



EVOLVING SCENARIO

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia elaborates on how conventional norms are broken in modern day movies

LEISURE P2



RUSSIA BEGINS ANNEXATION

Russia is poised to formally annex areas of Ukraine where it has military control after favourable referendums

INTERNATIONAL P10



SPAIN BEAT PORTUGAL

Alvaro Morata scores to help Spain beat Portugal and seal a berth in the final four stage of the Nations League

SPORTS P12

Lt General Chauhan is India's new CDS

NEW DELHI: Nine months after the death of General Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash, the government Wednesday named Lt General Anil Chauhan (Retired) as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), India's top military officer. Lt General Chauhan had retired as Eastern Command Chief in May 2021. He has held several appointments and has extensive experience in counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East. General Rawat, who had been India's first CDS, and his wife were killed in December after a military chopper crashed in Tamil Nadu, killing 13 on board. He had taken charge as CDS in January 2020. **P9**

Jayanti Patnaik passes away at 90

BHUBANESWAR: Former Odisha CM JB Patnaik's wife and veteran Congress leader Jayanti Patnaik breathed her last Wednesday evening. She was 90. The four-time Lok Sabha MP had been suffering from age-related complications. She was rushed to a private hospital here after her condition deteriorated where she breathed her last while undergoing treatment. The first chairperson of the National Commission for Women, Jayanti was elected to the Lok Sabha from Cuttack constituency in 1981 and 1984 while in 1998 she was elected from the Berhampur constituency.



LONG RANGE FIREPOWER: The Indian Army tested Wednesday the capability of 'Dhanush' which is the country's first indigenously produced long-towed artillery gun

PTI PHOTO

Can deadline for HSRP be extended: Orissa HC asks govt

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 28: The Orissa High Court asked Tuesday the Transport Department of the state government as to whether the deadline for affixation of High Security Registration Plate (HSRP) on vehicles can be extended. The court asked the department to reply as soon as possible as the next hearing of the case will take place September 30, the last date for affixation of the HSRP.

The high court made the observation while hearing a petition filed by two bus owners. In their plea they said that the state government has set the HSRP deadline without the availability of proper facilities

It should be stated here that the Odisha government has made affixation of HSRP on vehicles mandatory in Odisha, October 1 onwards. Strict fines will be enforced on offenders, officials had said earlier. However, they had also stated that those who have applied for the number plate online before the last date will not be fined. They will have to carry the online booking slip.

Govt bans PFI, associates

The Centre has accused the group of spreading terror in India and also said it has links with several banned organisations like SIMI and IS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 28: The government Wednesday banned the Popular Front of India (PFI) and several of its associates for five years under a stringent anti-terror law. It accused these bodies of having 'links' with global terror groups like IS.

Besides PFI, the organisations that were also banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) are 'Rehab India Foundation', 'Campus Front of India', 'All India Imams Council', 'National Confederation of Human Rights Organisation', 'National Women's Front', 'Junior Front', 'Empower India Foundation' and Rehab Foundation (Kerala).

So far more than 150 people allegedly linked with PFI have been detained or arrested in raids across seven states that started Tuesday and continued Wednesday. This move came five days after a similar pan-India crackdown against the 16-year-old group. Then more than 100 people had been arrested and several dozen properties were seized.

In a notification late Tuesday night, the Home Ministry said some PFI founding members are leaders of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and the group has links with Jamat-ul-Mujahideen (JMB) in Bangladesh. Both JMB and SIMI are banned



Police guard the entrance to a PFI office in Delhi, Wednesday

in India.

PFI and its associates or affiliates or fronts have been working covertly to increase the radicalisation of one community by promoting a sense of insecurity in the country, which is substantiated by the fact that some PFI cadres have joined international terrorist organisations like the Islamic State (IS), the Home Ministry notification claimed. It added that Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat governments had also recommended a ban on PFI.

The opposition Congress in Kerala and its coalition partner Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) also welcomed the Centre's move, but said the RSS should also

be similarly outlawed (See Box). PFI sources however, said that the party will seek legal recourse as it feels that the ban is 'unconstitutional and illegal'.

The Home Ministry also claimed investigations have established clear links between PFI and its associates or affiliates or fronts. It said 'Rehab India Foundation' collects funds through PFI members. Some PFI representatives are also members of 'Campus Front of India', 'Empower India Foundation', and 'Rehab Foundation, Kerala'.

Investigations in various cases have revealed that PFI and its cadre have been repeatedly engaging in violent and subversive acts, the

BAN RSS ALSO, INSISTS OPPN

Thiruvananthapuram: The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) welcomed Wednesday the Centre's decision to ban the Popular Front of India (PFI) for its alleged terror activities, but said that the RSS should also be similarly outlawed. Senior IUML leader MK Muneer said the radical outfit had misinterpreted the Quran. Meanwhile RJD president Lalu Prasad called Wednesday the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh a 'Hindu extremist organisation' that deserved to be banned. "It is the RSS, which is all about Hindu extremism (kattarpanth), which deserves to be banned first," Lalu said in Delhi. The CPI(M) said it opposes the extremist views of PFI, but does not support the way the government is tackling it by banning the outfit. It also pointed out that experience has shown that bans on organisations like the RSS and the Maoists were not effective.

ministry claimed. Criminal violent acts carried out by PFI include chopping off the limbs of a college professor; killings of persons associated with organisations espousing other faiths, obtaining explosives to target prominent people and places and destruction of public property, it added. **P9**

Elephant tramples 2 to death in Cuttack

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 28: Two persons, including a woman, died and three others were grievously injured in an elephant attack in Jagatpur area here late Tuesday night, an official said Wednesday. He also informed that a pachyderm had also died while trying to cross the Mahanadi river.

City divisional forest officer (DFO) Ajit Satpathy said that Anand Behera and Kamala Nayak, both residents of Nazarpur slum in Pira Bazar area of Cuttack, were trampled to death by a female elephant that had strayed into the Jagatpur New Industry locality here.

Satpathy said three elephants, including a calf, had come to Choudwar from Athagarh area. "As they were trying to cross the river, one of them got stuck at the Jobra barrage gate and subsequently died. While the calf managed to cross the river and strayed into Panda Sahi, the third animal—an adult female—entered Jagatpur New Industry area, where it unleashed terror," the DFO informed.

Anand, Kamala and three others had come out of their houses as they heard loud noises. The elephant charged them when they tried to drive away the wild animal. All the five panicked and in their haste to flee tripped over one another and fell, making them easy prey for the marauding elephant.

While Anand and Kamala died



on the spot, three others sustained multiple injuries. They have been admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital here. Their condition is stated to be critical, said a forest official, quoting SCB authorities.

Forest officials have not been able to drive away the elephant till the time of filing of this report. However, its movements have been restricted.

Meanwhile, Forest officials recovered the carcass of the elephant that died after being stuck at Jobra barrage gate No-14. Forest officials buried the carcass on the Mahanadi riverbank in Jagatpur after conducting an autopsy at Nimpur. Officials said that it was an adult male elephant.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



I'm deeply disappointed. This livestreaming is nothing like the court proceedings we watch in movies

MARKET WATCH

INDEX	VARIATION
SENSEX	56598.28 ↓ 509.24
NIFTY	16858.60 ↓ 148.80
DOLLAR	81.90 ↑ ₹0.36
EURO	78.39 ↑ ₹0.02
GOLD	₹49,697 ↑ ₹378
SILVER	₹55,991 ↑ ₹612

WEATHER

	BHUB	CTK
TEMP MAX	34.1°C	33.6°C
TEMP MIN	25.3°C	25.0°C
Humidity	83%	85%
Rainfall	Nil	Light rain likely

Seat belts mandatory for all car occupants

RULE VIOLATORS WILL BE PENALISED ₹1,000, SAY SOURCES

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: The Odisha government is contemplating to make seat belts mandatory for all passengers in a car very soon, sources said Wednesday. Violators will have to shell out ₹1,000 if found breaking the rule, they added.

In the wake of the fatal accident of former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry near Mumbai, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRT&H) has asked all states including Odisha to strictly implement seat belt norms for M1 category motor vehicles (comprising not more than eight seats in addition to the driver seat).

Following this letter from the

Centre, the Transport department has asked the commissioner to issue necessary instructions regarding use of seat belts as per provisions under Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989 and bring it to the notice of the public.

Section 194B of the MVA 1988 mandates the use of safety belts, and sub-section 1 of Section-194 B, says that 'whoever drives a motor vehicle without wearing a seat belt or carries passengers not wearing a safety belt shall be punishable with a fine of ₹1000'. Also rule-12(1) of CMVR, 1989 specifies that all vehicles other than two and three-wheelers shall be equipped with a seat belt for the driver and person occupying the front seat. **Continued on P4**

Malala turns producer to empower women

Nobel Laureate has linked up with Apple TV+ to produce films, dramas, comedies and children's series and to provide a platform to women of colour

AGENCIES

Los Angeles, Sept 28: Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai has inked a programming agreement with Apple TV+. She unveiled Tuesday here, the first line-up of films and TV projects with the streamer, backed by her banner 'Extracurricular'. Malala said that the team at 'Extracurricular' aims to bring to the table 'the voices of women of colour, and debut writers'.

Entertainment website 'Variety' said in its report that the deal involves dramas, comedies, documentaries, animation and children's series and will see the Pakistani activist team up with Oscar winner Adam McKay's production house on a feature film.

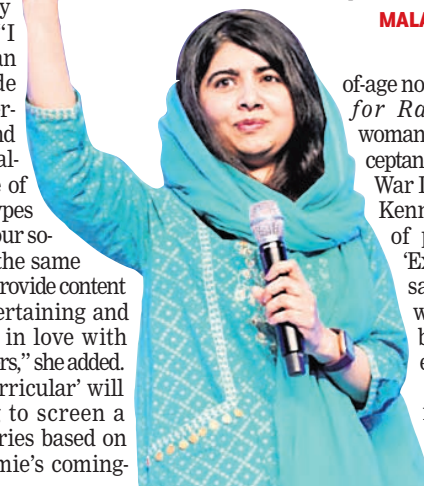
The film, titled 'Disorientation', with McKay's 'Hyperobject Industries' is an adaptation of Elaine Hsieh Chou's acclaimed book of the same name. Billed as a 'sharp-edged, celebrated satire', the story revolves around a college student's revealing dissertation on a young poet. The makers are yet to rope in a director for the project.

"There are many voices of women of colour, of various ideology who are suppressed in their respective countries. We aim to give them a platform so that they

can pursue their passion," Malala was quoted as saying by 'Variety'. "I hope we can have a wide range of perspectives and that we challenge some of the stereotypes we hold in our societies. At the same time we hope to provide content that is entertaining and people fall in love with the characters," she added. 'Extracurricular' will also bring to screen a scripted series based on Asha Lemmie's coming-

We want to provide a platform to many voices of women of colour, of various ideology who don't get a chance to pursue their passion

MALALA YOUSAFZAI



of-age novel 'Fifty Words for Rain', about a woman's search for acceptance in post-World War II Japan. Erika Kennair, president of production at 'Extracurricular', said new talent will be cast in both the projects. "Just by the nature of it, the lead of '50 Words for

Rain is a half-Black half-Japanese woman. And unless Naomi Osaka (tennis star) wants to start acting, we're going to have to discover that woman, which is really exciting," Kennair said.

A feature documentary, revolving around South Korea's matriarchal 'Haenyeo' society of elderly fishermen, is currently in production with 'A24' attached as the studio.

'Extracurricular' is also looking forward to telling a fictionalised or unscripted account of Malala and her family's experience with the Taliban.

An activist for girls' education, Malala miraculously survived a bullet to the head from the Taliban militants in October 2012. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.

leisure



TOM HANKS: HAVE MADE ONLY FOUR 'PRETTY GOOD' MOVIES

Hollywood star Tom Hanks has acted in nearly 100 movies but thinks only four of them are 'pretty good'. "I've made a tonne of movies and four of them are pretty good. I'm still amazed at how films come together," said the *Forrest Gump* actor.

BRAD PITT, RATAJKOWSKI ARE NOT OFFICIALLY DATING

An insider opens up about Brad Pitt and Emily Ratajkowski's rumoured relationship. They are a work in progress, it adds. The two have been seen together several times since Emily filed for divorce earlier this month from her estranged husband Sebastian Bear-McClard.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
A romantic link is about to be presented to you as a surprise, shining and smiling. Ganesha advises you to be prepared in your best dress and to practice some romantic talking. You never know what the evening has in store for you.

TAURUS
Spontaneity yet sincerity will be the ruling emotions of the day. Keep your eyes and ears open, advises Ganesha, as trouble might be headed your way. Make it a point to read the print well before you sign any legal contract today. Prevention is better than cure, reminds Ganesha.

GEMINI
Today is an important day to completely immerse yourself in your favourite activities, says Ganesha. But don't forget that loved ones come first as lack of warmth may affect family life. Show your family members that you care. New relationships are also on the anvil. It is an eventful and positive day for you.

CANCER
Today, you will need to rise above your emotional leanings and will have to choose between doing the right thing and keeping your loved ones happy. So far, you have managed to strike a balance. It is about time that you learn to deal with your fears, suggests Ganesha.

LEO
Reinvention and rejuvenation – these are the two words that shall dictate your philosophy for the day. Refurbishing oneself does not always have to be in accordance with something new; taking a look back can be equally enlightening. In any case, it's a small world, and, hence, chances are that you shall revive most of your old contacts either in a social occasion or an official meeting.

VIRGO
Achievement and accomplishment will be the high-lights of the day, notes Ganesha. You will be recognised for your devotion to work and determination to succeed at your workplace. Much awaited promotions may come and financial arrears may also reach your hands.

LIBRA
Call it two sides of the same coin, but today, you shall have the uncanny desire to be your own master and servant. But this day is all set to be animated and eventful and full of life. Expect a few run-ins with the opposite sex, as you are bound to attract quite a few of them, mainly because of your killer good looks. Hitting the gym pays its dividends, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO
You may find yourself sulking in your shell today, feels Ganesha. One event or another may lead you to shut out work. Hindsight and bitterness will not lead you anywhere, so Ganesha advises that you must steer clear of negativity.

SAGITTARIUS
Pack your bags today for a long business trip, which will bear rich fruits. Be ready to pick up important business pointers and learn your way into your trade. Ganesha predicts pleasant surprises in store later in the day.

CAPRICORN
It's time to party, whether or not you have no reason for it. Friends and even acquaintances will be invited to take part in the celebrations; you will be all charged up to have a blast of a day, says Ganesha. For those engaged in business, profits may come but it won't be the result of the efforts you put in.

AQUARIUS
Today, your social butterflies will set hearts fluttering! Also, whatever you have been working on will reach completion now. You do have a great vision, but you're lost when it comes to executing your plans. Ganesha assures success if only you are a little more practical!

PISCES
Being a friend in need is what today will be about, says Ganesha. Making new acquaintances and associations is also on the cards. Try not to let jealousy mar your better judgement while you are at it.

Tamannaah on cinema's evolution

Mumbai: In her latest flick *Babli Bouncer*, Tamannaah Bhatia plays a gender bender role as she's seen essaying the role of a female bouncer. Though that field is dominated by men, the actress took a plunge to break the stereotype. Tamannaah has been lauded for her performance in the film directed by Madhur Bhandarkar.

The actress says that while today it is easy for actresses to experiment, at the time when she started, heroines were depicted only a certain way on screen. She elaborates saying, "I started working when I was a teenager. At that time, I was totally tomboyish. I remember I had to learn certain things to play a heroine on screen. Back then, cinema had certain ways of how a girl should walk and talk on screen. Today cinema has evolved so much that these norms are broken. All that doesn't exist anymore, but when I started, it did exist."

Ask her about how she prepped to look the type when she started off and Tamannaah says, "I used to wear my mom's clothes and shoes and play dress-up looking in the mirror (laughs!)."

The movie, produced by Jungle Pictures had an OTT release.

AGENCIES



Bhumi bats for climate action

Mumbai: Bhumi Pednekar urged the youth to raise their voice against pollution as she shared a video on Wednesday, on social media.

Sharing the video, she wrote, "The climate crisis is happening NOW. We need action FAST. I'm joining @undp's #DearWorldLeaders campaign to demand urgent and bold action from world leaders. I am committed to doing my part. Will you do yours? #DearWorldLeaders."

The 33-year-old actor has consistently advocated conservation and protection of the environment and she has started a pan-India campaign called Climate Warrior, which aims at raising awareness about climate change and environmental conservation.

The *Badhaai Do* actor asked people to raise their voice against pollution and promote recycling. She said, "I'm here to urge you to take climate action now. Heat waves, droughts, floods, tsunamis, wildfires are ravaging our planet and pushing millions of people across the world into deeper poverty. Pollution is damaging our health and our wellbeing. We are at a tipping point and cannot afford to lose any more time."

Bhumi added, "I'm committed to do my part. I recycle water, say no to single use plastic, live a sustainable life. But we need more from you."

AGENCIES



Play on pastoral poet Jasimuddin's work holds theatre lovers in thrall

Bhubaneswar: Members of Naye Natua, a Kolkata-based theatre troupe, staged Bengali play *Nakshi Kanthar Math* on the third evening of a national drama festival here at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar.

The event is being organised by Odisha Natya Sangh (ONS) to commemorate its 35th foundation day.

The play was adapted from the famous work of pastoral Bengali poet Jasimuddin of the same name by Goutam Halder. He also directed the drama.

The tale revolved around the romance between a dark-skinned boy Rupa and a pretty girl Saju of two neighbouring villages.

After their marriage, the

ONS' NAT'L DRAMA FESTIVAL - DAY 3



A scene from Bengali play *Nakshi Kanthar Math*

OP PHOTO

Rupa suddenly flees to a far-away land leaving Saju alone. Expecting that Rupa will return one day, Saju stitches a 'Nakshi Kantha' (an embroi-

dered quilt), noting down their eventful past on it. However, Rupa doesn't return and Saju dies, but not before requesting her mother to keep the quilt at

her grave. This she does to remind Rupa of her pain when he returns. The presentation held the theatre lovers of this city in thrall.

Enacted by Dyuti Ghosh Haldar, the play had Prativa Roy and Spandan Banerjee in chorus.

Dramatists Bhaskar Ch. Mohapatra, Narendra Mishra, Lala Biren Roy, ONS president Haren Sahoo, secretary Subhakanta padhi and vice-president Siba Shankar Tripathy were among the guests who graced the occasion.

Samagama Ranga Mandal of Jabalpur will present Hindi play *Agar bati* on the fourth evening of the event, said ONS PRO Prakash Moharana. PNN

Capital Talkies to stream on AAO NXT from Sept 30

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's first independent OTT platform AAO NXT has Wednesday announced to release Odia movie *Capital Talkies* on its platform, September 30.

The movie is an anthology of two non-connected stories. Both are psychological thrillers based on emotions of fear, greed, lust, revenge and anger. Directed by Jagdish Mishra and Arpita Pattanayak, the movie stars Daitari Panda, Hara Rath, and Lakshya Sharma in pivotal roles.

The first-of-its-kind thriller with rare twists and turns of events promises to keep the viewers at the edge of their seats throughout its run time, claimed the makers.

Regarding this, Kaushik Das, founder and CEO of AAO NXT, said The platform is currently focusing on creating original language agnostic content. "Our goal is to create world-class web series, feature films and documentaries across a wide variety of genres, satiating the need of over 50 million Odias across the globe who are deprived of quality content in their mother tongue," he added.

