



Sonakshi's approach
Actor Sonakshi Sinha, talking about her acting mantra, says she observes people and learns from them

LEISURE | P2



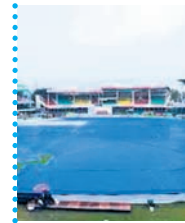
India slams Pak
India has slammed Pakistan in the UN General Assembly, saying its 'fingerprints' are on terrorist incidents across the world

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Banks struggle
Banks struggle to mobilise large deposits to meet the increasing credit demand in the last two financial years, a report says

BUSINESS | P11



Rain plays spoilsport
Rain and a wet outfield have played spoilsport in the second Test between India and Bangladesh, threatening to derail India's WTC quest

SPORTS | P12

Internet shut in Bhadrak; 10 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar/Bhadrak, Sept 28: Ten people were arrested Saturday for allegedly being involved in a clash between two communities and an attack on police personnel in Odisha's Bhadrak district over an 'objectionable' post by a man on social media, police said.

The man, accused of posting on social media the 'objectionable' comment, was also apprehended, a senior officer said.

The government suspended internet services in Bhadrak for two days after police personnel were pelted with stones during a protest on Friday over the social media post.

"The man responsible for the social media post has been held," said Bhadrak DSP Anshuman Diwedi, who was among the two police personnel injured in stone pelting. P5

4 dead, 30 injured as pilgrim bus overturns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Balasure, Sept 28: Four persons were killed and 30 others injured when a tourist bus from Uttar Pradesh overturned in the district, police said Saturday.

The accident took place when the bus on its way to Puri skidded off the road and fell on its side in paddy field near Mahamadnagar Patna on national highway-60 Friday midnight, the police said.

The injured have been admitted to GK Bhattar Hospital at Jaleswar and Balasure DHH.

The bus carrying about 57 passengers from Sidharthnagar district of Uttar Pradesh after visiting Varanasi, Gaya, Ganga Sagar and Kolkata was on its way to Puri when the accident happened, police said.



TRIBUTE TO LEGEND: A community puja pandal, inspired by the works of late film director Tapan Sinha, being prepared as a tribute to Sinha ahead of his birth centenary, for the upcoming Durga Puja festival in Kolkata, Saturday. PTI PHOTO

Bonds: Extortion charge against Sitharaman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 28: A case was registered Saturday against Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others on the directions of a court here, following a complaint relating to the now-scrapped electoral bonds scheme.

According to police, an FIR was registered under IPC sections 384 (punishment for extortion), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) against Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, ED officials, office-bearers of the BJP based on the order of a special court.

The complaint was lodged by Adarsh R Iyer, Co-President of Janaadhikara Sangharsha Parishath alleging that the accused "committed extortion under the guise and garb of electoral bonds and benefitted to the tune of 8,000 and more crore of rupees."

The complainant further alleged that Sitharaman, through the clandestine aid and support of ED officials, facilitated extortion of thousands of crores of rupees for the benefit of others.

"The entire extortion racket under the garb of

electoral bonds has been orchestrated hand in glove with officials of BJP at various levels."

The Supreme Court in February had struck down the electoral bond scheme, saying it violates the right to information and the freedom of speech and expression under the Constitution.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramiah, whose resignation is sought by the opposition BJP as an FIR was registered against him over the Mysuru Urban Development Authority site allotment case, said: "According to BJP leaders' argument, Nirmala Sitharaman should resign now, right?" Responding to this, JD(S) leader and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy, said: "Why should Nirmala Sitharaman resign? Has electoral bond funds gone to Nirmala Sitharaman's personal account?"



Mend your ways, CM warns police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Saturday warned the police to mend their ways and behave with people coming to the police stations. He also asked them to not only ensure the safety of women on the roads, but also respect them in police stations.

Warning 'erring' police personnel, he said, "Mend your ways and behave with people coming to the police station. The government always stands with the police force but at the same time will not tolerate corruption, irregularities and misuse of power by anybody at any cost."

He said this while addressing the Collectors' Conference here. Majhi also noted that the rate of conviction in crimes against women remained low over the last 22 years, and said his government would not tolerate this.

"It can be seen in the records that cases of eve-teasing have increased in Odisha. The Police Department should ensure that girls, students and women can move freely across the state," he said.

"You must take stern action in



the crimes against women. Such data implies two things, either there are lapses in police investigation or lack of intent on the part of the department for speedy trial," he added.

SPs of various districts and senior police officers were also present when Majhi was addressing the gathering.

"I urge the DGP to provide district-wise data of cases against women, conviction pending status and other data within one week. After legal consultations, a future roadmap will be prepared," he said.

Asserting that the state government has zero tolerance to-

wards crimes against women and children, Majhi said stern action would be taken even if influential people are found involved. He asked the police to respect women at police stations, listen to their complaints patiently, and take immediate action.

"It doesn't matter whether the complaint is received during the day or night. Our duty is not confined to only 8-10 hours. By listening to the victims, the police can win the trust of the people and can also become their friends," Majhi said.

Majhi said there could be some deviation, but the Odisha Police is a disciplined force.

"Odisha has the reputation of being a peaceful state because of the dedicated work of the majority of the police personnel," he noted.

He said the police had conducted a peaceful election, a smooth Ratha Yatra and also contained Naxalism.

"The state government is working with dedication to make the state free from left-wing extremism and hence all kinds of required manpower and other infrastructure will be provided," he said.

Hezbollah chief Nasrallah killed

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beirut, Sept 28: Lebanon's Hezbollah group confirmed Saturday that its leader and one of its founders, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut the previous day.

A statement Saturday said Nasrallah "has joined his fellow martyrs." Hezbollah vowed to "continue the holy war against the enemy and in support of Palestine."

Nasrallah, who led Hezbollah for more than three decades, is by far the most powerful target to be killed by Israel in weeks of intensified fighting with Hezbollah. The Israeli military said it carried out a precise airstrike Friday while Hezbollah leadership met at their headquarters in Dahiyeh, south of Beirut.



The Lebanese Health Ministry said six people were killed and 91 injured in the Beirut strikes Friday, which levelled six apartment buildings. Ali Karki, the Commander of Hezbollah's Southern Front, and additional Hezbollah commanders were also killed in the attack, the Israeli military said.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an army spokesperson, said the

airstrike was based on years of tracking Nasrallah along with "real time information" that made it viable. He said Nasrallah's death had been confirmed through various types of intelligence, but declined to elaborate.

Shoshani declined to say what munitions were used in the strike or provide an estimate on civilian deaths in the strike, only saying that Israel takes measures to avoid civilians whenever possible and clears strikes ahead of time with intelligence and legal experts.

Meanwhile, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency announced Saturday that Abbas Nilforushan, 58, a prominent general in its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard died in the airstrike that killed Nasrallah in Beirut.

Man, 4 daughters found dead in Delhi

NEW DELHI: The decomposed bodies of a 46-year-old man and his four daughters, two of them differently-abled, have been found from their rented house here in Vasant Kunj area, police said Saturday. The deceased have been identified as Heeralal Sharma, who worked as a carpenter, and his four daughters -- Neetu (26), Nikki (24), Neeru (23) and Nidhi (20). Though, the bodies did not have any injury mark, police found three packets of poison and a spoon containing a suspicious liquid from the house. Police suspect it to be a case of suicide as no evidence of any foul play has been found. P8

State Cabinet nod for Kamadhenu scheme



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Mukhyamantri Kamadhenu Yojana (MKY) was among the seven proposals approved by the state Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, here Saturday.

Addressing media after the meeting, Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said MKY will be implemented in the state for five years (FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29) with a budgetary allocation of ₹1,423.47 crore.

"The scheme aims at increasing milk production in the state. It would benefit over 15,47,837 farmers over five years," he added. "While ₹110.23 crore has been allocated for buffalo entrepreneurship development, ₹476

crore has been allocated for gopalan. ₹187.42 crore has been allocated for Go-sampad Bima Yojana, ₹216.09 crore for calf rearing scheme, ₹166.43 crore for incentive to dairy farmers of DCS and ₹200.68 crore for strengthening feed and fodder production," the Minister further said, adding that ₹41.10 crore has been allocated for strengthening dairy units and ₹25.52 crore for supporting Omfed.

Among others, the Cabinet also approved the proposal to amend clause 4(6) of the Odisha Public Distribution System (Control) Ord, 2016.

"The amendment allows the process of replacing institutional dealers in place of private dealers till March 31, 2026," Harichandan said.

Earth will have a 'mini moon' for two months

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington, Sept 28: Earth's moon will soon have some company — a "mini moon".

The 'mini moon' is actually an asteroid about the size of a school bus at 10 metres. When it whizzes by Earth Sunday, it will be temporarily trapped by the latter's gravity and orbit the globe — but only for about two months.

The space rock — 2024 PT5 — was first spotted in August by astronomers at Complutense University of Madrid using a powerful telescope located in



Sutherland, South Africa. These short-lived 'mini moons' are likely more common than we realise, said Richard Binzel,

an astronomer at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The last known one was detected in 2020.

"This happens with some frequency, but we rarely see them because they're very small and very hard to detect," he said. "Only recently has our survey capability reached the point of spotting them routinely."

The discovery by Carlos de la Fuente Marcos and Raúl de la Fuente Marcos was published by the American Astronomical Society.

This one won't be visible to the naked eye or through ama-

teur telescopes, but it "can be observed with relatively large, research-grade telescopes," Carlos de la Fuente Marcos said in an email.

Binzel, who was not involved in the research, said it's not clear whether the space rock originated as an asteroid or as "a chunk of the moon that got blasted out".

The 'mini moon' will circle the globe for almost 57 days but won't complete a full orbit. It will part ways with the Earth and continue its solo trajectory through the cosmos, November 25.

leisure



SIGOURNEY'S HEIGHT STOPPED HER FROM GETTING WORK

American actress Sigourney Weaver is just under 6-ft tall, and she admitted her unconventional appearance meant she struggled to get an agent. Producers were reluctant to cast her because their male leads would "look short", shares the *Galaxy Quest* actress.

FRENZY ACTRESS BARBARA LEIGH-HUNT DIES AGED 88

British actress Barbara Leigh-Hunt died at the age of 88 at her home in Warwickshire. She is best known to wider audiences for playing Brenda in Alfred Hitchcock's epic film *Frenzy* and as Lady Catherine de Bourgh in the BBC's *Pride and Prejudice*. A funeral notice released by her family on Friday.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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

ARIES
Your sportsman spirit will find its way into both your professional and personal life. Today may be an important day in your life, and Ganesh says you must not forget your special quality.

TAURUS
You will put your heart and soul into whatever you do today, says Ganesh. But there may still be dark clouds hovering over the results. Don't let that bother you. You must keep up the hard work throughout the day. Finally, you will hit the deck with a feeling of happiness and satisfaction, predicts Ganesh.

GEMINI
Dress to kill today! People around you may or may not comment, but they will definitely notice you. Your sense of style and taste will bowl everyone over. People would scramble for a glimpse of you. In short, you will be a celebrity. Most probably, your beloved will share the limelight with you. Enjoy!

CANCER
You are at your industrious best today. You will be able to think the unthinkable, achieve the unachievable, and impress an emotionally impregnable boss. Your confidence level will be sky-high; in fact, it will make overconfidence wallow in self-doubt.

LEO
The thing with skills is that they are not static; they are as dynamic as anything else. It is akin to being on a treadmill — you need to continuously keep moving just to stay in the same place, says Ganesh. So keep refreshing yourself by learning new things in order to sustain your progress.

VIRGO
Get out of your self today, for a change, and try to look at things from a loved one's perspective. It's good to be confident, but over confidence is a different matter altogether, reminds Ganesh. Listening to others, absorbing their expressions and viewing things differently shall do you and your loved ones a world of good.

LIBRA
Today promises to be a joy ride for your hidden gourmand side. Relish what you eat, and thank God for the good luck. Career wise, however, you may find yourself standing at a crossroads. But, the good part about that is there shall be many paths to choose from. And, who knows the art of balancing better than you. The latter half of the day promises to bring some monetary gains.

SCORPIO
Today promises to be a joy ride for your hidden gourmand side. Relish what you eat, and thank God for the good luck. Career wise, however, you may find yourself standing at a crossroads. But, the good part about that is there shall be many paths to choose from.

SAGITTARIUS
Your dedication to work is set to shift to the top gear. Find yourself swamped by excess of workload in the forenoon. Things, however, will lighten as the afternoon progresses. Expect a fun-filled, exciting evening.

CAPRICORN
Opportunities are rare, and good opportunities rarer still. Today, you will run to grab an opportunity and will make the most of it, says Ganesh. This move will yield instant results, and place you better in comparison with your opponents. Rivals, in fact, will try to do you down but will fail miserably in their attempt.

AQUARIUS
You roar with absolute bliss today! Simplicity is your new avatar, and naturally, friends and acquaintances are mystified. You may wish to commune with the higher spirit and will seek solace in a quiet temple. Ganesh approves and predicts peace in plenty.

PISCES
Staying afloat needs about as much effort as swimming. Cryptic as this may sound, what it means is you need to constantly reinvent yourself if you wish to keep going. You will shine in your profession only if it is also your passion, says Ganesh.

Janhvi leaves netizens in awe

Mumbai: When Janhvi Kapoor began her journey in Bollywood with Karan Johar's *Dhadak* in 2018, her performance was reviewed as a star kid. However, over the years, she has managed to evolve as an actor in the hearts of movie-buffs, thanks to the powerful performances she delivered. Recent additions to her list of impactful performances include *Ulajh* and *Devara: Part 1*. While Jr NTR-starrer *Devara*, which marks Janhvi's Telugu debut, released in theatres this week, *Ulajh* arrived on OTT after a theatrical run. Well, Twitter reviews of Janhvi's spy thriller are now here, and netizens are mighty impressed.



Janhvi's convincing portrayal of IFS officer Suhana Bhatia has changed many minds about her. Praising her work, one social media user gushed, "I just watched #Ulajh and I'll never underestimate Janhvi Kapoor again! Loved the film." Another netizen, who enjoyed Gulshan Devaiah's performance in the film, shared, "Happened to watch #Ulajh I liked it. Intelligent screenplay I must add. #JanhviKapoor did well specially in 2nd half." Another positive Twitter review read: "I quite liked #Ulajh It's not perfect, but definitely very good. Those who criticize Janhvi that she's all about physical appeal & no talent, should specifically watch this movie."

Well, it seems like this year is turning out to be delightful for Janhvi. Not just *Ulajh* but even her performance as Thangam in *Devara* has managed to impress audiences. Speaking about her preparation for her characters in the web series *Dahaad* and Heeramandi, the 37-year-old actress said: "Honestly, my method is that I don't have a set method, be it *Dahaad* or my other project. I arrive on set, face the camera, and that's when the character comes alive for me. It's hard to explain, but having a strong imagination really helps." "Being observant— taking note of what you see and hear, picking up on certain nuances, and applying them when needed—that's how I approach it. I observe people and learn from them. Of course, directors are a huge help when preparing for a character, especially one you're unfamiliar with," she added.



Sonakshi's acting mantra

Mumbai: Actress Sonakshi Sinha recently opened up about her unique approach to character preparation, revealing that she doesn't adhere to a strict method. Instead, she embraces spontaneity, stating that she simply arrives on set, faces the camera, and allows the character to come alive in the moment. Speaking about her preparation

Zain Foundation's annual fundraiser

Kumud Mishra's *Purane Chawal* to regale viewers



THE FOUNDATION CONDUCTS AWARENESS EXERCISES TO SET UP THE FIRST COMPLETE AND HOLISTIC INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM IN EASTERN INDIA

Badlapur, Sultan, Airlift, Rustom, Article 15, Lust Stories 2, and many others. Similarly, Shubhrajyoti is known for *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* (2015), *Article 15* (2019), and *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* (2011).

Bhubaneswar: Noted charitable organisation Zain Foundation Trust (ZFT) will present the famous Hindi play *Purane Chawal* here at Rabindra Mandap October 5.

The organisation also started a novel initiative called the PECS Café. PECS stands for Picture Exchange Communication System. It is a tool used the world over for communication, among and with those with autism spectrum disorder. PECS, however, has never been used as a tool in the employment space.

The event is part of ZFT's annual fundraiser to support people living with autism spectrum disorder. Adapted to Hindi by Farrukh Seyar and Avinash Gautam from the English play *The Sunshine Boys*, the drama is set in contemporary Mumbai. The Sumeet Vyas directorial delves into the world of two retired comedy geniuses who are brought together to reprise their iconic act after 12 years for the biggest festival of comedy in the country. The only problem is they can't stand each other. Will they be able to put aside their differences and create the same magic? The answer will be out October 5.

The cafe was opened last year to train adults with autism, to make muffins, cookies, pound cake, sandwiches, and lemonade from the word go. Mixing, blending, and baking were taught by Sweta Misra of Gelhi's Cakes and Bakes.

Apart from eminent actor Kumud Mishra, the D For Drama Company productions' play has Subhrajyoti Barat in the other key role. The two also featured last year here in play *Dhumrapan*, another ZFT presentation.

The adults are now almost trained to start taking orders from a picture driven menu, execute the order, and serve the customer. This exercise would open at the CSM Technologies Campus, where 300 employees would get direct exposure with the adults with autism, learn the ways of a differently wired disposition, and transfer the much-needed awareness to those they meet in their lives.

Talking about Kumud, the actor has carved a space for himself in the Hindi film industry with his performances in *Rockstar, Raanjhanaa, Sriram*

and transfer the much-needed awareness to those they meet in their lives.

Struggles of migrant labourers unfold

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Audience came face to face with the lives and struggles of Nepali migrant labourers at a mango orchard in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri during the screening of *The Orchard and the Pardes*, a documentary by Renu Savant, on the third day of the Indian Documentary Film Festival Bhubaneswar (IDFFB) here, Saturday.



Organised by the Film Society Bhubaneswar (FSB), the event saw participation of students from various educational institutions across the state. *The Orchard and the Pardes* was followed by

Sreemoyee Singh's *And, Towards Happy Alleys*. The film delves into the lives of women under the repressive regime in Iran that curtails freedom of speech and expression.

In a post-screening conversation, Sreemoyee talked about her personal experience in Tehran as an Indian and a woman as well. She asked the students to instil a sense of solidarity in them. Sreemoyee

sang *Sultan-E-Ghalba* and the audience were enthralled by her melodious voice.

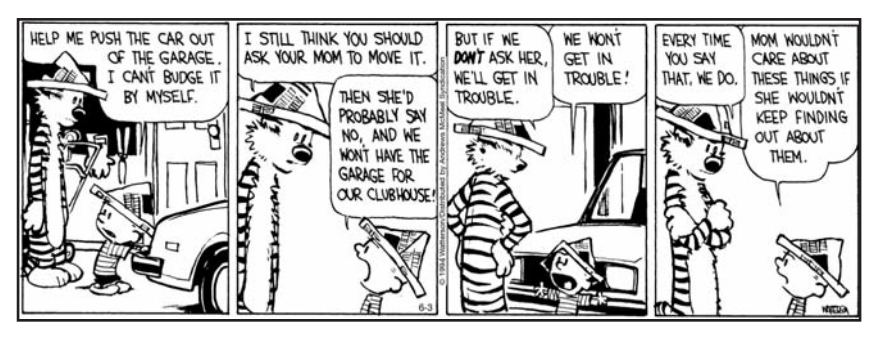
While Sudha Padmaja's *Ginger Biscuit* showed the long history of baking in Kerala's Kochi, Arbab Ahmad's *Insides and Outsides* explored what it feels to be a Muslim in a society that structurally vilifies and discriminates against a community on the basis of religion.

