



NO COMPLACENCY

Actor Manushi Chhillar, sharing her experience in the film industry, says every day on sets feels like her first day

LEISURE P2



PLEA FOR MORE FLIGHTS

Odisha urges Centre to enhance flight services to VSS Airport at Jharsuguda, ahead of hockey world cup

DOWNTOWN P3



US WARNS RUSSIA

Washington says it will 'respond decisively' if Moscow uses nuclear weapons in Ukraine

INTERNATIONAL P10



A TOUCH OF DIVINITY

An artisan gives finishing touches to a clay idol of Goddess Durga at Choudhury Bazar in the Silver City, Monday ahead of the celebrations

OP PHOTO

HIGH SECURITY REGISTRATION PLATES

Keep online slips handy to avoid fine

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: In a major relief for people who are waiting for fixation of High Security Registration Plates (HSRPs) in their vehicles, the state government has decided not to impose fine on the vehicle owners who have applied for the HSRP online before the deadline, an official said Monday.

As per the prescribed timeline, September 30 is the deadline for the vehicles with 5 & 6 and 7 & 8, respectively. Similarly, the vehicle owners carrying Odisha registration mark and registration number ending with 1, 2, 3 & 4, while October 31 and November 30 is the deadline for the Odisha registration vehicles with registration number ending with 5 & 6 and 7 & 8, respectively. Further, the vehicle owners carrying Odisha registration mark and registration number ending with 9 and 0 will have to affix the HSRP by December 31.

So, the law enforcing agencies will start enforcement activities on the fitment of the HSRP from October 1.

In a press note, Dipti Ranjan Patra, Joint Commissioner Transport, Technical said, "It is observed that due to sudden rise in online booking for fitment of HSRP, some of the vehicle owners are facing difficulties in getting a slot for fitment of HSRP within the timeline. In case any vehicle owner has applied for HSRP online before the timeline applicable to his/her vehicle, he/she shall be exempted from enforcement checking provided they produce an online booking slip during the checking."

Patra further informed, "As on September 25, 2022, a total of 16,78,163 vehicle owners have booked slots, out of which HSRP has been affixed in 7,30,303 vehicles." He



Law enforcing agencies shall enforce the fitment with effect from October 1

further said, "In case the vehicle is not affixed with HSRP within the scheduled date or the vehicle owner does not have online booking slip, e-challan shall be issued against the offending vehicle and it will attract fine of ₹5,000/- or ₹10,000/- under Section 192 of MV Act, 1988 as the case may be."

In accordance with Central government amended Rule 50 of CMVR and Notifications/Statutory Orders from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Transport department has made affixation of HSRP mandatory since June 1, 2022 for all classes of old vehicles which were registered prior to April 1, 2019.

Patra further informed, "Old number plates are easy to tamper with and can be misused by thieves. However, the HSRPs come with a non-removable snap-lock and are difficult to replace. These plates are tamper-proof and come with two non-reusable locks."

HSRPs have a chromium-based Ashoka Chakra on the left, along with 'IND' written. The vehicle identification number will be laser encoded, which is easy to be scanned and difficult to be tampered with.

To control and check the sub-standard material, only original equipment manufacturers (OEMs)/authorised dealers are allowed to fix the HSRP on the old vehicles. Vehicle owners are free to choose any dealer, place and date for affixing of HSRP.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



We will soon start working for Opposition's unity. Right now, we are working on our own unity

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VAIATION
SENSEX	57145.22 ↓ 953.70
NIFTY	17016.30 ↓ 311.00
DOLLAR	81.96 ↑ ₹0.60
EURO	79.22 ↓ ₹0.38
GOLD	₹49,457 ↑ ₹56
SILVER	₹56,340 ↑ ₹107

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	32.7°C	32.5°C
TEMP MIN	24.4°C	24.5°C
Humidity	81%	88%
Rainfall	10.2mm	Nil
Forecast	Light rain likely	

RUSSIA SCHOOL SHOOTING KILLS 15; 24 WOUNDED

AGENCIES

Moscow, Sept 26: A gunman opened fire in a school in central Russia Monday, killing 15 people and wounding 24 others before shooting himself dead, authorities said.

The shooting took place in School No 88 in Izhevsk, a city 960 kilometers east of Moscow in the Udmurtia region.

Russia's Investigative Committee identified the gunman as 34-year-old Artyom Kazantsev, a graduate of the same school, and said he was wearing a black t-shirt bearing "Nazi symbols". No details about his motives have been released.

The Committee said 15 people, including 11 children were killed in the shooting, and 24 other people, including 22 children, were wounded in the attack.

The governor of Udmurtia, Alexander Brechalov, said the gunman, who he said was registered as a patient at a psychiatric facility, killed himself after the attack.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov described the shooting as "a terrorist act" and said Russian President Vladimir Putin has given all the necessary orders to the relevant authorities.

"President Putin deeply mourns deaths of people and children in the school, where a terrorist act took place," Peskov told reporters Monday. The school educates children between grades one and 11.

₹ falls to new nadir of 81.67

This is the fourth consecutive session of loss for the domestic unit, during which it has lost 193 paise against the dollar

AGENCIES

Mumbai, Sept 26: The rupee plunged 58 paise to close at an all-time low of 81.67 against the US dollar Monday as the strengthening of the dollar overseas and risk-averse sentiment among investors weighed on the local unit.

Moreover, escalation of geopolitical risks due to conflict in Ukraine, a negative trend in domestic equities and significant foreign fund outflows sapped investor

appetite, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 81.47, then fell further to close at an all-time low of 81.67 against the American currency, registering a decline of 58 paise over its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee slumped 30 paise to close at 81.09, its previ-



ous record low.

Dollar surged to fresh 20-year high of 114.527 amid weak global equities and sharp fall in riskier currencies such as the Pound.

"Another day of large gains for the dollar versus the rupee as it fell for the fourth day in a row amid risk-averse sentiments and unprecedented strength in the greenback following Fed tightening and recession worries," said Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities.

Spot USD-INR may head towards 82 as strength in the dollar index continues with surging bond yields, Parmar said, adding that in the near-term, spot USD-INR is having resistance at around 82 and support at 81.05.

7 die as minibus plunges into gorge

AGENCIES

Shimla, Sept 26: Seven tourists were killed and 10 injured in a road accident in Himachal Pradesh's Kullu district, police said Monday. Five tourists died on the spot while two others succumbed to injuries at the hospital, the officials said.

The tourists, belonging to Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, were travelling when a Tempo Traveller skidded off the road and rolled down the hill near Jalori Pass in Banjar subdivision Sunday night.

Most of the injured were admitted to the Regional Hospital in Kullu



town, some 200 km from the state capital. The cause of the accident is yet to be ascertained, an official told. The administration had a tough time extricating the victims from the badly mangled vehicle. People in the area began rescue operations even before authorities reached the spot.

The dead were identified as Saurabh, Priyanka Gupta, Kiran, Rishab Raj, Anshika Jain, Aditya and Ananmaya, Kullu SP Gurdev Sharma told the media.

Officials had earlier said three of the dead were from IIT Varanasi. However, it was clarified later that they were among the injured.

A police officer told that the accident spot had experienced continuous rainfall for the past three days, making the road slippery.

President Droupadi Murmu, Himachal Pradesh CM Jai Ram Thakur and Union Minister Anurag Thakur, who hails from the state, expressed grief over the accident.

TRACTOR FALLS IN POND KILLING 10

Lucknow: Ten people were killed while 37 were injured when the tractor-trolley in which they were travelling overturned after it lost control and fell into a pond here Monday, a senior district official said. About 47 people were travelling in the vehicle which was on its way to a Durga Devi temple in Unnae village for a 'mundan' ceremony, he said. Eight women and two children were killed in the accident. An ex gratia of ₹4 lakhs each is being extended to the family of the deceased. MORE P7

ANJANA RAISES OBJECTION OVER 'BARANGA 1999'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: Anjana Mishra, the victim of a high profile gangrape case, Monday threatened to take legal action against the makers of a web series based on Mishra's life without her permission. Mishra told media that she came to know about the making of the web series 'Baranga 1999' from reports in newspapers.

"I was shocked after knowing about the web series. I had no knowledge of it. They have neither discussed anything with me nor took my permission. I object to the project seriously. I warn them not to do anything like this else I would be forced to move to the court of law," warned Mishra.

On the other hand, Akshay Parija, the producer of the series, said mediapersons that the web series is an original story.

Continued on P4

NASA's 'DART' set to hit asteroid in mock earth saving bid

The mission is heading for Dimorphos, a small moon orbiting the near-Earth asteroid Didymos. The asteroid system poses no threat to Earth

AGENCIES

Washington, Sept 26: A NASA spacecraft was set to smash into an asteroid early Tuesday, in a bid to test a technology to defend Earth against potential asteroid or comet hazards in the future.

NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART), a first such mission, was set to impact its target asteroid - which poses no threat to Earth - at 7.14pm Monday (4.44am Tuesday IST).

"This test will show a spacecraft can autonomously navigate to a target

asteroid and intentionally collide with it to change the asteroid's motion in a way that can be measured using ground-based telescopes," the US space agency said in an update. DART's target is the binary, near-Earth asteroid system Didymos, composed of the roughly 780-metre diameter 'Didymos' and the smaller, approximately 160-metre size 'Dimorphos', which orbits Didymos.

DART will impact Dimorphos to change its orbit within the binary system, and the DART Investigation Team will compare the results of DART's kinetic impact with the as-

teroid to highly detailed computer simulations of kinetic impacts on asteroids, according to NASA.

"Doing so will evaluate the effectiveness of this mitigation approach and assess how best to apply it to future planetary defense scenarios, as well as how accurate the computer simulations are and how well they reflect the behaviour of a real asteroid," the space agency added.

DART will provide important data to help better prepare for an asteroid that might pose an impact hazard to Earth, should one ever be discovered.



leisure



STORM REID BAGS LEAD ROLE IN *THE NUN 2*

Euphoria star Storm Reid has bagged a lead role in *The Nun 2* the sequel to the surprise 2018 hit that makes up part of New Line's collection of horror movies known as *The Conjuring Universe*.

GEORGE CLOONEY: THERE IS NO DOWNSIDE TO MY WIFE

Actor George Clooney says there is no 'downside' when it comes to being married to Amal, as he reflects on eight years of marriage with the human rights lawyer. The 61-year-old actor tied the knot with Amal Alamuddin, 44, back in 2014 and went on to have twins Alexander and Ella, four, with her.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES

You will be very active today. Your activities will result in progress and success. However in the evening you will feel the need for some solitude. Pay heed to your moods, and get into a solitary corner to be alone. Ganesh says it's okay to confide your problems to your dog.

TAURUS

It is a day of dreaming and doing, says Ganesh. Your ideas will click at work and help you shine through today. You will impress the boss with elegance and spend the evening with champagne and your love-struck beloved.

GEMINI

There are strong indications that today will be an action-packed day for you, says Ganesh. Though you will be burdened with a lot of responsibilities, you will be able to show your family members how much you care for them. New relationships will also develop in the evening.

CANCER

Today you are likely to receive financial support from your loved ones, says Ganesh. By the time the Sun sets, your family may receive some good news in relation to a wedding. A festive mood is likely to set in your house.

LEO

Today is one mushroom that may turn out to be unpalatable, says Ganesh. The stars indicate that this day shall be smeared with quite a few unsatisfactory moments, especially in the afternoon. A certain sense of wildness and volatility shall dominate your actions today.

VIRGO

Work like a thrill to have your contribution noticed, says Ganesh. However, do not expect appreciation in the same degree. Unwind at the end of a long day with the solace of putting in your best.

LIBRA

Some things on the personal front may undergo a turning point today, predicts Ganesh. Now is the time for change. Changes are good and maybe even needed, although you may not see it that way at the moment. Expect monetary gains that will help you go a long way in life (a handsome bequest perhaps!).

SCORPIO

For a change, matters of finance will gnaw at your mind today. You may take steps to invest in new business ventures. Social reputation will get a boost late in the day, and people will, in all likelihood, pay due respect for your high values, says Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

The fire within you is set to flare - professionally and personally. It won't be difficult for you to convince people of your intentions. But Ganesh advises you to seek counsel from your superiors and predecessors before you dive into anything.

CAPRICORN

You will be chased by people harbouring malicious intents. Like a lone, naive soul among a bunch of brats, you could be bullied by those having political and social clout, says Ganesh. But worry not. Your fate is too powerful to let anyone do any harm to your reputation or health. In fact, much to the disappointment of your foes, novel ideas will guide you through hard times.

AQUARIUS

You will most likely play a peace envoy today, sorting out conflicts with diplomacy, your own as well as others'. Don't ignore any offer on the career front, as it may be the best thing to happen to you! The evening brings romance, says Ganesh, but also a lovers' tiff.

PISCES

Today is a day devoted to matters of the heart as well as your heart. So, while you will probably be busy during the day keeping tabs on the refurbishments you have planned for your residence, the evening should probably see you in a romantic setting murmuring sweet nothings to your soul mate, says Ganesh.

Can't compromise on dignity: **Sadaa**

Chennai: Actress Sadaa, who has turned a wildlife photographer in recent times, has said that she cannot compromise on her dignity and self-esteem in life no matter what and that she cuts herself off from people who try to break her self-esteem.

Talking to Instagram, the actress posted a clip from her recent interview to a media outlet, and wrote, "Straight from the heart answer to a question least

expected for an interview meant for the promotions of a web series..

"Caring for self, is not being selfish as most people would like you to believe. The ones who expect you to put them over yourself respect or happiness, are the ones who are actually selfish! Best to stay away from them for your own peace."

Asked When people try

to break her self esteem, Sadaa replies, "I cut off. For me, my self-esteem, my dignity, my pride come here (pointing to the top) and I cannot compromise on that aspect of my life no matter what. If anyone even tries to tamper a little bit with it, I am like completely disconnected. This is a closed thing/chapter."

'Every day feels like first day on set'



Mumbai: Former Miss World and actress Manushi Chhillar, who made her debut with *Samrat Prithviraj*, has been signed with John Abraham for *Tehran*, a film inspired by true events. The project is proving to be a great learning experience for the actress.

Talking about her experience on the project so far, Manushi said: "Tehran has been an exciting learning experience for me. I love how differently I get to showcase myself as an actor."

She is living every moment of her journey as a growing actress, adding further: "Since my career in cinema has just begun, every day feels like my first day on set. There is so much to absorb and take mental notes of."

She is glad that she got to dabble in very different types of films. "With a historical (Samrat Prithviraj) and now this, I have got to taste two very different genres. More to look forward to," she said.

A Maddock Films production in association with Bake My Cake Films, *Tehran* is directed by Arun Gopalan, written by Ritesh Shah and Ashish Prakash Verma, produced by Dinesh Vijan, Shobhna Yadav and Sandeep Leyzell.

ONS' NAT'L DRAMA FESTIVAL BEGINS

Assamese play *Ratnaakar* strikes chord with viewers



Bhubaneswar: A four-day national theatre festival, organised by Odisha Natya Sangh (ONS), kicked off with Assamese play *Ratnaakar* here at Rabindra Mandap, Monday.

The event is being organised by ONS, a confederation of more than 150 theatre troupes of Odisha, to commemorate its 35th foundation day.

Written and directed by Gunakar Dev Goswami and presented by the Purbaranga troupe of Guwahati, the play was based on the mythological episode of how dacoit Ratnaakar turned a Maharshi. The play strikes a chord with the viewers by taking them to the days of mythology.

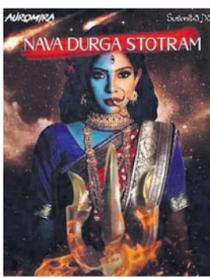
Apart from director Goswami, others who performed on stage included Akash, Biplab, Utpal, Rishi, Bharati and Prarthana. Devjit Dutta and Dipankar Bora coordinated the music.

Science and Technology Minister Ashok Chandra Panda, Culture Minister Aswini Patra, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi president Prabodh Rath, ONS president Haren Sahoo, secretary Subhakanta Padhi and drama director Dhira Mallick were among the dignitaries who graced the occasion.

The day-2 will witness Odia play *Punascha Abolkara*, written by Sitiesh Tripathy and directed by Darpanarayan Sathy.

Music video release of *Nava Durga Stotram*

Bhubaneswar: Singer Susmita Das and director Dev Meher, who had earlier teamed up for popular music videos like *Aigiri Nandini* and *Prithvi Manthan*, have come up with their next titled *Nava Durga Stotram* ahead of Dussehra. The music video, produced by Auromira, was released here, Monday.



Actress BM Baisali features in the video having nine hymns in the praise of various avatars goddess Durga namely Shailputri, Brahmacharini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skandamata, Katyayini, Kalaratri Mahagauri, and Siddhidhath.

The songs progress through lyrical chants that glorify the strength and power of the goddess, said production house sources.

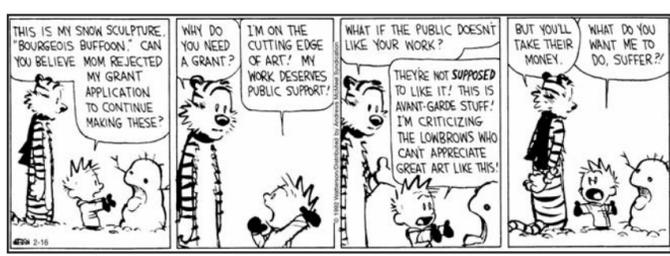
Susmita said, "The song fervently extols the power of Shakti and will certainly provide the believers inspiration, transformation, and enormous strength."

Director Dev Meher said, "The songs offer flawless combinations of powerful vocals and revolutionary vision to narrate the grandiosity of the goddess. Nothing has been done of this scale before."

PEANUTS



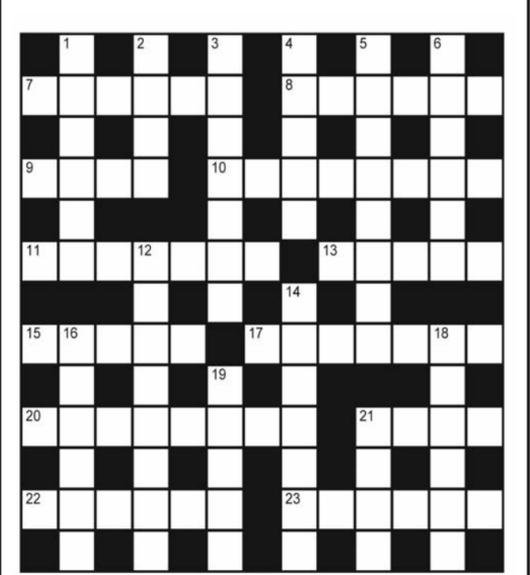
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



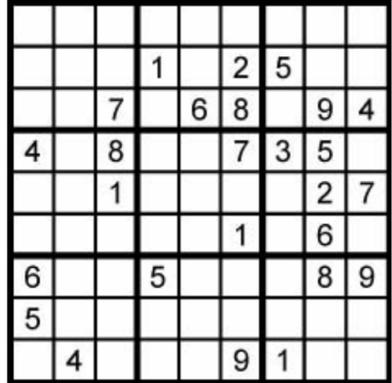
FUN post CROSSWORD



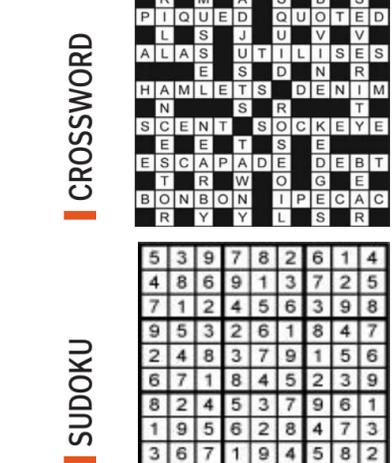
- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
7 Mauna Kea locale
8 Airport sight
9 Green gem
10 Unfinished business (5,3)
11 Abundant
13 Secret supply
15 Pie choice
17 Tipped off
- 20 Man of the cloth
21 Bakery buy
22 First-rate
23 Kind of center
- Down**
1 Brute
2 Bistro
3 Close relative
4 Pandemonium
5 Thomas Edison, e.g.
6 Excursions
12 Striking
14 Red wines
16 Ribald
18 Alaska native
19 Blind followers
21 Anthracite

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS



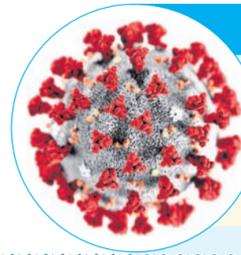
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



COURTESY CALL

US Consul General in Hyderabad Jennifer Larson calls on Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at his residence in Bhubaneswar, Monday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	62,03,93,121	60,06,05,640	65,40,743
India	4,45,69,655	4,40,00,298	5,28,530
Odisha	13,33,332	13,22,831	9,191

Odisha, other states told to reduce dropout rate

PNN/AGENCIES

New Delhi/Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Odisha are among more than a dozen states where the school dropout rate at secondary level was higher than the national average of 14.6 per cent, according to official data.

