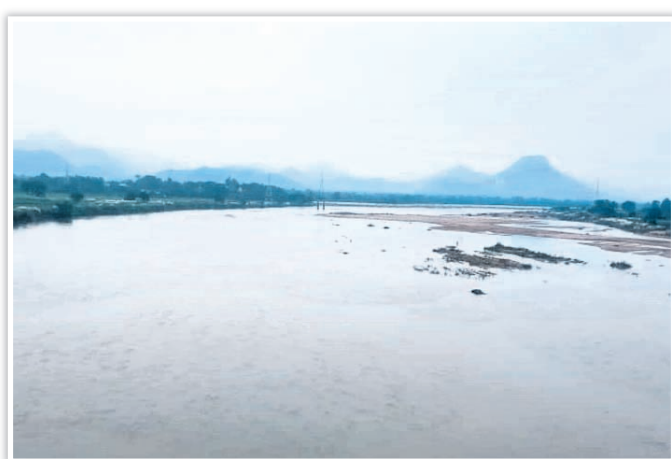
Kundura, Sept 27: Vigilance sleuths Friday apprehended a woman assistant engineer (AE) working in Kundura block of Koraput district while she was accepting a bribe from a contractor. The arrested AE has been identified as Bhanumati Tudu. According to information received, Bhanumati, who is in charge of Ghumara, Asana, Phulbhata, Masigaon, and Digapur panchayats under Kundura block, was caught by the Vigilance team while accepting a bribe of ₹5,000 from a contractor in exchange for clearing a bill related to the construction of a cattle shed. The Vigilance team, consisting of five members, was tracking her based on previous complaints about her involvement in corruption. Acting on the complaints, the Jeypore Vigilance team formed a special unit and caught her in Kundura block of Friday morning while she was accepting the bribe amount.



NUTRITION MONTH: Guests take stock of the nutritious food stalls during the district level 'Nutrition Month' programme organised by the Sambalpur district administration at Tapaswini Hall, Friday

50 yrs on, Panidangar project in limbo

Padmapur, Sept 27: Water of Vamshadhara river flowing through Rayagada district has failed to be of any benefit for the residents. Despite the state government making plans at various points of time in the last five decades to use the water, it has failed to proceed further in this regard. Sources said the then state government had planned to construct a barrage on the river at Panidangar in Gunupur sub-division in 1960 as per an agreement signed with the Andhra Pradesh government. However, the plan failed to make any headway and has been lying in cold storage for the last 50 years. Similarly, another plan for linking of Vamshadhara river with Rushikulya river in 2005 also failed to make any progress. This only highlights the inefficiency of the previous state governments, it is alleged. Former chief minister Giridhar Gamang had then said that Panidangar project will benefit thousands of farmers and also help in controlling floods if it is implemented near Gudari



on the upstream of the river. Later, the BJD government ruled the state for 25 years, but the project did not see light of the day. Reports said the Vamshadhara river flows through Odisha and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. The then Andhra government had first planned to construct a barrage at Gota near Hiramandal in 1962. However, both the states were at loggerheads after the then Biju Patnaik-led government opposed the project proposed by the neighbouring state. The then Andhra chief minister

tried to influence the Union government and win its favour. As a result, the then Union Water Resources minister engineer KL Rao visited the site and ruled that both the states have 50 per cent share on the river water. Accordingly, the Centre permitted Odisha for construction of a barrage at Panidangar. It also simultaneously gave green signal to Andhra for construction of a barrage on the river at Gota near Hiramandal in the neighbouring state. Later, a meeting was convened

A BARRAGE HAD BEEN PROPOSED ON VAMSHADHARA RIVER AT PANIDANGAR IN 1960 AS PER AN AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH THE ANDHRA GOVERNMENT

ANOTHER PLAN FOR LINKING OF VAMSHADHARA WITH RUSHIKULYA IN 2005 ALSO FAILED TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS

near Gudari on the upstream of the river. Meanwhile, the proposed project has been included in the Lower Vamshadhara Irrigation Project and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been submitted to the Central Water Commission for its approval. Gunupur MLA Satyajee Gomango said that Panidangar project and linking of Vamshadhara river with Rushikulya water are two long-standing issues. When implemented, the project will benefit the residents of Gunupur, Gudari and Kashinagar. Farmer Tripati Prasad Nishank said that the implementation of Panidangar project and linking of Vamshadhara river will benefit thousands of farmers in Rayagada and Gajapati districts preventing wastage of the river water. He appreciated the Gunupur MLA for raising the 50-year old issue in the state Assembly. Tripati Gamang, leader of CPI-ML, said that thousands could benefit from the river if the state government takes steps for early implementation of Panidangar project.

Girl student found hanging in hostel

Berhampur, Sept 27: Gopalpur police here recovered the hanging body of a female student from a private college hostel here in Ganjam district Friday. The deceased has been identified as Rutuparna Dash, 19, daughter of Bidyadhar Dash from Shial village under Krushnaprasad police limits in Puri district. Police also recovered a suicide note and the student's mobile phone from her hostel room. Upon being informed, her family members rushed to MKCG Medical College and Hospital here. In their presence, the police conducted an inquest and sent the body for autopsy, as informed by Sadar SDPO Shubhanshu Parida. Preliminary investigation suggests that the girl student may have been under some kind of mental stress, which could have pushed her to take the extreme step. However, the details written in the suicide note have not yet been made public. The police have launched an investigation and are also tracking the calls that she received on her mobile phone the previous night. The exact reason behind the student's suicide is still unknown,



police stated. Notably, it was reported that the room's door was already open when police arrived at the scene. The student was a second-year B.Pharm student at a private college located in Gopalpur Junction. She was residing in room number 4 of hostel number 3. After finishing her dinner she went to sleep Thursday night. However, she did not come out of the room Friday morning, which raised concerns among her friends. They informed the hostel warden, who then asked the student to open the door. When the door was broken open, they found the student hanging from the ceiling with a scarf around her neck. The warden then informed the police.

JSW Foundation awards 'Udaan Scholarship'



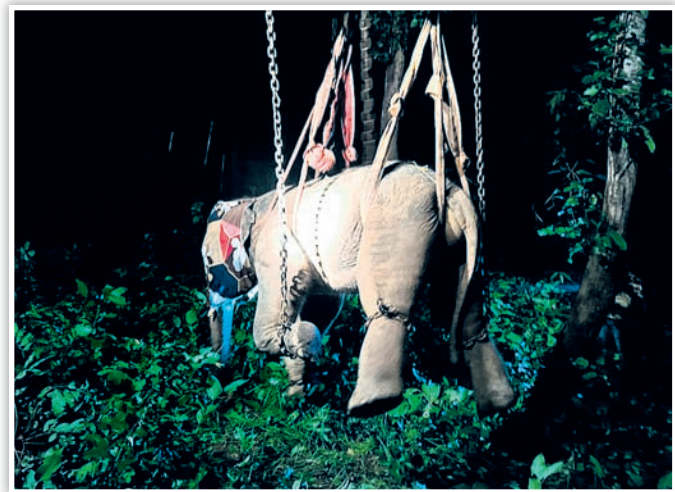
Jharsuguda, Sept 27: In its continuous endeavor to support education and encourage talented students for higher studies, JSWBPSP under its CSR initiative is continuing JSW Udaan scholarship through JSW Foundation for the last three years in Sambalpur and Jharsuguda districts. A grand felicitation ceremony for JSW Udaan Scholarship achievers for the year 2023-24 was organised at Black Diamond School of Engineering and Technology in Jharsuguda.

The event witnessed participation from six prominent educational institutions across Jharsuguda district, celebrating the academic excellence and resilience of 58 outstanding students out of 188 who have received the scholarship in financial year 2023-24. The 'JSW Udaan Scholarship' supports students from economically weaker sections in Sambalpur and Jharsuguda districts. The programme has given financial help for higher studies to more than 631 students, including 433 students in the last year itself.

Tusker tranquilised, sent to Kapilash

THE PACHYDERM HAD TRAMPLED FOUR PERSONS TO DEATH IN LAST 4 DAYS

Baripada, Sept 27: A marauding tusker which wreaked havoc in villages under Baripada Forest Division in Mayurbhanj district was tranquilised and sent to the Elephant Rescue Centre at Kapilash in Dhenkanal district, Friday. Health condition of the elephant will be examined and a 24-hour medical monitoring will be done, said Similipal Field Director and Regional Chief Conservator of Forest (RCCF), Wildlife, Prakash Chand Gogineni. As per the order of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Susanta Nanda, a plan was prepared to capture the tusker. The decision was taken after the tusker trampled four persons to death in last four days.



A 15-member team under the guidance of Baripada DFO A Uma Mahesh conducted a mock drill a day before capturing the pachyderm Friday. Residents of the nearby villages had been warned by the Forest department not to venture out of their houses during the operation for their own safety.

17-year-old boy drowns while taking bath in river

BALASORE: A 17-year-old boy drowned in the Subarnarekha river in Balasore district Friday while taking bath, police said. The incident happened in Badhapal village in Asti panchayat of the Baliaapal police station area when three teens went to take bath in the river, they said. SDPO Arun Sahoo said as the three friends were taking bath, suddenly one of them, identified as Tapas Kumar Rana, slipped into deep waters and was swept away. Hearing the other boys seeking help, locals immediately reached the spot and managed to bring Rana out of the water. When taken to the nearby hospital, doctors declared him dead, police said.

EAST COAST RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: ST-OT-AMC-TADRAN-KUR-415, Dtd.: 18.09.2024
Name of Work: COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL ONSITE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF RAIL SADAN MAIN TELEPHONE EXCHANGE (TADRAN IPX 4000) IN SERVER GATEWAY ARCHITECTURE, TADRAN GM INTERCOM IN SERVER GATEWAY ARCHITECTURE (RAIL SADAN, RAIL VEHAR AND MANCHESWAR GM INTERCOM EXCHANGE-TADRAN IPX 3000) AND DRM INTERCOM TADRAN EXCHANGE, KHURDA ROAD.
Tender Value: Rs. 15,52,886.64/-
EMD: Rs.31,100/-, Tender Document Cost: 2,360/-
Tender closing Date & Time: At 1100 hrs. on 14.10.2024
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-Tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website: www.ireps.gov.in
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 15 days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, PR-554/P/24-25, Khurda Road

Ban on unauthorised parking of goods vehicles on NHs in Jajpur

Jajpur, Sept 27: Unauthorised parking of all goods vehicles on main carriageways of the National Highways passing through Jajpur district has been banned by the administration, officials said. In a notification issued here Friday, Jajpur Collector P Anvesha Reddy said parking of goods vehicles on main carriageways of NH-16, NH-53 and NH-20 in the district, is unauthorised. Goods vehicles parked haphazardly on the main carriageways of NH-16, NH-53 and NH-20 in Jajpur



district are hindering the movement of essential vehicles and posing risks of road accidents, the notification said. The administration restricts unauthorised parking of all goods carriers on the main carriageways of NH-16 (from Sathipur to Nelia), NH-53 (from Balichandrapur to Duburi)

and NH-20 (from Panikoili to Ragadi) for a period of one month, an official said. This restriction will come into force from October 1 to October 31, 2024, the notification added. A copy of the notification has been sent to the Commerce and Transport Department's principal secretary and commissioner,

This restriction will come into force from October 1 to October 31
Jajpur SP and others. Letters were also sent to the project director of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) instructing him to put up proper signages at no parking zones on the national highways and to the truck and bus owners' associations of Chandikhole, Duburi, Kuakhia, Panikoili and Jajpur Road to take necessary steps in this regard.

