



TRICKY TASK

Actor Sara Ali Khan speaks about playing her grandma Sharmila Tagore on-screen if a biopic is made on her

LEISURE P2



NARROW ESCAPE

Vladimir Putin survives assassination attempt after an attack on his limousine as per reports by the Russian state media

INTERNATIONAL P10



FEDERER CALLS TIME

Roger Federer, regarded as the greatest tennis player, announces he will retire after next week's Laver Cup

SPORTS P12

Public drinking new trend in Bhubaneswar

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Commissionerate Police have collected over ₹60 lakh in fines during the last eight months from offenders for consuming liquor in public places here in the state capital. According to data released by Commissionerate Police, the fine amounting to ₹67,40,140 has been collected for drinking in the open between January and August this year.

It is alarming to note that the trend of public drinking is rising alarmingly in the state capital. In January there were 504 offenders from who fines to tune of ₹25,200 were collected. However, in August this year, the number of offenders rose to 3,730 and the total fined amount stood at ₹18,74,500.

The only two months other than January that saw less than 1,000 offenders were February and April. In the other months the numbers have always been more than 2,000 - March (2,339, fines collected ₹11.66 lakh), May (3,720, ₹16.46 lakh), June (3,596, ₹17.66 lakh), July (3,146, ₹11.52

lakh) and August topping the list of tipsy offenders at 3,730.

Sources claimed that Commissionerate Police intensified action against congregation of anti-social elements following rise in various criminal activities due public drinking in the city during the last couple of months.

"The city police should continue the drive against anti-socials for a safer capital city for denizens, especially the womenfolk. Drinking in public places is harmful for the people," advocate Dhitabrata Nayak told **Orissa POST**.

Sources in the know of things however, pointed out that it is not just people with criminal background who drink in public places. They stated many rich and influential people also sit and drink in their vehicles in front of malls and other eateries. They pointed out that the trend is taking alarming proportions and unless strict measures are enforced against the offenders, the situation may go out of hand. They asserted that prison terms are necessary to prevent drinking in public.



WOOLING INVESTORS: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik poses with officials before ringing of the opening bell at the Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai, Thursday (Report P3)

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



WELCOME TO THE PARTY

Promise that you won't leave our party. No...not in God's name this time!

5G services for Odisha in 1st phase: Vaishnaw

After selling of the spectrum, the Centre had said that initially 13 cities will benefit from 5G with none from Odisha finding a place in the list

POST NEW NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw said Thursday that 5G services for telecom networks will be rolled out in Odisha in the first phase itself. Earlier, when the list of cities where 5G services would be available in the first phase was announced, towns from Odisha did not find a place in it.

Speaking to mediapersons on the sidelines of his visit to Birapratappur village in Puri, the Telecom Minister said, "Odisha will get 5G services in the very first phase. The services will be rolled out soon and people can enjoy seamless connectivity."

Vaishnaw was asked whether there will be any impact of 5G radiation on human beings and he replied in the negative. "The amount of radiation generated by 5G services will be 10 times less than the norms set by the World Health Organisation (WHO). So, no need to worry about it," Vaishnaw asserted.

It should be stated here that once launched, users will get service at a speed that is 10 times more



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw (R) in Puri, Thursday

than that of 4G and 30 times more than that of 3G users. Along with it, users will also no longer face downloading issues as 5G increases the speed manifold. Huge files can be downloaded in the wink of an eye.

During his Independence Day address from the Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that the 5G services will be launched in India very soon.

However, after 5G spectrum was sold to companies like Jio, Airtel and Vodafone, government sources had said that in the first phase, the

services will be available in the 13 cities of Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Hyderabad, Jamnagar, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai and Pune.

Acting on a grievance by villagers of Birapratappur near Chandanpur at Puri, Vaishnaw directed railway officials to construct a foot overbridge (FOB) with ramp facilities for their convenience as soon as possible. The villagers complained that lower and upper primary schoolchildren are facing a lot of hardships and they put their lives at risk while crossing the railway tracks.

The residents pointed out that the entire village is criss-crossed by railway tracks. So during festivals like Rath Yatra, they find it very difficult to celebrate the occasion in a proper manner.

The Union Minister for Railways visited the village with officials and held discussions with its residents to solve their problems.

Earlier in the day, Vaishnaw also visited Lord Jagannath Temple in Puri to offer prayers. He also took part in the on-going training programme of state BJP leaders and workers

Budaun rerun in Lakhimpur, 6 held

■ Dalit sisters raped and then hanged from a tree to make it look like suicide, much like the Budaun murders in 2014

AGENCIES

Lakhimpur Kheri (UP), Sept 15: Six men were arrested Thursday in connection with the alleged rape and murder of two teenage Dalit sisters who were found hanging from a tree in a sugarcane field here, police said. The bodies of the deceased were found Wednesday night.

Police said the post-mortem reports revealed that the girls, aged 15 and 17, were raped and then strangled. The bodies were found hanging about a kilometre away from their home. The incident brought back memories of the twin murders in Katra village of Budaun district in Uttar Pradesh where two girls, again Dalits, were allegedly raped and then hanged from a tree in May 2014.

Lakhimpur Kheri (SP) Sanjiv Suman told reporters that according to preliminary probe the girls had left their home Wednesday afternoon with two of the accused, Junaid and Sohail. However, the girls' mother alleged that they were abducted. "Junaid and Sohail have confessed to strangling the girls



Lakhimpur Kheri SP Sanjiv Suman

after raping them," the SP informed.

Suman also stated that the two main accused were in a relationship with the sisters. The others arrested were identified as Hafizur Rehman, Karimuddin, Arif and Chottu. Incidentally Junaid was arrested following an encounter around 8.30am, police said. A motorcycle, a country-made pistol and ammunition were seized from him, the SP stated. He added that the clothes of all the accused have been sent for examination.

Suman dismissed claims that police used force to send the bodies for a post-mortem, which he said was conducted with the family's consent. The deceased were cremated (buried) Thursday evening. The girls' father, a landless labourer, expressed satisfaction over the police action in the case. "We are satisfied with the police action in the case so far," said the sobbing father. He demanded death penalty for all the accused.

➤ Continued on P4

SHORT TAKES

Fitch contradicts RBI's growth predictions

NEW DELHI: Fitch Ratings slashed Thursday its projection of India's economic growth to seven per cent for the current fiscal year, citing elevated inflation levels and higher interest rates. It should be stated here that earlier the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had said it expects the economy to grow 7.2 per cent in 2022-23 FY. Fitch also forecast a slowdown in growth to 6.7 per cent in FY24 from its earlier estimate of 7.4 per cent. "We expect the economy to slow given the global economic backdrop, elevated inflation and tighter monetary policy," the rating agency said.

Namita hangs up her hockey stick

BANGALORE: India and Odisha hockey player and experienced mid-fielder Namita Toppo announced Thursday her retirement from international hockey. She thus ended her decade-long career with the Indian women's hockey team. The 27-year-old Namita was part of the squad that won silver in the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and a bronze at the Incheon Asiad in 2014. A product of Sports Hostel in Panposh, Namita made her senior India debut in 2012 and represented the country in 168 matches. "The last 10 years have definitely been the best years of my life. I had a dream to play for India and I am so happy that I have been able to achieve my dreams," Namita said. **P12**

Woman shot dead over extortion demand

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada, Sept 15: A woman was shot dead after her husband refused to pay extortion money to a co-villager at Thutibar village under Komna police limits in Nuapada district, late Wednesday night. The deceased was identified as Kumudini Sabar, 40, wife of Sarat Chandra Sahu, 64, while the accused Nilambar Suna is absconding. All are natives of the same village.

The incident occurred when the couple and their two children aged 13 years and 10 years were sleeping at their residence. Suna knocked at their door at around 11.00pm and Sarat opened the door only to find the former

standing, holding a country-made revolver.

Suna demanded ₹10,000 from Sahu and the latter expressed his inability pay the sum. Suna then threatened to shoot Sarat.

Hearing the commotion, Kumudini rushed outside to protect her husband and in the ensuing melee Suna shot at Sarat, but missed him and instead the bullet hit Kumudini in the stomach.

A profusely bleeding Kumudini was rushed to the Komna community health centre (CHC) where doctors pronounced her dead on arrival. Suna meanwhile fled the village after committing the crime. Police have launched a manhunt to nab the accused.

'Snakes' turn saviour for Kerala police station

AGENCIES

Idukki (Kerala), Sept 15: Police personnel are generally considered as the watchdogs and saviours of society. However, it is no exaggeration to say that snakes, that too rubber replicas of the real reptiles, have become saviour of the law enforcers in this district of Kerala.

In a forest-fringe police station in the high-range Idukki, the police personnel struck upon a unique idea to shield themselves from the monkey menace. Such was the danger, that it was becoming extremely

difficult for the officials to maintain their sanctity. Monkey attacks had become the order of the day. So the personnel thought of an innovative idea. They started using replicas of snakes around the Cumbummettu police station that is located on the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border here to scare the troops away.

This trick has been a success at least till now. The China-made snakes, which very nearly resemble the real reptiles, can be seen lying in various spots, including on the grille of the police station building, branches of trees

MONKEY MENACE

'Snakes' turn saviour for Kerala police station



nearby and so on. The police came upon this idea of using replicas as per the advice of a local estate keeper who was doing the same thing to keep the monkeys at bay. Cumbummettu PS sub-inspector

PK Lalbhai said no monkey has dared to come anywhere near the station, since the snakes have been placed in and around the building. They feel that the reptiles are real. To confuse the monkeys the position of the snakes are changed once in a while, he added

"We were told that there won't be any more monkey menace if the rubber snakes were tied in places where they usually come in large numbers. There has been no invasion of monkeys since then," Lalbhai informed.

Sunish, another policeman said the monkeys have been posing several difficulties at the station for some years. "They used to come in groups, roam around the station premises and even destroy the vegetable garden in our compound. Sometimes they used to even attack kids. But, after fixing the rubber snakes, the menace has decreased remarkably," he informed.

Sunish said they came to know about the trick of placing rubber snakes from a cardamom farmer in nearby Udumbanchola and did not waste time to experiment with the replicas.

leisure



MOMOA SPORTS TRIBAL TATTOO TO HONOUR HIS HAWAIIAN HERITAGE

Aquaman star Jason Momoa took to Instagram and announced that he was en route to New Zealand and had a surprise for his fans as he showed off his latest ink in honour of his Hawaiian heritage.

CAREY WORRIED ABOUT INTIMATE SCENES WITH SENIOR ACTORS

Actress Emily Carey admitted to feeling apprehensive about filming intimate scenes for *House of the Dragon*. The 19-year-old confessed to feeling anxious ahead of shooting sex scenes with her 49-year-old co-star Paddy Considine, reports *aceshowbiz.com*.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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ARIES

You will desire absolute freedom in whatever you do today. A lot of entertainment is on the cards for teenagers, like window shopping or going for a movie. Kids may demand a treat from you. Generally, family affairs dominate today.

TAURUS

A short trip could be in the offing today, says Ganesh. Before proceeding, you may, however, be compelled to make changes in your itinerary. If you are not too happy with the new schedules and decide to stick to your original plans, you are likely to feel disturbed, uneasy at the end of the day. It would be better if you reconciled to the changes that are needed and then make a positive effort to make the trip an enjoyable and fruitful one.

GEMINI

You will make a reputation for yourself as a leader in your social circle. You yearn for something in your heart, and need to concentrate your energies upon attaining it. Your creative mind will come up with solutions today, to certain questions that have been perplexing you for quite some, says Ganesh.

CANCER

With Ganesh's grace, whatever you think or persevere will be successful. Students will excel and finish pending work. You can display your imagination excellently. In short, a day of happiness and variety.

LEO

You will pay more attention to matters at home. You may take up home renovation projects. You may end up replacing the entire furniture at your place even. You will spend the day enjoying with your family members and friends, says Ganesh.

VIRGO

Avoid all kinds of prejudice and do not allow intolerance to enter your mind today, advises Ganesh. In all likelihood, you will look around yourself in search of love and affection. You will do well to keep negativity at bay as otherwise it may cow you down.

LIBRA

Ganesh says that you will be busy in your work field today and will be able to attain your goals in your work field today. Your level of enthusiasm will be at its peak. Today you may be able to meet with a person from the opposite sex who will be your future partner. Ganesh showers you with his blessings always.

SCORPIO

Being a workaholic may divert your attention from your family and you may have to bear the consequences. It's time to sort differences with your spouse. But, all this while, you need to be calm and patient. Watch your words in case of any arguments, warns Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS

To do or not to do? That will be the question for most of today as you find yourself pulling out of one dilemma only to trip into the next one. Controversy will surround you and you may find yourself at the crossroads, where you are unsure of which direction to take. Turn to the wisdom of the experienced for proper guidance, advises Ganesh.

CAPRICORN

The most intimidating of ventures can prove successful if fortune favours you; you will be fortunate today, says Ganesh. Those of you dealing in stocks and shares can expect a profitable day ahead, but don't forget to give credit to your spouse; it will be their luck working wonders for you.

AQUARIUS

Meeting people from the different walks of life, having a good conversation with them and widening the horizon of your knowledge - this will be the highlight of today for you. At work, you will have a busy day with plenty of meetings, discussions, planning and execution, feels Ganesh.

PISCES

Today you will get attention from the opposite sex and this will play an important role in your success in the near future. Due to the favourable alignment of the planets you will receive more than your expectations. Ganesh feels that even though you are a calculative and cautious person, you will tend to be aggressive, outgoing and willing to take risks today.

SARA ON PLAYING HER GRANDMA

'Not easy to match her grace'

Mumbai: Actress Sara Ali Khan is often seen talking about her grandmother and veteran actress Sharmila Tagore and recently, she spoke about playing her on-screen if a biopic is made on Sharmila.

The *Atrangi Re* actress, while answering a question asked by her fan on portraying her grandmother in her biopic, said that it is not easy to match her grace while portraying her in a biopic. "She's so graceful. I don't know if I'm graceful," replied Sara.

Tagore is known for her remarkable performances in movies such as Shakti Samanta's 1964 hit *Kashmir Ki Kali*, her chemistry with Rajesh Khanna was also liked by the audience in the films like *Aradhana*, *Safar*, *Amar Prem* and others. During a live show on *Roposo*, Sara said she does not talk to her grandmother much about her films and works.

She added: "I speak to badi amma (grandmother) quite a lot, but I don't think I've actually spent much time speaking to her about her career as such. There are so many other things. She's so well-read, interested in current events, and has a great sense of general knowledge. She's such a classy lady and she's

had such a life. She has world views and we've spent so much more time talking about that than actually her craft, which I think I should."

On the work front, Sara will be seen next in

Laxman Utekar's project opposite Vicky Kaushal and also in *Gaslight* along with Vikrant Massey.

IAN S



Nora Fatehi slays in traditional wear

Mumbai: Nora Fatehi frequently appears wearing bodycon dresses and contemporary clothing. The dancer has made a name for herself as a fashionista by flaunting her amazing physique and setting the standard in terms of fashion wearing both traditional and modern attires alike.

She once again brightened the day Wednesday by posting many images of her wearing the traditional attire. In a saree with orange sequins and beautiful silver resham embroidery, Nora looked stunning. She paired it with a square-cut blouse with a plunging neckline that was highly embroidered in silver and orange. Nora completed her ethnic outfit for the day with a golden necklace and golden ear studs. She displayed her gorgeous bangs while wearing her hair in a high ponytail.

She added more glitz with a coordinating orange eye-shadow. She opted for nude lipstick; black winged eyeliner; black kohl, mascara-coated eyelashes, drawn eyebrows, and contoured cheekbones.

Fans and followers of Nora Fatehi showered her

with praise for her photos taken while wearing a saree. In the comments section, they used the emojis for fire and heart.

Meanwhile, Nora is currently on the judge's panel of *Jhalak Dikha Jaa 10*. Madhuri Dixit, Nora, and Karan Johar serve as the show's judges. In the upcoming movie *Thank God*, Nora will dance alongside Sidharth Malhotra to the song *Manike*, sung by Sri Lankan singer Yohani and Jubin Nautiyal.

IAN S



18TH SANGAM FESTIVAL

Odissi, Bharatnatyam recitals enthrall audience

Bhubaneswar: The 18th Sangam Festival, organised by City-based dance institution Art Vision, was held here at Rabindra Mandap, Thursday. The event was conceived as a confluence of two different dance styles including one by the hosts, in the honour of dance Gurus who have inspired performers for generations.

Dignitaries present during the lamp lighting ceremony included R. Balakrishnan, Chief Advisor to Chief Minister, Priyambada Mohanty Hejmadi, ex-Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University and eminent Odissi dancer and Preeti Chand, Research and Scholar.

The event opened with Odissi dance recital Ganga Nomami, based on Adi Shankaracharya's stotra in praise of Goddess Ganga, by Art Vision led by Ileana Citaristi. Rohan Dasgupta did the music composition while the dance was choreographed by Citaristi.

The next was Sabdaswara Pata Pallavi set to Raga AnandaKedar and Tala Ektali, elaboration of four bhangi of Odissi. The music was scored by Ramesh Chandra Das and Surendra Maharana while Citaristi chore-

ographed the compositions. Art Vision's last item was Duara Paka Nata (The story of the closed door) with reference to the verbal duet (bachanika) between Lord Jagannath and Goddess Lakshmi on the day of the Lord's return from Gundichamandir during the famous Rath Yatra festival. Choreographed by Citaristi and performed by Mousumi Mohapatra, Upasana Mohanty, Priyanka Sahoo, Kashish Bharati, Subhashree

Mahapatra, Anvesha Padhi and Subhashree Jaysing, the dance had its music scored by Ramesh Chandra Das, Prateek Pattanaik and Satchidananda Das.

The last presentation of the evening was Bharatanatyam dance by Anuradha Vikranth and her performing institute Drishti Art Centre. They presented Nava Rasa attributed to Goddess Durga. Needless to mention, the presentations mesmerised the audience till the end of the event. PNN



RANGA SANGAM - DAY 4

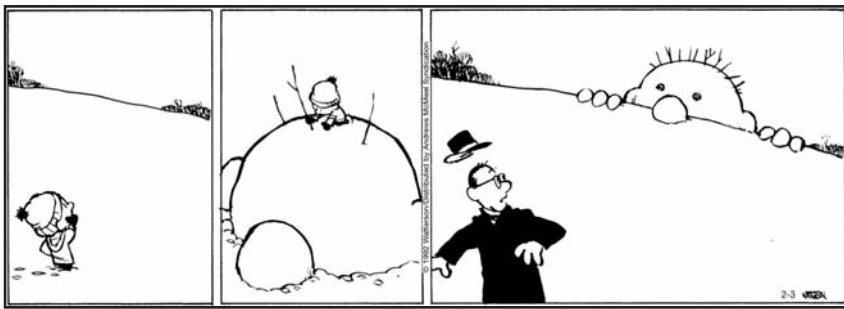
Artists of Srasta, a theatre troupe of Balasore, performed Odia play *Harigala Haripada*, at Bhanjakala Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Thursday, on the fourth day of the five-day theatre festival organised by Odisha Sangeeta Natak Akademi (OSNA) in collaboration with Culture Department, Government of Odisha. The play was adapted from eminent author late Manoj Das' short story *Bayasya* by Hemendra Mahapatra. He also directed the drama. Culture Minister Aswini Patra, OSNA Secretary Prabodh Rath, Vice-President Manmath Satpathy and theatre personalities Dhira Mallick, Shaileswar Nanda and Abhinna Routray were present during the lamp lighting ceremony.