The Union government has suggested these states to take special steps to reduce the dropout rate.

This information has been obtained from the minutes of the meetings of the Project Approval Board (PAB) under the Ministry of Education on the 'Samagra Shiksha' programme for 2022-23. These meetings took place between April and July with different states.

According to sources, the government wants to achieve 100 per cent Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) at the school level by 2030 as targeted in the new National Education Policy and considers dropout as a hindrance.

According to the PAB, the dropout rate in 2020-21 at the secondary level in Bihar was 21.4 per cent, Gujarat 23.3 per cent, Madhya Pradesh 23.8 per cent, Odisha 16.04 per cent, Jharkhand 16.6 per cent, Tripura 26 per cent and Karnataka recorded 16.6 per cent.

According to the documents, the estimated number of children with special needs (CWSNs) enrolled in schools in Delhi during the relevant period was 61,051, of which 67.5 per cent dropped out or could not be identified. The PAB has asked the Delhi government to complete the work of bringing



The dropout rate in Andhra Pradesh saw a drastic decline from 37.6% in 2019-20 to 8.7% in 2020-21

States	Dropout rate (Secondary level)
Tripura	26%
MP	23.8%
Gujarat	23.3%
Bihar	21.4%
Jharkhand	16.6%
Karnataka	16.6%
Odisha	16.04%

dropout children back into the mainstream school education on an expeditious basis.

The dropout rate at the secondary level in Andhra Pradesh was 37.6 per cent in 2019-20, which came down to 8.7 per cent in 2020-21. The PAB has asked the state to continue efforts to reduce the dropout rate further.

According to the documents, in 2020-21, 12.5 per cent students dropped out at the secondary level in Uttar Pradesh with an average of 11.9 per cent for boys and 13.2 per cent for girls.

In West Bengal, the dropout rate at the secondary school level is more than 15 per cent in 10 districts. The PAB has asked the state to prepare a special action plan to bring down this rate.

In 2020-21 in Assam, 19 districts at the secondary level registered a dropout rate of more than 30 per cent. In Nagaland, this rate was more than 30 per cent in eight districts. The dropout rate at secondary level was 7.1 per cent in

Kerala, 8.41 per cent in Uttarakhand and 10.17 per cent in Goa.

A recent survey by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) says that 33 per cent of girls dropped out of schools due to domestic work and 25 per cent due to marriage.

According to the Unicef, it was also found in many places that after leaving school, children started working as labourers with their families or cleaning people's houses.

Anil Swarup, former secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy, said that at gram panchayat and ward level, 'mapping' of children outside the purview of school education should be done.

He also said that teacher-parent level meeting should be organised at least once a month in schools to spread awareness on this important issue.

Dropout students should be identified and communicated by visiting their homes as sometimes not good exam result or the family situation is also the reason behind their leaving the schools, he noted.



RAIN PAIN: Vehicles submerge in front Iskon temple in Nayapalli area of Bhubaneswar as heavy rain lashed the City, Monday

OP PHOTO

Centre urged for more flights to Jharsuguda

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: In view of the upcoming FIH Hockey Men's World Cup-2023, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra Monday urged the Centre for enhancing flight connectivity to Veer Surendra Sai (VSS) Airport at Jharsuguda.

The Chief Secretary has written to Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal on the issue.

The hockey world cup is scheduled to be held at Rourkela and Bhubaneswar from January 13 to 29, 2023. As Rourkela airport has not been operationalised yet, Mahapatra

HOCKEY WORLD CUP AHEAD



The hockey world cup is scheduled to be held at Rourkela and Bhubaneswar from January 13 to 29, 2023

demanding more flight services to the VSS Airport.

As an alternative to Rourkela Airport, VSS Airport is the nearest domestic airport having connectivity with cities like Kolkata, Raipur, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai

and Bhubaneswar, he said.

Further, Jharsuguda town is well connected with Rourkela via road as well as rail. Thus, access to Rourkela will be made easier if air connectivity to Jharsuguda is enhanced, said the Chief Secretary

in his letter.

"Now, it is a matter of concern too that SpiceJet is cancelling scheduled flights from different metro cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Kolkata, which badly affects the connectivity to the state and to the utmost dissatisfaction of the general public at large," he said.

Keeping this in view, Mahapatra urged Bansal to look into the matter in order to increase the flight frequency/connectivity from important cities to Jharsuguda especially during the month of January 2023 to cater the passenger demand.

Plus II classes in 40 schools from next yr

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The Odisha government has decided to start Class X & Plus II teaching in 40 schools across the state from the academic session 2023-24. School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash said, Monday.

The transformation of schools up to higher secondary level will be effected in some selected institutions depending on several factors. Initially, the upgradation exercise will be carried out in 40 schools considering the distance of the school from the nearby college, student strength and availability of infrastructure.

"Several schools in the state are being transformed into smart schools under 5T initiative and the government expects that infrastructure will not be a major hurdle," said Dash when asked about feasibility of the upgradation drive.

He further said the government will first ensure that all facilities are in place before commencing Class 11 courses from the next academic session in the selected schools.

Biz delegation from state visits Vietnam

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: A business delegation visited Vietnam on the invitation of the Consul General of India, Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam, Madan Mohan Sethi, IFS and supported by the state MSME department. The delegation included MSME members from sectors like Agriculture & Food Processing, Tourism & Hospitality, Handloom & Handicraft, Seafood & Marine products and Machinery & Equipment etc.

The delegation arrived at Vietnam September 3 and the Consul General of India initiated meetings by giving a brief about the industrial relations and the potential of business between India and Vietnam, as per a release issued by JK Mohanty, MHCIMA chairman - Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha & IATO Eastern Region.

It is necessary to put on record that the initiative taken by the Consul General to invite industrialists of Vietnam in all sectors for meeting the delegation from Odisha and exchange ideas and gain knowledge about the products



The delegation arrived at Vietnam September 3 and the Consul General of India initiated meetings by giving a brief about the industrial relations and the potential of business between India and Vietnam, as per JK Mohanty, MHCIMA chairman - Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha

that Vietnam produces and what Odisha can export. Industrial visits were also organised by the Consulate and through professional guides the tourist places, art

and culture of Vietnam were presented to the delegation. B2B meetings were also organised by the Consulate for all sectors represented from Odisha.

"As the undersigned was from the tourism sector, I took the opportunity of presenting videos and explaining the tourism potential of Odisha. A high degree of interest was shown by the big tour operators who promote outbound tourism from Vietnam from many countries and they took note of tourism potential that Odisha has to offer," Mohanty said.

'Encyclopaedia of Tribes' sheds light on 62 tribal communities



AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday released the 'Encyclopaedia of Tribes' in Odisha, covering the traditions and cultures of all the 62 tribal communities living in the state.

The five-volume encyclopaedia, prepared by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute and Odisha State Tribal Museum, contains 3,800 pages and 418 research articles on the tribals, including 13 particularly vulnerable tribal groups.

"These books will serve as a treasure and repository for all academicians, researchers, policymakers and those interested to know about the tribal communities

of the state," Patnaik said.

The Chief Minister applauded the research institute and said that the 418 articles in the encyclopaedia were published in Adivasi journals and other publications in the last six decades.

The painstaking job of editing, compilation and republication has been carried out by SCSTRITI director AB Otta and his consultant SC Mohanty in the last four years.

Patnaik also visited the galleries of the museum and appreciated the newly built projection mapping unit in another museum for particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG).

The tribal museum here has rare collections of exquisite arts and crafts of tribal communities, Otta said, adding that it is regarded as one of the best interactive ethnographic institutions in the world.

"The interactive technologies used in this museum are outstanding," he said.

The Chief Minister inaugurated the tribal museum in 2001, and the second one in 2009, which is exclusively devoted to the PVTG.

BJD plans month-long padyatra from Oct 2

Bhubaneswar: The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has planned to hold a month-long 'Jan Sampark Padyatra' across the state from Gandhi Jayanti this year, said sources Monday. Chief Minister and BJD President Naveen Patnaik has written to his party functionaries, including MPs, MLAs, district presidents and head of all wings of the regional party in this regard. Starting from district level, the 'padyatra' will be organised in every ward and panchayat throughout the state, Naveen said. During the month-long programme, the party workers and leaders will reach every household to inform them about the development schemes and programmes of the BJD government.

Sahoo died due to asphyxiation: Report

Bhubaneswar: The Commissionerate Police Monday received the post-mortem report of BJD's Zilla Parishad (ZP) member of Puri district Dharmendra Kumar Sahoo, who was found dead inside his residence at Plot No-3998 in Laxmi Vihar area of Sishupalgarh here, September 24. The autopsy report confirmed that Sahoo died of asphyxiation due to hanging. Speaking to media persons, Capital Hospital director Laxmidhar Sahoo said that the BJD leader died due to 'antemortem hanging'. Meanwhile, a six-member team of the twin city police led by additional DCP Prakash Chandra Pal Monday interrogated family members including Sahoo's wife and servants at the residence of the deceased.

KIIT felicitates Akanksha Kabi

Bhubaneswar: KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta Monday felicitated KIIT student Akanksha Kabi, who was conferred the National Service Scheme (NSS) award by President Draupadi Murmu for the year 2020-21. The award was presented at a function Saturday at Rashtrapati Bhawan. Felicitating Kabi, Samanta said the recognition was a proud moment for the KIIT group of institutions. Besides Akanksha Kabi, three other volunteers from Odisha were conferred the NSS award in recognition of their distinguished services.

IRCTC offers Durga Puja spl menu in eastern region

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: In a first, passengers travelling in the country's eastern region will have a chance to gorge on sumptuous Bengali cuisine, with the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) serving special Durga Puja menu on board trains, officials said.

The menu will be available in around 70 trains passing through Howrah, Sealdah and Asansol stations in West Bengal and Jaisidih Junction in Jharkhand which have IRCTC's e-catering facility they said.

Passengers can call on 1323 to book their meals and get them delivered to their seats, officials said.

This is the latest offering from the Rail PSU, which started its 'Vrat Navratri' special thalis last year for passengers on fast during the festival. The puja menu includes mutton thali - with typical bengali specialities like luchi (puri),



Passengers can call on 1323 to book their meals and get them delivered to their seats

pulao, alu posto (potato with poppy seeds), chicken and fish thalis. Other items on the list include fish fry, Kolkata biriyani and rosogolla among others, officials said.

This year too, during Navratri, passengers will be offered meals without onion-garlic en route their journey, they said.

To avail this offer, passengers will have to place an order by calling on 1323. IRCTC will provide this facility at 400 stations, officials said, adding that the initial

price of IRCTC's food menu begins at ₹99.

The starters menu includes 'aloo chaap and sabudana tikki'.

The main course includes Sabudana khichdi and paneer makhmali with parathas. Other food items like Kofta Curry, and Sabudana khichri Navratri thali are also available, officials said.

The IRCTC has been offering occasion specific meals for passengers on board their trains since last year.



DELICATE DESIGN: Artisans decorate a tableau with silver for Durga Puja in Khannagar area of Cuttack, Monday

Edu sector has undergone a revolutionary change: Min

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: The directorate of Higher Secondary Education, Odisha in collaboration with department of School and Mass Education organised a two-day conference with Principals of Government Higher Secondary Schools and Additional District Education Officers (ADEOs) in the City Monday.

On the occasion, School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash asked Principals and ADEOs to chalk out plans to bring a paradigm shift in achieving academic outcomes.

The two-day conference highlighted the use of Information Technology in teaching and assessment, up-gradation of digital infrastructure in Higher Secondary Schools, promotion of vocational education and career counseling for transforming Higher Education sector in the state.

Maintaining that the education sector is witnessing a revolution in Odisha, Minister Dash asked officials to take concrete steps to bring about a qualitative improvement in teaching.

Because of Chief Minister



Because of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's vision and farsighted approach, the education sector in the state has undergone a revolutionary change

SAMIR RANJAN DASH | MINISTER SCHOOL AND MASS EDUCATION

Naveen Patnaik's vision and farsighted approach, the education sector in the state has undergone a revolutionary change, the Minister said while inaugurating a two-day conference of Principals

of Government Higher Secondary Schools and Additional District Education Officers (ADEO).

Emphasising the need for further improvement in the quality of education, Dash asked the principals, ADEOs and other officials to gear up and take concrete measures to ensure a qualitative change in the education sector.

The Minister also advised the officials to make the department more active in order to transform the education sector taking into account the changing scenario.

On the occasion Dash felicitated the toppers of Annual HSE 2022.



SOUVENIR RELEASE: Dignitaries releasing a souvenir at a ceremony organised by Alumni Association of Utkal University of Culture at Bhanjakala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Chakradhar Tripathi takes charge as the new CUO VC

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: Chakradhar Tripathi, who was recently appointed the Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Odisha, Koraput, assumed office at the university campus in Sunabeda, Monday.

President Droupadi Murmu, in the capacity of Visitor, had appointed Tripathi as the VC of the CUO as per Statute 2(1) of the Central Universities Act, 2009 for a period of five years from the date of his joining or till he attains the age of 70, whichever is earlier.

He took over the charge from SC Palita, who acted as the VC in-charge. Tripathi is the fourth regular VC of the CU.



Prior to joining the CUO, Tripathi was the senior professor, department of Hindi, Visva Bharti, Santiniketan in West Bengal. His area of specialisation is Medieval and Modern Hindi Poetry. He has 33 years of academic as well as administrative experiences in various capacities including director, physical education, sports, national services and student welfare, coordinator, International Collaboration (following NEP-2020); head, department of Hindi; chairman, Board of Studies in Hindi; director (honorary), Centre for Hindi Teaching, Tagore Institute of Art & Education; president, Visva-Bharati Shaikshik Sangh.

Born at Jagannathpur (Basantia), Maregaon under Hatadihi block of Kendujhar, in 1960, Tripathi did his graduation from Utkal University and MA and PhD in Hindi from Visva Bharati.

Anjana raises...

Continued from P1

It is not based on any individual's life story. Parjia also said the story of the upcoming web series has no antagonist or protagonist in it.

He claimed that the story shows the power of judiciary and police in solving the problems of poor and common people.

Mishra was gangraped by three persons including the prime accused Biban Biswal January 9, 1999. Biban, who was on the run for 22 years, was arrested by Commissionerate Police from Aamby Vally near Pune in Maharashtra in February 2021.

Training prog for civil servants goes beyond classroom learning

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: A 15-week special foundation course for Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) and Indian Posts and Telecom Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TAFS) officers was launched at the Gopabandhu Academy of Administration (GAA) here, Monday.

For the first time, GAA is offering the course in collaboration with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LB-SNAA).

"As many as 15 officers have joined the course which will have indoor and outdoor sessions like visits to villages, industrial clusters, Make in Odisha Conclave and places of historic as well as archaeological importance besides forest trekking," said course coordinator Manish Agrawal.

Launching the programme, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said the training programme should not be confined to monotonous classroom learning. "Make the programme memorable with field visits and practical exposure to ground level management," he said.

Highlighting the state's progress, Mahapatra said in last 20 years, Odisha has set new benchmarks



in disaster management, farmers' empowerment and innovative IT applications. "After years of heavy capital investment in development of infrastructure like roads, bridges and embankments, the state is now investing for transformative changes in health, education, agriculture, women empowerment and sports," he said, adding that Odisha is among top three preferred investment destinations in the country.

High performance centres in sports and athletics have been set up and operationalised at Kalinga Stadium. Odisha successfully organised many international sports and athletic events, he said, hoping that days are no far when Odisha-trained sportsmen would shine as Olympians.

GAA director general Ranjana Chopra said that their institution is all set to impart national-level training to officers of different cadres.

Mahendra Gupta's landslide victory

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: Managing Director of Gupta Power Infrastructure Mahendra Gupta has emerged victorious in the Bhubaneswar Club elections by securing 662 votes to become vice-president of this premier club of Odisha. Gupta became the vice-president of the club for the second time in a row.



His victory apart, members of the club stood solidly behind all club president Asit Tripathy's panel. While senior bureaucrat Dilip Routrai became the new secretary defeating his rival Manas Dash by a huge margin, vice-president Gupta, a prominent corporate figure in Odisha, went past senior lawyer Tapes Ray registering a convincing victory. Another prominent face in Tripathy's panel, Ashok Mishra won with a handsome margin to become joint secretary for the second consecutive term.

BJEM to organise 4th edition of SRMG

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: To commemorate the 153rd birth anniversary celebration of Mahatma Gandhi, BJEM School, in collaboration with Alumni Association of Govt. High School, Badagada, Bhubaneswar is organising the 4th edition of Students Remember Mahatma Gandhi (SRMG), October 1 and 2, 2022.

In a press conference held Monday on the school campus, Sandhya Jena, principal briefed about the activities to be undertaken for the 4th edition of SRMG and stressed that the principal objective of the programme is to alienate the new generation from the



spread of negativity all around. Pallabi Mohapatra, vice principal of the school and BP Paikaray, administrative supervisor were among the dignitaries present in the conference.

They highlighted the sole objectives set for the noble initiative - to relive the Gandhian values of truth, tolerance and non-violence

and inculcate them in the young generation to build value-added lives.

To spread the message of Gandhian values, inter-school competitions viz article writing, quiz, canvas painting and patriotic group dance will be held on the topics related to Gandhiji and his ideologies.

Over 500 children from around 50 schools (Odia & English medium) in the city will participate in the competitions.

The dignitaries threw some light on the programmes proposed on the occasion which include installation of Gandhi statue, visit to Gandhi Peace Centre, all faith prayer, peace march, prize giving ceremony and felicitation to eminent Gandhian and social activist Padma Charan Nayak.

LORD JAGANNATH'S SC refuses to entertain plea

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 26: The Supreme Court Monday refused to entertain a petition seeking directions to the Odisha government to stop selling of any of the properties of Shree Jagannath.