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, BHANDARIPOKHARI
At/po - Bhandaripokhari, Dist. - Bhadrak, Pin - 756120
e-mail : ori-bhandaripokhari@nic.in
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
BID IDENTIFICATION NO.-3/2024-25, Dt. - 27.09.2024

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount put to tender	EMD	Time for Completion	Class of Contractor	Cost of Document
1	Const. of additional classroom at Bhandaripokhari High School, G.P - Dakhinabada	13,52,428.00	13,524.00	Six Calendar Months	C & B	6000.00
2	Const. of additional classroom at Bishnupur Primary School, G.P - Bishnupur	12,32,533.00	12,325.00	Six Calendar Months	C & B	6000.00
3	Const. of additional classroom at Subarnamukhi Nodal primary School, G.P - Nareda	12,32,586.00	12,325.00	Six Calendar Months	C & B	6000.00
4	Const. of additional classroom at Nirgundi Primary School, G.P - Nirgundi	12,38,973.00	12,389.00	Six Calendar Months	C & B	6000.00
5	Const. of additional classroom at Jhutuna Primary School, G.P - Jhutuna	9,77,045.00	9,770.00	Six Calendar Months	C & B	6000.00
6	Const. of Office Building with Market Complex for GPLF Building at Tesinga GP	25,03,047.00	25,030.00	Six Calendar Months	C & B	6000.00

1. Date & Time : 10.00 A.M. of 27.09.2024 to 1.00 P.M. of 15.10.2024
2. Last Date : Up to 1.00 P.M. of 15.10.2024
3. Time of Opening : 3.30 P.M. of 15.10.2024
4. Name and address : Block Development Officer, Bhandaripokhari, Bhadrak
Further details can be seen from the website portal <https://bhadrak.odisha.gov.in>. The interested bidders can contact office of the Block Development Officer, Bhandaripokhari, Dist.-Bhadrak, Contact No. - 9348746341
Sd./- Block Development Officer Bhandaripokhari



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

SRI AUROBINDO



Flood Fallout

In a surprising move, West Bengal's Power Secretary, Santanu Basu, has stepped down from his role on the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) Board.

Interestingly, this isn't an isolated incident. The Chief Engineer of West Bengal's Irrigation and Waterways department also resigned, apparently in protest against decisions made by the Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulation Committee.

The fallout of this event could be significant. Basu's resignation signals that there might be serious concerns about how DVC manages water resources, and this could lead to larger discussions about accountability and oversight.

Ex-babu under fire in ED probe

The recent ED raids on former IAS officer Mohinder Singh's premises highlight the deep-rooted corruption within the bureaucracy and its far-reaching impact on society.



BABUDOM BYTES
Dilip Cherian

Such allegations of corruption not only erode public trust but also deprive homebuyers and ordinary citizens of their hard-earned money. In this case, investors were promised homes but instead became victims of a massive fraud.

IAS officer's surprise extension sparks debate

In a surprising development, Anindita Mitra, who had already wrapped up her role as Chandigarh's Municipal Corporation Commissioner and joined her new post in Punjab, has been granted a three-month extension.

Mitra, a 2007-batch IAS officer from Punjab, had already started her new role as Secretary of Cooperation in Punjab and MD of the Punjab Cooperative Bank after her three-year deputation in Chandigarh ended.

With the uncertainty surrounding her return, it's anyone's guess how the next few months will play out. But one thing's certain—this extension has certainly shaken up the usual babu routine!

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

WISDOM CORNER

- Tradition becomes our security, and when the mind is secure it is in decay. - JIDDU KRISHNAMURTI
Democracy is the process by which people choose the man who'll get the blame. - BERTRAND RUSSELL
The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes. - WILLIAM JAMES

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1781: The Siege of Yorktown began, eventually leading on October 19 to the British surrender by General Lord Cornwallis and the end of the American Revolution.
1911: Using the pretext of infringement of Italian interests in the Turkish provinces of Tripolitana and Cyrenaica (Libya), the Italian government issued an ultimatum to Turkey and declared war the next day.
1920: In what became known as the Black Sox Scandal, eight members of the Chicago White Sox baseball team were indicted by a grand jury on charges that they had thrown the 1919 World Series to the Cincinnati Reds in return for a bribe.
1958: Madagascar voted for autonomy within the French Community.

LOL

KIDS' PERSPECTIVE

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write - and they won't let me talk!"

On the way home from the first day of school, the father asked his son, "What did you do at school today?" The little boy shrugged his shoulders and said, "Nothing." Hoping to draw his son into



conversation, the father persisted and said, "Well, did you learn about any numbers, study certain letters, or maybe a particular color?" The perplexed child looked at his father and said, "Daddy, didn't you go to school when you were a little boy?"

FOCUS DEVELOPMENT

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE



Today, only 27 developing countries—18% of the total—are not burdened with excessive debt. The rest are struggling with debt overhang, which undermines economic growth and development, and raises the risk of an eventual default

The just concluded United Nations Summit of the Future in New York, and next year's Second World Summit for Social Development, aim to "chart a path toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and responding to emerging challenges and opportunities."



Paola Subacchi

THE WORLD IS MORE COMPLICATED THAN IT WAS A DECADE AGO, WHEN THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, WHICH SETS OUT THE 17 SDGs AND THEIR 169 TARGETS, WAS DRAFTED

countries is between 35% and 70% of GDP after which debt can become unmanageable.

When debt-servicing costs are high, countries often end up making big sacrifices to stay solvent. For example, they might tap foreign-exchange reserves, thereby weakening their ability to respond to future crises, or reallocate resources from critical areas—such as education, health, and social protection—to keep up with their payments.

A country that is reducing social spending to service its debts—despite the increase in poverty that will inevitably follow—is unlikely to be able to make long-term investments in sustainable development.

financing, at both the national and international levels, is a prerequisite for achieving the SDGs by the 2030 deadline.

Thus, it is urgent to offer relief to countries that face debt distress. Governments should not have to choose between servicing their debts and taking care of their citizens, and today's debts should not act as a drag on the future.

But debt relief alone is not enough. If developing countries are to achieve the SDGs, they will need new sources of funding. So far, multilateral

development banks have taken the lead on this front. As a recent OECD report shows, in 2012-20, outflows from the World Bank Group increased by 72%, and outflows from other MDBs soared by 155%. In 2021-22, total MDB outflows rose by another 22%.

This trend is set to continue. Earlier this year, ten MDBs estimated that they could collectively expand their lending headroom by an additional \$300-billion over the next decade.

To address the sustainable-development imperative, the MDBs will have to persuade their member states to increase their own contributions by amounts proportionate to the scale of the challenges ahead.

Multilateral efforts should aim both to tackle existing debt and to expand access to affordable finance in the future, using a variety of instruments, including concessional loans, green and blue bonds, and grants.

The writer is Professor of Political Economy and incoming Chair in Sovereign Debt at Sciences Po.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM SOCIETY

Culture of prioritising profits over people

The heartbreaking suicide of Anna Sebastian—a bright young 26-year-old Chartered Accountant of Ernst & Young in Pune—serves as a sordid reminder of the human costs behind the exaltation of overwork.

Anna's promising life came to an abrupt end four months into her first job.

Her story reflects a dark and insensitive corporate world where India's young professionals have to sacrifice their leisure, pleasure, and even life to earn more and cope with the increasingly noxious and hostile work environments.

This incident has ignited a nationwide debate about the impact of lengthy work hours and high-pressure environments on employee well-being, prompting a government investigation into workplace culture and health impacts.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman faced backlash for emphasising stress management, elevating inner strength (Atmashakti), and spirituality to cope with stress due to overwork. What Sitharaman said is correct, as present youths are unable to cope with the grim reality of life.

This tragedy also underscores the intense, rapacious corporate culture faced by employees, characterised by stringent deadlines,

high performance expectations, and a perpetual push for productivity. It also portrays the corporate culture of prioritising profits over people, exhaustion over duty work; cruelty over humanity; greed over necessities; insensitivity over sensitivity, and egotism over dignity.

The real question today is why, in a land of spiritualism like India, suicides have been escalating.

Incidents of student suicides in India have grown at an alarming annual rate, surpassing the population growth rate and overall suicide trends.

In addition to mental illnesses like anxiety, depression, economic stress, unemployment, financial instability, debt burden, family conflicts, and nuptial discord all leading to hopelessness and desolation and causing suicide. People are also committing suicide due to loneliness, especially the inability to share their own emotions.

However, India's relentlessly noxious work culture, where fatigue is worn like a badge of honour, is responsible for mental illness and suicide among young professionals.

The ILO limits working hours to eight hours a day and 48 hours a week to protect the mental and physical health of workers, promote gender equality in the workplace, and increase productivity. Indian labour laws prescribe a 48-hour workweek for employees.

What is disgusting is that salaried corporate employees

work longer hours than their casual peers. For a typical corporate worker, the lengthy hours translate to about nine hours of work per day over a five-day work week, or roughly eight hours if their work week extends to six days.

A Deloitte study conducted during the second wave of the pandemic revealed that India ranked highest among 18 countries in terms of workplace anxiety. The study also found that 80 percent of the Indian workforce reported mental health issues in the previous year, while 47 percent of the professionals surveyed said that workplace-related stress was the biggest factor affecting their mental health.

The human cost of this inaction is far too high, and the burden is falling disproportionately on the country's younger workforce. These findings raise serious concerns regarding work-life balance, mental health, and conducive labour policies in India. The need for creating sustainable work environments that foster both health and productivity is becoming increasingly critical.

Actually, rhetoric glorifying long hours of work is actually counterproductive. It ignores ILO findings too. In 2012, the ILO's review pointed out that extended hours often decreased performance.

Instead, work-life balance is increasingly recognised as a key driver of employee engagement and productivity. The academic research shows

that a healthy work-life balance is far more effective for long-term efficiency. According to Jennifer Moss, author of The Burnout Epidemic, there is ample evidence to show that when employees have greater control over their schedules and adequate rest, they are more engaged in their work and also more efficient. Balancing work and life reduces burnout.

American Reformed theologian, pastor, and author Dale Partridge, in his book titled People Over Profit, emphasises empowering employees to take ownership of their work. When employees feel trusted and valued, they are more likely to be motivated, innovative, and committed to the organisation's success. He advocates for businesses to adopt sustainable and ethical practices that benefit society and the environment.

By investing in people and building strong relationships, businesses can achieve lasting success that goes beyond immediate financial gains.

"People Over Profit" serves as a powerful reminder that prioritising people—not just profits—can lead to more meaningful and sustainable success in business. Dale Partridge's insights encourage leaders to re-think their strategies and focus on creating value for all stakeholders, ultimately fostering a culture of purpose and connection.

The author is an Odisha-based economist and columnist.

Well done, Anura

Sir, It is laudable that Anura Kumara Dissanayake, the newly elected President of Sri Lanka, has withdrawn most of the unwarranted perks like free housing and free electricity security services provided enjoyed by the ministers and Members of Parliament and has also done with the pension enjoyed by them.

Sex education essential

Sir, The Supreme Court's recent ruling clarifies that viewing or storing child sexual exploitative and abuse material (CSEAM) is a punishable offence under the POCSO Act. It does, however, this decision raises critical concerns, such as how will this ruling impact online content consumption? Will it deter individuals from accessing such material? Over and above that, what measures will be taken to ensure compliance from social media platforms in reporting and removing CSEAM? The call for comprehensive sex education is essential.

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

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

Tharcus S Fernando, CHENNAI

Anshu Bharti, BEGUSARAI

TIRUPATI LADDU ROW

Chorus grows for reform in temple offerings in Ayodhya, Mathura

In Ayodhya, the chief priest of the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, demanded a complete ban on prasad prepared by external agencies



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had last week claimed that substandard ingredients and animal fat were used in the preparation of laddus at the Tirupati Temple during the previous government

Lucknow, Sept 27: The controversy over the alleged adulteration of Tirupati Temple laddus has sparked reactions from Ayodhya, Prayagraj, and Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, with calls for reform in the preparation and distribution of 'prasad'.