OP PHOTO

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBS

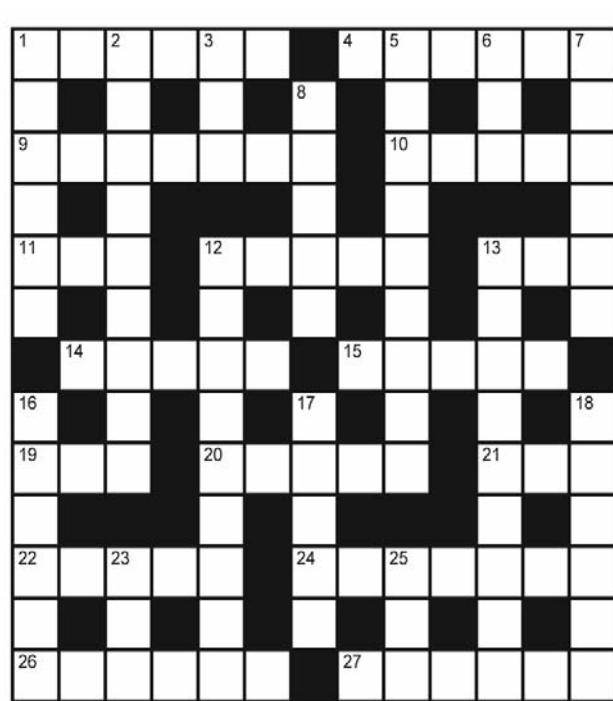


BREVITY



FUN post

CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Dictator
 - 4 Ship's garbage
 - 9 Enclosed porch
 - 10 Fencing move
 - 11 Goblet
 - 12 Unreactive
 - 13 Colour property
 - 14 Zany
 - 15 Essential
 - 19 Mutton cut
 - 20 Martini additive
 - 21 Total
 - 22 Undisguised
 - 24 Violent storm
 - 26 Zebra, for one
 - 27 Gentle wind
 - 6 Knight's title
 - 7 Violent disturbance
 - 8 Oasis
 - 12 Like some gains (3-6)
 - 13 Cemetery sight
 - 16 Small recess
 - 17 Songbird
 - 18 Hinder
 - 23 ___ de cologne
 - 25 Mongrel
- Down**
- 1 Instrument
 - 2 Robust
 - 3 Possess for
 - 5 Feel sympathy for

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

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

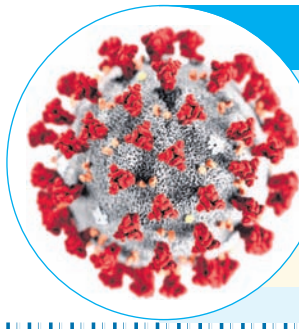
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

downtown



CRAFTSMAN DEITY

A vendor pulls a trolley rickshaw loaded with idols of Lord Viswakarma near Gourishankar Park in Cuttack, Thursday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	61,56,65,873	59,48,30,573	65,23,816
India	4,45,13,892	4,39,41,840	5,28,250
Odisha	13,31,139	13,20,450	9,185

Don't charge phones at public places: Police

PNN/ AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: With the rise in cybercrime cases in the state, Odisha Police Thursday advised people not to charge their cellphones at public charging stations.

The advisory was issued as police apprehend possibility of data theft from mobile sets by using modern gadgets at public charging stations.

"Don't charge your mobiles at public places like mobile charging stations, USB power stations etc. Cyber fraudsters are trying to steal your personal information from mobile and installing the malware inside your phone," Odisha Police said in a Twitter post.

Cyber experts opined that the data theft from mobile sets is possible through 'juice jacking'. They said fraudsters can load malware onto public USB charging stations to access electronic devices while they are being charged.

'JUICE JACKING' THREAT

The advisory was issued as police apprehend possibility of data theft from mobile sets by using modern gadgets at public charging stations



Cyber experts opined that the data theft from mobile sets is possible through 'juice jacking'

Fraudsters can load malware onto public USB charging stations to access electronic devices while they are being charged

Juice jacking is a hardware-

focused 'Man in the Middle' attack. The attacker uses a USB connection to load malware directly onto the charging station or infect a connection cable and leave it plugged in hoping some unsuspecting per-

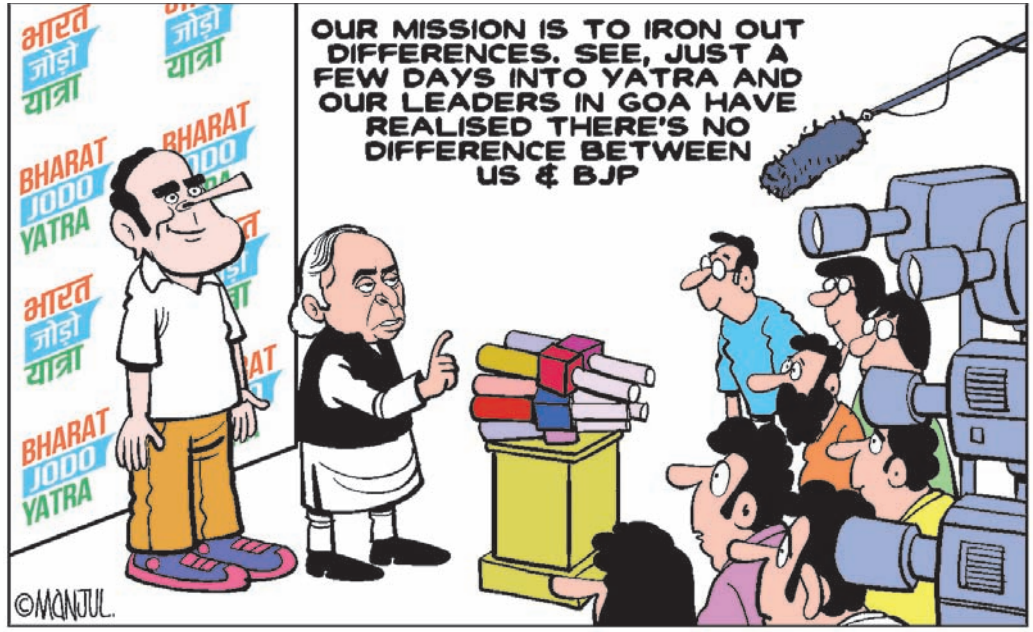
son will come along and use the 'forgotten' cable.

The police said though it is found that some people carry their own chargers or power banks, many depend on public charging stations like bus stands, railway stations, malls and other places.

Earlier September 4, Odisha Police had also cautioned public through a tweet to remain cautious as fraudsters always attempt to access your SIM card or duplicate it. "Fraudsters often call you pretending to be a mobile operator staff and try to convince you with SIM upgrades or benefits. So be aware & stay cyber safe," the police had tweeted.

About 146 cybercrimes were reported under Bhubaneswar Urban Police District in 2021 as compared to 108 in 2020.

POLITICKLE BY MANJUL



OTM revival: HC asks govt to deposit ₹115cr

AGENCIES

Cuttack, Sept 15: The Orissa High Court Thursday directed the state government to deposit Rs 115 crore before the official liquidator by October 15, to take over the defunct Orissa Textile Mills (OTM). The next hearing has been scheduled for October 18.

The state government has already deposited Rs 30 crore with the liquidator in the first phase and is ready to deposit the remaining Rs 115 crore to take over the OTM, the Advocate General told the High Court. Similarly, Idco has also deposited Rs 5 crore.

Addressing the issue of individual power supply to the staff quarters which was brought up in another petition, the High Court directed the official liquidator to address the concerns of the company workers and provide one meter to each staff quarters. In response, Advocate General Ashok Parija brought to the court's attention that meters have been provided to 90 staff quarters for electricity supply. The court also asked the company workers to inform the official liquidator in this regard.

During the previous hearing,



the HC had asked for an affidavit concerning assessment of pending dues and claims of the employees while directing engagement of a chartered accountant for the purpose.

Official sources said the state government is gearing up for OTM's takeover and an area of 521 acre has been identified for construction of the new plant.

Notably, OTM was incorporated as a public limited company by Biju Patnaik and Pratap Singh in 1946 and had started commercial production in 1950. In 1981, it was taken over by the state government and all the private shares were acquired. The mill started incurring losses in 1986 and was finally shut down July 31, 2001, rendering around 3,700 people jobless. When the matter is sub judice, more than 700 workers have died, said sources.

Naveen rings BSE's opening bell

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday rang the opening bell at Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) before culminating his three-day visit to the western metropolis.

He appealed to investors to take advantage of the conducive business ecosystem of the state.

Patnaik, who is in the country's financial capital to attend an investors' meeting, in a Twitter post said, "Honoured to ring the opening bell at Bombay Stock Exchange (@BSEIndia), #Mumbai. For investors looking forward to invest, #Odisha is indeed a place to be. Appeal investors to take advantage of conducive business ecosystem, friendly facilitation service & policies. #InvestInOdisha."

He also tagged four pictures in his twitter post while ringing the ceremonial bell at 11am Thursday. BSE chairperson SS Mundra and other senior officials were present at the ceremony.

The Chief Minister, during his three-day visit to Mumbai, met top industrialists including Aditya Birla Group's chairperson Kumar Mangalam Birla, Vedanta Resources Limited's chairperson Anil Agarwal and Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra.



He also met some leading bank heads like SBI chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, ICICI Bank executive director Rakesh Jha and country head of HDFC Bank Arvind Vohra and invited them to set up new branches while expanding banking services in the un-

banked areas. Apart from meeting the business honchos on one-to-one basis, Patnaik also attended a meeting held in the run-up to the state's flagship 'Make In Odisha' conclave scheduled from November 30 to December 4 in Bhubaneswar. The meeting was attended by 300 delegates from industries from across the country.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appealed to investors to take advantage of the conducive business ecosystem of the state

VEDANTA UNIVERSITY IN PURI

SC seeks AAF's reply on environment impact

POST NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi, Sept 15: The Supreme Court Thursday asked the Anil Agrawal Foundation (AAF) to submit a reply on the impact of the proposed Vedanta University in Puri on wildlife sanctuary and the two rivers passing through a portion of the land acquired for the project.

A bench of Justices MR Shah and Krishna Murari asked senior advocate C Aryama Sundaram appearing for AAF to respond on these issues, also noted by the High Court in its judgement, during the next hearing of the case. The matter will be taken up for hearing September 20.

"What is the extent of land that is required? You tell us on the next hearing. It appears from the judgement that at some portion of the land, there are two rivers passing through, a sanctuary is there... What will be the impact on them," the bench asked during the hearing Thursday.

Sundaram submitted that the foundation is ready to work on these modalities and if the state asks the AAF not to carry out constructions on the portion of land adjacent to the sanctuary, the foundation will follow it and keep that space empty.

Challenging the Orissa High Court's decision, Sundaram submitted that the state of Odisha wanted to set up a large university in Puri. "It invited the Anil Agrawal Foundation for the same and the state government identified the land. We were asked to make payment for land acquisition and we did that. We provided compensation and ex gratia to farmers who were very happy," Sundaram said.

"Is there any university there already?" Justice MR Shah asked, to which Sundaram said 'no'.

Sundaram further argued that a total of 3,837 acre land was acquired and compensation was disbursed. As many as nine petitions were filed in the High Court challenging the acquisition. Out of them, two are PILs which sought quashing of the entire acquisition. As many as seven petitioners are land losers, who hold



If the state asks the AAF not to carry out constructions on the portion of land adjacent to the sanctuary, the foundation will follow it and keep that space empty, says the foundation's counsel in SC

around 11.52 acre land. We agreed for exclusion of their land but then these PIL petitioners came and demanded that the entire land acquisition should be set aside, Sundaram submitted.

Earlier, the Supreme Court had in 2011 ordered the Odisha government to maintain status quo on acquisition of land for setting up of the University by Vedanta Group in Puri. Significantly, the Odisha government and Anil Agrawal Foundation had filed petitions against a decision of the Orissa High Court which citing 17 reasons held that land acquisition procedures for the proposed Vedanta University project were illegal.

The Orissa high court had November 16, 2010 delivered its judgement in a batch of petitions alleging that land acquisition for the proposed university in Puri, violated several rules of the Land Acquisition Act.

UTP to tie knot with rape victim in jail

Bhubaneswar: The Special Jail at Jharpada here will Saturday turn into a marriage venue where an under-trial prisoner (UTP) is scheduled to tie the nuptial knot with the rape victim.

Sources claimed that the UTP, identified as Akash Nayak alias Bunty, has been lodged in the jail since 2020. "The accused, a resident of Bachhara under Jatni police station on the outskirts of the City, was arrested by the police for sexually abusing a minor girl on the pretext of marrying her. Nayak later refused to accept the relationship and also threatened her of dire consequences if she insists on the marriage. Based on the complaint by the aggrieved family, police lodged a case (353/2020) and arrested Akash on charges of rape," said Subrata Priyadarshi, the special public prosecutor, Special POCSO court, Bhubaneswar. The girl recently attained the 18 years of age following which both the families approached the Additional Sessions Judge-cum-Special Judge, POCSO that gave the permission for the marriage. "We have received the court orders and the permission letter from the Prisons Directorate in this regard. The marriage will be held on jail premises Saturday," said Satya Prakash Swain, superintendent of Jharpada jail.

Ch'garh team on exposure tour

Bhubaneswar: A four-member team of senior officers and experts from Chhattisgarh reached here Thursday for a 2-day visit to Odisha to understand the reasons behind the 'success' of the state's Paddy Procurement Automation System (P-PAS) through satellite-based image analysis of paddy crops. The team, led by Dilip Jaiswal, on reaching Bhubaneswar Thursday, had a meeting with the managing director of Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited and other senior officers to understand the modalities and workflow of the P-PAS. They were provided a detailed view of how the state has made unique interventions while implementing the automation system, equipped with satellite-assisted paddy crop validation with the help of ORSAC (Odisha Remote Sensing Application Centre). The team will have a field visit to Khurda and Puri districts.

NEW CONTROL ROOM



Cuttack Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Pinak Mishra monitoring the CCTV footage of traffic in Silver city at the newly-inaugurated modern control room at the DCP office, Thursday

Tweak in MV Rules soon to regulate non-motorised transport

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: With an aim to regulate activities and access of non-motorised transport and pedestrians to public roads and national highways, the state government has initiated a process to amend the Motor Vehicles Rules.

State Transport Authority (STA) has drafted the required amendments to the Odisha Motor Vehicles Rules, 1993 and submitted them to the Works department for its opinion. As per the drafted rules, the respective Regional Transport Officer (RTO) will regulate activities related to vulnerable road users within their jurisdictions.

The Works department, other road owning departments and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will demarcate designated street space such as footpaths, cycle tracks, foot over-bridges and other infrastructure for pedestri-

ans, cyclists, bullock carts and horse carriages on all roads and highways of the state. The concerned agencies or departments will also provide pedestrian crossing facilities in every 2km on stretches of highways passing through inhabited areas, under their jurisdictions.

The government will identify busy roads where private vehicle movement will be prohibited, and such designated roads will be transformed to "pedestrian only" zones. Similarly, the PWD and NHAI will demarcate cycling paths and footpaths in all new and upgraded roads in the state, especially in high-density residential areas and major places of employment, as required under the Odisha State Road Safety Policy for safety of vulnerable road users.

As per the proposed rules, police will have to ensure that a person who drives a motor vehicle shall maintain a safe distance, as pre-



The Works department, other road owning departments and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will demarcate designated street space for pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorized road users

The police will have to ensure that a person who drives a motor vehicle shall maintain a safe distance, as prescribed by the government while overtaking or passing non-motorized transport or pedestrians

Fines equivalent to 1% of the total contract amount will be mandatorily imposed upon contractors in cases where new roads do not have adequate walking infrastructure

The road constructing agencies

will also have to ensure infrastructure for pedestrians such as crosswalks, subways and foot over-bridges is incorporated at the de-

sign stage of roads.

Fines equivalent to 1 per cent of the total contract amount will be mandatorily imposed upon contractors in cases where new roads do not have adequate walking infrastructure, and the amount will be deposited in the State Road Safety Fund (SRSF), as per the document. Rumble strips and zebra crossings will be constructed for safe passage of pedestrians at vulnerable stretches (near schools, hospitals, market areas), where there are large volumes of non-motorised transport movement, it said.

The Works department and NHAI will also demarcate slow zones or special speed zones for pedestrians on all roads, especially residential areas and areas designated as black spots, and restrict the entry of heavy vehicles (except emergency vehicles) in these zones. The transport authority in

consultation with police, decide and notify speed limits for enforcement. The RTOs can also implement safe speed limits for human and vehicular interaction not more than 40km/hr; vehicle to vehicle head on interaction 60km/hr; non-interaction-80km/hr and signs for safe speed limits provided on all roads of their jurisdiction.

The Works department, other road owning departments and NHAI will maintain the height of trees in roads so that it does not hinder the visibility of road users. Tree canopies shall have a minimum clearance of 3 m from the surface of the footpath to ensure better visibility for pedestrians.

All manufacturers of non-motorised transport will have to provide adequate and appropriate reflectorized material and helmets at the time of sale, to provide protection to persons on non-motorized transport such as bicycles.

Fine against vehicles without HSRP starting from October 1



of old vehicles with registration number ending with 5 and 6 while the old vehicle with registration number ending with 7 and 8 and 9 and 0 will have to fix the HSRP by November 30 and December 31, respectively.

In case the vehicle is not affixed with HSRP within the scheduled date mentioned above, e-challan will be issued against the offending vehicle and attract a fine of Rs 5,000 or Rs 10,000 under section 192 of Motor Vehicle Act, 1988, he warned.

Patra further informed that old number plates are easy to tamper with and can be misused by thieves. However, the HSRP plates come with a non-removable snap-lock and are difficult to replace.

These plates are tamper-proof and come with two non-reusable locks, he added. The state 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. Earlier, the HSRP has already been made mandatory for all new vehicles registered on or after April 1, 2019.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The state government will start collecting fines from the people who have not fixed High Security Registration Plate (HSRP) on their vehicles with registration numbers ending with 1, 2, 3 and 4 from October 1, an official said Thursday.

The deadline for affixation of HSRP on the old vehicles registered prior to April 1, 2019, carrying Odisha registration mark and registration number ending with 1, 2, 3 and 4, is going to end September 30. So, the law enforcing agencies will start enforcement activities on the fitment from October 1, said Dipti Ranjan Patra, joint commissioner trans-

Budaun rerun in ...

Continued from P1
The victims' mother had lodged a complaint at the Nighasan Kotwali police station Wednesday night, alleging that her daughters were raped and murdered. She said that her daughters did not have any relationship with the accused, as stated by the police. However, sources said that the accused murdered the two girls, because they insisted on getting married after being violated. "The men got angry and strangled them with their dupattas. They later called two of their friends, who helped them hang the girls so that it looked like a suicide," the sources said.