PNN

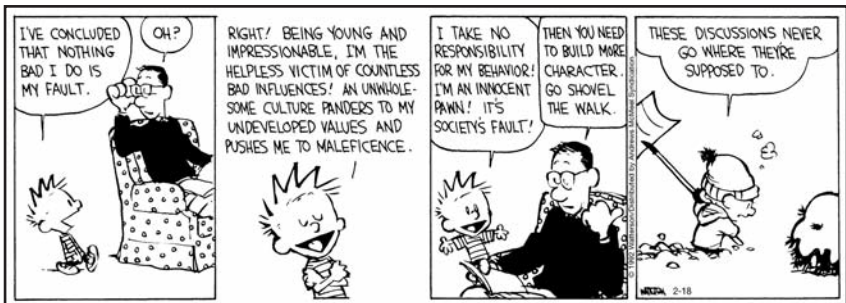


FUN post

PEANUTS



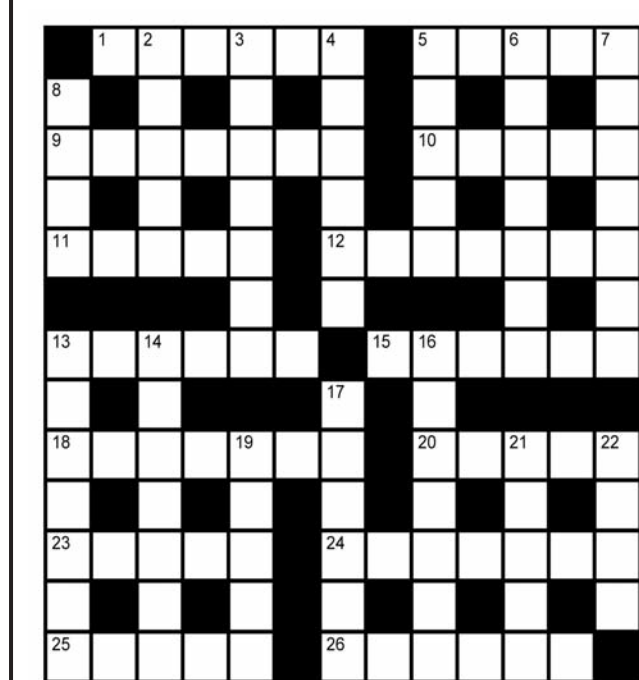
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



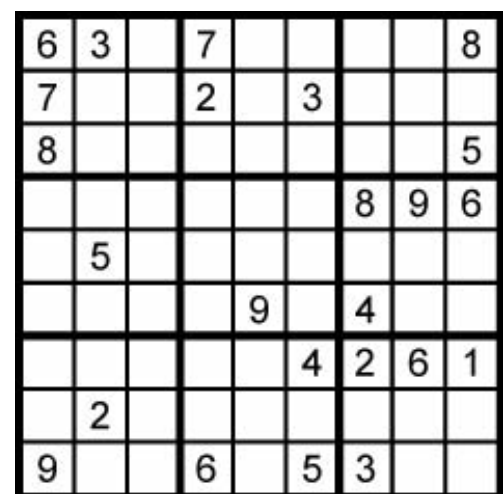
CROSSWORD



- Copyright ©2022 PuzzleJunction.com
- Across**
- 1 Sailplane
 - 5 Excavation find
 - 9 Went up against
 - 10 Latin American dance
 - 11 Charles de Gaulle's birthplace
 - 12 Savings (4,3)
 - 13 Disavow
 - 15 Repeat
 - 18--The least possible--
 - 20 Sticker
 - 23 Requires and forth
 - 24 Nom de plume (3,4)
 - 25 Decorative jugs
 - 26 English cathedral city
 - Down**
 - 2 Place for a pin
 - 3 Recognise
 - 4 Chinchilla, e.g.
 - 5 Sways back
 - 6 Camp light
 - 7 Warhorse of old
 - 8 Shade of black
 - 13 Love story
 - 14 Call together
 - 16 Passionate
 - 17 Pass, as time
 - 19 Dreams
 - 21 Emulate Cicero
 - 22 Holiday song

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

SUDOKU

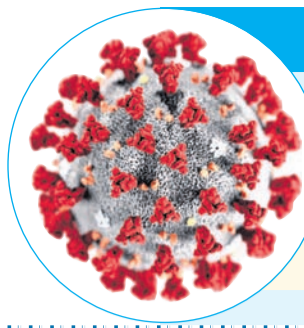
4 3 9 2 8 1 6 5 7
8 2 7 4 5 6 1 9 3
5 6 1 9 3 7 2 8 4
6 9 4 8 1 2 7 3 5
7 5 2 3 6 4 8 1 9
3 1 8 5 7 9 4 2 6
1 4 3 7 2 5 9 6 8
9 8 6 1 4 3 5 7 2
2 7 5 6 9 8 3 4 1

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



TOURISM SEMINAR

Dignitaries at a seminar organised by the Ministry of Tourism in association with Natyadeep, a cultural outfit, in Konark, Wednesday



COVID-19 TRACKER

	INFECTED	RECOVERED	DEAD
World	62,13,69,474	60,15,70,570	65,43,268
India	4,45,79,088	4,40,09,525	5,28,584
Odisha	13,33,707	13,23,035	9,192

In B'lore, CM woos investors with 'exclusive incentives'



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Odisha is committed to providing an ecosystem for job-linked industrial growth. "If any state is providing X incentive for promotion of business opportunities, Odisha government will provide X plus," said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at an investors' meet in Bangalore, Wednesday.

Welcoming a galaxy of potential investors at the meeting, Patnaik gave a clarion call to the industry captains saying, "Come, invest in Odisha and be our partner in ushering in a new industrial age in Odisha." Patnaik also said his government walks the talk.

He sought the participation of industry captains in the Make in Odisha Conclave to be held in

Bhubaneswar from November 30 to December 4, 2022.

"I have come to invite you all to Odisha and be part of our transformative journey. Odisha is now progressing fast in every sector. On the strength of our abundant natural resources, skilled human resources and stable governance, Odisha is emerging as a leading destination for industries and investment," he said.

"The Conclave is a platform for our state to showcase our growth story and present what we have to offer to investors across the globe. It is a platform for industry captains and thought-leaders to talk about the future outlook of various industrial sectors," he added.

Stating that most of the top Indian IT companies have established their centres in Bhubaneswar,

Patnaik said his government is providing continuous support to the Startup ecosystem in the city.

Highlighting state's record on grounding of investment proposals, he stated that Odisha is ranked among the top states of India in terms of live manufacturing investments and has been accorded the 'Achiever state' status in the recently released Ease of Doing Business ratings.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister met around 20 investors including Amit Sharma, Managing Partner of IBM India Pvt Ltd, Shrawan Subramanyam, MD & CEO of Wipro-GE Healthcare Pvt Ltd, Gautam Sharma, MD & CEO of Indo Nissin Foods Pvt Ltd, Rajneesh Kumar, Senior VP & chief corporate affairs, Flipkart and Nibhruti Rai, country head, Intel Tech India Pvt Ltd.

Addressing the gathering, Industries Minister PK Deb said, "Under the leadership of the CM, the state government has taken a whole-of-government approach toward service delivery to citizens and businesses. We are today becoming a destination of choice for investors across the country."

IT secretary Manoj Mishra highlighted the IT Policy, Data Centre Policy, BPO Policy, and Electronics Policy brought in by the state government.



FOR A GLITTERING PANDAL: An artisan busy preparing a tableau at Banka Bazar in Cuttack, Wednesday, ahead of Durga Puja

OP PHOTO

Special devpt councils reconstituted in 9 dists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: The state government has reconstituted the special development councils (SDCs) in nine districts having a 50 per cent tribal population.

The decision was taken a day after Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik released the 'Encyclopaedia of Tribes' in Odisha, covering the traditions and cultures of all the 62 tribal communities living in the state. A notification issued by the state government said that the SDCs were reconstituted in Mayurbhanj, Malkangiri, Keonjhar, Koraput, Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Gajapati, Kandhamal and Sundargarh. Opposition parties claimed that with such initiatives, the BJD government was trying to woo tribals ahead of the next Assembly elections due in 2024. "The state government takes such initiatives to help BJD leaders and appease people," alleged BJP state vice-president Bhruhu Buxipatna. In a letter to Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda, Patnaik had demanded the inclusion of 160 communities of Odisha in the Scheduled Tribes list of the state.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Opposition BJP and Congress Wednesday staged protests demanding removal of School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash from Cabinet for his alleged involvement in the death of BJD Zilla Parishad (ZP) member Dharmendra Sahoo.

Sahoo, a ZP member from Puri district, had allegedly committed suicide at his residence here September 24. The 48-year-old politician represented the ZP zone no 11 under Gop, which comes under the Assembly constituency of the minister.

While the BJP protested at Jayashri square by burning tyres and blocking the Puri-Bhubaneswar National Highway, the student unit of the Congress gathered at the official residence of Dash in Bhubaneswar. The BJP workers and leaders including Puri district president Ashrit Pattanayak, Bramhagiri MLA Lalitendu Bidyadhar Mohapatra and party's state vice-president Pravat Parida participated in the road blockade. They demanded immediate removal of Dash from the Cabinet for his alleged involvement in the suicidal death case.



CONG DEMO: Student Congress members staged an agitation outside the official residence of School and Mass Education Minister and Nimapara MLA Samir Ranjan Dash in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, demanding his arrest and resignation for his alleged role in BJD Zilla Parishad member Dharmendra Sahoo's death at Sisupalgarh last week

OP PHOTO

"An audio clip of Sahoo that went viral in social media proves that Dash is involved in the death of the ZP member. So, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik should immediately remove him from the Cabinet,"

said Pattanayak. Notably, an audio clip purportedly made by Sahoo holding the minister and six others including his wife and father-in-law responsible for his suicide went viral on social media. Following this, the Chief Minister should immediately

order for the arrest of Dash, demanded BJP MLA Mohapatra.

Similarly, demanding the resignation of the minister, hundreds of activists of the student wing of the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee Wednesday gathered at the official residence of Dash.

Carrying posters and shouting slogans, the Chattra Congress workers had a scuffle with the police while trying to barge into the minister's residence. The Congress activists hurled eggs and tomatoes at the minister's house.

President of the state unit Chhatra Congress Yasir Nawaz alleged that the Chief Minister himself is protecting Dash, who is involved in the death of the BJD leader.

"CM Naveen Patnaik is shielding Samir Dash. He (Dash) has lost his moral right to sit on that chair. It is clear now that Dash is responsible for Dharmendra Sahoo's suicide. We warn the government, if they do not take any action against Dash, we will intensify our agitation," he said.

Earlier, a delegation of the Congress had submitted a memorandum to the Bhubaneswar DCP demanding an impartial inquiry into the incident.

Sahoo death: Oppn seeks Dash's scalp

Right to information not always equal

Many South Asian countries have made progress in adopting Right to Information (RTI) laws, but ensuring everyone the benefits of the law is proving more of a challenge.

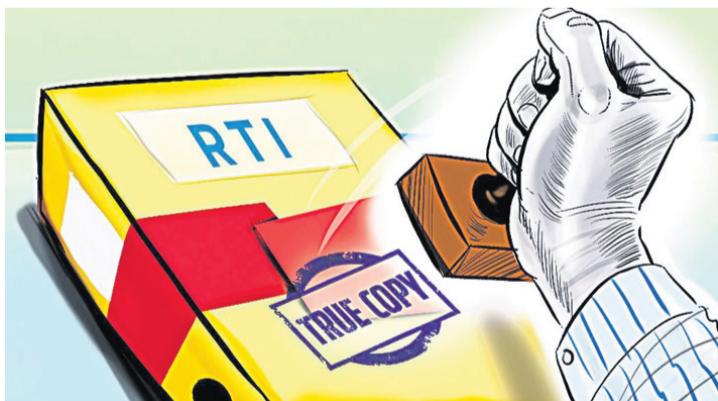
Pakistan, followed by India, Nepal and Bangladesh have all enacted RTI law in the past two decades after years of advocacy efforts by civil society groups. And while it's a key tool for holding governments accountable, its use by poor communities remains restricted.

India's RTI legislation, considered to be one of the most robust laws in South Asia, remains untapped by poor and marginalised communities as they often have limited access or are unaware of their rights. It could learn from Bangladesh.

Rural women, who stand to benefit from RTI law, are among the least likely to use it.

Social barriers in the form of traditional social norms restrict the ability of many women to travel to government offices in unfamiliar towns. They worry about how government bureaucrats will treat them. Moreover, there are built-in structural barriers in the architecture of the information disclosure system, which accepts only written applications in order to provide information. This is difficult to achieve in rural areas where female literacy is low.

In states where RTI adoption is high, requesting information prompts government officials to act "almost like



IN LESS PROGRESSIVE STATES LIKE UTTAR PRADESH AND BIHAR, WHERE INCOMES AND LITERACY RATES ARE LOWER AND AWARENESS ABOUT RTI IS LIMITED, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OPENLY UNDERMINE TRANSPARENCY NORMS

THE OFFICIALS IN THESE STATES REFUSE TO PROVIDE THE REQUESTED INFORMATION, AND REJECT RTI APPEALS ON SPURIOUS GROUNDS

magic". Once an application is submitted, the government is required to provide results immediately. But in less progressive states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, where incomes and literacy rates are lower and awareness about RTI is limited, government officials openly undermine transparency norms, refuse to provide the requested information, and reject RTI appeals on spurious grounds.

These practices mock transparency laws, as the poor have a hard time dealing with obdurate bureaucracy. The awareness and use of RTI law among the rural poor and women in Uttar Pradesh is also quite low.

Research has found that rural men only take an interest in the law when they can use it in their daily activities. For rural women, local government institutions do little to overcome the many distinct barriers they face to access information.

India's more restrictive states could take cues from the Community Empowerment Programme of Bangladesh, which is supported by the World Bank and the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee. The group set out to empower the poor (including rural women) who face constraints in obtaining information. They created RTI 'intermediaries'—a cadre of

information intermediaries from within the community, who are equipped with an effective understanding of the law and can motivate others to access information.

The 'intermediaries' held RTI clinics aimed at developing better-informed citizens.

These 'intermediaries' serve as a link between citizens and public offices. In Bangladesh, many came from Polli Samaj a popular theatre group already accepted within the community. Their main aim was to gather information queries from the community and submit RTI applications to the relevant government or NGO offices who act as facilitators between poor citizens and the state. When the relevant information was received it was passed on to the applicants.

Based on their popularity, the 'intermediaries' were able to establish a close rapport with public officials through their repeated visits. This allowed them to access information with relatively greater success. In many instances, the 'intermediaries' were effective in enhancing women's access to information by addressing multiple barriers. It meant women could access information without physically visiting public offices, saving both time and money.

Studies in Mexico suggest expanding the use of RTI laws to disadvantaged communities requires trustworthy intermediaries. PTI

ZONAL OFFICE: BHUBANESWAR ZONE
Star House, 1/1D, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Tel: 0674-2362251/2362246, E-mail: zo.bhubaneswar@bankofindia.co.in

APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THIRD FLOOR OVER EXISTING OFFICE BUILDING (INCLUDING INTERIOR, ELECTRICAL AND DATA CABLING, INSTALLATION OF AC)

Detailed notification inviting offers for Prequalification/Appointment of Architect consultation for construction of third floor over existing Office Building at Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar is available in our website www.bankofindia.co.in. Prescribed format for submission of offer may be obtained up to 2:00 PM of 18.10.2022 from our office at above address by paying Rs. 1000/- (Application Fees). Alternatively, the format can be downloaded from website. Last date for submission of offer is up to 5:00 PM, 18.10.2022 at Zonal Office, Bhubaneswar Zone. Zonal Manager

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Pradhan writes to Gadkari for widening of bridge on NH-5A



Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has urged Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari to take steps for widening a bridge on Paradip-Chandikhol National Highway-5A in the state. The Union Education minister, who hails from the coastal state, made the request to Gadkari in a letter and also met him in New Delhi requesting him to initiate necessary steps. Expansion of the bridge at

The minister pointed out that the narrow bridge situated at Olasuni Chowk over Gobari drainage cut on the highway causes an uncontrollable flow of water to nearby 30 GPs, affecting more than 1,000 acres of irrigated and residential land and nearly 2 lakh people of Salipur and Mahanga Assembly constituencies of Cuttack district. "Every year, these villages are badly hit by flood-like situations and the people living here lament the losses incurred to them. Though this drainage cut has not been considered a river, it directly falls into the Bay of Bengal forming its own river mouth," the letter read. Therefore, widening of the Gobari cut bridge of Olasuni Chowk may be included in the expansion work of the NH-5A in the Detailed Project Report (DPR). Responding to his request, Gadkari assured him that necessary steps will be taken for widening the bridge, Pradhan tweeted.

Olasuni Chowk would benefit nearly 2 lakh villagers of 30 gram panchayats, Pradhan said in the letter which was released to the media Wednesday. Noting that he has received a petition from a BJP leader from the Mahanga Assembly segment of the state in this regard, Pradhan said the existing six-lane Paradip-Chandikhol NH-5A is being expanded into eight lanes. This expansion will be a boon in consolidating the economic corridor as it will facilitate a huge boost to connectivity, he said.



AGAINST HSRP: Members of All Odisha Painting Artist Workers' Association protesting against mandatory installation of High Security Registration Plates at Master Canteen, Wednesday

S&T applications key to health, nutritional security: Minister

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) organised "Odisha biotech startup summit" at ILS, Bhubaneswar Wednesday. Inaugurating the event Ashok Chandra Panda, Minister for Science & Technology complimented ILS for initiatives taken for promoting bio-entrepreneurship in the state. The minister said that science and technology applications are important in the area of agriculture, health and nutritional security as well as to create opportunity for startups in these areas. Minister inaugurated the expo at ILS campus where 40 stalls have been put up showcasing products from agriculture, industrial biotechnology, waste management companies, Medtech device and diagnosis, Bio-IT, BioPharma, Ayurveda products, Nutraceutical, chemical, food,



and wellness products. "Fermented Rice Water Drink", a product developed by one of the Incubatee from ILS Incubation Centre was launched on this occasion. ILS, Director Pulok K Mukherjee appreciated the continued support from BIRAC, startup Odisha and Government of Odisha for promoting bio-entrepreneurship. Amulya Panda, Ex Director, NII, B N Satapathy, Garima Gupta, Scientist- F, DBT also spoke on the occasion. The summit will have 6 sessions that will cover the trends of innovation and opportunities in the Biotech sector across the sectors of Agriculture, Health care, Food Processing, and Industrial Biotech and Biopharma for start-ups.

Kalahandi, Rayagada DMs get NHRC notice

New Delhi, Sept 28: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notice to the district magistrates of Kalahandi Rayagada districts over lack of basic amenities to the poor tribal people living in Niyamgiri area of Kalahandi and Rayagada districts. The commission sought a report from the district magistrate of Kalahandi and Rayagada on the issue within four weeks. "Transmit a copy of the complaint to the District Magistrate, Rayagada and Kalahandi, Odisha calling for a report in the matter within 4 weeks. The Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha is also expected to ensure that the requisite report is submitted to the Commission, without any delay" the NHRC order stated. The Commission issued notice on a petition filed by rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy. Tripathy stated that Scheduled Tribe people living in the villages of Niyamgiri hills are living in very poor condition due to lack of medical facilities, ambulance and fire brigade. There are no potable drinking water, primary health centre and schools in these villages, he submitted.