In Ayodhya, the chief priest of the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, Satyendra Das, demanded a "complete ban" on prasad prepared by external agencies.

He expressed concerns over the purity of ghee used in temple offerings, urging that "all prasad should be prepared under the supervision of temple priests".

"The controversy over the alleged use of fat and meat in Tirupati Balaji's prasad is escalating across the country," Das noted, emphasising the need for stringent inspections of the quality of oil and ghee sold nationwide. He alleged that there was an international conspiracy to desecrate temples by mixing inappropriate substances in offerings.

In Mathura, the Dharma Raksha Sangh announced its decision to revert to the "ancient style" of 'prasadam' recipes, replacing commercially produced sweets with offerings made from fruits, flowers and other natural ingredients.

Saurabh Gaur, the national president of the Sangh, stressed the need for significant reforms in the prasadam system, saying, "A consensus had been reached among religious leaders and organisations to return to traditional practices of offering

and accepting pure, Satvik Prasadam."

In 'Sangam city' Prayagraj, several temples, including Alop Shankari Devi, Bade Hanuman, and Mankameshwar, have banned devotees from bringing sweets and processed items as offerings.

Shiv Murat Mishra, the chief priest of the Lalita Devi Temple, said the management decided to request devotees to bring only coconuts, fruits, and dry fruits.

"Until the purity of the sweets is clear in the investigation, they will not be allowed to be offered in the temple," said Mahant Shridharanand Brahmachari Ji Maharaj of the Mankameshwar Temple.

Yamuna Puri Maharaj, chief patron of the Alop Shankari Devi Temple and secretary of Shri Panchayati Akhara

Mahanirvani, said devotees will not be allowed to bring sweets and prasad from outside.

Mahant Balbir Giri Ji Maharaj, the patron of the Bade Hanuman temple located on the Sangam coast and head of the Shrimath Baghambari Gaddi, said, "After the construction of the corridor of the temple is completed, the temple management itself will prepare 'laddupeda' prasad for the Shri Bade Hanuman temple."

The famous Mankameshwar temple in Lucknow Monday also banned offerings bought by devotees from outside and said they could offer homemade 'prasad' or fruits.

The temple management said it was also taking steps to ensure the purity of prasad offered on the site, with plans to conduct quality checks and potentially establish its own prasad production facilities.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu had last week claimed that substandard ingredients and animal fat were used in the preparation of laddus at the Tirupati Temple during the previous government.

The YSRCP responded by accusing Naidu of making baseless allegations for political gains, leading to the formation of a Special Investigation Team to probe the claims.

FORMER MLA AND CPI(M) LEADER RAKESH SINGH APPEALED TO THE PEOPLE TO COME FORWARD TO PROTECT HUMAN VALUES AND BROTHERHOOD IN THE STATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 27: A large number of Shimla residents carried out a peace march under the CPI(Marxist) banner to counter the tense atmosphere in the state since mass protests broke out over a disputed mosque in the nearby Sanjauli.

The 'Sadbhavna' march was taken out from the Deputy Commissioner's office in Shimla to the Ridge via Lower Bazaar till. The marchers took a pledge of peace, harmony, and brotherhood near Mahatma Gandhi's statue at the Ridge.

Former MLA and CPI(M) leader Rakesh Singh appealed to the people to come forward to protect human values and brotherhood in the state.

"The people of the state have always protected Constitutional

CPI(M) leads 'Sadbhavna' march in communally tense Shimla



"The Constitution does not discriminate between citizens on the basis of religion, caste, region and race. But in the last few days, well-planned communal violence has tarnished the image of Himachal Pradesh in the country and abroad"

RAKESH SINGH | CPI(M) LEADER

and democratic values. Secularism is mentioned in the preamble of the Constitution of the country where all religions have the right to equality," he said.

"The Constitution does not discriminate between citizens on the basis of religion, caste, region and race. But in the last few days, well-planned communal

violence has tarnished the image of Himachal Pradesh in the country and abroad," he added.

Tourism industry, one of the biggest economic resources of the state, is under threat due to communal tension sponsored by some communal organisations, Singh said.

Former Mayor of Shimla Municipal Corporation and CPI(M) leader Sanjay Chauhan said communal tensions are being stoked in Shimla and across the state.

"For the last one month, efforts are being made to spoil the harmony and goodwill in several parts of the state, including Shimla city, and with this march, we want to propagate the message of communal harmony and brotherhood," Chauhan said.

He said communal strife is unheard of in Shimla and such incidents have increased animosity between communities.

"The way in which efforts are being made to hurt mutual brotherhood this time is not only fatal for a particular community but is also a matter of serious concern for the common urban and peace-loving people of the state," Chauhan said.

Meanwhile, Devbhoomi Sangharsh Samiti, a Hindu-right group, is set to hold statewide protests Saturday for the demolition of Sanjauli mosque and demand verification of the unidentified migrants.



Visitors look at the items displayed during the 2nd edition of Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show 2024, in Greater Noida, UP

PTI PHOTO

NAMAMI GANGE MISSION-II

Conservation of turtles, gharials approved

IN ALIGARH, UTTAR PRADESH, A ₹488CR PROJECT WAS APPROVED TO BUILD TWO STPS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 113 MLD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: The government has approved an initiative aimed at conserving freshwater turtles and gharials in Ganga, officials said Friday.

According to officials, the approval was granted for the freshwater turtle and gharial conservation breeding programme at the Kukrail Gharial Rehabilitation Center in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Operated under the Namami Gange Mission-II, the programme will receive ₹2 crore to help restore the endangered species in the Ganga river and



its tributaries.

The development came during the 57th Executive Committee meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) Friday, chaired by DG Rajeev Kumar Mittal, where projects totalling ₹1,062 crore were approved, the officials said.

The projects are focused on conserving the Ganga river and preparations for Mahakumbh 2025, they said.

Key among the approvals is a 350-crore project in Katihar, Bihar; aimed at improving the city's

drainage and sewage systems.

This includes the construction of two sewage treatment plants (STPs) with a combined capacity of 55.5 million litres per day (MLD) and the interception of nine drains, the official said.

In Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, a ₹488-crore project was approved to build two STPs with a total capacity of 113 MLD, alongside a septage co-treatment facility.

The project, which will intercept and divert sewage, is expected to be completed within two

years and will also include 15 years of operation and maintenance, the officials said.

In Supaul, Bihar, a project costing ₹76.69-crore has been approved to construct three STPs and manage six major, while in Uttarakhand, a ₹2.5-crore initiative will boost septage treatment at several STPs in Haridwar, Rishikesh, Srinagar, and Deprayag, they said.

The committee also approved ₹30 crore for IEC (information, education, and communication) activities during Mahakumbh 2025, which will involve decorating the mela area with mural art and organising a 45-day exhibition to showcase achievements under the Namami Gange programme.

Additionally, a project for online continuous monitoring of STPs in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal was approved for ₹33 crore, and a ₹13-crore 'Smart Laboratory for Clean River' project, in collaboration with IIT-BHU and Denmark, will support small river conservation efforts.

Cruiser boat reaches Himachal's Bilaspur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bilaspur/Shimla, Sept 27: The first cruiser boat to be introduced in the Govind Sagar Lake as part of an initiative to promote tourism in the area has arrived, officials said Friday.

The boat's trial run has begun, and plans are afoot to make the facility available for tourists by the end of October, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said in a statement.

The state government is also contemplating introducing heli-taxi services from Bilaspur to Manali or Kullu to cater to tourists looking for unique travel experiences, the statement added.

This initiative aims to boost tourism and leverage the water bodies to position Himachal Pradesh as a premier destination for water-based recreational activities, attracting both domestic and international tourists, Sukhu said.

The chief minister said per-



mission has been secured to commence watersports activities in the Pong Dam at Matiyal and Nangal Chowk area.

The Tourism department plans to start operating Shikara rides, cruise floating restaurants, houseboats, and soft watersports activities by June next year.

Sukhu said the commencement of adventure sports activities in Pong Dam aims to attract more tourists to the Kangra district.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner of Bilaspur Abid Hussain Sadiq said motorboats, jet skis and rescue boats have already arrived in Bilaspur and the cruiser boat would also be ready soon.

Locals hail now-withdrawn 'nameplate' order for vendors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla, Sept 27: The now-retracted order to street vendors to display their credentials has struck a chord with the locals in Himachal Pradesh, which has more than 90 per cent Hindu population.

Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh had Wednesday told reporters that it would be mandatory for street vendors, especially those selling food items, to display their identity cards at their shops.

The decision, he had said, was inspired by a similar directive by the Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government.

The Himachal Pradesh government Thursday, however, said

no such decision has been taken. All the same, the announcement went down well with the majority.

"Shops have been subtle and no one is aware who the owner is and who has rented the shop. There are people who have sold their stalls and are again sitting on roads," Kartar Thakur, a fruit seller in Shimla, said.

Kuldip, a vegetable seller, hailed the decision saying there should be no harm in displaying the name and patronage of the man selling the goods. He said "outsiders" who have set up shops in the state have impacted the income of the locals.

"They import vegetables and fruits directly without paying the market tax and as such they



earn much more than others," Kuldip said.

Another street vendor, Qureshi, said, "We have been living here for over four decades. Shimla is a small place where everyone knows each other and therefore displaying ID is not

an issue. The initiative will put a tab on the new people."

Ramdin, a vegetable and fruit seller in Hamirpur, however, said there was no need for any such law that may harm their business.

At a time when Hindu-Muslim

Last week, Himachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania constituted a seven-member committee headed by Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan for the framing of a policy for 'Street Vendors'.

The committee, of which Vikramaditya Singh is one of the members, has been asked to submit its recommendation to the cabinet for final decision, a spokesperson of the state government said Thursday

strife is on rise, there is no need to implement this decision as it will drive away Hindus from Muslims' shops, he said.

Seema, a grocer, concurred, terming the announcement "anti-migrant" and as something that only will only deepen the divide

between the Hindus and the Muslims.

Vijay, a samosa and tikki cart owner in Nurpur, welcomed the decision, while Fiaz Alam, a momo and noodles seller, has already applied for a licence.

Last week, Himachal Pradesh Assembly Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania constituted a seven-member committee headed by Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan for the framing of a policy for 'Street Vendors'.

The committee, of which Vikramaditya Singh is one of the members, has been asked to submit its recommendation to the cabinet for final decision, a spokesperson of the state government said Thursday.

national

of the day quote

Smart prepaid electricity meters facilitate easier bill payment. If there are any technical glitches, these should be immediately rectified. Some people are spreading misinformation about smart prepaid meters. I would urge the people not to be swayed by rumours and misinformation



NITISH KUMAR | CM, BIHAR

With its stunning landscapes and diverse wildlife, we're expecting a significant surge in tourist footfall this season, further boosting eco-tourism and contributing to the local economy



JAYANTA MALLA BARUAH | ASSAM MINISTER

The incident in Maksi was purely the result of the pressure being mounted during BJP's membership drive. People have been openly told to become members of BJP or take bullets in the chest



DIGVIJAYA SINGH | SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER

SHORT TAKES

ED searches T'gana minister's premises

Hyderabad: The Enforcement Directorate on Friday raided multiple premises linked to Telangana Revenue Minister P Srinivasa Reddy and some others as part of a money laundering case linked to an alleged smuggling racket of more than ₹100 crore, official sources said. About five premises in the state, including Hyderabad, are being searched.

J'khand expands food security scheme

Ranchi: The Jharkhand cabinet Friday approved a proposal to include 5 lakh more beneficiaries under the state food security scheme and increase the ration dealers' commission to ₹150 per quintal from the existing ₹100. These were among 49 proposals cleared by the cabinet during a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

J&K: NIA raids multiple places

New Delhi/Jammu: The NIA Friday conducted searches at multiple places in Rajouri and Reasi districts of J&K as part of its investigation into the deadly terror attack in June on a bus carrying pilgrims who were returning from Shiv Khori temple. Seven locations in Reasi and Rajouri districts were extensively searched in the case registered by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in June this year after taking over the probe from the local police, according to an official statement.