CLASSIFIED LOST

ପଦ୍ମା ହରାଇ
ପୁରୀ ନାଗରପାଳିକା ବେହେରା, ପି-୧୧୯୯/୧୨୦ (ଖାତା ନଂ. ୧୧୯୯/୧୨୦) ଗୋଟିଏ ପୁସ୍ତକ ଲୋଷ୍ଟ ହୋଇଛି । ଯଦି କେହି ଏହା ଫଳାଣ୍ଟି ତେବେ ଦୟାକରି ପୁରୀ ନାଗରପାଳିକା ବେହେରାଙ୍କୁ ଫୋନ୍ କରିବାକୁ ଅନୁରୋଧ । ଫୋନ୍ ନମ୍ବର-୮୫୯୮୦୨୫୫୫୫, ଓଡିଶା-୯୭୭୯୯୯୯୯୯୯

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of affidavit I Tripathi Sahu, At/Po- Jayantipur, PS-Jarada, Dist- Ganjam, Pin-761005, have correction my son named Samit Kumar to Samit Kumar Sahu due to erroneously recorded in my service record. Sd./- Tripathi Sahu

I Dinesh Sharma, S/o. Lachman Sharma, At/Po- Junagarh, Dist- Kalahandi, My Aadhaar Card Vide No. xxxxxxxx 3496. But in my passport my name has been reflected as Dinesh Kumar Sharma. I declare that Dinesh Sharma and Dinesh Kumar Sharma is one and same person that is myself. Sd./- Dinesh Sharma

The deadline for affixation of HSRP on the old vehicles registered prior to April 1, 2019, carrying Odisha registration mark and registration number ending with 1, 2, 3 and 4, is going to end September 30



An excavator deployed by BDA razing down an illegal structure at Aiginia in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

Railway min addresses grievance of villagers

Bhubaneswar/Puri: Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnav directed the railway officials to construct a Foot over Bridge (FoB) with ramp facility at Birapatapur village near Chandanpur at Puri for the convenience of the villagers after receiving a grievance by them for the same. The Birapatapur village is divided by train lines. As a result, the lower and upper primary school children face a lot of difficulties. During festivals also, people face difficulties to pull the chariot of the village deity across the railway lines.

State to be malaria free soon: Minister

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Health Minister Naba Kishore Das Thursday said that very soon Odisha will become a malaria-free state. He said this on the occasion of unveiling the social behaviour change communication products created by Malaria No More India, in partnership with the state government at Lok Seva Bhawan.



The localised IEC/BCC materials were designed for dissemination at the last mile to enable improved service delivery by health workers and adoption of desired prevention and personal protection by the community. The materials included - a ready reckoner on fundamentals of field supervision for both ASHA and Malaria Saathis, a Tin Board containing prevention and personal protection messaging.

Unveiling the products, the health minister said, "Odisha has achieved 90 per cent reduction of malaria positive cases in the last three years. The Govt of Odisha has partnered with Malaria No More India for strengthening the initiative further. I am hopeful that Odisha will be the first state to achieve the drive on Malaria Mukta Bharat. Malaria No More India as a credible partner of Govt of Odisha need to focus and support Pvt Health Providers engagement, strengthening inter-sectoral and inter-departmental convergence, mobilising various stakeholders, technology & tools to eliminate malaria in Odisha."

Elaborate security for airshow today



near the river while watching the show. Many dignitaries including Governor Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik are scheduled to reach the spot Friday morning to witness the splendid airshow by the aerobatics team of IAF.

Though arrangements have been made for 1,200 spectators, the authorities expect the crowd to be more than 50,000. Nine red and white Hawk fighter jets of the IAF's Surykiran squadron performed their final drills at the Bali Yatra ground Thursday.

National workshop on empowerment of PwDs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The state proposed enhanced interface with private sector for job creation in order to provide employment to the Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Ashok Chandra Panda, Minister, Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department (SSEPD) emphasized on more livelihood and skill development programmes for betterment of PwDs.

He also suggested that special ITIs may be set up for skill training of PwDs in all states and some of the existing ITIs may also be upgraded with developed infrastructure and accommodation facilities. Participating in the two-day national workshop organised in Indore by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Panda outlined various schemes taken up by Odisha. Bhaskar Jyoti Sarma, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, SSEPD, Odisha accompanied the Minister. The workshop included awareness content on Central government schemes for PwDs, best practices adopted by the state governments for PwDs and presentation by national institutes of the department regarding their activities.

AIIMS to hone skills of MAS members

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Creating awareness on key nutritional behavioural changes and building capacities of the Mahila Arogya Samiti (MAS) members is the need of hour for a healthy society. Due to lack of knowledge and information related to nutrition, society is witnessing a number of serious issues. In this context, department of community medicines and family medicines of AIIMS Bhubaneswar has taken up a unique initiative under the Community Led Activities for POSHAN (CLAP) programme, said AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director, Ashutosh Biswas, on occasion of celebration of "POSHAN Mela" at Nayapalli urban health & training centre Thursday.



More than 150 participants from 10 MAS members demonstrated skills to discuss various issues related to infant and child feeding practices, complementary feeding, exclusive breast-feeding, hand washing, deworming, growth monitoring of new born, care related to ante-natal checkup and postnatal check-ups, diabetes type-II and hypertension.

Missing Pihu's mom stages stir at OSCPCR

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The mother of minor girl Pihu, who has been missing for around two years, Thursday started an indefinite protest near the office of Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCPCR) against the inaction by the police.

The 2-and-half-year old baby Pihu went missing while playing near her house at Madhusudanpur under Binjharpur police limits in Jajpur district August 9, 2020. The hapless parents of Pihu have been running from pillar to post since then to get back their child. The local police initially did not respond to the complaint lodged by parents of missing girl. Finding no other way, Pihu's mother, Monalisa Nayak sat in protest before the OSCPCR office alleging inaction by the police and concerned government officials. OSCPCR chairperson Sandhyabati Pradhan said, "Following the receipt of a memorandum from missing girl's family, I have forwarded it to the Chief Minister's Office requesting appropriate action in this regard. The decision to refer the case to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will be taken by the CMO."

State BJP prepares strategy for 2024

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The BJP has chalked out its strategy and roadmap to counter the BJD government and win the 2024 general elections in Odisha during its three-day training programme held in Puri. The leaders discussed several issues during the training programme and on the last day central bigwigs instill winning mantra into the party members. The party is eyeing to win the Assembly polls and at least double the MP seats in the 2024 general elections in the state, party leaders said. During the training programme, which concluded Thursday the leaders presented poll statistics over the considerable increase in the party vote percentage in Panchayat, Assembly and Lok Sabha elections. On the other hand, the vote share of the ruling BJD is falling, said BJP leader Golak Mohapatra. The party workers will spread



awareness among the people about large-scale corruption in the state and urge the electorate to vote BJP to power, Mohapatra said. A charter of work schedule has been prepared and handed over to functionaries who will work at both level and enlighten the electorate about huge funds being released to the state government under several welfare schemes. Speaking to reporters in Puri, Leader of Opposition Jayanarayan Mishra said, "BJP will certainly form the government in Odisha in 2024. We are planning to win the required number of seats to

Kidney transplants by Apollo Hospitals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: Apollo Hospitals Bhubaneswar's Transplant Institute successfully transplanted single kidney unit into two adults and saved two lives successfully, informed Samiran Adhikary, Senior Consultant, Urology & Transplant Surgeon of Apollo Hospitals. The patients are Pritam Prasad Swain, a 29 year young man and Urmila Panda, a 55 year old homemaker. Pritam is extremely grateful to his doctors and donor to save not only his life but also the life of Urmila. Presently, both patients' Creatinine levels are less than 1 mg per cent with normal renal functions, Nisith Kumar Mohanty, Senior Consultant Nephrology Department of Apollo Hospitals said. Chief Operating Officer and Director Medical Services of Apollo Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, Alok Srivastava said that this is the first such case at Apollo Hospitals

wherein a paediatric donor kidney was transplanted in two adults.

POST NEWS NETWORK

He said, "The expert team of consultants managed the situation and successfully performed the transplantation. We thank SOTTO for providing all the support for conducting this transplant. Surely it will raise awareness among public for organ donation and also it is a big milestone for the healthcare service in the state." Both Adhikary and Mohanty thanked the transplant team consisted of Pratik Sahoo, Ramkumar, Sunil, Saroj, Anaesthetist Saumitra, Debabrata Dash and Samarjit Bisoyi.

Kidney transplants by Apollo Hospitals

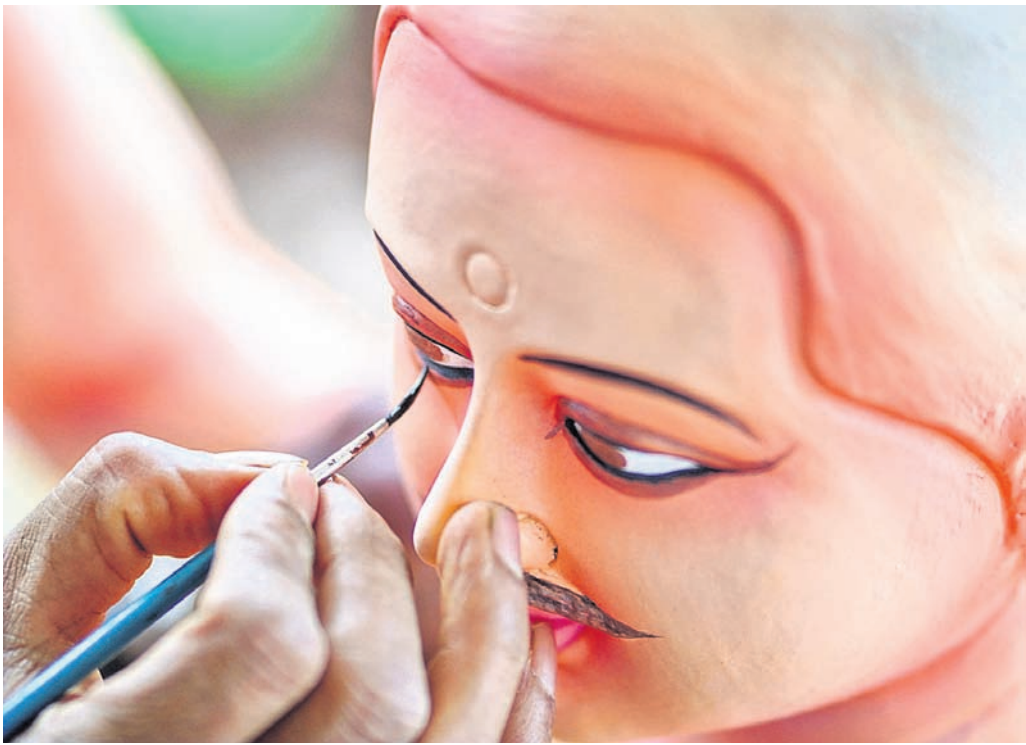


Missing Pihu's mom stages stir at OSCPCR



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FINAL BRUSHSTROKE



An artist applies finishing touches to a Vishwakarma idol ahead of his puja in Angul town

PTI PHOTO

Niti Aayog praises Keonjhar Model

POST NEWS NETWORK

Keonjhar, Sept 15: The Keonjhar model where 'Ragi Laddoo' was introduced in morning snacks for preschool children under Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) programme to improve nutrition levels among the kids has garnered praise from Niti Aayog.

The programme aimed at improving nutrition also plans to revive the age old traditional culture of millet farming and consumption with providing additional employment support.



In its report on 'Take Home Ration Good Practices across the States & Union Territories' the Niti Aayog said, "It is a unique model in the country with producing, processing and consumption of millets. Ragi Laddoo was introduced in the district under ICDS in July 2020, during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which was first in the state."

Furthermore, based on the achieved success, it adds that the Keonjhar model is now set to be replicated across the DMF districts in the state. Keonjhar has undertaken millet cultivation under the technical support from Odisha Millets Mission and is taking strides to ensure that nutritious millet is consumed especially under the government programmes.

Premix for ragi laddoo is prepared by the women self-help groups and supplied to different Anganwadi centers for the children. According to sources, millet cultivation is going on in seven blocks in Keonjhar district with funds available from district mineral foundation (DMF). Taking into account the demands of millets, the administration is taking initiative to cultivate 2,500 acre land employing 4,900 farmers in the district in the financial year 2022-23.

Rituals in Kapilash temple hit as priests resign over pay hike

POST NEWS NETWORK

Dhenkanal, Sept 15: The daily rituals of Lord Chandrashekhrajew, the presiding deity at the famous Shaivite shrine of Kapilash in this district, were thrown out of gear, Thursday after three priests and six supakars (cooks) resigned from service demanding a pay hike.

As a result, no rituals could be conducted in time at the shrine in the wee hours of Thursday till 2 pm with the deity having to remain without any offerings till 2 pm. Normalcy returned to the shrine after the Endowment department hired priests from outside and conducted the rituals.

The priests hired from outside finally performed rituals and made offerings at around 2 pm. The development has sent the chatters abuzz and sparked sharp resentment among the devotees.

Reports said that the priests and supakars of Kapilash shrine were being paid ₹6,400 each per month by the Endowment department. Earlier, they were being paid ₹5,400 each per month but their monthly salary was increased by ₹1,000 from the month of March following their repeated demands. However, they insisted on further pay hike.

A meeting was held at the district Collectorate to discuss their demands and seek an amicable solution, Wednesday.

The priests and the supakars reiterated their demand for pay hike in the meeting attended by the Collector and the Sub-collector who is also the endowment officer. The Collector made all possible efforts to placate them but the priests and supakars refused to yield till their demands were met. They tendered their resignations and walked out of the meeting.

As a result, the daily rituals of the deity were affected Thursday. The first ritual which had to be completed within 10 am could not be solemnised. Endowment inspector Pradyumna Tripathy confirmed the development stating that the three priests and six supakars insisted on pay hike refusing to relent and resigned from their service despite all efforts by the Collector to placate them.

Sub-Collector-cum-endowment officer Snigdharani Dhal said that they are repeatedly demanding for pay hike. However, the rituals of the deity will never stop. The rituals were conducted after priests from Balaram temple were engaged for the purpose, she added.



Political violence in Ganjam claims 8 lives in 6 months

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Sept 15: Political violence has taken to alarming proportions in Ganjam district with violence claiming the lives of eight persons during last six months.

Political people and their associates are being relentlessly killed at the slightest pretexts over gaining control of local political power. However, the accused are managing to go scot-free in most of these cases as police have failed to prove the involvement of the real culprits behind the violence.

This has sparked unrest and a sense of lawlessness in Ganjam district with one after another being killed in regular intervals after the conclusion of panchayat polls. All the murders are results of intense turf war prevailing between various political groups. This is also indicative of the deeper malaise and rot prevailing within political groups and the system.

The recent murder of a contractor and husband of a defeated Samiti member candidate of last panchayat polls at Regdi Square under Sadar police limits, September 13 is a case in this point. The slain contractor was identified as Purna Chandra Nahak, 42, of Ramsa village under Rushipur panchayat of Purusottampur block.

His wife Minati Nahak has alleged it to be murder over past political enmity. Minati contested the



REPRESENTATIVE PIC

last panchayat polls as a Samiti member candidate from Rushipur panchayat but was trounced.

Earlier in June, a youth Jogesh Behera of Jamuni village under Purusottampur police limits was killed in violence while another youth was rendered critical. Locals alleged that Jogesh was killed over political enmity.

Two BJD youth leaders were mercilessly hacked to death on Saura hill main road near Sindhaba village under Chasanimakhandi panchayat and Digapahandi police limits in Ganjam district, April 13. The deceased were identified as Sudhirkanta Patra and Sudarshan Suar of Palajhadi village under Chasanimakhandi panchayat.

Police during probe found that the murder occurred over the result of panchayat polls for Chasanimakhandi panchayat and arrested nine persons in this connection. Police also said that ₹50,000 was given to contract killers to ex-

ecute the murder.

Later, another youth Babu Goud of Nabarangpur village under Digapahandi police limits was killed while another youth Pradip Sahu was rendered critical, May 29. Police said termed past political enmity as the reason behind the murder.

Sahu succumbed to his injuries during treatment five days after the incident. Police arrested one person and produced him in the court.

Earlier, one person was killed at Palsara, February 18 over political enmity and another under Aska police limits, March 12. A former sarpanch and two of his associates sustained critical injuries in a violent clash with the members of rival group led by the current sarpanch during Sitala Sashthi festival at Masihakhali village under Kukudakhandi block, June 6. Police arrested the current sarpanch supported by the ruling party and produced him in court.

JUMBO DEATH IN ROURKELA 6 held; 2 tusks seized



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 15: The Forest department has cracked the mystery surrounding the death of an elephant in Banki under Rourkela forest division in Sundargarh, Thursday. The animal had been poached. Six people involved in the crime were arrested along with seizure of two tusks and weapons used in it.

DFO Jashobant Sethi said that the elephant was killed by six people for damaging crops on farmlands at Banki village September 9

The arrested were identified as Naga Tiga (39), Karam Tiga (58), Bisra Oram (41), Ajay Oram (28), Salan Oram (30) and Bisi Oram (32). They were produced in court Thursday.

Addressing a presser here at Rourkela DFO office, DFO Jashobant Sethi said that an elephant had intruded into the farmland of Karam Tiga at Banki village September 9. Later, villagers drove away the animal from the paddy field. However, the elephant again came back to the farmland at night.

Six people attacked the animal with spears. The injured elephant left the place and collapsed near a tree. Forest officials have seized the weapons used in the crime.

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Sunday, 18th September, 2022; 6:00 p.m. onwards.
at Townhall, Berhampur - 760 001, Odisha.

For registration, please contact: Ashish Sahoo, Mobile: 82802 71280.

Registration is compulsory.
The registration time will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.
It is mandatory to follow the COVID safety guidelines during the event.
No walk-ins will be allowed.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) e-Tender Notice No.: e-Tender-Elect-G-28-22

Description of work: ELECTRIFICATION IN CONNECTION WITH PROVISION OF LIFTS (9 Nos) AT STATIONS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION (BHUBANESWAR-2 Nos, KHURDA ROAD-02 Nos, PALASA-01 No) 20 PASSENGERS AND DHENKANAL-02 Nos & ANGUL-02 Nos) 13 PASSENGERS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 4,38,37,224.03
EMD: ₹ 3,69,200/-

(2) e-Tender Notice No.: e-Tender-Elect-G-29-22

Description of work: EXTENDING POWER SUPPLY IN CONNECTION WITH INSTALLATION OF SPLIT ACS AT SHORT HAUL OFC HUTS AT WAY-SIDE STATIONS (DHANMADAL, KALLUPARAGHAT, HUMMA, JHADUPUDI) OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx cost of the work: ₹ 4,46,933.04
EMD: ₹ 8,900/-

Completion period: 06 Months (for both tenders).

Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 30.09.2022 (for both tenders).

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

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available at website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

The tenderers/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer(s)/bidder(s) can participate in e-tendering as per instruction.

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G),
PR-496/N/22-23 Khurda Road

CUTTACK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

No. C-1211 Tender ID: 2022_ORULB_81451

Bid Reference No. MC(CMC)CTC_Div.-I_No.7/2022-23

Tender Call Notice No. 5218 (PW) Date: 14.09.2022

Name of Works : Civil Works

No. of Works : 32 Nos.