AFSPA, 1958 by Haobam Paban Kumar captured the clashes between armed government forces and unarmed civilians after the implementation of AFSPA in 1958 by the Manipur government.

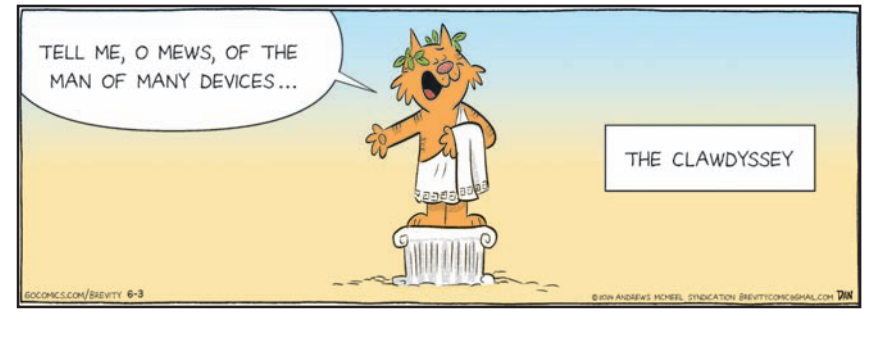
PEANUTS



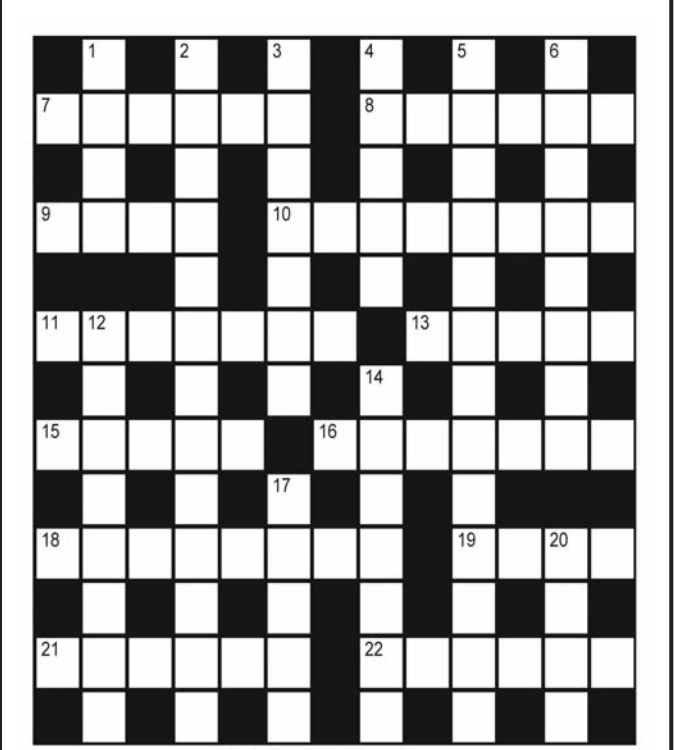
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN post CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 7 Shelter for Fido
 - 8 Colourful bird
 - 9 Opposed
 - 10 Insulin producer
 - 11 Attached
 - 13 Colossus
 - 15 Sun block?
 - 16 Bar freebies
 - 18 Break down
 - 19 Orderly
 - 21 Snapper
 - 22 Churn
- Down**
- 1 It's a gas
 - 2 Personal identity
 - 3 Barber's tool
 - 4 Pedestal
 - 5 Protector, maybe (8,5)
 - 6 Eye problem
 - 12 Another call to a client, perhaps (6-2)
 - 14 Let go
 - 17 Fencing swords
 - 20 Turkish official

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.

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

I	N	G	O	T	S	H	U	M	O	U	R
N	H	R	S	S	B	H					
V	O	R	T	E	L	H	A	S	T		
A	S	P	O	E	C	M					
L	O	T	T	O	P	E	R	F	U	M	E
I	L	E									
D	E	C	E	I	T		E	G	R	E	S
H											
C	E	I	L	L	I	N	G	R	O	B	O
E	C	D	L	A	O	I					
D	R	O	N	E							
A	R	O	A	L	S						

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown

BUDDING TALENT

Children perform during a cultural event at Sanskruti Bhawan in Puri, Saturday



WINNERS ALL: Dharitri and Orissa POST Editor Tathagata Satpathy with winners of the college-level elocution competition on 'Media, Democracy and Youth' organised to mark the golden jubilee celebrations of leading Odia daily Dharitri, at Jayee Rajguru Town Hall in Khurda, Saturday

Defunct equipment cripples OSPCB

IT'S SURPRISING THAT THE TOP GOVT BODY DOES NOT HAVE FUNCTIONAL INSTRUMENTS: NGT



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: The Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB) has been unable to carry out tests on an issue of alleged groundwater contamination by an industrial unit in Rayagada district for months now.

This was revealed in an affidavit filed by OSPCB with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) wherein the apex pollution watchdog of the state said that owing to the defunct Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) it could not carry out a crucial procedure to determine concentration of metals in a sample.

While hearing a plea filed by Nanda Jhodia and a few others alleging pollution in Rayagada district, the NGT had asked the OSPCB to check the quality of groundwater at Tikiri in Rayagada.

The OSPCB collected the water samples from Tikiri August 16, 2024 and sent it for testing to the central laboratory at Bhubaneswar the next day.

"The regional officer of Rayagada has collected the samples from Lachhiguda village and sent it for analysis of parameters like pH, electrical conductivity, total suspended solids, total dissolved solids, turbidity, total alkalinity, p. Alkalinity, total hardness, calcium hardness, magnesium hardness, nitrate, ammonical N, TKN, sulphate, phosphate, sodium, potassium, total fixed solids,

born, mercury and metals like As, Cu, Cd, Cr, Pb, Ni, Zn and Fe," said the affidavit by OSPCB member secretary Kaliasam Murugesan.

The central laboratory analysed the samples for all parameters except for the presence of metals like Cu, Cd, Zn, Ni and Pb, the affidavit said.

The OSPCB attributed its inability to analyse the sample for metals to the defunct AAS.

"...metals like Cu, Cd, Zn, Ni and Pb are to be analysed by the Atomic-Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) methods, as the rectification of the AAS has not yet completed..." Murugesan added.

The OSPCB, however, said M/s Spectrolytic Scientific India Private Limited has already been asked to do the needful so as to address the issue.

Earlier during the hearing of the case in August, the NGT had come down heavily on the OSPCB over the issue, petitioner's counsel Sankar Prasad Pani said.

"It is surprising that the State Pollution Control Board which is the Regulatory Authority armed with Environmental Scientist, Senior Environmental Scientist and Chief Environmental Scientist, does not have functional instruments," the NGT had said.

POLYGRAPH TEST

Crime Branch to take 5 suspended Bharatput cops to Gujarat today

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: The Crime Branch, investigating the alleged sexual assault on a woman and assault on her male friend at Bharatpur police station, will be travelling to Gujarat along with five suspended cops of the police station, including Inspector Dinakrushna Mishra, Sunday for their polygraph test.

A Crime Branch officer, privy to the probe, said that the duration of their stay in Gujarat, or tests on the suspects, is still to be determined since the psychological tests are highly technical in nature, and are performed under the strict supervision of skilled professionals. "After arriving at Ahmedabad, we will proceed to the State Forensic



Science Laboratory (SFSL) in Gandhinagar. IIC Mishra and four other cops are likely to undergo the test Monday," he added.

It may be noted that a Sub-division Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) court Friday gave its nod to the sleuths to conduct polygraph test of four suspended police officers, which includes two women

Assistant Sub-Inspector of police (ASIs), one woman Sub-Inspector (SI), and a constable. However, IIC Mishra, who is accused of sexual assault and custodial torture by the Army officer and his female friend, will undergo two non-invasive (brain mapping and polygraph) and one invasive (narco-analysis) tests.

Majhi likely to take part in BJP rallies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi is likely to undertake a two-day visit soon to Jharkhand where Assembly polls are due later this year, sources said Saturday.

Majhi, who heads the BJP's first government in Odisha, and is a prominent tribal leader belonging to the Santhal community, is expected to visit the neighbouring state September 30 and October 1 and attend the 'Parivartan Yatra' of the saffron party, they said.

The Odisha CM is likely to visit Jagannathpur in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand on the first day of his visit and Kolhan in Chaibasa the next day, the sources said.

The development comes after Majhi met Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is also BJP's co-in-charge of elections in Jharkhand.

Both the CMs had a discussion at the Raj Bhavan here Friday in the presence of Odisha Governor Raghubar Das.

Meanwhile, Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, who also hails from Odisha and is a tribal leader, Saturday visited Jharkhand and attended several programmes there. The saffron party, which is optimistic about winning the polls in Jharkhand, has roped in several party leaders, MLAs and MPs of Odisha.

BJP MP and prominent Kudumi samaj leader Mamata Mohanta has already visited the neighbouring state and is likely to go there again for the election campaign. Jharkhand shares a border with Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts. Lakhs of Odia-speaking people live in Jharkhand and the visit of Odia leaders could influence voters in the state, a party leader said here.

JHARKHAND ASSEMBLY POLLS

New draft guidelines on passive euthanasia released

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: Doctors should take a "considered decision" on withdrawal of life support in terminally ill patients on the basis of certain conditions including a documented informed refusal by the patient or their kin, according to draft guidelines by Union Health Ministry.

The guidelines laid out four conditions on passive euthanasia for taking a "considered decision in a patient's best interests, to stop or discontinue ongoing life support in a terminally ill disease that is no longer likely to benefit the patient or is likely to harm in terms of causing suffering and loss of dignity."

The conditions are whether the individual has been declared brainstem death, if there is a medical prognostication and considered opinion that the patient's disease condition is advanced and not likely to benefit from aggressive therapeutic interventions, patient/surrogate documented informed refusal, following prognostic awareness, to continue life support and compliance with procedure prescribed by the Supreme Court.

The 'Draft Guidelines for Withdrawal of Life Support in Terminally Ill Patients,' also state that doctors should take a considered decision to not start a life supporting measure in a terminally ill patient that is unlikely to benefit the patient and is likely to lead to suffering and loss of dignity. In such a case, three conditions — on whether the individual has been declared brainstem death, if there is a medical prognostication and considered opinion that the patient's disease condition is advanced and not likely to benefit from aggressive therapeutic interventions, patient/surrogate documented informed refusal, following prognostic awareness — has to be taken into account.

The Union ministry has invited feedback and suggestions from the stakeholders on the draft by October 20.

The draft guidelines have not gone down well among the members of the medical fraternity, with the IMA's national president RV Asokan stating it exposes doctors to legal scrutiny and puts them under stress. "Such clinical decisions have always been taken in good faith by doctors. The patient's relatives are explained and given all information, taken into confidence in a given case and decision is taken on merit in every single case. Putting it down in sort of guidelines and also alleging



Union Health ministry has invited feedback and suggestions from the stakeholders on the draft by October 20

that inappropriate decisions have been taken or they have been prolonged is misunderstanding the situation," Asokan said.

"First the perception and assumption that unnecessarily machines are used and lives are prolonged is wrong. It exposes the doctors to legal scrutiny.

"More so what is left of a doctor-patient relationship... trying to define it in four corners of black and white documentation which is legally scrutinised is nothing but exposing the doctors to further stress," he said. There are things which should be left to relatives, patients, and doctors based on science and situation, Asokan said. The Indian Medical Association, Asokan said, will study the document and submit its views seeking a revision of the draft guidelines.

Terminal illness in the draft guidelines has been defined as an irreversible or incurable condition from which death is inevitable in the foreseeable future. Severe traumatic brain injury which shows no recovery after 72 hours or more is also included.

The draft document states that many patients in the ICU are terminally ill, and not expected to benefit from life sustaining treatments (LST) that include (but are not limited to) mechanical ventilation, vasopressors, dialysis, surgical procedures, transfusions, parenteral nutrition or Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation.

2 from Raj held for duping City doc of ₹87L

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Cyber police station sleuths here claimed to have busted a ₹87 lakh online trading scam with the arrested two fraudsters from Rajasthan Saturday.

Investigating Officer (IO) of the case, ASI PK Das, said two mobile phones used in the trading and ₹5.77 lakh cash have been recovered from the accused following their arrest.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Anjana Tudu identified the accused as Naveen Kumar Jangir, 22, and Mukesh Kumar Sheela, 26. Both hail from Churu district in the western Indian state, under Ratan Nagara police station limits. Naveen is presently pursuing BA from a local college, while Mukesh is known to have completed his intermediate. Giving details about the case,



Tudu said the complainant, a doctor who lives in Cosmopolis apartments at Aiginia, came across the trading application, HDFC Securities High Net-worth Investor Program, from unverified sources on the internet.

This application, which is not registered in Google Playstore, is

made available on the internet in APK version, ostensibly to dupe investors, Tudu said.

The unsuspecting complainant was lured by Naveen and Mukesh into investing a total of ₹87,83,613 in multiple transactions. Following the investment, the complainant received a message on his phone

stating that his trading account had been credited with ₹10,38,96,000. "However, the complainant's happiness was short-lived as he failed to withdraw the amount from his account," Tudu said.

When the complainant reached out to the duo, they allegedly told him that he needed to invest ₹30 lakh more to withdraw the money along with the capital. "This is when the complainant realised that he had been conned," Tudu added. Following the complaint, a three-member team of Cyber police station, led by ASI Das, went to Rajasthan in search of the fraudsters. The team managed to round up the duo with the assistance of cops from Ratan Nagara police station.

They were booked under BNS Section 318 (4), 319 (2) and were produced before a local court Saturday for remand.

This World Heart Day,
 All we want to say is,
WE LOVE YOU,
 With all our heart!
 And we're always
HERE FOR YOU!

Get expert care for your heart
0674 666 0666

EAT RIGHT.

SLEEP WELL.

DON'T SMOKE.

WORK OUT.

GET HEALTH CHECKS

7K km-long car rally from Ladakh to Arunachal

The mega car rally from Thoise to Tawang is being organised to mark the 92nd anniversary of the IAF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: A 7,000 km-long car rally from Ladakh's Thoise, one of the world's highest altitude air force stations, to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh will soon be held to mark the 92nd anniversary of the IAF, the defence ministry said Saturday.

Before the formal flag-off of 'Yayu Veer Vijeta' rally from Thoise, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will give a warm send-off to the rally from the National War Memorial here October 1.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) was established on October 8, 1932.



"The aim of the rally, organised by the IAF in coordination with the veterans of Uttarakhand War Memorial, is to raise awareness among the people about the glorious history of IAF; the deeds of valour of the

air warriors in different wars and rescue operations; and attract the youth to serve the motherland," the ministry said in a statement.

The mega car rally from Thoise to Tawang is being or-

ganised to mark the 92nd anniversary of the IAF, it said.

It will be flagged off from Thoise, one of the world's highest altitude air force stations, at 3,068 m above mean sea level, October 8.

The rally will culminate at Tawang October 29.

Fifty-two air warriors, including women, will be behind the wheels during this mega car rally, which will also witness the participation of former air force chiefs in different legs.

The air warriors, en route, will have 16 halts and will have interactions with the students at various colleges and universities.

The IAF's Adventure Cell is leading and coordinating the rally, the ministry said.



MELODIOUS PERFORMANCE: Artists from Sangeetayan perform during a cultural programme at Rabindra Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Saturday

OP PHOTO

WORLD HEART DAY 2024

Bhub Apollo Hospitals to host series of event



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: On the eve of World Heart Day 2024, Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar announced a series of events dedicated to raising awareness about heart health and preventing cardiac diseases, a hospital official said Saturday.

The activities will include a quiz competition, CPR demonstrations for OPD patients and their attendants, and informative sessions by senior consultants on maintaining a healthy heart, he said.

Additionally, there will be various activities involving staff, nurses, and paramedics, as well as a treadmill test conducted in the hospital lobby, he added.

The topics covered by senior

cardiac consultants will encompass essential tips for maintaining a healthy heart such as consuming a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, engaging in regular physical activity, avoiding smoking and limiting alcohol consumption, and managing stress through mindfulness and relaxation techniques.

"By incorporating these habits into daily life, individuals can significantly reduce their risk of heart disease and lead healthier, more fulfilling lives," doctors said.

The highlight of the event will be the felicitation of all cardiac science consultants by COO and DMS, Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar Alok Srivastava.

The gesture is to acknowledge their invaluable contributions to cardiac care and their dedication to improving patient outcomes. The event underscores Apollo Hospitals' unwavering commitment to promoting heart health and providing top-notch cardiac care.

ECoR promotes cleanliness drive at key railway stations



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: In a concerted effort to strengthen community engagement and promote cleanliness, East Coast Railway (ECoR) held the Jan Bhagidari programme at Bhubaneswar railway station, where he actively engaged with stakeholders and community members.

The initiative underscores the theme 'Swachhata Hi Seva', reflecting ECoR's commitment to

public welfare and environmental sustainability, an official said.

ECoR general manager Parmeshwar Funkwal, participated in the Jan Bhagidari programme at Bhubaneswar railway station, where he actively engaged with stakeholders and community members.

His involvement in the accompanying cleanliness drive highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in main-

taining hygiene and sanitation in public spaces. Additional general manager Mohes Kumar Behera represented ECoR at the Puri Railway Station, while senior deputy general manager BK Mishra participated in similar activities at Cuttack railway station. Their leadership emphasised the railway's dedication to fostering community involvement and environmental responsibility.

The Jan Bhagidari programme also saw participation from various stakeholders and NGOs, who contributed significantly to the activities at different railway stations. The collaboration aims to create a cleaner and more engaging environment for passengers and the public.

Through initiatives like Jan Bhagidari and the Swachhata Abhiyan, ECoR continues to promote a culture of cleanliness and community participation, ensuring that railway stations remain not only a mode of transportation but also a source of pride for the communities they serve, the official said.

Ramadevi varsity awaits NAAC accreditation



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) team concluded its three day visit to Rama Devi Women's University (RDWU) here recently.

According to officials, the university is still waiting to get NAAC accreditation after becoming a university in 2015.

A six-member NAAC team led by Mrinalini Fadnavis conducted a thorough inspection and study of the university since. On the first day, the team members visited the new auditorium and various departments including Home Science, Chemistry, Biotechnology, Biology, Computer Science and interacted with both faculty and students.

The next day, the team inspected

NCC, NSS, Self Defense Unit, Yoga Centre, Health Centre, Indoor play facility, Medicinal Plant Garden, Canteen, Cooperative Complex, Solar Panel Unit, open Gymnasium, and Center of Excellence among other things. They also visited facilities for disabled students, hostel of visually impaired students and Aradhana Padhy Memorial Reading Corner.

On the last day, the team had a meeting with University vice-chancellor Aparajita Chowdhury and principals of 48 affiliated institutions of the university. Fadnavis expressed her best wishes and said that the university is an inspiration for all women students.