I chaired a meeting at Samman Bhawan with senior officials from the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), and Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) to address land issues affecting road projects in our state

PREM SINGH TAMANG | CM, SIKKIM

LOVE MARRIAGE LEADS TO SOCIAL BOYCOTT

A case has been registered against nine members of a caste panchayat for imposing a social boycott on a woman and her family after her father-in-law entered into a love marriage without the panchayat's consent



Top court raps CAQM over pollution, stubble burning

Expressing dissatisfaction over steps taken by the panel to control pollution, a bench of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih said CAQM needs to exercise its power under the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021

New Delhi, Sept 27: The Supreme Court Friday rapped the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) over its failure to curb air pollution in Delhi due to crop residue burning in the neighbouring states and said it needs to be more active in its approach. Expressing dissatisfaction over steps taken by the panel to control pollution, a bench of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih said CAQM needs to exercise its power under the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021.

"There has been total non-compliance of the Act. Please show us a single direction issued to any stakeholder under the Act."

"We are of the view that though the commission has taken steps, it needs to be more active. The commission must ensure that its efforts and directions issued actually translate into reducing the problem of pollution," the bench said.

The top court said efforts are



needed to ensure that stubble-burning alternative equipment are used at the grassroots level. The panel must immediately step into action to ensure the equipment provided by the Central government for avoiding stubble burning are actually used by the farmers, it added. The bench directed the panel to file a better compliance report and posted the matter for hearing October 3.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, informed the court about the steps taken, such as issuing advisories and guidelines, to control stubble burning. However, the top court remarked, "It is all in the air, nothing has been shown regarding what has been done in the National Capital Region (NCR) to states." Chairman of the Commission for Air Quality Management for NCT of Delhi Rajesh Verma, who was present during the hearing virtually, told the bench that he has

held meetings with the deputy commissioners of Punjab and Haryana where incidents of stubble-burning have been reported. The apex court on September 24 asked the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas

to explain the steps being taken to curb air pollution caused by crop residue burning. On August 27, it termed the pollution control boards of Delhi and NCR states "ineffective" due to staff shortage and asked the body responsible for air quality management in the national capital and adjoining areas to explain how it proposes to tackle pollution and stubble burning which would spike with the onset of winter.

The top court had wondered how the sub-committee on safeguarding and enforcement to be constituted by the CAQM would function due to lack of representation from the pollution control boards of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh due to vacancies.

The top court had earlier noted that stubble burning was one of the causes for a spike in air pollution in Delhi-NCR during winters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUDA scam case FIR AGAINST SIDDARAMAIAH

A Special Court in Bangalore Wednesday ordered a Lokayukta police probe against Siddaramaiah in the case, setting the stage for filing an FIR against him



Professional thief's response, says BJP

New Delhi: The BJP Friday flayed the Congress over the Karnataka government's decision to withdraw the general consent to the CBI to probe cases in the state amid the MUDA land allotment row, describing it as a response of a "professional thief and a corrupt party". Terming the Congress government's move a bid to evade a CBI probe into the MUDA "scam" allegedly involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said the decision depicted a "guilty mind" in itself.

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.

Accordingly, the FIR has been registered Sec.120B (Punishment of criminal conspiracy), 166 (Public servant disobeying law, with intent to cause injury to any person), 403 (Dishonest misappropriation of property), 406 (Punishment for criminal breach of trust), 420 (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 426 (Punishment for mischief), 465 (Punishment for forgery), 468 (Forgery for purpose of cheating), 340 (Wrongful confinement), 351 (Assault) and other relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore/Mysuru, Sept 27: Lokayukta police Friday registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case, following the court order.

Congress President M Mallikarjun Kharge, meanwhile, came to Siddaramaiah's defence, stating that the party is standing with him and will support him.

Siddaramaiah, who began his three-day visit to his home district of Mysuru, claimed that he was being targeted in the MUDA issue as the opposition is "scared" of him and said it's the first such "political case" against him.

While Siddaramaiah is accused number one (A1) in the case, his wife BM Parvathi (A2), brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy (A3), Devaraju (A4) -- from whom Mallikarjuna Swamy purchased land and gifted it to Parvathi -- and others are named in the FIR registered by Lokayukta police in Mysuru.

The order of the Special Court Judge, Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, came a day after the High Court upheld the sanction granted by the Governor Thawarchand Gehlot to conduct an investigation against Siddaramaiah on the allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the MUDA.

SNIPPETS

Jagan Reddy cancels Tirupati temple visit

Amaravati: YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Friday said he has indefinitely postponed his planned trip to the Tirupati Lord Venkateshwara Temple, coming in the midst of the Laddu controversy, while Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said no one stopped the Opposition leader from visiting the shrine. Jagan's decision came amid growing demand by NDA allies in Andhra Pradesh to declare his faith before entering the temple. Reacting to Reddy's decision, Naidu, while maintaining that no person is above traditions and customs, also said no one prevented the former CM from going to the temple. All he was asked, was to follow temple rules.

BJP wins last vacant seat of MCD

New Delhi: The BJP won the last vacant seat of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's 18-member Standing Committee unopposed Friday as the councillors of the ruling AAP and Congress boycotted the election. Hitting out at the BJP, Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal alleged that the saffron party has wrongly taken over the control of the civic body by stealing the mandate and termed the act as "hoooliganism". BJP's candidate Sunder Singh got all 115 votes of the party's councillors while the AAP's Nirmala Kumari did not receive any votes. The AAP may challenge the poll result in court, a party functionary said. The standing committee is the highest decision-making body of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Policy proposals involving an expenditure of ₹5 crore and above require the standing committee's approval.

2 killed in wall collapse opposite Mahakal temple

Ujjain (MP): Two persons including a woman were killed as a part of a boundary wall of a building opposite the famous Mahakal temple here collapsed due to heavy rains Friday evening, an official said. Four persons were trapped under the debris as a portion of the boundary wall of the Maharajwada school building collapsed, said Ujjain collector Neeraj Kumar Singh. A rescue operation was launched immediately and they were rushed to the district hospital but two of them died, he said. The two survivors were sent to Indore for further treatment, the collector added. The kin of the deceased will be given a financial assistance of ₹4 lakh each and the injured will get ₹50,000 for treatment, he said.



A student with her face painted takes part in a programme on the Word Toursim Day, in Moradbad

PTI PHOTO

SC expunges Allahabad HC remarks on conversions

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Manoj Misra passed the order while granting bail to one Kailash against whom a case had been filed under provisions of the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act and under section 365 (Kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine person) of the IPC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: The Supreme Court Friday expunged the Allahabad High Court's remark that majority population of the country will become the minority one day if religious congregations where conversions take place are not stopped. A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice Manoj

Misra passed the order while granting bail to one Kailash against whom a case had been filed under provisions of the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act and under section 365 (Kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine person) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The top court granted the relief to the accused noting that he



was in custody since May 21, 2023, and the charge sheet has been submitted July 19, 2023.

"We clarify that the general observations made by the High Court had no bearing on the facts of the present case and were, therefore, not required for

the disposal of the case. The observations, therefore, shall not be cited in any other case or proceeding in the High Court or in any other court," the bench said.

Earlier July 2, the high court, while hearing a bail plea, noted the allegations that the appli-

cant had been taking people from Hamirpur in Uttar Pradesh to a religious congregation in Delhi for conversion and said, "If this process is allowed to be carried out, the majority population of this country would be in minority one day.."

The high court had denied bail to the accused while observing that such conversions were against the Constitution which only provided "freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion".

It further said, "It has come into notice of this court in several cases that unlawful activity of conversion of people of SC/ST castes and other castes including economically poor persons into Christianity is being done at rampant pace throughout the state of Uttar Pradesh."

Army beefs up artillery power along China border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: The Indian Army is enhancing the combat prowess of its artillery units along the frontier with China by procuring an array of weapons systems, including an additional batch of 100 K9 Vajra howitzers, swarm drones, loitering munitions and surveillance systems.

Lieutenant General Adosh Kumar, the Director General of Artillery in the Army, said various futuristic platforms and equipment are being procured to bolster the capabilities of the artillery units considering national security challenges.

"Today, we are modernising

at a pace like never before and as per defined timelines," he told reporters ahead of the 198th anniversary of the Artillery Regiment September 28.

The development work is also in progress by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for hypersonic missiles, he said. Hypersonic missiles can fly at a speed of five mach or more than five times the speed of sound.

Lieutenant General Kumar said a number of 155 mm gun systems, including K-9 Vajra, Dhanush and Sharang, have been deployed along the Northern borders to boost the Army's fire-power.

national



There is massive corruption in Jharkhand, nothing moves here without money. Central funds meant for various schemes were grossly misused by the Hemant Soren-led government. We will initiate a thorough probe into the irregularities in MGNREGA

RLYS TO RUN 6K SPECIAL TRAINS

As the festive season approaches, Indian Railways has decided to run nearly 6,000 special trains to help more than one crore passengers get home for Durga Puja, Diwali and Chhath festivals



of the day quote

So far, we have received investment proposals worth more than ₹2 lakh crore and it is likely to continue. Not only big industries, but attention is also being given to micro, small and medium industries (MSMEs)

Today, we have 157 airports but in the next 20-25 years, when we are going to see the real Viksit Bharat in 2047, we want to increase the number of airports which is 157 today to the tune of 350

My students, the youth of our country are at the forefront of India's technological and economic transformation. Initiatives like the indigenous 5G Testproject here at IIT Madras are not only a testament to India's growing innovation capabilities but is also a vital step towards becoming the third-largest economy in the world

Ghosh could face death penalty: Court

THE CBI IS PROBING INTO THE ALLEGED RAPE AND MURDER OF THE MEDIC AT THE RG KAR HOSPITAL FOLLOWING A CALCUTTA HIGH COURT ORDER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 27: A designated CBI court, denying bail to former RG Kar Medical College and Hospital principal Sandip Ghosh, has observed that the nature and gravity of the accusation against him is grave and it can attract capital punishment if proved. The CBI had arrested Ghosh and former officer in-charge of Tala police station, Abhijit Mondal, for alleged tampering of evidence and delay in filing of FIR in the rape and murder of a doctor at the state-run hospital August 9.

RG KAR HORROR

THE CBI HAD ARRESTED GHOSH AND FORMER OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF TALA POLICE STATION, ABHIJIT MONDAL, FOR ALLEGED TAMPERING OF EVIDENCE AND DELAY IN FILING OF FIR IN THE RAPE AND MURDER OF A DOCTOR AT THE STATE-RUN HOSPITAL AUGUST 9



accused on bail". He said in the order that a person may commit an offence with the help of others, and there is no need to be present for the other accused at the place of occurrence. The court also rejected the bail prayer of Abhijit Mondal. It granted the CBI's prayer for judicial custody of the two accused till September 30. Ghosh's counsel claimed before the judge at Sealdah Court here that he was falsely implicated in the case, and there was no act on his part to commit the crime as alleged. The postgraduate trainee's body was found with severe injuries in the seminar hall of the RG Kar hospital August 9. Meanwhile, junior doctors Friday

said they will hold a large rally in Kolkata October 2 demanding justice for the medic. Debasish Halder, a junior doctor, said they have also called for protest rallies in every part of the state by the general public September 29, on the eve of the scheduled hearing on the matter before the Supreme Court. Following a mass convention organised by the junior doctors at an auditorium of the state-run SSKM Hospital here this evening, he said that the mega protest rally will be held from College Square to Esplanade in central Kolkata, culminating in a public meeting October 2. A large number of senior and

UP SHOCKER

Student 'sacrificed' for school's success



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agra, Sept 27: An 11-year-old child was killed as part of an alleged sacrificial ritual performed by the owners of his school in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras to make it more prosperous, police said Friday.