Bid Value : Rs.6.37 lakh to Rs.33.98 lakh

Period of Completion : One Calendar Month to Three Calendar Months

Date and Time Schedule :

Start	End	Opening
3.00 P.M. on Dt.16.09.2022	5.00 P.M. on Dt.28.09.2022	11.00 A.M. on Dt.01.10.2022

Tender details can be seen from the procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Executive Engineer, City Div.-I
OIPR-13031/11/0070/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR

No.3725/RWDBNJ/Dated 12.09.2022

1st CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE

IDENTIFICATION NO.07/RWDBNJ/2022-2023 T.O. LETTER NO. 3345 DATED 30.08.2022

No.O-986: The following modifications to the Online Tender/07/IERWB/NJ/2022-2023 are made under unavoidable circumstances.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date of Opening of Tender
		From	To		
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Bhanjanagar	Online Tender/ 07/RWDBNJ/ 2022-2023	As per TENDER CALL NOTICE		18.09.2022 upto 3.00 P.M.	20.09.2022 at 12.00 Noon
		09.09.2022 to 10.00 A.M.	19.09.2022 to 3.00 P.M.		
		As per 1st Corrigendum			
		16.09.2022 to 10.00 A.M.	27.09.2022 to 3.00 P.M.	26.09.2022 upto 3.00 PM	28.09.2022 at 12.00 Noon

All other terms and conditions of the said tender call notice shall remain unchanged.
OIPR-25174/11/0021/2223 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division

Historical building on verge of collapse

LACK OF MAINTENANCE HAS LED TO THE STRUCTURE LYING IN A DILAPIDATED STATE

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Sept 15: A British era building in Kendrapara district where rulers and officials used to hold secret parleys and also used it as a temporary prison to house freedom fighters is in a very dilapidated state and on the verge of collapse due to lack of proper maintenance, sources said Tuesday.

The building has been named 'Jambu Lal Kotha' by locals and is located in this block.

In the building, freedom fighters were tortured to extract information out of them. Many such horror stories are written on the walls of the building. They were forced to do all types of menial works. Any opposing the British rule was brought here after their arrest and tortured physically and mentally.

The building was also used to store initially food supplied from foreign countries during the famous 1866 famine. Then the items were



British officials used to supervise the construction of buildings at Hukitola and Batighar false points from this structure

The building started decaying after India's independence due to the vagaries of nature

sent in steamers to places like Cuttack, Chandbali and Balasore.

Now however, the building lies neglected. Both the Central and state governments have prepared special plans and are spending a lot to renovate the false points at Hukitola and Batighara islands. However, the admin-

istration has never thought about renovating this historical structure.

Locals alleged that the Jambu Lal Kotha is situated near this building and students often enter it while playing. Few years back, the students had a close shave when a slab of the building collapsed while they were

playing. So even now the possibility of a mishap cannot be ruled out.

According to locals, the British had employed members of a particular community as 'Khalasis' (fourth-grade employees). These 'Khalasis' were witnesses to all the activities of the British rulers that they narrated to the locals, the senior citizens in the area said.

The British rulers and officials also used to supervise the construction of buildings at Hukitola and Batighara false points from this structure. The Jambu Lal Kotha was constructed with large red colour bricks, lime and lac (resins).

The building started decaying after India's independence due to the vagaries of nature. Also local miscreants looted parts of the building. They broke windows and doors made of costly teak wood and sold those.

Locals Biranchi Narayan Das and Subhash Chandra Swain have demanded that

the building be declared 'unsafe' immediately or steps are implemented for its renovation.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA

Plot No.: 778, 1st Floor, Maharshi College Road, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties) [Rule 8 (1)]

Publication of Notice regarding possession of property u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act, 2002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a Demand Notice under section 13(2) was issued on the dates mentioned against below account and stated herein after calling upon the Borrower(s)/Legal Heirs of Deceased Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice with interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Legal Heirs of Deceased Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken POSSESSION of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Act on the date mentioned against below account. The Borrower(s)/Legal Heirs of Deceased Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the STATE BANK OF INDIA, for an amount stated below with interest, incidental expenses, costs etc. thereon. The borrower's/legal heirs of deceased borrower attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Account / Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/Legal Heirs of Deceased Borrower	Description of the Property mortgaged / charged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Dues Amount
Borrower: Sri Mahesh Das, S/o- Sri Rajni Kanta Das and Legal Heirs of Deceased Borrower Sanjukta Das namely: 1) Sri Mahesh Das, S/o- Sri Rajni Kanta Das, 2) Sri Rajesh Das, S/o- Sri Rajni Kanta Das, 3) Sri Rajani Kanta Das, All are at Qr. No.: 2RA-30, Road No.: 3, Unit-9, Bhubaneswar-751001	All that part and parcel of the property consist of Flat situated at Dist.: Khurda, P.S.: Chandaka, Thana-21, Tahasil: Bhubaneswar, SRO: Khandagiri, Mouza: Haripur, Khata No.: 134/60, Plot No.: 494, Area: Ac.2.650dec., Plot No.: 540, Area: Ac.0.240dec., both plots Kissam: Gharabari, One Khata, One Mouza, Two Plots, Total Area: Ac.2.890dec., that the Block 'C' Subhadra Nivas Constructed over the land Area: Ac.0.103dec. and undivided proportionate impartibly share measuring an Area: Ac.0.003.66dec. along with 2 BHK, Flat No.: 482, Block-C, 7th Floor, Subhadra Nivas, having total super built up Area of 1116 sqft. of the apartment namely "Sudarshan Vatika" of glazed tile flooring, load bearing framed structure and including one parking space in the name of Sanjukta Das.	16.06.2022	13.09.2022	₹32,08,635/- as on 01.06.2022 + further interest, incidental expenses, costs etc. thereon.

Place: Bhubaneswar Date: 15.09.2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, SARB, Bhubaneswar

FOCUS ODISHA

ENERGY TRANSITION CRUCIAL



So far, investments in the state's RE sector have remained tepid due to many institutional and commercial challenges. This needs to be addressed by the government through innovative policy measures and stronger incentives under the new RE policy, which is set to be released this year

come levels for the rural poor. So, low RE potential in Odisha is a myth that needs to be discarded.

As far as policy challenges are concerned, there are many. The foremost is streamlining and building the state's institutional capacity for RE promotion and adoption. Presently, Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency, Engineer-in-Chief and Green Energy Development Corporation of Odisha Ltd. have been made nodal agencies for different RE technologies, which often leads to confusion and delays at the implementation stage. A single empowered nodal agency at the forefront of RE promotion in Odisha can help fast-track deployment through proactive measures.

The other aspect is to avoid copying the model being implemented in states like Rajasthan and Gujarat, which are installing ultra-mega solar plants on large tracts of land. Instead, Odisha's new RE policy should focus on developing smaller plants by making farmers and landowners true partners in RE development. Technologies like agrisolar, rooftop solar, floating solar, pumped hydro stations, and green hydrogen should be prioritised. The policy should also focus on supporting and ensuring RE installations by industries with captive power plants, which also have to meet RPO targets.

At a time when the country is steadily cruising along a green technology pathway with clear targets and roadmaps for renewable energy storage, hydrogen, electric vehicles, Odisha cannot miss the opportunity to build a new clean energy economy. Overall, Odisha should develop the new RE policy for 2022-30 in such a way that it is recognised as a serious destination for RE investments.

The writer is the President and CEO of International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (IFOREST), a Delhi-based environmental think tank.

Odisha is known for coal. It is the second biggest coal-producing state, and by 2030, it will be the country's top coal-producing state. So naturally, Odisha's electricity production is heavily reliant on coal. Presently, more than 90% of electricity comes from coal-based power plants; renewable energy (RE) sources like solar, wind, and biomass play a minimal role.

In 2016, Odisha announced a policy to promote RE in the state. The policy had a modest target of installing 2,750 megawatts (MW) of RE capacity by 2022. But, as of March, 2022, only 617 MW has been installed, which is less than 25% of the target. In comparison, during 2016-2022, the country's RE capacity more than doubled from 46,580 MW to 109,885 MW. Today, Odisha's share in the country's RE capacity is just 0.55%.

But due to low RE installation, Odisha has to buy renewable power from other states to meet its mandatory renewable purchase obligations (RPOs). RPOs are an essential policy tool introduced by the central government to increase the installation of RE in the country. Under this, all states are required to meet a minimum amount of their electricity requirement through RE. Odisha's RPO target for 2022-23 stands at 14.5%, which is set to increase to 43.33% by 2029-30. So, in 2029-30, close to 45% of electricity demand in Odisha has to be met from renewable sources. Now Odisha has a choice: buy RE from states like Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu or install 30,000 MW of RE in the state to meet its 2029-30 RPO targets and simultaneously build a vibrant clean energy industry. I believe the choice is obvious: Odisha will gain immensely by installing RE within the state.

I say this because Odisha has the opportunity and obligation to promote RE. The opportunity is that the RE sector can support the next phase of green industrialisation in the state, creating new employment opportunities, as well

as boosting economic activity and income in rural communities. The obligation is because Odisha has one of the highest carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions per capita. It is also one of the most climate vulnerable states, with extreme weather events like cyclones, heatwaves, floods and droughts taking a significant toll on the lives, livelihoods and the economy every year. The energy transition is, therefore, crucial for the state.

So far, investments in the state's RE sector have remained tepid due to many institutional and commercial challenges. This needs to be addressed by the government through innovative policy measures and stronger incentives under the new RE policy, which is set to be released this year.

But before we address the policy challenges, removing a misconception that has pulled down RE development in the state is important. The misconception is that the state doesn't have RE potential. This misconception has been created because of the poor estimation of RE potential by different agencies. For example, till today,

a detailed study on the wind energy potential in Odisha, a coastal state, has not been undertaken. The solar potential has also not been estimated based on thumb rules. Our initial estimation is that Odisha's RE potential is at least five times what is being projected by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

Take the example of solar power. According to MNRE, Odisha only has 26,000 MW of solar potential. But this estimate has ignored the significant potential of manmade water bodies (where floating solar power can be installed) and large mining wasteland. We estimate that just on water bodies and mining wasteland, 20,000 MW solar plants can be installed. Large RE capacities can also be installed in urban and rural areas through distributed renewable energy plants like rooftop solar plants. Odisha can also prioritise agro-solar farming, given the significant share of monocropped agriculture land and fallow land in the state. This will not only increase the state's RE capacity, it will also enhance in-



Chandra Bhushan

LOW RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL IN ODISHA IS A MYTH THAT NEEDS TO BE DISCARDED



Dani Rodrik

There is near-universal skepticism about governments' ability to lead and achieve positive change

Useful Governance

Our world is undergoing an economic transition that will require effective government action on many fronts to manage climate change, ensure public health, and rebuild our middle classes through good jobs and innovation. But are our governments up to it?

There is near-universal skepticism about governments' ability to lead and achieve positive change. Such doubts may be well-placed. Polarisation and authoritarian populism – which are mutually reinforcing – have overrun the public sphere in many countries and undermined societies' capacity to mount collective action, both domestic and multilateral, against common problems.

Moreover, a longer-standing concern about government is that it has neither sufficient information nor the capabilities necessary to achieve positive structural change in the economy. Give governments too much power, the argument goes, and they will direct resources toward the wrong places and become captive tools of special interests. This argument lies at the heart of neoliberalism, and it will have to be overcome for any successor paradigm – like productivism – to succeed.

A more accurate account of government capabilities recognises that they are neither inherited nor static. Rather, once appropriate priorities have been set, capabilities develop over time through experience, learning, and trust-building with private entities. For public officials, the relevant question is not "Do we have the capacity?" but, "Have we established the right priorities and the correct mode of governance?"

Skeptics might say that this sounds good in theory but remains unachievable in practice. Just look around, and you can find failures of public governance almost everywhere – locally nationally, and globally. But, in fact, as Columbia Law School's Charles Sabel and David Victor of the University of California, San Diego, show in a new book, effective governance models do exist and have already made a big difference. The practice is there; it is the theory that is lacking.

Sabel and Victor focus on climate change, which is the greatest policy challenge of our time. It is also an area where governance is doubly difficult: regulations must not only be effective at the national level; they also must be negotiated globally among states with different interests and circumstances.

Sabel and Victor build their argument on the example of the 1987 Montreal Protocol, which has succeeded in curbing ozone-depleting substances (ODS) to the point where the ozone layer is now on course to full recovery. From the outset, ozone depletion and climate change looked like similar challenges, because both involve significant scientific and technological uncertainty and considerable differences among the positions of advanced and developing economies. That is why the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – the first global climate agreement – took the Montreal Protocol as its model.

The Montreal Protocol and the UNFCCC both started out as very "thin" regimes, relying on broad commitments to cut emissions – of ODS and greenhouse gases, respectively – by a certain date, but with little operational content. But the two regimes evolved very differently. While the Montreal Protocol made steady progress by bringing firms and governments together to tackle concrete technological problems, climate-change agreements have frequently ended up stalled in global negotiations.

Sabel and Victor call attention to a key difference between the two regimes: the Montreal Protocol created sectoral committees in which ODS-emitting firms joined national regulators and scientists in seeking technological alternatives. These groups started small, but they expanded and multiplied as knowledge was accumulated, capabilities were acquired, and trust was built among parties. This approach worked because the actual problem solving was devolved to local actors – namely, the firms with the requisite technological know-how. When innovation stalled, targets were reset. The result was a virtuous loop of on-the-ground innovation and top-level goal setting.

Under the climate regime, by contrast, firms have been kept at arm's length from regulators, owing to fears that they would capture the process. But this has entrenched conflicts of interest and hampered innovation.

The Montreal Protocol is not the only successful case of what Sabel and Victor call "experimental governance." Additional examples can be found across a wide range of national and sub-national programmes, from the US Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) to Ireland's agricultural-pollution regime. In each case, ground-level experimentation is coupled with higher-level goal setting. The successful practices that emerge from these collaborations are then routinised through dissemination and standard setting.

Nor are the success stories limited to environmental policy. ARPA-E, after all, is modeled after the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the US agency that is responsible for some of the landmark innovations of our time, including the internet and GPS. At the local level, the most successful initiatives to revitalise communities and create jobs take the form of private-public collaborations that bring together training programmes, businesses, non-profit groups, and public officials to create new pathways to economic opportunity. Effective national industrial policies take a similar collaborative, cross-sectoral approach.

As Sabel and Victor explain, the general strategy in all these domains is to start out with ambitious, somewhat ill-defined goals. Programme leaders must acknowledge the deep uncertainty, and hence the likelihood of mistakes and false starts. There must be incentives for the parties with the most detailed and accurate information – typically firms – to look for solutions, which means that public agencies must establish some combination of sticks (the threat of regulation) and carrots (incentives and public inputs).

Because success depends on frequent reassessments and revisions, setting milestones and monitoring progress is crucial. When solutions do emerge, they can be generalised in the form of standards or regulations. Innovation lies at the center of this process, because higher living standards (including a cleaner environment and better jobs) are possible only through enhanced productivity.

This kind of policymaking differs significantly from the prevailing approaches. From the experimental-governance perspective, the "state vs. market" dichotomy is simply irrelevant. States and markets are complementary, not dichotomous. Economists' standard top-down, principal-agent model of regulation becomes unhelpful.

To succeed, a new paradigm like productivism will have to transcend the stale ideologies of the past. Fortunately, the models of governance that it needs already exist in abundance.

The writer is Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

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WISDOM CORNER

- Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood. All is riddle, and the key to a riddle is another riddle. **RALPH WALDO EMERSON**
- The alchemists in their search for gold discovered many other things of greater value. **ARTHUR SCHOENHAUER**
- Pursue some path, however narrow and crooked, in which you can walk with love and reverence. **HENRY DAVID THOREAU**

SPECTRUM DIPLOMACY

Indo-Saudi ties driven by realpolitik

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was in Saudi Arabia on a three-day visit beginning 10 September. It was his first official visit to that country since taking over South Block. He was armed with a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveying greetings of their upcoming National Day 23 September, to the Crown Prince. At the same time, as a part of reciprocal courtesy, the EAM extended an invitation to the Crown Prince to visit India at an early date. In material terms, the EAM was tasked with consolidating the growing ties between both the countries.

Jaishankar began his schedule by interacting with 2.2 million-strong Indian community which is the largest expatriate group in the Kingdom. The EAM met his counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in Riyadh. Both the ministers co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the Committee on Political, Security, Social, and Cultural Cooperation (PSSC), which works under the umbrella framework called India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership. Both the ministers evaluated the progress in relations across the domains – political, trade, energy, investments, defence, security and culture. Several areas were prioritised for further work in improving cooperation, such as food security, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, defence industry and entertainment.

Jaishankar met the Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Dr. Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf and discussed India-GCC relations. They signed a MoU on mechanism of consultations between India and GCC. One of the mechanisms is to institutionalise annual dialogue between India and GCC, which will be aided by several working groups on different areas of cooperation. GCC plays an important role in the Middle-Eastern regional situation and India enjoys cordial relations with the Council.

Let us remember that Saudi Arabia is important for India for aforesaid multiple reasons. On trade, Saudi is the fourth largest partner. More than 18% of crude oil imports come from there. During April-December 2021, bilateral trade was USD 29.28 billion – imports from Saudi Arabia were valued at USD 22.65 billion and exports worth USD 6.63 billion.

To trace the history, Indo-Saudi relations go back to 1000 AD when trade between Southern India and Arabia flourished and became the backbone of the Arabian economy. In fact, Arab traders monopolised the spice trade between India and Europe until the advent of European imperialist powers. India was one of the first countries to establish ties with the third Saudi State after the unification of Saudi Arabia through a military and political campaign, which trounced

various tribes, sheikhdoms, city states, emirates and kingdoms of most of the Arabian Peninsula. The unification process started in 1902 and ended in 1932.

The formal diplomatic relations between India and Saudi were established soon after India became Independent in 1947. The relationship has grown since then with ups and downs. The bilateralism has been backed by visits by Indian Prime Ministers to Saudi Arabia: Jawaharlal Nehru (1955), Indira Gandhi (1982), Manmohan Singh (2010) and Narendra Modi (2016 and 2019). Likewise, in 2019, Saudi Crown Prince Mohamad bin Salman visited India. The elephant in the room has been Pakistan which has strong religious link with Saudi Arabia: both are Sunni Islamic countries.

However, Saudi Arabia realised the radical changes in international geopolitics and the need for realigning with the new configuration of powers. Once upon a time, a development, which was unthinkable, happened. The Middle-Eastern countries made rapprochement with Israel and a new alliance came up, which is called I2U2 comprising India, Israel, UAE and USA. Hence, having disintegrated from the past, Saudi Arabia has begun to look at India with a new strategic perspective. To start with, Saudi Arabia honoured Prime Minister Modi with their highest civilian award.

Today's Indo-Saudi cooperation is not just restricted to the traditional area of oil-energy trade. The relationship has become multi-dimensional including defence, maritime security, counter-terrorism, science and technology, strategic oil reserves, investments, tourism and so on. This closeness has been necessitated by the respective needs of the countries.

Cooperation in security matters constitutes mutual interest as both countries are concerned by the security issues in their respective regions. While India continues to face cross-border terrorism, Saudi Arabia is vulnerable to recurring missile and drone attacks on its major oil fields. The strikes on Aramco's oil processing plant, Abqaiq, and the Khuris oil field 14 September, 2019 are cases in point.

All in all, India and Saudi Arabia relations are driven by both realpolitik and strategic interests. They have begun to realise that by focussing on their national and mutual interests, they will benefit a lot more than by letting their relations be dictated by a third party. The visit of the Foreign Minister should enhance the relations and in the immediate as well as long run, it is for the leadership of both countries to give teeth to their talks, agreements as well as the very common place diplomatic tool, the optics.