Int'l Day of Scientific Culture observed at RSC

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Regional Science Centre, Bhubaneswar celebrated International Day of Scientific Culture (IDSC) at its premises Wednesday. IDSC aims to increase awareness of the significance of scientific culture in contemporary society and to appreciate the institutions and activities that afford people the opportunity to integrate science into their daily life. As a part of the celebrations a

panel discussion was organised on the topic- Scientific Culture- 'Need of the hour'. Soumen Ghosh, project coordinator, said science centres a play pivotal role in harnessing and promoting culture of science in society. Distinguished panellist PC Agarwal, Principal of Regional Institute of Education (RIE) Bhubaneswar emphasised on fostering culture of science in education and National Education Policy. Subrat Kumar Pati, founder of

Radio Bhubaneswar and independent journalist underlined the need to communicate science in a jargon free layman's language to obtain essence of science in grass-root level. Sanghamitra Pati director of Regional Medical Research Center (RMRC) narrated the story how science entered into the drawing room to dining table due to the pandemic. She also emphasised on promoting culture of science to achieve the goal set for public health.

Dharna for medical college in Kendrapara

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: A large number of people from Kendrapara Wednesday staged a dharna near Raj Bhawan here demanding establishment of a medical college and hospital in their district. People including students, senior citizens, women and activists of about 100 different organisations participated in the dharna under the banner of Kendrapara Medical College Establishment Committee (KMCEC). Ajay Samal, a member of the committee, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and other BJD leaders had promised to set up a government medical college in the district during campaigning before the last general elections. "However, it appears that the CM has clearly forgotten his promise," Samal, a retired lecturer told reporters. Former MLA Chinmay Beura condemned the government inaction in taking steps to fulfil the promises made by the chief minister. He said a medical college hospital is essential in the district as it remained neglected for years. There is no industries and people here earn their livelihood by cultivation.



DEMAND FOR HC BENCH: Members of All Bar Associations of Western Odisha during a protest in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, seeking establishment of High Court Bench at Sambalpur

AIIMS Bhub doctors shine at national level events

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: AIIMS Bhubaneswar has achieved yet another accolades in the month of September. Three teams of the national institute comprising 6 academic residents doctors bagged first positions in three different national level academic events of respective disciplines. The team of junior resident doctors comprising Debanjan Baral and Souvik Bhattacharjee from PMR (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation) department of AIIMS Bhubaneswar have secured 1st position in quiz (offline mode) at Indian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (IAPMR) mid-term CME held at AIIMS Nagpur. Senior resident doctors from Burns & Plastic Surgery Department, Kaushik Mahadik &

M Vishnu Swaroop Reddy won first prize in 3rd National CME on Vascular Access for Hemodialysis-2022 organised by Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, BJGMC & SGH, Pune. AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Ashutosh Biswas Wednesday felicitated all the resident doctors Wednesday Sharing encouraging words Biswas reiterated that the young doctors should come forward and make the national institute victorious in different segments both at national and international level.

Seat belts mandatory...

Continued from P1 Keeping all the above norms in mind, the state government is all set to strictly implement the rule that all passengers of M1 category vehicles having front facing seats should wear seat belts. The seat covers on passenger seats should not obstruct the locking and unlocking of the seat belt, the source said. Non-compliance of the above provisions will also be strictly enforced by the RTOs and traffic police. Further, it will also be checked at the time of renewal of the fitness certificates of the vehicles. Notably, Mistry and his friend Jahangir Pandole were sitting on the back seat of the Mercedes-Benz car and were not wearing the seat belt when the accident took place in Palghar in Mumbai September 4. Both died on the spot.

Warming may lead to longer-lasting droughts in India

Researchers from the University of East Anglia (UEA) in the UK found that even a modest temperature increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius will spell serious consequences in India, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Brazil and Egypt



For India, nearly 50 per cent of the population is projected to be exposed to a severe drought lasting one year or longer in a 30-year period. India and China both have large areas currently under 'permanent' ice and snow cover. However, in the 3 degrees Celsius warming scenario, 90 per cent of these areas are projected to face severe droughts lasting longer than a year in a 30-year period.

In a 4 degrees Celsius warming scenario, the probability of drought projected in Brazil and China is nearly 50 per cent; 27-30 per cent in Ethiopia and Ghana; nearly 20 per cent in India; and 100 per cent in Egypt, they said. In most countries, the study found that the projected increase in drought probability increases approximately linearly with increasing temperature. The exception is Egypt, where even slight amounts of global warming potentially lead to large increases in drought probability, the researchers found.

Rising global temperatures may lead to more frequent and longer-lasting droughts in India, while posing significant risks to people and ecosystems around the world, according to a study. Researchers from the University of East Anglia (UEA) in the UK found that even a modest temperature increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius will spell serious consequences in India, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Brazil and Egypt. The study, published recently in the journal Climatic Change, quantified the projected impacts of alternative levels of global warming upon the probability and length of severe drought in the six countries. "Current pledges for climate

change mitigation, which are projected to still result in global warming levels of 3 degrees Celsius or more, would impact all the countries in this study," said Jeff Price, Associate Professor of Biodiversity and Climate Change at UEA. "For example, with 3 degrees Celsius warming, more than 50 per cent of the agricultural area in each country is projected to be exposed to severe droughts lasting longer than one year in a 30-year period," Price said in a statement. Using standard population projections, the researchers estimated that 80 per cent to 100 per cent of the population in Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia and Ghana, are projected to be exposed to a severe drought lasting one year or longer

in a 30-year period. For India, nearly 50 per cent of the population is projected to be exposed to a severe drought lasting one year or longer in a 30-year period, they said. In contrast, the study found that meeting the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, that is limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, is projected to greatly benefit all of the countries in this study. Meeting the target will greatly

reduce exposure to severe drought for large percentages of the population and in all major land cover classes, with Egypt potentially benefiting the most, the researchers said. In the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming scenario, the drought probability is projected to triple in Brazil and China, nearly double in Ethiopia and Ghana, increase slightly in India, and substantially increase in Egypt, they said. The study found that in a 2 de-

grees Celsius warming scenario, the probability of drought is projected to quadruple in Brazil and China, double in Ethiopia and Ghana, reach greater than 90 per cent probability in Egypt, and nearly double in India. In a 3 degrees Celsius warming scenario, the probability of drought projected to be in Brazil and China is 30-40 per cent; 20-23 per cent in Ethiopia and Ghana; 14 per cent in India but nearly 100 per cent in Egypt, according to the researchers.

Not only does the area exposed to drought increase with global warming, but it also increases the length of the droughts," said Professor Rachel Warren, who led the study. "In Brazil, China, Ethiopia, and Ghana droughts of longer than two years are projected to occur even in a 1.5 degrees Celsius warming scenario," Warren added.

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'MO POKHARI' ROUTE TO SCAMS IN NAYAGARH

Fraudsters siphon off funds over ₹4 crore under scheme



FILE PHOTO

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh/Bhapur, Sept 28: Bhapur block in Nayagarh district has become a den of corruption with reports of severe irregularities plaguing various developmental works in the area.

These wrongdoings continue to take place as the district administration has allegedly failed to act tough against the wrongdoers. However, what has come as a surprise is that the contractors have allegedly siphoned off funds over four crore rupees on the pretext of constructions of 98 ponds and 59 deep bore wells without actually doing the work. They have prepared false bills by forging the signatures of the beneficiaries in alleged connivance of the officials to siphon of the money.

What is noteworthy is that the

Vigilance department in Bhubaneswar had directed its Nayagarh cell to conduct a probe and submit a report, August 3. However, over a month has passed since then but the Nayagarh Vigilance officials are yet to take up a probe.

According to information available under Right to Information (RTI) Act, as many as 98 ponds under Mo Pokhari scheme and 59 deep bore wells have been constructed within 2017 to 2022 in Talarada, Jhagadpada and Padmabati villages under Padmabati panchayat of Bhapur block.

The members of Padmabati village committee have alleged that the projects do not exist in reality. The names of the 29 beneficiaries mentioned in the government records do not have a piece of land

of their own to avail the benefit.

They have questioned that on which basis the projects were allotted in the name of these 29 beneficiaries and who all received the money sanctioned for the projects. Peeved over the development, the members of Padmabati village committee have lodged a complaint with the district Collector demanding his intervention.

The members have alleged the involvement of sarpanch, her husband, a samiti member, gram rajgar sevak (GRS) and the contractors as well the block officials in the fraud.

The accused persons have forged the signatures of beneficiaries to avail the money. They have bribed the beneficiaries to silence them and siphoned of the funds sanctioned against their names.

A person in Jhagadpada village siphoning off funds sanctioned against five ponds by including the name of his father, uncle, daughter and sister-in-law as beneficiaries is a case in this point.

When contacted, Nayagarh Vigilance DSP Srikant Kumar Behera said that the probe has been delayed due to flood. They have asked the Bhapur BDO and Padmabati sarpanch to submit the records and the probe will start once the papers will be available to them, he added.



NUTRITIOUS FOOD: Anganwadi workers pose with artworks of nutritious foods, fruits and vegetables as part of an awareness programme on nutrition month for pregnant women and children at Krushnaprasad in Puri district, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

Sluggish construction of Jira bridge angers Bargarh locals

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Sept 28: Ambapali town is a part of the Bargarh municipality but is separated by the Jira river. Communication between Bargarh and Ambapali has been severely affected for some years now after a bridge built during the British rule in India collapsed.

Work to construct a new bridge has already begun. However, no one knows when it will be operational due to the tardy pace of work. Inhabitants of both Ambapali and this town, who are facing commuting woes on a daily basis, are angry at the slow pace of work.

Sources said construction of the new bridge started in 2018 and it was scheduled for completion in mid-2020. Locals alleged that work is getting delayed due to administrative apathy. Opposition leaders however, slammed the state government for 'deliberate delay' in completing the construction of the bridge.

"The project should have been completed in two years, but work is moving at a snail's pace. The main reason for delay is due to 'fixing' of the tender to allot work



to a particular contractor. Now after getting the contract, he is sitting idle on it. The delay is escalating the construction cost and funds are being misappropriated," alleged BJP's district unit president Ashwini Sarangi.

Congress leader Pradip Debata said, "The government has been boasting of development. But where is it? The bridge over Jira river is a perfect example of government apathy. People of both Bargarh and Ambapali have been facing commuting hardships due to the absence of a bridge. No one is aware when the new bridge will be ready."

A resident of Ambapali, Suresh Mohapatra alleged that political row over the construction of the

bridge is affecting the common man. "The bridge is important as it is the only way to reach the Bargarh-Bolangir and Bargarh-Raipur national highways. For four years, work is going on and yet there is no idea when we can use the bridge," Mohapatra said.

Bargarh MLA Debesh Acharya, however, quashed the claims of the opposition. "The government has always focused on the development of Bargarh. Funds were provided by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik for the new bridge. There are some technical issues which have affected construction. A new executive engineer has joined and the work will be completed by March next year," asserted Acharya.

Kesinga BDO takes stock of diarrhoea situation

POST NEWS NETWORK

Kesinga, Sept 28: Diarrhoea has been spreading at Sirole village under Kesinga block in Kalahandi district for the last eight days due to consumption of contaminated water. Following media reports, Kesinga BDO Prafulla Kumar Oddu, GPO Jayant Munda, sarpanch Jharana Bag, PEO Gajindra Shah and GRS Upendra Gouda visited the village Wednesday. They inquired about the health of the people in every household.

A medical team has checked the condition of the affected people while rural water supply and sanitation (RWSS) department has started supplying safe drinking water.

On the other hand, patients admitted to Kesinga community health centre (CHC) are recovering, said medical officer Dr Subash Chandra Behera. The BDO also visited the CHC. A team of officials had also visited the village and took stock of situation. SDO of the RWSS Rajesh Kumar Gadia and engineer Dharmendra Kumar Sethi directed immediate repair of underground water pipelines of a drinking water project. The work is being carried out on war-footing in the village.

Women thrash officer with brooms, smear vermilion on forehead



POST NEWS NETWORK

Nayagarh, Sept 28: Land acquisition officer (LAO) Sanjay Kumar Pratihari had to pay a heavy price Wednesday for allegedly demanding bribe for payment of compensation and misbehaving with women. Angered by the demands and improper advances of the LAO, the women thrashed him with brooms and also applied vermilion on his head and 'alta' on his feet at Mishra Colony in this town. They even forced Pratihari wear bangles. Later police arrested five women.

Nayagarh Town police met Pratihari after being informed of the incident. Later, sub-collector Lagnajit Rout and ADM Bidhan Chandra Ray met Pratihari and admitted him to the district headquarters hospital.

It has been alleged that bribes over ₹16.80 lakh has been paid for payment of compensation to owners of land that have been acquired for the establishment of Khurda-Bolangir rail route project.

The women also visited the LAO's office several time and pleaded with him for payment of their compensation. However, he allegedly demanded ₹5,000 as bribe and sought sexual favours from them.

Trenches dug to prevent mafia from mining sand

POST NEWS NETWORK

Champua, Sept 28: Sand is illegally mined from various ghats of rivers in Champua tehsil of Keonjhar district. Despite raids on sand mafia and imposition of penalties on them, illegal mining has not yet been curbed in the area.

The administration has devised a new initiative to check such rampant sand mining.

The Revenue officials have dug trenches on different the routes leading to river ghats so as to prevent the tractors and other vehicles from entering the riverbeds.



Tehsildar Saisasmita Hota wanted to put a curb on the sand mining and had directed additional tehsildar Ramesh Chandra Nayak to dig trenches on the routes used by sand mafia to shift sand.

In the initial phase, trenches were dug up near sand mines at Sarei and Adhangapal.



SCIENCE DRAMA: Students performed at a district-level science drama competition held at Government Nodal High School in Malkangiri, Wednesday

OP PHOTO

JSP expansion project gets nod at public hearing

POST NEWS NETWORK

Angul, Sept 28: The public hearing meeting for expansion of integrated steel plant of Jindal Steel & Power by 19.2 MTPA at Angul was completed successfully at Sabhaghar Hall in Angul Wednesday.

More than 600 people from the affected villages of the proposed project participated in the public hearing and expressed their support for the expansion of the project.

The meeting was presided by Angul ADM Rajanikant Swain and Regional Officer of State Pollution Control Board Dr Anup Mallik conducted the meeting. Sub-Collector Baitura Deep, and Angul LAO Ishani Panda were



present in the meeting.

At the beginning, JSP's Head (environment) Alok Sahu informed the villagers about the environmental implications of the proposed project and the mitigation measures to be adopted by the company for maintaining a balanced ecology.

The company will invest ₹1,19,952 crore for this expansion project, he informed. After the expansion, 9,400 direct employment will be generated which will include unskilled, semi-skilled

from the local area & skilled personnel mainly from the local areas and from outside.

The company officials informed that very soon a multi-speciality hospital will be established by JSP Foundation, the Social Arm of the Jindal Steel & Power. In addition, thousands of indirect employment and multiple business opportunities will be generated.

Susant Kumar Behera, MLA (Chhendipada); Akhaya Kumar Samant, Chairman, Angul Municipality; Agasti Behera, Nominee of Sambalpur MP participated in the public hearing meeting. On behalf of the Company Hridayeswar Jha, Executive Director, JSP; SK Sharma, Vice President and Ashish Pandey, Vice-President were present.

Wild yams provide health and wealth to tribals



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Koraput, Sept 28: The humble wild yam is a staple of the tribal population of Odisha. The region is home to many yam varieties, including the famed 'jangali kanda', which provide nutrition and boost the immune system. Not to say, the seven particularly vulnerable tribal groups in Koraput survive on 122 types of wild trees, creepers, bushes, fruits and tubers!

"The collection of wild yams is an age-old practice. All our forefathers did it," says Trilochan Muduli of Bolyguda village in Koraput district. Muduli belongs to the Paraja community, a particularly vulnerable group.

Harvesting and protecting all forest food sources are part of the traditional knowledge of many tribes here, among which yam stands out. The reason is its ability to provide both nutritional cushion and commercial benefits to the forest-dwelling communities.

This boiled spud is often served with ragi gruel or rice. A popular recipe calls for cooking the chopped tubers with pulses, eggplant and onion, liberally seasoned with garlic, chilly, turmeric powder and salt. The yam also finds its way into traditional curries when prepared with hill gram, horse gram and bhodei. Sometimes, it is fashioned into a soup, called ambila,

along with rice powder.

The tubers collected from the forest are also prized for their use in traditional medicines for treating arthritis, cold, fever, cough, menstrual disorders and skin diseases. Shuaram Chalan, a traditional healer or dishari, has been practising for 40 years and learnt the trade from his father. He buys yam and many other forest products from tribal communities, in addition to cultivating wild yams on his land.

A recent research by Dr Debabrata Panda at the Central University of Odisha brought the benefits of jangali kanda to the fore.

"During the post-Covid-19 days, we studied the lifestyle and food patterns of tribal communities and found that despite having a vitamin deficiency, the population was not deficient in nutrients and minerals." Dr Jayant Nayak of the Central University told.

In the paper, Panda claims that wild yams could be the key to fill the nutrition gaps in Koraput tribals. As indicated by the research, yam is recognised as the fourth most important tuber that plays a prime role in the food habits of forest-dwelling communities during

periods of food scarcity.

Twin effect
Each family of the Gunji and Lenja villages of Boipariguda block collects wild yams from the forest on the hillock and sells it in the market. A family collects as much as 20 to 25 kg of yam in a month, saves some of it for personal consumption and sells the rest, earning between ₹2,000 to ₹3,000.

Tulshi Jani of Jhiaguda village says, "We consume it daily, and sell the surplus to disharis (traditional healers). Disharis from Similiguda, Lamtaput, Potangi, Kotpad and Kundra purchase yams from us at the rate of ₹200 per kg. They collect up to 50 kg of the tuber in a month." For most villagers, around 60% of their household income comes from yams.

Usually, a group goes into the forest to get the yams, which are enough to provide for one hamlet or almost 10 families, who divide the produce among themselves.

There is a market for Odisha's yams in Chhattisgarh as well. Ghasi Harijan of Badamundipadar in Koraput supplies yams from the forest in Kundra, which lies on the border with the neighbouring state. "Medium-scale businessmen

come to me for wild yams. I get them directly from the forest dwellers or buy them from the local market," says Harijan. "From May-end to July-end, wild yams help me earn ₹15,000 to ₹20,000 per month," says Harijan.

Returning the favour
The tribal population returns the favour that nature does by taking up forest conservation activities. Both men and women follow hengapali (thenga means stick and pali means turn), where they patrol the forest area with a stick in hand and protect it from poachers and smugglers.

In Maliguda and Pukulpada, locals have demarcated their forests from the neighbouring villages to have better control over conservation practices. Twelve years ago, Maliguda shared a large forest area with Kurkuti village, but it became difficult to govern the conservation activities.

"We were on the verge of losing all green cover," explains Mangala Mali, president of Maliguda Vana Surakhya Samiti (VSS). Alarmed by the situation, Maliguda residents collectively decided to demarcate their 60 acres of forest land.

Skill parks made by Berhampur ITI opens

Berhampur: Two skill parks constructed by Berhampur ITI as part of a programme for beautification of the institution and the Silk City were inaugurated by Chief Minister's political advisor Gopabandhu Dash in the presence of Berhampur MLA Bikram Kumar Panda, MP Chandrasekhar Sahu, Berhampur Mayor Sanghamitra Dalei and her deputy E Vivek Reddy, Tuesday.