A two-judge bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and JK Maheshwari said that it cannot direct the Union government to frame a policy as it will be in violation of judicial review and separation of power.

"We are not inclined to entertain the petition. The petitioner can approach the High Court. The petition is dismissed," the bench said.

Significantly, the petition was filed by Jan Swabhiman Welfare Society. The petitioner submitted that 34,876 acres of land of Shree Jagannath has been identified in Odisha whereas 395 acres in six other states, including West Bengal, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh

and Bihar to be sold. The petitioner also alleged that the Odisha government has already sold out 315.337 acres of land, all the property of Shree Jagannath, without even considering the fact that the sentiments of the devotees could be hurt due to such an act.

The petitioner had also prayed the court to pass directions to the Union government to bring uniform policy to control and administer places of worship that is same for all religions.

Ants weigh more than wild birds and mammals combined

Have you ever wondered exactly how many ants live on Earth? Possibly not, but it's certainly a question we've asked ourselves.

Our research published recently provides an approximate answer. We conservatively estimate our planet harbours about 20 quadrillion ants. That's 20 thousand million millions, or in numerical form, 20,000,000,000,000 (20 with 15 zeroes).

We further estimate the world's ants collectively constitute about 12 million tonnes of dry carbon. This exceeds the mass of all the world's wild birds and wild mammals combined. It's also equal to about one-fifth of the total weight of humans.

Eminent biologist Edward O Wilson once said insects and other invertebrates are "the little things that run the world" - and he was right. Ants, in particular, are a crucial part of nature. Among other roles, ants aerate the soil, disperse seeds, break down organic material, create habitat for other animals and form an important part of the food chain.

Estimating ant numbers and mass provides an important base-

line from which to monitor ant populations amid worrying environmental changes.

Counting the world's ants There are more than 15,700 named species and subspecies of ants, and many others not yet named by science. Ants' high degree of social organisation has enabled them to colonise nearly all ecosystems and regions around the globe.

The astounding ubiquity of ants has prompted many naturalists to contemplate their exact number on Earth. But these were basically educated guesses. Systematic, evidence-based estimates have been lacking.

Our research involved an analysis of 489 studies of ant populations conducted by fellow ant scientists from around the world. This included non-English literature, in languages such as Spanish, French, German, Russian, Mandarin and Portuguese.

The research spanned all continents and major habitats including forests, deserts, grasslands and cities. They used standardised methods for collecting and counting ants such as pitfall traps and leaf litter samples. As you can imagine, this is often tedious work.



From all this, we estimate there are approximately 20 quadrillion ants on Earth. This figure, though conservative, is between two and 20 times higher than previous estimates.

The previous figures employed a "top-down" approach by assuming ants comprise about 1 per cent of the world's estimated insect population. In contrast, our "bottom-up" estimate is more reliable because it uses data on ants observed directly in the field and makes fewer assumptions.

Our next step was to work out how much all these ants weigh. The mass of organisms is typically

measured in terms of their carbon makeup. We estimated that 20 quadrillion average-sized ants corresponds to a dry weight or "biomass" of approximately 12 million tonnes of carbon. This is more than the combined biomass of wild birds and mammals - and about 20 per cent of total human biomass.

Carbon makes up about half the dry weight of an ant. If the weight of other bodily elements was included, the total mass of the world's ants would be higher still.

We also found ants are distributed unevenly on Earth's surface. They vary six fold between habitats and generally peak in the tropics. This

underscores the importance of tropical regions in maintaining healthy ant populations.

Ants were also particularly abundant in forests, and surprisingly, in arid regions. But they become less common in human-made habitats.

Our findings come with a few caveats. For example, the sampling locations in our dataset are unevenly distributed across geographic regions. And the vast majority of samples were collected from the ground layer, meaning we have very little information about ant numbers in trees or underground. This means our findings are somewhat incomplete.

Our planet harbours about 20 quadrillion ants. That's 20 thousand million millions, or in numerical form, 20,000,000,000,000 (20 with 15 zeroes)

The world's ants collectively constitute about 12 million tonnes of dry carbon. This exceeds the mass of all the world's wild birds and wild mammals combined. It's also equal to about one-fifth of the total weight of humans

There are more than 15,700 named species and subspecies of ants, and many others not yet named by science

Ants also provide vital "ecosystem services" for humans. For instance, a recent study found ants can be more effective than pesticides at helping farmers produce food.

Ants have also developed tight interactions with other organisms - and some species cannot survive without them. For example, some birds rely on ants to flush out their prey. And thousands of plant species either feed or house ants in exchange for protection, or dispersal of their seeds. And many ants are predators, helping to keep populations of other insects in check.

Alarmingly, global insect numbers are declining due to threats such as habitat destruction and fragmentation, chemical use, invasive species and climate change. But data on insect biodiversity is alarmingly scarce. We hope our study provides a baseline for further research to help fill this gap. It's in humanity's interest to monitor ant populations. Counting ants is not difficult, and citizen scientists from all over the world could help investigate how these important animals are faring at a time of great environmental change.

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Wobbly electric poles in forests pose threat to jumbos

970 ELEPHANTS HAVE DIED IN THE STATE IN THE LAST 12 YEARS AND MORE THAN 150 HAVE BEEN KILLED DUE TO ELECTROCUTION

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhanjanagar, Sept 26: Utility power poles in tilting, rickety conditions in elephant corridors of Ganjam district are posing a serious threat to the lives of pachyderms. In Ganjam district, 42 elephants have died due to various reasons during the last 10 years, out of which 14 have been due to electrocution.

For poachers, to kill elephants by electrocution, is a very popular method. They usually place live wires in the jungles by hooking those with transmission lines. When an elephant comes in contact with a live wire, it suffers a painful death. Also sagging power lines are another cause behind elephant deaths in the district, sources added.

Usually census of the elephants in Ganjam district is done every two years. Since 2019 however, there has been no census. No one knows when it will be conducted.

Sources said that two elephants were electrocuted in Mujagarh forest range under North Ghumusar division in December, 2012. Earlier in October 2012, two elephants met a similar fate in the Galeri forest range. Then in the same month, two more elephants were electrocuted in the Khallikote forest range.

In August 2013, one elephant died after coming in contact with a live wire in the Rambha forest range under Berhampur forest division. In the same month, four other jumbos were electrocuted in Buguda forest range under South Ghumusar forest division.

Similarly, a jumbo died due to electrocution at Tarsingh range in December, 2018 and another in Central forest limits in June 2021. It is also suspected that one tusker was electrocuted at the Jagannathprasad forest range July 20, this year.

The large number of elephant electrocution deaths was a huge source of worry to the Odisha government. It sanctioned ₹445.75 crore two years back to repair the power infrastructure in forests of the state.



The department of Energy is using a portion of this fund to repair the power infrastructure in North Ghumusar forest division in Ganjam district. Locals however, alleged that due to shoddy repairing work, the utility poles continue to pose threats to the pachyderms.

The tilting electric poles in Mujagarh reserve forest alongside Bhanjanagar-Mujagarh national highway is a case in point. In this forest, many poles were found in precarious conditions posing a threat to the lives of jumbos.

This area is a well-known elephant corridor. Locals fear that if the poles are not repaired immediately not just elephants, but many other wild animals may die due to electrocution.

It should be stated here that there is a distinct lack of coordination between officials of the Energy and Forest departments. The last time a meeting of the two departments took place was in July. It was then decided that officials of both departments will meet at least once a month. However, nothing much has happened since then.

Mujagarh ranger Bimbadhar Sahu said that in the last meeting Energy department officials were urged to look into the problems of open power lines in the jungle.

Executive engineer of Tata Power, Jagajit Das Mohapatra said repair work of the utility poles has been completed in North

Jumbo protection: Cash award for informants

Keonjhar: In a bid to check jumbo deaths, the Forest department here has announced cash award of ₹200 to people who will provide information about impending danger to the animals, sources said Monday. This is the latest in the series of moves adopted by the Forest department to reduce human-elephant conflict and to check jumbo deaths. Earlier, the department had launched SMS alert for people living near elephant corridors or if the pachyderms were close to human habitats. Now comes the cash move, as officials feel that the announcement will motivate locals. The Forest department has also coined a slogan on elephant protection and the cash award. Officials said that the award will be given to anyone giving information about illegal hooking of wires from transmission lines, sagging electric wires and poachers. The identity of the informant will be kept confidential, officials stated. Telephone numbers have also been made public on which people can call and provide information, they added. Reports said that more than 158 elephants in 17 herds are moving in various areas under the Keonjhar forest division. Among them 49 are males, 68 females and 41 calves. Sources said that elephants get the most enraged when they feel their calves are in danger. It is one of the main reasons why the jumbos hide in forests during the day and stray into human habitats at night in search of food. In the process, the animals damage and destroy properties and also crop stored in the houses. Sources said that to avoid human-elephant conflict, sharing of proper information is a must. Only then the loss of lives on both sides can be prevented, they added.

Ghumusar forest division. He added that work to repair such poles in Jagannathprasad and Tilisingi ranges is underway. Utility poles found in precarious conditions are being repaired on an urgent basis, he further stated.



DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE: A demolition drive underway Monday at the 132-year-old Phatak railway station in Sambalpur for doubling of railway tracks. OP PHOTO

Shot in the arm for Gopalpur weavers

INAUGURAL DAY OF WEEKLY HAAT SEES SALES OF OVER ₹5 LAKH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rasulpur, Sept 26: Tucked away in a quiet corner of Rasulpur block in Jajpur district, is the small village of Gopalpur. It has a population of little over 1,500 persons, most of whom are associated with weaving for which it is known as the 'Weaver Village' of Odisha.

This village which has seen years of craft evolve on its lap, witnessed another major development as a 'Weaver Haat' was launched at the pala mandap in the locality, Sunday. The haat was launched by 'Jai Jagannath Bunakar Mahaprasad Seva Samiti' in the village and started operations after senior weavers performed a puja. Over 50 weavers from the village brought their products to the haat and sold them to customers.

Materials like tussar clothes, pata saree, shawls, sheets, stoles, gamchhas (towels), scarves and handkerchiefs will be available in the haat.



Earlier, the weavers used to sell their products through a cooperative society to state-owned Serified, Boyanika, Utkalika and Sambalpur Vastralaya and so the profit was minimal. The haat will provide an opportunity to the weavers to directly sell their products to customers and increase their profits. It will also help them in getting feedback from the customers and

improve on their product quality. The buyers will also be able to get quality products at a fair price without any hidden costs.

The market will be called the 'Jai Jagannath Bunakar Sapatihk Haat' and as the name suggests, will be held on a weekly basis. On the first day of its inauguration, sale proceeds were to the tune of over ₹5 lakh. The market will open at 5.00pm every Sunday and shutters will come down at 9.00pm.

Officials said that various types of materials woven by local weavers will be available for buyers. Raw materials and equipment used for weaving will be sold in the haat for the customers, stated Amulya Soor, Baikuntha Soor, Ranjan Soor, Lakshmidhar Das, Biswaranjan Das and Dharmendra Das while talking to mediapersons. Incidentally all of them are local weavers who also displayed their wares in the market and made considerable profits on the inaugural day.

Woman arrested with 127gm of brown sugar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 26: Excise officials arrested a woman Monday while she was selling drugs near the City Hospital here and seized 127gm of brown sugar from her possession.

The accused was identified Sukanti Behera, 40, a resident of Gate Bazaar area here, informed, Excise Inspector Geetanjali Sahu. The officials also seized ₹11,000 from her possession which she had received by selling brown sugar.

Officials pointed out that the accused was waiting for a customer to sell the contraband. They informed that they saw a person flee the scene when they nabbed the accused. Officials are trying to ascertain the source from which Sukanti procured the contraband item and others involved with her, stated, Deputy Commissioner (Excise, Intelligence) Ashok Kumar Satpathy.

12 OAVs sans principals in Ganjam; students suffer

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chhatrapur, Sept 26: Teaching and educating kids in Odisha Adarsh Vidyalayas (OAVs) in Ganjam district have gone for a toss with 12 principals' posts lying vacant out of the 22 schools, sources said. A total of 9,545 students are on the rolls of these OAVs. Out of them, 1,798 students study in Class-VI, 1,789 in Class-VII, 1,775 in Class-VIII, 1,726 in Class-IX, 1,594 in Class-X and 863 in



Class-XII. OAVs are the brainchild of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. These were set up to enhance educational standards across Odisha through establishment of English Medium CBSE schools in each block. However, with only 10 of

the OAVs having principals, students are suffering. Posts of principals are lying vacant at Chikiti, Digapahandi, Hinjilicut, Kabisuryanagar, Khallikote, Polasara, Purusottampur, Rangeilunda, Sanakhemundi and Sergarh blocks of the district.

Sources also pointed out that there is a shortage of teachers in subjects like English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Music, Hindi, Sanskrit and Arts in many of the OAVs.

Computer teacher held for rape

POST NEWS NETWORK

Chikiti, Sept 26: A computer teacher was arrested after he allegedly raped a girl student under this block and K Nuagaon police limits in Ganjam district, police said Monday. The accused has been identified as Rabintra Kumar Panda, a native of Chikitigarh. He was working as a teacher at a private computer training institute at Chikiti Bazaar. The accused was taken for medical examination and later, produced in a court at Patrapur. He was remanded to judicial custody after the court rejected his bail plea, Monday.

Police arrested Panda after the victim's father lodged a complaint against the former at K Nuagaon police station, Saturday. Police said the accused called the survivor to the institute on the pretext of issuing her a certificate and raped her over there. He also warned her of dire consequences if she disclosed the matter to anyone else.

However, the girl narrated her ordeal to her parents following which a police complaint was lodged and the accused was arrested.

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Centre	District	Approx. Area (sq.ft)
Mohana	Gajapati	920 sq.ft

Note: The Financial & Technical bids must be sent in separate sealed envelopes. The envelopes should be superscribed with "Financial / Technical bid for BO: Mohana, Dist.: Gajapati". The application form can be downloaded from our official website "www.pnbIndia.in" (Tender/empament) or collected from the Circle Office, Berhampur and Completed application in all respect should reach Circle Office, Berhampur on or before 11.10.2022 by 5.00 PM.
CHIEF MANAGER

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
Application for Medical Practitioner at Staff Clinic in Union Bank of India, on contract basis at Regional Office, Rayagada
RO: DEL : ROCLINIC: 2022-23 Dated: 25.09.2022

Sl. No.	Item	Terms & Conditions															
1	Basic Qualifications	GENERAL PRACTITIONER Minimum Qualification- M.B.B.S (Recognized by Medical Council of India) Preferred Qualification- M.D. in General Medicine CARDIOLOGIST Doctorate of Medicine in Cardiology (Recognized by Medical Council of India) HOMEOPATHIC DOCTOR Minimum Qualification- B.H.M.S from a Recognized University Preferred Qualification- Masters in Homeopathy from a Recognized University AYURVEDIC DOCTOR Minimum Qualification- B.A.M.S from a Recognized University Preferred Qualification- Masters in Ayurveda (MD/MS) from a Recognized University															
2	Age	No limit															
3	Remuneration	Monthly Remuneration (Applicable remuneration as per Staff Circular No. 7749 Dated 22.08.2022 be mentioned in advertisement)															
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Metropolitan Centers</th> <th>Other Centers</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>General Practitioner</td> <td>Rs. 12,000/-</td> <td>Rs. 11,250/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cardiologist</td> <td>Rs. 15,000/-</td> <td>Rs. 12,750/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cardiologist also working as a General Practitioner</td> <td>Rs. 16,500/-</td> <td>Rs. 14,250/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Homeopathic Doctor/Ayurvedic Doctor</td> <td>Rs. 9,750/-</td> <td>Rs. 5,000/-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Metropolitan Centers	Other Centers	General Practitioner	Rs. 12,000/-	Rs. 11,250/-	Cardiologist	Rs. 15,000/-	Rs. 12,750/-	Cardiologist also working as a General Practitioner	Rs. 16,500/-	Rs. 14,250/-	Homeopathic Doctor/Ayurvedic Doctor	Rs. 9,750/-	Rs. 5,000/-
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4	Working Hours	General Practitioner, Cardiologist also working as General Practitioner and Homeopathic/Ayurvedic Doctor Monday to Friday: (1 ^{1/2} Hours from 3:30PM to 5:00 PM) Saturday : (1 Hour from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM except on 2nd and 4th Saturdays) Cardiologist : Any two working days in a week for 1 ^{1/2} Hour on each day.															
5	Period of Contract	The contract will be for a period of one year and the same may be renewed thereafter from time to time, on such terms and conditions as may then be mutually agreeable.															
6	Termination of Contract	The contract can be terminated by one month's notice on either side at any time during the subsistence of the period of contract.															
7	Other Terms and Conditions	1. The General Practitioner will be designated as Chief Medical Consultant and will be responsible for overall administration/supervision of the staff clinic. Please note that the candidate will not be on the pay-rolls of the Bank & will not be entitled to any staff related benefits. 2. The Bank will not reimburse conveyance charges incurred by the medical practitioners. 3. The medical practitioners will not be entitled for any leave during the period of contract. In his absence the Chief Medical Consultant will have to make arrangements for an alternative medical practitioner be available at the clinic. 4. Any other terms & conditions for running the staff clinic will be in accordance with the guidelines as furnished/amended by the Bank from time to time in this regard.															
8	Compounder	The Chief Medical Consultant shall appoint a Compounder on his own and remuneration payable to him shall be borne by the Bank (maximum Rs. 4500/- per month).															
9	Roles & Responsibilities	1. Provide medical consultations, advise medical check-up, prescribe medicines and routine medical and/all related treatments to the Bank's staff/retired employees at the Bank's clinic. 2. Provide expert medical opinion & clarifications to Bank on medical related issues sought by various departments. 3. The Chief Medical Consultant will take care of furniture & fixtures, equipment etc. and will also ensure that the benefit of the clinic is not extended to outsiders. Medicines will be dispensed in the clinic for normal ailments like cough, cold, flu and fever, diseases of the respiratory system etc., minor dressings in case of injuries, abscess, sores etc. The clinic will not provide costly medicines. 4. Any other roles and responsibilities as decided by the Bank from time to time.															