The NAAC members included Vivek Kumar, Nirnak Srivastava, Rekha Agarwal and Syed Abdul Hafiz Moinuddin.

Student leader Sripati Jena remembered

Cuttack: Former student leader and ex-president of Christ College Students' Union, Cuttack Sripati Jena's 31st death anniversary was observed at Gadagadeshwar temple near Mahanadi river here Saturday. A memorial meeting was held where leaders cutting across party lines, senior advocates of Orissa High Court and people from various walks of life attended and remembered Jena. A 'Tilatapan' to the departed soul was offered and the Bhagavad Gita recital was held. A silent prayer meeting was also held remembering former Mayor of Cuttack Municipal Corporation Nibedita Pradhan, senior advocate Satyabrata Pradhan and former student leader Narottam Nayak. Senior advocates Satyabrata Mohanty, Biswa Bhushan Behura, Asit Kumar Jena, Sudhiranjan Mohanty, Ganapati Jena, Binaya Bhushan Jena, Adwait Charan Nayak, Basudev Nayak, Manas Pani, Niranjan Samantaray, Jagadananda Tripathy and Aswini Kumar Tripathy attended the programme.

Outfit holds consultation on MTP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: A voluntary organisation, Sahayog, organised a state-level consultation to mark the International Safe Abortion Day at Red Cross Bhawan Saturday.

The event highlighted the importance of the Amended Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act-2021.

The guests present on the occasion included secretary of Sahayog Bijayalaxmi Rautaray, former director of Health and Family Welfare Seba Mohapatra, assistant director at Capital Hospital Sanjaya Ray, and state convener of Jan Swasthya Abhiyan, Gouranga Mahapatra among others.



Seba said, "Safe abortion is a fundamental health need. The amended MTP Act is progressive, supporting reproductive autonomy without requiring third-party consent. The Act makes no distinction between married and unmarried women for medical termination."

The consultation focused on the state's responsibility to ensure the availability of abortion services.

Sanjaya stated, "Unsafe abor-

tion is life-threatening. Post-abortion care is crucial to avoid complications and lifelong morbidity."

Gouranga highlighted the need for attitudinal change within the healthcare system, stating, "A compassionate mindset is essential to implement progressive laws for women's health rights."

"The Act recognises a person's right to bodily autonomy, and the confidentiality of abortion seekers is of utmost importance," he added.

CIPET's activities to mark 'Swachhata Hi Seva'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Under 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign, the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET): Centre for Skilling and Technical Support (CSTS), Bhubaneswar recently undertook a number of cleanliness activities in the City.

Led by institute director and head BP Patro and administrative officer Jayanta Kumar Das, the institute students and staff carried out cleanliness work under themes 'Swachhata Ki Bhagidari', 'Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs' and 'SampoornaSwachhata'.

Under 'Swachhata Ki Bhagidari', the students participated in essay writing, drawing competitions and slogan



writing to spread the message of cleanliness and hygiene.

Students also made a human chain by positioning themselves to form the shape of Swachh Bharat Logo. They also cleaned the areas near prawn factory in Mancheswar. Under 'Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs' campaign, health and voluntary blood donation camp was organised where 87 people underwent health check-up and 60 people donated blood.

Similarly, students and staff did cleaning job in and around

Jana Seva Kendra and distributed dustbins to the VSS locality people under 'SampoornaSwachhata' campaign. Cleanliness activities were also carried out at IDCO Colony, VSS Nagar.

As part of 'Swachhata Hi Seva', target unit (CTU) campaign was conducted institute students.

Also, on the instructions of Das, the premises of famous Kedar Gouri Temple in City were cleaned by the teachers and students of the institute.

'Nalco setting milestones with record-breaking achievements'

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: In the 43rd Annual General Meeting held here recently through virtual mode, the shareholders of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), the Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India, have approved the Annual Accounts for 2023-24 with a sales turnover of ₹13,149 crore, net profit of ₹2,060 crore and an export turnover of ₹4,275.73 crore. The shareholders also approved a final dividend of ₹2 per equity share (40 per cent on face value of ₹5/- each) amounting to ₹367.33 crore for the FY 2023-24. Thus, total dividend paid during the year amounts to ₹918.32 crore, which is 45 per cent of PAT.

Among the notable achieve-

ments of FY 2023-24, the Aluminium major NALCO achieved highest-ever Bauxite excavation and produced 21.24 lakh tonne Alumina Hydrate operating beyond 100 per cent capacity utilisation.

Similarly, on the sales front, the company has registered the highest-ever metal sale of 4.70 lakh tonne and the Aluminium Smelter plant achieved highest ever cast metal production of 4.63 lakh MT in the FY 2023-24.

In FY 23-24, NALCO has developed and operationalised its Utkal D coal block and has also produced 2 million tonnes of Coal, which is the peak rated capacity of the mine. It may be mentioned that with operationalisation of Utkal D & E and signing of lease agreement for Pottangi Bauxite mines, the



Company has achieved strong energy and raw material securitization for next 30 years.

Addressing the shareholders on the occasion, Nalco CMD

Sridhar Patra conveyed his heartfelt appreciation for the dedication and commitment of Nalco team, unwavering support, trust and confidence of shareholder

ers, which has led to record-breaking metal production and impressive sales figures.

He also expressed that there were some setbacks due to economic and geopolitical landscape, issues arising from fluctuating commodity prices to evolving environmental regulations, but these challenges also present the company opportunities for growth and innovation.

Nalco has experienced growth across various areas in FY 2023-24 aligned with the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat, he said. Nalco is dedicated to drive forward India's industrial prowess and economic resilience.

"The future holds immense possibilities for Nalco, as we continue to align our strategies with global trends and national

priorities, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of the aluminium industry," said Patra.

He further informed that the company has successfully executed the mining lease of Pottangi Bauxite Mines (having mineable reserve of 111 million MT) with the state government for a period of 50 years.

He also outlined about the various growth and brownfield expansion projects of the company including operationalisation of the remaining allotted coal Block in Odisha.

In his concluding remarks, Patra said that Nalco is poised to grow with purpose and deliver with passion and strive towards making the company, a sought-after name globally in the Alumina and Aluminium sector.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS
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-Nilakantha 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.

5 workers injured in accident at RSP

Rourkela, Sept 28: At least five workers were injured in an accident at the Steel Melting Shop-1 (SMS-1) of Rourkela Steel Plant here Saturday, official sources said.



According to preliminary information, steel was being made in the converters of the SMS-1. "As per regular practice after tapping steel from the converter, slag splashing is done to nourish the converter lining. However, at about 8.45am Saturday when slag splashing

was carried out, a jam stuck up in the movable hood of the converter. Suddenly the slag fell into the converter thereby resulting in the splashing of residual slag," an official note issued by the RSP said.

This has caused injury to five people (four employees and one contractual labour) working in the nearby area, it said.

All of them were immediately admitted to the burn centre of Ispat General Hospital after administering first aid. The condition of all the five affected people is stable so far, the statement said.

It also said that a committee headed by a chief general manager has been formed to enquire into the cause and fix responsibility.

Atanu Bhowmick, Director In-Charge, RSP has expressed deep concern over the incident and has assured the best possible treatment facilities for the injured people, the statement said.

Sarpanch opens fire at youth over past enmity

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kantamal, Sept 28: A youth sustained critical injury after the sarpanch of Kasurabandh village under Manamunda police limits in Boudh district opened fire at him Friday night over past enmity.

The injured has been identified as Rajendra Karna of the same village. According to information, an argument broke out between Rajendra and the sarpanch, Saroj Kumar Karna, along with his brother Nilu and father Nabaghana, in front of Rajendra's house over a past issue.

During the heated exchange, an enraged Saroj first fired a round of blank shots at Rajendra. Then, he shot two rounds into Rajendra's legs, causing him to collapse. Afterward, Saroj, along with his father and brother, brutally beat Rajendra with sticks leaving him critically injured. Rajendra was rescued by his family members, who first took him to Manamunda hospital and then admitted him to Sonepur hospital for treatment.

Upon receiving the information, Manamunda police have begun investigating the incident. Rajendra and his family have demanded strict punishment for the accused.

UNREST IN BHADRAK

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhadrak, Sept 28: The state government Saturday suspended internet services in Bhadrak district for two days after a group of people pelted stones at police during a protest over an 'objectionable' social media post Friday. Acting on the direction of Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu, the district administration issued the order.

Nine people were arrested for allegedly being involved in a clash between two communities and attack on police personnel in Bhadrak district over the social media post, police said. A case of attack on police was registered over a complaint filed by the Puruna Bazar police ASI Manoranjan Behera.

Sources said a youth Pruthwiraj Sahani, 19, of Kharavel Nagar, who was accused of making the 'objectionable' social media post, was arrested from Bhubaneswar, Saturday. A case was registered in this connection at Puruna Bazar police station.

"The man responsible for the social media post has been held," said Bhadrak DSP Anshuman Diwedi, who was among the two



SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP: Participants dive into the pool for a free-style event during a Khelo India Junior Women's Swimming Championship organised by the Odisha State Swimming Association at Dr Jhaskhetan Sahu swimming pool in Sambalpur, Saturday

Internet suspended, 10 arrested



police personnel injured in stone pelting. Nine others were also apprehended for "rioting charges", another officer said.

Earlier in the day, the state's Home department, in a notification, said that the internet services will remain suspended in the district for 48 hours till 2am September 30 (Monday) across the district under the provisions of Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

The government order also mentioned that the use and access of social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, X, and other medium of data services, mobile internet and broadband services will be prohibited to prevent the spread of inflammatory messages in order to restore peace and amity.

A group of people had lodged a complaint against the youth

who allegedly posted some objectionable material on social media hurting the religious sentiments of a community. The members of a particular community took out a protest rally Friday alleging delay in police action against the accused youth.

As the rally was held without prior permission of the administration, police tried to stop the rally. However, the protesters pelted stones at police injuring two policemen including a DSP. The vehicle of Bhadrak tehsildar was also damaged, they said.

A clash broke out between two communities in Santhia area of the district over a social media post Friday afternoon. The violence later spread to Dhamnagar area in the district, police said.

Meanwhile, the district administration Friday imposed prohibitory orders under Section

163 of BNSS in Puruna Bazar and Dhamnagar police station area to maintain law and order. "Any congregation, gathering, meeting, agitation are strictly prohibited in the proceeding area and violation of the same shall be viewed seriously by the district administration," the order issued by the district administration said.

At least 14 platoons of police force as well as jawans of Rapid Action Force (RAF) have been deployed in violence-hit Puruna Bazar and Dhamnagar, Bhadrak SP Varun Guntupalli said.

The suspension of internet services has disrupted works at the government offices. Similarly, protesters staged a 'rasta roko' by burning tyres and gheraoed the police station at Biju Patnaik Square in Dhamnagar, Friday evening. All business establishments at Dhamnagar town and Doba Bazar remained shut Saturday with the roads wearing a deserted look due to plying of fewer number of vehicles.

Meanwhile, senior officials, including DIG, Bhadrak SP, and the District Collector, are monitoring the situation and holding discussions with members of the peace committee.

NHRC seeks ATR from CS on plight of Keonjhar villagers

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 28: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notice to the Chief Secretary and sought for an Action Taken Report (ATR) on the plight and sufferings of the villagers especially from the Tribal and SC communities living in mining affected areas in Keonjhar district.

Taking cognisance of the petition filed by lawyer and human rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC September 19 ordered to submit the ATR within four weeks.

Sources said that the commission has received a complaint on different issues of difficulties being faced by the people in Keonjhar district due to mining. The complainant has alleged that the people indulged in mining activities as workers are forced to live in pathetic conditions.

There are no proper roads, drinking water, school and employment opportunities for them. The complainant has stated that the administration is solely responsible as no social welfare schemes are functioning in the area and the rights of the people, mostly STs, are being grossly violated. The complainant has requested the commission to intervene into the matter.

The petitioner has drawn the attention of the NHRC on the plethora of sufferings and dep-



The complainant has stated that the administration is solely responsible as no social welfare schemes are functioning in the area and the rights of the people, mostly STs, are being grossly violated

privation of basic human rights of the villagers residing near the mining areas in the district. He pointed out the quality of life and prevalent degraded environment in the district.

"The Commission shall be constrained to invoke coercive process u/s 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 calling for a personal appearance of the authority concerned for submission of the report, in case the report is not received within the stipulated time," the NHRC added in its order.

Youth sentenced to 20-yr RI in minor girl rape case

PNN & AGENCIES

Balasure, Sept 28: Special judge POCSO Ranjan Kumar Sutar Saturday convicted a 28-year-old rape accused and sentenced him to undergo 20 years of RI along with a fine of ₹8,000.

The court further ordered another two years of RI in case the convict failed to pay the penalty amount.

The convict, identified as Pravat Sethi, a native of Kamakhyanagar under Dhenkanal district, had allegedly kidnapped a 15-year-old minor girl and sexually assaulted her after lodging her in Puri town.

The father of the victim, a resident of Anantabad Sasan lodged a complaint against Pravat in Khairapali police station, alleging that the latter had kidnapped his daughter when she went to



computer class. Based on the FIR registered July 29, 2023, the accused was arrested, and the victim girl was rescued from Puri town.

The accused was tried under various sections, including 376, 376(2)(0), 363 and 366 of the IPC, and 6 of the POCSO Act.

The court, after examining 12 witnesses and 18 exhibits, pronounced the verdict Saturday.

The court also ordered for ₹4 lakh compensation to the victim to be paid through the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda said.

MCL surpasses 100MT dispatch in FY-2024-25

Bhubaneswar: Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has achieved a significant milestone in operational excellence by surpassing the 100 million-tonne mark in coal dispatch for the financial year 2024-25. The company achieved this milestone Thursday with a record 16 days ahead of the last fiscal year. The 100 million metric tonnes of coal dispatch reflects an impressive 7 per cent overall growth compared to the last fiscal year. With a 9 per cent growth in coal dispatch to the power sector, MCL remains steadfast in its commitment to contribute to the energy security of the country. The company also recorded a remarkable 22 per cent growth in environment-friendly coal dispatch through rail mode, reflecting its continued focus on sustainable practices. MCL Chairman-cum-Managing Director Uday Anant Kaole, appreciating the dedication and efforts of the team MCL, said, "Surpassing the 100 million metric tonnes mark in record time is a testament to the relentless dedication of our workforce.

Govt starts health screening of students in Kandhamal hostels

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Sept 28: The Kandhamal district administration has launched health screening for all school students who stay in hostels run by the government, officials said Saturday.

The drive was launched Thursday and would continue till November 6 to screen around 33,000 borders of 389 hostels managed by the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) Development and School and Mass Education departments.

Malaria, anaemia and sickle cell tests of the students from Class I to XII were being conducted by the health teams during the drive, official sources said

Bijay Kumar Panda, Chief

District Medical Officer (CDMO) said they have formed 24 RBSK (Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakrama) teams for this exercise. Two teams have been deployed in each block.

Each team will conduct the health check-up of at least 100 students per day, he said.

"The drive will help the authorities gather the knowledge of the prevalence and impact of malaria, anaemia and sickle cell disease among the hostel inmates," District Welfare Officer Narayan Mishra said.

Students suffering from these diseases will also get an early treatment when their illnesses are known, he said.

Earlier, the medical teams had conducted different tests of suspected cases, after getting intimation from hostel superintendents.

Salt production on verge of extinction in Ganjam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Ganjam, Sept 28: Salt production centres at Ganjam and Humma areas in this district are on the verge of extinction due to alleged neglect and apathetic attitude of the Centre and the state governments.

The centre has 1,472 acre land spread in both these areas for salt production. The Humma-Binchanapali Salt Production and Sales Cooperative (HBSPC) alone has 729 acre land under its jurisdiction. The land is given on lease to the HBSPC and the lease term is renewed in every 20 years. The lease was last renewed in 2011 but cultivation was not taken up by lessees. This resulted in sharp decline in salt production from this unit.



Reports said that the reason behind the decline in salt production is the disagreement between the Salt Board authorities and lessees on the formula of wages. Though Salt Board authorities and the lessees usually reach an agreement before production, both the parties did not agree on the formula on wages and this is stated to be one

of the reasons why the production came to a halt. The Salt Board authorities of the Union government and the state Industries department had constructed a salt production unit in between Humma and Suryanarayanpur. A rest house for the benefit of the salt farmers and labourers was also constructed there.

The Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute at Bhavnagar in Gujarat had identified the land for production of quality salt by the salt farmers in the state.

Meanwhile, as the authorities have stopped giving importance to salt production, the land has turned into pasture for the livestock after lying un-

used and idle. As a result, people who depended on salt production for their livelihoods have migrated to other states in search of work.

People in Humma, Lakshimpur, Jhadakuda, Suryanarayanpur, Mayurpada, Niladripur, Kantiagad, Puintola, and Binchanapali villages also do salt farming along with cultivation of other crops.

However, after the Centre, state government and the district administration stopped promoting salt production, people turned away from the farming and are migrating elsewhere to earn a livelihood. Locals have demanded the government to intervene and revive the salt production centre and restore its lost glory.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

NOTIFICATION FOR ENGAGEMENT OF STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENTS (STBA)

No. C/SBP/STBA/NSG-6 Catg/Stn/01/24/01 Date : 24.09.2024

"Applications are invited for engagement of Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBA) to work throughout the day in all shifts for 03 (Three) year on commission basis at 01 (One) NSG-6 category station over Sambalpur Division of East Coast Railway for issuing of unreserved tickets through Unreserved Ticketing system (UTS). Interested persons fulfilling the stipulated conditions may apply in the prescribed format to Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Sambalpur Division.

Non-Suburban Grade-6 Category Stations (NSG-6) : RUPRA ROAD (RPRD)

Commission Payable : The applicants fulfilling the eligibility conditions and who have opted for the least commission on the slab-3 (i.e. on the 4% commission slab) will be selected as STBA. The commission payable shall be as follows:

Slab-1: 1-20,000 : 25% (Minimum of Rs. 2,500), Slab-2: 20,001-1,00,000 : 15%, Slab-3: >1,00,000 : 4% or the rate quoted whichever is lower.

The details and the prescribed format for filling application may be obtained from website of East Coast Railway i.e. <http://eastcoastrail.indianrailways.gov.in> up to 1800 hrs. of 14.10.2024 and from the office of The Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Coast Railway, Sambalpur on any working day from 1000 hrs. to 1800 hrs. up to 14.10.2024.

The last for submission/dropping of duly filed application in the box is 1100 hrs. of dated 15.10.2024.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager,
Sambalpur

PR-564/P/24-25

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPALITY, BASUDEVPUR

At/P.O.-Basudevpur, Dist.-Bhadrak, Odisha, Pin-756125

Phone/Fax : (06784)271202, E-mail : Basudevpurn.hud@nic.in

Notice No. : 2879 Date : 24.09.24

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

No.C-680 : The Executive Officer, Basudevpur Municipality, Dist - Bhadrak sealed quotations from the ending registered firms authorized dealers/distributors/suppliers and manufacturers of supply of Sanitation items Basudevpur municipality for the period from 08.10.24 to 31.10.25. The prescribed quotation schedule can be obtained from Municipal Office, Basudevpur in deposit of Rs. 5,000/- (five thousand) (non-refundable) in shape of demand draft in favour of Executive Officer, Basudevpur Municipality from dated 25.09.24 to 07.10.24.