Police (ASP), Hathras told PTI. "The student was abducted from the school's hostel September 23 by teacher Ramprakash Solanki, Dinesh Baghel and school owner Jasodhan Singh. Jasodhan Singh believes in 'tantra' practice and asked his son to sacrifice a child for the prosperity of school and his family," he said.

Besides the owner and director of the school, the principal and two teachers were also arrested for their alleged involvement in the incident, they said. Police said the postmortem report of the class two student revealed that he was strangled.

They took the student to a secluded place for the sacrifice but the student woke up and began crying, the officer said. "After that he was strangled. Another teacher Veerpal Singh and school principal Laxman Singh were also present at the spot and were guarding the place," he said.

DL Public School owner Jasodhan Singh, who is said to believe in 'tantrik rituals', asked his son Dinesh Baghel, the director of the school, to sacrifice a child for the prosperity of the school and his family. Principal Laxman Singh and two teachers - Ramprakash Solanki and Veerpal Singh -- have also been held by police. Police has lodged an FIR against them under the section 103 (1) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, against five of them and they have been sent to jail. "The student has been identified as Kritarth (11) studying in class second of the DL Public School," Ashok Kumar Singh, Additional Superintendent of

teacher Veerpal Singh and school principal Laxman Singh were also present at the spot and were guarding the place," he said. Police further said that the accused told the child's parents that Kritarth was not well as was being taken to a hospital in Baghel's car. Family members of the child, however, stopped the car and informed police about Kritarth's death, police said. "Later, postmortem report showed that he died due to strangulation. In the police investigation, the accused informed police that the student was killed for 'sacrifice' for the prosperity of school and the owner's family," the ASP said.

CPI (M) severs ties with MLA PV Anvar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: A day after he launched a direct attack on Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, the ruling CPI(M) in Kerala Friday severed ties with MLA P V Anvar, who had twice won the Congress stronghold of Nilambur in Malappuram district with Left support, accusing him of 'wielding a "political axe of the right-wing." CPI (M) state secretary M V Govindan, at a press conference in Delhi, announced that the party was cutting all ties with Anvar, stating that the MLA had himself decided to distance from the ruling Left coalition in the state.



Police personnel detain NSUI members during a protest against the alleged rape and murder of a 6-year-old girl by her school principal in Dahod district, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Stalin meets PM, seeks funds for Chennai Metro

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin met Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday and sought early release of pending funds for Chennai metro and integrated education initiatives, besides an intervention to protect Tamil fishermen. The DMK president, who described the meeting as "purposeful", presented a detailed report on three main issues. "The Prime Minister listened patiently," Stalin told reporters after the meeting. The Chief Minister sought the speedy release of funds for the Chennai

metro project as ₹ 18,544 crore has already been spent so far. The state government wants to start work on the second phase of the Chennai metro and the non-disbursement of the pending dues has "caused a delay in the works, he emphasised." About the integrated education initiative, Stalin highlighted the hold-up in the first instalment of the 60:40 Centre-State funded programme. He clarified that while Tamil Nadu has incorporated positive elements of the National Education Policy, it has not accepted the trilingual policy. "We have asked for a correction in the MoU to explicitly state that there will be no lan-



guage imposition," the Chief Minister added. While discussing the plight of Tamil fishermen facing arrest by the Sri Lankan Navy, Stalin requested Modi's

personal intervention while stating that 191 fishing boats and 145 fishermen have been captured. He sought a resolution of the matter at the upcoming India-Sri Lanka joint committee meeting in Colombo next month. After his meeting with Modi, Stalin said the Prime Minister has assured him of considering all three demands. The Tamil Nadu chief minister later met Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, ahead of an opposition rally in Kancheepuram September 28. He also met the family of CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury who died recently. Stalin also met CPI General Secretary D Raja in Delhi.

DEFAMATION CASE

Top court to hear plea of Kejriwal, Atishi Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: The Supreme Court would hear Monday a plea of Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal challenging a high court order that refused to quash a defamation case against them over remarks on the alleged deletion of the names of 30 lakh voters belonging to some communities from the electoral rolls.



A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and S V N Bhatti Friday took note of the submissions made by senior advocate Sonia Mathur, who appeared in the court on behalf of BJP leader Rajiv Babbar, that her caveat was not mentioned in the office report and she could not file a response as the petition was served to her late Thursday evening. The bench listed the matter for hearing Monday. Representing Atishi and Kejriwal in the court, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi said he can argue the matter September 30. Atishi and Kejriwal have challenged the September 2 order of the Delhi High Court that refused to quash the proceedings against them and other Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders over their remarks about the alleged deletion of voters' names, saying the imputations prima facie lowered the reputation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease major concern

NCDs ARE ACCOUNTING FOR MORE THAN 66 PER CENT OF DEATH IN THE COUNTRY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: One to three of 10 people are being diagnosed with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, which is rapidly emerging as a major public health concern closely linked with metabolic disorders such as obesity and diabetes, Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra said Friday. Chandra, who released the revised Operational Guidelines and Training Module of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD), here said India has taken the lead in recognising it as a major non-communicable disease (NCD). "NAFLD is rapidly emerging as a major public health concern, closely linked with metabolic disorders such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Out of 10, one to three people can have NAFLD which highlights the impact of the disease," Chandra stated. He highlighted that the release of revised operational

guidelines and training modules reflects the importance being given by the Union Health Ministry to curb the disease. Chandra said these documents will provide a framework for health workers at all levels, from community health workers to medical officers. He also emphasised the importance of continuum of care for people who have been diagnosed with NCDs and underlined the need for lifestyle modification for reducing the prevalence of NAFLD. Speaking on the occasion, Punya Salila Srivastava, Officer on Special Duty, Union Health Ministry said these guidelines need to reach the grassroots level workers so that the disease is detected early and the burden of NAFLD is reduced. She said the release of training module is a significant addition to India's efforts to build capacities amongst healthcare professionals to tackle the rising burden of NCDs in India. Dr S K Sarin, Director, Institute of Liver and Biliary



Sciences (ILBS), said the release of the two documents is a momentous step whose results will be reflected in the next few years. He noted that many NCDs such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer are linked to liver health, underscoring the importance of maintaining a healthy liver. NCDs are accounting for more than 66 per cent of death in the country. They are strongly associated and causally linked with major behaviour risk fac-

tors such as tobacco use (smoking and smokeless), alcohol use, poor dietary habits, insufficient physical activity and air pollution, the ministry said in a statement. NAFLD is emerging as an important cause of liver disease in India. It could be assuming a silent epidemic with community prevalence ranging from 9 per cent to 32 per cent, depending on age, gender, area of residence and socioeconomic status, the statement stated.

XPOST OF THE DAY

A Palestinian man and an UNRWA cameraman are recording a video to trick you as usual. Billions of people realized that Hamas was a liar @Robliin_Hoodx

SHORT TAKES

Heavy rain triggers multiple landslides

Gangtok: Heavy rains in Sikkim over the last three days have triggered multiple landslides in several areas and caused significant damage to the old Rang-Rang bridge, considered the gateway to the northern part of the state, officials said Friday. With the bridge down, Mangan district headquarters is cut off from the rest of the state. The alternative route via Dzongu is also blocked due to damage to the Sankhalang bridge last year.

Woman vandalises Fadnavis' nameplate

Mumbai: A woman has vandalised the name plate of Maharashtra deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis outside his office at 'Mantralaya' in south Mumbai. The incident which took place Thursday evening raised questions about the security at the state government's headquarters. Fadnavis, a former Chief Minister who currently handles the home portfolio, was not in his sixth-floor office at the time, officials said.

Pillar of bridge caves in Bihar

Bhagalpur: A pillar of a small bridge subsided in Bihar's Bhagalpur district Friday, following which traffic movement on it was stopped, an official said. No one was injured in the incident, he said. Notably, more than a dozen bridges and causeways collapsed in several districts in Bihar recently. An enquiry has been ordered to ascertain the exact cause of the incident, the DM said. Earlier, incidents of small bridges collapsing were reported in Siwan, Saran, Madhubani, Araria, East Champaran and Kishanganj districts.

international



Our teams met (September 26) to discuss the US initiative and how we can advance the shared goal of returning people safely to their homes. We will continue those discussions in the coming days

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PM, ISRAEL

N-SUBMARINE SINKS

China's newest nuclear-powered attack submarine sank earlier this year, a senior US defence official said, a potential embarrassment for Beijing as it seeks to expand its military capabilities



of the day quote

For nearly four years, we have been living through the worst border crisis in the history of the world. The architect of this destruction is Kamala Harris

DONALD TRUMP | FORMER PRESIDENT, US

We will change how the UK does things. Moving from the paternalism of the past towards partnership for the future, listening a lot more, speaking a lot less

KEIR STARMER | PM, UK

Nepal believes in peace since ancient times as our eastern philosophy stresses on peace in sky, earth, water and mountains, and this year's slogan of World Tourism Day, 'Tourism and Peace', truly represents the voice of a peace loving country like ours

PRAKASH MAN SINGH | DEPUTY PM, NEPAL

Israel targets Hezbollah HQ

HEZBOLLAH LEADER SAYYED HASSAN NASRALLAH WAS THE TARGET OF THE STRIKE

Beirut, Sept 27: The Israeli military said it had targeted Hezbollah's central headquarters in Beirut's southern suburbs Friday in an attack that shook the Lebanese capital and sent thick clouds of smoke over the city.

The news outlet Axios cited an Israeli source as saying Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was the target of the strike and that the Israeli military was checking if he was hit.

A source close to Hezbollah told Reuters that Nasrallah is alive, while Iran's Tasnim news agency also reported he was safe. A senior Iranian security official told Reuters that Tehran was checking his status.

Iran-backed Hezbollah's al-Manar television reported that four buildings were destroyed and there were many casualties in the multiple strikes, which marked a major escalation of Israel's conflict with the heavily armed Hezbollah.

Al-Manar's live feed showed search and rescue teams scrambling over concrete and protruding metal, with a correspondent for the TV station



Israeli PM Netanyahu cuts short US trip after strikes | US says it did not have advanced warning of the ops | Israel does not care about global calls: Lebanese PM

saying the attack had left several large craters and damaged many surrounding buildings.

The Israeli military said it had carried out a "precise strike" on Hezbollah's headquarters which it said were "embedded under residential buildings in the heart of the Dahiyeh in Beirut".

Israel has struck the Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs of Beirut, known as Dahiyeh, four times over the last week, killing at least three senior Hezbollah military commanders.

But Friday's attack was far more powerful, with multiple blasts shaking windows across the city, recalling Israeli airstrikes during the war it fought with Hezbollah in 2006.

In a televised statement, Israeli military spokesperson Daniel Hagari said the central command centre was embedded deep within civilian areas.

The strikes hit Beirut shortly after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to continue Israel's attacks on Iranian-backed fighters in Lebanon in a closely watched United Nations speech, as hopes faded for a ceasefire that could head off an all-out regional war. Lebanese Prime Minister

As long as Hezbollah chooses the path of war, Israel has no choice, and Israel has every right to remove this threat and return our citizens to their homes safely

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU | PM, ISRAEL

SHORT TAKES

Jaishankar meets UN chief, UNGA Prez

New York: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and UN General Assembly's new President Philemon Yang here separately, exchanging views on global issues like the conflicts in West Asia and Ukraine while supporting Yang's vision of "unity in diversity", "peace" and "human sustainability". Jaishankar is in the US to attend the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly and met Guterres and Yang on the sidelines of the high-level session Thursday. The two leaders discussed the Summit of the Future, held at the UN headquarters September 22-23, and its implementation, climate change, Artificial Intelligence, and geopolitical developments. Yang also took to X after his meeting with Jaishankar, appreciating India's role in promoting the interests of the Global South.