The writer is Professor, International Relations, JIMMC, ©INFIA



DK Giri

HAVING DISENTANGLED FROM THE PAST, SAUDI ARABIA HAS BEGUN TO LOOK AT INDIA WITH A NEW STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE

Trust & reciprocity

Sir, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's four-day visit to India is a significant diplomatic move from her considering her party, the Awami League, will be testing its electoral fortunes in late 2023. Her visit has had mixed reactions in her own country. Though the Teesta water agreement remains elusive, she inked a slew of agreements – seven MoUs to be precise – with her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi. Historically, over the last decade or more, both countries have had an excellent relation based on friendship, trust and reciprocity. Water sharing, trade, defence, energy, infrastructure, research, railways and cyber security are issues that have consistently engaged the attention of the bilateral leaders, and it was no different this time too. The signing of Kushiyara river agreement was the highlight of the Modi-Hasena meeting because the pact will immensely benefit border areas of Assam in India and Sylhet in Bangladesh. Both regions have been ravaged by floods, and a robust river agreement should augment cooperation in flood control measures between the two among others. Modi and Hasina have concurred on the need to have a systematic Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement that will go a long way in soothing ruffled feathers and allaying apprehensions, between the two neighbours. Hasina's warm praise for Modi means much to New Delhi, and would not have gone unnoticed elsewhere.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

Sensitive case

Sir, The maintainability of the Gyanvapi suit has been upheld by the Varanasi district court. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has expressed dismay at the verdict. It was not unpredictable that the aggrieved party would go to next higher court. Accordingly, the Anjuman Interzamia Masjid (AIM) is moving the Allahabad High Court. No wonder, if this issue knocks the door of Supreme Court also after the verdict is given by the Allahabad High Court. The district court has ruled that the Places of Worship Act 1991 is not applicable in this case. The reason is that the petitioners have not staked their claim over the title on the property. The five women petitioners – Rakhi Singh, Laxmi Devi, Sita Sahu, Manju Vyas and Rekha Pathak – have only sought permission to perform puja (worship) of the deities. The retention of the Places of Worship Act has been contested. Any dispute in relation to the temple-mosque will be decided by the court on the merits of the case.

KV Seetharamaiah, BANGALORE

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, Russagarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

national

of the day quote

The Deshbhakti Curriculum is making our children curious about learning and understanding more about the country and this curiosity of children will help them become staunch patriots in the future

By May 2022, India had already attained 10 per cent biofuel blending and is now on course to reach the 20 per cent mark in a year or two

The ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra is being done not for opposition unity, but to strengthen the Congress party

SHORT TAKES

WB SSC scam: CBI searches 6 locations

New Delhi: The CBI Thursday conducted searches at six locations in Delhi and Kolkata at the premises of two software companies in connection with the West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC) scam, officials said. It is alleged that records were manipulated to favour candidates in the appointment of teachers which has brought the role of the companies under scanner, they said.

8 African cheetahs to arrive today

Bhopal: After waiting for seven decades for the fastest moving wild animal cheetah, India will finally receive the first batch from South Africa by Friday afternoon. A special Jumbo Jet Boeing 747 plane, having all arrangements for specially housing eight cheetahs for 16 hours journey to Rajasthan capital Jaipur, landed in Namibia capital Windhoek Thursday.

ED to question Jain in Tihar jail

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has obtained permission from a local court to question jailed Delhi minister Satyendar Jain in connection with a money laundering probe linked to the excise policy 'scam' case, official sources said Thursday. The federal agency is expected to grill Jain on Friday in the Tihar jail where he is lodged for over three months now after the ED arrested him May 30 in another money laundering case linked to alleged hawala dealings.

CBI raids in Mumbai, Guj

Mumbai: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) raided several locations in Mumbai and Gujarat's Kutch in connection with an alleged fraud of Rs 428.50 crore in the Canara Bank, an official said Thursday. Following a complaint lodged by Canara Bank, the CBI registered a case against company, PSL Ltd and its director Ashok Yoginder Punj, Alok Yoginder Punj, Rajender Kumar Bahri, Chitraranjan Kumar Jagdishchandra Goel, and other known and unknown persons including public servants.

Woman dies in monkey attack

Etahwah (UP): A 57-year-old woman was killed after falling off a roof while fending off a monkey attack here, police sources said Thursday. The woman, identified as Munni, had gone to the roof of her house in Ludhpura in the district's Jaswant Nagar town to dry clothes when she was attacked by monkeys, the sources said.



BJP is destroying democratic fabric of this country. Bharat Jodo Yatra is to fight such menace like politics of hate, politics of using money, using all institutions to grab power at any cost

DINESH GUNDU RAO | CONGRESS GOA IN-CHARGE

NORA QUESTIONED BY DELHI POLICE

Hindi film actor Nora Fatehi was Thursday questioned for nearly five hours by Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing for investigation in connection with an extortion case linked to alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar, officials said



No admission to Ukraine returned students in India

THE CENTRE STATED THAT STUDENTS WENT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES DUE TO TWO REASONS - POOR MERIT IN NEET AND AFFORDABILITY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: In a setback to thousands of undergraduate medical Indian students who were studying in Ukraine but had to return to the country in view of the war with Russia, the Centre Thursday told the Supreme Court that they cannot be accommodated in medical colleges here for lack of provisions under the law.

In an affidavit, the Centre said that till now, no permission has been given by the National Medical Commission (NMC) to transfer or accommodate any foreign medical students in any Indian medical institute/University.

The government filed its response in a batch of petitions filed by students, who are undergraduate medical students of first to fourth-year batches in their respective foreign medical colleges/universities, who are primarily seeking transfer to medical colleges in India in their respective semesters.

"It is humbly submitted that in so far as such students are concerned, there are no such provisions either under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 or the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 as well as the Regulations to accommodate or transfer medical students from any foreign medical institutes/colleges to Indian medical colleges", the government said.

It, however, said that to aid and assist such returnee students who could not complete their MBBS courses in Ukraine, NMC in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has issued a Public Notice dated September 6, 2022, indicating that NMC would accept completion of their remaining courses in other countries (with the



FILE PHOTO

approval of parent university/Institution in Ukraine). The government said that after such completion of their remaining courses, the certificate, of course, completion/degree is expected to be issued by the parent institutions in Ukraine.

The government said that these students have claimed that when they tried applying under the academic mobility programme at their respective Ukrainian Medical Universities, such universities refused to entertain their applications for academic mobility in their first semester of the academic year 2022-23.

"It is humbly submitted that the aforesaid affidavit (of the student) is completely frivolous and misleading. It is submitted that in so far as the aforesaid academic mobility program is concerned, the same was introduced only for those students, who were not able to continue their education due to war like situation in Ukraine", the Centre said.

It added that in the public notice dated September 6, the phrase "global mobility" cannot be inter-

preted to mean accommodation of these students in Indian colleges/Universities, as the extant regulations in India do not permit migration of students from foreign universities to India.

The government said that most of the aggrieved students/petitioners had gone to foreign countries for two reasons—firstly due to poor merit in the NEET exam and secondly, affordability of medical education in such foreign countries. "It is humbly submitted that in case these students with (a) poor merit are allowed admission in premier medical colleges in India by default, there may be several litigations from those desirous candidates who could not get seats in these colleges and have taken admission in either lesser known colleges or have been deprived of a seat in medical colleges", the government said.

It further added that in case of affordability, if these candidates are allocated Private Medical Colleges in India, they once again may not be able to afford the fee structure of the concerned Institutions.

'Power outage' at K'taka hosp kills 2 patients

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 15: Two patients in the intensive care unit (ICU) of a hospital in Ballari died allegedly during power outage, a charge denied by the Karnataka government, which said it is ready to conduct a probe into the issue that rocked the State Assembly Thursday.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai announced a compensation of Rs five lakh to the kin of the deceased. "The government has decided to give a compensation of Rs five lakh to the families of the victims of Ballari incident," he told reporters here. Maula Hussein (35), suffering from kidney-related ailments, and Chettemma (30), a snake-bite victim, died at the Vijayanagara Institute of Medical Sciences (VIMS) in the district headquarters town of Ballari Wednesday at 9.30 AM and 9.35 AM respectively.



Some reports attributed the deaths to power-cut and a defunct power generator or backup at the government medical college hospital.

Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, the Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah said there was a power-cut from 8 AM to 10:30 AM and at the same time the generator was also not functioning and three people who were in the ICU died as the ventilators did not function.

Also, seeking to know why the generator was not readily kept available in a working condition, he further said strict action should be taken against errant officials and compensation of Rs 25 lakh each should be immediately given to the family of the deceased.

KARNATAKA HIJAB BAN

We are not interpreters of Quran, says top court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: The Supreme Court said Thursday it is not the "interpreter" of the Holy Quran and it has been argued before it in the Karnataka Hijab ban matter that courts are not equipped to interpret religious scriptures.

The apex court, which was hearing arguments on a batch of pleas challenging the Karnataka High Court verdict refusing to lift the ban on Hijab in educational institutions of the state, made the observation after a counsel for one of the petitioners said the judgement under challenge is touching upon the Islamic and religious perspective.

"The one way is to interpret the Quran. We are not interpreters of the Quran. We cannot do it and that is the argument raised also that the courts are not equipped to interpret religious scriptures," a bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia said.

The top court heard submissions of several lawyers, who appeared for the petitioners and argued on various aspects including the wearing of Hijab being a matter of privacy, dignity and also autonomy, and whether the practice of wearing it is essential or not.

One of the advocates argued the way the high court interpreted the matter on Islamic and religious perspective was a "wrong assessment".

"The high court might have said anything, but now we are taking an independent view in the appeals," the bench maintained.

Advocate Shoeb Alam argued that wearing Hijab is a matter of one's dignity, privacy and autonomy. "On one end, I have my right to education, right to go to school, right to get inclusive education with others. On the other hand, there is my other right, which is right to privacy, dignity and autonomy," he said.

Alam said the impact of the gov-



Several pleas have been filed in the top court against the March 15 verdict of the high court holding that wearing Hijab is not a part of the essential religious practice which can be protected under Article 25 of the Constitution

ernment order (GO) banning Hijab in educational institutions with prescribed uniforms is that "I will give you education, give me your right to privacy, surrender it. Can the State do it? The answer is an emphatic 'no'."

He said the State cannot come up with a GO asking a person to surrender her right to privacy at the doorstep of the school.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal suggested that the matter should be referred to a Constitution bench.

"Wearing of a Hijab is the expression of what you are, who you are, where are you from..." he said.

Sibal said the question is if the right to wear Hijab is available to a woman at a public place, is her right extinguished when she enters a school.

Nitish fires 1st salvo

DESPITE NO CLEAR CUT PICTURE EMERGING REGARDING OPPN UNITY, THE BIHAR CM IS ALREADY OFFERING SOPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Patna, Sept 15: Despite stating many a time categorically that he has no prime ministerial ambitions, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is constantly attacking the NDA keeping the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in mind. Nitish, who is trying to forge 'opposition unity' fired Thursday the first salvo and promised special category status, which he has been demanding for Bihar, to 'all backward states'.

Nitish made his observations here on the sidelines of a function to a query from journalists. "If we get a chance to form the next government at the Centre, all backward states will get special category status. There is no reason why it cannot be done," said Nitish, who is now ruling the state as part of a seven-party coalition that comprises RJD, Congress and the Left.

Notably, Nitish has been demanding special status for Bihar, citing loss of revenue and mineral wealth upon creation of Jharkhand,

2024 LS POLLS



for nearly two decades. He has on many occasions shown the willingness to 'support any government at the Centre' that fulfilled the demand. The JD(U) leader also took a jibe at the BJP for weaning away legislators belonging to the Congress in Goa. "It is well known who try to wean away people from other parties and what means are employed," Nitish said in reply to a query about developments in the western coastal state. Reiterating that his long alliance with the BJP had been a 'mistake', Nitish claimed that his siding with the opposition camp had left the saffron party jittery causing its leaders to 'speak irresponsibly' against him.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE



Commuters wade through a waterlogged street amid rains in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

Political row in Maha over semiconductor project escalates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Mumbai, Sept 15: Mining magnate Anil Agarwal has said Gujarat was picked over Maharashtra for the Vedanta-Foxconn's Rs 1.52 lakh crore semiconductor project based on "professional and independent" advice, as the political row in Maharashtra over the facility escalated Thursday.

Seeking to soothe frayed nerves in Maharashtra after the project was shifted out of the state, Agarwal, who is the Chairman of Vedanta, also said his mining group is committed to investing in Maharashtra as well. Gujarat, he said, was chosen as it met the company's "expectations".

Originally, Vedanta and its Taiwanese partner Foxconn were looking at Maharashtra for setting up the chip factory but on September 13 signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat government for investing Rs 1.52 lakh crore in the unit. The facility was earlier proposed to be set up in Pune district.

Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis accused the opposition of making false claims over the shifting of the project, while Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena and the Congress stepped up its attack on the government over losing the mega deal.

Fadnavis also questioned the opposition over the Nanar refinery project proposed in Maharashtra's coastal district of Ratnagiri. The project was opposed by the Shiv Sena. The Thackeray-led Shiv Sena said the mega semiconductor project going to Gujarat was an attack on Maharashtra's "prestige".

This was just the beginning and one day the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government might even "trade Mumbai," said a scathing editorial in Sena mouthpiece "Saamana". NCP president Sharad Pawar told a press conference in Pune that the Centre's assurance to Maharashtra that it will get a bigger project than the semiconductor plant is akin to trying to "convince a child".

Women face discrimination in earnings, jobs: Oxfam

India's female work participation rate was just 25% for 2021, according to federal government data, among the lowest for emerging economies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Discrimination accounts for 100 per cent of the employment inequality women face in the labour market in rural areas and 98 per cent in urban areas, according to a new Oxfam India report.

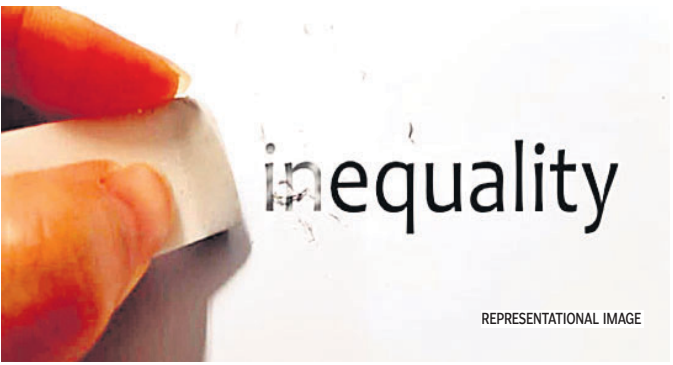
The findings of the Oxfam 'India Discrimination Report 2022' indicate towards discrimination being a driving factor behind the low women's Labour Force Participation

Rate (LFPR) in the country.

According to the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the LFPR for women in India was only 25.1 per cent in 2020-21 in both urban and rural areas. This is considerably lower than Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa, according to the latest World Bank estimates. The LFPR for women in South Africa was 46 per cent in 2021, the report said.

In 2019-20, 60 per cent of all males aged 15 years and above had regular salaried and self-employed jobs, while 19 per cent of all similarly-aged females had regular and self-employment.

There is also a significant gap in the earnings between men and women in the case of regular and self-employment in urban areas. The average monthly earning is Rs



15,996 for men and merely Rs 6,626 for women in urban areas in self-employment.

"The men's average earning is nearly 2.5 times that of the earnings of women," the report said. Professor Amitabh Kundu, one of the authors of the India Discrimination Report, said, "There

have not been many attempts to quantify the discrimination faced by marginalised communities across the country. We have used a statistical method called 'decomposition' to understand differential outcomes in employment, wages, health and access to agricultural credit among various so-

cial groups. This has helped us to quantify the discrimination faced by marginalised communities from 2004-05 to 2019-20."

The findings of the report are unique and this will help the policy makers of the Union and state governments to design programmatic interventions that will tackle discrimination and bring inclusivity in the labour, capital and endowment markets," he added.

Oxfam India recommended active enforcement of effective measures for the implementation of the right to equal wages and work for all women in the country.

"Work to actively incentivise the participation of women in the workforce, including enhancements in pay, upskilling, job reservations and easy return-to-work options after maternity," another recommendation said.

TRAFFIC WOES, WATER CRUNCH, NOW FLOODS

Slow death of India's Silicon Valley?

REUTERS

Bangalore, Sept 15: Harish Pullanoor spent his weekends in the late 1980s tramping around the marshes and ponds of Yemalur, an area then on the eastern edge of the Indian metropolis of Bangalore, where his cousins would join him catching small freshwater fish.

In the 1990s, Bangalore, once a genteel city of gardens, lakes and a cool climate, rapidly became India's answer to Silicon Valley, attracting millions of workers and the regional headquarters of some of the world's biggest IT companies.

The untrammelled expansion came at a price. Concrete replaced green spaces and construction around the edge of lakes blocked off connecting canals, limiting the city's capacity to absorb and siphon off water.

The heaviest rainfall in decades led to flooding in India's IT hub Bangalore in early September.

Last week, after the city's heaviest rains in decades, the Yemalur neighbourhood was submerged under waist-deep water along with some other parts of Bangalore, disrupting the southern metropolis' IT industry and dealing a blow to its reputation.

Residents fed up with gridlocked traffic and water shortages during the dry season have long complained about the city's infrastructure.

But flooding during the monsoon has raised fresh questions about the sustainability of rapid urban development, especially if weather patterns become more erratic and intense because of climate change.



Much of Bangalore submerged in recent flooding

Residents forced to wade through waist-deep water

Disruptions raise questions about city's future as tech hub

Authorities vow to act, but extreme weather may complicate plans

"It's very, very sad," said Pullanoor, who was born close to Yemalur but now lives in the western city of Mumbai, parts of which also face sporadic flooding like many of India's urban centres. "The trees have disappeared. The parks have almost disappeared. There is chock-a-block traffic."

Big businesses are also complaining about worsening disruptions, which they say can cost them tens of millions of dollars in a single day. Bangalore hosts more than 3,500 IT companies and some 79 'tech parks' - upmarket premises that house offices and entertainment areas catering to technology workers. Wading through flooded highways last week, they struggled to reach modern glass-faced complexes in and around Yemalur

where multinational firms including JP Morgan and Deloitte operate alongside large Indian start-ups. Millionaire entrepreneurs were among those forced to escape flooded living rooms and swamped bedrooms on the back of tractors.

Insurance companies said initial estimates for loss of property ran into millions of rupees, with numbers expected to go up in the next few days.

GLOBAL IMPACT

The latest chaos triggered renewed worries from the \$194 billion Indian IT services industry that is concentrated around the city.

"India is a tech hub for global enterprises, so any disruption here will have a global impact. Bangalore, being the centre of IT, will be no exception to this," said KS Viswanathan, vice president at industry lobby group the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM).

NASSCOM is currently working to identify 15 new cities that could become software export hubs, said Viswanathan, who is driving the project. "It is not a city-versus-city story," he told Reuters. "We as a country don't want to miss out on revenue and business opportunities because of a lack of infrastructure."

Even before the floods, some business groups including the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) that is led by executives from Intel, Goldman Sachs, Microsoft and Wipro, warned inadequate infrastructure in Bangalore could encourage companies to leave.