Interested doctors may apply for the above post with their CV containing information about their qualification and experience with documentary support as per the enclosed format at the below mentioned address. The application should reach this office by:
Address: Union Bank of India, Regional Office: 1st Floor, Sri Vinayak House, Besides MI Division New Colony, Rayagada, Odisha - 768001
For any Query Contact: 6370534532
Kindly note, applications received after the last date of receipt 01.10.2022 will not be entertained.
The Bank reserves right to finalize the selection criteria for further selection of the doctor at its staff clinic. Any clarification/decision of the Bank authority in respect of all matters pertaining to this engagement process will be final binding on all candidates and no representation will be entertained in this regard.
Sd/- Regional Head
Union Bank of India, Rayagada

Bank of India
Zonal Office : Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015
POSSESSION NOTICE
[Rule-8(1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules-2002

Whereas, the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of the Bank of India** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices calling upon the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor in the loan account given below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice plus interest & expenses thereon within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **possession** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India** for an amount mentioned below with interest & expenses thereon. **The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.**

BRANCH / Name and Address of Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor	Liabilities due as per Notice	Date of Demand Notice/ Date of Possession	Description of the Immovable Properties
PARADEEP BRANCH / Borrower : Mrs. Geetanjali Sahoo, Plot No.: 1743, Udayabat, Paradeep Garh, Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur- 754142 / Guarantor : Mr. Ranjan Kumar Sahoo, Plot No.: 1743, Udayabat, Paradeep Garh, Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur- 754142	₹22,89,502.33 + interest & expenses thereon	20.05.2022 / 22.09.2022	All that part and parcel consisting of Land and Building Situated over Khata No.: 666, Plot No.: 1532/1743, Area: Ac.0.04 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari, at Mouza: Udayabat, SRO: Kujanga, situated within the Registration District of Jagatsinghpur, Land, South: Satyabarta, East: Bikram Senapati, West: Road
PARADEEP BRANCH / Borrower : Mr. Pradip Kumar Jena, S/o.: Narahari Jena / Co-Borrower : Mrs. Sasmita Mohanty, W/o.: Mr. Pradip Kumar Jena. At: Porakana, Samil Chungudiakanta, PO: RENCH Sasan, P.S.: Nimapara, Dis.: Puri- 752114	₹14,68,523.95 + interest & expenses thereon	31.05.2022 / 23.09.2022	All that part and parcel of property consisting of Land and Building Situated over Khata No.: 270/ 27, Plot No.: 201/874, Area: Ac.0.090 Dec, & Plot No.: 200/873, Area: Ac.0.080 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari at Mouza: Porakana, PO.: RENCH Sasan, P.S.: Nimapara, SRO: Nimapara, Tahasil: Nimapara, Dist.: Puri, standing in the name of Mrs. Sasmita Mohanty and Mr. Pradip Kumar Jena, Bounded by North: Road, South: Surendra Nath Jena, East: Road, West: Surendra Nath Jena
PURI BRANCH / Borrower : Mrs. Basanti Behera, W/o.: Mr. Balaram Behera, Jitakaramuduli Patana, Gopinathpur, Puri / Guarantor: Mr. Balaram Behera, S/o.: Bhramara Behera, Jitakaramuduli Patana, Gopinathpur, Puri	₹4,66,377.47 + interest & expenses thereon	05.07.2022 / 23.09.2022	All that part and parcel of the Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 24/13, Plot No.: 17/66, Area: Ac.0.01 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari at Mouza: Atharanala alias Jitakaramudulipatana, P.S.: Puri, SRO: Puri, Tahasil: Puri, Dist.: Puri, standing in the name of Mrs. Basanti Behera, Bounded by North: Iswara Swain, South: Road, East: Biswanath Behera, West: Iswara Swain
PURI BRANCH / Borrower : M/s. Surrendra Agency, Prop.: Mr. Soumya Ranjan Deo, Adiraju Barafa Gali, Penthakata, Puri / Guarantor : Mr. Surrendra Kumar Deo, S/o.: Bihari Deo, Adiraju Barafa Gali, Penthakata, Puri	₹15,61,698.04 + interest & expenses thereon	05.07.2022 / 23.09.2022	All that part and parcel of the Land and Building situated over Khata No.: 87/117, Plot No.: 17/ 380, Area: Ac.0.025 Dec, KISSAM: Gharabari at Mouza: Puri Sahar Unit -34, Balukhanda, P.S.: Puri Seabeach, SRO: Puri, Tahasil: Puri, Dist.: Puri, standing in the name of Mr. Surrendra Kumar Deo, Bounded by North: Mr. Rajendra Kumar Deo, South: Mr. K Prakash Subudhi, East: Govt. Land, West: Road
SASTRI NAGAR BRANCH / Borrower : Mr. Chinmaya Kumar Swain, S/o.: Fakir Charan Swain, Address-1: At: Sorbha, P.S.: Gop, Dist.: Puri, PIN- 752107, Address-2: Plot No.: 1606, Old Town, P.S.: Lingaraj Police Station, Bhubaneswar	₹25,26,742/- + interest & expenses thereon	12.07.2022 / 21.09.2022	All that part and parcel of Land and Building situated over Plot No.: 583, Khata No.: 162, Sub Plot No.: 07, Mouza: Nijigarh Kuruki, Area: Ac.0.041.32 Dec i.e. 1800 sqft. P.S./Tahasil: Pipili, Dist.: Puri, standing in the name of Mr. Chinmaya Kumar Swain and mentioned in as Duplex No.: D/07 (Banadurga Enclave), Bounded by North: Sub Plot No.: 6, South: Sub Plot No.: 8, East: Road left by vendor, West: Revenue Plot-581

Place: Bhubaneswar, Date: 27.09.2022
Authorised Officer, Bank of India

Be grateful for all ordeals, they are the shortest way to the Divine.

THE MOTHER



Securing Indo-Pacific

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has drastically changed the global security environment and posed serious challenges to Japan's security policy.

The invasion of Ukraine, an independent state, is a clear violation of international law and is absolutely intolerable. Initially, some experts, like think-tankers in the United States, predicted that the capital city, Kyiv, would fall within a few days, yet the Ukrainian government and people have remained resolute in their fight to defend their homeland.

Ukraine stood its ground against the great power, Russia. Adherence to the basic principle of "defending the homeland," accompanied by Western countries' large-scale military and financial assistance to the Ukrainians and imposition of economic sanctions on Russia, soon brought about a major change in the course of the war.

Did Russian President Vladimir Putin ever predict that Japan, the US, and Europe – a coalition of the willing that shares the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law – would unite to assist Ukraine?

Russia's invasion attests to the extreme difficulty a single state can face in protecting its territory and its people's lives and property by itself. As such, it is not unrelated to the security environment surrounding Japan.

During my first administration, in 2007, in an address to the Indian Parliament entitled "The Confluence of the Two Seas," I departed from the "Asia-Pacific" idea and introduced a new geopolitical concept that envisaged the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean as one "free sea." Bearing in mind China's efforts to become a military superpower, I also sought cooperation with countries in Asia that shared basic values, as well as an alignment between Japan, the US, Australia, and India.

Unfortunately, the US initially took a cautious stance in consideration of China's stance at the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear development, which were then underway. India, attentive to its tradition of non-alignment, stayed on the sidelines. Nonetheless, with the support of Australian Prime Minister John Howard, I succeeded in realising a high-level dialogue among the four states (informally known as the Quad).

Then, in 2016, during my second administration, I formally announced the idea of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in Nairobi. Later, US President Donald Trump changed the name of the "Pacific Command" to "Indo-Pacific Command," and the US began to align its military and diplomatic strategy with the strategy advocated by Japan.

The Quad foreign ministers' meeting and the summit meeting were realized, respectively, under my administration and that of Yoshihide Suga. The joint statement issued after Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Tony Albanese, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a summit in Tokyo on May 24, 2022, articulated the following principles regarding the regional situation in the Indo-Pacific:

We will champion adherence to international law, particularly as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the maintenance of freedom of navigation and overflight, to meet challenges to the maritime rules-based order, including in the East and South China Seas. We strongly oppose any coercive, provocative, or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo and increase tensions in the area, such as the militarization of disputed features, the dangerous use of coast guard vessels and maritime militia, and efforts to disrupt other countries' offshore resource exploitation activities.

Since the "Confluence of the Two Seas," I have made known the threat posed by China, and doing so has borne fruit. Even the United Kingdom, France, and Germany have sent naval ships to the Indo-Pacific. It is no exaggeration to say that the concept of a free and open Indo-Pacific has become a major turning point in global security policy.

Taiwan is located precisely in the Indo-Pacific. But rising tensions with China are linked to a situation half a world away, in Ukraine.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has several things in common with the tensions between China and Taiwan. First, Russia and China are nuclear powers and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Second, Ukraine and Taiwan have no military allies. But there is a crucial difference between Ukraine and Taiwan: Ukraine is internationally recognised as an independent state and is a member of the UN. That is why Russia's invasion has been condemned worldwide as a violation of international law.

Taiwan, on the other hand, is not a UN member, and few countries recognise it as a sovereign state. If China advances on Taiwan, its leaders will claim that Taiwan is part of China, and that their actions are an internal matter intended to ensure China's territorial integrity.

It remains to be seen whether countries will unite to assist Taiwan and impose economic sanctions on China, as has been the case in Ukraine.

Biden made it clear at a press conference in Japan that his administration would engage militarily to defend Taiwan. In the past, the US had adhered to a policy of "strategic ambiguity," deliberately not clarifying the extent of its commitment to the defense of Taiwan. But I thought that clearly stating the US commitment would serve as a strong message to deter China from advancing on Taiwan by force. In that sense, I appreciated Biden's remarks.

Backed by its huge economic power, China is expanding its influence in various regions and building military bases at the same time. While Japan, the US, Australia, and India have forged an extremely important framework for countering the threat, it is important to deepen our ties with countries that share our values, including European countries.

Japan has a big role to play. It must strengthen its defense capabilities, further deepen its alliance with the US, and realise the vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The writer was Prime Minister of Japan. This is the last text he wrote before his assassination July 8.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

Man as an individual is a genius. But men in the mass form the headless monster, a great, brutish idiot that goes where prodded. CHARLIE CHAPLIN

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. NELSON MANDELA

Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude. THOMAS JEFFERSON

WORDSWORTH

Bruxer

A bruxer habitually and involuntarily grinds their teeth. You may be one of these, since it's been estimated that about one in four people do so. There's continuing controversy in the dental profession over the extent to which it is a natural action rather than a condition needing treatment; many animals regularly grind their teeth as a way of sharpening them (a process called theogesis) and some experts argue that a proportion of human tooth-grinding may be an evolutionary hangover from this. But many bruxers grind their teeth excessively, often through stress or nervous tension, usually while they're asleep so they aren't aware they're doing it. This is bad, as it wears away tooth enamel, can cause cracks in teeth, and often leads to sore and tired facial and jaw muscles. One way to resolve the problem is to make a plastic guard, sometimes called a bruxing appliance, to relieve the symptoms at night.



Jagdish Rattanani

IN THE END, THE PARTY WILL GRAVITATE TOWARDS THOSE WHO ARE CONNECTED WITH THE PEOPLE AND CAN BRING IN THE VOTES

The late senior Congress leader and general secretary Vitthalrao N Gadgil once sought to explain how much the Congress was embedded into the fabric of the nation by a single statement: Go to any village in India, he said, and you will find three permanent fixtures – the postman, the policeman and the Congress party. That was of course a long, long time ago. But as long as some kind of connection with the grassroots was alive, the party had a system to read, connect and build its base and ground its agenda in the people. That connection was eroded over time, and led to a further and accelerated decline as a bureaucrat, much acclaimed at one time, was handed the controls by the Congress and ruled for two terms that finally ended with the BJP becoming the dominant party of the nation. Under Manmohan Singh, a career bureaucrat, there could be no connection with the last mile. His game was to manage up. The economic crisis meant that the reforms he launched under his predecessor PV Narasimha Rao had to be placed on an even keel. In the process, the language and the emphasis of the government, and of the party willy-nilly, changed from talking about the people at the grassroots to the language of liberalisation and privatisation and globalisation – all of which had nothing to do with the masses of India. Singh often visited Mumbai but never could hold a mass rally to meet with everyday party workers. More common was a lunch meeting at the Cricket Club of India, arranged by then Mumbai party chief and businessman Murli Deora.

It is important to recall some of this narrative as the Congress seeks to open up, hold elections and have a democratically elected leader take charge of the party. This is an important milestone in the history of India's GOP. The party needs change, internal democracy will do it a world of good, dynastic control is of course

FOCUS CONGRESS

SHAKEN & STIRRED



The Congress today needs a head who can make some fundamental changes and offer a clear alternative to the current dispensation

a problem but none of this points to the deep collapse of a party that is seen to have turned away from the needs and aspirations of ordinary people. The Congress did do many course corrections; it went aggressive, for example, on the right to work with MNREGA, the school mid-day meal schemes but the tone and tenor could not be changed. The narrative stayed of a party turning away from the poor and the downtrodden, enmeshed in corruption and engaged in pursuits of power brokers rather than peasants. The result is a party at the bottom of India's political heap.

The significance given in the media now to the so-called rebel Congress leaders who were styled as the G-23 and challenged the top brass for bringing on the mess missed the central point that many if not all of those leaders were themselves cut off from the people. They grew in a party that had turned away from people, or was at least seen as such. Any party tuned to a different audience would have little or no use for most of the G-23 lot. They will win no votes. They were committed only up to a point, as can be seen the way in which members of the G-23 have quit. They be-

lieved as long as the going for them was good. The G-23 need not be completely dismissed but they were mostly the suave, well-connected, well-heeled lot, not the grassroots variety politician who can pick the pulse of the people.

The Congress today needs a head who can make some fundamental changes and offer a clear alternative to the current dispensation. First, of course, it must reunite the nation, a theme akin to the 'Bharat-Jodo' yatra of Rahul Gandhi, but it also needs a new narrative on the economy, a new narrative on peace, non-violence and sustainable growth. All of this has to be taken as a well packaged message to the people of India, notably in the northern states where the party has taken a beating and ceded all ground to the BJP. Shashi Tharoor, who has turned up as an aspirant for the position of Congress president, is not that person. He may be suave, well-meaning and well-spoken. But he represents the G-23, which is not to be opposed because they spoke up against the Congress leadership but must be recognised and named as a subset of the same failed group whose members acquired power because

of the party and contributed very little to its growth. Tharoorisms are good for a Twitter feed; they cannot win votes, connect with the masses or stitch together a powerful new narrative that is a desperate need of the hour. That Tharoor thinks he can or should stand for the position in itself shows how much removed from the challenge before the Congress he or his sympathisers might be.

Curiously, the person doing good work just at this time is Rahul Gandhi with the nationwide walkathon that is underway. He has called it a 'tapasya', or penance, as he tries to reconnect with the masses, read the mood and discover how he and the party can explain the steep decline of the nation into a climate of hate and division. Rahul's language is looking good, his statements carry meaning and while the real test will come as he enters the north of the nation, right now it appears that a rather strong narrative is taking shape. Quite simply, it says, an attack on fellow Indians is an attack on India; the flag must be respected but also the values that the national tricolour stands for. Some of these are clean and simple themes that can go far in helping rebuild the party and the nation. Needless to say, the party must simultaneously go through the internal election, place an elected head at the helm and go on building more positions that are democratically filled. In the end, the party will gravitate towards those who are connected with the people and can bring in the votes. If the 'Bharat-Jodo' yatra continues to earn the goodwill it has thus far, that leader down the line and over the years may well be Rahul Gandhi but then he can rightfully claim to have earned the position and not got it as a birth right.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

THE BILLION PRESS

SPECTRUM NATIONAL SECURITY

PFI – India's internal insurgency

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) – which was probing over 100 Popular Front of India (PFI) members in connection with various cases – arrested 45 members in raids across the country on September 22. The PFI was under the watch of the central security agencies since long as its cadres were deeply involved in indoctrinating young Muslims and receiving funds from foreign-based entities for waging war within India.

Local police forces and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) are also probing allegations against the PFI of 'funding' the 2019 anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests and the 2020 northeast Delhi riots. Additional charges are terror funding and helping illegal Rohingyas and Bangladeshi migrants to sneak into India. Its footprints can be found in the pan-India protests against the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and CAA as well as the hijab row in Karnataka.

There is a lot of evidence that the PFI has roots in the banned SIMI (Students' Islamic Movement of India) with many other organisations associated with it in various programmes, such as the Huda Islamic Center, Amity Peace Foundation,

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Indian Pravasi Council (Oman), and others.

Many political parties too have been alleged to be associated with the PFI – Milli Ethihad Parishad (West Bengal), AMMK Party (Tamil Nadu), CPM (Kerala), Ambedkarite Party of India (Rajasthan) and so on. The Uttar Pradesh Police, which is investigating over 19 cases against the PFI members filed in connection with the unrest reported in the aftermath of the Hathras case in September 2020, has accused the PFI of "sedition, conspiracy, disturbing peace and promoting religious hatred."

Since its creation in 2006, with the merger of three Muslim interest groups, PFI's presence has stretched to 23 states, according to the NIA. It identifies itself as a "neo-social movement" with a vision to empower all marginalised sections in India. Several of its co-founders were originally SIMI cadres, hence the connection. E. Aboobacker, president of PFI's political wing Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), headed the SIMI's Kerala unit from 1982 to 1984, while Professor P. Koya, a member of the PFI's national executive, was a founding member of both SIMI and the NDF. PFI vice-

chairman EM Abdul Rahiman was a SIMI general secretary between 1982 and 1993.

Yet the members refute the connection to SIMI arguing that the banned outfit's solution for the Indian Muslim community's problems against "the rising tide of Hindutva" was Islam only whereas PFI believes India is a pluralistic country with many religions. This is seen by many Muslims simply as changing colours to lie low and out of the government's and security agencies' eyes. It even has a general secretary by the name of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who refutes the ED's claims that the PFI had funded the agitation against the CAA in various parts of the country.

The chargesheet has a long list – contact with Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) scholar Umar Khalid; providing funds to suspended Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor Tahir Hussain – under arrest for his alleged role in the Delhi riots; link to the Tablighi Jamaat – the Islamic organisation which faced criticism for holding a religious congregation at Delhi's Nizamuddin Markaz during the peak of the first wave of COVID-19 infections; 2019 Mangaluru violence in which two people were

killed in anti-CAA protests; gold smuggling through diplomatic baggage addressed to the UAE consulate-general in Thiruvananthapuram; carrying out "forced conversions" in Kerala's Malappuram; organising a terror camp in Kannur in 2013; running institutes where young people are indoctrinated; recovery of bombs, IEDs and swords from the same camp; and the most heinous of all the chopping off of a Professor TJ Joseph's palm in Kerala's Idduki on false charges of blasphemy; plus the murders of various RSS and ABVP workers in South India.

Despite refuting all of the above charges, Ahmed Shaareef, the founder member of PFI said in its mouthpiece 'Gulf Thejas': "After making India an Islamic state, the PFI will go to other countries."

It is clear that India has an internal insurgency going on for several decades and that various Middle Eastern Wahhabi-inspired nations are willing to fund this insurgency. The coming weeks should reveal more about this.

The author is a Delhi-based writer, blogger and social commentator.

AIANS



Arshia Malik

THERE IS A LOT OF EVIDENCE THAT THE PFI HAS ROOTS IN THE BANNED STUDENTS' ISLAMIC MOVEMENT OF INDIA

Prioritise mental health

Sir, In the last few days Odisha has been witnessing a lot of suicide cases, especially in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. The victims are from all sections of society, from college students to married couples. This trend is shocking and worrying at the same time. Now the time has come to prioritise mental health issues along with other health issues. A weak and ill mind can compel an individual to take his/her own life. The government with the assistance of health experts should plan to form mental health counselling centers in different offices, educational institutions, and other workplaces as well. Mental and psychological health should be made part of the curriculum of students in educational institutions. Private entities should also take care of their employees. These efforts will help people come out of anxiety and can save lives.

Deba Prasad Nayak, CUTTACK

Gentleman's game

Sir, West zone skipper Ajinkya Rahane has beautifully shown that in the gentleman's game one has to be gentle. By sending one of his junior teammate, Yashasvi Jaiswal, out of the field for some time for bad behaviour on the field with the opposite batter Ajinkya has set an example for cricketers around the globe that the gentleman's game should be played like a gentleman and it is not a game to flex muscles, use verbal volleys and various other tactics to apprehend opposite players like many do on the field. Yashasvi had scored a double century in the final match of the Duleep trophy against the South zone. The incident of his captain sending him away from the field is a lesson for the young batter. Youngsters normally get carried away by accolades for their achievement and sadly forget the gentleness of the game.