The quotation paper along with all documents should reach the undersigned by Speed Post/Registered Post/Courier on or before dated 07.10.2024 up to 05.30 P.M. will in no way, be responsible for any delay in receipt of the quotation documents. The quotation will be opened on dated 08.10.24 at 11.00 A.M. in presence of the quotator or their authorized representative if any. The quotation received beyond the schedule date and time will not be considered at all.

All terms and conditions may be seen in the quotation Proforma. The undersigned has rights to accept, cancel, or reject any or all the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd./- Executive Officer
Basudevpur Municipality

OIPR-13135/11/0005/2425

FOCUS WORKPLACE STRESS

WAKE UP TO THE TOXICITY



Here we see examples of businesses that present as modern-day growth beacons on the outside but on the inside are essentially sweatshops built on the hard labour of those who do not have a voice in the system - the talented youth of India

with over 50% tech professionals working an average of 52.5 hours per week, surpassing the national average of 46.7 hours a week (this still places India among the countries with the longest working hours). The study by 'Onsurety', an employee healthcare platform and the 'Knowledge Chamber of Commerce and Industry' says repercussions of such prolonged working hours are severe. More than half the respondents reported experiencing adverse health effects including acidity, gut problems, back and neck pain, erratic sleep cycles and eyesight related issues. Mental health concerns were also prevalent with 45% of tech professionals disclosing struggles with stress, anxiety and depression.

Such reports may not have caused much worry earlier. But not anymore as the shock and outpouring of criticism have left the government with no option other than to sit up, notice and act. The Union Labour Ministry has announced an investigation into the case of Anna Perayil and the work culture at EY that affected her health and ultimately took her life. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman finds herself in a slug out with Opposition parties for suggesting that educational institutions and parents should help children build inner strength to face challenges and solve problems at work rather than crumble under them.

At a time like this, the harm caused by the words of NR Narayana Murthy, co-founder Infosys, must come to mind. He had famously asked that the youth of India work 70-hour weeks to help increase national productivity. We can see that sweatshops do not increase productivity; they kill innocent citizens.

The writer is the Managing Editor of The Billion Press.

©THE BILLION PRESS

being put under a manager marked for unprofessionalism. She wrote: "Anna, in fact, had received several warnings regarding her manager from colleagues: Her manager would often reschedule meetings during cricket matches and assign her work at the end of the day, adding to her stress. At an office party, a senior leader even joked that she would have a tough time working under her manager, which, unfortunately, became a reality she could not escape." This is particularly damning because it shows that EY knew, tolerated and perhaps even encouraged this manner of working, raising new questions on the lack of professionalism at a company considered one of the global "big four" of accounting firms. Should India allow these companies to have this free run? Why should the chairman not be held to account for what has gone wrong? How many inquiries are on? And what has EY done in the matter so far, other than speaking about its commitment to "nurturing a har-

monious workplace." While EY is a global firm, India's home-grown technology sector has seen an exponential growth trajectory by rising from a very different ethos and background. It has played a key role in driving the economy forward. It held its own especially during the pandemic, delivering with speed and efficiency by turning its vast workforce into a work from home army which now worked even longer hours since they didn't have to travel to the workplace. As life returned to normal and offices filled up, many in the IT sector have been able to keep remote work going. However, the hours employees put in have not decreased, and the stress is growing. A study earlier this year titled "Burying the Burnout: Decoding the Health Challenges of India's Tech Geniuses" found that 43% of Indian techno-professionals experience health concerns directly stemming from their work. Long working hours emerged as a significant contributor to these health issues



Lekha Rattanani

WE CAN SEE THAT SWEATSHOPS DO NOT INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY; THEY KILL INNOCENT CITIZENS

Long hours, stress and burnout in the work place is well known. But after two recent deaths, the work culture taking root in India needs to be urgently addressed. The case in July of a young Pune-based chartered accountant who was literally worked to death and the more recent suicide of a software engineer in Chennai after reportedly struggling with depression and work pressure for months have revealed the true nature of thriving companies. Here we see examples of businesses that present as modern-day growth beacons on the outside but on the inside are essentially sweatshops built on the hard labour of those who do not have a voice in the system - the talented youth of India.

Last week, Karthikeyan, 38, was found wrapped in livewire at their Chennai home by his wife Jayarani who had returned from a trip. He left his two children with their maternal grandparents before electrocuting himself, according to reports. Family members spoke of work pressure causing depression, for which he was under treatment for last two months. Karthikeyan was in a new job after leaving a software firm operating from Chennai, where he had worked for 15 years.

In July, Anna Sebastian Perayil, 26, collapsed after suffering what clearly is a case of toxic work culture. This is the story of the horrors of what appears to be a normalised modern-day, sleep-deprived work culture, recounted in all its shocking detail by her mother. Anna passed the CA qualifying examinations with distinction, but four months into her job with Ernst & Young, the CA collapsed.

In a letter to EY India chairman Rajiv Memani, Anna's mother Anita Augustine placed on record that everyone in the company knew that she was



THE MOTHER

The happiness you give makes you happier than the happiness you receive.

Assertive RSS

Next year, on 17 September, the Prime Minister turns 75. Ten days after that, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh turns 100. During the Lok Sabha campaign, BJP president JP Nadda said the party did not need the RSS as it had in the past because it was now self-sufficient. This is an unusual statement, because it assumes the two entities are totally separate. Are they?

The RSS is the only ideological fount for Hindutva. In the BJP, leaders come and go, policies come and go, the RSS remains permanently in the background as the shareholder with a controlling stake. Indeed, the RSS formed the BJP to protect it. This is according to the official history of the BJP itself, which was published by the party in 2006 as a series of six volumes.

The founding of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the predecessor to the BJP came after an RSS rally in Delhi in December 1947 drew a large crowd and also attracted Hindu princes, businessmen and leaders of other Hindu organisations. This popularity was something that alarmed the Congress, especially Nehru, the BJP history says. The assassination of Gandhi on 30 January 1948 gave the Congress the opportunity to act. It decided to ban the RSS on 2 February, three days after Gandhi's murder.

RSS chief Golwalkar had sensed his institution would get into trouble once the details of Gandhi's assassination were out. He acted immediately. On the day of the killing, 30 January 1948, he sent telegrams to RSS branches suspending operations for thirteen days. The same day he also telegraphed Nehru, Patel and Gandhi's son Devdas with a message of condolence: "Shocked at this cruel fatal attack and tragic loss of greatest personality."



Aakar Patel

In the BJP, leaders come and go, policies come and go, the RSS remains permanently in the background as the shareholder with a controlling stake

The next day Golwalkar again wrote to Nehru expressing his shock and referring to Godse as a "thoughtless perverted soul" who had "committed the heinous act of putting a sudden and ghastly end to the life of poojya Mahatmaji by the bullet." He called the killing unpardonable and an act of treason. That day he again wrote to Patel: "My heart is wrung with extreme agony. It is difficult to find words to condemn the person who committed this crime..."

None of this helped. The government notification declaring the RSS unlawful said: "The professed aims and objects of the RSS are to promote the physical, intellectual and moral well-being of the Hindus and also to foster feelings of brotherhood, love and service amongst them ... the Government have, however, noticed with regret that in practice members of the RSS have not adhered to their professed ideals." "But now," the government said, "they have been found circulating leaflets exhorting people to resort to terrorist methods to collect firearms ... rendering it incumbent on the government to deal with the Sangh in its corporate capacity."

Golwalkar was arrested on 3 February along with 20,000 swayamsevaks. The RSS says it was shocked that no political party and no political leader spoke up for it or stood in its defence. The ban remained for a little under a year and a half. It was lifted after the RSS was asked to produce a constitution. This was written up and submitted and the ban was lifted on 11 July 1949. Immediately following this, the RSS began debating entering politics in the pages of its house organ, The Organiser. It published articles from RSS workers including KR Malkani who wrote that the Sangh "must take part in politics not only to protect itself" but also "to stop un-Bharatiya and anti-Bharatiya politics" and to "advance the cause of Bharatiyata through state machinery." For these reasons, the Sangh must "continue as an ashram for the national cultural education of the entire citizenry, but it must develop a political wing for the more effective and early achievement of its ideals."

Malkani said the new party "will be revivalist of ancient values as it will be futuristic in its targets" and it would be told "not to depend on foreign values, attitude and manners" and that "the principle of this re-organisation in Hindustan can only be Hindutva."

RSS worker from the Arya Samaj Balraj Madhok wrote that the Sangh "must give the lead to the country in regard to the political and economic problems of the country" because this was "vital to the very existence of the Sangh itself."

There was little or no opposition from inside the RSS to forming a political party. Three other things catalysed the formation of the Jana Sangh/BJP. Firstly, the resignation in April 1950 of SP Mookerjee, a former Hindu Mahasabha leader; from the Nehru Cabinet, claiming Muslim appeasement by Nehru. Secondly, the death of Sardar Patel in December 1950, a year before the first general election. Thirdly, the election the same year of PD Tandon as Congress president and his being forced to resign by Nehru. Tandon was a Hindu conservative who Nehru felt (according to the BJP history) was being supported by the RSS. All three things further convinced the RSS of the need to have a conservative Hindu element in popular politics.

On 21 October, 1951, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh was launched, one year after our Prime Minister was born. Mookerjee was made its head and Golwalkar, always in the background, provided the nationwide framework for the party by deputing pracharakas to it, including Deendayal Upadhyaya from Uttar Pradesh. Today the six most senior ministers of India's Union Cabinet according to the order of precedence are Swayamsevaks.

When the BJP is unsteady during minority governments, as it was under Vajpayee and as it seems to be today, the RSS can and will assert itself. It is the mothership to which the BJP must always return.



Sanjay Kuthuria

TO RESTORE DEBT SUSTAINABILITY, PAKISTAN WOULD NEED TO RESTRUCTURE ITS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL OBLIGATIONS, AS SRI LANKA IS CURRENTLY DOING

In July, Pakistan reached a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund on a record 25th programme, in yet another attempt to kick-start economic growth and development as the country lurches from crisis to crisis. But the new IMF programme, which will likely be finalised once Pakistan secures "adequate" assurances from major creditors that its outstanding loans will be rolled over, fails to address a much more fundamental problem: the country's unsustainable debt.

Interest payments on public debt consumed an estimated 68% of Pakistan's revenue in 2022-23, and its debt-to-GDP ratio was more than 80%, compared to less than 40% in Bangladesh, which gained independence from Pakistan in 1971. The IMF estimates the country's total external financing needs will total roughly \$128 billion over the next five years, with every year's needs exceeding even optimistic forecasts of its foreign reserves. To restore debt sustainability Pakistan would need to restructure its internal and external obligations, as Sri Lanka is currently doing.

Pakistan's deep-seated problems, including entrenched business elites, a persistent democracy deficit, and the military's outsized economic role, have undermined market credibility, in-

vestment, and GDP growth. High levels of non-transparent protection have resulted in stagnant exports - \$35.2 billion in 2023, compared to Bangladesh's \$57.6 billion - and recurrent foreign-exchange crises. Investment spending amounted to only 12% of GDP in 2023, compared to 31% in Bangladesh and neighbouring India, and GDP per capita was 56% of Bangladesh's.

The current crisis reflects these underlying problems. Accumulated economic imbalances, both fiscal and external, fueled inflation and contributed to rising debt levels in 2022, with massive floods only exacerbating the situation.

Addressing these problems requires debt restructuring. A World Bank study of 177 sovereign external and domestic debt defaults found that five years after successful defaults, governments had reduced their debt-to-GDP ratio by 24-34 percentage points, and effective interest rates on government debt had fallen by as much as two percentage points. Consider Sri Lanka's gradual return to positive growth and increased market optimism after defaulting in April 2022: its ten-year government bond yield was 13.3% on August 30, 2024, compared to 32% in November 2022.

To be sure, debt restructuring

is never easy, and Pakistan will confront two major challenges if it chooses this route. First, domestic debt accounts for the bulk of the government's obligations, equivalent to 46% of GDP in 2023, whereas external debt was 29% of GDP (excluding IMF obligations and debt guarantees). Any meaningful restructuring would thus require domestic debt holders - mainly local banks - to take a haircut, which could pose political problems and raise concerns about financial stability. Fortunately, local banks' high profitability provides some room for maneuver.

Second, Pakistan's biggest creditor is China, which holds more than 28% of the country's total external public debt (even more than the World Bank). Given that China has proven to be a reluctant participant in sovereign-debt restructurings, this could be a significant impediment.

The Pakistani government now appears to recognise that it has a debt problem, even as it fails to acknowledge the severity of the situation. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recently wrote to China requesting a debt reprofiling, which would involve extending the maturity period of existing debt and reducing interest rates.

But the proposed reprofiling would hardly make a dent in Pakistan's external-financing

needs, because it would address only the debt owed to Chinese power producers. Moreover, each energy project could be negotiated separately, which would further prolong a notoriously protracted process. In fact, there is a good chance that China will deny Pakistan's request, as it has shown a strong preference for fair burden-sharing among all creditors.

Rather than delay the reckoning, Pakistan should overcome its fears and ask the IMF to help prepare an orderly debt-restructuring programme. To set itself on the road toward sustained growth, the government must be willing to implement fundamental reforms such as raising taxes, renouncing the anti-export bias in its trade policies, and improving public-expenditure management. This will require overcoming the resistance of corporate leaders.

This path is hard and long. But the alternative is worse: a possible disorderly debt default, and continued trips to China, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the US seeking bailouts, would condemn Pakistan's economy to years of slow and volatile growth, performing well below its potential.

The writer is a former economist at the World Bank.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPECTRUM FINANCING

Pakistan's unsustainable debt

In July, Pakistan reached a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund on a record 25th programme, in yet another attempt to kick-start economic growth and development as the country lurches from crisis to crisis. But the new IMF programme, which will likely be finalised once Pakistan secures "adequate" assurances from major creditors that its outstanding loans will be rolled over, fails to address a much more fundamental problem: the country's unsustainable debt.

Interest payments on public debt consumed an estimated 68% of Pakistan's revenue in 2022-23, and its debt-to-GDP ratio was more than 80%, compared to less than 40% in Bangladesh, which gained independence from Pakistan in 1971. The IMF estimates the country's total external financing needs will total roughly \$128 billion over the next five years, with every year's needs exceeding even optimistic forecasts of its foreign reserves. To restore debt sustainability Pakistan would need to restructure its internal and external obligations, as Sri Lanka is currently doing.

Pakistan's deep-seated problems, including entrenched business elites, a persistent democracy deficit, and the military's outsized economic role, have undermined market credibility, in-

vestment, and GDP growth. High levels of non-transparent protection have resulted in stagnant exports - \$35.2 billion in 2023, compared to Bangladesh's \$57.6 billion - and recurrent foreign-exchange crises. Investment spending amounted to only 12% of GDP in 2023, compared to 31% in Bangladesh and neighbouring India, and GDP per capita was 56% of Bangladesh's.

The current crisis reflects these underlying problems. Accumulated economic imbalances, both fiscal and external, fueled inflation and contributed to rising debt levels in 2022, with massive floods only exacerbating the situation.

Addressing these problems requires debt restructuring. A World Bank study of 177 sovereign external and domestic debt defaults found that five years after successful defaults, governments had reduced their debt-to-GDP ratio by 24-34 percentage points, and effective interest rates on government debt had fallen by as much as two percentage points. Consider Sri Lanka's gradual return to positive growth and increased market optimism after defaulting in April 2022: its ten-year government bond yield was 13.3% on August 30, 2024, compared to 32% in November 2022.

To be sure, debt restructuring

is never easy, and Pakistan will confront two major challenges if it chooses this route. First, domestic debt accounts for the bulk of the government's obligations, equivalent to 46% of GDP in 2023, whereas external debt was 29% of GDP (excluding IMF obligations and debt guarantees). Any meaningful restructuring would thus require domestic debt holders - mainly local banks - to take a haircut, which could pose political problems and raise concerns about financial stability. Fortunately, local banks' high profitability provides some room for maneuver.

Second, Pakistan's biggest creditor is China, which holds more than 28% of the country's total external public debt (even more than the World Bank). Given that China has proven to be a reluctant participant in sovereign-debt restructurings, this could be a significant impediment.

The Pakistani government now appears to recognise that it has a debt problem, even as it fails to acknowledge the severity of the situation. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recently wrote to China requesting a debt reprofiling, which would involve extending the maturity period of existing debt and reducing interest rates.

But the proposed reprofiling would hardly make a dent in Pakistan's external-financing

needs, because it would address only the debt owed to Chinese power producers. Moreover, each energy project could be negotiated separately, which would further prolong a notoriously protracted process. In fact, there is a good chance that China will deny Pakistan's request, as it has shown a strong preference for fair burden-sharing among all creditors.

Rather than delay the reckoning, Pakistan should overcome its fears and ask the IMF to help prepare an orderly debt-restructuring programme. To set itself on the road toward sustained growth, the government must be willing to implement fundamental reforms such as raising taxes, renouncing the anti-export bias in its trade policies, and improving public-expenditure management. This will require overcoming the resistance of corporate leaders.

This path is hard and long. But the alternative is worse: a possible disorderly debt default, and continued trips to China, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the US seeking bailouts, would condemn Pakistan's economy to years of slow and volatile growth, performing well below its potential.

The writer is a former economist at the World Bank.

©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

- The doctor sees all the weakness of mankind; the lawyer all the wickedness, the theologian all the stupidity. - ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER
- Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence. - HELEN KELLER
- If there were only one truth, you couldn't paint a hundred canvases on the same theme. - PABLO PICASSO

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1829: Through the efforts of Robert Peel, England's first professional police force, London's Metropolitan Police (often called Scotland Yard), was founded; it became a model for future police departments in various other countries, including the United States.
- 1906: The United States occupied Cuba after the rebellion surrounding the reelection of Tomás Estrada Palma.
- 1923: British mandate in Palestine. Set in motion by the Balfour Declaration of 1917, the British mandate for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine was finally approved by the Council of the League of Nations and came into force this day in 1923.
- 1938: Poland demanded the cession of Teschen, a rich region that had been contested and then divided between Poland and Czechoslovakia following World War I.

Coffee & collaboration

Sir, Coffee denotes energy, joy, and it's a celebration of friendship. In some coffee producing nations, coffee consumption is rooted in culture. Amidst more than four hundred million cups of coffee consumed annually, in more than eighty five coffee growing countries, coffee growers were in a tight spot when the coronavirus pandemic took the world by storm. Even otherwise, climate change that has resulted in global warming, and untimely and scarce rainfall, has troubled the coffee producers. That the coffee growth is crippled by a small variation in temperature should worry the farmers. Shortage of labour and unattractive prices are adding to the farmers' woes. Newer techniques for production and sustainability of coffee have to be hastened. "Collaboration" is a succinct theme for this year's "International Coffee Day" (ICD2024) on 1 October because the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared 2025 to be the "International Year of Cooperatives."