Afghan embassy in London shutters

London: Afghanistan's embassy in London closed Friday after Taliban authorities cut ties with diplomatic missions set up by the previous government in Kabul and fired its UK staff. Afghan ambassador to the UK Zalmay Rassoul announced on social media earlier this month that the embassy would close "at the official request of the host country" September 27. The UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) denied that it was behind the closure. "This decision was not made by the UK government," a spokesperson said. "The State of Afghanistan decided to close the Afghan Embassy in London and dismiss its staff."

Azerbaijan buys Pak fighter jets

Islamabad: Azerbaijan has purchased multi-role JF-17 Block III fighter jets from Pakistan reportedly under a \$1.6 billion deal, a media report said Friday. "A contract for the sale of JF-17 Block-III fighter aircraft" to Azerbaijan was signed recently," the Pakistan Army said in a statement. It is believed the agreement was inked in February this year, the Dawn newspaper reported. "The jets have already been integrated into the arsenal of Azerbaijan's Air Force," Azerbaijan's presidency said in a statement after President Ilham Aliyev was formally presented with the aircraft at the Heydar Aliyev International Airport Wednesday.

SNIPPETS

Never followed 'India Out' agenda: Muizzu

Male: Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has denied having an "India Out" agenda, asserting that the island nation had a "serious problem" with the presence of foreign military on its soil. "We have never been against any one country at any point. It's not India Out. Maldives faced a serious problem with foreign military presence on this soil," Maldivian news portal adhadhu.com quoted him as saying. "The people of Maldives do not want a single foreign soldier in the country," Muizzu said. Muizzu had asked India to withdraw nearly 90 Indian military personnel operating three aviation platforms gifted by the country. He further stressed he had taken action against deputy ministers for insulting PM Narendra Modi on social media. "No one should say such a thing. I took action against it. I will not accept insulting anyone like that, whether he is a leader or an ordinary person. Every human being has a reputation," the report quoted him as saying.

Shigeru to be Japan's new leader

Tokyo: Japan's ruling party Friday picked former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba as leader, setting him up to become Prime Minister next week. The party leadership win is a ticket to the top job because the Liberal Democratic Party's ruling coalition currently controls the Parliament. Considered a defense policy expert, Ishiba has proposed an Asian version of the NATO military alliance and a more equal Japan-US security alliance. Ishiba is a supporter of Taiwan's democracy. He calls for an establishment of a disaster management agency in one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. Ishiba beat out Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, a staunch conservative who was running to become the country's first female Prime Minister. A record nine lawmakers, including two women, ran in a vote decided by LDP members of Parliament and about 1 million dues-paying party members. That's only 1 per cent of the country's eligible voters.

UNGA MEETING Pak PM raises Kashmir issue

PAKISTAN PM SHEHBAZ SHARIF RAKES THE ISSUE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, AS EXPECTED, MAKING REFERENCES TO ARTICLE 370

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Sept 27: Pakistan Friday raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in the UN General Assembly, saying India should reverse the abrogation of Article 370 and enter into a dialogue with it for a "peaceful" resolution of the issue.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his address at the General Debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, raked the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, as expected, making references to Article 370.

Sharif spoke at length about Kashmir saying that "similarly, like the people of Palestine, the people of Jammu and Kashmir too, have struggled for a century for their freedom and right to self-determination".

Referring to India's decision



to abrogate Article 370, Sharif said, "to secure durable peace, India must reverse the unilateral and illegal measures" of August 2019 and enter into a dialogue for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and "wishes of the Kashmiri people". Sharif alleged that instead of moving towards peace, India has moved away from its commitments to implement the Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. "These resolutions mandate a plebiscite to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to exercise their fundamental right to self-determination," he said. India has also asked Pakistan to concentrate on addressing its internal matters rather than raising the Kashmir issue and indulging in frivolous allegations against New Delhi.

ERDOGAN SKIPS KASHMIR

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan did not mention Kashmir in his address at the United Nations General Assembly this year, the first time he has skipped the issues since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. The focus of his 35-minute speech this year was the humanitarian situation in Gaza, where over 40,000 people have died in Israeli attacks against Hamas.

After India scrapped the special status Jammu and Kashmir enjoyed under the Constitution in 2019, Erdogan has referred to Kashmir every year in his address to world leaders at the UNGA session here, while advocating talks between New Delhi and Islamabad.

This time, September 24, Erdogan drew the international community's attention to the plight of the Palestinians in Gaza, accusing the UN of failing to stop the deaths of civilians.

"The world is bigger than five," he repeated his well-known remark, about the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Erdogan's skipping of the Kashmir reference is being seen as an apparent shift in Turkey's stance and comes at a time when the country is trying to become a member of the BRICS grouping to forge alliances beyond the West.

US charges Iranians with hacking attack on Trump campaign

REUTERS

Washington, Sept 27: The US Justice Department Friday unsealed criminal charges accusing three members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps of hacking Donald Trump's presidential campaign and trying to disrupt the November 5 election.

The indictment is the latest effort by the Biden administration to counter foreign efforts to interfere in the election between former President Trump, a Republican, and his Democratic rival Vice President Kamala Harris.



Iran said Thursday that accusations that it had targeted former US officials were baseless.

The three men, Masoud Jalili, Seyyed Ali Aghamiri and Yasar Balaghi, were trying to undermine Trump's campaign, Attorney General Merrick Garland told a news conference Friday.

"We are seeing increasingly aggressive Iranian cyber activity during this election cycle," he said.

The indictment says the three men used fake email accounts to trick several campaign officials into believing they were dealing with a trusted source, and then got them to click on links that allowed the hackers to steal emails and other internal documents, such as debate preparation material and profiles of potential vice presidential candidates.

They then leaked that information to media outlets and the campaign of President Joe Biden while he was still a candidate, the indictment said.

Charges include wire fraud, identity theft and computer fraud. The US Treasury Department also said it was imposing sanctions on the three men along with several other Revolutionary Guard Corps members.

Trump's campaign said in August it had been hacked by Iran but said the perpetrators were not able to get private information. However, several news outlets have said they declined to publish internal campaign documents that were offered to them.

How Big Tech is seizing power from states

The Brazilian Supreme Court August 30 banned X, formerly known as Twitter, in the country. The ban was the culmination of a months-long fight between Elon Musk, the platform's owner and the earth's richest man, and Alexandre de Moraes, one of the court's justices. Moraes was tasked with investigating the role of online disinformation in attempts to keep former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro in power, despite losing the election. As part of these duties, Moraes had ordered X to take down hundreds of accounts spreading disinformation. In response, the platform accused the justice of censorship. Musk withdrew the representatives X legally needed to operate in Brazil, which eventually led the justice to prevent Brazilians from accessing the platform altogether.

According to reporting by The New York Times, Musk actively worked around the order. First,

he encouraged Brazilians to use virtual private networks (VPNs) to evade the blockage. Then, his Starlink satellite network, which provides internet service to subscribers directly from space, continued providing access to the site. Finally, X rerouted its internet traffic through new servers, allowing it to circumvent Brazil's telecommunication controls altogether.

Under mounting pressure from authorities in a country with a significant number of X users (and asset seizures), the company eventually agreed to block the disinformation accounts and pay off its fines. But the brazenness with which a tech mogul was able to defy a state's decision makes a stark and scary fact very tangible: democratic governments have lost their primacy in the digital world. Instead, companies and their executives are increasingly in charge. This power shift is the sum of society's systemic dependence on technology firms, the legal gray zones



in which they operate, and the unique characteristics of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. It is a product of how public institutions have been stripped of their technological knowledge, agency, and accountability. It is a reality that generations of politicians of various parties have allowed to set in.

If democracy is to survive, leaders must fight this coup head on. They need to shrink their overdependence on powerful

tech companies. They must empower public interest technology as a counterweight. They need to rebuild their own tech expertise. Most of all, they must build effective and innovative regulatory regimes that can meaningfully hold tech companies to account. The Brazilian case is a reminder that it is not too late. Democratic authorities can reclaim their sovereignty and assert themselves effectively in tech—if they choose to use their muscles.

Private firms are constantly producing new technological inventions, but policymakers have failed to keep pace. In the United States, two key tech regulations, the Communication Decency Act and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, were passed decades ago—in 1996 and 1998, respectively—long before Steve Jobs had even thought of the iPhone.

As their authority grows, tech CEOs are becoming larger-than-life figures. Musk is perhaps the most obvious example, given his direct attacks on world leaders and involvement in politics. But other executives have also assumed outsized prominence in public life. Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has routinely been called to testify before Congress. He has argued that his business is key to the US competition with China (and should thus be left untouched). Alphabet, Amazon, and Microsoft executives also frequently show up in Washington.

business



We will not buy (supply from) Arctic LNG 2. We are not buying any sanctioned commodity. Something which has broad-based sanctions, we are not touching it

PANKAJ JAIN | OIL SECRETARY

OLA'S S1 X 2KWH GETS PLI CERT

Ola Electric Friday said its electric scooter S1 X 2kWh has received compliance certificate as per the eligibility requirements under the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme. With this, the company now has 5 products in both premium and mass-market two-wheeler products that are certified under the PLI scheme, Ola Electric said



of the day quote

The government has prepared a road map for creating 4.5-6 crore jobs in the textile sector by 2030



GIRIRAJ SINGH | UNION MINISTER

The government is working on another round of the PLI scheme for speciality steel as the response for the first round of the initiative did not meet expectations



SANDEEP POUDESIK | STEEL SECRETARY

BIS certification for Vedanta Aluminium's wire rods and rolled products is a testament to our commitment to quality, safety, and regulatory compliance



SUNIL GUPTA | COO, VEDANTA

SHORT TAKES

Govt mulls RINL's merger with SAIL

New Delhi: The government is considering merger of RINL with another state-owned steel company SAIL as one of the options to ensure survival of RINL's plant and resolve the financial and operational issues being faced by the Andhra Pradesh-based steel maker, sources said. To provide capital for continuity of operations at the RINL's steel plant, plans like sale of land parcel to NMDC and bank loans are also being worked out, they told PTI. The DFS secretary, steel secretary and top officials of public sector lender SBI also held a meeting recently over the RINL issue. SBI has significant loan exposure to RINL. "The government wants to provide a permanent solution to the issue. One of the options being discussed is the merger of RINL with SAIL," the sources said.

SpiceJet clears all its GST dues

New Delhi: Debt-ridden SpiceJet Friday said it has cleared all its Goods and Services Tax (GST) dues. The airline, which raised ₹3,000 crore through the Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) route last week, had GST dues worth over ₹145 crore. In a release, the carrier said it has cleared all the GST dues. As per the preliminary placement document related to ₹3,000 crore fundraise, the airline had GST dues of ₹145.1 crore as September 15. After receiving the fresh capital of ₹3,000 crore, SpiceJet has also cleared salary dues of employees for July and August as well part of pending June salaries.

UPI pips credit cards as preferred payment method

The immense popularity of UPI is seen from the transaction volume ratio which stands at 38.4 times of credit card transaction volumes



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 27: The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions have grown at a stellar pace of 75 per cent Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR), while UPI spends surged at 68 per cent CAGR in the August 2019-August 2024 period, a report showed Friday, as the card industry's growth remained tepid. The immense popularity of UPI is seen from the transaction volume ratio which stands at 38.4 times of credit card transaction volumes, according to the report by Axis Securities.