M Pradyu, KANNUR

Mutual respect

Sir, Seeing the photograph in many newspapers of Roger Federer shedding tears at his swansong at the Laver Cup tournament in London, my eyes too turned moist for a while. That Rafael Nadal struggles to control his emotions seen in the picture, reflects the bonding between the two for decades and manifests the Spaniard's great respect and love and affection for the Swiss legend. Not only Federer had won the admiration of tennis fans across the world with his elegant and effortless style of play, which was poetry in motion, but he also won their hearts with his humility and modesty. A sporting legend and a gentleman in equal measure – tennis will never be the same without Federer.

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

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

national

of the day quote

Assam cannot live anymore with the scar that its place in the country's development journey can be counted only from the bottom, and not the top... We have to live with dignity and not always approach the Centre for assistance

HIMANTA BISWA SARMA | ASSAM CM

Goans are very receptive people and are prepared to cooperate with cultures from various parts of the world

P S SREEDHARAN PILLAI | GOA GOVERNOR

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will not even be able to win a village pradhan election in Uttar Pradesh

DINESH SHARMA | BJP LEADER

SHORT TAKES

PM leaves for Tokyo

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for Tokyo Monday evening to attend the state funeral of Japan's former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who reshaped Japan's foreign policy including setting out a bold vision for a quantum leap in its ties with India. Representatives from over 100 countries, including more than 20 heads of states and governments, are expected to attend Abe's funeral on Tuesday at the Budokan, an indoor sporting facility. Modi will also hold a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. Abe was shot dead while making a campaign speech three months ago in the southern Japanese city of Nara.

Relief for Shah Rukh

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday upheld the decision of the Gujarat High Court quashing a criminal case filed against superstar Shah Rukh Khan and others, who were booked for causing a stampede in 2017 at the Vadodra Railway station while promoting his film. A bench of Justices Ajay Rastogi and CT Ravikumar dismissed the appeal filed by an original complainant Jitendra Madhubhai Solanki alias Pappu, who had challenged the decision of the High Court dated April 27, 2022.

SC declines plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday dismissed a plea challenging the Bombay High Court verdict that directed the Mumbai civic body to demolish the unauthorised construction at Union minister Narayan Rane's bungalow in the Juhu area, noting that there was a violation of the Floor Space Index and Coastal Regulation Zone rules.

Centre blocks 45 YouTube videos



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 26: Based on the inputs from intelligence agencies, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has directed YouTube to block 45 videos from 10 YouTube channels.

Orders to block the concerned videos were issued on September 23 under the provisions of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021. The blocked videos had cumulative viewership of over 1 crore 30 lakh.

The content included fake news and morphed videos spread with the intent to spread hatred among religious communities.

Examples include false claims such as the government to have taken away the religious rights of certain communities, violent



A heart-wrenching incident happened with Ankita of Uttarakhand. But even after such a big incident, the administration is restricting itself to action just for show. Just imagine what Ankita's parents might be going through

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA | CONGRESS LEADER

UP TO GET FIRST FRUIT WINERY

Uttar Pradesh will soon get its first fruit winery in Muzaffarnagar. Additional chief secretary (excise) Sanjay R Bhoosreddy said: "K.D. Solution Pvt. Ltd. has been granted permission to set up a winery with an annual capacity of 54,446 litres in Muzaffarnagar district. This will not only be the first ever winery in UP but also in North India"



Devotees participate in a religious procession to install an idol of goddess Sharada at Kudroli Sri Gokarnanatheshwara Temple on the first day of Navratri festival in Mangaluru

Pregnant woman 'gangraped' in front of husband, six held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Medinagar (Jharkhand), Sept 26: A pregnant woman was allegedly raped by six men in front of her husband in Jharkhand's Palamu district, police said Monday.

Police said that all the six accused have been arrested. The incident took place near Bakoria Bhaluahi Valley in Satbarwa area, Palamu Superintendent of Police (SP) Chandan Kumar Sinha said.

The 22-year-old woman, following a quarrel at her in-laws' residence in Patan area of Palamu district, left for her father's house 35 km away in Manika area in adjoining Latehar district by foot on Saturday morning.

Her husband and one of his relatives left on a motorcycle to look for the woman and found her walking along National Highway 39 close to Manika around 8 PM. According to the statement given to the police by the woman's husband, as he was persuading her to return home; six men came on motorcycles, severely thrashed him and his relative, took his wife to a nearby location, where he could see and hear them, and took turns to rape her.

The survivor's husband claimed that he knew two of the six accused by face. He was severely injured and his relative fell unconscious after the thrashing. By the time he managed to reach the crime spot, the accused were trying to take his wife to another location on a motorcycle. However, that motorcycle collided with an incoming four-wheeler and the woman started shouting for help. Hearing her cries, local villagers came to her rescue and nabbed two of the accused and handed them over to the police, while the rest managed to escape.

"Two of the accused were formally arrested on Sunday, while four others were nabbed on Monday," the SP said.

TRACTOR FALLS IN POND; 10 DEAD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 26: Ten people were killed while 37 were injured when the tractor-trolley in which they were travelling overturned and fell into a pond here Monday, a senior district official said.

Forty-seven people were travelling in the vehicle which was on its way to a Durga Devi temple in Unnae village for a 'mundan' ceremony, District Magistrate (Lucknow) Surya Pal Gangwar said. Eight women and two children were killed in the accident, he said.

Superintendent of Police (Lucknow rural) Hirdesh Kumar said, "The deceased have been identified as Ketki Devi (55), Annapurna (40), Malti (40), Bihi (14), Anshika (13), Sumita (36), Ruchi Maurya, Sukhrani, Sushma Maurya and Komal."

An ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh each is being extended to the family of the deceased. A person with serious injuries has been admitted to the King George's Medical University (KGMU) hospital, while others undergoing treatment in the Community Health Centre in Itaunja are said to be out of danger, Gangwar said.

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team which was called to assist the search operations is still present at the spot to ensure that nobody is trapped in the



SDRF personnel conduct a rescue and relief operation after a tractor trolley overturned and fell into a pond, at Itaunja police station area in Lucknow

pond, he said. President Droupadi Murmu condoled the loss of lives in the accident.

"The news of death of women and some girls in Lucknow is painful. In this hour of grief, I express my deep condolence to the families of the bereaved, and pray for speedy recovery of the injured," she said in a tweet in Hindi.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also expressed grief over the loss of lives, and prayed for speedy recovery of the injured. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that the family members of each of the deceased will be provided a financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh.

47 people were travelling in the vehicle which was on its way to a Durga Devi temple in Unnae village for a 'mundan' ceremony, District Magistrate (Lucknow) Surya Pal Gangwar said

An ex gratia payment of Rs 4 lakh each is being extended to the family of the deceased

Sonia seeks report on Jaipur rebellion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: Upset over an open rebellion in Rajasthan, Congress President Sonia Gandhi Monday sought a written report on it from party observers Mallikarjun Kharge and Ajay Maken as the chances of Ashok Gehlot becoming the party chief receded and other names cropped up for the post.

Kharge and Maken, who were sent as observers to Jaipur for a Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting, briefed Gandhi in the evening after their return to Delhi and termed the parallel meet held by Gehlot loyalists as "indiscipline".

They are expected to recommend disciplinary action against those behind the move, including minister Shanti Dhariwal and Rajasthan Congress chief whip

Mahesh Joshi. Gehlot loyalists had submitted resignation letters to Assembly Speaker C P Joshi on Sunday evening, in an apparent bid to put pressure on the central leadership to pick someone from the Gehlot camp as CM if the veteran leader is elected the party president.

The loyalist MLAs indicated that they were against the appointment of Sachin Pilot, who led a rebellion against Gehlot in 2020, to the post.

On Monday, Gehlot loyalist Dhariwal accused Maken, AICC in-charge for Rajasthan, of being involved in a conspiracy to remove Gehlot as chief minister and alleged he was canvassing for Pilot.

Both Gehlot and Pilot spent the day at their Jaipur homes. Pilot met his supporters, but they refrained from publicly commenting on Sunday's developments. Gehlot performed a Navratri puja.

SC wants own platform to live-stream proceedings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: The Supreme Court Monday said it will have its own "platform" to live-stream its proceedings and the use of YouTube for the purpose is temporary.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit said this when former BJP leader KN Govindacharya's counsel argued that the copyright of apex court proceedings cannot be surrendered to private platforms like YouTube. "YouTube has clearly sought the

copyright over the webcast," lawyer Virag Gupta told the bench that also comprised Justices S Ravindra Bhat and J B Pardiwala. "These are the initial stages. We will certainly have our own platforms... We will take care of that (copyright issue)," the CJ said and listed Govindacharya's interim plea for hearing on October 17.

Referring to a 2018 judgement, the lawyer said it was held that "the copyright over all the material recorded and broadcast in this court shall vest with this court only".

EAST COAST RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: Sr.DMM/SBP/Stores/ Tender Publication/05, Date: 22.09.2022
Tender No. 40225591, Description of Item: SET OF RE-RAILING EQUIPMENT FOR MOBILE TOOLS VAN. DETAIL SPECIFICATIONS & GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR SUPPLY OF RE-RAILING EQUIPMENTS AS PER ANNEXURE-I & II, MAKE-BEMCO HYDRAULICS LTD. OR SIMILAR.
Tender Value: ₹40,89,644/-, EMD@2%: ₹81,790/-
Tender Closing Date & Time: 28.10.2022 at 1500 hrs.
Complete information including e-Tender documents of the above e-Tenders is available in website http://www.irps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Materials Manager/ Sambalpur
PR-542/N/22-23

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
SAMBALPUR (R&B) DIVISION-I, SAMBALPUR
e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION No: SE/R&B/SBP/20/ 2022-23
E-mail - exeengsbp@rediffmail.com Phone/Fax-0663-2548013
No. 6164 Dated: 13.09.2022
No.B-625:1 The Superintending Engineer, Sambalpur (R&B) Division No-I, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in Single Cover System in ONLINE MODE for construction of Civil works as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible Class of Contractors.
2. No. of works : 03 (Three)
3. Tender Cost : Rs.6000/- (OnLine)
4. Class of Contractor : "C" & "B" and "D" & "C" Class Contractor
5. Date and time Available : 17.00 Hrs dt.28.09.2022 to 11:00 Hrs in Website & receipt of dt.06.10.2022.
6. Date of Opening of Tender : 06.10.2022 at 11:30 Hrs.
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website.
8. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in only.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer
Sambalpur (R&B) Division No.I
OIPR-34112/11/0007/2223

As population of Gir lions grows, humans, cattle become targets

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, Sept 26: The Gujarat Forest Department's 2020-21 report states that in man-animal conflict, 12 people lost their lives and 70 were injured, whereas 3,927 cattle were killed or injured in the Junagadh wildlife circle, which includes the Gir lion sanctuary.

With the increasing population of Asiatic lions in Gir National Sanctuary and its surrounding areas, lions are visible in revenue areas while attacks on humans and domestic cattle have increased.

The Gir Sanctuary is spread over 1412 square kilometres, of which 258 square kms is the core national park. In 1913 there were 20 lions, the numbers have grown to 750 in 2022.

Now the lions are seen in Barda, Mitiyala and Pania sanctuary, in revenue areas like the coastal belt of Amreli



and Bhavnagar, and as far as Chotila in Surendranagar district.

Lions move out of the sanctuary in search of food, because in the 1990s the government decided to move out pastoralists and Maldhari living in the sanctuary areas for decades because of which the lions lost domestic prey like buffaloes, cows and became totally dependent on wild prey, said environmentalist Mahesh Pandya.

With the increasing population of Asiatic lions and lions roaming in the revenue areas and attacking humans and domestic animals, Rajya Sabha member Parimal Nathwani inquired about the wild prey population in Gir Sanctuary.

Union Environment and Forest Minister Ashwini Kumar replied in March 2022 that density of wild prey base in 11,203 per 100 square kms, whereas the lions density is 13.38 per square km.

According to the forest department's statistics wild prey were 1,49,365 in 2018 while in 2019 they were 1,55,659. They included spotted deer, sambar, blue-bull, gazelle, four horned antelope, Hanuman Langur, wild pig, black buck and Indian peafowl in the Gir Sanctuary.

But the moot point is whether the population of wild prey is enough and what should be done to see that lions don't need to enter revenue areas for food.

UCO BANK Zonal Office, UCO Bank Building, 2nd Floor, C-2, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751009, Tel: 0674-2620423

POSSESSION NOTICE
For Immovable Property

(Under Section 13(4) of the Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower/Guarantors to repay the amount with interest at the contractual rate together with incidental expenses and costs within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the properties described here-in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules. The Borrower/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank for an amount plus interest & expenses thereon.

BRANCH/ Name and Address of the Borrower/ Guarantors	Amount Outstanding as on Specified Date	Date of Demand / Possession Notice	Description of the Immovable Properties
CHATRAPUR BRANCH/ Borrower : Mrs. Sanjukta Senapati, W/o: Late Surya Prasad Senapati, At: Rikapalli Chhaka, PO.: Chatrapur, Ganjam, PIN-761020/ Guarantors: 1) Mr. Siba Prasad Senapati, 2) Mr. Krushna Prasad Senapati, 3) Mr. Binayak Senapati	₹ 2,75,503/- as on 28.02.2022 + further interest & other charges thereon	01.04.2022 / 23.09.2022	All that part and parcel of Land & Building standing in the name of 1) Mrs. Sanjukta Senapati, W/o: Late Surya Prasad Senapati, 2) Mr. Krushna Prasad Senapati, 3) Mr. Siba Prasad Senapati, 4) Mr. Binayak Senapati, Khata No.: 229/1025, Plot No.: 86/951/1595, Area: Ac.0.023 Dec., KISSAM: Gharabari, At: Rikapalli Main Road, PO.: Chatrapur, Dist.: Ganjam, PIN-761020, Bounded by East: Land of Debadutta Sharma, West: Surplus Land of vendor, North: Road, South: Nala
NIMAPARA BRANCH/ Borrower : Mr. Ramesh Rout, S/o.: Dinabandhu Rout, At: Basantalo, PO.: Khadisa, Dist.: Puri	₹ 8,36,026/- + further interest & other charges thereon	31.05.2021 / 26.09.2022	All that part and parcel of immovable properties standing in the name of Mr. Dinabandhu Rout, S/o.: Bhikari Rout, Mouza: Basantalo, PS/Tahasil: Nimapara, Khata No.: 07, Plot No.: 106, Area: Ac.0.13 Dec.

Place : Bhubaneswar, Date: 26.09.2022 Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

Decoding Krishna Patel's meeting with Nitish Kumar

JD(U) leaders in Uttar Pradesh are of the view that Nitish should contest the next LS polls from the Kurmi-dominated seats of Phulpur, which was represented by Jawaharlal Nehru in his lifetime, and Mirzapur



Patna, Sept 26: Apna Dal (Kamerawadi) founder Krishna Patel Monday called on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, recalling the latter's long association with her deceased husband Sone Lal Patel. Krishna Patel's meeting with Kumar comes in the backdrop of the buzz that the longest serving chief minister of Bihar, who looks forward to playing a role in national politics, may contest the next Lok Sabha polls from the adjoining state. Patel, whose daughter Pallavi had defeated BJP heavyweight and Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya in the Assembly polls held earlier this year, met Kumar at his official residence. "My husband had a long friendship with Nitish ji. His efforts at forging opposition unity are commendable though that was not on

the agenda of our meeting," she told reporters later. The Apna Dal (Sonelal), headed by her estranged daughter Anupriya who is an NDA ally and a Union minister, however, said the meeting does not hold much relevance saying "she has lost all assembly elections so far." Apna Dal was founded by Patel nearly three decades ago with a view to providing a separate platform to Kurmis, a powerful OBC group. After his death, Anupriya headed the party for some time before differences over giving a ticket to her husband in a bypoll

The worst over for Assam-Mizoram border row

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Guwahati/Aizawl, Sept 26: The decades old Assam-Mizoram interstate border dispute, which was created mainly due to the erstwhile British government notifications under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) in 1875, seems to be waning following the intervention of the Centre and the Chief Ministers of the two states.

A series of skirmishes have taken place since 1994 along the 164.6-km-long Assam-Mizoram border which became frequent since 2018.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Mizoram counterpart Zoramthanga held a second Chief Minister-level meeting in New Delhi September 21 and decided to resolve the situation much like the Assam-Meghalaya and Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border disputes have been. It was decided to form a few committees which will visit ground zero and will put up their recommendations for a permanent solution to the vexed border issue.

The worst-ever violence happened July 26 last year when the police forces of the two states exchanged fire on the disputed area near Vairengte village on the National Highway-306 that left six Assam Police personnel dead. Around 60 people from both states were injured in the fierce clash, which was

followed by a blockade organised by the residents of Assam's Lailapur village on the National Highway-306, the lifeline of mountainous Mizoram for nearly a month forcing the latter to procure medicines, essentials and transport



LONG-STANDING DISPUTE

- The border dispute between the two states is a long standing issue, which remains permanently unsettled yet
- After the signing of the Peace Accord, the Memorandum of Settlement in 1986, which ended two decades of strife and insurgency, the mountainous Mizoram became the 23rd state of India February 20, 1987
- With a population of 1.1 million (2011 census), India's second least populous state Mizoram was one of the districts of Assam until 1972, when it was carved out as a Union Territory
- The border dispute mainly came out of two colonial notifications, the inner line reserved forest notified under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) in 1875 and the boundary indicated in the Survey of India's Map in 1933

fuels through other routes and alternative arrangements. The unprecedented tension and various other troubles were resolved after a few weeks with the intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Home Ministry officials and Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Mizoram counterpart Zoramthanga. The first Chief Minister-level meeting was held in New Delhi in November last year in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah while two ministerial-level meetings led by Mizoram Home Minister Lalchamlana and Assam Border Protection and Development Minister Atul Bora were held in Aizawl and it was resolved to settle the border disputes amicably. Prior to 2020, though a border dispute existed, the situation along the Assam-Mizoram border had remained relatively calm, barring a few instances in 1994 and in 2007. Following an incident along the interstate border in 2007, Mizoram claimed that it does not accept the

present boundary with Assam and that the inner line along the Reserved Forest as described in the 1875 notification under the BEFR of 1873 should be the basis for delineating the border and not the 1933 district boundary demarcation which Assam wants to be enforced. The 164.6-km inter-state border separates Assam and Mizoram, with the three Assam districts of Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj sharing a border with Kolasib, Mamit and Aizawl districts of Mizoram. Further, the boundary between Mizoram and Assam follows naturally occurring barriers of hills, valleys, rivers and forests, and both sides have attributed border skirmishes to perceptual differences over an imaginary line. In the Northeast's complex boundary equations, clashes between Assam and Mizoram residents are less frequent than they are between other neighbouring states of Assam, like with Nagaland.