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Shift to the Left

Sir, The ascent of Anura Kumara Disanayake as Sri Lanka's new president marks a break with the past and from the establishment parties and politicians blamed for taking the country to the brink of economic collapse two years ago. His stunning victory represents a seismic shift to the Left in the nation's political landscape. The Sri Lankan voters have rightly punished the incumbent as resentment simmered over years of corruption in the government and its economic mismanagement. As millions of Sri Lankans have grappled with a cost-of-living crisis and low income amid crippling international debts, the new president has his task cut out as he strives to balance his campaign promises with the island country's debt obligations. Intriguingly, it is the first time that the Emerald Island, which has adopted free-market policies for over five decades, will have a government with a Left-leaning ideology. The coming months could see some dramatic changes in Sri Lankan politics and economy.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

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

Orissa POST
B-15, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

MahaYuti, MVA set to play on Waqf Bill issue

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 28: The MahaYuti and Maha Vikas Aghadi, which have geared up for the Assembly elections, have hinted that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, which is currently referred to the joint parliamentary committee, is a key campaign issue.

The battle lines are drawn as the MahaYuti comprising BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP plan to corner the Maha Vikas Aghadi consisting of Congress, NCP(SP) and Shiv Sena(UBT) on this issue accusing them of playing appeasement politics. On its part, the MVA has proposed to take on the BJP in particular and the MahaYuti in general for targeting and suppressing Muslims and minorities for their political gains.

Congress has gone a step further saying that its opposition to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill will be included in the poll manifesto assuring that Waqf property won't be brought under the government control as presently proposed through the district collectors.

According to the political observers, there are about 100 of the total 288 Assembly constituencies where Muslims and minorities are one of the major deciding factors.

A veteran BJP leader and state Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has already got the ball rolling by accusing the Congress party of opposing the

MAHA ASSEMBLY POLLS



Bill as it does not want transparency and is only interested in grabbing the land of Waqf Boards. He also cited many examples of land grabbing especially by Congress members during the Congress-led governments. Fadnavis' move to target Congress and allies will be further played up as the campaign gathers momentum. By doing this, the BJP wants to further strengthen its pro-Hindutva constituency.

The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena has echoed BJP's views saying that Shiv Sena (UBT) has already abandoned Hindutva and their stand on Waqf Board exposes its ideological confusion and selfish politics.

Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde has been more vocal in criticising

Shiv Sena(UBT) for ditching the Muslim community after it voted in its support during general elections. He has also dropped sufficient hints that his party will step up attacks against the Shiv Sena(UBT) for seeking the votes of a particular community during the Lok Sabha elections only to avoid representing them when it mattered.

However, Shiv Sena UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray, who was accused by BJP and Muslim organisations of remaining absent during the Waqf Bill debate in Parliament, has shot back and announced that the party will not let anyone touch the properties of the Waqf Board or any temple or other religious property at any cost. He also questioned the BJP for not tabling

the Bill when it had a roaring majority in the Lok Sabha.

Thackeray has revealed his plan to corner the BJP on this issue as he did during the Lok Sabha elections over the change in the Constitution. Thackeray has also indicated that he has not left brand Hindutva but his party's Hindutva is "inclusive" which does not create religious discord or set fire to relations between two communities.

NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar, who has been attacking the BJP for targeting Muslims and minorities, has made it clear that his party would not tolerate the misappropriation of religious property.

The Maharashtra Congress Working President and former Minister Naseem Khan claimed

that the party is strongly opposed to the Waqf Bill saying that it was not just an issue of Waqf Board properties but also temples and other religious places. He pointed out that Congress has objected to the state government's mediation through district collector for control of Waqf properties saying that it was to suppress Muslims in particular.

The Samajwadi Party, which is a part of MVA in the state, has expressed serious displeasure over the BJP-led government's timing to table the Bill. The SP legislator Rais Shaikh said it was part of a larger design of BJP to malign, offend and suppress the minorities and it was a clear violation of Articles 14, 15 and 25. He hoped that if the BJP goes on flagging off this issue, it will unite anti-BJP votes and strengthen the purpose of the INDIA Bloc.

The observers say at a time when MahaYuti is stepping up outreach with the voters by promoting welfare and development schemes, the Waqf Amendment Bill will be projected skillfully to further divide Muslims against MVA and Thackeray in particular. On the other hand, the MVA will further attack the BJP and MahaYuti on the Waqf Bill issue saying that despite the lack of a majority in Parliament BJP will continue to take its agenda of Constitution change forward by targeting minorities.

High alert in Mumbai after intel tip-off

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 28: The Mumbai Police have beefed up security in and around the city especially at crowded and sensitive places in view of possible security threats, tipped off by central intelligence agencies, official sources said here Saturday.

The police have been directed to maintain a strict vigil, particularly in public places and hotspots, religious or tourist places and other important locations, besides tabs on vehicular movements.

Besides, mock drills are being conducted - including one at a minority-dominated location in south Mumbai Friday - and police deployment has been increased at some important locations and public places including beaches.

The directives come ahead of the upcoming Navratri-Durga Puja festivals, followed by Diwali and the likelihood of Maharashtra Assembly elections being announced soon.

Major religious places including temples have been advised to increase their internal and external security detail, while Zonal Deputy Commissioners of Police have been asked to keep an eye on their jurisdictions for any suspicious activities.

However, officials assured that



the enhanced security measures are precautionary in the interests of the safety and security of the people and public installations.

It may be recalled that a political party had laid siege to the All India Radio offices, near Churchgate and squatted outside the state government headquarters, while an allegedly deranged woman sneaked into the high-security Mantralaya Friday and attempted to vandalise the office of Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, sparking security concerns.

The Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has been carrying out a massive campaign against the ruling MahaYuti government accusing it of a total collapse of the law-and-order situation in the state and demanding the sacking of Fadnavis.

The MVA and Aam Aadmi Party have also demanded that the Election Commission of India (ECI) should forthwith remove the Director-General of Police Rashmi Shukla to ensure free and fair Assembly elections.

PLANETS, PERIODIC TABLE AND NOBLE THOUGHTS

MSRTC bus draws students in droves

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Sept 28: A state transport bus in Maharashtra's Beed district has become a huge draw among students for its education-themed interiors after its driver and conductor took it upon themselves to make the ride fun-filled and informative.

From outside, the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) bus appears no different from the thousands of similar passenger carriers, with a white-orange colour scheme, plying across the state.

But the state transport bus turns vibrant with an array of images and messages pasted on the roof and side walls, resembling a mobile classroom inside.

"Students love what we have done to the interiors of the bus. In fact, more students are now travelling on our bus," conductor Vaishali Mule told PTI over the phone Friday. The bus covers a distance of 200 km daily, both ways, to pick up students from their respective villages and drop them back from schools on the Beed-Nalwandi route.

Mule said she and her driver colleague Siraj Pathan have spent ₹35,000 from their own pockets to deck out the bus with educational materials, visuals concerning personalities like Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Swami Vivekananda and Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and messages imparting values.



"Most of the students using our bus are children of labourers engaged in sugarcane cutting. These families didn't bother much about sending their kids to schools. We think our initiative has changed that as more students, including girls, are going to school," she said.

While bright images of planets in the solar system have been plastered on the roof, the bus also has a periodic table and photos and information about yoga asanas (poses), she said. The bus has become a hit among students, she added.

"Students of Vishwanath School in Wangi and Sangameshwar Vidyalaya at Nalwandi travel on our bus. Our seniors Ajay More, Shivraj Karad, Nilesh Pawar helped us in this project," Mule said.

Divisional Transport Superintendent of Beed Shivraj Karad said the only aim of the project is to encourage families to send their children to school.

"The driver and conductor of the bus took the initiative and we supported them. The number of students travelling by this bus has risen to 290 from 200 in a year.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Sept 28: The Bihar government has sounded an alert for floods along swollen rivers such as Kosi, Gandak and Ganga in northern and central parts of the state following the release of water from Valmikinagar and Birpur barrages Saturday, a senior official said.

The development may aggravate the condition of over 13.5 lakh people in 12 districts, who were already affected by inundation following heavy rain.

A total of 5.31 lakh cusecs of water was released from Birpur Barrage on Kosi River till 2pm, the highest in 56 years, said Santosh Kumar Mall, Principal Secretary of the state Water Resources Department.

He told PTI that all safety measures are being ensured for securing the embankments. The last time the maximum water which was discharged from this barrage was 7.88 lakh cusecs of water in 1968.

Similarly, 4.49 lakh cusecs of water was released from Valmikinagar Barrage till 2pm. This is the highest water discharged from this barrage after 6.39 lakh cusecs released in 2003.

The water level of several rivers—Gandak, Kosi, Bagmati, Burhi Gandak, Kamla Balan and Mahananda and the Ganga—has been rising across the state, following continuous rainfall over the past two-three days.

"Incessant rainfall in the catchment areas of Nepal has also



Water level of several rivers—Gandak, Kosi, Bagmati, Burhi Gandak, Kamla Balan and Mahananda and the Ganga—has been rising across the state

Incessant rainfall in the catchment areas of Nepal has also led to rivers touching or flowing above the danger level at several places in the bordering districts

led to rivers touching or flowing above the danger level at several places in the bordering districts," the senior official said.

Following the heavy discharge of water from these two barrages, the excess river water entered low-lying areas of West and East Champaran districts, officials said.

An alert has already been sounded for several districts of Bihar as the IMD predicted heavy rain and warned of flash flood risk in parts of the state.

Districts such as West and East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Muzaffarpur, Gopalganj,

Siwan, Saran, Vaishali, Patna, Jehanabad, Madhubani and Bhojpur districts are likely to experience heavy rain, an India Meteorological Department (IMD) bulletin issued Friday said.

"These districts are at risk of low to moderate flash floods," it said.

The state disaster management department asked the administration of the districts to remain on alert and take preventive measures in the wake of the forecast.

Around 12 districts situated along the Ganga, including Buxar, Bhojpur, Saran, Patna,

Samastipur, Begusarai, Munger and Bhagalpur, are already experiencing a flood-like situation, and nearly 13.5 lakh people living in low-lying areas have been affected by rising water levels of rivers, following torrential rainfall, officials said.

A large number of people from the affected districts have been evacuated and brought to relief camps, they said.

The state witnessed 780.3 mm rainfall in different areas in the state till 8.30am Saturday.

Farmers in north Bihar are reeling under the impact of unexpected late-season floods that have damaged thousands of acres of standing paddy crops, including paddy, makhana and vegetables.

"The farmers may face difficulties as the flood has damaged seeds being prepared by the Bihar Agricultural University at Sabour (Bhagalpur) in an area of 1.05 acres. High-quality seeds of various crops were being prepared by the scientists for farmers for the next season. It has been completely destroyed," Vice Chancellor of the University DR Singh said.

Meanwhile, a free health camp was organised to provide medical facilities to the flood-affected people in the state capital near JP Setu, said Dr Sanjeev Kumar (Head of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery) of AIIMS Patna.

A team of experienced doctors and medical staff were present there, Kumar said.

Bihar sees over 2,600 dengue cases this year

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Sept 28: The dengue outbreak in Bihar has seen over 2,600 cases this year. There has been a significant increase in the number of cases since July.

Patna is the worst-affected district, with 1,331 cases reported, including 50 in the last 24 hours alone. Other affected districts include Muzaffarpur, Aurangabad, Sitamarhi, Bhagalpur, Munger, Saran, Vaishali, and Samastipur.

Dr Subhash Chandra Prasad, the district infection disease controller, highlighted the rising numbers in Patna, underlining the serious public health challenge posed by dengue in the region.

Dr Subhash Chandra Prasad has said that several localities in Patna, such as Azimabad, Kankarbagh, Patliputra, Bankipur, Patna City, Bakhtiyarpur, Fatuha, Danapur, Dulhian Bazar, Sampat Chak, and Patna Sadar have dengue patients making frequent visits to

hospitals. To manage the surge, additional dengue wards have been established in key hospitals, including IGIMS, PMCH, NMCH, Patna AIIMS, Kurji Holy Family, as well as other government hospitals.

"We have urged the public to be vigilant against vector-borne diseases like dengue, which present symptoms such as high fever, headaches, eye and joint pain, and sometimes red spots on the body. In severe cases, nosebleeds or vomiting blood may occur. A district-wide awareness campaign has been launched, advising people with such symptoms to consult doctors," Prasad said.

Dr Bijay Singh, a prominent general physician, emphasised that self-medication often worsens the disease.

"It is extremely important to conduct blood tests for diagnosis and maintaining platelet count above 100,000. Risk of internal bleeding increases when platelet count drops below 25,000," Singh said.

'Gulel', 'gilli danda' contests in Bihar to promote native sports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Sept 28: Popular street sports like 'gulel' (slingshot) and 'gilli danda' (tip cat) will be the flavour of a cultural and sports festival being organised by the Bihar government next month.

The event 'Tarang Art and Sports Festival' (2023-24), which is being organised by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), from October 21 to 22 in Patna, aims to provide a platform for children from all over Bihar to showcase their skills in indigenous sports.

The SCERT is the apex academic body in the state for school and teacher education and is a wing of the education department.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Education department, S Siddharth told PTI, "The idea is to simply promote traditional games in schools. The idea is also to make sports more inclusive at the school level. These traditional games—'gulel' and 'gilli danda'—are less resource intensive and will encourage creativity among students. This is the reason the SCERT



decided to organise a state-level event for these traditional sports, he said.

"There should be multi-dimensional growth of students. The approach should be 360 degree growth of a student. Education should not be limited to books only. We are confident that organizing a state-level sporting event for these traditional games will encourage outdoor play and physical activity among the students," the ACS said.

Commenting on this, Emteyaz

Alam, in charge of department of Physical Education, Art and Craft, said, "These are the games which have great recreational value, give enough exercise to the body and mind of a student. Traditional games can be used as learning tools to help children develop their cognitive, language, social and physical abilities as well."

Jainendra Dost, Lecturer in department of Physical Education, Art and Craft, told PTI, "These games are fast dwindling as the

present generation hardly knows about native games. These games have great recreational value, and will give enough exercise to the body and mind of a student. Such events can be organised at national and international levels also."

Around 1,000 selected students from different government schools across the state will participate during the two-day festival next month.

Besides, 400 students will participate in the state-level com-

pletion of art form. The SCERT has already sent a letter to principals of all College of Teacher Education (CTE), District Institute for Education and Training (DIET), Primary Teacher Education College (PTEC), Block Institute for Education and Training (BIET) and other officials concerned for bringing the selected students from their respective areas to Patna next month, said Dost.

Vidyarthi Vikas, Assistant Professor (Economics), AN Sinha Institute of Social Studies (Patna) said, "The department's initiative to promote traditional games is highly commendable. The government should form a committee to identify other popular traditional games and players in all districts in the state...and further provide infrastructure for players."

The government must open a big stadium or ground in every district in the state especially for traditional games in each district and find-out talents and provide them training. Bihar has an abundance of talents in traditional games.

national

of the day quote

The ongoing land survey exercise should be completed on time, and the department should give more time to landowners for submission of self-declaration

It is very sad and serious that Rahul Gandhi, who did not take the oath (in the Lok Sabha) in the name of god, is speaking various kinds of nonsense regarding religious matters

'Modi ji's monopoly model' has taken away jobs, devastated MSMEs and deprived people of opportunity

SHORT TAKES

Leopard beaten to death by villagers

Bijnor (UP): A leopard was beaten to death by people in a village in this Uttar Pradesh district after the animal attacked a Homeguard Jawan, a forest department officer said Saturday. The incident occurred Friday evening in Amnagar village, he said. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Gyan Singh said Homeguard Jawan Surendra had gone to a tubewell behind his house with his children -- Disha (20), Reshu (14) and Deepanshu (18) -- where the leopard was sitting on a mango tree.

Human skeleton found in home

Hathras (UP): A human skeleton was unearthed in a house here in Hathras, 30 years after the death of a man who was alleged to have been killed by his two sons. Police have sent the skeleton for forensic examination and are preparing to file an FIR against siblings Pradeep Kumar and Mukesh Kumar, their mother, and another individual.

Two killed as car plunges into river

Jammu: Two persons, including a girl, were killed and another injured when their car skidded off the road and plunged into Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district Saturday, police said. The accident took place near Garsoo village around 1.45 pm when the trio were travelling to their Drabshala village in Kishtwar district, they said. A rescue operation was launched immediately after the car rolled down over 200 feet before hitting the riverbed, police said.

UP: Train hits stone placed on rly track

Balla: The engine of a train hit a stone placed on the railway track in the Baira area here Saturday, officials said, adding that no damage was caused. The incident assumes significance as it was a fresh one amid several cases of gas cylinders, pillars etc being found on railway tracks in Uttar Pradesh.

Truck driver killed in road accident

Hamirpur (HP): A truck driver was killed in a road accident near Shanidev temple at Lambloo in Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur district Saturday, police said. The truck carrying bricks was on the way to Tarkwari via Lambloo when this mishap occurred as the vehicle went out of control while climbing the hill and fell into a ditch near Shanidev temple, they said.



We must ensure that the justice system, from the police stations to the courtrooms, understands and responds to the compounded vulnerabilities of these children

BY CHANDRACHUD | CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

MANN DIAGNOSED WITH LEPTOSPIROSIS

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was Saturday diagnosed with bacterial infection leptospirosis, with doctors saying he is being given antibiotics and his vitals are "completely stable". The 50-year-old AAP leader was admitted to the Fortis Hospital, Mohali Wednesday for a routine check-up



MCD STANDING COMMITTEE POLL

AAP to move top court against BJP's win: Atishi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: Delhi Chief Minister Atishi accused the BJP Saturday of "murdering" democracy and claimed that the election of a member of the MCD's standing committee was "illegal and unconstitutional". "The country runs by the Constitution and laws, not by hooliganism. So the BJP should stop murdering democracy," she said, adding that the standing committee member's election was held in violation of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, 1957.

According to rules, only the mayor can decide the date and place for the election of the MCD standing committee members. Only the mayor can preside over a meeting of the MCD councillors for the election, the chief minister said. "Flouting democracy, Constitution and laws, and on the lieutenant governor's instructions, the election of the standing committee member was conducted by making an additional commissioner of the MCD the presiding officer instead of the mayor," she claimed.



The BJP has no regard for the Constitution or rules and regulations and it is not bothered about ripping off democracy, Atishi alleged. "The LG or the officers do not have the power to call a meeting of the House, yet the LG gave the order, the commissioner obeyed it and called a meeting of the corporation for the election. And instead of the elected mayor, an IAS officer became the presiding officer," she said. Reacting to Atishi's allegations, Delhi BJP president a Virendra Sachdeva said the Chief Minister's remarks were "completely driven by political self-in-

At a press conference here, Atishi said the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will approach the Supreme Court against the election held Friday

The BJP won the vacant seat of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) 18-member standing committee unopposed as the councillors of the ruling AAP abstained from voting

terest" and aimed at spreading "confusion". "Atishi should know that under section 45 of the DMC Act, the formation of the standing committee is mandatory. Under section 487, the LG and the municipal commissioner have the authority to convene a meeting of the corporation under special circumstances and they can appoint a presiding officer for the meeting," Sachdeva said. He added that Atishi should also explain why the AAP is not allowing the appointment of a Dalit mayor in the MCD in the third year of its tenure, as mandated by the DMC Act.

Beware of individuals sent by Delhi: Farooq

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Sept 28: Ahead of the final phase of voting in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah urged voters to prioritise their honour and dignity by rejecting candidates whom he described as "devils in disguise" and "sent by Delhi".