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, JEYPORE
AT/PO : JEYPORE, DIST. : KORAPUT
PHONE NO : 06854-231104, e-mail- mijeyepore@yahoo.co.in
e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. MIDJEY/6/2022-23
No.1501, Date:27.9.22

No.A-545:The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Jeypore on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bid in Double Cover System in ONLINE MODE Bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>

1. Name of the work : Construction of Check Dams.
2. No. of works : 3 Nos.
3. Estimated cost : Approximately Rs. 64.24 Lakhs to Rs. 50.64 Lakhs
4. Period of completion : 4 (Four) Calendar months.
5. Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal : From 10.00 hours of 11.10.2022 to 17.00 hours of 21.10.2022.
6. Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal : 17.00 hours of 21.10.2022
7. Date of opening (Technical) of Bid : 11.00 hours on 25.10.2022
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.
9. Name of the Officer inviting Bid : Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Jeypore

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal, <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Sd./- Executive Engineer, MI Division, Jeypore
OIPR-32374/11/0005/2223

FOCUS FOREIGN POLICY

INDIA'S TWISTS & TURNS



Looking out for friends from all camps in a bitterly divided world will hardly pay India much dividends

UNGA, and UN Secretary-General António Guterres' statement that the world is "now in great peril" sounded prescient without a solution. With Ukraine refusing to go into negotiations with Moscow after the former's lightning strike and catch-up victory over Russia in its eastern province, would Putin go in for a surrender or armistice? Neither of the scenarios stand credible with Putin by contrast augmenting his tone and calling for all means and forces at his disposal to renew the assault on Ukraine. He doubled it up by calling for referendums in Russian occupied territories in the East and South of the Donbas. The referendums were swiftly held as precursor to their annexation, the same way as Crimea in 2014, much against Europe's consternation.

In this scenario one can only think of a possible tactical nuclear weapon launch by Russia to end the war (though at a heavy cost) as Biden had surmised a few days back. In these traumatic times the role of China needs a rethink. Despite all the bonhomie that Xi exhibited for his life-long friend, the Taiwan imbroglio may have put Beijing in a bind. Beijing may no longer like to take an extreme position for fear of Western sanctions and may call for peaceful annexation of Taiwan. Also, the domestic situation may have weighed heavy on Xi as he hurriedly left Samarkand on the evening of 16th even before the valedictory rounds were over.

India in this rapidly changing scenario has much to rethink and re-strategise. Instead of putting its eggs in several antagonistic baskets, it should do well to guard against excessive multi-polarity, particularly when its economy has yet to gather heft as the rupee seems to have been on a sliding spree with a massive flight of forex. EAM Jaishankar, in his address at 77th UNGA, focussed on the grave consequences of the Ukraine war having led to shortage of food, fuel and fertilizers leading to disruption in global supply chain. In its search to occupy a pole position in the supply chain and global geo-politics, looking out for friends from all camps in a bitterly divided world will hardly pay India much dividends.

The writer is a retired diplomat. Views are personal.

his understanding of India's concerns (so also China's in their separate bilateral) exactly a week later in a nationwide address he called for "partial mobilisation" of troops" drafting even soldiers from the navy, para military, militia and retired army officers to be drafted into a 300,000 force to be part of the Russian army in its fight against Ukraine with the threat of 10-year punishment if they did not join. Utter chaos followed with several of the forcible conscripts looking for ways to escape Russia into neighbouring countries. It was evident that the Russian people no longer seemed interested in the Ukraine adventure though Putin sought recourse to territorial integrity and national honour in his short address.

Ironically, both India and China spoke the same language of gentle persuasion, China even going to the extent of willing to make efforts to assume the role of "great powers"; with Russia, in other words reinforcing hegemony of an anti-West alliance. The "Will he-won't-he" question that Indian foreign policy analysts were asking, if there would be a Modi-Xi on-the-side meeting or even a brush-aside, did not materialise. In fact, both the leaders studiously avoided each other at all the common gatherings apart from their first day talks. It is to be noted that since the Mammalapuram Summit in 2019, both the leaders have not directly interacted with each other, with relations having steadily deteriorated between the two Asian pow-

ers since China's aggressive incursions in Galwan in April 2020. The Chinese disengagement from PP 15 (Hotsprings-Gogra) a few days before the SCO Summit was meant foreseeing the ground for a meeting. In hindsight it seems that China's so-called disengagement of troops and infrastructure was more a facade, the fact being that China was barely disengaging from a part of its own occupied Indian territory. India, eager to please the West when things are hotting up between the US and China over Taiwan, may have spurned China's advances for a bilateral. Further, terrorism being a much-discussed subject during the Summit did not deter China from again exercising its veto over the joint India-US resolution to invoke UNSC 1267 to designate LeT terrorist Sajid Mir, incarcerated in a Pakistani jail, as a global terrorist showing its predilection for its all-weather ally. Similarly, though connectivity was a key concern for India, China stole the show under India's nose, interacting with all the four Central Asian members in getting their consent to support its Belt and Road Initiative while US sanctions against Iran have dissuaded India from using the Chahbahar port to seek connectivity between the Central Asian region and India.

The bigger question remains - with the eighth month running of Russia's invasion of Ukraine - what is the way out? Evidently, the Ukraine war was the primary subject of discussion at the recent



Malay Mishra

INDIA IN THIS RAPIDLY CHANGING SCENARIO HAS MUCH TO RETHINK AND RE-STRATEGISE

India's conduct in the recent Samarkand Summit (15-16 Sept) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) threw light on a foreign policy gone much too beyond the conventional track. Having hobnobbed with its QUAD partners at the summit level and reaping generous praise from them, having engaged in military and naval drills with all the other three members, Japan, Australia and the US in the recent past, what was 'democratic' India doing in an assembly of authoritarian despots and anti-democrats, or in other words, in an alliance of anti-Western liberal-values states? With the benefit of a keen eye on India's recent foreign policy behaviour a discerning observer can hazard some guesses.

With the remark that the "this is not the era of war (but peace), that it is the era of "democracy, dialogue and diplomacy" in his one-on-one meeting with Putin, Modi was taking a significant gamble. While the remark expectedly found resonance among some Western liberal countries like France, Germany and the USA, the Indian PM, by rubbing shoulders with all the anti-American countries, Russia's Putin, Turkey's Erdogan and Iran's Raisi, was conveying to the Western alliance that he was acceptable to both sides and could ideally play the role of a mediator though he was seemingly playing to the American gallery: Having purchased Russian crude at heavily subsidised prices for its refineries all through Russia's 7-month long invasion of Ukraine, defending a dictatorial regime by consistently voting against or abstaining on several anti-Russian (anti-war) UN resolutions, and now, by mildly admonishing Putin he was clearly indicating to Russia that India's will-o-the-wisp policy of moving according to the wind under the shelter of national interest and multi-alignment could make the latter side with both opposing sides now forming part of a new Cold War matrix. But then, by the token of being the newly anointed fifth largest economy (surpassing the UK) Modi was conveying to his Russian partner of many years that the game was up when the tide was turning against Moscow. Though Putin conveyed

It is only when we are not disturbed that we can always do the right thing at the right time in the right way.

THE MOTHER



Post-Autocracy Perils

Sometimes a news cycle constitutes more than just noise. It provides a loud, uncanny signal about what may lie beyond the horizon. That happened this month, when a more hopeful, dangerous, and radically different geopolitics came into view. Within literally a few days of each other, we have witnessed the near-collapse of the Russian army in Ukraine and the humiliation of a regime in the streets of Iranian cities.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's soldiers revealed themselves to be little more than a mob on the move, having tortured and mistreated the civilians under their control, they abruptly abandoned their positions and literally ran away from advancing Ukrainian forces. Putin's fascist-trending national security state may be turning to ashes. His threat of nuclear war only reveals that autocratic regimes are at their most dangerous in the years before they expire.

As for Iran, the regime's disrepute among its own subjects has been on full display, with massive protests engulfing dozens of cities and crowds demanding the end of the Islamic Republic. The rage, spread by social media, was ignited by the death at the hands of the so-called morality police of a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, who had been detained for not properly wearing her hijab. But the fuel was decades of repression and corruption, and a ruined economy.

The war in Ukraine has already changed European and indeed global geopolitics. But the end of Putin's regime would lead to far more incalculable shifts: the Russian Federation itself could break apart, while NATO and the European Union expand eastward. Likewise, the fall of Iran's clerical regime would alter the entire Middle East, virtually ending the decades-old Sunni-Shia sectarian war and vastly improving the strategic position of Israel and the conservative Arab states. Iraq might even stabilise as a result, to say nothing of Lebanon and Syria.

Neither the Russian nor the Iranian regime is now specifically threatened. Each could hang on for years. But this month provided a glimpse of their eventual demise. Because Putin cannot win or even get a draw in Ukraine, and because the mullahs are openly despised among broad swaths of their own population, their downfall should be viewed as a question of when, not if. In a world where news of one military defeat, or one outrage, or one obscure and symbolic act can spread instantaneously on social media, men like Putin and Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei sleep uneasily.

But while these regimes have no real future, there is no clear and institutionally viable alternative to replace them, and that is where the geopolitical danger lies. After all, we are not talking about just any two countries. Russia is a nuclear-armed great power. Iran is the major pivot state of the Middle East and Central Asia, on the brink of becoming a nuclear power.

Even when democracy succeeds, it does not emerge overnight in states with no real tradition of it. Years of turmoil often ensue. The 1990s in Russia, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, were a period of rampant crime, economic chaos, and mismanaged reforms that left roughly 70 per cent of Russians living at or below the poverty line. It was from this maelstrom of dysfunctional democracy that Putin finally emerged.

Ironically, Iran went through much less of a painful, drawn-out political transition in 1979, because democracy was never the mullahs' goal. Instead, they quickly replaced the Shah's autocracy with clerical despotism. But the mullahs have so destroyed their society that a post-theocratic Iran could be ungovernable or even disintegrate along various ethnic and geographical lines.

That is why the democratic triumphalism that will accompany these regimes' downfall in the coming years will rapidly give way to the sobering recognition of an awesome political void in Moscow and Tehran, with perhaps more radical forces - Russian ultra-nationalists and Iranian Revolutionary Guards - waiting in the wings. The more destructive a tyranny has been, the more pervasive the subsequent anarchy often is.

In this chaotic world wrought by the end of tyranny, the search for order will predominate. Among intellectuals and policymakers, the fear of anarchy will replace the fear of autocracy. This is easier to imagine when one considers just how difficult it will be to stabilise the utterly broken states and societies that Putin and the mullahs will have left in their wake. The decline of autocracy will only make the work of democracy that much harder.

The writer is Chair in Geopolitics at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

PROJECT SYNDICATE



Robert D. Kaplan

In this chaotic world wrought by the end of tyranny, the search for order will predominate

SPECTRUM HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

What's ailing India's HDI score



Bhala Chandra Shadangi

THE REASONS BEHIND INDIA'S CONSISTENTLY LOW RANKING ON HDI ARE POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND EXCLUSION OF A LARGE SECTION OF SOCIETY FROM EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE

In the recently published UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI) report, India ranked 132 among 191 countries. The country's rank has fallen consecutively for the last two years. India's low ranking in all aspects of human development like education, healthcare, life expectancy and especially the decline in living conditions and life expectancy of women seems alarming. While we are lagging behind Sri Lanka, China, Bangladesh and Bhutan we are just above Pakistan, Nepal and Myanmar.

The HDI was designed to emphasise not only the economic development of a country, but also the ability of its people to live a happy, long and healthy life as the best measure of a country's development. India's low ranking on HDI indicates a dismal state in all areas of human development.

The life expectancy of the general population in the world has decreased compared to the previous year due to the pandemic. The average human life expectancy in the world has decreased from 72.8 to 71.4 years. In case of Indians, for first time in 75 years, the average life expectancy has decreased by about one and a half years - it

has decreased to 67.2 years from last year's 70.7 years.

To measure how people are facing poverty in different areas of their lives, the UNDP has developed a Multidimensional Poverty Index. In the latest report, UNDP has given India's MPI score at 0.123. It is in between Indonesia and Haiti. A little more than a quarter of India's population (27.9%) is known to be suffering from multidimensional poverty or extreme poverty, while more than 22% of Indians have a daily income of less than ₹160.

The report also mentions the Gender Inequality Index. In 2020, it was 0.493 and in 2019, it was 0.486, while in 2021, a slight improvement was observed and it rose to 0.490. However, compared to other countries, India's position in this field is still very low. Out of 191 countries, India ranks 132nd, between Ghana and Marshall Islands.

The main reasons behind India's consistently low ranking on the HDI are poverty, inequality and the exclusion of a large section of society from education and healthcare. In the past few years, especially during the last eight years, the government expenditure on social sectors like agriculture, education and health-

care has decreased. Despite big announcements of the government, the majority of the people are deprived of education and healthcare. Compared to many countries, India's expenditure on education and healthcare is low. For last two decades, though the target of spending on education remained at least 6% of GDP, the actual expenditure remained far behind. It was 3.5% in 2011-12 and 2.8% in 2018-19.

According to the Economic Survey - 2021, the government's expenditure on education has been steadily decreasing over 10 years. In 2011-12, 11.4% of government expenditure was spent on education, while in 2020-21, this decreased to 10.4%. As a result, the government education system is getting crippled day by day. Lakhs of teaching posts are vacant in government-run schools and colleges. Out of the total 11 lakh schools in the country, more than 4 lakh schools have less than 50 children, while less than 20 children study in 1.1 lakh schools.

Another reason why India lags behind in HDI is lack of access to quality healthcare. A large portion of our population remains far away from quality healthcare due to lack of necessary government expen-

diture. The number of doctors and nurses in public healthcare sector is much lower than most countries. A large chunk of people's medical expenses coming out of their own pockets highlights the dire crisis in our healthcare system. According to a study by Oxfam, 6.3 million Indians have been pushed into poverty in the last few years due to increased healthcare costs. While the global rate of government expenditure on healthcare is 6% of GDP, in India the Centre has announced to spend only 2.5% by 2025.

The alarming rise in inequality is yet another reason behind our dismal position on HDI. The gap between rich and poor is widening rapidly due to the adoption of neoliberal economic policies by our governments. According to UNDP, India's richest 1% own 21.7% of the country's wealth. It is unfortunate that our country is constantly lagging behind in the HDI. Unless our policymakers show sincerity in this direction, there is no doubt that our performance in HDI will deteriorate further.

The writer is an Odisha-based columnist who writes on contemporary issues. Views are personal.

WISDOM CORNER

- The greatest deception men suffer is from their own opinions. **LEONARDO DA VINCI**
- The two most powerful warriors are patience and time. **LEO TOLSTOY**
- We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated. **MAYA ANGELOU**

WORDSWORTH

Butterscotch

Butterscotch is a form of caramel, made with butter and brown sugar, plus a touch of vanilla. Some argue that the second part is actually scotch, from the manner of its making. The Collins Dictionary says that it may have been called that because it was first made in Scotland. Neither suggestion is supported by evidence, though the Scottish link seems plausible because Keillers of Dundee was one firm that made butterscotch commercially. The Oxford English Dictionary's first citation (indeed, its only citation) is from 1865. It's not hard to take that back a while: the first example one can find is from The Boy's Autumn Book of 1847. Although that was published in New York it quotes a British itinerant seller of sweets. It's worth quoting at some length for the period flavour (to coin a phrase): *Well, you know, next morning I put my things in my cart, ready for Nottingham goose-fair: the brandy-balls here, by themselves—the butter-scotch there—the tuffey in this place—the black-jack in that; then I filled in with cure-all, and hard-bake, and peppermint pincushions: really it was beautiful to look at, I'd done it so nicely.* Wikipedia states that the first maker of butterscotch was Samuel Parkinson of Doncaster, in 1817. The firm did make it during the nineteenth century and Doncaster became famous for it. The Parkinson papers are deposited at the Doncaster Archives, from where Dr Charles Kelham says they begin only in 1848, although an article published in The Doncaster Review in September 1896 asserts that "It was on the 11th of May 1817, that the late Mr. Samuel Parkinson commenced the manufacture of butter-scotch." If he did so, it may be unlikely, from the lack of written evidence before 1847, that he called it by that name. Other writers argue that the sweetmeat has no link with Scotland. Charles Earl Funk noted in Horsefeathers in 1958: "All directions for the preparation of this candy after it is properly cooked close with some such statement as: Pour upon oiled paper or well-buttered pan and when slightly cool score with a knife into squares." He points out that one sense of scotch was to score or cut a shallow groove in something. This seems more reasonable than to assume it was originally Scots, especially in view of the known early history of its manufacture in England. But, as often with word histories, it can't be proved.

Livestock in danger

Sir, In the frenzy of cheetahs, we have forgotten about livestock, which contribute a large part of India's economy. If sincere efforts had been made with regard to animal husbandry, cows and buffaloes would not have suffered such terrible diseases. Lumpy virus is spreading in cattle in many states. According to government data, 7,300 cattle have died so far, of which 3,359 have died in Punjab, 2,111 in Rajasthan, 1,679 in Gujarat, 62 in Jammu and Kashmir, 38 in Himachal Pradesh, 36 in Uttarakhand and 29 in Andaman and Nicobar. India produces the largest amount of milk in the world. In 2020-21, our country produced 20.90 million tonnes of milk, which generated an income of ₹13 lakh crore to the Indian dairy industry. But milk production has declined by 15% to 20% in many states due to the spread of the Lumpy virus. Most of the rural population depends on quacks to treat their livestock. There are two reasons behind this. The first is that the state government is not filling up the sanctioned posts of veterinarians, and the second is that there are very few interested people who choose to become veterinarians.

Asit Mohanty, JAJPUR

Digitise medical services

Sir, The COVID-19 pandemic has made the healthcare industry worldwide realise the need for speeding up its infrastructure on digital transformation. In fact, the 2018 Digital Trends report from Econsultancy, a leading digital marketing organisation in London, reveals that only 7% of healthcare and pharmaceutical companies have gone digital, compared with 15% of companies in other industries. The pandemic has taught a lesson to the healthcare industry on the value and importance of digitisation of medical services, which provide the dual benefits of lower costs and higher quality. In fact, in Austria, e-medication has been successfully running for years, with Electronic Medical Record allowing patients there to view all their e-results anytime and anywhere. Similarly, doctors in Sweden and Denmark send e-prescriptions to pharmacies. Also, the National Health Service in UK is working with Google to deploy Artificial Intelligence in the medical field. Digital transformation in medical services will give patients the opportunity to manage their treatment independently and share data with doctors. Gone are the days when you had to maintain a physical file on every doctor's appointment. Medical history is critical in emergency situations when a physical copy may not be available. In such a scenario, digitisation helps by keeping the doctor informed about the patient's medical history in every situation.