WORLD TOURISM DAY

Patna's Sultan Palace must be protected, say heritage lovers



New Delhi/Patna, Sept 26: From Bihar to West Bengal, heritage lovers have welcomed the court's stay on the proposed demolition of the historic Sultan Palace, and asserted that the society must come together to ensure the 100-year-old landmark in the state capital does not go the Patna Collectorate way. A cluster of heritage buildings which constituted the historic Patna Collectorate, parts of which were built during the Dutch era, were demolished in the span of last few months starting mid-May, for a redevelopment project. Historians, scholars, lawyers, architects, conservationists and other heritage lovers have welcomed the stay granted by the Patna High Court Friday in response to a PIL, saying it was a "glimmer of hope in times of demolition", but some felt the "spectre of the Collectorate still haunts" them. On the eve of World Tourism Day, they also suggested that the palace, once saved, can be turned into a "dazzling heritage hotel" which will attract tourists to Patna from near and far. Patna-based senior journalist and author Pranava K Chaudhary, who has also written books on heritage sites of Bihar, says, for him, seeing the demolition of the Dutch-era Patna Collectorate was akin to "revisiting the Dak Bungalow nightmare of 1990". "It was depressing 30 years ago when they tore down the late 19th century Dak Bungalow, and devastating to see the erasure of the Collectorate, and the society feeling almost no remorse. Patna has already lost a large number of old, heritage buildings in the last 10 years or so, and then the govern-

ment came up with a proposal to raze the Sultan Palace for a five-star hotel. We have to stop this mad cycle of demolition," he told PTL. Dak Bungalow, in its heyday, hosted the likes of Jim Corbett and EM Forster only to make way for a high-rise complex later. All that has survived the ravages of time is its name and the legend of the British-era landmark in the heart of Patna. "I want to be hopeful, and we must be thankful to the court for the stay on demolition of Sultan Palace, given our poor record of preservation," said Chaudhary, who had reported on the demolition of Dak Bungalow as a young journalist then. Delhi-based historian S Irfan Habib in a tweet Sunday said, "Congratulations to the people of Patna and thanks to the Patna High Court for intervening to save this beautiful heritage building," and hoped for a positive outcome eventually. A senior official of the Patna Chapter of INTACH said he was praying that this stay will turn into a "positive verdict" and that "Sultan Palace will not meet the same fate as the Collectorate did." Delhi-based INTACH had fought a long and rather unsuccessful legal battle to save the Collectorate, starting August 2019 in the high court, the matter eventually reaching the Supreme Court. After an initial stay granted by the apex court in September 2020, a division bench rejected its plea May 13 this year, paving the way for the demolition of the centuries-old landmark, triggering a wave of grief among heritage lovers in India and abroad. Sriram Krishna, the lawyer of the petitioner in the Sultan Palace case, said, "A future cannot be forged by erasing our past."

Trouble simmers in Mizoram as Myanmar refugee numbers swell

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Aizawl, Sept 26: A small section of the 30,401 Myanmar nationals, who have taken shelter in Mizoram in different phases since the military junta seized power in February last year, are trying to purchase land and conduct petty business, or opening shops forced the state government to issue strict order restraining the migrants from doing so. Mizoram police officers said that after the starting of the arrival of refugees, the smuggling of varied and highly addictive drugs, arms and ammunition, exotic animals, dried areca nuts, foreign cigarettes, various tobacco products and many other contraband from Myanmar increased to a large extent. Police and para-military officials on condition of anonymity said that both the nationals of Myanmar and India are involved in the illegal trades. In the latest such smuggling case September 21, Assam Rifles troopers seized huge quantities of Myanmar-bound arms, war-like items, air gun, air gun pellets, combat uniforms, radio sets, tactical vests, tactical gloves and boots valued at around Rs 16 lakh from Mizoram's Siaha district and arrested seven people, including five Myanmar nationals. The alarming increase in smuggling activities involving Myanmar in Mizoram has also prompted the Central committee of Young Mizo



Association (CYMA) to form Central Anti-Drug Squad (CADS) recently to deal with the growing illegal trades of contrabands especially drugs. The Mizoram government has instructed the Myanmar refugees, presently taking shelter in all the 11 districts of the state, not to purchase land, house and run business without prior permission from the state government. The government order has come after the several reports that the Myanmar migrants are trying to purchase lands, opening up of small shops and running up of small business in the districts along the Myanmar border. The state government order also barred refugees from any attempt to enroll for Aadhaar card, voter identity card, driving license or any other government documents. The Mizoram government has provided temporary identity cards to the refugees for identification purposes to differentiate the holder

India should negotiate with Myanmar junta: Zoramthanga

Aizawl: India should negotiate with military authorities in trouble-torn Myanmar and various ethnic groups there to restore peace in the neighbouring country, Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga has said. "We have received requests from some quarters of Myanmar that India should broker peace in the country where the military has seized power. This is a golden opportunity for our country to resume talks to restore peace there," said Zoramthanga.

from Indian citizens and the ID card is not valid for availing the government's scheme and outside Mizoram. As per official records, majority of around 30,400 Myanmar refugees including 11,798 children and 10,047 women are sheltered in Mizoram in over 156 camps in all the 11 districts while a large number of them took shelter in the relatives' houses, community, centers, rented houses, government buildings and shelter houses set up by various NGOs including the CYMA. There are 14 lawmakers of Myanmar who are also among those who fled the trouble-torn country and took refuge in Mizoram.

Rising tiger numbers a threat to humans around Valmiki reserve

Due to the frequent tiger attacks on humans, residents of over two dozen villages are living under constant fear

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Patna, Sept 26: Ram Prasad Uraon, a native of Barwa village in Bihar's West Champaran district, died after he was attacked by a tiger September 20 while he was working at an agriculture field. Till the time the other workers tried to rescue him from the clutches of the big cat, Uraon passed away due to grave injuries on his neck. Just 10 days prior to Uraon's killing, 40-year-old Gulbadan Devi lost her life after she was attacked by a tiger in a paddy field. July 16, a skeleton with a few clothes was found in an agricultural field. The victim, Dharam Raj Kaji, was identified with the pieces of clothing. These attacks took place



in areas adjoining the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR), the natural habitat of the Royal Bengal Tiger in West Champaran district. Due to the frequent attacks on humans, residents of over two dozen villages are living under constant panic and fear. Now the big question is why such attacks are taking place in the region? The simple answer to this is man-animal conflict and officials have not done enough to address the issue. The officials of VTR also admit that there are huge man-animal con-

flicts in the region. Dr Niraj Narayan, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of the West Champaran range, told IANS: "The man-animal conflicts are always looming in VTR as the area is surrounded by dense human populations. There are a number of villages adjoining to the VTR and wild animals may stray towards the human population in search of water and food." Narayan further said that shifting of villagers from the region is

not possible neither can the VTR be barricaded. "Every time any untoward incidents take place in the region, we have our standard operating procedures to tackle the situation. We have directed the forest and wildlife officials to alert people to stay indoors in the evening and night, as well in the early morning hours. Besides, we have also directed the officials for patrolling in the adjoining villages to avoid wild animal attack on humans," he added. Meanwhile, another officer pointed out that Uraon's killing was the fifth such incident of this year. The VTR, which is the only national park in Bihar, covers an area of 898.45 km — 17.4 per cent of the total geographical area of the West Champaran district. In the north, the protected areas are bordered by Nepal's Chitwan National Park while the Indian state Uttar Pradesh bounds the sanctuary from western side. According to the 2018 census, there were a total of 40 tigers in the Reserve. Wildlife experts be-

lieve that the big cats are straying into human settlements could also be due to their growing population in the VTR. "The increasing population of tigers could be one of the reasons of the man-animal conflict but there is another theory of territorial fight among the animals that may also be the reason for them to stray into the settlements. A tigress giving birth in a sugarcane field was an example of animal territorial fight in their natural habitat inside the VTR," said an officer who requested anonymity. Besides the Royal Bengal Tigers, VTR is also a natural habitat for leopards, hyenas, sloth bears, wild dogs, deer, fishing cats, wild boars, civets, serow, antelopes, elephants, among others. VTR is considered as fifth best tiger reserve and wildlife sanctuary in the country. But it has the perpetual man-animal conflict with only the humans on the receiving end. Cases of animal poaching are extremely rare. In fact no cases of poaching have taken place in recent times in VTR.

BIHAR TO GET TWO NEW ACADEMIES TO PROMOTE DIALECTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Sept 26: In a move aimed at protecting indigenous language and culture, the Bihar government has decided to set up two new academies to promote local dialects - Surjapuri and Bajjika - spoken in politically influential 'Seemanchal' and 'Bajjikanchal' regions of the state. The decision to constitute separate centres here for fostering Bajjika and Surjapuri culture and literature was taken at a recent meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, said Dipak Kumar Singh, the additional chief secretary (ACS) of the education department. Surjapuri, a mix of Hindi, Maithili and Bangla, is spoken in the Seemanchal region - comprising Purnia, Katihar, Kishanganj and Arararia districts. Bajjika, similar to Maithili, is the language of people living in north-west Bihar areas of Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, West Champaran and Sheohar. "The CM has given instructions that these two academies be set up on the lines of eight already existing centres, constituted for the promotion of other dialects. He has also directed that efforts must be made to strengthen all academies and bring them under an umbrella body for their effective functioning," the ACS told PTL. The department is currently working to will bring all such academies under one body, he stated. The eight already existing language academies are Bihar Hindi Granth Academy, Maithili academy, Magahi Academy, Bangla Academy, Sanskrit Academy, Bhojpuri Academy, Angika Academy and South Indian languages organization. Reacting to the decision taken by the Bihar government Vidyarthi Vikas, assistant professor of A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies (Patna), told PTL, "It's a commendable step. It will have a positive social, cultural and political impact on people speaking these two dialects. A considerable number of people in the state speak in these two dialects."



of the day quote

More than 20 Bangladeshi are arrested (identified) and police are identifying many more staying here illegally. People should cooperate with police. We will take action against them (Bangladeshis) and deport them to Bangladesh

PRAMOD SAWANT | GOA CM

I was seeing a wonderful message being shared in a Gujarat WhatsApp group that I follow. It says if you vote for Congress, then Sonia Gandhi's son (Rahul Gandhi) will prosper. If you vote for BJP, (Union Home Minister) Amit Shah's son will prosper, and if you vote for AAP, then every single child of Gujarat will prosper

ARVIND KEJRIWAL | DELHI CM

Let the Congress party continue the PayCM campaign and we will welcome it. The decline of the Congress has started

BASAVARAJ BOMMAI | KARNATAKA CM

SHORT TAKES

Three drown

Hyderabad: Three children died after they fell and drowned in a trench filled with water in Telangana's Rangareddy district Monday. The incident occurred in Shadnagar town when the children, all aged below 10 years, fell into the trench while playing. According to police, the trench was dug in a real estate venture for some construction work. The pit was filled with water due to recent rains. The children apparently entered the trench to catch fish and drowned.

Jacqueline gets interim bail

New Delhi: A Delhi court Monday granted interim bail to actor Jacqueline Fernandez in a Rs 200 crore money laundering case against alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar. Special Judge Shalindra Malik granted Fernandez the relief on a personal bond of Rs 50,000 and posted the matter for further hearing October 22. August 31, predecessor judge Praveen Singh had taken cognizance of a supplementary charge sheet filed by the ED and asked Fernandez to appear before the court.

Fruit merchant held

Koppal (Karnataka): A fruit merchant with suspected links with the Islamic State (IS) terror group was arrested in Karnataka's Koppal district, police said Monday. The arrested person was identified as Shabbir Mandalagiri, a resident of Binnigida region in Gangavathy town, where he worked. According to the police, Mandalagiri had ties with Maaz Munir and Syed Yasin, the two terror suspects who were arrested earlier. Mandalagiri's residence was raided on Sunday midnight after which he was arrested, the police added.

Racket busted

Lucknow: A pan-India gang of cyber thugs that was involved in duping people on pretext of lucrative profits has been busted in Lucknow, police said. According to the police, a scheme was launched by the accused in which they trapped a victim by luring him to purchase a product at a low cost from their website and then they asked him to sell it on the same platform. "In the guise of a customer they used to purchase the product and provided a small profit to the prospective victim of fraud. This way they won their trust and made the victims invest much money in the business by purchasing goods," said Firoz Badar, a cyber cell official.



Crime and arrogance have become synonymous with BJP. No embarrassment, no words, just silence, the Prime Minister's message is clear - women should not expect anything from me RAHUL GANDHI | CONGRESS LEADER

DELHI-SHIMLA FLIGHTS RESUME

The air connectivity between Himachal Pradesh capital and New Delhi resumed on Monday after a gap of almost two years. Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched regular flights by flagging off the new ATR-42-600 aircraft of Alliance Air from the Shimla airport at Jubbarhatti



Twitter challenges order to block certain accounts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 26: Microblogging site Twitter Monday claimed before the Karnataka High Court it was being asked by the government to block accounts, rather than just a tweet that was deemed improper, because of its political content.

As a platform it was affected by the Centre asking it to take down accounts without issuing notice to the alleged violators, Twitter said. Many of the tweets being asked to be blocked were "innocuous."

The High Court was hearing a petition by Twitter against the Central government's orders asking it to block some accounts, URLs and tweets.

Twitter had challenged the orders on grounds of violation of freedom of speech and the authorities not issuing notice to the alleged violators before asking the platform to take down content. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) had on September 1 filed a 101-page statement of objection to Twitter's petition.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for Twitter online, argued the company was following the rules laid out in the Information Technology Act. He contended Twitter as a platform was affected by the Centre asking it to take

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down accounts without issuing notice to the alleged violators.

The Centre was asking for wholesale blocking of accounts which will affect its business, according to him. He said several prominent persons have accounts on Twitter. Another contention Datar raised was that instead of blocking the tweet that was deemed improper, it was being told to block the account itself because of political content.

He cited the example of farmers' protest in Delhi against the earlier contentious farm laws and claimed content that was telecast in the news media was asked to be blocked on the microblogging site. "During the farmers' protest I was told to block accounts. TV and print media are reporting. Why ask me to block accounts," he argued.

Datar cited the Supreme Court in the 'Shreya Singhal' case where the IT Act Blocking Rules were upheld

and said it was mandatory for notice to be issued even to intermediaries like Twitter and hear them before blocking orders are passed. Therefore, he claimed that all blocking orders issued by the MeitY were against the SC judgement and the IT Act Blocking Rules 6 and 8.

The senior advocate presented the example of a particular blocking order in which Twitter was told to block 1,178 accounts. The government did not inform them (account holders) and Twitter was also not allowed to inform them of the action.

Datar argued that requirements of Section 69A of the IT Act were not followed. He cited the example of one Tweet which the government ordered to be removed. He contended that Twitter itself blocks tweets which it considers wrong. Tweets promoting "Khalistan" are blocked by Twitter.

Plea to regulate govt ads: SC notice to Centre, states

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: The Supreme Court Monday sought responses from the Centre and the states on a plea seeking to restrain state governments from publishing advertisements outside its territory.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hima Kohli issued notices to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and all the states. The top court was hearing a plea filed by NGO Common Cause seeking directions to restrain state governments from publishing advertisements outside its territory.

At the outset, the bench expressed disinclination to entertain the petition but after a brief deliberation, it decided to seek a response from the respondents. "How can we prohibit a state government from publishing an advertisement outside the territory?" the bench said.

"A state government may want to attract business to its territory by showcasing the work to the public of other states. They want to attract investment and say we are creating this infrastructure of roads, power, tourism, etc," it said.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the NGO, submitted that the advertisements issued by the states have nothing to do with attracting investments rather it's a mere projection strategy of great work.

"Public funds are meant for public welfare and not partisan political advertising," Bhushan said.

PFI has very strong roots in Gulf: NIA



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 26: The sources in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said that PFI had allegedly received huge fund through Hawala from its UAE and Gulf countries-based members.

The sources said that NRIs' accounts were being used by the PFI members to send fund from Gulf countries. After receiving the fund, the member would transfer it to other account from where they would withdraw it.

Their supporters and members were working in UAE, Qatar, Turkey and in Oman from where they had been financially supporting the PFI, and this money was allegedly concealed by the PFI from the eyes of agencies. To fool the Indian agencies, the PFI has created a number of dummy organisations. Three of

The sources said that NRIs' accounts were being used by the PFI members to send fund from Gulf countries. After receiving the fund, the member would transfer it to other account from where they would withdraw it

In Saudi Arabia, the PFI members connect to Indian Muslims on the pretext of helping them, whereas their actual purpose is to radicalise them

these were founded in abroad.

The sources said that a number of PFI workers travelled to UAE in last two years. The purpose was allegedly to collect funds for the organisation. Huge cash was allegedly sent to India by PFI members through Hawala route. From Oman, PFI workers sent around Rs 44 lakh to India via Hawala routes.

The agencies said that in Gulf countries they raised money after radicalising their members and businessmen. They used to show particular videos to show how Muslims were unsafe in India.

In Abu Dhabi, one Saifu, an alleged member of PFI, handles real estate business. In Saudi Arabia, the PFI members connect to Indian Muslims on the pretext of helping them, whereas their actual purpose is to radicalise them.

More than 500 viscera samples lying dumped

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Pilibhit, Sept 26: A routine inspection by chief medical officer (CMO) Dr Alok Kumar has revealed that there are more than 500 viscera samples lying dumped in a post-mortem house in Uttar Pradesh's Pilibhit district.

Some of the samples date back to 1965. The CMO has now sent a list of the dumped samples to the Superintendent of Police, asking him to take appropriate action in the matter.

"Viscera is normally preserved during the autopsy in cases which involve the consumption of poison or the cases in which the cause of death remains undetected. As per the laid down procedure, the viscera samples are preserved by medical officers on duty of autopsy and are received by the police on record.

"They are then sent to the forensic laboratory by the police for testing. There is certainly negligence on the part of the local police de-

partment that such a large number of viscera samples were not dispatched to forensic labs for testing for a long time," the CMO said. Such samples are usually disposed of by forensic labs after specific tests, in coordination with local police and the health department.

Dr B. Das, a general surgeon in Pilibhit, said: "Tissues of the old viscera are now completely damaged. Their dispatch for forensic testing at present will be absolutely useless as they will not produce any result." Meanwhile, SP Dinesh Kumar Prabhu, said that he has constituted a probe panel of police officers under ASP Pavitra Mohan Tripathi to probe the matter.

District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Lakshkar said the matter needs appropriate action. A senior criminal lawyer, Ashwini Agnihotri, said that the absence of visceral reports would certainly have debilitated the prosecution side during the trial of the respective criminal cases in courts.



The CMO has now sent a list of the dumped samples to the Superintendent of Police, asking him to take appropriate action in the matter

Such samples are usually disposed of by forensic labs after specific tests, in coordination with local police and the health department



Kashmiri fruit growers burn boxes used for packing fruits during their protest at Parimpora wholesale fruit market in Srinagar

CUET-PG results out; scores not normalised

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: The results of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-PG, for which 6.07 lakh candidates had registered, were announced on Monday, according to National Testing Agency (NTA) officials.

Unlike CUET-UG, no normalisation of scores has been done for

the postgraduate (PG) entrance, and universities will announce their rank lists on the basis of 'raw' marks and not normalised NTA scores. "No normalisation of scores has been done in CUET-PG and the universities will prepare the rank lists on the basis of 'raw marks' and not NTA scores," UGC chief Jagadeesh Kumar said.

In CUET-UG, results of which

were announced on September 16, the scores were normalised and the UGC had announced that rank lists will be prepared on the basis of normalised National Testing Agency scores. Asked about the reasons behind no normalisation of scores in CUET-PG, Kumar said, "The PG exam was held in a single sitting for the majority of subjects, while in the UG exam, the test was

conducted in different phases and shifts. Hence, scores had to be normalised to provide a level playing field for all candidates."

The "normalisation" of marks in CUET-UG had left several aspirants disappointed as they found their marks reduced from their original scores, making it difficult for them to get admission in their dream colleges.

WHO CARES? IT'S YOUR LIFE, ANYWAY!