UPI remains a preferred medium for lower-value payments as 96 per cent of the transaction volume is less than ₹2,000, although the contribution to total UPI spends was 33 per cent (as of August). However, given the lower ticket size of UPI transactions, the UPI-to-Credit Card spends stood at 0.3 times in August, which is largely stable at current levels. The industry's net card additions stood at 924,000 in August compared to 755,000 in July. However, the pace has decelerated sharply (down 34 per cent YoY on a year-to-date basis). "We believe it reflects the issuers' caution and cherry-pick-

Expanding footprints

NPCI International Payments Limited (NPCI) has entered into a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Digital Transformation (MDT) of Trinidad and Tobago to develop a real-time payments platform similar to India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI). This collaboration marks a significant milestone, making Trinidad and Tobago the first Caribbean nation to adopt the globally renowned UPI, NPCI said in a statement.

ing customers amidst asset quality concerns in the segment. In the first five months in FY25, the industry added 3.7 million cards compared to 6 million in the same period in the last fiscal," the report mentioned. With changing consumer preferences shifting towards the use of credit cards and UPI, debit cards as a payment medium have not been able to maintain pace. In contrast to credit card growth, debit card transaction vol-

umes and spends have de-grown sharply by 20 per cent and 6 per cent CAGR over August 2019-August 2024, said the report.

Private banks have been out-performing their public and foreign peers across metrics. In August, private banks added 583,000 customers of the total industry additions of 924,000 customers (63 per cent market share in customer sourcing).

The report expects resumption of growth momentum with the upcoming festive season.

LONGEST STREAK IN 3 YRS

RBI sells bonds for 11th week in a row

REUTERS

Mumbai, Sept 27: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) continued selling government bonds from its portfolio for an eleventh consecutive week, posting its longest such streak since January 2022, data released Friday showed.

The RBI sold bonds worth ₹11.95 billion (\$142.85 million) in the week ending September 20, bringing the total sale for the 11-week period to ₹240.6 billion, data released Friday showed.

Small quantities of bond sales could be to address demand and supply dynamics for bonds, said Gaura Sen Gupta, chief economist at IDFC First Bank, pointing out that demand has been supported by bond index inclusion flows and long-term investor interest. The small quantum indicates the RBI wants to do this in a non-disruptive manner, she said, adding that such sales could continue as the banking system liquidity conditions are expected to remain comfortable with the rise in core liquidity.

The central bank typically sells or buys bonds to adjust banking system liquidity and rates to align them with its monetary policy. However, these operations also impact yields. India's banking system liquidity has averaged a surplus of more than one trillion rupees during the July-September quarter.

RECORD HIGH

FX kitty rises for 6th week, inches closer to \$700bn

REUTERS

Mumbai, Sept 27: India's foreign exchange reserves continued to rise for a sixth straight week to a record high of \$692.3 billion as of September 20, data from the central bank showed Friday.

The reserves rose by \$2.84 billion in the reporting week, after having risen by a total of \$19.3 billion in the prior five weeks. Changes in foreign currency assets are caused by the Reserve Bank of India's intervention in the foreign exchange market as well as the appreciation or depreciation of foreign assets held in the reserves.

The RBI intervenes on both sides of the forex market to prevent undue volatility in the rupee. In the period for which the forex reserves data pertains, the rupee had logged its best week of 2024, aided by a larger-than-usual 50-basis-point rate cut by the US Federal Reserve as well as inflows into local stocks and bonds. The rupee had jumped to a more-than-two-month-high of 83.4850 last week and gained nearly 0.4% week-on-week.

Forex reserves also include India's reserve tranche position in the International Monetary Fund.

PROFIT TAKING

Markets snap rally

SNAPPING SIX-DAY RALLY, SENSEX AND NIFTY DRAW BACK FROM LIFETIME HIGHS

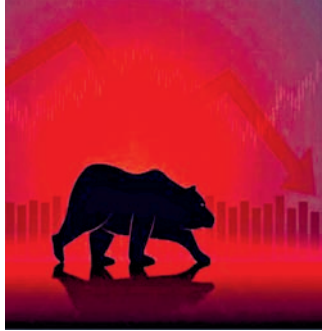
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 27: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty retraced from lifetime highs to settle lower Friday due to profit-taking in frontline stocks HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.

The BSE Sensex declined 264.27 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 85,571.85. During the day, it climbed 142.13 points or 0.16 per cent to reach a new record intraday peak of 85,978.25 in morning session. However, losses in banking and FMCG shares dragged the index into negative territory in late afternoon trade.

Snapping its six-day rally, the NSE Nifty dipped 37.10 points or 0.14 per cent to 26,178.95 after rising 61.3 points or 0.23 per cent to an all-time intra-day high of 26,277.35 during the day.

Among Sensex stocks, Power Grid, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Adani Ports and UltraTech Cement were the losers. Sun Pharma, Reliance



On weekly front, BSE jumped 1,027.54 points or 1.21% while the Nifty surged 388 points or 1.50%

Industries, Titan, HCL Technologies and Bajaj Finserv were among the gainers.

The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.29 per cent while small-cap advanced 0.07 per cent.

Among the indices, realty declined 1.01 per cent, bankex (0.89 per cent), utilities (0.82 per cent), financial services (0.79 per cent) and power (0.52 per cent).

Oil & Gas index surged 2.57 per cent, energy jumped 2.12 per cent, metal (1.02 per cent) and healthcare (0.70 per cent) climbed.

NEW PLANTS

Kia completes first EV-only making plant

Seoul: Automaker Kia said Friday it has completed building Hyundai Motor Group's first manufacturing facility dedicated solely to electric vehicles, which boasts an annual capacity of producing 150,000 units. Kia held a ceremony for the Kia Gwangmyeong EVO Plant, located at Kia Autoland in Gwangmyeong, just south of Seoul, which is tasked with mass producing Kia's new EV3 model and the upcoming EV4 model. Kia invested 401.6 billion won (\$304.2 million) in the 60,000 square-meter facility, completely rebuilding it on an existing plant site to facilitate the company's next-generation vehicle production.

Cisco unveils first manufacturing facility

Chennai: Cisco Friday inaugurated its first manufacturing facility in India at Chennai, setting into motion a multi-year investment plan, as the network equipment maker pledged its commitment to building production capabilities in the country. With this strategic investment, the company will generate more than \$1.3 billion annually in combined exports and domestic production, it said adding that the facility is expected to create 1,200 jobs in Tamil Nadu. The Chennai-based manufacturing facility was inaugurated by Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, along with Chuck Robbins, Chair and CEO of Cisco.

US TARIFFS HIT

Steelmakers warn of rising China imports

ISA has called on the government to double tariffs on steel imports to curb the surge in cheaper steel from China

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 27: India's leading steelmakers' group warned Friday of a further increase in imports from China following a US decision to impose 25% tariffs on Chinese steel imports.

US President Joe Biden's administration this month locked in steep tariffs on Chinese imports, including 25% on steel and aluminium that kicked in from Friday.

"The increased trade remedial tariffs on Chinese steel by US is further going to impact the Indian steel industry adversely with diversion directed to India," Alok Sahay, secretary general of the Indian Steel Association (ISA), told Reuters.

India, the world's second-biggest crude steel producer, became a net importer of the alloy in the fiscal year through March 2024 and the trend has continued into the current year with imports from China surging.

Finished steel imports from China hit a seven-year high over April-August while overall finished steel imports hit a six-year high of 3.7 million metric tonne.

Weak steel demand at home has encouraged China, the world's biggest producer of the alloy, to offload its surplus stocks by offering competitive prices to Indian buyers, hurting Indian producers. As surplus Chinese steel



The increased trade remedial tariffs on Chinese steel by US is further going to impact the Indian steel industry adversely with diversion directed to India

ALOK SAHAY | SECRETARY GENERAL, ISA

- US LOCKED IN STEEP TARIFFS ON CHINESE IMPORTS
- FINISHED STEEL IMPORTS FROM CHINA HIT 7-YR HIGH

India, the world's second-biggest crude steel producer, became a net importer of the alloy in the fiscal year through March 2024 and the trend has continued into the current year with imports from China surging

"The surge in imports at predatory prices, due to diversion and due to major reduction in steel consumption in China is a double whammy for us," Sahay said.

ISA has called on the government to double tariffs on steel imports to curb the surge in cheaper steel from China, Reuters reported Thursday.

ISA represents major steel producers such as JSW Steel, Tata Steel, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India and state-run Steel Authority of India. As surplus Chinese steel

makes its way into global markets, Japanese and European steel makers have also sought import curbs.

India's steel minister HD Kumaraswamy this month said domestic steel makers were "suffering" because of cheaper imports.

A spurt in economic activity and a revamp of broader infrastructure have turned India into a bright spot for both Indian and global steel makers. Unlike India, steel demand is slowing down in Europe and the United States.

India climbs one notch in Global Innovation Index

THE CONSISTENT IMPROVEMENT IN THE GII RANKING IS OWING TO THE KNOWLEDGE CAPITAL, VIBRANT START-UP ECOSYSTEM, AND THE AMAZING WORK DONE BY THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 27: India climbed one place to 39th rank out of 133 economies in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024 rankings, according to a report by the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organization.

Last year, the country was ranked 40th.

"India rises to 39th position among 133 global economies in the Global Innovation Index 2024," Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said in a post on social media platform X.

India's innovation landscape

continues to flourish, powered by our innovators and entrepreneurs, he said.

The GII is a reliable tool for governments across the world to assess the innovation-led social and economic changes in their respective countries.

Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, Singapore and the United Kingdom are the world's most innovative economies, while China, Türkiye, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines are the fastest 10-year climbers, according to WIPo's Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024. The GII is the world's bench-



mark resource charting global innovation trends to guide policymakers, business leaders and others in unleashing human ingenuity to improve lives and address shared challenges, as climate change.

In the GII ranking of 130-plus economies, China reached the 11th position and remains the only middle-income economy in the GII top 30. "In Central and Southern Asia,

- INDIA STANDS AT 39TH RANK OUT OF 133 ECONOMIES
- COUNTRY LEADS IN LOWER MIDDLE-INCOME GROUP
- RECORD IN OVER PERFORMING FOR 14TH STRAIGHT YEAR

India (39th) continues to lead, moving one spot forward. The Islamic Republic of Iran (64th, down by two places) comes sec-

ond, followed by Kazakhstan (78th). Uzbekistan (83rd) retains its 4th position within the region," it said.

It added that India leads the lower middle-income group. It holds the record for over performing on innovation for the 14th consecutive year.

"India's strengths lie in key indicators such as ICT services exports (at 1st place, globally), venture capital received and intangible asset intensity. India's unicorn companies also secure the country the 8th rank globally," it added.

Samsung Electronics in Bangalore and Indian Institute of Science (IISc)-Bangalore figured in the top 100 science and technology clusters in the index. S&T clusters in Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai have also made it to the top 100 list.

"Clusters located in other middle-income economies besides China also experienced strong S&T output growth," WIPO said.

FDI up over 100% in last decade

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 27: India has attracted \$667.4 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from 2014 to 2024, registering an increase of 119 per cent over the preceding decade (2004-14), according to government data.

This investment has come across India and 57 sectors of the country and played an important role in the development of various industries.

In the last ten years, many important steps have been taken by the government to attract FDI into the country.

At present, except for strategically-important sectors, most are open for 100 per cent FDI through the automatic route.

According to data released by the Commerce Ministry, the manufacturing sector has received a cumulative FDI of \$165 billion between 2014-2024.

This has seen an increase of 69 per cent as compared to 2004-2014 which was \$97.7 billion.



As per the Global Trade Research Initiative report, FDI inflow worth \$71 billion came to India in FY 23 and \$70 billion in FY 24.

Recently, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary, Amardeep Bhatia said, "We are taking concrete steps to ensure that labour and skill-focused industries receive priority, and investments through FDI reach \$100 billion in coming years."

The government is continuously working towards improving the ease of doing business. More than 42,000 compliance requirements have been eliminated so far, which has significantly benefited the industry.