Speaking about the prospects of the National Conference-Congress alliance in the polls, Abdullah exuded confidence that it would secure a majority in the 90-member assembly and emphasised the BJP would not gain power in the Union territory. With the high-pitch campaigning for the last leg of polling set to end Sunday evening, the NC chief made a passionate appeal to the people, asking them to make a thoughtful decision while casting their votes.

He emphasised the importance of voting for a better future and highlighted the need for improved job opportunities, progress, dignity and an enhanced quality of life. "Think carefully," the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister said and asked voters to

be aware of individuals "sent by Delhi" who may not have their best interests at heart. "They are like devils in disguise," he warned while stressing the importance of being vigilant during elections. Looking to galvanise support for the NC-Congress combine, Abdullah said, "Where you see the hand (Congress' poll symbol), vote for the hand.

Where you see the plough (NC poll symbol), vote for the plough." The NC chief did not hold back his thoughts while discussing Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid, who, he believes, is being used by the BJP to "manipulate" voter dynamics. "Time will tell. People now know it is not the same thing as it was earlier.. He's from Delhi, he's from BJP and he's playing a part in dividing the votes," he said. Abdullah alleged that Rashid was "representing his master's voice actually.. He's part of BJP.. I pity him."

Abdullah stressed that low voter turnout could significantly influence the electoral process and attributed it to a "climate of fear and repression under the current administration".

Stalin lays foundation stone for Tata Motors' ₹9000-crore plant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranipet (Tamil Nadu), Sept 28: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin Saturday laid the foundation stone for Tata Motors' new facility here that would produce sports cars and SUVs.

The auto major's plant, which entails an investment of ₹9,000 crore would produce next generation vehicles for both Tata Motors and Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), the British arm of the car maker, the company said.

According to Tata Motors, production at the factory is expected to begin in a phased manner and the facility would reach a capacity of 2.50 lakh units a year, over the next five to seven years.

The ground breaking ceremony was held at Panapakkam in this district, about 115 km from Chennai. The facility is expected to generate 5,000 new jobs. Besides the CM, senior DMK Ministers Durai Murugan, TRB Rajaa, Chief Secretary N Muruganandam, along with Tata Sons Ltd Chairman N Chandrasekaran participated in the ground breaking ceremony.

The plant would cater to both domestic and overseas markets and utilise renewable energy for running the operations.

Patanjali's soil testing machine 'Dharti Ka Doctor' certified by ICAR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Haridwar, Sept 28: Patanjali's advanced soil testing machine, 'Dharti Ka Doctor', developed under the leadership of Yoga guru Baba Ramdev, has been officially certified by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through its Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI). On this occasion, Baba Ramdev stated that 'Dharti Ka Doctor' is a state-of-the-art soil testing machine that allows for precise soil analysis, yielding results at low cost and in a short time.



He emphasised that the indiscriminate use of chemicals is making agricultural land, which provides food and medicine, barren. Timely testing with this machine can rectify the issue. He further stated that this soil testing machine would prove to be extremely beneficial in our commitment to doubling farmers' income.

Acharya Balkrishna mentioned that the 'Dharti Ka Doctor' machine tests 12 essential parameters of soil health, including primary nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus along

with secondary nutrients like boron, iron, zinc, copper, and manganese. This machine has received patents and CE certification from the Government of India.

He stated that it is developed by Patanjali's scientists after extensive research and offers the best possible solutions for farmers. The machine is very easy to use and can provide chemical, organic, and mixed types of fertilizer recommendations according to the specific crop, Acharya added.

Dr Rajendra Kumar Yadav, Director of the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, remarked that 'Dharti Ka Doctor' will be a highly useful machine for the farmers of the country and for the Government of India's soil health initiative. He pointed out that our health is linked to the health of the earth, and soil health is determined by 12 parameters that assess soil quality. Our team conducted thorough testing of this machine and found it to be the first of its kind in the country, capable of accurately testing all 12 parameters. On this occasion, Dr Arvind Kumar Rai, head scientist and head of the department at the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, along with Dr Ashok Kumar Mehta from Patanjali, Dr Rishi Kumar, from Bharuwa Agri Science, and other prominent scientists including Vikrant Verma, Hemant Tyagi, and Dr Ashutosh Gupta were present.



AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal during a road show in support of party candidate from Pundri constituency Narendra Sharma for Haryana Assembly elections, at Pundri in Kaithal district, Haryana

Man, 4 daughters found dead in rented house

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: The decomposed bodies of a 46-year-old man and his four daughters, two of them differently-abled, have been found from their rented accommodation in southwest Delhi's Vasant Kunj area, police said Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Heeralal Sharma, who worked as a carpenter at the Indian Spinal Injury Centre in Vasant Kunj for the last 28 years, and his four daughters - Neetu (26), Nikki (24), Neeru (23) and

Nidhi (20).

The bodies, found on Friday afternoon, did not have any injury mark. Police found three packets of celphos poison, five glasses and a spoon containing a suspicious liquid from the house. Police suspect it to be a case of suicide as no evidence of any foul play has been found.

While police said the two youngest daughters of the man were differently-abled, neighbours claimed that all four were physically challenged. The claim is being verified, Deputy Commissioner of Police

(Southwest) Rohit Meena said. According to locals, the women hardly stepped out of their flat. The neighbours claimed that they last saw Sharma and his daughters September 24.

A police official said the bodies were found after the neighbours complained about a foul smell emanating from flat number C4 on the third floor of a residential complex in Rangpuri village.

The DCP said building owner Nitin Chauhan was informed about the smell by the caretaker, following which he

knocked on the door but got no response.

Police broke the door open with the help of a fire brigade team and found Sharma lying dead in one of the rooms, while the bodies of his four daughters were found in another room, the officer said.

The DCP said according to the neighbours and relatives of the deceased, Sharma's wife died of cancer about a year ago. Sharma used to earn around ₹25,000 a month but had not gone to work since January, the officer said.

BANDHWARI LANDFILL A PHOTO-OP BEFORE POLLS

Gurugram residents living in shadow of garbage dump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Gurugram/Faridabad, Sept 28: For residents of Haryana's Bandhwari village on the Gurugram-Faridabad border, home to one of the largest landfill sites in the country, elections mean politicians visiting the garbage hill for "photo-ops" and making "mountains of promises".

The locals, meanwhile, continue to struggle with contaminated water; diseases, including difficulty breathing; loss of business, and much more.

Since its inception in 2010, the Bandhwari dumpsite has become a major waste repository in the region, receiving more than 2,000 tonnes per day (TPD) of mixed waste - 1,400 TPD from Gurugram and 600 TPD from Faridabad. Unfortunately, only a small fraction of the waste generated by

the two cities is processed. For Dharmveer Prajapati, who owns a petrol pump on the Gurugram-Faridabad highway, the landfill poses another challenge.

The ordeal is the same for dhaba owners on the highway that rarely get customers, unlike such eateries on other routes.

"There is a foul smell, mosquitoes and dust are everywhere, so people do not prefer to make a stop here. The situation has worsened in the past few years... It wasn't this bad earlier," said dhaba owner Virender Tanwar.

The landfill is not just a challenge for the villagers but for residents of the swanky apartment complexes nearby. The issue finds mention at the top of both the BJP and the Congress' assembly poll manifestos.

The BJP's Rao Narbir Singh -- a former Haryana minister



contesting the elections from Badshahpur in Gurugram district -- said the height of the landfill had been significantly reduced and the waste was being treated. Badshahpur is the largest constituency in the state in terms of the number of voters.

Singh blamed his party's coalition with the Jannayak Janta

Party (JJP) between 2019 and 2024 -- a period when he was not in the government -- for the mess.

The BJP and the Ajay Singh Chautala-led JJP formed an alliance in October 2019 that ended in March this year. JJP leader Dushyant Singh Chautala was deputy chief minister in the alliance government.

In the last few years, during summer and monsoon, it became increasingly difficult to even sit outside our homes. If the wind blows from the dumpsite to the village, one can't even breathe. The waste has also contaminated the water in the area. From the dumpsite, it seeps into valleys and abandoned mines and contaminates the groundwater. We can't even bathe in the water that comes from the village borewells

SUMIT RAWAT | VILLAGER

The Congress' Badshahpur candidate Vardhan Yadav -- making his electoral debut -- said the landfill had been ignored by the BJP despite being in power in the state for 10 years.

The Haryana government has submitted a plan before the National Green Tribunal, committing that the landfill site would be cleared of all legacy waste before December 31.

According to Municipal Corporation of Gurgoan (MCG) Commissioner Narhari Singh Bangar, the landfill's height had

been reduced from 50 metres to less than 23 metres in the past two years. While the MCG assured the tribunal that it would stop dumping fresh waste at Bandhwari as part of the action plan, fresh waste continues to be added to the dump.

Gurugram district has four assembly constituencies -- Gurgoan, Pataudi, Badshahpur and Sohna -- with a total electorate of more than 15 lakh.

Assembly polls in Haryana will be held October 5 and the results declared October 8.



We (alliance) have foiled the efforts of the BJP at government formation in the first two phases of polling. We now hope that this will continue in the third phase
OMAR ABDULLAH | FORMER J&K CM

81 FALL SICK AFTER CONSUMING POISONOUS FOOD IN BIHAR

At least 81 persons in the Bettiah and Nawada districts of Bihar fell sick after consuming poisonous food. "Eleven children, aged 2 to 5, and a woman fell sick after consuming food poisoning at an Anganwadi centre in Mahuli village in Nawada district," said Dr Ajay Kumar, the Deputy Superintendent of Sadar Hospital Nawada



of the day quote

The Defence Ministry has agreed to hand over 12.34 acres of land to BBMP and has given an in-principle consent to handover another 10.77 acres of land to widen road from Lower Agaram to Sarjapur

With infinite respect, I salute Bhagat Singh ji on his birth anniversary! His courage, his passion, his martyrdom -- always remind us of our responsibility towards our country

We have shown what victory is. This is the start. We have to register a similar victory in Vidhan Sabha

X POST OF THE DAY

Rail Minister of India, Ashwini Vaishnav caught red handed using clips of Peru Railways and passing it off as Indian Railways train to praise Narendra Modi Post deleted.

SHORT TAKES

Seven dead in road mishap

Devbhumi Dwaraka: Seven persons including four children died and 14 suffered injuries after a bus jumped the road divider and hit three vehicles near Dwaraka in Gujarat Saturday evening, police said. The accident took place around 7:45 pm on National Highway 51 when the bus was heading from Dwaraka to Ahmedabad. It jumped the divider as its driver tried to avoid hitting cattle on the road, and collided with a minivan, a car and a motorcycle coming from the opposite direction, said a local police official. Of the deceased, six persons were travelling in the minivan while one was a bus passenger, said police inspector D H Bhatt. The minivan was on the way from Gandhinagar to Dwaraka, and was only a few kilometres from its destination when it met with accident.

4 held in connection with attack on docs

Kolkata: Four people were arrested in connection with the attack on doctors and nurses at the College of Medicine and Sagore Dutta Hospital near Kolkata following the death of a patient during treatment, police said Saturday. Those arrested were family members of the patient, a 30-year-old woman who died during treatment, they said.

Boy beaten to death

Ghaziabad (UP): A 10-year-old boy was mercilessly beaten to death by his father and stepmother on suspicion of theft in Tyodi Biswa village here Saturday, police said. According to the police, Naushad (45) used a wooden stick to beat up his son Ahad under the suspicion of stealing ₹500. Ahad's stepmother, 40-year-old Razia is believed to have instigated the brutal attack. The couple, married for five years, also had a daughter, they said.

Fresh violence in Manipur

More than 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kukis in Manipur since May 3 last year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Imphal, Sept 28: The shutdown called by Kuki-Zo groups affected normal life in Manipur's Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts Saturday, while fresh violence was reported from a village in Jiribam, officials said. The shutdown was called by Kuki-Zo groups, including the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) and Kuki Students Organisation (KSO), in protest against Security Advisor Kuldeep Singh's statement about militants entering the state from outside. Markets and other commercial establishments remained shut in the two districts, while vehicles stayed off the roads, officials said. No untoward incidents have so far been reported, they said.

The shutdown began in the two districts Friday and would continue till Sunday. Singh had September 20 claimed that security forces have taken a number of steps in the wake of reports that "900 militants" who have entered the state might carry out violence in peripheral villages of Imphal valley districts. The state government Wednesday, however, retracted the statement, asserting that the likelihood of "any such misadventures by armed groups is minimal and unsubstantiated". Meanwhile, fresh violence was reported from a village in Jiribam district, police said. Armed men fired indiscriminately at Mongbung village from nearby hilltops and surrounding dense forests, prompting retaliation from "village vol-



Siddaramaiah questions Modi's silence

MYSURU: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah Saturday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on the Hindenburg report and the Manipur violence, as he hit back at the latter, for raising the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case against him, to target the Congress during poll campaign in Haryana. Alleging that there are many corrupt people in the BJP, he asked the prime minister to correct things within his party first. "There are many corrupt people in his party (BJP). Let him correct it first. Why doesn't Narendra Modi speak about Hindenburg (report)? on Manipur? Why hasn't he visited Manipur? Rahul Gandhi (Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha) has raised these issues. Why don't he speak on that?" Siddaramaiah asked in response to a question by reporters.

unteers', they said. Women, children and elderly people were moved to safer places following the violence, police said. Security forces were deployed to control the situation, they said, adding that no casualties were reported. A huge cache of arms and ammunition was seized Friday by security forces from Kangpokpi, Churachandpur and Thoubal districts. A joint team of Manipur Police and Assam Rifles seized two .303 rifles, one 9mm pistol with magazine, cartridges, four hand grenades, two detonators, and one each of country-made mor-

tar and long-range improvised mortar from Loiching ridge in Kangpokpi district, police said. The combined forces of state police, BSF and CRPF seized two improvised mortars, locally known as 'pumpi', during another search operation in Gothol village in Churachandpur district. State police and Assam Rifles also seized four HE-36 hand grenades, two 'pumpi' shells, three detonators, and one stun grenade, stinger grenade and tear gas shell each from Phainom hill range in Thoubal district. No arrests were, however, made in connection with the seizures.

VHP worker dies during protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hamirpur/Shimla, Sept 28: A 46-year-old VHP worker died here apparently of heart attack during a demonstration by a local Hindu right outfit which was demanding the abolishment of the Waqf board and verification of the migrant workers. Demonstrations were held across state districts at the call of Devbhoomi Sangharsh Samiti, which has been spearheading a movement for the demolition of a mosque in Sanjauli for weeks, as well as mandatory verification of migrants. Shimla, Hamirpur, Mandi, Chamba, and Nahan saw a huge turnout of protesters. At Hamirpur protest, Varinder Parmar, a Vishva Hindu Parishad activist, fainted when the agitators were on their to submit a memorandum to the authorities. He was rushed to the Hamirpur Medical College in a police vehicle but was declared dead by the doctors. Prima facie, heart attack was said to be the cause of the death. Meanwhile, samiti co-cnvner Madan Thakur said they would wait for the decision of the Municipal Court till October 5 on the disputed mosque before deciding a future strategy. "FIRs are registered against us and no action is taken against AIMIM leader Shoaib Jamai for investigating the sentiments of the people by making a video from the Sanjauli mosque where locals are not allowed to go," he told the PTI.



A fireman douses a fire breaking out at a chemical godown of the electronics component factory of Tata Electronics Pvt Ltd, in Hosur, Tamil Nadu

Air India passenger finds 'cockroach' in food

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: An Air India passenger has complained of finding a cockroach in an omelette served onboard the flight from the national capital to New York, with the airline saying the matter has been taken up with the catering service provider for further investigation. "We are aware of a social media post by a passenger regarding a foreign object in the onboard meal offered to them on AI 101 operating from DEL to JFK

17 September 2024," an Air India spokesperson said in a statement and also expressed concern over the incident. In a post on X, the passenger said a cockroach was found in the omelette served on the flight from Delhi to New York. "My 2 year old finished more than half of it with me when we found this. Suffered from food poisoning as a result," she said. The passenger also shared a short video and pictures of the food items served during the flight. She tagged Air India, aviation regulator DGCA and Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan



flight. She tagged Air India, aviation regulator DGCA and Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan

Naidu in the post. In the statement, the spokesperson said the airline is

concerned about the experience of the customer in the said instance and has taken it up with the catering service provider to investigate further. "We will take necessary actions to prevent any recurrence of such instances in future," the spokesperson said. Further, the spokesperson said Air India works with reputed caterers who supply to leading airlines globally and have stringent SOPs and multiple checks to ensure quality of meals served to the guests.

1 in every 4 diabetics at serious risk of heart failure: Study

Heart failure is one of the most severe complications faced by T2DM patients, who already have a significantly higher risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD), as per the study

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: One in four diabetic patients are at serious risk of developing heart failure, according to studies conducted in Mumbai and Delhi-NCR at two labs. An analysis of over 2,000 patient samples from Delhi-NCR by Dr Dangs Lab revealed that 15 per cent of patients with an HbA1c score above 6.5 per cent exhibited elevated levels of NT-proBNP, a crucial biomarker for early heart failure detection. A study by Joshi of 1,054 patients in Mumbai found that 34 per cent of Type 2 Diabetes

Mellitus (T2DM) patients are at increased risk of cardiovascular complications. "People with diabetes, especially in urban settings, are increasingly vulnerable to heart failure," said Joshi who is an endocrinologist at Bhaktivedanta Hospital in Mumbai. The NT-proBNP test is a critical tool for early detection and allows healthcare providers to intervene before heart damage becomes irreversible. Incorporating cardiovascular screening into routine diabetes care is essential, Joshi added. Heart failure is one of the most severe complications faced



by T2DM patients, who already have a significantly higher risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD), a statement issued on the two studies said. Even with optimal control, individuals with T2DM face a 21 per cent higher risk of CVD

and a 31 per cent greater chance of heart failure-related hospitalisation compared to non-diabetics, the statement said. Dr Arjun Dang, CEO of Dr. Dangs Lab, said, "This study is a wake-up call. The number of diabetics at risk of heart failure points to the urgent need for timely screening and interventions. By raising awareness of the silent link between diabetes and heart failure, we can help transform patient outcomes and reduce the risk of serious complications." He said the NT-proBNP test, performed on Roche Diagnostics' advanced cardiometabolic test-

ing platform, has played a pivotal role in identifying the hidden burden of heart failure in diabetic patients. This test can detect elevated heart failure risk before structural or functional changes are visible on imaging, he added. Dr. Sanjay Kalra, an endocrinologist, added, "Without this vital test, many high-risk patients could have gone undiagnosed, placing them at greater risk of mortality. These insights call for a shift in diabetes management, where cardiovascular risk assessments are integrated into routine care to safeguard patient health."

international



Well, as President, I will put politics aside to fix our immigration system and find solutions to problems which have persisted for far too long. These issues are highly consequential for our nation
KAMALA HARRIS | DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

WILLIAMS' SPACE RETURN

The National Aeronautics Space Agency (NASA) is all set to launch a mission to facilitate the return of astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore. SpaceX is preparing to send a two-person crew to the International Space Station (ISS) where the two astronauts have been stranded since June



of the day quote

There is a need for a great deal of mercy to keep us from hardening our hearts before the suffering of victims (sexual abuse) so that we can help them feel our closeness and offer all the help we can

POPE FRANCIS | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

We want to see permanent African representation on the Council, Brazil, India, Japan and Germany as permanent members, and more seats for elected members as well

KEIR STARMER | PM, BRITAIN

The need for a (Baltic) defence line stems from the security situation and supports NATO's new forward defence concept

HANNO PEVKUR | DEFENCE MINISTER, ESTONIA

Wider war looms in Middle East

THE MIDDLE EAST IS ONCE AGAIN ON A BOIL. HEZBOLLAH CHIEF HASSAN NASRALLAH HAS BEEN KILLED IN A STRIKE ON BEIRUT. THE FLARE-UP THIS TIME IS TRULY ALARMING AND COULD BE APOCALYPTIC IN ITS POTENTIAL

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beirut, Sept 28: Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who transformed the Lebanese militant group into a potent paramilitary and political force in the Middle East, was killed in an Israeli airstrike, the group said. He was 64.