Who cares? It's your life, anyway! This, in essence, sums up the approach of the Bhupendra Patel-led BJP government to the cattle menace on the roads of urban Gujarat as it caved in to the lure of vote bank politics last week.

Advertising itself as the 'double engine' government in liberally splashed newspaper advertisements and hoardings, it went into reverse gear on September 21 withdrawing the Gujarat Cattle Control (keeping and moving) in Urban Areas Bill, 2022.

The Bill, meant to give legislative teeth and proposed to licence, regulate and prohibit cattle movement in the eight municipal corporations and 162 towns of Gujarat

was passed on the last day of the budget session on April 1 this year after a marathon six-hour long discussion which spilled past midnight into 'All fools day'. As cattle rearers threatened a BJP boycott in the ensuing elections, it took a mere week, for the government to announce that it was putting the Bill on hold.

As for technicalities, Gujarat Speaker Nimaben Acharya read out the Governor's message while sending back the Bill to reconsider it in view of the representations received by Raj Bhawan from the 'maladhari' community. Minister Vinod Moradiya, moved the proposal seeking permission to withdraw the Bill and the proposal was passed unan-

imously by the Assembly. In the process it showed up the government and its political head in the home state of Prime Minister



Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah as a bumbling-fumbling team which was yet to come to grips a year after it was sworn in through a lock-stock and barrel replacement of the entire Vijay Rupani cabinet. The moot question

is, what was the hurry in passing the Bill if the political party which has been in power for over a quarter century, was not sure of either response or result? Secondly what happens to the interests of the large mass of urban road users whose lives are jeopardised by the free movement of cattle on densely congested roads, where traffic, even otherwise, reaches chaotic levels. Whose interests are being safeguarded and at whose cost?

Though the Gujarat High Court, has for years, been trying to make the government and its civic bodies see reason on this vital matter of public safety, the issue came into sharp focus recently when former deputy chief minister Nitin Patel was injured by a cow while

taking part in his party's 'tiranga yatra' and a bull ploughed into Patel's cavalcade in Porbandar the next day.

According to published statistics 4,860 cattle attacks have been reported in the 33 districts of Gujarat wherein 28 people have lost their lives in the last ten months. The problem is exacerbated by bovines past their productive years who are just let loose to become a traffic menace. Nagji Patel, president of the Maldhari panchayat believes that laws and fines are hardly the solution.

In the given circumstances, the only steady and unrelenting guardian of people's interests remains the judiciary. Only last month, August 25, a division bench of chief justice Aravind Kumar

and justice A.J. Shastri had directed the state government to submit an action taken report and asked the Gujarat State Legal Services authority, member secretary to submit a report on the moving menace on roads. It had also asked the government to place the Bill passed on April 1 before it. The government has since repealed the Bill. At one point the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, which was pulled up by the court for its tardiness took the plea that it was unable to manage the problem in view of the government notification prohibiting the transportation of cattle in the light of the prevalence of the Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cows.

international



Hungary should prepare for a prolonged war in neighbouring Ukraine
VIKTOR ORBÁN | PM OF HUNGARY

STRICT RULES

The Australian government said Monday it is considering tougher cybersecurity rules for telecommunications companies and blamed Optus, the nation's second-largest wireless carrier, for an unprecedented breach of personal data from 9.8 million customers



of the day quote

It is devastating that dozens died after a boat sank off the Syrian coast -- men, women, children and the elderly among the victims

GEIR PEDERSEN | UN SPECIAL ENVOY FOR SYRIA

The alliance between Japan and the United States is a cornerstone of what we believe is integral to peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region

KAMALA HARRIS | US VICE-PRESIDENT

The Iranian negotiating team and colleagues in New York have held talks with the European Union's representative and other countries that are related to the nuclear negotiations

HOSSEIN AMIR-ABDOLLAHIAN | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Influential Muslim religious leader dies

Dubai: Senior Muslim cleric Sheikh Youssef al-Qaradawi, a spiritual leader for the Muslim Brotherhood and defender of Arab Spring revolts, died Monday at age 96, according to a post on his official Twitter account. Born in Egypt in 1926, Qaradawi spent much of his life in Qatar, where he became one of the most recognisable and influential Sunni Muslim clerics in the Arab world thanks to regular appearances on Qatar's Al Jazeera network.

Twitter to interview Musk

Wilmington, Del: Billionaire Elon Musk's tendency to dish out insults while being questioned under oath will be tested anew Monday, when lawyers for Twitter Inc (TWTR.N) are due to interview the Tesla Inc (TSLA.O) CEO about his abrupt decision in July to ditch his \$44 billion deal for the social media company.

N Korea-China freight train service resumes

Seoul: A freight train from the Chinese border city of Dandong was seen crossing a railway bridge into North Korea Monday, marking the resumption of such a cargo service operation between the two countries after a five-month halt. The train with more than 10 cars was spotted crossing the bridge over the Amnok River toward the North's border city of Sinuiju at 7.43 a.m., reports Yonhap News Agency.

Seven dead in SK outlet mall fire

Seoul: A major fire broke out at an outlet mall in South Korea's Daejeon city Monday, leaving seven people dead, while a search operation is underway for more possible victims, officials said. The blaze is believed to have started from the basement parking lot at Hyundai Premium Outlet in Daejeon, about 160 km south of Seoul, at 7.45 a.m. and spread quickly on cardboard boxes, sending dark smoke filling the entire floor.

One dead, many missing in avalanche

Kathmandu: At least one person died and scores of others went missing in an avalanche that hit the 8,163-metre-high Mount Manaslu in western Nepal Monday afternoon. The rescue operation couldn't be carried out owing to inclement weather, said Chang Dawa Sherpa of Seven Summit Treks Pvt Ltd at the base camp of the mountain.

PUTIN'S NUCLEAR THREAT IN UKRAINE

US warns Russia of 'consequences'

AGENCIES

Kyiv, Sept 26: An overnight drone strike near the Ukrainian port of Odesa sparked a massive fire and explosion, the military said Monday, as Russia's leadership faced growing resistance to its efforts to call up hundreds of thousands of men to fight in Ukraine.

The airstrike on Odesa was the latest in a series of drone attacks on the key southern city in recent days, and hit a military installation and detonated ammunition when it struck.

Firefighters were struggling to contain the blaze, and civilians nearby were evacuated, the Ukrainian military's southern command said.

It came hours after the United States vowed to take decisive action and promised "catastrophic consequences" if Russia uses nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

Concerns are growing that Russia may seek to escalate the conflict once it completes what Ukraine and the West see as illegal referendums in parts of Ukraine under its control.

The voting, which ends Tuesday, happened after thousands of residents had fled and has included images of armed Russian troops going door-to-door to pressure Ukrainians into casting a ballot.

Russia announced the "referendums" as its war on Ukraine has bogged down amid a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

"Every night and day there is inevitable shelling in the Donbas, under the roar of which people



are forced to vote for Russian peace," Donetsk regional governor Pavlo Kirilenko said Monday.

Russia is widely expected to declare the results in its favour, a step that could see Moscow annex the territory and give it the pretext to defend it as its own territory under the Russian nuclear umbrella.

Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser, said Russia would pay a high, if unspecified, price if it made good on veiled threats to use nuclear weapons in the conflict.

"If Russia crosses this line there will be catastrophic consequences for Russia. The United States will respond decisively," he told NBC's Meet the Press Sunday.

On Monday, Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko held an unannounced meeting in the southern Russian city of Sochi

and said they were ready to cooperate with the West — "if they treat us with respect," Putin said.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Monday that Putin had told Turkey's president during their meeting in Uzbekistan last week that Moscow was ready to resume negotiations with Ukraine but had "new conditions" for a cease-fire. The minister didn't elaborate on the conditions.

The Kremlin last week announced a partial mobilisation to add at least 300,000 troops to its force in Ukraine in the run-up to the votes in the occupied regions.

The move, a sharp shift from Vladimir Putin's previous efforts to portray the war as a limited military operation that wouldn't interfere with most Russians' lives, proved extremely unpopular at home.

Ukrainians scared by Russia's referendums

After seven months of war, many Ukrainians fear even more suffering and political repression as referendums orchestrated by the Kremlin portend Russia's imminent annexation of four occupied regions. Many residents fled the regions before the so-called referendums got underway, scared about being forced to vote or potentially being conscripted into the Russian army. Others described hiding behind closed doors, hoping to avoid having to answer to armed soldiers going door-to-door to collect votes. The referendums, denounced by Kyiv and its Western allies as rigged, are taking place in the Russian-controlled Luhansk and Kherson regions, and in occupied areas of the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions. They are widely viewed as a pretext for annexation, and Russian authorities are expected to announce the regions as theirs once the vote ends Tuesday. The Kremlin has used this tactic before. In 2014, it held a hastily called referendum in Ukraine's Crimea region to justify its annexation of the Black Sea peninsula, a move that was denounced as illegitimate by most of the world.



US whistleblower Edward Snowden gets Russian citizenship

Edward Snowden fled the US and was given asylum in Russia after leaking secret files in 2013 that revealed vast domestic and international surveillance operations carried out by the US National Security Agency where he was a contractor

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Sept 26: Russian President Vladimir Putin has granted Russian citizenship to former US security contractor Edward Snowden, according to a decree signed Monday by the Russian leader.

Snowden is one of 75 foreign citizens listed by the decree as being granted Russian citizenship. The decree was published on an official government website.

Snowden, a former contractor with the US National Security Agency, has been living in Russia since 2013 to escape prosecution in the US after leaking classified documents detailing government surveillance programs.

He was granted permanent Russian residency in 2020 and said at the time that he planned to apply for Russian citizenship without renouncing his U.S. Citizenship.

Snowden's lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena, told Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti that the former contractor's wife Lindsay Mills, an American who has been living with him in Russia, will also be applying for a Russian passport. The couple had a child in December 2020.



EDWARD SNOWDEN

Snowden, who has kept a low profile in Russia and occasionally criticized Russian government policies on social media, said in 2019 that he was willing to return to the US if he's guaranteed a fair trial. He hasn't commented on being granted Russian citizenship. The move comes as Moscow is mobilizing reservists for what the Kremlin calls a "special military operation" in Ukraine. In Russia, almost every man is considered a reservist until age 65, and officials Monday stressed that men with dual citizenship are also eligible for the military call-up.

Snowden, however, has never served in the Russian armed forces, so he is not eligible to be mobilized, his lawyer Kucherena told the Interfax news agency.

Jaishankar slams F-16 deal



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Washington, Sept 26: India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has slammed the Biden administration's proposal to provide \$450 million worth of spares and services for Pakistan's F-16s, saying no one is fooled by claims that these highly capable fighter aircraft are meant only for counter-terrorism operations.

Jaishankar kicked off a four-day visit to Washington DC with a first-of-its-kind public interaction for an Indian External Affairs Minister with the Indian American community: a Q&A in which he took unscreened questions from the audience, which, it must be noted, comprised largely of old fans and new fans, the moderator, for instance, repeatedly called him a "rockstar", and his every answer was greeted with multiple rounds of applause, with the most excited springing to their feet.

The Minister answered a range of questions from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Pakistan to Kashmir, education, health and his own experiences as a long-time career diplomat. "Very honestly, it's

EAM questioned the Biden administration's decision to approve a \$450 million package for the F-16 fleet, arguing that America's alliance with Pakistan has not benefited either of the two nations

relationship that has neither ended up serving Pakistan well, nor (is it) serving American interests," the Minister said in response to the F-16 spares, which has greatly exercised some Indian-Americans.

"It is really for the US today to reflect ... the merits of this relationship," Jaishankar added, asking what it wants with this package.

"For someone to say I'm doing this because it is all counter-terrorism content and so, when you are talking of an aircraft like a capability of an F-16 where everybody knows, you know where they are deployed and what is their use," the Minister said, and added, "You're not fooling anybody by saying these things."

The Biden administration informed the US congress earlier in September that it proposed to provide \$450 million worth of spares and services for Pakistan's US-made F-16 for their "sustainment". No new capabilities or munitions are part of the package, which, it was stated, will also not alter the military balance in the region.



FLOOD MAYHEM

Residents waded through waist-deep flood waters after Super Typhoon Noru, in San Miguel, Bulacan province, Philippines. The typhoon leaving six people dead, knocking down power in two entire provinces, trapping villagers in floods and forcing officials to suspend classes and government work in and around the capital

IRG strikes Kurdish groups in Iraq

AGENCIES

Dubai, Sept 26: Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard (IRG) Monday unleashed a wave of drone strikes and artillery, targeting what Tehran says are bases of Iranian Kurdish separatists in northern Iraq, a semi-official news agency reported.

It was the second such cross-border assault since the weekend, at a time when Iran is convulsing with protests over the death of a 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman who was detained by the nation's morality police.

On Saturday the Guard said it targeted bases and training camps of Kurdish separatist groups in northern Iraq, claiming it inflicted serious damage.

Protests over the death of Mahsa Amini have spread across at least 46 cities, towns and villages. Iranian

state TV has suggested that at least 41 protesters and police have been killed since the protests began September 17.

In Monday's report, the semi-official Tasnim news agency said the Guard's attacks were in response for the support that the separatists have allegedly provided for the unrest inside Iran, as well as their attempts to smuggle in weapons.

B'desh boat capsized: Death toll rises to 49

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Sept 26: Bangladeshi authorities were racing against time Monday to find any survivors of the boat accident involving Hindu devotees, even as the death toll in the incident rose to 49, mostly children and women.

The devotees were heading towards the Bodeshwari Temple on the occasion of Mahalaya, the auspicious start of the Durga Puja festival, when the over-crowded boat capsized in the Korotoa River in the country's northwestern Panchagarh district.

Panchagarh Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Dipankar Roy, who is also leading the investigation committee formed by the district administration, said that 43 bodies were recovered by 5 pm and 41 people are still missing, the Bdnews24.Com reported.

Some bodies were found in a river in Dinajpur. The bodies had reportedly washed away due to strong current, an official said.



Italy poll victors target era of political stability

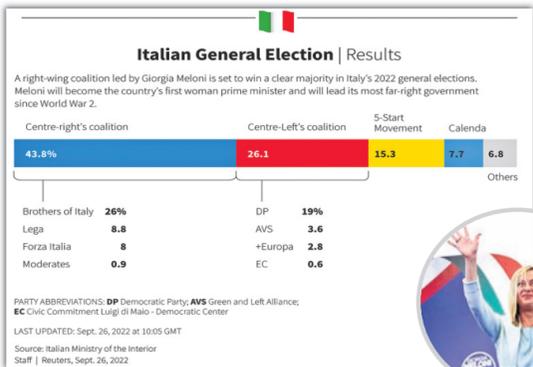
REUTERS

Rome, Sept 26: The right-wing alliance that won Italy's national election will usher in a rare era of political stability to tackle an array of problems besieging the euro zone's third largest economy, one of its senior figures said Monday.

Giorgia Meloni looks set to become Italy's first woman Prime Minister at the head of its most right-wing government since World War Two after leading the conservative alliance to a triumph in Sunday's election.

Matteo Salvini, leader of the League party that is one of the main allies of Meloni's Brothers of Italy, shrugged off a poor showing by his own party and forecast an end to Italy's revolving-door governments.

"I expect that for at least five years we will press ahead without any changes, without any



twists, prioritising the things we need to do," Salvini told a news conference.

Near final results showed the rightist bloc, which also includes Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia, should have a solid majority in

both houses of parliament, potentially ending years of upheaval and fragile coalitions.

The result is the latest success for the right in Europe after a breakthrough for the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats in

an election this month and advances made by the National Rally in France in June.

"Italians have given us an important responsibility," Meloni said in a social media post Monday. "It will now be our task not to disappoint them and do our utmost to restore dignity and pride

to the nation," she said, alongside a picture of her clutching the country's flag.

Meloni, who has spoken out against what she calls "the LGBT lobby" and mass immigration, tries to play down her party's post-fascist roots and portrays it as a mainstream group like Britain's Conservatives.

Meloni and her allies face a daunting list of challenges, including soaring energy prices, war in Ukraine and a renewed economic slowdown. Her coalition government, Italy's 68th since 1946, is unlikely to be installed before the end of October and Prime Minister Mario Draghi remains at the head of a caretaker administration for now.

Despite the talk of stability, Meloni's alliance is split on some highly sensitive issues that might be difficult to reconcile once in government.

business

of the day quote

We will invest up to Rs 350 crore to open 100 screens in FY23. I see the same trend continuing in the next 2-3 years as well



GAUTAM DUTTA | CHIEF EXECUTIVE, PVR

We have plans to infuse over Rs 5,000 crore as part of expansion plans to increase module manufacturing from 2.5 GW to 6 GW



ISHVER DHOLAKIYA | MD, GOLDI SOLAR

At the company's commercial vehicle business level, we have been investing around Rs 2,000 crore per annum which includes our investment in internal combustion engines, alternate fuel as well as electric vehicles



GIRISH WAGH | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TATA MOTORS

SHORT TAKES

Oil prices touch nine-month low

London: Oil prices hit nine-month lows Monday, driven down by an expected decline in fuel demand as rising interest rates raise the likelihood of global recession, with further price pressure coming from a surging US dollar. Brent crude futures for November settlement slipped by 82 cents, or 1%, to \$85.33 a barrel. The contract fell as low as \$84.51, the lowest since January 14. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude for November delivery dropped 74 cents, or 0.9%, to \$78. WTI dropped as low as \$77.21, the lowest since January 6. Both contracts slumped by about 5% Friday.

Bumper debut of Harsha Engineers

New Delhi: Shares of Harsha Engineers International Ltd Monday ended over 47 per cent higher against the issue price of Rs 330 apiece. The company's shares made their debut at Rs 444, reflecting a jump of 34.54 per cent against the issue price on the BSE. During the day, it rallied 59.87 per cent to Rs 527.60. Harsha Engineers shares ended at Rs 485.90 apiece, a jump of 47.24 per cent. On the NSE, the scrip opened at Rs 450, higher by 36.36 per cent. It finally ended at Rs 482.70 apiece, higher by 46.27 per cent.

Hero Electric's mega EV plant

Chennai: Electric two wheeler maker Hero Electric Monday said it will set up a Rs 1,200 crore two million units per annum mega electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing hub in Rajasthan. The company said it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state government at the Invest Rajasthan summit. According to the company, the proposed unit will be located at Salarpur industrial region over 170 acres and start production by the end of 2023.

Airtel enters home surveillance biz

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel has entered the home surveillance business with the launch of service in 40 cities, including Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata, the company said Monday. The company will charge Rs 999 per year for the first camera and Rs 699 per year for add-on camera, besides one time product and installation cost. "Xsafe is an end-to-end home surveillance solution that allows customers to keep an eye on their loved ones. It will also allow them to talk to those at home from wherever they are through a two-way communication system in the camera," Bharti Airtel - Homes, CEO, Vir Inder Nath said.



The global economy has lost momentum in the wake of Russia's unprovoked, unjustifiable and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine. GDP growth has stalled in many economies and economic indicators point to an extended slowdown

MATHIAS CORMANN | SECRETARY-GENERAL, OECD

SAMSUNG'S FIRST-EVER CREDIT CARD

Samsung India Monday announced its first-ever credit card in India in partnership with Axis Bank and Visa, that will give customers 10 per cent cashback across all Samsung products and services round the year. The 10 per cent cashback offer will be over and above the company's offers, on both EMI and non-EMI transactions



CARNAGE CONTINUES

MARKETS IN FREE FALL; DOWN NEARLY 2%

INVESTORS DUMPED EQUITIES AND OTHER RISKY ASSETS ON WORRIES OVER A SLOWDOWN IN GLOBAL GROWTH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 26: Equity benchmarks spiralled lower for the fourth session running Monday, in tandem with a bearish trend overseas as hardening interest rates and prospects of a global recession darkened the outlook for riskier assets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 953.70 points or 1.64 per cent to close at 57,145.22. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 311.05 points or 1.80 per cent to 17,016.30.