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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

OrissaPOST
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national

of the day quote

I am happy to iterate that many feathers have been added to Bengal's crown. The UNESCO accorded 'Intangible cultural heritage' distinction to Durga Puja, a global forum adjudged Bengal as the best tourist destination. NCRB described Kolkata as the safest city

MAMATA BANERJEE | WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

India is the first country with a cooling action plan based on energy efficiency and thermal comfort, and has launched important initiatives including UJALA Yojana and schemes for industrial energy efficiency

BHUPENDER YADAV | UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

The project for a rail-cum-road bridge across Brahmaputra river near the existing Saraihat bridge at Guwahati has been approved

NITIN GADKARI | UNION MINISTER

SHORT TAKES

Court grants bail to AAP MLA Amanatullah

New Delhi: A Delhi court Wednesday granted bail to AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan in a case related to alleged irregularities in the Waqf Board, saying that "prima facie the allegations against the accused are not grave and serious in nature". According to the FIR, Khan while working as chairman of the Delhi Waqf Board had indulged in several irregularities, including illegally recruiting 32 people by violating all norms and government guidelines.

Lawyers ban Ankita murder accused

Kotdwar (Ukd): The main accused in Ankita Bhandari case on Wednesday could not file their bail application in a court here after a local body of lawyers decided to boycott them, even as protests were held demanding a CBI probe into her murder. The matter was to be heard virtually in the civil court here but lawyers refused en masse to move the bail applications on behalf of the "perpetrators of such a heinous crime". The Bar Association of Kotdwar passed a resolution not to represent the accused, a lawyer said. Earlier, Anganvadi workers, with sickles in their hands, and women associated with different organisations held a protest here demanding a CBI probe in the case.

SIA carries out raids in Rajouri, Poonch

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir State Investigation Agency (SIA) Wednesday carried out multiple raids and searches at houses of suspected persons in twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in a terror funding case, officials said. Three teams carried out simultaneous raids in different areas of Rajouri and Poonch including Dharati village (tehsil Balakote), Kuniyan village (tehsil Haveli, Poonch) and Julass village (tehsil Haveli), they said. The raids, carried out by SIA Jammu with the help of district administrations and police, were aimed at breaking the terror ecosystem and investigate the proceeds of terror funding, the officials said.

Partha, Arpita's custody extended

Kolkata: A special EC court on Wednesday extended the judicial custody of former West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee and his close associate Arpita Mukherjee till October 31. This means that the duo will spend not just the Durga Puja, but the entire festive season including Laxmi Puja, Kali Puja, Diwali, and Bhai Dooj behind the bars.



From Ayodhya to Rameswaram, Rama exists in every particle of India. Lord Rama is about to arrive in the grand temple of Ayodhya

NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

DEFENCE MINISTER VISITS FRONTLINE AREAS IN NE

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, accompanied by Army chief, General Manoj Pande, Wednesday visited army formations in Assam's Dinjan, as part of his two-day visit to frontline locations in the northeast



Debaring serious offenders from polls: SC notice to Centre, EC

THE PLEA HAS SOUGHT DIRECTION TO THE CENTRE AND THE ECI TO TAKE STEPS TO RESTRAIN SUCH CANDIDATES WHO ARE PUT ON TRIAL FOR SERIOUS OFFENCES

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 28: The Supreme Court Wednesday issued notice to Centre on a PIL seeking to debar all those persons, against whom charges have been framed, from contesting election, as per the Law Commission's report.

The plea, filed by advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, sought direction to the Centre and the Election Commission to take steps to debar persons, against whom charges have been framed in serious offences, from contesting elections.

It contended that February 2, 2014, the Law Commission submitted its 244th report on de-criminalisation of politics, but Centre did nothing. Later, it submitted a report on electoral reform and suggested steps for electoral and democratic reforms, but the Centre did nothing on it too, it added.

After hearing arguments from Upadhyay, a bench of Justices KM Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy sought a response from Law and Justice



and Home ministries, and the Election Commission. The plea sought a direction to the Election Commission to use its plenary power conferred under Article 324 to amend the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968, to insert such a condition (restriction) for the contestants.

"There is an increase of 44 per cent in the number of MPs with declared criminal cases since 2009. Similarly, 159 (29 per cent) winners in Lok Sabha 2019 Elections have declared serious criminal cases including cases related to rape, murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping, crimes against women etc," said the plea.

It further added that out of 542 winners analysed during Lok Sabha elections in 2014, 112 (21 per cent) winners had declared serious criminal cases against themselves. Out of 543 winners analysed during Lok Sabha elections in 2009, 76 (14 per cent) winners had declared serious criminal cases against themselves. "There is an increase of 109 per cent in the number of MPs with declared serious criminal cases since 2009," added the plea. The petitioner argued that con-

sequences of permitting criminals to contest elections and become legislators were extremely serious for democracy and secularism. "The injury caused to people at large because criminalisation of politics is at extreme level and political parties still setting-up candidates with serious criminal antecedents," added the plea.

It further argued that raising the threshold to the stage of framing of charges, the chances would be considerably reduced of false cases being maliciously foisted on the candidates. The plea added that the police have filed its charge sheet to prosecute the accused and the court has applied its mind to the police report. "The plea added that the additional protection envisaged by the Law Commission in its 244th report is that charges should have been framed at least one year before the scrutiny of nominations. During this period, candidates could also apply to the High Court under Section 482 of the CrPC or under Article 226 for quashing of the charges against him," said the plea, adding that it would only deter political parties from giving tickets to criminals.

DA hiked by 4% for central govt staff, pensioners

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: Ahead of Diwali festival, the Union Cabinet Wednesday increased the dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief by 4 per cent effective July 1, 2022, benefiting 41.85 lakh central government employees and 69.76 lakh pensioners.

The additional instalment of DA and dearness relief (DR) is an increase of 4 per cent over the existing rate of 34 per cent of basic pay/pension. The combined impact on the exchequer on account of both DA and DR would be ₹12,852.5 crore per annum, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur while briefing reporters about the decisions of the Union Cabinet.

Central government employees and pensioners will become entitled to higher amount of DA and DR respectively, with effect from July 1, 2022, Thakur said.



The increase in the DA and DR is based on the percentage increase in 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for the period ending June, 2022.

The impact of enhanced dearness allowance to the employees on the exchequer is estimated at ₹6,591.36 crore per annum and ₹4,394.24 crore in 2022-23 (8 months from July, 2022 to February, 2023).

Govt extends free ration scheme by three months



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: Ahead of assembly elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, the government Wednesday extended by three months its programme to provide free rations to the poor at a cost of ₹44,762 crore as it looked to ease pain from high inflation.

The scheme to provide 5 kg of wheat and rice free of cost to 80 crore poor every month, which was ending Friday, will now run through December 31, 2022, I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said.

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a meeting Wednesday decided to extend the scheme by three months, he said.

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was started in April 2020 to help the poor whose livelihoods were shuttered by a nationwide lockdown aimed at containing the spread of the Coronavirus. The scheme has been extended multiple times and was to end Friday.

"At a time when the world is battling with the effects of Covid on its decline and insecurity due to var-

ious reasons, India has been successfully maintaining food security for its vulnerable sections while taking necessary steps to keep availability and affordability for common man," an official statement said.

"Recognising that people have gone through a difficult period of pandemic, government has decided to extend PMGKAY for a period of three months so that poor and vulnerable sections of society are supported for the forthcoming major festivals."

Under this scheme, 5 kg of food-grain per person per month is provided free of cost for all the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). Thakur said the government has so far spent ₹3.45 lakh crore on the PMGKAY scheme since its launch in April 2020.

SC to hear pleas against demonetisation Oct 12



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: The Supreme Court said Wednesday it will examine if the challenge to the Centre's 2016 demonetisation decision has become a mere "academic exercise", and posted it for consideration October 12.

As the hearing commenced, a constitution bench headed by Justice S A Nazeer wondered if the matter survives for consideration at this stage. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, submitted that for all practical purposes the matter does not survive for consideration. However, the case can be examined as an academic exercise, he said. "A five-judge bench for academic exercise when we are already burdened with such a large amount of pendency?" the court wondered.

"We will fix it for hearing October 12. We will examine if it has become academic and if it can be heard at all," the bench, also comprising Justices B R Gavai, A S Bopanna, V Ramasubramanian, and B V Nagarathna said. The top court was hearing a batch of 58 petitions challenging the Centre's November 8, 2016 decision to demonetise currency notes of denomination of ₹500 and

SC to hear 300 old cases from Oct 11

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday decided to take up 300 old cases with one filed in 1979 from October 11 onwards, where it has agreed to hear the matter but could not be listed for various reasons. In its circular, the top court said, "Take notice that 300 oldest after notice matters of which list is appended. Are likely to be listed before the courts on non-miscellaneous days with effect from Tuesday, October 11, 2022". Among the 300 cases, a civil appeal filed in 1979 by the Union of India against Nava Bharat Ferrous Alloys Ltd and others is the oldest. A similar notice was issued August 24 when the top court had notified that 25 five-judge Constitution bench matters will be listed from August 29 onwards, two days after justice UU Lalit had taken over charge as the Chief Justice of India.

₹1000. On December 16, 2016, a bench headed by then Chief Justice TS Thakur had referred the question of the validity of the decision and other issues to a larger bench of five judges for authoritative pronouncement. It had framed various questions in the reference order to be adjudicated by the five-judge bench which included whether the notification dated November 8, 2016 is ultra vires provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and does the notification contravene the provisions of Article 300 (A) of the Constitution.

HOMECOMING



Workers transport an idol of Goddess Durga to a Sealdah-bound train for delivery to a community Durga Puja pandal, in Nadia, West Bengal

PTI PHOTO

R Venkataramani next Attorney General of India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: Senior advocate R Venkataramani was appointed as the Attorney General of India Wednesday for a term of three years, according to a notification.

He will succeed K K Venugopal, whose term will end on September 30. "The President is pleased to appoint R Venkataramani, Senior Advocate as Attorney General for India for a period of three years

from the date he enters upon his office," read the notification. He would most likely join the constitutional office October 1, a day after Venugopal demits office.

Venugopal, 91, was appointed to the post in July 2017. He was reappointed as the top law officer of the country for three months June 29. He is perhaps the oldest person to hold the office of AG. Venugopal had expressed his unwillingness to continue in the constitutional post



due to his advanced age. Another senior advocate, Mukul Rohatgi, had last week declined the offer to be the attorney general. There was no specific reason behind his decision, Rohatgi had said. Rohatgi had been

the attorney general in the first Narendra Modi government between June 2014 and June 2017. Venugopal had succeeded him. The attorney general is the top law officer of the government and enjoys the right to appear in any court in India. Besides handling government litigations, the AG also advises government on complex legal issues. Born April 13, 1950 in Pudukcherry, Venkataramani, 72, has practised in the Supreme Court for decades.

Apex court acquits death row convict for rape, murder

THE SUPREME COURT PULLED UP THE UTTAR PRADESH POLICE FOR FAULTY INVESTIGATION

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 28: "Court cannot make someone a victim of injustice to compensate for the injustice to the victim of a crime", the Supreme Court Wednesday said while acquitting a death row convict for the rape and murder of a six-year-old.

The top court, which pulled up the Uttar Pradesh police for faulty investigation, also said by not conducting the investigation properly, the prosecution has done injustice

to the family of the victim. It said that when the offence is heinous, the Court is required to put the material evidence under higher scrutiny but the erroneous approach on the part of the Sessions Court and the High Court has led to the "poor man" being ordained to be dispatched to the gallows.

A bench of Justices S Abdul Nazeer, AS Bopanna, and V Ramasubramanian said that it cannot shy away from the fact that it is a ghastly case of rape and murder of a six-year-old child.



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

"By not conducting the investigation properly, the prosecution has done injustice to the family of the victim. By fixing culpability upon the appellant without any shred of evidence which will stand the scrutiny, the prosecution has

done injustice to the appellant. Court cannot make someone, a victim of injustice, to compensate for the injustice to the victim of a crime", the bench said.

The top court passed the verdict on an appeal filed by a man

called Chotkai who was convicted for the offences punishable under Sections 302 (murder) and 376 (rape) of the IPC and sentenced to death by the Sessions Court, which was also confirmed by the Allahabad High Court on a reference.

The bench said that this is a case where the convict is "so poor" that he could not afford to engage a lawyer even in the Sessions Court and after his repeated requests to the trial court, the service of an advocate was provided as amicus.

"In cases of such nature, the responsibility of the Court becomes more onerous. When we analyse the evidence with such a sense of responsibility, we are not convinced that the guilt of the appellant stood established beyond a reasonable

doubt. Therefore, the appeals are allowed and the conviction and penalty are set aside. The appellant shall be released forthwith if not wanted in connection with any other case", the bench said.

The top court was critical of the approach of the High Court and the trial court and said, "Before wrapping up, it is necessary to say something about the approach adopted by the Sessions Court and the High Court. In cases of this nature, the court is obliged to assess the evidence on the test of probability".

The bench said that though wide discretion is given to the Court to consider the "matters before it" such evidence has to be sifted carefully before recording satisfaction.



STORMY START TO TOURIST SEASON

SC order leads to tension around Taj

The apex court has directed to stop all business activities within 500 metres from the periphery of the World Heritage Site

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, Sept 28: A Supreme Court order to stop commercial activities within 500 metres of the Taj Mahal has triggered a huge controversy that could create tension and uncertainty affecting the revival of tourism in the post-pandemic era.

The apex court has directed the Agra Development Authority (ADA) to stop all business activities within 500 metres from the periphery of the World Heritage Site.

The order came while disposing of a petition by a group of shopkeepers who had been shifted from their original location to a new site close to the parking area.

They complained that while they had moved out, a large number were still continuing commercial activities in the restricted area.

The order is likely to affect at least 500 shops, handicraft outlets, restaurants, hotels in the Taj Ganj locality.

A rough estimate suggests around



50,000 people could be rendered jobless. Sources said the affected people were contemplating on moving a review petition in the apex court, while politicians were also being contacted. But a BJP MLA said the party could do nothing as the matter was before the apex court. Meanwhile, the ADA has

started a survey and listing of establishments in the 500-metre zone. Clearly, there is lack of unanimity at the local level.

Green activists pointed out that in December 1996, the Justice Kuldip Singh bench of the Supreme Court had ordered the closure of all polluting industries in the Taj

Trapezium Zone. Industries that agreed to switch over to natural gas were however spared later.

This action followed acceptance of the high powered Dr S Vardharajan Committee report that had made a number of suggestions to contain high pollution level in the 10,000 sq.km eco-sensitive Trapezium Zone.

The Taj Ganj market and the shops on the eastern, southern and western gates of the monument carried on with commercial activities.

Vehicles had to be permitted though there is a ban on movement of petroleum based automobiles. "The whole area is congested, stinking and full of people who are accused of fleecing tourists. Unauthorised or freelance guides are called Lapkas in the local lingo," a tourist guide said.

The 'Catch 22' situation is not easy to resolve. If the apex court goes by the 1996 precedent, then there should be no hope for relief, but if the Uttar Pradesh government takes up the case and is able to persuade the apex court of the grim implications of the order, some relief may be forthcoming, a senior advocate said.

The 17th century monument of love is annually visited by more than seven million tourists and is India's star tourist attraction. Lakhs of local people earn their living from tourism.

PFI LEADERS, CADRES GO INTO HIDING AFTER BAN

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 28: After the Union Home Ministry imposed a ban for five years on the Popular Front of India (PFI) Wednesday, several leaders and cadres of the organisation have gone into hiding.

Sources in the state police told IANS that many of the leaders and cadres who were present in public after the September 22 raids and arrest of senior leaders by the NIA are now not seen in public.

Tamil Nadu state president of the PFI, Mohammed Shaik Ansari in a statement after the ban said that the organisation would fight the ban legally. The state leader also termed the ban "illegal and undemocratic".

While the state president has put a bold face by issuing a statement, almost all the other leaders of the front are not being seen in public.

Sources in the Tamil Nadu police told IANS that some PFI leaders who were arrested from the state September 22 were taken to Delhi and most of the second rung leaders fear that they may also be taken to the national capital and hence many of them have gone into hiding.

With the ban coming into effect, the leaders are not certain what the future will be if arrested and hence most of them have not



11 Popular Front of India leaders of Tamil Nadu including its National Executive member AM Ismail have been arrested by the NIA

then they would be brought before the law of the land.

Dr M Surulnathan, Retired Professor of Sociology from a private college in Madurai while speaking to IANS said, "The ban on the organisation has been apt as Popular Front was involved in several subversive activities and have misused the holy Quran and the Hadees teachings for their end. If Popular Front of India is allowed to function, then it would mean dividing the Tamil society into two."

The bank accounts of the organisation have been frozen and almost all the PFI offices are sealed in Tamil Nadu.

Notably, 11 Popular Front of India leaders of Tamil Nadu, including its National Executive member, AM Ismail have been arrested by the NIA.

appeared outside.

In the protest held by the Popular Front at the communally sensitive Ukkadam in Coimbatore this morning, almost all the participants were women.

Sources in the central agencies told IANS that the activities of the organisation are being monitored and if any leader or cadre is found indulging in activities of PFI,

Kudankulam reactor vessel undergoes heat treatment

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 28: The final heat treatment of the reactor vessel for the upcoming fifth 1,000 MW nuclear power unit at Tamil Nadu's Kudankulam has been completed, Russian integrated nuclear power major Rosatom said.

According to Rosatom, after the finishing welding and carrying out inspections, the reactor vessel, weighing 320 tons, was moved to a gas furnace and six thermocouples were installed.

The equipment was in the furnace for four days at a tempera-

ture of 650 degrees Celsius for 8-10 hours. Specialists recorded thermocouple readings for four days.

This is necessary to ensure a continuous process of thermal tempering of the item.

The heat treatment of the reactor vessel is necessary to relieve the stress of welds and obtain the required mechanical properties of the metal, Rosatom said.

Afterwards, the item was moved to machining for the manufacture of 54 threaded holes for the studs of the main joint for the



reactor vessel. An item of the first safety class, the reactor is a vertical cylindrical vessel with

an elliptical bottom. The active zone and internals are located inside the vessel.

From above, the reactor is hermetically sealed by a top head with drives of mechanisms and units for regulating and protecting reactors and nozzles for outputting cables of in-reactor control sensors installed on it.

India's atomic power plant operator Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) has two 1,000 MW plants (Units 1 and 2) at Kudankulam, while four more (Units 3, 4, 5 and 6) are under construction. All the six units are built with Russian technology and equipment supplied by Rosatom.

Yogi inaugurates Lata Mangeshkar Chowk in Ayodhya



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ayodhya, Sept 28: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Wednesday inaugurated the newly-constructed Lata Mangeshkar Chowk in Ayodhya on the occasion of the late singer's 93rd birth anniversary.

Paying tributes, Yogi said, "Sanatan Dharma means paying tributes to the one who gave all her life to India's music and culture. She has sung maximum bhajans in praise of Lord Ram. Her patriotic songs were also unparalleled and are memorable. This tribute has been inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

The Chief Minister said that Ayodhya was on its way to becoming one of the most beautiful cities of the world.

"The Ram temple is on its way to completion and people will not have to wait for long for it," he said.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi paid tributes to iconic singer, saying the in Ayodhya named after her will be a fitting tribute to her. "Remembering Lata Didi on her birth anniversary. There is so much

that I recall... the innumerable interactions in which she would shower so much affection. I am glad that today a Chowk in Ayodhya will be named after her. It is a fitting tribute to one of the greatest Indian icons."

Lata Mangeshkar's nephew Adinath Mangeshkar represented the singer's family at the inauguration ceremony.

Lata Chowk has a 40-foot veena, a musical instrument associated with Goddess Saraswati, weighing 14 tonnes that has been installed in Ayodhya as a tribute to legendary singer.

Ram Sutar, who designed the Veena, also attended the ceremony. Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy was also present at the event to which religious and political leaders had been invited.