"We have been talking about these for years," Krishna Kumar, general manager of ORRCA, said last week of problems related to Bangalore's infrastructure. "We have come to a serious point now and all companies are on the same page." In the early 1970s, more than 68 percent of Bangalore was covered in vegetation.

By the late 1990s, the city's green cover had dropped to around 45% and by 2021 to less than 3% of its total area of 741 square kilometres, according to an analysis by TV Ramachandra of Bangalore's Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Green spaces can help absorb and temporarily store storm water, helping to protect built up areas.

"If this trend continues, by 2025, 98.5% (of the city) will be choked

with concrete," said Ramachandra, who is part of IISc's Centre for Ecological Sciences.

CITY IN DECAY

Rapid urban expansion, often featuring illegal structures built without permission, has affected Bangalore's nearly 200 lakes and a network of canals that once connected them, according to experts.

So when heavy rains lash the city like they did last week, drainage systems are unable to keep up, especially in low-lying areas like Yemalur. The Karnataka government said last week it would spend 3 billion Indian rupees (\$37.8 million) to help manage the flood situation, including removing unauthorised developments, improving drainage systems and controlling water levels in lakes.

"All the encroachments will be removed without any mercy," Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai told reporters. "I will personally go and inspect."

Authorities have identified around 50 areas in Bangalore that have been illegally developed. Those included high-end villas and apartments, according to Tushar Girinath, Chief Commissioner of Bangalore's civic authority.

Last week, the state government also announced it would set up a body to manage Bangalore's traffic and start discussions on a new storm water drainage project along a major highway.

Critics called the initiatives a knee-jerk reaction that could peter out. "Every time it floods, only then we discuss," said IISc's Ramachandra. "Bangalore is decaying. It will die."

On Hindi Day, K'taka CM promises to make Kannada mandatory



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 15: Amid protests and anger in some quarters against observing 'Hindi Diwas', Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said Wednesday his government is bringing in a legislation to make Kannada mandatory in the state.

Kannada activists have been demanding for many years now for full implementation of Kannada as the administrative language.

Though the chief minister did not specify if it's in the context of administrative language or its scope is beyond it, according to sources, he seemed to be referring to the proposed 'Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Bill', aimed at further strengthening the efforts to give primacy to Kannada. Bommai told the Legislative Assembly that the legislation would be tabled during the ongoing session to make Kannada mandatory and asserted that Kannada is supreme in the state. He said that for the first time a

legal statute is being given in the state, making Kannada mandatory, aimed at protecting the language and its users, and also to grow it further.

The CM was responding to the issue raised by JD(S) legislators and its leader HD Kumaraswamy in the Assembly, opposing celebration of 'Hindi Diwas', calling it forceful imposition of Hindi on Kannadigas.

"India is a union of states with different languages, cultures. There is no scope here to impose any specific language. Our Prime Minister has said very clearly that all mother tongues and regional languages are national languages," Bommai noted. "The government, the state and its people are committed to protect and grow Kannada, there is no compromise on this, and there is no need to worry," he said, adding, "On the issue of the state's land, waters, people and language, we have always taken decisions beyond politics."



Women labourers work on a paddy field in Purulia district of West Bengal

IANS

Kolkata tense again over rally by Left youth wings demanding job

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Sept 15: Parts of central Kolkata turned into a virtual battlefield Thursday following clashes between the protesters and the police during a rally by CPI(M)'s youth and student wings demanding immediate filling up of 29,000 vacant posts in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC).

The protesters assembled at College Square Thursday afternoon and started marching towards the KMC building near New Market in the heart of the city.

The rally was peaceful till it reached near Esplanade, where the police had raised barricades to stop the protesters from reaching the main gate of the KMC building.

However, the protesters brought down the barricade which led to a scuffle between the agitators and the police. After some time, those leading the protest march staged a sit-in demonstration, but were stopped by the police.

Minakshi Mukherjee, the state secretary of Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), CPI(M)'s youth wing, said the police were acting like hooligans while beating up the protesters.

"Our programme was announced before and we had also informed the police in advance. At the end of the rally, a delegation was supposed to go to the KMC building and submit a list of demands. But the police did not even allow us to reach the KMC building gate," she said.

Later, senior CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakraborty reached the spot and



Bengal will top in job creation in 4-5 yrs: Mamata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Thursday claimed that the state will be number one in creation of jobs in the next four to five years which is the aim of the government now. Banerjee, who was speaking at an event in Kharagpur, said that the government's job is to match make job seekers and industry with employment generation as its target.

"Employment generation is my target at the moment. My aim is to make Bengal number one in job creation in the next four to five years," she said. Distributing certificates and offer letters to those who have successfully completed the 'Utkarsh Bangla' skill development programme, Banerjee said the state has been adjudged number one in skill development.

The number of polytechnics and ITIs has proliferated in Bengal and the government has created a platform for the match making, she said. Banerjee said that while there has been a 45 per cent decrease in employment in the country, the figure for West Bengal has risen by 40 per cent. More job opportunities will be created as 89,000 teachers will be appointed soon.

said the police attack on a peaceful rally was unthinkable.

"The youth of the state want jobs and the current state government is using the police to suppress any voice raising that demand. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is trying to mislead the people by cooking up stories of job creation in the state. But the youth and students of the state will not remain silent and their protest

will continue," he said. On Tuesday, the city witnessed similar pitched battles between the police and BJP workers over the latter's march to state secretariat Nabanna.

The BJP went ahead with the rally despite being denied permission by the police. Several BJP workers and police personnel were injured following clashes between the two sides.

K'taka Council passes anti-conversion Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 15: Karnataka Legislative Council Thursday passed the contentious anti conversion Bill, amid objections from the opposition Congress and JD(S).

The 'Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill' was passed by the Legislative Assembly in December last.

As the Bill was pending for passage in the Legislative Council, where the ruling BJP was short of majority then, the government had subsequently promulgated an ordinance in May this year to give effect to the bill.

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra

piloted the Bill for the consideration of the Upper House today.

Noting that in recent times religious conversions have become widespread, he said there have been mass conversions with allurements and through force, disturbing peace and leading to mistrust among people following different religions.

The Bill does not take away anyone's religious freedom and anyone can practice the religion of his or her choice, but not under pressure and allurements, Jnanendra said.

The Minister had moved some amendments to substitute certain clauses in the Bill like - It (legislation) shall be deemed to have come



into force with effect from the 17th day of May 2022; also that ...The ordinance is hereby repealed- which has now been accepted with the passage of the Bill.

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council BK Hariprasad even tore the copy of the Bill in protest as the pro-tem Chairman

Raghunath Rao Malkapure was in the process of putting the Bill to vote. Hariprasad termed the Bill as unconstitutional and will affect the right to religion.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister JC Madhuswamy maintained that the Bill was well within the scope of the Constitution of India.

The Bill that has been vehemently opposed by some Christian community leaders, provides for protection of right to freedom of religion and prohibition of unlawful conversion from one religion to another by misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurements or by any fraudulent means.

Darjeeling zoo recognised as India's best zoological park

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Darjeeling (WB), Sept 15: The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHNP) in West Bengal's Darjeeling has been adjudged the best zoo in the country, while Kolkata's Alipore Zoological Garden has secured the fourth position.

A zoo directors' conference was held in Bhubaneswar September 10 and the Central Zoo Authority released the ranking list in the Odisha capital. There are around 150 zoos across the country. As per the list, the Arignar Anna Zoological Park in Chennai has secured the second position, followed by the Sri Chamaraajendra Zoological Gardens in Mysore, Karnataka. The Red Panda is one of the top



attractions of PNHNP, besides others such as the Himalayan Black Bear, Snow Leopard, Goral and Himalayan Thar.

"We are elated and the credit goes to all the workers of the zoological park," PNHNP director Basavaraj Holeyachi said. The Darjeeling zoo was established August 14, 1958. The zoological park is internationally recognised for its breeding and conservation programmes of endangered animal species of the eastern Himalayas, including the Snow Leopard and the Red Panda.

Unicef ropes in faith leaders to check child marriage

Faith leaders belonging to Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism and Jainism have extended support to the programme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Sept 15: The Unicef has engaged religious leaders belonging to six faiths to spread messages to address pressing social issues such as child nutrition, teenage marriage and pregnancy, and child trafficking among their followers in West Bengal.

Faith leaders belonging to Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism and Jainism have extended support to the programme, an official of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) said Thursday.

More than 2,500 such leaders have been oriented by Unicef through a collaboration with Amanat Foundation Trust and facilitated by the West Bengal government to spread key messages from their respective places of worship - temple, mosque, church, gurdwara and monastery.

"West Bengal has been lagging behind in some areas like child marriage, teenage pregnancy and anaemia among adolescent boys and girls. Religion can help us in a big way achieve awareness against fighting these issues," Unicef West Bengal chief Mohammad



Mohiuddin said.

The Unicef is trying to take the help of various religious platforms to build awareness among the people and make progress in those areas where the state is lagging behind, he said at a media advocacy programme here.

"Faith leaders enjoy considerable influence among the followers who repose a lot of trust in them.

Besides, their extensive network offers them access to a large section of people, including the most deprived ones, and they play a critical role in spreading correct information and messages in their respective communities," Mohiuddin said.

The programme has been rolled out in all 23 districts of the state. More than two lakh people have already been reached out through social

media, tableau and other modes of community engagement. Faith leaders are working in coordination with other platforms like panchayats, Self Help Groups, folk artists and media to approach the community, according to Unicef.

Mohiuddin said that the need to engage the faith leaders was felt during the Covid-19 pandemic to give assurances and appeal to the people to adhere to the government stipulated protocols.

To help spread technically correct messages on children's well-being, a handbook on 'Faith for Life' is being developed where messages supported by texts from scriptures will be published.

"Nearly half of the state's population will be reached through community engagement and multiple media platforms," Mohiuddin said.

of the day quote

There are certain issues of the Naga political talks. Peace accords were signed in Assam and Tripura with the militant outfits. We are going to solve the Assam-Meghalaya border issues

I urge those who do not suffer from ailments like diabetes to come forward and donate blood. I also request political parties across the country to be a part of this initiative

Today, benefits of all government schemes are directly reaching eligible people through the Parivar Pehchan Patra scheme

SHORT TAKES

13 militants surrender

Imphal: Twelve cadres of the Kangleipak Communist Party-People's War Group and one of the Kanglei Yawol Kunna Lup laid down their arms before Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh here Thursday.

Bishnoi planned to attack Salman

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Special Cell has learnt that Goldy Brar-Lawrence Bishnoi gang had planned to eliminate Bollywood actor Salman Khan before committing the murder of Punjabi Singer Sidhu Moosewala.

J&K: 5 killed in road accident

Jammu: Five people were killed and 12 injured in a road accident in J&K's Rajouri district Thursday, officials said. A bus carrying passengers from Jammu to Surankote went out of the driver's control and fell into a gorge at Deri Ralyot area of Manjakote in Rajouri.

Cabinet reshuffle likely in Goa

Panaji: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant met Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai Thursday morning amid talk of a cabinet reshuffle in the wake of eight Congress MLAs joining the ruling BJP.

Terrorist held

Jammu: Security forces Thursday foiled a major terror attack with the arrest of a "hybrid terrorist" in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, police said.

New mobile banking virus prowling in cyberspace

THE VIRUS HAS UPGRADED TO ITS FIFTH VERSION AFTER IT WAS FIRST DETECTED IN THE INDIAN CYBERSPACE IN JULY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: A new mobile banking 'Trojan' virus - SOVA - which can stealthily encrypt an Android phone for ransom and is hard to uninstall is targeting Indian customers, the country's federal cyber security agency said in its latest advisory.

It has been reported to CERT-In that Indian banking customers are being targeted by a new type of mobile banking malware campaign using SOVA Android Trojan. The first version of this malware appeared for sale in underground

markets in September 2021 with the ability to harvest user names and passwords via key logging, stealing cookies and adding false overlays to a range of apps," the advisory said.

SOVA, it said, was earlier focusing on countries like the US, Russia and Spain, but in July 2022 it added several other countries, including India, to its list of targets.

The latest version of this malware, according to the advisory, hides itself within fake Android applications that show up with the logo of a few famous legitimate apps like Chrome, Amazon, NFT (non-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

fungible token linked to crypto currency) platform to deceive users into installing them.

"This malware captures the credentials when users log into their net banking apps and access bank

accounts. The new version of SOVA seems to be targeting more than 200 mobile applications, including banking apps and crypto exchanges/wallets," the advisory said.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team or CERT-In is the federal technology arm to combat cyber attacks and guards the Internet space against phishing and hacking assaults and similar online attacks.

The agency said the malware is distributed via smishing (phishing via SMS) attacks, like most Android banking Trojans.

Employment generation is my target at the moment. My aim is to make Bengal number one in job creation in the next four to five years

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CMX



SAVE ENVIRONMENT

The Punjab and Delhi governments have joined hands to combat stubble burning by managing the straw in the fields by spraying Pusa bio-decomposer on 5,000 acres in Punjab as a pilot project



Release convicts who have undergone 10 yrs in jail, but appeal not heard yet, says SC

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 15: The Supreme Court Thursday said that convicts who have spent 10 years in jail, and their appeal has not yet been heard, should be granted bail unless there are any compelling reasons to deny this, while remission should be considered for those who have completed 14 years in prison.



A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and AS Oka said the court is of view that those persons who have completed 10 years of their sentence, and their appeal would not be heard soon, and if there are no extenuating circumstances, such prisoners should be enlarged on bail.

Advocate Gaurav Agarwal, appointed as amicus curiae, informed the top court that affidavits were filed, as per its earlier orders to the six high courts to conduct the exercise of identifying life sentence convicts. The top court said firstly, the convicts who have undergone more than 10 years imprisonment, unless there are reasons to refuse bail, be granted bail.

It further emphasised on identification of cases where convicts have completed 14 years of custody, then their case can be referred to the government for considering premature release.

Agarwal, analysing the HCs data, submitted that there are 5,740 cases appeals by accused in custody, which includes division bench appeals and single bench appeals.

After hearing the submissions, the bench said the authorities concerned should undertake the exercise on urgent basis and also need to keep in mind the objective of decluttering jails where convicts are in custody, without hearing of the appeals. The top court gave four months to various high courts and state legal services committees to identify the cases and scheduled the matter for further hearing in January next year.

CBI takes over probe into Sonali Phogat's death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: The CBI has taken over the probe into the mysterious death of Haryana BJP leader Sonali Phogat in Goa last month, officials said Thursday.

The central probe agency re-registered the FIR of Goa Police on a reference from the Ministry of Home Affairs which was routed to it through the Department of Personnel and Training, they said.

Teams of the CBI along with CFSL experts will reach Goa to collect documents and interact with the



local police officials and doctors who had examined the former TV anchor after she was brought to the hospital.

The sources said viscera samples will give a definitive clue about the causes of Phogat's death.

The ministry had referred the case to the CBI after Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah requesting a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The home ministry recommended to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to get the case probed by the CBI, an official privy to the development said.

Phogat, from Hisar in Haryana, was brought dead to a hospital in Goa in the intervening night of August 22-23 after heavy partying at Curlies restaurant at Anjuna beach.

A former Tik Tok star and a contestant on the reality TV show "Big Boss", 43-year old Phogat had arrived in Goa with two of her male aides-Sudhir Sangwan and Sukhwinder Singh, a day before the incident.

In a CCTV footage of the restaurant that emerged after her death, she was seen dancing with Sangwan. The aide is also purportedly seen forcing her to drink water which she instantly spits out.

SCO SUMMIT India expects talks on topical issues

The summit of the 8 nation influential grouping is taking place amid the growing geo-political turmoil largely triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's aggressive military posturing in the Taiwan Strait

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders at the SCO summit in the Uzbek city of Samarkand Friday that is set to deliberate on regional security challenges, boosting trade and energy supplies among other issues.

The summit of the eight-nation influential grouping is taking place amid the growing geo-political turmoil largely triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and China's aggressive military posturing in the Taiwan Strait.

He said India expects that the discussions at the summit will cover topical regional and international issues, reforms and expansion of the SCO, the regional security situation and cooperation perspective. Strengthening connectivity as well as boosting trade and tourism in the region was also part of the agenda.

The foreign secretary said the duration of Modi's visit to Samarkand will be around 24 hours and he will also hold some bilateral meetings.

According to reports in Russian and Iranian media, Modi is likely to hold separate bilateral meet-



ings with Putin and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

In a statement ahead of the visit, the Prime Minister said, "at the SCO Summit, I look forward to exchanging views on topical, regional and international issues, the expansion of SCO and further deepening of multifaceted and mutually beneficial cooperation within the Organisation."

Asked to comment on China's growing influence over the SCO, Kwatra did not give a direct reply but said India remained focused on strengthening its linkages with central Asia and the extended neighbourhood.

The foreign secretary said the SCO is focused on regional cooperation and that India does not

think it is about one country. "We do not see it through the perspective of a third country", he said.

Asked about Pakistan's continued support to various terror groups contrary to the SCO's vision for regional security Kwatra said there are multiple ways to look at how different countries assess and look at the challenge of terrorism.

"If you look at the history of discussions on countering terrorism within the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, you will find that both substance of the discussions and the various structures of the SCO - their handling of this issue has evolved over a period of years," he said. "Now irrespective of what

ED summons Shivakumar

MONEY-LAUNDERING CASE



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 15: Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar Thursday said he has received summons from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to appear before it in connection with a case of money-laundering. Calling the action of the ED as harassment, he questioned the timing of the summons when the

Congress' Bharat Jodo Yatra was on and when the State Assembly session was underway.

"In the midst of the #BharatJodoYatra and the Assembly session, they have again issued me an ED summons to appear. I am ready to cooperate but the timing of this summons and the harassment I am put through, is coming in the way of discharging my constitutional and political duties," Shivakumar tweeted.

AICC general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala said seeing the "overwhelming" public support for Congress and "resounding" response to the preparation for the yatra, the Narendra Modi-headed government at the Centre has brought the ED - "the Election Dept of BJP" - to target Shivakumar.



A worker gives finishing touches to idols of Lord Vishwakarma ahead of Vishwakarma Puja in Nadia district, West Bengal

'Massive global failures' in fighting Covid crisis: Lancet

The commission says that governments were not transparent, and criticises UN health body for a slow response

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

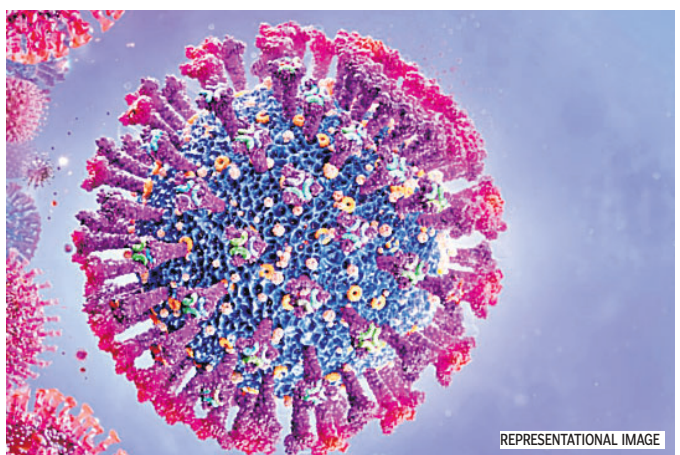
New Delhi, Sept 15: Widespread, global failures at multiple levels in the Covid-19 response led to millions of preventable deaths and reversed progress made towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in many countries, according to a new Lancet Covid-19 Commission report.