Maruti Suzuki was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 5.49 per cent, followed by Tata Steel, ITC, Axis Bank, NTPC, Bajaj Finance and IndusInd Bank.

In contrast, HCL Technologies, Asian Paints, Infosys, UltraTech Cement, TCS, Nestle India and Wipro were the gainers, climbing up to 1.28 per cent.

"Nifty fell for the fourth consecutive session driven by weak global cues and a falling rupee. Global risk assets including equities extended their selloff on Monday as fears of faster inflation and global recession continued to rise," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said the soaring dollar as a result of aggressive monetary tightening by the US Fed, slowing economic growth and rising demand from cautious investors are causing turbulence in the global equity markets.

"This is creating mayhem in the



The speed with which central banks across the globe are hiking interest rates, investors are worried that slackening growth would push key economies into recession

SHRIKANT CHOUBHAN | HEAD OF EQUITY RESEARCH (RETAIL), KOTAK SECURITIES LTD.

domestic market led by weakening INR, elevated bond yields and pessimistic trends of Asian peers. Only the IT sector, which exhibited the weakest performance in the last 1 year, defied the trend in anticipation that the global recession is mostly factored in the price and is trading at reasonable valua-

tions," he noted. In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge tumbled 3.33 per cent and the midcap index fell by 2.84 per cent.

All the BSE sectoral indices, except IT ended lower, with Realty falling 4.29 per cent, auto (3.86 per cent), utilities (3.72 per cent), power (3.71 per cent), commodities (3.32 per cent), energy (3.17 per cent), oil & gas (3.10 per cent) and telecommunication (2.97 per cent).

A total of 2,925 firms declined, while 660 advanced and 122 remained unchanged.

Foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth a net Rs 2,899.68 crore Friday, according to data available with BSE.

Investors lose ₹13.30L-cr in four days

New Delhi: Equity investors' wealth has tumbled by over Rs 13.30 lakh crore in four days of market plunge amid a sharp sell-off in global markets. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms tumbled Rs 13,30,753.42 crore in four sessions to reach Rs 2,70,11,460.11 crore.

Apple now making iPhone 14 in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: Apple Inc has begun manufacturing its marquee new iPhone 14 in India as the global tech giant taps into production prowess outside of China.

The US firm has started manufacturing of iPhone 14 in the world's second-biggest smartphone market within weeks of the September 7 unveiling of the device.

"We are excited to be manufacturing iPhone 14 in India," Apple said in a statement.

"The new iPhone 14 lineup introduces groundbreaking new technologies and important safety capabilities," the company said.

Cupertino, California-headquartered Apple started manufacturing iPhones in India in 2017 with iPhone SE. Today, Apple manufactures some of its most advanced iPhones in the country including iPhone SE, iPhone 12, iPhone 13 and, now iPhone 14.

Phones manufactured in India will be both for the Indian market and exports.

The iPhone 14 will be shipped from Foxconn's Sriperumbudur facility on the outskirts of Chennai. Foxconn is the world's largest contract electronics manufacturer and major iPhone assembler.

Apple, which long made most



Sources said the Made-in-India iPhone 14 will begin to reach local customers in the next few days

of its iPhones in China, could make one out of four iPhones in India by 2025, JP Morgan analysts said in a note last week.

iPhone devices in the past were assembled in India about six to nine months after production started in Chinese factories. This time the duration has been cut short to just a couple of weeks.

The iPhone 14 was launched September 7, 2022, and is available to customers in India simultaneously with the US, among other markets, since September 16, 2022.

INFLATION ABOVE 6% S&P retains FY23 GDP growth at 7.3%

Indian economy expanded 13.5% in the April-June quarter, sequentially higher than the 4.10% growth clocked in the January-March period

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 26: S&P Global Ratings Monday retained its projection of India's economic growth at 7.3 per cent for the current fiscal and said inflation is likely to re-

main above the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent till the end of 2022. In its Economic Outlook for Asia Pacific, S&P said the external environment has soured for economies in the region and higher global interest rates will continue to exert pressure on central banks in the form of capital outflows and currency depreciation.

S&P Global Ratings Asia-Pacific Chief Economist Louis Kuijs said a pronounced slowdown in China was offset by a strong rebound in India as consumption, especially of services, continued to recover and investment grew rapidly.



"We have retained our India growth outlook at 7.3 per cent for the fiscal year 2022-2023 and 6.5 per cent for the next fiscal year, although we see the risks tilted to the downside," Kuijs said.

The Reserve Bank expects the Indian economy to grow 7.2 per cent in the current fiscal (April-

March). The growth last year (2021-22) was 8.7 per cent.

Several other agencies, including ADB, Fitch Ratings and Citigroup, have already slashed India's growth projections to either 7 per cent or below. ADB and Fitch pegged India's growth estimate at 7 per cent, while Ind-Ra, SBI and Citigroup expect it to be 6.9 per cent, 6.8 per cent and 6.7 per cent, respectively.

With regard to inflation, S&P Global Ratings pegged the average rate in the current fiscal at 6.8 per cent and projected it to fall to 5 per cent in the next financial year beginning April 2023.

SBI holds awareness prog on BBPS, SBI ePay



Bhubaneswar: SBI, Local Head Office, Bhubaneswar has conducted a merchant awareness programme on BBPS (Bharat Bill Payment System) and SBI ePay September 26. Top officials of SBI from Corporate Centre, Mumbai attended the meeting and addressed the gathering. Chief General Manager of Bhubaneswar Circle Chandershekar Sharma, General Manager, Network-I; Ponnambalam Murugan, Deputy General Manager; Amarendra Kumar and Sanjay Jha were among officials of Local Head Office, who attended the meeting. BBPS is a RBI initiative for making payment of various bills like school fees, municipality taxes etc from a single platform. Officials noted that it is a user-friendly platform both for consumers as well as for merchants. A team of officials from Corporate Centre headed by Parthasarathi Patra, Chief General Manager (Digital & Transaction banking) explained the platform's details. The meeting ended with vote of thanks given by Amarendra Kumar (DGM).

Tapan Chand bags top industry award



Bhubaneswar: Tapan Chand, a well known top industry professional and former CMD of NALCO who has worked in steel, coal and aluminium sectors, in private as well as public sector, was felicitated with 'The Most Admired Industry Professional of the Decade Award' for his contribution in the areas of excellent turnaround management and CSR for betterment of the society. The announcement was made by News18 Odia #Atma Nirbhar Odisha - Odisha Business Leadership Awards 2022, in its inaugural initiative of felicitating and recognising such change-makers who have worked delicately for the growth and progress of Odisha and its people. Pratap Keshari Deb, Minister of Industries, MSME and Energy, Government of Odisha, and Rajesh Raina, group editor News 18 Network, felicitated him with the award. The celebration was held at Mayfair Convention September 25. Other dignitaries present at the event were Sujata R Karthikeyan, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Mission Shakti Department; Manoj Kumar Mishra, Secretary, Electronics and Information Technology Department, Government of Odisha.

India's push for indigenous navigation jolts mobile giants

Government wants to reduce dependence on foreign systems, including the widely used US GPS, and says NavIC provides more accurate domestic navigation and that its use would benefit the economy

REUTERS

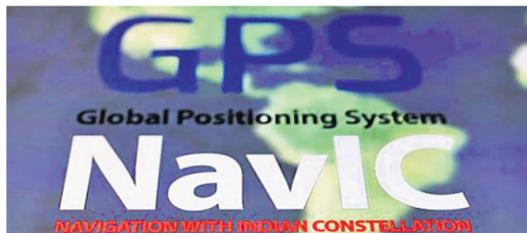
New Delhi, Sept 26: India is pushing tech giants to make smartphones compatible with its homegrown navigation system within months, worrying the likes of Samsung, Xiaomi and Apple who fear elevated costs and disruptions as the move requires hardware changes, according to two industry sources and government documents seen by Reuters.

In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive for self-reliance, India has over the years expanded the use of its regional

navigation satellite system called NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation).

China, the European Union, Japan and Russia have their own global or regional navigation systems to rival Global Positioning System (GPS). Operational since 2018, NavIC's uptake is minimal; it is mandated in public vehicle location trackers, for example.

But government and industry documents show Modi's administration and space officials want to broaden its use, and have this year pushed smartphone giants to make hardware changes to support NavIC, in addition to GPS, in



new phones they will sell from January 2023.

In private meetings in August and September, representatives of Apple Inc, Xiaomi Corp, Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and others pushed back, citing worries that making phones NavIC-compliant would mean higher research and production costs.

The changes would also require

more testing clearances, which with a January 1 deadline would disrupt businesses and planned launches, according to two smartphone industry sources and documents.

Samsung's India executive Binu George warned of cost worries, telling officials that NavIC support requires not just new smartphone chipsets but also many

other components.

"This would add to cost as it requires hardware design changes and additional investments to support devices specific to India. Further, the companies have already prepared for models to be launched in 2024," the minutes quoted him as saying.

The smartphone players have sought time until 2025 to implement the changes, and a final decision is expected in coming days, a senior government official said. The minutes said the Indian space agency will provide technical support for implementing NavIC in new smartphones, adding another meeting may be called.

INDIA VS OTHERS

India's space agency has said systems like GPS and Russia's GLONASS are operated by their countries' defence agencies, mak-

ing it possible for civilian service to be interrupted.

NavIC, it says, is fully under the control of the Indian government, which one day wants to take it global like GPS. India would not be the first country to push smartphone makers to add support for a native navigation system.

Russia has sought to mandate inclusion of its own GLONASS system in smartphones sold locally to reduce reliance on GPS, which Washington can switch off for civilian subscribers as it did during military operations in Iraq.

China's Beidou was completed in June 2020, and, though not mandated, the official Xinhua news agency has reported that in 2021, 94.5% of China-made smartphones had Beidou support.

FERNANDO SEALS TIGERS' WIN

PREPARATIONS FOR T20 WORLD CUP Rohit wants to give DK more game time

Odisha Women beat Jharkhand in low-scoring tie

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 26: Dilhara Fernando (4/31) bowled a splendid spell, including a superb final over, to help Manipal Tigers script a narrow three-run win over Bhilwara Kings in a thrilling Legends League Cricket (LLC) match at the Barabati Stadium here, Monday.

Needing nine runs off the final over, Fernando conceded only five runs and bagged a couple of wickets. It was all going well for the Kings, who were chasing 176-run target, until Yusuf Pathan (42, 21b, 2x4, 4x6) was at the crease.

However, Yusuf's wicket in the final ball in the penultimate over off Parvinder Awana (2/34) changed the complexion of the game. It was after the Tigers posted 175/8 after the Kings won the toss and electing to bowl first.

Chasing a competitive total, the Kings were struggling at 112/5 in 14.1 overs. William Porterfield (28), Matt Prior (17), Tanmay Srivastava (26) and Jesal Karia (14) got starts but couldn't convert their scores into big ones.

However, Yusuf stood tall having the company of his younger brother Irfan Pathan (23). The duo struggled to find quick runs for a couple of overs, but found the scoring easy once settled. The siblings added



Jesse Ryder (L) congratulates Tatenda Taibu after the latter completed his half century, Monday

41 runs for the sixth wicket, before Irfan perished. The hope was still there for the Kings, but Yusuf's departure ended their hopes for a win.

Earlier, Jesse Ryder (47, 35b, 6x4, 2x6) and Tatenda Taibu (54, 30b, 5x4, 4x6) gave the Tigers a flying start adding 109 runs inside 11 overs after being invited to bat first. It was the former Zimbabwe man Taibu, who was the aggressor between the two, while the former Kiwi man played the role of an anchor.

However, Yusuf undone the hard-works of the openers, dismissing

the duo within three balls to reduce the Tigers to 110/2. Jesal Karia (1/25) then got rid of Pradeep Sahu in the next over.

Corey Anderson (24, 21b, 3x4) and Mohammed Kaif (32, 25b, 3x4, 1x6) then resurrected the innings with a 57-run partnership for the fourth wicket, guiding the Tigers to a challenging total. Once the partnership was broken, with the wicket of Anderson, in the first ball of the 19th over, it all went downhill for the Tigers. As a result, they could only add seven runs in

the last two overs, losing five wickets in the process, including the wicket of Anderson.

BRIEF SCORES

Manipal Tigers 175/8 (Tatenda Taibu 54, Jesse Ryder 47, Mohammed Kaif 32, Corey Anderson 24; Tino Best 3/20, Yusuf Pathan 2/25) beat Bhilwara Kings 172/9 (Yusuf Pathan 42, William Porterfield 28, Tanmay Srivastava 26, Irfan Pathan 23; Dilhara Fernando 4/31, Harbhajan Singh 2/16, Parvinder Awana 2/34) by 3 runs.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Hyderabad, Sept 26: India skipper Rohit Sharma wants to give wicketkeeper batter Dinesh Karthik more time in the middle before the team heads Down Under for the T20 World Cup next month. India have been alternating between Karthik and Rishabh Pant in their playing XI.

While the young keeper was given the nod ahead of the veteran player in the Asia Cup, Karthik was picked for all three matches against Australia.

"I wanted both of these guys to have a number of games under their belt before the World Cup. When we went to the Asia Cup both of these guys were in the fray to play all games," Rohit said at the post-match press conference after India clinched the three-match series against Australia Sunday.

"But I just feel that Dinesh needs a little more game time. He hardly got to bat (this series). Just maybe three balls. So that's not enough time," Rohit added.

Karthik faced seven balls in total against Australia, while Pant played only one game where he did not get a chance to bat. "Pant also needs

India (268 points) go 7 points clear of England (261) at the top of the T20 rankings. South Africa and Pakistan are tied 3rd having 258 points each. Australia (250) drop a place to 6th

game time obviously. But looking at how this series was it was important for me to just stick to that consistent batting lineup."

India take on South Africa for a three-match T20I series, starting Wednesday and Rohit said Karthik and Pant's inclusion in the playing xi will depend upon the situation.

"I don't know what we're gonna do against South Africa. We just need to go and see their bowling, what sort of bowling lineup they'll play with, and who are the best guys for us who can handle that bowling lineup. It all depends on that."

"But we'll try and manage those guys pretty carefully. I do understand that they need game time before the World Cup but there are only 11 players you can play, unfortunately."

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 26: Odisha women's team managed to eke out a narrow 12-run win over Jharkhand eves in a match at the KIIT Cricket Stadium here, Monday. The state eves are playing an invitational triangular tournament, which also involves the Bengal team, as part of their preparations for the BCCI's domestic season.

The home team batters failed to make an impression as they post a paltry 78/9 in their stipulated 20 overs. Sarita Meher was the top scorer for the hosts, having 38 runs to her name in 51 balls. Sushree Dibyadarshini was the second-best scorer with a 17-ball 12.

Niharika was the standout among the Jharkhand bowlers, finishing with 2/11 in her three overs. She was ably supported by Nidhi Buley (1/4 in 2 overs).

In response, the hosts restricted Jharkhand at 66/8 in 20 overs. Niharika, who was brilliant with the ball, also impressed with the bat scoring 16 off 29 balls. Ruma Kumari was the second-best contributor with a 27-ball 13.

Sujata Mallik was excellent with the ball having 3/5 in her 4 overs, including a maiden over. Sushree also chipped in with three wickets conceding 14 runs in her 4 overs.

Croats, Dutch through; Denmark stun France

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Sept 26: Croatia and the Netherlands finished warming up for the World Cup in style Sunday by winning their last Nations League games to qualify for the Final Four tournament next year.

Croatia topped Group A1 by winning 3-1 in Austria to relegate the hosts to the second tier of the Nations League, while the unbeaten Dutch defeated visiting Belgium 1-0 and won Group A4 with 16 points — six more than second-place Belgium. Defending Nations League and World Cup champion France lost 0-2 in Denmark but avoided relegation because of Austria's defeat.

It was the last match for the World Cup-bound teams before the competition starts in Qatar November 20. The French and the Danes will meet again in Qatar with Tunisia and Australia also in their group.

The Croats led after six minutes in Vienna when their veteran captain Luka Modric was left unmarked inside the penalty area and rifled home. Austria equalised three minutes later through Christoph Baumgartner's glancing header, but second-half goals from Marko Livaja and Dejan Lovren sealed a memorable win for Croatia.

Denmark finished in second place on 12 points and one point behind Croatia after beating a sloppy and injury-depleted France side. Kasper Dolberg fired the Danes ahead in the 34th minute and Andreas Skov Olsen made it 2-0 soon after as France's inexperienced defense failed to deal with a corner and exposed No.3 goalkeeper Alphonse Areola.

Les Bleus finished third, one point ahead of the Austrians, but coach Didier Deschamps' team won only one of their six games and scored just five goals — the least in the group.

The Belgians needed to win by three goals away to the Netherlands, but lost 0-1, with Virgil Van Dijk heading in the only goal after 73 minutes. Poland won 1-0 in Wales in the other Group A4 game as the prolific Robert Lewandowski turned provider for strike partner Karol Swiderski around the hour mark.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shahbaz, Iyer in for SA T20Is

NEW DELHI: Yet to recover from COVID-19, Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of India's three-match T20I series against South Africa, while Bengal all-rounder Shahbaz Ahmed came in place of a rested Hardik Pandya. The series is starting September 28 in Thiruvananthapuram. With all-rounder Deepak Hooda also out of the series due to back spasms, the national selection committee is set to recall middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer for the South Africa series. "Shami hasn't recovered from his bout of COVID-19. He needs more time, and hence, will be out of the South Africa series. Umesh Yadav will continue as Shami's replacement for the South Africa series," a senior BCCI source told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

Taniya claims of being 'robbed'

NEW DELHI: India wicketkeeper-batter Taniya Bhatia Monday claimed she was robbed of her important belongings, including cash, cards and jewellery, during the women's team stay at Marriot Hotel in London. The Indian team recently concluded their tour of the UK with a first-ever 3-0 ODI whitewash of the hosts in their backyard. "Shocked and disappointed at Marriot Hotel London Maida Vale management; someone walked into my personal room and stole my bag with cash, cards, watches and jewellery during my recent stay as a part of Indian Women's Cricket team. So unsafe," Bhatia tweeted. "Hoping for a quick investigation and resolution of this matter. Such lack of security at @ECB_cricket's preferred hotel partner is astounding. Hope they will take cognisance as well," she wrote in another tweet. Following the 24-year-old's complaint, the hotel responded via their Twitter handle and wrote, "Hi Taniya, we are sorry to hear this. Please DM us your name and the email address you made the reservation with and the exact dates of your stay, so we can look into this further."

Arjun goes down to Carlsen

NEW YORK: Teenaged Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi went down against World No.1 Magnus Carlsen in the final of the Julius Baer Generation Cup online rapid chess tournament, losing the second match 0-2. Having won the first match, the Norwegian had the advantage and he won the first two games of the second match to close out the finale early Monday. Having won the first match, comprising four games, 2.5-0.5, Carlsen needed to only draw the second to take the top prize. He won two games of the second match and shut out Erigaisi.

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