Chopra targets medal at Worlds

Star javelin thrower assures that he will be fully fit next season before the World Championships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sonepat, Sept 27: Promising to be 100 per cent fit for the new season, India's two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra said Friday a podium finish in the 2025 Tokyo World Championships is the next big target on his mind going forward.

The 26-year-old is back in the country after winding up his season with a second-place finish at the Diamond League (DL) finale in Brussels. This was after he became the first Indian track-and-field athlete to claim successive Olympic medals by adding a silver in Paris to the momentous gold clinched in Tokyo.

"The season is over now. The biggest target for next year is the World Championships, and we will begin preparations for that now. The Olympics is always on our minds, but we have four years for that," Neeraj said on the sidelines of a conference on 'Mission Olympics 2036' organised at the Sports University of Haryana here. The World Championships is scheduled to be held September 13 to 21 next year.

Chopra battled an adductor muscle niggle throughout the year and it also affected his performances at both the Olympics and the DL finale, where he also competed with a fractured left hand.

Asked about his fitness, Chopra played down concerns and also stated that he will look to improve his technique. The Haryana lad is trained by renowned German biomechanics expert Klaus Bartonietz. "It was an injury-plagued year but it is fine now. I will be 100 per cent fit for



I will be fully fit next season and the aim will be to improve my technique so that I can hit the 90-metre mark

NEERAJ CHOPRA

the new season," he asserted.

"Technical issues are also there but we will work on them. I will look to improve my technique. I do like to train in India but when competitions start, I prefer to train abroad," Chopra said.

Reflecting on India's Olympic performance, which yielded six medals but no gold this time,

Chopra pointed out that the country could have got more as reflected by the half a dozen fourth place finishes. India had six fourth-place finishes at the Paris Olympics.

"There were a lot of fourth positions. (But) this time, we had a very good performance in the Paralympics and won several

medals. In the coming times, we expect strong performances in both the Olympics and the Paralympics," Chopra stated.

Chopra has been working hard to hit the 90m mark but hasn't managed so far despite coming close. In the Paris Olympics, his silver-winning throw was 89.45m and he was bested by Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who broke the Games record with a 92.97m effort. At the DL finale, Chopra threw 87.86m to miss the top finish by just one centimetre.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 27: Odisha Secretariat emerged champions in the third edition of the Odisha Senior Women's State Hockey Championship-2024 which concluded here late Thursday evening. In the final, Odisha Secretariat defeated Sundargarh 3-2 in penalty shootout after the match remained scoreless in regular time. Sports Hostel (Rourkela) claimed the third place defeating Odisha Police 4-2 in another shootout.

In the junior men's category, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) won the title defeating Sundargarh 2-0. Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre beat Gangpur Hockey Association 3-0 to claim the third place. RSP players dominated the final and they could have won by a bigger margin had their forwards not wasted a number of easy opportunities.

The prize distribution ceremony was attended by a number of dignitaries including chief general manager of RSP, BK Jojo, OAS and Deputy Director, Sports and Youth Services department Sudipta Kumar Nayak, vice-president of Hockey Association of Odisha Jeevan Kumar Mohanty, secretary Sanatan Sahoo, and Sports Hostel (Rourkela) coach Kalu Charan Chowdhary.

There were a number of individual award winners in the tournament also in the Senior Women's and Junior Men's categories. They were presented with cash prizes.

Winners in the Senior Women's categories were: **Defender of the tournament:** Sunita Xaxa (Sports Hostel)



Odisha Secretariat women's team (top) and RSP players pose with their trophies and other awards

OP PHOTO

Rourkela) ₹8,000; **Forward:** Kamala Singh (Sundargarh) ₹8,000; **Midfielder:** Premitra Bada (Odisha Secretariat) ₹8,000; **Goalkeeper:** Arti Reshma Toppo (Odisha Police) ₹8,000; **Player of the tournament:** Jiwan Kishori Toppo (Sundargarh) ₹8,000.

The individual award winners in the Junior Men's segment were: **Defender:** Rohit N Minz (RSP) ₹8,000; **Forward:** Satish Munda (Sundargarh) ₹8,000; **Midfielder:** Yojo Minz (ONTHPC) ₹8,000; **Goalkeeper:** Justin Kido (Gangpur Sports Association) ₹8,000; **Player of the tournament:** Anmol Ekka (RSP) ₹8,000.

SHORT TAKES

Bravo appointed as KKR's new mentor

New Delhi: World Cup-winning West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket and will join IPL side Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) as their mentor, a move that marks the end of his long-standing association with Chennai Super Kings. He will replace Gautam Gambhir, who left the role to take over as Bravo's head coach earlier this year. Bravo's last season in the Caribbean Premier League was cut short due to an injury that he sustained earlier this week. "Today is the day I say goodbye to the game that has given me everything," he wrote on Instagram.

Two from India in WC umpires' panel

Dubai: Match referee GS Lakshmi and umpire Vinoda Rathi were the Indian names in a 13-member all-female panel of match officials announced Friday by the ICC for next month's Women's T20 World Cup to be held in the UAE October 3 to 20. The panel has three match referees and 10 umpires. Australia's Eloise Sheridan and Lauren Agenbag of South Africa have been appointed as on-field umpires for the marquee India versus Pakistan match at the Dubai International Stadium, October 6.

Umpire Dar retires

Karachi: Pakistani umpire Aleem Dar, who has officiated in 448 international matches during his over 20-year career, decided Friday to bid adieu to the profession at the end of the 2024-25 domestic season. "Umpiring has been my life for nearly 25 years and I have cherished the privilege of officiating some of the most iconic matches involving the greatest players of this generation," Dar said in a statement. "Throughout my career, I've strived to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship," he added. Dar said he will now focus on charity work.

Football colts lose

Vientiane (Laos): A fighting India went down by a solitary goal to four-time champions Iran in their second group match at the AFC U20 Asian Cup Qualifiers here Friday. After keeping their formidable rivals at bay for most part of the match, the Indians finally conceded a goal in the 88th minute when substitute Yousef Mazraeh managed to beat goalkeeper Priyansh Dubey.

ODISHA FC LOOK TO END WIN-LESS RUN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: Odisha FC (OFC) will aim to log their first points in ISL table when they clash with an in-form Jamshedpur FC at the Kalinga Stadium here Saturday. However, it will no doubt be an arduous task as Jamshedpur FC (JFC) have won both their games while OFC have lost the two matches they have played so far. However, as far as head-to-head encounters are concerned, OFC have won three of the last four games they have played against JFC.

Odisha FC head coach Sergio Lobera has reiterated his trust in his players as they pursue a positive result Saturday. He is hoping to infuse confidence in the squad and work with them closely to see them through difficult moments.

"This is my work. I need to work with my players and give them confidence. I need to be

close to them, especially in difficult situations. I trust in my players; I believe in them 200 per cent. We are going to improve," Lobera said.

The Odisha FC head coach however was quick to point out that JFC will not be any pushovers. "They've had a great start, picking up six points. They're a very balanced and physical team, but for us, the focus is always on ourselves. We need to learn from our previous games and be ready for the challenge. It's a great opportunity for us to perform at home," Lobera stated.

JFC coach Khalid Jamil on the other hand stated that he is not thinking too much ahead, but taking it one match at a time. "Everyone has worked really hard, that's why we have won games. We must keep going with the same spirit. It's better for us to think about one game at a time," Jamil said.



OFC head coach Sergio Lobera and striker Roy Krishna

OP PHOTO

Akash shines on rain-marred day



Pacer Akash Deep impressed with his bowling

PTI PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kanpur, Sept 27: Pacer Akash Deep (2/34) was impressive in a probing opening spell while Ravichandran Ashwin (1/22) removed Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto before rain halted India's progress in the second Test on the opening day here Friday.

Given the forecast, it was expected to be a weather-hit contest from the beginning. Only 35 overs could be bowled after Rohit

Sharma invited Bangladesh to bat in overcast conditions as the visitors struggled to 107 for three after a brief resistance through Shanto (31). Momintul Haque (40 batting) and veteran Mushfiq Rahim (6 batting) were at the crease when heavens opened up.

Akash bowled round the wicket to the left-handers, and consistently hit the good length areas and got the ball to either shape away or come in with the angle.

As expected, the initial bounce and seam movement had open-

Fan hospitalised

Kanpur: A Bangladeshi cricket fan had to be hospitalised after 'falling ill' while watching the second Test against India at the Green Park Stadium here, an incident that was first suspected to be a case of heckling after he indicated being involved in a physical altercation. Self-proclaimed super fan 'Roby', who dresses in tiger costume and is a regular in his team's games, was in stand C and had to be carried out of the stadium in a state of distress. During a brief interaction with media, 'Roby' indicated that he had been punched in his abdomen during an altercation. However, in a statement issued from his hospital bed later, he said he merely felt unwell and was given the requisite assistance by local police.

ers Zakir Hasan (0) and Shadman Islam (24) playing in circumspect manner. Islam worked the ball around but an overcautious Hasansimply couldn't get going.

Shadman hit couple of boundaries off Jasprit Bumrah in a single over; the first was a flick off the pads, and the second was an uppish drive. On the other side, Hasan consumed 23 dot balls and failed to open his account. Akash, who came in as second-change, ended his misery by inducing an edge that flew to Yashasvi Jaiswal who went low on his right to grab the chance.

Ashwin, who did not get a wicket in the opening session, trapped Shanto in the third over of the second session. Shanto played for the turn but was beaten. The umpire had no hesitation in raising his finger. The Bangladesh skipper reviewed the decision hoping against hope.

2 GOLD MEDALS FOR ODISHA'S SARTHAK

Bhubaneswar: Odia table tennis player Sarthak Arya has won two gold medals at the WTT Youth Contender tournament played at Saudi Arabia, September 22nd to 27th. Sarthak won gold in the under-15 boys' singles and the mixed doubles of the same age category. In the under-15 mixed doubles, Sarthak and his partner Kavya from Maharashtra defeated oppositions from Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Chinese Taipei to reach the final. They then won the final against another Indian duo in straight games. In the under-15 boys' singles Sarthak defeated opponents from Qatar, Egypt and Taiwan to reach the final. In the summit clash he defeated his Chinese Taipei opponent 3-1. He dominated the final winning the first two games. Even though his opponent won the third game, Sarthak wrapped up the match by winning the fourth game.

Cuttack trounce Jagatsinghpur

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 27: Cuttack trounced Jagatsinghpur 11-0 in a match of the 63rd Inter-District Sahani Cup football tournament at Paradip Friday.

Raisan Tudu (10th, 17th and 39th) led the goal rush for Cuttack with a hat-trick. Cuttack opened their account when Bapuni Bindhani scored in the sixth minute. The other goals for Cuttack were scored by Dinabandhu Das (9th, 36th), Bikash Kumar Sahoo (45th), Sheikh Farid (64th, 69th) and Babul Rout (48th, 61st).

In another match of the same tournament played at



Sundargarh, the hosts defeated Nabarangpur 4-1. Ashanta Kerketta opened the account for Sundargarh in the sixth minute. Abhishek Majhi (36th) and Deepak Oram (40th) then put the game out of reach for

Nabarangpur with two goals. Substitute Shakti Kisan got the fourth goal in the 83th minute. Newton Bhatra got a consolation goal for Nabarangpur.

In the third match of the day Puri overcame Ganjam 3-2 in a thrilling encounter at Paradip. Puri took the lead when Siba Murmu scored in the second minute. However, Bidyabhusan Kishan restored parity for Ganjam in the 31st minute. Puri again took the lead in the 76th minute when Tajas Nayak scored. However, Ganjam again restored parity through Trivedi Mukhi.

However, Ganjam's joy was short-lived when Siba got the winning goal seconds later.

Advertisement for Legends League Cricket featuring Sarthak Arya. Text: LIVE ACTION TODAY! 3:00 PM ONWARDS. Streaming on STAR SPORTS FC.