Later, a cultural event was organised at the Ram Katha Park and an exhibition based on the life of the singer was also on display.

Lata Mangeshkar, born in 1929, died at a Mumbai hospital February 6 this year. She won three National Awards for Best Female Playback Singer.

Agra green activists hail order to double bird sanctuary area

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Agra, Sept 28: Green activists in the Taj city hailed the Supreme Court's order to double the area of the Keetham Lake bird sanctuary, now called Sur Sarovar Pakshi Vihar, on the Delhi-Agra National Highway 2.

The area under the sanctuary will now increase from 403 hectares to 799 hectares, after the new order of the apex court which has accepted the recommendation of the Central Empowered Committee, constituted after a local environmentalist, Sharad Gupta, filed a petition objecting to arbitrary reduction in the area by the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department.

Gupta said he had filed rejoinders and objections at every level of discussion and sounded the concerned agencies with the matter relating to the eco-sensitive zone requirements. "But when there was no positive reaction I had to move the apex court," he said.

The Keetham Lake forest area is a green buffer zone between the Mathura refinery and Agra.

Home to hundreds of bird species, migratory and local reptiles, including more than 300 pythons;

as well as scores of species of fish, the lake was declared a bird sanctuary in 1991 and renamed as Sur Sarovar; after the bard, Braj Bhasha Sur Das.

Along the Yamuna river bank, on the national highway to Delhi, the site also has a famous sloth bear shelter home and a hospital for elephants run by Wildlife SOS, close by.

In the wake of the court order, environmentalist Devashish Bhattacharya said, "We have been struggling for long years to protect the eco-sensitive zone around Sur Sarovar, from encroachers. The delayed recognition will definitely help conserve the rich flora and fauna of the area and perhaps promote eco-tourism. The need is to firmly demolish all illegal structures in the vicinity of the sprawling lake."

The Keetham wetland is rich in natural resources and attracts a large number of migratory birds. Action should be taken to ensure that the lake gets only treated non-polluted water from the Agra Canal. Also, there is a need for desilting the lake to clear the pollutants. Agra now has four internationally recognised tourist attractions.



An artisan prepares effigies of demon King Ravana ahead of the Dussehra festival in Prayagraj, Wednesday PTI PHOTO

'TN decision to ban online gaming unconstitutional'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Sept 28: The Indian gaming sector stakeholders termed the decision of the Tamil Nadu cabinet to ban online gaming as "unfortunate and unconstitutional", which will eventually only benefit gambling operators, and badly affect the fast-growing sector.

Roland Landers, CEO of The All India Gaming Federation said that this decision is disappointing because "it disregards the six decades of established legal jurisprudence and also the recent judgment of the Madras HC which struck down a similar law".

"What is also surprising is that the state government has already appealed against the judgment of Madras High Court and the

Supreme Court had recently issued notices on the same. Instead of waiting for the SC judgment and, in the meantime, respecting the categorical decision by their own HC, they seem to have taken another unconstitutional decision which will eventually only benefit online gambling operators," Landers said in a statement.

The Madras High Court had struck down the state's ban on online games like rummy and poker with stakes, and the Tamil Nadu government had then appealed to the Supreme Court.

The state government had told the apex court that teenagers and youths were losing their entire earnings and savings by indulging in online games.

In its petition, it also said that while rummy could be consid-

STAKEHOLDERS' TAKE



ered a game with skills, by placing stakes, it had turned into gambling. The gaming industry is

now being seen as an important pillar of the economy. This upcoming sector could create lakhs of jobs in

the country. Several gaming startup firms are expected to firm up hiring plans to support growth in the next few years.

At present, there are more than 400 gaming companies in India that include Infosys Limited, Hyperlink InfoSystem, Fgfactory and Zensar Technologies, among others.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has said that mobile is the primary vehicle for the gaming market in India, thanks to access to affordable smartphones growing at 15 per cent year-on-year for the past five years.

Besides, high-speed 4G internet penetration, supported by the world's lowest data tariffs, has contributed handsomely and the upcoming 5G will only support this growth.

of the day quote

Centre's ban on Popular Front of India (PFI) cannot be supported and asked the government why has it not banned right-wing majoritarian organisations

All of us will work together towards taking the socialist movement ahead. This is a big struggle. We will work together to remove the powers who are bent upon dividing the society

Goa is eternally indebted to the satyagrahis, freedom fighters and their families who laid down their lives for its liberation

SHORT TAKES

Arrest warrant against Ekta

Begusarai: A court in Bihar's Begusarai Wednesday issued arrest warrants against Ekta Kapoor, film producer and director, and her mother Shobha Kapoor on charges of insulting soldiers and hurting the sentiments of their family members in her web series XXX (Season-2).

Water level starts dropping in Yamuna

New Delhi: The water level in Yamuna river in Delhi started receding after breaching the evacuation mark of 206 metres, with Haryana reducing the flow from the Hathnikund Barrage in Yamunanagar, officials said Wednesday.

Factory blast: 3 killed, 8 injured

Palghar: At least three workers were killed and eight others received severe burns Wednesday when a hydrogen gas cylinder exploded and triggered fire in an industrial unit at Vasai in Palghar district of Maharashtra, officials said.

Man shoots woman dead, later ends life

Palghar: A man allegedly shot dead a 21-year-old woman in Boisar town of Maharashtra's Palghar district Wednesday afternoon, and later committed suicide by jumping before a vehicle, police said.

Chandigarh int'l airport renamed

Chandigarh: The international airport here was on Wednesday renamed Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport, Chandigarh, days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement in this regard.



I don't want to divert my focus from Madhya Pradesh. The elections are to held next year. I don't want to interfere or get involved in this. It will take up a whole month

KAMAL NATH | VETERAN CONGRESS LEADER

RISE IN TEA EXPORTS

Tea exports during the period January to July in the calendar year 2022 have touched 116.36 million kg as compared to 103.38 million kg in the same period of 2021.



Bans on RSS, Maoists were not effective: Left

The banned Popular Front of India has for long been accused of involvement in violent acts, "instigating" protests like the one against the Citizenship Amendment Act and having "links" with global terrorist organisations, including ISIS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 28: The Left parties Wednesday said they oppose the extremist views of the Popular Front of India (PFI) but do not support the way the government is tackling it by banning the outfit under the anti-terror law UAPA.

In a statement, the CPI(M) alleged that the PFI and the RSS have been engaged in killings and retaliatory killings in Kerala and coastal Karnataka, vitiating the atmosphere to create communal polarisation.

"However, the notification of the PFI as an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) is not the way to tackle this problem. Past experience has shown that bans on organisations like the RSS and the Maoists were not effective," it said.

It suggested that there has to be firm administrative action under

the existing laws against the PFI whenever it indulges in illegal or violent activities.

"A ban is not a solution to tackle this problem. We have seen what our own experience and India's experience have been. RSS was banned thrice after Mahatma Gandhi's assassination. Has anything stopped?" CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury told reporters in Thiruvananthapuram.

"We have also seen a ban on CPI (Maoist). Even today the security forces are at loggerheads with them and the two continue to battle each other in certain parts of the country. "We have to politically isolate such forces which spread extremism and terror tactics and administratively take firm action against their criminal activities. That is the manner in which this has to be



tackled," he said. The state administration will take firm action against extremist organisations, be it the Popular Front of India (PFI) or anybody else, said Yechury whose party leads the ruling Left Democratic Front in Kerala. The party statement said the PFI holds

sectarian and divisive ideology, the Left party said that the organisation has to be fought politically among the people.

"There are also extremist organisations like the Sanatan Sanstha and the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti, elements of whom have been implicated in the killings of noted secular writers and personalities. "All these forces, whether they represent extremist majority or minority groups, must be combated by utilising the regular laws of the land and by firm administrative action," it said

Maintaining the secular-democratic character of the republic by countering such forces must be the prime duty of those who exercise power and are sworn to uphold the Constitution, it said.

Echoing similar views, the CPI in a separate statement said that banning an organisation will not be beneficial.

Chitra Ramkrishna gets bail in co-location scam



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: The Delhi High Court Wednesday granted bail to former NSE boss Chitra Ramkrishna in the co-location scam case but she will not walk out of jail yet because her plea for the relief in the money laundering case related to alleged illegal phone tapping and snooping of some employees of the bourse is still pending.

Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain granted "statutory bail" to Ramkrishna and the National Stock Exchange's ex-group operating officer Anand Subramanian in the co-location scam case being probed by the CBI. It relates to alleged manipulation of the computers at the country's largest stock exchange.

Another bench of the Delhi High Court issued notice to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the bail application of Ramkrishna in the snooping and phone tapping case.

Justice Jasmeet Singh issued notice on the bail plea by Ramkrishna, a former Managing Director of the NSE, and granted time to the investigating agency to file its response.

An FIR was registered in the co-location case in May 2018, amid fresh revelations about alleged irregularities at the stock exchange. The CBI is probing alleged improper dissemination of information from the computer servers of the market exchange to stock brokers. The CBI arrested Subramanian February 24 and Ramkrishna March 6, a day after her anticipatory bail application was dismissed by the trial court.

She was arrested by the CBI in a case that was registered in May 2018 related to the alleged manipulation of the bourse. The ED arrested her later July 14 in the phone tapping case.

SONIA MEETS AK ANTONY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: With the Rajasthan crisis casting a shadow on the Congress' presidential polls, party chief Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday met senior party leader A K Antony even as party sources indicated that former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh could be in the race for the presidency.

The meeting with Antony comes days after an open rebellion by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot loyalists on a possible leadership change in the state after indications that Gehlot was backed by the party's top leadership as Gandhi's successor.

However, the action by Gehlot's loyalists has clouded his chances of running for the presidency.

It is learnt that Gandhi has discussed the probable candidates for the Congress' president, nomination for which will end September 30. Polling for the post will take place on October 17 while the result



Sources said senior party leader Digvijaya Singh could also throw his hat into the presidential polls contest and is likely to arrive in Delhi

will be announced October 19. Meanwhile, sources said senior party leader Digvijaya Singh could also throw his hat into the presidential polls contest and is likely to arrive in Delhi.

It is learnt that Singh is likely to file his nomination for the top post. Sources close to him said this is his personal decision to contest and he has not discussed the issue with the party leadership.



SHOW OF STRENGTH: Army Infantry display their combat skill at Nagrota military station in Jammu

PTI PHOTO

Lt Gen Anil Chauhan is new CDS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 28: Indian Army's former Eastern Command chief, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan (ret'd) was on Wednesday appointed the second Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), with effect from the date of his assumption of charge and until further orders, an official statement said.

He will also function as Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.

Lt Gen Chauhan (ret'd) succeeds the first CDS, former Army chief, Gen Bipin Rawat who had died in a helicopter crash on December 8 last year.

In a career spanning over nearly 40 years, Lt Gen Chauhan has held several command, staff and instrumental appointments and had extensive experience in counter-insurgency operations in Jammu



and Kashmir and northeast India. Commissioned into 11 Gorkha Rifles in 1981, he is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

As Major General, he had commanded an Infantry Division in the critical Baramulla sector in the Northern Command, and as Lt General, commanded a corps in the northeast and subsequently went

to become the Eastern Command chief from September 2019 and held the charge until his retirement from service in May 2021.

In addition to these command appointments, he has also held important staff appointments including the charge of Director General of Military Operations.

He had also served on a United Nations mission to Angola.

10 killed, 41 injured in UP road mishap

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lakhimpur Kheri (UP), Sept 28: Ten people were killed and 41 others injured in a head-on collision between a private bus and a mini-truck here Wednesday.

The Lakhimpur Kheri chief medical officer (CMO) said 12 of the injured are critical and have been sent to a trauma centre in Lucknow while 29 are undergoing treatment at the district hospital.

The accident took place on the Aira bridge on the National Highway 730, DSP Pritam Pal Singh said. The bus was on its way to Lucknow from Dhaurahara and collided with the mini-truck coming from the opposite direction. Eight of the dead were identified. President Droupadi

Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed grief over the incident. "Deeply saddened by the news of death of many people in a road accident in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh. I express my deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones in the accident and the injured a speedy recovery," a message on the official twitter handle of the President said. In a condolence message, Prime Minister Modi said, "Distressed by the accident in Lakhimpur Kheri, UP. Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover quickly. Rs 2 Lakh from the PMNRF will be given to the next of kin of each dead. The injured will be given Rs 50,000."

ASI explores Bandhavgarh, finds Buddhist remains

BANDHAVGARH TIGER RESERVE, HOME TO THE MAJESTIC BIG CATS, IS LOCATED ABOUT 500 KM FROM MP CAPITAL BHOPAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: The Archaeological Survey of India has found ancient caves and temples, remains of Buddhist structures and mural inscriptions bearing names of cities like Mathura and Kaushambi in old scripts during its recent exploration at Bandhavgarh in Madhya Pradesh, officials said Wednesday.

An ASI team covered nearly 170 sq km falling in the area of the famous Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve that is not accessible to public during the over a month-long exploration of the region which it undertook for the first since 1938, they said.

During the exercise held from May 20-June 27, the ASI's Jabalpur Circle also reported many ancient sculptures, including large monolithic sculptures of various avatars of Lord Vishnu like 'Varaha' and 'Matsya', and "board games made in natural caves", officials said.

Superintending Archaeologist of the Jabalpur Circle, S K Bajpai, who led the team, shared details and images from the exploration during a media interaction at the ASI headquarters here.

"This is the first time ASI has explored Bandhavgarh since the 1938 exploration by archaeologist N P Chakravarti. Many structures there were documented, we reported and documented more structures, in-



cluding ancient caves, temples, Buddhist remains, maths, sculptures, water bodies, mural inscriptions in old scripts like Brahmi and Nagari," Bajpai said.

Other agencies have done some exploration in the intervening period though, he added. A special permission was taken from the forest authorities to explore the

area in Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh, he said, adding that he "encountered a tiger and elephants" during the job, but "caves gave us shelter". "For me, the most startling finding is the remains of the Buddhist structures in the region where a Hindu dynasty ruled. It suggests religious harmony, but who built these Buddhist structures is not known yet," the ASI official said.

A votive stupa and a Buddhist pillar fragment containing miniature stupas carving, which roughly date back to 2nd-3rd century AD have been documented as part of this exploration, according to information shared by the ASI.

But what is also very noteworthy is the names of old cities like

Mathura and Kaushambi, located in Uttar Pradesh, found in ancient inscriptions we have documented, Bajpai said. "Names of these cities located far away from Bandhavgarh suggest that there were trading ties and people from other cities may have donated something, but again, it is a matter of conjecture," another senior ASI official said.

Coins belonging to Mughal-era and Sharqi dynasty of Jaunpur Sultanate have also been found, he said.

ASI officials said a total of 35 temples have been documented, nine earlier and 26 temples or remains of temple of Kalachuri period in the latest exploration.

international

of the day quote

We recognise that to meet the challenges we face, members of the UN must not only uphold the charter but also modernise the institution, including by making the Security Council more inclusive

I don't think in recent months we have faced any particular problems in terms of servicing and spare parts supply of (military) equipment that we have got in the past from Russia

We believe that regardless of their (Russian) nationality, they may apply for asylum in the United States and have their claim educated on a case by case basis

SHORT TAKES

Taliban sign deal with Russia

Kabul: The Taliban have signed a provisional deal with Russia to supply gasoline, diesel, gas and wheat to Afghanistan, Acting Afghan Commerce and Industry Minister Haji Nooruddin Azizi told Reuters. Azizi said his ministry was working to diversify its trading partners and that Russia had offered the Taliban administration a discount to average global commodity prices. The move, the first known major international economic deal struck by the Taliban since they returned to power more than a year ago, could help to ease the Islamist movement's isolation that has effectively cut it off from the global banking system.

Social media ban for SL govt officials

Colombo: Sri Lanka ordered civil servants Wednesday not to express opinions on social media after some officials claimed schoolchildren were fainting from a lack of food due to the country's dire economic crisis. In a fresh order to 1.5 million state employees, the Ministry of Public Administration and Management said a long-established ban on speaking to reporters now extends to social media posts. It followed claims from provincial health officials and teachers that dozens of students were fainting in schools because of a lack of food.

17 dead in China restaurant blaze

Beijing: A fire at a restaurant in northeastern China Wednesday killed 17 people and injured another three, according to local authorities. The fire broke out at 12:40 pm in an eatery in the city of Changchun, the local government said in a statement posted on the Weibo social media platform. Firefighters "rushed to the scene" and completed search and rescue work by 3 pm, the statement said. "The injured have been sent to hospital for treatment while posthumous care for the victims is being carried out," it added.

S Korea to shun Russian rockets

Seoul: South Korea has decided to cancel plans to launch satellites using Russian rockets later this year amid the international community's sanctions on Russia's space programme over the Ukrainian war, a government document showed Wednesday. The government is most likely to sign deals with Elon Musk-run SpaceX and the European Space Agency for the launches.



It is truly in modern times, in my opinion, the first revolution for the women, by the women -- with the support of the Iranian men, sons, brothers and fathers

REZA PAHLAVI | SON OF FORMER SHAH, IRAN

XI'S BACK, CLAIMS CHINESE MEDIA

President Xi Jinping reemerged after not being seen in public since his first foreign trip in more than two years earlier this month. The Chinese leader was accompanied by the other six members of the Politburo Standing Committee, a sign of unity after rumors circulated on Twitter about a challenge to his power



CATASTROPHIC THREAT

Ian just shy of a monster Category 5 hurricane

US AIR FORCE HURRICANE HUNTERS CONFIRMED IAN GAINED STRENGTH OVER WARM GULF OF MEXICO WATER AFTER BATTERING CUBA, BRINGING DOWN THE COUNTRY'S ELECTRICITY GRID AND LEAVING THE ENTIRE ISLAND WITHOUT POWER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

St Petersburg, Sept 28: Hurricane Ian rapidly intensified as it neared landfall along Florida's southwest coast Wednesday morning, gaining top winds of 155 mph (250 kph), just shy of the most dangerous Category 5 status.

Damaging winds and rain lashed the state, and the heavily populated Naples to Sarasota region was at "highest risk" of a devastating storm surge.

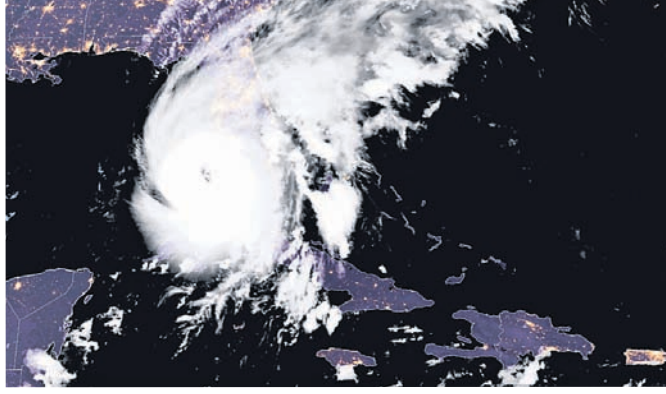
Ian was centred about 65 miles (105 kilometres) west-southwest of Naples at 7 am, swirling toward

the coast at 10 mph (17 kph).

"This is going to be a nasty nasty day, two days," Florida Gov Ron DeSantis said early Wednesday, stressing that people in Ian's path along the coast should rush to the safest possible shelter and stay there.

"If you are in any of those counties it is no longer possible to safely evacuate. It's time to hunker down and prepare for the storm," DeSantis said.