The Commission critically considers the global response to the first two years of the Covid-19

pandemic, citing widespread failures of prevention, transparency, rationality, basic public health practice, and operational cooperation and international solidarity that resulted in an estimated 17.7 million deaths.

The report also finds that most national governments were unprepared and too slow in their response, paid too little attention to the most vulnerable groups in their societies, and were hampered by a lack of international cooperation and an epidemic of misinformation.

The Commission drew evidence using new epidemiological and financial analyses to outline recommendations that will help hasten the end of the Covid-19 emergency, lessen the impact of future health threats, and achieve long-term sustainable develop-



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

ment. The report warns that achieving these goals hinges upon a strengthened multilateralism that must centre around a reformed

and bolstered World Health Organisation (WHO), as well as investments and refined planning for national pandemic preparedness

and health system strengthening, with special attention to populations experiencing vulnerability.

Crucial investments also include improved technology and knowledge transfers for health commodities and improved international health financing for resource limited countries and regions.

The Commission is the result of two years of work from 28 of the world's leading experts in public policy, international governance, epidemiology, vaccinology, economics, international finance, sustainability, and mental health, and consultations with over 100 other contributors to 11 global task forces.

"The staggering human toll of the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic is a profound tragedy and a massive societal failure at multiple levels," said Professor Jeffrey

Sachs from Columbia University, US "We must face hard truths - too many governments have failed to adhere to basic norms of institutional rationality and transparency; too many people have protested basic public health precautions, often influenced by misinformation; and too many nations have failed to promote global collaboration to control the pandemic," said Sachs.

The report noted that collective action should be taken immediately to promote public health and sustainable development to bring an end to the pandemic.

It also underscores the need to address global health inequities, protect the world against future pandemics, identify the origins of this pandemic, and builds resilience for communities around the world.

international



Today, when we go to any friendly country or make a phone call, they think that we have come [to them] to beg for money
SHEHBAZ SHARIF | PAKISTAN PM

STUDY INFO

Even a single exposure to alcohol may permanently change the shape of nerve cells and lead to addiction, according to a study conducted in animals



of the day quote

Renewable energy from hydropower, solar energy and biomass energy has accounted for 40 per cent of the kingdom's total energy
HUN SEN | CAMBODIAN PM

Iran's position in the negotiations aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal has not been changed
HOSEIN AMIR-ABDOLLAHIAN | IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

King Charles III continuing to advocate for climate change action in his new apolitical role as monarch would be 'perfectly acceptable'
ANTHONY ALBANESE | AUSTRALIA'S PM

SHORT TAKES

9 dead in stampede

Guatemala City: At least nine people died and some 20 were injured in a stampede in Guatemala early Thursday as the country celebrated its independence, according to firefighters. The victims apparently died in a crush of people who were trying to enter an outdoor music concert. Amilcar Rivas, Quetzaltenango city manager, said that event organisers did not have a grip on security and crowd control.

Queen to be buried with husband

London: Queen Elizabeth II will be buried with her late husband Prince Philip at the conclusion of a solemn state funeral service made up of an hour-long ceremony at Westminster Abbey in London on Monday, Buckingham Palace announced Thursday. Britain's longest-reigning monarch's state funeral will begin at 11am local time on Monday and conclude with a national two-minute silence, with the order of the service set to reflect the Queen's personal touches. The doors to Westminster Abbey will open at 8am local time on the day of the funeral, to allow around 2,000 guests made up of nearly 500 world leaders, including Indian President Droupadi Murmu, to take their seats.

Migrants dropped off near Harris' home

Washington: Two buses of migrants from the US-Mexico border were dropped off near Vice President Kamala Harris' home in residential Washington Thursday morning in the bitter political battle over the Biden administration's immigration policies. It wasn't immediately clear which Republican leader had sent them. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has been busing migrants out of Texas to cities with Democratic mayors as part of a political strategy this year because he claims there are too many arrivals over the border to his state.

Xi has concerns over Ukraine: Putin

REUTERS

Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Sept 15: Russian President Vladimir Putin Thursday said he understood that Xi Jinping had questions and concerns about the situation in Ukraine but praised China's leader for what he said was a balanced position on the conflict.

Russia's war in Ukraine has killed tens of thousands of people and pushed the global economy into uncharted waters with soaring prices for food and energy amid the biggest confrontation between Moscow and the West since the Cold War.

At their first face-to-face meeting since the war, Xi said he was very happy to meet my old friend again after Putin said crude attempts by the United States to create a unipolar world would fail. We highly value the balanced position of our Chinese friends when it comes to the Ukraine crisis, Putin told Xi. We understand your questions and concern about this. During today's meeting, we will of course explain our position.

Putin's first remarks about Chinese concern over the war come just days after a lightning rout of



- XI ON FIRST TRIP SINCE COVID PANDEMIC
- PUTIN PRAISES XI FOR 'BALANCED' UKRAINE POSITION
- PUTIN SCOLDS US FOR 'PROVOCATIONS' ON TAIWAN
- XI AND PUTIN DISCUSS UKRAINE AND TAIWAN

his forces in north-eastern Ukraine. Xi, who the Communist Party is due next month to bestow a historic third leadership term and thus cement his place as the country's most powerful leader since Mao Zedong, did not mention Ukraine in his public remarks.

China has refrained from condemning Russia's operation against Ukraine or calling it an invasion in line with the Kremlin, which casts the war as a special military operation. The last time Xi and

Putin met in person, just weeks before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, they declared a no limits partnership and inked a promise to collaborate more against the West. Still, Beijing is perturbed by the impact on the global economy and has been careful not to give material support to Russia that could trigger Western sanctions on China's own economy.

'MY OLD FRIEND'
The Xi-Putin partnership is considered one of the most signifi-

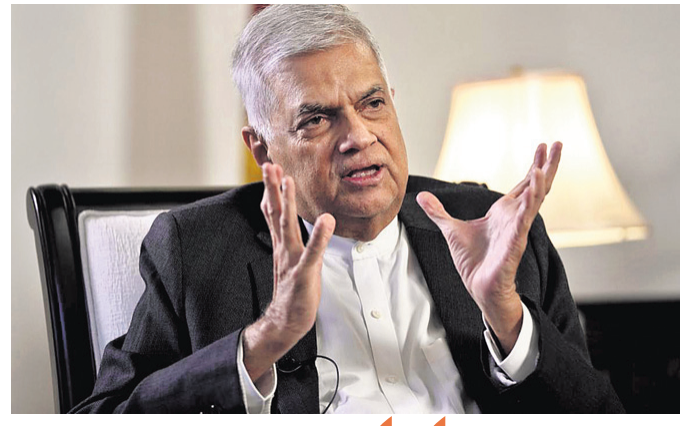
cant developments in geopolitics after China's own spectacular rise over the past 40 years.

Xi, the son of a Communist revolutionary who has praised the jewels of Russian literature in public, and Putin, who grew up in Leningrad, now St Petersburg, and came of age in the Soviet-era KGB, said they would work together.

But the Ukraine war has underscored the different trajectories of China and Russia one a rising superpower whose economy is forecast to overtake the United States in a decade; the other, a former superpower struggling with a draining war. Once the leader in the global Communist hierarchy, Russia after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union is now a junior partner to a resurgent China which already leads in some 21st century technologies such as artificial intelligence, regenerative medicine and conductive polymers.

In the face of changes in the world, in our times and of history, China is willing to work with Russia to play a leading role in demonstrating the responsibility of major powers, and to instill stability and positive energy into a world in turmoil, Xi told Putin.

'Won't participate in Indian Ocean turf war'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 15: Sri Lanka will not take part in any "big power rivalry" in the Indian Ocean and it is unfortunate that his country has been made the "punching bag" for Hambantota, President Ranil Wickremesinghe has said, weeks after India and China clashed over the docking of a high-tech Chinese ship at the country's southern port.

Wickremesinghe said the Indian Ocean region needs to be open to all to ensure freedom of navigation. "That is important for commerce to carry on. We have to remember that the bulk of the petroleum supply and energy supply to the world goes through the Indian Ocean. A large amount of shipping goes through the Indian Ocean. We don't want this to be an area of conflict and an area of war," he said in his speech made at the National Defense College on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka will not participate in military alliances and does not want the problems of the Pacific coming into the Indian Ocean, he said while speaking on the crisis-hit country's position on the geopolitical stage.

"We don't participate in a military alliance, and we certainly do not want the problems of the Pacific coming to the Indian Ocean. We don't want this to be an area of conflict and an area of war. Sri Lanka will not take part in any big power rivalry," Wickremesinghe said.

His remarks come weeks after the Chinese embassy and the Indian High Commission here clashed verbally over the docking of the Chinese ship 'Yuan Wang 5' at Sri Lanka's southern Hambantota port for replenishment.

"When it comes to the security of Sri Lanka, we are of the

We don't participate in a military alliance, and we certainly do not want the problems of the Pacific coming to the Indian Ocean. We don't want this to be an area of conflict and an area of war. Sri Lanka will not take part in any big power rivalry

RANIL WICKREMESINGHE | SRI LANKA PRESIDENT

view that in looking after the security of Sri Lanka, we must also ensure that nothing adverse happens to the security of India. That we have been committed to, and we will go ahead with it. There will be no movement out of it," Wickremesinghe said.

"That's why we work with India on the Colombo conclave, on the trilateral security arrangements and many other fields, especially outside the military field of piracy, of human trafficking, of drugs. All those are useful ways in which we cooperate with India and the other island states. Then we also value our friendship with the Maldives, those small islands, and we know how important the Maldives is," he said. Wickremesinghe said that the "geopolitics of the Indian Ocean has unfortunately made Sri Lanka the punching bag for Hambantota." "It is not a military port. Though ours is a commercial port it shows our strategic importance that many people come to conclusions which are unwarranted," Wickremesinghe said, in his second public comment on the issue in recent weeks.

He said that there are around 17 ports that are being operated by the Chinese in the Indian Ocean and all the ports are commercial ports.

Sweden's PM resigns after election defeat

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Copenhagen (Denmark), Sept 15: Sweden's Social Democratic Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson Thursday handed in her resignation after a right-wing bloc that includes a nationalist, anti-immigration party won a narrow majority in Sweden's parliament.

Andersson met with Andreas Norlen, the speaker of Sweden's 349-seat Riksdag, to formally inform him of her departure. Andersson will continue in a caretaking capacity until a new government is formed. He has accepted her resignation. Norlen said he would start talks with party leaders after the weekend. He is



SIMMERING TENSION



A man runs with looted goods near cars on fire during protests over rising fuel prices as inflation surged to its highest in a decade, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti
REUTERS

Putin survives 'assassination' bid: Report

AGENCIES

Moscow, Sept 15: Russian President Vladimir Putin's limousine was attacked in an alleged "assassination attempt" amid Moscow's raging war against Ukraine, a report said.

According to the report by General SVR, a Russian Telegram channel, Putin's limousine was allegedly hit by a "loud bang from the left front wheel followed by heavy smoke", but he was unharmed as the vehicle drove to safety, Mirror.co.uk reported. The channel said that the President was returning to his official residence in a decoy or "backup" motorcade amid deep security fears.

The motorcade comprised five armoured cars, with Putin in the third, it said, without mentioning the date of the incident. The Russian leader's car "despite the problems



with control" made its way out of the attack scene to reach the safety of the residence, the channel added.

Without providing details, General SVR said more information on the supposed attack were "classified", reports Mirror.co.uk.

CAR HITS ZELENSKY'S MOTORCADE

KIEV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was involved in a car accident, his spokesman said Thursday, adding that he was not seriously injured. In a brief social media post, the President's spokesman Serhii Nykyforov said that a passenger car collided with Zelenskyy's vehicle and his escort in capital Kiev. Nykyforov said that the driver of the car that collided with the motorcade was provided with "emergency aid and transferred him to an ambulance." "The President was examined by a doctor, no serious injuries were found," the spokesman said, adding that law enforcement officials will "find out all the circumstances of the accident". Nykyforov, however, did not provide any other details of the accident, including the day.

"The head of the President's bodyguard (service) and several other people have been suspended and are in custody," the channel further claimed.

"A narrow circle of people knew about the movement of the president in this cortege, and all of them were from the presidential

security service.

"After the incident, three of them disappeared. These were exactly the people who were in the first car of the motorcade. Their fate is currently unknown. The car on which they were traveling was found empty a few kilometres from the incident," General SVR added.

China fumes as US advances Taiwan bill

REUTERS

Beijing, Sept 15: China said Thursday that it had lodged "solemn representations" with the United States, after a U.S. Senate panel advanced legislation that would enhance U.S. military support for Taiwan.

If the bill continues to go forward, it would affect U.S.-China relations, Mao Ning, a foreign ministry spokesperson, said at a regular media briefing. Mao also described the new U.S. legislation as sending "a serious false signal to the separatist forces of Taiwan independence."



"China is firmly opposed to this and has made solemn representations to the U.S. side that there is only one China in the world, that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China's territory, and that China will unswervingly promote the complete reunification of the country," the spokesperson said.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee backed the Taiwan Policy Act of 2022 by 17-5, despite concerns about the bill in U.S. President Joe Biden's administration and anger about the measure from Beijing.

The bill comes over one month after China conducted its largest-ever military exercises around Taiwan in response to an earlier visit to the self-ruled island by U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Girls worldwide lag behind boys in math: Unicef

DATA FROM 79 MIDDLE- AND HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES SHOW MORE THAN A THIRD OF 15-YEAR-OLD SCHOOLCHILDREN ARE YET TO ACHIEVE MINIMUM PROFICIENCY IN MATHEMATICS. HOUSEHOLD WEALTH IS ALSO A DETERMINING FACTOR

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New York, Sept 15: Girls worldwide are lagging behind boys in mathematics, with sexism and gender stereotypes among the root causes, according to a new report published by the Unicef.

The report titled, 'Solving the equation: Helping girls and boys learn mathematics' features new data analyses covering more than 100 countries and territories. Published on Wednesday, the report finds that boys have up to 1.3 times the odds of obtaining mathematics skills than girls.

Negative gender norms and stereotypes often held by teachers, parents, and peers regarding girls' innate inability to understand mathematics are contributing to the disparity.

This also undermines girls' self-confidence, setting them up for failure, the report notes. An analysis of data from 34 low- and middle-income countries featured in the report shows that while girls lag behind boys, three-quarters of schoolchildren in class 4 are not obtaining foundational numeracy skills.

Data from 79 middle- and high-income countries show more than



a third of 15-year-old schoolchildren have yet to achieve minimum proficiency in mathematics. Household wealth is also a determining factor.

ing factor.

The report notes that schoolchildren from the richest households have 1.8 times the odds of acquiring numeracy skills by the time they reach fourth grade than children from the poorest households.

Children who attend early childhood education and care programmes have up to 2.8 times the odds of achieving minimum proficiency in mathematics by the age of 15 than those who do not. The report also notes the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has likely further exacerbated children's math-

ematics abilities. In countries where girls are more likely to be out of school than boys, the overall disparities in mathematics proficiency are most likely even wider.

"Girls have an equal ability to learn mathematics as boys, what they lack is an equal opportunity to acquire these critical skills," Unicef Executive Director Catherine Russell was quoted as saying. "We need to dispel the gender stereotypes and norms that hold girls back, and do more to help every child learn the foundational skills they need to succeed in school and in life."

of the day quote

I tell my friends in the automobile sector that you should be quality centric, not cost centric. Because choices of people are changing

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

It (power crisis due to coal shortage) is not going to happen this time (during festival season). We have already imported 20 million tonne of coal so far (this fiscal year) and we have used 15 million tonne out of this

ALOK KUMAR | UNION POWER SECRETARY

India's procurement of Russian crude oil is not under any government-to-government framework and Indian entities make the purchase from the market to respond to the country's energy security requirement

VINAY KWATRA | FOREIGN SECRETARY

SHORT TAKES

Oil slumps 3%

New York: Oil futures fell about 3% to a one-week low Thursday on a tentative agreement that would avert a US rail strike, expectations for weaker global demand and continued US dollar strength ahead of a potentially large interest rate increase. Brent futures fell \$2.70, or 2.95%, to \$91.40 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude fell \$2.79, or 3.2%, to \$85.69. The International Energy Agency (IEA) said this week that oil demand growth would grind to a halt in the fourth quarter.

Gems & jewellery exports up by 6.7%

Mumbai: The overall gems and jewellery exports rose by 6.7 per cent in August to Rs 26,418.84 crore (\$3,316.08 million) compared to the same month last year, the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said Thursday. The gems and jewellery exports stood at Rs 24,749.69 crore (\$3,334.12 million) during August 2021. GJEPC said in a statement. In August, the overall gross export of cut and polished diamonds (CPD) declined 0.84 per cent to Rs 14,955.8 crore (\$1,879.74 million) compared to Rs 15,082.28 crore (\$2,031.64 million) in August 2021.

Shell to install 10K charging points

Bangalore: Energy giant Shell plans to set up more than 10,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging points in India by 2030. Shell launched its first EV chargers in India, for the four-wheeler and two-wheeler segments in Bangalore Thursday. India is the first market for Shell to launch chargers for two-wheelers. "The company plans to set up more than 10,000 charging points across India by 2030 and aims to provide safe, green, and integrated mobility solutions to its customers through the Shell Recharge Stations," Shell said.

Samsung sets zero emissions target

Seoul: Samsung Electronics will invest over 7 trillion won (\$5.02 billion) by 2030 as part of sweeping environmental initiatives aimed at making the company carbon neutral by 2050, the world's largest chip and mobile maker said Thursday. The tech giant will spend the money on research and development for technology aimed at filtering out greenhouse gases and capturing carbon dioxide generated during chip production.



It is a need of the hour that the automobile industry's innovation for greener alternatives attains a new momentum, to ensure the protection and conservation of environment, as well as help in making India self-reliant

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

AIR INDIA'S TRANSFORMATION PLAN

Tatas-owned Air India aims to have a domestic market share of 30 per cent and significantly strengthen its international operations in next five years. The carrier, which plans to induct 30 new wide-body and narrow-body aircraft, Thursday announced 'Vihaan.AI', a comprehensive transformation plan with a detailed road map for next five years



ONLINE GAMING

Govt panel calls for regulatory body

THE MUCH-AWAITED REPORT IS SEEN AS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE MOBILE GAMING INDUSTRY IN INDIA, ESTIMATED TO REACH \$5 BILLION BY 2025, FROM \$1.5 BILLION THIS YEAR. IT COMES AMID RISING CONCERNS OVER GAMES CAUSING ADDICTION AND INCONSISTENT STATE LAWS DISRUPTING BUSINESS

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 15: India should create a regulatory body to classify online games as based on skill or chance, introduce rules to block prohibited formats and take a stricter stance on gambling websites, a government panel said in a report seen by Reuters.

The panel of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's top officials has for months been drafting regulations for the country's online gaming sector; where foreign investors such as Tiger Global and Sequoia Capital have backed gaming startups Dream11 and Mobile Premier League, hugely popular for fantasy cricket.

Simply defining games has been contentious. India's Supreme Court says the card game rummy and certain fantasy games are skill-based and legal, but at least one state court classified games such as poker as chance-based, or akin to gambling, which is banned in most states.

In its confidential draft report dated Aug 31, the panel of government officials calls for creation of a new regulatory body under India's IT ministry to determine which online games qualify as games of skill, then "seek compliances and enforcement."