Nasrallah, who spearheaded Hezbollah's war against Israel in 2006 and got the group heavily involved in neighbouring Syria's brutal conflict, was killed in a massive Israeli airstrike on the Beirut southern suburb of Haret Hreik Friday evening that knocked down several multi-story apartment buildings.

REGIONAL WAR FEARS

Nasrallah's death comes amid a dizzying escalation in the nearly yearlong conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, since the war in Gaza started, and more than three decades after he took leadership of the Iranian-backed militant group following the killing of his predecessor by an Israeli missile in 1992. Five years later, the United States designated Hezbollah a terrorist organization.

Hezbollah has been firing rockets, missiles and drones into northern Israel in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza and Hamas, an allied Iran-



backed militant group. Israel has responded with increasingly heavy airstrikes and the targeted killing of Hezbollah commanders while threatening a wider operation.

This week has been the deadliest in Lebanon since the bruising 2006 month long war between Israel and Hezbollah.

Thousands of papers and walkie-talkies used mainly by Hezbollah members exploded in different parts of Lebanon, killing 39 people and wounding nearly 3,000, many of them civilians. Lebanon blamed Israel, but Israel did not confirm or deny responsibility. Nasrallah had promised to retaliate.

Nasrallah had said the barges would continue — and Israelis wouldn't be able to return to their homes in the north — until Israel's campaign in Gaza ended.

Seen by his supporters as a charismatic and shrewd strategist, Nasrallah had reshaped Hezbollah into an archenemy of Israel, cementing alliances with the ayatollahs in Tehran

AT LEAST 1,030 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED IN LEBANON OVER THE PAST WEEK

THE RECENT FIGHTING HAS ALSO DISPLACED OVER 200K LEBANESE

and Palestinian militant groups such as Hamas.

Idolised by his Lebanese Shiite followers and respected by millions of others across the Arab and Islamic world, Nasrallah held the title of sayyid, an honorific meant to signify the Shiite cleric's lineage dating back to the Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam.

Nasrallah's image appears on billboards in the group's strongholds across Lebanon — especially in southern Beirut, Hezbollah's headquarters — and on trinkets in souvenir shops not only in Lebanon but also in countries such as Syria and Iraq.

CONTINUING STRIKES

On Saturday morning, the Israeli military carried out more than 140 airstrikes in southern Beirut and eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, including targeting a storage facility for anti-ship missiles in Beirut suburb of Dahiyeh.

Israel said the missiles were stored underground beneath civilian apartment buildings. Hezbollah launched dozens of projectiles across northern and central Israel and deep into the Israel-occupied West Bank, damaging some buildings in the northern town of Safed. In Beirut's southern suburbs, smoke rose and the streets were

empty after the area was pummeled overnight by heavy Israeli airstrikes. Shelters set up in the city centre for displaced people were overflowing.

Many families slept in public squares and beaches or in their cars. On the roads leading to the mountains above the capital, hundreds of people could be seen making an exodus on foot, holding infants and whatever belongings they could carry. A total of 1,030 people — including 156 women and 87 children — have been killed in Israeli strikes in Lebanon in less than two weeks, the country's health minister said Saturday.

Crimes and assassination by the occupation will only increase the determination and the insistence of the resistance in Palestine and Lebanon to go forward with all their might, bravery and pride on the footsteps of the martyrs...and pursue the path of resistance until victory and the dismissal of the occupation
HAMAS

SHORT TAKES

Flood mayhem

Kathmandu: Floods and landslides caused by incessant rain killed at least 59 people and injured 36 others in Nepal, officials said Saturday. Parts of Nepal have been inundated with rainfall since Thursday, prompting disaster authorities to warn of flash floods. Nepal Police Deputy Spokesperson Bishwo Adhikari said that out of the 59 people killed in the Himalayan nation due to the continuous rainfall, 34 were killed in the Kathmandu valley. As many as 36 people were also injured in the floods. A total of 44 people remain missing countrywide, with 16 missing in Kathmandu Valley. More than 1,000 people have also been rescued.

Hurricane kills 44

Perry (Florida): Hurricane Helene has left an enormous path of destruction across Florida and the southeastern US, killing at least 44 people, snapping towering oaks like twigs and tearing apart homes as rescue crews launched desperate missions to save people from floodwaters. The Category 4 hurricane knocked out power to some hospitals in southern Georgia, and Governor Brian Kemp said authorities had to use chainsaws to clear debris and open up roads. Moody's Analytics said it expects \$15 billion to \$26 billion in property damage.

Pak chopper crash

Peshawar: At least six people were killed when a charter helicopter crashed in northern Pakistan Saturday, security sources said. The two sources, who declined to be named as they were not authorised to speak publicly, said the helicopter was chartered by a private company in northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. It crashed shortly after take-off in the volatile North Waziristan area near the Afghan border. Around 14 passengers were on board, including Russian pilots, the sources said, adding that eight people were injured in the crash and hospitalised nearby.

Typhoon damage

Hanoi: Asia's strongest storm this year, Typhoon Yagi, caused damages estimated at 81.5 trillion dong (\$3.31 billion) across northern Vietnam, or twice as much as previous estimates, state media said Saturday. The typhoon, which killed 299 with 34 missing, devastated export-oriented industrial hubs, destroying factories and facilities, besides flooding farmland, damaging homes, and tearing up a bridge. "The total economic damage is initially estimated at over 81.5 trillion dong, with most damage triggered by landslides and flash floods," state-run Vietnam News Agency said.

Khamenei calls on Muslims to stand against Israel

Iran's Supreme Leader moved to secure location under heightened security

Dubai: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called on Muslims Saturday "to stand by the people of Lebanon and the proud Hezbollah with whatever means they have and assist them in confronting the ... wicked regime (of Israel)".

Khamenei, in a statement after the Israeli army said it had killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, said: "The fate of this region will be determined by the forces of resistance, with Hezbollah at the forefront", state media reported.

After Hezbollah confirmed Nasrallah's death, Iranian media reported that General Abbas Nilforoushan, a deputy commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, had died "next to Nasrallah" in the Israeli strikes on south Beirut Friday. Iranian President Masoud



Pezeshkian blamed Nasrallah's killing partly on the United States which has long supplied Israel with advanced weapons. "The Americans cannot deny their complicity with the Zionists," Pezeshkian said in a statement carried by state media.

Meanwhile, two regional officials briefed by Tehran told Reuters that Khamenei has been transferred to a secure location inside the country with heightened security measures

Yemen's Houthis stand in solidarity

The Houthi movement in Yemen Saturday mourned the death of Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, its ally in an Iran-backed alliance opposing Israel, in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut. "The resistance will not be broken, and the Jihadist spirit of the Mujahideen brothers in Lebanon and on all fronts of support will grow stronger and bigger," the group said in a statement. Both Hezbollah and the Houthis are part of the Axis of Resistance, an alliance built up over years of Iranian support against Israel and US influence in the Middle East.

in place. The sources said Iran was in constant contact with Lebanon's Hezbollah and other regional proxy groups to determine the next step after the killing of Nasrallah.

SNIPPETS

17 people killed in 2 mass shootings

Johannesburg: Seventeen people including 15 women were killed in two mass shootings that took place in close proximity to each other in a rural town in South Africa, police said Saturday. A search was underway for the suspects, national police spokesperson Brig. Athlenda Mathe said in a statement. The victims were 15 women and two men, she said. One other person was in critical condition in the hospital. The shootings took place Friday night in the town of Lusikisiki in Eastern Cape province in southeastern South Africa. Video released by police showed that the shootings occurred at two houses in the same neighbourhood, which is a collection of rural homesteads on the outskirts of the town. South Africa has one of the highest homicide rates in the world and mass shootings have become increasingly common in recent years, sometimes targeting people in their homes.

Musk's X likely to go online in Brazil

Sao Paulo: Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes has added conditions for Elon Musk's X to have its service reestablished in the country, one day after the social media platform said it had complied with all the judge's demands, including naming a legal representative. De Moraes said in a ruling Friday that X may only be reinstated in Brazil after another company linked to the billionaire, satellite-based internet service provider Starlink, withdraws its appeals related to the case. X has been blocked in Brazil for nearly a month. De Moraes ordered the shutdown after sparring with Musk for months over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation. His new ruling also established a fine of 10 million Brazilian reais (\$1.84 million).

WRAPPING UP MISSION

US troops will leave some longstanding bases in Iraq

The announcement comes at a particularly contentious time for the Middle East, with escalating conflict between Israel and two Iranian-backed militant groups — Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza — threatening a broader regional war

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Sept 28: The US announced an agreement with the Iraqi government Friday to wrap up the military mission in Iraq of an American-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group by next year, with US troops departing some bases that they have long occupied during a two-decade-long military presence in the country.

But the Biden administration refused to provide details on

how many of the approximately 2,500 US troops still serving in Iraq will remain there or acknowledge it will mark a full withdrawal from the country.

"I think it's fair to say that, you know, our footprint is going to be changing within the country," Pentagon deputy press secretary Sabrina Singh told reporters Friday without providing specifics.

Bases housing US forces and contractors have been regularly targeted by Iran-backed militias

India's 'inevitable consequences' warning for Pak

Every year, Pakistan's leaders, on expected lines, make references to Jammu and Kashmir in their UNGA speeches and India fields its young diplomats to deliver hard-hitting retorts to Islamabad's rants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

United Nations, Sept 28: In a strong retort, India has slammed Pakistan in the UN General Assembly, saying its "fingerprints" are on terrorist incidents across the world and the country should realise that cross-border terrorism against India will "inevitably invite consequences".

India exercised its Right of Reply in the UN General Assembly Friday in response

KASHMIR ISSUE AT UNGA



The real truth is that Pakistan covets our territory, and in fact, has continuously used terrorism to disrupt elections in Jammu and Kashmir, an inalienable and integral part of India

BHAVIKA MANGALANKANDAN | FIRST SECRETARY IN INDIA'S PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UN

to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif raising the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in his address at the General Debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly.

"This Assembly regrettably witnessed a travesty this morning. A country run by the military, with a global reputation for terrorism, narcotics trade and transnational crime has had the audacity to attack the world's largest democracy," First

Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Bhavika Mangalankandan said, delivering India's Right of Reply.

She asserted that as the world knows, Pakistan has long employed cross-border terrorism as a weapon against its neighbours. "It has attacked our Parliament, our financial capital Mumbai, marketplaces and pilgrimage routes," she said, referring to the 2001 Indian Parliament attack and the 26/11

Mumbai terror attacks carried out by Pakistan-based terror groups. "The list is long. For such a country to speak about violence anywhere is hypocrisy at its worst," Mangalankandan said.

In his address, Sharif raised the Kashmir issue, as expected, and said that to "secure durable peace", India should reverse the Abrogation of Article 370 and enter into a dialogue for a "peaceful" resolution of the issue.

He said India has spurned Pakistan's proposals for a mutual "Strategic Restraint Regime".

Reminding the international community that this was a nation that for long hosted Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, Mangalankandan said Pakistan's "fingerprints are on so many terrorist incidents across the world, whose policies attract the dreads of many societies to make it their home.



over the last several years, and those attacks intensified late last year and early this spring after the Israel-Hamas war broke out nearly a year ago.

For years, Iraqi officials have periodically called for a with-

drawal of coalition forces, and formal talks to wind down the US presence in the country have been going on for months.

US officials who briefed reporters Friday said the agreement will bring about a two-

The agreement marks the third time in the last two decades that the US has announced a formal transition of the military's role in Iraq

phase transition in the troops assigned to Iraq that began this month. In the first phase, which runs through September 2025, the coalition mission against ISIS will end and forces will leave some longstanding bases.

Following the November election, American forces will start departing from Ain al-Asad airbase in western Iraq and from Baghdad International Airport, according to Iraqi government officials who spoke to The

Associated Press on the condition of anonymity. Those forces will be moved to Hareer base in Erbil, in northern Iraq's Kurdistan region.

In the second phase, the US will continue to operate in some fashion from Iraq through 2026 to support counter-ISIS operations in Syria, a senior Biden administration official and a senior defence official said on the condition of anonymity on a call with reporters to provide details ahead of the announcement.

Ultimately, the US military mission would transition to a bilateral security relationship, the US officials said, but they did not indicate what that might mean for the number of American troops who remain in Iraq in the future.



Through our initiatives, we have successfully inspired more women in India to choose seafaring as a career

KARAN KOCHHAR | HEAD OF MARINE PEOPLE FOR ASIA AT MAERSK

ASSETS IN ETFs TOP \$1 TRILLION WORLDWIDE

Assets in actively managed exchange-traded funds (ETFs) worldwide hit a record \$1 trillion at the end of August, according to data provider ETFGI, boosted by easier regulations and a wave of product innovation. Active ETFs seek to outperform the indexes they are benchmarked to, including the S&P 500, the Nasdaq 100 and the Russell 1000 Growth Index.



of the day quote

The overwhelming demand for our green bonds, amidst a challenging global financial environment, reflects the established standing of India as a key player in the green finance market

VIVEK KUMAR DEWANGAN | CMD OF REC LTD

The debut of Cullinan Series II in India represents a significant milestone for Rolls-Royce in the Asia Pacific region. Since its original launch in 2018, this remarkable motor car has attracted a younger and more diverse group of clients, and today Cullinan is the most requested Rolls-Royce in the marque's portfolio

IRENE NIKKIN | ROLLS-ROYCE MOTOR CARS, REGIONAL DIRECTOR ASIA-PACIFIC

We achieved a record-breaking feat of doubling our Day 1 orders over last year. Not just that, Meecho Mall also grew around 2.5X in orders over last year

MEGHA AGARWAL | MEECHO GENERAL MANAGER FOR BUSINESS

Banks struggle to mobilise deposits

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: Banks struggled to mobilise large deposits to meet the increasing credit demand in the last two financial years, a report said.

Outstanding credit disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) was at the highest level in 2023-24 amounting to ₹1,64,98,006 crore, whereas in percentage terms, the growth of Credit-to-Deposit(C-D) ratio rose from 75.8 per cent to 80.3 per cent, Infomeric Ratings said in a report.

According to the RBI April 2024 Bulletin, during March 2024, the incremental Credit-Deposit Ratio(ICDR) remained around 95.94 per cent, whereas on March 8, 2024 this was at 92.95 per cent. It may be observed that there was a much higher growth of credit of the SCBs compared to the growth of deposits, even as per the Quarter-on-Quarter (QoQ) basis, it said.

The growth of credit outpaced the growth of deposits during the period FY19 to FY24.

Alternative investments and substantial cash holdings in the unorganized sector slowed deposit accumulation, particularly in rural areas, it said.

It is interesting to note that the proportion of individual in-



vestors under 30 years old rose steadily, with their share in the registered investor base growing from 22.6 per cent as of FY19 to 39.9 per cent as of FY25 (as on July 31, 2024).

This trend demonstrates an increasing interest in equity markets among young investors, it said.

During the same period, it said, the share of investors aged 30-39 remained relatively stable, while the share of those over 40 declined.

In order to increase the deposit ratio, banks and Government must make joint efforts, True North Financial Services CEO Rochak Bakshi said.

Banks need to return to the old trend of raising small ticket deposits from the retail public which has historically been the strength of the country rather than pursuing bulk corporate deposits, he said.

Moreover, Bakshi said, a noticeable trend is that 47 per cent of term deposits are held by senior citizens which implies that the younger generation is not attracted towards bank deposits.

"Government should consider reducing the tax on interest especially at the highest tax slab. Also, it may consider taxation at the time of maturity of fixed deposit rather than the present system of taxation at yearly accrual," he added.

GST Council sets up GoM on compensation cess

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has set up a 10-member GoM, chaired by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, to decide on the taxation of luxury, sin and demerit goods once the compensation cess ends in March 2026.

The Group of Ministers (GoM), which includes members from Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, will submit its report to the Council by December 31.

In the GST regime, compensation cess at varied rates is levied on luxury, sin and demerit goods over and above the 28 per cent tax. The proceeds from the cess, which was originally planned for five years after GST roll-out or till June 2022, were used to compensate states for revenue loss incurred by them post the introduction of GST.

In 2022, the Council decided to extend the levy till March 2026 to repay the interest and the principle amount of the ₹2.69 lakh crore worth loan taken in the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years to make good states' revenue loss during Covid years.

With just one-and-a-half year remaining for the cess to end, the GST Council in its 54th meeting on September 9 decided to set up a GoM to decide the future course of the cess.

Gold reserves rise, ETF buying surges

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 28: India's gold reserves are increasing on a regular basis and according to experts, bullion is likely to remain supported by safe-haven demand and strong buying among gold exchange-traded fund (ETF) investors.

As per latest data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), gold reserves increased by \$726 million to \$63.613 billion, compared to \$62.887 billion last week.

Gold is the second largest contributor to India's forex reserve. India's foreign exchange reserves have scaled a new high \$692.296 billion, up by \$2.838 billion in the week that ended September 20. As per global financial firms, the forex reserves are at record all-time high levels and are set to cross \$700 billion in FY25 sooner than expected.

According to a latest note by global investment firm Jefferies, RBI's forex reserve is estimated to go up by a massive \$53 billion to reach \$700 billion in the current fiscal (FY25E).

Experts said India's strong forex will boost economic growth trajectory by strengthening its position internationally, drawing in foreign investments, and promoting domestic trade and industry.

Notably, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) increased by \$121 million to \$18.540 billion as of



September 20, compared to their previous level of \$18.419 billion September 13.

The country's reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) fell \$65 million to \$4.458 billion as of the latest data filing.

The central bank intervenes in the foreign exchange market to keep the volatility in the Indian currency in check.

Meanwhile, the strong FII buying witnessed this month continued for the week. FIIs have invested ₹57,359 crore so far in September with investment through the exchanges alone touching ₹46480 crore.

Total investment by FIIs so far in 2024 now stands at ₹100,245 crore. This has contributed to the stability in rupee this year, said trade analysts.

SHORT TAKES

HDB Financial prepares for IPO

New Delhi: After the mega public issue of Bajaj Housing Finance, another upper layer NBFC, HDB Financial Services has initiated the process to tap the IPO market and is expected to file draft papers soon to meet the RBI's mandatory listing requirements. HDB Financial Services last week received approval from the board of its parent company, HDFC Bank, to begin the process of going public. The board approved an initial public offering (IPO) consisting of a fresh issue of shares worth up to ₹2,500 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) by existing shareholders. HDB Financial Services is expected to file the draft papers with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) soon, merchant bankers said.