"Do what you need to do to stay safe. If you are where that storm is approaching, you're already in hazardous conditions. It's going to get a lot worse very quickly. So



please hunker down."

The massive storm appeared

More than 2.5 million people were under mandatory evacuation orders, but by law no one could be forced to flee

on track to slam ashore somewhere north of Fort Myers and some 201 kilometres south of Tampa, sparing the bay area from a rare direct hit from a hurricane.

The hurricane centre warned of catastrophic storm surges rais-

ing the water level as much as 12 feet (3.6 meters) to 16 feet (4.9 metres) above ground level for coastal areas straddling Punta Gorda and Fort Myers, which are between Naples and Sarasota.

The governor said the state has 30,000 linemen, urban search and rescue teams and 7,000 National Guard troops from Florida and elsewhere ready to help once the weather clears.

Florida residents rushed ahead of the impact to board up their homes, stash precious belongings on upper floors and join long lines of cars away from the shore.

Russia moves to annex occupied Ukraine parts

Pro-Moscow administrations of all four occupied regions, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Luhansk and Donetsk said that their residents voted to join Russia in five days of Kremlin-orchestrated balloting

AGENCIES

Zaporizhzhia, Sept 28: Russia is poised to formally annex areas of Ukraine where it has military control after referendums there reportedly endorsed Moscow's rule. But the ballots were widely discredited and earned the Kremlin no relief Wednesday from international pressure over its assault on its neighbor.

Russian-installed officials in four occupied regions of Ukraine reported huge majorities of votes in favour of joining Russia as the United States planned a UN resolution condemning the referendums as shams and Russia remained defiant.

The United States was also preparing a new round of sanctions against Russia should it annex Ukrainian territory and a \$1.1 billion arms package for Ukraine that will be announced soon, US officials said.

Hastily arranged votes took place over five days in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, and in Zaporizhzhia and Kherson to the south, that together make up about 15% of Ukrainian territory.

According to Russia-installed election officials, 93% of the ballots cast in the Zaporizhzhia region supported annexation, as did 87% in the Kherson region, 98% in the Luhansk region and 99% in Donetsk. The head of the upper house of the Russian parliament said the chamber might consider annexation October 4.

"The results are clear. Welcome home, to Russia!," Dmitry Medvedev, a former president who serves as deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council and an ally of President Vladimir Putin,

DESPITE OUTCRY

87% to 99.2% voted in favour of joining Russia
"Welcome home, to Russia!" says Medvedev
Russian parliament says may consider annexation Oct 4
US plans UN resolution to reject any change to Ukraine



A view shows banners and constructions ahead of an expected event, dedicated to the results of referendums on the joining of four Ukrainian self-proclaimed regions to Russia, near the Kremlin Wall and the State Historical Museum in Red Square in central Moscow, Russia. Banners read: "Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson. Together forever!"

Any annexation in the modern world is a crime, a crime against all states that consider the inviolability of border to be vital for themselves

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

said on Telegram.

Within the occupied territories, Russian-installed officials took ballot boxes from house to house in what Ukraine and the West said was an illegitimate, coercive exercise to create a legal pretext for Russia to annex the four regions.

The United States will introduce a resolution at the UN Security Council calling on member states not to recognise any change to Ukraine and obligating Russia to withdraw its troops, US envoy Linda Thomas-Greenfield said.

"Russia's sham referenda, if accepted, will open a Pandora's box that we cannot close," she said at a council meeting.

Russia has the ability to veto a resolution in the Security Council, but Thomas-Greenfield said that would prompt the United States to take the issue to the UN General Assembly.

"Any referenda held under these conditions, at the barrel of a gun, can never be remotely close to free

UKRAINIANS FLEE

Zaporizhzhia: As Russia prepares to annex a swathe of Ukrainian territory the size of Portugal after staging what it calls referendums in four provinces, hundreds of Ukrainians escaped through the last Russian checkpoint. Many said they had fled while they still can. "A lot of people are just leaving everything behind. There are places that are completely deserted," said Boyko. "Everybody wants to be in Ukraine, and this is why everybody is leaving. Over there is a lawless place. Entire villages are leaving." Those fleeing Russian-held territory say the so-called referendum has been carried out by men with guns forcing people to cast ballots in the street. For now, Russian forces have been letting some people out of occupied parts of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia provinces through the one checkpoint. No one knows how long the route will stay open.

or fair," Britain's Deputy UN Ambassador James Kariuki said.

If Russia annexes the four Ukrainian regions, Putin could portray any Ukrainian attempt to recapture them as an attack on Russia itself. Putin said last week that he was willing to use nuclear weapons to defend the "territorial integrity" of Russia.

EU pledges to retaliate if energy network attacked

SEISMOLOGISTS REPORTED THAT EXPLOSIONS RATTLED THE BALTIC SEA BEFORE UNUSUAL LEAKS WERE DISCOVERED TUESDAY ON TWO UNDERWATER NATURAL GAS PIPELINES RUNNING FROM RUSSIA TO GERMANY

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Sept 28: The European Union suspects that damage to two underwater natural gas pipelines was sabotage and is warning of retaliation for any attack on Europe's energy networks, a senior official said Wednesday, as energy companies began ramping up security.

The episode underscored the vulnerability of Europe's energy infrastructure and further heightened tensions in the continent that has been rocked by the seven-month war in Ukraine. Poland, and some experts said Russia was probably to blame, and could benefit from further market instability.

"All available information indicates those leaks are the result of a deliberate act," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement on behalf of the bloc's 27 members. "Any deliberate disruption of European energy infra-



EU DIPLOMAT BELIEVES SABOTAGE PROBABLY CAUSED LEAKS

'LEAKS COULD BE PART OF RUSSIA'S HYBRID WAR ON NATO'

structure is utterly unacceptable and will be met with a robust and united response."

Some European leaders and experts pointed to possible sabotage given the energy standoff with Russia. The three leaks were reported on the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines, which were filled with natural gas but were not delivering

the fuel to Europe.

The pipelines allow gas to be piped to Germany without transiting through Ukraine or Poland.

The extent of the damage, along with the political ramifications, raises serious doubts about the future of the Nord Stream project.

Germany was heavily criticized for the project by the US and many of its European partners, which said that it only increased Europe's reliance on Russian gas imports.

While it remains unknown who might be responsible for the damage, given its undersea location, Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau said Tuesday that the leaks could be part of Russia's hybrid war on NATO.

"The explosions took place very close to Danish territorial waters, but not inside them, because that would have meant NATO territory," Rau said during a discussion at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

'US TO OPERATE UNDAUNTED, UNAFRAID IN TAIWAN STRAIT'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Tokyo, Sept 28: Washington will operate "undaunted and unafraid" throughout Asia, including the Taiwan Strait, US Vice President Kamala Harris said Wednesday as she addressed American troops in Japan.

Speaking after attending Tuesday's funeral for assassinated former Japanese leader Shinzo Abe, Kamala Harris accused China of "disturbing behavior" in the East China Sea and South China Sea and "provocations across the Taiwan Strait".

"The United States believes that peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is an essential feature of a free and open Indo-Pacific," she said, using Washington's term for the Asia-Pacific region.

"We will continue to fly, sail and operate, undaunted and unafraid, wherever and whenever international law allows," she added.

Beijing claims both democratic Taiwan and the narrow body of water separating the island from



NK fires two ballistic missiles ahead of Harris' visit to South

mainland China - one of the world's busiest shipping channels.

The United States has long used "freedom of navigation" passages through the Taiwan Strait to push back against Chinese claims, and Western allies have increasingly joined these operations.

Washington "does not seek conflict with China", Harris said, but "we anticipate continued aggressive behaviour from Beijing as it attempts to unilaterally undermine the status quo".

Iranian drone attack in Iraq claims nine

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Koya, Sept 28: An Iranian drone bombing campaign targeting the bases of an Iranian-Kurdish opposition group in northern Iraq Wednesday has killed at least nine people and wounded 32 others, the Kurdish Regional Government's Health Ministry said.

The strikes took place as demonstrations continued to engulf the Islamic Republic after the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman who was detained by the Iranian morality police.

Iran's attacks targeted Koya, some 65 kilometers east of Irbil, said Soran Nuri, a member of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan. The group, known by the acronym KDPI, is a leftist armed opposition force banned in Iran.

Iraq's Foreign Ministry and the Kurdistan Regional Government have condemned the strikes.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency and broadcaster said the country's Revolutionary Guard targeted bases of a separatist group in the north of Iraq with "precision missiles" and "suicide drones."

Gen Hasan Hasanzadeh of the Revolutionary Guard said 185 Basijis, a volunteer force, were injured by "machete and knife" in the unrest, state-run IRNA news agency reported Wednesday.

Hasanzadeh also said rioters broke the skull of one of the Basij members. He added that five Basijis are hospitalised in intensive care.

Iraq's Foreign Ministry spokesman said the government in Baghdad is expected to summon the Iranian ambassador to deliver a diplomatic complaint over the strikes.



Saudi king names crown prince Salman as PM

The crown prince, known as MbS, is promoted from defence minister and has been the de facto ruler of Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter and a major US ally in the Middle East

REUTERS

Riyadh, Sept 28: Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz named his son and heir Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as the kingdom's prime minister and his second son Prince Khalid as defence minister, a royal decree showed Tuesday.

The reshuffle kept another son, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, as energy minister, the aged king said in the royal decree, carried by state news agency SPA. Foreign Minister Prince Faisal

bin Farhan Al Saud, Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan and Investment Minister Khalid al-Falih remain in their positions, the decree showed.

The crown prince, known as MbS, is promoted from defence minister and has been the de facto ruler of Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter and a major U.S. ally in the Middle East.

His new role as prime minister is in line with the king's previous delegation of duties to him, including representing the kingdom on foreign visits and chair-



ing summits hosted by the kingdom, a Saudi official said. Historically, such delegation of

duties has taken place in the kingdom several times, the official said.

business

of the day quote

Inflation has become a concern for most major economies, and central banks are resorting to aggressive rate hikes. This move could push up inflationary pressures, proving counterproductive in the short run

JOSEPH K THOMAS | HEAD OF RESEARCH, EMKAY WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Apple's plan to manufacture iPhone 14 products in India is credit positive because it will diversify its manufacturing base that is highly concentrated in China

RAJ JOSHI | SENIOR VP (CORPORATE FINANCE GROUP), MOODY'S

Our partnership with Glencore underpins our global commitment to expanding the availability of existing battery resources through recycling. This major development will directly boost India's battery industry and energy security

RAJAT VERMA | FOUNDER-CEO, LOHUM

SHORT TAKES

Maha, Delhi top dues default list

Mumbai: As banks' outstanding dues shot up to a whopping Rs 8.58 lakh crore, Maharashtra and Delhi top the list of defaulters, as per the latest official data of TransUnion CIBIL Ltd. The figures show that as March 31, 2022, there were 30,359 records of borrowers with defaults of Rs one crore and above, with recovery suits filed against them by various banks, totalling to outstanding of Rs 858,396.32 crore. This amount has more than tripled since March 31, 2017 -- from 17,236 accounts facing lawsuits to recover Rs 258,266.97 crore (Rs 2.58 lakh crore) covering 32 states, compared with 2022.

Sept GST mop-up likely at ₹1.45L-cr

New Delhi: Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue mop-up in September is expected to be around Rs 1.45 lakh crore, an official said. The collection has been over Rs 1.4 lakh crore since March and in August it was Rs 1.43 lakh crore. "The collection in September is likely to be little more than Rs 1.45 lakh crore. Improved business activity is expected to yield better collections in coming months," the official said. Official revenue figures will be released October 1.

Ericsson ready for local 5G infra

New Delhi: Swedish telecom gear maker Ericsson Wednesday pledged to deepen its commitment to India's manufacturing mettle saying the company is ready for local production of 5G infrastructure, just as it has done in the past for other technology products. The countdown for 5G services has begun in the world's second-biggest smartphone market after China, and large Indian telcos are gearing up for the roll-out of services, supercharged by ultra-high-speeds, low latency and large data handling capabilities.

CSC partners with TMFL, TMFSL

New Delhi: Government-promoted CSC E-Governance Services India announced its strategic partnership with Tata Motors Finance (TMFL) and Tata Motors Finance Solutions (TMFSL) to provide vehicle loans in rural areas. Through the partnership, the Village Level Entrepreneurs will be able to provide a range of vehicle loan services, including refinancing of used ones, of TMFL and TMFSL.



I don't really believe that we need so many public sector banks either, the number of PSBs could be decreased. Some of them could be privatised. And maybe you know, the stronger ones could still remain public sector banks

ARUNDHATI BHATTACHARYA | FORMER CHIEF, SBI

ADANI BACK TO NO 3 ON FORBES RICH LIST

Gautam Adani slipped back to the third position on the Forbes real-time billionaires list Wednesday, displaced by Louis Vuitton's Bernard Arnault in the second place, with about a billion separating the two. A deep sell-off in Indian benchmark equity indexes led to Adani's net worth declining by \$1.27 billion to \$140.2 billion, compared to Arnault's wealth standing at \$141.2 billion



BLEEDING FOR SIX SESSIONS

Indices sell-off continues

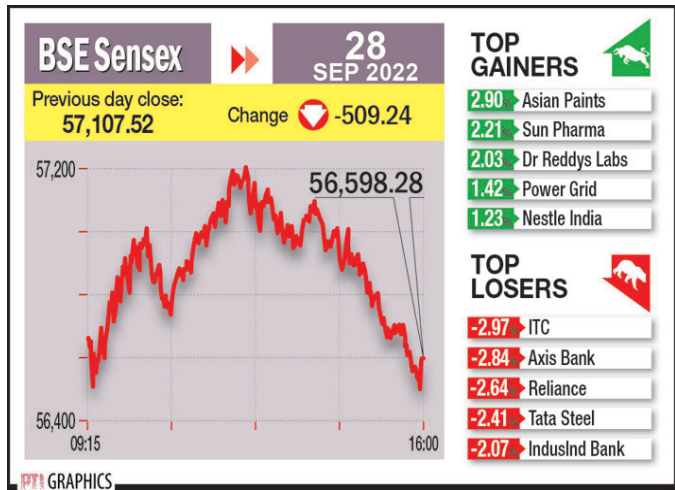
A depreciating rupee which is touching new lows in every session and continued foreign capital outflows have subdued the market sentiment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 28: BSE benchmark Sensex spiralled lower for the sixth consecutive session on Wednesday to finish below the 57,000-level, weighed by heavy selling in metal, banking and finance stocks amid a sell-off in global equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 509.24 points or 0.89 per cent to settle at 56,598.28. During the day, it tanked 621.85 points or 1.08 per cent to 56,485.67. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty declined 148.80 points or 0.87 per cent to end at 16,858.60.

IITC was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.97 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, SBI, and HDFC twins. On the other hand, Asian Paints, Sun



₹ BREACHES 82 MARK

Mumbai: The rupee plunged below the 82 mark for the first time in day trade before settling down by 40 paise at 81.93 against the US dollar Wednesday due to heavy forex outflows amid strengthening US treasury yields. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 81.90 and later fell to 82.02 to a dollar in day trade due to risk-averse sentiment among investors. The rupee finally settled at 81.93, its all-time closing low.

Services Ltd, said.

In the broader market, the BSE midCap gauge declined 0.47 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.43 per cent. Among the BSE sectoral indices, the metal fell by 2.32 per cent, bank (1.52 per cent), financial services (1.31 per cent), energy (1.09 per cent), commodities (1.06 per cent) and realty (0.76 per cent). Healthcare, IT, consumer discretionary and tech were among the gainers.

A total of 2,092 firms declined, while 1,335 advanced and 105 remained unchanged. Foreign institutional investors offloaded shares worth Rs 2,772.49 crore Wednesday.

Investors continue to be sceptical of the domestic market's higher premium amid the ongoing global deceleration while foreign investors are fleeing emerging economies in search of safer havens.

VINOD NAIR | HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Pharma, Dr Reddy's and Power Grid were among the winners.

"Domestic equity continued its downfall in sync with its global peers. Markets across the globe are

seeing extreme volatility as fear of an economic downturn weighed on investors' sentiments," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial

BoE to buy UK bonds to avert financial crisis

London: The Bank of England sought to quell a fire-storm in Britain's bond markets, saying it would buy as much government debt as needed to restore order after new Prime Minister Liz Truss' tax cut plans triggered financial chaos. Having failed to cool the sell-off with verbal interventions over the previous two days, the BoE announced Wednesday the immediate launch of its emergency bond-buying programme aimed at preventing the market turmoil from spreading. It said it would buy up to 5 billion pounds (\$5.31 billion) a day of British government bonds of at least 20 years' maturity starting Wednesday and running until October 14. The announcement, which represented a sudden reversal of the BoE's plans to start selling bonds it had amassed since the global financial crisis of 2008-08, immediately pushed down borrowing costs. The 30-year gilt yield was set for its biggest drop in records going back to 1992. But sterling fell by about 1% against the dollar and euro, putting it on track for its biggest monthly decline since October 2008, just after Lehman Brothers collapsed. By 2:48pm (1348 GMT) it was trading down 0.5% at \$1.0679, a fall of 12% in the last three months.

China's yuan slides to 14-year low

Beijing: China's yuan fell to a 14-year low against the dollar Wednesday despite central bank efforts to stem the slide after US interest rate hikes prompted traders to convert money into dollars in search of higher returns. A weaker yuan helps Chinese exporters by making their goods cheaper abroad, but it encourages capital to flow out of the economy. That raises costs for Chinese borrowers and sets back the ruling Communist Party's efforts to boost weak economic growth. The yuan fell to 7.2301 to the dollar, its lowest level since January 2008. One yuan was worth about 13.8 cents, down 15% from this year's March high. The yuan has exceeded expectations it might fall to 7 to the dollar after the Federal Reserve started aggressive rate hikes to cool inflation that is at a four-decade high. The Fed has raised rates five times this year and says more increases are likely.

BIZ BUZZ

Linen Club launches its annual 'Linen Utsav'



Bhubaneswar: Linen Club, the leading Linen fabric and apparels brand in India from the Aditya Birla Group, has launched its annual festive campaign - Linen Utsav in its exclusive showrooms in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. A pioneer in the industry, Linen Club is India's largest linen fabric brand and is synonymous with the finest quality linen. Linen Utsav is an annual marketing property of Linen Club where the brand gives special offers during the festive season. This year as a part of Linen Utsav, Linen Club is offering its consumers Free Duffel and Trolley bags on their shopping. On a purchase of Rs 7,999 customers will get a premium Duffel bag and on purchase of Rs 14,999 customers will get a premium Trolley bag. Customers can shop for Linen Club's wide festive range which includes finely crafted Linen fabrics in various colors, designs and patterns. The festive collection includes pure Linen and Linen blended fabrics for Kurtas, Nehru Jackets, Bandhgala, Sherwani, Blazers, Shirts and much more.

7th International Trade Fair-2022 from Oct 7-17

Bhubaneswar: The 7th International Trade Fair - 2022 will be held at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar from October 7 to October 17. Seven countries and 20 states of India will take part in the fair this year. It will showcase interior decoration, home decoration, furniture, antique collection, painting, jewellery, Thailand flowers, textile, Rajasthani marbles, Afghanistan dry fruits, Bangladeshi saree, handicrafts and handloom items made by national and international skilled artisans. A real estate fair is also being organised for the first time in this trade fair in collaboration with State Bank of India. Many well-known builders are going to participate in this and everyone will get various benefits according to their needs. There will also be a food zone to enjoy a variety of delicacies. On the occasion, various cultural programmes will be organised on every evening. The trade fair will be held from 2 pm to 10 pm.