To streamline the legal framework, the 108-page report says India needs a new federal online gaming law, which will provide regulatory flexibility "with punishment provisions, along with blocking powers, for the government against prohibited gaming formats".

Though the panel considered only



INDIA'S GAMING INDUSTRY SOUGHT-AFTER BY FOREIGN INVESTORS
INDIA PANEL CALLS FOR NEW LAW FOR ONLINE SKILL GAMES
PROPOSALS AIMED AT IRONING OUT REGULATORY UNCERTAINTY FOR SECTOR
INDIA PANEL WANTS 'DE-ADDICTION MEASURES' FOR USER SAFETY

online skill games, and not gambling, which is handled by states, it noted that many offshore betting and gambling websites that are illegal in India have become popular among Indian users. The new legal framework would apply to both free and pay-to-play skill games.

A senior government source said that although the federal government could classify chance-based games as harmful, it would let states make the final call on whether to allow gambling.

The report noted that state governments already find it "difficult to implement and monitor geo-fencing measures" to ensure that no user in their region is ac-

cessing an illegal form of gambling or gaming.

The IT ministry will finalise the report after receiving further comments from panel members including the heads of the revenue and sports ministries. It will then be sent to the cabinet secretariat for approval, though there is no timeline for finalisation.

DE-ADDICTION MEASURES

A senior gaming industry executive said the recommendation that a regulatory body evaluate different formats of online games could raise entry barriers for new players and increase scrutiny of companies' current offerings.

Tata Power assures quality power to Odisha industries

The company has committed a capex of approximately ₹5,000 crore over the next five years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: A day after Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appealed to investors from across the country to take advantage of the state's business ecosystem, Tata Power Discoms Thursday announced to invest Rs 5,000 crore to ensure reliable and quality electricity supply to industries.

This was stated by Tata Power's T&D, President, Sanjay Banga during an interaction with PTI here.

"We are fully committed to realise the Odisha government's vision of Make in Odisha through reliable and quality power supply to industries," he said, adding that Tata Power Discoms serve 9 million customers across the state.

Banga said that Tata Power Odisha Discoms will soon be in a

position to provide new industrial connections in a week to 10 days' time based on availability of network.

"Thus, we will be supporting the ease of doing business in the state. The company has already extended the facility of availing new service connection through WhatsApp and missed call services to its customers," he said.

Since its takeover of Odisha Discoms, in the past two years, Banga said the company has made significant strides in various aspects of power distribution to enhance reliability of electricity supply.

Stating that the company has done a complete analysis of the state's power supply network and identified the major issues and upgradation requirements, Banga said that is helping us in ensuring reliable power supply in the state.

"We are now stepping up our capex investment to ensure uninterrupted power supply to our consumers including industrial and commercial establishments," Banga said.



'India emerges as Sri Lanka's top lender in 2022'

When Sri Lanka plunged into its worst economic crisis at the beginning of this year, India's credit lines enabled it to purchase fuel and essentials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 15: India has emerged as the top lender to Sri Lanka in 2022, disbursing \$377 mil-

lion in loans to the island nation as it grappled with an unprecedented political crisis and economic turmoil, according to the Verite Research think-tank.

The Asian Development Bank follows India with \$360 million in loans. They account for 76 per cent of total disbursements from January to April 2022.

Out of a total disbursement of loans amounting to \$968 million in the first four months this year, India with a contribution of \$377 million has emerged as Sri Lanka's largest bilateral lender, Verite Research, a Colombo-based inde-



pendent interdisciplinary think-tank providing strategic analysis and advice for governments and the private sector in Asia, said.

Between 2017 and 2021, China has been the largest bilateral lender

JSP MD visits CSR facilities at Angul

Bhubaneswar: Bimlendra Jha, Managing Director of Jindal Steel and Power (JSP), Angul visited various CSR facilities of JSP, promoted by its CSR arm JSP Foundation. Jha's visit started from Asha the Hope, where he interacted with 94 specially-abled children and parents. He also visited the DAV Savitri Jindal School and interacted with the School Students from the local community. He interacted with more than 100 women entrepreneurs who are being supported for generating sustainable supplementary income for their families by undertaking multi-dimensional Income Generation Activities in the Jindal Jan Jeevika Kendra at Angul. Jha advised the CSR team for more vibrant market linkages for the produces made by the Women SHGs. Under the umbrella of Jindal Jan Jeevika Kendra, 1200 women are being supported in SHG mode for running micro-enterprises.



Govt to tap capital mkt for road projects

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Thursday said the government will approach the capital market this month to raise funds for road projects.

Addressing an event here, he said toll revenue of the NHAI will soar to Rs 1.40 lakh crore per annum in next three years from Rs 40,000 crore per annum currently.

"This month, I will be approaching the capital market to raise funds for road projects...Our toll income is very good and NHAI's rating is AAA...I am 100 per cent sure that we



will get a good response from the capital market," the Road Transport and Highways minister said.

Gadkari said the insurance funds, pension funds have shown interest to invest in India's road projects because there is economic viability.

Last month, he had said the money will be raised through Infrastructure

Saudi pips Russia to become India's 2nd biggest oil supplier

India's monthly oil imports from Russia have been declining after hitting a record in June as Moscow has narrowed the discounts offered for its oil while refiners lifted more term supplies

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 15: Saudi Arabia emerged as the second-biggest oil supplier to India after a three-month gap, overtaking Russia by a thin margin, while Iraq retained the top spot in August, data from industry and trade sources showed.

India, the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer, shipped in 863,950 barrels per day (bpd) of crude from Saudi Arabia, up 4.8% from the previous month, while purchases from Russia fell 2.4% to 855,950 bpd, the data showed.

Despite Saudi's gain, the share of oil from Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries in India fell to 59.8%, the lowest in at least 16 years as India cut African imports.

India has become Russia's No 2 oil buyer after China as others have cut purchases following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in late February.

The two countries, keen to secure raw materials at discounts compared with supplies from other countries, are seen as cushioning the impact of western sanctions on Moscow.



OPEC oil share fell to 59.8%, the lowest in at least 16 years
India's overall crude imports in Aug fell to five-month low

Higher intake of Caspian sea oil, mainly from Kazakhstan, Russia and Azerbaijan, have hit India's purchases from Africa and other countries.

African oil's share in August halved to 4.2% while Latin America's share fell to 5.3% from about 7.7%, the data showed.

In August, the United Arab Emirates stayed at No 4 while Kazakhstan replaced Kuwait to become fifth-largest oil supplier to India, followed by the United States.

Increased purchases of Saudi and Emirati oil raised Middle East's share in India to 59% in August from 54% in July while that of CIS nations rose to about a quarter from 23%, the data showed.

Russian oil accounted for about 16% for India's overall imports in April-August, the first five months of this fiscal year, at 757,000 bpd compared with 20,000 bpd a year earlier, or a 0.5% share, the data showed.



DBF signs MoU with NIIT Foundation

Bhubaneswar: Dalmia Bharat Foundation (DBF), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Dalmia Bharat Group is on an accelerated path to make India's 'Self-reliance' vision a reality. For this purpose, DBF has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a not-for-profit education society, NIIT Foundation to develop state-of-the-art, community-centric skill-building and educational training courses that will benefit 8000 underprivileged youth across 16 DIKSHA (Dalmia Institute of Knowledge and Skill Harnessing) centres in India including Rourkela, Jaipur, Raigarh, Sundargarh, Jharsuguda and Cuttack in Odisha. The aim of the MoU is to usher in a new India that is progressive and self-dependent by harnessing the collaborative strengths of DBF's robust community engagement and NIIT Foundation's quality educational process so as to empower children and youth belonging to the disadvantaged sections of society. The MoU was signed in New Delhi, between Bodhanakar from Dalmia Bharat Limited and Charu Kapoor, COO, NIIT Foundation.

Air passenger traffic rose 5% in Aug: Ica

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Domestic air passenger traffic rose 5 per cent to 1.02 crore in August and a fast-paced recovery in the traffic is expected this fiscal on the back of normalcy in flight operations and widening vaccination coverage, according to rating agency Ica.

Releasing the monthly domestic air passenger traffic data for August Thursday, Ica further said that international traffic for Indian carriers surpassed the pre-Covid level of around 19.8 lakh by 32 per cent.

"The domestic aviation industry continues to witness recovery with domestic passenger traffic for August 2022 estimated at around 102 lakh, around 5 per cent higher compared to around 97 lakh in July 2022 and around 52 per cent higher in comparison to the domestic passenger traffic in August 2021, although it fell short by around 14 per cent, compared to pre-Covid levels i.e. August 2019," Ica's Suprio Banerjee said.

In the first five months of this fiscal, domestic passenger traffic is estimated at nearly 5.24 crore, a year-on-year growth of nearly 131 per cent. Ica noted that the airline's capacity deployment in August was around 37 per cent, compared to the year-ago period but lower by nearly 10 per cent than the pre-Covid level.

'OLD BOY' HAALAND SINKS DORTMUND



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester, Sept 15: The cross reached Erling Haaland at shoulder height, about a meter in front of the Manchester City striker. No problem for this generational talent.

Producing a spectacular acrobatic volley with the outside of his left foot, Haaland completed a late comeback by City against Borussia Dortmund — the German club he left in the offseason — in a 2-1 win in the Champions League Wednesday.

Dortmund kept their former star in check for almost the whole game, with City unusually sloppy in possession and getting increasingly frustrated at Etihad Stadium.

Indeed, Pep Guardiola's team hadn't even had a shot on target before John Stones — a center back playing out of position at right back — popped up just outside the area and, egged on by the home crowd, smashed a swerving shot high into the net from outside the area in the 80th minute.

Haaland's winner four minutes later was even better. Joao Cancelo sent in a cross from the left with the outside of his right foot and Haaland showed amazing agility to leap high and redirect the ball into the net with his left foot.

Guardiola said it reminded him of a famous goal scored by Johan

Cruyff for Barcelona against Atlético Madrid in 1973-74.

Haaland impressed himself, too, with the goal that took his overall tally in the Champions League to 26 in 21 games. Asked if he thought Dortmund defended well against him, Haaland said: "They didn't stop me. I scored."

The Norway striker has now scored in six straight games for City in all competitions, and 13 in eight games in total. This was one of his quietest games in a City shirt. Yet he still scored.

"That shows his quality," said Dortmund midfielder Jude Bellingham, who put the German team ahead in the 56th. "He's not always in the game, but you give him half a sniff and it ends up in a goal."

City has opened Group G with two straight wins in its latest bid for a first Champions League title, and now heads into a double-header against FC Copenhagen. Two wins against the Danish champions and City might seal a place in the last 16 with two games to spare.

Guardiola was not happy with his team's performance against Dortmund, however. "We played in the wrong gear today (Wednesday)," he said. "No aggression. Incredibly passive."

After a forgettable first half that saw Dortmund successfully smother City, Bellingham gave the visitors the lead by darting in between Manuel Akanji and Haaland — who were his teammates last season — and glanced in Marco Reus' cross from the left.

City was transformed after the introduction of Bernardo Silva, Phil Foden and Julian Alvarez in a triple substitution. "They changed our pace and there were two excellent goals," Guardiola said.

Messi breaks 2 CL records

AGENCIES

Haifa, Sept 15: Lionel Messi has once again added to his insane record collection with two Champions League feats which has included him surpassing Cristiano Ronaldo.

The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner was on target in PSG's 3-1 win against Maccabi Haifa in their Champions League group stage match, drawing the French side level with his strike after they'd fallen behind in the first half.

The goal broke a pair of records in the process. It was the 39th team the Argentine has scored in the Champions League, taking him past Cristiano Ronaldo's 38, having been joint-top with the Portuguese beforehand.

He has also become the first player to score a Champions League goal in 18 different seasons having done so every campaign since 2005/06, drawing ahead of Karim Benzema on 17 — though the Real Madrid striker could yet move equal again this year.

The goal brought Messi within 14 of Ronaldo's unmatched tally of 140 in Europe's premier competition. The Manchester United man is of course unable to extend his all-time record this season, as the Premier League side is playing Europa League.

In their match against Maccabi Haifa, home team midfielder Tjaronn Chery volleyed in a cross in the 24th minute before Messi gave a sloppy PSG side a much-needed equaliser from the right in the 37th. Messi's exquisitely

BENFICA STUN JUVENTUS

Turin: Massimiliano Allegri's job at Juventus could be on the line again. Allegri, who was fired by the club three years ago, returned as Juventus coach last year but his team may be heading for another early Champions League exit after losing 1-2 at home to Benfica Wednesday. A Joao Mario penalty and a David Neres goal, either side of halftime, cancelled out Arkadiusz Milik's early opener and constrained Juventus to their second straight defeat in the competition after a 1-2 loss at PSG last week. It is the first time Juventus have lost their first two Champions League matches. Juventus, who have also only won two of their opening six matches in Serie A, were booed off the field at full time.

weighted pass then sent Mbappe running down the left in the 69th, and he clipped the ball into the bottom right corner for his third goal in two group games.

Neymar buried the game in the 88th, latching onto Marco Verratti's lofted pass from midfield, controlled the ball on his right thigh and drilled it into a bar-



ren run in the Champions League dating back to December 2020.

Real punish wasteful Leipzig

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Sept 15: As Leipzig wasted chance after chance, Real Madrid stayed calm. It was just a matter of time before the defending European champions punished Leipzig.

Real fended off Leipzig's good start and scored late goals with Federico Valverde and Marco Asensio to extend their perfect start to the season with a hard-fought 2-0 win in the group stage of the Champions

League.

Valverde found the net from inside the area in the 80th minute and Asensio added to the lead in stoppage time to salvage Madrid's eighth victory in a row in all competitions.

In their first home game in the competition since winning a record 14th European title, Real had struggled from the start and failed to pose much of a threat against a tough Leipzig squad until Valverde opened the scoring.



Federico Valverde (blonde hair) reacts after scoring against Leipzig, Wednesday

NAMITA TOPPO BIDS ADIEU Beautifully brutal Federer bids adieu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 15: Experienced hockey midfielder Namita Toppo, who has played more than 150 international matches after making her senior India debut in 2012, Thursday decided to call time on her career.

The 27-year-old Toppo, hailing from Sundargarh district, was part of the Indian team that won bronze and silver medals in the 2014 and 2018 Asian Games respectively.

"The last 10 years have definitely been the best years of my life. I had a dream to play for my country at the biggest stages and I am so happy that I have been able to achieve my dreams," Toppo said in a Hockey India release.

"I hope I have made a huge impact and I am very thrilled to see the way the Indian Women's Hockey Team has progressed in the last decade. I will keep cheering and supporting for the team while I move on to a new chapter in my life."

Toppo is a product of the Sports Hostel, Panposh, Rourkela. She first represented her state team in 2007 and her performances in domestic competitions saw her getting selected for U-18 Girls Asia Cup in Bangkok, Thailand in 2011 where India won a bronze medal. She was first selected to represent the senior national team in 2012 in the FIH Champions Challenge I in Dublin.

She was a part of the Indian junior team which won bronze at the 2013 FIH Women's Junior World Cup in Mönchengladbach, Germany. Toppo took part in major tournaments like FIH Women's World League Round 2 in 2013 where India won gold, 3rd Women's Asian Champions Trophy in 2013 where India won a silver.

She also took part in the 2014 Commonwealth Games, 2014 Asian Games where India won a bronze and the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Hockey India congratulated the two-time Asian Games medallist for her contribution to the sport in the



country's game. "Namita has made a humungous contribution to Indian hockey. Apart from giving everything on the field, Namita has also been a perfect role-model for the youngsters in the team," national team chief coach Janneke Schopman said.

"Not many players get a chance to play 168 matches for their national teams and Namita has earned each one of those caps. Apart from being a great hockey player Toppo is one of the kindest people I know. She is very thoughtful and she always put the team first."

REUTERS

London, Sept 15: Roger Federer, regarded by many as the greatest male player to wield a tennis racket and who took the sport to new levels during a career spanning more than two decades, has announced he will retire after next week's Laver Cup in London.

The 41-year-old, who won 20 Grand Slam singles titles and redefined a sport with his artistry and grace, broke the news tennis fans across the world have feared in a lengthy statement Thursday.

A knee injury meant he has not played a match since losing at last year's Wimbledon although many still believed he could come back for one last golden farewell. But he said his age had finally caught up with him.

"As many of you know, the past three years have presented me with challenges in the form of injuries and surgeries," Federer said in an emotional statement posted on Instagram.

"I've worked hard to return to full competitive form. But I also know my body's capacities and limits, and its message to me lately has been clear. I am 41 years old."

"I have played more than 1,500 matches over 24 years. Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt, and now I



must recognize when it's time to end my competitive career. The Laver Cup next week in London will be my final ATP event. I will play more tennis in the future, of course, but just not in Grand Slams or on the tour."

Federer, who dominated men's tennis for several years after winning his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2003, has been trou-

bled by injuries in recent years.

He has undergone three knee operations in the last two years and his last competitive match was a quarter-final defeat against Poland's Hubert Hurkacz at the 2021 Wimbledon.

Federer had offered some hope to his legions of fans when he said he planned to return to the tour after

teaming up with long-time rival and friend Rafa Nadal to play doubles at the Laver Cup in London next week.

He had also planned to play at the Swiss indoors tournament at home in Basel. "This is a bittersweet decision, because I will miss everything the tour has given me," Federer, who has two sets of twins with wife Mirka, added.

"But at the same time, there is so much to celebrate. I consider myself one of the most fortunate people on Earth. I was given a special talent to play tennis, and I did it at a level that I never imagined, for much longer than I ever thought possible."

Federer first served notice of his special talent when he beat American great Pete Sampras on his way to the quarterfinals at Wimbledon in 2001.

Two years later he outclassed Mark Philippoussis on Wimbledon's Centre Court to begin his Grand Slam collection. Federer went on to win seven more Wimbledon titles, claimed five US Open titles, six Australian crowns and a single French Open achieved in 2009 to complete his career Slam.

He also holds the record for 237 consecutive weeks as World No.1 and the only omission from his glittering CV is an Olympic singles gold medal, losing to Andy Murray in the 2012 final.

State Senior Men Hockey Championships underway

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 15: The State Senior Men Hockey Championships is underway at the KIIT University and Kalinga Stadium. The tournament began September 12 and will conclude September 17.

Over 500 players from districts, academies, and institutions are participating in the tourney. The teams are lined up in a knockout format with the eventual winner getting the title of Best Senior Men

Hockey Team in the state.

The state level championship is being organized for the first time and has got record participation with 25 district teams and five academy and institution teams participating in the tournament.

Odisha has been a pioneer in sports promotion and development by supporting hockey and investing significantly in developing sports infrastructure and talent pathways from grassroots

to elite.

Speaking on the tournament, President of Hockey Association of Odisha and Chairman of Hockey Promotion Council, Dilip Tirkey said, "I am delighted with the response from all the districts and their love for hockey."

"It is the first time in history that so many teams have participated in a state tournament. I am sure competitions like this will continue to develop the game and generate interest amongst

the young players to play hockey regularly," added the former India captain.

The tournament will look to scout talent that will represent Odisha at the next Hockey India National Championships in 2023.

The semifinals of the tournament are scheduled to be held September 16 at KIIT University. SAIL Academy, East Coast Railway and Sundargarh have already booked their spot in the semifinals.