NHPC inks JV pact for RE

New Delhi: State-owned NHPC Saturday said it has inked a joint venture agreement with APGENCO for implementation of pumped storage hydro power projects and other renewable energy projects in Andhra Pradesh. In first phase, two pumped storage projects (PSPs) - Yaganti (1000 MW) and Rajupalem (800 MW) - are considered for joint implementation. Subsequently, other projects shall be identified in next phase, a company statement said. The agreement was signed between NHPC Chairman & Managing Director RK Chaudhary and APGENCO Managing Director KVN Chakradhar Babu in the presence of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

Pidilite invests ₹5cr in home Wify

New Delhi: Adhesive and construction chemicals manufacturer Pidilite Industries has invested ₹5 crore in Wify, a home improvement and maintenance services platform. This pre-series A funding round was led by Capria and Mount Judi Ventures, with participation from Blume Ventures. The investment was done through Pidilite Ventures, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Pidilite Industries, according to a statement. "The investment from this round will fuel Wify's growth, enabling them to enhance their tech stack, expand services, and strengthen their market position," it said.

Iron ore output rises 7.4% in April-August

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: The production of iron ore and manganese ore witnessed a growth during the April-August period of the ongoing fiscal.

The output of iron ore rose by 7.4 per cent to 116 million tonnes (MT) during the said period compared to 108 MT registered in the corresponding period of previous fiscal, according to a provisional data released by the mines ministry.

The production of manganese ore jumped by 15.4 per cent to 1.5 MT during the April-August period as compared to 1.3 MT in the previous financial year, the ministry said in a statement.

Iron ore accounts for about 70 per cent of the total mineral production in terms of value.

In the non-ferrous metal sector, primary aluminium production rose to 17.49 lakh tonnes (LT) during April-August from 17.26 LT in the year-ago period.

"During the same comparative period, refined copper production has grown by 5.8 per



cent from 1.91 LT to 2.02 LT," the ministry said. India is the second largest aluminium producer, among top 10 producer of refined copper and fourth largest iron ore producer in the world.

Continued growth in production of iron ore in the current financial year reflects the robust demand conditions in the user industries, mainly steel.

Coupled with growth in aluminium and copper, these growth trends point towards continued strong economic activity in user sectors such as energy, infrastructure, construction, automotive and machinery, the statement said.

India allows export of non-basmati rice

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 28: India gave the go-ahead Saturday for exports of non-basmati white rice to resume as inventories in the world's biggest exporter of the grain surge and farmers prepare to harvest a new crop in the coming weeks.

Bigger rice shipments from India would beef up overall global supplies and soften international prices by forcing other major exporters of the staple such as Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam to reduce their rates, traders said.

New Delhi set a floor price for non-basmati white rice exports of \$490 per metric ton, a government order said. That came a day after the government cut the export tax on white rice to zero.

New Delhi's decision to allow traders to sell non-basmati white rice on the world market follows a series of moves to ease export restrictions on premium, aromatic basmati and parboiled varieties. Friday, India also reduced the export duty on parboiled rice to 10% from 20% previously.

Earlier this month, the gov-



ernment removed a floor price for basmati rice exports to help thousands of farmers who complained about a lack of access to lucrative overseas markets such as Europe, the Middle East and the United States.

As the El Niño weather pattern raised the spectre of poor monsoon rains, India imposed various curbs on rice exports last year and extended them into

2024 to keep local prices in check ahead of the April-June national election.

Since the 2023 ban on exports, local supplies have picked up, bumping up stocks at government warehouses.

Rice stocks at the state-run Food Corporation of India on Sept. 1 stood at 32.3 million metric tons, 38.6% higher than last year, giving the govern-

New Delhi's decision to allow traders to sell non-basmati white rice in world market follows a series of moves to ease export restrictions on premium, basmati and parboiled varieties

ment ample room to ease rice export curbs.

Buoyed by copious monsoon rains, farmers have planted rice on 41.35 million hectares (102.18 million acres), up from 40.45 million hectares (99.95 million acres) last year and an average of 40.1 million hectares (99.09 million acres) over the last five years.

The decision to allow non-basmati rice exports will raise farm incomes in the countryside and help India regain its position in the global market, said Rajesh Paharia Jain, a New Delhi-based trader.

Despite the 10% export tax on parboiled rice and the floor price of \$490 a metric ton, Indian white rice will be competitive in the international market, said B.V. Krishna Rao, president of the Rice Exporters' Association.

Under-performers to lead in coming qtrs

THE MARKET RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE FED'S RATE CUT AND STABLE ECONOMIC DATA POINTS, WHICH ACCELERATED FOREIGN INFLOWS AND GENERATED MOMENTUM IN DOMESTIC MARKETS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 28: The Indian stock market continued to witness the bull run this week, marking a 1.7 per cent increase and the third consecutive weekly gain, with Sensex hitting 85,000 for the first time and Nifty trading at an all-time high.

The benchmark indices saw a phase of sector rotation. Large-cap stocks are receiving more inflows compared to mid and small-caps, which had been market favourites until recently.

Sectors like public sector banks, defence and railways, which saw heavy participation earlier, are gradually being overshadowed by under-performers such as pharma, private banks and mid-size IT.

These sectors, with their attractive valuations, are likely to lead the next market phase for the coming quarters, according to Krishna Appala from Capitalmind Research.

Metals took the spotlight, with CNX Metals rising by over 6 per



cent, making it the best-performing sector, followed by CNX Auto, which gained 3.5 per cent. The initial momentum in Bank Nifty following the Fed rate cut didn't hold, leaving the index flat by the week's end, said analysts.

Indian equity indices closed in the red on Friday as profit booking was seen at a higher level. At close, Sensex was down 264 points or 0.31 per cent at 85,571 and Nifty was down 37 points or 0.14

per cent at 26,178. Nifty Bank fell 541 points or one per cent to 53,834.

The rupee weakened by 0.04, trading at 83.70, despite the dollar remaining flat at 100.25. US economic jobless claims data showed marginal improvement, indicating continued strength in the US economy. Rupee support is seen in the 83.80-83.90 range, while resistance lies at 83.50-83.60, according to experts. Gold prices remained rela-

BIZ BUZZ

SBI'S CLEANLINESS DRIVE

Bhubaneswar: State Bank of India Bhubaneswar Circle has launched Swachhata Hi Seva - shramdaan initiatives across Odisha by cleaning of Khandagiri monument area. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, has launched the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign from September 17 to October 2 with the theme Swabhav Swachhata Sanskar Swachhata. Under the initiative, all 21 regions of SBI will identify two cleanliness target units and clean the places by staff participation. In Bhubaneswar, Dinesh Pruthi, CGM SBI Bhubaneswar Circle launched the swachhata activities September 28 by shramdaan and cleaning of Khandagiri monument area in presence of GM (NW-I) Ponnabalam M and GM (NW-II) Kaushal Kishore Singh along with DGMs and other officials of LHO/AO Bhubaneswar and nearby Branches/Offices. In the event a walkathon was also organised for awareness of the campaign. More than 150 staff members actively participated in the event from 8 am to 10 am.



India's WTC final hopes in limbo

Big blow to India's World Test Championship final hopes if 2nd Test vs Bangladesh is washed out



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur, Sept 28: Rain and a wet outfield have played spoilsport in the second Test between India and Bangladesh at Green Park Stadium, with the weather threatening to derail India's quest for a spot in the World Test Championship (WTC) final.

Only 35 overs were bowled on Day 1 as Bangladesh struggled to 107/3, with Indian pacer Akash Deep impressing by picking up two crucial wickets. The second day was washed out without a ball being bowled.

As it stands, India lead the WTC standings with a percentage points (PCT) tally of 71.67 after 10 matches, putting them in a prime position to make their third consecutive final. A 2-0 series win over Bangladesh would

have left India needing only three more wins from their remaining eight matches to secure a spot in the WTC final.

However, with rain looming large over the second Test, a draw could complicate India's path to the final.

Should this Test ended in a draw, India will need to win five of their next eight Test matches to cement their place in the WTC final, assuming other contenders for a top-two finish do not drop points.

This leaves India with a more challenging route, as they will likely need to clean sweep New Zealand 3-0 at home and secure at least two wins in the five-match Border-Gavaskar series against Australia in Down Under.

India have won the last two series in Australia, but re-

peating that feat will be a daunting task, especially with the pressure of WTC qualification hanging over their heads. The team's dominant record at home, combined with their recent successes Down Under, gives India some confidence, but the margin for error has narrowed considerably if this match is washed out.

The series against New Zealand at home will be pivotal in shaping India's campaign. While the Indian side has been virtually unbeatable on home soil, a 3-0 sweep against the Kiwis is crucial to lessen the burden of needing to win several games away in Australia.

Given India's history in Australia, two wins in the Border-Gavaskar series would still be an impressive result,

but the challenge is immense.

For now, the Indian camp will be hoping for a break in the rain to allow play to resume in Kanpur. Every session lost to the weather could mean India face a more uphill battle in their journey to the WTC final. With a host of talented bowlers, including Akash Deep, already making an impact in this match, India will look to capitalise on any opportunity to take control of the game once the weather clears.

The stakes are high, and India's immediate focus remains on Bangladesh. However, the shadow of WTC qualification looms large, and the rain-soaked outfield at Green Park Stadium is adding an unwanted layer of complexity to India's otherwise well-laid plans.

Usha vs 'Dozen'

12 EC MEMBERS WRITE TO IOC ACCUSING IOA TOP BOSS OF "AUTOCRATIC" FUNCTIONING



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: The feud between Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha and revolting Executive Council members took another ugly turn after a dozen of them shot off a letter to senior IOC official Jerome Poivey accusing the legendary athlete of running the organization in an "autocratic" manner.

During Thursday's meeting, there was a bitter confrontation during the IOA meeting where the embattled Usha outrightly rejected their appeal of removing Raghuram Iyer from CEO's post.

In a letter to Poivey, the head of Institutional Relations and Governance at the International Olympic Committee (IOC), who attended the stormy IOA Executive Council meeting via video-conference, the 12 EC members said they want the national body to be governed "democratically".

Usha, on her part, has already said that the appointment of Iyer was done by strictly adhering to the IOA constitution in an EC meeting January 5, which was video-graphed, and there was no reason to backtrack from that decision.

The EC members wrote to Poivey that they will re-advertise for the position of the IOA CEO, "aiming to appoint a suitable candidate within the next two months collectively and along with the president".

"While appreciating your understanding, we are deeply concerned with the conduct of the IOA President, whose autocratic behaviour has always been regrettable, and we also regret subjecting you to such an experience which has become a norm for her to run down the

views and concerns of her colleagues in every single meeting or opportunity. Her approach of 'My way or the Highway' contradicts the democratic principles envisioned in the IOA constitution. While we trust that you would believe the efforts of all Council members is to have an approach of inclusivity and consensus while aligning opinions in diversity," they said in the letter sent Friday.

Senior vice president Ajay H Patel, vice presidents RajLaxmi Deo and Gagan Narang, Treasurer Sahdev Yadav, Joint Secretaries Alaknanda Ashok and Kalyan Chaubey, other Executive Council members

Amitabh Sharma, Bhpender Singh Bajwa, Rohit Rajpal, Dola Banerjee, Harpal Singh and Yogeshwar Dutt signed the letter.

Chaubey and Harpal had joined Thursday's EC meeting online, where Usha had rejected the demand of the majority members to remove Iyer.

Interestingly, both sides have different versions about Poivey's intervention during Thursday's EC meeting. "We are appreciative that you ultimately stepped in and clarified to the President and the entire Council that the organization must be governed democratically, with the participation, inclusivity and consensus of the entire Executive Council with majority. We appreciate your reiteration at the end of the meeting that decisions within the IOA should be made by a simple majority and for reinforcing this point to the President," the 12 EC members wrote to Poivey.

The latest development could jeopardise India's chances of bidding for the 2036 Olympics

HISTORIC MOVE

BCCI introduces match fee for IPL, franchises asked to give ₹12.60cr

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Mumbai, Sept 28: To make playing the Indian Premier League (IPL) more lucrative for the players, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the owner of the league, has decided to introduce a match fee for every game, which will be over and above the contracted amount for which a player is signed up.

Terming it a historic move, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a post on X, formerly Twitter, that BCCI has introduced a match fee of ₹7.5 lakh per game for the players to celebrate consistency and outstanding performances. The move will come into effect from the upcoming 2025 edition of the IPL.

Each franchise will allocate ₹12.60 crore as match fees for the season and thus, a player playing all league matches in a season will earn an additional ₹1.05 crore, Shah wrote in his post.

"In a historic move to celebrate consistency and champion outstanding performances in the #IPL, we are thrilled to introduce a match fee of INR 7.5 lakhs per game for our cricketers! A cricketer playing all league matches in a season will get ₹1.05 crore in addition to his contracted amount," wrote Jay Shah in his post.

"Each franchise will allocate INR 12.60 crores as match fees for the season! This is a new era for the #IPL and our players!" he further wrote.

Currently, players get the contracted amount at which they were picked in the auction or through retention. Besides that, they also get a portion of the Player of the Match award for being a part of the Playing XI.

But the introduction of a match fee will definitely help the uncapped and young players like U-19 stars as they have a salary cap and are signed up at a nominal amount when compared to the megabucks offered in the auction.

With the introduction of match-fee, these players will get an additional ₹7.9 lakh if they play a match, thus making playing in the IPL a more lucrative proposition for them.

Odisha FC pip Jamshedpur FC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Odisha FC defeated Jamshedpur FC 2-1 riding on goals from Diego Mauricio and Mourtada Fall in an Indian Super League match here Saturday.

Fall was also guilty of scoring an own goal which proved to be a mere consolation for the visitors. Although Sergio Lobera's

side secured an advantage before the break, it was Khalid Jamil's men who started on a stronger note.

In just the fifth minute, Jamshedpur FC could have earned their lead, as Javi Hernandez's free-kick from the middle of the park fell onto Stephen Eze's head who flicked it on to Pratik Chaudhari. The latter's shot, however, was saved

by Amrinder Singh. Odisha FC got their first chance in the 10th minute. Odisha FC broke the deadlock in the 20th minute. Isak showcased some exceptional dribbling skills to find Hugo Boumous inside the box.

Boumous laid it off for Mauricio, whose shot took a slight deflection off Stephen Eze and ended inside the goal. In the 42nd minute, Fall finally gave the comfort cushion to Lobera's side. Boumous swung in a corner from the right and Fall headed it straight into the net.

Odisha FC could have added another goal to their tally in the 54th minute. Boumous dribbled past Pratik and passed the ball to Mauricio on the left. Jamshedpur FC finally got one back in the 62nd minute after Fall's misdirected header ended into his own net.

Wimbledon gets nod for expansion plan

The All England Club's proposal to build 39 new courts, including an 8,000-seat show court was passed by London's deputy mayor for planning

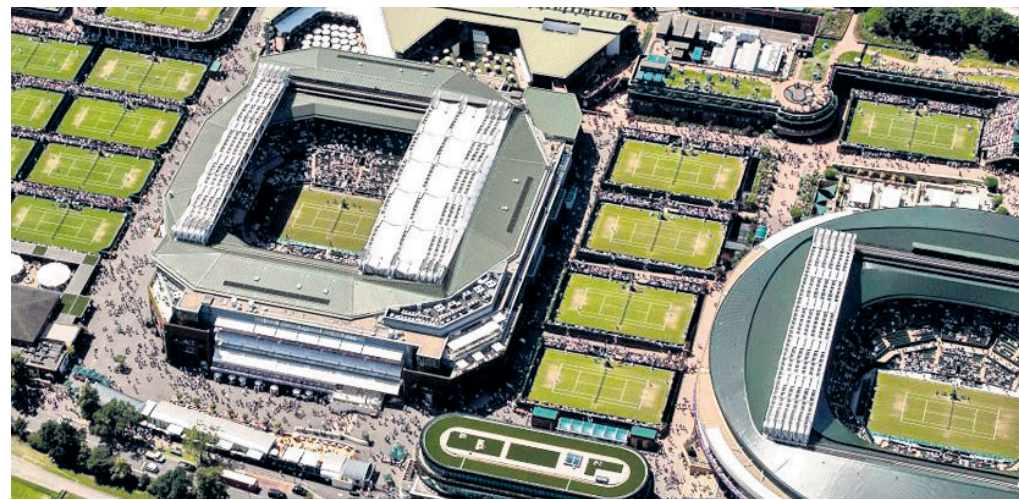
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

London, Sept 28: Wimbledon have been given the green light to go ahead with their controversial plans to expand the historic venue for the grass-court Grand Slam.

The All England Club's proposal to build 39 new courts, including an 8,000-seat show court, on the adjacent former Wimbledon Park Golf Club was passed Friday by London's deputy mayor for planning Jules Pipe. Wimbledon will nearly triple the size of its current site once the project is completed.

Plans were first submitted in 2021, but there had been strong local opposition from groups such as 'Save Wimbledon Park' and environmental protestors who claimed the harm caused to open land was not justified.

The issue had become increasingly acrimonious, but Friday's decision was expected



after Greater London Authority planning officers recommended permission be granted due to the financial and community benefits. "In summary, the proposed development would facilitate very significant benefits," Pipe said. "I agree with my officers that these benefits clearly outweigh the harm."

Central to Wimbledon's case has been the desire to hold its qualifying competition, which is currently staged over three miles away in Roehampton, on its own land. All England Club chair Debbie Jevans said: "We are delighted that the Greater

London Authority has resolved to approve our applications to transform the former Wimbledon Park golf course. Our proposals will deliver 27 acres of newly accessible parkland for the community and enable us to bring the qualifying competition for The Championships onsite, with all of the substantial economic and employment opportunities this presents."

The Mayor of London's office took charge of the application in January after Merton Council approved the plans and Wandsworth Council rejected

them late last year. Mayor Sadiq Khan recused himself from the process having previously expressed public support for the development, leaving the matter in Pipe's hands.

Fleur Anderson, the MP for Putney, claimed allowing the scheme would set "a dangerous London-wide and national precedent". But Jevans said: "We look forward to working with all parties to bring this vision to life, delivering one of London's greatest sporting transformations since the 2012 Games and securing Wimbledon's future at the pinnacle of world sport."

AITA elects new office bearers, holds official declaration of result

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: The All India Tennis Association (AITA) Saturday elected unopposed a new set of office bearers but the result was not declared officially as per the directions of the Delhi High Court, which is hearing a petition into Sports Code violations by the federation.

The AITA was to conduct election at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) but there was no need for voting since the Returning Officer received only one nomination for each post.

Apart from getting a new President, secretary general and treasurer, the national tennis federation elected eight vice presidents, four joint secretaries and 10 executive members.

It has been learnt that initially Rohit Rajpal and one more candidate had filed their nominations for the post of President but later India's non-playing Davis Cup captain withdrew his candidature. Former India players Somdev Devvarman and Purav Raja had sought a stay on the AITA elections, claiming that the federation was not following the Sports Code and several candidates in fray were ineligible to contest the polls.