Tata Motors unveils most affordable EV

REUTERS

New Delhi, Sept 28: India's Tata Motors Wednesday launched an electric model of its popular Tiago hatchback with a sticker price starting from Rs 8,49,000 (\$10,370), making it the most affordable electric vehicle in the country.

Tata is the only automaker currently building EVs in India and the Tiago EV is expected to further its lead in the country's electric car market, even if much of that success is due to government subsidies and high tariffs that have kept out imports.

The Tiago EV is significantly cheaper than India's next most affordable EV - the electric version of Tata's Tigor compact sedan which starts at around \$14,940. China, however, has some EV models that start as low as \$2,800 yuan (\$4,525).

The operating cost of the Tiago EV is expected to be about a seventh of the gasoline version.

"To travel 1,000 kilometres (621 miles), a gasoline Tiago would require Rs 7,500 worth of fuel whereas the charging cost for the EV model would be Rs 1,100," said Shailesh Chandra, managing director of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and its EV subsidiary.

The cheapest version of the Tiago EV will have a driving range of 250 km on a single charge while a more expensive version will offer a range of 315 km.

India, Netherlands formalise Fast Track Mechanism for investments

FTM will strengthen and assist bilateral efforts to increase mutual investment activities, as well as support and develop business cooperation between companies in both countries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: India and the Netherlands have formulated a mechanism for faster resolution of investment cases of Dutch companies operating here in the country, an official statement said Wednesday.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Embassy of the Netherlands have signed a joint statement to formalise the bilateral Fast Track Mechanism (FTM).

Invest India, the national investment promotion and facilitation agency, is the executing body of the FTM. "The bilateral FTM between India and the Netherlands aims to serve as a platform for faster resolution of investment cases of Dutch companies operating in India," the commerce and industry ministry said.

"Some Dutch companies have been operating for over 100 years in India, which illustrates this close bilateral relationship. We are keen to collaborate more with our Indian partners to further stimulate Dutch companies in India, particularly in key areas of



The Netherlands is the fourth largest foreign direct investor in India

In 2021-22, bilateral trade between the countries amounted to \$17bn

Between April 2000 and June 2022, the cumulative flow of foreign direct investment from the Netherlands reached \$42.3bn

economics, science and innovation," Marten van den Berg, Ambassador of the Netherlands to India, said.

DPIIT Secretary Anurag Jain said both sides have worked to resolve several issues of Dutch firms even before the FTM process began.

India's exports to the Netherlands consist mainly of mineral fuels

The Swedish, Norwegian and Israeli central banks have launched a project with the Bank for International Settlements to test international retail and remittance payments with central bank digital currencies, Sweden's Riksbank said

and mineral-based products, organic chemicals, electrical machinery and equipment, aluminium, iron and steel and pharmaceutical products.

CRED, upGrad, Groww top start-ups list in India in 2022

Indian start-up ecosystem displays great resilience as the country continues to see a rise of new start-ups with 68% of entrants on the list appearing for the first time, says

Nirajita Banerjee, Managing Editor at LinkedIn News India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Sept 28: Online professional network LinkedIn Wednesday released a list of the top 25 start-ups in India that have shown resilience in an uncertain market environment, and are continuing to innovate in 2022.

Topping this year's list is unified payments interface CRED. Valued at \$6.4 billion, this young start-up maintained its podium position on the LinkedIn Top Startups list, moving from the third spot in 2021 to number one in 2022.

"Besides gaining popularity for its quirky ads in the past two years, CRED is also setting new benchmarks for employee well-being by offering benefits such as ElderCare, egg freezing, and one-on-one support for mental wellness to its employees," a LinkedIn statement noted.

The second spot on the list is taken by upGrad, one of India's largest online higher education companies that curates vast upskilling opportunities for professionals and college students, followed by Groww in third position. Groww is an online investment



platform that provides an objective evaluation of various investment opportunities through stocks and mutual funds.

This year's list also features new entrants including e-grocery company Zepto (4th), full-stack car buying platform Spinny (7th),

and insurtech start-up Ditto Insurance (12th) - all of which are online platforms that are making financial, mobility, and essentials more accessible for consumers in India today.

Fitness platform Ultrahuman (19th) and organic food market-

With 13 of the top 25 start-ups based out of Bangalore, the city affirms its reputation as the 'Silicon Valley of India'

In fact, 58% of all jobs posted by these start-ups on LinkedIn during the period from Aug 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022 were based out of Bangalore

place Living Food (20th) also debuted in this year's list.

Managing Editor at LinkedIn News India, Nirajita Banerjee, said the Indian start-up ecosystem displays great resilience as the country continues to see a rise of new start-ups with 68 per cent of entrants on the list appearing for the first time.

These start-ups are navigating the uncertain macro environment

by optimising their businesses for sustainable growth and taking a more prudent approach towards scaling their business, she said. "It's also great to see young professionals embrace India's start-up ecosystem, with 56 per cent of all hires in the top 25 start-ups being aged below 30, and 17 per cent aged below 25, at the time of joining," she added.

The 25 companies that made it to the list, in order of ranking are: CRED, upGrad, Groww, Zepto, Skyroot Aerospace, MBA Chai Wala, Spinny, The Good Glamm Group, GrowthSchool, BluSmart, ShareChat, Ditto Insurance, Simpl, Rapido, Classplus, Park+, BlissClub, DealShare, Ultrahuman, Living Food, FamPay, AgniKul Cosmos, Stanza Living, Pocket FM and Zypp Electric.

INDIA TAME AFRICAN LIONS

ARSHDEEP, CHAHAR WREAK HAVOC BEFORE RAHUL, SURYA FINISH OFF THE JOB IN 1ST T20I



JOB DONE: KL Rahul (R) and Suryakumar Yadav have post-match handshakes, Wednesday



ON A ROLL: Arshdeep Singh reacts after dismissing David Miller (not in pic) against South Africa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Sept 28: Arshdeep Singh and Deepak Chahar hit the South Africans hard with some magical swing bowling before Suryakumar Yadav's little gem on a difficult track ensured an easy eight-wicket victory for India in the first T20I here Wednesday.

A target of 107 on a pitch with underlying moisture and more than waist high bounce at times was a struggle before Surya (50 n o, 33b, 5x4, 3x6) released the pressure created by KL Rahul (51 n o, 56b, 2x4, 4x6) as India won the game in 16.4 overs to go 1-0 up in three-match series.

The pitch that former India head coach Ravi Shastri on air termed "not ideal for T20 cricket" had batters of both teams finding it difficult to cope with both pace and movement.

It was Arshdeep (3/32) and Chahar (2/24), who basically clinched the

issue for India within first 15 deliveries of the start after skipper Rohit Sharma called it right at the toss. Once South Africa were reeling at 9/5 in 2.3 overs, the game as a contest was over and 106/8 even on a difficult track was a sub-par score.

The South Africans did bowl their heart out in defence. Kagiso Rabada (1/16) bowled an ideal Test match delivery that pitched on length and reared up while moving a shade and all Rohit (0) could do was to dangle his bat at the corridor of uncertainty.

Virat Kohli (3) got an express delivery from Anrich Nortje (1/32) that kept climbing as he tried to have a go away from his body and the edge was taken by Quinton de Kock.

Surya, India's best T20I batter by a distance, got a streaky six when his attempted flick turned into an outside edge that flew over third-man for a maximum off Nortje. The next

six was a picture-perfect whip over deep square leg and then an inside out six off Keshav Maharaj indicated that he is India's in-form man.

Rahul's batting at the other end on the same strip became an ordeal as India had their lowest ever Powerplay score on board. Just that there was no scoreboard pressure, Rahul could once play his waiting game and the only shot worth appreciating was a six off Nortje.

Earlier, Arshdeep and Chahar made the white Kookaburra talk with some incisive swing bowling after Jasprit Bumrah pulling out of the game due to his recurrent back problem which has resurfaced yet again. The duo moved the ball both ways, making full use of the nip in the air and the bounce off the surface.

Temba Bavuma (0) was nicely set up by Chahar with stock outswingers, which the skipper

left alone before a banana inswinger had him bowled through the gate. The deviation into the batter was as big as it could be.

Arshdeep started by taking the ball shade away from the left-hander and De Kock (1) in his bid to get a move-on dragged one back onto the stumps. The other left-hander Rilee Rossouw (0) also chased a wide outswinger (inswinger with the bowler) to nick one to Rishabh Pant behind the stumps.

But it was the delivery by Arshdeep to David Miller (0) that will be remembered for a long time to come. Miller was anticipating an outswinger and had committed on the front-foot only to find that the bowler had got one to bend back into him. His atrocious across-the-line shot would have resulted in only one thing and that was getting castled.

New T20I sensation Tristan Stubbs (0) didn't get enough wood

to his slash over deep to a delivery from Chahar that bounced a shade more. The result was Arshdeep taking a well-judged catch diving in-front.

With five wickets gone, there was no coming back for South Africa and predictably there wasn't any change in the script. However, Aiden Markram (25) and Wayne Parnell (24) resurrected their innings with a 33-run stand. But it was Maharaj (41, 35b, 5x4, 2x6), who helped the visitors go past 100 and post a respectable total on the board.

BRIEF SCORES

South Africa 106/8 (Keshav Maharaj 41, Aiden Markram 25, Wayne Parnell 24; Arshdeep Singh 3/32, Deepak Chahar 2/24, Harshal Patel 2/26, Axar Patel 1/16) **lost to India 110/2** (KL Rahul 51 n o, Suryakumar Yadav 50 n o; Kagiso Rabada 1/16) **by 8 wickets.**

Manpreet opens up on FIH Pro League match



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 28: India will be hosting Spain in the new season of FIH Pro League next month and captain Manpreet Singh wants to use the opportunity to get a better understanding of their rivals ahead of the 2023 men's hockey World Cup to be played in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela.

India will play New Zealand in the first match of Pro League October 28 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, followed by the second game against Spain October 30. Placed in the same pool, India will take on Spain in their World Cup opener at the newly-built Birs Munda International Stadium in Rourkela January 13.

"It is great that we will get a chance to play against Spain now in the Pro League matches. It will give us an understanding of their game and what we need to improve upon before we meet them again in the first match of the FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup Bhubaneswar-Rourkela 2023," Manpreet said in a Hockey India release. "In all, these are exciting times for hockey and I hope fans from all over the world will come to Rourkela and Bhubaneswar to support our campaign."

In the World Cup, Tokyo

Olympics bronze medallists India, who are currently World No.5 in the FIH rankings, are clubbed alongside England (6), Spain (8) and debutants Wales (16) in pool D.

After Spain, India will play their second match in Rourkela, against England January 15, before moving to the capital city of Bhubaneswar, where they will face Wales in their final group match January 19.

The match against Spain in the World Cup will be the Indian team's first outing at the newly-built Rourkela stadium, touted to become the world's largest hockey venue.

"We have all experienced how electrifying the atmosphere can be in Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Hockey Stadium and from what I have heard from my teammates who are from Sundergarh, the fans from this region are all looking to turn up in huge numbers for all the matches to be played in Birs Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela," Manpreet said.

"I can already feel the goosebumps thinking of the turnout for the opening game. It will be quite incredible to play in the newly built Birs Munda Hockey Stadium which will be the biggest stadium in the country with more than 20,000 seating capacity," he added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vihari to lead Rest of India in Irani Cup

NEW DELHI: Prolific batter Hanuma Vihari will lead the Rest of India (RoI) side against 2019-20 Ranji Trophy champions Saurashtra in the Irani Cup clash, which is returning to the calendar after three years. The BCCI announced a 16-man squad for the red-ball tournament, which is set to be held in Rajkot from October 1-5. The Irani Cup could not be played in the previous two seasons due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **The squad:** Hanuma Vihari (C), Mayank Agarwal, Priyank Panchal, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Yash Dhull, Sarfaraz Khan, Yashasvi Jaiswal, KS Bharat, Upendra Yadav, Jayant Yadav, Sauresh Kumar, R Sai Kishore, Mukesh Kumar, Umran Malik, Kuldeep Sen & Arzan Nagwaswalla.

Praneeth bows out

HO CHI MINH: Indian shuttler B Sai Praneeth suffered a shock defeat at the hands of fellow Indian Ritvik Sanjeevi Satish Kumar in the men's singles second round at the Vietnam Open Super 100 badminton tournament here Wednesday. Praneeth, lost 21-17, 18-21, 13-21 to Satish Kumar to make another early exit from a tournament. Satish Kumar will now face Malaysia's Ong Ken Yon next. In the women's singles, Ruthvika Shivani Gadde progressed to the pre-quarterfinals after getting a walkover from his opponent and will face Vietnam's Thi Trang (B) Vu next.

Shami tests negative

NEW DELHI: India pacer Mohammed Shami Wednesday tested negative for COVID-19, over 10 days after he had been infected by the virus. The 32-year-old posted his negative report on his Instagram account, hours after the BCCI named veteran pacer Umesh Yadav as his replacement for the three-match T20I series against South Africa, beginning Wednesday in Thiruvananthapuram. "Negative," Shami wrote along with a picture of his COVID test report. The senior India pacer had tested positive for the virus September 17.

Date extended for applications' submission

NEW DELHI: The Sports Ministry Wednesday extended the last date of submission of applications for this year's National Sports Awards by three days to October 1. Earlier, the ministry had set September 27 as the last date for online submission of applications. This year onwards, applications are being invited only in online mode through a dedicated portal. "The last date for receipt of applications has been extended from 27th September, 2022 to 1st October 2022 (Saturday)," the ministry said in a statement. "The applications from the eligible sportspersons/coaches/entities/universities are invited for the award. They are required to self apply online at dedicated Portal dbytas-sports.gov.in. Indian Olympics Association/Sports Authority of India/recognised National Sports Federations/Sports Promotion Boards/State and UTs Governments etc are also intimated accordingly. Nominations received after 1st October, 2022 (Saturday) will not be considered," it added.

Spain top Portugal to reach Final 4

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Sept 28: Luis Enrique was ready for the criticism to start pouring out back home. He knew another setback so close to the World Cup would raise questions about his team and his work. Then a late goal changed it all, and it was all joy and praise for La Roja heading into football's showcase event.

Spain scored an 88th-minute goal to end its winless streak against Portugal Tuesday and advance in the Nations League to complete the Final Four lineup.

The late goal by Alvaro Morata secured a 1-0 victory that allowed Spain to overtake Portugal in Group A2 and join Croatia, Italy and the



TIMELY STRIKE: Alvaro Morata reacts after scoring the late winner against Portugal, Tuesday

Banana thrown at Brazilian players

PARIS: A banana was thrown from the crowd at Brazilian players celebrating a goal in a friendly against Tunisia in Paris. Forward Richarlison had just scored the team's second goal in a 5-1 win at Parc des Princes when the banana was hurled toward him and the other Brazilians celebrating near one of the corner flags. What appeared to be a water bottle and another object also were thrown toward them. The Brazilian football federation condemned the incident and reinforced its stance to "fight against racism." Brazilian media said stadium security personnel unsuccessfully tried to identify the person who threw the banana onto the field. Raphinha scored twice, while Neymar and Pedro scored one each for Brazil.

Netherlands in the finals to be played in June next year in the Netherlands.

Portugal had a late chance to earn the point it needed but Cristiano Ronaldo missed from close range to see his scoreless streak with the national team reach three matches. Spain needed a victory to return to the Final Four after losing last year's final to France. Portugal won the competition's inaugural edition at home in 2019 but hasn't made it past the group stage since then.

Spain struggled to create chances until Dani Carvajal found Nico Williams inside the area and the young Athletic Bilbao forward headed the ball back across the

box for an easy strike by Morata into the open net.

Spain had been in control of the group until losing 2-1 to Switzerland at home last weekend, while Portugal took over first place with a 4-0 win over the Czech Republic.

Spain hadn't been able to win in Portugal in nearly two decades, since a friendly in 2003. It got its first competitive away victory against Portugal since a 2-1 World Cup qualifying triumph in 1934.

The Iberian neighbors had drawn their last four matches including friendlies. Spain's last triumph against Portugal had come in a penalty shootout in the semifinals of the 2012 European Championship.

MESSI LIFTS ARGENTINA

Harrison (US): Lionel Messi responded to an in-game, on-field request for a signature with a signature goal. Messi scored two goals and was twice accosted by fans running on the field as Argentina extended their unbeaten streak to 35 matches over three years by beating Jamaica 3-0 Tuesday night in its next-to-last World Cup warm-up match. Julián Álvarez put Argentina ahead in the 13th minute. Messi entered in the 56th and increased his career total to 90 goals in 164 international appearances with his 17th multigoal game.



"The first episode takes us back to where it all started. All leading up to his India debut at the age of 20. Close associates, loved ones, and footballing colleagues help tell the tale - apart from the man himself, the man affectionately dubbed, 'Captain, Leader, Legend,'" the synopsis of the first episode said.

The second episode was about Chhetri starting to perform wonders for the national team, his big dream of playing professional football for a top-class overseas club.

In the third episode, Chhetri reached the zenith of his professional career and his personal life. Trophies piled up and records were shattered.

Chhetri made his India debut in 2005 and since then has played in 131 matches, including the one against Vietnam Tuesday.

SURYA EQUALS CAREER-BEST 2ND POSITION IN T20IS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dubai, Sept 28: India batter Suryakumar Yadav jumped a place to reach a career-best-equaling second position in the latest ICC men's T20I Player rankings issued Wednesday.

Suryakumar now has 801 rating points after smashing a match-winning 69 off 36 deliveries in the third match against Australia in Hyderabad Sunday that helped India clinch the series 2-1. He had reached the second spot in T20 rankings for the first time in August this year following his exploits against the West Indies.

India captain Rohit Sharma was



at the 13th position. Virat Kohli also climbed a spot to 15th but KL Rahul slipped four places to 22nd.

Only a couple of rating points separate Suryakumar and Pakistan captain Babar Azam, who also improved a spot to grab the third position. Babar had occupied the No.1 position for 1,155 days before being overtaken by teammate Mohammad Rizwan earlier this month.

Axar Patel (18th) and Yuzvendra Chahal (26th) and pacer Harshal Patel (37th) have moved up the bowlers' list, which continues to be led by Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood. India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, however, dropped a spot to the 10th position in the chart.

Odisha women suffer 8-wicket loss to Bengal

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 28: Odisha suffer their second successive defeat at the invitational triangular tournament at the KIIT Cricket Stadium here after going down to Bengal by eight wickets, Wednesday.

The state eves are playing the tournament, which also involves Jharkhand, as part of their preparations for the BCCI's domestic season. Bengal played twice Wednesday winning both their matches, including a four-wicket victory over Jharkhand.

Batting first, Odisha eves man-

aged to post 82/7 in their 20 overs. Rashmita Chinha was the top scorer for the hosts with a 49-ball 31-run knock. Sarojini Giri (16 off 27 balls) also made a useful contribution. Saika Isaque (2/11) and Jhumika Khatun (2/15) were brilliant in their respective four-over spells.

In response, Bengal women comfortably notched up the win inside 16 overs with Dhara Gujjar (34 not out off 42 balls) leading the chase. She was ably supported by Priyanka Bala (21 off 25 balls). D Janaki Reddy (1/16) and Taranna Pradhan (1/18) were the wicket takers for the hosts.